

For 2107, we'll try to make our holiday letter brief. There were a couple of things we did all during the year. One was to create a compendium of our daughter Mathilda's "selfies", which can be seen at <http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Mathilda%202017%20Selfies/>. I became part of a band, "The Fairview Flyers" which you can find at its own page on Facebook. We took an end-of-summer week of vacation in Savannah GA and Myrtle Beach SC.

We began the year with a New Year's Day dinner with (left to right) Lynnora Bierce and her husband, my cousin Steve Livingston (the NC Stereoman), our daughter Mathilda's beau Carl Coleman (Crystal King Designs), Ruth, and Mathilda (Firefly Arts). Ruth prepared her wonderful turkey, and I contributed latkes (potato pancakes). And Lynnora brought her wonderful homemade babas (Italian pastry rolls with chocolate). A great family gathering!



Here are photos of Lyla (black) and Moxie before and after a grooming session. Moxie fulfilled her "runt" promise of small size, getting to be 17.6 pounds, just under Lyla's 24 pounds.



These are bowls Ruth made for Lyla and Moxie. You can see all of her art at links on http://www.dan-ruth-tanner.com/Tanner_Family/Miscellaneous/RET-index.htm.





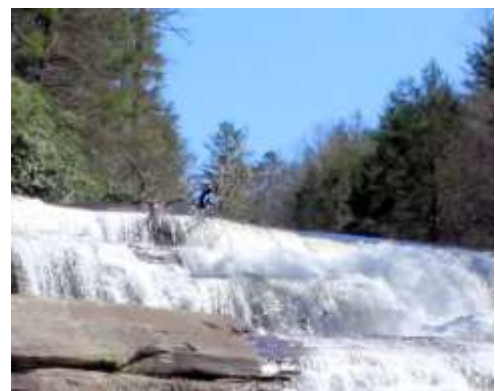
Here's the "cowgirls" with the "little doggies".



Mathilda advanced to Blue Belt in Kung Fu.



And here we are out for our 44th anniversary dinner.



Early in April, Ruth and I hiked around in DuPont State Forest, and checked out High Falls and Triple Falls, taking our dogs

Moxie (with Ruth) and Lyla. When I processed our

photos I noticed the foolish youngster on a branch over Triple Falls. At the time no one saw him. No one could have heard him over the water's roar, either. A real "Hold my beer and watch this," moment! A slide show is at

<http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Dupont%20State%20Forest/>.



Mathilda started making jewelry (<http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Jewelry%20by%20Mathilda%20Tanner/>) this year.

Ruth, Mathilda and I had some fun in the Broad River at Chimney Rock too.



Moxie was happy to take a dip, but Lyla (at age 13) stayed ashore in the sun.



Here you see a Zen master meditating while sitting on water, and “The Little Mermaid”.



In September Ruth and I enjoyed a brief coastal vacation at Savannah GA (4 days) and Myrtle Beach SC (2 days). There's a slide show of the former at <http://dantanner.jalbum.net/Savannah/>. Only took a few pix of the beach at the latter. We had great weather, but it was hot and humid in Savannah. We enjoyed sights and wonderful dining, however.



Also late in September, Hurricane Maria, a Force 5 storm with winds in excess of 175 MPH made a direct hit on Dominica, where we had built a house and lived from 2008 to 2014. The island is about 27 miles from north to south and 15 from east to west. Maria struck at the extreme southeast and moved across the island exiting right over the capital city, Roseau on the west (Caribbean) coast, with terrible destruction. Our village, Calibishie, is in the northeast of the island, but the destruction there was very, very bad as well. The roof was ripped off our house and the ceiling either imploded under the wind or was washed down by rain.

At the end of last year I bought a banjo and began taking lessons. But I had two problems: First,



arthritis in my left shoulder caused me pain if my left hand was up the neck above the 5th fret. I could play in C open tuning with a capo at the 5th fret, obtain a short-neck "parlor banjo" or find a left-handed banjo. The first option was the only one that wouldn't cost a lot. The second problem is my neural wiring. I'd would be guilty of hubris to compare myself musically to the late B.B. King, but I can compare our neural wiring – he couldn't sing and play simultaneously. I can't not play a melody if I try to sing it, or even think it. I've faced my inherent inability and traded my banjo for a 4-channel 100 watt mixer amplifier, two 1000W speakers and cords. They're for the band that I formed.

It's called The Fairview Flyers (the other three members live in Fairview, adjacent to Black Mountain, where we live). Bobby "Banjo" Anderson, a virtuoso on the instrument and a vocalist, James Kamp, a multi-instrumentalist (guitar, piano, bass, mandolin, fiddle, harmonica, and saxophone) and also a vocalist, William "Doc" Hamilton, a retired medical doctor, the father in a musical family and our bassist, and I (harmonica and vocals, plus organization and management) comprise the band. We formed in April, rehearsed all summer, and have gained traction with venues and a fan following. Mathilda designed our logo.



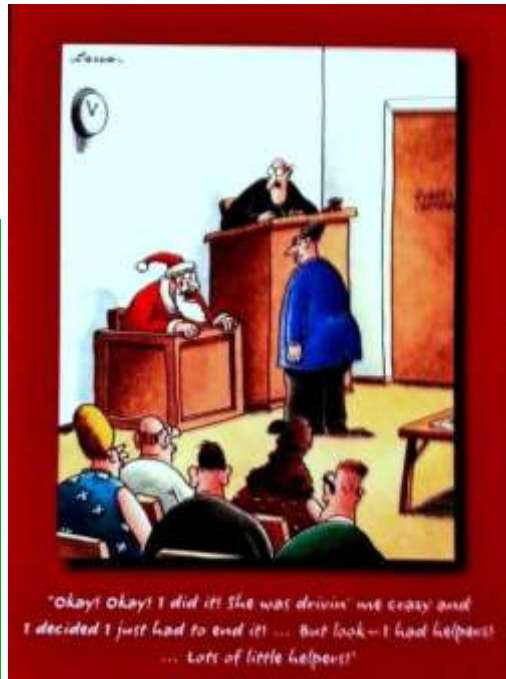
This photo was taken of us at our first public appearance. Left to right, Doc, me, James, and Bobby. Sadly, Bobby has had to leave our group because of ill health. We've added fiddler/vocalist Helen Charbonneau in his place.

The Fairview Flyers are on Facebook, and have a page on the Tanner Family web site at www.dan-ruth-tanner.com/Flyers/Flyers.



Mathilda shows, for her at least, that 40 is the new 20.





At year end Ruth and Mathilda went to see The Nutcracker ballet. My reward was not having to go. But later Ruth and I went to see David Bromberg.

We wish you and yours a very, very Happy holiday season!