

# The Garrett Times

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*Far Left: Laurie & Brian with Robonaut 2 - Robonaut 1 went to the ISS aboard Discovery. Above: Brian & Laurie in front of the Hangar Hotel in Fredericksburg, TX.*

## Merry Christmas!

We apologize for not sending a 2011 edition of "The Garrett Times!" We have no real reason, only excuses. So with that...we left you hanging after traveling to Cape Canaveral, Florida in the Fall of 2010 to see the final launch of Space Shuttle Discovery. If you recall, we had spent a week waiting for the launch only to have it postponed until 2011 because of mechanical reasons. We made a return trip to Florida



late February 2011 and witnessed a beautiful, eventful, successful and final launch of Discovery! The weather could not have been better, the sky bluer! With "all systems go!" Discovery lifted off with amazing power, incredible light, and a "feel" we will never forget!

In May of 2011 came the First Annual Rocky Mountain Light Sport Expo, an idea of Brian's brought to fruition by the Colorado Pilots Association. The Expo brought a number of Light Sport Aircraft manufacturers and vendors to Colorado for the first show of its kind west of the Mississippi. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Expo followed in May of 2012 with triple the attendance and vendors

asking for more opportunities. Well done Brian – this is how Oshkosh got started!!



Brian continues his love of flying! Over the two years, we attended fly-ins to Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota (complete with our own fly overs of Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse and the Badlands); Buena Vista, Colorado; Fredericksburg, Texas; and Salida,



Abby and the cats continue to entertain us and bring us joy and comfort.

To keep current with our photos and videos, check out our website at [briangarrett.net](http://briangarrett.net)



Colorado. Ellsworth AFB allowed us to land at a military base legally! We stayed at the renowned “Hangar Hotel” in Fredericksburg, visited the up-and-coming wine country of Texas, and toured the National Museum of the Pacific War. Brian also landed at the highest airport, Leadville, Colorado. Brian attended “Air Venture” in Oshkosh,



Wisconsin in July of 2012, a week long air-show. 2012 brought the pursuit of Brian's Private Pilot's license (from a Sport Pilot). On September 1<sup>st</sup> he took his “check-ride” with an FAA examiner, the final requirement to complete in order to receive the certificate. The exam was cut short unexpectedly when two-of-the-three propeller blades on the “Sting” flew off,



causing the engine to fail. Brian successfully maneuvered an “off-field” emergency landing in a cornfield, granting him his Private Pilots license on the spot! For more information regarding the accounts of the flight, you may visit <http://tinyurl.com/ck88eig>.

Both 2011 & 2012 brought a new love, SCUBA diving! We got our Open Water certification prior to traveling to St. Maarten in the Caribbean in October of 2011. We loved it so much we immediately began planning our next adventure, Grand Cayman Island in November of 2012. A short, weekend trip in September 2012 took us to the Blue Hole in Santa Rosa, New Mexico where we completed our Advanced Open Water certification.

Our families continue to be a huge part of our lives. One very special event happened in June 2012, Laurie's oldest nephew Randy married Carly! We enjoyed attending soccer, basketball, baseball and lacrosse games. Brian's mom Carolynn continues to live in assisted living in Broomfield, Colorado with Alzheimer's disease. Carolynn's condition also brought the collaborative effort of Brian's siblings (ahem – and spouses!) to clean out, and sell her beloved home in Loveland. Laurie's



grandmother passed away at the amazing age of 98 in November 2012.

We continue to be blessed with good employment that allows us to do this fun stuff. Brian changed jobs in 2012 and joined the software company VMware. Laurie continues to be entertained by the “kids” while working from home. Abby, Tank and TC are well and fun-loving. Abby reached the Big 1-0 and is on meds for arthritis but you would never know it by the way she prances around the neighborhood, greeting everyone she meets.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2013!

