Helsinki Journal, Entry 21, December 24, 2006

I always find myself looking back on the year during the holidays: taking stock and setting new goals. This year is no different. The year has been a good one, with a busy first half and the big move and transition to life in Finland throughout the remainder of the year.

The highlight of early 2006 for us was skiing. We got in 30 days (give or take), most of which were at Discovery, where we had season passes. It had been a long standing dream of ours to ski a good season like this again. The last such season was when we lived in Butte in 1995-96. We finished the season with our best days ever at Big Sky, thanks to our friends the Bierman’s.

The kids had good years. Ellie’s passion has consistently been art. Alex goes through passions quickly, but skateboarding was a big one this year.
Life in Missoula has been getting better with each passing year as friendships and work-life deepen. We miss Missoula, Montana, our family, and our friends.

The summer was very busy. We had a full slate of activities as well as the move to prepare for. We spent some good time at our land on the Dearborn, where Jen’s parents also have land. Below you see Jen’s dad letting me know what will happen if I don’t take good care of his daughter and grandkids in Finland. So far so good Pat!

Son-in-law pep-talk Pat Racicot style. Alex and I: intro to cliff jumping on the Blackfoot

My mother is here for Christmas, which is great. It eases the difficulty of being so far away during a time in which family and friends are so important.


Merry Christmas Everyone!!