

2023 – Year in Review

Another year down and the first as a retired old codger! We closed out 2022 with my retirement and selling of PetExec and I haven't written any code since! Computer time has dropped way off as I spend most of my days working on the various car projects and around the Escape.



Max is doing well in his 2nd year at Virginia Tech studying Computer Science and picked up an intern job this coming summer in Charlottesville. He is stoked and really looking forward to it. It'll be nice having him home once in a while, but these days we rarely see him!

His long-time girlfriend Kira is also there and also doing well in her studies. She is already part of the family as far as we are concerned and even tolerates bad "dad jokes."

We recently got his HS father/son project, a 1989 Mustang GT officially on-the-road, if not completely finished. A little late, but better late than never! It is a blast to drive and most recently got a new transmission, as the current one was having 5th gear issues. Too many items in this build to list, but a far cry from where we started a few years ago! Still some things to finalize, but Max will love it when he gets home.





Marti has been well and has had some medical issues dealing with her thyroid, which she had removed. She is still running, along with quilting, volunteering at the high school, helping out in the band room and a host of other things. She has no problem staying busy with her schedule! Her schedule makes it difficult to get out to a lot of the car events, but she drove our 1961 Metropolitan convertible to a local show and won her first award ... before getting drenched on the way home in a torrential downpour!

She also enjoyed going to Watkins Glen with me and bombing around the Finger Lake area in “Molly”, our red Sunbeam Tiger. We met some great people and had a stellar time, both on the roadster “tour” and the rest of the week. She learned first-hand on playing navigator and really enjoyed driving the old race course through town and the car show and track time at the racetrack the next day. This is definitely becoming a yearly event! Being able to see family and friends is an added plus, with Rick’s lake house in Skaneateles being one of her favorite places.



As mentioned, I retired and actually spent my first year working around the Escape, finishing off the “working” garage, at least enough so I can have room to get things done. Still a work in progress and I only have one 110 circuit, using a generator any time I need more, mainly lift and air compressor. The plan is to get another 200 amp circuit out there, along with a couple mini-splits for heating/cooling. Definitely high on the list in 2024! The garage is well-insulated and is

getting a ton of use though, though I wish it was bigger! This colder weather is highly overrated, in my opinion!



Heath-wise, I've been better (and worse) and have been having the normal back issues, but a lot of neck issues lately that have been keeping me awake. I suppose it doesn't help that I do things that probably aggravate things, or perhaps I am just getting old. In any case, I am enjoying learning new skills and keeping up with things around here.

I did manage to get out to a lot of car events, including a couple indoor arena events in Richmond and Roanoke. I also managed to hook up with our old neighbors and shared a glass of wine with Emily. Mark is also a car guy and we spent the weekend visiting and catching up and checking out his awesome collection.

This autumn saw a lot of driving, a lot on the parkway, enjoying the scenery in a variety of cars, and some track days. Nothing beats driving a roadster through the mountains, especially when things get "spirited"! I love rebuilding and maintaining the 60s vintage era cars. All our cars are "drivers", along with several long-term projects as I hone my skills.





No new additions in the dog arena this year other than getting older. Lily is our oldest and it is amazing that she is close to 15 years old and still more or less going strong! She has her issues, but loves going on a walk to the mailbox and once in a while around the property. Kaylee is pushing 10 and loves her frisbee as always, if a little bit slower. Perl and Ajax are now 4 ½ and busy keeping squirrels at bay and off their turf!



In closing, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May this find you in good health and spirits! Paul, Marti, Max, Kira, Lily, Kaylee, Perl and Ajax!