

April 15th, 1998

The news this tax day is the reason behind the increased circulation of this note. Most of those of you who are receiving your first tax day letter from me already know what that news is; some of those for whom this is a second or third annual tax day letter may know as well, but for those who are still in the dark and wondering just what it is I'm babbling about, lets move on to the real news of this letter.

Robin Duggar, a very good friend from AARP, introduced me to Sarah Zapolsky about a year ago and we've hit it off quite well. Sarah and I are now sharing 503 E. Nelson, have a wedding date set (11/28, small wedding in Alexandria; see: <http://www.geocities.com/ResearchTriangle/Thinktank/1275/wedding.html>) and are thinking about moving someplace with a larger kitchen



with and my life is much fuller now that she is a part of it. There is no better way to put it than that I am extremely fortunate to get to marry my best friend.

For the detail oriented (and those to whom I forgot to pass on the details), she is an Economic Geographer/Demographer who is working in the Research Group at AARP. She does a lot of survey and membership data analysis, and was the lead analyst at

AARP working on the Retirement Confidence Survey; a role that landed her 7 seconds of fame on the CBS Evening News saying that a lot of us boomers don't know how much we need to save for retirement because we are afraid to ask just how much we will need to retire comfortably.

Robin convinced us to join her after work knowing neither one of us was really interested in dating. However we did get along quite well after that first meeting (as you know by now). I was vetted by her friends over a Memorial Day trip to New Hampshire where about 15 of us got together and the Clark Alums caught up on each others lives. We took the train up and back and had a great time. We've also taken several trips to New Jersey to meet Sarah's folks who don't seem to mind me and are happy to journey to the South to see her married next fall.





And Sarah was introduced to a large mass of my friends in a slightly more stressful way: she agreed to come on the 30th annual Salmon River trip where she kayaked a good part of the 5 days, joining the rafts for the larger rapids (she has since learned to roll and is looking forward to a return trip).

the Atlanta Williamses there, mostly in a raft, though Kate did seem to enjoy getting in a ducky part of the



time.



Christmas was especially fun this year with a triangle trip for us, first to Seattle to visit Sarah's brother (David, it's a good name), sister-in-law Lindsay and nephew Ian.

One of the most interesting gifts was one Sarah's dad gave to Ian (which inspired me to get one for someone on this mailing list). Of course, we combined the trip with a visit to the mother store: REI's home base. The store comes complete with hiking and biking trails, 60 foot climbing wall (the wait was about 2 hours to get on the wall), creek with waterfalls and rain room for testing raincoats and waterproof clothing.



David and Lindsay live in the Magnolia district of Seattle and Sarah and I took a walk one day down towards the sound and discovered that it's not only in California that they have problems with housing being built too close to the cliffs overlooking the water. We saw several that slid down the hill in a landslide a few months earlier and still more that were for sale.

And yes, we did get to Dilettante Chocolate, alas all the chocolate we brought back is now gone.

After Seattle, we went to Atlanta to visit with my family and help Loren and Susan find out just how many people they can put up in their house. There we got a chance to work on the tree house that is going to be awesome. (Sarah—and I—were impressed by Susan's impromptu construction of a scale model of the design to look at roof lines, plan ladder positions and connecting walkways.) And I got a chance to play on Sam, Kate and Sally's zip line proving that it



was unsafe for the kids by breaking it—Sorry guys. (It's since been rebuilt, bigger, stronger and faster—at least stronger.)

And Sarah was introduced (as was I) to some of the Peruvian New Year's customs practiced by that branch of the Williams family: At the stroke of midnight we all ate our grapes under a table, swept the front and back porch and ran around the house twice carrying luggage; thus guaranteeing a prosperous, trouble-free and safe-travel-filled 1998.

So far, it's working well (except for the troubles caused by the new tax code and its intimidating Schedule D). We've both gotten good raises, I know of two "real" (non-temporary) jobs that may open up for me in the Research Group (still web and Internet work), Sarah has traveled to Boston for the American Association of Geographers Conference and Chicago to learn how to talk about statistics to policy-makers, I've been to the Easter(ish) Obed trip Bob Gaar organizes every year (Sarah wanted to go as well but it was the same weekend as her Chicago trip)—even found a nice little waterfall for Hank and me to run, and we have plans for a trip to Sonoma in September and will likely be traveling a bit over Christmas as well.

Also worthy of note this year: a great Thanksgiving dinner with Robin Duggar and her family. We got a chance to meet her in-laws before they departed for the Caribbean for an extended trip and turned over their house to Robin, Ben and Kiel.

