



*"Merry
Christmas
and Happy
and New
Year-- let
clouds never
gather above your
house more than one
simultaneously now
and forever"*
Vladimir Mann,
Vladivostok
Dec. 1991

Season's Greetings

Rich was in the studio doing a phone interview with someone in Fairbanks Thursday and told the caller "I'm sorry, but the boat parade is going by, I have to get off the phone and watch." The Boat Parade is one of Sitka's best loved traditions. Fishing boats, decorated in bright lights, parade up and down the channel. It is seldom scheduled, it happens, and when it does, everyone drops everything and watches. Christmas season arrives in Sitka with a thousand points of light (I can only use that metaphor for another month) mounted on a trolling pole.

Suzi, Kevin and Rich have taken their Russian final exams and Brian will be home from his third semester at St.

Olaf in 4 days, so it's time to get ready for Christmas. Actually we have been getting ready for some time. Suzi and Kevin put up the tree. We took a chance this year by getting a tree which almost reaches to the ground. We started getting smaller trees and putting them up on a box the year after the family Malamute, Skiff, fell asleep under the tree and a light bulb set her fur on fire. She woke up smelling smoke and panicked, running around the living room, giving the smoldering fur more air and setting off the smoke alarm. At Christmas time the request "Kevin, please put out the dog" takes on new meaning.

Rich was Santa at the Teen Center Bazaar again this year. He refused to use a pillow and accepted some criticism for not fitting the profile. He said that he was a '90s type of Santa. His favorite requests were from a girl who wanted "something small that won't get lost," a boy who wanted a "Belgian Waffle iron for Mom. Last year she got a toaster oven and all I got was grilled cheese sandwiches," and the 12 year old who wanted "a ticket outta here." "Why?" Santa innocently asks. "Because when Mom sees my room..." It wasn't Kevin who said that. Kevin was Santa's 6'7" "elf?"

Suzi is doing research for a New York film maker doing a movie on a local "character." The "New York" version doesn't resemble the person fondly remembered in Sitka. Perhaps Alaska has gotten too much "Northern Exposure."

Shasha Gyk, our Russian "son" who is an exchange student in Juneau from Vladivostok, will be in Sitka for "Russian Christmas" in January. Brian will still be here because he is doing whale research in Sitka Sound for his January Interim. We are fortunate to live in Sitka because our Christmas season always extends through "the Russian" but this year we will all be together through the entire celebration. Last night we were treated to the first "change ringing" in the tower of St. Michael's Orthodox Cathedral. The season must be here.

«Поздравляем вас с Рождеством и наступающим Новым Годом.
Желаем вам хорошего здоровья, много радости и счастья.»

or something resembling that.

«Миру мир»

The M^cClears

"Peace on Earth"