



Andrew, Alta, Steph, Julia, Martha, John at the farm in July

JOHN SWEET & MARTHA TEETER
8562 Jackson River Road
Mustoe, VA 24465-2705
Phone: 540-468-2222
E-mail: jrs@johnrsweet.com
teeter@bc.edu

and

2540 Bombadil Lane
Davis, CA 95616-2954
540-292-3221 (John)
530-220-7186 (Martha)

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Dear Friends and Family,

We have completed our first year of marriage and we still like each other. So that is good news! We spent last winter in California. John returned to Virginia in mid-March and Martha came at the end of April. She had things she wanted to do around her house in Davis, including planting a garden of sweet potatoes, tomatoes and peppers, and John was eager to get back to the farm in Mustoe. No maple syrup making this year but we have a pretty good stock left from last season. Now we've both returned to California for the end the year, to grow our winter garden and rest and renew ourselves.

John's main winter project in Davis was turning a 5' x 10' totally-packed storage room in the garage into an 8½' x 10' workshop. We cut loose the wall between the room and the car port, moved it out (without ever laying it down), and re-installed it. Then built shelves and a workbench with a big vise, hung most of the tools on the wall, and added a work light. Martha had a lot of hand tools and a few power tools. We bought a set of battery-powered tools (the same as what we have in Mustoe) to facilitate this and future projects and organized it all into a functional workshop.



Martha has continued to support the creation of housing to address homelessness in Davis. Paul's Place (Left. <http://paulsplacedavis.org>) is the first product. It's a vertical tiny-house village in four stories, created and supported by the work of two non-profits including the one Martha chairs (<http://davisopportunityvillage.org>). The two non-profits engaged the Davis community in raising \$1.75 million to match Sutter Davis Hospital Foundation funding and construct Paul's Place. It has a resource center, four emergency beds, ten transitional housing units and 18 units of permanent supportive micro-housing in a

beautiful design – truly a village in itself. COVID delayed and added to the cost of construction, but with additional 2021 community funding and support of American Rescue Plan dollars from the City and we hope Yolo County, the August 2022 completion date is our realistic goal.

John headed east in mid-March, making a stop in Mesa, AZ, to visit Mandy and Mike Thomsen. and was back in Mustoe in time to work with Chris on pruning fruit trees and getting the garden ready. At the end of March, John and Chris drove to Richmond to pick up our brand new, red Tesla Model Y – an all-wheel drive electric car. It is quite an amazing machine. We installed a 220-volt line in the garage for charging.

When Martha arrived in VA at the end of April, we went to some music stores in the DC area to buy her an east-coast viola. She has a very nice viola in Davis but is loath to travel with it, for good reason. Now she has one in both homes. A new instrument has to be played a lot in order to get it seasoned to produce the sound it is capable of. We're now in that process and Martha is getting used to playing it. We are regular Zoom participants on either coast in an old-time jam from San Francisco that invites artists to draw musicians as they play. Here is a fanciful, quick draw of Martha with the viola in action and John cheering her on.



In May, we made our first road trip in the Tesla, going to Martha's family vacation home at East Dennis, MA, on Cape Cod. We turned it into a two-day drive each way rather than a grueling all-day grind. We stopped in New Jersey to visit Barb and Rick McKee, both going and returning. Traffic was bad so it was still a hard trip. Recharging is generally not an issue. There are Tesla superchargers all along main roads, and there are lots of generic (slower) stations. It takes about 40 minutes to charge compared to ten minutes to fill a gas tank. When we were 30 or 40 that would have been an issue, but now after driving for four hours, we're ready to walk around, get something to eat, and use the restroom. Forty minutes is about right for that. Then we let the navigation system find the next charging station and take us there.



While on the Cape, we did a lot of minor repairs on the house, took walks on the beach at low tide, and just enjoyed being there. Too chilly to get in the water, but John is not much of a beach person anyway. We also charged the Tesla, slowly, on a regular 110V outlet.

Back in Mustoe, VA, we planted the rest of the garden and then took off on a quick trip to California. Martha's daughter, Simone, graduated from the California State Parks Academy. She is now a California Park Ranger, assigned to the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park with its surrounding redwood parks in northern CA and living in Crescent City. The photo at left shows John and Martha, her twin children, Charlie and Simone, and their father, Curtiss DuRand at right, and his wife, Roseanne.

In September we made a trip to State College, PA, where we first met and both used to live, to visit several old friends (Bette & Will White, Naomi & Jon Nelson, and Dave Kurtz) and attend a reunion of the PSU Folkies, a group who were members of the Penn State Folklore Society in the 1960s in college. They rent Mountain Acres, a lodge in the Seven Mountains, and have been gathering there every few years. This



was the first time we attended and our first unmasked event since COVID. We sang and played a lot of music and cooked our vegan meals to share with the group for three days. It was fun. Everyone was doubly vaccinated and recently tested; as far as we know we all stayed healthy.

We had a mini family reunion in Mustoe, VA, in July. Stephanie and Altair Brondani were here for a week. Julia and Andrew Mone and Beverly Stanley had shorter stays. Alta did a lot of fishing and we all went for walks around the farm.

The 2020 Olympic Games, held in Tokyo a year late because of COVID, marked the first time that C-1W (women's canoe for one) was held. In past games, men had three events (C-1, C-2, and K-1) while women were limited to kayak (K-1W) only. In the interest of gender equity, C-1W replaced C-2 this year. Since John spent a good deal of effort promoting women's canoeing many years ago, he was very excited to see this development, and astounded to see the level to which the top women had risen in a very short time. The C-1W winner would have come 6TH in the men's race and all of the top competitors looked every bit as skillful as their male counterparts, lacking only a little bit of muscle.



Jennifer Fox, C-1W Gold Medalist



Inspired by this, we got boats out of the barn for the first time in years in August and paddled around the pond for a few minutes. This resulted in a slightly sore right arm for John but nothing serious. A couple days later, while walking, he casually tossed a stick off the path and thought he had been shot in the arm. He wondered about an MRI but his doctor thought physical therapy should help. He was making some progress with that when he slipped on some loose gravel and fell. That caused a spontaneous jerk of his arm as he went down and that did some real damage. The doctor now proposed an MRI but there was not time as we were booked to fly west just a couple days later on 19-Oct.

The trip went fine. John just had to handle his bag and do everything else left-handed. Soon after arrival, he got the MRI, which showed that the muscles and tendons of the rotator cuff were completely torn and beyond repair. A few days ago, he had a consultation with Dr James Van den Bogaerde at University of California Davis Sports Medicine. Now shoulder-replacement surgery is scheduled for 22-Dec. Quite a Christmas present!

John expects to be pretty well laid up for a month or more and then be in rehab for several more months. It took six months to achieve a full recovery from a dislocation when he was 30. This will be greater damage than the dislocation was, and he's now 83. So recovery will take a while. Thank goodness for Martha, a wonderful nurse and loving wife! Together, with love and kindness, we'll make it through.

We hope you all have stayed well this year and managed to connect with family and friends safely. May the next year see us be more protected from the virus and with a new appreciation of friends and family!

Love to All, *Martha and John*

