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Happy New Year 2009 ... from Diane and Alan

Looks like we're in a mode of a card every two years, so this is actually covers 2007 AND 2008.

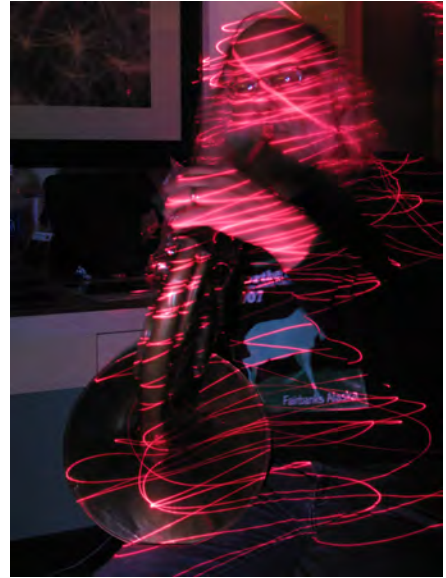


Diane got her Stonehenge t-shirt from the real Stonehenge when we were there back in 1998, International Planetarium Society Conference, London. Alan got his Carhenge t-shirt as a gift from Hands-On Universe teachers Kevin McCarron and Sharon Carr who visited Carhenge in Nebraska.

Diane attended a conference in Santa Barbara at the Fess Parker Double Tree Resort with Alan tagging along for the ride—we actually drove there from Berkeley. Before and after the conference, we visited wineries in the Santa Barbara area, including the Fess Parker winery as well as the Sanford winery, both of which were featured in the movie Sideways. The Fess Parker winery is where Miles (played by Paul Giamatti) drank from the spittoon crock. Below is Alan with the guy at Sanford who actually appears in the movie. Below that is the coonskin hat for wine bottles that we bought at Fess Parker winery gift store.



Diane at Johnson Space Center, Fall 2007. She toured there after attending a conference in Houston.



Alan playing french horn, in the evening, party in room of Sue Button-Reynolds (IPS President) at fall 2007 Western Alliance Conference (WAC) of Planetariums in Fairbanks AK. Someone was doing a laser light show on him.



Diane's tryst with Jacques Pepin, famous French chef, at special KQED event in SF. Book signing. Oct 2008. She looks pretty happy!



Diane caught Alan flipping hot dogs at a barbeque in Berkeley's Live Oak Park, 2 blocks from our house, this past summer where. He actually DOESN'T eat that stuff, ... just stepping in to keep them from burning—there were veggie burgers too. Some of them burned anyway.



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Happy New Year 2009 ... from Diane and Alan — page 2

Alan's hand is featured in a couple of photos.



We bought these miniature wine glasses that make your hand look huge by comparison. Alan's brother Dan pointed out this interesting optical effect, which can also occur with tiny spoons, like those used for stirring sugar in espresso.

Near the Moscow equivalent of Hollywood, we saw a statue of a famous Russian comic actor.

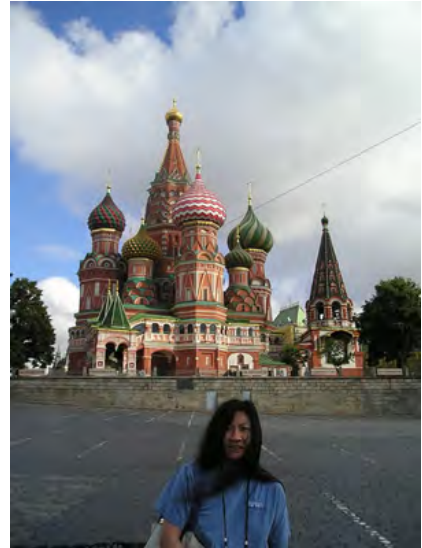


Alan fell off his bike after hitting a bulge in the pavement on a downhill. Here he shows off the road rash on his hand that resulted. There was shirt damage that thankfully prevented road rash on elbow and shoulder.

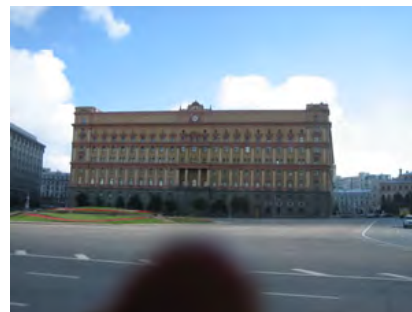
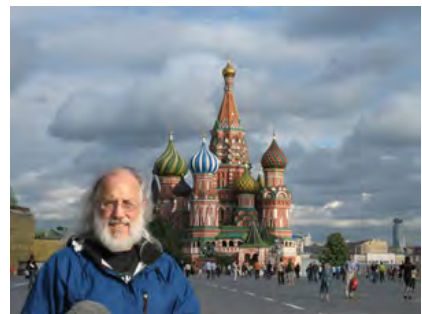


ECLIPSE TRIP to RUSSIA, July-Aug 2009

Diane in front of St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square.



Alan in front of St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square.



This is the KGB building. The tour guide said there is a saying that this is "Not the tallest building in Russia, but said to be able to see to Siberia." We were driving by it so fast in the tour bus, that Diane's finger is in the picture.

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Happy New Year 2009 ... from Diane and Alan — page 3

Moscow



Diane outside the Kremlin, Red Square.

Alan at the entrance to Red Square.



Big old cannon on display on the Kremlin grounds

World's biggest bell on Kremlin grounds.



We had a tour of Moscow subway—each station has a unique highly elegant decor.



Even the stairs to the Moscow subway exude elegance.

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Happy New Year 2009 ... from Diane and Alan — page 4

Star City—near Moscow



World's most powerful centrifuge can generate up to 30 Gs acceleration. Reminded us of scenes from a James Bond movie. As did being in Red Square, for that matter.



Full-scale MIR spacecraft.

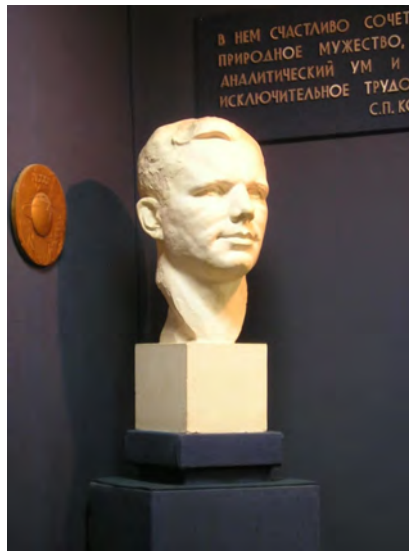


We're inside the Mir!



Don't touch that!

Yuri Gagarin



Museum of the Sun in Novosibirsk.

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Happy New Year 2009 ... from Diane and Alan — page 5

Novosibirsk



Peasant garb in Historical Museum in Novosibirsk.



Uniform in Historical Museum in Novosibirsk.

Old Russian motorcycle - Historical Museum in Novosibirsk.



We ran into Rob Landis, who has worked for NASA, with several assignments in Star City. He showed Alan the proper way to drink vodka: down a shot in one swift movement. Here he is at the Train museum in Novosibirsk.



Train museum in Novosibirsk.

Happy New Year 2009 ... from Diane and Alan — page 6

Eclipse Day



There was actually a lightning storm in Novosibirsk the night before the eclipse 2009 July 31. This made for very nervous eclipse chasing group.



Siberian Tiger at Novosibirsk Zoo.



Eclipse chasers, the Fields, busily prepare for eclipse observations by the Ob Sea.



Eclipse Day 2009 Aug 1.

Diane observes partial stage of solar eclipse. Other eclipse watchers in background discuss eclipse matters.



Partial eclipse pinhole projection - Ob Seaa 2009. This is a nifty trick that some people do at every eclipse: make a message out of pinholes that form the message in crescent projections of the partially eclipsed Sun.

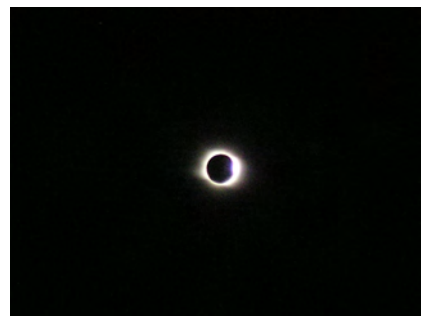
Seeing Mercury during the solar eclipse 2009 by the Ob Sea. A tad blurry, but Mercury clearly captured left of the eclipsed Sun. Photo by Diane Tokugawa with point-and-shoot camera.

Eclipse photo by Diane Tokugawa with point-and-shoot camera. Venus visible above the eclipsed Sun.



Total Eclipse of the Sun at the Ob Sea 2009 Aug 1.

Eclipse photo by Diane Tokugawa with point-and-shoot camera.





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