We had some good news and some sad news in 2009. Fortunately, Jon remains employed at Autodesk and Care at Donahue, Gallagher. Like many of our friends, we stayed close to home this year and enjoyed several long weekends in wonderful rental homes at Sea Ranch on the Sonoma Coast and North Lake Tahoe. In September, Jon's dad and niece, Alisa, flew out from the east coast for a week's visit. We toured the bay area including the city of San Francisco and the wine country. Jon's sister, Jane, and her family joined us for several days during their visit. We appreciate our visitors since they encourage us to explore and enjoy the local sites that we would otherwise miss.

In October, we lost our 9 year old Siberian husky, Asia, to osteosarcoma (bone cancer). She was diagnosed in April and had her front leg amputated. She remained a happy dog with a sweet disposition throughout her final months. We miss her as doesTasZ, our other Siberian. In November, we flew to Fresno and picked up our newest family member and first male husky, Bugatti (or Buggi). He is small but already packs a set of lungs.

Over the summer, we fulfilled our goal of getting road bikes and enjoyed pedaling around Marin and Sonoma counties. Our adventures enhanced our appreciation of the local sights while we got a great workout.

The course, Design as Competitive Strategy, that Jon taught at UC Berkeley's Haas Business School this past year was well received. He was asked to return in the spring 2010 semester. Although it is a lot of preparation, he finds it be very gratifying.

Following his dad's trip to visit us, Jon and his sisters spent much of the fall helping their father move to an assisted living center in Dayton, Ohio. He is now located much closer to Jon's sisters, Amy and Sara. Although it is quite an adjustment for him, the family is glad to have him nearby.

We plan to celebrate the holidays at home (and train Bugatti). Jon will complete preparation for his course. During the first half of the year, Jon's teaching schedule and Buggi's training are not conducive to travel but Care is itching to plan a vacation getaway for some time in 2010.

Our Best Wishes For You and Your Family
In The New Year.

Jon, Care, TasZ and Bugatti