

4643 Blaisdell Avenue South Minneapolis, Minnesota

My dear friends, one-and-all -

It is hard to believe that a year has almost past since the last 'Steve's Christmas Party'! It seems like only yesterday that I sat at this very desk in this very bedroom, drink a very similar beer and tried to compose an appropriate party invitation!

I think it is important, especially during this joyous time of year, to put aside life's little inconveniences and focus on the things that really matter -- like family, friends, shrimp, and 'Steve's Christmas Party'. Though life seems to just get more hectic with each passing day, I strongly encourage you all to take time out for 'Steve's Christmas Party'.

The year that has passed since last year's 'Steve's Christmas Party' has been an eventful one around the Wohlford household!

Unfortunately, the year began with some sad news. Shortly after midnight on December 17<sup>th</sup> 'Steve's Christmas Party 2005' came to a sudden, but expected, end. Its passing was a mixed blessing....though exhausted, I was faced with an awful lot of cleaning up! The next few days were a blur of garbage bags, dirty dishes, and meals consisting entirely of reheated appetizers!

The cold winter months dragged on with little to entertain me except studying for the *Architect Registration Exam* and pondering the next 'Steve's Christmas Party'.

Early June provided a brief respite from planning 'Steve's Christmas Party'. After weeks of deliberation, 'Steve's Annual Birthday Happy Hour' was held at Brit's and was a rousing success! Of course, the realities of life caught up with me, and I was soon back planning 'Steve's Christmas Party'!

October brought a momentous decision! I decided that this year's 'Steve's Christmas Party' would be on December 15th at seven o'clock! Major life-decisions of this sort are often difficult, but I am confident that a higher power guides us when it comes to such important issues!

I have had a number of opportunities to travel during this past year. Just in the past few weeks alone, I have visited numerous Menards and Home Depots in an effort to complete a variety of projects before this year's 'Steve's Christmas Party'. In addition, I anticipate numerous other excursions in the coming two weeks...liquor stores, bakeries, Costco, etc.

Max, now eight, continues to amaze me! He keeps himself very busy -- spending countless hours at maniacal mailman barking and forbidden couch napping. I am so proud of him! They just seem to grow up so fast! Some have suggested that he has outgrown the nickname, but he will always be "small, black, and furry to me"!

This brief update on our lives during the past year will have to atone for a complete lack of letter writing. The planning of 'Steve's Christmas Party' just seems to take all of my time and prevents me from keeping in touch as well as I would like.

May the joy of the 'Steve's Christmas Party' season be upon you!

We wish you a very Merry 'Steve's Christmas Party' and a Happy New Beer!

Love always, Steve and Max

