

# McLain Family Newsletter

Christmas 2023

Jerry, Christopher, Jessica, Robert, Jeremy, Camille and Samantha

## Special points of interest:

- Jessica is appointed to the Board of Directors of the Bandera Public Library. She and Robert are frequent visitors to the library.
- Christopher made two trips to Namibia, Africa, this year. He is teaching pastors in Namibia.
- Brad will start a new job at KXAN-TV in Austin. He has been working for the last few years at KAMR-TV in Amarillo.

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## Welcome to Samantha Anne McLain

Samantha (AKA "Sammie") was born May 16, 2023 in Austin. She was six lbs., 13 oz. and 20 1/2 inches long.

Proud parents Jeremy and Camille, along with Grandpa ("Sir") Jerry, Aunt Teresa, Grandma Cheryl, Aunts Amaris and DeLilah and Great-aunt Joyce were present.

She is the first girl in the McLain family, named for the original name chosen for Jeremy, when Karon and Jerry thought he was to be a girl. Her middle name is the same as Grandma Cheryl's.

Sammie spent several weeks at home, then started day care in July. She seems to enjoy it and is fascinated with watching herself in a mirror.



Samantha "Sammie" says "Hello".

She enjoys regular formula bottles but she "stole" a piece of cantaloupe from her Mom and has become a fan. With the addition of teeth, she'll be eating solid food in no time.



Jeremy, Sammie and Camille.



Grandpa greets Sammie.

## Robert celebrates 5th birthday

It was a couple of days early, but family and friends gathered in Bandera for Robert's fifth birthday. Some 40 people attended, including 18 of Robert's friends.

The highlight was a bounce house/water slide and everyone enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs and cake and ice cream. Robert especially enjoyed playing with Hot Wheels cars and showing his friends the *Pokemon* model kits he received.

He is at a new day care this year that is closer to home and will be able to ride the bus there, once he starts to school.



Robert blows out a candle.



A shark water slide.



Robert opens presents.



Robert, Sammie and Aunt Teresa





Jessica, Robert and Christopher look at the "ring of fire" eclipse on October 16. Bandera was the perfect place to observe it.



Photo taken by Christopher.



The chickens. From left, Big Rhonda, Violet, Rosie, Pepper, Chickie, Wednesday, Enid, Lady Gray and Horsie. Also pictured is The Chick Who Was Not Named. Chickie turned out to be a rooster and was later adopted to another home.



Sammie spends some quality time with Grandpa.

## Jeremy goes to Malaysia

At the end of September, Jeremy made a trip to Penang, Malaysia. He was there to oversee the construction of some specialized shoulder replacement instruments to be constructed for Enovis, his company. He designed the instruments.



Jeremy.

Jeremy has been with Enovis in Austin for three years. He is a Senior Design Engineer in the Austin office.

The Malaysia visit was quite an event for him. It was a 13 hour one-way flight, involving a stopover in Singapore. Enovis does quite a bit of business with the Malaysian company and they provide great hospitality for visitors from the United States.

He enjoyed his visit and accomplished the construction goals.

Along with the instruments, he has helped develop a new type of implant which Enovis will release in the spring of 2024.

## Jessica and Robert's chickens

Jessica and Robert have gone into the chicken business. Last spring, they got a dozen chicks. Two chicks turned out to be roosters, some died and a couple were lost to a neighborhood predator, but they ended up with seven laying hens. They get 1-3 eggs daily.

Robert has named the chickens and Christopher has built additions to an existing henhouse in their barn. It includes a state-of-the-art electronic door to allow the chickens access to the backyard.

The current problem is that the chickens prefer to roost outside because of the Texas heat and are not adjusting to the Texas cold.

Robert enjoys gathering the eggs. If production increases, he may start an egg selling business.

They have chickens of various colors who produce varied color eggs as well, so it is almost like Easter every day.

## Sammie helps celebrate Jerry's 70th

Sammie, her Mommy and Daddy and Uncle Chris helped Jerry celebrate his 70th birthday the weekend of October 28-29th. It wasn't exactly a surprise party but it was a great family get together with the Pennartz family, including a trip to Wichita Falls and lots of celebrating at home.

Sammie even got to go to church in Crowell and meet all of the people there.

Sammie stayed with Aunt Teresa and Uncle Jerry for several days while Mommy and Daddy celebrated their anniversary by going to Carlsbad, New Mexico. Sammie enjoyed the visit, but Aunt Teresa and Uncle Jerry enjoyed having her there even more. She watched the movie *Frozen* with Teresa and Grandpa, and Uncle Jerry introduced her to the World Series, which she also enjoyed.



Camille.

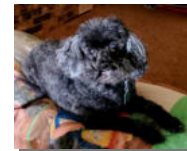
## Camille continues work in network security

In addition to being new mother, Camille continues work as a Network Security Engineer at the J.J. Pickle Research Campus of the University of Texas.

She is in charge of secure video conferencing and works with Windows and Unix systems.

## Beowulf and Kitty

Beowulf and Kitty continue to do well. Kitty is 14 and Beowulf is age 13, Beowulf has a cough when he exerts himself that the vet says is common in older small dogs. He and Kitty vie for places on Jerry's lap while he is watching TV. As the weather gets cooler, the "lap fights" increase.



Beowulf



Kitty



Jerry blows out candles on his birthday cake. From left are Jerry Pennartz, Teresa, Camille, Sammie, Jeremy, Jerry, McKenna and Anthony. Christopher arrived later that evening.

## South Padre Island Vacation

At the end of August, Jerry, Jerry P., Teresa, Anthony, McKenna, Bradley and Lynne went on a week long South Padre Island vacation to celebrate Brad and his dad's birthdays.

They spent a lot of time in the pool at the rental, and in the Gulf of Mexico. They also went on a dolphin and sea life tour around the island. Some went fishing while Jerry simply ate fish and fajitas.

Lynne learned about ocean waves and under tows and had to be rescued by Bradley after she lost her footing in the Gulf. Jerry helped with the rescue, but, meanwhile, Anthony thought that Jerry might need to be rescued, too.

It was an enjoyable time and came just after a minor hurricane hit the island, but did no damage. The water was bath-warm.

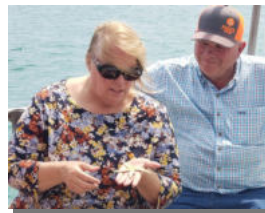
They also visited with Karon and Teresa's cousin Nora Reynolds, who lives in Harlingen. They haven't seen Nora for several years, so it was great to catch up and look at some old family photos.



The family at dinner. From left, Brad, Nora, Teresa, Anthony, McKenna, Jerry, Lynne and Jerry P.



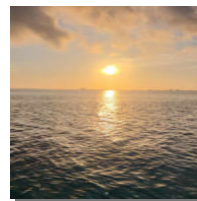
Jerry, Nora and Teresa.



Teresa and Jerry meet a starfish.



Jerry cruises the Gulf.



Sunrise.



Jerry and Jerry relax after a swim.

## Christopher and Jerry attend IPMS

Christopher and Jerry attended the International Plastic Modeler's Society annual convention in San Marcos, Texas, in August. Christopher's local clubs in San Antonio were sponsors this year.

One of the best parts of the convention is meeting modelers from all over the world. They have a number of friends in the modeling community and are well known by others in IPMS.

Modelers build, display and sell model kits of airplanes, armor, ships, cars and science fiction subjects. They enjoy visiting with hosts of modeling podcasts.

They also met the editors of *Fine Scale Modeler* magazine, model and diorama product manufacturers, as well as several YouTube personalities in the modeling hobby community.

Christopher is one of the judges for the national modeling contest. He displayed two pieces of armor this year, along with an F-4 Phantom aircraft.

Next year's convention is in Madison, Wisconsin and Jerry and Christopher are making plans to go.



Christopher gets instruction from Steve Munsell of Flagstaff, Arizona. Steve is owner of *Value Gear*, the foremost manufacturer of aftermarket resin armor and science fiction details.

## Jerry Volunteers

Since Jerry is retired, he does quite a bit of volunteer work. He helps with the Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry, including moving products to the Catholic church hall on Thursdays before Lent. He also helps with the event itself.

He spent a lot of time at the IPMS convention this year, helping vendors to bring in products and acting as a door guard for a vendor room. He also worked with the President of IPMS and modeler

friends for Las Vegas in compiling judge's results for the model contest.

He occasionally writes newspaper articles and takes photos for Rolling Plains Management and basically does any other tasks when asked, including helping Jerry Pennartz move tractors for farm work.

His only regular task is serving as minister for First Christian Church of Crowell. He has served for 24 years.



A literal truck load of food for the Fish Fry. Jerry aids Jerry Pennartz in unloading every week during Lent.



## THE McLAIN FAMILY

Jerry  
2833 Ridgetop Lane  
Vernon TX 76384  
(940) 553-4797  
jerry@jerrymclain.net

Christopher, Jessica and Robert  
P.O. Box 3293  
Bandera, TX 78003  
(940) 886-6321  
chris.g.mclain@gmail.com  
jessica.l.lancaster@gmail.com

Robert has three tablets because he keeps needing something faster, (for gaming, and video but not for email!)

Jeremy, Camille and Sammie  
2304 Nestlewood  
Austin, TX 78754  
(940) 886-6336  
mclain.jeremy@gmail.com  
camillej87@gmail.com

Sammie prefers to eat cantaloupe and smile, rather than getting email!

**On the web:**  
**jerrymclain.net**



Christopher, Jessica, Robert, Jerry, Jeremy, Camille and Samantha

### Easter baskets for all

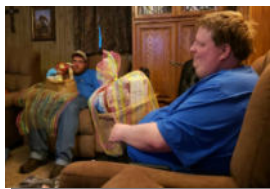
Teresa started a tradition several years ago of giving Easter baskets full of goodies and gifts to the younger members of the family. She has continued it with baskets for Anthony, McKenna, Brad, Christopher, Jessica, Jeremy and Camille, as well as Robert. Jerry and Jerry Pennartz even got baskets....until last year, when Jerry and Jerry P. were cut out!

Jerry Pennartz took it OK, but Jerry did NOT. So, after whining, complaining, threatening to call Adult Protective Services and general verbal discontent, he was awarded a basket this year.

Robert's basket was actually bigger, but Jerry knows better than to push it!



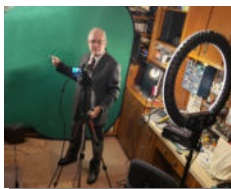
Whining pays off.



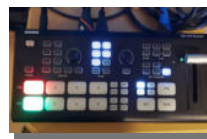
Anthony and Brad with their baskets.



Weather forecast for winter.



What you really see in person.



This used to cost a lot but it is inexpensive and small now.



Here's the cartoon. All we need is Robert.

### Chromakey and green screen

Ever since his past life in television, Jerry has been fascinated with TV special effects. One effect is placing the "talent" in front of a color background, then electronically inserting another picture or video so that it is "behind" the person. Years ago, a background in a special bright blue was used, but these days, the color is a bright green. The idea is to have a color as far from flesh tones as possible. Now, if the subject is wearing that same color, they disappear and seem to "float" in the image.

This used to be an expensive effect, but digital video has made it much cheaper. Jerry has a video switcher that performs the effect and he has enjoyed working with it. He can do weather forecasts or appear anywhere, and, when Robert visits in December, he will be in his own cartoon. Jerry had equipment at the State that allowed Christopher and Jeremy to be in their own cartoons when they were the same age.

Is it useful? Since Jerry does very little besides preaching these days, probably not, but it is fun.