

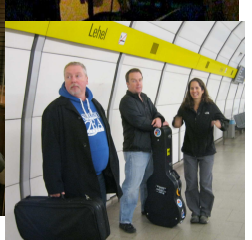
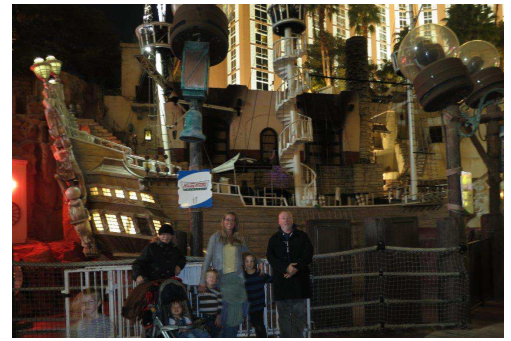
**THE SOIREE**

The show put on by the Captain and Chenille this year was another gala lineup of classic and new acts that rocked Altadena. Perhaps the live feed from Munich was the actual highlight but it had stellar company. The show was delayed somewhat by a major accident downtown that blocked two free-ways, but eventually most people came. The new MC, Seena, held things together with a large number of puns, while people slowly trickled in. There were many acts this year, including another Zappa set, some standup, some poetry, a first appearance by Robin with the “ice cream” song, two songs by the One Olive Martini, a couple of tunes by various parts of the Living Room Band, the Band That’s Good Enough For You, and even a song by Kent. The Police did finally show up, despite them having been given notice, but there was no trouble. Due to an interest in keeping this event legal, the next Soiree is planned to be “un-plugged” but still quite loud.



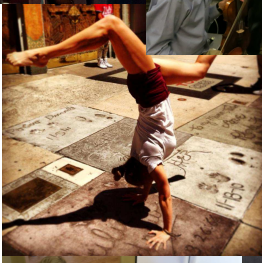
**THE TOUR**

“Nobody pinch me, nobody wake me!” Sallie was heard to say this several times this year as the Wittering Wiffleberries took their act on the road to Sydney, Bonn, Munich (where they got the band Cruise Control back together with Kaspar and their new manager Jessica), Paris, and Nice (where they were identified as a punk act). Solo performances were in Hobart, Flagstaff, Catalina Is, Atlanta, Barcelonette and Haute Provence. Along with a big double headliner with the van Belles in Las Vegas. “I do work on these trips you know” Theo reminded all and sundry. “It’s fair demarcation” said Sallie “He works and I shop. I don’t like working and he doesn’t like shopping.”



**GUEST LIST STARTED WITH MATT THE HOOPY**

“We hadn’t seen Matty B for so long we were starting to wonder if we ever would and LO! the QLD Government slashed the budget and Matt traveled round the world—as you do!” Amongst the highlights was a trip to Hollywood (of course) and at least one night at the pub. And then Ingrid arrived and everything was fab again. See Pic at right! MiMo & Uta were two cycling Germans who needed a starting point on their ride to Canada, a quick visit by the lovely Dr Oppenheimer and then the van Belles for Thanksgiving. It was at this point the washing machine gave up the ghost. Cue next story...

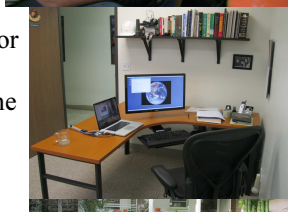


**RING OUT THE OLD, WRING IN THE NEW**

This year saw the end of the darling Gertie, a Suzuki that delivered the duo safely to California from Atlanta all those years ago. She was 19 years old and had 170K on the clock “And oh you ought to hear the roar when she’s only doing four...” was the ghostly tune as she headed off to aid the poor folks in Public Radio, “May she afford you better puns” intoned Theo and the corner of Palm & Marengo became a one car household and a little greener for it. Then, after also saying farewell to the old washer and dryer set, our eco-couple became the proud parents of a new machine that is a washer AND dyer in one – and it’s much smaller than either of the two old giant machines. “There’s so much space now!” breathed Sallie and Theo declared, “We’ll design something on the laptop” and behold there was much rejoicing.



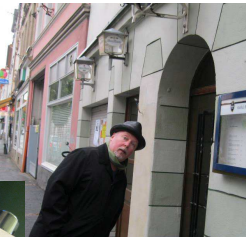
**NEW DIGS**  
When Dr T wanted a new look to his office he didn’t have to go far to find a designer. Thanks to Seena the Dr is in!





### MARTINI STRAIGHT UP

The rumors of the demise of Dangerous Aliens have been going around for some time. When confronted with this, their dynamic lead singer was heard to say “Well, our bass player bugged off to the Netherlands, and we had a stroke of luck with our friend Arthur on Bass (tho we knew he was needed on a bigger stage) and then our Drummer bugged off to Germany. No bass and no drums equals no band”. Without missing many beats (about 5 we think), our duo quickly realized that the Soiree had provided an ample pool of talent and they formed a new rock combo, although this time leaning more towards the pop side of things. “There are two new things about this band” the lead guitar player said. “One is that we play songs people in the audience may actually have heard before, and the other is that I am somewhat unique in this outfit as I am the only one with flat feet in the band – that’s why they say I’m the olive”. The bands name is indeed “One Olive Martini”, though we’re still trying to work out the connection between flat feet and cocktails. There’s lots of video at <http://www.chara.gsu.edu/~theo/Movies>, just follow the Music link.



### STELLAR COMPANY

It appears that a career in Astronomy is a great way of getting to know a wide variety of lovely people, and places.



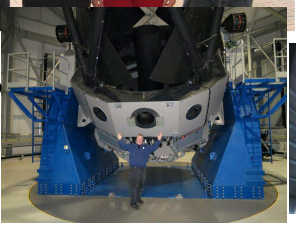
It was really exciting for Sallie to meet Ralf’s mom and sister (left) and go to the Cruise Reunion (below that) and get to spend such a lot of time in Tasmania.



Meanwhile, there were a bunch of other gatherings, including Joan’s birthday, a random roast lamb, a group lunch in Nice, pontification at NPOI near Flagstaff, and a group of aging, yet happy, sons of Engadine.



Sal with the pass to the stars and Theo with the gear



THANKS & SEASON’S BEST TO YOU