

ABGN #21

Adam's Bimonthly Grad Newsletter

Home and Back Again

After a few botched Winter Break plans and some investments in 'Rona-preventive outdoor cookware, I decided to mount the Orange Continent Eater and take another coast-to-coast road trip to visit family. My original plan was to camp along I-40, keeping my face-to-face interactions near 0. After a colder-than-anticipated night and a morning encounter with toiletry-starved elk, I bent the knee and ended each night in a hotel. Thankfully, it looks like my risk reductions (and a lucky roll of the dice) did still pay off.

The family spent Christmas on Hilton Head Island. We played lots of Bohnanza and ate much ham and potatoes. The beaches were pleasantly empty, though it was too cold to surf.

I managed to convince Liz to take the trip back with me! We got stuck in mud after a quick roadside pitstop, but a kind stranger helped push us out. We made it back to Davis in just four days.



Christmas Miscellany: our Davis Christmas tree; one of the curious and hungry elk; some fresh tea in the cement outdoors; family on the beach; summiting Crowder's Mountain; snow in Tennessee on the way back to California; and Liz, bored enough to skateboard in Davis with me.

PhD Update: Lulls and Jolts

The past few months have felt a little undirected. My labmate Alex referred to this feeling as "spinning wheels," which I think is about right. I'm working on my first manuscript, which has been a challenge, but I'm hopeful that it'll turn out well and get published swiftly.

I did land a lecturing position for the quarter! It's been a nice change of pace, so far.

Gardening and Agrarian Escapism

Darcy and I have been developing an interest in self-sufficiency for about a year now, and Covid's acted as a fertilizer for this idea.

We tried our hand at gardening in Winter. It turns out that, contrary to popular belief, Davis *does* frost. This frost, compounded with a healthy neighborhood of birds, decimated our seedlings. We'll try to plant again when it's warmer.

I also asked the landlord about raising chickens, which they've permitted. It's too early in the season for buying chicks; in the meantime, we got fish and snails.

Streamin'



I've been streaming Davis Melee tournaments, and am planning to stream a regimented practice schedule starting at 8P PST most weeknights. Drop a follow! Twitch.tv/seemew



Gourami and snail shots, Darcy at the garden, and some Davis chicks.

I'm not really sure what's gonna happen for next newsletter! Hopefully a COVID vaccine.

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