



## 2006 - Cruising Along Following Yonder Star

Here are some of the things we were able to do between working long hours. This is our 25<sup>th</sup> year in business, still working hard designing products for clients and selling a few items under our own name.

In early February, Jerry was a speaker at DesignCon presented by the International Engineering Consortium. The seminar was officially titled "Reference Design or IP: What are the Reuse Trends for High-Performance PCB Design?" It dealt with the difficulties of trying to follow manufacturer's requirements for using their chips. He was also asked to do some technical school lectures, but doesn't have the time.



Later that month, Jerry and Sharon attended another Western Winter Blast in Arizona. This year we reserved a spot in manufacturing and so had car full of tools, supplies, sun shade tent, and even a home-modified hydraulic press. We managed to make sixteen "3 pound" black powder rockets; these are like pop-bottle rockets, only the engine is 10" long not counting the large shell on its nose. We made the black powder from scratch but purchased most of the shells to glue on. All but one flew quite well and we apparently impressed the people in charge with our organization. Jerry was later asked to be the co-chair of manufacturing for Do-It in October and the next Winter Blast. We weren't able to attend Do-It, but plan to be at WWB in February. Hopefully, we'll have time to build more interesting rockets when Jerry's not busy with staff duties.

In March, Jerry turned 50; when he has time he'll think of entering middle-age. April saw Jerry & Sharon's 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We decided to combine both celebrations with Sharon's birthday in December and will be spending a weekend in Monterey. It's been a long time since we've been there and a weekend at the coast should be nice.

Engineering Design News Magazine published this article about a unique use of AeroGel capacitors in their June issue. **TALES FROM THE CUBE** BY JERRY DURAND • DURAND INTERSTELLAR INC

Our old roof has been falling apart, so we took advantage of a very good financing deal to order a new roof. In June, we spent a lot of time in the attic and on the roof to install a Heat Recovery Ventilator before the roofers arrived in July. We also added a light pipe skylight to our office which has made a big difference, since our office has no windows.

We took a break to work on two fireworks shows, the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> we camped by the Russian River in Rio Monte, California and were crew for the show. Then on the 3<sup>rd</sup> we were in San Francisco to set up a



barge for a show in Pittsburg, California the next day. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Jerry and a few other people road the barge for 6+ hours across the San Francisco Bay to finish setting it up. Jerry got to fire half the show that night and the next morning they had to

clean up the barge back in San Francisco before going home.



On July 5<sup>th</sup>, we got a call from the roofers, they'd be here on Monday. Time to finish preparing for them! The roof was installed during a heat wave of 103° and when



they were done we still had to install the replacement swamp cooler and refurbish all nine old skylights.

Jerry had a lot of good childhood memories of Maine and Sharon had never been there, so we spent a week there in September. While there we used Google Earth (satellite photos) and were actually able to find the lodge where his family used to vacation. It was some distance from where we were staying, so we made a day trip over to see what we could see. The small town there still looks much the same and the people still very friendly, but they didn't know much about the lodge other than it had been sold. We drove up to the lodge to ask if we could look around, but the winter caretaker wasn't home. We took a couple of pictures and see it is now a private girl's water ski summer camp but looks much the same. The rest of our stay in Maine was quite enjoyable. There was even a fireworks show where we were staying one night!



Our garden didn't produce much this year, but we did have a nice kiwi harvest. Maybe next year the growing conditions will be better.

We wish you all the happiness of the Season and the best of the New Year.

Jerry & Sharon