

Rhems & Keeters 2022



Shelly, Ed and Mike Rhem

Ed

I'm not sure what pushed me to call Mary Anne Howard in February, but I'm glad it did! Mary Anne's husband passed away a few years ago. I had dated Mary Anne in college at East Carolina. At the conclusion of the phone call, we decided to meet for lunch. It was an enjoyable connection as we reflected on "the good old days at East Carolina". We decided to meet again and that has led to meeting again, again and again.

Mary Anne is a wonderful shag dancer (yes, she makes me look good), so we can frequently be seen hanging out at Loafers Dance Club in Raleigh. We also made a few dance trips this year to Memories at Atlantic Beach and the SOS Fall weekend at North Myrtle Beach.

Raleigh, Charlotte and Lake Gaston continue to be my most frequent visitation stops! In what might be a surprise to everyone, I made my first trip ever to the southern part of the Outer Banks. Mary Anne and I visited Ocracoke, Cape Hatteras, up Hatteras Island to Bodie Island and then toured Manteo. Yes, we visited all of the lighthouses. It was a fun and interesting trip.

Mary Anne and I have spent a lot of time together, but I don't want to forget Blair/Shelly and Mike/Bre and their beautiful children. Audrey, Beckett and Nolan are #1 on my list and I have been so amazed

how fast they are growing up (Shelly will tell me I would not be so amazed if I would visit more frequently and she is so right)! I plan to do more next year and all future years!

I don't want to forget the Beaches Resorts in the Caribbean. Allan, what an awesome birthday party! Kelly, I was so happy that Allan at the beach dinner recognized how much you have supported each other. Also, I really enjoyed seeing the many faces that I had not seen in awhile! The weekend was fantastic!

Finally, I wish everyone a wonderful 2023. It should be pretty exciting!



Ed Rhem and Mary

Anne Howard

Mike, Bre and Nolan

It's almost 2023 and one thing that the *Haseley Herald* always does, is allow me to reflect on the past year. The highs, the lows, and everything in between. Many hobbies and characteristics stay the same, like spending time with family and sneaking out when possible, to play golf with dad.

We were able to find a little time to travel this year which consisted of two trips to the Caribbean. The first was our family trip to St. John and St. Thomas in early May. Nolan tagged along on this trip and notched quite a few firsts. He rode on a plane for the first time, which on the way down wasn't too bad. There was about 15-20 minutes of the 3.5-hour flight where he pitched a fit but overall, we made it without too much trouble. Bre and I kept him busy with sticker books, cookies, and Blippi. If you are unaware of who Blippi is, just type Blippi into YouTube.

Our first destination was St John; St John was a bit of a rollercoaster. The first day went by easy, we did some lounging on the beach and even took Nolan out kayaking to which he fell asleep. It was on this day that we realized Nolan was feeling unwell. As he spiked a fever and became sicker and sicker, we were forced to drive to the urgent care at midnight. There wasn't much they could do but gave him a covid test and sent us on our way. Luckily two days later his fever broke, and he began to get back to his energized self. The St John portion of the trip ended with exploring and more beach time. Nolan would also entertain us at night with his dance moves!

Now that everyone was feeling more rested and energetic than the first few days, we headed on over to St Thomas for the end of our trip. This part of the trip felt much more like a vacation than the days in St. John. We were able to go out to a few nice restaurants in the Red Hook area and continued our deep sitting on the beach. Nolan was enjoying the trip at this point and throwing rocks and shells in the water appeared to be his favorite time of the trip, which we made sure to do each day.

Once our time in the islands was up, we hopped on the plane back to Charlotte which wasn't as pleasant as the flight down. Nolan fought his nap and really made his presence known as he cried and whined. There was a point when we almost had him down for a nap, but then the cart lady came by and he perked up and said "ice". He was really enjoying eating ice at this point in the year. Needless to say, walking up and down the aisle with a screaming toddler is not the best way to spend a flight, but we made it!

Just a few months later was Nolan's first Easter egg hunt! He had a blast and made us 'hide' the eggs again shortly after opening them all. Of course, he didn't understand why there weren't goodies in them the second time around.

Shortly thereafter, it was summertime! We spent our free time taking the golf cart up to the pool and teaching Nolan all about the fun of jumping in! It was truly a lot of fun to watch! We participated in our first Fourth of July parade in our neighborhood. We decorated our golf cart and got to end the parade by

being sprayed with the Fire Departments ladder hose. Nolan was in heaven! A few days later Nolan turned two. Allan and Kelly got him a shark shaped slip-n-slide which we set up in the back yard and watched Nolan go weeeee. Of course, he wouldn't go until he saw mommy and daddy go first, so we made sure to make it look fun!

Continuing to the fall, the Sports Connection staff and I learned how to resurface tennis and pickleball courts. Like any project we do at Sports Connection it passes along skills that can be used in life and the future and this was surely no different. We worked hard developing our court building skills, so once we got to the Ballantyne project in the winter, we would be ready to go! That training sure came in handy and if you would like to see more of either project, Allan would be happy to show you his nifty time lapse video.

This brings us to winter where we currently sit. The beginning of winter has been extremely busy with the Ballantyne Pickleball Project. We worked tirelessly over 5 weeks to make a magnificent transformation from a workout gym to the first indoor dedicated pickleball facility in Charlotte. It really turned out amazing and it's something I'll be proud of for years to come. I hope at some point everyone reading this, will make their way to Charlotte and play a game.

Now, since I'm late as usual, writing my news, I can write about the final trip of the year. I do not need to write much because I believe almost everyone reading this was a part of an amazing few days in Turks and Caicos. This wasn't just any vacation, but a very special one. This was a family reunion, wedding vow renewal, and finally, Allan's 60th birthday party! It was truly an unforgettable experience with so many family members and friends joining in for dinners, cabanas, pickleball, dancing, beach games (my team was 3-0), and even Family Feud! (Shout out to Blair, Steve, Shelly, Niles, and Emily for taking home the trophy).

Christmas is almost here and I need to turn this into Karen ASAP, so in closing I'd just like to say I hope everyone has a wonderful 2023 filled with love, family, and good times!

Mike, Bre and Nolan Rhem











