



# THE POLARIZED EXPRESS

DECEMBER 2016



## 1st Quarter



Early Morning light on fresh snow, 1/13/2016

(1) I just can't see all those tiny pictures clearly in most Christmas Newsletters so these are bigger. (2) The better images are all online already, so all of these are linked. To get the most out of this newsletter, go to the digital version, [BarrecaVineyards.com/Christmas2016](http://BarrecaVineyards.com/Christmas2016). (3) The seasons are so artificially designated that I'm using "quarters" to more closely define their reality. (4) There are a lot more pictures so there is a [link to an album](#) on the same website.



Once again it was great having April, Tony and grandson James so close that we could go sledding and visit often.



You know things are slow when a highlight of the season is bringing in several tons of goat manure. It was great to have it for fertilizing the vineyard and the garden plants but after a long winter, cabin fever set in and we had to get away.

## 2nd Quarter



John Day River leading to Fossil Beds 4/10/2016

So we jumped in our trusty '84 Westfalia and headed to northern Oregon with a stop along the way in Milton-Freewater for wine and chocolate plus our first attempt to find morel mushrooms.



Camping on Klicker Mt with a view of the Palouse. 4/7/2016

That didn't yield any mushrooms but we had a refreshing getaway. Mushrooms would come soon enough and keep coming for two months as we picked in burn after burn constantly moving to higher elevations. We invited friends and family and had a once in a lifetime experience of so many morels that we left each day leaving good ones behind.



3rd Quarter



Selling plants, wine and maps at the Farmer's Market 5/11/2016

We loaded our VW and set off early almost every Wednesday from May through October to the Farmer's Market. It was a big change each week to be in the middle of a crowd in the middle of Colville.



Ceremony of Tears at Kettle Falls 6/17/2016

The natives gathered in dugout canoes for the first time in 80 years and they showed up again at Standing Rock this Fall to protect the river there.



Bina, Nala and Ovid came to visit in the middle of July and explored the mountains and the lake for berries and rocks.



4th Quarter



The crush started early with Don Worley's grapes 8/30/2016

The Fall was a blur of wine-making activity as our vineyard and winery started accepting grapes from other organic growers besides our own. With nearly 500 gallons of working wine, we have our hands full.



Crushing Baco Noir Grapes. 9/20/2016

Meanwhile Cheryl was bringing in her own harvest from the garden and preserving it in the freezer. So up until November 8th it was a very good year.



We hope that yours was as good and next year's as well. Keep in touch and have a

**Merry Christmas!**