

A Letter To Tim

I was looking back at the spring issue of "Discover SML" magazine and rediscovered photographic proof that Barb and I are truly living at the end of a rainbow here at the lake. Regular readers may remember Eric Hill's photograph on the last page of that issue, which captured a beautiful rainbow soaring over the lake, arching down toward Smith Mountain and touching down, it so happens, right over our house. While we have spied neither leprechaun, nor pot of gold gracing our yard, it was a nice reminder of how fortunate we are.

A few years before retiring, Barb and I set out to find the perfect place to live, visiting several states in the process. We had a real challenge because Barb wanted to live near the ocean and I wanted to live in the mountains, a tough combo to find in a good climate. Our long search ended abruptly when we stumbled on Smith Mountain Lake, quite by accident. It was love at first sight!

We quickly learned that the lake is huge, with many different surrounding communities, offering many different experiences. After several more trips over the next two years, exploring different parts of the lake, the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Crooked Road and the nearby cities, we made the leap.

As expected, the actual move was a nightmare, which is why we were so

careful to be sure that when we made that last trip down the New Jersey Turnpike, we would never have to move again. Well, two years later, we are still settling into our new home, culling

found the perfect home for us, even though it was not on the market at the time.

Now we wake up each morning and count our blessings! Sitting with a fresh cup of joe, listening to great music interspersed with Tim's homespun commentary and local happenings on the radio (880 AM), watching the shadow of Smith Mountain sliding eastward as the sun reveals the Blue Ridge Mountains and then glistening off that beautiful lake; You just have to feel great.

Of course, as any "Kids Want to Know Why" listener knows, rainbows are not fixed in space; they move about with the viewer.

In fact rainbows actually end at many different locations simultaneously; as many locations as there are viewers. So, obviously there are lots of other people who have plenty to be thankful for at their end of the rainbow. We have included some pictures we took, looking right back at Eric's camera from our end. From any perspective - how cool is this lake!

Art Schumacher lives in Penhook with his wife, Barbara Ritch. They are avid readers of Discover Smith Mountain Lake, and also enjoy listening to WSLK Lake Radio 880. Art holds the distinction of having been first to submit correct solutions to the puzzles in two consecutive issues of Discover SML!



the extraneous "stuff" we thought we needed and replacing it with, well, different stuff. Apparently we never do learn some lessons. ...but come on, a boat makes perfect sense here!

It was incredibly easy to make new friends here at the lake, with all that southern hospitality and tons of neighbors from back home and just about everywhere else. The first one we met is our dearest friend and our Realtor, Rick Carroll of CB Sales and Rentals, who definitely deserves a plug. We are forever indebted to Rick, because his knowledge of the lake and incredible patience is what made our dream come true. In fact, based on the description we gave him of what we wanted, he actually searched out and