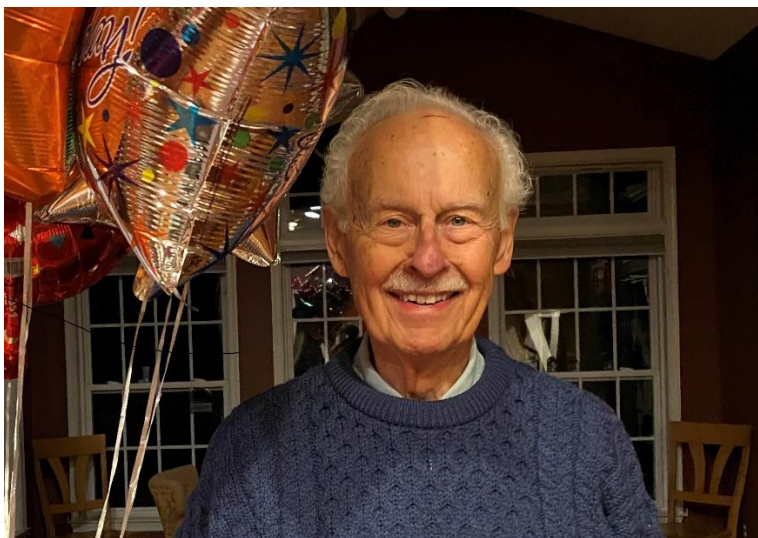


2021 Update on Dick McClure



Since yesterday's Comara email suggested including a picture, I'll start with that. This was taken one year ago on my 85th birthday at our home in western Ellicott City which I share with my wife, Charlotte.

Life has been good to me, though with a modest share of bumps. Most notable was a surprise diagnosis of colon cancer in the Spring of 2021; of course, I had no clue at the time of this picture that that diagnosis was to descend on me. However, examination of the tumor following surgery showed that the tumor was contained within the wall of the colon; no cancer was evident elsewhere. Moreover, during the operation the surgeon removed 42 lymph nodes and all were determined to be cancer-free. Since three of my siblings died of cancer and the fourth was successfully treated for cancer, I figured this was just my turn in the barrel. Fortunately, that proved not to be the case. At least not this time.

My major current activity is playing the bassoon in any orchestra that wants me! Most importantly, I play regularly with the Frederick Symphony Orchestra as second bassoon. We have performed at the Frederick Community College, the chapel at Hood College and most recently at the Weinberg Center in downtown Frederick where we drew a paying audience of about 700. I've always loved classical music, and being able to perform it with an orchestra is a fantastic privilege for me. I took up the bassoon in 1976 after hearing it at a chorus rehearsal. I loved the sound and determined I would learn it.

My wife and I enjoy lunching with friends and attending BSO concerts. Next spring we've planned to take a river cruise on the Rhine, and hope that the pandemic doesn't interfere. Other favorite activities include bread-baking from scratch and walking our 15 pound miniature poodle, Cosette. She is a major reason I can usually reach 10,000 steps a day!

I appreciate the chance to stay in touch with former Comsat colleagues via Comara, and especially want to thank those who have put so much of their time and effort into maintaining it. I'd welcome hearing from anyone out there!

12/10/2021