

## Maurice's 2010 Letter

This is my sixth annual letter. A lot has changed since the first version of this letter I sent out in 2005 and this year has included one of the biggest changes. This year I got engaged to Emily!

I had a work trip to Budapest, Hungary and took Emily along. I carried the ring on the airplane and was a little concerned they might blow the surprise, but I was never searched so that was fine. After a week of work in Budapest we took a 11 hour train to the middle of Romania. On the second day in Romania we visited Bran Castle. After exploring the castle, I led us down to this secluded pond at the base of the castle and asked Emily to marry me. I wasn't too surprised by her answer since she had been wagging her empty finger in front of me for about six months at that point. She was very surprised, so I must have done a good job at hiding it. Since then she has shown that ring to everyone with two eyes, and I'm sure if she had a one eyed pirate friend they would have seen it too. I guess she likes it :-)

In other news we joined a CSA this year. That stands for community supported agriculture. The basic concept is we buy a share in a local farm at the beginning of the year. We also have to put in a few days of work on the farm. We put in our time early in the year so we did planing. Then throughout the year we could go and pickup vegetables on designated days. I really liked this system and expect to join again next year.

My job has been going great. I'm filing two patents for ideas I had at work. I'm not much of a believer in patents, but when you file a few at work it certainly helps get you noticed. Actually I've almost been noticed too much. I just don't have time to do nearly everything I want to do because I'm always getting asked to help on other tasks. Oh well at least I have plenty of job security. Thinking back, I realize I'm extremely lucky to have gotten into the industry I'm in. While many people are loosing their jobs, my company is making record profits and hiring anyone they can find who's qualified. I've never been part of a profitable company like this and it's great to see these large bonuses they give the good engineers. I also got to travel to fun places like Budapest, London, Las Vegas, San Francisco, and San Diego this year. Work is definitely good.

When I'm not at my day job, I spend a good part of my time working on my high speed photography trigger ([www.cameraaxe.com](http://www.cameraaxe.com)). I made a new version this year that has been selling like crazy. I just can't keep it in stock. I've even hired a person to help assemble them. I really think this is the best device like it in the world, and I sell it for a lot less than it's competition. Things will only get better in the future as I continue to improve it.

Emily had been teaching ESL (English as a Second Language) at Worcester State College. It's a very competitive job market for teachers, but Emily had been looking for a better job. Just a few weeks ago she found the perfect job and beat out all the other applicants. She will now be teaching ESL at the Leominster High School.

As for outdoors activities, it feels like I've been doing less this year because of all the things I've mentioned have been taking so much of my time. But Emily and I did go to the beach a few times, took Tookie for a good walk through the woods at least once a week and went on lots of other miscellaneous adventures.

It's been a great year!

Maurice



Engaged in Romania



Emily at the CSA



Camera Axe

