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Introducing the Krolls! *by Charity Winters*



Kroll Family (left to right): Oren, Steve, Lily, Seth, Mattea, baby Eli and Cara

The Seldovia Gazette would like to introduce you to a new family in town: Steve and Cara Kroll and their 7 children – Sevea (20), Dawson (18), Oren (15), Seth (13), Lily (11), Mattea (6), and Eli (1 1/2). The Susan B. English student body has grown a little bit because of this crew! The Krolls made Seldovia their new home in October 2005 and they couldn't be happier about it.

Steve and Cara both grew up in Alaska. Steve's parents had always wanted to live in Alaska. In 1971, Steve's dad flew up to Juneau and got a job. Later on that year Steve's mom drove up with him, his 4 sisters, and everything else they owned. Steve was 11 years old at the time and his family has been in

That sealed the deal – the Krolls, along with their cousins the Chissus's decided to move down. Paul and Jenny beat them here by a few years while Steve and Cara waited for their house in Nenana to sell. Finally, it did. They moved into the apartment above the post office and Steve took a job as the city maintenance worker. They came with 5 of their children. Sevea, the oldest is a senior at UAF this year. Dawson works up in Fairbanks although he has been visiting for that past few months. Most of the kids enrolled in the school although Cara was glad that at least one of them decided to stay home a little longer – Seth, the 13 year old. "I'm glad because I wasn't sure what to do with myself after homeschooling all that time!" Cara said. Of course, little Eli stayed home as well – in case you were wondering.

Alaska ever since. In 1982, Steve met Cara at a restaurant where she waitressed in Juneau . Cara had grown up in Fairbanks but later on in her teenage years her family moved to Seattle . But they weren't there for long! Cara's dad decided he wanted to go back to Alaska so he took the whole family up the Inside Passage on his sailboat and settled in Juneau . Steve and Cara met later on that same winter.

After the two were married a year later, they settled in Fairbanks for a short time before heading off to Galena . Steve got a job managing a bulk fuel plant and spent the next few years moving between Galena and Vancouver . The family finally settled down in Nenana around 1990 where they have lived for the past 15 years. Cara was a stay-at-home mom who homeschooled their kids at the time. Life was rather crazy in Nenana. Steve worked a lot of hours and Cara was home rather isolated with all the kids. They were several miles out of town so going anywhere was a major excursion. The Krolls decided they wanted a "lifestyle change".

One day, they found the Seldovia website. The town looked perfect for everything they had in mind for a new home. Steve had always wanted to get back to the marine environment that he grew up with in Juneau . Seldovia also offered opportunities for more outdoor activities they enjoyed as a family- hunting, fishing, hiking, etc. The small town atmosphere meant everything was a lot closer than they were used to and they would have more to do. It seemed ideal. Steve and Cara's brother, Paul Chissus (yes, one and the same), took a trip to Seldovia to check it out. Steve remembers that trip with a lot of laughter. "We got off the water taxi at Jakolof took the taxi into town. We asked the lady to show us around a little and she said, 'I don't do tours.' So, she let us keep the cab for the day and just leave it at Jakolof when we were done!"

So far, life couldn't get any better. The whole family loves the fact that you can walk to get just about anywhere. The small town makes it easy and safe for everyone to get around. The kids love school and all the activities available in Seldovia. They've made a lot of friends already. "This is really busy for them!" Cara explained – they just weren't able to get out much in Nenana. Steve and Cara feel that the main reason they made this move was for the kids. "I don't think they will ever want to leave Seldovia!" exclaims Steve.

Steve's new job as the city maintenance worker has been going well. He chuckled when he mentioned how the job was described to him. "They actually apologized because it was only 35 hours a week! They just don't understand how great that is." Steve was used to working more like 50-60 hour weeks as a plant manager. He's glad this new job can give him some more time at home with the family. So far he enjoys the work, which has consisted mostly of snow removal so far this winter. But he says it's not boring, there's always something different to do. "It's pretty much whatever needs to be done."

Right now the family is in the midst of buying a house. They can't wait to get in and make it their own. The apartment can be a little tight at times for such a big family! Cara is looking forward to berry picking this summer. Steve can't wait to get his boat in the water. The Krolls are settling in to have the life they've waited so long for in Seldovia!



Steve spends a lot of time in the City grader!



Cara and Steve Kroll

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