sensuous samba dancing and capoeira demonstrations. Capoeira is a dance form that has evolved from warrior drills of the Africans that were brought to Brazil as slaves.

After one day back in Karlsruhe, we were off again, this time by train to Munich to pick up our new adult toy: a BMW M3 convertible for Judy! Our plans were to drive directly from there to Frascati, outside Rome to meet up with Steve and Kayu. They were there for Steve to attend a workshop as part of his PhD research and education. We asked the salesman what the break-in was for the car. Oh, yes, very important: keep the engine under 5500 rpm and speed under 103 mph! The former was not a problem, but the latter was; we covered everything from 0 to 103 on that trip!

The car has a navigator, a new experience for us. On the second day, we were near Florence at lunchtime. We did not want to drive into the city, but we remembered a lovely town, Fiesole, north of Florence, up on a hill, with a spectacular view of the city. We decided to go there for lunch. So, Judy punched in Fiesole on the navigator and we were off! In honor of this experience, we named the navigator Flo, because we were both tired of referring to the device as “she” in deference to the woman’s voice used for instructions. Now, the car is Flo, as well.

Our time with Steve and Kayu in Frascati and environs was delightful. On Saturday, Steve was still conferencing, so Norm, Judy and Kayu went off touring wineries nearby. ‘Not a great success, since they were mostly closed. However, we had a wonderful lunch as the only tourists in a village restaurant with local wines in liter water bottles filled from giant kegs. We went off to Hadrian’s Villa on Sunday, with Flo providing flawless directions. For Norm, this was a third visit to this site; for everyone else, it was a first.

Flo found our way unerringly to Steve and Kayu’s hotel in Rome on Monday and then we zoomed on back to Karlsruhe. The weather was deteriorating badly, with one the roads on our returned closed the following day because of heavy snow!

We flew to Dallas in the last week of October for another geophysics meeting. We came back to Denver for the weekend, with Norm returning for a few consulting days in Houston the following week. We then met up on Chicago and flew back to Karlsruhe.

Our time in Germany was getting short, but we had two more trips planned. First stop was Prague with the opportunity to renew old friendships. We had a bit of a disaster early on; our train broke down and was four hours late. Our host, Ivan Psencik, was given misinformation, that the train had arrived long ago, and left for home. We had no back-up plan for such a contingency and ended up finding a hotel in the old-town area. Luckily, they had an internet