

First of all, I hope everyone reading this has had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Bob & I stayed home and enjoyed a quiet Christmas with our *two girls*! Most of you have seen our Christmas card with the front of our house decorated for the occasion. I took this picture to the right last February when we had a rare Myrtle Beach style snow storm. If you are quick, like I was and got out early enough, you can get a picture before it melts. I thought it sooo neat to see snow on the palm trees.

Now, the next picture of Bob enjoying breakfast on our new screen porch in shirt sleeves, was taken the Sunday before Christmas this year! The temperature was in the high 70's! Welcome to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina! This is why we are here. If it goes below freezing, it is in the night time, and day temps are usually in the low 50's to the mid 70's. No Complaints here!!

"Two girls" did you say? By now you probably have guessed what I am referring to. First of all, I want to thank those who have sent consoling thoughts following the news of the loss of our Whiskers. We really appreciated your efforts. He will always be in our thoughts. We were concerned for Miss Minnie, as he was the only cat she ever knew. We were concerned for her when we leave and take trips for any length of time. She is still shy of other people and we fear she would be quite lonely. Bob & I started on a hunt for another cat that would be a good match. We came up with Little Gracie at the Horry County Animal Care Center. She is 7 1/2 months old and was brought there by her previous owner, a female service member who was about to be deployed. That did it for us! As soon as I picked her up she purred like a diesel engine and wrapped her self around my arms begging us to take her home. We did!

It took Miss Minnie about three days to feel comfortable with her new sister. I heard Minnie growl and hiss for the very first time. It was an eye opener. What really broke the ice was using our shower stall, where they could see each other without any physical interaction. Now they play together like they have always been together. Part of the successful relationship was due to Gracie's determination to make our home her home, and to make friends with her new sister. I wonder if Minnie remembers how hard she worked on Whiskers to do the same.

The final picture was taken at the Carolina Forest High School Christmas Show. The man in the middle of this picture, Mr. Draig McBroom, is the Musical Director responsible for bringing out the very best talents in the students under his tutelage! In this picture he is still on medical leave due to serious back surgery, but makes a major effort to attend all performances. Under his direction, students have won top awards in competitions across this country. He is loved and respected.



Have a Safe & Happy New Years!!