

Happy New Year!!!

Well, here we are, once again at the beginning of a New Year! Welcome to "2014"!! I hope all our friends and family really did have a "Happy New Year"!! We spent our New Year's Eve at the Lakeside Club House, celebrating the "Old and the New" with our Neighbors. Everyone brought their favorite snacks and drinks, with management providing deserts. Just before midnight, most of us went across the hall to the Pub where we ushered in the New Year by watching the Times Square ball drop via the big screen.

So, how was the first month of 2014 you ask? Well, as you all know it has been a cold and stormy start! It just seemed to get worse as we moved through the month. Fortunately, there were some better highlights during the month that I can share with you as well. Probably, the biggest happening is that Bob & I bought a new car. It is a white Chrysler 300 C. Bob & I joke that he bought me the house and I bought him the car. It will probably take me forever to get used to all the programmable buttons needed to drive this car. These days it is like driving a computer with wheels, so Bob is absolutely thrilled! All kidding aside, it is a beautiful car and rides like a dream!

For me, the next big event is attending the first *Rivertown Bluegrass Society* concert just down the street at the Horry-Georgetown Technical College. They have concerts every third Saturday at that location. I have been trying for almost a year to attend a concert, but for conflicting events and my poor memory. Anyway, we had a great evening. For \$12.00 you get four hours of great music, assuming you like Blue Grass. This is a non profit Association whose purpose is to keep true Blue Grass Music alive. We are really looking forward to the February Concert which will include three Nationally known groups. If you want to check them out on your computer, you will find them at www.rivertownbluegrassociety.com

You probably are wondering how the new member of our family is getting along? Well, Miss Gracie is establishing her self in this family. What do you think about the picture of her on the right? She is thinking, "Attitude, so you think I have *attitude*, so, is that a good thing?" She is as cute as a button and really keeps Miss Minnie on her toes. Below on the right, she makes herself very comfortable with Bob, while he reads. She almost looks like she is waving at the camera. She is very affectionate and is very much a lap cat, which Minnie is not. She really keeps Minnie moving with her games.



Smith Family Newsletter January 2014 - Page 1



As in past months we always have our Coffee & Doughnuts on a Friday morning with an informational presentation of some sort. This month our very own Lakeside Theater Group gave a short presentation of their own production of "Dial H for Humor". They did a great job. Then we had our regular 'get-togethers, like dinning together at a favorite local restaurant, such as "Brother Shuckers". As the name implies, it is primarily a fish restaurant...yum! Bob & I love our oysters on the half shell.

Then we have our visitors of the month, our dear 400 friends, Peg & Bill Jones. During the early part of the winter they hung out primarily in New York and North Carolina near family. I think they were wishing they were in the "Keys" which is where they are ultimately headed. They stayed a bit longer than intended due to one of the East Coast Storms that even touched Coastal Carolina!! We had freezing rain which is very rare and some snow as well. See the picture I took from inside our front door. Ice everywhere!! We spent some time together and were able to get together with Paul & Angie too before the Jones left. On the right there is a picture of the six of us. There is also a couple of pictures of Peg & Bill and their new Pug, Lilly.



Smith Family Newsletter January 2014 - Page 2



What is the saying? 'A picture is worth a thousand words.' This is a special picture that captures a moment in time. Maile and the swans are making a connection and sharing the moment together. I wanted to include it as you can just feel the connection she is making with the swans. Another thing, I don't ever remember seeing swans in a picture or in real life, on half frozen water, which gives a unique back drop. Maile is Juanita & Bobs granddaughter. Maile and her family are in Germany, where her step dad is stationed while in the Army. "I hope you like your picture, Maile. Maybe put it in your Album?"

Well, that is it for the first month in 2014. We are already half way through February and Winter is still with us.