



## Ice!! Ice!! Ice!!

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First things first. The month of February 2014 will be remembered for the cold, snow and ice in much of the country, even in the South! For us, not one but two significant ice storms. On the right, is a picture of the trees across our lake, heavy with ice and the blur indicates that the wind is blowing also. The next picture is of the iced up screen on our new porch. Needless to say we went NO WHERE, while this was going on. Everything was closed anyway! Many trees downed or damaged!

Everyone, especially the students of the Carolina Forest Show Choir gave a huge applause at the return of Mr Kraig McBroom the Musical Director, at a recent presentation. He had been out on sick leave for several months and has been greatly missed by all.

Winter snow and ice on TV is my cup of tea!!! This of course brings us to the XXII Winter Olympics! Bob & I have been glued to the TV during this time each day! We love watching the competitions and I especially love the Winter Olympics, minus the "politics".

Then, we finally got rid of that 'pea green' on our dining room wall. We contracted with a local handy man that we met along the way to paint. He did such a good job that we had most of the inside area redone. Now we can finally look at putting up some wall decorations. We usually try to give the local people in the area the work when we need something done. On the right, Julio can be seen working on painting our kitchen.

Then on one of the few warm days in February, two other couples besides us took a nice drive (about 30 miles) to Mullins, SC. This old town is know for some very good buffets, which are part of Bed and Breakfasts. The one we went to was know as *O'Hara's Restaurant*, which is part of the *Century House Inn Bed & Breakfast*. The building was built in 1903 as a hotel. I think they said it became a bed and breakfast in the 1990's. It had a very cozy atmosphere and the food was delicious. The owner chatted with us and commented that during the ice storm their electrical grid was the only one that stayed up. Consequently' they did a lot of food preparation for people in the town, and especially for the linemen doing the repairs. At one point she said they made over 600 sandwiches and even offered to dry their clothes upstairs.



On February 15th Bob & I finally got to attend a Blue Grass Concert, which is held on the third Saturday of each month, at the Horry County Technical College Auditorium. We spread the word and two other couples besides us attended from Lakeside. We got there early as this was a special Spring Concert with three groups, each one performing for 90 minutes. Yes, it was a bit long and thank goodness the seats were comfortable. It was excellent and the price was only \$12.00 per person. If you like Blue Grass Music, you can't beat that. There was an intermission in the middle, but people came and went through out the evening. We were advised to get there early to get good seats, which is why you don't see many people behind us. It did fill up. Many seniors there. What a surprise!!

As for other activities, I continue with my T'ai Chi Chih group on Thursdays and have picked up a couple of new members. When people tell me how it has helped with things like better balance, more energy, feeling more focused, etc., I am so glad to have shared this with them. For me it is a form of giving back for what I am lucky to have been given.

Then the photography group is also moving right along. We meet once a month and are lucky to have some people in the group who have a high level of expertise. One member in particular, Frank, has bent over backwards presenting written and verbal presentations on the basics of photography. In the picture on the right, he is giving a practical lesson on flash photography.

Then there is the 'Coffee and Doughnuts' morning once a month, with some sort of a presentation, arranged by our outstanding Activities' Director, Nancy. This month a local Hospice group, *Agape Hospice*, came in explaining what they have to offer. It is not something many of us like to address but realistically we need to know about. This was a good forum, as our community has a difficult time turning down free doughnuts! The last time a similar group came in without doughnuts and about 6 people showed up.

The picture below I thought interesting. I took it one morning after a heavy morning due settled on our porch screen. The fog was lifting and the sun was beginning to show through, so I decided to take this shot.



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Last, but not least, we have participation from our two furry family members. In the first picture, who invited who, or was there even an invitation? This is the first time they are seen sleeping together. In the second picture, if you think Ms Gracie is not on "private property", think again! If Ms Minnie knew she was in her private box, she would have come running.