

Christmas 2013

Joe Carr - www.joecarr.ca/Xmas/2013



Pets...

Those of you who have read my Christmas letters over the last few years must wonder about our bad luck with our pets' health over the last few years. Well, I regret to say, this trend continued this year.

Our cat *Sheba* was diagnosed with cancerous tumors in her abdomen while in for a regular check up this past summer. Due to the advanced stage of the disease, we decided to simply keep her comfortable for the time she had left. Sheba was euthanized in October.

We were feeding two cats that our neighbours abandoned a couple of years ago when they moved. We couldn't take them in at the time since we had elderly cats in the house, but now we were "cat-less", so we decided to try bringing both of them inside. Coda (a brown tabby mix) immediately adapted to living indoors, however her buddy Mello (a Turkish Van) became a big problem. Reluctantly, we returned Mello to outside living, while Coda now soaks up luxurious indoor living!



Coda getting into the Christmas spirit



Sheba during happier times

Happy Holidays

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Joe & Kirk



Around Home

We took care of a couple of outstanding issues this year to keep our home safe and livable. A tree service came in and spent the day trimming all our trees. It was amazing to watch the crews scramble around in the canopy!

We also had the kitchen linoleum replaced...the only thing not taken care of in the renovation two years ago.

Camping on the Island

We took advantage of the gorgeous weather in late Spring to go camping on our beautiful Vancouver Island. The trips may have been short, but it was great to get out and about, and yet be so close to home.



Astronomy

Speaking of camping, I camped solo in the motor home at two star parties held in Metchosin and Bright Angel Park in south Cowichan. I love being under a dark sky, having fun with my astronomy buddies, and observing and taking some photos of our spectacular night skies.

Travel

Despite not going on any major trips this year, I did attend the Royal Astronomical Society's General Assembly convention held in Thunder Bay, Ontario. I hadn't visited this region since 1967, so I had fun sightseeing, as well as participating in the usual convention happenings. I even saw some Woodland Caribou on Slate Island Park in Lake Superior...a wonderful treat!

