

Happy Holidays, 2008



This year has been a rough year for many, and I'm no exception. In short, I am awaiting the final decree of my divorce, I am looking for work, and came within a hair's width of losing my home to foreclosure. At least I have my health!

George left the first of March. We had hit the point of no return and that was it. We are not being spiteful or hateful to one another; we were with each other for too long to get ugly.

Therapeutic activity for me was my crafts along with a LOT of riding my Harley. The photo was taken on Highway 395 heading to Mammoth Lakes in July. I had never been to that area at all and we went through Yosemite, another first for me. I did two 'overnighters' this year - the first was at the end of March to Death Valley, and the second was the Mammoth Lakes trip on my birthday weekend. I have really built up my confidence on the bike and have drawn a lot of compliments from my Harley Owners Group members. Each year, they award the members who participated the most with a special patch. It's the top ten percent of participation and I finished ninth overall (out of about 300 members!) I must have ridden about 15,000 miles this year.



Activities besides riding this year included making and entering apple butter and 2 kinds of pickles in the Alameda County Fair. My apple butter took a blue ribbon, my 6 day sweet pickles took 2nd, and my bread & butter pickles 3rd. I plan on entering my apple jelly this summer - I made a variety that has 8 kinds of apples in it and it is so sweet it tastes like honey! Yummmm. Despite all of my cuisine, I did manage to drop some weight this year (I call it the Divorce Diet). I need to lose more; seems like I am thick around the middle and that drives me CRAZY.

It's strange to find myself 'single' again. I briefly dated a member of my HOG chapter, but that kind of blew up. It lasted exactly 3 months and ended with me getting my heart smashed in a zillion pieces. I hung up my 'dating hat' and then stumbled into someone else without meaning to. It always happens that way it seems. He's a great guy and since I got the word that I get to keep my home, he's been puttering around here, replacing electrical things, fixing plumbing and other stuff that I hadn't realized needed help. He rides a Honda Goldwing (I don't hold that against him) and I'm happy to have such a kind, considerate companion. I don't think I'll ever get married again though; it doesn't seem to agree with me.

Career wise, I am still doing website development and did 6 months at Microsoft, and just finished a brief consulting gig at eBay. It was a great experience and I am looking for more work now. They are saying 2009 is going to be tough but then I read something somewhere the other day that says "The future is what you make it." I made my future when I was laid off in 2001 and built a successful freelance business up. I'm determined to do it again and make my future happen and soar

