

January started us in the middle of the Caribbean on a wonderful sunny cruise. John won \$500 the first day at Bingo. We cruised to St. Kitts, St. Lucia and St. Maarten. The weather was wonderful. Both of us returned with a fantastic tan and totally relaxed. The only bad thing was Barbara missed my lucky New Year's Day food...she is NOT missing it this year. Barbara fell at the airport, tripped over her own luggage and then on St. Maarten's, she fell on the cement and skinned her knee all up....watching the planes at Maho Beach...



Barbara started on two more college classes in the winter term. Editing and Proofreading. Office Ethics and Etiquette...had a blast in both classes. She aced both of them.

March was register for summer classes at GRCC for Barb. This time....Organizational Behavior and Business communication...this will take her thru to August....Aced both classes again...YAHOO...

April 3 brings Happiness of the birth of Zoe Cassia Burmeister. Rick and Amy's first child. The last baby was in 1999.



May was a sad month. After a long time of enjoying Harry, it was time....Harry had become extremely feeble and was not able to eat any longer. At only 10 pounds, Harry went to Kitty Kat Heaven where he can run and jump and eat and be happy again on May 06, 2011.



June was Jack's (Joy and Ken's youngest) graduation from 8th grade, on far left front row. Now, Jack attends the new Wellspring Charter High School, (he will be the 2nd graduating class from this school). We also had a lake neighbor do our backyard fencing for the 3 kids, (Shih-Tzu's Hubby and Pumpkin, Sienna the cat). This has been a nice feature for us and the pets.

June also sent Barbara to the Rumble family reunion since Daddy passed away. She stayed with her cousin Eddie and his family. It was lovely being able to visit with family. The reunion, as always, was a smash. Lots of good food, all her favorites

July was fun, our neighbors, Robert & Verna Curtiss, headed our lake's 4th of July Dock BBQ Party for the whole lake, while John & Bob cooked the burgers, brats & hotdogs, other neighbors pitched in with foods and kids helped as well, and Bob & Verna put on a great fireworks show for us neighbors and the lake residents as well, after the Lake Assoc.'s Annual Boat Parade.

August was Mother's turn to visit at our house. Mother worked on a cross-stitch birth announcement for Zoe. She was able to finish and get it all framed before she left. August also brought John's computer to an end. The old thing finally died....well; it did have some help from him. John was repairing the ceiling fan and was going to the circuit box and turning off/on power and forgot to turn off his computer, and so.....well, you can pretty much see the end of this story. So John received a whole new computer,

drives...more bells and whistles and was able to remove more than 95% of his data from the old computer....lost was recent emails, mailing addresses, etc.

Ivey is in the middle



Savhana Junior Miss Belding Pageant



Back row: Harriet, Barbara, Nana, Ken, Darren Nat, John
Middle Row: Amy, holding Zoe, Rick, Joy, Alex, Mary
Front Row: Ivey, Savhana, Jack, Alaina, Cassie (Ken's Girls)



Mother only stayed until August 27. For the switch, Barbara all met at Pokagon State Park Lodge. What a beautiful place. It was good catch up with Mary and Darren, and re-visit with Harriet. Swam, ate, and just had a terrific time.

September was an outpatient surgery for Barbara. All went well. Recovery was a snap. September also brought on Fall Session at GRCC. This time she signed up for Statistics and Government. Ok, not the brightest bulb in the box....by the 3rd week, she was so stressed out...she dropped the statistic and kept the Government. Although she received an E on her first test, she has improved over the course. The next two tests have been a C and B. Also, September was special for one of Barbara's grandchildren, Savhana (12 ½) had her turn at Miss Belding Pageant and came away at Junior Miss Runner-Up, now, she can compete for the Miss Belding. Ivey had her turn in the spot light. She is part of the Flag Team with the Belding Band and had a solo during competition.

October was John's colonoscopy...his first one ever...one polyp tested negative. But, he has to re-do it, wasn't a good test...Ha, Ha, Ha...now he has to do the INDUSTRIAL STRENGTH prep. John started his Birthday Gift to Barbara by renovation of the home; repainting main rooms, replacing all door knobs, and replacing all electrical outlets and switches, while Rick hung the new dining & kitchen room lights, while Barbara put together her knick-knack shelving for the living room. Barbara also thought she would be real smart and try and get the neighbors dogs and ours to be friends. She forgot to check where Sienna the Cat was. Long story short...Barbara got bit...really bad. Was put on strong antibiotics...and somehow ended up in the ER in Atrial Fib. After lots of test, her heart has checked out as fine...

November was exciting for another one of Barbara's g-daughter, Ivey Campbell (15). Above is a picture of her being lifted up on her solo routine during the Belding Marching Band Finals at Ford Field. John spent the week before Thanksgiving having what he thought was the flu. It turned out to be bleeding ulcers. John spent 36 hours in ER/Hospital for treatment from 2 drug interactions of taking Ibuprofen for sore muscles he had while working on the renovations, and his Warfarin (Coumadin blood thinner). John has been banned from any meds ending in -roid. John's next checkup is in April.

This year we decided to do "Christmas at Thanksgiving". Mother flew in on November 22. Mary, Darren and Nathan arrived on Thursday, November 24; Harriet arrived on Friday, November 25. Our big dinner was on Saturday. Eighteen of us all gathered. No snow, no icy roads....just good food, games and puzzles.... (View the group photo above)...

December is in progress. We will have a small family Christmas Eve gathering at Joy's house with Ken's famous Prime Rib....yummy...exchange our gifts. Enjoy each other company and be glad we have one another. Christmas Day will be flying to Josh and Shan's house for that week. Staying until January 1, New Years Day. Josh and Shan are expecting their first child, John's first biological Grandchild in April. What a glorious time will be had....

Merry Christmas to All