

Happy Holidays

December 2014

Retired almost a year now. I am surprised with myself. Thought I would go in about once a week. But I have no interest to go onto campus when there are no students to work with.

I was pheasant hunting at Rend Lake when the year began. Just in time for the polar vortex of 2014. Consequently, I was snowed out of Indiana. When I got home I found the pipes in my basement had frozen and destroyed the whole basement and garage. This gave me the opportunity to reconstruct the basement to match my retirement lifestyle. I love it. This is a picture of the neighborhood at the *new basement warming*. →



← Once the basement was finished, I was on the road again. Instead of taking more frequent smaller weekend trips, I took a several bigger ones.

Between travels I learned to smoke. Here's a picture of the smoking pheasant. It was surprisingly good. →



← In February, I flew out to LA to visit my best friend from Mt. Sac, Patsy Dougherty. We finally got to celebrate her retirement and birthday. Seems we ate and drank ourselves up and down the coast. Also drove down to San Diego to see (and eat with) best friends, Kathy & Bill Kenny ↓ and Roger Pyles ↓





← In April, Debby Lynn, Becky Smith and I found our way to San Jose for the Vizsla National Specialty Dog Show and Agility Trial. Becky took Ukon and I took Dart. Debby went as a tourist.

→ Dart was honored in San Jose for earning a Triple Championship. She was the **60th dog** to earn a Triple Championship and the **20th dog** to win a Quadruple Championship. There are only three dogs with more championships since the American Kennel Club began the Triple Championship program in the 1970s. The Vizsla Club of America presented her with a chair with her name on it. She received a standing ovation. I am so proud of her.



← After the dog show we drove to Yosemite where we took my traditional picture with Dart and I under Half Dome.

In August, Shella Furhman and I caravanned our RVs →



and dogs to Maine. Once again, we found our selves eating up and down the coast. We met some new Vizsla folks. And Dart got to brag she'd (been) driven from California to Maine in five months.



↗ Shine qualified for the Vizsla Club of America National Field Championships, so in October we traveled to Eureka, Kansas. He had a great time running both stakes. (original photos by Mark Spurgeon) Later in November, he completed his Amateur Field Championship in Cecilia, Kentucky.

In November, we were back again pheasant hunting at Rend Lake, Illinois. Wylie is coming into his own as a personal hunting dog. One day he ran 15 miles looking for pheasant. He has a beautiful point and back. (photo by Lynda Garthee) →



← All the dogs are in agility now, and having fun, including me. (Original photos by Springfield Photo).

In December, we'll be heading for the Detroit area for Christmas with the Mc McCullough's. Aunt Grace will have her 90th birthday party.

Have a great holiday!

jp