

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO
TINA
AND
RON

The last two years have been eventful and largely not in positive ways. However, let's focus on the good and the significant here ...

Ron has begun a new career as a commercial truck driver. He's working for a local company which runs the I5 corridor and over into Spokane. They pay the tab on full medical and keep him pretty busy. He's much happier, but winds up putting in some really long days.

I fractured my right arm just below the shoulder in May 2013 and spent the better part of the next six months recovering while beset by pneumonia, bronchitis and swine flu. Thankfully, I am fully functional again and weathered both the mandatory federal government furlough and shutdown.

Mom sold the property off of Coal Creek and bought a manufactured home in an expanded retirement community off Ocean Beach Highway. She and Jerry have settled in and splurged on Christmas decorations. She gifted Anita and I and we were able to get a bit ahead. Anita updated her technology with a new Apple laptop. I paid off bills and splurged on tools including a custom swift and winder for my yarn.

I also bought a new car, a 2013 Hyundai Veloster in Boston Red with the full technology package and a sun roof. The gas mileage has been excellent (32-35 mpg) and I am even getting a mileage refund from Hyundai.

My former in-laws have had some health issues. My father in-law was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer that had spread. After a course of chemo and radiation, the tumor in the pancreas shrank to 1/3 its former size and the cancer was undetectable anywhere else. They also sold the property on the river in Toledo and bought a small place in a development back here near their kids and grandkids. Seems like the previous generation are all downsizing ...

Mom and Anita both had to have their cats put to sleep. Mom and Dave adopted Mouse from me and he had a good long life, traveling with them in their RV, and being spoiled and pampered. Anita's cat was 16 years old and stayed healthy until a sudden decline that included blood in his lungs. Saying "goodbye" is never easy though.

All our pets are doing well. The dogs are slowing down and the cats are sticking closer to home, but Erin is as active and happy as ever. I am still hosting both Meetup and Ravelry groups (www.meetup.com / www.ravelry.com) for knitters and crafters. I attended and/or volunteered at the South Sound Yarn Crawl, Madrona Fiber Arts, Vogue Live! Seattle, Fiber Fusion Northwest, and the Northwest LYS Tour. This year I plan to attend the two yarn crawls again and add the Rose City Yarn Crawl. I've already made reservations for the Seattle to Portland Yarn Train.

My goal for 2014 is to streamline and organize my life. That includes possessions, people and activities. I'd like to be able to consider retirement soon after age 55. I look forward to hearing from anyone who's interested.

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