

Sue & Tim Metcalf
235 Cayuga Rd • Lake Orion, MI 48362 • (248)690-7192

December 2013

Every year at this time we marvel that another year has passed, and 2013 is no exception. Let's take a look at the highlights.

We spent Christmas 2012 at home in Lake Orion. It was the first time since Chris was born that it was just the two of us. It was great!

In January, Tim spent two and a half weeks in Seattle helping Sarah and Chris remodel their kitchen. After demolishing the old kitchen, including removing three layers of flooring, we did drywall, electrical and plumbing work to prepare for the new kitchen. We laid the natural stone floor and installed all of the cabinet boxes, in preparation for the Caesarstone counters. The finished kitchen looks terrific.

In February we flew to Florida to attend the Miami Boat Show and to spend time with Tom and Sandy Wadsworth, our lifelong friends. We spent a lot of time on the water with Tom and Sandy and even caught a few fish.

As in past years we spent Easter and Thanksgiving with family. Tim's mom is going strong at 83 and is enjoying spending time with John Conti, her companion. Sue's mom is also well, and is still quilting at age 86.

In June we bade farewell to Taffy, our then 16-year old female tabby. She came with us to Michigan in 1997 and put up with a lot from Rusty, our dog, and Nigel and Grayson, our male cats. She will be missed.

Later in June we took "Scoot" and "The Big Guy" to the "blessing of the bikes" at Kensington Community Church, where we have been members for two years. More than a hundred bikes came to our campus. After the prayers we rode 36 miles to the main campus in Troy. Sue was a champion and Sue and "Scoot" (mostly) kept up.

Our sailing season was enjoyable, if uneventful. Between our businesses we mostly used the boat as a cottage. We're already looking forward to next season.

In late July our friend Scott Young invited us to be on his trawler as a corner boat for the 2013 International Offshore Powerboat Races. Even though we're sailors we enjoyed the excitement of being only 50-75 feet away from the action.

All of our businesses have enjoyed a record year. The embroidery machine was running non-stop, as was the oven. The Suburban was on the road 2-3 days a week from late April through September.

In November, Tim accepted an offer to sail in the 2013 Salty Dawg Rally on "Cofresi's Child," a 42-foot cutter-rigged Cabo Rico 42. The SDR is a 1,500nm rally that leaves from Hampton (Norfolk), VA, and ends in the British Virgin Islands. The event is never without some drama, and this year was no exception. "Cofresi's Child" experienced its share of sporty weather and a broken seal cost her the use of her engine for the last 200nm. All's well that ends well, however, and the boat and crew arrived safely at Nanny Cay, on Tortola, on Sunday, November 17.

It has been a busy and satisfying year for us, and we hope for you too. Best wishes for an enjoyable holiday season, and for a challenging and rewarding new year. If your travels find you in the Detroit area, please stop and see us.

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Sue@SueMetcalf.net • Tim@TimMetcalf.net
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