

Hi Everyone – 2009 Thanksgiving Newsletter, slightly late!

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

I'm going to get some of the questions asked when I was back home in October visiting.

The first of these was "what do I stare at from my desk all day long?" Here's a picture taken looking straight ahead from my desk. Yep, that's 5 computers in front of me, and one down inside the desk. I view the main monitor through the glass top in the desk, visible lower left of picture. A couple of KVM switches lets me view any of the computers and a Monitor switch lets me select which monitor they appear on. Quite handy when I was doing all those games at once for Charity. As you know I made #1 at IWON and broke a major 2 billion point record while playing also.



The next was "what does the bigger bulk packaging for my product look like when it's packaged for shipping overseas? I'm not showing a whole order, just a small stack of a few of the boxes. Nothing fancy as I said. These are 5 gallon UN rated Cubitainers.

To the right is a custom bottled special order for the active ingredients only. I used a simple paper label, since the only folks to see the label are the blenders and re-packagers, not the end consumers. One of these bottles, with the other added ingredients would produce 3 gallons of finished product.



OK, now on with the show and what I've done to or with the house this year so far!

As you know, times were/are tight, and several professionals were out of work. I managed to snag one of the top siding guys in the industry for less than half his normal rate. And we got a great deal on a some top of the line siding for close to 50% off also.



I'm sticking a before picture in here to save you from looking back at older newsletters. Some of the materials and the new front door were stacked on the porch.



The BOSS is making sure HER new studio has enough light and air. A pair of windows matching the front will go to the opening she's standing in. The furring strips are all up already also.

I thought I had more pictures of the prep work, but I guess not. This was the only shot I could find showing the protective aluminum strip that was placed before the siding starter strip was added over it. No wood, even what you can't see, was left exposed to the elements!



Were started!
Computer images leave
much to be desired!
That MOIRE looks horrible!



Hey BOSS, it's getting a little to dark to see,
how about if we call it a day?



Moving around to the back of the house. We needed to both extend the old patio and add a footing for the walls. Near the wall, you can see the styrofoam used to retain the concrete below ground level, and under the lead edge board as well, just barely.



Go Yay!

I'm NOT showing each step to get this far!

But even the hired PROS make mistakes! The studding for the right side wall (the one with the window already installed), was knocked out of vertical plumb, between corner and existing house wall by a whole 1-1/2 inches. The contractor put up the sheathing square, but now I have to deal with fitting the drywall around the window opening that the studs are off a bit to much. The wall itself, as a unit, is square and plumb though.

Hey Boss

It's getting dark again, think those gutters can wait until tomorrow?

How do you like those picture windows?

Guess what?

Boss says she wants it as part of the kitchen now instead of just a mud and laundry room!

I just love having to remove load bearing walls, don't you?



Besides doing the house, naturally we are doing the garage also, so here are a few quick shots of that.

Front on left, back on right.



ALL Finished!!!! On the OUTSIDE that is!



All the lights match too! Really looks sharp!

We had to give up our new kitchen for the time being to afford to do the outside. And now I have the two new additions to complete the insides of also. Have drawn up several floor plans already, some are quite nice too! But my first priority is to get the 4 antique doors from my grandmothers home into the front porch area to divide it from an entry foyer and an art studio for Debi to retire into.

From our house to yours, we wish all a Very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Gary, Debi, Maw and all the Critters – Moocher (the Parrot) said Bye Bye too!