

2013 Newsletter. (2013 Newsletter Addendum, Published October 2014)

To avoid confusion with the dates of the newsletters and the kitchen remodel event shown in the 2012 Newsletter. At the close of the 2011 newsletter, I said I would show the kitchen remodel of 2011 in the 2012 newsletter. I didn't intend for it to take up so many pages.

While in the process of finishing the patio room, and working on designs for the new kitchen, we were hit with tornado driven hail. All renovation work stopped for several months until we had a new roof, and then I set about repairing the damage.

Other than working on the kitchen design, and having the upper kitchen cabinets torn out since early in 2011 to make closer measurements. Demolition work in the kitchen did not start until September 2011. Then it was back to the drawing boards once again, after I learned what was behind the drywall.

My part of the kitchen renovation, due to my condition, was a long slow process. I did all the plumbing, electrical, and drywall work myself. But hired a company to hang the cabinets and install the counter tops. Then I took back over again to complete the plumbing connections, install the faucets, electrical switches and receptacles.

Before the appliances could be set in place, I installed the new flooring in both the kitchen and patio room. The patio room became an integral part of the new kitchen. Other than some minor trim work, the kitchen was not ready to use until April 2012. I still have not installed the ceramic tile in the kitchen, due to low funds and working full-time with plenty of overtime.

For the remainder of 2012 and throughout 2013, I took all the work my employer would throw at me, trying to catch up with our shortfalls from the storm. We had great insurance, but upgraded almost everything which cost more of course. Then more car problems ate up any extra we came up with.

Health wise, my COPD and Emphysema has grown steadily worse. My Sulphur Crested Cockatoo puts out a heavy white dander which did not help my breathing one bit. So Jessie was given to Debi's cousin who lives half a block away. They hit it off great, so he has a wonderful home. I still have Moocher, my Blue Fronted Amazon parrot. Since they do not release dander he's no problem for me.

Nothing new or exciting to tell about. I work from 8 am until around 2 or 3 pm at my job, then maintain my on-line authors platform and do research until dinnertime. After dinner I work on my own novels, and handle a few things for my promoters, and that's about it. So, work consumes my whole day. On the bright side, pounding away on a keyboard, sitting at my desk, is not overly strenuous.

Our normal expenses skyrocketed when we turned 65. Health insurance plans, even the best supplemental plans we can get, cover very little, and the older you get, the less they cover. Drug plans are the worse, and they do not cover some of the major medicines. The way the plans work are as crooked as a dog's hind leg too. I don't want to get going on that subject, or I'll cover a dozen pages.

Looks like I'm going to have to find something interesting to talk about for next year's newsletter, which is due soon now too. This old man has been running in slo-mo since his heart attack, and each day gets a wee bit harder than the day before. I can say almost all of 2014 was consumed working all day. So next year's newsletter will be a mighty slim one also.

From our house to yours, Happy Thanksgiving.