

The Rogers Family

Roxboro, NC Clan edition

2011

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and for everyone else Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays! The Roxboro branch of the Rogers clan is alive and well, and we have a new addition to our household. For those of you that are not on Facebook, on the day before Thanksgiving 2011 we purchased Czar Sirius Black Kosmo von Isberner (Kosmo for a short name) who is a Great Dane puppy with black and white markings. He was six weeks old when we got him (October 12). Kosmo is a full European variety, with both his mother and father hailing from the eastern European area (Germany and Russia more specifically). As with all baby creatures, Cosmo has presented us with many opportunities to practice patience – aside from that he has made himself an active and welcomed member to our family.

Our other canine companions, Winston the Great Dane and Hagrid the English Mastiff, are doing great and enjoy their time bounding around our small 6 acre compound. For those of you not caught up in the boring lives of Cris and Brenda may remember Charlie, Lady, Tank and Indie as our canine companions – sadly we lost those guys to old age and illness, cancer mostly, in a 16 month period starting around 2008. Learning from them very painful lesson, we chose to stagger our companion acquisitions in two-year increments for the giant breeds so that we could avoid such a heavy loss in the future.



Brenda is doing great, and aside from intensely disliking her commute enjoys her job at Carquest and is crocheting like a fool (when she can get the puppy out of her lap). She is also scratching the website developer itch whenever the opportunity presents itself, and is actually built several professional websites whether it be on barter or as a favor for friends. I do believe that if she found a way to make a living out of developing websites for others that she would do so without hesitation – it makes her smile!



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Cris is doing well – for those who may have known a little about his health, Cris has been joined in his travels by a chronic pain condition that did not have a name or potential cause up until just a couple years ago. The medical world is funny in that when conditions are rare, even today, there is very little known about large parts of the human body and why things work the way they do. In starting Botox injections, Cris confirmed that cervical dystonia was the proper name for the condition that he lives with. The last 12 months have been active ones with lots of changes to treat-

ment and symptom relief, and we are making progress. Cris has not been able to indulge in wood carving or leather crafting (a new hobby) as much as he would like due to time constraints, ability and in some instances being away from home. Cris found a dream contract where he is working as an executive consultant for a company redesigning how they develop products and solutions – it is a very demanding contract, but also rewarding because of the kind of work that we're doing and knowing that our process in the future will be far and above better than what they have today. Cris has been able to work with his gracious coworkers to be on-site one week a month, and that

concession has made balancing work/life/health a much easier proposition.

Directly before Cris's current contract, he had a major medical 'boo-boo' – apparently, I inherited a gnarly gallbladder from my mother's side of the family and it decided to do nasty things just before Thanksgiving 2010. I was admitted to Duke University Hospital the day before Thanksgiving and got my long incision along with my gallbladder hacked away for my liver Thanksgiving morning. That recovery was tough and the whole experience nearly killed Cris (the gallbladder was necrotic, jammed full of stones and had attached itself like a barnacle to my liver, along with the common bile duct being quite unhappy). Needless to say, angels were watching over me and Cris is lucky to be here today.





What does the future hold?

So what does the future hold? Is clear to us now that our current home will probably be home base for a long time (because we love it so much) and we fully expect to make a few improvements and changes along the way. Cris fully intends to organize his shop in 2012 to facilitate more woodworking projects and perhaps building his first guitar – of course, this is contingent on getting all of the crap out of my shop that doesn't need to be there. We will continue to focus on our canine companions and maximizing the love that we share with them. Brenda and I were discussing the other night whether we could envision living without canine companions in the home, and neither of us could think of a scenario where we would not have a dog in the house. That unconditional love and ability to make the simplest moments hilarious, precious and wonderful could only be matched with children – and I'm not certain that my future health would be compatible with kiddies, so puppy dogs it is.

Brenda will decide whether or not she will look to make a career change (or perhaps work with her current employer on a remote opportunity), and continue her role as the anchor of our little corner of the world. Brenda's personality compels her to take care of those that are around her, whether you want to call it mothering or not – I am certain that she will continue to seek out ways to express herself with "fiber arts" (crochet, knitting, etc.) along with other hobbies that she finds interesting. We don't perceive ourselves as being as active politically as we were in 2010, but we are going to make a concerted effort to get involved in our local community and meet our neighbors (you know, that old chestnut).

All in all, we are doing just fine. We live a quieter life than many could find tolerable, but we are happy and are cherishing this particular moment in time. Soon enough, our jobs, interests and life situations will upset the apple cart – that is life, and after our experiences and 20 years of marriage, we can fully expect to emerge from anything thrown our way.



A Christmas Verse for you & yours

And the angel said unto them,

"Fear not!

For, behold, I bring you

tidings of great joy,

Which shall be to all people.

"For unto you is born

this day in the city of David

A Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you:

Ye shall find the babe

wrapped in swaddling clothes,

Lying in a manger.

~ St. Luke 2:10-12

Best wishes for 2012

We wish you and yours a

very Merry Christmas and

a Happy New Year—we

hope that you have a

prosperous 2012, that

your endeavors succeed

and that you see your

dreams come true.

