

Vikki and Brandon's

Christmas Letter 2008

Dear Friends and Family;

We can't believe it's almost 2009! As the year draws to a close it's time once again for the annual installment of our Christmas Letter. So, here's a little bit about what we did last year:

In July we made our annual hiking trip into Elk Lake in the Sawtooth Mountains. Vikki's dad Don and Brandon's Dad Calvin joined us and we spent 4 days hiking and enjoying the mountains. Don and Calvin spent some time fishing and exploring around camp while Vikki and Brandon got ambitious and took a 12 mile day hike to explore some of the lakes further down the trail.



Vikki near an old coral wall in Penghu.



Brandon and Vikki in the observatory at the top of Taipei 101.



Yes - I really ate that!



Don't ask what part of the chicken that is.



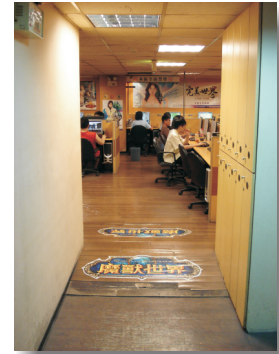
In August Vikki and Brandon traveled around the world to visit Brandon's brother Brent in Taiwan. After we recovered from the 20 hours of travel time we spent almost three weeks exploring. We visited Taipei, Taroko National Park, Penghu, Alishan, and Taichung. We braved the crazy drivers and rented scooters, visited the top of the world's tallest building the Taipei 101, and ate food we usually weren't able to identify. While we were there Brandon celebrated his 28th birthday and his wish was to sing Karaoke at a KTV. Strangely enough there were several around to choose from.... We had a great time but were happy to get home to the animals. The kitties missed us quite a bit, Jupiter on the other hand got to spend the time with Vikki's parents and their dog "Auntie Meg". He would have been perfectly happy if we had never come back.



A mic, a bottle and a cake.
Ah, it's good to be 28!



Brandon and Vikki touring one of the little islands of Penghu.



For all our WoW friends – we found where the Chinese gold famers are!!!

Some family news: Vikki's grandfather Lee celebrated his 90th birthday! Brandon's brother Brent returned home in October from 2 years in Taiwan and Brandon was able to spend Thanksgiving at home with his family. Our "kids" are all doing well. Star and Sugarbear are still adjusting to having Jupiter around but Mojo enjoys having someone to chase around and play with. Jupiter has continued to grow and we're taking some more structured obedience classes with him this year. He's such a busy puppy and Vikki is hoping to get him started in some agility classes next year. His current favorite activities include finding lost socks around the house, chasing the cat and moving wood from our woodpile from one side of the yard to the other.



Don, Vikki, Janet, Helen, Lee and Sam at Lee's 90th.



Mojo and Jupiter: Partners in sock-related crime!



A peek into the life of Sugarbear and Star.

So from our home to yours we send our holiday greetings and best wishes for 2009!