



Bihl's Bugle



Merry CHRISTmas!

This is our third annual newsletter, and we would like to share with you some of the highlights of our lives in 2008. We took several trips this year; some places nearby in Texas and some out-of-state. We re-visited New Iberia, Louisiana for a few days in January to spend some time with friends. We traveled around Texas a lot, specifically to Seguin, San Marcos, and Killeen for Danny's races, and to Fort Worth and Mt. Pleasant for visits with my family. We took a two-day camping trip to Lake Whitney in October, and I traveled to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma and Joplin, Missouri with my family for the annual "Muskrat Thanksgiving Reunion."



During the first week of November, we took a week-long vacation with Danny's parents to Clintwood, Virginia to visit Cheryl's family. I had the pleasure of meeting some of Danny's extended family for the very first time, and we celebrated an early Thanksgiving meal together. The trees were absolutely gorgeous with their bright orange, red, yellow, and "fall" colors. During that same week, Danny & I went to Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg, Tennessee for two days to celebrate our three year anniversary. We stayed in a beautiful log cabin overlooking the mountains, took in a Dixie Stampede dinner show (for free (!) after sitting through a 3 hour time-share presentation), toured Ripley's Aquarium (below left), rode ski lifts up a mountain, visited a black-bear habitat, went horseback-riding, and drove through the Great Smokey Mountains National Park. We had a wonderful time...



Churro and Bella:



In October, Danny & I became parents to a 3 month-old male, yellow lab mix (left). We found him in the middle of a country road one night, lost and “unclaimed”, cold and hungry. After a month of trying to find a home for him- and an ever-growing vet bill :) we became attached and claimed him as our own. On Dec. 10, we gave Churro a little sister, Bella (right). She is a 2 month-old Chocolate lab that was given to Danny by a friend of his... they love to play together and already act like brother and sister.



Danny's Doings:

Danny has been busy this year with several races and trainings. He competed in three races: “Too Cool” Cameron Park Adventure Race (March), Texas Water Safari (June, below right), and the Temple Triathlon (Aug). He also worked as a patrol-medical for the “Too Cool” Canyon Park Lake Adventure Race (March), the “Too Cool” Inks Lake Adventure Race (April), and the “Too Cool” Parrie Haynes Ranch Adventure Race (Aug). In July, he participated in a week-long trench rescue training (below middle) at A&M in College Station. Danny certainly keeps himself busy with races, trainings, and working at Harker Heights F.D. and Central Texas Regional EMS. He also worked part-time at the Waco YMCA as a lifeguard, and he mowed lawns for our landlady.



Amy's Activities:

I am still an LMSW Care Manager at the Providence Sub-Acute Care Unit in Waco. Danny & I officially became members of Highland Baptist Church in March of this year. I continue to sing in the choir (which I started Sep. '07), and in the fall, I began teaching an ESL class on Tuesday nights and leading bi-lingual devotionals for two of the classes. In July, Danny & I attended the “July 4th Argentine Mission Reunion”, where we gathered in Frisco, TX with my family and other missionary families. In September, I helped plan the annual Waco Memory Walk (above left) to help raise funds for Alzheimer's research and support programs. This was the second year the “Muskrat-Bihl Family Team” participated, and I am proud to announce that we reached our fundraising goal again and raised \$1,050.00. We walked in memory of Fran Muskrat and Jesse Bihl, and in honor of Betty Muskrat, Linnie Jane Burks, and Lena May Carroll. To learn more about how you can support the Alzheimer's Association, go to www.alz.org.

We love you all and wish you a very Merry CHRISTmas and a Happy New Year!

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You can also see our previous newsletters at www.muskrattracks.com/eng/amy.htm