



FRIDAY FOLLIES

July 11, 2008

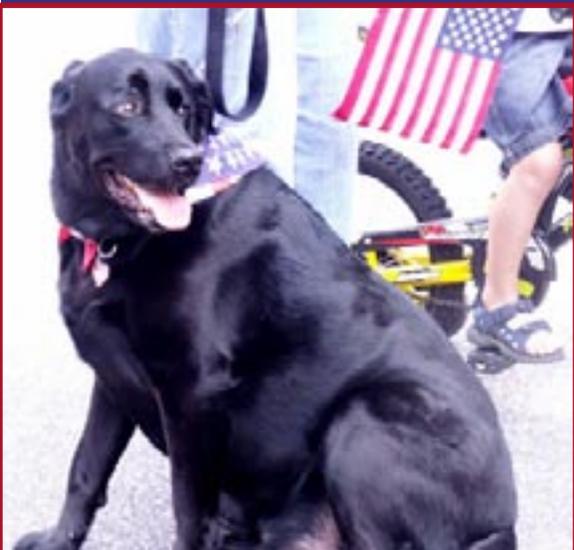
Hey!

July 11, 2008

Wow! What a great Fourth of July! I hope yours was, as well.

I started my Fourth off as I have for the past three years - with a Fourth of July parade in my neighborhood. The children gather at the park, decorate their bikes, and everyone parades several blocks to the swimming pool where they all dive in, swim, and have a huge cook out for the entire afternoon and evening.

Walking my dog the evening before, all of the neighborhood kids were talking about it and telling me what they were going to wear and how they were going to decorate their bikes. They get so excited every year! So cute... I never follow them all the way to the pool (Trust me, it is bedlam...), but I always go to their parade! It wouldn't be the Fourth of July without it now.



There are always plenty of puppies to love!





10:30 is early on a vacation day!



Always last minute details to fix...!

Admiring one another's handiwork...!



Daddies get into the act, too!





The guys are ready to roll! But they must wait on the ladies to get ready!!



The anticipation of face paint!





Finally, they are
READY...
SET... GO!!

All of this set to the
melodies of John Phillip
Sousa.



I had the most pleasant Fourth. After the parade, I went home and worked in my garden, cooked and canned some veggies and Banana Pepper Mustard, and watched movies ALL afternoon and evening. I even took a nap at one point! I never do that! I talked with Jess and she and Ricky were being lazy, too, as was Jeremy. It was just awesome! The whole weekend was just very relaxing.

It was Jessica's birthday celebration, too, that weekend, and that was fun. We all took her to a neat, family seafood restaurant on the way to Sandbridge. We ate until I thought I would literally DIE and then we went home and had cake and ice cream on top of that!

I also went over to Jessica's house and showed her how to weed her flower bed. (I kid you not -- but if you have never had a flower bed -- how are you supposed to know how -- right?) We actually had fun...



Jeremy surprised me this past weekend, too, by bringing home a beautiful, male stray cat! UGH! You KNOW how I love animals! It is VERY hard for me to turn one away. The cat got along GREAT with Oliver after a few minutes, and he was extremely loving. I think he had probably been dumped by someone and was not a "true stray." A stray would not have been that loving and calm in a strange house with a huge dog!

Anyway, it was kinda looking (for a couple of hours) like we might be able to keep him!

Then the cat saw my BIRDS! Oh, My! That was it. He lunged at the cages and I immediately grabbed him up. (Bobo was actually out of his cage at the time and could have easily startled and fallen to the ground.) It surprised us all.

Jeremy was very disappointed, but was also realistic about it. He said the stray had been hanging around his friends' house and they had been feeding him, so I am sure that is where he took it after that. I did not ask. It was really kind of a shame, but honestly, I do not miss having a litter box in my house!

I am looking forward to this week as Ken will be back in town mid-week for a few days and we plan some dinners out and a ball game or two.

Oh, and here is a SUPER recipe that I tried out of the paper this week. Talk about easy and good! It is called Beer Bread. I do not know of any other bread that is this easy to make. I made a loaf this week and went through it waaaay too fast to make another one anytime soon! Ha! I will experiment with it next time and add some other tid-bits - but here it is. I am not kidding you...this is all there is to it!

BEER BREAD

3 cups self-rising flour

3 tablespoons sugar

1 can beer

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray loaf pan (or even a cookie sheet) with cooking spray. Mix all ingredients and drop into a greased loaf pan. Bake for 40-50 minutes at 350 degrees. That is it! Yumm!

(I used lite beer so it would be less filling... Hahaha!)



I also have been a reading "fool" this week. I finished the novel Mila 18 - NOT light summer reading... finished a book on the best seller list called 90 Minutes In Heaven - which was just OK, reread The Secret - which always makes me "think," and am now half-way through another book on the best seller list called The Power of Now. I have heard so many people mention The Power of Now and when my daughter said she wanted to read it, too, I went out and got it for us. I have to admit, the first few chapters I considered it simply "psycho-babble" - just ridiculous! But now that I am into it, I can see some of his concepts very clearly and am finding it extremely thought-provoking. I find that much of what I do everyday anyway is live in the present... sometimes totally. I used to "wish" my life away. Heck - I even find joy in such silly things as this beautiful Cardinal who shows up every single day when I water my garden to take his daily bath and cool off! Can you see him there on the fence? Isn't that the sweetest thing!



I also wanted to show you my male torso. DON'T LAUGH! There is a reason he looks so strange! I started out making "him" abstract like "her" - all in green, purple, and red. Then I decided I wanted to try flesh tones on "him." The more I worked on "him," the more his torso started looking like an actual FACE



to me! It was surreal! So then I just started "playing" around and actually TRYING to make his torso resemble a face. It is hilarious! Can you see the "face?" I will go back now and try to make the contours and colors right, but I really have enjoyed this silly process.

And last, but not least, here is my Ollie -- the way he ends most days -- totally relaxed and racked out on my bedroom floor. He just cracks me up!



Have a great week, Y'all! Be happy NOW!

To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Lake Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Poland, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, New Hampshire, Tampa, Chattanooga, France, Phoenix, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Bangkok, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week!

God bless.

Remember, life is short!

We need to make it a good one.

Grow in peace and wisdom.

Your Friday Friend,



Judi Godsey

Don't Forget! Just Judi's Favorites Volume One • Appetizers and Just Judi's Favorites Volume Two • Breakfast, Brunch, and Late Nite are now available!

You can get to both from the links page on my website!
Thanks to those of you who have already ordered your copies! Just Judi's Favorites • Volumes Three through Ten are on their way!

Volume Two • Breakfast, Brunch and Late Nite may be previewed at:

<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/241008>

Volume One • Appetizers may be previewed at:

<http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/24098>

DIS. NOTE OF CAUTION... 20 employees were fired from The New York Times here in Norfolk for sending lewd and indecent emails. (To my knowledge, none of the 20 were on our joke list - even though some of the attorneys who represent the company were!) I have asked each and every one of you on this list to tell me if the jokes that accompany these "Follies" place you in jeopardy or even if they offend you. Please understand that they are intended to be light-hearted and are not mean-spirited in any way. If you are ever offended, do not hesitate to ask to be taken off the Friday Follies Joke List. PSS. If you send a joke and I don't use it, it is because it has been used before, and I try not to repeat. Remember, I have been sending these since August of 1997. One tends to go through huge numbers of jokes that way. Disclaimer: When anyone asks if I type all of these jokes, the answer is, "No!" Text and paste one evening during the week (30 minutes, TOPS). Obviously I don't have time to sit, read, and retype jokes all day!