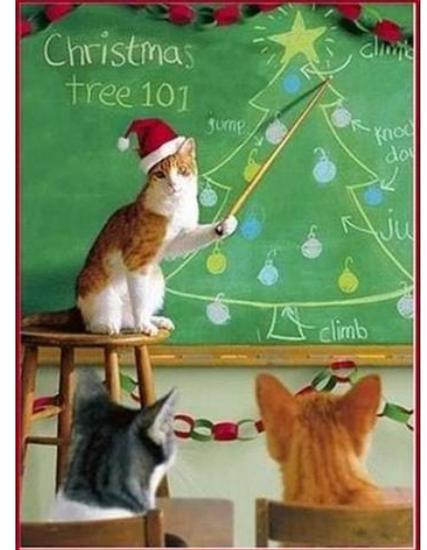




THE SCRATCH SHEET



"Is this all there is?"



War Plans



"So where are my raindeer?"



Has funny fat guy in the red suit gone yet?



After The Christmas party



Mainerd ,Your Book reviewer here. My latest offering is the preview of Garnet Quinn's latest book in The Merry Maines series: *The Merry Maines Down Home*. It was expected to be out by Christmas but computer woes and other misfortunes have put the publication back to January. For all that, it's worth a read. Lots of fun. From BASBLEU.Com comes *Catmas Carols*, a romp you'll enjoy sending to friends, along with *I could Pee On This: And Other Poems by Cats*. There's also a wall calendar from this same author. Bas Bleu is a bookseller-by-Post and has all kinds of interesting offerings. The cover of MM#6 is inside.

We have lists and pictures of the top 10 Maine Coons for 2012-2013 in the categories of Kittens, Cats and Alters. We would like to thank Lynne Sherer for all of her hard and persistent work in compiling the lists and obtaining pictures of the winners. Thank you, Lynne!

Kittens:	Cats:	Alters:
1. Sarajen Ezra Brooks	1. Pajocoons Theobromin of Chemicoons	1. Sarajen Woodford Reserve
2. Chemicoons Firelight of Concordance	2. Coonificent Gizmo	2. Kirdcoon Mio Debelete
3. Bigrivercoon Puma of Smokeycoons	3. Sarajen Ezra Brooks	3. Tuftlove Lena Horne of Koonary
4. Amayalynx Wolfgang	4. Amayalynx Hirschfield of MTNest	4. Lionheartcoon Floyd
5. Mainlyclassic Night Mist	5. Woodpile Muddy Waters of Mainevu	5. Chemicoons Brushfire of Concordance
6. Williamina Red Ryder	6. Williamina Kagura of Ohedo	6. Snowneige Argent
7. Sarajen McCarthys	7. Dreamcoon Fidelio	7. Williamina Cougar
8. MTNest Sweet Baby James of Medoz	8. Cascademtn Northern Lights	8. Cascademtn Crème Brulee of Coonamor
9. Megacoon Bonjovi of Mountaincats	9. Williamina Kanta of Chatile	9. Cascademtn Callejero of Coonquest
10. Fairypaw Outstander	10. Forest Pride Ursulina/ID	10. Kelmcoons Dexter

Kittens



Best Maine Coon Kitten
Sarajen Ezra Brooks
 Breeder/Owner: Teri Matzkin



2nd Best Maine Coon Kitten in TICA last year
IW Chemicoons Firelight of Concordance
 16th Best International Kitten in TICA.
 Breeder: Liz Hansen
 Owner: Tereasa Brainerd



3rd Best Maine Coon Kitten
Bigrivercoon Puma of Smokeycoons



4th Best Maine Coon Kitten
Amayalynx Wolfgang
Breeder/Owner: Katherina Krenn



5th Best Maine Coon Kitten
Mainelyclassic Night Mist

Cats



Best Maine Coon Cat. (adult)
LA SGC Pajocoons Theobromine of Chemicoons
Breeders: Wim & Marie-Jeanne Straetmans
Owner: Liz Hansen



2nd Best Maine Coon Cat in Championship.
Coonificent Gizmo
Breeder/Owner: Pat Montanaro



3rd Best Maine Coon Cat

IW SGC **SaraJen Ezra Brooks**

10th Best International Allbreed Cat
Best Allbreed Cat Mid-Atlantic
Best Maine Coon Cat Mid-Atlantic
Best Maine Coon Kitten Mid-Atlantic
Breeder/Owner: Teri Matzkin



4th Best Maine Coon Cat 2012-2013

Amayalynx_Hirschfeld of MTNest

Black and White Maine Coon

Owner/Breeders : Judy and David
BeOrnbaum



5th Best Maine Coon Cat in TICA.

TICA, IW, SGC **Woodpile Muddy Waters of MaineVu**

Owners: Marjorie and Philip Berger
Breeder: Jan Dell

14 Best Allbreed Cat, 2nd Best Cat in the NE, 2nd Best Maine Coon in the NE.

Alters



Best Maine Coon Alter

Sarajen Woodford Reserve.

Breeder/Owner Teri Matzkin



3rd Best Maine Coon Alter

RW SGCA **Tufflove Lena Horne of Koonary**

2013 Third Best Alter of the Year SC region

Breeder: Steve and Judy Rickard
Owner: Steve and Christie Montgomery



4th Best Maine Coon Alter.

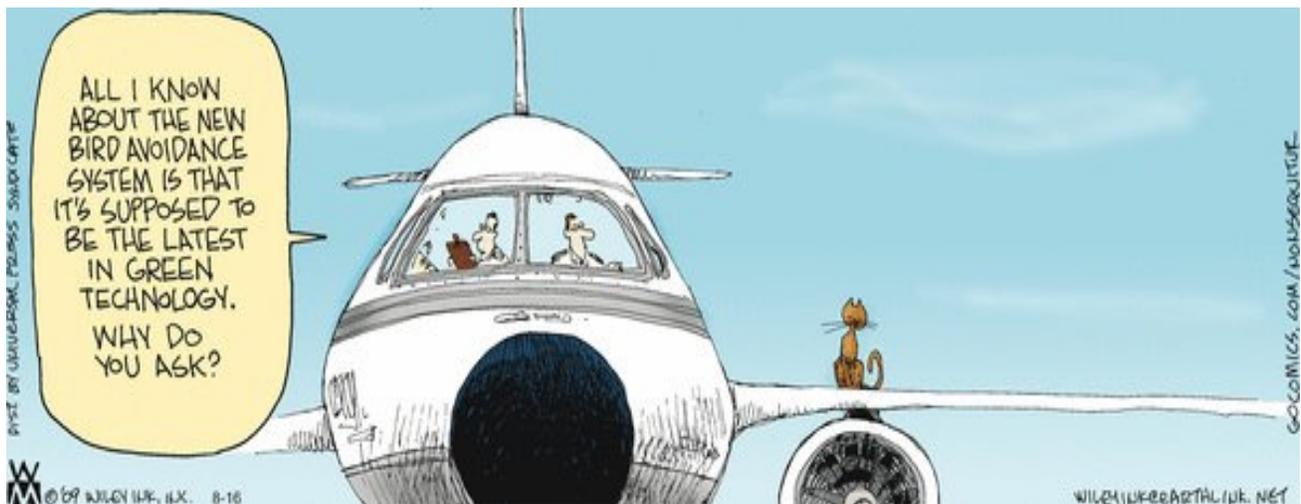
Lionheartcoon Floyd

Breeders/owners: Nevis Caligari & Pierre Borg

We were unable to get pictures and information about the 2nd and 5th Best Alters.



If you want to enjoy your Christmas issue in living color, go to the MCBFA website, MCBFA.org and go to the Scratch Sheet. The user name is maine and the password is coon.





"Always speak of the past, gratefully, of the future, excitedly, and of the present with bobbing eyebrows and a Cheshire grin" -The Universe

Ever notice that cats gravitate toward quilts? I found this out when I began to get into quilting seriously. I knew that over the years I had to teach my cats the art of staying away from the sewing machine while I was working on something, be it clothes, cat beds or other stuff. I started out by making "emergency catnip toys" from left over fabric and then flinging them away from the sewing area, which after a while that didn't work anymore. Then the verbal threat came. That meant looking them straight in the eye and telling them, "If you come one step closer to this sewing machine, I am going to sew your tail into whatever I am working on." (You have to continue to look them straight in the eye and keep a straight face when you finish, otherwise it's all for naught.) Generally they stopped in their tracks and sat down. They learned that while the sewing machine was making that whining noise they couldn't come closer than the middle of the dining room table. When it quit, they could venture forward to inspect what I was working on. Of course there is always the one that doesn't quite get it and its face would suddenly appear through the throat of the machine while sewing. She now lives in Brunswick with a non-sewer. So, while perusing the internet for quilty things, I came across quilting blogs which led me to several cat blogs that have become a favorite to read. The majority are from people that have generic cats that they love and want to share their lives with the world. Some are from people that do rescue work or support rescue in some way. If you have a spare minute to visit some of these sites, please do. They are enjoyable reading and might spark a bit of rescue work in your life. Here are six to start you off with. More to come in future issues of the *Scratch Sheet!*

Vicki Shipp

<http://theadventuresofscarlettandmelly.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.love-and-hisses.com/>

<http://fivecatflyer.blogspot.com/>

<http://9andchani.blogspot.com/>

<http://beadedtail.blogspot.com/> Note to read the post from 8/5/13. Gives an idea for shelter donations on cats' birthdays.

From the NY Times:**With Genetic Mapping, Cats' Mysteries Will Be Unraveled**

By **Nicholas Bakalar**: Published: February 15, 2005

Genetically speaking, every dog has already had its day. In 2003, a standard poodle named Shadow became the first canine to have his genome mapped, and in 2004 a boxer, Tasha, became the second.

Now scientists are turning their attention to the genome of the domestic cat, and it is Cinnamon's turn to donate a blood sample. Cinnamon is not just any cat. She comes from a carefully bred colony at the University of Missouri, and her lineage can be traced back for decades.

Scientists therefore know exactly what they are getting when they look at her DNA. Researchers hope to have the cat genome mapped by the end of the year, perhaps as soon as this summer - and when the job is done, humans will be the ones to benefit. Americans own (or serve) more than 60 million cats, spend over \$4 billion a year on cat food and are so dedicated to feline health care that their veterinarians have identified more than 250 genetic diseases and hundreds of infectious agents that afflict them. But the genome will usher in a world of knowledge with immediate practical application, not only for veterinarians and cat owners, but for geneticists, zoologists and conservationists as well.

When the National Human Genome Research Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, chose the cat as one of the select group of species to have their genomes mapped, it conferred no small honor. It will cost \$5.5 million to do the job, said a spokesman for the health institutes, and though the project will produce a map that is far less detailed than that of the human genome, scientists firmly believe it is worth every penny.

The sequencing is being carried out under contract with Agencourt Bioscience Corporation, a biotechnology firm in Beverly, Mass., which was started five years ago by scientists originally involved in the Human Genome Project. The cat genome is large, and even though automated equipment is used at every step, sequencing it is labor intensive; more than 100 people are involved in one way or another in the project.

The raw material - Cinnamon's DNA - is delivered to Agencourt by the N.I.H. Then the work begins, essentially a process of chopping up the DNA into tiny usable pieces in a process called library construction, and then putting it all back together to create the map. Producing a usable first draft sequence takes about nine months.

The Cat Genome Project was announced along with plans to

sequence the genomes of eight other mammals: the elephant, the orangutan, the shrew, the hedgehog, the guinea pig, the tenrec, the armadillo and the rabbit.

Each new genome map adds something to the understanding of the human genome, but the cat was chosen, among other reasons, for its importance as a medical model in studying human disease.

"The genes on the cat chromosome and the human chromosome correspond to each other like two strings of beads made of different colors," said Dr. Stephen J. O'Brien, chief of the Laboratory of Genomic Diversity of the National Cancer Institute, adding that cats have "the same genes, one after another, strung together across every chromosome." This resemblance means that many of the cat's genetic diseases are inherited exactly the same way as genetic illnesses in humans. Diabetes, hemophilia and lupus, for example, have precise genetic homologues in cats.

Cat retroviruses, like those that cause feline leukemia and feline sarcoma, although slightly different in their gene structure from the human versions, produce lesions that look almost identical to human cancers. Perhaps even more significant, feline immunodeficiency virus, or F.I.V., resembles H.I.V. so closely that it follows the same progression that, untreated, leads to the wasting syndrome of AIDS in humans. It is the only known naturally occurring AIDS syndrome in any nonhuman species, and provides a perfect model for studying the progression of the disease.

Cats also get feline versions of many other human infectious diseases, including rotavirus, poxvirus, herpes, Q-fever, chlamydiosis and dozens more. On top of that, they are resistant to anthrax infection, a fact of considerable interest to scientists. Once the genome is mapped, said Dr. O'Brien, "research on feline stem cells will blossom, along with gene therapy applications." Zoologists and wildlife managers are just as eager as medical researchers to start using the completed cat genome.

The domestic cat is the only one of the 37 species in its family that is not either threatened or endangered. Yet despite their rapidly shrinking territory, and their limited genetic diversity within species, wild cats endure on every continent except Australia and Antarctica, at the top of the food chain wherever they live. "The free-ranging species are survivors," Dr. O'Brien said. "Cheetahs, for example, get infected with F.I.V., but they don't get sick," though no one knows why.

On the other hand, wild cats can become infected for reasons that are just as mysterious. This happened in 1994 when the canine distemper virus, which normally infects only dogs, suddenly jumped to lions. Wildlife managers watched, appalled,

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

as the virus swept through the population, killing one-third of the lions in the Serengeti ecosystem in only nine months.

Zoologists want to know what explains these evolved genetic defenses and susceptibilities. The genomes of the domestic cat and its wild relatives are almost identical, and the genetic information developed for the domestic cat will apply widely to all the species in its genus.

"The full genome," Dr. O'Brien said, "will empower people with tools to discover innate disease defenses, recognize pathogens and other threats and assess the present status and future of these species."

Cats were probably first domesticated about 6,000 years ago, making them much newer guests in the human household than dogs or barnyard animals, which have lived with humans for almost twice as long. Yet they are the domestic animal closest to our hearts in more ways than one. "At least from a genomic perspective," Dr. O'Brien said, "cats share a striking ancient affinity with humankind."

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Don't forget our troops far away from home this Christmas! And don't forget all the displaced and lost felines everywhere...

This is my last issue as editor of the *Scratch Sheet*. With one brief interlude, I have edited the magazine since 2000—and that's long enough for anybody. It's time for somebody to step up to the plate, if you'll excuse the cliché, and bring fresh ideas and a new look to MCBFA's magazine. For the most part I have enjoyed it, most of my problems merely stemming from my daily battle with a goat-headed contrary computer—which may end up yet in the Nolichucky River. I simply have a number of other projects that need more of my attention than they've been getting. I am grateful for the assistance of both Holly Reilly and Helen Cripe, who have helped me in many ways over the years. It's been quite a ride, Friends.

Kit

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Hello! I am Buffy!

Do I look cute? Or mischievous?
Or like a cat that NEEDS 9 lives?

Well, I cashed in on some of that
last bit at a very early age!

I am VERY happy to still be here
and I enjoy each and every day to
the fullest extent possible.

Here's my story as told by my mom
person.

I had a litter of five nice kittens that I thought might have some show quality kittens in it. One day when they were about 2 months old, I heard racket coming from their room. I went to see what was going on and found a little one with an injured leg. The veterinarian x-rayed the leg and yes, she had a femoral fracture. Then a specialist was called in on the case. He put a pin in the broken leg. I brought Buffy home and put her in a large dog kennel which was to be her home for several weeks. Very long story short, the bone healed fine. Buffy eventually matured out to be the largest of the 3 sisters and is nearly the size of the largest brother.

Buffy has a singleton brother, Eagle, a brown classic tabby that is a year older and she is a bit larger than he is BUT he is clever and very intelligent and is probably stronger than she is if it really came down to it. He is somewhat the peace-keeper in the house - has been known to interfere in disputes and at times seems to protect the smaller, weaker ones. He is the only cat that I have ever seen that would hang onto a cat tree shelf and scratch the bottom of the shelf with his rear claws.

Buffy sometimes seems clumsy, but I'm not sure if the clumsiness is due to being confined for a period of time during her fast growth phase, or if it is due to her size, probably both. That said, there



is nothing stopping her from going wherever she decides to go. She goes to the highest places and jumps long distances with the best of them.

The upshot of this story is that all the time, effort, and money I put into the one kitten meant that none of the kittens ever got to show.

A boy and a girl in the litter have super great temperaments. The boy's one singleton red with white son is very sweet but he IS still a "red head" and that is his nick name with fun being his middle name. Nothing serious about this boy. He has some of the red head temperament though not the tortitude of tortie or red females I have known. In a human school setting, he would be referred to as the class clown.

The primary subject of this story is Buffy, the silver with white in the accompanying photos. Her sister, Faith, is the silver in the photos and is oh, so sweet. No tortie there! When I'm in the kitchen, she will keep walking past and rubbing my legs and sometimes chat – sometimes almost carrying on a conversation. She will come sit by me on the sofa and rub on me, put a paw out to say "hi" and is just a real sweet cat. She never gives anyone any grief and yet is one that doesn't give in to Buffy. They seem to have some sort of understanding.

Temperament no doubt played a part in and maybe was totally responsible for Buffy breaking her leg. She is a silver tabby with white and the silver has a fair amount of reddish brown to cream tones, which, apparently qualified her for the tortitude temperament even though she isn't tortie or red.

Buffy's mother (Toffee) is a brown classic tabby with a lot of white and again, has some reddish brown to cream tones, and yes, has tortitude. She loves attention on HER terms!

Both Toffee and Buffy can be loving and sweet when they want to be. Buffy will "talk" on occasion and head butt when she wants to be sweet. For such a big, furry cat, she seems to crave heat – sometimes sleeps curled up next to me when the weather turns cold.

Toffee is probably the boss if/when she wants to be. She will be pushed just so far and then will hiss and give "the look" and then the others will generally back down. Buffy challenges all and tries to be boss and usually is, probably due to her size and she CAN be very intimidating, mostly with "the look." She would probably be the fiercest fighter of any in the house – she backs down to no one. Sometimes they have a stand off/stare down. She would probably survive very well if she were a feral cat. All that said, her toughness is probably why she survived the broken leg, healing period with several veterinarian procedures, and recuperation.

As a kitten, Buffy would eat almost anything. ALL potentially dangerous items had to be kept out of her reach. She must have a stomach made of iron considering some of the "tasty treats" she consumed - none of which seemed to give her any problem - other than at times being upchucked. I have not had any other cat that had any interest in eating things that Buffy ate/attempted to eat. Fortunately, this bad habit has subsided over time!



Faith: aka Sweetness



Buffy: "I'm always plotting...
Where IS that mouse?"

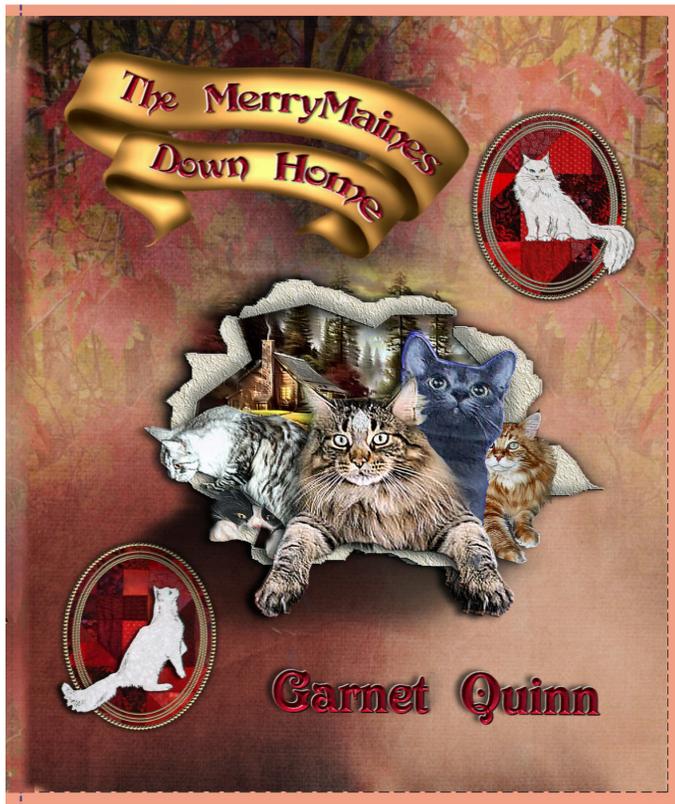


Faith: "I'm SO sweet!"

Buffy has surely used up at least 2 of her 9 lives!

Gotta love em!

**Happy Holidays
Sharon & crew**



Another Happy Ending

Bucky (Bounding Maines Starbuck) would like all of his friends to know that he, too, has had a happy ending. He has been with Helenmom now since just before Easter, after having traveled from Florida to East Tennessee and then to Southwestern Ohio. He has been a great comfort to Helenmom because he arrived just in time to fill the gap left by Farinelli's departure over the Rainbow Bridge. After hiding out for a couple of days in the basement, getting used to his new place and wondering if he would have to go traveling again, Bucky came upstairs, began playing with his step-sibling Midnight Sun, and then planted himself on Helenmom's lap, where he spends a lot of time. His two older step-siblings, Alice and Neroon, tolerate him and let him sleep on the bed with them. And Alice has discovered, much to her annoyance, that she can't boss him around like she does her brother Neroon and Middie (Alice has a generous helping of "tortitude"). Middie is happy to have someone his own age to play with. And Bucky is now happy and sure of his place, has grown some and is even more beautiful than when he arrived

I guess it's time to come out of the closet, although I rather imagine that by now most everybody already knows that I wrote the Merry Maines series of books. And while Garnet Quinn is, of course, a pseudonym, that wasn't out of conceit. The truth of the matter is I didn't want anyone in the Maine Coon cat fancy thinking I was writing these tales to publicize my cattery, Coonmtn. I'd had the wisp of a plot in mind for a long time before I ever started the book and originally the part of Bhu Fan was a Siamese (and how Bhu would bridle at that!) I cannot tell you how that character morphed into a little Korat—or indeed why any of the characters were anything but Maine Coons. Ideas for plots and characters somehow just seem to take on a life of their own in a writer's imagination. But Korat she became and proceeded to take the plot and run with it.

(Continued on page 12)



(Continued from page 11)

Once the book was written, I set out to find a publisher. Those inquiries ended with “we don’t accept any manuscript without it being submitted by a literary agent.” Okay. So I inquired of literary agents and was told “We don’t accept any manuscript from anyone who’s not had a book *published*.” Now if that’s not a Catch-22 situation, I never heard of one!

I confess, it did cause me no small amount of irritation. I start writing 50 years ago, had a newspaper column for 16 years, did a great many magazine articles but no, I’d never had a *book* published. But at the urging of she-who-will-remain-nameless (who is an MCBFA member), I grabbed the proverbial bull by the horns and published the book myself. I did feel there was a market as most cat lovers do enjoy reading about cats and in my own voracious reading I admit I was awfully tired of writers who didn’t have a clue about what they were doing with their cat characters. And to my knowledge, no one had ever written about cats from the viewpoint of a breeder or about life in a cattery. Fiction, that is. That there’s a lot of fantasy involved is a given but real authors call that “poetic license.” So don’t expect a book on cat physiology writ in stone. If I couldn’t have fun with it, I wouldn’t have bothered.

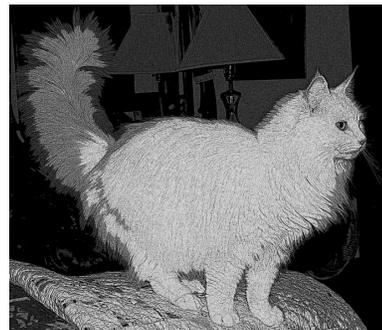
Much to my surprise and delight, that first book was very well received—in spite of the fact that any and all advertisement for it was word-of-mouth. And those wonderful words that came back to me were, “When’s the next one coming out?” That was, I confess, a mixed blessing. I’d ruminated over that first plot for *years*. How the devil was I going to come up with another? Of course, I did—and three more besides. Blame Bhu Fan. That royal imp has infected my brain.

I have to say, though, the book now in the works was the toughest. I had a writer’s block the size of Mt. Katahdin. And it wasn’t until Freya’s “only child” was about 3 months old and needed a proper show cat’s name that I broke it. Or he did. He was called Little Bear; well, actually Holy Terror would be more accurate. Nevertheless when I stumbled on “Star Sapphire” thinking of those indelible blue eyes on that

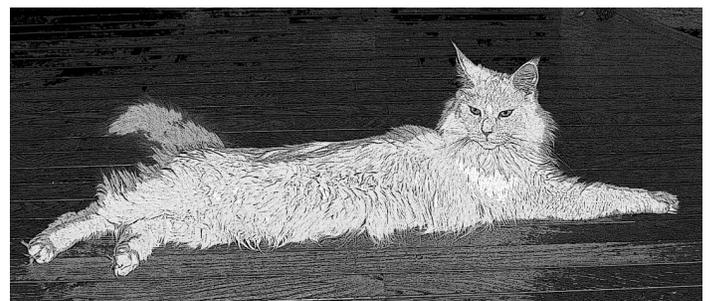
white kitten, the ideas started to come. The character this white cat became in the book is totally imaginary as Little Bear is still far from grown but it was the name that triggered the plot. And if I hadn’t had enough computer woes to stymie a saint and a number of other personal set-backs, the book would be out by now. As it is, with any luck, early January should see it up on Amazon.com and Kindle.

There are an awful lot of MCBFA members who have spread the word and sent me very heartwarming notes and I am truly grateful for all of them. Writing a book, let alone six, is a strenuous job—wouldn’t do it if I didn’t love it, you understand. But having a root canal is easier. For all that, I thank all of you and wish you a very Merry Christmas and blessings on Helen Cripe, my associate editor here (and there) who has taken up the slack while I did battle with this contrary computer.

Kit



One final note. Ann Mary Bishop, who was for a long time the only MCBFA member in the UK—she of Hurklecats—is a graphics whiz on the computer and a very, very old and dear friend. She took on my request to design my book covers and has done a truly great job of it. Her cattery, like mine, is now a thing of the past but we still have a gaggle of cats ordering us around. And we both still play “what if—”



Christmas for Sadiebelle...Another Happy Ending



Look closely for the new ornament



"If I start here I can do the whole tree in 10 minutes.."

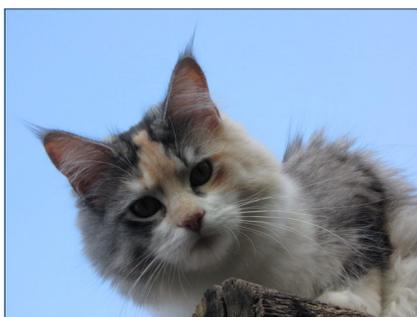
Sadie Belle was truly "a voice crying out in the wilderness". The voice of a tiny short-haired kitten lost in the woods, and nobody knew where she came from and how she got there. The truth of the matter is that some callous human being dumped her and she looked to be not yet 6 weeks old. A kind friend of Kit's found her and asked if she'd take her as she had more animals dumped on her remote farm that she had room for— Kit told her friend, Ginny, to meet her at the vet's office with the foundling as she had to make sure the baby did not have FeLeuk or FIV before incorporating her into the gaggle at her house.

Everybody in the clinic knew when Ginny and carrier arrived in the waiting room. Sadie Belle was complaining at the top of her tiny lungs about being in a strange place in general and a confined in a carrier in particular. Happily, the baby was free of all nasties and went home with Kit. However, since there were still a dozen cats at Goosefoot Farm (Kit's house), it was felt that Sadie Belle really deserved a home of her own where there was not quite so much competition. It was tough to give her up because this little Siamese wannabe had a personality to rival Lady Gaga. However, she ended up with Marcia Till in Clarksville, Tennessee with Sweet William, Cowboy and Sassy, Maine Coons all. But they didn't intimidate her any more than Kit's crew did. And this is where she is firmly in charge. Lost in the wilderness no longer.





Coon Boys Midnight Sun and Starbuck went to the Blessing of the Animals service at The Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Oakwood OH on October 5th. Middie sat on my lap throughout the service and watched what was happening. Bucky was not sure he wanted to be there, and chose to stay quietly in the carrier. Neither of them cared much for the music!



"What are those fancy black boots doing stickin' out the top of the chimney?"

Fancier Membership: (payable in US funds only) Us: \$20.00/one year, \$35.00/2 years, \$50.00/3 years (this includes first class postage)

Canada: \$15.00 + \$6.00 postage per year (total: \$21.00) Postal Money Orders Only

All Other Countries: \$31.00 per year: International Money orders only. No Bank checks

Please send membership fees and addresses to the Fancier membership secretary:

DO NOT SEND TO THE TREASURER OR EDITOR.

Always use a current application/renewal form from the magazine or a photo copy

Provisional Breeder membership: Important: Please note that online information and application forms which can be downloaded are now available at the MCBFA website:

www.MCBFA.org. If website is not available to prospective Provisional Breeders, please follow these instructions:

First: Write to the Provisional Breeder Secretary for information and application packet.

Do not send money at this time.

Second: Follow instructions in the application packet. Then send dues (\$30/first year; \$25 subsequent years.) and address changes to the Provisional Breeder Secretary, address above.

Breeder Members: \$25.00 per year to Breeder Membership Secretary. A copy of a current litter registration must be included to enable you to stay on the Active Breeder list.

There will be a \$25.00 charge on all returned checks!

Fancier Membership Renewals

Due July 2013 – this will be the last issue for these people:

Dawn Aldridge
Marie Phillips

Due October 2013

Mette Bechmann
Kathleen Goad
Mary Kollar-Hammel
Kathleen McCoy
Kathie Miller
Munro, Marcia
Betty & John Parks
Dan & Joan Schultz
Donn & Christin Wright

Due January 2014

Barbara Corbin
Sally Dodge
Jill Hamilton
Laura Hastings-Brownstein
Aimee Mendes
Helen Toovey
Sherri & Jim Watkinson

If you are not sure of the status of your membership dues, or if you are not sure whether or not you have supplied the Fancier member Secretary with your most current email address, please notify Lynne Sherer at lynnesherer@yahoo.com

Thank you!



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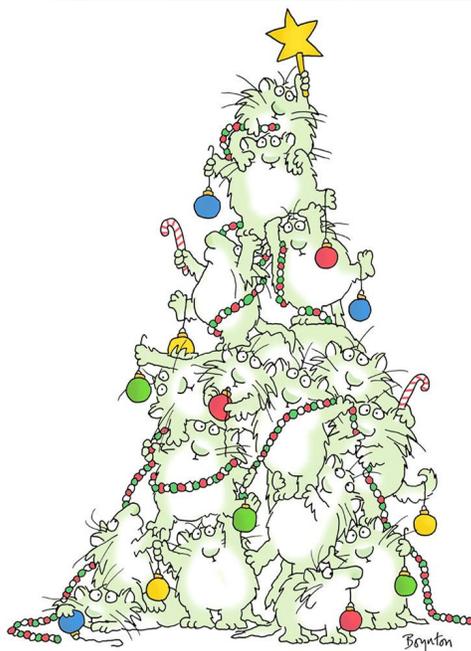
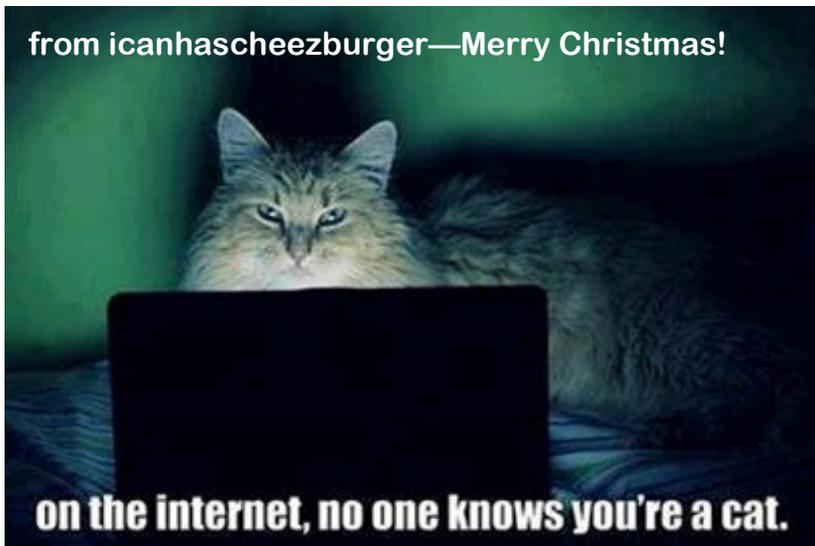
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And to all a 'Goodnight'!