

## *Holiday Greetings!* (Maybe you'll get this by the New Year)

I have to admit that image on the reverse side isn't very original or well done, but at least it has a story. It was taken above Carlsbad Beach from a moving bicycle while in traffic. Graphic proof that wisdom does not go hand in hand with age.

At least this year I have a good excuse for getting this out late this year-I was working third shift right up till almost Christmas Eve, seven days a week (well, actually, five days before Christmas Eve). Staying up all night is a killer after a certain age, especially if you're drinking coffee and not something more recreational (legal, of course), although I can't handle much of that either anymore.

On top of that, I had to figure out new software and a system for managing addresses. The software I've been using is finally no longer supported. Printing mailing labels is no longer a luxury as it would probably be difficult hand address the envelopes. No more running and no more addressing Holiday cards. Fortunately, bicycling is supposed to be good for me, as long as I look where I'm going. I was hit by a car while bicycling in November, but not when I was trying to take pictures at the same time.

It being slow again at work again this past year (except right before Christmas) I took off for month, but decided to forgo spending my time on a motorcycle. Instead I used up my American Airlines frequent flyer miles (a good idea it seems now) and buy a Eurail Pass. I spent a month in Europe starting with hiking the Swiss Alps and concluding with touring Roman ruins and art galleries in Rome. For more information, look at my blog at [dkikemi.wordpress.com](http://dkikemi.wordpress.com). That also links to the photos. Right around Florence one of my upper teeth was starting to become temperature sensitive. Fortunately, it didn't really become an issue until I got home, when I learned that I needed a root canal. For those of you who have not experience this treatment, it really is as bad as all of the horror stories you might have heard. I did brush and floss, but apparently the gods were against me.

The dogs continue to be entertaining, but not always in ways that I appreciate.