

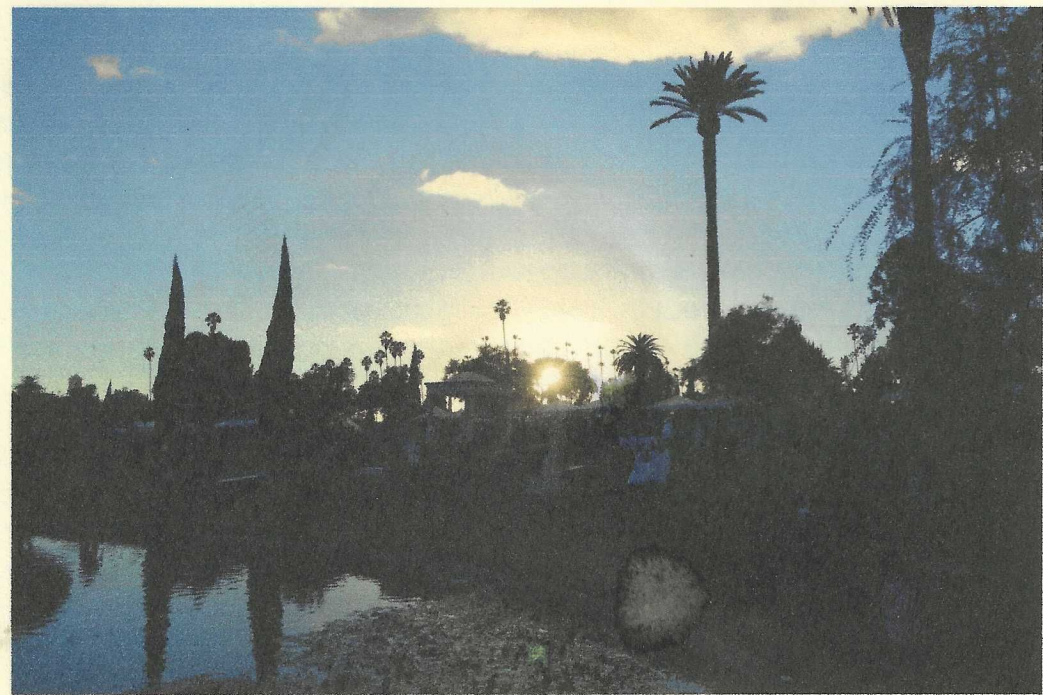
Happy New Year!

It is difficult to write about the past year when one hasn't done very much in the past year. I went cross country skiing in Colorado for a week at Beaver Creek, Vale, and Steamboat Springs. Perhaps not the best locations for cross country skiing, but I was with a group of Alpine skiers. In the middle of summer I drove to Texas and visited Big Bend National Park. The rangers told me I had picked the hottest time of the year to visit. There was relief at higher altitudes and in some interesting micro-climates on the desert floor. In general, though, your car breaking down could be fatal, or at least distressing, and I drank a lot of Gatorade. The scenery around the Rio Grande was impressive. I also visited MacDonald Observatory to the north the park. I also wanted to visit some of the visit-by-reservation observatories near Tucson, but other obligations prevented that. At the end of August I visited Sacramento to catch up on my California State History. I then continued on to Lassen Volcanic National Park where I hiked to Bumpass Hell (I don't make these things up) and up Mt. Lassen (the sort of thing my doctor says I shouldn't do). I had plans for a big motorcycle trip, but work suddenly got busy so I decided to put it off till 2015 when I'll be semi-retired.

To see some of the other things I've done, you can visit my photo galleries at:  
<http://ikemi.info/mytravel2014.html>

In 2014 I succeeded in not having a bicycle stolen-it's been one per year for the previous two years. I did my part for the California drought by rebuilding my toilet after it failed the food coloring test. It took me only three tries to get it right. I finally convinced my little geriatric dog that it's better to live in a doghouse than a hole in the ground. There are probably some lifestyle changes I should look into myself.

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Day of the Dead Festival, Hollywood Forever Cemetery