

Happy Holidays,

For starters, I wish all of you good fortune, or at least reasonable fortune, for the new year and hope the past one was tolerable. At least in my own case, I'm trying not to be too greedy, as my father once advised me. Trying to be aware of my increasing shortcomings. I decided I needed to get a car with automatic braking, blind spot detection, etc. It even sometimes corrects my steering. As soon as self-driving cars are proven and available at a price retirees can afford, I'll get one.

Coming to terms with the fact that it's time to back off on the motorcycling. In fact, as I write, I don't even own one, although that may be rectified in the near future. When I went to see the eclipse in Missouri (no big crowds and no price gouging) I drove my car, the first time I've gone on a long distance road trip not on a motorcycle, maybe ever. It felt pretty good when it was storming, I have to admit. Also allowed me to bring along more gear, although I did forget most of my T-shirts. My blog on the trip is at:

<https://dkikemi.wordpress.com>

If you just want to cut to the photos without the narrative, you can type in

<http://ikemi.info/mytravel2017.html>

to your browser. All the other photos I've bothered to post this year (2017, in case I don't get this out in a timely fashion) are also there, so it'll give you an idea of what I've been up to. Still gainfully unemployed, although this year I am officially open to picking up some work if it comes my way, although that seems unlikely since my professional area of expertise, although deep, was pretty narrow, and the work is kind of sown up around here since I don't choose to play well with others. That's okay since it gave me more time to build speakers and audio amplifiers. I've officially built my last speaker and I'm in the mode of repairing and upgrading the amps as required. The early ones reflect my lack of skill and knowledge at the time; that is, the ones that just didn't plain blow up. Just waiting for some parts to come in from eBay and Amazon...

Still working on coming to terms with being pre-diabetic. Good thing I ate all of that tasty junk food when I could, although that's what got me to this state. I did figure out a recipe for making low-glycemic pancakes which really seems to work, at least per my tastes, and pancakes are my favorite food. The mix I got from Amazon was pretty nasty. Now I'm trying to figure out a recipe for bread. The stuff I bought in the stores that was labeled low-glycemic didn't seem to be according to my blood sugar testing, and, again, it tasted pretty awful. Good thing now they're saying butter, eggs, and some meats are okay. Oh well, constraints are what make life interesting.

Still playing around with plants, although I am cutting back. Plenty of persimmons, but apples continue to be a dud. Thought about grafting but never got around to it. Most other vegetables, except for one huge squash, weren't very successful. Oh well, there is another year to try again.



Complete solar eclipse as seen from New Bloomfield, Missouri on August 21, 2017