

FEBRUARY 10, 2009

Since my last entry, we have planted our grape vines and plan to make wine from them in 2010. I have to tell you things are always changing and improving around here. It's a lot of work for me to try to develop new ideas and to motivate Mike and Karen to implement them. One of the most exciting things we do is invite people to help bottle our wine!!! Those are very fun days - lots of new people and lots of crackers and snacks dropped in my vicinity!! Our visitors seem to enjoy getting to work the bottling line and, of course, we have fun talking to them about the process and finding out about them as well. I am thinking about giving visitors who want to be more involved a chance to help harvest grapes in 2010. (I haven't told Mike yet - so keep it under your hat.)



During the holiday season, I came up with the idea of an "ornament exchange." Again, I managed to get lots of crackers at the event. We received many visitors and many adorable ornaments for our tree.

What we have come up with that I am really excited about is Wine School. Butch, Mike and I agreed to start the Wine School. (Check out our Wine School page for details.)

Also we will have for sale home winemaking equipment. Those attending the school can buy everything at a 10% discount!

Everything hasn't gone nearly as smooth as the Wine School idea. For instance getting approval for our Chocolate Razz wine label has proven to be a daunting task. We are so excited about this wine. We have been telling visitors about it for months and hopefully soon will gain the necessary government approval for our label. Once we get this wine in the bottle, I am pretty sure that it won't stay on our rack very long!!

We had some unwanted excitement in September and January. Yes, I am talking about the wind storm and the ice storm. Mike, Karen and I were without power at our home for 8 days in September and we were without power at both home and the winery for 5 days in January. Life was a little stressful not knowing where your crate was going to be during those times. We managed to survive and the winery was none the worse for wear and neither was I!!! Of course so many of you were in the same boat; we trust that you are all back to normal with no long term damage!



Anyway, I hope that you will come to Brooks Hill Winery to see me real soon! I love meeting new humans and seeing familiar ones as well. I will meet you when you come in the door and maybe while you are enjoying a bottle of our wine, you can share your storm survival stories. I have some new pictures for you to look at below.