



THE SCRATCHING POST

Official Newsletter of Two Cat Tango



WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST TWO CAT HAPPENINGS

Welcome to the first edition of The Scratching Post- the official newsletter of Two Cat Tango! This is the place to go to catch up on the latest TCT events and happenings. However we'll be the first to admit that there isn't a heck of a lot happening in TCT -land, so we'll also include some interesting and exciting features including recipes from the Two Cat Kitchen, gardening tips, a creature feature, and of course occasional games and puzzles for the kids of all ages. So check it out and happy reading!

Be sure to catch our upcoming CD release party- details below (sort of.. and to the left)!

TWO CAT TANGO CD RELEASE PARTY!

FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 6:00 – 9:00 PM

SOUTH COUNTY FOOD COOP

344 MAIN STREET

WAKEFIELD

Join us for an evening of fabulous food and fun. We'll be playing songs from the cd and some others as well. And we'll have a few special door prizes and Two Cat giveaways!

Suggested donation \$10 for buffet and a cd.

All proceeds go to the Food Coop!

No tickets required, but be sure to reserve your spot at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/two-cat-tango-cd-release-party-tickets-22366738517>

Two Cat Tango: Rick McKinney, Dave Sienko, with special guests Kristi Martel and Paul Dressel

JUST OUT- OUR NEW CD!

Two Cat Tango presents new original songs with a classic sound

Two Cat Tango is a collection of songs in a variety of styles- something for everyone! "...songs of rocket on distant trips, dreams of happiness mixed with sadness, of nearby stars seen from afar and finding your way to where you are." And nothing really to do with cats, other than the title. Give it a listen today!



TWO CAT KITCHEN

CULINARY CRAZINESS FROM THE TWO CAT COOKS

Everyone's looking for a healthy and satisfying meal these days. But let's be honest, who has the time to weed through those complicated recipes you find on the interweb, some of which make instructions for assembling a cold-fusion reactor seem simple! Not to worry though, we here at Two Cat Kitchen have you covered. Here's a quick fix to your mealtime dilemma that's easy and tastes great too. So here we go!

First you're gonna need a crock pot. Doesn't matter how big or how many settings or timers- just plug it in. Next head on down to your local food mart and pick up a package of pork tenderloins. You know one of those things that looks like a giant hot dog wrapped in industrial-strength plastic that's almost impossible to remove. Any brand will do, but you probably want to stay away from the marinated. While you're there, pick up a bottle of pepperoncini. Doesn't matter how big a jar. You can get the sliced but we find the whole ones better. By the way, pepperoncini are big in Italy, but did you know they didn't arrive there until the early 16th century, after Columbus brought some back from the New World in 1492. So there you have it.

Back in the kitchen, if you can manage to get the plastic off put the pork tenderloin into the crock pot and dump the pepperoncini on top. Turn on the crockpot and start it cookin'- any setting. Then let it go for a while. Doesn't matter how long but probably want to let it go for at least a couple of hours. Don't worry, if you need to go away for a few days it will probably be fine. One time we forgot about it and left it on for a week and you know it wasn't too bad looking- although we gave it to the dog anyway just to be safe. Turns out that was a mistake...

When it's time to eat, shred the pork. You can use two forks and do it in the pot, or bust it out and do it on a cutting board. Then dish up the goods- you can go Italian style on a ciabatta roll with some provolone cheese and southern-fried broccoli rabe. It's probably good with roasted red peppers too. How about as a taco filling with a red cabbage slaw? Or in a burrito with beans and rice or whatever. Any way you serve it it's a bona-fide culinary curiosity!

So there you have it, thanks for checking out Two Cat Kitchen. We'll be back soon with more time-tested tried and true recipes with a feline touch! Actually come to think of it this one didn't have much of a feline touch, but we'll work on that for next time. Until then- Two Cat Kitchen- out!

GARDENER'S CORNER

Hello Two Cat fans, welcome to our gardener's corner this month where we take a look at the joys of winter gardening. Admittedly not one of our favorite subjects as winter gardening can be quite challenging depending on where you are, granted if you happen to live in Guadalajara or someplace like that it's probably not so bad. But if not fear not, for despite harsh conditions we can still partake in the joys of winter gardening- by moving the operation indoors! Cat grass is one of the easiest of the catelicious crops to grow indoors, and here's our recipe for success. First a little background: cat grass is a name used to describe any of a number of different types of grass which are popular with cats. Evidently there are two main species: *Dactylitis glomerata* (also known as Orchard Grass), and *Avena sativa*, or cat oat. Why do cats eat it? This is a good question because it's not clear why cats do anything they do. Now it's time to grow: you'll need a container of some sort, some potting soil (organic if possible), and cat grass seeds which you can get at your local cat grass seeds store or pet center. Here's what you do: dump the soil in the container maybe a couple of inches from the top.

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(Gardeners Corner continued...)

Add a layer of seeds, you know not so it covers the whole thing but you want a good number in there. Then a little more soil so the seeds are just covered. Then add water- not too much but you want the soil pretty moist. Cover the top of you container with plastic wrap but not too tight- let a little air get in. Then put it in a warm place and- voila! Well not exactly voila because it takes a few days to grow but when it gets about 6 inches tall or so you'll have a grass feast any cat will enjoy. Well that's all for now, tune in again next time around for more Two Cat gardening tips!



TWO CAT CREATURE FEATURE

PISTOL SHRIMP

Our feature creature in this week's Two Cat Creature Corner is a most amazing animal that subdues its prey by creating a high speed knock-out punch that's almost as hot as the surface of the sun. And it's loud too, coming in at around 200 decibels- even louder than an ACDC concert and a rocket launch- maybe combined! All this from a diminutive little guy called the pistol shrimp, aka shrimp in the Alpheidae family for those in the know. So how does this creature, only a couple of inches long, pack such a tremendous punch? Pistol shrimp have two claws, one small pincer and a ginormous snapper claw. One half of the snapper claw is immobile and has a socket in it, the other half is called the dactyl and is like a plunger that fits in the socket. When the shrimp approaches its prey it opens the dactyl, pulling the plunger out of the socket, and creating an incredible spring-like tension until it lets it go then whammo- the plunger is released into the socket which displaces the water that was there. In fact it's forced out so rapidly the pressure drops incredibly low which creates something called a cavitation bubble. This is where the action is and when the bubble collapses it makes this incredible snap sound that's louder than ACDC on a rocket ship. But the sound is nothing- the collapse of the bubble for a split second generates temperatures on the order of 8,000 degrees F, and a blinding flash of light. Needless to say the shock wave this produces knocks out the prey, and the shrimp can drag it to its burrow off for a tasty meal. Although it's only effective at relatively close range, the pistol shrimp's super shock wave claw is nonetheless very effective if they can get close enough to their prey. In fact the super-shocker is so effective some shrimp use it to drill out solid rock to make their burrows. Not a cat, but nonetheless a very unique and powerful little creature!