

December 3, 2010

Christmas Party
Cocktails 6 - 7 pm
Dinner to follow

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

DECEMBER
Christmas Party

JANUARY
Clint Cramer

FEBRUARY
Loren Early

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President's Message



Christmas is here and in full force. Our Christmas Meeting is coming up fast and we are getting a good response on the RSVP for who is attending. If you have not sent yours in please call Larry Hughes @ 916-715-4688 so that we can plan on the amount of dinners we will need. This is also the last reminder I can send out about the bikes and helmets. Please bring a bike and helmet to the dinner for the Sheriff's Toy Project. It is important that we support our community that we work in. There are going to be a lot

more families needing help from the Sheriff's Toy Project than in the past due to the economy. They can't do it alone and they need our help. Also keep in mind that they will take used bikes and computers. They can rebuild them and give them out too. This Christmas meeting is our last event for the year and our last chance to show our community that Capital Valley IPSSA cares. Nothing feels better than knowing you are helping out a less fortunate family during the Christmas season. Isn't that what Christmas is all about? I

think so. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Christmas dinner!

'Til next time,
"Keep It Clear"

Scott Houseman,
President





Capital Valley Ipssa's Annual Christmas Party



*Friday, December 3, 2010
Holiday Inn - Aviator Room
5321 Date Ave, Sacramento, CA 95841
Cocktails & Magic 6 - 7 pm – Dinner to Follow
Activity for Children starting at 6pm*

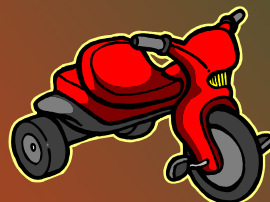


*Come out for a night of
food, fun & charity!*



*Capital Valley Ipssa Members this is your chance
to make a child's Christmas very special this year.*

*The Annual Bike Drive benefits the
Sheriff's Joy Project. Please contact
Larry Hughes for details at (916) 715-4688*



MEMBERS ONLY DRAWING

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Congratulations to Dennis Johnson for winning \$100

Reminder!

Your sick route summary cards are due by January 31, 2010. On February 15, 2010 a fine of \$100 will be levied against any member who has not completed and returned the card by that date. You may check the Capital Valley IPSSA website at www.cvipssa.com to verify your summary card has been received.

The Story of the Christmas Cookie



Cakes of all shapes and sizes (including smaller items such as cookies) have been part of festive holiday rituals long before Christmas. Ancient cooks prepared sweet baked goods to mark significant occasions. Many of these recipes and ingredients (cinnamon, ginger, black pepper, almonds, dried fruits etc.) were introduced to Europe in the Middle Ages. They were highly prized and quickly incorporated into European baked goods. Christmas cookies, as we know them today, trace their roots to these Medieval European recipes. Dutch and German settlers introduced cookie cutters, decorative molds, and festive holiday decorations to America. German lebkuchen (gingerbread) was probably the first cake/cookie traditionally associated with Christmas. Sugar Cookie type recipes descended from English traditions. Did you know Animal Crackers began as edible ornaments?

"By the 1500s, Christmas cookies had caught on all over Europe. German families baked up pans of Lebkuchen and buttery Spritz cookies. Papparkakor (spicy ginger and black-pepper delights) were favorites in Sweden; the Norwegians made krumkake (thin lemon and cardamom-scented wafers). The earliest Christmas cookies in America came ashore with the Dutch in the early 1600s."

---"America's Best Holiday Cookies," *McCall's* [magazine], December 1994 (p. 85)

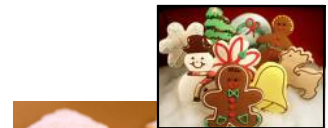
The flood of cheap imported wares from Germany between 1871 and 1906 when the import laws were changed, inundated our Christmas markets with cooking utensils like...cookie cutters...Unlike homemade counterparts, or local tinsmith's wares, these tools depicted highly stylized images, often spawned from secular themes or...with subjects designed specifically to hang on the Christmas tree. Likewise, recipes appeared in popular cookbooks to better match the demands of such utensils...In a sense, with the advent of inexpensive tin cutters, new emphasis was placed on shape, where in the past, many homemade cookies simply had been square or round. Bells, Christmas trees, camels, crimped wares (cutters with zigzag edges), lilies, Santa Clauses, turkeys, all of these elaborate shapes tended to deemphasize texture and flavor."

---*The Christmas Cook: Three Centuries of American Yuletide Sweets*, William Woys Weaver [Harper Perennial:New York] 1990 (p. 106)



Merry Christmas Cookies

1/3 cup shortening * 1/3 cup sugar * 1 egg * 2/3 cup honey
1 tsp. lemon flavoring * 2 3/4 cups Gold Medal Flour
1 tsp. soda * 1 tsp. salt



Mix shortening, sugar, egg, honey, and flavoring thoroughly. Measure flour by dipping method or by sifting. Stir together flour, soda, salt; blend in. Chill dough. Heat oven to 375 degrees F. (quick mod.). Roll dough out 1/4" thick. Cut into desired shapes. Place 1" apart on lightly greased baking sheet. bake 8 to 10 min., or until no imprint remains when touched lightly. When cool, ice and decorate if desired. makes about 5 doz. 2 1/2" cookies.

---Betty Crocker's *Cookie Book*, General Mills, facsimile 1963 edition [Hungry Minds:New York] 2002 (p. 30)

Insurance Membership Education Networking Friendship



Newsletters are being sent out via e-mail! If you do not receive a newsletter via e-mail its because the IPSSA financial office does not have your e-mail address. Please e-mail me at jneronde@yahoo.com and I will be sure to add you to the list.

Capital Valley IPSSA Chapter

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If you are a Chapter Supporter and are interested in submitting monthly articles, or news, please e-mail info and artwork to Jennifer Neronde at jneronde@yahoo.com. The deadline is the 15th of the month for the following months issue. Thank you.