

Merry Christmas to all from Colorado!

December, 2022

It has been a stay at home year for us with a focus on “honey do” home projects . Last year’s Christmas present to ourselves was an automatic gate at our driveway at the front of the property. It has been so nice not to have to get out to open and close the gate every time we leave and not to run down to close it when we turn out the horses. Of course after 30 years without it we have had cars crash through it twice in the last 4 months when the drivers fell asleep and ran the stop sign across the road. Thank goodness no one was hurt (although we have now had the gate rebuilt twice!).

We also had the inside of the house repainted this summer which necessitated moving all the furniture and emptying all the closets etc. That produced numerous trips to Goodwill and the dump/recycling centers and we still have too much “stuff”!

Our youngest daughter, Laura ,and her family have moved into their house and are now only 15 min away which has been a real joy. We have our grandson, Henry, two days a week while Laura works on her degree and we are doing our best to spoil him. We are now visiting playgrounds and toy aisle that we haven’t done in years and having a blast. Watching a young mind grow and explore is truly a journey of wonder.

Sandy continues to enjoy her horses and has focused on the training of her two young horses this year. Finding time to work them every day is a challenge and is possible only because of the help and patience that Milo provides. We were able to qualify both horses for our Regional Dressage Finals In September and spent a week in Santa Fe showing and rubbing elbows with other riders.

Our oldest daughter, Jennifer, continues to work as an ICU nurse and decided to put her house on the market this fall with an eye towards moving out of the city to a quieter country life. We have been delighted to have her and her significant other move into our basement and be a bigger part of our life . They are hopeful to be able to sell the house this spring/summer and find a place to buy close to us and Laura. This April Jenn is looking forward to spending a week heading the nursing group that is going to Peru and helping indigenous people there along the Amazon. She will top off the trip with an additional week to visit Machu Picchu.

Milo tore the medial ligaments of his left knee this fall which has significantly affected his mobility. Luckily his ACL is not affected and the prognosis is very good long term. He is in a brace and they will inject the knee in January but he finds it hard to rest the leg and is proving to be a bad patient.

The highlight of our travels this year has been a week on Oahu, Hawaii, the first week of December. The Methodist church choir that Milo sings with was invited to sing at the Pearl Harbor celebration in Honolulu so we loaded the whole family on a plane (including 2 year old Henry) and enjoyed a week in the sun and sand. A highlight of the visit was a private tour of the military DNA facility which is tasked with finding and identifying the remains of US military personnel lost overseas and bringing those remains home to their families. We are hoping to travel more in the coming year with an eye towards Patagonia and the Panama Canal.

We will spend Christmas at home with family including 9 dogs, 3 cats and 5 horses. We are blessed to have our kids close and to be able to share our lives with them. We hope this season finds all of you in good health and able to share it with those you love. Have a wonderful Christmas and a 2023 full of joy!