

# 2003 To Do List:

Get one major reconstruction project done. Since the barn is done and the business occupies most of the rest of the house, we decided to rebuild the main stairs, balcony, Keith's office, and the ceiling over the Kitchen. Keith has always hated the second floor layout (he has to go out of his way to answer the office phone). Jo made him promise to finish before any visitors showed up in April, so one day he started punching holes in structural walls, moving doors, fixing the ceiling hole (don't ask), and adding flooring where there used to be empty space. This time the stenciling we painted over looked - we're not kidding - like pot plants. Some new carpet, new maple railing and trim, a nice maple bookcase Keith made himself (had to go buy a table saw, oh well), and voila, project done. We were still cleaning up when the first people rang the doorbell around midnight for the college hockey weekend.

Work.

Host NCAA College Hockey Finals Party in April. Pete, Brenna, & Jersey Kelley, Chris & Kelly Danish, and Derek Henderson stopped by for a long weekend to watch UNH lose again. Other than Chris' annual depression, we had a wicked good time. Pete won the ping pong tournament even though he lost every single preliminary game. We still have some Genny left over, if anyone wants to stop by and finish it up. Somehow the other beer always goes first. Roscoe and Jersey (a moose, masquerading as a dog) had a great time, although Roscoe is a bit indecent.

Work.

Go to Jen and Fred's wedding in June. More fun. Although the mud-meter was high, the sun shone through and we all had a fantastic time at Jen and Fred's wedding in June.

Work.

Come up with a staggeringly brilliant and original idea for this years Christmas letter. And abandon any pretense of modesty.

Work.

Build new hospital for horses. Don't let the absence of a check mark on this one fool you, although we're not done (actually not even close) we've been working on this consistently for more than six months. It's taken that long to find a location. Now we're just debating with the town about zoning and permits, etc. We find out on December 9, so we should know if we're moving ahead by the time you read this.

Work.

See the Kelley's off to IU and Paras to Uganda?. Pete, Brenna, and Jersey stopped by again on the way to Pete's new career as a student in Indiana. A short visit, but a lot of fun. Paras also stopped by on his way to a new job in the midwest. Next thing we know we get an email from Africa. Don't ask us, we don't know how it happened either.

Work.

Hire a new receptionist, vet, and technician. We're one for three right now. We hired a full time receptionist, Courtnay, in addition to the part time help we get from Molly. The business

has been the predominant feature of our lives this past year, and we're trying to make sure it grows up eating all of its vitamins. We have a big challenge finding an equine veterinarian since there's only about 95 people graduating every year who want to do the job. Take out people leaving the business and we have a big resource crunch. Convince your kids to become equine vets. Bring them out when you visit, we have free horse rides.

Work.



**Host Thanksgiving.** Keith's parents, grandfather, sister **and her new fiancée Jeff Karam** joined us for several days over the holiday. Congratulations to Shelly and Jeff. The horses, for once, behaved themselves and there were no emergencies so we were able to concentrate on eating. I think we set a new record for number of different desserts on the table at one time. Current plans call for the Johnson's to come out near Christmas, and we look forward to seeing them soon.

Work.



**Make list of all the people who have never visited us.** Ok, we never got around to this. But you know who you are. Sooner or later we know you'll make your way out here.

Work.



**Go camping in the Adirondacks and visit Clear Pond.** We found out that Jo is related to Isaac Newton this year. Keith has finally given up trying to compete (but only after verifying he wasn't related to Galileo, da Vinci, Marconi, or Michelangelo). All through a relative that lived on the side of Mt. Marcy in the early 1800s at a place called Clear Pond. We planned to camp with the Johnson clan, but never got around to it. We'll have to find someone to blame for that.