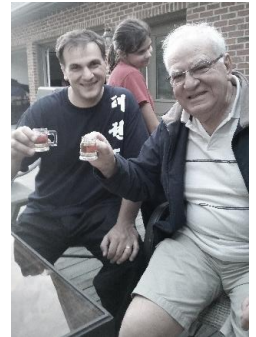


Back to our regularly scheduled Christmas programming after getting last year's letter out at Easter. Let's get to it.



We had a few family trips this year, the biggest being a week at Atlantis in the Bahamas. There were also the two weeks in Texas where Jo trained a new horse, Keith worked, and they both sweated a lot. Keith is betting that last sentence won't survive the first draft. We also got back to the Kennedy Space Center for the first time in 30+ years, plus NH for a certain milestone birthday. After 7 years living here we finally took had weekend in St. Louis, which was great. We highly recommend the City Museum. Come visit, we'll show you around.

We enjoyed a long visit from Keith's parents in the spring and are about to welcome them back for another one. Dad G was finally able to celebrate retirement with the sale of the store after 36 years and a milestone birthday with mom later in the year in NH. We are very proud of Mom and Dad G's work with the store, and equally grateful to see that chapter of life buttoned up. Dad may or may not agree that retirement is to be celebrated. We'll just have to see. There are always projects in Illinois and New Hampshire...



The Johnsons are still based in Peoria. Dad J spends an inordinate amount of time on farm projects, for which we are very grateful. Mom J is frequently helping out with the kids when Keith is out of town or Jo has work commitments. Or both. Dad J is still looking for his first Illinois deer, which is a bit of a sore subject at the moment. The picture was taken at the professional bull riding event in Peoria.

This year saw more progress on farm projects. We got the 5<sup>th</sup> pasture open (mostly Keith's project, reclaiming land from 12 foot high weeds), a lot done on the barn conversion project (changing from 21 stalls to a heated party room, workshop, and hay storage), more trail clearing work, and everyone needs a storage bin for 2 tractor trailers worth of shavings (picture). We'll finish the 3 year plan in 8 more years. We need to find good spots for 2 zip lines across the ravines (another good reason to come visit – safety harnesses included). The barn party room has been christened a few times, despite being full of tools and still under construction. No reason to wait.



JoAnn and her business partners added a new vet clinic in March (exactly when Keith predicted it would open, and 3 months later than the Contractor predicted), which we probably already covered last year. Construction and planning was an awesome experience, in all the senses of that word. Overall it was managed extremely well, with the lingering concerns being with the plumbing contractor. Keith's Grandpa G is almost certainly shaking his head in heaven over some of the things that happened. The picture is Mason standing in the mailbox post hole.

Aside from working on actual projects, Keith spent a lot of time worrying about the projects he *wasn't* getting to because his actual job got in the way (Keith's boss is getting this letter too). About 40% of his time was on the road around the US, plus Germany, France, Sweden (where this letter was written), Japan, Korea, India, and

probably a visit to China that he can't remember. In a year PTC's headquarters is moving to the waterfront in Boston, about 1000 feet from Trillium Brewery (very good beer). This is very good news for those of us who travel in.

Megan is still enjoying the Montessori school and had spent time on tae kwon do, dance, art, reading, piano, ukulele, girls who code, and riding horses. Unfortunately, something that is still not definitively diagnosed (maybe Lyme, maybe not, conflicting test results) has gotten in the way since August. Lots of tiredness, headaches, nausea, missed school, and (temporarily) dropped activities. She's being a trooper, but this continues to have a big impact. Right now there is a sinus infection getting cleared up. We'll see after that. Megan also wrote a self-review: "Merry Christmas. This year I've done a lot of music. I started to play ukulele and I've been getting a lot better at playing by ear. I feel like I've gotten a lot better at music this year. [Megan, is that it?] Dad, you said I only had to write four sentences."



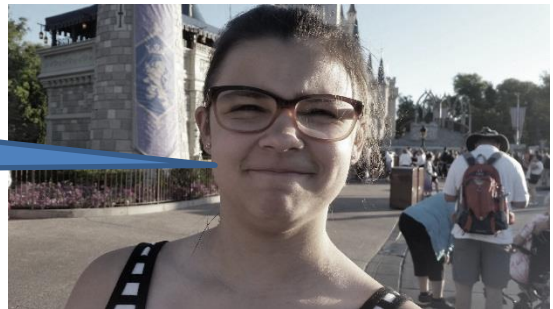
Mason has tackled reading in the past year, is still playing soccer and enjoying it, but for months has been talking non-stop baseball. We are only cool enough as parents to handle one sport at a time, so he's going to have to pick. He



decided to be a Cubs fan well before they won, so not a bandwagon-jumper and a Bears fan (which more than offsets the Cubs). At least he's not a Red Sox and Patriots fan (Merry Christmas Boston friends). Mason also managed to spend the summer in a cast, having broken his right arm in 4 places leaping around on playground equipment. Mason's self-review, "Hi. I wish I could see you at Christmas because I love you a lot. Umm... Uhhhhh.... And.... (taps head to get creative juices flowing) If you were here I would have a lot of fun times with you. Done. Make sure you write all of that."

How do I get my own Space Shuttle?

Yes, I am most definitely up to something.



It can't possibly have been my 70th birthday

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and best wishes for a blessed and healthy 2018,  
Love Keith, Jo, Megan, and Mason