

Merry Christmas, 2006

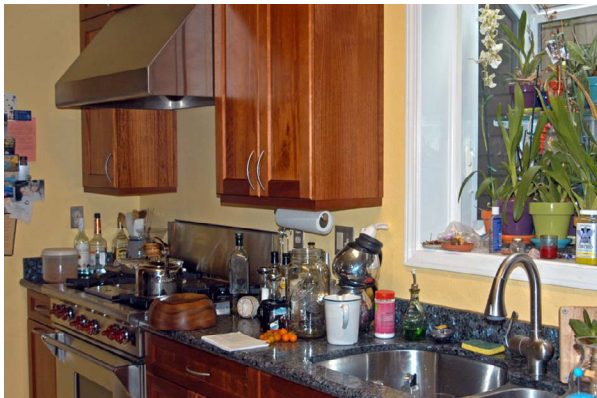
To our dear friends and family members,



Before



During



Deanna's granite kitchen counter

Season's Greetings, or perhaps I should say Two-Seasons' Greetings. We missed getting a Christmas letter out last year for the first time since 1988. Well, we had this house-thing going on as you may recall:



After



Balcony

Thanksgiving last year, the varnish was still wet on the upstairs floors but we served dinner for friends and family members downstairs. We moved into the house the next Saturday and spent the next several months unpacking boxes. Hence, no 2005 letter.

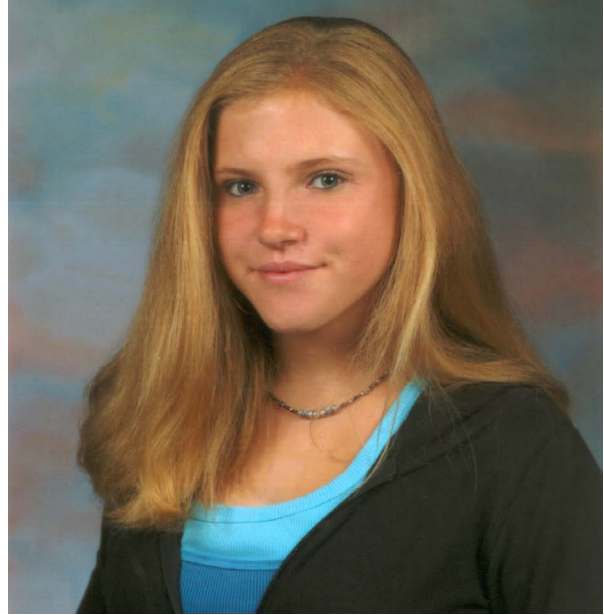
And oh, did I mention that if you blink, your children get bigger? We always have an Angel-On-Top photo in our Christmas letters so here are two; one with Nate and one with Michael; both at Neva's.



Angel On Top, 2005

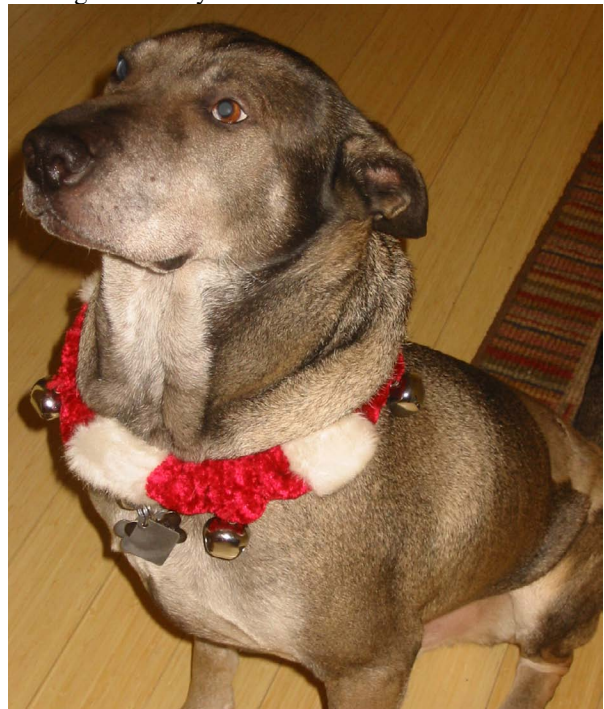


Angel On Top 2006



Maurie is in High School now

Maurie has moved from ballet at Berkeley Ballet Theatre to Modern Dance both as her PE at Skyline High School and at Shawl-Anderson studio in Berkeley after school two days a week. Deanna has moved from Sutter VNA to IV Assist and is about to swap out most IVA days for doing work at Critical Care starting January 2. She also infuses Remicade to arthritis patients every few weeks. Twig has moved on from having bone cancer and Jazz Man has moved into co-owning this family with the four cats.



Jazz, the Jingle Dog

Michael has moved on from writing about minerals in Alaska in 1978 to writing about minerals in northeast Asia in 2006 <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2006/1150/>; I also got a couple of seismology papers out to bring the publication count up to an even one hundred in 28 years <grin>.

"Yeah, but what about backpacking?" you ask. And oh, did I mention backpacking?



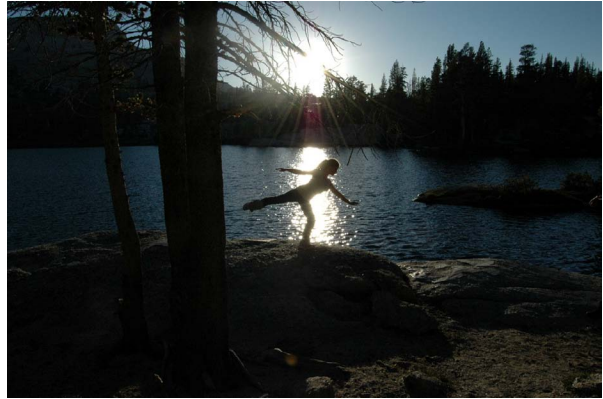
Young Lakes, 2005 (Cathedral Peak in the background on the right)

"But did you go down to Yosemite Valley?" you ask. And oh, did I mention my sixty eleven-year-olds? I did my eighth year in a row with Yosemite Institute. I started teaching there when my little friend Margie was in sixth grade. She's in college now. Ranger Dave, on the left, is the same naturalist with whom I taught nearly all of those eight years. He and I met nine years ago with I gave a presentation on the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project at the Yosemite Association meeting once.



Yosemite Institute, 2006

Have a grand and peaceful Christmas and New Year,
-Michael, Deanna, and Maurie,
-Malie, Lilly, Luv Dove, Yo Yo and The Jazz Man



Cathedral Lake and Cathedral Peak in 2006