



It has been another roller coaster year. The stock market plummeted. Oil geysered to the stratosphere. And Dick still hasn't cut his hair.

Lots of time away from home. Dick went to Florida April 2. Anne flew to Phoenix for a race in April. Dick stayed a couple of months; Anne just a couple of days. Dick went back to Florida in October and is still there. Anne flew down for our first Christmas in the Keys. She's still there, too, for our first Christmas together in the Keys. We'll celebrate Christmas with the kids around the middle of January. Or maybe February.



Speaking of Florida, Dick is a Florida homesteader now, if you consider the Keys part of Florida (or the United States for that matter). He voted there and everything.

We bought a John Deere tractor to mow in the summer and blow in the winter. Jim has been, um, practicing with it while we are away.

We are still under the renovation flag both north and south. The unending northern project got longer when the oil price spike interrupted construction. Dick spent the Fall obsessing over pellet stoves and furnaces. We moved the Vigilant to the parlor and bought a pellet stove for the great room. Then we discovered the joy of finding, trucking, and stacking three tons of pellets. They come in 40 pound bags. Lots of 40 pound bags. Down south, Dick has been merrily building kitchen cabinets. He expects to be done in 2012.



Jobs progressed poorly. Anne has worked for a title insurance company with an office in Burlington for the last couple of years; the housing crunch means they cut her job to three days per week. Dick has returned to op-ed writing and has, along with 3,976,561 others, added to the blogosphere. You can see the result of that here: <http://www.blog.dickharper.com>

Karl and Donna got nailed by the economic conditions and have moved to an apartment. Krystal has finished her first semester at University of Maine where she is majoring in Education. Ashley has finished her first semester in high school. Hard to believe, all that.

Kris and Jim have added to the grandpuppy squadron with Deeyogee, a Newfoundland who is already bigger than Lazarus. You can see both along with the rest of their menagerie on youtube, of course: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMiE9CvQFGI>

Merry Christmas, my friends. Please drop in soon to help with the leftovers.

Anne and Dick Harper