



The Miller Times

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Happy Holidays

December 2012

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The 2012 family photo at the National Matches in Camp Perry, OH

Another busy year has flown by, Thanksgiving is past, and we are scurrying to get ready for Christmas. The Miller's have big news that is included in Jep's section, but we will say that we plan on staying in Washington DC for the foreseeable future. The family managed to make their annual camping trek to Ocean City and added another adventure with a trip to Camp Perry, Ohio enter in the Small Arms Firing School (with 700 of our closest friends) which culminated in a M16 marksmanship competition. No one was injured and the family stayed together, so we would call it a successful event. We also made the trip to Richmond (one of many) to run in one of the Color Runs, where people pelt you with colored powder while you run for "fun". We survived Hurricane Sandy and, fortunately, it brought us no damage other than a couple of "snow days". We wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

21 and 5 Semesters Down

It is hard to believe that AJ turned 21 and has entered his third year at Virginia Commonwealth University.



AJ practicing his driving skills in Ocean City

He is working hard in his core classes this year. He is doing well and should be able to find an internship this summer, which is a requirement in the Engineering Department. He spent last summer volunteering at the Marine Corps Museum in the restoration department. Interestingly enough, it was a good fit for the engineer student to get some hands on restoring a WWII aircraft. He spends all of his spare time studying and sleeping. So far, we haven't had to bail him out of jail-but now that he is 21, he is on his own. He still spends his limited time on Xbox, shooting and we don't even want to think about what 21 year old college students do.



Keegan and AJ at a Pirate Game in July

No, He Isn't Driving. . .Yet



Keegan Smurf after the Color Run

Keegan is now officially classified as a high schooler. Freshman Keegan continually reminds us that he is about a year away from 15½, his learner's permit, and chaos in the streets. He has signed up for the High School Rifle Team and has been learning the small bore and air rifle, building on his experience this summer at the Small Arms Firing School. He seems to enjoy the shooting and is improving weekly. The only down side is that practice begins at 5am on Saturday, but it shows that he is committed to the program. Hopefully, he will get to some competitions this summer. His interests are the Xbox, playing guitar and dismantling electronics in the basement. We don't know where this

is heading but nothing bad could come of it, right?



Keegan's useless cats are still here



On the Run (from what?)



Audrey and AJ following her birthday 5k run

Audrey is still busy keeping the kids in line and the house from falling apart. This last year she has been a running fool. She acquired the running bug and has completed a 10k and three 5k races. She hasn't quite convinced Jep on the 10k yet, but she will keep twisting his arm until she gets her way (as usual). She did well at the shooting

competition, so if she can't run you into the ground she can reach out and touch you at a proven 200 yards. This year's big project was a minor kitchen refurb. We put some lipstick on the pig - paint the cabinets, paint the walls and put up a tile backsplash. It took a great deal of time, but the effort was worth it. It has brightened up the kitchen an incredible amount and keeps Jep from having to rip it out for a few more years for a total remodel.



Audrey also insisted on accompanying Jep on one of his hardship business trips to Hawaii, where they took some leave and saw some of the Big Island before Jep had to go to work. Audrey had the terrible job of sitting on the beach at Waikiki.



Audrey and Jep in some friendly competition



Two clowns snorkeling in Hawaii



The turtle the clowns were chasing

Is That a Train or the Light at the End of the Tunnel?



Audrey and Jep overlooking Kilauea Crater in Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

The big news is that we see the long awaited light at the end of the tunnel. Jep has submitted his retirement paper work for the first of October 2013. That should put his final day in uniform somewhere around the 4th of July. The big decision is whether to do a ceremony or not. As of right now, the plan is to remain in the Washington DC area and either work as a Government employee or become a contractor with the dark side. Jep has also taken up coaching rifle on Keegan's rifle team. Since he has to be up at 4am to take Keegan, he might as well use his experience to train the next generation of shooters. As for running, Audrey has him almost convinced to run the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k in



Richmond next April - as long as his body holds out. Spare time wise, it is mostly watching the Steelers, complaining about the useless Pirates, and missing hockey - not to mention trying to work off the ever growing honey-do list.



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