

# Merry Christmas



Mary Lou, La'akea, Brian, Ana, Todd, Amanda, w/Julia, Shannon, Hanne Mae, Zacharie, Jasmine, Claire, Chris, Badegech, Cori, Eve, Kainoa, Jesse, Sarah, and Kent

“Hey, what’s wrong with this picture,” Mary Lou thought? She was running *behind* Brian on her normal running route--the route she has been running four times a week for several years. Brian, who just retired, was joining Mary Lou on her runs. His exercise routine before this was walking back and forth from the parking lot to his office. He was just trying to get up the hill so he could coast back down.



Brian, Mary Lou, Eve, and Jesse at a Giant's Game

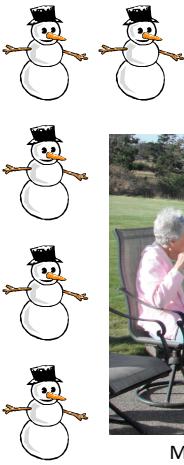


Claire, Mary Lou, and Julia in Seattle

“Well, I can’t have him in front of me,” Mary Lou thought as she put it into another gear. This is the same Mary Lou who confesses to not be a competitive person. Anyway, Mary Lou breezes past Brian, who is starting to gasp for air at this point. To make a long story a little less long, she ended up with a pulled hamstring and could be limping along for several months. Mary Lou’s injury has slowed us down somewhat, but we still managed to do a lot of things in 2011. The major news is that Brian retired July 1. It is so nice to not be a slave to a schedule. We helped Shannon and his family move to Seattle, where he transferred to, from South Carolina. It is so nice to have them on the left coast. It was really special being with their family while they shopped for furniture and set up their house. Claire (4 yrs) and Julia (1 ½ yrs) are so cute. They have such a nice house in West Seattle overlooking the Sound.

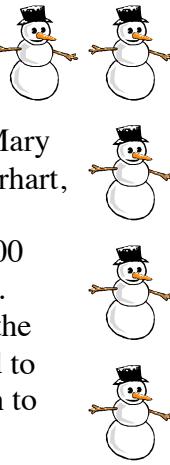


# Happy New Year



Margery Moss, Ben Christianson, Paul Tice, Kim Christianson, Eve Swagerty, Mardean Tice, Brian Swagerty, & Jesse Swagerty in Kim and Paul's backyard

During that trip, we visited Mary Lou's mom and sister in Gearhart, Oregon, and Brian ended up purchasing a Dodge Ram 2500 Diesel 4x4. Errg, arrg, grunt. When we got home, he sold the Honda Civic. He won't need to be commuting back and forth to work anymore.



We could go into all of the family news, such as Eve getting a teaching job a few miles from where Jesse teaches and moving to San Anselmo, or about Sarah and Kent planning on getting married August 4, or about Zacharie and La'akea wrestling for their respective high schools, but really, it is time each of our kids write their own family letters.

We feel this retirement thing is great. Brian joined Mary Lou in her art classes. Recently we headed out to the desert with our watercolor gear and ended up painting a nice scene at the Salton Sea. We still get out once in awhile to take a sunset cruise on the bay to listen to a music group.



Crabbing in Mendocino



Brian handing over the keys of Priscilla to Zacharie



A Swagerty Family Backpacking Trip to Bolder Lake, Trinity Wilderness Area

We hope all is well with you. Our house is always open for a visit, even if we aren't here (the Lambert's can confirm this).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

