

Merry Christmas

Our year began with the birth of a new granddaughter and ended with the death of a dear friend and the addition of two granddaughters.

Claire surprised us all and was born six weeks early on December 11th of last year to Shannon and Amanda. They have decided to stay in Sacramento where Amanda is teaching first grade. Shannon is now out of the Coast Guard and waiting to be hired by PG & E. Claire is a darling little girl just on the verge of walking.



Our close friend Heide Hatcher passed away when we were in Red Bluff recently for the Thanksgiving holiday. She was a special person and friend and we will miss her a lot. We are honored and feel so lucky that she chose our family as her daughter's godparents. Cori and her husband, Chris have opened their hearts and their home to the girls and are now the parents of Hanne Mae (7 yrs.) and Badegech (4 yrs). They are both very special girls and we love them very, very much.

We had an adventuresome camping trip this summer, Cori decided to join us on a backpacking trip and bring her horse and the bocce ball set! It was a unique backpacking trip. Todd, Ana, Kainoa, Sarah, Jesse, and Eve came along with Cori, Zacharie, Jasmine, Hanne Mae, Badegech, and Sierra, Cori's horse. Unfortunately, Sierra decided to leave early... getting untied and wandering off into the Caribou Wilderness (east of Mt. Lassen) in the middle of the first night. This was after bringing in three horse-pack loads of items not usually seen on backpacking trips. Gosh, we never did get around to that bocce ball game!

Our plans for a carefree relaxing time suddenly turned into a search and rescue "party" for Sierra. We spent most of the rest of our time hiking and searching everywhere for her or driving around talking to people and blanketing the area with missing horse flyers. When it was time to go, Sierra was still nowhere to be seen and we had three horse-pack loads of gear, including the saddle to get out. Luckily, Brian and Todd designed and built "stroller packs." They are a stroller-type device they built to stroll in their camping gear—including chairs



Happy New Year



We were missing La'akea (Todd and Ana's oldest son) on our backpacking trip this summer. Poor guy! He spent the summer in Hawaii with Kumu, the person who gave Ana away when she married Todd. La'akea was able to experience some of the Hawaiian way of life. Ana joined La'akea towards the end of his summer in Hawaii and was able to visit with her family while there, too. Kainoa (Todd and Ana's youngest son) started kindergarten this fall and finally got to join a soccer team. He surprised everyone when he kicked the ball into the goal at the halftime kickoff, with one kick!



Sarah graduated from California State University San Marcos this May and is currently living above Cori's restaurant in Red Bluff. She is student teaching at the same school that Jasmine and Hanne Mae go to in Red Bluff, while also waitressing, bartending and substitute teaching.



Jesse also entered a student teaching program this fall. He is currently at a private school in San Francisco. Jesse and Eve went on a month-long cross-country train trip this summer, making their way to the east coast, enjoying the sights along the way. Brian, Cori and Sarah rendezvoused with them in New York City in order to see a game in Yankee Stadium before it is torn down.



Brian and I are still enjoying life in San Diego. I keep busy going to my art classes and running. Brian's guitar practice sessions have gotten much better. He keeps busy with work and manages to play his guitar fairly often. We have been enjoying this area, going to concerts, hikes, the beach, and riding our bikes.

Oh, by the way, Sierra finally did show up five days later at Silver Lake, about 30 miles away from where we'd been camping. She was a little scratched up but not too worse for wear. It was a wonderful relief to have her back in the family again. So now we are a family of seventeen, not counting Sierra!

