

# Christmas, 2009

Season's Greetings from Brian and Mary Lou

## New Look for Old Newsletter

This year, a reporter for the Redding Record Searchlight contacted me. She wanted to interview me for a story on how to write a Christmas letter (thanks, Betty). Anyway, it is hard to continue writing the same 'ole Christmas letter after applying some of my own advise. Hence, this new format. I figure this has something for everyone. Some can just throw this into the recycle bin, while others might just glance through the headlines and pictures. Some of you might even want to read the details. Whichever route you choose, we hope this finds you and your family well.



## Life is Nice in San Diego!

Brian and I are still enjoying life in San Diego, taking as many trips to concerts and the beach as we can. Brian continues to practice and improve on his guitars. He recently had his lap steel slide guitar restored. It was given to him in Ashland in the 70's. It has been living and moving with us ever since. It seems so good to see it completely restored and playable. He also added a violin-style bass guitar to his collection. I am still running and going to my art classes. I am learning to be much more observant, ... is that a warm blue or a cool blue? We love this area, but we don't like being so far away from our family.



## Life is Good on the Dittner Ranch



Cori and Chris and their enlarged family are busier than ever. Hanne Mae and Badegech have fit into the family like a glove. Badegech started kindergarten, and this fall they got to enjoy 3 football games in a row every Saturday, with Zacharie playing football and Jasmine and Hanne Mae both cheerleading for different age groups. They have added several more farm animals to their "farm." this year. Life is never dull at their home!





## Todd & Ana Still in Paradise

When Todd was asked recently what job he'd choose if he could have his dream job. He replied that he had it. He said he gets to design things that help improve the environment...what could be better? Ana feels similar with her job helping to restore habitats around the Sacramento River. Working and taking La'akea and Kainoa to their various sports, and school activities in Chico while living in Paradise keeps them busy.



## Shannon & Amanda Get Their Jobs Back

Amanda is in her classroom, setting up for the coming school year. She had just been given final word that she was not being laid off and had her first-grade teaching job back. Shannon calls with news that he is being re-deployed back into active service with the Coast Guard for a year. He soon was off to Charleston, South Carolina, with news that Amanda is pregnant. She will be joining him after the first of the year where she can resume her job of being a stay-at-home mom. Oh, by the way, Claire is still very cute, and their baby is due in April.



## Sarah Finishing School in Red Bluff

Sarah has been keeping her nose to the grindstone and getting it done! She is one semester away from a teaching credential, as she student teaches and works as a waitress/bartender/manager for Cori's restaurant. She and Kent are in the midst of moving into a real house with a fenced yard. They are looking forward to having their own place.



## Jesse & Eve Wed in Idyllic Ceremony

The big family event of the year was Jesse and Eve's wedding in Mendocino on a beautiful blue-sky day in August. They are both teaching at a private school in San Francisco, and living nearby in a school-owned home. Jesse is one semester away from his teaching credential, and they both enjoy being in the City.

