

Merry Christmas



Eleven of our sixteen grandchildren, from L to R: Bodhi, Avery, Josie, Mabel, Levi, Julia, Gwen, Claire, Badegech, Kainoa, and Zach.

Our property will be what keeps us fit and healthy...or...it will be the death of us! Don't get us wrong, we love our property. We feel like we live in a tree house with a variety of trees and birds and squirrels to watch. However, this comes at a high cost, literally and figuratively. As we look back over this past year, it becomes very apparent that we have spent most of our time and any disposable cash on keeping our property as safe as we can.

My latest gym class has been installing water pipe and wire conduit to a tank site at the top of our property from our well. I didn't actually dig the main ditch, but I glued and laid the pipe, filled in the ditch with a shovel, and dug and filled ditches where the backhoe couldn't reach. Eventually, we will install a couple of water tanks, but we're saving up for that!

I also got more involved with our Firewise Community by joining our road association board and volunteering to write a couple of grants for our County Firesafe Council. I forgot to sit on my hands! My first grant has a February deadline, so hopefully that won't be too time consuming.



Shannon and Kaitlyn's children,
Georgia and Jackson

We welcomed our 16th grandchild to our family when Georgia June Swagerty was born January 17th to Shannon and Kaitlyn. She is a real cutie, of course. In other family news, Cori and Chris' daughter, Jasmine, just got engaged to Jake. They live in Redding.

We keep busy on most week-ends traveling to watch soccer and softball games in San Rafael, Chico, and Folsom. We also have been in the audience to watch plays and other performances in which our grandchildren are involved. We have filled in as parents when needed at times. It's nice being grandparents. :-)

It's getting more and more complicated trying to get the whole family together. We always have our five children's families together for Christmas or Thanksgiving. This year it's Christmas, and we



Jake and Jasmine

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are looking forward to seeing everybody. Todd and Ana's son, La'akea and his wife Mika will be visiting her family in Japan, and Zach just got a job at the San Diego Zoo, so he will stay there and be with his girlfriend, Maddie's family. Everyone else should be here. This is another reason we bought this house.



Kent, Bodhi, Avery, and Sarah at Bodhi's kindergarten graduation.

Mary Lou and I went to Todd, Ana and Kainoa's house for Thanksgiving. Cori's whole family (Chris, Zach, Jasmine, Jake, Hanne, Brandon, Tatum, Dutton, Badegech) was there, as well as my sister, Donna and her family (Aaron, Rita, and Michael minus Brad who was in New York, but plus Cousin Bill). It made a nice full house.

The family got together for Father's Day here at our house, and then at the end of August at Cori's house in Red Bluff.



Todd, Chris, La'akea, Kainoa, Mika, Ana, and Cori at La'a's bodybuilding competition.



Jesse, Mary Lou, Levi, Mabel, Josie, Brian, and Eve.



Bodhi, Avery (underwater), Hanne, Dutton, Tatum (our great-grandchildren), and Ana in August at Cori's house.

We kept our tradition up by attending another San Diego Men's Basketball game in Reno when they played the University of Nevada, Reno. We plan to attend another game again this year. As for going to concerts, we saw Roger McGuinn (founder of The Byrds) here in Grass Valley and we also went to Reno to watch Mike Campbell and the Dirty Knobs. Mike Campbell was Tom Petty's lead guitar player and most of the Dirty Knobs are from the Heartbreakers. Lucinda Williams was the opening act, and they joined Mike Campbell for the last set. It was a great show.

We went to Gearhart for the 4th of July again this year. Mary Lou completed her painting of Paul and Grey, our nephew and his granddaughter, walking into the Redwoods. She gave it to them while we were there. We then returned in September for Ben and Miranda's wedding. Ben is our nephew Paul's son. It was a great time.

Whew! I guess we did do some things this last year. I thought we just stayed home and cut firewood and raked leaves. Write back and let us know what you've been up to. We'd love to hear from you.

Happy New Year