



Happy Holidays from the Beirlichs!

December, 2005



In the fall of 2004 we were pleased to have guests from Colorado that we haven't seen since our wedding. Rob Duncan and his wife Andy flew into town on business and spent an evening with us. When Rob, who runs a couple hundred web sites, discovered that Brian does web development, he immediately put him to work. The two have been enjoying an excellent working relationship ever since. Did we mention that Brian and Rob went to high school together!?!

Brian continues to stay busy with community involvement and sound engineering. He worked with other volunteers from our community to defeat two annexation elections this year, which prevented hundreds of homes from being planted on prime farmland. 2006 is expected to bring follow-up attempts by the developers. And Fez Fatale is in the process of bringing two new members up to speed. They'll be back in full swing in 2006.

Brian's side of the family had a pretty normal year. His brother Bruce is enjoying life in Panama, while Brian's mother continues to enjoy good health and life in Florida, dodging hurricanes with Brian's other brother Bill.

Sharon has been having a blast volunteering at Mason's school. She taught gardening classes last spring in his kindergarten class. This year she's up to her neck in fundraising activities. It looks like the Master Gardeners are going to take the back burner for the next few years. She is, however, taking advantage of all the training opportunities.

All that great training wasn't much help against the poor soil, the critters, and the crazy weather we had this year. They all conspired to keep our fruit trees and vegetable garden from producing very well. No cherries or apples, and (most sadly) very few peppers. Fortunately, our dear friends James and Polly at Pumpkin Ridge Gardens shared their peppers with us and we roasted quite a few.



This year we continued with our improvements to the farm. As seems to always be the case, there were plenty to choose from. Another year, another project (or three), we always say. In January and February we were making great progress on renovating one of our greenhouses when the project was interrupted by Brian and Mason getting sick. After that came Papa's fall, and somehow we just never got back to it. Maybe next year. But the ugly overhead electrical wires and utility pole in the back yard are gone, and all the outbuildings now have up-to-date electric service. Gone also are the rows of old unhealthy nursery stock. Next year, we hope to add raspberries and blueberries where the nursery trees used to be and then harvest them for our pantry shelves! Last month we had to replace the heat pump, and it looks like a major well repair is in our future. This month we're also finishing a few more interior things the previous owners never got around to. As we've begun to say, "We really bought the farm." (Note to self: DO NOT schedule home improvement projects in December!!!!)



Jim Long works to get the message out





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It wasn't all farm work, though. In August, we took five days and explored the Oregon Coast. We highly recommend this for those of you who have never been. Don't forget to stop in on your way by!



August also brought our 10th wedding anniversary which we celebrated by ourselves. Mason has gone out with us the last five years. Not this time! We figured he'd have more fun with a sitter anyway.



After our anniversary, we went camping in the Gifford Pinchot National forest up in Washington. The huckleberry harvest was a bit sparse, but we had lots of fun. We took Mason's cousin Sean (also 6) with us. The boys got VERY dirty and had tons of fun. Sharon's brother Michael and some other friends joined us for part of our stay. The trip was highlighted by a rousing game of hide and seek with three grown men and two six year old boys. It was hilarious!

And then there's Mason...our greatest challenge and our greatest joy. This year he started first grade at Childpeace Montessori School. He's grown so much on many levels this year. He's got a sharp mind and a quick wit. You all knew that teenagers are smarter than we are, but did you know about first graders? During his quieter moments, he is an avid reader, a mean Uno player, and has recently developed an interest in knitting. His musical tastes have expanded from Raffi to include The Beatles, The Pet Shop Boys, and Pink Martini.



Brian was assistant coach and Sharon was team mom for Mason's T-ball team this year. What a blast! The kids were a little older and a lot more serious about the game than last year. Mason really grew through this experience and has developed an interest in playing sports. When he started first grade in September he learned about wall-ball, tether-ball, basketball, and chasing girls. Where did he get his competitive streak?

So that about wraps it up for another year in the Beinlich household. After all this talk about ourselves, we surely don't want to forget to wish all of you a most joyous and peaceful holiday season. Let us all wish for good health and forward progress in the coming year. We miss all of you who are not in our area and hope that the coming year will provide an opportunity for you to come and visit!

Don't forget: You can see full-size color pictures at our web site:
www.beinlich.org

Love,

Brian Sharon Mason

Brian, Sharon, Mason, Mingus, Murray, and Moxie



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Happy Holidays from all of us at Dos Sequoias!