



Greetings friends, family, and neighbors!

2007 was a year of adventure and new experiences for the Oregon Beinlichs. We hope you'll enjoy reading about them as much as we enjoyed reflecting back upon them. As always, our web site at [www.beinlich.org](http://www.beinlich.org) has more photos, along with larger versions of these!

In January, our little farm became the home to five Nubian goats, owned by our friends Josh and Elizabeth and their children Sam and Micaela. What was originally a short visit lasted until November, and brought the birth of a baby goat, Willa, in June. We enjoyed having our goat visitors and may have some of our own someday.. who knows?



"Pacific" and baby Willa



**February** brought obedience classes for Maizy, and a trip to Florida to celebrate Brian's Mother's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. While in Florida we also spent three days at Disney World, which included a rendezvous with Lynda and Dylan Mueller. We



Mason & Dylan

kept this a secret from both of the boys, and they sure were surprised to "run into" one another at Disney World!



We invited Mason's class out for a "Day at the Farm" in **June**. Sharon and Steve (our farm partner) showed them around. The children planted vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant), observed a goat-being milked, and had a blast running around the farm. The goats were a big hit with the kids! In the fall, we harvested over 200 pounds of produce from the kids' row and donated it to the Oregon Food Bank in the class's name.

Summertime is camping time, and in **July** Sharon and Mason spent a couple of days camping at Honeyman State Park with Sharon's brother Michael, his son Sean (Mason's cousin) and his new wife Ouan, who is from Thailand. The boys got to spend a lot of time exploring and learning about the bugs, trees, and history of the park, while Sharon, Ouan, and other Thai friends cooked many yummy Thai meals!



## HAPPY HOLIDAYS! DECEMBER, 2007



The highlight of our adventurous year had to be the two weeks we spent in Thailand in **November**. The "excuse" for our trip was the formal Thai wedding ceremony at Ouan's parents' house in Surin (about 6 hours by car, north and east, from Bangkok). We spent five days in Surin, two days in Ayutthaya (the former capital of Siam) and about 5 days in Bangkok. Cousin Sean traveled with us, and so did our friends Thom and Dimitri. (Thom was Michael's best man.) Needless to say, we had an exciting time, and saw places and things too numerous to mention!



Mason especially enjoyed riding around Bangkok in the "tuk-tuks", open-sided vehicles that are sort of a cross between a motorcycle and a golf cart. Other highlights included visits to the Grand Palace and other shrines, a crocodile farm, a silk factory, the floating market, a snake exhibition (complete with King Cobras) and an elephant ride.

When we weren't off being adventurous, we somehow found time to continue our usual activities and take on a few new ones. This was our second year partnering with Steve and Mishelle, and their subscription farm, Abundant Harvest, grew to 35 subscribers.

**Sharon** grew the usual dizzying array of vegetables, including her first attempt at growing potatoes. She had great success, harvesting over 150 pounds! This was a tough year for tomatoes and peppers, but she still managed to grow and preserve plenty of sauces, preserves, and other goodies for her lucky family! Sharon is once again working with the Northwest Earth Institute to develop their latest discussion course. This one's about food, and as you might imagine, Sharon has plenty of knowledge and information to contribute. She also continues to be an active volunteer at Mason's school.







**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**  
**DECEMBER, 2007**



**Mason** (now 8) continues to enjoy life as a third-grader at Childpeace Montessori. He loves school, and he is already looking forward to being a big fourth-grader and moving into an Upper Elementary class next year. His non-school life revolves around sleep-overs with his cousin Sean, rough-housing with our dog Maizy, and collecting Pokemon cards (not necessarily in that order!)

**Brian's** consulting work has kept him busier than ever this year. He's been working exclusively on The Airport Guide ([www.the-airport-guide.com](http://www.the-airport-guide.com)) for almost two years now, and there seems to be no end in sight. He vows to spend more time outside and less time on the computer in 2008. He also volunteered extensively for the campaign to pass Measure 49, an important statewide land-use-related ballot measure. (It passed!) He continues to do live sound for Fez Fatale, and lent his ears and moral support during their recording sessions this year.

Our pets are all doing well. Maizy enjoys her romps with Mason, Murray (our great orange hunter) continues to excel at rodent control, and Moxie occasionally creeps out of the basement to show her face.

So that about wraps it up for this year. We are enjoying our short holiday breather before things ramp back up in 2008. We hope that you, too, are taking some time to enjoy this time of year. We wish all of you a relaxing and peaceful holiday and all the best in 2008.

See larger pictures at our web site:  
[www.beinlich.org](http://www.beinlich.org)

Love,  
Brian, Sharon, Mason, Murray, Moxie, and Maizy Mae

