

## The Year in Review

The year 2000 had Patty and Clay spending more time around the Bay Area than traveling to dog shows elsewhere in the state. We continued to hold on to our weekly Tuesday evening ritual of roleplaying games at Mike Buckalew's home, and the usual Thursday night board games at Christopher Crim's home. Clay still works at FileMaker Inc. (the renamed database portion of Claris) which is still a wholly owned subsidiary of Apple Computer. Patty attends dog training classes three days a week with Maverick, Clyde, and Lucky. Clay also tries to keep his web site up to date with new pictures and stories at [WWW.MAECKEL.NET](http://WWW.MAECKEL.NET).

In April Clay took a week off to spend time at home with Patty and later babysat our niece, Sydney, for the first time. Carrie and Steve hope we will do this more often! Clay also gave Patty a beautiful new ring on the same day he gave her her engagement ring back in 1987. He got lots of hugs and kisses. Our "Old Man" of the house, D.B. Cooper, turned 12 this month. He still has a lot of bounce in his step, and he enjoys going to the agility trials.

Clay spent many days in June preparing databases for the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Northern California's "Firecracker Four Day Agility Trial" from July 1 through 4. The trial was a lot of fun and a lot of hard work. Clay's databases helped the trial run a lot more smoothly than we anticipated and the judges were impressed. Also, Lucky finished acquiring all the necessary scores to qualify for AKC's Agility Nationals. Patty was very happy, and Lucky got a nice big piece of steak for his efforts.

The trips out of the Bay Area included Patty and Lorie Abbott traveling down to Pomona in February for agility trials and then in May, the two attended the first Power Paws Agility Camp over in Placerville. Clay flew to Texas in June to continue working on the Maeckel family history. Both Clay and Patty finally went on a trip together to GenCon (a gaming convention) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and then added Lucky when they went to the national agility trial in Springfield, Massachusetts in November. Clay's mother, Sonia, was the official "baby" sitter for our dogs both times the two of us went out of town together.

At the end of November, Sydney got a little sister named Jillian Gene Merritt. Jillian, Jillian's father Steve, and Carrie's cousin Alice Rector all share the same birthday of November 27th. Everyone came to our house for Christmas again and things went even smoother than last year. Patty's parents, Mike and Minerva Martinez got to drive their sporty BMW from Texas to California and back.

We hope that the past year was a memorable one for you, and may this first year of the new millennium be filled with happiness for you and yours.

