

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2005 – FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY



The year 2005 has been another active one for all members of our family. Carena, a student at Arizona State University (ASU), spent the early part of 2005 in the study-abroad program at a Spanish University in Barcelona. She returned to ASU this fall for her final year working toward a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with minors in Biology and Outdoor Recreation Management. She plans to use her newfound Spanish speaking skills for future biological work in Central America. Kimberly remained in Tempe, AZ at Arizona State University, and has focused on her Art and Business courses. She was 'formally' accepted into the advanced art program this year and hopes to finish her undergraduate degree by 2007. Jacque moved back to Arizona this year from Seattle, Washington, where she was running the local animal shelter in Everett, WA. She is presently living with her two sisters in Tempe and is also enrolled at ASU, with plans to follow up with graduate studies building on her degree in Psychology



from NAU. Kale continues his teaching at Delta High School near Sacramento, CA. He works closely with his students in the Future Farmers of American Program and is involved in the Yolo County and California State Fairs. This summer Kale plans to return to NAU in Flagstaff, AZ, to attain his Administrative Credentials as a principal. Sandy is still designing and hosting web sites. Her newest project--White Dove Ceremonial releases, is rapidly expanding as more people find out about this new and exciting business – check out www.catalinawhitedoves.com. Charles has spent this past year leading the USGS Sonoran Desert Research station and working with his five graduate students at the University of Arizona, conducting research on neo-tropical migrant birds along river drainages in the Southwest. Charles and his graduate students are also working on bird parasites in the Verde Valley, West Nile Virus in Arizona and New Mexico, the rapidly emerging avian influenza problem, and fire impacts on birds of Zion National Park, Utah. He is busy expanding his gun collection and trading activities with his new website, www.homesteadfirearms.com.



One highlight this year was a trip Jacque, Kim and Carena took to Eastern Europe. The three girls met in Spain and traveled through Eastern Europe for the summer, visiting Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, and Austria, ending the summer in Ireland. They all had a wonderful time and talk constantly of their adventures. Charles and Sandy spent three weeks in Australia chasing birds, exploring the rainforest and snorkeling on the Great Barrier Reef. Charles and his two brothers got together for a Colorado elk hunt this fall, after which he visited Kale for the California deer season. Sandy spent much of the past year commuting between Arizona and Montana trying to finalize her parents' estate in Kalispell and spending time with family there. It has been a wonderful year for us, and we are looking forward to seeing all the family back together in Tucson this Christmas.



We do hope that this past year has been joyous and memorable for you and your loved ones. All of the Van Rippers wish you a most joyful holiday season and a wonderful 2006. We also invite each of you, if you are in our neck of the woods, to please stop by and visit us in Tucson.



Charles, Sandy (and Jessie), Kale, Carena, Kim, Jacque (and Sadie)

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