

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2007

FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

We hope that 2007 has been a great year for all of you, as it was for our family.

As a family, we were all able to get together in Tempe, Arizona, when Carena graduated from ASU (this is where the pictures were taken). Later in the year Sandy and Charles drove to Wyoming for the American Ornithologists' meeting, then down to Estes Park, Colorado, for the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) meeting where they were joined by Carena to applaud for Charles as he began his 2-year term as President of the WDA. Following the meeting, we spent some time with Charles' brother Gary and his wife Dawn, in Morrison Colorado. We also completed negotiations of a conservation easement and then transferred a portion of the ranch where Sandy grew up to the Montana State Park system where it will be protected in perpetuity. We also purchased a cabin in the woods on the Dolores River in southwestern Colorado where cooler times can be spent during future hot Arizona summers.



Colorado Cabin

Now for the happenings of the individual members of our family:

Carena, following graduation moved across country to Burlington VT, where she is attending graduate school at the University of Vermont, majoring in outdoor recreation management and biology. Besides running a marathon, Carena gave her first professional paper at the George Wright Society conference in Minnesota. For more adventures of Carena, check out www.carenavanriper.com. **Kale** is still living in Sacramento, CA, teaching at Delta High School where he continues to mentor his FFA students. Hunting is his passion, and he pursued deer in southern Utah for a week this fall, and hopes to go pheasant hunting in South Dakota for a week prior to Christmas. **Jacque** is living in Tucson to begin nursing school at the University of Arizona. She is currently studying for her nursing requisite exams and continues to make custom teddy bears through her internet-based business www.teddybearmemories.com. **Kimberly** is in her senior year as an art major in the Herberger School of Fine Arts at ASU, and displays her work at art walks and/or music shows. She hopes to further establish her art business throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. You can see Kim's work at www.kimvanriper.com. **Sandy** is still designing and hosting web sites around the world and is now working on several books. The white dove business also continues to grow and prosper, and she is heading the International White Dove Society. **Charles** has now finished his special USGS assignment in Washington DC, where he worked on a Science Strategy Team producing a document that outlined the future direction for research over the next 10 years in the USGS (Read more at www.charlesvanriper.com). He was presented with the Resources Management Award from the George Wright Society, and he continues as Leader of the Sonoran Desert Research Station at the University of Arizona, conducting research on neotropical migrant birds and working with his graduate students.



Sandy, Carena, Charles



Carena, Kale, Jacque, Kim

We are looking forward to seeing most of 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 2008. We also invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona or southwestern Colorado, to please stop by and visit us.



Jacque, Kim, Carena

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