

## MERRY CHRISTMAS 2008 – FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

*We do hope that the 2008 year has been as wonderful for all of you as it has been for our family.*



Charles, Sandy & Jessie

We have had many great experiences this past year and would like to share with you a few highlights from our adventures. Charles and Sandy escaped the Tucson heat several times this summer during extended stays at the Dolores, Colorado cabin, and Kim was able to join them in August. Around that same time, Jacqueline took a road trip across the country to visit Carena in Vermont. This past fall, Kale and Charles went hunting together in Sierra Nevada. But for the most part, we are still scattered across North America, with Kimberly at Arizona State University in Tempe, Carena at the University of Vermont in Burlington, Kale in Sacramento teaching FFA at Delta High School, and Jacque in the nursing program at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

**Kale** has been hunting extensively this past year. He has taken advantage of the deer season in California, elk season in northern Arizona, and pheasant season in South Dakota as he fought his way through several blizzards. A female golden lab joined Kula and him, blessing their family with five puppies he has quite a handful these days. Similarly, **Jacqueline** has been keeping busy with her black dog Marley to entertain her. She has spent the year deep in study in the Nursing Program at U of A and is currently studying for her nursing requisite exams. She



Kale

continues as head of the Parts Division for Homestead Firearms and makes custom teddy bears through her internet-based business at [www.teddybearmemories.com](http://www.teddybearmemories.com). **Kimberly** has her menagerie of animals that come and go, from cats to pigeons. She is in her final year of study as an art major in the Herberger School of Fine Arts at Arizona State. She has recently taken up cubism oil painting and plans to further establish her art business throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. You can see Kim's work at [www.kimvanriper.com](http://www.kimvanriper.com). **Carena** is in her final semester of a Master's degree program at UVM, studying parks and recreation science. She spent this past summer playing in the outdoors, researching how people perceive environmental conditions on mountain summits in New England. This past year she ran a half marathon and plans to run the full 26.2 this spring. She has been actively involved in her university serving on the UVM Graduate Student Advisory Board, attending conferences with her colleagues in the Park Studies Laboratory, and plugging away at the good ol' thesis. Carena was recently accepted



Jacque



Kim

to a PhD program at Texas A&M University in a similar field of study. For more info, check out [www.carenavanriper.com](http://www.carenavanriper.com). **Sandy** has been keeping very busy designing and hosting web sites, enjoying her white dove release business, and managing the family's rentals. Jessie, her faithful aussie companion has been helping with these tasks, along with Kimberly and Jacqueline.



Carena

**Charles** had the distinction of being selected as one of the seven ST scientists in the Dept. of Interior. He has been involved with several national efforts including monitoring the impacts of the US-Mexico border fence and designing an integrated science strategy for the US Geological Survey. He finished his 8<sup>th</sup> book with the University of Arizona Press on the Colorado Plateau and is presently working on the 9<sup>th</sup> volume. Charles has enjoyed serving as President of the Wildlife Disease Association, attending their summer meetings in Edmonton, Canada and the European Section in Croatia. And of course, he enthusiastically continues his research on birds at the U of A. (Read more at [www.charlesvanriper.com](http://www.charlesvanriper.com) ).

It has been a wonderful year for us all and we are looking forward to seeing most of the family back together in Tucson this Christmas, although Kale will pass the holidays in California. We do hope that this past year has been joyous and memorable for you and your loved ones. We all wish you an enjoyable holiday season and a happy new year. We also invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to please stop by and visit us in Tucson or at the Colorado cabin in the summer.

**Charles, Sandy, Kale, Jacque, Kim & Carena**

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