

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2009 – FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY



We hope that 2009 has been as great a year for all of you, as it was for our family.

Although we are becoming scattered across the country, we were all able to get together in the spring for Kim’s graduation and again for a Thanksgiving feast. Our home base is still Tucson, but we continue to enjoy our cabin in the woods on the Dolores River in southwestern Colorado where cooler times can be spent during the hot Arizona summers. Now for the happenings of the individual members of our family:

Carena graduated from the University of Vermont, Burlington

and left Vermont for Texas A&M University where she is attending graduate school studying outdoor recreation management and biology. Sandy flew up and they drove across country from VT to TX. Carena will be conducting her PhD research on the Great Barrier



Reef near Cairns, Australia starting this summer. For more adventures of Carena, check out www.carenavanriper.com. **Kale** is still living in Sacramento, CA, and teaching at Delta High School where he continues to mentor his FFA students. This year he was runner-up for FFA teacher of the year in California and also passed his Secondary Administrative Certification. Hunting is still his passion, and he pursued deer, doves quail and pheasant in CA, and was able to join and guide his dad on a bull elk hunt in northern

Arizona in November. **Jacque** is living in Tucson and graduated this year from nursing school at the University of Arizona. She is working as a registered nurse at the University Medical Center and continues to run her Winchester gun-parts internet-based business at www.homesteadfirearms.com.



Jacque added a kitten and ‘Brody’ (a mastiff pup) to her family. **Kimberly** graduated this year with an art major from the Herberger School of Fine Arts at Arizona State University (ASU). She has moved back to Tucson with her cats and is beginning her career as an artist, working on several commission pieces and displaying her work at art walks and other venues throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. You can see Kim’s work at www.kimvanriper.com. **Sandy** continues to design and host web sites and promote her white dove business. This year



she added a new member to the family, an Aussie puppy named ‘Rocky’ and spends much of her time releasing doves and with the puppy. **Charles** continues to be involved with several



national efforts including monitoring impacts of the US-Mexico border fence and designing reasonable fundamental science practices for the US Geological Survey. He finished his 9th book with the University of Arizona Press on the Colorado Plateau (with co-editors Brian Wakeling and Tom Sisk) and is presently beginning work on the 10th (and final) volume. Charles has enjoyed serving as President of the Wildlife Disease Association, attending their summer meeting with Sandy in Blaine, WA, and is looking forward to the meeting next year in Argentina. Charles has had several new PhD and MS students graduate and new students join his graduate laboratory at the University of Arizona where he continues research on birds and wildlife in the southwest. Read more at www.charlesvanriper.com.

All of the van Riper family wishes you a most joyful holiday season and a wonderful 2010.

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