



MERRY CHRISTMAS 2011 – FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY



The year 2011 has been another active one for all members of our family, although we are still scattered. **Charles** continues with the USGS, and spent this past year on another special assignment commuting frequently to Flagstaff and Washington DC, working on an "Ecosystem" Science Strategy Planning Team charged with providing a document to outline the future 10-year direction in the agency. He continues leading the Sonoran Desert Research Station at the University of Arizona, conducting research on neotropical migrant birds in the Southwest. Charles and his graduate students are also working on bird contaminants and parasites in the Santa Cruz watershed, and on bird responses to invasive tamarisk on the Dolores River in southwestern Colorado. This allowed the family to spend some quality time in Colorado, although not as much as we might have liked. In August, he stayed with the Lamours in New York and they went to their 50th class reunion to visit old friends.



Charles and his Antelope



Sandy

Sandy is still working from home on web sites and with her white dove business.

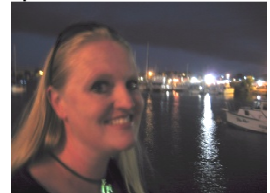
She was with our old horse Morgers (age 28) when he passed this fall, so for the first time in 30 years we are without a horse in the barn - but Sandy still has lots of other critters (dogs, cats, chickens, fish, songbirds and various doves).



Dan and Kale

Kale is still living in Sacramento and teaching FFA at Delta High School. He continues to enjoy hunting and travels throughout the west with his dogs in pursuit of game - and he joined Charles and Dan on an antelope hunt in Arizona where Charles got a record buck!

Jacqueline bought a house in Tucson this year and she and Dan are busy remodeling. She moved her Winchester parts business into a real shop behind her new home and it is rapidly growing



Jacque in Australia

(www.homesteadfirearms.com) She also continues with her Nursing at the University of Arizona medical center in Tucson, and was promoted recently to a nursing supervisor position. Jacque was able to take

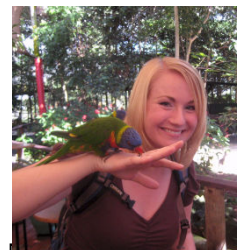
some time off this summer and visit Carena in Australia and during Thanksgiving, she (helped by her Dad and Dan) secured her first bull elk.

Kimberly moved from Tucson back to Tempe where she continues her art. She is restoring the old Flagstaff ranch Ford truck in her spare time and has started a business with her friend Brett Faye selling motorcycle parts. Kim manages 6 rental properties and is remodeling a Tempe townhouse. See Kim's art work at www.kimvanriper.com.



Kim baking for Thanksgiving

Carena is in her third year of a PhD program at Texas A&M, studying outdoor recreation and management. This past year she traveled to Fiji, teaching in the Study Abroad program, then to Australia to continue her research on the Great Barrier Reef. Carena



Carena in Australia

was elected student representative to the George Wright Society Board of Directors, and this year has traveled to protected areas in Ottawa Canada and Channel Islands National Park. For more, check out www.carenavanriper.com.

It has been a wonderful year for all of us, and we are looking forward to seeing 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, and wish you a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful 2012. We also invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to please stop by and visit us in Tucson.

Charles, Sandy, Carena, Kim, Jacque and Kale

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