

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2015 – FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY



(Birds from our Australia trip)

Another Holiday Season is upon us and we send greetings from the Arizona van Riper family. This year we had another member added to the family, with our second grandchild arriving in February.



Mycah's First Easter



*Sandy on the trail
in Australia*



*Jacque with
Mycah and Charlie
Easter Sunday*

Charles continues as an Emeritus ST Research Ecologist with the USGS and the School of Natural Resources and The Environment at the University of Arizona. He spent most of this past summer in the field at his study sites in SW Colorado studying the life history of the Cordilleran Flycatcher on the Dolores River. His new post doc is helping to study the bird at Mt Lemon near Tucson, and on the wintering grounds in Sonora, Mexico. This year they placed geolocators on the birds in Colorado, and if they can retrieve the units after the birds return, they will be able to determine where the birds overwinter in Mexico.

In August, **Sandy** and Charles went to the Wildlife Disease meeting in Brisbane Australia and for a week following the meeting, explored the tropical eucalyptus forests of that continent. Unfortunately during the long plane ride Sandy experienced a pulmonary embolism so we have spent most of time since then clearing up that matter. Because of this, Sandy said goodbye to all of her beloved pigeons and doves; the empty barn and loft is way too quiet.

Jacqueline continues with managing her Homestead Parts business www.homesteadparts.com while simultaneously caring for her two children. Karan Siebert joined the family as a full time live-in auntie-nanny. Jacque also had a large gallery built behind her shop, so when (or if) she gets the time, she can pursue her ceramics and/or sewing projects along with her car repair enterprise.



Charles in Australia



Sandy's Last Dove



*Charlie learning to
swim with Karan*

Our first grandchild, '**Charlie**' will be 3 1/2 years old this Christmas and along with Mycah has pretty much been the center of everyone's life this past year. Charlie got his first bird watching experience with Papa in Colorado with his very own "noculars". You can read about his adventures at www.charlesvanriper.com/Charlies_Trip_to_Colorado.pdf



Carena, Kim and Charlie

Kimberly continues managing rentals and pursuing her art work in Tempe and has completed the illustrations for Book VI with her Dad on research over the Colorado Plateau (<http://www.uapress.arizona.edu/Books/bid2386.htm>).

She has expanded her motorcycle parts business with her partner Aaron Grant. See www.ripperpowersports.com and Kim's art work at www.kimvanriper.com. Kim has made many trips to Tucson this year to help and support all of the activities down here. She also finally finished her home remodel, doing all the constuction herself.



*Papa and Charlie
bird watching in
Colorado*



*Carena & Charles
at Carena's new office*

Carena is in her second year as an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. This past year, she has been teaching and building a research program focused on nature-based recreation in protected areas. She also ran her first full marathon and explored work-related opportunities in Austria and Croatia. In June, Sandy and Charles flew to Illinois to see Carena's new home. In April, Charles attended the George Wright meeting with Carena in Berkeley, CA, where they both presented research papers. For more, check out www.carenavanriper.com.



Carena & Charles - GWS Meeting



Kale & Charles in California

Kale is still living in Sacramento, teaching FFA at Delta High School and hunting with his dog Lela. We feel fortunate to have him coming here to Tucson for another Christmas. Carena and Charles were fortunate to visit him in California for a week and he also visited here earlier in the year for a spring family gathering.



*Charles, Drew, Gary
at Ophir Pass, Colorado*

A great highlight this year was when all of the van Riper brothers (Charles, Drew and Gary) were able to spend some time at the cabin in Colorado, hiking – fishing – and just visiting. Other highlights of the year included the many family gatherings in Tucson around the dinner table.



Family Thanksgiving dinner

We do hope that this past year of 2015 has been joyous and memorable for you and your loved ones. It has been another wonderful year for our family, and we are very much looking forward to seeing everyone come together in Tucson to share this 2015 Christmas. All of the van Ripers wish you a most joyful holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful 2016. We invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to please visit.

Charles, Sandy, Carena, Kim, Jacque, Kale, Charlie, and Mycah

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