



MERRY CHRISTMAS 2016

FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

Greetings from the van Riper Family in Tucson, AZ. This year is the first in a long time that a family member has not made a geographic change in their residence. We will all be together this Christmas!



Kale is still living in Sacramento, teaching FFA at Delta High School and hunting with his dog Lela. This year, along with dove hunting, he had a pronghorn hunt in NV and went deer hunting in California. He now is serving as chairperson of the Teacher Union for his school district. We feel fortunate to have him coming here to Tucson for this Christmas and we have enjoyed seeing him during the year also.



Jacqueline continues to manage and run the Homestead Parts business (www.homesteadparts.com), in her 'not-too-spare' spare time as a single parent raising two children. Her son Charlie had his first successful trout fishing experience with Papa. Mycah is now well into her TWOs and is ruling the roost. Both children completed ISR swimming lessons this summer, and Charlie is thriving in preschool.



Kimberly is still in Tempe, AZ and continues managing rentals and her art work. You can see Kim's art work at www.kimvanriper.com. She also continues her business in Tempe (Ripper Power Sports). Kim went hunting this year in Arizona with her dad and has enough meat to last a few more years from her nice 4X5 Arizona bull elk.



Carena is still at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, focusing her teaching and research in the field of outdoor recreation and management. This past year she moved to the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and has continued research in many diverse places. For more, see www.carenavanriper.com.



Charles and Sandy traveled to the Wildlife Disease meeting in Australia last year, and on the way back Sandy developed multiple clots in her lungs that developed into a rare disease (CTEPH). After several months of trying to find out why Sandy was short of breath, she was sent to UC San Diego medical center and had open lung surgery to remove the clots. This took up most of our time this past year, but she is now on her way to a good recovery. A special thanks for all of the support this past year to all of our friends and family! Charles did most of the cooking and is most proud of his famous rhubarb-strawberry pie and Elk-Pork Link Sausage.

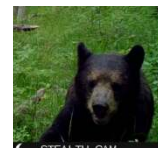




In between the hospital trips, **Charles** continued as an Emeritus Professor with SNRE at the U of A and with USGS. He spent some of this past summer in the field at his study sites in SW Colorado and focused on recovering geolocators from banded migratory Cordilleran Flycatchers while guarding his bird feeders from a bear and spending a little time fishing for trout. In August he presented a paper at the North American Ornithological Congress in Washington DC and was able to spend some time with his younger brother Drew.



We do hope that this past year of 2016 has been joyous and memorable for you and your loved ones. We are very much looking forward to seeing everyone come together in Tucson to share this Christmas. All of the van Rippers wish you a most joyful holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful 2017. We invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to please stop by and visit.



Charlie and Mycah
Watching Ducks at Agua Caliente Park



Kim, Charlie & Mycah
Halloween



Carena at Denali in Alaska

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

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