

HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2017

FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

We do hope that the 2017 year has been wonderful for all of your family.

We have had many great experiences this past year and would like to share with you a few of our family highlights from 2017. The family, although still spread across the western US, tries to gather when we can.

The photo shows Thanksgiving in Tucson, starting on the left with Keo, then Kim, Sandy, and little Charlie on the right.



Charles escaped the Tucson heat this summer during extended stays at the cabin on the Dolores River in SW Colorado. His new post-doc, Andy Boyce from Univ of Montana, joined him throughout the summer to work on the Cordilleran Flycatcher and to place geolocators on the breeding pairs to see where they winter in southern Mexico. He continues as an Emeritus ST Research Ecologist with the USGS with retirement allowing more time for research and his antique firearms business -- you can see this at

www.homesteadfirearms.com.

In August he attended the American Ornithologists Society meeting in Lansing, MI and in September went to the 15th Colorado Plateau Biennial Conference, presenting papers on his current research. This past fall Charles also went hunting for mule deer in the Sierra Nevada mountains with Kale south of Lake Tahoe, and then in early December they went elk hunting in northern Arizona. *The photos show Charles and his elk and Sandy completing a string of Breakfast link Sausage for the freezer from the elk.*

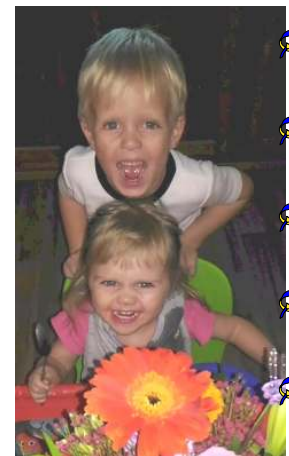


Sandy continues to recover from her lung surgery with the support of all the family. Earlier in the year, she was faced with diverticulitis and then breast cancer surgery in the summer, but went through both with flying colors and is now on the road to recovery. She spends much of her time mentoring our two grandchildren (Charlie and Mycah) and of course, keeping Charles in line.



Kale is still teaching FFA in Clarksburg near Sacramento, CA and has been working with his student judging teams extensively over this past year. He has started a teaching vineyard for the FFA students, and this year his pruning team won the state of California FFA competition, which is quite a feat for a small school of 600 students. Kale still hunts with his golden lab Lela, took a nice 3X3 mule deer while hunting with his Dad in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of CA, and is presently looking for a new lab puppy.

Photo: Charles visited Kale in Sacramento and they spent the day visiting old haunts such as the Plainfield Station bar and hamburger joint in Woodland.



Jacqueline continues as head of the Parts Division for Homestead Firearms, building up her internet-based business at www.homesteadparts.com. Her two children, Charlie and Mycah are growing like weeds, and Charlie is completing Kindergarten at Agua Caliente School. Mycah is Two and is into everything and a joy to all. On the left Jacque and Kim enjoyed a day out this summer for lunch -- right the two munchkins posed for photos at Charlie's birthday party.





Kimberly has moved to Mesa with her partner KeoTam, as they have just purchased a 'fixer-upper' house. This place has over two acres of irrigated land with many old fruit and nut trees, and they are redoing the house from top to bottom, inside and out. They have been busy spackling, framing, roofing, and landscaping throughout the summer. First priority after the house will be expanding Kim's art business throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. You can see Kim's work at www.kimvanriper.com and her business at www.ripperpowersports.com. Kim also manages a number of rentals for herself and her parents in Tempe and Flagstaff.



Carena's big news of the year is her engagement to Ben Hooberman (*see photo of their engagement at Allerton Park, IL!*). Ben is a particle physicist, and they are both Assistant Professors at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Carena is in her second year in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences and continues her research on environmental behavior and values of protected areas. She is working with her Research Group in places such as Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska, and the Great Lakes region of the US. Ben spent the summer in Geneva, Switzerland working with data from the Large Hadron Collider, and continues to appreciate



opportunities for traveling the globe. While at home, they are loving life with their two cats, Madrugada and Bartholomeow. For more info, check out Carena's website at www.carenavanriper.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, although Kale may not be able to come for Christmas. We do hope that this past year has been joyous and memorable for all of you and your loved ones. We wish each of you a wonderful Christmas holiday season, a Happy New Year, and all the best throughout 2018. We also invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to please call 520-245-3568 and stop by and visit us in Tucson as we have plenty of empty space in the house.

**Charles, Sandy, Kale, Jacque, Kim and Keo, Carena and Ben
Little Charlie and Mycah**

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