

HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2018

FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

We do hope that the 2018 has been wonderful year for all of your family.

Back Row: Kale, Charles, Sandy, Carena, Ben, Kim, Keo, Jacque (In Front: Mycah, Charlie)



Charles and Charlie,
First Day in First
Grade!

The highlight of our family this past year was the marriage of our youngest daughter Carena, to Ben Hooberman. Although the family is still spread across the western US, we were all able to attend the wedding in Illinois, and were even able to fit in a mini family reunion with Gary, Drew, and their families before the wedding. The van Ripers have had many great experiences this past year and we would like to share with you a few of our family highlights from 2018.



Charles with Trout

Charles spent his final summer in Colorado working on the Cordilleran Flycatcher. He and his new post-doc, Andy Boyce, collected two geolocators from breeding birds. They found that this .3 ounce (~10 gram) bird migrates all the way to Acapulco in southern Mexico. In July we sold our cabin on the Dolores River to Hank Reeves from Texas, so Charles caught his last Colorado trout. Next year summer work on the Cordilleran

Flycatcher will move to Mt Lemmon in the mountains just north of Tucson. Charles 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 May he assisted colleagues at the University of Arizona in running the American Ornithologists Society meeting in Tucson, and then in August traveled to Florida to a Wildlife Disease Conference, presenting papers on his current research. This past fall Charles also went hunting for mule deer in northern California (south of Tule Lake) with Kale, and then in late December they went Coues deer hunting along the Mexico-US border in southern Arizona.



Charlie and Mycah
with the GOATS



Sandy and Carena

Sandy was diagnosed by her sister as having "Empty Barn Syndrome," so immediately went out and purchased two Nigerian dwarf goats that were pregnant. This was the prescription her sister gave for immediately in her pursuit of health and sanity, and five babies shortly followed. We now have fresh milk for the house. Sandy also continues to recover from her lung and cancer surgeries with the support of all the family. She spends much of her time mentoring our two grandchildren (Charlie

and Mycah) and worked with Charles in Phoenix helping Kim and Keo restore their old house.



Kale on a hunting trip

Kale is still teaching FFA in Clarksburg High School near Sacramento, CA. He has started a new vineyard for the FFA students on land leased from a winery close to the high school. During the summer Kale was in charge of developing the vineyard infrastructure and planting young wine grape plants. He continues working with his student judging teams, and this year his grape pruning team placed second in 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 and his new lab "Kula II," and is looking forward to coming down to Tucson for the Holidays.



Jacque and Charlie at Family Reunion

Jacqueline, running her business of the Homestead Parts Division, provides a supply of old antique Winchester gun parts to enthusiasts around the world. This internet-based business at www.homesteadparts.com continues to grow and expand. Her two children, Charlie and Mycah, are growing like weeds, and Charlie started first grade at Agua Caliente School while Mycah (at three) is also busy learning. Jacque's first vacation in 5 years was this summer to Carena and Ben's wedding.



Kim and Keo taking a break from house building; Keo had just cooked dinner!

Kimberly and Keo spent much of the year remodeling their Mesa 'fixer-upper' house. This place has close to two acres of irrigated land with many old citrus 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 and finally finished in early December, and are ready to move in. First priority after the house will be expanding Kim's art career in her new studio. You can see Kim's work at www.kimvanriper.com while her motor cycle parts business is at www.ripperpowersports.com. Kim also manages a number of rentals for herself and the parents in Tempe and Flagstaff.



Mycah & Charlie at Library Leggo Day



Ben and Carena

Carena's big news of the year was her marriage to Ben Hooberman. Ben is a physicist, and they are both Assistant Professors at the University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana. Carena is up for tenure in her departments in the School of Natural Resources, and continues studies on parks and recreation science at Denali National Park in Alaska, people fishing in the Great Lakes, and conservation of natural resources of farm land in Iowa and southern Illinois. During this past year she received several large grants for her research and will be kept plenty busy managing her six graduate students. Ben spent much of the year after the wedding in Switzerland working on the Super Collider and continues to travel the globe with his work. For more info, check out Carena's graduate laboratory at www.carenavanriper.com.



Our beautiful children: Kim, Carena, Kale, and Jacqueline

It has been a wonderful year for us all, and we are looking forward to seeing some of the family back together in Tucson, although Carena and Ben will 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 2019. We also invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to please call and stop by and visit.

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

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