

HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2019

FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

We do hope that 2019 has been as wonderful for all of you as it has been for our family.



Charles

Charles continues as an Emeritus ST Research Ecologist with the USGS in the School of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of Arizona. After selling the cabin last year in Colorado, he moved his Cordilleran Flycatcher study to 8,000 feet on Mount Lemmon, just north of Tucson. We purchased a new cabin on Mount Lemmon in late May, and this allowed Charles to again escape the summer Tucson heat. His former post-doc, Harold Greeney, joined him throughout the summer to work on placing color leg bands and geolocators on the Cordilleran Flycatcher (COFL), in an attempt to determine



Sandy

where the birds winter in Mexico. This next spring they will try to recapture those birds that return, and remove the geolocators to analyze where they spend their winters. The COFL in Colorado wintered in Acapulco, Mexico, and it will be interesting to find out where the Arizona birds winter. This past December Charles also went hunting with Kale for Coues deer in the southern Arizona mountains east of Ajo, and Kale got the bigger buck. He then took Jacque on an elk hunt in northern Arizona over thanksgiving. They stayed at our condominium in Flagstaff, but were snowed out for much of



Mt Lemmon Cabin



Jacque's elk

the hunt with over 2 feet of snow falling on opening morning and more on the following day.



Sandy and Donna at Lake Tahoe

In August **Sandy** and Charles drove to the Wildlife Disease Association meeting in Lake Tahoe, CA. While Charles presented a paper on his research, Sandy was able to visit and catch up with her old college roommate Donna Hartley who lives in the area. Amid all of the reminiscing, they even got a chance to drive down



Charles' license plate

one afternoon to see our property west of Woodland, CA. Sandy has recovered well from her former ailments and is currently spending every morning milking her two Nigerian dwarf goats and making cheese, whipped

cream and other dairy goodies for the family. She also has three baby goats with plans of breeding them next

year. Sandy finished another book entitled: "Confessions - From My Earth Mother Days" a wonderfully illustrated volume with poems and stories that highlight her experiences during last several decades on the various van Riper homesteads (www.beyondthesidewalks.com/books/confessions.pdf)



Kale

Kale is still teaching FFA in Clarksburg near Sacramento, CA and has been working with his students on the new teaching vineyard that he developed for the school. Kale served his last term as the union representative for the school district, and worked closely with his principal throughout the year. He continues with the Delta High School livestock judging and grape vine pruning teams, and took second place in the state FFA competitions this past year. His new golden lab Kula II takes up much of Kale's free time, training him for the hunt, and he still enjoys hunting with Kula II and his other lab Lela.

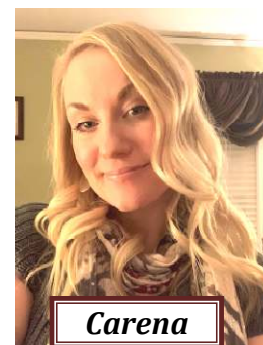


Kim and Keo

Kimberly and Keo have finished remodeling their old 1940s house in Mesa and are developing quite a citrus orchard and nature refuge. Most of their birds are identified and known by name. Kim is helping Charles enter data from his research in Colorado on the Cordilleran Flycatcher. She is also managing many of our rentals, including some we still have in Flagstaff, and she also has plans for expanding her art business throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area. You can see Kim's work at www.kimvanriper.com.

Carena continues as an Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. She submitted her tenure packet to the university this year, and we all have our fingers cross that a tenured Associate Professor position is on the horizon. She has been actively involved in her university and just completed a 2-year position serving on an International Advisory Board. She

has also been busy managing her six graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and has a large research projects on the Great Lakes and in Denali National Park. For more info, check out Carena's and her graduate laboratory web site www.carenavanriper.com.



Carena

It has been a wonderful year and we are looking forward to seeing most of the family back together on Mt Lemmon this Christmas, although Kale will pass the holidays in California. We do hope that this past year has been joyous and memorable for you and your loved ones. We wish you all an enjoyable Christmas holiday season, a Happy New Year, and all the best throughout 2020. We also invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to please stop by and visit us in Tucson or at the Mt Lemmon cabin. We are hoping to have a real white Christmas this year on Mt Lemmon- the first in a long time.



Jacque & Charlie

Jacqueline continues managing Homestead Parts, her internet-based business www.homesteadparts.com which is recognized as one of the premier places to purchase Winchester parts. **Little Charlie**, now in second grade, is still our resident dinosaur expert. **Mycah** started preschool; her greatest joy is dressing up as Princess Sophia. Both of them are excited to play in the snow this winter, but summer had them in the pool and swimming like fish! Jax had some help with the kids this year from **Sonny** who is also working at the shop.

Assorted Pics of Kids and Sonny!



**Charles, Sandy, Kale, Jacque, Kim, Keo, Carena,
Mycah and little Charlie van Ripper**

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