

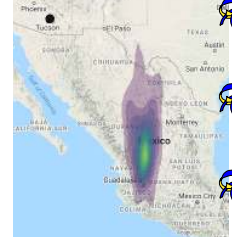
## MERRY CHRISTMAS 2020 – FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

*We do hope that the 2020 year has been at least bearable for all of you, as it has been for our family.*

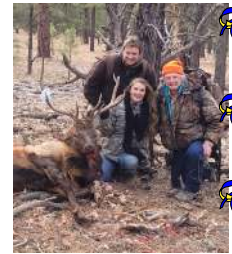
Like all of the people throughout the world, 2020 has been a challenging year for all of us in the van Riper Family. We have been mostly hunkered down throughout this year, but would like to share a few of our family experiences over 2020 and some of our family highlights.



**Charles** again escaped the Tucson heat this summer during extended stays at the Mt Lemmon cabin. His former post-doc, Harold Greeney, joined him throughout the summer to work on the Cordilleran Flycatcher research project. Their goal was to recover some of the geolocators that were placed on birds last summer and to attach new geolocator units on 20 new breeding birds. They recovered 7 of 20 geolocators this year, and have now determined some of the wintering locations of these small 10-gram birds (see the map)!!! Like the Cordilleran Flycatchers from Colorado, the Mt. Lemmon birds travel to central Mexico for the winter and are found in riparian areas from Acapulco to Mexico City and south to Chiapas, MX.



Charles continues as an Emeritus ST Research Ecologist with the USGS, and in August attended a virtual AOS meeting and later that month a virtual Wildlife Disease meeting. In between his research projects, he helps Jacquie in the shop and Kim with her garden sales. This past fall over Thanksgiving, Charles went hunting with Kimberly, Keo and Kale for bull elk in northern Arizona, and they all brought home some fine elk meat for the upcoming year. And of course, whenever Sandy looks for him, he is out in the greenhouse or garden.



**Sandy** has spent the year milking her wonderful Nigerian dwarf goats, keeping us in fresh milk for the house. Rocky, our Australian Shepherd, has been her constant helper. She has gone up the mountain as often as possible, ending with the wonderful fall colors and hoping for some snow. Our cabin survived the horrendous fire on Mt. Lemmon this past summer, and after they reopened the mountain, we were again able to savor our little piece of sanity on the mountain. Each time we ascend to 8000 feet above the clouds to enjoy the cabin, we give thanks to the wonderful, diverse ecosystems that surround us in Arizona.



**Jacqueline** is devoting full-time to running and expanding her business, Homestead Parts at [www.homesteadparts.com](http://www.homesteadparts.com). A number of her employees left when COVID-19 began, so she is now doing the machining of parts along with general management of the business. She also is trying to fit in raising her children and helping with their online virtual schooling. Throughout the year she has been trying to get her house and garden fixed up, as well as being full time chief cook and

bottle washer. They have chickens, a pet scorpion, pet rats, parakeets, turtles, three gardens, and an occasional Gila Monster, bobcat, javelin and coyotes passing through. She is a very busy lady. Sandy and Charles have been helping in the parts shop and Sandy has been involved with the virtual classroom and teaching of **Charlie** and **Myciah**. Each child has their own computer, and access their daily classes remotely from a room in the house that has been converted to a classroom with desks. It is casual and fun (note the parakeets on Charlie's head during library time). Before the COVID-19 outbreak, they had some great dinosaur adventures, and then during the summer there was swimming, baking bread, lots of reading and books. Everyone is looking forward to seeing friends and starting "real" school in the New Year!







**Kale** is still teaching agriculture and science in Clarksburg near Sacramento, CA and like many teachers has worked remotely throughout the year. He teaches physical science and has been working with his students on livestock judging and grape production extensively this past year. His golden lab Kula II continues as his hunting companion for doves, ducks and pheasants in central California. He visited several times, including Halloween and fall hunting season.



**Kimberly and Keo** completed their new house in Mesa. The garden has become the center of their attention and they have a wonderful Cart/Trailer named Redford that they park on the street and sell plants and flowers to local Phoenix residents. Kim has spent time as a Community Board member helping with planning efforts of their Lehi neighborhood in Mesa, AZ. They also keep busy with their rental business and managing several of our remaining rentals in Phoenix and Flagstaff. Kim and Keo joined Charles and Kale on the elk hunt, and each got very nice bull elk.



Keo is still creating his master chef dinners every night! And you can see some of Kim's new art work at [www.kimvanriper.com](http://www.kimvanriper.com).



**Carena** was awarded tenure this year from the University of Illinois so she now an Associate Professor! She has enjoyed teaching remotely and thinking about ways to translate her research to an online environment over the past year. Her research team continues to try and solve problems related to the spread of invasive species in the Great Lakes, and understand issues like public involvement in decisions being made about protected areas in Alaska. Carena now has a new partner, Christopher Evans, who is a materials science professor at the university. They have been staying entertained during the pandemic with fun hobbies like jogging, playing music, and outdoor excursions whenever possible. Sadly Maudi (Carena's cat) was lost this past year, but Chris' cat, Poncho, has been keeping them company and loving all of the time spent working from home these days. For more information, check out [www.carenavanriper.com](http://www.carenavanriper.com).



It has been an interesting year for us all but we have able to keep in touch with weekly Sunday night Zoom meetings, thanks to Carena's orchestration. We do hope that this past year has been 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 2021.

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

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**Annisette – super milker**