

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2021

## FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

*We do hope that 2021 has been as wonderful year for all of you.*

Greetings over the 2021 Christmas Season to your family from all the van Rippers in Arizona. This year has been filled with family and fun with another family member added, as Dr. Christopher Evans joined us as Carena's new husband.



Charles, Chris and Carena  
at Wedding

**Charles** continues as an Emeritus ST Research Ecologist with the University of Arizona and USGS. He spent a large part of this past summer in the field on Mt Lemmon continuing his research on the Cordilleran Flycatcher (COFL), focusing on documenting the annual cycle of this Neotropical migrant bird. He was only able to recapture two of the six returning birds to remove their geolocators. These geolocator units were put on the birds last summer and remotely tracked their movements during migration and through the winter in southern Mexico. Charles is also working closely with the residents of Mt Lemmon to establish artificial nesting sites for flycatchers and has focused on publishing research updates for the public in the Mt Lemmon Echoes newsletter, along with papers in professional journals. Charles is still very busy with Homestead Firearms, gun appraisals, FFL transfers and assisting Jacque with the Parts department.

**Carena and Chris** were married in late June in Illinois and several family members along with her cousins Joseph and Ramona were able to attend. Carena and Chris' primary focus right now is on their new baby girl, scheduled to arrive in late February 2022. They just sold both of their houses in Urbana and bought a bigger home in Champaign so they will have room for the new addition in their family. Chris is a professor at the University of Illinois in the Engineering Department while Carena is an Associate Professor in the School of Natural Resources. Carena continues teaching and conducting research on outdoor recreation and management on Great Lakes fisheries and visitors at Denali National Park. Check out Carena's graduate laboratory web site at [www.carenavanriper.com](http://www.carenavanriper.com).



Sandy

**Sandy** has been busy helping with the schooling of grandchildren (Charlie and Mycah) and works daily on maintaining family websites and managing rentals. She had an infected lung this past year which slowed her down for several months, and then took a nasty spill in December breaking her knee cap. But she has become quite mobile with her 4-wheel cart and is mending well so she can again get down to the barn to milk her Nigerian Dwarf goats.



Carena and Chris



Kim and Keo

**Kimberly and Keo** still live in Mesa, AZ managing the family rentals in Tempe, Tucson, and Flagstaff. They are both into the art world and as a side have expanded their flower and vegetable business in Tempe (see "Lehi Flowers, Vegetables and Fruit" <https://kimvanriper.com/cart>). Along with their fruit orchard, they have a little truck (Redford) where they sell produce in front of their house. Kim also completed the Master Gardner program this year!



Redford





Kale

**Kale** is still living in Sacramento, teaching FFA at Delta High School in Clarksburg, CA. He tells us he is awfully glad that he will not have to teach remotely this year. He started a large vineyard as a co-op with the school and local winery with a goal of teaching students all the specifics of grape vineyard management and wine production. Kale still hunts whenever he can with his dog Kula II, and continues to help care for his mom in Palo Alto. We feel fortunate to have him coming here to Arizona over the Christmas break.



Jacque

**Jacqueline** has been busy the past year raising her two children and managing and expanding her Homestead Antique Parts business ([www.homesteadparts.com](http://www.homesteadparts.com)). In her new house she has continued increasing the organic garden along with working on a complete remodel of the interior. Jacque has also learned to work with new machinery and is presently making a number of obsolete Winchester parts. Her son "Little" Charlie is in 4<sup>th</sup> and Mycah in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade.



First day of "Real" In Person School

**Charlie and Mycah** continue to grow and thrive. Both of them were excited to play in the snow at our cabin on Mt Lemmon this past winter, but summer had them in the pool in Tucson and swimming like fish! Right now we are all deep into Dinosaurs and Barbie dolls. They were schooled virtually from home with Sandy for the early part of the year, and then when COVID subsided, they were back in school with friends. There are few dull moments when they are around.



Sandy, Mycah, Cousin Joe, Charlie and Rocky Mt. Lemmon



Snow Day on Mt Lemmon



Swimming in the pool



Crawdads fresh caught and cooked at camp on Mt Lemmon

## Charles, Sandy, Kale, Jacque, Kim, Keo, Carena, Chris Mycah and Charlie van Ripper

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Keo, Kim, Carena, Chris, Charles and Kale