

HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2024

FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

We do hope that 2024 has been wonderful for you and the family.



Charles with flycatcher

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 working on his Western Cordilleran Flycatcher "full annual cycle" study on Mt Lemmon, AZ. He is fortunate to be able to stay in the cabin at 8,200 feet elevation on Mount Lemmon just north of Tucson, and this also allows him to escape the summer Tucson heat. He will continue to work on placing color leg bands and geolocators on the Cordilleran Flycatcher (COFL), in an attempt to determine their full annual cycle.



Sandy & Mycah

Sandy and Charles drove in September to the American Ornithological Society meeting in Estes Park, CO. While Charles presented a paper on his flycatcher research, we were able to visit and catch up with brother Gary, Dawn and family who live in the Denver area. Amid all of the reminiscing, we even got a chance to drive down one afternoon to see the mountain ski areas. Sandy continues milking her Nigerian dwarf goats and finished another book entitled: "Confessions Of 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. She also started an apiary and currently has 4 honey bee hives. We are still waiting for the honey.



Kale and Charlie

Kale continues 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. He was offered an administrative position at the Modesto, CA school district, but after much thought turned down the position so he could continue at Clarksburg HS. He continues with the Delta High School livestock judging and grape vine pruning teams, and his students placed very high in the state FFA competitions this past year. Charlie visited Kale this summer for a couple of weeks and they had a great time fishing and surfing.



Linda visiting Art Museum

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. Linda (Sandy's sister) is living with Jacque and helping manage the business. Joining the family is Jax's new partner Ryan Park and his son Ryan Jr.

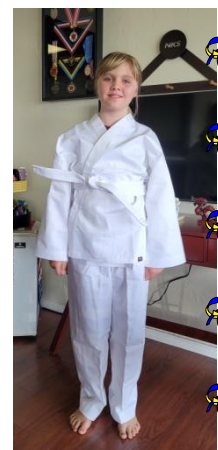


Jacque Netting Birds

Little Charlie, now in 7th grade, is still our resident dinosaur expert, gamer on the computer and trombone player. **Mycah** started 4th grade and both spend time at our house during the week. Both of them are excited to be part of a Karate program.



All the Kids:
Ryan Jr. Charlie, Sandy, Mycah, Ryan, Jax



Mycah Karate



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 also managing many of our rentals, including some we still have in Flagstaff, and she and Keo try to spend as much of the summer as possible in Flagstaff where they have plans for expanding their plant sales business to the Farmers Market. They have many bee hives and collected a beautiful crop of very special Lehi Gold Honey. Also they (along with Jacque and Ryan) visited Carena in Illinois after Clara arrived.



Keo Extracting Honey



**Carina, Clara (in vivo)
Camina, Chris**

Carena, Camina, and Chris welcomed a new baby (**Clara**) this year. They continue as Associate Professors at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and have both submitted their tenure packets to the university this year, and we all have our fingers crossed that Full Professor positions are on the horizon. Carena has been actively



Camina and Clara

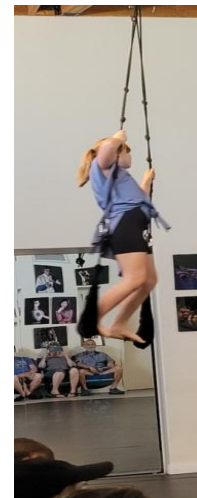
involved in her university and serves as Editor for the journal Sustainability Science and Chris is still working on polymer physics. They have been busy balancing their two daughters (Camina and Clara), graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and research.

It has been a wonderful year and we are looking forward to seeing most of the family back in Tucson this Christmas, although Carena and her family will pass the holidays in Illinois. 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 2025. 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

**Charles, Sandy, Kale, Jacque, Ryan, Kim, Keo, Carena, Chris, Camina, Clara
Mycah and Charlie van Riper**

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Charlie Fishing, Halloween as Captain Jack Sparrow; 6th Grade Graduation; Mycah Flying Dance Recital