



MERRY CHRISTMAS 2013 FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

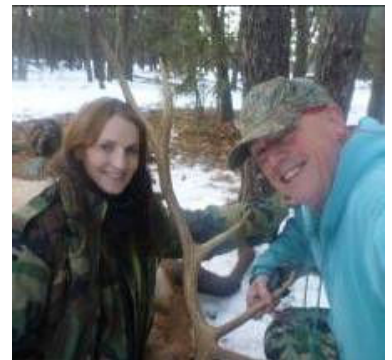


We do hope that the 2013 year has been as wonderful for all of you as it has been for us.

Our family, although still spread across the western US, was able to all gather for little Charlie's first birthday in August (see above photo). The picture has Kim on the left, then Jacqueline, little Charlie in the high chair, then Kale and Carena far right. Following is a summary of what each of us has been up to during 2013.



Charles continues as a ST Research Ecologist with the USGS with retirement now looming sometime in the future, perhaps when he ceases to enjoy conducting field work. He had 1 PhD and 2 MS graduate students matriculate this year. Charles escaped the Tucson heat this summer during extended stays at the cabin in Dolores, CO with his new post-doc and two field technicians working on the Cordilleran Flycatcher and the tamarisk leaf beetle. In August he presented a paper at the Wildlife Disease meeting in Knoxville, TN, and then in December was able to attend Carena's PhD defense at Texas A&M (see picture left). This fall, Charles also went hunting for mule deer in Nevada then over Thanksgiving an elk hunt with Kimberly in Arizona.



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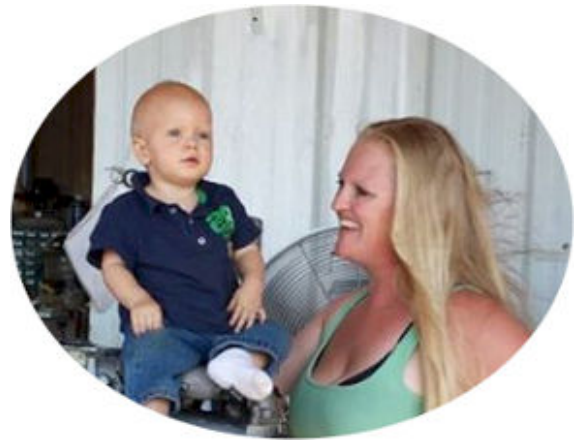


Sandy is still busy with her web design business and with her white dove business doing releases throughout the Tucson area (see www.catalinawhitedoves.com). She has been especially busy with little Charlie this year, and even braved the full heat of a Tucson summer to stay close.



Kale is still teaching FFA in high school near Sacramento, CA, and has been working diligently with his students on livestock judging and speech teams over this past year. He lost his golden lab Kula, but he still enjoys hunting with his other lab Lela. We were fortunate to see him several times, and he visited Carena in Texas.

With the event of her son Charlie, **Jacqueline** felt it necessary to leave her Nursing position at the University of Arizona hospital to spend more time taking care of the little one. She now is devoting full-time to raising Charlie and running her rapidly growing Parts Business (www.homesteadparts.com). She is also finally completing her house remodeling in Tucson.



Kimberly married this past year, and with Mike has settled in Phoenix. Mike has been bravely fighting continuous illness, and they are spending a lot of time together, closing their motorcycle business and remodeling their house. Kim had a wonderful elk hunt with her Dad this fall, and continues managing real estate rentals and her art business (www.kimvanriper.com).



Carena is in her final year of a PhD degree at Texas A&M University studying parks, recreation and tourism science. She received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence this summer, and over the past year she has been completing her dissertation on how people value marine environmental conditions within Channel Islands National Park in CA. Carena has interviewed at a number of universities and

we all have our fingers crossed that a tenure-track position is on the horizon! She spent a month in the Peruvian Amazon earlier this year, has been busy attending conferences with her colleagues in the Human Dimensions of Natural Resources Laboratory and just completed a 2-year position serving on the George Wright Society Board of Directors. See www.carenavanriper.com for more info.



It has been a wonderful year for us all! We are looking forward to seeing most of the family back together in Tucson this Christmas. 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 in 2014. We also invite each of you to please stop by and visit us in Tucson or at the Colorado cabin.

Charles, Sandy, Kale, Jacque, Kim & Mike, Carena, and little Charlie van Ripper

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