



SEASONS GREETINGS



FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY 2014

This year we had a number of family transitions, and we will have another member added very soon with Jacqueline expecting our second grandchild in February.



Jacque continues with her Homestead Parts business (www.homesteadparts.com) and this winter she bought a new house with a large shop so she is able to remain at home to raise her family while working. Our first grandchild, '**Charlie**' will be 2 1/2 years old this Christmas and has pretty much been the center of our life this past year. **Kimberly** continues managing rentals and her motorcycle parts business, doing her art work and will be illustrating a new book from the University of Arizona Press that her dad just completed on research over the Colorado Plateau. Unfortunately, Kim's husband, Mike, sadly passed away this past year. (See www.ripperpowersports.com and www.kimvanriper.com).



In another major transition, **Carena** completed her PhD and moved from College Station Texas to Champaign-Urbana, where she is in her first year of a tenured track position at the University of Illinois. She continues to focus on research about outdoor recreation and management. This past year she authored a number of publications and is excited about her teaching and research at UI and her new home. For more, check out www.carenavanriper.com.



Kale is still living in Sacramento, teaching FFA at Delta High School and hunting with his dog Lela. His other long time Labrador retriever Kula, passed away this past year. We feel fortunate to have Kale coming home for Christmas and to have him at Charles' retirement party. In May **Charles** accepted an "early" retirement package from the USGS Department of Interior, with the understanding that he could stay on as an Emeritus Research Scientist, keep students, an office, and his research program. The whole family was able to gather in Flagstaff in November for the formal retirement party, and we enjoyed meeting many old friends that day and remembering past times. Charles spent most of this summer in the field leading a research crew at his study sites in SW Colorado and Flagstaff, AZ. His Colorado research focuses on the response of birds to tamarisk defoliation by the introduced tamarisk beetle. He also is working in Arizona on bird responses to different forest management strategies in pinyon-juniper habitat. He still hunts when the opportunity arises, and we, as always, have a freezer full of meat.



Sandy continues with her white doves (www.catalinawhitedoves.com and www.whitedoveceremony.com) and her web design business. She took an inspiring vacation to Scotland with Charles while he attended the Wildlife Disease meeting this summer to follow her Scottish ancestry.

We do hope that this past year has been joyous and memorable for you and your loved ones. All of the van Rippers wish you a most joyful holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful 2015. We invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to stop by and visit.

Charles, Sandy, Carena, Kim, Jacque, Kale, and Charlie

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