

MERRY CHRISTMAS 2012 – FROM THE VAN RIPER FAMILY

Greetings from the van Riper Clan. This year we had another member added to the family, with our first grandchild arriving on the 4th of July. **Jacqueline** and **Dan** gave us the newest member of the family - Charles Daniel van Riper who will be 5 1/2 months old this Christmas. Jacque continues with her Nursing at the University of Arizona medical center in Tucson, and runs the Homestead Parts business in her 'not-too-spare' spare time (www.homesteadparts.com).



Kimberly continues managing rentals and her art work in Phoenix and illustrated the book her sister and dad just completed on research over the Colorado Plateau (<http://www.uapress.arizona.edu/Books/bid2386.htm>). Kimberly has expanded her motorcycle parts business in Tempe and it is now called "Ripper Power Sports." Kim also has a new partner and fiancé, Mike. See Kim's art work at www.kimvanriper.com. **Carena** is in the last year of her PhD program at Texas A&M University, focusing in outdoor recreation and management. This past year she co-authored



with her dad a book published by the University of Arizona Press on research and resources management on the Colorado Plateau. Carena worked most of this past summer on her PhD research project at the Channel Islands National Park and there met Merrill, a park ranger that she has been back to California to see several times this past year. She also has just received the prestigious 2012 Vice Chancellor's Award for Graduate Research at A&M. For more, check out www.carenavanriper.com.



Kale is still living in Sacramento, teaching FFA at Delta High School and hunting with his dogs Kula and Lela. We feel fortunate to have him coming here to Tucson for this Christmas. **Charles** continues as a ST Research Ecologist with the USGS. He spent most of this past summer in the field leading a research crew at his study sites in SW Colorado and Flagstaff, AZ. The Colorado research focused on the response of birds to tamarisk defoliation by the introduced tamarisk beetle. He also is working on a research project in Arizona on bird responses to different forest management strategies in pinyon-juniper habitat. Charles still hunts when the opportunity arises and we now have a freezer full of meat from a nice 4X4 buck in Nevada and a very tender 6X4 Arizona bull elk taken the week after Thanksgiving.



Sandy continues with her doves www.catalinawhitedoves.com and works daily on her web design business. Sandy's brother Gary and his parter Pat joined us for Thanksgiving (pictures to right).



We do hope that this past year of 2012 has been joyous and memorable for you and your loved ones. It has been another wonderful year for our family, and we are very much looking forward to seeing everyone come together in Tucson to share this Christmas. All of the van Ripers wish you a most joyful holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a wonderful 2013. We invite each of you, if you are in southern Arizona, to please stop by and visit.

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

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