



Season's Greetings

The tree is trimmed, the shopping is nearing completion and I've long ago given up on making cookies; so I think we are nearly ready for the holidays.

AAA reports that travel will be up only about 1.7% this holiday season – and we hope that if you are traveling this year that your journey will be safe and rewarding. Friends, family and new places are always sure winners, but especially at the holidays.

Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, or another celebration, Phil and I wish you, and those dear to you, the happiest of seasons and our best wishes for the New Year.

May 2006 be the year that you venture forth to a new travel destination, or make the decision to head out on that long trip of a lifetime – as we say, be a kid again!

Live Your Dreams!

Phil and Carol White

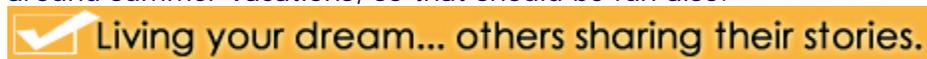


See us on TV -- finally!

After much fiddling around with file formats and other mysteries of the computer world, our guest appearance on AM Northwest here in Portland is finally up on the website. [Click here](#) to go to our home page, then click on the link along the right-hand side and you can see us on TV. A fun eight minute segment.

Technical Note: It is supposed to work only on Quick Time, but it comes up on Real Player just fine for me. It does take a minute to load, so give it a chance to get going. Enjoy!

AM Northwest has invited us back in the spring to do another show around summer vacations, so that should be fun also.



Another fan lives her dream



I would like to tell you how much I enjoyed reading your book (and newsletter) and how it did inspire me and encourage me to take my own road trip. Granted, mine was only for seven weeks, not a year, but it's one of the more memorable things I've ever done. I retired this year at age 55 from the City of Miami and almost immediately hit the road on my own.

It's interesting that we share many of the same interests, and I too focused on visiting national parks and charming small towns. One of your most valuable suggestions was the web site "My Trip Journal." If you would like to see where my road trip took me, my address is:

www.mytripjournal.com/RetirementRoadTrip password – retire

Thank you again,
Sarah Eaton

And another one preparing for their trip...

I just finished your book, *Live Your Road Trip Dream*, and enjoyed it very much. Particularly so because we are thinking about a similar trip. I plan to use many of your suggestions and ideas in our detailed planning – thanks.

... Sorry I misseed following your trip while you were at it, but it was fun to hear about it even after the fact.

Thanks again,
Wayne
Florida



Idea of the Month

New Year's Reolution: Take a long vacation

Impossibly busy? Taking time off is not just good for you, but can change your life!

Every year, we go through the same old tired set of ideas –weight, diet, the relatives, our boss, our golf game, our spouse, even our kids – everyone gets a piece of our best intentions. But at some point don't you just want to scream, "But what about making ME happier?" Well, how about a vacation?

Most resolutions are 'defect' driven. Think about it – fix your weight,

spend more time with the kids, start a workout program – all things that are ‘wrong’ with you. You are depressed before you start. It doesn’t have to be that way.

Phil and Carol White have the perfect idea. Grab your partner, and the kids (if they’re still at home), and go see the United States. For a long time. Not just your annual vacation, they mean a real trip – a journey and a life-altering experience. Seem impossible? It’s not. In fact technology makes these trips even more possible than ever.

The Whites know more than just a little bit about how to do this and how life-changing it can be. They ventured into all 48 of the contiguous states, saw all the National Parks and along the way had the experience of a lifetime. They now spend their days encouraging others to make their own dream happen. “Some people say ‘Wow, I could never take a year off!’”, says co-author Carol White, “but that’s not really what this is about. Whether it is a road trip, a sailboat trip, or a trek for an extended period, the planning is the same and the rewards are often a changed outlook, less stress and some amazing memories that will last a lifetime.”

Now you are thinking, “Easy for them to say, they are retired, but I’m still slogging away making a living.” That’s even more reason to consider the possibilities. Along their way in their nineteen foot camping van, they saw many families and young couples and talked to them about mid-life journeys. The ways of actually hitting the road were as varied as the people themselves, but the bottom line was, they all wanted a new experience in their lives and were willing to be creative in making the changes necessary to allow it to happen.

The Whites have many tips and hints for would-be road trippers, but here are five to help you get your New Year’s resolutions off on a more positive note this year.

- **Decide how you might pay for such an adventure** and start implementing your plan. You can do it for the same cost as staying at home, but you just have to get rid of those expenses at home.
- **Set a date when you will leave.** Up until that time it is all just talk. You’ll be amazed at how quickly things will start falling in place to make your dream a reality.
- **Enlist the help of family and friends** to make the trip more meaningful. Give them “assignments”. Most of us have obligations that we have to figure out how to manage while we are gone. Grown children, business and social friends, church and community groups are all sources of help and excitement in planning your adventure.
- **Pick a theme or set of ideas to guide your trip.** Make sure that everyone who is going has an idea of what they want to see during the journey. If you have school-age children, you will be home-schooling them for the duration of your trip, so plan “lessons” that will cover their needs – reading, history, spelling, math, science and more can all be woven into your everyday activities – and it will be a time of learning that they will never forget.
- **Don’t over plan your trip.** When you go on a two-week vacation, you tend to plan your every move to maximize your time. When you go on a long trip – say a month or more, you can’t possibly plan your every move, nor would you want to. The joy of exploration and the unfolding of

adventures is the most important part of the experience.

So instead of those same tired old resolutions, why not plan to change your lives – even for a short while in the scope of life, and see if some of those other “defects” don’t just take care of themselves.

Now *that's* a resolution worth working on.

 **More Road Tripping Information**

Do you know about these organizations?

This month I am featuring some of the road tripping organizations that you may want to consider joining as you get ready to travel – even if you are just going for a short trip, these resources are definitely worth checking out.

www.escapees.com - The Knowledge Experts for Weekend to Full-time RVers, offering Fun and Adventure events, a Total Support Network, Mail-forwarding Service, and a Parks System guide

www.koakampgrounds.com Campgrounds of America Directory - view our online campground directory to plan a camping vacation at one of our full-service campgrounds. Discounts for members and lots of good camping information for everyone. An excellent f*r*e*e newsletter too.

www.goodsamclub.com members receive discounts on RV camping and accessories, Highways magazine and much more -- even if you don't RV, they have some great discounts on things like wireless service, MyTripJournal.com, golfing and so on.

www.fmca.com - more than 260,000 families have looked toward the FMCA as their source of information about all facets of motor coach ownership and travel. magazine, discounts, optional mail forwarding and phone message service.

 **Tell Us What You Think**

Send us your tips and questions!

Always feel free to [email us](#) with your road trip questions or tips, or thoughts about the book. We'll be printing some of your comments in the months to come.

Where have your dreams taken you?

Please [send us](#) your travel pictures taken on your road trip dream. We want to share stories of trips that were inspired by reading *Live*

Your Road Trip Dream – Travel for a year for the cost of staying home.

Appearances

We're currently putting together an appearance schedule for **March, 2006 in Southern California/Arizona**. If you have a place you would like considered for an appearance, please [contact us!](#)

Until next time.. Keep Dreaming...