



## Great North American RV Rally a Big Success!

If you weren't able to get to Oregon for the big RV Rally last month, you missed a real "happening."

We thoroughly enjoyed the seminars, seeing the new rigs, the beautiful weather, the entertainment (Big Bad Voodoo Daddy), and the array of new products; but, most of all, we enjoyed seeing folks out living their road trip dreams - or trying to figure out how to do that.

We were fortunate enough to be in the [My Trip Journal](#) / Good Sam Club Personal Websites booth and meet many of you and talk about travel websites. I always say they are like a blog on steroids. They combine not only your journals/blogs, but also your photo gallery, a complete email/guest registration system, and it is all wrapped around a map-driven, visual representation of your trips.

Our seminar was overflowing the room and many people said it was one of the best seminars at the show! Everyone wants to know the Secrets of Taking an Extended Road Trip!

We'll be adding to our journal next month on our east coast media tour. Check us out on our [personal travel website](#).

Happy Summer.

**Phil and Carol White**



## We're Ready to Hit the Road - Heading for Boston



We finally know the details of our East Coast Media Trip on behalf of

RVIA. We'll be arriving in Boston in our [Roadtrek Adventurous](#) (thanks to Roadtrek and RVIA!) on September 5th to get ready for the [AARP Life @ 50+ Expo](#) being held at the Convention Center September 6-8.

We'll be presenting our seminar on "The Secrets to Extended Road Trips" on September 8th at noon on the stage in the exhibits area. We hope that we'll see some of you there and get to meet you. We'll also be in the RVIA/Go RVing booth, # 1929 each day from September 6-8, during the show hours.

Once we leave Boston, we'll be traveling to the following cities:

**September 10 - Springfield, MA**

**September 12 - Albany, NY**

**September 14 - Binghamton, NY**

**September 17 - Scranton/Wilkes Barre, PA**

**September 19 - Harrisburg, PA**

**September 21 - Baltimore, MD**

We don't yet know the details of our appearances, so if you have a club, organization or bookstore that might like to host us, just let me know and we'll try to work it into our schedule.

If you live in or near one of these cities, we would love to meet you. Check your local newspapers, or go to [our website](#) for the latest information on our appearance schedule.

Oh, and we do have our tickets to see Rod Stewart! Be still, my heart...

 Living your dream... others sharing their stories.

## Can You Hear the Clapping for Rene and Jim?



**Hi Carol,**

I've been thinking about emailing you for a few days now, thanks for publishing a newsletter. I just wanted to let you know that Jim and I did it: sold the home, sold the business, and now we are finally on the road! We hope to stretch our budget to allow us to travel for at least a year, but who knows, it could go longer if our internet business plans pan out and we make money while roaming (see sites listed below).

The whole point of our trip is to travel across the US before we're too old, get our web business off the ground, and research places we may want to live in next.

Our rig is equipped with a rooftop satellite internet system and solar power, so we'll be in contact no matter where we are between Alaska and southern Mexico! Our [travel blog](#), tells all about it.

Thanks so much for the inspiration, Carol, it really was your book that got us going on the path. I hope we get to meet someday soon! I look forward to hearing more from you.

Best wishes,

**Rene Agredano & Jim Nelson**

Rene and I have corresponded many times as she and Jim got committed to doing their trip. In fact she has been in this newsletter as she went through the process of figuring out how to make it happen for them. They had the additional problem of having a business that needed to be sold before they could "live their road trip dream." -- Something that most of us don't have to face. They adopted the philosophy of the book by believing that they could do it, and started working towards making it happen. Now they too are living their dream.

Congratulations to Jim and Rene - your hard work is paying off and I know you are thoroughly enjoying your journey. It is so heart-warming to Phil and I to know that we played a small, inspirational part in your success story.



## Idea of the Month

### Will Your Phone Become your PC?

As technology moves ever forward, it is becoming more and more difficult to tell what each technology really is; but, I suppose the bigger question is – does it really matter as long as we can do more and more, smaller and smarter, with less and less?

JFor me recent 60th (gasp!) Birthday, Phil bought me a new Apple iPhone - I am drooling. Now, I must tell you, I've never owned an

Apple product before, so I'm not an Apple "cult" member; nor am I a "gadget freak" that has to have the latest and greatest - in fact I swore off these kinds of toys when I retired; but, I have to tell you, this will revolutionize hand-held devices -- and I don't own any Apple stock. Hmm, maybe I should...



This reminded me that I recently wrote an article about PDAs for Cyber-Sam and thought you might enjoy some excerpts from that article.

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The most common functions found on these incredibly small devices include a fully-featured phone, email, text messaging, calendaring, memos and to-do lists, and limited internet-surfing. Newer versions are now coming equipped with added features and services including cameras, MP3 players, video capability, wi-fi, and GPS – all in the palm of your hand.

The biggest decision a purchaser has to make is what features do I really need and want. Many of the multi-media features aren't of the same quality as the stand alone products – at least not yet. For instance, the cameras currently have no flash, provide low-resolution photos and very limited storage. So will that meet your needs, or do you need a "real" camera? The other consideration is that some of the features have a monthly service charge to use them such as email delivery and web-browsing. If you need and want those features, be aware that there are additional charges involved and the quality will be less than on your PC.

There are three types of charges that you need to consider: 1) the PDA hardware, 2) the phone service, and 3) data services (web browsing, email, voice mail, GPS services, etc.). There are all types of service plans available, but be aware that if the unit itself is low-cost or free; you'll be paying for it somewhere else as these are very expensive units to build.

The key to making the units cost effective for you is to realistically evaluate how you will use your PDA and what other costs it may be able to off-set. The obvious one that can be replaced is your current cellular phone. But from there, the cost-benefit analysis becomes a

little murkier. Will it replace your GPS unit? Maybe. How about your laptop? Probably not, but it may allow you to not take your laptop with you on shorter jaunts. Will up-to-the-minute email save you time/money or allow you to make money-earning decisions more quickly? Possibly.

Some brands and operating systems can be synchronized with your home or office PC, and if the unit is equipped with Windows Mobile® you can read and “lightly” edit Word, Excel and PowerPoint documents right on the PDA.

Other things to watch for include:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->. Screen size and resolution<!--  
[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->. Battery life – this is critical!<!--  
[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->. Ability to view attachments<!--  
[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->. Ease of changing settings (e.g.  
font size)<!--[endif]-->

<!--[if !supportLists]-->. Keyboard usability

What’s the coolest thing about having one? Besides making you the coolest dude in the campground, it is being able to do so much with one small device. It is high-functionality in the extreme.

What’s the worst thing about having one? They’re addicting and checking your “Blackberry” every few minutes definitely makes you less than the life of the party.

Oh, and the other thing? As soon as you buy yours, something even cooler and cheaper comes out.

 **More Road Tripping Information**

### **Will Your Email Box Become Your Snail Mail Box?**

If Earth Class Mail has anything to say about it, you will soon be scanning your home snail mail from the convenience of your wireless internet connection or your favorite internet cafe.

For about the cost of a couple of Priority Mail deliveries a month, you can have the convenience of pre-sorted mail delivered to your inbox instead of searching for that General Delivery post office in your next town.

According to the company, "With Remote Control Mail online postal mail, your postal mail can follow you around, no matter where your RV takes you. And your mail will be more secure than it is today!"

To read more about this innovative new service, [click here](#).

**Don't forget!**

Personally autographed copies of the book are always available on our website

[www.roadtripdream.com](http://www.roadtripdream.com)

 **Tell Us What You Think**

**What do you think?**

We are always anxious to hear from our readers and friends about how we are doing.

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*.

Until next time.. Keep Dreaming...