

From the

Eagle's Nest



Spring 2013

Issue # 113

50TH REUNION BULLETIN!

*Sing the praise of Bethlehem Central
Fight to bring her fame
Conquer all who dare to challenge*

The Reunion Committee would like to communicate with everyone from the class of 1964. Currently, we have no contact information for:

Mary Bluemenstock
Cheryl Bonyng
John Egger
Joann Hutchins
Dave McAlpin
Janice Porthouse
Randy Smith

Tom Boehm
Carol Calligeris McHugh
Karen Ferow
Bill Marshall
Dave Murray
Jeff Russell
Judy Zboray Leichenauer

Please Help the class locate these “lost souls” by sharing a phone number, snail-mail or email address. Also, we are missing current email addresses for many classmates. Check your Address Book—maybe you have contact information for a name or two you could send on. Thanks!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASSMATES!!!

... **Betty Coughtry Brayer for Her Perseverance!**

On February 27, 2013, Betty and three women friends from Pultneyville, Williamson and Ontario, NY successfully completed a winter climb up Phelps Mountain from the Adirondack Lodge on Heart Lake. Betty writes: "It was the hardest thing I have ever done, but because of our training and practice in the hills around here plus our fantastic young guide Seth, we summated in 20 degree weather, heavy snow and 45-60mph wind gusts. The best part was coming down when we sat on our butts and slid down some of the steeper pitches just like little kids." Betty now is an official "Aspiring 46er" which means her goal is to climb all 46 High Peaks in the Adirondacks. "Only 43 more to go on my bucket list. Life is great."

Awesome accomplishment, Betty!

... **Barry Gainor for his Musical Talents!**



"Being the last of six siblings who all graduated from Bethlehem Central, I grew up hearing

and singing our high school alma mater. The lyrics are imprinted in my musical memory. In recent years at the University of Missouri where I have been on the faculty for over three decades, the School of Medicine has held a gala fund raising dinner in the spring. It is a campus tradition that the Missouri alma mater is sung at the end of all fund raising events. This spring, as in years past, the administration has graciously asked me to be the song leader to conclude the festive evening.

“The University of Missouri school song was written in 1895 to the music of ‘Far Above Cayuga’s Waters’ which students from Cornell adapted to the tune of the popular ballad ‘Anna Lisle’ in 1870. This familiar melody is the same as our high school alma mater. It was an interesting challenge to replace the BCHS verses with Missouri lyrics, but it was accomplished.”

With some encouragement, Barry may be convinced to lead us in singing our Alma Mater at the 50th Reunion!

... Jim Linnan for an Outstanding Career Achievement!

The law firm of Linnan & Fallon, LLP of Albany, NY was ranked #6 in the “National Top 10 Verdicts for 2012” and the largest in New York State for a personal injury case by Lawyers USA. The case was against the A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital in Oneonta, NY. The jury awarded the claimant \$18,000,000.00 for pain and suffering, with a majority of the balance of the verdict awarded for future medical expenses involving the plaintiff’s future cardiac care, including a heart transplant. The total verdict was for \$144,000,000.00.

“James D. Linnan stated that he was proud of being included in the Top 10 Verdicts in the country for the year, but was more proud of having obtained such a fine result for a catastrophically injured patient who received substandard care from the defendant, the Hospital. ‘Deborah Sohl and her family were devastated by her injuries and her inability to support her family’ Linnan stated. ‘This verdict will provide Deborah with an opportunity to have the best possible medical care and to provide properly for her family.’”

Link to write up: <http://lawyersusaonline.com/blog/2013/01/21/144-7-million-for-failure-to-diagnose-lawsuit/>

How wonderful to be instrumental in providing a “silver lining” for this client, Buzz!

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM CLASSMATES

Ellen Campbell Carter may have had two hip replacements during the past year, but now she is getting around just fine. Currently, she is in Paris, France for several days of business meetings. Her husband, Rob, is with her. Ellen will join Rob and explore Paris between meetings and on her free days.

David DePorte is still doing freelance work. He has a new guide dog, a large sable-coated German Shepherd named Ven.

Mr. Dominic DeCecco is planning a long-awaited trip to South Africa in January 2014 offered by Grand Circle Travel. Dom also is planning a visit to Poland in September with some friends. “Busy, Busy, Busy!” **Sue Smith Slusarski** and her husband **Jim** treated Dom to lunch during their winter stay in Venice, FL, which is near Englewood, where Dom lives.



Dominic DeCecco at Althea’s Restaurant in Venice Florida

Tim Moore and Lynne also enjoyed a trip to Florida this past winter. First, on the west coast, Tim and Lynne took part in a Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) tour of St Petersburg's museums, galleries, and theatre. The Chihuly Collection and Salvador Dali Museum were excellent, and Tim actually learned from the docent how to appreciate Dali's surrealism instead of thinking Dali weird! After a brief visit to Marco Island, the couple explored Sarasota for a few days. The highlight was the Ringling complex-- Ringling Art Museum, Circus Museums, and mansion.

Next stop took Tim and his wife to the east coast and Vero Beach for a 6-day visit with Tim's sister (Class of '62) who lives on the Island, 100 yards from the beach. Continuing down the coast, Tim visited a college friend in Boca and then on to Gulfstream to “encourage the ponies.” After golfing in West Palm Beach, they visited old Rochester friends in Celebration (near Disney World) before returning home.

How long was the trip? All this in fewer than four weeks! Quite a whirlwind trip! Even

Tim admitted, “It was a bit ambitious!”

Walt Myers welcomes spring and his return to working at the farmers market on April 29th, baseball openings, and parades! At the end of April, Walt is headed to Myrtle Beach.

Ed Lange announced that a second granddaughter has joined the family clan. Fiona Kelley Geurin, daughter of Kate (Lange) and Dave Geurin, was born on February 25, 2013. All are healthy and happy, especially "Big Sister Amelia, age 3." His daughter, Kate, and her little family live only 2 miles away, so they get to enjoy lots of happy time with all of them.



Amelia and Fiona—Grandpa Ed’s Sweethearts

Ed is looking forward to the warm weather for sailing, Porsche driving, gardening, and playing in the water and the woods. He’s also in the “agonizing process” of revising his latest play -- his 10th.

Ed (whose character recommended watering the wine in our senior play, “The Mouse that Roared”) concluded his note with “Best wishes to everyone!! THINK 50!”

John “Mac” McWilliam is happily retired and trying to fit in as much adventure as possible before Old Age ailments set in. He writes: “My doctor started sending me birthday cards (that can’t be good).” For now, he reminds us “to get as much fun as you can . . . and when we are all done we can say...“Wow What a Ride!” When it is Mac’s turn to move aside, his plan is to “peel out in my ‘56 Ford convertible all the way to Heaven,” hoping he doesn’t blow a tire on the way!

Sue Smith Slusarski and her husband **Jim** enjoyed a (mostly) warm and sunny winter in Venice, Florida. After almost 49 years since graduation and three years of emails working on the newsletter, Sue and **Paul Gans** finally met again in person! Paul and his wife Sandy, who have a lovely home in Venice, FL, provided Sue and Jim with a list of the best restaurants (from gourmet to hot dogs!) and beaches.



During their stay, Sue and Jim also had a delightful visit and lunch with **Nancy McCormack Provost** while she was visiting her grandchildren in Tampa, FL and with **Joe Hunting** and his friend Shelly (a freelance writer) from the Clearwater/St Pete area. Lots of memories, laughs, and “life at this age” stories made the time together special.



There's no keeping **Lynn Steltmann** sidelined! Lynn recently had arthroscopic surgery for a torn meniscus on her right knee (“That's what I get for falling into the creek while retrieving a golf ball.”) She was up and about the next day, walking the mall on Day 2, and then swimming at her aerobic swim class. After she sees the surgeon, Lynn will be back to bowling again!

Susanne Watson Sterrett was sorting old pictures and sent on photos of her Delmar Grade School Kindergarten class, 6th grade class (previously published), and a 1958 group photo of Girls Intramurals (see Photo Gallery)! Susanne wrote: “Thought my old Delmar Elementary classmates would get a kick out of them. Looking forward to seeing everyone at our 50th.

Heading to the Class of '63 reunion in October-- will let you know how that goes. My best to all."

Barb Kebbon Veal, our "Queen of Cruises," sailed away again, this time on a 10-day Caribbean cruise out of NYC with five of her girlfriends and her husband. Ed was the "King" of the harem! She noted: "We had a BLAST!!!"

PASSAGES: BCHS TEACHERS

Two former BCHS teachers--**Mr. George Stagnitta** [a science teacher (Chemistry) and then assistant principal at the Middle School] and **Mr. Tom Watthews** [a biology teacher]--recently passed away. Mr. Stagnitta's obituary was published in the Albany Times Union. However, there was no obituary for Mr. Watthews, who, after a three-year battle with cancer, was buried in a private ceremony in Albany. If you would like to send condolences to the Watthews family, please contact Dick Feldman at tapcat8910@aol.com and he will forward your note to Tom's sister and nephews and nieces.

PHOTO GALLERY

Here is the photo of the Delmar Girls Intramurals sent by **Susanne Watson Sterrett**. **Laura Kramer Labrum** realized she had the same photo with the names on the back! **Lynn Johnson Arnold, Ellen Campbell Carter, Rose Ann Hannan, Toni Spinosa Lasley, Donna Yeomans McMillen, Carolyn "Lindy" Alexander Perez,** and **Sue Smith Slusarski** had a sneak preview of the photo and provided confirmation of many of the names.

Delmar Elementary School Girls Intramurals, 1958
Mr. Vandemark



From Left to Right . . .

Front Row: Laura Kramer, Valerie (Verelyn) Mancuso, Nancy Casper, Barbara Buttercase, Margaret Flierl

Second Row: Linda Camp, Susanne Watson, Sue Smith, Donna Yeomans, Lynn Johnson, Barb Engle, Nancy Alford

Third Row: Carolyn (Lindy) Alexander, Diane Benedict, Marilyn Bylsma, Rosemary Marotta, Patty Clark, Cathy Moses, Judy (Beth?) Bash, Judy Blanchard

Fourth Row: Diane Balluff, Carol Bettmann, Nicki Howe, Joan Becker, Nancy O'Donnell, Ann Hallorin, Mary Ann Schoonmaker

Fifth Row: Ellen Campbell, Rose Ann Hannan, Georgetta Sheilie, Anne Murphy, Toni Spinosa, Lynn Kraft

Surprisingly, the photo inspired some memories in a unique way. When **Rose Ann Hannan**, a dental hygienist, was talking with a patient (Bev), Rose Ann found out that Bev had gone to college with **Barbara Engle!** Rosie pulled up the Girls Intramural photo on her computer (thanks to Susanne) and the two laughed and told stories about Barb for 20 minutes! Bev shared that Barb was “crazy” in college and that they had a lot of fun. One story involved a modern dance class. Bev was not aware that Barb had passed away. But for those 20 minutes, sharing memories brought back Barb’s infectious laugh and fun-loving spirit.

Susanne also sent a delightful photo of her Kindergarten class. **Lynn Johnson Arnold**, **Donna Yeomans McMillen**, and **Sue Smith Slusarski** identified some of the munchkins. We are still missing some names. Possibly Brian Klim, Bill Nuzzo, Rick Van Dusen, or Bob Spuck may be in the photo. Any other suggestions?



Delmar Elementary School - Ms. Plank's Kindergarten

Left to right . . .

Row 1: 1-Donna Yeomans, 2-Linda Camp, 3-Sally Easterbook or Judy Blanchard?, 4-_____, 5-Ruth Rothschild, 6-Susanne Watson, 7-Diane Balluff?

Row 2: 8-Pam Bartlett, 9-Joy Haker, 10- Peter Stevens? Or Ed Lange?, 11-_____, 12- David Lease, 13-Lynn Johnson, 14-Lynn Kraft

Row 3: 15-_____, 16-Brian Klim?, 17-_____, 18-Tom Bromley, 19-Rick Shirkey, 20-_____, 21- Brent Histed

We'd love to have more class photos from grade school, junior high, and high school. Please scan the ones you have and send them in. Wouldn't it be fun to have as many as possible for the 50th Reunion?

RETIREMENT VIGNETTES

We continue sharing retirement stories from classmates. You may have taken a similar path or perhaps you will gather new ideas for making this stage of life the best yet!

Happy Times: Health, Helping, Hanging Out with Family and Friends, Hobbies

Eleanor “Ellie” Krackeler Dillon actually sat down and thought, "What **do** I do?" and discovered she's rarely bored in her retirement.

An active lifestyle tops Ellie's list. Mornings, she walks 1-½ miles, bundling up in the winter, of course. She also goes to the YWCA a few times during the week. This past winter, she took up skiing again!

Ellie is active in several local community groups: Chairperson of the Town of Milton Democratic Committee, board member of the Ballston Spa Business and Professional Association, and member of the League of Women Voters. She has lots of evening meetings!

Actually, Ellie likes to say that she has three jobs in retirement: correcting Teacher certification exams in New York and Illinois, working as an Election Inspector, and performing wedding ceremonies (12 over the last two years!).

But her favorite activities in retirement are being with her grandchildren and hanging out with friends. A good week for Ellie includes many breakfast or lunch gatherings that bring friends together for support, sharing of thoughts, and simply laughing together.

Ellie's hobbies include reading and photography, and, as we have read previously, bottle-collecting! Ellie mentions that she has "been known to spend all day on the computer with ancestry.com." Last March, she traveled to Florida to "warm up her old bones."

Happiness? All these activities contribute to a busy, social, and active retirement for Ellie!

RV Style

Jim Kleinhans and his wife Kathleen had spent earlier years in their marriage camping. Now with Jim retired and Kathleen having some vacation time, they decided to add some new adventures to their life, leaving the tent and pop-up behind and purchasing an RV. Jim's story of their "maiden voyage" is included at the end of the newsletter. If you have ever considered RV-ing to see the USA, you will certainly enjoy "Jim and Kathleen's New Adventure."

More time for Pleasurable Pursuits: Reading

In addition to an active hobby of ancestral research, **Rick Van Dusen** enjoys having **time** to read in his retirement. His selections are eclectic.

Rick recently read ***The Winter of Our Disconnect: How Three Totally Wired Teenagers (And A Mother Who Slept With Her iPhone) Pulled The Plug On Their Technology And Lived To Tell The Tale*** by Susan Maushart, which he found "well-written all-around, with some very interest-inducing turns-of-phrase." Aside from classic authors such as Mark Twain (he read photo-reproductions of all of Twain's first editions), one of Rick's favorite authors is Ralph Moody, "a full-fledged cowboy at age ten," who wrote about interesting aspects of his life. For example, the author spent a full page describing how the stagecoach driver would hold the reins--and it was interesting!

Sometimes, however, Rick's "enjoyment" is less so. In December, Rick took on a biography of Oliver Cromwell (by Antonia Fraser--whose photo on the back was shockingly different from one's preconception of a writer of such a tome). This book turned out to be a "Project" that took nine weeks of pushing to get through!

UPDATES ON ADDRESSES

Paula Kohn Bloch
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WEBSITES TO VISIT

Ed Lange offers "just a reminder" that the Bethlehem Public Library has made many years of BCHS yearbooks accessible online. Here's the link to the website. I think you'll enjoy exploring the website! <http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org>

Starry Starry Night, Secrets of Old Age

Alas, I forget who sent this to me, yet I knew others would enjoy it also!

[Click here: Starry Starry Night, Secrets of Old Age YouTube](#)

WHAT'S NEXT: Summer 2013 Newsletter

We would like to include some memories of Lake George and other local summer places we vacationed when growing up. Looking forward to hearing from YOU!

Till the LAZY, HAZY DAYS OF SUMMER ARE AGAIN UPON US,

Lindy Alexander Perez

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Paul Gans

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Sue Smith Slusarski

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Disclaimer: Any inaccuracies are unintentional. Please accept our apologies. As appropriate, we will include corrections in future newsletters and/or provide updated information at the 50th Reunion.

*Time for you to take off the gardening gloves and relax with a retirement story from **Jim Kleinhans**. You'll feel like you're traveling with Jim as he and Kathleen discover the joys of RVers. Thanks, Jim!*



Jim and Kathleen's New Adventure

Kathleen and I had been half-heartedly discussing “going camping” for a couple of years now. We had started tenting shortly after we were married and had graduated to a used pop-up by the time our three kids were in grade school. We really enjoyed the many three-day weekends and several week long vacations we spent with our family and friends in the great outdoors. But time moves on, and so do our lives. The kids grow up and go camping with their own friends, business and personal responsibilities make the getaways fewer and farther between, and our interests morph to other things.

Fast forward about twenty-five years, and here we are talking about it again. Kathleen's job as a reservation agent for the National Park System and hundreds of state parks and campgrounds was the stimulus, I'm sure, but the whole idea fit right in with my own theory of “slowing down time” by creating as many new memories as you can each day (it's just a theory, but I'm going with it). Travelling the country, seeing and doing new things was right up my alley. I've been fortunate enough to have seen many parts of this country through both

business and pleasure travel, and have done much of it with Kathleen. But there is this huge swath down the middle of the country that we've only seen in pictures or from airport terminals, so we decided that *now was the time* and started looking at campers.

I'll spare you the details of the whole decision process, but for us, a "Class C" motorhome was the best choice considering tow vehicles, a desire to bring my motorcycle along, and total cost. Needless to say, by the end of October, a brand new Forest River Solera had consumed a significant part of my driveway, and the planning had begun for our first "overview adventure" to the Texas and Louisiana Gulf coast.

I got out the maps and laid out the trip, incorporating some of the many thousand "bucket list" items that we never seem to write down, and Kathleen did all the concierge work, researching and reserving campgrounds and attractions along the way. So on February 1st, we set out on a beautiful sunny morning toward good friends and bad weather in a house we'd had yet to live in. ***Let the adventure begin!***

Our first destination was outside Columbus, Ohio to visit my old BFF, **Chris Ploetz and his wife Mary**. After our first overnight at a truck stop, we arrived to more snow on the ground than they've seen in years. So nice of them to make us feel right at home when we were trying to get away from the snow and cold! We had a great weekend, nevertheless, and it was good to catch up ... it had been way too long!



Kathleen, Mary and Chris Ploetz, and Jim reunited!

After a too brief visit with a nephew and his wife in Ft. Knox, KY, we stayed at our first campground outside of Mammoth Cave National Park, and toured the caves the following day. It's nice to be able to do these things in the off-season when there is hardly anyone else around. We then headed for Nashville after a morning in Bowling Green at the National Corvette Museum. I've never been a "Corvette Guy", but this place is well worth the visit to any of us boomers who grew up with the development and evolution of this American icon.

Nashville was a pleasant surprise, and we fell in love with this city. Our campground was right on Music Row. It was Friday, so we went to a performance of The Grand Old Opry where we saw twelve different acts, both new and old. The next day, we opted for a Gray Line tour of the city, seeing we had no vehicle to explore in, short of driving our house around. By the end of the day, we felt we really knew the city and had seen many of the "must see" attractions. Gray Line does tours in many cities, and I highly recommend them.

Moving along to Memphis, we camped right adjacent to Graceland. The local taxi service uses pink Cadillacs (go figure), so we rode in one down to Marlowe's BBQ (featured last year on Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives), and enjoyed a great dinner. The next day was spent at Graceland. The house and grounds were beautiful, but after that, each associated attraction (his cars, his planes, his hometown, his influence, etc.) exited through a gift shop, which got old after a while. Elvis may be dead, but he's still making money hand over fist!

The following day was rainy and cold as we headed to Hot Springs, AK. I suppose it's not fair to judge a whole state from the interstate highway, but the sheer amount of trash that is allowed to accumulate on the sides of the roads speaks volumes. Hot Springs NP, although the oldest in the country, was nothing more than a winding road to the top of a hill crowned by a tourist observation tower run by a concession. Visibility that day was about 50 feet, so we declined the opportunity. The mineral baths in town are also all private businesses, unlike some we've seen in our trips out west. Our campground, however, was beautiful ... on the connector between two lakes, and was the high point of "The Natural State".

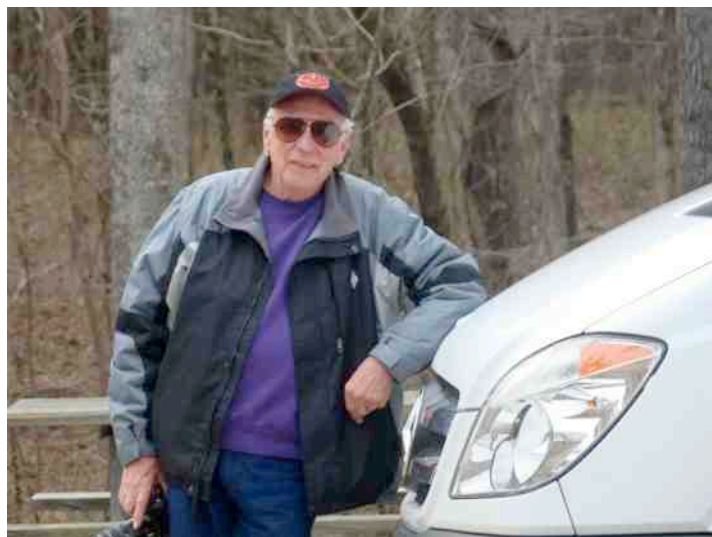
Contrary to the popular song of our youth, there is no place "...down in Louisiana, about a mile from Texarkana...." The closest point is actually almost thirty miles, and at 56 ft. above sea level, is the highest point in Louisiana. We saw plenty of cotton fields, though, which turned to sugarcane and rice as we drove south. After an overnight near Shreveport, we continued on to Galveston and Jamaica Beach via Houston. Our campground there was very nice with gulf sunrises in our windshield and sunsets out back over Galveston Bay. Not much else to do here without driving back to Galveston, so we just chilled for three days, did laundry, and soaked up some much needed sun.

We spent much of the next week knocking around the Louisiana bayou country, where we again fell in love with the area. We visited an antebellum plantation home, some beautiful gardens, the Tabasco factory, and drove the Old Spanish Trail to New Orleans. The low country is really charming and beautiful, and the warm weather and colorful locals made for a great visit. But at an average of 20 ft. above sea level, the specter of tidal surge and flooding are horribly real. In Breaux Bridge, the self-proclaimed "Crawfish Capital of the World", I finally got to wolf down a big plate of crawdads--delicious (as was all the food in Louisiana),

but way too much work. Lobsters are much more efficient.

We arrived in New Orleans about a week after Mardi Gras to unseasonably cold and windy weather. Undaunted, we booked another Gray Line tour of the city for an overview (again, excellent), walked around the French Quarter taking pictures like the tourists we were, and enjoyed some of the finest cooking in the country. Our campground, Ponchartrain Landing, was located on the inner harbor canal, which connects the lake and the Mississippi River. The park was beautiful and had every amenity one could desire.

The return home brought us through Montgomery, AL, where we watched robots and rednecks build Sonatas and Elantras in the largest and most modern Hyundai factory in the world (Hyundai is the Korean word for “modern”). The cleanliness, quiet, and efficiency of the whole process from rolls of sheet steel to finished vehicle were awesome, and the tour at 2 ½ hours was way too short.



Jim and Kathleen at Gunter State Park in Alabama

Our last destination was Pine Mountain, GA, where we met up with Kathleen’s cousin and his wife in their big Class A for three days.

The weather finally turned nice on Sunday, so we sat outside most of the day watching the Daytona 500 on the big flat screen satellite TV that flipped out of one of the side compartments. Boy, camping has really changed from back in the day when you slept on the ground and didn’t dry out till long after you got home. I’m certainly NOT complaining! On our last day we visited Calloway Gardens, which is a huge engineered lifestyle community with parks, attractions, gardens, high-end homes, and a country store/restaurant.

Although we had planned to finish the trip by driving up the coast to the Outer Banks, all the green and blue stuff on the Weather Channel dictated a more inland route so we could drive behind the storms rather than into them. Begrudgingly, Kathleen agreed, but was still disappointed that the adventure was now finally “over”, a concept she’s always had trouble with. We made the best of the two-day drive home through the I-81 corridor, finding some good food, a great local museum in Mount Airy, NC and a nice campground. We arrived home on the 28th to the same warm sunny weather we left on the 1st.

28 days, 4270 miles, about 700 digital images and thousands of new memories later, I'm pleased to report that man, woman, and machine had co-existed famously throughout. I'm planning on dragging my motorcycle to West Virginia in June, and we're already planning our next trip to the upper Midwest for September. Check, check, check, and many more to come. We sometimes go out and just sit in the coach with our morning coffee. I think we're both hooked and have talked about maybe selling everything and going "full time" in a few years.

Stay tuned.
