



May 2006
News for NOMADS feature page

NOMADS AT HEART

Reeders share 'hows' and 'whys' of fulltiming

Full-time RV living works well for many NOMADS. Below, Rod and Janie Reeder share their perspective on choosing the full-time lifestyle.

What on earth would cause a supposedly sane couple to give up all their real property and become full-time RVers?

Among other circumstances, we were spending about three months of the year in our home, and neighbors were watching our house for us the rest of the time. We had to hire someone to mow our lawn and shovel our walks. We decided it was crazy to spend the time and money to maintain a home we weren't living in.

Fortunately, we worked with some couples in Estes Park, Colorado, who found, in full timing, a very effective purpose for their lives. They told us about SOWERS and, in the application process for that, we asked our minister for the required recommendation. She was happy to supply it, but said the United Methodist Church also has such an organization. We applied & the rest is history.

Since our first project, in January 1999, we have worked at least three each year, and did

seven last year. I think that, as fulltimers, (our lifestyle for eight years now), we have more time available--no lawn to mow nor home to maintain. And we have to be somewhere, so why not on a project?

With children and grandchildren in various places around the country, fulltiming makes it easier to visit the kids and spoil the grandchildren. At this point, we cannot imagine getting off the road.

And, of course, technological advances actually make full timing pretty easy these days. Our cell phones work most anywhere; we have Internet connectivity via cell phone; satellite dish; wireless; and libraries. We have addresses where our mail is received and then forwarded to us as we dictate; and we can manage most of our business affairs on-line or by telephone.

So, you see, fulltiming isn't such a challenge after all.

'People' stories invited for NOMADS At Heart feature page

NOMADS, this is your insert page for inspirational and "people" stories. Please share the experiences you treasure, from the road or from projects, for all to enjoy.

If you're not comfortable writing for publication, send the information and your comments.

The Newsletter Committee will edit or rewrite for you.

Mail NOMADS stories to Virginia Lee, 14451 Huber Ave NW, Annandale MN 55302 or email to vawmlee@earthlink.net

NOMADS At Heart and News for NOMADS, are published in Feb., May, August & November.

Money-saving ideas for NOMADS

It occurred to me in January to cancel the insurance on our car, sitting in the garage, not to be driven for two and one-half months. The insurance company removed all but the comprehensive coverage for the time we were gone, and we saved \$410. Our average price per gallon for regular gas was nearly \$2.40 so the savings on insurance premiums was equivalent to buying 170 gallons of fuel.

I don't know why we didn't think of this earlier. Just imagine the money we could have saved on insurance, had we taken this step years ago.

We also saved about \$50 a month, while we were away, by eliminating unused phone features and placing our phone on a vacation-rate plan. Phone companies may use different terms for their reduced-service plans.

We have a GM truck with On-Star, which I activate before we leave and cancel when we return, thus saving \$17 a month. Our truck gets so little use while we're not on NOMADS projects that I feel comfortable driving without On-Star. My plan is to activate it when we're away for an extended period.

--- Larry & Aileen Garvin

Jumbo, a pig, NOMADS & others boost Larry Smith's recovery

NOMADS who recall Sunshine requests for Larry Smith this winter will welcome the message he wrote in April:

"Sue and I are back in our motorhome, Jumbo, near Fort Wayne, IN. We've been fulltimers over three years, and NOMADS most of that time. We were in Tucson AZ, working our eighth project, when I got sick."

Diagnosed with an "ascending aortic aneurysm" and concerns about a damaged aortic valve, he had surgery Jan. 16. Family members updated NOMADS via the Sunshine prayer line.

Larry writes, "Our families played a large role, supporting & praying for us in those uncertain times. But I can't say enough about the support from NOMADS. Your cards, prayers, emails, prayer cloth, encouragement & smiles were very special gifts. We saw the "Face of Jesus" in each of your actions. Thanks so much!!"

In February, Larry had also emailed his thanks. Here are excerpts: "This message comes from me, not Sue, not my son nor grandson. I've been sleeping a lot. It's great having someone who can speak for you. They've done a great job. Now I need to write a few things myself. "I'm feeling pretty good for a guy with a pig's Aortic valve, a patched aneurysm, a small hole

closed between heart chambers, a "MAZE" procedure (look on the internet if you're curious---scares me) and a pacemaker. I'm getting stronger every day."

He thanks "all who have prayed, encouraged, and been friends to me & my family. The sheer magnitude of the support we have received is over-whelming." He lists doctors and nurses who persisted to figure out his problem using new technology; the staff at Hope and St. Johns UMC, Tucson; a retired nurse who brought insight, comfort, and knowledge to "my engineer mentality"; relatives who drove Jumbo home through a snow storm; who sent emails and cards; and whoever supplied a stuffed bear to hug while coughing. "It really helps." He even thanked the pig that donated a heart valve. "I couldn't believe the prayer support we've received. Many of these people I haven't even met. I felt totally supported & could feel your prayers. I know that, even if I hadn't made it through, God was there to comfort the family and me... As the song goes, 'Surely, the Presence of the LORD is in this place'".

OINK!!!

Larry Smith