

Joe Carr

[JOECARR.CA/
XMAS2017](http://JOECARR.CA/XMAS2017)



JOE'S 65TH BIRTHDAY
SAILED AWAY TO
HAWAII!!



NEW 2017 TESLA
MODEL S

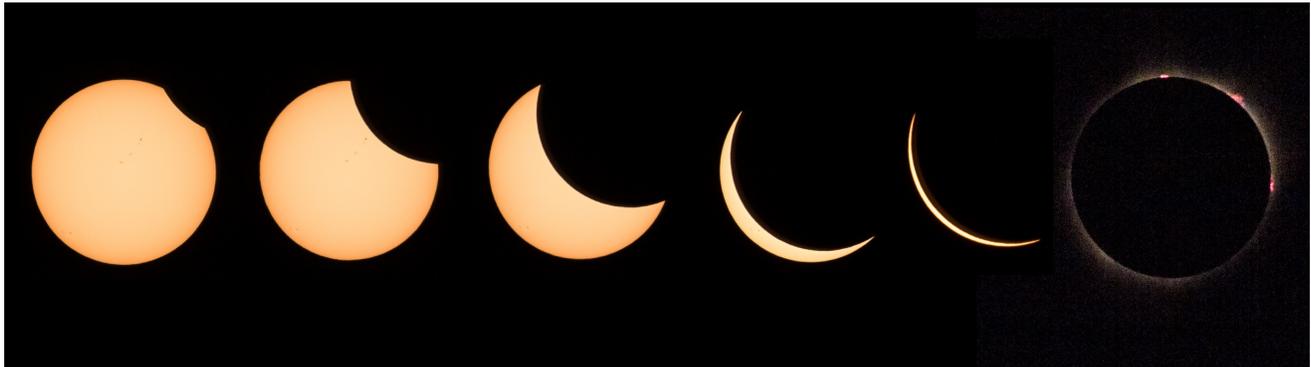


ARIZONA
ASTRONOMY
TUCSON

CHRISTMAS 2017

Total Solar Eclipse

I went on a road trip to Oregon this summer to view the Total Solar Eclipse on August 21st from Monmouth, a small university town in the Willamette Valley. I shared the experience with a group of



my astronomy buddies from Victoria, which made it a very special and exciting eclipse event. This was my fourth Total Solar Eclipse, and it was the prettiest to observe through my binoculars - lots of sparkling prominences, solar flares, Diamond Rings, and spectacular plasma streamers. Several of my friends took some fantastic photos and video of the eclipse, as well as the scene on the ground. We had great fun afterwards reminiscing about that special day! JoeTourist blog - joetourist.ca/tours-by-year/2017-eclipse-oregon/ Eclipse photos - rasevic.zenfolio.com/solareclipse2017/

Arizona Astronomy

In February, I joined several of my astronomy buddies at a friend's place in southern Arizona, located southeast of Tucson in the ranching area near the Dragoon Mountains. He has an observatory equipped with two large telescopes and superb gear to take full advantage of the exceptionally dark skies in the area. We had a blast doing a week's worth of observing and photographing the night sky

and celestial objects. During the day, we played tourist seeing a gunfight in Tombstone and geeking out on all the aircraft, space & astronomy sights in the Tucson area. I also took my first overnight train trip between Seattle and Tucson on *Amtrak*. Train travel is wonderfully relaxing! JoeTourist blog - joetourist.ca/tours-by-year/2017-arizona-astronomy/

My 65th Birthday & Hawai'i

I have run away from home for my birthdays in the past, and my 65th birthday was no exception! Some friends and I cruised to Hawai'i from Vancouver in October and back to Vancouver - a three week cruise aboard the *Eurodam*. As it turned out, both of my friends were also celebrating birthdays, so we had a grand time aboard the ship, enjoying the good weather, soaking up the wonderful service and eating delightful food aboard.

New Tesla Model S

I have enjoyed driving my 2014 Tesla Model S 85 for three years, however Tesla made me such a good trade-in offer for my 2014, I was persuaded to buy a new 2017 Model S 75D. I took delivery in late September in Vancouver, and I'm enjoying all the new features, including autonomous self-driving. Joe's personal blog - joecarr.ca/new-75d-ordered/

Around Home

Our cat Coda decided to scout out the front door in June, but a few days later he showed up waiting for us to let him back inside. I guess the neighbourhood wasn't as exciting as he had imagined, and no doubt he was hungry!

We replaced our 1948 vintage furnace with a heat pump system. It feels good to say goodbye to burning carbon-based fuel, and we sure appreciated the air conditioning this summer.

On the personal front, I participated in a medical study over the summer, being a test subject for a new treatment for high cholesterol. I'm back on my regular meds now, but I'm looking forward to seeing this new product come to market. In the process, I lost 10kg (21 lbs), a good thing!

Expanded Christmas Letter - joecarr.ca/xmas2017/ online with links, photos, video, and more stories.

All the best from my family to yours for the holiday season!



Greetings from Joe & Kirk -the humans

Tanner and Rolly -the Jack Russell Terriers

Coda and Mello -the cats.