

# 2023 NEWS

## Best Wishes & Happy Holidays!



Transiting Panama Canal; Chemainus; Sea turtle off Mexico; Red-footed Booby off Kauai'i; Waxing Gibbous Moon; Chocolate & desserts aboard ship; Joe wearing Aloha shirt in Hawaii.

As with 2022, it was another year of catching up with my travel. I cruised twice with Holland America: Panama Canal cruise in April and Hawaii cruise in October (celebrating my 71st birthday). I always enjoy being catered to while aboard the ships, the onboard entertainment is first-rate, and the ports-of-call usually result in new experiences despite me being a seasoned traveller. I also treasure the routine on sea days, and the crew often pull out all the stops to surprise us with special events.

Local travel during the summer months also figured into my plans. The Island Star Party at Bright Angel Park in the Cowichan Valley gave me the



opportunity to enjoy Cowichan Bay and of course connect with my astronomy buddies. The Perseid meteor shower wowed us all that same August weekend.

On the tech front, I upgraded both my desktop and laptop computers, keeping Apple's fortunes secure! Kirk finally gave up his beloved Motorola flip phone, joining the modern era with an iPhone 14, although he's still grumbling about the new tech, and hasn't even tried using the camera yet!

My big photography upgrade happened over the previous two years, but this year I added a Canon RF 2x Extender, which gives me 1,000 mm focal length with my big zoom lens. This is great for capturing the Moon and even the planets in the night sky. Of course this is also helps capture wildlife - another big interest of mine.

I traded in my 6-year old Tesla Model S75D on a new 2023 Model S100 Long Range which has gorgeous Ultra Red paint. So my long run of owning white cars is over! My new Model S has yoke steering, lots of new luxury features, and the Full Self Driving option transferred from my 2017. It's nice having an extra 150 km of range, not that I've made use of it on a road trip so far.

Kirk and I are in reasonably good health. Kirk had two minor surgeries this year, so he's glad to have that dealt with. I'm on a new treatment for my high cholesterol: LEQVIO (inclisiran), a subcutaneous injection I receive twice a year. My lipid specialist assures me this will soon be the preferred treatment.

COVID-19 finally found me after I evaded the virus for the last three years. I tested positive on the day I disembarked my Hawaii cruise in Vancouver. My symptoms were mild, and I tested negative after 5 days. Kirk and I are scheduled for our fifth COVID-19 vaccination in January.

Our Jack Russell Terriers Rolly and Tanner continue to keep us busy with three walks each day, however we have noticed they are slowing down a bit this year as they are now both 12 years old. Our Turkish Van cat Mello continues to run the household, but otherwise keeps a pretty low profile.

We continue to do our best to buy local, eat healthy, and try to limit our carbon emissions.

**Wishing you and your family all the best for the holidays and the coming New Year!**

Joe and Kirk

Happy New Year!

eCard & more news: [joecarr.ca](http://joecarr.ca)

The Best of the Season to You



Corn on the cob from Silver Rill Farm (with chicken cutlet & broccoli); Joe taking delivery of his new 2023 Tesla Model S; cute Dachshund seasonal garden ornament in the neighbourhood.

