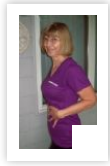


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Yorktown VA to Florence OR - 3 years & 4,063 miles

Thursday, December 31, 2015

I began this virtual journey to trek across the USA on Jan 1, 2013. Yesterday I crossed the finish line. This was the route I walked/ran. The dot marks my location on Aug 18, 2014.



When I recorded my mileage each day, I would see a picture of my surroundings I especially liked this photo on March 29, 2015 when Sheridan, MT was 10 miles away



I imagined settlers in covered wagons looking ahead and thinking "oh great, more mountains!" Note: I have no idea if wagon trains took this route or not. It's just a game I play in my head.

Memories of real trips past were also in my head. We travelled through most of the USA when the children were young. Here we are in 1981 somewhere in the southwest when they were 5, 8 & 11.

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Yeah, DD 1 & 2 look like twins. They are an example of the 10th and 90th height percentile in the same family. Note the grip I have on my son's hand. He had an impulsive streak and I didn't want him to slide off into some canyon. The OSU T-shirts? We lived in Columbus, Ohio back then. I still have my old shorts. I keep them around to remind me that a size 10 once meant 34 inch hips (now 40 inches is called size 10 - another blog entirely) .

Now back to the present day.

As I start a new year, it's time for a new virtual trek. I find motivation when I see where my daily miles would take me if I lay them end to end.

The USA route was retired (lack of funding) when I was somewhere in Montana. Fortunately, a former leader of our Virtual Walk/Run Challenge Team had recorded the distances to each state line, so I could continue my journey. I only lacked the pictures.

Now

www.worldwalking.org

is my site of choice. Lots of the world to see.

I saw the movie "The Way" a while ago, so maybe I'll follow the Camino de Santiago through the mountains of Portugal and Spain.

Sparker Phebes' real journey to Machu Picchu has inspired me so maybe I'll follow the Inca Trail to see the sites virtually before I convince DH to visit the real thing.

There's always the Great Wall of China. Grandson #1 is there now for a 1 month college course. He's an engineering major with a Mandarin minor and will spend his entire junior year there (2016-17).

Meanwhile, tonight I plan a virtual celebration with Sparkfriend Kurtzie1998.

She lives at the finish line! How about that!

Edit: I could have completed the trek in less time if I had included ALL my daily steps instead of only my actual workout distances. However, I imagined those extra steps as the ones I would have taken seeing the sites of each stop, Yes, I really do play virtual mental games on a virtual journey.

Happy New Year Everyone!

May we spark on together in 2016 wherever your path leads you.

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CD4114015

John and I have actually done that trek though not on foot....just on one vacation...loved it! I am going to check out your links...THANK YOU for sharing this....and Have a BLESSED 2016!





1987 days ago



SWEETNEEY

Sounds awesome.
1988 days ago



ALEXSGIRL1

happy New year
1988 days ago



DOVESEYES

Happy New Year and Happy Trails!!
1988 days ago



LIVEDAILY



Congratulations for accomplishing this amazing feat!! I think it's awesome how you persevered and DID IT!! Way to go!!



1988 days ago



JERSEYGIRL24

Congratulations!! I started the virtual walk several years ago but did not finish. I like this goal. I am going to set it up (or something similar).

Congrats again!!
1988 days ago



PHOENIX1949

1988 days ago



SUBMOM2

What a great way to wrap up 2015! Happy New Year!!
1988 days ago



PHEBESS

Love it!

Another Sparker and I are doing a virtual walk across South America, north to south, on the PanAmericana. If you'd like to join us!
1988 days ago



FORZACHANDMATT

Wow - how wonderful! Happy New Year
1988 days ago



MISCHAKEO

Happy New Year. I know you will enjoy your next trip. What a fun way to exercise.
1988 days ago



ONEKIDSMOM

OK, ya got me... went and signed on to World Walk... it will be a little different from my Walk This Way that automatically links to my fitbit. But that one had the same virtual trails two years in a row, and I'm tired of them. So... let's see if I can get this one kept up to date in reasonable fashion!
1988 days ago



BBEAGAN

That is awesome! what a wonderful accomplishment! Did you push at the end to finish by Dec 30 2015? or just fluke timing? what an amazing thing to know you were able to do... And I love the virtual games you played. (If you take on the Inca Trail virtually, you'll need some way to take elevation into account!)

1988 days ago





CD8113065

I was about 1/2 way across Kansas when they pulled the plug on the site. Kudos to you for figuring out how to keep the trek alive.
1988 days ago



HOLLYM48

What a fun virtual trek and how fun to look back at the old pics of when the kids were so young!
Happy trails to you as you find your next virtual walk/run trail and all the best to you as we enter into another awesome year! Happy New Years Eve. Make it the best day ever!
1988 days ago



SWEDE_SU

that is a cool idea!
1988 days ago



SMALL_WORLD

I was really sad when the Walk Across America site closed, I only had 745 miles on it, but it was definitely cool. I'm for sure checking out this new site! Thanks!
1988 days ago



MILLEDGE2

What a great idea!
1988 days ago



CD14815535

That's a long way, virtual or not. Congrats! Here's to 2016
1988 days ago



SISTERHUGS

Thanks for sharing - and congrats!!
1988 days ago



1BOOMBALATTY

Wow!
1988 days ago



MRUSSELL2014

This is amazing! I have long fantasized about doing this on my horse. Much like you, I always imagine we are in the wild West days, seeing what the settlers would see lol! What a journey to be proud of!
1988 days ago



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