



*Merry Christmas From Vicki and Andy! 2017*

Merry Christmas!

The Rerko adventures started the day after Christmas 2016, Vicki, Andy, Megan, Tyler, Kelly, Renae left for Punta Cana. We stayed at Secrets Resort, which is an all-inclusive, for 6 glorious days. The beach was great and we spent every day there, with on the beach bar service.

Everyone but Andy went back to work upon our return. Retirement is tough!

In February, Vicki underwent back surgery, but she still is suffering this year.

Andy helped Megan and Tyler with some more remodeling on their house. We installed three new windows, and helped them with a bedroom. Other than the basement, the whole house has been completely renovated. We also put in a parking pad in their back yard. Street parking is a pain in the city!

Andy also helped Kelly and Renae remodel one large room in their basement. We completely gutted it, installed a new glass block window, insulation, drywall and suspended ceiling. They finished the basement via Craigslist by adding new covers to the Ikea sofa.

Retirement is tough!

Vicki, Andy, Megan, Tyler spent another week in Pawley's Island this year, with Tyler's extended family. The weather was beautiful. That following week Kelly and Renae again used the Virginia Beach timeshare.

We continued our new hobby (obsession) call Geocaching. (It is an app for your smart phone, that guides you to hidden "treasures." Not really treasures, but things hidden by other people. There are millions and millions of these throughout the world! There are most likely many within a few miles of wherever you are as you read this. Google it to find out about it. They are hidden in places that we have passed many times, like in parking lots of our favorite stores, attached to guard rails, under fire hydrants, in local parks, and some in plain view, if you know where to look.) Visit the photos tab on our website to see some of our more interesting finds. We have found over 350 so far. Unfortunately, Vicki contracted Lyme's Disease which comes from a tic bite, we assume from one of our Geocaching searches. She spent four days in the hospital.

Andy and Vicki went on a vacation to Alaska, which was on our bucket list. We took a three-day tour of northern Alaska, and then a cruise ship through the inside passage to Vancouver, Canada. We found a Geocache at each stop along the way.

One thing that amazed us was the flowers. They were everywhere and the baskets were huge. I commented on it, and our guide said that is what happens when the sun shines 23 hours a day! Check out our pictures under the photo tab on Rerko.com.

We also enjoyed many day trips this summer. We visited the Thistlethwaite Winery, operated by Vicki's cousin in Greene County. We enjoyed sampling the wine and appreciated the "family discount" on our wine purchases. In addition, we went to visit the Breitenbach Winery, as well as Plum Line Nursery annual wine event.

This school year continues to be more difficult than most. The District had cut staffing, and now Vicki has to cover 4 buildings, with a population of 1500 students and supervise three staff nurses.

Andy continues doing some consulting work for one of his former bosses. He works from home. Retirement is tough!

Our kitten, Piper, is now two years old. She enjoys her climbing tree that is near a window bird feeder. She jumps from the tree to the window sill and scares off the birds. She also delights in shredding paper and cardboard throughout the house.

Visit our website and click on the Cat's tab at the top. You can see pictures and video clips of Piper's antics.

This year's Christmas Card was on Vicki's bucket list!

Hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

Vicki & Andy