

The Stephensons: reeling in the good life!

By Becky Jantz



Bob and Robin Stephenson are a new breed of seniors who have made the choice to live “tiny”-- in an RV. This is not because of finances but of fish.

Bob, owner of the thriving fishing guide service Colorado Friends and Family Fishing (coffishing.com), wants to be closer to his fishing lakes, and Robin appreciates leaving a smaller “footprint” on the planet and less possessions for their children to deal with in the future.

They once had a 4200 sq ft home in Glen Eagle but downsized initially to a 1200 sq ft condo. Nervous at first about giving up all that space, Robin actually discovered a sense of freedom in relinquishing all the non-essentials. After a couple years, the couple decided to move to Woodland Park, and the same conversation arose. They agreed they weren't interested in any of the traditional home options available and began looking at tiny homes. To their surprise, however, they found them too small. Not long after and quite by accident, they came across a video on YouTube showcasing large RVs and realized the advantage this option would offer.

Currently, the two live in the nicest RV park in Woodland Park, which takes pride in keeping the environment

aesthetically pleasing. They absolutely love this lifestyle. Being “campers” when their children were young, Bob and Robin continue to experience the same feeling of freedom in the great outdoors that they did as a young family back then—but with



all the amenities of a small apartment: dual pane windows, high efficiency appliances and HVAC systems, two bathrooms, washer and dryer, freezer, and even a treadmill, all encased in a 42 foot long RV. Though Bob and Robin have no intentions of moving, they relish having the option of doing so if they change their minds as new seasons of life arrive.

Many of their neighbors in the RV park are business owners and managers like themselves. Bob's company is a member of the Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce, Tri Lakes Chamber, and our local Better Business Bureau. The business also supports the annual Tri-Lakes Lions Club Kids' Fishing Derby at Palmer Lake and has donated to Tri-Lakes Cares, Woodland Parks Kiwanis, Thanks Troops, Citizen/Soldier with BassPro, and many other local fundraisers. Bob started his education and career in fire science, actually helping as a firefighter in the evacuation efforts during the Mt. St. Helens eruption and serving as an EMT with the

Core of Engineers at that time. He moved to Colorado in 1998.

Robin holds a master's degree in education, and her previous work experience is impressive: teacher, administrator, executive program leader, vice president, and college professor. She has trained support staff and women in leadership throughout the United States and internationally. Before COVID claimed her business last year, Robin owned and operated Virtual Assistant Professional CS & V-Suites CS in Colorado Springs for nearly ten years. Lastly, she has been on the board of directors for three national organizations. Now that she has entered her “senior” years, Robin enjoys contributing on YouTube and blogging for her new company RV Retirement Redesign (rvretirementredesign.com). Bob and Robin have regular conversations with their retired or semi-retired neighbors about how all their retirements are shaping (“redesigning”) so differently than what their parents experienced and what they themselves

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Photo by Erik Cooper Photography, LLC



Bob and his passion

expected. The tagline at RVRR is "Retirement is not what they thought it would be... Thank Goodness!"

Since relocating to Woodland Park, Bob and Robin have discovered what is great about this community: "We appreciate the small-town feel, the slightly conservative attitudes, the love of this country, the support provided to law enforcement, and the respect of due process." Being a local business themselves, the couple is devoted to supporting local businesses. They look to buy as close to home as possible to empower the economic viability of the town.



Robin feeding a baby lion, South Africa



Grandkids fishing

Bob's favorite breakfast place is The Hungry Bear. Robin loves her three-times-a-week water aerobics classes at the Woodland Park Aquatic Center. Both enjoy dining at the Ute Inn (particularly when the band Dancing on the Sun is playing), as well as participating in Kiwanis Bingo Nights.

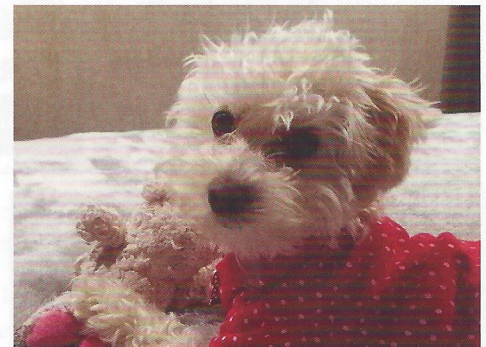
Bob and Robin have been married for 47 years. Way back when, Bob's best friend set them up on a blind date after a basketball game where Robin was a cheerleader. She had lost her voice and could hardly speak. Bob said it was one of their best dates, haha! Together, they have two now-grown children. Their daughter Tonie is a finance wizard at MIT, and their son Bob III is a cyber security expert for Compassion International. In this season of their life, Bob and Robin most cherish spending time with their three grandchildren: Xanden (11), Nyah

(9), and Taitt (7). They've taken the grandkids to Santa's North Pole, the Dinosaur Museum, stayed at the Eagle Fire Lodge, and always do a lot of fishing. Last year, Xanden caught a Master Angler Award trout! Bob & Robin treated the grandkids to a stay at the Great Wolf Lodge where 'Grandpa really got into the Halloween Spirit.' The baby of the family is Izzy, a two-year-old Maltipoo who is "totally spoiled in only the best of ways" and a part of the family in everything they do.

Spoil yourselves with a guided fishing trip with Bob on Eleven Mile or Rampart Reservoir or with an intriguing conversation about RV living and retirement with Robin. Thank you, Stephensons, for being our June family!



Granddaughter Nyah carrying Izzy



Night Night Izzy



Great Wolf Lodge, 2019