

# *Happy 2006 from a Wide Spot in the Road*

Dear Friends,

In the first days of 2005, I left the comfortable home hospitality I'd enjoyed since before Thanksgiving and pedaled my way out of Austin to continue the adventure that began the previous August. I followed the Gulf Coast east, then turned north and followed the onset of spring up the East Coast. I crossed the Appalachians at the Hudson/Champlain valley and visited Montréal and Ottawa before the last mad dash across Canada back to Minnesota in June.

On the whole I experienced perfect weather and courteous drivers... the exceptions only made me appreciate my good fortune more! In ten months on the road, I bicycled a distance greater than the circumference of the moon and had no major mishaps.

Here are just a few highlights of the second half of the trip, many of which are pictured on the reverse:

- Seeing New Orleans while levee failure was still just a prediction
- Getting pinned down for two nights by a nor'easter near Jacksonville, FL
- Meeting my new nephew, Nicholas Adric Efran, and his grandparents
- Seeing the cherry blossoms (and two pedal-powered airplanes) in Washington, DC
- Touring New York City for the first time since the '80s
- Visiting an old friend in Ottawa and accompanying her on her first bike ride in 10 years
- Renting a cabin on Lake Huron after eight long days on the Trans-Canada Highway
- A close encounter with a bear in the middle of the night, in the middle of a Wisconsin forest
- Setting up a home again, with an excellent easy-going roommate

Life in Saint Paul has been tame in comparison... I haven't finished a single roll of film since I got here in June! The trip reinforced my intention of moving out of the city, and though I haven't yet decided where I'll move to, I plan to do it this summer.

Thank you again to all the family, old friends, and new friends who put me up for a night or took me out for a meal. You're always welcome at my home, wherever that may be!

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For descriptions of the photos on the reverse and many others, visit <http://migration.workscited.net> .  
Poem by J.R.R. Tolkien.