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CARLUS & DONITA 'MINNIE' BRELAND ARE LOVING LIFE'S JOURNEY, ROAMING FAR & WIDE ON THEIR VEGAS JACKPOTS

CARLUS & DONITA "MINNIE" BRELAND ARE HAVING THE TIMES OF THEIR LIVES, TRAVELING THE COUNTRY ON A PAIR OF VEGAS JACKPOTS, LETTING THE WIND AND WHIMSY GUIDE THEM TO FASCINATING DESTINATIONS AND NEW FRIENDS

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While some retirees focus on shuffleboard and early dinners, Carlus and Donita "Minnie" Breland are piling up mileage and memories on their Vegas Jackpots. They are both 65 years old, have been married for 40 years and have both ridden motorcycles for 35 of those years. They have three grown children and four grandchildren.

They have made it to 46 states by motorcycle – so far. They are far from finished riding.

"We are both 65 years of age, retired and are degreed accountants," Carlus said. "In our careers, I served as Chief Financial Officer for the U. S. Department of State and a 'Federal Intelligence Agency' for about 37 years. Minnie owned and operated a successful swimming pool business with two commercial stores and 25 employees for 25 years. I retired six years ago and Minnie retired three years ago."

They call Manassas, Virginia, home, but don't count on finding them there much. They spend a lot of time on the road.

"Donita and I converted from Harleys to Victorys in 2007 and have been delighted with the bikes and the service," Carlus said. "Our Victory dealer, with whom we are very pleased, is [Ridersville Cycle](#) in Berkley Springs, West Virginia. Our current bikes are 2007 premium Vegas Jackpots."

Minnie is 4', 10" tall, so to ensure she can ride safely and in comfort, "we have seriously modified every motorcycle she has owned," Carlus said. She rode the Jackpot for three years, then underwent two significant back operations, after which, she had Myers Performance in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, convert her bike into a trike.

Its pink paint makes it memorable, but its custom features make it worth a much closer look. The stock front end has been replaced by a [KewlMetal](#) 7° front-end kit, and the rear end features Billet Specialties custom wheels with 295mm Mickey Thompson tires.

Minnie's bike also has custom handlebars, a custom billet luggage rack in the shape of Minnie Mouse's head, and several Tomahawk motorcycle accessories. Minnie and Carlus have always personally designed and painted all her bikes pink with Disney graphics, and her pink trike features ghost Minnie Mouse images on the tank and fenders.

Carlus has a distinctive ride, too. From what we can see in the photos he submitted, his Jackpot has saddlebags, a windshield, a badge-free tank, a side-mount license plate frame, highway bars, and custom handlebars.

"I painted the horn, ignition and lower case covers to match the custom paint schemes on the bikes," Carlus said. "I also drilled out the indentions on the horn and ignition covers to give them some depth."

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April 2014						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
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4/5/2014 **BARTON POWERSPORTS**

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Both of their helmets have been painted to match their bikes' paint and graphics, and they feature spiritual messages because, as the couple said, "our marriage and all we do has Christ as the foundation."

As Carlus told [ChromedOutMag.com](#), "Minnie and I have traveled the back roads of America on motorcycles for decades. Beginning in late July 2011, we rode 9,700 miles in 63 days and visited 22 states."

They rode without a planned route and without lodging reservations. They rode where Minnie's trike and her keen sense of direction took them. The route included numerous stops at national parks and scenic destinations such as Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons and Jackson Hole, Grand Coulee Dam, Olympic National Forest, the Pacific Coast Highway, Lake Tahoe, Canyonlands and Arches, the Escalante Forest, Bryce Canyon, Zion, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, the Petrified Forest, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and much more.

Along with visiting family and friends, they made lots of new friends during the trip. Friendly retirees on motorcycles – one of which is a pink trike – will generate smiles and attract greetings from strangers.

"At the end of each day we sent an e-mail and the day's pictures to a group of about 100 friends and family," Carlus said. "Our hearts were warmed when these folks shared with us that they looked forward to our reports and felt as if they were riding along with us."

They also are touched spiritually during their travels. On their major 2011 trip, for instance, "As we rode, we knew that God had us just where He wanted us to be, safe in His loving arms," Carlus said "Our trip gave us a renewed appreciation for the blessed America that God has bestowed upon each of us. He allowed us to experience so many wonderful places and people beyond our wildest dreams. He brought us so many different challenges and so many associated solutions that we are simply in awe of His love and power. Along this trip we developed a greater appreciation for: God and His creations; this country of freedoms and the many people who have fought, sacrificed and paid the price for our freedoms; the explorers and pioneers who braved the unknown to discover a new world; the brave people that developed the infrastructure we take for granted; and the friends and family that took a virtual journey with us."

They have another big trip planned for this coming summer. Carlus sketched out the itinerary, saying, "We are planning a May-June trip. We plan on leaving Virginia in May and ride the Natchez Trace from Memphis to Natchez, Mississippi. Then to Louisiana for my family's Breland Family Reunion, then on to Houston and San Antonio, Texas, to visit family, the Alamo and the River Walk."

They'll visit Dallas-Fort Worth, Missouri (for a nephew's wedding), Pennsylvania (for Donita's family reunion), "then back home to Virginia," Carlus said. "The trip will probably run about six weeks or so and cover about 6,000 miles. We are flexible with no set agenda."

They are adding a trailer (hot pink with ghost Minnie Mouse images, of course) to Minnie's trike to ease the challenges of loading and unloading cargo. On their big 2011 trip, they each had T-bags that could weight as much as 80 pounds when loaded and were daunting to transport to and from the bikes.

When they ride, Minnie leads and Carlus follows, enjoying the ride, the scenery, the experience and the new friends.

"We are truly blessed to share our lives together doing something we both enjoy," he said. "If you see a cute little blonde on a hot pink trike pulling a hot pink trailer followed by a happy old guy on a custom Vegas Jackpot, chances are that's my love and me – Minnie & Me!"





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Keywords: Vegas, Cruisers, Jackpot



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SHOP ACCESSORIES



CUSTOMIZE



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- CRUISER MOTORCYCLES
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- JACKPOT
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- CHOOSE A MOTORCYCLE
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- VICTORY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
- DEMO TOUR
- STURGIS 2013
- AVR 2013

SERVICE & SUPPORT

- PARTS CATALOG
- OWNERS MANUALS

MY ACCOUNT

- SIGN IN
- CREATE ACCOUNT
- MY CART

CONNECT

- SIGN UP FOR UPDATES
- CONTACT US
- VICTORY RIDERS APP
- BECOME A DEALER

FOLLOW US

TOURING MOTORCYCLES

VISION TOUR

CROSS COUNTRY TOUR

15TH ANNIVERSARY CROSS
COUNTRY TOUR

FACTORY CUSTOM PAINT

8-BALL MOTORCYCLES

