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It started a little more than a year ago with a suggestion and a few casual conversations. The plan to turn this expedition into a road trip took form through late night texts and raucous phone conferences and plenty of “What if we did this?!” and “That could work!” comments. As the passenger list grew to capacity and the trip planning got more intense, the road trip began to take on a life of its own, which is what all good endeavors are supposed to do. The success of Year One made it inevitable that the #QBConnectOrBust road trip would become an annual event.

I’ve been a roadtripper for as long as I can remember. My family wasn’t much for vacations – we would drive to see the grandparents in the summer because they had a cottage on a lake, and it was a full day drive, so my brother and I would climb in the back seat of the car and annoy each other for the entire trip. Our parents tried to encourage us to look out the windows by giving us those little road trip bingo games to play – mark a square if you see a cow or a bus or a construction site. My brother

and I learned quickly that we could occasionally call out, “There’s a water tower!” or

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its own level of camaraderie and entertainment, I also enjoy the solitude of the open highway as the miles stretch ahead and behind me and I can engage in lengthy uninterrupted conversations where the ideas flow just as smoothly as the pavement. I’ve written some of my best articles and large chunks of books on the road, and have of course solved many of the problems of, if not the world, my own humble life.

My children started joining me on road trips at an early age and have continued the tradition on their own. Our own road trip history has been colored by memories of failed car sickness cures, I-wish-I-could-get-this-out-of-my-head bathroom songs, car breakdowns and roadside trauma, uncontrollable laughter, an unusually large number of cats, and glorious memories that will be imprinted on my mind for the rest of my life.

I used to envy other families that would pack their bags, get on a plane, and fly together to some exotic place. Their definition of vacation was nothing like mine. We never actually referred to our family trips as vacations. We just called them rides. We didn’t go to vacation spots, we didn’t see things that tourists travel to see. The ride itself was the vacation – the dedicated time together, the close quarters of the car, the unexpected side trips, the unplanned emergencies, small towns, helpful strangers – I love it all.

And so, as we embark on the second annual #QBConnectOrBust, leaving Palm Springs and heading for the QuickBooks Connect conference in San Jose, we can’t tell you what is in store for us, we only know we’re ready to head north and enjoy the ride.

We hope you’ll follow our antics and join us virtually on our ride on Sunday, November 1, pre-dawn till dusk or however long it takes!

Our hashtag:

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