

NICK KARNAZES

Nick Karnazes epitomizes the modern- day pioneer!

Epic heroes, literature and history are replete with them, they existed before Homer put pen to papyrus and wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey. Our own Lewis and Clark chronicle the spirit requisite to undertake an adventure of that nature. What is beyond those mountains? Why do you want to do it? Because it's there! What unforeseen incidents are going to arise? How do we prepare? Asking all what seem to be the appropriate who, what, when, where and why is preparation in itself. Of course being physically and financially ready doesn't hurt.

Why would anyone undertake to play two rounds of golf in every state in the contiguous United States, that being 48 states and 96 rounds of golf? One round a day is plenty for me, no less two days in a row. Well how about attempting two rounds of golf a day on occasion and getting it all done in 96 days? Oh yeah! And while we're at it why don't we just walk most of them? Nick is no spring chicken either, not quite the octogenarian, but give him credit where credit is due, he does have 55 plus years of experience, walks his home course and just for giggles he got in shape carrying his clubs up and down the beach in San Clemente, in addition to which he carries a respectable handicap. That's the preparation I'm talking about.

What would possess someone to pursue an undertaking of this nature? Well, glad you asked! Nick's son Dean who is the "ultra-marathon" man, has competed in 50 marathons in 50 states in 50 days, participated in numerous 100 mile runs, desert runs, 200 mile relay races without the relay team, set some world record around 300 miles, so I'm thinking he might have had something to do contributing to Nick's inspiration. Of course that's just a guess on my part.

If by some chance I had that kind of ability and endurance and asked the little lady what she thought about me trekking across the continent on a golfing expedition, well we all know what the response would be. She'd have me put in a strait jacket and committed to some asylum for the golfing-impaired. And even if she didn't, I'd probably fold after a few days.

Imagine just the logistics that are involved! There's a map of his route attached and I've gone over it to see if by some chance there is a short cut or two that might have been missed. Maybe he could have gone this way or that way, but the geography and demands of the undertaking dictate this was the most efficient route. A few backtracks were necessary, just the nature of the beast. Okay so there you are in the living room poring over your map of the United States. Now what? Well, here's how Nick explains his approach to mapping out this trek. You take a map of the United States, fold it in half so the crease runs from east to west, plot your courses through the southern states, turn the map over and plot your courses returning from east to west through the northern states. Pretty simple!

Golf courses! Oh that's right are there two courses along this route that can be played each day? One won't do, there need to be two and not too far off the beaten track. What about tee times? If there are tournaments, maintenance or other unforeseen interruptions, that could throw a monkey wrench into the plan. Can you get out first thing in the morning, allowing sufficient time to drive to the next course

on the agenda. What about the second tee time? Will the time required for the first round and driving time to the next course compromise a second round? After the second round, how far is the drive to the next day's round? So Nick contacted the courses, apprised them of his itinerary and was pretty much prepared in the tee time category.

Driving! And we're not talking about that big club in your bag, the Volkswagen on a stick. Checking the map there are some sizeable jumps between each days round. There has to be a good deal of focus in order to concentrate on driving the next leg. Getting behind the wheel after walking two rounds of golf and already having done some driving between rounds would definitely take the starch out of me and then having to put in a couple hundred more miles. Wow! Okay! So I find driving relaxing and get the opportunity to see this great country of ours. Is there a cold one at the end of the round? But no! Where are we going next? So how do we get there? A big box of AAA maps, a three ring binder full of Map quest printouts, GPS capability in the vehicle. You know where you're going, it's just a question of how do I get there?

Wherever you are, well, that's where you are! But now that I'm here where do I put my head down to rest. Well, having a 24-foot Winnebago significantly cuts down on the overnight accommodation expense. An experienced RV traveler knows where to look for the best deals or where to stay for free. Wal Mart parking lots were mentioned, but I'm thinking Elks Club, VFW and other fraternal groups could occasionally make good substitutions for RV parks. Knowing these places exist everywhere is good, but if the rodeo or some other event is in town, flying by the seat of your pants may not be the best idea. So knowing beforehand where to go is another logistical imperative.

All retirees are familiar with the philosophy, "It is our obligation to spend our children's inheritance". Consequently a pilgrimage of this proportion and money are not an issue. Green fees are covered as well as gasoline, campground fees, and other sustenance costs. You can't push down on that big pedal unless you've got the expenses covered. Nick was very fortunate in that the Calloway Golf Company people became his sponsor, setting him up with clubs, balls, bag, other gear and a Happy Golfer web site. He became a virtual celebrity being interviewed and making appearances by various newspapers, radio and television stations. Keeping hole by hole statistics is incredibly diligent, but something a good golfer probably does. The extent of my statistics would be a shoebox with the collection of the scorecards from each course.

Coincidental to the golf are the people you meet. The San Clemente Journal article suggested this was perhaps the most pleasant part of his trip. Golf people are without a doubt what make for a terrific experience when golfing on the road. Nick has the ability to recall the courses, people and particular experiences, whereas my mind is like a steel sieve, everything needs to be committed to a notebook. Everyone is proud of his community and provide a never-ending flow of suggestions for local sights, history, restaurants, and just innumerable pleasantries. When you have friends, Army buddies, class mates, relatives across the country it makes the excuse for a golf trip even more rewarding.

I'm not an addict! I'm not an addict! I'm not an addict! Well guess what? You're probably an addict! But being able to service that addiction with just one more round of golf is fulfilling. Just one more

round and I promise I'll quit! And of course suffering from golf addiction probably implies there are plenty of enablers around to see you stay on the wagon, or on the course, as the case may be. There are the occasions when we swear "Stupid game! I quit! I'm never playing this stupid game again!" But just like our old governor Arnold used to say in his Austrian accent, "I'll be back"! And there we are in the pro shop, anteing up for just one more round. Nick is going to do it again! I'm going to play every course in America! Addiction! What addiction! Here is the itinerary of Nick Karnazes, a truly one of a kind pioneering golfer, check him out on Google or go to happygolfer.wordpress.com

Oh, just as an aside, he actually played 108 rounds of golf on his 96 day epic venture.



3-22-10	Cerbat Cliff, Kingman, AZ	4-14-10	Broadwater, Biloxi, MS
3-23-10	Craig Ranch, Las Vegas NV		Dogwood Hills, Biloxi, MS
3-24-10	Oasis, Mesquite, NV	4-15-10	Azalea City, Mobile, AL
	Green Springs, Washington, UT	4-16-10	Quail Creek, Fairhope, AL
3-25-10	St George Muni, St. George, UT	4-17-10	Solutia, Cantonment, FL
3-26-10	Lake Powell, Page, AZ	4-18-10	Osceola, Pensacola, FL
3-27-10	Conquistador, Cortez, CO	4-19-10	Augusta Muni, Augusta, GA
3-28-10	Hillcrest, Durango, CO		Cherokee Run, Conyers, GA
3-29-10	Los Alamos, Los Alamos, NM	4-20-10	Northwoods, Columbia, SC
3-30-10	Pueblo de Cochiti, Cochiti Lake, NM	4-21-10	Linrick, Columbia, SC
3-31-10	Ross Rogers, Amarillo, TX	4-22-10	Pawtucket, Charlotte, NC
4-01-10	Silverton, Oklahoma City, OK	4-23-10	Blair Park, High Point, NC
	Cedar Valley, Guthrie, OK		Pete Dye, Radford, VA
4-02-10	Tex Consolver, Wichita, KS	4-24-10	Pete Dye River, Radford, VA
4-03-10	Sim Park, Wichita, KS	4-25-10	Countryside, Roanoke, VA
4-04-10	Horton Smith, Springfield, MO	4-26-10	Lewisburg Elks, Lewisburg, WV
4-05-10	Rivercut, Springfield, MO	4-27-10	Cacapon Resort, Berkeley, WV
4-06-10	Arrowhead, Cadiz, KY	4-28-10	Beaver Creek, Hagerstown, MD

4-07-10	Boots Randolph, Cadiz, KY	4-29-10	Brantwood, Elkton, MD
4-08-10	Links at Audubon, Memphis, TN	4-30-10	Play Rock, Wilmington, DE
4-09-10	T. O. Fuller, Memphis, TN		Green Hill, Wilmington, DE
4-10-10	Forrest City, Forrest City, AR	5-01-10	Howell Park, Howell Twp, NJ
4-11-10	Longhill, Benton, AZ	5-02-10	Weequahie, Newark, NJ
4-12-10	Oakwing, Alexandria, LA	5-03-10	Oak Hills, Norwalk, CT
4-13-10	LSU, Baton Rouge, LA	5-04-10	Hunter, Meridan, CT
5-05-10	Cranston CC, Cranston, RI	5-28-10	Delbrook, Delavan, WI
	Melody Hills, Chepachet, RI	5-29-10	Bunker Hill, Dubuque, IA
5-06-10	Brookmeadow, Canton, MA	5-30-10	Waterloo Muni, Waterloo, IA
5-07-10	Norwood, Norwood, MA	5-31-10	Rose Lake, Fairmont, MN
5-08-10	Salmon Falls, Hollis, ME	6-01-10`	Prairie View, Worthington, MN
5-09-10	Val Halla, Cumberland, ME	6-02-10	Elmwood, Sioux Falls, SD
5-10-10	Sagamore, North Hampton, NH	6-03-10	Prairie Green, Sioux Falls, SD
5-11-10	Bretwood, Keene, NH	6-04-10	Wayne CC, Wayne, NB
5-12-10	Mt. Anthony, Bennington, VT	6-05-10	Deer Park, Valentine, NB
	Haystack, Wilmington, VT	6-06-10	Cottonwood, Torrington, WY
5-13-10	Western Tpk. Guilderland, NY	6-07-10	Douglas, Douglas, WY
5-14-10	Afton, Afton, NY	6-08-10	travel
5-15-10	Wilkes-Barre, Wilkes-Barre, PA	6-09-10	travel
5-16-10	Castle Hills, New Castle, PA	6-10-10	Heart River, Dickinson, ND
5-17-10	visit relatives Akron, OH	6-11-10	Riverwood, Bismark, ND
5-18-10	Firestone, Akron, OH	6-12-10	travel
5-19-10	Grantwood, Salon, OH	6-13-10	Black Bull Run, Bozeman, MT
5-20-10	Giant Oak, Temperance, MI	6-14-10	travel
5-21-10	St. Joe Valley, Sturgis, MI	6-15-10	Larchmont, Missoula, MT
5-22-10	Beechwood, La Porte, IN	6-16-10	Highlands, Post Falls, ID
5-23-10	Erskine Park, South Bend, IN	6-17-10	Coeur D'Alene, ID
5-24-10	visit family	6-18-10	Indian Canyon, Spokane, WA
5-25-10	Glenview Park, Glenview, IL	6-19-10	Hangman Valley, Spokane, WA
5-26-10	Wilmette, Wilmette, IL	6-20-10	travel
5-27-10	Bristol Oaks, Bristol, WI	6-21-10	Rivers Edge, Bend, OR
6-22-10	Mountain High, Bend, OR		
6-23-10	Lake Shastina, Weed, Or		
6-24-10	travel		
6-25-10	Gold Hills, Redding, CA		

