

Karen- My wife makes me happy by being generous enough to marry a guy like me. She listens to me even when I talk gibberish and does her best to pay attention...it must be difficult at times. She loves me for who I am and respects my opinions and suggestions. We both love to hike, exercise, travel, play Scrabble, eat Mexican food, and basically just enjoy life to its fullest. We have so much in common and being able to do these things with her is the highlight of my life.

Hiking/Camping- Being outdoors is akin to seeing the greatest wonders of the universe come to life right in front of you. The smell of the fresh air and the crunch of leaves under my feet as I make my way to that special spot. It's the taste of half-burnt hotdogs and a Pringle duck sighting while sitting by the comforting warmth of a self-made campfire. It's a conversation with family that brings back the wonderful feeling of freedom and childhood explorations, or the sparkle of the stars far away in the night.

Motorcycles: There is a quote that sums up my love for motorcycles of all types, it reads: *"Four wheels move the body two wheels move the soul."* It is the exhilaration of a thousand moments all compressed into the excitement of moving steadily down the road, across a field, or down a broken trail. Riding my motorcycles allows me to take all the pressures of the day and leave them skidding helplessly down the harsh asphalt highways that permeate across my imagination. It's the sound of the engine the feel of wind across my chest, and a sense of euphoria that is difficult to explain but easily experienced.

Bicycles: Bicycles have been a mode of transportation for over a hundred years and with few exceptions their shape and basic design has stayed the same. It is a simple machine, you pedal, you move. However, what it does for the body and the mind can be more difficult to calculate. Perhaps it's the movement of the legs in tune with the satisfaction of knowing that you are propelled forwards only because of your own effort. Maybe it's the freedom in being able to travel fairly large distances with relative ease or of conquering a large hill that has given you fear before. To me it's all of these things plus, it helps me to stay fit mentally and physically as well as a way to meet more and more people with the same interest as I.

Reuben Sandwich: The Reuben is a culinary masterpiece. The smell of the slow roasted corn beef mingling with fresh sauerkraut all tied together with a thousand-island dressing and topped with rye bread is something that most definitely must be experienced. Even before I take the first bite I am transfixed by the majestic simplicity of this heavenly treat. The flavor ties my taste buds in knots and fulfills both my spirit and my soul. It is a sandwich and an experience like no other...it is awesomeness personified.

Writing: Being able to put the thoughts and millions of frantic imaginations alive within my head into words is a sensation that truly makes me happy. I love being able to transform a character from a thought into a palpable solid figure with feelings and emotions. To give myself, and others, a feeling of understanding and a

sense of awe, brings me type of joy that over-fills my spirit and helps me to understand both myself, and the world around me.

Golf: Mark Twain once wrote: "Golf is a lovely walk spoiled by a little white ball." On many levels he was correct, but along with the cuss words and money associated with a myriad of bad shots, the lure of the game is the fact that it is you versus the greens. I love the feeling of the clubface perfectly connecting with the ball, sending it flying effortlessly towards the carpeted green just out of my reach.

Puppies: Most babies, of any kind, are cute, but it is the puppy that brings the most joy to my heart. It is the loyal obedience and unconditional love, which is rolled up in a fluffy and playful four legged little body, complete with cold nose and wiggly butt that makes me laugh and calms my spirit.

Traveling: Oh the life of the traveler. It's the ability to see the world and its cultures without the glass of the television or the smudged pages of book. To touch the sands of the great deserts, witness the splendor of the Grand Canyon, see the manmade marvels in the Big Apple, or dip your hands in the warm waters of the Pacific. I enjoy talking with people from different areas of the world and understanding other's points-of-view and cultural differences. Traveling makes me feel a part of this huge world and keeps me from being isolated in thought and actions.

Derek: My friend Derek is about the best friend a person could ask for. He accepts me for who I am, would do anything to help me, and is a person I would trust with my life. Derek and I have a lot in common from motorcycles, camping, hiking, and scuba diving, to bad movie quotes, Little Caesar's Pizza, and feeding raccoons. A song by Randy Travis sums us up pretty well: *"There are two things that will last 'til the end, one is your heroes the other your friends."*

Freedom: One of the most disrespected and unappreciated things we have, in this great country of ours, is personal freedom. If I want I can travel from state to state, share my opinions and concerns with others, run for public office, and vote...all while not being threatened with death or harm of any sort. This is a novelty that many places on earth could only dream of, but here we have it. The pride I have in calling myself an American can only be equaled by the happiness it gives me to actually understand and appreciate what that word means. Without freedom there is no happiness...I am happy.