RV Consumer e-Magazine

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Issue 1

RV Education 101

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RV 2013 Edition

out with the OLD &
in with the NEW

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**Mark’s Next Big Project**
Now that the old Yellowstone restoration project is complete Mark went looking for something to tow the trailer with.

**Time to go to an RV Show**
It’s RV show season, and a great time to buy and save on an RV. Learn some tips & tricks to help with your next RV purchase.

**Out with the Old & in with the New RV 2013**
Take an inside look at the 2013 RVs from two of the largest RV shows in the country.

**Camping Recipe: Watermelon Caprese Salad**
I thought you might enjoy a taste of summer to help get you through the cold winter months. Check out a great summer camping recipe for next camping season from *The Cooking Ladies*.

**Editor’s Desk**

**RV Quick Tips**
Whether you plan to buy, or just look, get some RV quick tips so you’re ready for the winter RV show season.

**RV Product Spotlight**
Learn a quick and easy way to add a splash of color to your RV’s exterior with LED light kits by Dometic.
How will you Remember your travels?

The laptop we would’ve used to keep in touch with the kids.

The guy from Ed’s Towing. Spent three hours with him.

Cook’s Field, the week after we missed the Bluegrass Festival.

Not all insurance is equal. Just because you have your RV insured, doesn’t mean your whole RV experience is covered. Things like personal effects coverage, vacation liability, and towing expenses are frequently left out of other carriers’ policies. But at Explorer RV, we believe it’s more than just your RV we’re covering. It’s the travels, the good times, the memories. Visit us online to learn more or to get a quote.

PROTECTING YOUR RV. PROTECTING YOUR MEMORIES.
Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was wonderful, and that you had the opportunity to enjoy it with friends and family.

We are looking forward to a new and exciting year in the world of RVs. During the last quarter of 2012 I had the opportunity to attend both the PA. RV & Camping Show and the 50th National RV Trade Show. To say the least I was curious to get an indication of where the state of the RV industry was, and where it is going. I am happy to report that every thing I saw and heard at both shows was encouraging for the future of the RV industry.

General Motors invited me to attend the North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) in mid-January to take a look at their truck line-up. I’ll report back on what I see in next month’s issue.

We wish you a prosperous New Year and a great 2013 camping season. Mark

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“Our heartfelt condolences & prayers go out to the parents, relatives and friends of the innocent children and adults who were killed in the senseless tragedy in Newtown Connecticut. God bless the families and the community of Newtown.” ~ Mark Polk
RV Education 101 has a new RV video site designed to help educate you on RV how-to topics, RV products, RV tips and much more.

With over 90 informative RV videos RV101.TV is your #1 RV video source on the web. The videos are grouped by category covering every RV topic imaginable, so it’s easy to find what you are looking for or what you want to learn more about.

When you visit the site just click on the video category you are interested in to start watching and learning right now.

Learn about your RV the easy way at RV101.TV
Call me a for glutton for punishment because I did it again. Most of you are probably aware of the “Mark’s RV Garage” series we produced, in which the highlighted feature was a vintage trailer restoration project. After completing the grueling 7-month long project I told myself never again.

Well “never again” lasted approximately 15 months! After finishing the trailer project I started thinking how cool it would be to find a vintage truck from the same era to tow the 1967 Yellowstone. At first it was merely a fleeting thought, but then I ran across something on Craigslist that I just had to go see. All the stars were aligned! It was a truck model I really liked, it was within a couple hours drive, and the price was reasonable (especially after some serious negotiation.) I was a product of the muscle car era, growing up in auto body shops and in the garage at my dad’s car lot.

My choice in muscle cars was always Mopar; Road Runners, Chargers, Coronets and everything in between. I am also an avid truck enthusiast, and my favorite classic truck is the Dodge Power Wagon.

Needless to say when I saw an ad for this 71 Power Wagon I knew I was getting myself into another major project. We won’t be filming this restoration project but I do plan to post a build thread at one of our blogs.

My goal with the truck is to keep the restoration affordable. I plan to take the truck and trailer to some RV and auto shows, but my main goal is to drive it. Hopefully I will be able to show you the end result before 2014 gets here. I am happy to announce that Equal-i-zer® Hitch will be a sponsor for the truck build project. Whenever I tow a trailer I use an Equalizer Sway Control Hitch. With its built in 4-point sway control it is the best performing sway control hitch on the market, and it’s made in America.
Great Place to Conduct Research
For the buyer RV shows put everything you need to see and learn about RV’s under one roof, making it the ideal forum to conduct research and make informed RV buying decisions.

Locate a reputable RV Dealer
Remember, you’re at the show to check out the dealer as well as the product and you should plan to visit the RV dealer’s physical location before you buy. If at all possible talk to some other people who have dealt with the dealership in the past.

Avoid making a Hasty Decision
There are some great deals offered at RV shows and with all of the excitement, and a good salesperson, it’s easy to make a hasty purchase. If they can offer a great deal at the show, chances are they can offer a great deal after the show, unless the offer included a manufacturer discount or rebate for show dates only. Let them know you might be interested in a particular unit or deal, but you want to visit the dealership before you buy.

Compare Apples to Apples
There is a lot of ground to cover at an RV show and a wealth of information available. Not only will you find a good selection of RV dealers to check out, but there will be every make and model of RV imaginable too. RV shows are a great place to do some comparison shopping. Keep in mind that RV’s are available in entry, mid-line, and high-end models. When comparing prices, make sure it is apples to apples. One RV may look like another one, but you need to compare the options, construction, equipment and features they both have to offer..
Q: I'm looking at a Keystone Bullet 5th wheel GVWR of 6267 lbs. My f150 is a 2007, 2x4 reg. cab with 4.2L engine, truck has a 8’ bed. Is this an unsafe 5th wheel for my truck?

A: The Ford Towing Guide lists the 2007 Ford F-150 2X4 regular cab, with a 4.2 L V6 at a 5,500 pound max towing capacity.

If the Keystone trailer were loaded to its max GVWR of 6,267 the truck would definitely be overweight, and unsafe in my opinion. There are other factors that need to be considered too, like the pin or hitch weight and the Gross Combined Weight Rating which I don’t have available. But it is already, more-than-likely, a poor match.

One quick and easy way to start your search for a trailer is to find one that has a GVWR equal too or less than your trucks max towing capacity. This way, even if the trailer is fully loaded it will not exceed the truck’s tow capacity.

To stay current with what’s happening in the world of RVs between magazine issues visit our Blog. We post informative RV tips and information a couple times per week. There is also an option to follow the Blog via e-mail. Just look on the right sidebar and when you sign up you’ll be notified each time we make a post.

RV Quick Tip

An easy way to determine how much a vehicle can tow is to subtract the vehicle’s curb weight from its Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR). Don’t forget to subtract the weight of any aftermarket equipment, passengers and cargo added to the vehicle as well.

For more information check out our Tow Like a Pro DVD
NEW DVD Box Set

Subscriber’s Special

Introductory OFFER

Our holiday introductory offer went over so well we decided to extend it for the month of January. Get the brand new Mark’s RV Garage 4-DVD Box Set for only $39.95 +S&H. That’s $10 off the regular retail pricing.

After numerous requests to put the Mark’s RV Garage series on DVD we decided to move forward with the project. The entire 17 episode series is now available as a 4-DVD set.
It's Time to go to an RV Show

RV shows, like boat shows, are intended to introduce the new model year RVs, and to help disseminate RV related information to the consumer. RV shows are normally scheduled during the slower time of the year, the winter months, to help jump start the RV dealer’s selling season. RV dealers from miles away will bring their wares to these shows. For the buyer, RV shows put everything you need to see and learn about RV’s under one roof, making it the ideal environment to conduct research and make informed RV buying decisions.

I mentioned that RV dealers will come from miles around. This includes many local dealers from the area in which you live. If at all possible try to find a dealer that is within a reasonable distance from where you live. This will make it much easier to get service and warranty work completed on the unit. But, the most important concern here is that you deal with a reputable RV dealership.

When you attend an RV show don’t be afraid to ask questions about the RV dealership and the products they offer. For starters you need to find a reputable RV dealer with a reputable, professional staff. A reputable dealer wants your business and they want you to return to them for future business. I have been in many RV dealerships that I wouldn’t hesitate to do business with and I have been in others that I couldn’t leave soon enough.

Remember, you’re at the show to check out the dealer as well as the product and you should plan to visit the RV dealer’s physical location before you buy. If at all possible talk to some other people who have dealt with the dealership in the past. Don’t be afraid to ask them to give you a tour of the dealership. Look at the service department. Do they have certified technicians? Do they have the capability and facilities to do routine maintenance and warranty work on the units they sell? Look at the Parts and Accessory department. Do they offer a good selection of parts and accessories? Do they have a good selection of RVs to choose from? How long have they been selling certain manufacturer brands? How long have they been in business?
There are some great deals offered at RV shows and with all of the excitement, and a good salesperson, it's easy to make a hasty purchase. If they can offer a great deal at the show, chances are they can offer a great deal after the show, unless the offer includes a manufacturer discount or rebate for show dates only. Let them know you might be interested in a particular unit or deal, but that you would like to visit the dealership before you buy.

RV shows aren’t just for RV dealers to showcase their products. RV shows are a great source for information from knowledgeable representatives on every aspect of the RV industry. You will find information on campgrounds and RV resorts, aftermarket RV products, RV accessories and free RV seminars. Some of these seminars might be helpful in making your RV buying decisions. Check with the show office on seminar topics and times.

There is a lot of ground to cover at an RV show and a wealth of information available. Not only will you find a good selection of RV dealers to check out, but there will be every make and model of RV imaginable too. RV shows are a great place to do some comparison shopping. Keep in mind that RVs are available in entry, mid-line, and high-end models. When comparing prices, make sure it is apples to apples. One RV may look like another one, but you need to compare the options, construction, equipment and features they both have to offer.

See who offers the best deal but remember if the dealership goes out of business next month, or isn’t equipped to work on the RV, your best deal may turn out to be a bad deal.

RV shows are also a good place to talk to RV manufacturer representatives and other industry experts. Many of the RV manufacturers send knowledgeable representatives to assist RV dealers with their products. Don’t be afraid to talk with other RVers at the show too. Many of these people have years of RV experience and knowledge of different RV products.

Buying an RV is a major decision. To make the best buying decision possible you need to do your research and be well informed. So what are you waiting for? Find out when the next RV show will be in your area and make it a point to attend it. Oh, and don’t forget to wear some comfortable walking shoes!

Find show in your area now

To help you get started in your search for the perfect RV check out our Introduction to RVs DVD.
In the News

From: GE Capital Commercial Distribution Finance

RV Industry Sales to Increase in 2013, according to survey

Four years after the height of the economic downturn, participants in the recreational vehicle industry in the U.S. and Canada believe they’re heading in the right direction, according to survey results released today by GE Capital's Commercial Distribution Finance (CDF) business. Forty-three percent of survey respondents said they expect sales to increase by 5-10 percent in 2013, and 27 percent were most optimistic about consumer demand going into next year, according to a press release from CDF. Read More

SOURCE: NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation

Forest River Recalls 2,200 units for Trailer Wheels

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Forest River, Inc. is recalling 2,200 model year 2011 and 2012 trailers manufactured from Aug. 11, 2011, through April 11, 2012, equipped with Carlisle Toy Hauler series trailer wheels. These wheels were manufactured with machine dimensions for the application of a center cap and the application of steel lug inserts that were not controlled to the required specifications. As a result, the wheel may not be tightened to the proper torque during the mounting process. Read More

Note from Mark: It is my opinion that we, as stewards of the land, are responsible for protecting and ensuring our national & state parks are left the way we found them for future generations. I find it disgusting that this is where our local & federal governments cut the budget to make up for the ridiculous deficits and poor planning it is responsible for in the first place. All this talk of the fiscal cliff has national park advocates worried about cliffs of the more scenic variety, including some within an easy day's drive of Las Vegas, reports the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The National Park Service could face devastating cuts under either a last-minute budget deal or automatic reductions to take effect if a deal can't be struck, said Lynn Davis, the senior program manager in Nevada for the National Parks Conservation Association, told the newspaper. Read More

By RV Daily Report

National Parks Bracing for Cuts

All this talk of the fiscal cliff has national park advocates worried about cliffs of the more scenic variety, including some within an easy day's drive of Las Vegas, reports the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The National Park Service could face devastating cuts under either a last-minute budget deal or automatic reductions to take effect if a deal can't be struck, said Lynn Davis, the senior program manager in Nevada for the National Parks Conservation Association, told the newspaper. Read More
New technology keeps improving the vehicles we depend on to tow our trailers, whether for work or play. There are all the usual factors that affect tow ratings like engine size, transmission, wheelbase, axle ratio, brakes, cooling systems, towing packages and more, but today’s truck manufacturers have taken consumer safety and the truck’s towing capabilities to a new level.

Take Chevrolet for instance. On Silverado HD model trucks features like a fully boxed frame, huge precision-machined forged upper control arms and torsion bars in the suspension, diesel exhaust braking, auto grade braking, automatic locking rear differential, tow/haul mode and Stabilitrak with trailer sway control all contribute to safer and better towing capabilities.

When you combine these features with a Duramax 6.6L Turbo-Diesel V8 engine and 6-speed Allison automatic transmission, with 397 horsepower and 765 lb.-ft. of torque, or the 360-horsepower Vortec™ 6.0L V8 gas engine you are ready to tackle just about any towing task you are confronted with.

I recently ran across some helpful towing tip videos from Chevrolet that I thought might be helpful to those of you who tow travel trailers & 5th wheel trailers.

Enjoy the videos

Chevrolet Silverado Towing Tips:

- Parking Tips
- Passing Tips
- Turning Tips
- Loading Tips

Take a minute to check out the 2013 Chevy truck line-up

Get your free RV Insurance Quote
RV shipments have been on the rise and this upward trend is expected to continue in 2013. That’s good news for the RV industry, RV owners and RV enthusiasts. There are lots of new and improved RVs and RV products coming out this year, so sit back relax and let’s have a look.

Although there were lots of big 5th wheel trailers and motorhomes on display I think the common trend was smaller, lighter units. There were lightweight and ultra-light travel trailers, 5th wheel trailers and toy haulers everywhere you looked.

Among the lightest trailers were the tear drop style which are gaining in consumer popularity.

This AXXESS ultra-light toy hauler had ‘chrome look’ sidewalls!

Most of the tear drop style trailers offer sleeping arrangements and limited cooking facilities.
For the adventurous types there was this BOSS (Bug Out Survival Shelter) trailer to get away from it all!

All aluminum framing, like this Livin Lite trailer frame is one way of keeping trailer weight down.

It used to be almost every trailer manufactured had white sidewalls with some graphics added to dress it up a bit. Now you are seeing more bright colors used on the exterior of RVs. Let me show you what I’m talking about.

Winnebago added a splash of color!

I even saw this camouflaged Trailer designed To transport dogs.

Looking for a used RV? Check out RV Classified Ads

Get more K9 transport information
There were countless other lightweight and ultra-lightweight travel trailers and 5th wheel trailers on display. Literally rows and rows to choose from.

There were big and small motorized RVs displayed at both shows, but it seemed to me the trend again was lighter and smaller. Some of the motor homes built on the Sprinter chassis are boasting fuel economy in the high teens. That’s better mileage than I get with my truck. Let’s take a closer look.

Here’s a quick look at how an RV starts using the Sprinter chassis.

Helpful RV Buying Guides
There are even extended versions of the Sprinter chassis. This one barely fit in the camera lens.

Here is a snapshot of some of the larger RVs on display.

Big Toy haulers like this Voltage model and big 5th wheel trailers

Like this Open Range (top) & Landmark (below)

The Fleetwood American Coach line
I remember the early 90s when slide-outs in RVs started becoming more popular. Manufacturers were perfecting the technology, and it gave the consumer what they wanted, more interior living space.

Well they never looked back. The single slide-out has evolved into multiple slide-outs, full wall slide-outs and slide-outs in places I never thought possible. Let’s stay a look at some modern day slide-outs.

This Spartan concept chassis is called the Extol and will be powered by a 430 HP and 512 lb.-ft. of torque 8.8Liter engine developed in cooperation with Power Solutions International, Inc. Watch out Ford, you might have some healthy competition before you know it.

Did you Know?
Ford announced that demand for its F53 chassis has risen unexpectedly. After producing only 4,000 in 2011 and forecasting 7,000 for 2012 they built more than 9,500 last year. Ford projects 2013 numbers to exceed 12,500. More good news for the RV industry, and our economy.
One of my favorites is the full wall slide-out. I must admit when it first came out a thought the weight combined with several electric motors would create problems, but it has stood the test of time. Very cool!

I mentioned multiple slide-outs. It’s not uncommon to see five slide-outs on one RV. Three on one side and two on the other side. This is becoming common practice on large 5th wheel trailers and large motorhomes.

Manufacturers are using canvas to extend the living space in truck campers, hybrid travel trailers and ultra light weight trailers and this technology even crossed over to Type B motorhomes (pictured above).

The pop top on truck campers makes them lighter and more aerodynamic while traveling, and increases the interior living space when camping.

Canvas adds to the living space in pop up trailers, ultra-lightweights and hybrid travel trailers like this Starcraft model.
Slide-outs Everywhere!

How about a bathroom slide-out?

Or a fireplace slide-out

We’ve seen bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, living room, patio and roof top slide-outs. What will be next?

Something else that keeps getting better is the interior of RVs. There were some on display that you had to remove your shoes to enter. Not sure if I would call that camping!

It looks like 2013 will be another exciting year for RVs. ~ RV101
For over 50 years the Equal-i-zer® hitch has been providing safe towing for families.

The Equal-i-zer hitch’s superior design makes it the best performing sway control hitch on the market. Four steel on steel friction points (known as 4-Point Sway Control™) and excellent weight distribution – provide unmatched resistance to your trailer’s attempts to sway. That’s the premium performance that keeps families safe, and the premium performance that keeps owners recommending the Equal-i-zer hitch to their friends.

Tell all of your friends.

“Last year I moved cross-country...across Alaska...to the East coast. [The Equal-i-zer hitch] performed flawlessly through the mountains, on the open road...and even in the tightest of campsites. I have told all my friends they need this hitch for their towing.”

- Devin T., Georgia

Get Superior Sway Control - Get the Original Equal-i-zer® Sway Control Hitch.
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BARGAIN ROOM
RV Product Spotlight

by Mark Polk

LED lighting is gaining popularity in use for RV interior and exterior lighting, and for good reason: LED or light-emitting diode technology uses less energy, lasts longer, emits less heat and is durable and more aesthetically pleasing to the eye than other types of RV lighting.

In this video Mark demonstrates some revolutionary Dometic LED light kits that are a fun and innovative way to enhance the exterior lighting on your RV.

Play Video
We had heard amazing stories about the Going-to-the-Sun Road in Glacier National Park in Montana. There is a KOA a short distance from the east entrance and another KOA near the west entrance to the park. Tour busses and limos are available for the drive up the alpine mountain spine but we wanted to do it in our towed car. The road has a vehicle length restriction of 21 feet and a width restriction of 8 feet.

The outside temperature dropped quickly as we climbed Going-to-the-Sun. A thick blanket of snow draped over the rocks. The road had only been open for one day when we arrived. It was mid July, the earliest that road crews could get in to clear the winter snow. A stone wall kept us from going where we shouldn’t. The road was paved. Water from melting snow trickled down rock faces. The sun shone on snow-covered mountain peaks. Purple flowers poked out of crevices. Unexpectedly, a small waterfall splashed right onto the car and then, as we came out of a curve, emerald-green glacial water crashed down from the rocks high above, streamed under the road, and thundered to the river below.

At Logan Pass, the halfway mark for the Going-to-the-Sun Road, snow banks towered around the Visitors Center. Quite an experience when most of the United States and Canada was having a heat wave. We enjoyed the recipe below when we arrived, making the journey even more of a treat.

This variation on the caprese salad is one of our favorite, refreshing summer recipes. An alternative method is to cube the watermelon and the fresh mozzarella and toss them in a bowl with strips of fresh basil. Drizzle balsamic glaze over top. Balsamic glaze is available in the

By Phyllis Hinz and Lamont Mackay
grocery store. It is thicker and sweeter than regular balsamic vinegar. The recipe ingredients can be prepared a few hours ahead and refrigerated in separate containers until ready to assemble. Only prepare as much of the watermelon and cheese for the number of portions required.

Ingredients
1 mini seedless round watermelon
1 fresh mozzarella cheese ball
1 bunch large fresh basil leaves, whole or cut into strips
1 bottle of balsamic glaze

Directions
Cut a slice of watermelon 1/2-inch thick. Cut the slice into quarters to form triangles. Remove the rind from the triangles. Place the triangles on individual salad plates or on a large plate for sharing.

Cut a slice of fresh mozzarella 1/2-inch thick. Cut the mozzarella slice in half, if necessary, to fit the size of the watermelon triangle. Place one mozzarella slice on each watermelon triangle.

Drizzle the balsamic glaze over the mozzarella. Garnish with basil. Repeat procedure for the number of portions to be served.

Get a printer-friendly version of this recipe

For 20 years, Phyllis Hinz and Lamont Mackay were successful food service entrepreneurs. The sudden death of a young business partner forced Phyllis and Lamont to realize there should be more to life than working seven days a week. They sold their businesses, their houses and almost all of their possessions, bought a motorhome and set out on the highways and back roads of North America to see where life would take them. For 14 years, The Cooking Ladies, as Phyllis and Lamont are affectionately known, have combined their appetite for adventure with a quest to meet new people, see new places, sample new foods and create recipes. Today, Phyllis and Lamont are enthusiastic RVers, magazine columnists, cookbook authors, travel writers photographers, TV personalities, lifestyle and culinary event speakers, and restaurant consultants. To learn more about them or download their best-selling e-cookbooks, visit thecookingladies.com.

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RV Education 101 Learning RVs the Easy Way

2013 Media Kit
Our goal with RV Consumer E-Magazine is to provide you with helpful information to make all of your RV experiences more enjoyable. I left my position as an RV Sales and F&I manager in 2000 to start RV Education 101.

We produce RV educational videos & DVDs and publish books and e-books on how to safely & properly use and maintain your RV. The reason I left my job was because of my concern about the lack of educational and safety awareness material available to the RV consumer, in other words you.

My wife Dawn left her position in RV sales to help start the company, and is our Sales and Marketing Director. We currently have a 35-foot Class A motor home. We have two boys, Tyler 16 and Josh 22, both avid RVers and three dogs, Roxie, Gracie and Buck. If you would like to learn more about us and about RV Education 101 please visit www.rveducation101.com

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