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Be Safe
&
Have Fun

RV Camping
2013

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IN THIS ISSUE

6 E15 Gas Blend Can Harm Vehicles
I ran across a press release on the topic of ethanol gasoline blend E15, and how it might damage millions of vehicles. Read what the PR had to say.

10 RV Safe Driving & Towing Tips
With the 2013 camping season right around the corner I thought it would be good to cover some safe driving and towing tips. Article & Videos

16 RVing in the Cold, yes you can!
My friend, and RV author, Jaimie Hall Bruzenak contributed this article discussing some things you need to know about camping in cold weather.

19 Give your RV a Spring Makeover
My friend and RV author Peggi McDonald offers some great tips and tricks for updating your tired old RV.

31 RV 101 – Battery Basics
Learn how to get the most from your lead acid storage batteries.

DEPARTMENTS

4 Editor’s Desk

13 RV Quick Tips
Some quick tips for getting your RV ready to roll this camping season.

25 Zesty Chicken Bites
Discover another great camping recipe from The Cooking Ladies.

28 RV Product Video Spotlight
How to install a Dirt Devil Central Vacuum System in your RV.
WE CAN’T GUARANTEE
THE SUN WILL SHINE,
GEYSERS WILL SPOUT
OR LEAVES WILL TURN
GOLDEN-RED FOR YOU.

BUT IF YOUR RV BREAKS,
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The 2013 camping season is right around the corner. I can’t wait to de-winterize the RV and prep it for another adventure packed fun-filled camping season.

I was planning some of our RV trips the other day when my son mentioned he would like to take the truck and the Old Yellowstone trailer for a week-long trip on the Blue Ridge Parkway. I honestly can’t think of a better RV trip than 2 adults, 1 teenager and 3 dogs in a 16-foot vintage travel trailer. I love our 35-foot motorhome, but I wouldn’t miss this Blue Ridge Parkway trip for love or money.

Plan all of your 2013 camping trips right now so nothing interferes with the plans later. Set aside the time on your calendar and the money in your budget and go have fun.

Happy Camping in 2013

Mark
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Go Where Your RV Takes You

Bald eagle sited on our way to Yellowstone National Park
I ran across a press release discussing the potential harm ethanol gasoline blend E15 could cause to millions of 2001 and later vehicles. I felt this was an extremely important issue so I am posting the information here.

Tests show E15 use may harm fuel systems in millions of vehicles

WASHINGTON, January 29, 2013 – Use of the ethanol gasoline blend E15 may endanger fuel systems in millions of 2001 and newer vehicles, API Director of Downstream and Industry Operations Bob Greco told reporters this morning, citing newly completed research by the Coordinating Research Council, an organization created and supported by the oil and auto industries. Greco, who said the fuel system failures could lead to vehicle breakdowns, also cited CRC research completed last year that found E15 could damage valve and valve seat engine parts in vehicles: “The additional E15 testing, completed this month, has identified an elevated incidence of fuel pump failures, fuel system component swelling, and impairment of fuel measurement systems in some of the vehicles tested. E15 could cause erratic and misleading fuel gauge readings or cause faulty check engine light illuminations. It also could cause critical components to break and stop fuel flow to the engine. Failure of these components could result in breakdowns that leave consumers stranded on busy roads and highways. Fuel system component problems did not develop in the CRC tests when either E10 or E0 was used. It is difficult to precisely calculate how many vehicles E15 could harm. That depends on how widely it is used and other factors. But, given the kinds of vehicles tested, it is safe to say that millions could be impacted.

In 2010 and 2011, EPA gave the green light to use E15 – the 15 percent ethanol gasoline blend – in model-year-2001-and-later cars and some other vehicles. EPA's action was irresponsible. EPA knew E15 vehicle testing was ongoing but decided not to wait for the results. Why did EPA move forward prematurely? Part of the answer may be the need to raise the permissible concentration level of ethanol so that greater volumes could be used, as required by the federal Renewable Fuel Standard. Most gasoline sold today is an E10 blend, but rising volume requirements under the law can’t be met much longer without going to higher blends.
When Congress passed the law, it could not know it was creating this problem. Today we know. The answer is to repeal the RFS before it puts millions of vehicles and many motorists at risk."

Greco said that automobile manufacturers have told Congress that vehicle warranties will not cover damage due to E15 and that half of all retail station equipment in the country is incompatible with E15, according to a thorough analysis of government and independent research, conducted for API.

API is a national trade association that represents all segments of America’s technology-driven oil and natural gas industry. Its more than 500 members – including large integrated companies, exploration and production, refining, marketing, pipeline, and marine businesses, and service and supply firms – provide most of the nation’s energy. The industry also supports 9.2 million U.S. jobs and 7.7 percent of the U.S. economy, delivers $86 million a day in revenue to our government, and, since 2000, has invested over $2 trillion in U.S. capital projects to advance all forms of energy, including alternatives.  

There was also a press briefing teleconference on the E15 CRC fuel system auto study. Here’s what was said:

Robert Greco, API director, downstream and industry operations Tuesday, January 29, 2013.

Opening Statement:

Good morning everyone. Thanks for calling in.

In 2010 and 2011, EPA gave the green light to use E15 – the 15 percent ethanol gasoline blend – in model-year-2001- and - later cars and some other vehicles. EPA’s action was irresponsible. EPA knew E15 vehicle testing was ongoing but decided not to wait for the results.

A key part of the testing – which was conducted by the Coordinating Research Council (CRC), an organization created and supported by the oil and auto industries – was completed last May. That research demonstrated that E15 could damage valve and valve seat engine parts in some of the tested vehicles, which included a number of common brands.

Now, more CRC research results are available. They conclude that putting E15 in America’s gas tanks could damage millions of vehicles and put motorist safety at risk.

This additional E15 testing, completed this month, has identified an elevated incidence of fuel pump failures, fuel system component swelling, and impairment of fuel measurement systems in some of the vehicles
tested. E15 could cause erratic and misleading fuel gauge readings or cause faulty check engine light illuminations. It also could cause critical components to break and stop fuel flow to the engine. Failure of these components could result in breakdowns that leave consumers stranded on busy roads and highways.

Fuel system component problems did not develop in the CRC tests when either E10 or E0 was used. It is difficult to precisely calculate how many vehicles E15 could harm. That depends on how widely it is used and other factors. But, given the kinds of vehicles tested, it is safe to say that millions could be impacted.

The testing did not include every kind of engine and fuel system in use, so vehicles with different equipment might also be affected.

EPA cited DOE’s E15 research to justify its approval. However, DOE’s research looked only at E15 impacts on vehicle catalysts. While DOE may have checked other vehicle parts, the catalyst test was not designed to accurately test them. The CRC used more robust, widely accepted testing protocols and also tested other vehicles.

EPA also knew that most auto manufacturers recommend use of ethanol blends only up to E10, and nearly all indicate that use of higher blends could affect warranty coverage.

Only in flex fuel vehicles and a few of today’s newest cars has the manufacturer given the o.k. for E15.

The value of the vehicles that CRC testing suggests could be harmed by E15 runs into many billions of dollars. This is a potential cost American motorists would have to shoulder.

Why did EPA move forward prematurely? Part of the answer may be the need to raise the permissible concentration level of ethanol so that greater volumes could be used, as required by the federal Renewable Fuel Standard. Most gasoline sold today is an E10 blend, but rising volume requirements under the law can’t be met much longer without going to higher blends.

When Congress passed the law, it could not know it was creating this problem. Today we know. The answer is to repeal the RFS before it puts millions of vehicles and many motorists at risk.

Repeal also makes sense for other reasons. The world has changed since the RFS was enacted in 2007. Consumer demand for fuels has dropped, while domestic supplies of crude oil have grown dramatically because of the revolution in shale oil and natural gas development in the U.S. This has reduced imports, one of the stated purposes of the RFS.
Moreover, asking for repeal of the RFS is not an indictment of renewable fuels. Ethanol is well established and has desirable blending properties, so there are reasons why America’s refiners would use it with or without the law.

Ironically, EPA’s premature E15 decision could threaten broader use of ethanol and other biofuels. If E15 is used and vehicles are harmed in the way CRC’s research suggests, public support for ethanol and the federal renewable fuels program could erode.

API has sued EPA to force it to change its decision on E15. That case is still before the courts, and we are strongly considering taking it to the Supreme Court.

There are other serious potential problems related to EPA’s decision to force E15 into the marketplace. First, E15 could harm engines for which EPA did not intend it to be used. EPA said it was illegal to use E15 in pre-2001 vehicles or in other internal combustion engines in heavy-duty trucks and buses, motorcycles, in recreational equipment, such as boats, snowmobiles, or in various kinds of agricultural and yard equipment such as chainsaws and weedwackers. However, segregating fuels and educating or warning consumers not to use E15 in these other vehicles and engines will be costly and difficult. And, despite best efforts, some misfuelling will likely occur and could cause damage.

Second, there’s the issue of service station pumps. EPA knew at the time it approved E15 that government labs had raised red flags about the compatibility of E15 with much of the dispensing and storage infrastructure at our nation’s gas stations. E15 in contact with the storage and pumping equipment can cause corrosion leading to spills. Unfortunately, determining which pumps and other infrastructure can accommodate E15 and which can’t is unlikely to be obvious to the thousands and thousands of small businessmen and women who own the vast majority of America’s filling stations.

EPA should pull back its decision on E15. The CRC research shows millions of America’s vehicles aren’t ready for it, and the government should not expose consumers to this problem.

Thank you. The CRC research will be available on its website later this morning, and we’ll make sure you have a copy.

Well there you have it. That is the press release and press briefing on E15.

I guess the consumer will need to make the decision on whether to use E15 or not.

I for one will not be using an E15 blend in any of my vehicles or other gas powered equipment! ~RV101
Camping season is right around the corner and that means lots of folks will be driving their RVs and towing trailers soon. MBA insurance, a leading RV rental insurance company recently informed us that the five most common RV insurance claims include hitting concrete islands at gas pumps, hitting obstacles when making right turns, hitting overhead obstructions, backing the RV into something and side swipe damage to the RV. Today I would like to offer some RV driving tips and hints to help you avoid becoming a statistic when it comes to the top 5 RV insurance claims.

1) **Accidents at the Gas Pump:** The leading insurance claim is hitting concrete islands or poles at the gas pump. [Watch the video](#) posted above to learn how to avoid accidents at the gas pump.

2) **Right Turns:** Making right turns made the list of the top five RV insurance claims for the same reason as gas stations. When you make a right turn in an RV you need to drive out further than you are accustomed to before you start into the turn. If you start to make a right turn too early, before your pivot point clears an object, it can result in hitting an object or driving over a curb. When you make a right turn tail swing applies too. If you are too close to an object on the opposite side of the direction you are turning in your tail swing can hit the object.

3) **Height of RVs:** When you drive your automobile height is not a concern. An average size vehicle can drive through or under any bridge, tunnel, overpass or fast food drive thru that you encounter. When you are driving a motorhome or towing a trailer you need to constantly be aware of heights. It’s not uncommon for RVs to exceed 12 or more feet in height. When you are traveling on back roads an overpass you could easily clear in an automobile can result in serious damage to your RV. I recommend writing the height of the RV down and placing it where it is easy to see as a constant reminder.
4) **Backing the RV**: Backing an automobile is easy because it is small and you can look over your shoulder and see where you are going. This is not possible with a motorhome or trailer. It is larger, you cannot just look over your shoulder and it requires practice to become proficient. For starters you should always try to avoid backing from your right side. This is your blindside. It is much easier to back from your left. The best method for backing is to have a spotter guide you. You need to be able to communicate using hand signals or radios. The spotter needs to be positioned where they can be seen in your mirror. This means the spotter may need to move as you turn and back. You should always be able to see each other's faces during the backing maneuver. If something doesn't look right, *stop*, get out and look. If you need to back without assistance walk the area first. Establish predetermined stop points, and then stop, get out and check when you reach that predetermined point. Repeat this process as many times as necessary. Before you start backing up tap your horn to warn people around you. Always be on the lookout for small children and pets.

5) **Roof & Side Swipe Damage**: Number five on the list is a big one. It goes back to driving a smaller automobile again. In a car you don’t need to be concerned with tree branches and other overhead obstacles, or with sideswiping a roof overhang or hitting a mirror on a bridge. Always keep in mind a motorhome or trailer is wider and taller than an automobile. When you add mirrors and awnings it’s even wider, and with items like roof mounted air conditioners and antennas it’s taller too. When you arrive at the campground you need to get out and look before attempting to park the unit on the site. Tree branches and other overhead obstacles can easily damage the roof and sides of the RV.

This was a crash course on driving or towing an RV but it should help when it comes to avoiding the top five RV insurance claims. If you would like to learn more about how to properly and safely drive an RV check out the following instructional courses. ~ *RV101*

- [RV Driving Skills Basics 10 minute E-course](#)
- [Drive Your Motorhome Like a Pro Download](#)
- [Tow your 5th Wheel Like a Pro DVD](#)
- [Watch RV Mirror Video](#)
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The Equal-i-zer hitch’s performance lets you enjoy a safer and more comfortable trip.
Adding Air
Always check and add air to the tires when they are cold, before traveling. When tires get hot air expands and you get false pressure reading.

Protect the TV Antenna
To prevent driving off with your TV antenna up hang the keys to your RV or tow vehicle on the TV antenna handle whenever it is in the raised position.

Wiper Blade Maintenance
To assist in keeping your wiper blades clean, and in top operating condition, periodically clean them with some windshield washer fluid.

Trailer Safety
Always chock the wheels on your travel trailer or 5th wheel before disconnecting it from the tow vehicle!

Meal Planning
Plan and prepare meals at home before you go on a trip. Store them in freezer safe microwaveable containers for quick and easy meals on the road.

Lost Keys
Hide a spare set of keys to the RV and/or the tow vehicle where you will have access to them in the event you lose your keys.
Q: I purchased new RV tires last May, but I've been parked since late summer, will they dry rot? Will they go flat/square? The tires are on wooden platforms and enclosed in my winter insulated skirt. It's nearly impossible to move it now that it's winterized. It's my first RV so I appreciate your advice.

A: Normally tire dry rot is associated with long term exposure to the sun and UV rays. Having the tires covered will help a great deal. The wood blocking helps too, but it's not good to leave tires sitting in the same spot for months on end. This can contribute to tire checking or cracking. Any flat spots will usually go away once the tires heat up and start rolling down the road. If the tires were new last May I don't think you will have any long term issues.

Just inspect them for any signs of damage and inflate them to the proper tire inflation pressure prior to going on your first trip this year.

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.

What not to do at a Wal-Mart!

This picture illustrates why some Wal-Mart stores no longer allow RVs to spend the night in the parking lot. The jacks are down and the front tires are completely off the ground. On a warm summer day the jacks will sink right through the asphalt leaving the store a costly mess to repair.

Learn every thing you need to know about your RV tires.

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As I write this, snow is falling in the Arizona mountains and we have 3 to 4 inches of snow. It’s a beautiful wonderland. And, George and I are grateful we don’t have to go out in it unless we want to.

While most RVers head south for the winter some enjoy the cold and the snow. Imagine! Some workamp there, others go to homebases or to visit family. A few decide to settle down in a cold, wintry place like Alaska.

If you plan to spend extended time in places that get below freezing for more than a few hours at night, here are a few things you should know:

1. **Choose the right RV:** Most RVs are not made for cold weather. The amount of insulation does matter and the four-season rigs come with double-pane windows and heated basement compartments. If you are still looking, join [RV Consumer Group](http://www.rvconsumer.com) to find out the rating of RVs you are considering.

2. **Winterize your rig:** If you are living in your RV in a place like this, you can take some measures to keep the heat in and protect your RV. Put skirting in the form of bales of hay, boards or other material around the bottom of the rig. This will keep the bottom warmer and lessen the likelihood of your tanks freezing. You can put plastic or aluminum foil over windows and skylights to keep heat in. If your tank compartment isn’t heated, add a light bulb you can leave on in below freezing temperatures.

3. **Reduce condensation:** When your rig is closed up tight, condensation develops, particularly from using propane. Keep a vent or jalousie window slightly cracked. Open cupboards and closets to let air circulation. Invest in a dehumidifier.
4. **Disconnect your hoses:** Fill your internal water tank and disconnect your hose so the hose doesn’t freeze. Attach it only to fill the tank. You can use heat tape, but make sure that will be adequate. Ideally the faucet should be freeze-proof or self-draining and the hose needs to be removed for it to drain. Attach the sewage hose only when time to dump. Prop the hose so it flows at an angle the entire way from RV to opening in the ground.

5. **Heating solutions:** For long stays, get a larger propane tank that can be filled by a local company. It will be less expensive and easier than filling small RV tanks. Install a catalytic or ceramic heater. They are more efficient, though you’ll need a slight crack for air. You can also purchase electric heaters, though you’ll have to see whether propane or electric heaters are less expensive to run if you are paying for the electricity.

If you are a skier, you may be able to find a Workamping position where you have ski privileges. We have RV friends who did that for years, getting free or discounted lift tickets working at a ski resort or nearby RV park.

We have had several friends who volunteered or worked where they had housing and moved out of their RV, winterizing it or leaving it in a warmer place. That’s another option.

Moderate temperatures are more comfortable in an RV, but there is no reason you can’t spend time in extremes if you are prepared for it.

Make a snowman for me!

Jaimie is an author, freelance writer, and RV lifestyle expert. She has traveled full-time with her husband George and offers a vast amount of knowledge on RV travel and working on the road. Jaimie’s books include:

- **Support Your RV Lifestyle!** a how-to book for working on the road, covering resumes, interviews, the legal issues plus more than 350 ideas for working and volunteering on the road.

- She also co-authored two e-books to help people get started in the RV lifestyle.

- **Retire to an RV: The Roadmap to Affordable Retirement** addresses the issues and decisions someone thinking about traveling in an RV needs to look at. We’ve done the same for women who want to travel on their own.

- **The Woman's Guide to Solo RVing** covers the basics plus many issues women are concerned about. In all of their books, they include stories and advice from other RVers so the reader can see how others have handled those situations.
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.

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It happens to all of us eventually, everything in our RV's becomes dull and drab from dust, dirt and extended usage. It's not that we as RVers lack good housekeeping skills, these units simply need a complete facelift now and then. This becomes even more evident after a visit to an RV show or dealer open house. It is so easy to fall in love with a pristine dream machine simply because it glistens. However your older reliable home away from home can look equally as impressive with a few simple upgrades.

Don't fret; even if creativity is not your strong point, it is not difficult to add a fresh face to your present home on wheels. A little imagination along with some inexpensive pretty fabric and basic sewing skills can easily transform a tired RV into a show place. A sewing machine may also help some but in many cases it is not necessary.

Depending on the degree of upgrade, cost can be under a few hundred dollars.

WHERE TO BEGIN
When I decide to modify I begin with a visit to fabric stores to peruse up-to-date curtain ideas in search for suggestions, many ready made styles are available. Let's begin with the bedroom by adding a fresh covering to the valences. Frequently this may be as little as covering existing decor with new fabric. Pleating the corners using an iron and simply fastening the fabric with hidden straight pins works well--on the underside of course. I have at times attached the fabric to a thin cardboard base using an 'iron-on' medium. With the addition of new blinds or lacy cafe style curtains the room takes on a cozy bright expression. Coordinated sheets and quilted throws completes the transformation. Thanks to the little girl in me I usually add a stuffed animal or two or three as a final touch. Color matched pillows can highlight a new look.

When I can't find quality inexpensive fabric on sale I sometimes use king or queen size sheets. This way I have 'mucho' fabric to work with, plus it's easier to balance colors. Our present coach decor has an olive green/gold hue and since the valences are in good shape I simply mounted vibrant silk ivy/floral arrangements to each living room valence for a dramatic transition. By the way the 's' style curtain hooks with one sharp end work wonders to hang flowers and decorative touches to all cloth or padded areas.

HOW TO MAKE THE UPGRADES
The bathroom too can undergo a simple uplift by adding 'lampshade aprons' (these too can be pinned in place) to camouflage tired shades and by making
a washable toilet seat cover from the same fabric—finished size approximately 15” high x 14” wide. Another option is to sew each side of a folded hand towel, angle the top corners of the lid for fitted effect. Simply slip the cover over the lid; add a coordinated rug from the dollar store, and the commode takes on a pristine look.

Fresh silk floral arrangement completes the transformation. Voila, your bathroom too now has a classy touch. Above the toilet we mounted a Plexiglas shelf with a heat-curl edge on brass wall brackets. With the addition of a few fancy things sitting on small pieces of non-slip plastic mesh along with a plant and your bathroom too sports an elaborate image.

In the kitchen John and I wall papered directly over the plastic covered wallboard. To accomplish this in an RV; wallpaper as normal but add an extra covering of vinyl-to-vinyl glue designed to attach borders before attaching the wallpaper.

Last winter, I added self stick floor tiles to the wall behind the couch and again behind the stove. I sprayed some tiles with an adhesive spray, but the glue I used with the wallpaper above also works. The techs at Lowe’s suggested I prep the wall before adding the tiles. The finished walls look absolutely outstanding. 

NOTE: It is much more time-consuming to cut around corners when wallpapering the small areas in an RV.

EXTRAS

Recently we found a neat brass wall hangers with two small nails at the back. These hangers only make small holes in the wall, yet they are very strong. They also look so good it is easier to leave them in place when you sell your unit than it is to plug holes where hangers once were. Liquid paper and wood colored stains will cover most nail holes if you don’t have the hooks to cover the holes.

Use the same techniques to modify valences in the bedroom, kitchen and living areas. Instead of removing what is in place try dressing it up with a new covering or by adding floral displays. The addition of preformed lace café style curtains complete with rod holes on the hanging edge helps to add a homey touch to the living room decor. We attached our café curtain rod brackets to the screws on our window frames—no extra bracket holes were necessary. In our kitchen, we hang sleeves to hold garbage bags (14”x18”—with elastic casing top and bottom) on each side of the window; a valence in the same fabric frames the window with interesting dressing.

Front drapes too can receive a colorful upgrade by adding an overlay instead of doing the curtains from scratch. However this may be a bit advanced for the basic seamstress.
Since we have two dachshunds, furniture cover-ups are really a necessity, but keeping them in place was always a challenge. In the past I designed special slipcovers that I could easily remove for washing, yet with the help of elastic straps they always stayed put. Two years ago I discovered a dark-colored chenille throw from Wal*Mart is perfect as a couch cover. Simply because it clings to fabric, it stays put for days on end.

**FURNITURE COVERS**

Our couch in Kastle #2 had one long lift-up cushion with loose back cushions. To add firmness we place a 1/4" piece of plywood underneath the couch portion. If your couch has no end cushion, place a piece of thin plywood covered with fabric into the end frame of the couch. You then have a perfect place to toss large throw pillows.

Chair seat covers are fitted in front and then neatly tucked in and around the back and the sides of the seat. Upper portions of the chairs I leave as is. These covers provide an easy changeable yet professional finish. Since I can't move RV furniture, by changing things periodically our RV always looks new.

**MAJOR MODIFICATIONS**

In our Kastle #2 we added a favorite semi-permanent modification...we removed the dinette and replaced it with a breakfast bar/computer station.

Our dinette seats were always a catchall; to sit four people for dinner resulted in a major pre-clean-up and since our coach is our 'fulltime' home we're always searching for a way to extend space. By redesigning the dinette area we gained 20 inches of kitchen hallway floor space. The end result was I now had a six-foot table for crafts, ironing or my computer desk. During meals John and I ate facing a large picture window, when guests dine with us, two sat at a folding table in the living room...more than four, buffet meals were in. Many RVers modify areas of their units to accommodate their computers. Simply use your imagination to come up with something that suits you.

**FURNITURE AND FLOORS**

Before trading our 10 year old Pace Arrow our first update on that unit was to replace her out-date brown '80s style upholstery. We found a talented 'Ma and Pa' operation who even recovered the cloth wall panels. Of course adding aesthetic throw pillows, new curtains, valences and bedspreads carried the decor front to back. Wallpapering the bedroom, bathroom and kitchen walls provided a perfect backdrop. The final upgrade included hanging silk plants and decorative accessories plus a change in towel color. Hand painting the bath mat added one more little touch. Once again with a little work and imagination, old became new again.
ADD A SHINE
As a final step, we coated all the wood with a generous dose of lemon oil. On the exterior, John routinely gave the outside a concentrated clean and polish and we're ready to hit the road with a sparkling coach from the tires to the roof --- inside and out.

If oxidation is present, boat products help remove it. Look for these cleaners in marinas and boat stores. There are many brands on the market, but for years we used Meguiar's Heavy Duty Oxidation Remover #44 or #49 followed with cleaner/wax #50.

Note: This product does not work well on any clear coat finish!

I have to admit updating our old Pace Arrow spanned two years...but we had fun making her ready for her new owners, whoever they were.

Whether your makeover is a touch-up or an extensive facelift or getting her ready to sell, spending the time to give your trusty home on wheels an update is always worthwhile. Driving a 'like-new' unit adds zest to your travels.

BEST OF ALL JUST HAVE FUN!!

Peggi McDonald and her late husband John spent 20+ years living and traveling in their RV. As a fulltiming RVer with close to two decades on the road, Peggi's wealth of experience is shared through her writing.

As well as being the author of two best selling books, Peggi is a featured columnist for many RV publications, has made a number of TV appearances, guest-hosted radio talk shows and has been a featured seminar presenter at many of the RV shows, dealer open houses and RV lifestyle schools in both Canada and the U.S. She is also the author of two e-books and the host of www.rvliving.net –

More information on Peggi's e-books

RV Packing Tips- RV Life Lessons and Easy Living Hints- PDF Ebook

RV Travel to Canada PDF E-book

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RV Memories ... Make Some Today

Wild Spanish Mustangs of Corolla, OBX NC

We drove on the beach for miles before we spotted some wild Mustangs
In the News

by Ann Richards FYWL Engineering Class

Project Ventura

Engineering students at the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders restoring a vintage travel trailer for their school community. Project Ventura is a project on sustainable design at the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders located in Austin, Texas. During their 10th grade year, students complete a large-scale, independent project that counts as a credit for the distinguished achievement diploma program. This year, the project is centered on the restoration and conversion of a 1977, 12-foot travel trailer into an “eco-trailer”. Teams of 3-4 students were given a budget of $5000, with which they must come up with a design that includes re-framing, re-insulating, re-flooring, re-wiring, adding a fresh water holding tank and pump, installing solar panels, and using a minimum of 75% green materials or green methods. Read More

SOURCE: Ford Motor Company Press Release
By Kelly Cauthorn

DEARBORN, Mich. -- Ford is increasing Class A motorhome and commercial chassis production capacity by approximately 35 percent to meet renewed recreational vehicle demand in the United States, the company announced today.

At the same time, Ford is increasing production capacity of its 6.8-liter V10 engine that powers its motorhome chassis lineup, according to a press release from Ford. The engine boasts 362 horsepower and 457 lb.-ft. of torque, and can be prepped for CNG operation to help save money at the pump. Read More

Source: RV Daily Report
By RV Daily Report

Good Sam Invites RVers to Register for Syracuse NY Rally
LINCOLNSHIRE, Ill. -- For RVers traveling to the Camping World/Good Sam Rally in central New York, June 13 through 16, the journey is just as exciting as the destination, the company announced today. As summer approaches, thousands of avid RV enthusiasts will make tracks to central New York for good times, great friends and all things RV at the Northeast's first-ever Camping World/Good Sam Rally, staged at Syracuse's Empire Expo Center. Read More
### ZESTY CHICKEN BITES

(Makes 4 servings)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons (30 ml)</td>
<td>barbecue sauce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon (15 ml)</td>
<td>Worcestershire sauce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons (30 ml)</td>
<td>lemon juice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 teaspoon (1.25 ml)</td>
<td>salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 teaspoon (1.25 ml)</td>
<td>pepper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 garlic cloves, crushed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 tablespoon (7.5 ml)</td>
<td>dried basil leaves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 teaspoon (2.5 ml)</td>
<td>paprika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 teaspoon (2.5 ml)</td>
<td>crushed red pepper flakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 tablespoons (30 ml)</td>
<td>olive oil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trim the chicken breasts of any fat. Cut the chicken into cubes.

In a bowl, create a sauce by combining the barbecue sauce, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, salt, pepper, garlic, basil, paprika and red pepper flakes.

In a frying pan, heat the olive oil and cook the chicken cubes over medium high heat for 5 minutes or until browned and no longer pink. Stir often.

Turn the heat down to low. Pour the sauce over the chicken.

Stir and simmer for 3 minutes.

---

These chicken cubes are great served with tooth picks as an hors d’oeuvre for happy hour or over rice as a meal.

*Phyllis Hinz and Lamont Mackay*
Learn more about our products

For all your RV training needs, we have you covered.
Fuel Saving Tips

Here are some effective ways to lower your fuel consumption:

- Checking and adjusting your tire pressure to the proper pressure can increase fuel economy by 3% not to mention preventing premature tire wear and failures or blowouts caused by over or under-inflated tires. Tires can look normal when they are seriously under-inflated.
- Something as simple as a clean air filter can improve your fuel economy up to 10%.
- Using overdrive whenever you can will save fuel by decreasing the engine's speed.
- Using the cruise control whenever possible saves fuel because it keeps the vehicle at a constant speed rather than variable speeds.

Note: This applies when you are driving on a relatively flat surface.

- Keeping the vehicle tuned up and in top running condition saves fuel. A poorly tuned engine can lower fuel economy by 10 to 20%.
- Poor emissions and/or a faulty oxygen sensor can cause a 40% reduction in fuel economy. Can you believe that, a 40% reduction!
- Added weight, that you don’t need, reduces fuel economy significantly. We’re all guilty of this one!
- Reduce your speed. Speeding and rapid acceleration reduces fuel economy anywhere from 5 to 33%.

Follow the entertaining journey as Mark and Tyler demo the vintage trailer down to the frame and rebuild to its former glory.

WARNING: Viewing this series can be very addictive. Find a comfortable chair, get your favorite beverage, relax and enjoy the award winning Mark's RV Garage RV How-To series:

Tired of dead batteries?
Stop the problem for good with the charger, maintainer & conditioner that Mark uses on all his batteries. The Battery Minder
This month Mark demonstrates how to install a Dirt Devil CV1500 All-In-One Central Vacuum System in your RV.

The Dirt Devil CV 1500 is a great Saturday project for the DIYers or you can have your local RV dealer install it for you.
Norfolk, VA (PRWEB) February 26, 2013

**RV Trader Partners with RV Education 101**

[RVTrader.com](http://www.rvtrader.com), the nation’s largest online RV marketplace for buying and selling RVs, has announced its new partnership with [RV Education 101](http://www.rveducation101.com), the nation’s premier education site for RV enthusiasts. With travel stories, classified listings, rallies, events, product reviews, RVs for sale and more, RV Trader and RV Education 101 will provide enthusiasts with multiple opportunities to learn more about the RV lifestyle. [Read More](http://www.rvconsumer.com)

**Hubbell - NEW DUPLEX RECEPTACLE INCLUDES TWIN USB CHARGERPORTS**

Modern families with on-the-go lifestyles demand plenty of outlets for recharging their electronic devices. Any RV can become a charging station with the Hubbell USB Charger Receptacle, which delivers both USB and regular electrical power in a single device.

Besides its two 15-amp, 125V AC outlets for traditional use, the receptacle is fitted with twin USB ports. Hubbell is the only manufacturer to offer such a device. It’s compatible with any USB 1.1, 2.0 or 3.0 electronic equipment to charge smart phones, digital readers, tablet computers, MP3 players, mobile phones or GPS units. For more information visit [www.hubbell-wirecon.com](http://www.hubbell-wirecon.com)

**NAVISTAR LAUNCHES THE BIG PAYBACK SALES EVENT PROMOTION**

Chicago IL. - Feb. 27th, 2013 - For a limited time, customers taking retail delivery of an eligible new, untitled 2012 or 2013 Monaco Coach or Holiday Rambler motorhome from a participating dealer’s inventory will receive a corresponding rebate from Navistar RV, LLC. To qualify for a rebate of up to $15,000, the customer must purchase and take retail delivery between February 15 and April 15, 2013. For more information about The Big Payback Sales Event promotion, customers can go to [www.monacocoach.com](http://www.monacocoach.com) or [www.holidayrambler.com](http://www.holidayrambler.com) or call 877-252-4MON.
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BARGAIN ROOM
The batteries used to supply 12-volts to the RV itself are commonly referred to as house batteries. House batteries need to be deep cycle batteries that are designed to provide a steady amount of current over a long period of time. Starting batteries and marine batteries should not be used in this application. True deep cycle batteries have much thicker plates and are designed to be deeply discharged and recharged over and over again.

These batteries are rated in amp hours and more recently reserve capacity.

The amp hour rating is basically how many amps the battery can deliver for how many hours before the battery is discharged. Amps times hours.

Reserve Capacity rating (RC) is the number of minutes at 80 degrees F that the battery can deliver 25 amps until it drops below 10.5 volts. To figure the amp hour rating you can multiply the RC rating by 60%. RC X 60%

The life expectancy of your RV batteries depends on you. How they’re used, how well they’re maintained, how they are discharged, how they’re recharged, and how they are stored all contribute to a battery’s life span.

A battery cycle is one complete discharge from 100% down to about 40% and then fully re-charged back to 100%. One important factor to battery life is how deep the battery is cycled each time.
If the battery is discharged to 50% everyday it will last twice as long as it would if it’s cycled to 80% before being recharged. The life expectancy also depends on how soon a discharged battery is recharged. The sooner it is recharged the better.

What does all of this mean to you? That depends on how you use your RV. If most of your camping is done where you are plugged into an electrical source your main concern is to simply maintain your deep cycle batteries. But if you really like to get away from it all and you do some serious dry camping you’ll want the highest amp hour capacities you can fit on your RV.

Deep cycle batteries come in all different sizes. Some are designated by group size, like Group 24, 27 and 31. Basically the larger the battery the more amp hours you get. Depending on your needs and the amount of space you have available there are several options when it comes to batteries. You can use one 12-volt 24 group deep cycle battery that provides 70 to 85 AH.

You can use two 12-volt 24 group batteries wired in parallel that provides 140 to 170 AH. Parallel wiring increases amp hours but not voltage. If you have the room you can do what a lot of RVers do and switch from the standard 12 volt batteries to two of the larger 6-volt golf cart batteries.

These pairs of 6-volt batteries need to be wired in series to produce the required 12-volts and they’ll provide 180 to 220 AH. Series wiring increases voltage but not amp hours. If this still doesn’t satisfy your requirements you can build larger battery banks using four 6-volt batteries wired in series / parallel that will give you 12-volts and double your AH capacity.
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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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