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WE CAN’T GUARANTEE THE SUN WILL SHINE, GEYSERS WILL SPOUT OR LEAVES WILL TURN GOLDEN-RED FOR YOU.

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What is your summer RV bucket list? Not sure? Well you’re in luck. This month I thought it would be fun to offer some suggestions for getting the most out of your RV this summer.

I think it’s important that we always remember why we purchased an RV in the first place. Try not to let busy work schedules get in the way of using your RV this summer. I have found if you plan RV trips in advance there is a much better chance of actually following through with the trip when the dates arrive.

My summer RV bucket list ideas might help inspire you to get out and enjoy your RV this summer.

Have a great 2013 RV camping season,

Mark

www.rveducation101.com
www.rvconsumer.com

“Nothing relieves stress like an RV, a sunset and a warm summer breeze.” ~ Mark Polk
Our brand new digital RV Product Catalog puts all of our RV training products in one place, and we separate which products apply to which type of RV. For example if you own a travel trailer you can browse through the single DVD titles or go directly to the DVD value sets that apply specifically to travel trailers. This helps accomplish two things; it eliminates the guess work as to which DVD titles go together, and it saves the RV consumer a significant amount of money with our DVD box set discounts. Our goal at RV Education 101 is simple; to help RV owners until they are comfortable operating and using their RV, and to make their entire RV experience safe, fun and stress free. [Browse our RV Product Catalog now.](#)
Get up early, make a cup of coffee or your favorite cup of tea, sit outside the RV and enjoy a beautiful sunrise.

Spend a day at the beach reading a book or just reflecting on life.
Visit a local historical landmark and enjoy the fascinating scenery it has to offer.
Plan some weekend RV trips and visit attractions within one to two hundred miles from home.

The Biltmore Estate is a National Historic Landmark with America's largest home, gardens, winery, and world-class luxury.

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse is the tallest in the nation and is a famous symbol of North Carolina.
Spend an evening out enjoying a dinner show

The Hatfield & McCoy Dinner Show in Pigeon Forge TN.

Spend some quality time talking to your kids and see what’s going on in their life.
Take a hike and just enjoy Mother Nature
Always remember that getting there is half the fun. Enjoy the ride!
Spend a day enjoying campground activities

Take a long walk on the beach

4th of July Parade
On a personal note, we are stewards of our state and national parks, and as such are responsible for protecting and ensuring our parks are left the way we found them for future generations. I find it troubling that every time state and federal governments attempt to work through self-inflicted deficits and budget planning our state parks and national parks are the first to suffer from the government cuts and funding. We as the owners of these wonderful natural resources need to band together and let our voice be heard and protect these treasures.

“Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.” ~ Theodore Roosevelt
After a busy day of events enjoy a quiet evening at the RV

Nature’s lights beat city lights anytime!
Give your kids a history lesson without them even knowing it.

The Battle of Gettysburg

The Wright Brothers National Memorial
Learn a new hobby

Cast netting for shrimp

Shrimp Cast Net Tips

- Low tide is the best time to cast net for shrimp.
- Find a spot where you have plenty of room to cast the net.
- Practice casting to maximize effectiveness.
- Cast net in 2-5 feet of water.
- Let the net sink to the bottom and pull on the lead rope to close and trap the shrimp in the net.
- Go back to the campground, clean the shrimp and cook on the grill. Enjoy the fruits of your labor!
Stop along the way to smell the roses and take in the view
Take a ferry to someplace you’ve never been.

Float down the river on a raft.
Spend a hot summer day at the water park
or go swimming with the sharks
Visit a state or province you’ve never visited before
Spend time doing what the locals do

Attend local festivals
(Pike’s Peak Rodeo Breakfast)

Beach driving at OBX, NC

And help support the local economy

Shop the local stores

Try the local diners & restaurants

Spend the day at a zoo
Take a cross-country RV Trip

& visit some fascinating places along the way
Spend time doing what you love to do

And try doing something you have never done before
Regardless of what your RV summer bucket list is plan some RV trips and enjoy family, friends & all the great memories
99% of our customers would recommend the Equal-i-zer® hitch to their friends. Why? Because Equal-i-zer hitch’s superior sway control performance helps you reach your destination safely. Don’t trust your safety to a lesser hitch. Get the peace of mind that comes from towing with the best Integrated Sway Control™ hitch available. Get The Original Equal-i-zer Sway Control Hitch.

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.
Shade Helps!
Strategically park your RV to take advantage of any shade that is available, especially on the side where the refrigerator vent is located. Don’t be afraid to ask for a shady site when you check-in. This will not only help cool the RV down, but your refrigerator and roof A/C will work much more efficiently.

Air Conditioner Tip
Improve your air conditioners efficiency by keeping the A/C filters clean. In most cases you can wash the filters in warm soapy water, rinse thoroughly and allow them to dry before reinstalling. Another option is to clean the filters with a small hand held vacuum cleaner. I recommend you keep a new set on hand in the event the old filters have seen better days.

Ventilation, Ventilation & more Ventilation
Another ingredient to keeping your RV cool is proper ventilation. Proper ventilation helps prevent excess heat from building up in your RV. You can install vent covers over the roof vents to allow for ventilation even when it’s raining outside or install and use power ventilation fans. The more ventilation there is the better.

Go to the Pool
A few more tips for keeping cool are to start and run the air conditioner in the morning when its cooler outside, avoid opening the door as much as possible and cook outside rather than inside whenever possible. If all else fails head to the swimming pool and get cooled off.
Q: I rented a motorhome and the rental manager asked me if I had any experience with RVs. I told I had read books, watched DVDs, and read internet newsletters like yours. He said to forget everything I had read about emptying holding tanks since it was probably wrong.

I had always read that you wait to empty tanks until they were $\frac{2}{3}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ full to ensure that gravity would assist the emptying process. He vehemently disagreed. He said to empty the tanks before leaving each campsite and to never let the contents of the tanks accumulate. “Why should you carry around a tank half full of filth and waste gas carrying the extra weight?” he asked me. I had no reply. I was curious what your reply would have been.

A: I think it’s important to wait until the tanks are at least $\frac{2}{3}$ full prior to emptying them. Here’s what I would have said.

First, the reason you use holding tank chemicals is to help breakdown the content in the tank. If the chemicals are only in the tank for say 6 hours they can't really do the intended job. This can create problems for the campground septic system.

Second, a holding tank that only has $\frac{1}{4}$ tank or less will not empty as efficiently as a tank that is at least $\frac{1}{2}$ full. And if there is hardly any waste water in the gray tank you can’t flush the hose out very well after emptying the black water tank.

Third, this is why RVs have holding tanks in the first place, to store waste and waste water until it can be properly disposed of.

I would probably tell him he should be more familiar with the product he is making a living on before dispensing advice, but it is doubtful he would agree.

I hope you had an enjoyable rental experience. ~ RV 101

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.
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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Start shopping for DVD Box Sets Now
I receive a lot of emails with questions about how to make your RV refrigerator work more efficiently. RV refrigerators, for the most part, are efficient. In many cases it is something the owner does that makes the refrigerator less efficient. Before we talk about how to improve your RV refrigerators efficiency we need to have a basic understanding of how an RV refrigerator works.

For starters keep in mind that your RV refrigerator is different from the one in your house. Your RV refrigerator doesn’t use a compressor, or any moving parts for that matter. It works off of the principle of absorption. Instead of applying cold directly the heat is drawn out, or absorbed. The theory is, when there is an absence of heat there is cold. Basically your RV refrigerator uses heat, either from an electric heating element or LP gas flame. The heat starts a chemical reaction and then through evaporation and condensation causes it to cool. It also works off of gravity, freezing the freezer compartment first and then dropping down to the refrigerator compartment.

There are several things we can do to help the refrigerator do its job more efficiently. First and foremost the RV must be fairly level for the refrigerator to operate properly.
Older RV refrigerators required more precise leveling, but even the newer models need to be close to level for optimum performance. Eventually a cooling unit operated out of level will be permanently damaged. Traveling with the refrigerator on will not cause problems because the liquids and gases in the cooling unit are constantly moving around. They don’t collect and stay in areas of the cooling unit like they can in a stationary, out of level refrigerator.

The initial cool down process can take four to six hours. You should turn the refrigerator on the day before you plan to leave, and before you put any food in it. When you do load the refrigerator the food you put in should already be cold, and the food put in the freezer should already be frozen. Putting cold food in the refrigerator, rather than adding warm food, lets the refrigerator work less to cool down.

One common mistake made is to over pack the refrigerator. There has to be space between the foods to allow for air to circulate throughout the compartment. In most situations you will have access to a store where you can buy food. A three to four day supply should be enough.

To assist with air circulation you can purchase an inexpensive, battery operated refrigerator fan. Put the batteries in and place the fan in the front of the refrigerator compartment blowing up. Cold air drops and warm air rises. The fan will improve the efficiency by circulating the air and it will reduce the initial cool down time by 50%.

The heat created by the cooling process is vented behind the refrigerator. Air enters through the outside lower refrigerator vent and helps to draft the hot air out through the roof vent. Periodically inspect the back of the refrigerator and the roof vent for any obstructions like bird nests, leaves or other debris that might prevent the heat from escaping.
Another good idea is to install a 12 volt, thermostatically controlled refrigerator vent fan at the back of the refrigerator, or at the top of the roof vent, to assist with drafting the hot air away from the refrigerator. If you are mechanically inclined these fans are fairly easy to install, or you can have your RV dealer install one for you. Either way it’s worth it. The fan removes the heat built up behind the refrigerator improving the refrigerators performance by up to 40%.

The outside temperature also affects the operation and efficiency of your RV refrigerator. When it’s cold out you can lower the temperature setting and when it’s hot out you can raise the setting. Some refrigerators are preset by the manufacturer. Extremely hot weather will directly affect the refrigerators efficiency. When it’s really hot outside try parking your RV with the side the refrigerator is on in the shade. Periodically inspect and clean the refrigerator door gaskets. Check them for a good seal. Place a dollar bill behind the seal and close the door. It should stay there and not drop. When you try to pull it out there should be some resistance felt. Do this in several different places and have any damaged seals replaced.

Try to limit the amount of times you open the refrigerator or freezer doors and the length of time you leave the doors open. Every time the door is opened it loses a few degrees. On a hot summer day it won’t take long to lose all of its cooling capacity. Last but not least you should always have a thermostat in the food compartment. Food will begin to spoil at temperatures above 40 degrees.

RV absorption refrigerators do a great job for RVers. They will do an even better job, and last longer, if we apply these simple tips to make their job easier and less demanding. ~ *RV 101*

Our [RV Care & Maintenance](#) DVD addresses issues like: information on the proper care and maintenance for the interior of your RV, the exterior of your RV, RV appliances, LP gas system, water system, electrical system, RV generators, RV battery’s, chassis & frame and RV tires.
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WWW.CAMPMYRTLEBEACH.COM
**Question:**
Have you heard of a way to raise my fifth wheel a little higher on the hitch? I'd like a little more clearance between the camper and my truck. I had to go over a small hill and the 5th wheel dented the bed rail!

**Answer:**
Lots of newer trucks are taller and have more road clearance (especially 4WD models) which in turn makes the bed rails sit higher. When you install a 5th wheel hitch there are lots of factors to take into consideration, one being that the 5th wheel sits level when connected to the hitch. In addition to sitting level there should be a minimum of 5 inches of clearance (6 is better) between the bed rails and the trailer.

With that said some 5th wheel hitches have height adjustments, and almost all pin boxes (the 5th wheel king pin) are adjustable. If the 5th wheel hitch is adjustable you want to start with it. Try raising the hitch to give you the additional clearance you need above the bed rails, but don't let the trailer get too far out of level.

If the hitch itself is not adjustable you will need to have the pin box adjusted. When you lower the pin box it gives you more clearance above the bed rails. Again don't lower it too much. As the 5th wheel moves out of level it will add additional weight on the truck's rear axle. The pin box is heavy so don't try and adjust it without help and make sure you torque all bolts to the manufacturer specs.

Keep in mind that even with 6 inches of clearance it could still hit the bed rails when negotiating steep dips like some driveways present.
Having the right insurance coverage on your RV is important when you need it. Get a free quote from Explorer RV Insurance.

Non-Skid Paint for your RV

Did you ever have a need for non-skid paint for your RV, boat or around the house projects?

I was putting a new floor in my project boat and wanted a non-skid paint to coat the surface with. After some research I found a non-skid paint coating by Monster Paint Products. I contacted Jim Davis, the owner of the company, and our conversation eventually turned to RVs. He told me the non-skid paint worked great for RV steps, toy hauler ramps, and other surfaces you were concerned about slip and fall accidents.

I used the non-skid paint on my boat project and on the step of my vintage travel trailer. The outcome was great on both surfaces. If you have a surface you would like to be non-skid this paint will solve the problem.
These meatloaf muffins can be made in a microwave/convection oven in the RV or made ahead at home, frozen, and taken along on the road. No fussing. Just defrost and re-heat.

MEATLOAF MUFFINS (Makes 12 servings)

- 1 1/2 pounds (.68 kg) extra lean ground beef or ground turkey
- 1 small can mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 eggs, beaten with a fork
- 1 cup (250 ml) finely chopped sweet onion
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) ketchup
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) ground flax
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) dry bread crumbs
- 1 teaspoon (5 ml) garlic salt
- 2 teaspoons (10 ml) Worcestershire sauce
- shredded mozzarella cheese for topping (optional)

Glaze:
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) barbeque sauce
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) brown sugar

Spray muffin tin cups with cooking spray. Combine the ground beef or turkey, mushroom soup, cheese, eggs, onion, ketchup, ground flax, breadcrumbs, garlic salt, and Worcestershire sauce in a large bowl. Mix well. Divide the meatloaf mixture between the 12 muffin cups. Brush or spoon the glaze onto the top of each meatloaf muffin. Pre-heat the oven to 375°F (190°C). Bake for 30 minutes or until cooked through to a centre temperature of 160°F (71°C). Eat immediately or wrap tightly and freeze for later.

Tip: If using an RV microwave/convection oven, cook on Convection setting at 375°F (190°C) for 20 minutes or until cooked through to a temperature of 160°F (71°C).

Optional: Sprinkle shredded mozzarella cheese on top of the muffins and return to the oven for 4 to 5 minutes or until the cheese is melted.

To reheat frozen muffins: Defrost in refrigerator or in microwave from frozen for 3 minutes then heat for 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through.

Please visit The Cooking Ladies’ website at www.thecookingladies.com
Learn more about our products

For all your RV training needs we have you covered
Every now and then you run across products that you don’t want to leave home without on camping trips.

These portable refrigerator/freezers and portable ice makers by Dometic are a good example of what I am talking about.

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These portable refrigerator/freezers and portable ice makers by Dometic are a good example of what I am talking about.

Tired of dead batteries?
Stop the problem for good with the charger, maintainer & conditioner that Mark uses on all his batteries.

The Battery Minder
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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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