

RV Consumer e-Magazine

October 2013

Volume 3

Issue 10



DISCOVER

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RV 2014

Inside America's Largest RV Show

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I just returned from America's largest RV show in Hershey, Pa. I wanted to take a look at what's new for 2014 in the world of RVs, and look for some interesting and innovative RVs and RV products.

I must say I wasn't disappointed. There were 50 RV manufacturers showcasing RVs on over 21 acres, and more than 200 vendors with RV products on display.

Attendance records were broken from previous years. These are all good indicators that 2014 will be another great year for current RV owners and for those thinking about purchasing an RV.

Sit back, relax and take a first-hand look at inside America's largest RV show.

Mark

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"Something I really enjoy about RVing is never knowing where you might be drinking your next morning cup of coffee." ~ Mark Polk

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Go where your RV takes you

**Special Edition: Inside America's Largest RV Show
Hershey, Pa.**

RV 2014 - Inside America's Largest RV Show

By Mark Polk



Every September I attend the Pennsylvania RV & Camping Show, billed as America's Largest RV Show in Hershey, Pa. I look forward to this event for many reasons. I get to see and catch up with old friends, I get to see what's new in the world of RVs, and I get to talk to lots of RV industry insiders on every RV topic imaginable.

I try to cover the show and give RV owners, prospective owners and RV enthusiasts an inside look at what's new for the upcoming model year. This year I focused on what I considered to be innovative companies with new model year RVs that stood out and caught my attention.

It is difficult to cover the entire show in a few days and I am sure I missed seeing lots of great new RVs for 2014. With that said let's go inside America's largest RV show.

For starters I think this is the largest pop-up I have ever seen. It is a 2014 Rockwood High Wall HW296, by Forest River. The exterior closed length is 21' 4" and the GVWR is 4,573 lbs. If your looking for a pop up with lots of room this is it.

[Click here for more information](#)



Inside America's Largest RV Show



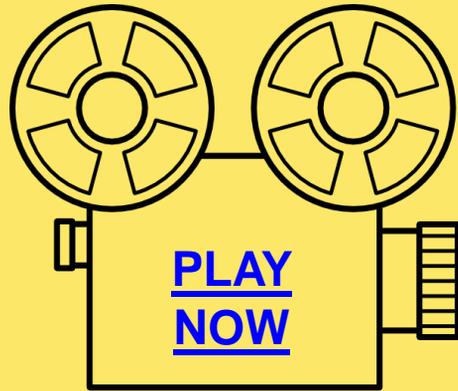
The next thing that caught my attention was this A Liner Classic with a dormer and front storage compartment. The dormer concept is not brand new for A Liner, but I thought it was pretty cool.



This was an off-road adventure ready A Liner model. The interior was well appointed and the large dormer adds living space to the interior of the A Liner. [Click here for more information on A Liner](#)

RV 2014 Special Preview

Next I checked out the Little Guy RV display. Little Guy Worldwide manufactures the Little Guy and T@B RV product lines. These are great little campers for folks who want an affordable alternative to larger campers , and for anybody with a limited tow rating. I was really impressed with what I saw so I asked the Little Guy Chief Operating Officer for an interview. [Watch the video](#)



This is the Little Guy B.O.S.S.

(Bug Out Survivor Shelter). I saw it in Louisville last year and liked it, and again in Hershey this year and still liked it.

Inside America's Largest RV Show



The B.O.S.S. is for the adventurer who wants to go where others can't. It is packed with features to make your off-road journeys the best they can be. With features like a platform with a large stowable rack, receiver rack, roof rack, hose reel, LP gas, battery and more you are ready to head to the back country. The galley features pass-through cabinets, a countertop, sink with 5 gallon fresh water storage, 2 burner stove and a converter. On the inside you won't be disappointed either, the B.O.S.S. features cabinets, TV/DVD/CD/AMFM system, low draw LED lighting, power roof fan, AC & DC connections and a king size sleeping area. [Click here for more information](#)

RV 2014 Special Preview



Little Guy Worldwide offers the Little Guy camper product and the T@B camper product. The biggest difference between the two is you can stand in the T@B RVs, but not in the Little Guy RVs.



New for 2014 is the T@G RV product. The T@G is a cross between the Little Guy and T@B. You can't stand up in the T@G but you can sit up, so there is more room inside to move around.

Another new product for 2014 is the myPod. The myPod is ultra-light and can be towed behind some motorcycles, and can be painted to match your motorcycle or tow vehicle.



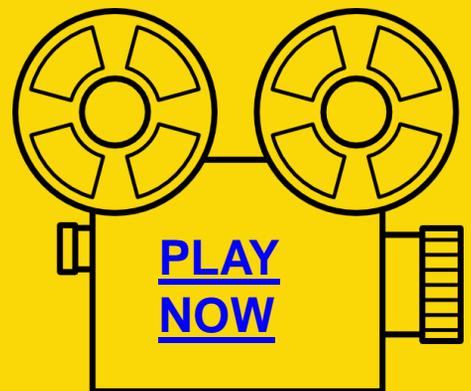
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Inside America's Largest RV Show

As I explored deeper into the 21 plus acres of RVs on display I caught an odd looking RV out of the corner of my eye. It was easy to see that it was a 4X4 model . I am a 4-wheel drive enthusiast so I walked over to check it out.



What I found was a Host Industries Outback Explorer. It was on a FUSO chassis and was powered by a FUSO turbo-charged 4-cylinder engine. The General manager for Host was available so [I asked him for an interview.](#)



RV 2014 Special Preview

At the display I also met Lance Gillies, an Australian with [EarthCruiser](#). He came up with the concept for the Outback Explorer and worked with Host Industries to have it built in America. They designed it so two of the Outback Explorers can be put in a shipping container and sent anywhere in the world.



[Click here for more information on the Outback explorer](#)



Inside America's Largest RV Show

Host Industries is also well known for their triple-slide truck campers. It is amazing how much room there is in these truck camper models, but you need to have a truck capable of handling the weight. Host RV had their Mammoth model triple slide on display at the show. Let's take a look.

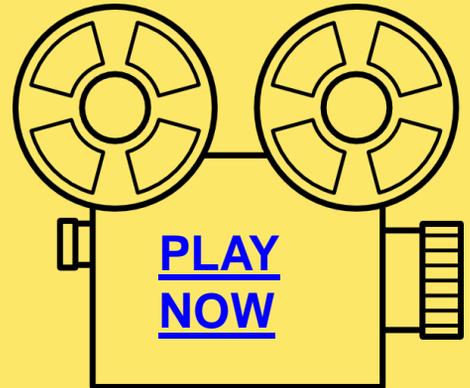


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RV 2014 Special Preview



For years and years the word Winnebago conjured up the thought of motorhomes. In 2011 Winnebago entered the towable RV market - place as well. I thought I would go by their towable RV display in Hershey and see how the towable segment was doing. At the display I had the opportunity to interview a Winnebago District Sales manager. [Here's what he had to say.](#)



In the short time Winnebago has been in the towable market they have done a great job designing and building travel trailers and 5th wheel trailers for today's RV buyer. Pictured above & left is the [lightweight Minnie towable RV line](#). These distinctive and well-built travel trailers, at affordable pricing, makes a great value for the RV consumer.

Inside America's Largest RV Show

[Winnebago towables](#) has also filled the niche in several other major market segments with it's Ultralite line, the One travel trailer line and the mid-profile Lite Five 5th wheel trailer line.



The [Winnebago Ultralite line](#) is lightweight yet spacious and come packed with features.



The [Winnebago One travel trailer line](#) offers an all-aluminum super structure with hi-gloss gel coat fiberglass and spacious layouts with luxury features in each model.



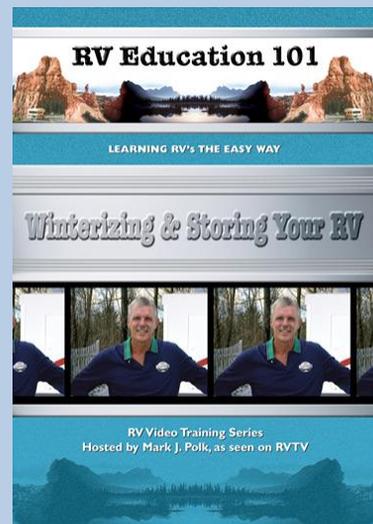
The [Winnebago Lite Five 5th wheel line](#) offers a luxury mid profile 5th wheel that you can tow, along with all the features, comforts and quality you would expect.

RV Winter Prep

For some folks around the country it's time to start thinking about storing your RV for the colder winter months. If your RV is prepared for the cold weather and stored properly it will be ready to use next spring.

Preparing your RV for winter storage is not that difficult to do. If you are a Do-It-Yourselfer we offer a [Winterizing & Storing DVD](#) to assist you. Why not save some time and money by winterizing the RV yourself ?

[**MORE INFO**](#)





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RV 2014 Special Preview



If you're looking for a new toy to put in your toy hauler you may want to consider a Quadski like the one I saw at the show. I was told the Quadski can reach speeds of 45 mph on both land and in water. The wheels retract when you enter the water and re-deploy as you approach land. It is powered by BMW Motorrad's K1300 engine.

[Click here for more information on Quadski.](#)

Speaking of toy haulers I saw some smaller travel trailer versions, 5th wheel versions and motorhome versions, so no matter what you are hauling there is a toy hauler out there for you. Let's take a glimpse at some toy haulers on display at the show.



[Work & Play by Forest River](#) offers travel trailer toy haulers in floor plans from 21- feet to 33- feet .

Inside America's Largest RV Show



I had to include this 2014 Road Warrior 415RW 5th wheel toy hauler. Just the sheer size, over 43-feet, was overwhelming. If the exterior doesn't catch your attention the interior will.



[Click
For
More
info](#)



RV 2014 Special Preview

As for motorhome versions of toy haulers the one that caught my eye was the Canyon Star by Newmar.



Newmar also had a Canyon Star motorhome with a wheelchair lift.



[More Info](#)

Inside America's Largest RV Show

On the first day of the show I was walking through the Winnebago display and I noticed a new model called the Trend. It was a Type B motorhome, but what caught my eye was the badging on the front cab. It read Ram 3500.



The two models on display were prototypes. One had a 3.0L I-4 diesel engine and the other one had a 3.6L Pentastar V6 engine. This was the first time I saw this Ram Promaster chassis and was curious to learn more about it.



RV 2014 Special Preview

On day 2 of the show I found a Ram Promaster commercial display outside. From what I could gather the Ram Promaster chassis is based on the front-wheel-drive Fiat Ducato. It has a single rear wheel axle with gas and diesel power plants and is built in Mexico.



Later that day I saw several more Type B motorhomes built on the Ram Promaster chassis, including this Winnebago Travato



2014 Chevrolet Silverado Review from hood to hitch

By Mark Polk

Last January GM invited me to the 2013 North American International Auto Show in Detroit to look at their completely redesigned 2014 Chevy Silverado and GMC Sierra 1/2 ton trucks. On the second and third days of the show I had an opportunity to interview some key GM personnel about the redesigned 1/2 ton truck line-up, and to take an up close and personal look into what to expect for 2014.

As many of you know I drive a Dodge, but I was really impressed with what GM is doing with it's trucks and across the board as an auto maker.

A good place to start is under the hood



The new 1/2 ton truck line-up will come with 3 engine options. All 3 versions are the all-new Eco Tec3 engines. One thing I was really impressed with was that GM incorporated many of the same features found in the new Corvette engine into their truck engines.

The 2014 Silverado and Sierra will come available with options for a 4.3L V-6, 5.3L V-8 or 6.2L V-8. These engines were designed by GM specifically for use in full-size trucks. All 3 Eco Tec3 engines come with direct fuel injection, continuously variable valve timing (VVT) and cylinder deactivation. So, not only does power and performance promise to be strong for the new truck buyer, but fuel economy is significantly improved too. I thought it was a great idea to still offer the more powerful V-8 power plants, but incorporate the cylinder deactivation to run the engine on 4-cylinders when you don't need all that extra power.

During my interview with the Chief GM Engineer for Small Block Engines I tried to get the new horsepower and torque ratings, but GM wasn't ready to release that information at the time.

2014 Chevy Silverado Review

He did however promise me I would not be disappointed at all. As we are all aware, automakers are being pressed hard by the new federal CAFE fuel standards and regulations being imposed over the next decade. To help increase the truck's fuel economy GM didn't stop with engine cylinder deactivation.



Fuel Efficiency

All areas of the newly designed trucks were addressed to help improve fuel economy. The new front end was engineered to improve sealing, which in turn increases cooling efficiency. The truck went through extensive wind tunnel testing to improve airflow and reduce drag over the top and around the sides of the truck. These modifications include a new air dam located on the lower front portion of the truck below the bumper, and aerodynamic roof and tailgate engineering .

GM even added a seal between the cab and the truck's bed to assist with more efficient airflow, and upgraded the steering with all-electric variable assist power steering. Not only does the truck handle better, but without the engine driven steering pump it helps increase fuel economy too.

Chassis & Powertrain

Under the truck GM upgraded the main frame rails and crossmembers with high-strength steel, and the use of hydroforming contributes to improved strength as well. All 3 engines are bolted to a 6-speed transmission with ratios and shift schedules completely optimized for performance and fuel efficiency. For those of you interested in towing with the new Silverado and Sierra the transmission features Auto Grade Braking to help slow the truck down on downgrades and helps reduce brake wear. With increased torque from the new V-8 engines GM opted for larger 9 1/2 or 9 3/4 inch rear axles in the powertrain. Four-wheel disc brakes with corrosion resistant Duralife brake rotors were added into the mix as standard equipment to double the brake rotor's life expectancy and reduce brake pad wear.

The 2014 Exterior

The truck's exterior was completely redesigned for 2014. In addition to some fuel improving exterior designs I mentioned a moment ago GM updated the aesthetic appeal of the truck too.



They wanted that strong powerful look truck owner's have grown accustomed too, but at the same time make it more refined. Starting at the front of the truck the first thing you notice is the twin port grille and stacked headlights on the all-new Silverado. Upgraded models come equipped with a honeycomb style grill as well. Along the sides of the truck you immediately notice the bold fender flares and the new inlaid doors designed to improve the looks and reduce wind noise in the cab for a quieter ride.

Truck Box

GM added an optional 6 1/2' bed on 2014 Crew Cab models for an extra foot of hauling capacity without going to a longer 8' bed.



The 5"8" short bed remains in the line-up too. The new available EZ lift and lower tailgate makes the job of lowering and closing the tailgate a snap. The truck box is made from rolled-steel as opposed to stamped beds for added strength, and the trucks feature new LED taillights.

Other features I liked on the all-new truck box include under-rail LED lighting that works off a switch in the cab, upper and lower bed tie-down hooks and a cornerstep rear bumper large enough to accommodate a work boot.



2014 Truck Interior

If the exterior and running gear didn't sell you on the all-new 2014 GM trucks the interior just might. They look like a truck but ride like a luxury automobile. The interior is loaded with features to provide a quieter ride, like triple door seals, use of sound-absorbing materials and on the 6.2L V-8 active noise cancellation technology

2014 Chevy Silverado Review



Crew cab trucks account for more than 2/3s of light-duty truck sales in the automobile industry and GM took notice. The door pillars were moved forward to allow for more leg room in the back seating area and the truck is quieter, roomier and more comfortable than ever before. The instrument panel looked sharp with a 6-gauge instrument cluster front and center for easy viewing. Most of the truck models are equipped with a 4.2 inch display for the driver information center and all controls proved to be large, easy to read and easy to operate.

The available MyLink infotainment system is easy you understand and use and can accommodate linking up to 10 devices. Voice recognition lets you keep your hands on the wheel when you place calls, search for a destination, play your favorite music or control other

interior functions. And don't forget about GMs ONSTAR sytem for ease of diagnostics, navigation, roadside assistance and other emergency services.

Interior storage starts with large pocket door panels, a top and bottom opening glove box and a center floor console large enough to store your hanging file folders. The seats are extremely comfortable yet long lasting and easy to clean with new high wear fabric.

Safety Features

Don't forget about safety features, GM sure didn't! Earlier I mentioned that nearly 2/3s of the cab and frame were built with high strength steel. This all contributes to occupant safety in the event of a crash. GM also incorporated safety features like Foward Collision Alert (FCA) to warn of a possible collision, Lane Departure Warning (LDW) if you start to wander into another lane without using your turn signal. Both warning systems provide visual alerts and an option to choose from additional audible signals or in-seat vibrations.

Towing Features

One of the big reasons I wanted to attend the NAIAS was to find out what is new in the world of towing for the 2014 GM 1/2 ton trucks.

I was pleasantly surprised with some towing features in the new trucks, but was disappointed that GM chose not to use the new SAE J2807 Towing Standards to determine tow ratings for their 2013 truck line-up. They did go as far as testing the trucks using SAE J2807, but at the last minute pulled the SAE ratings since other truck makers opted out of the new testing criteria until they bring their new truck line-up to market. Who knows when that will be? Hopefully the 2014 models will all comply with the agreed on testing.

The 2014 Silverado features several nice towing related features like:

- Hill Start Assist that holds the brakes for up to 1.5 seconds, or until the accelerator is pressed, to prevent rollback.
- Hill Decent Control that uses antilock braking to provide a controlled grade decent without constant use of the brake pedal.
- Tow/Haul mode to give you additional power to accelerate when towing a trailer.
- Built-In Trailer Brake Controller conveniently located to the left side of the steering wheel.
- The 2014 Silverado continues to offer StabiliTrak electronic stability control.
- All 6-speed automatic transmissions used with the Eco Tec3 engines also feature Auto Grade Braking, which helps slow the truck when going down a grade, resulting in less brake wear and potential brake fade.

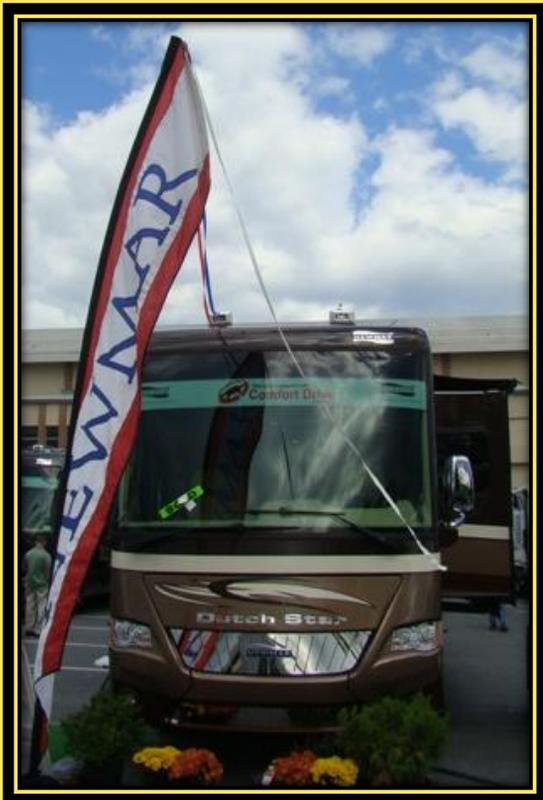
I thoroughly enjoyed attending NAIAS and would like to thank GM for the opportunity, but I did not let the invitation influence the way I perceived the all-new 2014 GM 1/2 ton trucks.

These are fine trucks with lots of advanced technology incorporated throughout.

If you are contemplating a new truck in your future all I can say is you may want to go look at and test drive a 2014 Silverado or Sierra before you buy. You may be pleasantly surprised, just like I was. ~ RV101



RV 2014 Special Preview



When I was at the Newmar display I couldn't help but stop and look this 2014 Dutch Star 4370 motorhome over. It is a beautiful coach. The retail price was listed at \$394,695 with a show price of \$319,654. [More Info](#)



Inside America's Largest RV Show

I also liked this Redwood 38FL front living room 5th wheel by Thor. It retails for \$110,862 with a show price of \$86,794



[More Info](#)

RV 2014 Special Preview



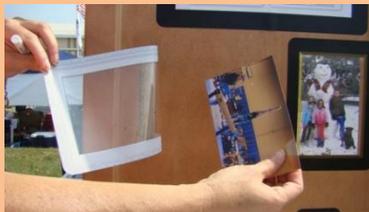
I saw this military style severe duty off-road trailer by [XVENTURE](#) and thought it was perfect for back country camping trips.

It has a payload of 1600 pounds so you can load your ATV or motorcycles and camping supplies and go where no one else can go. It is all aluminum weldless construction using a patented Alcoa Huck Bolt system. It has excellent ground clearance, tie-downs, large front storage and much more. [More Info](#)



Inside America's Largest RV Show

RV Product Spotlight

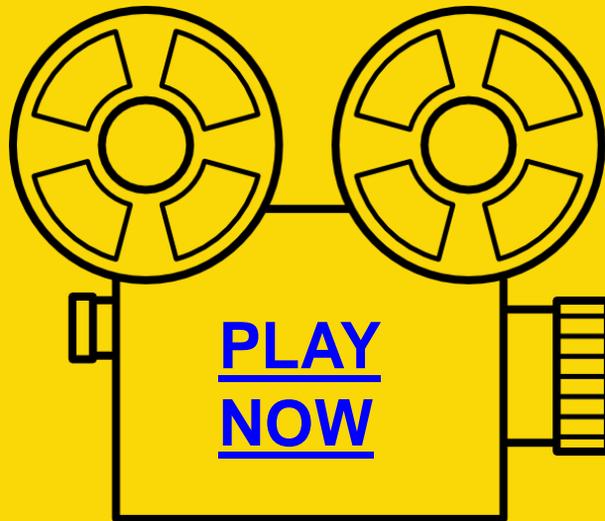


RV Video Training
with **MARK POLK**



Something we always have trouble with in our RV is pictures and picture frames. When I was at the show I ran across a vendor with a solution to the RV picture problem. It is called [RV Framz](#).

[Watch how it works](#)




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RVing Accessibility Group

Every now and then you meet somebody who is spearheading a good cause, but the task at hand is overwhelming. Trying to get the word out and get exposure for an organization can be difficult. It takes time and money, and in many instances the organization doesn't get enough traction to move forward and grow.

When I was in Hershey I met Mark Douglas, an Accessibility Specialist and founder and CEO of RVing Accessibility Group. Mark is a disabled RVer with 17 years of RVing experience as a disabled traveler. He was born with disabilities and experienced numerous surgeries in his first 18 years. Later in life Mark experienced more disabilities, and has been permanently disabled since 2001. He managed an RV campground and has experience dealing with disabled RV travelers from various backgrounds and with various disabilities. Having experienced the challenges of being a disabled traveler he has a passion to provide like travelers and their caregivers with relevant and accurate information about RV facilities, as well as helping small businesses understand the benefits of being ADA compliant .

I am still pretty young as far as age goes, but I already experience knee and back issues from my days in the military. It makes a person wonder if one day you will lose your mobility and not have access to all of the recreational facilities we enjoy now as RVers.

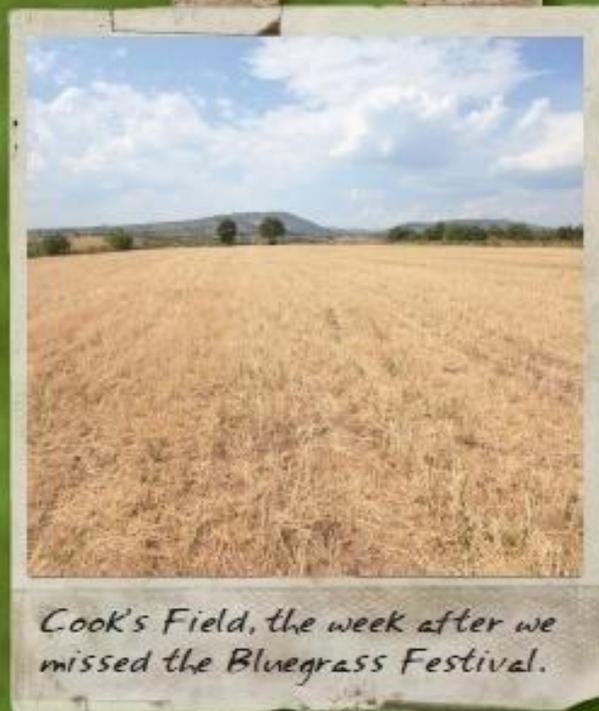
I think bringing awareness to recreational accessibility through education is a noble cause. It is important that the campground industry and state and national parks provide accessible outdoor recreational facilities for disabled travelers. I also think that until you see things through the eyes of a disabled traveler it is difficult to imagine the frustration of losing your independence when it comes to enjoying what many of us have come to take for granted.

As is the case with many situations people need to be made aware of, and educated on a topic to fully understand the scope of the situation. That is what the RVing Accessibility Group is trying to do. Their mission statement is "Providing **Peace of Mind** by enhancing the awareness for recreational **accessibility** through education, example and experience to the disabled community, as well as public and private businesses that serve the public, for the benefit of our disabled population be it age, injury or illness."

The RVing Accessibility Groups website offers a great deal of information on the topic, including articles, information on camping facilities in a particular state and much more. You can also donate to the cause. The organization is a 501c3 charitable nonprofit organization where all donations and contributions made are tax deductible per the IRS determination.

[Click here for more information on the RVing Accessibility Group](#)

How will you
Remember
your travels?



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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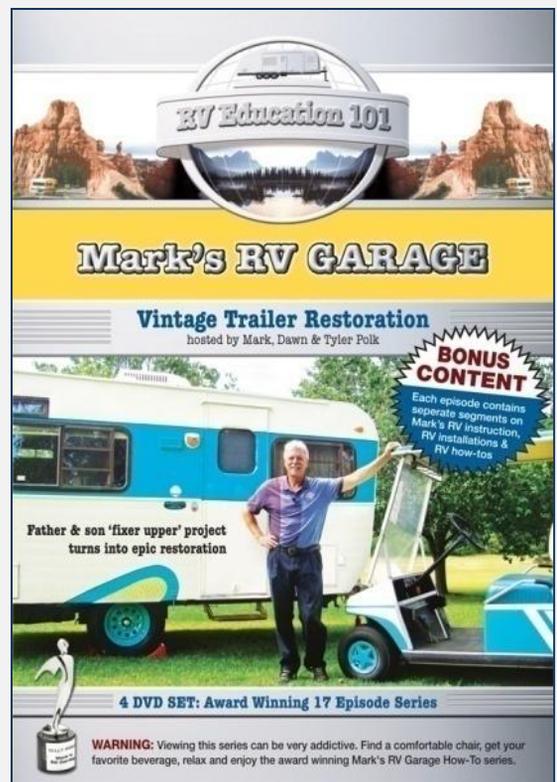
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Check out the step-by-step vintage travel trailer restoration project and other great RV information and RV educational material in the award winning Mark's RV Garage Series 4-DVD set. On SALE NOW for ONLY \$29.95 [More Info](#)



Camping Recipe: PEPPERED CHICKEN WRAPS



Phyllis Hinz and Lamont Mackay

PEPPERED CHICKEN WRAPS

(Makes 6 servings)



- 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- coarse black pepper
- 1 sweet red pepper, seeds and stem removed
- 1 cooking onion, thinly sliced
- 1 portobello mushroom cap, thinly sliced
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml) lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon (15 ml) lime juice
- 2 tablespoons (30 ml)) canola oil
- 6 large flour tortilla wraps
- low-fat ranch salad dressing
- 6 leaf lettuce leaves

The Cooking Ladies, Phyllis Hinz and Lamont Mackay, are freelance writers, restaurant consultants, cookbook authors, event speakers, and RVers. Please take a minute to visit their website: www.thecookingladies.com

Coat one side of each breast generously with coarse black pepper. Gently pound the pepper into the surface of the chicken breast with the blunt edge of a large knife.

Cut the chicken into long thin strips.

Place the peppered chicken strips into a bowl. Cover and refrigerate.

Cut the red pepper into long, thin strips.

In a large bowl, combine the red pepper, sliced onion, and sliced mushrooms.

In a small bowl combine the soy sauce, lemon juice, and lime juice. Pour the mixture over the vegetables. Toss until the vegetables are covered with liquid. Set aside.

Heat the oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat. Cook and stir the chicken strips for 5 minutes, or until cooked through.

Add the vegetables and liquid to the frying pan. Stir and cook for 5 minutes.

Spread one tablespoon of salad dressing at the center of each tortilla wrap. Cover the dressing with a leaf of lettuce.

Transfer the chicken and vegetables to a bowl, leaving the liquid behind.

Place a portion of the chicken and vegetables in the center of each wrap. Fold the wraps into package shapes, for serving.

[Happy Hour Recipes PDF E-book](#)

This #1 best selling e-book is the first in The Cooking Ladies' Favorite series. And to make this cookbook even more outstanding, The Cooking Ladies have included a photo of each finished dish. Recipe ingredients are given in both Imperial and metric measurements.

RV 2014 Special Preview

I always say it's about the Journey and this Journey by Winnebago is no exception!



Inside America's Largest RV Show



A new addition to the Winnebago motorhome line-up is the 2014 Forza. There are two impressive floorplans based on the Freightliner® XCS straight-rail chassis with a Cummins® 340-hp diesel engine and Allison® six-speed transmission delivering the power. [MORE INFO](#)



RV 2014 Special Preview



Airstream was represented well with a line of travel trailers, including the Land Yacht and Bambi models



[More Info](#)



Inside America's Largest RV Show



One of my favorite Class Bs was this Airstream Interstate on a Sprinter chassis powered by a Mercedes Benz 3.0L V6 turbo diesel



[Click here for more information on Airstream](#)

RV 2014 Special Preview

There were many other 2014 brands and models on display at the show. I apologize for not featuring those brands and models in this special issue of RV Consumer Magazine. It is difficult to attend meetings, schedule interviews and still see everything the show had to offer. I encourage you to visit your local RV dealer and attend RV shows to see all of the great RV models and brands coming out in time for the 2014 camping season. ~ **RV 101**



American Tradition



Nexus Ghost



Lance 1181



Sabre by Palamino

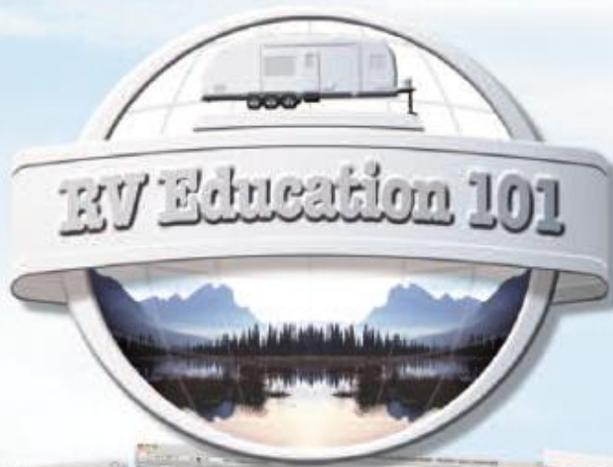


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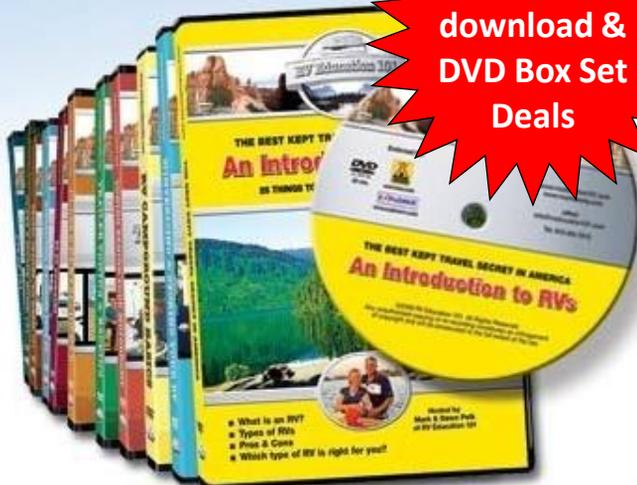


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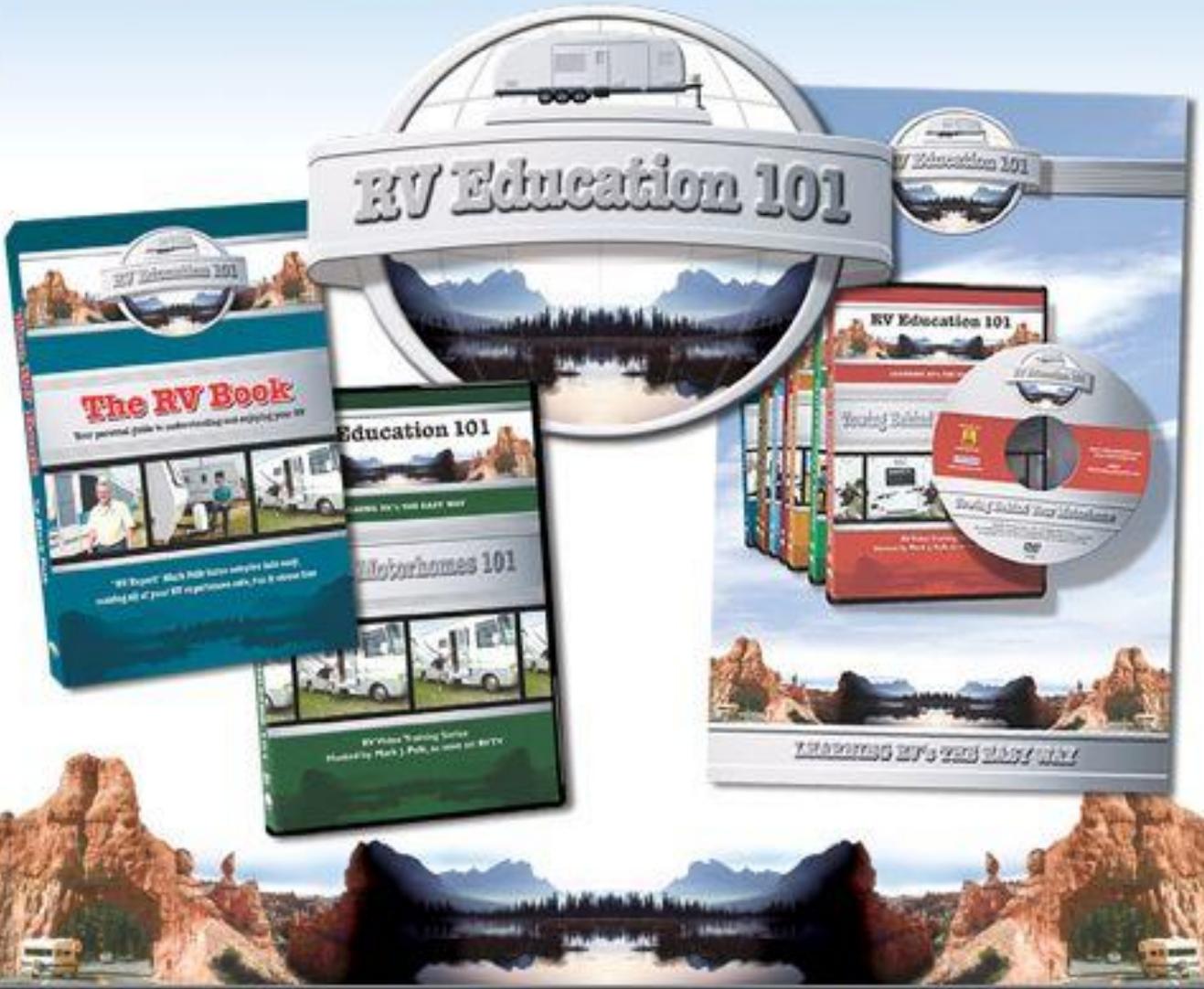
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Our goal with RV Consumer E-Magazine is to provide you with helpful information to make all of your RV experiences more enjoyable. I left my position as an RV Sales and F&I manager in 2000 to start RV Education 101.

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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