Getting Away from it All

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Lots of our camping is done at campgrounds close to built-up tourist areas, or right off the Interstate while en route to our final destination. These camping trips are always fun, but sometimes you just want to get away from it all. Get back to nature and enjoy some of our state and national parks, US Army Corps of Engineer and BLM campgrounds.

This issue of RV Consumer Magazine will explore some of the options we have to get away from it all in our RVs.

Don’t miss next month’s issue when I cover “what’s new for 2014” in the world of RVs. I’ll be attending America’s largest RV show in Hershey, Pennsylvania to have a first-hand look at the new RV products and 2014 models.

Until then enjoy this issue of RV Consumer Magazine.

Mark
www.rveducation101.com
www.rvconsumer.com

“Some of my favorite camping memories are of a cool fall breeze drifting through the RV and the sound of a running river full of trout just outside the front door.” ~ Mark Polk
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Getting Away from it All

I got bit by the camping bug at an early age. Camping as a teenager resulted in my passion for RVs. When you take a child camping chances are they will take a child camping when they are adults. Great family time!

Top right: Camping in Masten Pa.
Bottom right: Fly-fishing South Platte river

When I was a teenager my friends and I would load our old pick-up trucks with camping gear and head up in the Pennsylvania hills to our favorite camping spot. It was in a long ago abandoned town called Masten. In the early 1900’s Masten was an active lumber mill and later served as a Civilian Conservation Corps “State Forest Camp” during the great depression.

We would camp in tents for a week or two at a time. During the summer we would ride our dirt bikes, exploring the old logging roads and fish for trout in small streams surrounding the area. During the winter we would ride snowmobiles, hunt for whitetail deer and build some of the biggest bonfires you ever saw.

Those are some of the best camping memories I have. Today when we want to get away from it all we load the RV and head to a state or national park and go camping.

Dawn is from Colorado and when we visit her family one of my favorite destinations is Eleven Mile State Park. Some of the campsites border the South Platte river that runs through Eleven Mile canyon. The scenery is breathtaking and the fishing is great. I try to go to Eleven Mile whenever we visit Colorado.
Public Camping Options

Public campgrounds are the campgrounds found in our National Parks and national forests, state parks and state forests, army corps of engineer projects and bureau of land management areas. These campgrounds are run by a government agency and are quite affordable.

Public camping is more of what I consider back to nature type camping whereas most private campgrounds offer more amenities like a camp store, recreation center, laundry room, playground, swimming pool, full hookups and more. Public campgrounds will usually offer restrooms; a picnic table, fire pit and some will have shower facilities. You will see much more tent camping at public campgrounds than you will at private parks, and hook-ups like water and electricity may or may not be available for RVers. Many of these public campgrounds have size restrictions for RVs too.

Be sure and check any restrictions that may apply before attempting to stay at a public campground. If you enjoy getting back to nature and more primitive type camping there are many beautiful public campgrounds waiting for you to visit. Let’s take a look at some of the public campgrounds available to us.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service

The Forest Service was established in 1905 and is an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDA Forest Service manages our public lands in national forests and grasslands. The USDA Forest Service offers more than 4,000 campgrounds in its 156 forests, which covers more than
193 million acres of land. The Forest Service stated there are more than 200,000 miles of forest roads currently open to off-highway vehicle (OHV) use as well as more than 36,000 miles of trails. And there are 128,000 miles of streams and rivers, 16,500 miles of coasts and shorelines and 2.2 million acres of lakes. The mission of the Forest Service as stated by Gifford Pinchot, the first Chief of the Forest Service, is “to provide the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run.”

The USDA Forest Service manages one of the world’s largest road and trail systems. The forest road network itself provides the public access to a wide variety of recreation opportunities and a way to see these special national forests.

In 2005 the Forest Service announced a new regulation that governs off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and other motor vehicle use in our national forests and grasslands. The new regulation requires each national forest or ranger district to designate all roads, trails, and other areas open to motor vehicle use. OHVs are a great way to explore the road and trail systems in our national forests. The term off-highway vehicles include: all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles (OHMs) and off-road vehicles (ORVs), or four wheel drive vehicles.

The Forest Service offers many recreational opportunities and activities like camping, hiking, biking, skiing, bird watching, rental cabins, and scenic drives. Some of these recreational activities are funded by the Forest Service, and free to the public, and some require fees or permits to help maintain, manage and improve the facilities and amenities that we enjoy.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), signed by former President Bush permits federal land management agencies to continue charging modest fees at campgrounds, rental cabins, high-impact recreation areas and at day-use sites that have certain facilities and amenities. These fees help to offset the rising cost of meeting the needs of Forest Service visitors, maintaining the quality recreational facilities and protecting our natural resources.

National Park Service (NPS)

Our national parks are large natural areas that have a wide variety of attributes and at times include significant historic assets.
Nearly 60% of the 390 park areas administered by the NPS have been set aside as symbols of our history. The National Parks Services goal is: "To promote and regulate the use of the national parks which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Our national parks offer us a wide variety of camping and recreational opportunities. There are primitive type campsites for tent campers and back packers and there are developed campsites for RVers. Of the nearly 400
Many times there will be an RV dump station close by. Campsites normally include picnic tables, fire rings, and a well maintained area for a tent or RV.

Like other public camping areas, the amenities are limited. The campgrounds will offer restrooms and showers and some have laundry facilities. Depending on the park, additional amenities may include dump stations, garbage collection, BBQ grills, drinking water and pay phones. The campsites will have picnic tables and a fire ring. Many times there are size restrictions for RVs.

**State Parks & State Forests**

Like our national parks and forests, our state parks and state forests offer wonderful facilities and services for family camping. State parks offer amenities like clean restrooms and showers, hiking trails, boat launches, picnic areas, swimming areas and playgrounds. State park campgrounds usually have RV sites with electric and water hook-ups.

Many times there are size limits for RVs so you should check on any restrictions before planning a trip. State park camping fees are very reasonable, usually in the $15 to $20 dollar per night range.

**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Projects, USACE**

The USACE dates back to 1775, but it was in 1779 that congress created a separate Corps of Engineers. The USACE conducts a wide variety of projects. They construct dams to control the flow of rivers, provide flood protection and produce hydroelectric power.
Other projects help protect our coastlines and navigable waters and ports. They also provide numerous recreational opportunities. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the leading provider of outdoor recreation on all federally managed public lands in the United States. The USACE manages over 450 lakes, with more than 4,300 recreation areas, offering more than 53,000 campsites located near our oceans, rivers and lakes. Like all of the other public campgrounds, the amenities are limited. Restrooms, showers, picnic tables and fire rings are typical.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Recreation Sites
The BLM is an agency in the Department of Interior, in the US government. The BLM manages nearly 270 million acres of public lands with scenic recreation sites, located mostly in 12 Western States, including Alaska. Originally, these public lands were valued more for the commodities they had to offer like gas, oil and minerals. The BLMs role in facilitating the development of energy resources is still critical, but these public lands are now valued for other things like their recreational opportunities.

The mission of BLM is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Recreational opportunities on BLM public lands include camping, hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, horseback riding, off-roading, bird watching and you can visit historical, archaeological and cultural sites. BLM areas also include scenic rivers, national wilderness areas, national historic trails, and national landmarks. There are over 400 campgrounds on these public lands with more than 17,000 campsites. BLM campgrounds are usually small with a limited number of campsites, and they are usually available on a first come, first serve basis. Most of the campgrounds have sparse amenities too, usually consisting of a small campsite with a picnic table, fire ring, and there may or may not be restroom facilities or utility hook-ups. ~ RV 101
Don’t leave home without it!

Take a portable air compressor with you that is capable of inflating the tires on your RV. Read my article How to Select a Portable Air Compressor for RV Tires

Tip: Don’t trust tire gauges at gas station air fill stations. Take a quality tire pressure gauge with you.
SUPERIOR SWAY CONTROL lets you enjoy the journey

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SWAY CONTROL HITCH

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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.

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- Devin T., Georgia

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Patent Pending
When treating the black tank use environmentally safe products. Enzyme based products use the good bacteria to digest waste & control odors.

When the holding tanks are full dump the black tank first, followed by the gray tank. The gray water will help to flush the sewer hose out.

RV toilet paper is biodegradable & designed for RV use. If you don’t use RV toilet paper buy a cheap single ply brand to use in your RV.

Make sure you have the necessary fittings, connectors & hoses to make wastewater connections at the campground.

For more RV Quick Tips check out my 30 Seconds of RV Education Videos.
Q&A with Mark

Q: We were returning home from a trip and the temperature was in the low to mid 90's with high humidity. I drive 65 mph at the most. I stopped at a rest area and when I felt the RV tires with my hand I noticed they were kind of hot. The right side (front and rear) were noticeably hotter than the left side. You would almost think it was going to burn you hand if touched too long. All the tires have the same air pressure in them. I am running 62 lbs. in them. 65 lbs. is the max.

When I arrived home I felt them again and they were not that hot. 100 feet driving on dirt and grass should not have made any difference in the temperature of the tires.

Is this kind of heat on an RV Tire normal?

Am I doing anything wrong?

What causes a tire blow out?

A: You are not really doing anything wrong except for not knowing what the actual load is being placed on each individual tire. When determining tire inflation pressure it's important that the tires are inflated based on the actual load placed on the tire, and the only way to truly know this is to have the trailer weighed at each individual wheel position when it is fully loaded for travel. Once you have this information you can inflate the tires to the correct pressure for the load.

Lots of things contribute to a tire blowout or tire failure, but the big 3 are overloaded tires, under inflated tires and increased tire temperatures. Other factors are age, how they are stored and of course puncturing the tire from something you hit on the road surface. screws use stainless steel screws that are the same length.

Lots of times tire wear and damage is on the inside of the tire where you cannot see it, but there are indicators you can look for, like checking or cracks in the tire sidewall, uneven wear etc.

As for the tire temperature, depending on all the variables (loads on the tires, speed you are traveling, outside temperature, tire inflation pressure) it's quite possible for your RV tires to heat up anywhere from 20 to 50 degrees above the outside ambient temperature. This means the tires can be very hot to the touch after traveling on a 90 degree summer day. The temperature also increases the faster you drive.

Tire temperature is also directly affected by how much weight is placed on each individual tire. If one or two of your tires felt hotter to the touch than the others it's quite possible there is more of a load on those tires, thus creating more heat. Again, the only way to really know is to have the trailer weighed at each individual wheel position when it is fully loaded for travel.

Tires can cool down quickly when there is a sudden change in temperature like a wet road, or when you drive at a decreased speed. So, it's possible that the tires started to cool down when you got closer to home, driving at a lower speed limit and by the time you got off the pavement and on the dirt road and grass there was a significant difference in the tires temperatures.

Keeping the tires inflated properly, making sure they are not overloaded, driving at a safe speed and properly storing the tires will all contribute to extending the life of the tires. ~ RV 101

To stay current with RV information between magazine issues visit our Blog.
In 2011 I restored a vintage travel trailer from the ground up. What inspired me to restore the old trailer was memories I had from my first real RV trip. Here’s the story.

Another camping season is here and looking back I reflect on how I got hooked on this thing called RVing.

Thirty some years ago I went on my first official RV trip without any adults. Of course at the time, like most teenagers, I thought I knew everything. I tent camped for years and had experienced camping in travel trailers and motor homes with a friend of mine and his family, but this was my first real RV adventure, out on my own. I had recently graduated from high school and was working for an RV dealership in Pennsylvania. I started out washing campers and eventually worked to the position of an apprentice technician. I was always mechanically inclined and had an interest in how things worked; since the age of twelve when I disassembled our perfectly good lawn mower to see how it worked.

It was Thanksgiving and deer hunting season was quickly approaching, which in North Central Pennsylvania is very similar to a Federal holiday. I asked my boss if I could borrow an old travel trailer to use for a deer hunting trip and to my surprise he actually said yes. I don’t remember all of the details about the travel trailer, but I do know it was a Shasta because it had the classic wings on each back corner. I would guess that it was a mid-to-late 60’s model and it was close to 20 feet long. The only conditions for borrowing the trailer were:

1) To bring it back in one piece and
2) Not to use the water system because it was winterized and the temperatures were in the low teens.

Antlered deer hunting season started the Monday following Thanksgiving, and I invited my best friend to go with me. We were going to head up into the foothills on Saturday to set things up and do some last minute scouting.
At the time I had a 1969 Chevy Blazer. It was a full size, K5 model, with a six-cylinder engine with rust holes in the body the size of softballs. Now, you would think that working for an RV dealership I would have access to, and would use, the proper hitch work and brake control to tow the trailer. I do remember wiring a plug for the trailer lights, but I figured since I wouldn't be towing the trailer on a regular basis I would forgo the brakes and just drop the trailer on the hitch ball and go.

Keep in mind I was a teenager, and knew everything back then. Kind of like how my teenage son knows everything now! There were no pre-trip checks or inspections.

We picked up the bare essentials, a pot and pan, some groceries, our sleeping bags and hunting equipment and off we went. It was about a sixty-mile trip to our favorite hunting destination. The first thirty-five miles was on two-lane paved roads and the last twenty-five miles or so were a winding, snow covered dirt road barely wide enough for one vehicle. If you encountered traffic going the opposite direction someone had to back up until there was a spot wide enough for both vehicles to safely pass. I do remember the Blazer didn’t seem to steer quite like normal and if I would have had to stop quickly I would have hit whatever it was that was

I took a deep sigh of relief after the white-knuckle experience of getting to our destination and thanked my lucky stars that the trailer was still in one piece. Little did I know that getting there was just the beginning of my first real RV adventure!

We set the trailer up, which at the time was really nothing more than leveling it from front to rear using the tongue jack and turning the LP gas supply on. Then we settled in the trailer for the first night. We figured since it was cold outside we didn’t need to use the refrigerator, so we left our groceries in the Blazer. The furnace was the old style that you had to light manually. Soon after I got it to light it warmed up enough inside to take our gloves and coats off.

For dinner we heated up some pork and beans on the range top and ate them out of the pan because we forgot to bring any plates. Afterwards we played a game of cards and eventually turned in for a good night’s sleep.

The next morning I went to the Blazer to get some bacon and eggs for breakfast. The eggs were frozen solid. We fried some bacon and later that morning we used the frozen eggs for target practice to sight our hunting rifles in. We washed the pans in a nearby, nearly frozen stream, since we didn’t have any water, and the rest of the day was spent scouting the snow covered hills for signs of deer. Then it was back to the cozy somewhat warm Shasta trailer.

After another dinner of pork and beans
I put all of the empty cans and other garbage in a plastic bag and set it outside the door. The next morning was opening day of deer season. It was difficult to relax and go to bed that night, but knowing we would be getting up early we forced ourselves to turn in for the night.

The first major event of the night was waking up around midnight because it felt like 10 degrees below zero inside the trailer. The trailer only had one full and one partially filled 20-pound LP gas cylinder, and with the furnace running almost non-stop since we arrived they were both empty. Fortunately I did have enough forethought to bring two spare 20-pound LP cylinders with us. I told my friend that since I got the trailer for us to use he would have to get out of his sleeping bag, change the gas bottle and re-light the furnace. After some reluctance and a few choice words he stumbled outside and changed the bottle. Soon it was warm again and we were both back to sleep.

Around 3 AM the trailer began to shake, I mean literally shake back and forth. At first I thought I was dreaming but soon realized I wasn’t. I reached up and turned a small overhead light on and looked over at my friend to see if he was awake. Not having any clue what was happening we both stared, wide-eyed, at each other. I pulled the small curtain away from the window and peered outside. It took a minute to focus my eyes in the dark, but I soon realized that there were two bears outside; a smaller black bear and its not so small mother pushing against the side of the trailer. Not really sure what to do we both got our hunting rifles, loaded a round in the chamber, and stood back, waiting for the bear to come busting through the door or a window. We waited for what seemed like forever at the time, but it was probably a minute or two before the shaking stopped. We glanced out the window again and there were no signs of the bears anywhere. Needless to say we didn’t get anymore sleep before it was time to head out to our favorite hunting spots early that morning.

When we walked out of the trailer, with flashlights in hand, we soon realized why the black bears stopped to visit us that night. There were pork and bean cans and other garbage scattered everywhere around our makeshift campsite.

Another reason this memory remains so clear in my mind is because at 8:10 AM on opening day I shot my first 8-point whitetail buck on a ridge about 80 yards from where I was sitting. My friend heard the shot and came over to check it out. After field dressing the deer it took us about two hours to drag it down the long ravine, back to the trailer. Knowing that we had enough LP gas for another night we fired up the furnace and ate some pork and beans. That night, over a game of cards I recounted the events of the great whitetail hunt over-and-over again.
We did manage to get the trailer back home safely and other than some remnants of hungry black bear paw prints on the side of the trailer it was still in one piece. That nearly disastrous weekend hunting trip, in freezing cold weather, spent in the small Shasta travel trailer, is when I got bit by the RV bug. Thirty some years, and six RVs later, we are still making new RV memories every year. ~**RV101**

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**Check out the step-by-step vintage travel trailer restoration and other great RV information and RV educational material in the award winning Mark’s RV Garage Series 4-DVD set. [More Info](#)**

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**Facts about State Parks**

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<td>More than 720 million per year</td>
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<td>Total economic impact on communities:</td>
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<td>Number of cabins and lodges:</td>
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America’s State Parks is committed to giving a unified voice to all of our country’s state park systems in Washington and national politics. They work with policy makers to ensure that these national treasures are protected and that the voices of state park users are heard.

Visit America’s State Parks to see what you can do to help protect state parks threatened by closure because of state budget cuts.

[America’s State Parks](#)
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
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Boondocking Etiquette

"Boondocking" means camping in your RV with no hookups. There are two types of boondocking. One type is parking in more out-of-the-way places, usually for several days or even an extended period of time. Public lands offer many opportunities for boondocking. The other type of boondocking is often referred to as "blacktop boondocking," when you camp overnight on a Wal-Mart or shopping center parking lot or in a truck stop. Some call it dry-camping since you are not in the "boonies."

RVers choose to spend the night on parking lots because of convenience—they don’t have to drive miles off the highway to a campground. Other RVers boondock because of budget reasons; they can’t see paying $30 or more a night to stay in an RV park when they are traveling from point A to point B and won’t be using the amenities the park has to offer. Whichever type of boondocker you are, these guidelines will help you (and your neighbors) have a better experience.

Blacktop Boondocking

Note: The following section paraphrases Escapees RV Club code of parking etiquette. Click here to learn more about Escapees RV Club.

- Get permission from the manager.
- Purchase dinner, fuel or other items as a thank you.
- Park away from other vehicles, along the sides of the parking lot. In a truck stop, if there is no designated area for RVs, park off to the side or to the back away from truckers. Truckers will appreciate you not taking their spaces, plus it will be less noisy for you.
- Do not get chairs and barbeque out, nor put out your awning. Avoid using your slideouts if possible.
- Stay only one night.
- Pick up any trash you have generated.
- Because boondocking on Wal-Mart’s parking lot is a hot issue in many towns,

By Jaimie Hall Bruzenak
following these simple rules will help keep these places open to travelers who want a night's sleep before moving on. Disregarding them, especially making your area look like you've moved in for a lengthy stay, is what gets local RV park owners up in arms. They see RVs in a Wal-Mart or other parking lot as revenue they should have had.

**Boondocking in the “Boonies”**

When we think of regular boondocking, we think more of camping in wilderness areas, often on public lands. Campgrounds in public lands generally do not provide hookups. The USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also allow camping outside their designated campgrounds. In some places, it is called "dispersed camping."

Serious boondockers modify their RVs so they can take advantage of free camping in pretty places. Solar panels and an inverter keep batteries charged. A catalytic or ceramic heater is more efficient than the regular RV heater and doesn't draw down the battery.

Boondockers may have a Blue Boy®, a portable waste holding tank, so they can take blackwater into a dump. They carry water jugs to haul water to their fresh water tank. Boondockers learn how to conserve both power and water so they can extend their stays and may even use solar ovens for cooking and heat water with the sun.

Most campers are here for a wilderness experience; they enjoy the peace and quiet. Following these guidelines will help all enjoy their stay as well as protect the environment.

- Park in previously used areas. Do not create a new road or parking spot or run over vegetation.
- Park away from other RVs so each can enjoy the peace and quiet. If you do have a generator you plan to run, park far away from other RVs and limit your use to an hour or so in the morning and another in early evening. Generator noise carries and is not part of the wilderness experience.
- Respect quiet hours. Do not run generators or play TVs or radios loudly after 10 p.m. or before 7 a.m. (Some areas may have different quiet hours so check with the agency.)
• In some areas dumping grey water on the ground is permissible. Always check with the agency first. Dumping black water on the ground is never permitted.
• Leave the area cleaner than you found it. Dispose of trash in a trash container after you leave.
• Read and follow the agency's rules regarding fires, collecting firewood, and quiet hours. Respect time limits, which are typically 14 days.

RV groups meeting on public lands should choose an area large enough to accommodate their group without damaging the environment and should respect the rights of nearby campers that are not part of the group. They should also educate their members, who may never have boondocked before, on ways to extend their battery power without constantly running their generators and on ways to conserve water.

For many RVers, boondocking is the true RV experience. The ability to camp without hookups is one of the advantages of RV ownership; you can camp free of charge and use the systems that were designed to be self-contained. Using courtesy and common sense can make your boondocking experience—whether on blacktop or in the wilderness—a good one for you and other RVers.

About the author: Jaimie Hall Bruzenak 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.

This article is courtesy of RV Lifestyle Experts, your source for exploring the RV lifestyle. Jaimie Bruzenak will help you get started, travel solo, work on the road, boondock, and much more.
I thought it would be interesting to include an article with some of our previous RV poll results. I think it makes for some interesting reading. You can see how other RV enthusiasts responded to various RV related topics and it might make you consider an aspect about RVing you haven’t considered in the past. These poll results are not scientific or political. They are more of an opinion poll used to give me some idea of what our readers are interested in, how they use their RVs and of course just for fun.

**Question:** What is your favorite season of the year to use your RV?
**Response:** Spring 8%, Summer 25%, Fall 35%, Winter 3%, Year Round 28%

**Question:** Have you ever had any plumbing lines freeze in your RV?
**Response:** Yes 24%, No 76%

**Question:** Do you treat the fuel system in your RV, or any other gasoline powered equipment, with a fuel preservative while it is sitting in storage?
**Response:** Yes RV 11%, Yes other equipment 22%, Yes both RV & equipment 34%, No 25%, NA 8%

**Question:** Do you travel in your RV with the propane cylinders, or tank, turned on or turned off?
**Response:** Turned on 73%, Turned off 27%

**Question:** Do you plan to use your RV more this year than you did last year?
**Response:** Yes 73%, No 22%, New RV owner 5%

**Question:** I purchased my first RV from: Dealer, Private Owner, Family, Friend
**Response:** Dealer 59%, Private owner 35%, Family member 2%, Friend 3%
**Question:** Do the passengers in your motorhome wear seatbelts while traveling?
**Response:** All passengers 79%, No passengers 19%, Kids only 3%

**Question:** After winter RV storage how do you prepare your RV for travel and camping?
**Response:** Do it myself 92%, Pay to have it done 4%, Get in it and go 4%

**Question:** Has your RV ever been broken into?
**Response:** Yes while traveling 1%, Yes while stored 7%, Yes at campground 2%, No never 91%

**Question:** Do you primarily watch TV shows on your television or on your computer?
**Response:** Computer 4%, TV 96%

**Question:** During an RV trip, do you watch television or do you leave the remote at home?
**Response:** Watch some TV on RV trips 74%, Watch a lot of TV on RV trips 13%, Leave remote at home 13%

**Question:** How many e-newsletters do you subscribe to?
**Response:** 1-2 24%, 3-5 43%, 5 or more 33%

**Question:** Are you happy with your current RV, or would you prefer a different type or size?
**Response:** Happy with current RV 70%, Prefer different size or type RV 30%

**Question:** Do you have trouble with RV odors from the holding tanks?
**Answer:** Yes 19%, No 81%

**Question:** How do you adjust tire pressure when traveling by RV?
**Response:** I carry a portable air compressor 70%, Drive to nearest service center with air support 30%

**Some other Interesting RV Poll Results**

- 85% travel with the refrigerator on and 15% travel with it off
- 53% prefer diesel and 47% prefer gas
- 79% eat more of their meals in the RV and 21% eat out more than in
- 89% conduct a spring check up on their RV before using it and 11% don’t
- 63% use their RV in the winter and 37% don’t
90% said they use environmentally friendly holding tank chemicals and 10% don’t
51% RV green and 49% don’t
100% have taken advantage of free overnight parking at one time or another
70% have stayed in a friends or relatives driveway before and 30% have not
77% were against the new Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) regulations and 23% were not
86% are not fulltime RVers and 14% are
83% use a GPS in their RV and 17% don't. Of those, 62% were led down the wrong path one time or another, but 93% would still recommend a GPS to other RV owners
19% frequently stay at state or federal campgrounds, 34% stay at private campgrounds, and 47% stay at a combination of the two
49% have experienced at least one tire blowout with their RV and 51% have not
81% have stayed in their RV during severe weather and 19% have not
70% have experienced rude behavior from other campers and 30% have not
67% use a pre-departure checklist when they RV and 33% don't
98% have one or more slide-outs on their RV and 2% don't have any slide outs
60% use the RV bathroom more than the campground bath house and 40% use the bath house more than the RV
72% said their average RV trips are one week or less and 28% said their RV trips are two weeks or longer
88% winterize their own RV and 12% have it winterized by an RV dealer
34% take bottled water with them, 14% use filtered water and 52% use both bottled & filtered water in their RV
92% take pets with them on RV trips and 8% don’t 
59% wash their RV as needed, 30% wash it after each trip, 7% wash it before storing and 4% never wash it 
71% pack as much food as possible before leaving and 29% buy groceries when they arrive at destination 
30% pre-cook meals before leaving and 70% don’t 
30% traveled by RV over Thanksgiving, 36% traveled by car, 1% by plane and 33% stayed home 
36% have weighed their RV and 64% have not 
33% have used their RV as a guesthouse and 67% have not 
84% have cleaned their RV roof at some point and 16% have never cleaned their RV roof 
78% perform routine maintenance on their RV and 22% take it to a dealer for maintenance 
72% have dry-camped with their RV and 28% have not 
81% have camped in a National or State park and 19% have not 
30% of the respondents have experienced problems with rodent control in their RV’s and 70% have not. 
48% have spent a night in a Wal-Mart parking lot and 52% have not. Of those, 58% asked permission to stay and 42% did not. 
68% connect to the internet every day when traveling by RV and 32% do not. 82% experience trouble getting an internet connection on the road and 16% do not. 
When asked who drove the most 92% responded male, 5% female, 1% female traveling alone and 2% male traveling alone. 
74% said their RV came with a spare tire and 26 % did not get a spare when they purchased their RV. 
82% check the tire pressure before each trip and 18% don’t 
54% own motorized RV’s and 46% own towable RVs ~ RV 101
Having the right insurance coverage on your RV is important when you need it. Get a free quote from Explorer RV Insurance.

![Explorer RV Insurance](image)

Get your free RV Insurance Quote

The Well-Being of our State & National Parks

It is my thought that elected state & federal officials and employees have a moral obligation to not only preserve but to protect our historical state & national parks. I say shame on each and every official who uses these wonderful recreation and historical landmarks in a misguided attempt to cut state & federal budgets. The really sad thing is the small amount of money saved from park closures won’t really help the deficit problem, but the consequences down the road will surely hurt our state & national parks.

Our state & national park systems need our help. You can volunteer, make a donation, and voice your opinion.

“We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune.” ~Theodore Roosevelt

Information on National Parks

Information on Americas State Parks

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Information on RV Trader

Buy or Sell Your RV Today!

![RV Trader](image)
I get asked lots of questions regarding how RV appliances can be affected or are sensitive to infrequent use, excessive vibration and in some cases neglect or improper operation.

Most RV appliances operate differently than the appliances we are accustomed too in our homes. For example the water heater in our home works automatically, with no operational steps required and very little maintenance. When you want hot water you open a tap and there it is. On the other hand the water heater in our RV requires certain procedures to operate and use it. The LP gas supply needs to be turned on, or it must be switched to the electric mode (if equipped) to use it in the 120 volt AC mode. The tank must be full of water prior to lighting it, and depending on the type of water heater it is you may need to go outside to physically light the burner. If you forget to drain the water for winter storage the water can freeze, expand and break the tank.

That can be a lot to remember, and unfortunately if you forget one of the required steps to properly operate the appliance it can lead to component failure and expensive replacement costs.

This is true for other RV appliances as well. If you don’t operate the RV air conditioner properly you can damage the compressor or other expensive components. If you don’t have the proper amount of AC voltage coming into the RV appliances can be damaged.

Another common problem is excessive vibration. Most appliances aren’t designed to take the abuse many of the country’s poorly maintained highways and roads subject the appliance to. Fittings and screws come loose, sensitive electronics and circuit boards get damaged, and in many cases the continued exposure to vibration results in total failure of an appliance.

The problem is there is no fix for damage caused to RV appliances because of infrequent use and excessive vibration. I recently read that the Good Sam Extended Service Program will hit a record $10 million in refrigerator repair payments this coming month. Ten million dollars in refrigerator repair payments, can you believe that?
This is why I always recommend that RV owners purchase an RV Extended Service Plan. After the factory warranty period expires replacing an RV appliance can get very expensive. And RV appliance problems associated to infrequent use and constant vibration will normally occur after the factory warranties have expired.

The key to RV Extended Service Programs is to purchase a good reputable plan; one that will be there when you need it, when you are traveling on the road away from home.

I have reviewed many RV Extended Service Plans over the years and my preferred choice is the Good Sam Extended Service Plan. The plan offers all of the features and benefits that are important to RV owners.

See what the Good Sam ESP has to offer and enjoy the peace of mind knowing you are protected from unexpected RV repair expenses.

Check out these RV Boondocking E-books

- Southern Texas
- Arizona
- Southern Utah
- New Mexico
Lemon-Herb Sweet & White Potatoes

(Makes 2 to 3 servings)

- 3 small white potatoes, unpeeled
- 1 medium sweet potato, peeled
- 2 tablespoons (30 mL) olive oil
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) fresh lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon (15 mL) dried rosemary, crumbled
- 1 tablespoon (15 mL) dried thyme
- 1/4 teaspoon (1.25 mL) pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon (1.25 mL) salt
- 1/2 teaspoon (2.5 mL) heavy duty aluminum foil

Cut the unpeeled white potatoes into 1/4-inch-thick rounds.
Cut the peeled sweet potato into 1/4-inch-thick rounds.

In a bowl mix the olive oil, lemon juice, rosemary, thyme, pepper and salt. Set aside.

Place a large piece of heavy duty aluminum foil on the counter. Drop the 1/2 teaspoon of olive oil onto the centre of the foil and spread it over the surface of the foil.
Create a row of potato slices in the middle of the foil with alternating white and orange-coloured slices.
Brush the oil, lemon, and herb mixture over the sliced potatoes. Let the mixture trickle between and around the potato slices. Seal the foil around the potatoes leaving an air pocket inside for steaming.
Preheat the barbecue on high for 10 minutes. Turn the heat down to medium and place the potato package on the grate.
With lid closed, grill the potato package for 20 to 25 minutes or until the potatoes are soft.
Turn the package over half way through the grilling time.

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.
Learn more about our products

For all your RV training needs we have you covered
Mark Polk with RV Education 101 demonstrates how-to coat a metal RV roof using Dicor’s Metal Roof Coating products. **Dicor’s Elastomeric Metal RV Roof Coating** protects and beautifies metal, aluminum, steel, and previously coated RV roofs.

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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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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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