Standard Solar On The Side SAE solar port provides for quick and easy plug in access for your portable solar panels.

Standard USA Manufactured Goodyear Radial tires deliver superior performance and uncompromised quality between the road and your trailer.

Available "Lance Load" Roof Rack System is the perfect place to store your canoe, kayak and other large size gear – Most Models.

Standard Locking Battery Compartments keep your batteries out of sight and the elements – Most Models.

Available Tri-Five LP Tanks w/Aerodynamic Cover provides extended dry camping capability – Most Models.

New Travel Trailer Features

*14'-23' segment

Euro Inspired Graphics Available on 1475 & 1575

2 LANCE.indd   2/5/18   9:28 AM   - 2 -    (Black)

Lance Campers, Circle 117 on Reader Service Card

OUR VEHICLES CONNECT AND PROTECT PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD EVERYDAY.

www.revgroup.com
FEATURES

16 Reflection 150 Series 230RL
Four-season living in Grand Design’s half-ton-towable fifth-wheel is possible without sacrificing comfort

25 Another Side of Death Valley
Discovering the spectacular rock formations and curious past of Titus Canyon on the national park’s most popular backcountry drive

30 Monitoring with Benefits
RVi’s Command Center smart tablet and hub keeps tabs on tire pressure, and includes a leveling indicator and customizable checklist

34 Keeping It Comfy
A $50 Bluetooth sensor tracks the temperature, humidity and motion inside an RV and monitors conditions via a mobile app

38 RV Gear Guide
Trailer Life’s annual roundup of accessories and suppliers for outfitting and updating an RV

In the foothills above Furnace Creek, California, Texas Spring Campground is a prime place to stay while exploring Death Valley’s Titus Canyon. Page 25

DEPARTMENTS

4 Driver’s Seat
RV-Country Tours

6 Letters
Readers respond loud and clear

8 Around the Bend
News, events, places and trends

14 RV Resolutions
Trailer Life is your referee

50 Hands On
Peel and Stick Mosaics backsplash

52 10-Minute Tech
Now why didn’t I think of that?

56 New Products
Goodies to improve the RV lifestyle

57 RV Clinic
Answers from the Trailer Life tech expert

66 Roads to Adventure
Colorado’s Rocky Mountain National Park

More choices — the latest domestic truck lineup offers something for everyone. Page 10

On the cover: Family time in Elkhart, Indiana, with the 2018 Reflection 150 Series 230RL from Grand Design. Photo by Shawn Spence
RV-Country Tours
If you love RVs, Elkhart is worth a trip to see how they’re made

The first time I visited Elkhart, Indiana, I was entranced. OK, I admit that I’m a true, all-American RV geek, through and through. I fell in love with RVing at an early age, and it never left me. So, when I get the opportunity to go to the RV capital, especially to tour another factory or see something that’s of interest to RVers, I jump at it.

Last August, our editorial crew descended on Elkhart to test RVs for Trailer Life and our sister magazine, MotorHome. Trailer Life’s managing editor, Donya Carlson, and Elkhart native and contributor Barb Riley and I were invited by the good folks at Grand Design RV, a division of Winnebago Industries, for a plant tour, and we were able to see this issue’s test unit, the half-ton-towable Reflection 150 Series 230RL, under construction.

Many manufacturers in the Elkhart area offer tours of their facilities, so owners, prospective buyers and enthusiasts can see how they’re built. This is American manufacturing in action. If you’re visiting northern Indiana, be sure to take a factory tour, and don’t miss Elkhart’s RV/MH Hall of Fame and Museum.

Besides my test of the 2018 Reflection 150 in this issue (page 16), Chris Hemer takes a look at the powerful new domestic trucks coming down the line (page 10). New trucks, big news!

For those looking to outfit their tow vehicle and RV, we have our third-annual RV Gear Guide (page 38), along with three product installs. Blustream has come out with a small sensor that reports on the temperature, humidity and possible intrusion of your RV to a smart device almost anywhere in the world (page 34). Bob Livingston takes a look at RV Innovation’s new Command Center tablet for towables, which includes a TPMS, a digital level and an RV checklist (page 30). And Bob Dawson offers a peel-and-stick project that’ll dress up any RV’s kitchen or bathroom (page 50).

See you on the road! ☺

— Chris Dougherty, Technical Editor

Connect with Us at TrailerLife.com

4 TRAILER LIFE April 2018
THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY CAMPED!

WARRIORS OF THE WILD

EPIC CAMPING TRIPS ARE YOURS WITH PROGRESSIVE. BUNDLE YOUR RV AND AUTO POLICIES TOGETHER FOR LEGENDARY SAVINGS

PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Insurance, Circle 128 on Reader Service Card
Expeditionary Force
I read with interest Chris Hemer’s February review of the 2018 Ford Expedition, “Alloyed Force.” As the nation’s most respected trailering magazine, I think you left out some very important towing information for the consumer, and that is the vehicle’s occupant and cargo weight rating found on the Tire and Loading Information sticker on the driver’s door pillar. In my experience, a vehicle’s advertised tow rating is only a starting point, and rarely, if ever, the limiting factor in safely towing a trailer.
David Acton, Oak Harbor, Washington

With five of us plus a dog, my family falls into the three-row-SUV category for comfort and sanity. We are interested in knowing if the new Ford Expedition tested by Chris Hemer has the payload capacity to hold 10 to 15 percent of a 9,000-pound-plus trailer’s weight and still have payload available to take the family.
Shawn Hudson, Houston, Texas

Technical Editor Chris Dougherty responds: David, we didn’t include that information because the maximum occupant and cargo weight depends on the makeup of the specific vehicle. A base-model Expedition 4x2 is different from a well-equipped Platinum Max 4x4. When you find the model with the components and options you want, take a look at the Tire and Loading sticker in that particular vehicle to see how much weight it can carry, then check Ford’s 2018 RV & Trailer Towing Guide (www.fleet.ford.com/towing-guides) for the maximum trailer weight that vehicle can tow.

Shawn, the information you seek can be found in the same places. As always, we recommend talking to your dealer in detail about the specific vehicle you’re considering to make sure it meets your towing needs. To properly tow that trailer, remember that you’ll need a weight-distributing hitch, which will distribute the tongue load between the trailer’s axles and the tow vehicle’s axles. If you buy a kit with 1,000-pound-rated spring bars, once it’s properly adjusted, you’ll be in good shape.

Focus on FITness
Kudos to Donya Carlson for her “Northwood Inn” review of the Fox Mountain 235RLS in the November 2017 issue. Pointing out that the refrigerator and bathroom were not accessible with the slideout retracted was a vital detail. Floorplan diagrams do not always make this evident, but for many buyers, on-the-road access to the fridge is important, and access to the bathroom is essential!

In the January 2018 issue’s “Show Biz,” I was also pleased to read Stephanie and Jeremy Puglisi’s suggestion to RV-show shoppers to insist that the slides be retracted when assessing a floorplan — great advice! Trailer Life should make functionality in transit (FIT) a standard assessment in every RV tested.

Jim Georger, Fairport, New York

Thank You, Mr. Ranger
Emily Fagan’s January Roads to Adventure column about Arizona’s Petrified Forest, “Rainbow of Rock,” reminded me of when we had a flat tire on our new pickup truck in the national park. It was near dusk when we called our roadside-assistance provider, AAA, and the park was closing soon.

A park ranger came by and saw the problem. He said he was not allowed to offer assistance, but if we asked for help, he was allowed to say yes. Then he said, “Is there anything you’d like to ask me?” Of course, I answered yes, asking if he could lend a hand in case AAA didn’t arrive in a timely manner.

In short order, the ranger helped us get the jack positioned properly and lower the spare. At about that time, the AAA unit arrived to finish the job. We did then and still do thank that park ranger.
Leonard Enger, Newman, Georgia

Off-Road Acronyms
I found “Arizona’s Outback” by Jeff Crider in the February issue to be an interesting article regarding the use of off-road or off-highway vehicles (ORVs or OHVs) by recreational vehicle (RV) owners. It’s easy to see that this is a growing area of interest for many who enjoy recreational off-highway vehicles (ROHVs or ROVs). The vehicles pictured are not all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), as they were sometimes referred to in the article. An ATV is an ORV that is straddled and has handlebars. A utility terrain vehicle (UTV) or side by side (SxS) has a steering wheel and a conventional seat. Since some states have differing license and permit requirements for ATVs and UTVs, it may be valuable for potential users to know the difference.

I enjoy every issue of Trailer Life.
Mike Mitchell, Tuscola, Texas
Great TV on the Road—
**Whenever & Wherever You Want!**

**Enjoy DISH® Pay-As-You-Go Programming with the Wally Receiver!**

**DISH Wally® HD Satellite Receiver**

**#87758 Club SALE $79.99**

**Reg. $89.99**

**USER-FRIENDLY FEATURES!**

- Works with any DISH® satellite antenna to bring you Pay-As-You-Go Programming
- Radio frequency remote can be used inside or outside the RV, through the wall up to 200 ft. away
- Locate your missing remote with the remote finder
- Easy access to your favorite apps and streaming content like Netflix (requires streaming membership and Wi-Fi Adapter)
- Additional Wally™ accessories available including: Bluetooth adapter and headphones, Wi-Fi adapter and additional remotes

**With DISH® Pay-As-You-Go programming*:**

- Pay only for the months you use
- Compatible with all DISH-specific antennas and most mobile satellite antennas
- Only DISH lets you watch your favorite shows in HD
- No charge to start or stop monthly service
- Programming for as little as $34.99 per month!

**Hurry, offer expires March 18, 2018. Call Camping World at 1.877.793.4801 to activate your DISH programming!**

---

*Important Terms and Conditions: All prices, fees, charges, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice.

**Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Monthly fees and limits on number and type of receivers will apply. All charges, including monthly programming, pay-per-view and equipment upgrades, must be paid in advance; failure to pay by due date will lead to service disconnection within 24 hours. Miscellaneous: Offers available for new and qualified former customers. Offers subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. Taxes or reimbursement charges for state gross earnings taxes may apply. Additional restrictions may apply.
AROUND THE BEND

Montana’s Magnificent Mansion

A peek into the lifestyle of one of the West’s most prominent families

article and photos by Lisa Ballard

With its Wedgwood blue shutters and manicured lawns, the Bair mansion in Martinsdale, Montana, looks like it should be by the New England coast rather than in a small ranch town where cattle outnumber people by tenfold. Cattle weren’t always the dominant domestic animal in these parts. During the early 1900s, Charles M. Bair, the patriarch of the Bair family, had the largest sheep operation in the United States, with more than 300,000 “woollies.”

In 1883, the Ohio-born Bair took a job as a conductor with the Northern Pacific Railroad. Through the railroad, he traveled to Alaska during the Yukon gold rush. He returned a millionaire, not from striking gold but from selling machines that thawed permafrost. He then parlayed his fortune into multimillions, investing in real estate, banking, oil and sheep.

Before entering the mansion, which is now part of the Charles M. Bair Family Museum, one sees reminders of Bair’s short stint with the railroad and much longer career as a sheep magnate. The light above the garage was made from one of his conductor’s lanterns, and a covered wagon, standard issue for sheep herders on the open range, sits next to the foreman’s cabin.

Bair, his wife, Mary, and their two daughters, Marguerite and Alberta, moved into the mansion in 1934, where they often entertained artists, Hollywood celebrities and American presidents. The girls also liked to shop. “After World War II, Alberta and Marguerite made 20 trips to Europe to buy antiques, particularly Louis XV and Chippendale furnishings,” says 84-year-old Ethel Berg, a docent at the museum who personally knew Alberta. “They had to build several additions onto the mansion to house it all.”

One of the additions was added for the Bairs’ 50th wedding anniversary. The room has door handles plated in 24-karat gold and a stunning crystal chandelier that weighs more than 200 pounds, an anniversary gift from their daughters.

Marguerite eloped with the ranch manager in 1939. The couple did not have children. Alberta never married. She outlived her sister by two decades, living until age 97. After she passed away in 1993, the mansion and surrounding property became a museum, following the Bair sisters’ wishes. “Everything is as it was, including Alberta’s red hats by the door,” says Berg. “The sisters always intended the property to become a museum. They felt it might be the only way local people would see the kinds of things they collected.”

The museum is an eclectic assemblage of Native American artifacts, Western and European art and other curiosities. Alberta’s white Cadillac still sits in the garage. The works of such famed Western painters as Charles M. Russell, Joseph Henry Sharp and James K. Ralston decorate the walls, along with the many signed photographs of U.S. presidents, including Herbert Hoover, Harry Truman, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan and Theodore Roosevelt.

The Bair mansion is a house tour worth taking. Admission runs $5 for adults, $3 for seniors 62 and older, and $2 for youth ages 6 to 16. Children 5 and under are free.

Charles M. Bair Family Museum

Nearby RV Parks
Chief Joseph Park
Harlowton (26 miles away)

Conestoga Campground
White Sulfur Springs (36 miles away)
406-547-3890, www.ccmemberships.com
50 Years of Fun and Counting
Celebrate with us at jayco.com/50th

Tommy's first camping trip
1981

1981
Tommy's first camping trip

Jayco, Circle 115 on Reader Service Card
More Choices for Truck Lovers

article by Chris Hemer

As this issue goes to print, we’re not that far into 2018, but the Big Three are already gearing up for 2019 with new models and equipment. Here’s what we know at press time.

Chevrolet has introduced the all-new 2019 Silverado that is bigger (up to 3.9 inches in wheelbase, 1.6 inches overall), yet lighter than its predecessor by up to 450 pounds, thanks to the use of mixed materials and advanced manufacturing processes, according to the company. It is available in eight trim levels and six engine/transmission combos, including new 5.3- and 6.0-liter V-8s, and a first-ever 3.0-liter inline-six turbo-diesel. The latter two engines will be paired with a new Hydra-Matic 10-speed automatic transmission. A new Trailboss trim level, available on Custom and LT models, includes Z71 off-road equipment plus a factory 2-inch suspension lift, Rancho off-road shocks, a locking rear differential, skid plates and unique 18-inch aluminum wheels wrapped in 33-inch all-terrain rubber.

Ford announced that its best-selling F-150 will be available with a new 3.0-liter Power Stroke diesel this spring. Offering best-in-class diesel 250 horsepower and 440 lb-ft of torque, the new engine is matched with a 10-speed automatic transmission and is targeted to return an EPA-estimated fuel-economy rating of 30 mpg highway. In other Ford news, the midsize Ranger is back for 2019 with an all-new exterior design, high-strength steel frame and a 2.3-liter EcoBoost engine backed by a class-exclusive 10-speed automatic transmission. An available FX4 Off-Road Package adds skid plates,
Southwest Hikes

Hiking enthusiast Deborah Wall has authored several books on hiking, her latest showcasing 101 of the top trails in and around Las Vegas and national park preserves throughout Nevada, Utah, California and New Mexico. Wall has hiked each of the trails more than once and selected hikes for every fitness level. The book includes practical information on cell-phone reception, park restrictions and potential dangers, as well as wildlife, flora, history, how to prepare and best seasons to visit. Base Camp Las Vegas: 101 Hikes in the Southwest runs 384 pages and features 216 color photos and 22 detailed maps. Pricing is $24.95 for paperback and $12.95 for the e-book version. www.amazon.com

Ram has unveiled an all-new 1500 for 2019 boasting some pretty impressive features, among them an available eTorque “mild hybrid” system that replaces the traditional alternator with a belt-driven motor generator unit and a suitcase-size 48-volt battery pack. The system enables a seamless start/stop function, short-duration torque (up to 90 LBS-FT to the 3.6-liter Pentastar V-6 and up to 130 LBS-FT to the 5.7-liter Hemi V-8), and regenerative braking. In addition to a stronger frame, bigger brakes, Frequency Response Damping (FRD) shocks and electric power steering, the new Ram has a maximum payload of 2,300 pounds and a tow rating of 12,750 pounds. Lighter than the outgoing model, the new 1500 is claimed to be the most aerodynamic in its class.

With so many new models and powertrains available, the latest domestic truck lineup truly offers something for everyone.

Southwest Hikes

Hiking enthusiast Deborah Wall has authored several books on hiking, her latest showcasing 101 of the top trails in and around Las Vegas and national park preserves throughout Nevada, Utah, California and New Mexico. Wall has hiked each of the trails more than once and selected hikes for every fitness level. The book includes practical information on cell-phone reception, park restrictions and potential dangers, as well as wildlife, flora, history, how to prepare and best seasons to visit. Base Camp Las Vegas: 101 Hikes in the Southwest runs 384 pages and features 216 color photos and 22 detailed maps. Pricing is $24.95 for paperback and $12.95 for the e-book version. www.amazon.com

Ram has unveiled an all-new 1500 for 2019 boasting some pretty impressive features, among them an available eTorque “mild hybrid” system that replaces the traditional alternator with a belt-driven motor generator unit and a suitcase-size 48-volt battery pack. The system enables a seamless start/stop function, short-duration torque (up to 90 LBS-FT to the 3.6-liter Pentastar V-6 and up to 130 LBS-FT to the 5.7-liter Hemi V-8), and regenerative braking. In addition to a stronger frame, bigger brakes, Frequency Response Damping (FRD) shocks and electric power steering, the new Ram has a maximum payload of 2,300 pounds and a tow rating of 12,750 pounds. Lighter than the outgoing model, the new 1500 is claimed to be the most aerodynamic in its class.

With so many new models and powertrains available, the latest domestic truck lineup truly offers something for everyone.
For those looking to cover new ground, the appropriately named GEO can get you out there in style, while evoking the comforts of home. Paul Campbell, director of marketing at Gulf Stream Coach, says what characterizes the GEO is that the company decided to “ignore traditional decor when doing the styling. We instead chose to look forward and designed the interiors like modern homes and hotels when it came to using fabrics and interior design.”

The GEO, available in 10 floorplans plus three Special Value Trailers (SVT), has fiberglass walls over aluminum frames, with the walls constructed of Polyfoam insulation and Azdel (rather than wood) for rigidity and light weight. Floorplans range from 21 feet, 1 inch (claimed dry weight of 3,288 pounds) to 38 feet, 2 inches in the three-slide 296TS GEO Travel Trailer (claimed dry weight of 7,600 pounds).

GEOs feature jalousie-type windows, a three-burner range with a glass top, a microwave, a queen-size bed and a 34-inch radius shower. Outside, all units have a quick-connect LP-gas-line fitting.

The family-oriented 34½-foot 280TB can sleep nine, with beds for three in the rear bunkroom, plus there’s a kids’ dinette, and the bathroom features a tub. The midship kitchen and living area has a two-seater sofa bed and a dinette in a slide. A waterfall-edge solid-surface countertop graces the kitchen to the left of the entry door, and a 6-cubic-foot (8-cubic-foot optional) refrigerator has raised-panel door inserts. Up front between the two entry doors into the bedroom is an entertainment center with an optional 40-inch HDTV. A mini outdoor kitchen is also optional, as are a TV-mounting bracket and rear-bumper-mount gas grill.

Base MSRP for the GEO ranges from $23,233 to $30,793, and runs from $18,395 to $20,352 for the SVT series.

REV Group Purchases Lance

REV Group, manufacturer of Class A, B and C motorhomes, has acquired Lance Camper Manufacturing Corporation. With the purchase, REV Group enters the towables RV segment, a growing $10 billion market. Lance, founded in 1965 and employing more than 550 workers, designs, engineers and manufactures lightweight towable travel trailers and truck campers in Lancaster, California. Lance, which will continue to be led by Jack Cole, president, and Jeff Souleles, vice president, has won the Recreation Vehicle Dealer Association’s Quality Circle Award for 16 years running.

www.lancecamper.com

Arizona’s Palm Creek RV Resort

RVers who are 55 and over can enjoy more of the good life at Palm Creek Golf and RV Resort in Casa Grande, Arizona, which is undergoing a 50-acre expansion. The country-club-style 10/10★/10-rated Good Sam Park is adding 99 RV sites to its 350-acre facility, which caters to active adults who enjoy a vibrant social network. Already in place was an executive-style par-three golf course and a sports complex. Additional amenities now include a walking and fitness trail, two pet parks with shade pavilions, a pro shop, and a complex with a swimming pool and bathhouse.

www.palmcreekgolf.com

New Mexico’s Off-Road Oasis

RVers with toy haulers, rejoice! Construction of a new off-highway vehicle (OHV) park in northwestern New Mexico is in the works. The park encompasses 19,000 acres and provides 42 miles of OHV trails, which will include a small riding track for young people, a skills-training track, primitive campsites, toilets and a pavilion. The OHV park is northeast of Farmington in the Brown Springs area of the federal Bureau of Land Management’s Glade Run Recreation Area. The park is also well-suited for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding.

www.blm.gov/visit/glade-run
Unhappy Coupler

After waiting half a year for a refund check, a frustrated fifth-wheel owner asked RV Resolutions to try to speed things up:

› I need your help getting Santa Rosa RV Sales in Santa Rosa, California, to reimburse me the promised $75 cost of emergency repairs required when I was traveling through Arizona with my week-old Rockwood.

On the third travel day after purchasing the new 2017 fifth-wheel, the Reese Revolution coupler began emitting very loud metal-against-metal sounds. The Forest River dealer in Yuma was wonderful in arranging a timely disassembly and lubrication of the internal bearing. My Santa Rosa RV sales manager, Derek Sweazy, told me to pay for the repair with assurances of reimbursement.

Upon returning home, I was told I must wait six weeks before the dealership could accommodate an appointment to service the trailer and to submit the bill for reimbursement at that time. Following this appointment, I was provided a promise that the $75 would be paid. When no refund came, multiple phone messages were left with the dealership but were not returned.

It has now been almost six months since the initial incident, and I believe I have been patient long enough. I’m hoping attention by Trailer Life might spur some movement regarding my request.

Earl Ansley, Walnut Creek, California

THE COMPANY Responds

To expedite reimbursement, RV Resolutions forwarded Earl Ansley’s request to Santa Rosa RV Sales. A short time later, Derek Sweazy called to let us know the dealership had mailed a reimbursement check to Ansley and we could mark the case closed.

Preexisting Conditions

An Arizona reader bought a four-year-old fifth-wheel sight unseen from a dealership more than 500 miles away after receiving assurances that it had been inspected and was in good condition. Although he purchased the trailer “as is,” he felt the dealership should cover the roof repair fees:

› In May of 2017, I purchased a 2013 Redwood Sequoia from Family RV in Morgan Hill, California. The fifth-wheel had been listed on a classified-advertising website for RVs. After many phone calls and emails to Family RV assuring me that the trailer was in excellent mechanical condition, I purchased it and paid to have it transported the 535 miles to my home.

On the first day of use, the gray tank overflowed and filled the basement. The tank had to be moved, flushed, replumbed and reinstalled at a cost of $1,469. On the second day, the rubber roof blew off and had to be replaced at a cost of $9,040.72, and I incurred two weeks of lodging at a cost of $1,316. On the day after the roof repairs were made, I noticed that the refrigerator did not work in LP-gas mode, and it had to be repaired at a cost of $431.

To date, I am out $12,256.72 for repairs and costs on a fifth-wheel that I was assured was in excellent condition. I have owned several RVs over the years and have never experienced problems like these.

After I sent a letter to the owner of Family RV, the dealership made a settlement offer of $2,000 through its attorney, which was later raised to $3,500. I have offered to bear the cost of the refrigerator and holding-tank repairs, as well as the lodging costs, but I feel the dealership should at least be responsible for the roof repairs, as I was assured both verbally and via email that the roof was in good repair.

My repair facility, my insurance adjuster and Redwood RV have all told me the cause of the roof failure was preexisting conditions. I have documentation from all three of them and photos from before the repairs were made illustrating that the roof seals were cracked, vents were missing, and the front cap was loose with broken and missing screws, which caused the roof membrane to fail.

I hope Trailer Life can help me resolve this issue and obtain a more reasonable settlement.

Michael Hudson
Lake Havasu City, Arizona

A couple of months after we contacted Family RV on Michael Hudson’s behalf, we received the following thank-you note from him:

› Both parties have agreed to a settlement of $5,750 and to avoid any legal fees. I am happy to put this issue behind me. Thanks, Trailer Life, for helping to resolve this complaint.

M.H.

NEED HELP? RV Resolutions is a forum for the settlement of conflicts between consumers and RV dealers and manufacturers, accessory suppliers and service providers. After exhausting all other resources without success, please send a typed letter to Trailer Life RV Resolutions, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036. Include copies of appropriate bills and correspondence as well as a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
NO ONE EVER SAYS,
I’D RATHER BE AT THE OFFICE
BUT EVERYONE LOVES TO SAVE MONEY.
On the Lighter Side

Four-season living in the half-ton-towable Reflection 150 Series 230RL fifth-wheel is possible without sacrificing comfort.
Many RVers are looking for a rig that can accommodate their desire for adventurous experiences, year-round, without forfeiting comfort. Fifth-wheels are well known for their livability and highway-handling capability but are often too large for folks who want to visit more rustic locations. To fill this niche, Grand Design has introduced the 2018 Reflection 150 Series, a line of fifth-wheels designed to offer extended four-season livability in a length and weight that can be towed by a 150/1500-series pickup truck. Tested here is one of four floorplans, the 230RL, which delivers on both accounts.

Complementing towability, the 230RL is also shortbed-friendly. The chassis is fitted with a Turning Point swivel kingpin box by Lippert Components (LCI) that extends the hitching point 22 inches in front of the trailer, which allows the fifth-wheel to pivot under the trailer’s frame. The pin box allows the trailer to turn a full 90 degrees in a 5½-foot pickup bed without the use of a sliding hitch, which is a great convenience.

The 150 Series is a smaller, lighter version in the Reflection line, but that doesn’t mean it’s an “ultralight” or of lesser quality. In fact, it’s built the same way, with aluminum-framed and laminated walls and floor, and a residential wood-truss roof with two types of insulation. With R-9 walls, an R-30 floor, and a roof R-value that adds up to 40, this trailer is designed to put up with extreme temperatures.

But that’s just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to all-season RVing. If an RV is going to be used in frigid temperatures, insulation is important, but how it’s built and equipped is just as important. For instance, the low-point water drains must be inside the heated space with a drain to the outside. For that matter, all the plumbing and valves have to be in the heated space. Single-pane windows, for example, transmit heat and cold to the interior; the 150 Series’ optional dual-pane counterparts ($1,113 MSRP) reduce heat transfer while controlling condensation. Grand Design validated cold-weather practicality by having the unit tested by a third-party lab in zero- to 100-plus-degree Fahrenheit conditions.

Although we didn’t get a chance to test the fifth-wheel in extreme cold weather, we did spend time in the unit in the August heat in Elkhart, Indiana, and the air-conditioning system was able to easily keep up with the blazing sun and temperatures in the 90s. Outside, the 230RL’s functional layout is as you’d expect with plentiful storage in the pass-through and front compartments. An additional small compartment is in the slideout, giving access to storage under the dinette. The outside storage space is carpeted, so an option would be to remove the carpet and replace it with a weather-
resistant rubberized liner that’s sealed around the bottom to keep rainwater from seeping beyond the compartment, in case the door is opened in the rain or wet hoses and such are placed in there.

Utilities for the 230RL are conveniently located in the heated front compartment on the driver’s side. This Nautilus P1 command center includes city water and black-tank flush connections, dump-valve handles, freshwater control valves, and cable-and satellite-TV connections. There is a water-pump switch here, which is convenient, along with a siphon valve for winterizing and sanitizing the freshwater system, which is an excellent setup. Additionally, there is an outside shower, lighting and a 120-volt AC outlet.

Hitching up or working in and around the pass-through and front compartments at night is made easier with motion-sensing LED lighting. There’s motion-sensing entry lighting as well, so when the door is opened, the light comes on. Very nice.

Grand Design makes the 150 Series more affordable by offering very few options. Most of them are mandatory, which means they’re literally standard equipment. In the 230RL the only real option is dual-pane windows, which we highly recommend for efficiency and comfort when temperatures are extreme. Otherwise, the travel trailer comes fully equipped from the factory.

Setting up the 230RL is pretty straightforward. However, one difference between the standard Reflection and the 150 Series is that auto-leveling is not available, most likely for weight and cost savings. Leveling is accomplished via blocks and scissor jacks in the rear. If auto-leveling is important, you’ll have to move up to the Reflection to get it from the factory or add it in the aftermarket, but potential owners will have to pay close attention to loading, not to exceed the trailer’s gross vehicle weight rating.

The 230RL has a rear-side entry under a 17-foot Dometic power awning, which allows for decent patio coverage. We enjoyed this space, since there were rain showers during our stay, and by tilting the awning, we were able to stay dry under it.

Stepping up into the living room via the aluminum entry steps reveals a nicely sized, pleasant living space. To the left, the rear wall has a large picture window with Lippert (LCI) Thomas Payne Collection theater seating complete with cupholders, integrated
blue LED effect lighting, and heat and massage features. These reclining seats are of good quality and super comfortable. The center console and two cupholders per seat ensure that your favorite beverages can always be close at hand. A cabinet and table on each side hold movie-watching necessities, and there’s an overhead cabinet for storage.

Speaking of movies, when lounging here, the 40-inch LED 1080p HDTV is at the one-o’clock position on an articulating bracket for optimal viewing. It is connected to a Furrion DV3200 DVD stereo with Bluetooth capability and an app provision, so the stereo and TV sound can be controlled from a smart device. The TV is mounted in a sizable cabinet, with open storage above and lots of enclosed pantry-style storage below.

Next to and forward of the TV cabinet is an L-shaped kitchen with solid-surface countertops and plenty of workspace, a Dometic 21-inch three-burner range and a built-in microwave oven. The kitchen also has a large...
The SolidStep’s innovative design permits the step to operate through a wide range of ride heights with adjustable leg extensions. The design also ensures that the steps stay parallel to the ground, reducing the potential for slipping or falling during use.

The SolidStep design permits the step to stow inside of the entry door, keeping road debris and corrosion away while simultaneously permitting continuous skirt metal on the RV, enhancing the aesthetics of the coach.

Available in both triple and quad step configurations

No bounce, manual steel step with aluminum treads

Kickplate prevents damage to sidewall and skirt

Recessed feet prevent trip hazard and maximize clearance for camping spot

SolidStep conveniently folds up into the RV doorway when not in use

Mounting fasteners provided for either wood or laminate floor applications

Extra-wide top step for easy entry and exit

Double, triple and quad variations available

400-pound capacity

Includes floor backing plate

Lippert Components, Circle 119 on Reader Service Card

20 TRAILERLIFE April 2018
A skylight above the shower ensures adequate headroom, and the shower surround has an attractive brick pattern with steps and shelves. The vanity is nicely equipped with an oval stainless-steel sink and enough space around the basin for necessaries. The bathroom has plenty of storage, and there’s a mirrored medicine cabinet, storage cabinets on both walls and smartly placed towel bars for convenience.

The bedroom is well designed and equipped for a restful night’s slumber. When climbing into bed from the carpeted step, headroom is adequate. Bedroom storage is excellent, using the wardrobes and cabinets above the bed, and a closet and drawers at the foot of the bed. Tables with closable cabinets on either side of the bed, independent sconces and a shelf above the vinyl-padded headboard help ensure comfortable bedtime relaxing and reading. The bed lifts to reveal a spacious cavity underneath, which is great for storing shoes, large items and

---

(Above from left) The galley has ample room for meal prep, and a matching flip-up table adds to the counter space but needs to be put down before closing the slide; the wide farmer’s-style sink is a functional addition. The queen bed lifts to provide expansive storage underneath; attractive independently switched wall sconces illuminate both bedside tables.
If your RV is currently insured with ordinary auto insurance, your policy may not cover all of the components of your RV. These gaps in coverage could cost you thousands in the event of a claim.

The Good Sam Insurance Agency represents many of the nation’s top RV specialty insurance companies, so we can find you the best coverage at the best price. Customers who switch save an average of $389 each year!

**FOR YOUR FREE, NO-OBLIGATION QUOTE**

Call: **1-866-766-6389** and mention savings code **TD-6F**

Click: [GoodSamRVInsurance.com/code/6F](http://GoodSamRVInsurance.com/code/6F)
seldom-used articles of clothing.

To keep costs down, no decor options are offered for the 150 Series fifth-wheels. That said, the interior is lovely, with maple cabinetry and black accents. The floor is clad with Beauflor hickory vinyl, and Shaw R2X stain-resistant carpet is found in the slideout and around the bed — all high-quality stuff.

Pull-down pleated shades adorn each window, with similarly earth-toned box valances with trim curtains. Wallboards and ceilings are in appealing shades of tan with coordinating patterns. Kitchen appliances are all black, and the range has a tinted-glass cover that matches the dark-tinted glass on the cabinet doors. This attractive, high-end cover adds a nice amount of flat counter space for prep, if the cooktop isn’t needed.

All in all, the Reflection 150 Series 230RL gets high marks for its comfortable, functional layout, feature set and overall construction. If you want a maneuverable all-season fifth-wheel to have fun in, this rig should be on your list.

Turning Point
Lippert’s new pin box simplifies fifth-wheel towing with a shortbed truck

Shortbed pickups are increasingly popular with folks who want a full-size truck for towing and an extended or crew cab for the family and pets. But since these owners don’t need the truck for work, they don’t necessarily want an 8-foot bed, which makes some feel like they’re driving around in the Queen Mary. However, towing a fifth-wheel with a shortbed requires a sliding hitch. An automatic slider is more expensive and takes up more space in the bed; making sharp turns using a manual slider can be problematic if the owner forgets to release the mechanism.

LCI’s 16,000-pound-rated Turning Point kingpin box functions as a standard or rotating counterpart but provides greater cab-to-fifth-wheel clearance by moving the pivot point from the pin back 22 inches, without having to add a plate.

LCI accomplished this by using a custom-designed wedge that will snugly match the pin slot on most fifth-wheel hitches. The wedge is installed with two bolts on the pin-box head just behind the pin, which prevents it from turning on the hitch head. Two locking bolts are removed from the back of the pin box, allowing it to turn on the rear pivot point, adding the extra trailer-to-cab clearance.

Switching from shortbed to longbed use is simply a matter of removing the wedge and reinstalling the locking bolts, which transforms the Turning Point into a regular fifth-wheel pin box. Of course, you can continue to use the Turning Point’s pivoting feature even if you have a longbed truck, which will result in better fifth-wheel maneuvering in tight quarters and when backing.

Lippert Components Inc., 574-537-8900, www.lci1.com/turning-point

SPECIFICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grand Design Reflection 150 Series 230RL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Length</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Width</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Height</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gray-Water Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black-Water Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LP-Gas Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water-Heater Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigerator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Conditioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Converter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight (water and LP-gas full, no cargo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hitch Weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Axle Weight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GVWR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cargo Carrying Cap.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSRP, Base</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSRP, As Tested</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warranty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Design RV
574-825-8000, www.granddesignrv.com
Circle 140 on Reader Service Card
WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A
BIG 
THANK 
YOU 
FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE
2018 SPRING SHOW SEASON!

STAY TUNED FOR OUR UPCOMING 2018 SUMMER SERIES AT A CITY NEAR YOU AND GREATER EXPANSION IN 2019!
ANOTHER SIDE OF
DEATH VALLEY

DISCOVERING THE SPECTACULAR ROCK FORMATIONS AND CURIOUS PAST OF TITUS CANYON ON THE NATIONAL PARK’S MOST POPULAR BACKCOUNTRY DRIVE

It all began because we were looking for the touted spring wildflowers at Death Valley. There had been more rain than normal, and word had it that amazing arrays of flowers could be seen at the higher elevations in the vast national park that spreads out across eastern California and extends into western Nevada. We were camped in our fifth-wheel at Texas Springs, a rustic campground about a mile from Furnace Creek, and it was time to stretch both our legs and our minds.

We jumped into our truck and drove east toward Beatty, Nevada, on Daylight Pass Road. We weren’t disappointed. At about 3,000 feet, the flat terrain and sloping hillsides along the highway were brushed in a yellow glow. As we wandered around the fields, we enjoyed the bright yellows, snowlike whites and occasional punctuation of purple flowers spread before us. Our nostrils were treated to the gentle fragrance wafting from all the blossoms.

Saturated by blooming wildflowers and curious about what we might find farther along, we noticed a secondary road on the map and decided a detour would be more fun than retracing our route back to the campground.

The detour was Titus Canyon Road, a mostly one-way route that threads through the backcountry for about 30 miles in the Grapevine Mountains along the eastern side of Death Valley. To get to the canyon, we drove into Nevada a few miles and then veered onto a gravel road that warned that only high-clearance vehicles, and ideally those with four-wheel drive, should proceed. Our Ram 2500 pickup fit those requirements, so we charged ahead.
We recommend planning ahead for enough time to do this drive during daylight hours.

The first thing that struck us was the contrast of the landscape on the eastern side of the mountains compared to the main valley. Scrub vegetation in varying shades of green covered the gradually upsloping terrain. It was nothing like the stark gray, tan and black we had seen in much of the rest of the park. The mountains ahead were relatively gentle and didn’t display the variety of geological movement and changes that so define Death Valley.

Initially, the road was straight with a wide gravel surface, but it soon narrowed to one lane and varied in composition from packed reddish soil to sometimes coarse rock that required careful navigation to avoid an almost stairstep surface. It wound up and down numerous hills and through varying canyon widths. I was surprised every time I got a glimpse down a wide canyon and realized we still had a 3,000- to 4,000-foot elevation drop before we would be anywhere near the end of the road.

As we progressed, the landscape became the highlight of the trip. Everywhere we looked were examples of eons of change: uplifted strata, wind- and water-shaped spires, and polished rock walls. The road...
DEATH VALLEY DRIVE

The one-way section of Titus Canyon Road starts off Daylight Pass Road and travels from east to west. The 27-mile maintained dirt drive is suitable for high-clearance two- and four-wheel-drive vehicles only. The shorter two-way section connects to Scotty’s Castle Road and provides hiking access to the stunning Titus Canyon Narrows. The 3-mile graded-gravel road is accessible by most vehicles but not suitable for larger trailers because of limited turn-around space at the trailhead.

This backcountry route explores a fraction of Death Valley’s more than 3 million acres and 1,300 miles of paved and dirt roads. To help visitors drive them safely, park staff regularly updates road conditions on a dedicated Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/deathvalleyroadconditions

FREE RIDE

On April 21 this year, the first day of National Park Week, admission to Death Valley is on the house.

DESSERT OASES

FURNACE CREEK

Of the eight Death Valley National Park campgrounds that accommodate RVs, only one, centrally located Furnace Creek Campground, has full RV hookups and takes reservations. 877-444-6777, www.recreation.gov

Managed by Xanterra Parks and Resorts, the former Furnace Creek Resort reopened last fall with a facelift and a new name, Oasis at Death Valley, but still offers dry RV sites at Fiddlers’ Campground.

800-236-7916, www.oasisatdeathvalley.com/lodging/fiddlers-campground

PANAMINT SPRINGS

On the west side of Death Valley, the family-owned and -operated Panamint Springs Resort welcomes RVers with 10 full-hookup sites and 28 dry sites.

775-482-7680, www.panamintsprings.com/accommodations/camping-rv

STOVEPIPE WELLS

Part of the Stovepipe Wells Village complex in the center of the park and managed by Death Valley Lodging Company, Stovepipe Wells RV Park has 14 sites with RV hookups.


For More Information

Death Valley National Park, 760-786-3200, www.nps.gov/deva

One of eight RV campgrounds run by the National Park Service in Death Valley, Texas Springs is open from mid-October through May with 92 first-come, first-served sites.
itself varied, too. There were short stretches along flat valley floors, then tight curves with sharp drop-offs, and places where we had to pull in our oversize side-view mirrors to keep them from being slapped against the truck by trees or, more dangerously, rock walls.

The road offered more than just a geology lesson. There was history, as well. The canyon had been mined for copper and lead, and numerous open mine shafts were visible. We even passed a ghost town. Granted, Leadfield is not that old — its short heyday was from 1925 to 1926 — but some of the old structures and mine tailings are still there. Even older were the Native American petroglyphs near a lightly seeping natural spring, showing this canyon had been used as a thoroughfare long before we made the trip.

The only reason we were able to drive through Titus Canyon was because of Leadfield. The early route to the mines must have been a rough wagon trail, but once promoters and investors got involved in 1925, more than $60,000 was spent to build the 15-mile road. Considered an engineering marvel at that time, it begins at 4,000 feet in Leadfield before climbing through 5,200-foot passes and then descending to what is now Nevada Route 374.

There were big plans for Leadfield, but financial failures and low-grade ore caused most of the mines to close in 1926. The U.S.
Postal Service also had high hopes. It opened one of its shortest-lived post offices in August 1926 and closed it six months later. By late 1927, it was reported that only seven miners were left, and they were working with hand tools rather than the heavy equipment originally hauled down the road.

It’s hard to pick a favorite area of the road, but the 1½-mile Titus Canyon Narrows comes close. Here the towering rock walls close in, and you are looking upward at least 200 feet to see the sky. You can see only a short distance ahead as the road winds snakelike through this tight part of the canyon, limiting vision to a few dozen yards before the next sharp bend.

Just past the narrows, the road joins a short two-way stretch that connects to Scotty’s Castle Road and Grapevine Canyon. Having been damaged in a thunderstorm and the resulting flash floods, most of the road and the desert mansion it is named for are closed and not likely to reopen until 2020.

After miles of challenging driving, particularly on the final stretch, I let out a deep breath and relaxed behind the wheel. It wasn’t an easy drive, but it certainly was worthwhile. We had already explored parts of Death Valley, but Titus Canyon gave us a wonderful combination of history, geology and natural beauty all wrapped up in a spectacular 30-mile drive.
One area trailer owners have to pay close attention to is tire maintenance. The proliferation of less-than-stellar tires found on new trailers and in the aftermarket has resulted in far too many failures, most at inopportune times. Compounding the heartache of a blowout is collateral damage caused by separating tread slapping on body side walls and the undercarriage before the tow vehicle and trailer can be stopped. The first line of defense is maintaining proper tire pressure, before and during any trip, and the use of a tire-pressure monitor is the best way to keep tabs on proper inflation and integrity while on the road.

A number of good tire-pressure monitors are on the market, and most late-model tow vehicles already offer such systems right from the factory. RV Innovations of Castle Rock, Colorado, makers of auxiliary braking devices for vehicles towed behind motorhomes, recently introduced a more sophisticated system, RVBrake3, and is offering a unique version of this device (without braking) to trailer owners. Called the RVi Command Center smart tablet and hub, the device monitors tire pressure and incorporates a secondary feature that will surely be appreciated by trailer owners, especially those without the benefit of power leveling jacks. Imbedded into the sophisticated software that propels the system is a special app that allows owners to check trailer level from a screen mounted in the tow vehicle.

All the information is monitored on a high-quality tablet with a 7-inch color screen that can be mounted to just about any smooth, flat surface using a very "sticky" bracket. The tablet is held in place by a strong magnet built into the bracket.

The heart of the system is the Command Center hub, which looks like a hockey puck. It collects data from the Tire Patrol sensors screwed on to the valve stem in each wheel, and sends the information to the tablet. Positioning the hub takes some contemplation for optimum performance. It can easily be attached to a flat surface (think countertop or floor) via a magnetic base, which is held in place with strong 3M VHB double-sided tape but needs to be near a 12-volt DC or 120-volt AC power source and, preferably, out of the way.

Since a fifth-wheel was recruited to test the system, we ran through a number of scenarios before settling on mounting the hub in the front pass-through compartment on the rear wall. To get there, a bracket was built from over-the-counter parts sold at a local home-improvement store and mounted at first to the wall using hook-and-loop tape that sticks easily to the wall covering (standard-fare material used to line compartments).

Using the hook-and-loop tape made it possible to prelevel the bracket; once in position, screws were used to secure the bracket permanently so it could not move while on the road and protect it from being knocked out of level by adjacent items stored in the compartment. The magnetic base to hold the hub was attached to the bracket with the 3M VHB double-sided
taped, after cleaning with alcohol.

We chose this location to allow the hub to be in equal proximity to the tire sensors and tablet. It also was close to the 120-volt AC outlet inside the storage compartment (in this case an inverter provided power while on the road). It would also be easy to route a 12-volt DC line to the mounting location. Internal battery charging is provided by a cleverly designed, multiuse power pack with folding prongs for connecting to AC power, a pigtail for pushing into a DC receptacle, and USB ports.

Before the hub could be “stuck” to the magnet on the newly fabricated bracket, it had to be paired to the tablet. The process, which requires the tablet and hub to be fully charged, is prompted on the screen and uses a QR code on the back of the instruction booklet. It takes only seconds to pair the devices, and owners are advised to hold on to the QR code should re-pairing become necessary in the future.

Once the pairing is complete and the hub is in position (based on specific instructions and the directional arrow molded into the plastic housing), the tire sensors were paired to the hub. Again, this is a simple procedure following the prompts on the screen; the tablet was handheld and carried to the individual wheels during the pairing process. The sensors are threaded on to the Schrader valve stems in the wheels,

1) The RVI system comes complete with a 7-inch monitor, Command Center hub, mounting brackets and two chargers. Four Tire Patrol sensors were needed for the tandem-axle test fifth-wheel. 2) It was determined that the best place to mount the hub was in the front pass-through storage compartment. A bracket was purchased at a local home-supply store and modified for the installation. 3) The bracket surface was cleaned with an alcohol-prep pad. 4) A piece of hook-and-loop material was attached. 5) The hook-and-loop material, which stuck nicely to the standard wall covering used in the compartment, made it possible to prelevel the bracket before driving in the screws to complete the installation. 6) A magnetic base supplied with the kit was used to secure the hub in a designated area.

7) After peeling off the protective film from the 3M VHB double-sided tape, the disc was attached to the top portion of the newly made bracket. 8) The hub must be powered at all times to function properly. Here it’s connected to a 120-volt AC source nearby in the storage compartment, using one of the two multipurpose charging devices that are provided with the RVI Command Center smart tablet and hub kit. In this case, the onboard inverter provides power when on the road; a 12-volt DC line can also be routed to the hub, if necessary. 9) The Tire Patrol sensor was screwed on to the Schrader valve in the wheel, prompted in sequence by the tablet. Pairing sessions are 10 minutes long, which is plenty of time to get the job done. 10) The tablet bracket has a very “sticky” suction cup on the base, which holds to just about any smooth surface. The magnet allows the tablet to be removed easily.
MONITORING WITH BENEFITS

SUN OUT
RV VENT SHADE

Your Key to a Good Night’s Sleep!
- Mylar Backed Shade Blocks Most Light For 14” x 14” Vents
- Simply Installs Over Current Trim With Existing Screws
- Replaceable Shade
- Reduces Heat
- Easily Retracted To Allow Natural Light In

BEST NEW PRODUCT OF THE YEAR FROM NORTHERN WHOLESALE SHOW!

BEST OF SHOW IN RV PRO MAGAZINE

See our Vent Shade video on bauerproducts.com

866-682-2837 • bauerproducts.com
Distributed by AP Products
Manufacturer Part No. 015-201612

11) The tablet can be used as a handheld and is powered by an internal battery.
12) Cleverly designed power modules can be connected to a 120-volt AC receptacle via folding prongs, or to common 12-volt DC power outlets using the molded-in pigtail. Flat USB cables are provided with the kit and can be plugged into one of the dual receptacles in the power module.

and respective positions are clearly portrayed on the screen. Each session to pair the tire sensors is 10 minutes, which is plenty of time to get it done without rushing. The system is capable of monitoring up to 14 tires, which will cover triple-axle trailers towed by a dually truck.

After pairing, the user then inputs high- and low-pressure values for the tires, based on the loading labels on the trailer and tow vehicle or the pressure normally maintained. The instructions call for setting these values at 5 to 10 PSI over and under the recommended pressure; the assumption is made that the tires are properly inflated prior to installing the system.

The tablet gives the driver visual and audible alerts when the low- and high-pressure thresholds are reached, and when high temperature (170 degrees Fahrenheit) is indicated. It will warn of a flat tire based on decreasing pressure and let the user know if the battery is low or if communication with the hub is lost. To prolong battery life, accelerometers signal the sensors to transmit every three minutes when the tires are rolling and every seven and a half minutes when the vehicles are parked. If the vehicles have been parked, there could be a time delay before the pressure values will show up on the screen, depending on the cycle segment. The sensors can be removed to inflate the tires and will automatically pair with the hub when replaced.

It takes only a minute or so to calibrate the RV Level system, which requires the trailer to be exactly where you want it before going through the process. Prompts on the screen when in the RV Level mode guide the user through the process.

We found the RV Level feature to be a game changer. Driving onto a site is
always a crapshoot, but the level feature guides the driver to set the trailer in its most level attitude — without getting out to check conventional bubble levels. This is particularly valuable when parking for the night without unhitching. Owners without the benefit of automatic leveling jacks can use the tablet as a handheld when operating manual jacks or blocking the trailer wheels.

Another benefit of the system is the Travel Checklist app, which is customizable within three categories: Getting Ready for Take Off, Setting Up Camp and Breaking Down Camp. Completed items can be checked off, and when everything is a go, the checked boxes can be cleared. Say goodbye to hanging notes and placing other visual items to jog your memory.

There’s also a support app that provides 24/7 FAQs, troubleshooting and contact info. Customers will appreciate the fact that the company has a strong reputation for being responsive to troubleshooting and operational inquiries.

Monitoring inflation pressure is a hedge against potential tire problems on the road that can lead to accidents and trailer damage that is costly to repair — and a ruined trip, to boot. The leveling twist offered by the RVi Command Center smart tablet and hub makes it unique in the field. The system retails for $215, and the tire sensors are $45 each. It’s a must-have for trailer enthusiasts looking to be safe on the road while enjoying feature-rich side benefits that enhance the travel experience.

RV Innovations
800-815-2159, www.rvibrake.com

A) The tablet has a 7-inch color screen that can be easily viewed by the driver. Well-thought-out apps for monitoring tire pressure, checking trailer level and viewing a customizable checklist are clearly displayed on the home screen. B) A screenshot of the tablet in Tire Patrol mode. In this case, the tow vehicle was equipped with a tire-pressure monitor from the factory, and only the trailer-tire icons were programmed to show up on the screen. C) In the RV Level app, a vivid illustration showing front/back and left/right positioning informs the user where corrections are needed to level the trailer.

BEST PORTABLE CLOTHES WASHER IN THE WORLD!

HAND-POWERED • NON-ELECTRIC • ECO-FRIENDLY

1. Add water & detergent
2. Place clothes in basket
3. Easy up & down motion
4. Amazing cleaning power

Watch our brief video at lavariowerasher.com
or call 860-599-1300

COMPACT & ULTRA-LIGHT
MADE IN THE USA

LAVARIO
PORTABLE CLOTHES WASHER

Lavario Washer Corporation, Circle 118 on Reader Service Card
A $50 BLUETOOTH SENSOR TRACKS THE TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY AND MOTION INSIDE AN RV AND MONITORS CONDITIONS VIA A MOBILE APP

Do you take your pets along when you go RVing? Do you travel in climates that can be hazardous to your equipment? Would you like to check on the temperature inside your RV when you’re away or keep tabs on the humidity level to avoid mildew damage? How about monitoring the RV in storage to know whether it has been hit, moved or broken into?

If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, you’re not alone. Having been a full-time RVer for 10 years, and living much of that time in the chilly Northeast, I was often concerned about freezing pipes. And for those whose pets are sometimes alone in the RV, knowing that the air-conditioning system is keeping the heat at bay is essential.

While it’s important to have backups to keep property and pets safe, knowing when the environment inside your RV is out of order is key. RV WATCHDOG

The Blustream sensor (below right) monitors humidity, temperature and, if activated, motion and impact, and is easy to mount almost anywhere. A dedicated smart device (iPod, iPad, iPhone or Android) or Blustream-recommended hub is required to stream the data.
The app records the sensor's data and displays hourly, daily and monthly graphs to show trends. This is useful to check if a furnace or air conditioner is working or a thermostat is operating properly. Here the hourly temperature rose from 62 degrees Fahrenheit at 1 a.m. to 67 degrees at 8 a.m.

During that same period, the daily humidity chart showed humidity increased from 40 percent to 44 percent. If the values fall outside a user-set range, an alert is sent to the owner's primary mobile device.

The settings and menu in the associated mobile app are customizable and reachable from a smartphone or tablet touch screen.

When new Blustream sensors are paired with the app, a separate bar is added for each one, which can be customized with the location, and an identifying image can even be added.

The daily temperature chart showed a decrease in temperature from 71 to 63 degrees Fahrenheit during a four-day period.

After moving the sensor from the office to the RV on a late-fall day, the temperature dropped rapidly on the hourly scale.
KEEPING IT COMFY

RV deviates from normal levels allows you to take action to remedy the situation. In the past, this kind of technology was relegated to home automation systems installed in only the highest-end motorhomes and conversion coaches. But now, thanks to constantly evolving mobile technology, a $50 device, called Blustream, and an internet connection allow RVers to have temperature, humidity and motion information at their fingertips with data streamed to a smart device around the clock.

The Blustream is a small battery-powered temperature, humidity and impact sensor that can be placed anywhere in an RV and wirelessly connected to a smart device via Bluetooth.

According to Robert Bean, chairman and founder of Worcester, Massachusetts-based Blustream Corporation, the original purpose of the sensor was to safeguard valuables. Bean saw a need to protect musical instruments and fine cigars from the effects of temperature extremes, dryness and moisture, and soon saw a plethora of other applications for the sensor, including RVs.

The Blustream sensor requires a dedicated smartphone or tablet connected to the internet to stream data and send alerts. While you’re in your RV, your primary cell phone will work with the unit, so if the furnace fails on a freezing night when you’re asleep, you’ll get an alert. However, if you’re looking for continuous real-time data and notifications when you and your cell phone are away from the RV, you’ll need a dedicated Bluetooth device that can be hooked up to the internet and left in the RV.

The sensor and the associated mobile app monitor ambient temperature and humidity levels, and, if activated, can detect motion in the RV, although the impact sensor tends to discharge the sensor’s lithium battery more quickly, according to the company. These values are continuously reported to the connected smart device, and the app records and charts the data, and sends alerts when the values fall outside a predetermined range set by the user.

Installation of the system is almost foolproof. The dedicated smart device must be connected to the internet, and for that, you can add an older smartphone (iOS10/Android 5 or above) to your existing plan (Verizon, for example, can add a device for internet-only use to share the data on an existing plan at a cost of $20 per month) or sign up for a separate internet-only plan. Then connect the old phone or data device to a 12-volt DC power source, download and install the app, and pair the phone with the Blustream sensor. The sensor comes with hook-and-loop tape to mount it to just about any surface, and multiple sensors can be used to monitor various zones in the RV.

To test the system, we loaded
the app on an old iPhone 5. We tested the unit in November in Massachusetts, first inside the office and then inside an RV that had been winterized and stored for the season. The iPhone was connected to Wi-Fi, and since the RV wasn’t moving, we didn’t have to add the phone to our mobile plan. Full-time RVers would have the option of pairing the sensor with an iPad or Android tablet, or a similar device, provided it had cellular capability. Blustream also recommends a cellular-connection device called Smart Bridge ($75 MSRP) that can take the place of a smart device.

Alternately, one of the new cellular Wi-Fi hotspots or repeaters could be used, such as the Connect from Winegard or the PDQ Connect OneSource, which would provide internet connectivity in the RV to any device. The battery discharge on the RV’s 12-volt DC system would be greater, though, because you’d have to keep the dedicated smart device plugged in and the Wi-Fi unit powered up. The benefit is that you’d pay for the plan for that device but could use the Wi-Fi connection on multiple devices.

Testing the Blustream in the office and the RV next to an old-school analog temperature-and-humidity gauge proved that the sensor works as described. The temperatures matched, and the humidity was close, although we give more credence to the Blustream than our old gauge. After installing the app and adjusting the parameters, the alerts were received on our primary iPhone 6. The adjustable impact sensor also worked well.

The Blustream’s Bluetooth signal can reach 100 feet, so anywhere in any RV is fair game for the smart device. If you have multiple sensors, they show up in a customizable list, and the user can program in the name of the location where the device is mounted. The sensor uses a CR2032 lithium coin battery that lasts for up to two years, according to Bean.

The Blustream’s impact sensor not only shows if the RV is hit or moves, but because of its sensitivity settings, it can be used as an intrusion alarm, according to Bean. Attach a sensor to the RV’s entry door, and if someone tries to force it open, an alert will be sent. A firmware update provided earlier this year allows the same sensor to act as a motion alarm, Bean said, adding that updates occur automatically through the mobile app. The Blustream is a good device for monitoring your RV while you’re away for the day or keeping tabs on it while it’s in storage, provided you have a long-term supply of 12-volt DC power. The Blustream sensor has an MSRP of $49.99 per device and can be purchased on Amazon through a link on the company’s website. The app is free.

Blustream Corporation
888-997-2707
www.blustreamcorp.com/rvs
Whether your RV is used for weekend jaunts or full-time travel, it represents a major investment that should be protected and enhanced for ultimate enjoyment. Owners tend to rate the value of their RV by its longevity and the amount of pleasure they get from using it. Our annual roster of the most popular RV accessories and their suppliers can help ensure both. This year’s list showcases the products that make RVing more enjoyable, from awnings to entertainment systems, as well as an assortment of other practical gear. From maintaining roof seals to replacing suspension parts, you’ll find plenty of outfitters on the following pages to keep your RV looking and running like new.

Care and Maintenance
Cleaners and Waxes
Have you heard the saying that “A clean machine is a happy machine?” When it comes to RVs, it’s absolutely true. Environmental contaminants can eat away at a trailer and tow vehicle, and keeping them clean and protected will ensure long life. Whether you have a brand-new RV or a classic ride, products from the following companies can help keep your RV running like new:

- Camco, www.camco.net
- Dometic, www.dometic.com/usa
- Eagle One, www.eagleone.com
- Gel-Gloss, www.gel-gloss.com
- Gold Eagle, www.goldagle.com
- Griot’s Garage, www.griotsgarage.com
- Meguiar’s, www.meguiars.com
- Poli Glow, www.poliandwax.com
- ProtectAll, www.protectall.com
- RejX, www.rejx.com
- Reliable Products, www.reliableproductsonline.com
- Roadmaster (Voom!), www.roadmasterinc.com
- Shurhold Industries, www.shurhold.com
- Star brite, www.starbrite.com
- Wash Wax All, www.washwax.com

Sealants
An RV is a house and a vehicle, subject to the same forces of a hurricane and earthquake every time it goes down the road. That punishment takes its toll on the sealants that keep the RV protected from the elements. If they fail, water can run inside and cause rot, delamination, mildew and structural failure. That’s why it’s important to inspect sealants at least every 90 days for cracks, holes and separations, and reapply as needed. Make sure to use the correct sealants for the RV, especially on the roof. Follow the instructions for application and curing carefully, and always use caution when on an RV ladder or roof.

- Dicor, www.dicor.com
- EternaBond, www.eteranbond.com
- Geocel, www.geocelusa.com
- GE Silicone, www.caulkyourhome.com
- Loctite Products, www.loctiteproducts.com
- Sika Corporation, www.usa.sika.com
RV and Tire Covers
RV and tire covers are a great defense against environmental hazards, and many are lightweight, and UV- and moisture-resistant. These covers come in universal sizes and custom fits, and are typically designed for any climate, from harsh winters to intense sun. Costlier models using durable Tyvek synthetic and other high-tech materials tend to offer better overall protection.
ADCO, www.adcoprod.com
CalMark Cover, www.calmarkcovers.com
Carver Industries, www.carvercovers.com
Classic Accessories, www.classicaccessories.com
Covercraft Direct, www.covercraft.com
Coverking, www.coverking.com
CoverQuest, www.coverquest.com

Elements, www.campingworld.com/elements
Empire Covers, www.empirecovers.com
Magne Shade, www.magneshade.com

Electronics and Electrical Systems
Backup Cameras
While many RV parks have invested in pull-through camp sites, most sites still must be backed into, which can be challenging when towing a trailer. Backup-camera systems, using a wireless signal, offer a wide-angle view behind the trailer, making it easier to get into that tricky campsite. Hitch cameras, which come as standard or optional equipment in some tow vehicles and are also available on the aftermarket, make hooking up to a trailer a snap.
ASA Electronics, www.asaelectronics.com
Furrion, www.furrion.com
Hopkins Towing Solutions, www.hopkinstowing.com
iBall, www.iballhitchcam.com
Rear View Safety, www.rearviewsafety.com
Toren (Swift Hitch), www.swift-hitch.com

GPS Devices
We’re surrounded by GPS devices, whether they’re on our smartphones or built into our tow vehicles, but RV-specific navigational tools can be programmed with an individual RV profile to route around unsuitable roads. Many list RV parks and RV-friendly fuel stops, and some work with voice commands. Map data is downloaded, so it’s possible to reroute in an area with no cellular service. Some models link to provide real-time weather, traffic and other helpful information via internal or smartphone data connections.
Garmin, www.garmin.com
Magellan GPS, www.magentargps.com/roadmate-rv
Rand McNally, www.randmcnally.com/rv

Solar-Powered Systems
Solar systems can be tied to advanced charging, inverter and even lithium-ion battery systems to effectively run appliances and accessories. It’s best to build the system from the bottom up and size components such as wiring, chargers and batteries based on current and future system requirements.
ArkPak, www.arkportablepower.com
Eco-Worthy, www.eco-worthy.com
EEZ RV Products, www.eezrvproducts.com
Goal Zero, www.goalzero.com
Go Power, www.gpelectric.com
Nature’s Generator, www.naturesgenerator.com
Renogy, www.renogy.com
Samlex Solar, www.samlexsolar.com
Solarflexion, www.solarflexion.com
Solarland, www.solarlandusa.com
Sunforce Products, www.sunforceproducts.com
Wholesale Solar, www.wholesalesolar.com
WindyNation, www.windyNation.com
Zamp Solar, www.zampsolar.com

April 2018 TRAILERLIFE 39
Energy Management Systems and Surge Protectors
RVs are becoming more complex, employing advanced electronics, converters and electric motors that are susceptible to power spikes and brownouts. Surge protectors and energy-management systems can help protect your RV from electrical damage, which can be expensive to repair. Whether you choose a portable unit that plugs into the RV’s cordset or install a built-in one with a remote readout, this is one piece of equipment you shouldn’t go without.
Camco, www.camco.net
Hughes Autoformers, www.hughesautoformers.com
Technology Research Corporation, www.trci.net

Inverters
Converters transform 120-volt AC power into 12-volt DC power to operate appliance circuit boards, lighting, ventilation fans and accessories, and charge the house batteries. Inverters do the opposite, resulting in 120-volt AC power from a 12-volt battery bank. When AC power is available, a combination inverter-charger will condition the house batteries when not inverting. Sizes range from small 150-watt units to large built-in systems that produce as much as 3,000 watts of 120-volt AC electricity. Choose a pure-sine-wave inverter to avoid damaging sensitive electronic devices.
Exeltech Power Inverters, www.exeltech.com
Go Power, www.gpelectric.com
Samlex Solar, www.samlexsolar.com
Sensata Technologies (Magnum Energy), www.magnum-dimensions.com
Tripp Lite, www.tripplite.com
Xantrex, www.xantrex.com

Generators
If your RV doesn’t have a built-in generator, investing in a portable model allows you to charge the batteries, watch TV and run an air conditioner or automatic-drip coffeemaker when you’re away from campground utilities. Generators come in diesel, gasoline, LP-gas or dual gasoline/LP-gas versions for portable or built-in use in trailers. Before purchasing a generator, make sure it can handle the calculated load with juice to spare and will be quiet enough for where you plan to travel. This is particularly important when traveling to National Park Service campgrounds where generators “cannot exceed a noise level of 60 decibels measured on the A-weighted scale at 50 feet.”
Briggs and Stratton, www.briggsandstratton.com
Champion Power Equipment, www.championpowerequipment.com
Energizer Generators, www.energizergenerators.com
Honda Power Equipment, www.powerrequipmenthonda.com
Hyundai Power Equipment, www.hyundaipower.ca
Powerhouse Generators, www.powerhouse-products.com

LED Lighting
LEDs have been standard equipment in almost every RV built for the past few years, but if you have an older model, switching to these efficient lights can be a wise investment. LEDs are generally longer lasting than incandescent bulbs, project more light and use a fraction of the power. In most cases, existing bulbs can be replaced with LEDs, and LED fixtures can be installed with relative ease.
Alpenglow Marine Lights, alpenglowlights.com
Camping World, www.campingworld.com
Command Electronics, www.commandelectronics.com
Diamond Group, www.dg-usa.com
EEZ RV Products, www.eezrvproducts.com
Jirah, www.jirahled.com
M4Products, www.m4products.com
Star Lights, www.starlightsinc.com
Super Bright LEDs, www.superbrightleds.com

40 TRAILER LIFE April 2018
Tire-Pressure Monitoring Systems
With questionable tire quality and the general tendency to overload RVs, tire blowouts on trailers are far too common. When a tire loses pressure, a tire-pressure monitoring system (TPMS) warns the driver with an audible alert and sometimes flashing lights, so he or she can pull over before more damage is done. These systems consist of a base unit mounted in the cab and sensors programmed to each wheel on the trailer, as well as the tow vehicle, if it’s not already equipped with such a device. Many sensors also track tire temperature, and some systems can be monitored on smart devices.

Advantage (PressurePro), www.advantagepressurepro.com
Doran Manufacturing (360RV), www.dorandomfg.com
EEZ RV Products (EEZTire), www.eezrvproducts.com
HawksHead (Talon, Solar Impulse), www.tpms.ca
Hopkins Towing Solutions (InVision), www.hopkinstowingsolutions.com

Entertainment
Audio and Video Equipment
Some of the products at your local electronics store are great for home use but may not fare as well in a mobile environment. Mobile entertainment systems for RVs have come a long way with an increase in quality, performance and connectivity. Upgrading to the latest mobile electronics will result in a more satisfying entertainment experience, especially if you have an older RV.

ASA Electronics, www.asaelectronics.com
Furrion, www.furrion.com
Fusion, www.fusionentertainment.com
Insignia Products, www.insigniaproducts.com
King, www.kingconnect.com
PQN Enterprises, www.pqnenterprises.com

Satellite Programming
Cable TV in RV parks can be inconsistent and lack the desired channels. Over-the-air TV can be great near urban centers but spotty to nonexistent in outlying areas. If television viewing is a priority, the best way to watch may be satellite TV. The receiver can be rented or purchased, and the service turned on and off monthly, depending on the provider. If you already have satellite service at home, adding it in the RV can often be done with a small additional monthly charge.

Bell, www.bell.ca
DirectV, www.directv.com
Dish, www.dish.com
Shaw Direct, www.shawdirect.ca

Television Antennas
When not connected to cable service at the power pedestal, TV programming in an RV is available through free over-the-air digital broadcast signals and paid satellite service. Either way, for the clearest reception and most channels, you need the right antenna — or antennas, if you wish to watch both ways.

King, www.kingconnect.com
Kvh Industries, www.kvh.com
Shakespeare Marine, www.shakespeare-ce.com/marine
Winegard, www.winegard.com

Wi-Fi and Cellular Boosters and Data Hubs
Boosters can help keep Wi-Fi and cellular signals strong by repeating or amplifying them, and even functioning as a service hub. If the source signal is weak or the system has too many users, service still may be slow or non-functional, but these devices give RVers the best chance of a good connection.

C. Crane, www.ccrane.com
PDQ Connect, www.pdqconnect.com
Shakespeare Marine, www.shakespeare-ce.com
SinglePoint, www.yoursinglepoint.com
SmoothTalker, www.smoothtalker.com
weBoost, www.webost.com
Wi-Fi Ranger, www.wifiranger.com
Winegard, www.winegard.com
Freshwater Systems

Water Hoses, Appliances and Connectors

Water pumps, drinking-water hoses, fittings and filters play big roles in getting H2O into the rig, and buying the best products now can save money down the road. Upgrading from a basic pump to a quieter, more efficient model can improve pressure and flow. And don’t forget to carry at least two hoses: one for freshwater or the city-water connection and one of a different color for rinsing the black tank.
Camco, www.camco.net
Camping World, www.campingworld.com
Lippert Components, www.lci1.com
Pirit, www.piritohose.com
Shurflo, www.shurflo.com
Tekno Apex, www.apekhose.com
Valterra, www.valterra.com
Xylem (Flojet), www.xylemflowcontrol.com

Water Filters

Clean drinking water is a must. Any water that goes into the RV’s freshwater tank should be filtered to avoid contaminants, especially considering the variety of water sources in different campgrounds. Various types and sizes of water filters are available, from disposable products that connect to the freshwater hose to elaborate built-in systems that remove sediments, rust, cysts and microbiological contamination.
Camco (TastePure), www.camco.net
Clearsource, www.clearsourcecerv.com
Culligan, www.culligan.com
Hydrolife, www.hydrolife.com
Multipure, www.multipure.com
RV Water Filter Store, www.rvwaterfilterstore.com
Water King, www.waterking.com

Climate Control

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning all contribute to the comforts of home on the road, and upgrading may be easier than you think. The newest climate-control systems utilize more efficient air conditioners and heat pumps, better-designed furnaces, and digital-control systems that can be programmed for energy savings and operated via a smartphone app.
Airxcel, www.airxcel.com
Atwood Mobile, www.atwoodmobile.com
Dometic, www.dometic.com/usa

Exterior Showers

If your RV didn’t come with an exterior shower, it may be possible to add one. They’re great for cleaning off sandy feet and beach gear, as well as dirty dogs.
Dura Faucet, www.durafaucet.com
LaSalle Bristol, www.lasallebristol.com
Phoenix Faucet, www.phoenixfaucets.com
Thetford, www.thetford.com

Indoor Living

Window Shades

Rolling and pleated shades and other window treatments not only block light for a good night’s sleep, they help insulate RVs from heat and cold, and provide privacy, especially in the close quarters of a campground, rest stop or rally. Among the many options, valance-mounted power shades are popular for windows and even screen doors, and exterior window and entry-door shades can reduce heat dramatically.
Auto-Motion Shade, www.automotionshade.com

Power Roof Vents

Part of the RV experience is enjoying the fresh air, and when conditions are right, bringing that fresh air inside is a glorious thing. High-flow fans can quietly move air in and out, depending on options and settings. Many roof vents are quite sophisticated with digital remote controls, programmable wall thermostats and rain sensors. Vent covers allow them to remain open even in wet weather.
Airxcel (MaxxAir), www.airxcel.com
Fan-Tastic Vent, www.fantasticvent.com
Heng’s Industries, www.hengsindustries.com

Water Filters

Camco, www.camco.net
Camping World, www.campingworld.com
Lippert Components, www.lci1.com
Pirit, www.piritohose.com
Shurflo, www.shurflo.com
Tekno Apex, www.apekhose.com
Valterra, www.valterra.com
Xylem (Flojet), www.xylemflowcontrol.com
Outlook Living
Awnings and Accessories
There's nothing like relaxing under a patio awning on a sunny day. RV awnings have advanced in recent years and now offer mobile-app control, auto-retract capability, power accessory tracks, multicolor LED lighting, built-in speakers and deluxe accessory rooms that turn them into additional living space.

- Awnings by ZipDee, www.awningsbyzipdee.com
- Camco, www.camco.net
- Carefree of Colorado, www.carefreeofcolorado.com
- Dometic (Power Channel), www.dometic.com/usa
- Lippert Components, www.lci1.com
- ShadePro, www.shadepro.net

Leveling Systems
Keeping an RV level is important not only for everyone's comfort but also for proper slideout and refrigerator operation. In the old days, wood boards, triangle jacks and a level were required for RV setup. Now, RVs are often equipped with fully automatic leveling systems, and aftermarket products are available for after-sale installations in your trailer or fifth-wheel. Some of the newest systems can be controlled by a handheld remote or a smartphone app.

- Bullseye Technologies, www.bullseyeleveling.com
- HWH Corporation, www.hwhcorp.com
- Lippert Components (Level-Up, Ground Control), www.lci1.com
- Quadra Manufacturing (Bigfoot), www.thebigfootleveler.com

Powertrain
Motor Oil and Lubricants
Moving parts need good lubrication to work properly and have a long life, especially in hard-working tow vehicles. That's why oil-change intervals are more frequent when towing a trailer or hauling a truck camper. To keep a vehicle running smoothly over the long haul, engine oil and other fluids should be changed based on manufacturer service recommendations and the specified lubricants used for the usage.

- Amsoil, www.amsoil.com
- Castrol, www.castrol.com
- Delo, www.deloperformance.com
- Havoline, www.havoline.com
- Lucas Oil, www.lucasoil.com
- Mobil 1, www.mobil1.com
- Motorcraft, www.fordparts.com
- Pennzoil, www.pennzoil.com
- Prestone, www.prestone.com
- Quaker State, www.quakerstate.com
- Royal Purple, www.royalpurpleconsumer.com
- Shell Rotella, www.rotella.shell.com
- STP, www.stp.com
- Valvoline, www.valvoline.com

Tires and Wheels
To avoid blowouts, start by making sure your RV isn't overloaded. Install good-quality tires that are suitable for the application, and maintain proper air pressure by following the tire-inflation label included with the RV. Locate the speed rating on the side of the tire and don't exceed it. Check the tires and tire pressure before every trip and at every stop, and if abnormal wear, cracks or other damage appear, have the tires checked by an expert. Once the tires reach five years of age, have them professionally inspected annually, and replace them after seven years.
2018 RV GEAR GUIDE

regardless of their condition. Invest in a tire-pressure monitor (page 41) and tire covers (page 39), and always use petroleum-distillate-free products.

Boar Wheel Company, www.boarwheel.com
Goodyear, www.goodyearrvtires.com
LionsHead Specialty Tire and Wheel, www.lionsheadtireandwheel.com
Maxxis, www.maxxis.com/tires/autolt/trailer
Michelin, www.michelinrvtires.com

Engine-Performance Enhancements
If your tow vehicle struggles while pulling a trailer, there are options available to get a little more juice from a gas- or diesel-powered engine. Engine-performance enhancers ranging from tuners to transmission reprogrammers, replacement turbo-chargers, and air-filter and exhaust systems are designed to provide more power and torque by adjusting heating points, air-to-fuel mixtures and even engine timing — although keep in mind that they will not increase tow ratings. Before installing any power-enhancement product, make sure it meets state emission standards and won’t void the vehicle’s warranty.

5-Star Tuning, www.5startuning.com
aFe Power, www.afepower.com
Banks Power, www.bankspower.com
BD Diesel Performance, www.dieselperformance.com
Bully Dog, www.bullydog.com
DiabloSport, www.diablosport.com
Edge Products, www.edgeproducts.com
Hypertech, www.hypertech.com
K&N, www.knfilters.com
SCT, www.sctflash.com
Snow Performance, www.snowperformance.net
Superchips, www.superchips.com

Suspension Enhancements
When a trailer and tow vehicle or motorhome are difficult to handle, road trips can be more exhausting than enjoyable. Although poor handling can sometimes be mitigated by a hitch adjustment or other factors, a suspension enhancement (tow vehicle, trailer or motorhome) can improve its driving characteristics and manners. It may also have the added benefit of reducing road-related wear and tear.

Bilstein, www.bilsteinus.com
Blue Ox, www.blueox.com
Hellwig, www.hellwigproducts.com
Koni, www.koni-na.com
Lippert Components, www.lci1.com
MORryde, www.morrlyde.com

Order Now & Save!
The largest collection of new RV models in the marketplace — all in one handy volume

2018 RV BUYERS GUIDE
Completely Revised & Updated for 2018 • More Than 550 Listings

1-800-366-5767 • www.rvbg.com

Send me a total of ____ copies of the 2018 RV Buyers Guide for only $7.99 plus $2 shipping and handling per copy. Total Payment due: $ _______

☐ Check or money order made out to RV Buyers Guide enclosed
☐ Charge my:  ☐ Visa  ☐ Mastercard  ☐ Discover  ☐ American Express

Account # __________________________ Exp. Date ______

Signature _____________________________

Name ________________________________

Address ____________________________________________

City __________________________________ State _______ Zip _______

Available to US and Canadian residents only (U.S. funds only). Publication date is February 2018. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Canadian residents add $4 for shipping ($6 total).

Clip out and mail to: 2018 RV Buyers Guide, P.O. Box 9291, Oxnard, CA 93031

TL1804 Gear Guide.indd   2/2/18   10:18 AM   - 44 -    (Cyan)
TL1804 Gear Guide.indd   2/2/18   10:18 AM   - 44 -    (Magenta)
TL1804 Gear Guide.indd   2/2/18   10:18 AM   - 44 -    (Yellow)
TL1804 Gear Guide.indd   2/2/18   10:18 AM   - 44 -    (Black)
Fuel Additives
Few things can sap a tow vehicle of power like bad fuel. Additives can help keep fuel fresh, restore power, remove water, clean the injectors, prevent diesel gelling and even increase horsepower. Some RVers swear by them.

- Amsoil, www.amsoil.com
- Archoil, www.archoil.com
- Gold Eagle (Sta-Bil), www.goldenagle.com
- Hawes Lubricator, www.haweslube.com
- Lucas Oil, www.lucasoil.com
- Marvel Mystery Oil, www.marvelmysteryoil.com
- Opti-Lube, www.opti-lube.com
- Red Line, www.redlineoil.com
- Power Service, www.powerservice.com
- Royal Purple, www.royalpurpleconsumer.com
- Sea Foam, www.seafoamsales.com
- Stanadyne, www.stanadyneaditives.com
- Star brite, www.starbrite.com

Sanitation

Sewer Hoses
A cheap sewer hose can temporarily throw a glitch in a vacation (remember Robin Williams in the movie RV?). A good-quality sewer-hose kit is worth its weight in gold and really doesn’t cost that much more. Important accessories include a clear elbow to visually check if the tank is clean, a wye [Y] fitting, an extra hose for trailers with multiple connections, and a sewer-hose support to maintain pitch for proper drainage. When hooked up, always keep the valves closed, and open them only when you’re ready to dump the tanks, black before gray, using the gray water to flush out the hose.

- Blueline (Prest-o-Fit), www.prestofit.com
- Camco (RhinoFlex), www.camco.net
- Lippert Components, www.lci1.com
- Thetford, www.thetford.com
- Valterra, www.valterra.com

Toilets
Toilets are available in freshwater-flush, cassette-type, portable, electric or even composting configurations. They come in a range of shapes, heights and colors, with options that include ceramic vessels that are easy to install and keep clean. Toilet flanges on RV bathroom floors are standard,
The Only 16’ Fishing Boat
That Goes 17 mph & Fits In A Camper!

NEW!
The Sea Eagle® FishSkiff™ 16
inflatable boat can be motored long distances to fishing spots other anglers only dream about. Fold up & carry in your car, SUV, camper or on a small plane. Features 2 swivel seats with rod-holders, 2 built-in 40” fish rulers & 2 Scotty mounts & 3 separate air chambers for safety. 5 Boat packages available starting at $1799.*

* NY & WA residents add sales tax.
1-800-944-7496 for a FREE catalog
M-F, 9-5 EST

Hensley® Towing Systems are Guaranteed to Eliminate Trailer Sway. Call one of our Towing Specialists today and ask which Hensley® is right for you.

Keep your family safe.

Call or visit us online Free Video

HENSLEY
800.410.6580 • www.HensleyMfg.com

2018 RV GEAR GUIDE

though in rare cases, they may need to be rotated to accommodate a replacement toilet. Always use a new foam seal when installing or reinstalling a toilet.

Cleanwaste, www.cleanwaste.com
Dometic, www.dometic.com/usa
Heng’s Industries, www.hengsindustries.com
Incinolet/Blankenship USA, www.incinolet.com
Nature’s Head, www.natureshead.net
TheTford, www.thetford.com

Tank Treatments
Holding-tank chemicals are important and essential for sanitation. They deodorize, break down solids and, in some cases, lubricate valves. Available in liquid, crystal and drop-in forms in a variety of sizes, tank treatments are available in “green” formaldehyde-free versions and the standard blue formaldehyde-based versions. After dumping and rinsing the black tank, be sure to add some tank chemicals and a few gallons of water to an empty tank.

ARC (Oxy-Kem), www.productsarc.com
Camco (TST), www.camco.net
Century Chemical (Travel Jon), www.centurychemical.com
Dometic, www.dometic.com/usa
Eco-Save, www.eco-save.com
Krenen, www.krenen1.com
3XChemistry (nuGen), www.3xchemistry.com
Star brite, www.starbrite.com
TankTechs Rx, www.tanktechsrx.com
TheTford, www.thetford.com
Valterra (Odorlos, Pure Power Blue), www.valterra.com
Walex, www.walex.com
Worldwide Monochrom (T-5, Dyna-Bact), www.monochrom.net

Sewer Vents
Few things are more unpleasant than sewage smell inside
an RV. For the wastewater system to function properly and control tank odors, sewer vents must be in good working order. Some aftermarket vents help create a negative pressure to draw tank odors out through the rooftop pipe. If you notice odors or burping in a sink drain or toilet, check to make sure an insect nest isn’t plugging the roof vent.

360 Products, www.360productsnorthamerica.com
Camco (Cyclone), www.camco.net
Coil n’ Wrap, www.coilnwrap.com
LaSalle Bristol, www.lasallebristol.com
Lippert Components (360 Siphon), www.lci1.com
Ventline, www.ventline.com

Macerators
Taking the place of a standard sewer-hose setup, a macerator grinds waste and pumps it through a small hose to the sewer-discharge point. The hose rolls up nice and tight, and can even pump uphill. Built-in and portable models are available to ease the chore of emptying and cleaning the tanks.

Clean Dump, www.cleandump.com
Flojet, www.xylemflowcontrol.com
Thetford (Sani-Con), www.thetford.com
Valterra, www.valterra.com

Portable Waste Tanks
Gray and black tanks hold only so much, and when sewer hookups aren’t available, breaking down the rig and towing it to a remote dump station can be inconvenient. Another option is to transfer the waste to a portable tank and roll it to the dump station. They’re easy to use, and some come with a handle that hooks on the hitch ball for hauling the tank with the tow vehicle.

Barker Manufacturing, www.barkermpg.com
Camco, www.camco.net
Thetford (SmartTote), www.thetford.com

Tank Sensors
Holding-tank sensors can be problematic, primarily in black tanks, because buildup on the sides causes the electrically connected devices to receive false readings. A couple of companies have developed better designs to help with this problem, and new Bluetooth models can monitor tank levels via a mobile app.

Horst Miracle Probe, www.rvprobes.com
Garnet Technologies (SeeLevel), www.garnetinstruments.com

---

**AeroShield**

Wind Deflector

**KEEP BUGS OFF & tow with ease**

Aerodynamic
No drill installation
Fits all tow vehicles
Keeps bugs off trailer
Increases your fuel economy
Improves stability and handling

ORDER DIRECT & SHIP TO HOME
www.icondirect.com 1-888-362-4266

---

April 2018 TRAILERLIFE 47
The Good Sam Finance Center Offers:

- Refinancing of Existing RV Loans
- Same Rates for New or Used RVs
- Private Party RV Loans
- Loans for Full-Timers

**CALL**

1-800-444-1476
mention priority code 575

**VISIT**

GoodSamRVLoans.com/575

---

**RECREATIONAL USE APRs** AS LOW AS

- **4.69%** on loan amounts of $35k+
- **5.19%** on loan amounts of $25k to $49,999
- **5.59%** on loan amounts of $15k to $24,999

*Rates and terms may vary with market conditions and are subject to change without notice. APR is fixed for the life of the loan. Other rates with different loan terms are available. Rates are accurate as of January 22, 2018. See our website for current rates and terms, as well as financing for Full-Timers and loan amounts below $15,000.

---

**Hitches**

When it comes to hitches, selecting the right equipment is important. Weight-carrying hitches are intended for lighter travel trailers because the hitch weight is carried on the ball and transferred to the rear axle of the tow vehicle. Weight-distributing hitches distribute a portion of the trailer’s hitch weight to the axles of the tow vehicle and trailer, making larger, heavier trailers towable without destabilizing the tow vehicle. In fifth-wheel towing, the trailer’s kingpin slides into the hitch saddle and serves as the pivot point. The saddle is attached to a bed-mounted base, which transfers the towing forces to the truck frame. While most appropriately matched hitches will do the job, upgrading to one of the better systems can make towing easier, safer and more enjoyable.

AirSafe, www.airsafehitch.com
Andersen, www.andersenhitches.com
B&W Hitches, www.bwtrailerhitches.com
Blue Ox, www.blueox.com
Camco (Eaz-Lift), www.eaz-lift.com
Comfort Ride, www.comfortridehitch.com
Curt Manufacturing, www.curtmfg.com
Demco, www.demco-products.com
Draw-Tite, www.draw-tite.com
Hensley Manufacturing, www.hensleymfg.com
Husky Towing Products, www.huskytow.com
ProPride, www.propridehitch.com
PullRite, www.pulrrite.com
Reese Towpower, www.reesebrands.com

---

**Trailer-Brake Controllers**

Trailer brakes are essential for safely stopping a tow vehicle and trailer, and in most states they’re required by law. Brake controllers sense the application of the tow vehicle’s brakes and
the deceleration of the vehicle, and send power to activate the trailer’s electric brakes, helping to slow the whole combination. While many tow vehicles come equipped with an integrated brake controller, others may be prewired for an aftermarket installation. Proportional brake controllers, such as inertia-based models, are more effective and versatile than time-delayed models.

Autowrake, www.autowrake.com
Curt Manufacturing, www.curtmfg.com
Dexter Axle, www.dexteraxe.com
Draw-Tite, www.draw-tite.com
Hayes Towing Electronics, www.hayesbc.com
Hensley Manufacturing, www.hensleymfg.com
Hopkins Towing Solutions, www.hopkinstowingsolutions.com
Reese Towpower, www.reesebc.com
RV Innovations, www.rvibrake.com
Tuson RV Brakes, www.tusonrvbrakes.com

**Electronic Sway Controllers**

While trailer sway control has traditionally been handled by either a mechanical friction device or as part of a weight-distributing hitch, modern technology has brought forward new electronic sway-control devices that use a combination of motion sensors and GPS reception to recognize a trailer-sway event and calculate a trailer-braking solution, automatically applying the trailer brakes to correct the sway.

Dexter Axle, www.dexteraxe.com
Hayes Towing Electronics, www.hayesbc.com
Lippert Components, www.lc1.com
Tuson Brake, www.tusonrvbrakes.com

---

**THOMAS PAYNE COLLECTION**

**TRANSFORM YOUR RV TODAY!**

- Multiple colors, sizes and styles
- Residential styling and comfort
- Will fit through most RV entry doors
- Configure to fit your RV

**MOMENTUM THEATER SEATING**

- Massage and heated seats
- Lighted cup holders and base
- Chaise style footrest
- Residential look and feel
- Striking visual appeal

Lippert Components, www.lci1.com

---

*April 2018 TRAILERLIFE 49*
Sometimes RVers are raked with envy. We see great ideas on those cable-TV home shows and want them for our RVs. But then we make the size and weight calculations and decide, one by one, they’re just for the house, not for the trailer. Bigger appliances? Usually not. Walk-in shower remodel? Not in my rig.

We tell ourselves we’re camping, and campers don’t get those residential things. Quietly, though, we pine.

But here’s one of those home-show upgrades that’s perfectly suited for the RV: Peel and Stick Mosaics. These 10-by-10-inch vinyl tiles stick to walls to create a backsplash. Lightweight, inexpensive and attractive, they are orders of magnitude easier to mount than the kind of tiles that require messy adhesives or grout.

It’s the type of upgrade that’s not only functional, making cleanup in the kitchen or bathroom easier, it gives a little sparkle to the living space, all without adding any appreciable weight and taking up nearly zero space. It’s a bit like no-cal chocolate cake, except it’s not just a fantasy.

Installing the Peel and Stick Mosaics is a project almost anyone with even a thimbleful of handy can tackle. Some of the trickiest parts are simple “crafting” skills, such as freehand sketching the patterns around windows and wielding a razor knife. And it’s a particularly rewarding project, given that it’s relatively simple, quick and something you will appreciate every time you’re in the RV.

To get started, determine the wall area to be covered and take some measurements. Note any odd shapes or cutouts, such as power outlets, that need to be dealt with. Planning is paramount on this kind of project, so the “Measure twice, cut once” axiom applies in a big way.

The directions recommend cleaning the wall before applying the tiles, so give the surface area a good wipe with a basic household cleaner such as Formula 409 or TSP. The adhesive won’t stick well if the wall is damp, so allow some time for the area to air dry, or even hit it briefly with a blow-dryer (use caution here because heat can release the decorative film on some surfaces).

Starting in one lower corner of the work area, peel off about a third of the backing on the first square and place it on the wall, peeling off the remaining backing as you press the square into place. If applying the backsplash more than one row high, just like brickwork, it’s a good idea to stagger the squares for a more random look to the pattern and to keep the seams from lining up.

Most likely, as with our project, you will encounter some sort of uneven edge — probably a window or a bathroom mirror or medicine cabinet. When you get to that obstacle, you may want to cut a paper pattern and trace the shape on the back of the square to...
1) Peel and Stick Mosaics come in packs containing five 10-by-10-inch vinyl stick-on tiles.
2) Laying out the square tiles in the area to be covered is a good way to double-check measurements. 
3) Line up the overlap tabs, then peel off the backing and press each square into place. 
4) Sheets of paper were used to etch around the curved corners of the window frame with a razor knife to get a pattern. The pattern was then transferred onto the back of the affected tiles, which were cut to fit snugly around the window. 
5) The tiles are thin enough to cut with scissors, but a straight edge and a razor knife were used to ensure accurate cuts. 
6) A thin bead of silicone or acrylic caulking goes on rough but smooths out with a caulking tool or a pinkie finger for a nice finishing touch where the tiles butt together in corners.

With power outlets, remove the wall plate or housing and cut a large enough hole in the tile. Because the plate is replaced over the tile, the accuracy of this cut is not as critical. Be sure to check the length of any screws fastening the cover plate in place. Even the relatively thin peel-and-stick material could prevent a screw that’s short on threads from holding the plate after the tile installation.

In the bathroom, or if you have a corner kitchen, you may run into batten strip where the wall panels join. The best course here is to use a utility knife to cut the batten right above the backsplash and butt the backsplash into the corner.

As you apply the squares, go back and press the ones already applied into place with a soft cloth, just to make sure they are adhering evenly to the wall and there are no bubbles. For a clean finishing touch, put a bead of silicone or acrylic caulk around some of the cut edges and in any corners. Expert’s tip: Put a fine bead where you want it, then apply a very light spray of soapy water over the top. Take a caulk tool (or your pinkie finger) and smooth the bead. The soapy water keeps the caulk from sticking where it shouldn’t. That will also make the backsplash easier to clean, keeping dust and grit from accumulating in those tiny crevices.

Camping World carries six styles of Designer Series Peel and Stick Mosaics, retailing for $34.99 for a pack of five squares. It’s likely there’s a color and style to make an attractive upgrade for just about any RV interior.

Camping World
888-626-7576, www.campingworld.com
CPAP Setup

I have been reading Trailer Life for many years and have seen various ideas on setting up a CPAP machine in an RV. I, too, use one, and my wife came up with a good idea for keeping it bedside. We bought a wire basket at Walmart for use in our 2011 CrossRoads Cruiser. I mounted the basket over the nightstand using cup hooks. It hangs out of the way and keeps the CPAP machine near me when I sleep.

Richard Mesmer, Sioux City, Iowa

Technical editor’s note: The lauan ceiling panels in most RVs don’t have a lot of strength, so be sure to screw as many hooks into the structure as possible. Never leave the CPAP machine in the basket when traveling. Even better would be to unhook the basket and take it down when en route.

Pull the Pin

Travel trailer weight-distributing hitches, and some fifth-wheel hitches, use pull pins. These can be difficult to remove because you can get only one finger inside the loop, which makes it difficult to pull, especially in tight areas or at bad angles. My solution was to slip a carabiner ring through the pin so I could use more than one finger to easily slide the pin out.

James Baker, Chandler, Arizona

Wrap Up Hoses and Cords

We discovered that heavy-plastic round wreath boxes are great for storing water hoses and electric cords (separate boxes for each). It’s easy to coil in the hoses and cords, even on cold days, and the boxes are stackable.

Rodney and Nancy Goertzen, Visalia, California
SPRING BREAK BUNKHOUSE SALE

NEW 2018 HEARTLAND MALLARD M185

$14,999* OR $139/MO^  

Lincolnshire, IL | Stk. #1498225 | MSRP $20,918  
Based on 10% down @ 6.99% APR for 144 mos

NEW 2018 COLEMAN LANTERN 263BH

$17,995* OR $166/MO^  

Hanover, PA | Stk. #1455667 | MSRP $29,290  
Based on 10% down @ 6.99% APR for 144 mos

*Camping World's Government fees, state taxes, dealer fees and emissions testing charges as applicable will be added to comply with state vehicle codes. Freight and prep costs vary by state (Not applicable in CA, OH, TX, TN, GA, LA, WA, OR or UT). Inventory and floorplans vary by location, not all advertised manufacturers available at participating dealers. New units will be delivered from the nearest authorized dealer. Contact your area dealer for availability. VIN numbers posted at dealership. ^All payments to qualified buyers with approved credit. Subject to lender terms. Offer is not retroactive on previous RV purchases. Benefits are subject to certain limitations and restrictions, and are subject to change. Discounts and benefits offered through your Good Sam Elite membership for 3 years from date of RV purchase. See dealer for full program details. Advertised inventory available at time of production. New unit photography for illustration purposes only. May not be combined with any other offer and not applicable to prior sales. Offers valid at any Camping World RV Sales or FreedomRoads dealer only. See dealer for details. © 2018 FreedomRoads, LLC. CAMPING WORLD is a registered trademark of CWI, Inc. and used with permission. Unauthorized use of any of CWI, Inc.'s trademarks is expressly prohibited. All rights reserved. Offers expire 4/4/18.
MEMBERS-ONLY SPECIALS!

Club Members
SAVE 35%
$44.97
Living the Lifestyle Patio Mat, 9’ x 12’
Blue #92933 Brown #92932 Black #92934
Reg. $69.99

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Club Members
SAVE 20%
STARTING AT
$51.97
Detachable Power Cords
25’ 30-Amp with Handle and Indicator Light #102413
Club SALE $51.97 Reg. $67.99
30’ 30-Amp Detachable Power Cord with Handle & Indicator Light (not shown) #102414
Club SALE $59.97 Reg. $77.99

Portable Ice Maker, Stainless Steel #91517
Makes up to 25 lbs. of ice per day. Stainless steel housing. 110-volt. Reg. $79.99

Club Members
SAVE 25%
$28.97
ADORLOS Holding Tank Treatment, 168 oz. #58995
Liquefies waste and tissue. Lubricates valves, cleans sensors and contains no formaldehyde. Scent-free. Reg. $38.99

Club Members
SAVE 35%
$24.97
Mesh Back Chair with Table #69344
• Durable 600 denier ripstop polyester
• Handy side table with drink holder
• Folds compactly for storage
Reg. $38.99

ODORLOS Holding Tank Treatment, 168 oz. #58995
Liquefies waste and tissue. Lubricates valves, cleans sensors and contains no formaldehyde. Scent-free. Reg. $38.99

INCLUDES:
2 Tickets to the 2018 Camping World Kickoff Game on Sept. 1 featuring University of Louisville & University of Alabama
PLUS:
2 Roundtrip Airfares
2-Night Hotel Accommodations
$1,000 Spending Money and MORE!

Enter at Camping World SuperCenters nationwide or online at CampingWorld.com/Kickoff

CampingWorld.com/Kickoff. Must be 18 or older and a legal resident of the U.S. or Canada. Promotion begins 1/15/2018 at 12:00 a.m. CST and ends 5/06/2018 11:59 p.m. CST. Sponsored by CWI, Inc., Bowling Green, KY. Any trademarks, service marks and copyrights used herein are proprietary to their legal owner. All rights reserved.

Flat shipping fee applies
SALE

Club Members LOWEST INSTALLED PRICE GUARANTEED OR IT’S FREE!

See an associate for details.

Club Members
SAVE $25:
$144.97
Double-Sided 7’ Folding Ladder #20319
Type II 225 lb. commercial rating; meets or exceeds ANSI and OSHA specifications. Max. standing height 5’.
Reg. $169.99

Double-Sided 6’ Folding Ladder (not shown) #27661
Folds to 3½” x 4½” x 83”.
Max. standing height 4’.
Club SALE $139.97 Reg. $159.99

CLUB SALE
$509.99
Equal-i-zer Hitch. Max. 6000 lb. Trailer Wt. #47626
Unique two-in-one design combines weight distribution with sway control. | Reg. $549.99
Max. 10,000 lb. Trailer Wt. #47627
Club SALE $519.99 Reg. $559.99
Max. 12,000 lb. Trailer Wt. #47628
Club SALE $529.99 Reg. $569.99
Let Us Install It—Club SALE $124

Club Members
SAVE 30%:
$29.97
Aluminum Stacker Jacks, Set of 4 #4205
Extends from 11”-17” H. Heavy-duty, non-corrosive cast aluminum base. Attached handle. | Reg. $44.99

CLUB SALE
$89.99
Primus™ IQ Brake Control #43226
Proportional braking with boost for customization. For 1-3 axle trailers.
Reg. $94.95
Let Us Install It—Club SALE $39

CLUB SALE
$499.99
STARTING AT
Reese® 5th Wheel Hitch
16K Tow Capacity #19943
Club SALE $499.99 Reg. $529
16K Tow Capacity with Kwik-Slide® #19940
Club SALE $683.99 Reg. $719.99
Base Rails & Installation Kit #12689
Club SALE $119.99 Reg. $129.99
Let Us Install It—Club SALE $421

CLUB SALE
$509.99
Equal-i-zer Hitch. Max. 6000 lb. Trailer Wt. #47626
Unique two-in-one design combines weight distribution with sway control. | Reg. $549.99
Max. 10,000 lb. Trailer Wt. #47627
Club SALE $519.99 Reg. $559.99
Max. 12,000 lb. Trailer Wt. #47628
Club SALE $529.99 Reg. $569.99
Let Us Install It—Club SALE $124

CLUB SALE
$89.99
Primus™ IQ Brake Control #43226
Proportional braking with boost for customization. For 1-3 axle trailers.
Reg. $94.95
Let Us Install It—Club SALE $39

CLUB SALE
$499.99
STARTING AT
Reese® 5th Wheel Hitch
16K Tow Capacity #19943
Club SALE $499.99 Reg. $529
16K Tow Capacity with Kwik-Slide® #19940
Club SALE $683.99 Reg. $719.99
Base Rails & Installation Kit #12689
Club SALE $119.99 Reg. $129.99
Let Us Install It—Club SALE $421

Club Members
SAVE $30:
$189.97
Coleman® RoadTrip® Classic Grill #35188
Includes removable grate and griddle. Reg. $222.99

Club Members
SAVE 30%:
$24.97
Double-Sided 6’ Folding Ladder (not shown) #27661
Folds to 3½” x 4½” x 75”. Max. standing height 4’.
Club SALE $24.97 Reg. $34.99

SAVE 25%
$139.97
ODORLOS Holding Tank Treatment, 168 oz. #91517
Liquefies waste and tissue, lubricates valves, cleans sensors and contains no formaldehyde. Scent-free.

Let Us Install It—Club SALE $35

To request a FREE CATALOG, go online or call & mention code MZ TL

See an associate for details.
**Banner Idea**

The task of keeping the front cap on a fifth-wheel trailer clean while on the road can be overwhelming since insects, dirt and other debris combine to slowly destroy the finish. Bugg Banner covers the front of a fifth-wheel, protecting the paint and decals while under way. Once installed, simply hoist and lock the Bugg Banner into position as you would a flag. Each kit includes a machine-washable banner and all the necessary hardware to install it on most fifth-wheels with smooth, flat sides. American-flag, state-flag and scenic banners are available, along with custom logos. The Bugg Banner comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee.

**Theft Prevention**

Unattended trailers, including those parked in RV-storage facilities, are prime targets for thieves. One deterrent is a wheel lock, such as the Ultra-Max from Trimax Locks. A steel disc clamps over one of the trailer’s wheels, covering the lug nuts, while the opposite side grips the back, locking tightly and preventing the wheel from rolling. The latest addition to the Ultra-Max line, the heavy-duty TLW400 fits wheels from 10 to 18 inches and comes with a padlock and installation tools. Coated in yellow weatherproof epoxy, the rugged universal lock goes on and off easily. Trimax, a division of Wyers Products Group, has a vast lineup of more than 120 lifetime-warranted security products.

**Home Alone**

RVers who worry about the security of their RV or the comfort of their pets when they’re away can monitor the situation from any iPhone, iPad or Android device with the HomeMinder Remote Video Temperature system. The RVT streams live video from a small camera and automatically sends alerts to any connected device when user-designated temperature or motion settings are exceeded. The sensor can be set to record 24/7 with an SD card installed (not included). The RVT comes with all other necessary hardware and batteries and carries a one-year warranty. A Wi-Fi or data connection is required.

**Slick Moves**

Proper RV maintenance is a must, but finding the right products to keep everything in working order isn’t always easy. A simple way to ensure smooth operation of window and slideout tracks that require lubrication is to keep a couple of 3-In-One spray cans on hand. RVcare Slide-Out Silicone Lube claims to ease the deployment of slideouts by lubricating the mechanisms while safeguarding against rust and corrosion. RVcare Window & Track Dry Lube helps RV windows open freely with a clear, protective film that reduces friction, according to the manufacturer. Dry Lube can also be used on tow-vehicle windows, and sliding doors and windows at home. Made by the company responsible for WD-40, both products are formulated not to attract dirt.
SLIDEOUT ROOF SEALANT

Q What do you recommend to seal an RV’s slideout roof? Does this need to be done, and, if so, can you use the same product on the main roof or something else?

Glenn Brown, Willis, Texas

A By “seal” the roof, I’m guessing you mean regular maintenance and treatment. Yes, it should be done. If the slideout roof uses the same material as the main roof, follow the same maintenance procedures, material and schedule. If the slideout roof is a different material, research the maintenance suggestions for that material and follow the manufacturer’s recommendation.

HIGHER LOAD RANGE TIRES

Q I appreciate all the information you have provided regarding RV tires in past issues. I now have a much better understanding of the importance of good tires and tire maintenance. Given that I have only two trailer tires between me and a breakdown on the side of the road, I have a question about the load range rating of the tires that came on our 18-foot Jayco Jay Flight, which are 205/75R14, load range C. When I replace the tires, would there be an advantage to upgrading to a higher load range or wider tire? Seems like that would give us a little more protection.

Robert Turner, Bowling Green, Kentucky

A It’s almost always a good move to upgrade to a trailer tire with a higher load rating, Robert. I say “almost” because I suppose somewhere out there in trailer land there’s a person who had a bad experience due to such an upgrade, but I can’t think of any reason why it wouldn’t work. Yes, such an upgrade, to a tire with a higher load rating, will give you more margin of safety for carrying the trailer and its cargo. You mentioned getting a wider tire, but that’s not generally a goal when an upgrade is considered, because it doesn’t gain you anything as far as performance, longevity and such are concerned. A higher-capacity tire may ride somewhat harder by a small degree, but that’s not a large concern and is well worth the tradeoff of greater reliability and safety.

You have two technical considerations when looking at a tire upgrade. First, the tire must fit the allotted space and not contact the wheel well, exterior-body wheel lip or, in the case of dual axles, the other tire. Second, the wheel also has a load rating. If, for example, your trailer’s original wheels are rated at 2,800 pounds each, and you mount tires rated at 3,400 pounds each, you could overload each wheel if you take advantage of those new tire ratings.

You’ll find the wheel ratings stamped somewhere on the hub or rim, probably on the back side where it doesn’t affect the wheel’s cosmetics, and that can help you decide if replacing the wheels is on the agenda, too.

TRAILER AND TOW RIG PLUGGED IN?

Q This is in regard to the “Tow Rig Plugged In?” question and answer in July 2017’s RV Clinic. I have read the answer several times and am still confused. Under the “easy test” [second paragraph of the answer], it seems to say the engine is running both times you test the plug to see if there is power to the towed vehicle. I would appreciate anything you can explain to clear up this confusion.

Bonnie Kindig, Rittman, Ohio

A Wow, Bonnie, you have every right to be confused about this. The answer as printed was incorrect, which sometimes happens with a technical-related subject, and we apologize for any confusion this may have caused. That second paragraph should have read “With the engine turned off and all the truck lights off, touch the negative cable....” This engine-off test would be followed up with the engine-turned-on test to provide the information you need.

TUNDRA BRAKE RESULTS

This is in response to David Chapman’s “Tundra Brake Problems?” letter in February’s RV Clinic. We have owned two Tundras that have pulled travel trailers — previously, a 2007 Double Cab 5.7-liter and, currently, a 2013 Double Cab 5.7-liter 4x4. The trailers ranged from 36 feet and 8,600 pounds down to 26 feet and 6,000 pounds. Our current unit is 30 feet and 7,000 pounds. The 2013 has 32,000 miles on it, most of which are towing miles. A recent dealer inspection indicated very little brake wear. I was told they look almost new! The 2007 had 118,000 miles with no brake issues. I always test the brake controller prior to getting on the highway. When descending a 6 percent grade, I use the transmission and
TRAILER TIRE LOSS

I have a 2006 Northwood Arctic Fox 33A trailer connected via a Hensley Arrow hitch. Traveling down Interstate 95 in South Carolina, a car with a smashed front end pulled up beside me yelling that I lost a tire. We did not feel any sway at all with the missing tire; the Hensley hitch did its job. The rear axle was missing a tire that smashed into the car, but luckily no one was hurt. They said the trailer had lost the tire about 1 mile back.

After exchanging information, I slowly drove about 2 miles to the exit. All the studs had been sheared off. The lesson here was to check all lug nuts when stopping for fuel.

When we stopped to work on the trailer, I noticed that the water heater, located in the front-right corner, had pulled away from the trailer body, about 1 inch or so on the top and ¼ inch on the bottom. The water heater is installed with one screw on each side into the aluminum frame.

Also, when we went to open the slide, which is a full living room/dining room slide, it shuddered and bounced while opening. This slide is gear driven from under the floor. From the trailer bouncing down the highway for a mile, is it possible that the aluminum-frame structure that makes up the trailer body shifted and is now out of square?

Mark O’Connell, Rockledge, Florida

All things considered, it sounds like you made out fairly well with the tire loss, Mark; it could have been a lot worse. It’s possible your trailer body was tweaked a bit, but, if so, I don’t think it was due to the tire loss. Even with just one tire supporting the trailer on that side, the weight is still bearing on the part of the chassis designed to carry the load via the suspension component mounts. A couple of miles of stress on a smooth paved road aren’t going to twist the frame that much. It would likely require many miles of travel, and perhaps bumpy road conditions, to do that.

The stress and impact of the tire joining the birds could have jarred the slider mechanism, without twisting the entire trailer frame, and caused the shuddering you experienced. You’ll need to have an authorized service center take a look at the trailer and examine the slideout for another problem such as an out-of-adjustment gear drive.

As for the water heater coming loose, that could be an installation problem when perhaps the factory worker didn’t add all the required screws. Just two screws, as you de-
scribed, doesn’t sound like enough for a proper installation. That, too, should be checked by your service center to verify that no damage was done to the heater while it tried to come loose.

FRIDGE-FAN FAILURES

Regarding February’s “Fridge-Fan Use” letter, I purchased a 2016 Keystone Montana High Country that has the refrigerator located in the slideout of the kitchen. When the outside temperature gets to 90 degrees Fahrenheit, the fridge won’t cool below 40 to 45 degrees, which will not keep food safely.

The factory had installed three fans to blow the hot air up to the top of the slideout. I put a fan inside the fridge, and it helped a little. I also put two fans to pull the hot air from behind the unit, but nothing really helped. I contacted Dometic, and they said there was no reason for it not to cool properly.

It still doesn’t work right, so we get to use it only in the early spring and late fall when the temperature is below 90 degrees outside. Any advice you can give would be wonderful.

Donnie Holland
Ware Shoals, South Carolina

When installed in the RV’s body, the upper air vent is installed in the roof, and natural convection causes the cooling air to be drawn in the lower access-hatch openings. It moves up across the cooling coils, then up and out via the roof vent. When installed in a slideout, with the upper vent installed in the slideout side wall, the convection airflow is not as efficient because the heated “exhaust air” has to flow up past the cooling coils, then out at a 90-degree angle to the natural convection flow. That’s why so many RV manufacturers use auxiliary cooling fans with refrigerators installed in slideouts.

Given that you have five fans installed to help your RV’s fridge, I’d say the cause of poor fridge performance lies elsewhere. It can be as simple as something blocking the cooling airflow passage behind the fridge. Dometic has dimensional standards required for
RV Clinic

RV fridge installations, including the airflow chamber behind the fridge, and it’s possible the manufacturer might have fudged this space a bit. A look at the installation requirements in the owner’s manual and measuring the space could verify or eliminate this as a cause. If the space is too tight, you may need to figure out a way to re-mount the fridge so it allows more air circulation over the coils. If the space is too open, baffles will need to be installed in the cabinet to help direct the air and keep its flow within the coils.

You should also check the refrigerator’s input voltage to make sure it has an adequate power supply, and have a trained LP-gas technician verify that it has 11 inches water column (WC) of gas pressure available. You didn’t mention which model refrigerator you have, or if the cooling issues were on AC mode, LP-gas mode or both, but if the refrigerator has two AC elements, it’s possible that one of them has failed. These things, if not up to spec, can also cause a refrigerator in good condition to operate at a less-than-optimum performance level.

Window Tint

Q I’ve read articles about folks putting bubble wrap or silver insulation wrap inside the windows of their RV to retain heat in cold weather. The only problem with these two applications is that they obstruct vision to the outside. I was wondering if there is a type of reflective window film on the market that will help retain heat inside the RV and also reflect the sun’s rays.

Dan Dargay, Weatherly, Pennsylvania

A Reflectix is the popular brand of that foil-faced bubble-wrap-type insulation. Cut in sizes to fit your RV windows, it works great for temporary extra insulation, such as at night, but it’s opaque and not terrific for exterior visibility. Window tint of all kinds is available everywhere, Dan, and an internet search will reveal installing dealers in your area. Some dealers specialize in residential window

(continued on page 65)
Durable Powder Coated Steel Travel Table

$139.95
Free Shipping
- Uses your vehicle tire or RV tire for its main support
- Stable regardless of ground conditions
- Weighs 13 lbs. and folds down for easy storage
- 29” L X 23” W X 1.5”
- Easily holds up to 50 lbs.

www.TailGaterTireTable.com
info@tailgatertiretable.com

Hatchlift Products

Hatchlift Door Kits
US Patent 8,839,559

Bedlift Kits

Mounting Kits & Hardware

Replacement Springs

www.hatchlift.com

ZARCOR® Solutions

The door window treatment you’ve been asking for.

CloZucent® kit: Installed on included clear window provides privacy, temperature, and light control.

Open and Close with a finger slide.

Operate without opening screen or door.

ZARCOR.COM
(972) 380-8724 | (800) 877-4797

Steele Rubber Products

OVER 100 RV EXTRUSIONS AVAILABLE

Call for your
FREE RV Catalog

800-230-6109
www.steelerubber.com

For advertising information contact Terry Thompson:
Phone 206-310-6234 Fax 270-495-6278
Email terry.thompson@goodsam.com

HONDA GENERATORS

When Quiet Counts, Count on Honda

SHIPPED SAME DAY

LOWEST PRICES ANYWHERE!!

FREE
800-832-7365
MOTOSPORTS
1850 N. State St.
Ukiah, Ca. 95482
www.motorsportsukiah.com

Call, museum, and 1.75%. For optimum performance and safety we recommend you read the Owners Manual before operating your Honda Power Equipment. Consult your local Honda dealer for repairs, maintenance, and tune-up.

Good Sam Club

Now, more money-saving reasons to join!

Join today at GoodSamClub.com or call 1.800.234.3450
**Get the Sheen Back**

As seen in Trailer Life Oct. 2016

Poli Glow Restores
Faded Surfaces

Lasts over 12 Months
poliglowproducts.com
Watch instructional video • 800-922-5013
FREE SHIPPING COUPON CODE: TL18

---

**HITCHPORT**

HITCH BAR STORAGE

Store your hitch & spring bars on the trailer tongue

www.hitchportllc.com
772-214-0951

PAT. PEND.

**IDaho Dealers & Destinations**

---

**RVers LOVE IDaHO!**

- Great camping
- Less crowded, less expensive
- Amazing outdoor recreation
- Breathtaking scenery
- Friendly, helpful people

FREE!

IDAHO RV Campground Directory

RVIdaho.org

---

**TO ADVERTISE IN THE**

RV Marketplace
or Dealers & Destinations

CONTACT:

Terry Thompson
206-310-6234
terry.thompson@goodsam.com

---

**READER SERVICE**

**ADVERTISERS’ INDEX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RS#</th>
<th>ADVERTISER</th>
<th>PAGE#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>104</td>
<td>Bauer Products .......................32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>Boar Wheel Company ..................65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>AP Products ..........................26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>AP Products ..........................51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>109</td>
<td>Banks Power ............................21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Camco, Inc. .............................37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Camping World ..........................54-55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Camping World RV Sales ..............53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>103</td>
<td>Classifieds ..............................64-65</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107</td>
<td>Dish Network ...........................7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>108</td>
<td>Escape Trailer ..........................10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>Geico ....................................15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>Geico VIP ...............................22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>112</td>
<td>Good Sam RV Loans ....................48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>113</td>
<td>GMAC Insurance .........................22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>114</td>
<td>Good Sam Media &amp; Events ............24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
<td>Harbor Freight Tools ..................61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Hensley Manufacturing Inc. .........46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117</td>
<td>Hensley Manufacturing Inc. ..........60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>iBall Hitch Cam ..........................59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>119</td>
<td>Icon Technologies .....................47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>Innovations Housing .................28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>121</td>
<td>Jayco ......................................9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>JC Refrigeration .......................58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123</td>
<td>Korea .....................................12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>124</td>
<td>King Campers .............................2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>125</td>
<td>Lance Campers ...........................33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126</td>
<td>Lavario Washer Corporation ...........33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>127</td>
<td>Lippert Components ..................20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>128</td>
<td>Lippert Components ..................49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>M-4 Resale ................................58</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>MOR/Ryde ................................11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131</td>
<td>NORCO .....................................45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>Northwood Mfg. ..........................28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Park It 360 ..............................28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134</td>
<td>Park It 360 ................................36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>135</td>
<td>Progress Manufacturing, Inc. .......29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>136</td>
<td>Progress Manufacturing, Inc. .......29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>137</td>
<td>Progressive Insurance .................5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>138</td>
<td>Progressive Insurance .................5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>139</td>
<td>Purple Line LLC ..........................60</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>Rear View Safety .......................13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>RV Armor, Inc. ............................27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>142</td>
<td>RV Buyer’s Guide .......................44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143</td>
<td>RV Marketplace .........................62-63</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Sea Eagle ..................................46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Seaboard Corporation ..................67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Transfer Flow Inc. ......................18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>Travel Lite RV ............................88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Travel Lite RV ............................88</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>149</td>
<td>Walex ......................................19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>Winegard Company ......................59</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDITORIAL PRODUCT INDEX**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RS#</th>
<th>ADVERTISER</th>
<th>PAGE#</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>3-In-One-RVcare .......................56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145</td>
<td>Bugg Banner ..............................56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>146</td>
<td>Grand Design .............................16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>147</td>
<td>Minder Research ..........................56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>148</td>
<td>Trimax Locks ..............................56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While every effort is made to maintain accuracy and completeness, last-minute changes may occasionally result in omissions or errors.
TRAILERS, ACCESSORIES, REAL ESTATE AND MORE!

ACCESSORIES

TurboKool®
12-Volt Cooling for RVs
TurboKool Evaporative "Swamp" Coolers
Powered by Battery and/or Solar.
Cools your RV (up to 30 ° reduction)
Please visit www.TurboKool.com

BUILD-Portable Camp Table using plans in book
ALSO-Horse Packing books—GREAT GIFTS!
www.highcountryhorse.net
307-745-4553 or 307-760-2844

LEAKY ROOF? Liquid Roof® goes on like paint --
cures to a sealed EPDM rubber membrane. UV &
Ozone resistant—good to 300 °F. 5-year warranty.
800-467-7135 www.AdvancedRubberCoatings.com

AIR BEDS

Dual adjustable air bed sleep systems.
Comfortable, lightweight and durable.
RV and custom sizes. Comfort guarantee!
Call 800-419-9392. WWW.BEARBEDS.COM

CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIPS FOR SALE

CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIP OUTLET—SINCE 1991
To buy 800-272-0401
To sell 800-952-0401
Any Membership—Nationwide. Best prices ever.

HELP WANTED

Earn While You Travel. Up to 65% Commission.
Complimentary RV Site While Working. Need
self-motivated people with computer
& sales experience. Adventure Awaits!!!
800-832-3292 • SoutheastPublications.com

HOMES FOR SALE

TOP RATED RESORT - S. Texas
Retama Village - Supersites $50s.
RV Casitas $120s RV Port Homes $170s.
956-380-6500 www.bentsenpalm.com

MAIL/MESSAGE SERVICES

AMERICAS MAILBOX Forwarding in SD/Low Rates
NO Wheel Tax/NO Sales/Income Tax/Save $$$
NO Safety Insp/4-Season Campground & Hotel
We Scan Your Mail/Insurance/Ext Warranties
www.AmericasMailbox.com Call Us First!!
866-747-3700

RE-MAIL PLUS
MAIL FORWARDING SERVICE US & ABROAD
KAY WANAMAKER OWNER
1-800-221-9609 • www.remailplus.net

RECREATION VEHICLES FOR SALE

RVT.com
100,000+ New & Used RVs for Sale on RVT.COM®
Search By Owner and Dealer Listings.
Sell an RV with a Free or Until Sold ad!
www.RVT.com or 1-877-705-0025

RV FINANCING

THE ORIGINAL RV FINANCING ONLINE
LOW RATES, GREAT SERVICE, NATIONWIDE
1998 AND NEWER RVs ALL TYPES
www.RVFINANCING.COM • Facebook.com/loans
CALL NOW—toll free 888-929-4424

SERVICES

ALL DAY $49
MONTANA REGISTERED AGENT LLC

$700 for a 1 day MT LLC and permanent
trailer registration. Includes DMV fees.
www.49dollarmontanaregisteredagent.com
Call for more info 406-552-0004.

#1 IN SALES TAX SAVINGS
PAY NO SALES TAX! We have helped 1000’s save
over the past 23 yrs. Call & talk to a CPA for
professional, friendly service! www.rvtax.com
Mountain States Consulting 800-565-4504

ACTION SERVICES, LLC/WILSON LAW OFFICE
No Sales Tax in Montana. Consult a Licensed
Montana Attorney for an understanding of
LLC vehicle ownership. Call the Professionals
to get a comprehensive explanation.
800-481-0013 www.actionservices-mt.com

Let us help you BUY YOUR RV ... TAX FREE!
Setup a Montana LLC today with the most
experienced company in the industry!
Call 888.430.3388 www.MontanaRV.net

TOURS

Guided RV Tours & Rallies
Lower 48•Alaska•Canada•Overseas
Free RV Vacation Catalog 844-872-7897 or
www.adventurecaravans.com

RVT.com

RV CARAVANS and RALLIES
Pre-Planned Routes, Expert Guides and
Safe Travel—North America & Overseas.
FantasyRVTours.com or call 800-952-8496

TRAVEL TRAILERS & FIFTH-WHEELS

NEW 2018 DRV Mobile Suite 36RSSB3 (Loaded)
True 4 Season, Ave 30% off MSRP of $131,580
877-228-6975. CustomOrderAvailable@NoCharge
View All New/Used® www.rvforless.net
Worldwide Shipping. #1 USA Dealer 2011-2017
(continued from page 60)

**RV Clinic**

**FIFTH-WHEEL TRAILER STABILIZER**

Q. I recently purchased a fifth-wheel and have noticed other campers with tripods. I have heard that they help with stabilization. Is that true? If so, do you recommend a brand or type?

A. There are numerous tripod-style hitch-pin stabilizers available for fifth-wheel trailers, Dave, and they work as advertised. In use, they help keep the gooseneck part of the trailer from wobbling around when occupied. They work best when combined with other types of stabilizing jacks that are also available in the aftermarket. I can’t recommend a specific brand that works best, because there are several available and we haven’t performed any side-by-side comparison tests, but you can ask the owner when you see one in use and learn about it that way.

**SKIP THE WD HITCH?**

Q. I have a 2007 Chevy 2500 Duramax and pull a 2014 Coachmen 36-foot travel trailer. Can I tow the trailer without a weight-distributing (WD) hitch? I would like to use a standard adjustable dead-weight hitch, since it is lighter weight. For sway control, I was going to have Camping World install an electronic sway control. Will this be safe?

A. In short, I would never tow a trailer that large without a WD hitch. By using a deadweight hitch, you cause a good deal of weight to shift from the tow rig’s front axle to its back axle. That can — and, quite possibly, will — cause steering, handling and stability issues. You suggested adding a sway control to help avoid sway, but by using the wrong hitch, you’re just creating a problem and then attempting to solve it.

Your truck weighs in excess of 6,000 pounds; the trailer is probably 8,000 pounds or so. Is it worth saving an extra 125 pounds, more or less, by using the smaller hitch when it could adversely affect towing stability? This is a great opportunity to make the right decision and stick with what’s safe, and what works.

**TIED OF TRAILER TIRE PROBLEMS?**

**BOAR’S WHEEL/TIRE UPGRADE SOLUTIONS FOR TRAILERS ENABLE YOU TO:**

- Carry more weight (up to 6,008/lbs.)
- At highway speeds (up to 87/mph)
- Increase tire life (x3-x7 longer)
- Improve handling
- Lower rolling resistance (+mpg!)
- Improve safety

**HEAVY-DUTY TRAILER SOLUTIONS**

**888-619-5622**

**BOARWHEEL.COM**

**HAVE A QUESTION?** Email rvclinic@trailerlife.com or write to RV Clinic, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036. Include your full name and hometown. Selected letters will be answered in the magazine, but time does not permit individual replies. No phone calls, please.
Rocky Mountain High
Wildlife thrives in and around Colorado’s most popular national park

One of the most inspiring places I’ve found to watch wildlife is Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. My husband and I make a point to travel there every couple of years to photograph the plethora of birds and mammals in the park — big ones like majestic moose and headbutting bighorn sheep, and small ones like endangered pikas and common yellow-bellied marmots.

Trail Ridge Road, the scenic byway that traverses from the east to the west side of this 415-square-mile alpine sanctuary, climbs to 12,000 feet where it crosses the Continental Divide. Trail Ridge Road is a must when we visit Rocky Mountain National Park. Despite the frequent flow of traffic, we often see young bull elk sparring on patches of snow or cow elk tending calves in a verdant meadow.

Sometimes we grab fly rods and hike to Dream Lake. It’s a popular short trek (1.1 miles one way) on a well-trodden path. The canted peak of Hallett Peak often reflects in this pristine tarn that contains rare greenback cutthroat trout. Lots of anglers try their luck from the rocky shoreline, but few hook these wary fish. It hardly matters in such a beautiful spot.

Last year, after a chilly afternoon photographing mule deer while ogling temporarily snowless Longs Peak, the highest point in Rocky Mountain National Park at 14,259 feet, we drove out the east side of the park. Passing through the small town of Allenspark, we pulled over at a local coffee shop for a hot drink.

Lattes in hand, we found a seat on the sunny, sheltered deck of the tiny café. Within two sips of the steamy brew, I felt something whiz by my ear. A moment later, I felt it again. Hummingbirds! Several red feeders hung from rafters above the deck. Rufous, black-chinned and ruby-throated hummingbirds buzzed here and there, sucking the sweet nectar from the feeders and then flitting to the flower boxes on the railing.

I grabbed my camera. An hour later, I had taken more photos outside Rocky Mountain National Park than inside it. Sometimes opportunities arise when you least expect, and that’s part of the fun of traveling.

Colorado’s Wild Side
Our sincerest gratitude to the MotorHome and TrailerLife Readers for voting Thetford–Norcold–ProtectAll...

...the most-awarded products in the history of the Annual Readers’ Choice Awards!

www.thetford.com

Thetford Corporation, Circle 133 on Reader Service Card
The Industry Leader in Half Ton Truck Campers

The Lightest Floorplans Designed to Perfectly Fit Your Half Ton Truck.

- 7 Half Ton Floorplans Starting at 1,080 Lbs.
- Industry Leading 2-Year Warranty
- MSRP’s Starting at Only $12,860

Phone: 574-831-3000

Travel Lite RV, Circle 135 on Reader Service Card