

**FACTORY-DIRECT:** GETTING THE PERSONAL TOUCH

# MotorHome

Travel, Tech, Lifestyle – For the RV Enthusiast

August 2015

## BEAT THE HEAT

TOP FABRICS TO  
KEEP YOUR RV'S  
INTERIOR COOL



### IT'S A SNAP!

Installing Mesh Shade  
Window Coverings

## TAKING FLIGHT

New twin-bed, rear-bath Class B-plus from Phoenix Cruiser

### HOLDING-TANK HEROES

13 Odor-controlling  
Products to the Rescue

### ULTIMATE ECOSYSTEM GRAND TETON

- 300+ Bird Species
- 242 Miles of Hiking Trails
- 7 Campgrounds

# BUILT TO CARRY THE MOST PRECIOUS CARGO OF ALL...YOUR FAMILY 2016 VERONA...DESIGNED FOR LIFE.



Introducing the 2016 Renegade Verona...Now, legendary Renegade luxury and quality is available at a family friendly price. Designed for today's active families, every Verona has an impressive collection of the must-have features that savvy buyers demand. With tremendous interior and exterior storage, and an amazingly fun to drive Freightliner M2 chassis, the Verona makes getting there half the fun. As comfortable as it is beautiful, you'll want to go further and stay longer every time you hit the road.



## 2016 VERONA FEATURES

- 20,000 Lb. Towing Capacity
- 8kw Onan Generator
- Solid Hardwood Maple Cabinets
- Upgraded Furniture
- King Size Bed w/Padded Headboard
- Most Interior & Exterior Storage in Class
- 18 cu. Ft. Stainless French Door Refrigerator
- LED Interior & Exterior Lighting
- Outside Entertainment Center

RenegadeRV.com | 888.522.1126

Renegade RV, Circle 109 on Reader Service Card





In Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park, mist surrounds the base of the mighty Teton Mountains under brooding skies (see page 26).



There are dozens of holding-tank treatments on the market today, which can make choosing the right one daunting. Pg. 59

## 4 ON RAMP

Sunscreen for Motorhomes

## 6 P.O. BOX

MotorHome readers share their opinions

## 11 ESCAPES

Road Foodie, Wheels & Gear, Noteworthy, Crossroads

## 68 QUICK TIPS

Handy time- and money-saving tips from fellow RVers

## 70 TECH SAVVY

Hands-On, Hot Line, Coach & Powertrain

## 82 THE ROAD AHEAD

People and places worth the drive

## FEATURES

### Stylish Savannah.....21

Situated along Georgia's coast in the Lowcountry region, which includes Tybee Island, this area is filled with genteel warmth and Southern hospitality

### Grand Teton National Park.....26

Spectacular scenery, rugged mountains, dramatic skies and plenty of campgrounds make this Wyoming park a must for RVers

### Carolina Cabernet.....32

Tobacco farming has been replaced with winemaking in North Carolina's Yadkin Valley — the state's first federally recognized American Viticultural Area

— with nearly 40 wineries and about 400 acres devoted to vineyards

### Phoenix Rising.....36

The 2552 twin-bed rear-bath Class B-plus motorhome from Phoenix Cruiser has a bright and open floorplan that truly shines

### The Direct Route.....42

Buying a motorhome straight from the coachbuilder offers a highly personalized and hands-on experience

### Sun Diffusion.....50

Making custom-cut mesh window covers is a simple and quick DIY project with an EZ Snap Direct Shade Kit

### Made in the Shade.....55

There are lots of options for reducing solar heat soak and keeping the sun from streaming through windows during the summer

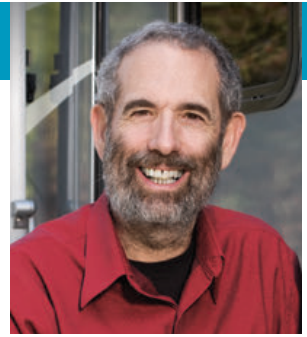
### Hold Everything.....59

Before you take your next RV trip, make sure the black and gray tanks are properly treated

## ON THE COVER

Relaxing with the Phoenix Cruiser 2552 (see test on page 36) in Cachuma Lake Recreation Area in California's Santa Ynez Valley. Cachuma Lake campground has more than 400 sites, 100 with full hookups. Photo by Scott Hirko.





By Bob Livingston

## Sunscreen for Motorhomes

**A**ugust is America's month to hit the road. It's also usually the warmest month of the year. Sun worshipers love the warmth and can usually dress down for the occasion — and apply sunscreen to protect their bodies from damage. Dealing with direct sun and heat inside a motorhome is an entirely different animal.

One of our favorite campsites is in a park where the motorhome is oriented so that the hot afternoon sun blasts the side wall on the patio side. In August, when temperatures hover close to the three-digit mark, the heat can be brutal. The intense heat taxes the limitations of the air-conditioning system, it makes the refrigerator work harder and it degrades the exterior surface of the motorhome. In the RV world, sunscreen is wax, which can protect the paint and gelcoat, but does little to keep the heat out of the interior.

By noon we have the air conditioners cranked up, the awning out, window shades closed and a fan roaring, all in an attempt to stave off the afternoon blast of sun. But we hate to lose the view of the outside. If we close the window shades, we feel too isolated. When the shades are open, anything in the path of the sun's rays gets too hot, including the dining table. So we go through the daily ritual of stashing the computer and other stuff

normally on the table during the day to prevent sun/heat damage.

We spend a lot of time outdoors and enjoy hanging out under the awning reading or listening to music. One day, when the sun was just too intense, we bee-lined it to a local home improvement store and bought a short roll of shade cloth. After jerry-rigging the connection to the awning with clamps, a large section was rolled out at an angle and staked to the ground. While somewhat of a desperate measure to make the patio livable, our little experiment worked better than expected. Of course, there are commercial products on the market that hook directly to the awning and a number of suppliers of good-quality shade cloth (see page 55), but we were nowhere near an RV store.

When we learned about a do-it-

yourself product that does the same thing for windows, we jumped at the chance to install custom shades that snap on the window frames (see page 50). The EZ Snap system, marketed by a company in Washington and Canada that offers window-shade products for homes located in hot-weather regions, is also targeted at RV owners struggling to keep interiors comfortable, especially in motorhomes that only have one air conditioner and large expanses of window glass. In many cases, even tinted windows won't make enough difference, so the exterior shades are worth their weight in gold.

As you'll learn in the article, the snaps make the system practical — and remove any chance of making mistakes drilling holes. The stick-on snaps are indeed clever and easy to use.

Now that I got summer heat under control, I can go back to stressing about bug cleaning. In my quest for easy solutions, I found yet another product that softens, literally, the process (see page 70). Looking forward to a lot less sweat this August. **M**

**“ In many cases, even tinted windows won't make enough difference, so the exterior shades are worth their weight in gold. ”**

### Contributors | August



**Kristopher Bunker**, the former editor of *Trailer Life* magazine, is an avid camper and has been RVing for more than a decade. He is currently a freelance writer and stay-at-home dad.



**Donya Carlson** is the managing editor of *Trailer Life*. She grew up camping and loves the outdoors. Previously, she was the managing editor of the motorcycle enthusiast and travel magazine, *Rider*.



**Emily Fagan** and her husband, Mark, have been traveling full-time since 2007. They chronicle their journey with lively stories and beautiful photography at <http://roadslesstraveled.us>.



**Christine Goodier** is a freelance writer and editor who lives on the North Carolina coast and travels with her husband, photographer Bob Goodier, in a Class B Sprinter motorhome.



**Bobbie Hasselbring** is an award-winning travel and food writer and editor of [www.realfoodtraveler.com](http://www.realfoodtraveler.com), which covers authentic food and travel. Bobbie owns a 2003 Jayco Greyhawk SS Class C.



**Pam Windsor** is a freelance writer and photographer in Louisville, Kentucky, who enjoys traveling and sharing the stories of the many fascinating people and places she finds along the way.

# MotorHome

**Publisher** Bob Livingston  
**Editorial Director** Eileen Hubbard  
**Technical Editor** Chris Hemer  
**Art Director** Rick Damien  
**Production Director** Bob Dawson  
**Production Manager** Brenda Hutchinson  
**Business Manager** Katey Purgatorio

**Consulting Editors** Kristopher Bunker, Wes Caughlan, Seana Dawson, Ken Freund, Jeff Johnston

**Contributors** Kristopher Bunker, Donya Carlson, Morey Edelman, Emily Fagan, Chris Goodier, Bobbie Hasselbring, Scott Hirko, Neala McCarten, Alan Rider, Pam Windsor, Mary Zalmanek

**Vice President National Sales** Terry Thompson

**RV Marketplace/Classifieds** Katey Purgatorio  
3431 S. 257th St., Kent, WA 98032  
Tel 847-229-6756 Fax 270-495-6278  
katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com

**Advertising Sales Representatives**  
Sue Seidnitz (Southwest Region)  
530-268-3005, sue.seidnitz@goodsam.com

Kim Whitaker (Southeast Region)  
919-412-6325, kim.whitaker@goodsam.com

Lou Cicirelli (Northeast Region)  
954-297-9234, lou.cicirelli@goodsam.com

Scott Oakes (Northwest Region)  
Tel 847-229-6758 Fax 270-282-7356  
scott.oakes@goodsam.com

Crompton Holdings Scott Crompton (Detroit, Michigan)  
Tel 334-546-7243 Fax 334-356-7740  
scottcrompton@mac.com

**Chairman Emeritus** Art Rouse  
**Publisher Emeritus** Bill Estes

## Customer Service

**Subscriptions** (print and digital)  
800-678-1201  
motorhome@cdsfulfillment.com

**Website** www.motorhome.com

**Editorial** info-motorhomemagazine@goodsam.com



**President** Mark Boggess  
**Sr. Vice President/Group Publisher** Bob Livingston  
**Vice President/Advertising Sales** Terry Thompson  
**Vice President** Ann Emerson



*MotorHome* (ISSN 0744-074X) is published monthly by GS Media & Events (a division of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC), 2750 Park View Ct., Ste. 240, Oxnard, CA 93036. Periodicals postage paid at Oxnard, CA 93036 and additional mailing offices. The annual subscription rate is \$19.97 per year in the U.S. For Canadian and International subscriptions, add \$12 per year. U.S. funds only.

**Postmaster** Send address changes to *MotorHome*, P.O. Box 5860, Harlan, IA 51593-1360.

**Canadian Return Address** GS Media & Events, 4960-2 Walker Road, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6J3. Publication Sales Agreement #40012332.

Printed in the United States.

*MotorHome* is a registered trademark of Affinity Group Inc. Copyright 2015 by Affinity Group Inc. All rights reserved. AGA is an authorized subscription agent.

**Privacy Promise** *MotorHome* will never intentionally share subscribers' names, addresses or other personal information with other companies when requested not to do so. If you want to opt out from receiving marketing offers in the mail from other reputable companies, or you opt out and subsequently desire to opt back in, contact *MotorHome* by mail, phone or email: *MotorHome* Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 5860, Harlan, IA 51593-1360, 800-825-6861, motorhome@cdsfulfillment.com. This policy applies to postal mail; we will not send commercial emails to subscribers unless authorized to do so.

A DIVISION OF GOOD SAM ENTERPRISES, LLC

**Chairman & CEO** Marcus Lemonis **Executive VP** Tom Wolfe

## WELCOME TO EXTRAORDINARY

Say goodbye to ordinary RV living! Enjoy the scenic North Georgia Mountains surrounded by the picturesque Coosa and Anderson creeks. Relax with resort-style five-star amenities.

- Full clubhouse and activities center for outstanding social events.
- Tennis/Pickle ball courts, heated pool/spa, dry sauna/steam and massage rooms, gym.
- Huge concrete pads for RV's up to 45 feet long; full hook-ups (20-30-50 amps) at all sites.
- Premium creek-side lots with enlarged patio area.

**Crossing Creeks RV Resort & Spa is the perfect luxury getaway!**

Extraordinary starts at only \$29,900\*. Call or visit today!

*Come spend a night and stay a lifetime in your new mountain home.*

\*available for limited time

## CROSSING CREEKS

RV RESORT & SPA

706-835-1111 • 136 Mountain Creek Road • Blairsville, GA 30512

www.CrossingCreeksRVResort.com • info@crossingcreeksrvresort.com

Obtain the Property Report required by federal law and read it before signing anything.  
No federal agency has judged the merits or value, if any, of this property.



## RV Jack Pads

### Level On It Jack On It Park On It

- Made in USA of recycled rubber tires
- Won't crack, rot, chip, mildew or break
- Conforms to the ground
- Withstands temperature extremes (-20 to 160F)
- 5 sizes to meet the needs of the RVer



To order or for more info:  
**www.hosspad.com**  
**1-888-509-0668**



Crossing Creeks RV Resort, Circle 103 on Reader Service Card

Hosspad, Circle 102 on Reader Service Card

## Have you experienced a tire blowout while driving your motorhome, and if so, how did you handle it?

That's the question we asked in our May issue, and here are some of the replies we received.



### Always Carry a Spare

We had a blowout near Waco, Texas, doing 60 MPH in our 33-foot Class A. We smelled something burning so I pulled over and inspected everything. I got back in the coach, and as we hit 60 MPH, the left front tire blew.

Years of driving trucks, towing boats and such had taught me not to hit the brakes, but to grasp the wheel firmly while it kept trying to pull hard to the left and let the beast slow down by itself. We coasted to the side and I pried my white knuckles off the wheel.

I learned two very important things. First, when calling for roadside service, always specify that you have a Class A motorhome. Second, it's a necessity to

carry a spare tire. Motorhome manufacturers that do not supply a spare, or at least make it an option, are causing their customers potential problems.

**Warren Holmes | Long Beach, Indiana**

### Stabilizer Bar

My husband and I are very experienced drivers; he drove fire engines for 32 years and I drove school buses for 15 years. With all of our training we knew how dangerous a blowout could be. For that reason, we had a Steer Safe stabilizer bar installed on our coach.

Last year, we were driving on U.S. Highway 99 near Madera, California. My husband was at the wheel driving 55 MPH and we were towing our Jeep.

We were in the outside lane and traffic was heavy. Our right front tire blew out with such force it took the fender and right headlight off. It also partially removed the door for the LP-gas tank and damaged the tank regulator. The whole grille was loosened, doing \$5,000 worth of damage.

My husband felt a terrific impact through the steering wheel, but the coach did not swerve at all. Of course he knew not to hit the brakes. Needless to say we were pretty shaken up because we knew it could have been a disaster, not only for us, but others on the road. We highly recommend a stabilizer bar for all motorhomes.

**Judy Perdue | Hollister, California**

### Featured Letter

## Double Trouble

While driving near Roswell, New Mexico, on U.S. Highway 70, I had both rear tires on the passenger side of my Class C Jayco motorhome blow out simultaneously. I was towing a Jeep Wrangler with no auxiliary brake (now I do have an auxiliary brake) traveling at 62 MPH. At the moment of the blowout, I was behind the wheel and it felt similar to a strong gust of wind rocking me sideways and the sensation of the unit dropping down in the rear.

I was able to pull over to the side of the road safely in a short amount of time and distance. At no time did I get out of my lane of traffic or feel the unit out of control. I think towing the Jeep added to the stability as well as traveling at a reasonable speed. Forty-plus years of driving large vehicles might have helped as well.

Some advice to share with fellow *MotorHome* readers is to let the age of the tire, not tread depth, determine when to replace your tires. Also be careful not to overload your unit or toad even if it fits. Get off the road at a reasonable time.

My blowout happened at 11:00 p.m., which is way too late to be on the road. Also don't even think about leaving home without your Good Sam Roadside Assistance card. This was not the first time I used the service, and it hasn't been the last. Safe travels.

**Dan Hinds | El Paso, Illinois**



### Out of Date

I thought I could get one more trip out of my 9-year-old tires and then replace them when I returned. I was driving to a NASCAR race with friends when we blew an outside rear tire. No problem, we changed it and bought a new spare.

On the trip home, I felt a shimmy in the steering wheel and then heard a loud BANG. All of a sudden we saw a pickup truck towing a trailer bouncing through the grass to the right of us. We pulled over and a couple of women ran up and asked if we were OK. We said yes, but we were worried about the truck in the grass. They said it was their husbands and all they saw was rubber, then the truck turned right to miss it. We made sure everybody was OK and then checked the vehicles.

When the tire blew, it took out the drainpipes and the underside of the bathroom floor. The black and gray pipes were gone, and, no, we didn't dump before we left. The aluminum sheet was gone and the insulation was hanging out. We had to call someone to replace the tire so we could get home.

**James Morris | Oshawa, Ontario, Canada**

### Ring in the New Year With a Bang

At the time I had a blowout, I was driving a Holiday Rambler Vacationer. It was New Year's Eve weekend and we were on Interstate 95 north of Savannah, Georgia. Traffic was heavy and we were moving at 65 MPH with a 4,000-pound SUV in tow. A heavy truck was passing me when our left front tire blew. Remembering what Michelin recommends for driving out of a tire failure at high speed, I kept my speed up until I got over to the shoulder and out of the way. A trucker who was passing me was screaming on the CB that he thought he was going to be in an accident and had nothing but praise for the guy driving that RV for saving all of our skins.

I might mention that my coach was equipped with a steering stabilizer and that I did have to struggle with the wheel to avoid being pulled to the left.

Now for the fun part: I had just switched to a new insurance company that provided a road service

option. I called the company and asked for service and a tire, but the company couldn't find anyone. Then I remembered my Good Sam Roadside Assistance had three more days left before it expired. I called Good Sam. A service truck arrived quickly and I was back on the road in about 30 minutes.

**Dave Belanger | Andover, Maine**

### Drive 65

My husband and I were traveling in a 38-foot Monaco on an interstate when we had a blowout. Traffic was heavy and I was driving in the far left lane passing others. I was going about 68 MPH when I felt a thump and then BANG, the left front tire blew. Instinctively I applied a hard brake (my training said not to, but instinct took over). I swerved into the median heading for oncoming traffic. My husband yelled, "Get off the brakes!" I let off the brakes and drove to the shoulder as the motorhome slowed.

We both have CDLs and are comfortable driving big equipment; however, this experience taught us some good lessons. Buy new tires whether you need them or not every five to seven years. When a blowout occurs, ever so gently slow down and come to a stop in a safe place. Again, stay off the brakes when a front tire fails. Driving at 65 MPH or slower gives you a far better chance of recovery.

**Cass Flagg | Via email**

### Riding the Rails

My wife and I were traveling south on U.S. Highway 101 near Buellton, California, in our motorhome when the left front tire blew. We were in the left lane doing 60 MPH when we heard a loud BANG and then the most surreal noise. In those few seconds, the steering wheel tried to shoot to the left and it was all I could do to hold the coach from going over. The surreal noise was the motorhome scraping the guardrail; had it not been for that guardrail we surely would have flipped over. Our friends who were following us thought for sure we were going over. Fortunately, we didn't and no one was hurt, but our dog

was shaken up. The entire left side of the motorhome was damaged. Immediately after we got it back from the body shop I had Steer Safe installed. From then on, that was the first thing I had done on my next two motorhomes.

**Rob Shoemaker | Santa Clarita, California**

### More Secure Behind the Wheel

We own a 2006 Allegro Open Road on a Workhorse chassis. In 2012, we experienced a blowout on the right front tire while traveling at 65 MPH towing our Saturn Aura. As soon as the tire blew, the right front dropped, but I'm happy to say I never lost control of the motorhome, and was able to quickly pull over to the shoulder. There was a good amount of damage to the underside of the coach, but not to its drivability. Even though it was late Saturday afternoon, Good Sam sent out a repair truck with a new tire, and we were able to continue on our journey.

Prior to this incident, I had wondered how the coach would handle when faced with a front-tire blowout. Now that I know, I feel more secure behind the wheel.

**Alan Reiss | Long Beach, California**

### An Unnerving Experience

Oh boy, I had a blowout after only having about 90 minutes total driving experience behind the wheel of our 40-foot Phaeton. On our way to Florida it was my turn to drive [EEK]. After 45 minutes, the right front tire blew. It sounded like a gunshot and the motorhome began to vibrate madly. It did not, however, sway from side to side and I had no trouble steering as I took my foot off the gas and allowed it to slow down while guiding it off the road.

To our surprise, the tire was still on the rim and we had no damage to the coach. Why so lucky? We had purchased the Phaeton used and thank goodness the previous owner had put an expensive extra option on the coach called TYRON bands, which is a flat-tire safety device for Class A's. This was apparently why I had no trouble controlling the coach when the tire blew.

I don't know if we would have put

that option on the coach if we had purchased it new, but we would now. I've seen blown-tire damage on other RVs and this option is a must for any motorhome we own from now on.

**Jean Hough | Via email**

**Don't Jam on the Brakes**

We were on Interstate 85 during Labor Day weekend when the right front tire on our Newmar Essex exploded. All I could do was jam on the brakes, hold the steering wheel straight and go for the ride. Instantly, we were off the right shoulder and down the embankment.

Emergency personnel arrived and contained a small fuel spill and assisted with the 15-mile backup of traffic! Needless to say our coach was destroyed and except for some minor scratches from flying windshield glass, my wife, son, grandson, dog and I were unhurt. We were very blessed not to have been injured. Of course insurance covered our material loss after some lengthy conversations. But to this day

I'm so very aware of my tires.

Please do not trust your lives to old tires! Ours looked fine, good tread, proper inflation, but I found out they were 6 years old. It took us two years of searching for another coach, but now we are back on the road. Before we bought the new rig, I insisted the dealer put on eight new tires. He was happy to assist after hearing about our accident.

**Alan and Dianne Pennington  
Verona, Virginia**

**Stay Steady**

On Christmas Day we blew two left rear tires near El Cajon, California. As a retired law enforcement officer, I knew not to hit the brakes, but stay steady on the wheel and pull off the freeway. We did not have Good Sam Roadside Assistance at the time and our carrier could not find us a tow. But Good Sam did find us a tow and we joined Good Sam right then, even though it did not require that we joined right then. If you have an RV and you do

not have Good Sam service, get it now.

**Dennis Creason | Temecula, California**

**The Dirt on Laundry**

I'm considering going full time and am wondering if I should add a washer and dryer to my RV. Is the space used worth it? Do the appliances get used enough to warrant the expense? Do they work really well or so-so? Also, are the combo units just a compromise?

**J.R. Thornton | Salem, Oregon**

**Question of the Month**

*Do you have a washer and dryer in your motor-home? If so, is it worth the space and expense, and how well does it work?*

**Send your comments to:**

MotorHome, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036; or email letters@motorhomemagazine.com

**NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD WHEN USING WALEX!**



800-338-3155

www.rvsanitation.com

The Best Holding Tank & Odor Control Products

Walex, Circle 131 on Reader Service Card

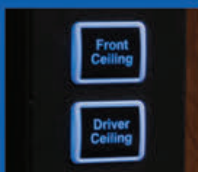


The New 2016



## Breaking boundaries... again.

The new 2016 Bounder is at it again with an exciting, updated design, increased storage and the latest innovations to make the next adventure even better. It's no wonder that Bounder is one of America's favorite motorhomes on the road today.



IllumaPlex™  
Electronic Control  
System



Increased Rotocast-  
molded pass-through  
storage bays



Hide-A-Loft™ P2K™  
w/500 lb capacity



Ergonomic dash design  
w/integrated camera and  
monitors



Fleetwood 21<sup>st</sup>-century  
engineering, manufacturing  
and materials

See more Bounder features and locate a dealer  
at [FleetwoodRV.com/Bounder](http://FleetwoodRV.com/Bounder).



For family. For fun. Forever Fleetwood.



THE TOWED VEHICLE BRAKING EXPERTS™

# STEALTH™ FOR YOUR JOURNEY AHEAD

We've incorporated every lesson from the billions of miles that BrakeBuddy® has traveled into the innovative STEALTH™ ... The most versatile and easiest to use braking system anywhere!

## VERSATILE

Tow a vehicle  
or a trailer

“The Stealth gave us peace of mind while traveling to Alabama, a 1,200 mile journey! It worked flawlessly! Definitely going to recommend Stealth to our RVing friends!”

Rich and Lisa C.

*(35' Itasca Meridian & Honda CRV)*

## HIDDEN

Eliminates the  
in and out

## SIMPLE

Just plug  
and go

SCAN HERE to learn more  
about the STEALTH™



**BrakeBuddyStealth.com**  
**800-470-2287**

**MOST TRUSTED • EASIEST TO USE • BEST PERFORMING**

Brake Buddy, Circle 107 on Reader Service Card

# ESCAPES

## Easier Valve

Draining oil from a Cummins-Onan generator is simpler with an EZ Oil Drain Valve pg. 14



12 ROAD FOODIE | 14 WHEELS & GEAR | 16 NOTEWORTHY & NEWS BRIEFS | 18 CROSSROADS



## We Have Liftoff!

Even a rocket scientist can learn something new at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex

By Morey Edelman

**B**eing educated as an aerospace engineer, and having followed the U.S. space program — from its infancy, to the landing on the moon and to the space shuttle flights — I wondered if a visit to the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in east central Florida, east of Orlando, would be a worthwhile experience. The answer was a resounding yes!

Much has happened there in the past 10 years. The space shuttle flights have ended and it's going to be a few more years before the U.S. resumes launching astronauts into space. But, while all is in transition, the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex — with its multimedia presentations — is worth a day of adventure.

Pull into the Visitor Complex (RV parking is available for \$15) and experience the exhibits for future plans to

Mars. Head over to the Space Shuttle Atlantis building where you can get up close to see this spacecraft, which flew more than 30 orbital missions. Then stop and watch the featured IMAX movie. There is also an outdoor “rocket garden” where many of the launch vehicles used in the 1950s and '60s are on display.

Next take the tour bus to the Apollo/Saturn V Center. You've got to gawk at the massive 363-foot Saturn V rocket that was used to send men to the moon. Then watch — from a re-created mission control — the Apollo 11 mission's Eagle landing on the moon. It's quite exciting.

There is a lot more to see and do, and all of this is included in the admission price, which begins at \$50 for adults, \$40 for children. For more information, call 866-737-5235 or visit [www.kennedyspacecenter.com](http://www.kennedyspacecenter.com).

By Bobbie Hasselbring

# Exploring Bend's Ale Trail

Summer is the perfect time for a cold, tall brew. If you're a beer lover, you know that artisan beers have taken over the national brew scene. And nowhere in the United States is craft brewing bigger or more sophisticated than in the town of Bend, Oregon.

With a population of about 85,000 and 20 breweries (with more opening and expanding every day), Bend has more breweries per capita than any city in Oregon. Set against the craggy, snow-kissed Cascade Mountains, this high-desert city is a haven for RVers who love beautiful scenery, plenty of sunshine and outdoor hiking, rafting, fishing, mountain biking and rock climbing. And, for beer lovers, brew hopping here is its own sport.

## Bend Ale Trail

To learn about the trail, start by getting a Bend Ale Trail map and "passport" at [www.visitbend.com](http://www.visitbend.com), one of the 14 participating breweries, or by downloading the smartphone app at [www.bendaletrail.com](http://www.bendaletrail.com). The map enables you to discover the breweries along the Ale Trail and will help you plan your journey. Take along the passport and have it stamped at each brewery you visit (no purchase necessary). When 10 spaces are stamped, turn in your passport for a commemorative Bend Ale Trail Silipint glass at the Bend Visitor Center (750 NW Lava Road, Suite 160, Bend, OR 97701).

## Get on the Brew Bus

Driving and drinking don't mix, especially if you're piloting a big rig. The Bend Brew Bus offers half-day, guided tours of some of the city's finest breweries. The bus will pick you up and return you to

## Beer Town USA

With more breweries per capita than any other city in Oregon, Bend is a great place to discover craft beer.

Cycle Pub enables riders to pedal their way to local pubs while enjoying a brew.



From above top: Visitors can get a behind-the-scenes look at beer brewing in Bend, Oregon. In addition to brews made on-site, Worthy Brewing offers a full menu for dining.

your RV site or other location. The tour includes beer tastings, behind-the-scenes brewery tours and even appetizers. On a recent bus tour, the itinerary included Deschutes Brewery (the largest in Bend and the seventh-largest craft brewery in the country), and the Bend Brewing Co., a local brewery that sells 90 percent of its product in the brewery. The appetizer stop included hearty snacks like beer-batter-dipped onion rings, spicy macaroni and cheese, polenta triangles baked with blue cheese, and hummus with toasted pita and fresh vegetables.

## Cycle Pub

If you can pull together a few friends, Cycle Pub ([www.cyclepub.com](http://www.cyclepub.com)) is a really different way to explore Bend's breweries. This unusual moving pub incorporates bikes and beer, where 14-16 riders provide the horsepower by pedaling this passenger "bike." A driver is provided, so riders can drink local beer or wine en route. Guests can bring snacks and even arrange a catered lunch or dinner. Tours typically run two hours, but are customizable.

## What is your favorite craft brewery?

Email Bobbie at [bobbie@realfoodtraveler.com](mailto:bobbie@realfoodtraveler.com)



**ROAD FOODIE  
RECOMMENDS**  
Bend's Best Bets

**Bend Brew Bus.** The tour guide is your designated driver; 541-389-8359, [www.bendbrewbus.com](http://www.bendbrewbus.com)

**Bend Brewfest.** At the Bend Brewfest — August 13-16 — sample 170-plus brews from more than 60 breweries; 541-322-9383, [www.bendbrewfest.com](http://www.bendbrewfest.com)

**Scandia RV Park.** Open year-round with more than 60 full-hookup sites; 541-382-6206, [www.scandiarv.com](http://www.scandiarv.com)

# FROM *C* TO SHINING *C*.

Our Class C motorhomes are something to sing about! They combine easy drivability with remarkable flexibility, in a wide range of floorplans, sleeping arrangements, amenities and price points.

From compact, fuel-efficient and stylish to family-friendly and value-packed, we've got the right Class C coach for every need and budget – all built to our legendary quality and safety standards.

See them all online at [WinnebagoInd.com](http://WinnebagoInd.com), then check them out at your nearby Winnebago or Itasca dealer.

**WINNEBAGO**<sup>®</sup>

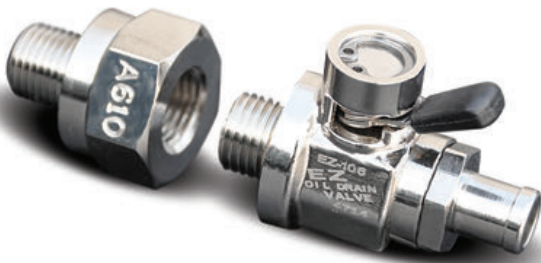


VIEW<sup>®</sup> / NAVION<sup>®</sup>

MINNIE WINNIE<sup>®</sup> / SPIRIT<sup>®</sup>

ASPECT<sup>®</sup> / CAMBRIA<sup>®</sup>

TREND<sup>™</sup> / VIVA!<sup>™</sup>



## EZ Generator Service

When it's time to change the generator oil, most owners would probably like to spend as little time underneath the motorhome as possible. That's what makes the new EZ Oil Drain Valve for Cummins-Onan generators so appealing to do-it-yourselfers. Installation is easy — just remove the oil drain plug, screw in the EZ Oil Drain Valve and turn the lever when you're ready to drain oil. An optional hose end (sold separately) makes it easy to direct the draining oil into a remote receptacle, if desired. For larger Cummins-Onan generators with an NPT 3/8-inch drain plug, use valve part No. EZ-110. For smaller models with an NPT 1/4-inch drain plug, an adapter (part No. A-610) is available to be used with valve part No. EZ-106 to eliminate tough and messy oil changes. The EZ Oil Drain Valve is available in 30 sizes to fit all RV engine makes/models as well, according to the company. MSRP: \$23.95 (adapter, \$7).

**EZ Oil Drain Valve, 425-270-3466, [www.oildrainvalve.net](http://www.oildrainvalve.net)**



## CRDI-fied Performance

Electronically controlled common rail direct injection (CRDI) diesel engines have very small holes in the injector nozzle tips, which are prone to form deposits. These deposits can disrupt the fuel spray pattern, causing inefficient fuel dispersion and diminished performance. Bardahl CRDI Cleaner + Cetane Booster uses advanced deposit-control technology developed specifically for modern diesel engines. According to Bardahl, the product is a one-tank additive that thoroughly cleans a CRDI system, repairing the spray pattern, removing deposits and reducing fuel-system coking. At the same time, the company claims the product improves fuel economy and reduces emissions, while the cetane booster improves combustion for strong performance. MSRP: \$19.99 (32 ounces).

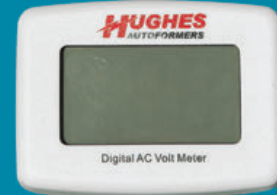
**Bardahl Manufacturing Corp., 888-227-3245, [www.bardahl.com](http://www.bardahl.com)**

## Truly Spotless

Keeping a motorhome clean not only makes it look good, it helps the finish last longer. But depending on where you live, hard-water deposits can leave spots on paint/gelcoat and windows that can be difficult to remove. CRSpotless offers a water-filtration system that is designed to prevent spotting using a deionization process. Water spots are mineral deposits — salts that separate into positively and negatively charged ions. Deionization can reduce the amounts of these ions to very low levels through the process of ion exchange. The end result is purified water, and no more spots, according to the company. Various systems are available starting at \$299, and the company also sells replacement resin (the filtering element).



**CRSpotless Water Systems, 866-350-9993, [www.crsplotless.com](http://www.crsplotless.com)**



## Every Volt Counts

Hughes Autoformers has introduced its new Digital Volt Meter (part No. DVM1221), which allows owners to keep tabs on electric power conditions. By simply plugging the Digital Volt Meter into any AC outlet, the readout will display current power ranging between 90-132 volts AC. Fluctuations in AC power can impact appliance/accessory performance, especially in the summer months when demand on the electrical infrastructure is high. The Digital Volt Meter can stay plugged in during your entire stay, offering a gentle nightlight as well as constant metering. MSRP: \$14.99.

**Hughes Autoformers, 714-630-6866, [www.hughesautoformers.com](http://www.hughesautoformers.com)**

# AMBER WAVES OF GRAIN NEVER LOOKED SO GOOD

Glass by Guardian



Enjoy the picturesque countryside behind a sweeping windshield, designed to keep you safe and provide those special panoramic views that can only be seen in an RV. As the **number one supplier of original equipment RV windshields**, Guardian's Custom Glass Solutions manufactures RV glass products in the United States. When you need a replacement windshield, don't settle for overseas imitations. Demand American-made Guardian glass to ensure proper fit and function. **Glass by Guardian.**

[rvglassparts.com](http://rvglassparts.com) • [customglassolutions.com](http://customglassolutions.com) • (855) RVCLAIM (782-5246)



Made In USA

**CUSTOM  
GLASS SOLUTIONS**  
By Guardian

**Lifestyle Vehicles** • Commercial Transportation  
• Construction & Agriculture • Public Transportation  
• Non-Mobility • Safety & Protection

  
**GUARDIAN**

Guardian Automotive, Circle 105 on Reader Service Card

## Vote for Your Favorites

It's time again for *MotorHome's* annual Readers' Choice Awards, where you get to choose your favorite motorhomes, destinations, and RV products and services. It's a chance for you to share your experience and knowledge with fellow RVers by casting your votes in more than two dozen RV-related categories, from awnings to tow dollies. Plus, pick your favorite state and name your favorite campground. Go online to [www.motorhome.com/readers-choice](http://www.motorhome.com/readers-choice) to cast your ballot. Vote in as many or as few of the categories as you like through Sept. 18. This year's Readers' Choice Award winners will be announced in the January 2016 issue.



## Behind the Scenes at Winnebago

Each year more than 10,000 visitors head to Forest City, Iowa, to get an inside look at Winnebago through the company's free factory tours. Founded in 1958, Winnebago was the first RV manufacturer to build motorhomes in an automotive-style assembly line plant.



The tour starts at the visitors center with a 20-minute video of the manufacturing process. Next, the tour bus departs for a drive-thru tour of the grounds. Tourgoers are also able to do walk-in tours of three buildings: the chassis weld facility (where the raw chassis is prepared to become a home on wheels with the front cab and basement storage added), the stitchcraft facility (which builds chairs, window valances, sofas and other furniture pieces), and the main production area called Big Bertha. Equivalent in size to eight football fields, Big Bertha features three production lines.

Visitors can also tour the Winnebago Museum, which chronicles the company's 57-year history, and see one of the first motorhomes built by the company, the classic 1967 Winnebago D22.

Tours last approximately two hours and are offered twice daily at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday from April through October, and at 1 p.m. in November. For more information, call 641-585-6936 or go to <http://wgo.net/company/visit>.

## RV SHOW AT RV/MH HALL OF FAME



Elkhart, Indiana's RV/MH Hall of Fame will be hosting the 60th Annual Midwest RV Super Show August 6-9. The show runs 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day except Sunday (11 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Tickets for adults are \$10 and include admission to the Hall of Fame. For more information, visit <http://www.rvshows.org/MidwestRVSuperShow.aspx>.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Workhorse to Re-enter RV Chassis Market

► On May 20, Workhorse Group Inc. announced plans to re-enter production of RV chassis at its Workhorse plant in Union City, Indiana, citing stronger demand of RVs. "Our RV manufacturing customers have always relied on the dependability and performance of the Workhorse RV chassis," said Stoney Steenekamp, president of AMP Trucks Inc., a subsidiary of Workhorse Group Inc. "With the growing demand we have recently seen, it just made sense for us to begin entering back into production." The RV chassis line will include 6.0- and 8.8-liter gasoline engines with an Allison transmission. Plans call for delivery of chassis this year. Workhorse's network of more than 400 dealerships will support and service the motorhomes.

### Newmar Partners with Tents for Troops

► Newmar Corp. has announced that for every coach it sells in 2015, the company will make a contribution to Tents for Troops, an organization that works with RV parks throughout America and Canada to provide free accommodations to active military members. Tents for Troops was founded five years ago and has a network of parks in 47 states that provide free RV and tent sites for active military members and their families — the majority of whom travel by RV. "We're honored to partner with Tents for Troops in its effort to help our military personnel enjoy the RV lifestyle," said Matt Miller, president of Newmar.



# YOUR DESTINATION AWAITS



## Camping has never looked so good

Impress your fellow campers and experience all the spacious comforts and convenience of a larger motorhome, but with the added benefits of greater fuel economy and ease of driving. Become a part of the Roadtrek family and see for yourself why Roadtrek is the #1 selling Class B motorhome in North America.



**Drive, save, park, go anywhere.**

Contact us today at 1-888-ROADTREK (762-3873) to find out more. [www.roadtrek.com](http://www.roadtrek.com)

Roadtrek Motorhomes Inc., Circle 118 on Reader Service Card

Oro Valley, Arizona

## Catalina State Park

Located north of Tucson, Arizona, Catalina State Park is a popular destination for campers, birdwatchers, nature lovers, equestrians and hikers. RVers will appreciate the 95 spacious sites with partial hookups and a view of the Santa Catalina Mountains. The park



Photo: Mary Zalmanek

is home to more than 150 species of birds. Cacti, wildflowers and nearly 5,000 saguaros cover the landscape. An equestrian area has sites for RVers who trailer their horses, and nearby Pusch Ridge Stables offers horseback rides.

Volunteers lead guided nature and bird walks, but we opted to explore the Romero Canyon Trail on our own. We waded through the shallow water that flows seasonally in Sutherland Wash, strolling along the flat trail for the first mile, then carefully picking our way up the steep and rocky climb to Romero Pools. The 2.8-mile hike from the trailhead to the pools gains 900 feet in elevation. The round-trip hike took us four hours. Hikers with dogs must use one of the other eight trails since dogs are not permitted in the Bighorn Sheep Management Area, which includes part of Romero Canyon.

**For more information**, call 520-628-5798 or visit <http://azstateparks.com/Parks/CATA> — Mary Zalmanek

Grapevine, Texas

## Ticktock, Glockenspiel Clock

Grapevine, Texas, doesn't have a skyline, but it does have a rare type of clock tower rising almost 12 stories high. Glockenspiels are popular in Europe, where they play music, or have animated characters rooted in European history, but the Grapevine's Clock Tower reflects America's Old West. In Grapevine, that means animatronic fictional circa 1890 would-be train robbers Nat Barrett and Willy Majors.

Nat is a young cowboy looking for a one-time heist to buy his own ranch. At the other end is Willy, who wants one last caper, having gambled away all the money from previous robberies. They get into an argument in the saloon high above the city where one of them is going to rob the gold-carrying train. Finally, a shootout erupts. Who will win? The outcome is random — sometimes Nat wins, other times, Willy wins. Regardless, they have argued for so long that the train goes by and neither has robbed it, neatly avoiding the problem of depicting unlawful behavior.

Visitors can hear the entire scenario via hidden speakers across the street in the viewing plaza. The drama takes place at noon, 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

**For more information**, call 817-410-3185 or go to [www.grapevinetexasusa.com](http://www.grapevinetexasusa.com) — Neala McCarten

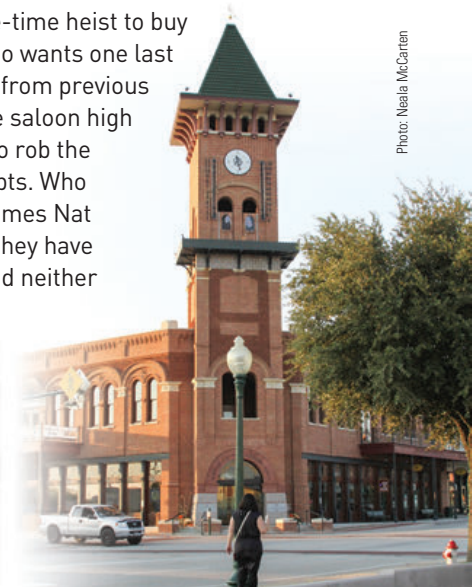


Photo: Neala McCarten

**TEXAS-SIZED SAVINGS AT VOGT RV**



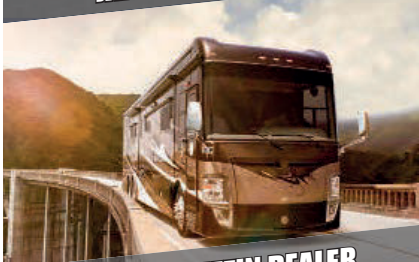
**AIRSTREAM LUXURY COACHES**



**LEISURE TRAVEL TOURING COACHES**



**JAYCO MOTORHOMES**



**FULL LINE TIFFIN DEALER**

**VOGT**  
RV CENTERS

Jayco - Tiffin - Airstream  
Leisure Travel Vans  
Midwest Automotive Design

**VOGTRV.COM**  
817- 831-4222



## FLO DOESN'T PERSONALLY COVER YOUR RV, BUT WE DO.

Progressive is America's #1 specialty RV insurance provider.  
From motor homes to camper vans and travel trailers, we've got you covered.

**PROGRESSIVE**<sup>®</sup>

1.800.PROGRESSIVE / PROGRESSIVE.COM

Progressive Insurance, Circle 116 on Reader Service Card

Progressive Casualty Ins. Co. & affiliates. Insurance prices and products are different when purchased directly from Progressive or through independent agents/brokers.  
No. 1 in specialty RV insurance from 2013 Millward Brown national survey data.

# APPLY TODAY TO EARN

## UP TO



# IN BONUS REC REWARDS POINTS\*



## GET ON THE ROAD TO **BIGGER REWARDS!**

**2,000 BONUS POINTS** the first time you use your card for a purchase (up to \$25 value)

**REDEEM** for cash back as a statement credit, Good Sam memberships, restaurant, retail and gas gift cards, PLUS MUCH MORE!

**NO ANNUAL FEE\*\***

**30 EXTRA DAYS FOR RETURNS**  
on Camping World purchases made with the card

### FOR EVERY \$1 SPENT

**5 POINTS**  
at Camping World and on Good Sam purchases

**3 POINTS**  
at private campgrounds across the U.S. and Canada

**1 POINT**  
everywhere else VISA® is accepted

**APPLY TODAY!** **CALL:** 1-844-271-2591 **CLICK:** [GoodSamCampingWorldVisa.com](http://GoodSamCampingWorldVisa.com)  
or Visit a Camping World SuperCenter near you!

\*Offer subject to credit approval. Cardholders will earn five (5) points for every one dollar (\$1.00) of Net Purchases spent on Good Sam Club related products and services made on their Account rounded to the nearest dollar. "Good Sam Club eligible purchases," are defined as products and services purchased from Good Sam Enterprises, LLC and its affiliates and partners, including but not limited to the following: Coast to Coast, Camping World, Good Sam, TL Enterprises, and NGIC. Cardholders will earn three (3) points for every one dollar (\$1.00) of Net Purchases made at any retail establishments that classify their merchant location to Visa as Campgrounds and Trailer Parks within the U.S. and Canada. For all other purchases made anywhere else, Cardholders will earn one (1) point for every one dollar (\$1.00) of Net Purchases made on their Account rounded to the nearest dollar. A one-time bonus award of (2,000) Rec Rewards Points will be awarded to new cardholders after the first purchase is posted to the Account. Bonus Rec Rewards Points will be posted approximately 30 days after the initial qualifying transaction. This rewards program is provided by Comenity Capital Bank and its terms may discontinue or change at any time. For information about the rates, fees, other costs, and the reward program rules (including point accrual rate, bonus point awards, etc.) and benefits associated with the use of this credit card program please visit [www.comenity.net/goodsamcampingworld](http://www.comenity.net/goodsamcampingworld) for complete terms and conditions.

\*\*Standard variable ARP of 24.99%, 19.99% and 13.99% based on Prime Rate and your credit worthiness. Balance transfer and Cash Advance APR of 25.99% based on Prime Rate. Minimum interest charged is \$2.00 per credit plan. Offer subject to credit approval.

The Good Sam | Camping World Visa® and Visa Signature® cards are issued by Comenity Capital Bank, pursuant to license from Visa® U.S.A. Inc. VISA is a registered trademark of Visa International Service Association and used under license. GCR40585 - 0515



The Andrew Low House was built in 1848. Low's son, William, married Juliette Gordon, founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

## Stylish Savannah

Genteel Southern hospitality, antebellum homes and Old-World ambience beckon visitors to this Georgian coastal charmer

By Pam Windsor

**S**avannah, Georgia, exudes the charm of the Old South with moss-draped trees, historic homes, and city squares with decorative monuments and fountains. You'll be pleasantly surprised by the many architectural styles of homes, buildings and churches along Savannah's streets. Preservation is a priority here with many structures designated National Historic Landmarks.

Gen. James Edward Oglethorpe and a group of English settlers established Savannah in 1733, and it soon became a vibrant trade

hub for cotton. In fact, much of the city was built on those early cotton profits. Today, you can tour the original homes of some of Savannah's most successful cotton merchants. On Abercorn Street, the Owens-Thomas House, built between 1816 and 1819, is an exceptional example of English Regency architecture, and has period furnishings, an extensive art collection and one of the earliest intact urban slave quarters.

"I am very interested in early architecture," noted Joe Wood of Vinton, Iowa. "As a carpenter by trade, I was impressed by what they could do with the tools they had to work with. And the house had indoor plumbing before the White House did."

You'll hear countless stories about famous guests. Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette stayed at the Owens-Thomas House in 1825 and even gave a speech from the south balcony.

The home of another cotton king, Andrew Low, is also on Abercorn Street and open for tours.

Photo: Colin Douglas Gray

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**Getting Here** Savannah is located along Georgia's coast and is easily accessed via Interstate 95 (from the north or south) or via Interstate 16 (from the west). Parking in the city's historic district is limited; use your dinghy or public transportation.



Built in 1848, the Andrew Low House is a fine example of Italianate-style design.

“He was the wealthiest man in Savannah when the house was built,” explained tour guide docent Mary Ann Scott. “He made his money as an international cotton factor dealing with England. These men were far more than brokers or middlemen; they really controlled the business and helped make this the biggest cotton port on the East Coast.”

Andrew Low was also the father-in-law of Juliette Gordon Low, who founded the Girl Scouts. She lived at the home after she was married.

Carol Wilder of Houghton Lake, Michigan, says seeing the house and learning how people lived so many years ago helps bring history alive.

“I wanted to see it because I love historical homes. I love stories about the South, Savannah and Charleston, and historical novels. I’ve loved history ever since my parents took me to Fort Sumter back in the 1950s.”

Stephen Bohlin is Executive Director of the Andrew Low house.

“One of the things that makes Savannah unique is that you can actually travel through time because we have such a rich background in houses. For instance, you can go to the Davenport House and see a standard house in 1820, the Owens-Thomas House and see a high style 1820s house, come here and see a house in 1840, and

From above left: The Girl Scouts’ first headquarters in America was originally Andrew Low’s carriage house. Designed in 1816, the Owens-Thomas House is a one of the finest examples of Regency architecture in the country. The Davenport House was built in the Federal style.

then Juliette Low’s birthplace is the house that interprets the high Victorian period of the 1880s.”

Civil War buffs may also want to visit the Green-Meldrim House, which served as headquarters for Gen. William T. Sherman. (You need to plan ahead as tours are only offered on certain days.) Sherman was invited to stay here by the home’s owner, Charles Green.

“Charles Green had warehouses down on River Street bulging at the seams with cotton he was unable to export because the Union blockade went up at the mouth of the Savannah River at the beginning of the war,” explained Rencie Schmidt, who gives tours through the home. “He thought perhaps if he wined and dined the general and showed him a good time, Sherman would be too embarrassed to confiscate his cotton.”

She describes a significant historical event that took place shortly after Sherman’s arrival.

“It was from this house on Dec. 22, 1864, that Sherman sent his telegram to President Abraham Lincoln saying, ‘To His Excellency, President Lincoln, I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton.’”

In addition to its many historic homes, you can visit Civil War sites like Old Fort Jackson and Fort Pulaski National Monument.

Savannah is also full of beautifully designed parks, gardens and cemeteries. Some of those picturesque spots may look familiar. In the film “Forrest Gump,” the scenes of Tom Hanks sitting on the bus bench were shot in Chippewa Square. The bench is now housed at the Savannah History Museum.

You may recall the best-selling 1994 book “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.” The story, set in Savannah, led to an influx of tourists who came to see the different sights, including the Bird Girl sculpture featured on the book’s cover. People still come seeking the statue more than 20 years later. When the book was published, the “Bird Girl”

The Georgia Queen is one of two riverboats offering scenic tours on the majestic Savannah River.



# The **MOST POWERFUL** odor control handles the summer **HEAT!**

## Aqua-KEM<sup>®</sup>

### Morning Sky

- Works around the clock in all weather conditions
- Liquefies waste and breaks down tissue **FAST** to prevent clogs
- Strong detergents clean tank walls and drain lines

**New Clean Scent!**



12 - 1.5-oz. Toss-Ins<sup>™</sup> Packets

32-oz. Liquid



6-Pack of 8-oz. Bottles



64-oz. Liquid

A3212

**THETFORD**  
Going Places

From the RV Sanitation Expert

Thetford Corporation, Circle 127 on Reader Service Card

www.thetford.com

was located in Bonaventure Cemetery. It has long since been moved due to the book's popularity.

Michelle Riley is the Marketing and Public Relations Director for Telfair Museums.

"That was a memorial for the resting place of a member of the family that owned the Bird Girl statue. After a few years, they decided to take it out of Bonaventure Cemetery and we were very, very pleased that they asked Telfair Museums to be the guardian of the Bird Girl statue and that is why we have her today." You can see it in the Jepson Center for the Arts.

Savannah has quite a collection of interesting museums highlighting art, ships, the city's railroad history and much more. A good place to stop for an overview is at the visitor center at 301

---

Madison Square, one of Savannah's 22 city squares, was designed in 1837 and named in honor of President James Madison.



Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. It's located in the same building as the Savannah History Museum.

While in town, you'll also want to stroll along River Street, where you'll find various attractions, shops and restaurants.

And after seeing all that downtown Savannah has to offer, be sure to visit Tybee Island. Twenty miles to the east, the island has pristine beaches, water sports, bird watching, dolphin tours and Georgia's oldest lighthouse. If you hear someone refer to Savannah Beach, they're talking about Tybee Island.

You can stay on Tybee Island at River's End Campground and RV Park. Rick Fudge of Deland, Florida, said he and his family enjoyed being so close to the water and were pleased with the facilities.

"We have a full-hookup site. It's a decent-sized park, nice and clean, and it's peaceful at night. We've had great campfires."

RVers Mike and Karen Hinkle of Cleveland, Tennessee, chose to stay at Skidaway Island State Park about 15 miles from downtown.

"We like the vicinity and location to Savannah and it's more private than River's End on Tybee," noted Karen.

"The sites are larger than most," added Mike. "You also get 50-amp service so you can run both air condi-

tioners, the microwave and refrigerator. You also get a sewer hookup."

This was their second trip to Savannah.

"We like the historic area. And we like to go down to the riverfront," explained Karen. "There are a lot of good places to eat."

It's a classic Southern city with a lot to offer. You're sure to have a good time in Savannah. **M**

### **➔ FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Andrew Low House**  
912-233-6854  
[www.andrewlowhouse.com](http://www.andrewlowhouse.com)

**Biltmore RV Park**  
912-236-4065  
[www.biltmorerv.com](http://www.biltmorerv.com)

**Green-Meldrim House**  
912-233-3845  
[www.stjohnssav.org](http://www.stjohnssav.org)

**Jepson Center for the Arts**  
912-790-8800  
[www.telfair.org](http://www.telfair.org)

**Owens-Thomas House**  
912-790-8800  
[www.telfair.org/visit/owens-thomas](http://www.telfair.org/visit/owens-thomas)

**River's End Campground and RV Park**  
800-786-1016  
[www.riversendcampground.com](http://www.riversendcampground.com)

**Savannah History Museum**  
912-651-6825  
[www.chsgeorgia.org](http://www.chsgeorgia.org)

**Skidaway Island State Park**  
912-598-2300  
<http://gastateparks.org/SkidawayIsland>



---

Tybee Island Light Station and Museum is only a 20-minute drive east from Savannah's Historic District, and a five-minute walk from River's End Campground and RV Park, the island's full-service campground.



# DO YOUR HOMEWORK

*And Know The Newmar Difference*



## VISIT THE NEWMAR WEBSITE

[Newmarcorp.com/Homework](http://Newmarcorp.com/Homework)

- Compare models side-by-side.
- See a 360° view of every model's interior.
- Learn about Comfort Drive™ Steering.
- Download full-size e-brochures.
- Research floor plans, designs, features.
- Find a dealer and browse their inventory.

## TAKE THE FACTORY TOUR

*Given Monday through Friday*

- Experience the attention to detail that goes into every Newmar touring coach.
- Watch the Newmar Paint Specialists apply the Masterpiece™ Finish.
- Observe the Newmar Quality Control Team perform 1,000+ checks on every coach.

***NewmarCorp.com | 1-(800)-852-1731***

## GO TO A NEWMAR DEALER

*There's one in your backyard*

- Experience the Newmar Difference firsthand.
- Talk with a Newmar Product Professional.
- Test the Comfort Drive™ Steering system.



WHEN YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE™

Newmar Corporation, Circle 113 on Reader Service Card

# GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

Stunning mountain scenery, dramatic skies, abundant wildlife, numerous camping options and loads of outdoor activities make this Wyoming park a must-see for RVers



**W**hen I first arrived in Grand Teton National Park with my husband, Mark, several years ago, our gaping jaws and wide eyes were like those of all the other first-timers who were soaking in the beauty of this magical place. The pat phrases, photos and enthusiastic endorsements we'd seen in the travel literature ahead of time hardly did it justice. The craggy, gray mountains soared to breathtaking heights, drawing our eyes ever skyward to the majestic snowcapped peaks, and as we drove the stunning Teton Park Road along their base, we were mesmerized by the constantly changing perspectives on this awe-inspiring landscape. It was nearly impossible to keep our eyes on the road.

But like so many first-timers, we hadn't allowed enough time to explore the park in depth. We left wanting more, our appetites whetted but not satisfied.

Recently, we were lucky enough to return for a nearly three-week stay, and we discovered that this park is loaded with hidden jewels. Vowing not to rush by anything too quickly, we took our bicycles on the paved bike path that winds for miles along the Teton Range, passing crystal-clear mountain lakes on the way.

The bike path was filled with bicyclists of all kinds, from kids weaving all over the place to older couples taking their time to commercial bike vacation touring groups to the local cycling club from nearby Jackson, Wyoming. There was



From above left: Mist envelops the base of the Teton Mountains under brooding skies. A group of horseback riders pause to admire the spectacular view.

plenty of room for all of us, and the smiles on everyone's faces gave away what fun it is to ride a bike through some of the most dramatic scenery America has to offer.

We turned off the bike path at the Chapel of the Transfiguration and discovered a charming log cabin chapel that has been holding Episcopal services since it was built in 1925. There was a large bell hanging under an arch outside, and when we tiptoed inside, we discovered that the chapel's congregation is treated to one of the most ethereal views imaginable as they gaze beyond the altar to the mountains in the distance. What a delight it was to chat

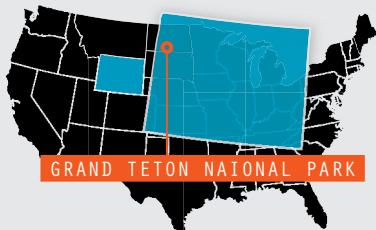
with another visitor in the chapel and discover she had been married there several decades ago. I can't imagine a more picturesque spot for a wedding.

Just a little farther on, we came across the Menor's Ferry General Store, built by Bill Menor in the early 1900s. The air outside was brisk, so the vintage-costumed National Park Service worker who operates the store (selling fun antique-themed collectibles) was tending the store's very effective wood stove. She explained that Menor had built a ferry, just steps outside the door, to take people

across the Snake River in those days. The ferry is still in operation at the riverbanks today. It is very cleverly engineered to take advantage of the river's current to propel the cable-based barge from one side of the narrow river to the other. Unfortunately, it was broken when we were there, so we could only admire this marvel of ingenuity at the dock where it was tied to the shore.

Mormons were among the earliest American settlers of this area, and a row of their houses is one of the most popular spots in the park for photog-

The Chapel of the Transfiguration gives parishioners an awe-inspiring view beyond the altar.



GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

## Getting There

Grand Teton National Park is located in northwestern Wyoming south of Yellowstone National Park and north of the town of Jackson. Visitors can reach the park through U.S. Highway 191/189 from the south, U.S. Highway 191/287/89 from the north, U.S. Highway 26 from the west and U.S. Highway 287/26 from the east.





Clockwise from above: A row of old Mormon barns are a photographer's delight at sunrise. Grand Teton National Park makes for a fabulous RV road trip. A paved bike path winds for miles along the base of the Teton range

rappers. There is something about the rustic barn doors set against the imposing backdrop of the mountains that is eminently appealing. When we arrived at Mormon Row, however, the more spectacular view was in the opposite direction. Turning our backs to the mountains, we couldn't believe our eyes as we watched the summer rains and brooding clouds join forces to create a vivid rainbow that fell from the sky and pierced the ground right between the historic homes.

We were blessed with several days of dazzling theatrics in the heavens as a storm system rolled through the valley. It filled the sky with lugubrious clouds that swept past the mountain peaks and dropped buckets of rain on us now and then. This was the perfect opportunity for some indoor activity, and we headed over to the Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve.

Grand Teton National Park would not exist today if it weren't for the phenomenal efforts, vision and philanthropy of John D. Rockefeller Jr., the son of the founder of Standard Oil. Exploitation of oil resources made John D. Rockefeller Sr. the world's wealthiest man of all time. Adjusted for inflation, his fortune at the time of his

death in 1937 has been calculated as \$336 billion, dwarfing the net worth of today's titans of industry.

His son, John Jr., first discovered the wild beauty of the Teton Range on a visit in the 1920s. Falling in love with the stunning beauty, over the next decades he bought as much land in the area as possible, with plans to give it to the Park Service to expand the new Grand Teton National Park, which had just been created in 1929. Local residents weren't happy with the prospect of losing their land, and John Jr. faced an uphill battle with Congress until 1950 when his land was finally incorporated into the park.

The Rockefellers have been an integral part of Grand Teton National Park ever since, and the family of John Jr.'s son, Laurance, has created a unique visitors center in a fully "green" building, seeking to give visitors an appreciation of the park that is more tactile than commercial. Set up like a museum, there is an audiovisual room whose walls are filled with video screens that play engaging vignettes of animals romping in nature and the seasons changing in the park. Another audio-only meditation room offers visitors a chance to close their eyes



and listen to the natural sounds of the park played on a large surround-sound audio system. A library offers extensive literature about the park's history.

In the heart of the park, the Jackson Lake Lodge is an immense building that has 60-foot floor-to-ceiling windows framing the best of Grand Teton's mountain views. Big, comfy couches are scattered across the massive main room of this visitors center, making it a great place to take a load off, kick your feet up, read some park literature and share your best jealousy-inducing vacation pics with friends back home via free Wi-Fi. The broad deck outside has tables and chairs for enjoying a bite to eat and

savoring a view that is so sensational your friends may not believe you — my sister sure didn't!

When the storms subsided, we snuck out before dawn one morning to watch the sunrise at Schwabacher Landing. Fog and mist floated in a veil around the mountains, and as the first rays of the sun appeared, the mountain peaks lit up bright pink, resplendent in the morning light and casting beautiful reflections onto the water. The rain had cleared the air, and the morning was brisk. Haze can sometimes mar the splendor of this park, and wildfires have been known to obscure the views completely. So, we were thrilled to soak in the crisp outlines of the mountains against an azure sky.

Sunset proved to be equally sublime as the clouds turned to fire in the sky in a final blaze of glory at day's end. But we soon learned that these gorgeous mountain vistas are not the only stars of the show in the Tetons. Exquisite alpine lakes offer heart-melting views as well.

Rising before dawn on another morning, we took a walk along the shores of Jenny Lake. Mist rose from the warm water into the chilly air, and the water created mirrored images of the mountains beyond. A short ferry ride across the water took us to the trailhead for Cascade Canyon. Hikers can make this a daylong adventure out and back along the canyon, but we opted instead for a modest walk to Hidden Falls and a more invigorating climb to Inspiration Point, where views to the east take in the whole valley.

Back on our bikes sometime later, we found an inviting beach with views of sailboats at anchor on Jackson Lake. Kayakers and canoers were enjoying tranquil rides on the water, some in their own boats and others in rented boats. Colter Bay Village Marina is home to boats of all shapes and sizes, including some large cabin cruisers. If paddling your own little boat isn't your style, an elegant breakfast or dinner cruise on a more spacious power yacht might do the trick!

## Area Campgrounds

Grand Teton National Park is long and skinny, and runs north to south. A great way for RVers to enjoy it without driving excessively is to plan several shorter stays at RV parks at either end of the park.

In the northern end of the park, on the shores of Jackson Lake, there are two options. Colter Bay Village RV Park offers 112 full-hookup sites for \$57 to \$67 per night depending on motorhome length (the larger sites have no length restrictions); 800-628-9988, [www.gtlc.com/lodging/colter-bay-village-rv-park.aspx](http://www.gtlc.com/lodging/colter-bay-village-rv-park.aspx). Colter Bay Village Campground offers 175 dry-camping sites that can accommodate motorhomes up to 45 feet in length at rates of \$23 per night; 800-628-9988, [www.gtlc.com/lodging/gtlc-campgrounds-colter-bay-village.aspx](http://www.gtlc.com/lodging/gtlc-campgrounds-colter-bay-village.aspx).

Sixteen miles east of Jackson Lake, Grand Teton RV Park Resort offers 131 full-hookup sites up to 55 feet in length, 12 electric/water sites up to 30 feet in length and nine dry-camping sites up to 46 feet in length. Rates range from \$39 to \$109 per night; 307-733-1980, <http://yellowstonerv.com/rv-camping-site>.

In the southern end of the park, the Gros Ventre Campground has 265 dry-camping sites and 36 sites with electricity, accommodating RVs up to 45 feet long. Rates for dry sites are \$23 per night and \$49 per night with electric hookups; 800-628-9988, [www.gtlc.com/lodging/gtlc-campgrounds-gros-ventre.aspx](http://www.gtlc.com/lodging/gtlc-campgrounds-gros-ventre.aspx).

Outside the park at the southern end, Jackson Hole Campground, situated between Jackson Hole Resort and the town of Jackson, offers 72 full-hookup sites that are up to 90 feet in length for \$79 to \$125 per night; 307-732-2267, <http://jacksonholecampground.com/rv>. The Virginian RV Park in the town of Jackson offers 64 full-hookup sites that are 40 feet in length for \$75 to \$80 per night; 800-321-6982, <http://virginianlodge.com/rv-park-jackson-hole>.

## Vent it!



- Prevents odors from invading living space
- Speeds up waste breakdown
- Eliminates the need for chemicals
- Works in any wind condition
- Easy installation and universal fit

## Flush it!



**Waste Master**  
WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- Cam lock ensures leak-resistant connection
- Smooth hose interior doesn't trap waste
- 20 ft. extended, 5' 6" compressed
- Stays extended during use
- Nozzle features clear port & shut-off valve

## Support it!



**FLOW**  
DOWN

- Adjusts to nearly any slope
- Prevents waste buildup
- Pivots hose around obstructions
- Extends up to 10 feet
- Stores in included bag



**LIPPERT**  
COMPONENTS®



[lippertcomponents.com](http://lippertcomponents.com)

# Good Sam Extended Service Plan pays for your repairs

**COVERED**

**\$750**

Water Heater

**COVERED**

**\$750**

Leveling Jack Hydraulic

**COVERED**

**\$950**

Air Conditioner



**COVERED**

**\$1,400**

Refrigerator

**COVERED**

**\$2,800**

Transmission

**COVERED**

**\$5,600**

Engine Long Block

## Good Sam Extended Service Plans feature:

- We pay for your repairs – at any repair facility
  - 2000+ Good Sam Preferred Providers
- Rates are locked in from 3-7 years on new policies
  - Flexible payment options
- The backing of Good Sam – 100% satisfaction guarantee

CALL OR CLICK FOR A FREE, NO OBLIGATION QUOTE

[GoodSamESP.com/MH815](http://GoodSamESP.com/MH815)

866-778-5049



**Good Sam**

**Extended Service Plan**

MBI

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HIGH REPAIR BILLS TODAY

\*All program benefits are subject to limitations set forth in the current Terms & Conditions. ESP is available to U.S. residents only. Designed for the Good Sam Club by Affinity Brokerage, LLC. ADMH5049AUG15 GSP41173 - 0515

While we saved a sunset dinner cruise on Jackson Lake for a future visit, we did enjoy a fabulous gondola ride up to The Deck at the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort where cocktails and dinner are served on an expansive deck. We knew we were living large when a live band serenaded us as we quaffed micro-brewed beer and gazed out at the immense valley below.

I had always been confused about the identity and location of Jackson Hole versus Jackson, Wyoming. I soon learned that the term "Jackson Hole" refers to the vast valley that runs along the base of the Teton Mountains, both inside and outside the National Park, whereas "Jackson" is the town nearby. A small portion of the southern end of the valley has become home to the world-famous Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, and we were delighted to find that this resort is full of activities in the summer. We enjoyed a terrific raptor demonstration in the Teton Village Commons that was part of their Alive@Five summer series of free events. Our hearts stopped as a peregrine falcon dove straight down out of the sky. A great horned owl showed us it could turn its head almost 180 degrees.

While the village of Jackson Hole is a ski resort, the town of Jackson has historical roots that predate tourism to the area. It is built around a classic

Western town square, and each corner of the square is marked by an arch made of elk horns that male elk have naturally shed. Nowadays, this town is extremely wealthy and trendy, and the word on the street is that the billionaires have forced out the millionaires. Luckily for those of us whose bank accounts are a lot smaller than that, a stroll through town is free, and a beer at the historic Million Dollar Cowboy Bar where patrons sit on horse saddles instead of stools, is just the price of a pint.

From biking to hiking to photography to restaurants with a view, we loved every minute of our stay in the Tetons, and once again we found ourselves reluctant to leave. Even after three weeks, we hadn't seen it all. As we drove away and watched the last views disappear behind us, we were already planning our next visit! **M**

**For More Information**

**Grand Teton National Park**  
307-739-3300, [www.nps.gov/grte](http://www.nps.gov/grte)

**Jackson Hole Mountain Resort — The Deck**  
307-739-2675, [www.jacksonhole.com/summer-the-deck.html](http://www.jacksonhole.com/summer-the-deck.html)

**Jackson Lake Boat Cruise**  
307-543-2811, [www.gtjc.com/activities/marina-lake-cruise.aspx](http://www.gtjc.com/activities/marina-lake-cruise.aspx)

**Million Dollar Cowboy Bar**  
307-733-2207,  
[www.milliondollarcowboybar.com](http://www.milliondollarcowboybar.com)

# HOLLAND Motor Homes



*Dynamax Grand Sport*



*Explorer by Renegade*



*Dynamax DynaQuest XL*



*Villagio by Renegade*



*Leisure Travel Vans Libero*



*Leisure Travel Vans Unity*



*Excel Fifth Wheel*

**1-800-221-7197**

**Website:**  
[www.holland-motorhomes.com](http://www.holland-motorhomes.com)  
Holland MI 49423

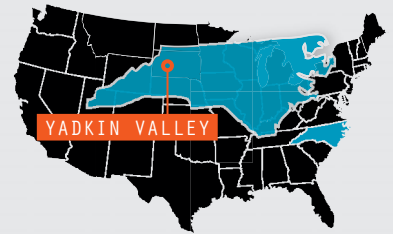


Rental kayaks and a shuttle boat wait for passengers at dawn on Jenny Lake.

Holland Motorhomes, Circle 106 on Reader Service Card

# CAROLINA CABERNET

A fine wine time in the Yadkin Valley



## Getting Here

Yadkin Valley is located in northwestern North Carolina. The area is served by two major highways: Interstate 77 runs north to south in the western part of Yadkin County and U.S. Highway 421 runs east to west.

**S**till think the South's beverage of choice is sweet tea chugged from a Mason jar? Times have changed. In North Carolina's Yadkin Valley you can sip a local chardonnay or cabernet made from vinifera grapes like those harvested in Europe and California. It's a growth industry, thanks to rich, clay loam soil and a vine-friendly elevation and climate. And there's a bonus — a dash of Southern hospitality in every glassful.

## Grape Expectations

My husband, Bob, and I usually fulfill our wine needs with a box from Piggly Wiggly, but we've heard about a scenic stretch of vineyards in North Carolina northeast of the Blue Ridge Mountains. When an early autumn forecast promises spectacular weather, we pack up our Class B Sprinter and head out.

We stop to get our bearings at Yadkinville, North Carolina, named for the river that forms the northern and eastern boundaries of rustic Yadkin

County, and park on East Main Street to visit Allison Oaks Vineyards' tasting room. Owner Gene Renegar lines up wine bottles on a glass-topped farm bin repurposed as a bar and pours samples for us to taste.

Like most winemakers in the region, Renegar welcomes drop-in visitors on specified days and hours, charges a modest tasting fee (in his case, \$5 per person), accepts credit cards and imposes no obligation or pressure to buy. His vineyard is just over a mile east, where he first

planted vines in 2000 on a grass runway that once served the local airport.

Genial Gene provides us with a handy map of additional wineries nearby, and points out the Yadkin Cultural Arts Center across the street. The building, originally an auto dealership, now houses an art gallery, theater, studios, classrooms, shop and café. After strolling around its attractive plaza, we drive 10 miles north to check into our RV park.

"Wine a little, you'll feel better!" is spelled out in sparkles on owner Debbie Cooper's shirt when she greets us at the Holly Ridge Family Campground. "We get a lot of wine-tasting folks in big motorhomes here," she says as she directs us to one of 42 full-hookup sites. Her bucolic location, about 15 minutes east from Interstate

Shelton Vineyards, the largest family-owned estate winery in North Carolina, hosts events on the grounds like a summer concert series.





77 in Boonville, North Carolina, will make a great central base for our rambles, and the day is far from over.

### Merlot in Mayberry-land

We've decided to limit our samplings to one or two per day, and have called ahead to book a "Reserve Tasting" up the road from our campground. We pass rows of grapevines and arrive at what could be mistaken for a country club with a decorative pond, creek and landscaped grounds. It's actually Shelton Vineyards, the largest family-owned estate winery in North Carolina.

Retail Manager Angela Hooker welcomes us to the tasting room and tells us all about Charlie and Ed Shelton, brothers who founded this "upscale vineyard in a down-home setting" in 1999. They're natives of nearby Mount Airy, known by its nickname, "Mayberry," where TV's Andy Griffith also grew up.

The Sheltons are an impressive pair, world travelers who succeeded in construction and real estate before launching a winery. They helped put North Carolina on the winemaking map by successfully petitioning the federal government to recognize the Yadkin Valley as the state's first American Viticultural Area (AVA) in 2003.

Angela pours six delectable samples into elegant crystal glasses,

ours to keep, and we decide to buy bottles of Blanc de Blanc sparkling wine and Family Reserve Claret to take home. When we mention that our motorhome has plenty of storage space, Angela says snowbirds traveling on I-77 often drop in. "We get a lot of Ohio people," she says. "They tell us this is their halfway stop." Local folks drop in too for special events like Shelton's concert series on summer Saturdays.

To tour the 33,000-square-foot winery, we follow Angela up a staircase since this is a gravity-flow facility where the processed wine flows from the top down. Outdoors, on a concrete crush pad, we see the auger, crusher/de-stemmer and other equipment that processes hand-picked grapes. Back inside, we view barrel and fermentation rooms, and are impressed that Shelton can bottle more than 2,000 cases of wine per day.

We've learned new things on our first day in the valley. Rose bushes in the vineyards are not just decorative; they're like canaries in mine shafts. Sensitive to diseases and insects, roses show symptoms of problems earlier than the vines. Driving back to the campground, we notice only a few fields still planted in tobacco, once North Carolina's prized cash crop. These days, acres of vineyards contribute more than 7,000 jobs and \$1 billion to the state's economy.



From above top: North Carolina now has 140 wineries spread across the state producing barrels of high-quality wines. Medaloni Cellars is one of the newest wineries on the Yadkin Valley wine scene. At wine tastings in the Yadkin Valley, you may meet and chat with proprietors like Gene Renegar of Allison Oaks.



Photo: Childress Vineyards



From far left: NASCAR owner and former driver Richard Childress opened a winery in Lexington, North Carolina, in 2004. Tasting rooms in the Yadkin Valley range from simple to stunning, like this two-level shop at Childress Vineyards.

### Chianti in the Carolinas

Saturday dawns crisp and sunny. Our GPS leads us down a remote gravel road where today's Festa Italiana promises a celebration of Italian culture and a taste of "Chianti in the Carolinas," Raffaldini Vineyards' slogan. We park and amble past rosemary bushes and fig trees toward what looks like a centuries-old, tile-roofed Tuscan farmhouse. It's a winery building of more recent vintage owned by the Raffaldini winemaking family, which traces its heritage back to 1348 and a farm in Mantua, Italy.

We leave our camp chairs at a shady spot on the lawn and head for the upstairs tasting room to sample wonderful pinot grigio, sangiovese and Montepulciano wines poured into take-home decorative glasses. Looking down upon colorful umbrellas, vineyards and the distant Blue Ridge Mountains, we drink in both our wine and the sublime Yadkin Valley setting. It's not surprising many of these wineries are popular venues for weddings.

Relaxing in our chairs with Chianti and food sold on the grounds, we listen to a large combo performing Italian music and chat with a Harley club that rode in on motorcycles. Other folks show up via limousine, which strikes me as a fine idea for a wine festival. Then I remember that arriving in a motorhome is even a better idea. We could have a nap by the vineyard before driving back to the campground.

### Sunday fun in the Valley

Our third day's agenda begins with Elkin Creek Vineyard and a charming stone-and-wood winery hidden down a grapevine-lined country road. Since we're early for lunch, we walk to the creek behind the building to see an 1896 gristmill that once served the county.

Partner Jennifer White welcomes us, takes our order for pizza made in a wood-fired brick oven, and provides a list of wines we can order after 12 noon. Bob chooses a glass of Classico 2012, a Super-Tuscan blend, and I

go for the Remembrances Reserve 2010, a smooth combo of merlot and sangiovese. Jennifer tells us they've been thinking of adding a couple of RV pads near their creekside rental cabins.

Elkin Creek's pizza and wines are highly satisfying, and we'll be looking for the label when we get home. Jennifer easily tempts us to split a slice of chocolate cake with a cabernet reduction drizzle for dessert. A warm breeze wafts past on the outdoor covered porch and we could sit here forever. But it's time to move on to our afternoon plans 30 miles to the east.

There's a "Crush Party" at Medaloni Cellars, one of the valley's newest wineries, built on 22 acres in Lewisville and that old clip from "I Love Lucy" is flashing through my mind. We park in a field, pay our fee, and pick up souvenir T-shirts and tasting glasses. A youthful crowd has gathered around an industrial-chic bar made of pine planks and galvanized roofing in an open-air tasting pavilion. Bob joins the throng while I locate a couple of Adirondack-style chairs on the deck; each has a nifty design of a wine bottle and two glasses cut from the top of the backrest, and armrests slotted to hold stemware. After Bob prevails with a few samples, we listen to a guitarist and take in the trendy scene.

I notice a woman embracing her inner Lucille Ball, wearing a peasant blouse, dangling earrings and headscarf, which reminds me that the

The Yadkin Valley offers scenic settings for special events like Raffaldini Vineyards' annual Festa Italiana.



crush pad awaits down the hill. Alas, there's no gigantic wooden barrel — today's stompers must make do with square plastic containers. As we watch, a few women with manicured toenails climb in, raise their skirts and give the grapes a few dainty stomps.

### Fine Swine Wines

I've made a great discovery since we left home. There's a winery nearby linked to Bob's favorite sport, NASCAR, and it's open on Mondays. Team owner and former driver Richard Childress became a vintner 10 years ago. So instead of starting for home Sunday afternoon, we pull into the county-owned Tanglewood Park near Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for the night. About half of the 44 paved sites are not level, but each has full hookups and even cable TV.

Monday morning we drive to Lexington, North Carolina, famous for its 20 barbecue restaurants, to visit Childress Vineyards. The Tuscan-style hilltop winery reminds me of a world-class luxury hotel surrounded by acres of vines and by emerald-green manicured grounds, flowers and fountains.

Through carved oak doors, we enter a two-level lobby complete with a reception desk, bistro and banquet hall. After we sample dry and full-bodied wines, the tasting room assistant manager, Donna Groce, leads us to the Barrel Cave and Barrel Room, where we can see wine fermenting through clear S-bubble airlocks.

Donna shows us the crush pad and a high-ceilinged room filled with enormous stainless tanks; perhaps some hold the "Fine Swine Wine," created by award-winning winemaker Mark Friszolowski each October at Childress Vineyards. That's when 200,000 people pile into town to feast on the local delicacy, vinegar-seasoned chopped pork, dished up at the Lexington Barbecue Festival (Oct. 24). Impressed by our surroundings and the excellent wines we tasted, we tote a half-case of favorites back to the motorhome.



County-owned Tanglewood Campground outside Winston-Salem is a good option for exploring the Yadkin Valley, but be sure to ask for a level site.

### Six Wineries Down, 134 To Go

Our long weekend has been an eye-opener; we've learned that North Carolina now has 140 wineries spread across the state, a number that doubled over the past six years. In addition to the Yadkin Valley, two other AVAs — Swan Creek and Haw River Valley — have been recognized by the federal government, and America's most-visited winery is in Asheville at the Biltmore Estate Winery.

We're looking forward to sharing our discoveries, and our case of superb wines, with friends and relatives. And who knows? When box-wine drinkers have sampled the good stuff, they may never go back to their old ways. We'll have 134 more chances to find out, starting with our next spirited RV weekend. **M**

### For More Information

#### CAMPGROUNDS

##### Holly Ridge Campground

336-367-7756

<http://hollyridgecampground.tripod.com>

##### Tanglewood Campground

[www.rvtanglewood.com](http://www.rvtanglewood.com)

#### WINERIES

##### Allison Oaks Vineyards

[www.allisonoaksvineyards.com](http://www.allisonoaksvineyards.com)

##### Childress Vineyards

[www.childressvineyards.com](http://www.childressvineyards.com)

##### Elkin Creek Vineyard

[www.elkinckreekvineyard.com](http://www.elkinckreekvineyard.com)

##### Medaloni Cellars

[www.medalonicellars.com](http://www.medalonicellars.com)

##### Raffaldini Vineyards

[www.raffaldini.com](http://www.raffaldini.com)

##### Shelton Vineyards

[www.sheltonvineyards.com](http://www.sheltonvineyards.com)



**LEISURE**  
TRAVEL VANS

## Freedom to Explore

The Serenity's curved fiberglass body is designed for strength, durability and fuel efficiency. Sleek, aerodynamic exterior lines minimize wind noise and make the Serenity one of the most beautiful Class C RVs on the road today.



**LEISUREVANS.COM**

Leisure Travel Vans, Circle 129 on Reader Service Card



# Phoenix Rising

The 2552 twin-bed rear-bath Phoenix Cruiser Class B-plus has a bright and open floorplan that truly shines By Donya Carlson

**E**ven before I saw the Phoenix Cruiser, I already liked it because of the name. And there had to be a backstory about why an RV is named after a mythological bird that dies in a fire of its own making, only to rise from the ashes. Well, it turns out that *is* the Phoenix Cruiser story: “It came out of the ashes of a previous company that was started by a man with a dream on a shoestring budget,” explained Earl Robbins, sales manager. The company, founded in 1996, successfully manufactured Class B-plus motorhomes until 2008 when the recession hit. After losing dealers to the slowing economy, the

Phoenix Cruiser is now factory-direct.

Rising through bad times is a good story, and when the Phoenix Cruiser 2552 B-plus motorhome rolled into our parking lot after making its 2,200-mile journey from the factory in Elkhart, Indiana, we were eager to get it back out on the road. Before the Phoenix’s tires had barely cooled down, they were in motion again, heading for California’s San Bernardino Mountains.

The twin-bed, rear-bath 2552 is built on the Ford E-450 cutaway chassis with the 6.8-liter V-10 engine and five-speed automatic transmission (a six-speed transmission will be standard for 2016).

There was plenty of power to haul the 12,040-pound motorhome up to Big Bear, California, where the elevation reaches 6,700 feet. And although using the word “agile” to describe the Phoenix Cruiser’s handling may be an overstatement, we were impressed with how smoothly it took the turns as we climbed into the treeline, mindful to steer clear of overhanging rocks. Side mirrors with wide-angle mirrors mounted on the lower part provided an excellent view, and the rearview monitoring system enhanced visibility — with a little unexpected help from the view out the back window that’s centered in the rear bath.

A well-laid-out cockpit with “good

**ABOVE:** The Phoenix Cruiser’s curved side walls and unique matching entry door are shaded by a near full-length electric awning.



Below: A residential-size microwave convection oven, large sink and pullout cutting board below the two-burner range contribute to simplifying food preparation. An accordion-style door separates the galley from the bedroom with twin-size beds.



The pilot's swiveling chair has a wide berth for adjusting fore and aft, adding to the already comfortable Ultraleather (also available in cloth) captain's chairs.

Arriving at Big Bear Shores RV Resort, we hooked up in a light rain, and settled in for the evening to watch the rain come down from inside our cozy abode. At 7 feet 9 inches wide, the Phoenix Cruiser is more slender than the average B-plus or Class C and has a low profile with a height of just over 10 feet with the roof-mounted air-conditioning unit, so maneuvering the almost 28-foot Phoenix and hooking up are uncomplicated. To facilitate the hookup process, there's a compact utility bay with electric dump valve switches and a permanently mounted Sani-Con macerator system.

Even with the slide retracted, the living room/galley is highly functional with a 38-inch width, and it's a straight shot from the galley, down the aisle that separates the twin beds, to the

rear bathroom. A 6.3-cubic-foot Norcold refrigerator, pantry, almost 5-foot-long Ultraleather sofa (which can be reclined and has three seat belts) and three overhead cabinets are housed in the 8½-foot streetside slide that adds more than 16 inches width to the floorplan. With the slideout deployed, the galley/living room is spacious and open, flowing together beautifully and having a larger feel to it. During the day, sunlight poured in, lighting up the raised-panel cherry-wood cabinets (hickory also available) to a golden color and making the solid-surface gray, black and white swirled countertop shine, accentuating the obvious attention to detail that went into building the 2552. Further accentuating the Phoenix's genuine overall inviting feel is seating for a total of six in the main living area with the Ultraleather Euro chair, which swivels and reclines and has a footrest for some mighty comfy seating. The

old-fashioned American HVAC controls," as my passenger described them, makes everything easily accessible for the driver. A few muffled squeaks and rattles emitted from behind us, but the only one that was bothersome was from the two-burner range. That was easily quieted with a pillow.

Climbing higher, the roar of the Ford's engine got louder, to the point that, after a lot of "huh?"s and "what?"s, we decided to stop conversation and just enjoy the ride. The slide's forward wall is located behind the driver's seat, yet the designers of the Phoenix Cruiser thoughtfully left space between the two.



From far left: Refrigerator, pantry, sofa bed and overhead cabinets are housed in the streetside slideout. The two-piece sofa has separate electric controls for partial reclining or, pull out the footrests and convert into a comfortable full-size bed.

PHOTOS: SCOTT HIRKO

circular base is secured during travel, and with a couple of turns of a knob, the Euro chair is released and free to be moved around the interior. There's also a freestanding solid-wood table for use with the standard couch that sets up quickly, is steady and sturdy, and slides across the laminate wood (optional; standard is vinyl) floor on protective covers. This floorplan is also

over the cutting board (which made cleanup easy), chopped food to our heart's content and then lifted it a few inches to dump the contents into the skillet. The cutting board is a big plus because when the deep single-basin sink with pullout faucet and stovetop are in use, prep space is limited to the countertop extension that pops up next to the sink (and blocks the entry door) or the table. Curiously, the recessed cooktop, with one large and one smaller burner, doesn't have an igniter, so we needed to use a butane lighter. A residential Sharp microwave convection oven with built-in fan and light is located above the cooktop, and switches for the water pump and water heater are mounted below the sink.

Behind the cooktop is a handy pocket to stow the stove and sink covers, which do double duty to keep grease from splattering on the back wall. The mirror on the wall to the right of the cooktop, albeit attractive, needed wiping down daily. The solid-surface covers that match the counter added chic elegance when in place. Four interior color schemes are available.

Next to the refrigerator is a pullout pantry with sturdy shelves. The refrigerator and freezer doors open to the left and bump up against the accordion-style door that separates the bedroom from the living area. Many times when we'd reach to close the refrigerator door we'd pull open the snap that keeps the door flush against the wall.

Half wardrobes with hanging rods and overhead cabinets offer lots of storage in the bedroom, and the

WHAT'S HOT

Elegant and large, open floorplan; comfortable seating; galley's pullout cutting board

WHAT'S NOT

Mattresses on two twin-size beds could use more fluff and length; no shelves in shower



shorter streetside bed (68 inches long versus 74 inches on the curbside) lifts up to reveal a deep bin where large items like boxes of soda and drinking water can be stored. Reading lamps bookend the beds and MCD day/night shades (used throughout the RV) block or let in light as needed. With the windows open above the beds, a nice cross breeze comes through.

When it was time to retire, we found we were a little too long for the mattresses. The curbside bed is 6 feet 2 inches and my husband, Bill, is 6-foot 4; I'm 5 feet 9, and the streetside bed, which loses some space due to the slideout location, is 5 feet 8 inches long. Still, Bill slept pretty comfortably on the 34-inch-wide bed, while I found that the mattress was too thin for me. When I discovered how comfortable the memory-foam sofa bed was the next night, I abandoned the rear twin for pillowy softness, good back support



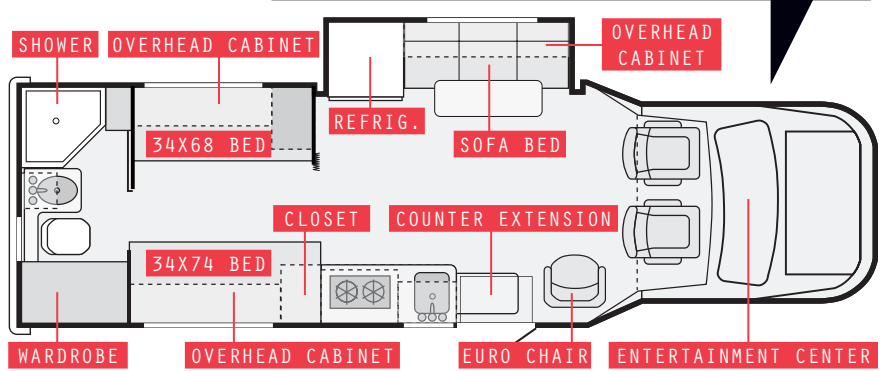
The rear bath offers up plenty of cabinetry, including the large mirrored wardrobe on left.

available with a dinette.

Elegant cabinets with smoked-glass doors flank the stationary 32-inch front-and-center Samsung LED TV that's viewable from pretty much every place in the motorhome. A DVD player with surround sound is placed in a good location for easy access. Behind the driver's seat and to the right of the slide are the switches for the power inverter, monitor panel, generator and slideout. We needed reading glasses to see the tiny print for the system's monitor panel.

Preparing meals was a pleasure, especially learning that the top drawer (of three) below the two-burner range — surprise! — is not a drawer but a pullout wood cutting board. The drawers ride on ball-bearing glides and stayed closed during travel. We simply laid a flexible cutting-board mat

PHOENIX CRUISER 2552 FLOORPLAN



# WHO WILL WIN? YOU DECIDE.



Vote for your favorite RV products in MotorHome's Readers' Choice Awards.  
Go to [MotorHome.com/Readers-Choice](http://MotorHome.com/Readers-Choice) today to voice your opinion.



**VOTE TODAY!**

Go online or scan this code with your smartphone.



# Specifications

## Chassis

Model	Ford E-450
Engine	6.8-liter V-10
SAE Hp	305 hp @ 4,250 rpm
Torque	420 lb-ft @ 3,250 rpm
Transmission	Five-speed automatic
Axle Ratio	4.56:1
Tires	LT225/75R16
Wheelbase	206"
Brakes	4-wheel disc with ABS
Suspension, Front/Rear	Leaf/leaf
Fuel Capacity	55 gal
Fuel Economy	10.61 mpg
Warranty	Three years, 36,000 miles on chassis/5 years, 60,000 miles on powertrain

## Coach

Exterior Length	27' 10"
Exterior Width	7' 9"
Exterior Height	10' 1"
Interior Width	7' 6"
Interior Height	6' 4"
Construction	Vacuum-bonded 1½-inch tubular steel floor with ⅝-inch exterior-grade plywood decking and block-foam insulation; vacuum-bonded fiberglass walls with aluminum framing; 1½-inch aluminum-framed, vacuum-bonded, one-piece crowned fiberglass roof
Freshwater Capacity	45 gal
Black-Water Capacity	35 gal
Gray-Water Capacity	23 gal
Water-Heater Capacity	6 gal
LP-Gas Capacity	10 gal
Air Conditioner	(2) 13,500 Btu with heat strip
Furnace	30,000 Btu
Refrigerator	6.3 cubic foot
Converter/Charger	55 amp
Inverter	1,800 watt
Battery	(2) 6-volt
AC Generator	4 kW
Base MSRP	\$110,070
MSRP as Tested	\$135,048
Warranty	1 year/unlimited miles

## Wet Weight

(Water & Heater, Fuel, No Supplies or Passengers)	
Front Axle	4,240 lbs
Rear Axle	7,800 lbs
Total	12,040 lbs

## Chassis Ratings

GAWR, F/R	5,000/9,600 lbs
GVWR/GCWR	14,500/22,000 lbs
ROCCC	2,460 lbs
GAWR	Gross Axle Weight Rating
GVWR	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating
GCWR	Gross Combination Weight Rating
ROCCC	Realistic Occupant and Cargo Carrying Capacity



Above from left: Elegant, practical cherry-wood cabinets with smoked-glass doors flank the 32-inch LED TV. Bedroom has his-and-hers wardrobes and deep storage under the right-side twin bed.

and room to spread out on the 54-by-74-inch mattress.

To make the sofa into a bed, the user reaches under the footrest to release a lever so it will roll forward. Reclining the two-piece sofa is via the power buttons, and a filler piece (stored behind the sofa) closes the gap between the two footrests. With the sofa in the bed configuration, there's a little space to squeeze by if someone needs to get to the front of the coach.

The bathroom is fairly large and can be closed off from the bedroom via a sliding door. While primping, we preferred to keep the bathroom door open and close off the one to the galley, giving us lots of room to dress while still offering privacy. Countertop space is limited but there are plenty of cabinets and, oddly, the narrow linen closet sandwiched between the shower and bathroom wall turned out to be the most convenient — but the bathroom door had to be partially closed for easy access because the door blocks it. A big mirrored double-door wardrobe (where the freestanding table is stored) with a hanging clothes rod is next to the toilet.

Even though the Phoenix's ceiling height is 6 feet 4 inches, the crowned one-piece fiberglass roof tapers down near the side walls. That results in the loss of a couple of inches of ceiling height in the shower, which is located in the back right corner. A domed skylight in the shower adds back some height, which is fine for the average person, but for a 6-foot 4-incher, accommodations were tight. Additionally, there are no shelves to hold soap or shampoo bottles, so this shower is a good candidate for hanging baskets held on with suction cups (available at any home store).

Outside, there's abundant storage for a motorhome this size, including a large rollout drawer rated for 200 pounds, and another cubby above it that was large enough to hold water hoses and several Quick-Fold tables. To access the rear storage compartment, where we kept power cords, the rear ladder needed to be folded up out of the way by removing a couple of clevis pins. A spare tire is housed in a sleek molded fiberglass cover.

The 18-foot electric awning was deployed in minutes and made for a relaxing place to enjoy the scenery. The 2015 test model's awning did not have LED lights, but starting with 2016 models, LED lights will be standard. A lighted assist handle with the "Phoenix" name on it is to the left of the door and a retractable screen door that is almost hidden glides smoothly.

After "resorting-it" in the mountains, we continued our camping adventures in the desert, at the beach and at a recreation area known for its proximity to the nesting grounds of the California condor — the largest flying bird in North America.

Overall, we were very impressed with the Phoenix Cruiser and what appears to be a well-built Class B-plus that is set up for four-season travel. From the moment we stepped into the motorhome and got a look at the bright and open floorplan, our first impression of a nice home on wheels has stuck. Just like the mythological Phoenix, the Phoenix Cruiser 2552 shines. And for really adventurous types, Phoenix offers a 4x4 option. **M**

## Phoenix Cruiser

877-754-8535, [www.phoenixusarv.com](http://www.phoenixusarv.com)



**YES! GOOD SAM ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE  
WILL COME TO THE RESCUE –  
NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE!**

**Protect yourself and your family today with  
Good Sam Roadside Assistance. Benefits Include:**

- No charge unlimited distance towing to the nearest network service center – no matter the distance
- Coverage for your RV, cars, vans, trucks, SUVs and motorcycles
- Coverage for your spouse and dependent children at no extra cost
- Flat tire service, fuel delivery, battery jumpstarts **and MUCH MORE!**

**ONLY \$79.95\*\* for 1 YEAR** Reg. \$114.95

CALL OR CLICK TO LEARN MORE

**GoodSamRoadside.com**

**800-547-9854**



**Good Sam**  
**Roadside Assistance**

**JOIN TODAY AND YOU'LL NEVER BE ALONE!**

\*Introductory rate for Good Sam members who are first time buyers. Benefits and services provided by Americas Road & Travel Club, Inc. for Members residing in Alaska, Alabama, Utah and Virginia; and by Affinity Road & Travel Club, LLC for Members residing in all other States. Note: All program benefits are subject to limitations set forth in the current Member Benefit Brochures, which can be found at [goodsamroadside.com/mbbs](http://goodsamroadside.com/mbbs). GRA33432.0714

# THE DIRECT ROUTE

► Purchasing a new motorhome from the factory offers a hands-on building process for a highly personalized experience

## RVers love choices.

Single-slide or multiple-slide configurations, standard or upgraded paint schemes, regular or residential refrigerator — heck, even paper or plastic, the more options available, the better. When buying an RV, your first choice of course is which type you'd prefer. But once that decision is made, another, equally important one comes next: Should I buy from a dealership or from a factory-direct manufacturer?

The virtues of buying from a dealership are obvious: There's a wide selection from multiple manufacturers, meaning you can make a direct A-to-B comparison. Dealerships also often offer ancillary RV products, like sewer hoses, RV waxes and campsite gadgets, and also often feature service bays. And, buying from a dealership may mean that you don't have to travel to a manufacturing plant not located in your area.

However, when you decide to go

the factory-direct route, the buying process often takes on a different tone that can lead to a much more streamlined, cost-effective experience. "In general, factory-direct allows offering lower prices to the consumer, [because] the manufacturer can take the dealer's price out of the product and give that savings to the buyer," said Patrick Dwyer, executive vice president of sales at custom motorhome builder Newell Coach. But there's more to the savings. "Buyers will find a better financial value [through factory-direct purchasing] due to no completed-vehicle inventory, low overhead and minimal marketing expenses," said Annie Stein, director of sales and marketing at EarthRoamer, which makes rugged, Xpedition vehicles for off-the-beaten-path RVing. "The bulk of our marketing comes from happy owners and positive word of mouth," added Stein.

While it is true that the bottom line of a factory-direct deal may save the buyer money, none of the motorhome





manufacturers we spoke with listed that aspect as the top benefit of going factory-direct. To a man (or woman), the highest-rated value of the factory-direct process is a bit more personal. "One of the most important factors is cutting out the middleman and being able to build relationships directly with the customer," said Steve Gerzeny, vice president at high-end Class B manufacturer Coach House. "It opens a direct line of communication for questions, warranty and customer service, and we think that gives the customer a more personal, comfortable, intimate experience." And this experience extends beyond making new friends. "Buying factory-direct offers consumers a superior buying experience," said Brian Shea, owner and founder of the RV Factory, manufacturer of Avion Class B motorhomes. "Dealing direct with the manufacturer includes factory tours and knowledgeable factory representatives guiding customers through their purchase decision whether they buy from us or not," he added.

Also, the factory-direct process means prospective owners can speak directly with the builders and discuss precisely what they want, which eliminates a common problem associated with buying from a dealer. "If we received all of the details from a dealer after they sat down with the customer, a lot of the detail would be lost or misinterpreted," said Dwyer. Another common problem is the potential for misrepresentation — albeit often accidental. "With a factory-direct process, the dealership cannot change the product," said Paul Meyer, president of Sportsmobile Inc. "Our price is lower, and the customers pay for only what they need." Plus, "There is no middle person modifying or changing the details and facts surrounding your purchase," said Claude Donati, co-founder of Nexus RV. "As a manufacturer, we make commitments directly to the customer; this fact gives us specific clarity on the direction we receive from the customer."

It's that clarity that not only makes the buying process smoother, but directly results in more bang for your buck. "Buying factory-direct means you do not have to buy 'off the shelf,'" said Kyle Hershberger, business manager for Class B manufacturer Phoenix Cruiser. "While we do keep

.....▶  
**"We are able to work directly with the customer to get them exactly what they want," said Brian Shea.**

**CUSTOM BUILT:**

Nexus RV has a 10-acre campus in Elkhart, Indiana, where customers can see how the company's motorhomes are built and ask questions about construction techniques.

inventory on hand and available for immediate purchase, about 80 percent of our customers choose the exact floorplan, paint scheme, interior colors and options that they want. Our customer's money gets spent only on the options and equipment that he wants."

Another benefit of factory-direct is knowledge; when you visit the manufacturer, he or she knows the product like the back of their hand, and listens to the consumer to point out the best available options. "By understanding what our customers want and who they are on a deeper level, we can design options that meet the needs of our specific market," said Stein. "When a dealer has multiple product lines, it's not easy for a salesperson to be knowledgeable on everything they sell," said Gerzeny.

Some companies even take that knowledge to the extreme. "We only have one salesperson," said Earl Robbins, sales manager (and lone salesman) at Phoenix Cruiser. "You will not have to deal with a rookie salesperson who does not know the product. I do not have to 'go to my manager and see what he will do.' Our customers deal directly with the decision-maker." Gerzeny agrees. "By selling direct, we can demonstrate and feature/benefit our products without reservation," he said. "Our salespeople are not typical; they are excellent at providing

Coach House offers customers a choice of a Mercedes-Benz 3500 Sprinter or Ford E-450 Super Duty chassis at the company's Nokomis, Florida, factory.

.....➔  
detailed information about the history of our company, product specifics and firmly believe in what they are selling." It's that inside information that is invaluable in the factory-direct experience; you're dealing with the real experts on the subject, with no filters or sales gimmicks.

Still another often-overlooked benefit of buying directly from the manufacturer is that buyers know they are getting the absolute newest and "freshest" components on their factory-built rig. "Materials arrive 'just in time' and are installed during production of a customer's order," said Shea. "The product is then delivered immediately after production to the customer. In contrast [to the dealership model], mass-production model materials are ordered in mass quantities and stored sometimes outside ... in a lot of instances, an RV may have more than a year in the elements before final sale, often containing outdated components," Shea added.

Once construction is underway, factory-direct manufacturers tend to keep in close contact with the buyers about the overall manufacturing progress of the RV, including any questions that may arise. A customer is made aware of any con-



tingency strategies while the coach is on the line, which all but eliminates the "surprises" that sometimes await buyers after they have already committed to a particular vehicle. Some manufacturers can even show a buyer their coach in various stages of development. "Our factory is open for customers to see every aspect of construction, and they are welcome to talk to every employee on our assembly line," said Robbins. "We are able to work directly with the customer to get them exactly what they want," said Shea. "The customer has access to the makers of the product, and their direct input makes our products perform better. We find the process gratifying to us as well as the consumer."

Once the motorhome has been built, many factory-direct manufacturers offer quite a bit of fanfare for delivering the product. After

all, the company has by then had a considerable amount of interaction with the customer, and treats them, as Meyer put it, "like a member of their extended family." Pulling out all the stops is quite common, in fact. "When a purchase is made, the delivery experience is awesome with our signature 'Red Carpet Delivery,'" said Gerzeny. "We put the unit in our showroom, literally roll out a red carpet and take the customer on a complete walkthrough specific to their new motorhome, assuring they're comfortable prior to taking off on their

**COMPLETE CUSTOMIZATION:**  
The chassis and body of each Newell are manufactured in-house to order. There is no fixed, standard chassis design and no limited list of options. All Newell components are refined, finished and installed as the coach is constructed.



# OUTLAW



*Made to fit your active lifestyle.*  
*GarageRVs.com*



Made to fit.

P.O. Box 1486, Elkhart, IN 46515

Sales Department: 800.860.5658 ThorMotorCoach.com

Thor Industries, Circle 128 on Reader Service Card



Dear  
Road Wandering,  
Side Winds,  
Passing Semi Trucks,  
and Over Steering,

Sorry.



**SAFE-T-PLUS**

**Steering Control**

Safe T Plus  
Steering Control  
fits all motorhomes  
and tow vehicles.

Lifetime Vehicle Warranty

Safe-T-Plus.com  
(800) 872-7233

THE DIRECT ROUTE



**OFF-ROAD ADVENTURER:**

EarthRoamer designs and manufactures four-wheel-drive, go anywhere motorhomes that the company calls Expedition Vehicles, or XVs.

maiden voyage.” Who better to walk you through your new motorhome than the people who actually built it?

“When a new owner picks up their vehicle, they are greeted by the entire EarthRoamer team,” said Stein. They are introduced to the men and women who actually designed and built their rig. When an owner returns for service or upgrades, they see familiar faces. This personal interaction really builds the EarthRoamer family.”

Once the RV is driven off the lot, the perks often don't stop there, as most factory-direct builders offer varying degrees of aftercare and service intervals. “Our customers are not limited to any certain dealers for service,” said Robbins. “We will authorize any RV service center to help our customers in the event that they need anything.” In addition, says Sportsmobile's Meyer, “[Factory-direct] allows us to establish a positive relationship with the factory for service and for future modifications.” Other manufacturers offer exciting trips and events, exclusive owners' forums online and even 24-hour emergency assistance hotlines.

From a manufacturer's perspective, the factory-direct process enables the company to focus on the customer and delivering exactly what they want.

This in turn leads to those long-lasting relationships and repeat business. “We have been selling factory-direct for more than 55 years now, and [that model] has worked very well for our customers and us,” said Meyer. “We form a long-term relationship and have many repeat customers buying their second or even third Sportsmobile.”

What it comes down to is that an unpleasant buying experience from a dealer salesperson who doesn't know his audience can lead to that customer avoiding a particular model or brand that they really shouldn't; had the manufacturer been given a chance to get into their head and see what they wanted, the results could have been much different. “Everything we do is for the customer,” said Donati. “The factory-direct model allows us, the manufacturer, to focus only on how to help the customer.” **M**

**Sources**

**Coach House**  
800-235-0984, [www.coachhouse.com](http://www.coachhouse.com)

**EarthRoamer**  
303-833-7330, [www.earthroamer.com](http://www.earthroamer.com)

**Newell**  
918-542-3344, [www.newellcoach.com](http://www.newellcoach.com)

**Nexus RV**  
855-786-3987, [www.nexusrv.com](http://www.nexusrv.com)

**Phoenix Cruiser**  
877-754-8535, [www.phoenixusarv.com](http://www.phoenixusarv.com)

**Sportsmobile**  
512-835-4409, [www.sportsmobile.com](http://www.sportsmobile.com)

**The RV Factory**  
844-284-6678, [www.thervfactory.com](http://www.thervfactory.com)



# hello SUMMER



**CAMPING WORLD**

Say Hello to a Whole New World

**LOW APR FINANCING • HUGE SELECTION OF MOTORIZED RVs**



## 2015 THOR MOTOR COACH FREEDOM ELITE 22E

MSRP \$69,317 NOW \$49,995\*

**SAVE \$19,322** | Stk#COC537888 | Cocoa, FL

**\$359 PER MONTH\*\***  
Based on 10% down  
@ 4.99% APR for 180 mos.



## 2015 JAYCO REDHAWK 31XL

MSRP \$92,952 NOW \$64,995\*

**SAVE \$27,957** | Stk#TUC525880 | Tucson, AZ

**\$389 PER MONTH\*\***  
Based on 10% down  
@ 4.99% APR for 240 mos.



## 2015 WINNEBAGO TRAVATO 59G

MSRP \$88,494 NOW \$71,495\*

**SAVE \$16,999** | Stk#KS563835 | Kissimmee, FL

**\$429 PER MONTH\*\***  
Based on 10% down  
@ 4.99% APR for 240 mos.



## 2015 JAYCO PRECEPT 29UM

MSRP \$128,497 NOW \$89,497\*

**SAVE \$38,618** | Stk#KC2496956 | Colorado Springs, CO

**\$539 PER MONTH\*\***  
Based on 10% down  
@ 4.99% APR for 240 mos.



## 2015 ITASCA SUNSTAR 36Y

MSRP \$159,995 NOW \$113,995\*

**SAVE \$46,000** | Stk#MER547415 | Meridian, ID

**\$679 PER MONTH\*\***  
Based on 10% down  
@ 4.99% APR for 240 mos.



## 2015 FLEETWOOD EXCURSION 35B

MSRP \$206,183 NOW \$145,688\*

**SAVE \$60,495** | Stk#EUG530300 | Coburg, OR

**\$869 PER MONTH\*\***  
Based on 10% down  
@ 4.99% APR for 240 mos.

ASK HOW YOU CAN UPGRADE TO **Good Sam ELITE**



**CAMPING WORLD RV SALES\***

\*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 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. \*\*All payments to qualified buyers with approved credit. Subject to lender terms. VIN numbers posted at dealership. 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. Offers expire 8/12/15. FR040635-0415

**866-9-RV-CENTER | CampingWorld.com**



# LOWEST PRICE



**CLUB SALE**  
**\$44<sup>97</sup>**  
 Reg. \$58.89

**Club Chair**  
 Blue #74235 Brown #42645  
 Covered in 600-denier polyester for use indoors or out. Heavy-duty tubular steel frame. Opens to 37\"/>

**Outdoor Ottoman**  
 Blue #75001 Brown #65110  
 20\"/>



**CLUB SALE**  
**\$49<sup>97</sup>**  
 Reg. \$66.69

**4' Fold-In-Half Tables**  
 White #48946 **NEW COLOR!** Clay #81991  
 Adjusts to 22\", 29\"/>

**5' Fold-In-Half Table** (not shown) #34185  
 60\"/>



**CLUB SALE**  
**\$28<sup>97</sup>**  
 Reg. \$38.99

**A EXCLUSIVE!** Wide Bronze Chair #69832  
 Features UV-resistant fabric. No painful crossbars at back of legs. | 🚚 | ❤️  
**B EXCLUSIVE!** Wide Bronze Rocker #69700  
 Same features as matching chair #69832.  
**Club SALE \$37.97** Reg. \$49.99 | 🚚 | ❤️



**CLUB SALE**  
**\$69<sup>97</sup>**  
 Reg. \$89.99

**NEW!** Tailgaterz™ Game Day Buffet #81923  
 Stands 31½\"/>



**CLUB SALE**  
**\$91<sup>97</sup>**  
 Reg. \$127.99  
**Adjustable Leg Platform Step #54911**  
 Folding legs lock open at 8¼\"/>



**CLUB SALE**  
**\$39<sup>97</sup>**  
 Reg. \$62.99  
 Extends from 1¼\"/>

**X-Check Tire Locking Chock, Single #43891**  
 Stabilizes by applying opposing force to tandem tires.

**X-Tended Fit X-Check** (not shown) #70538  
 Extends 10\"/>

**Club SALE \$59.97** Reg. \$87.49 | 🚚

**CLUB MEMBERS ONLY**  
**LOWEST INSTALLED PRICE**  
**GUARANTEED OR IT'S FREE!**\*



\*Offer valid on select products. For more installation information go to [CampingWorld.com/install](http://CampingWorld.com/install)



# ES OF THE SEASON!

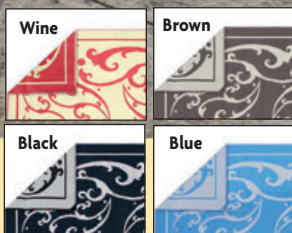
# > Summer < SALE!

PRICES EXPIRE 7/26/15



**EXCLUSIVE!** BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

CLUB MEMBERS SAVE  
UP TO **40% OFF**



**CLUB SALE \$29<sup>97</sup>** Reg. \$49.99

**NEW & EXCLUSIVE!** 6' x 9'  
Vine Reversible Patio Mats

Wine #82055 Brown #82053  
Black #82056 Blue #82054

**NEW & EXCLUSIVE!** 9' x 12'  
Vine Reversible Patio Mats

Wine #82052 Brown #82050  
Black #69148 Blue #82051

**Club SALE \$49.97** Reg. \$79.99



**NEW!**

6" dia.

Clear Bronze

Multicolor

CLUB MEMBERS SAVE  
UP TO **35% OFF**

**CLUB SALE \$57<sup>97</sup>** Reg. \$89.99

**NEW!** Premium Etched Globe Patio Lights

6 Globe Multicolor with 30' White Cord #82026 | ♥

6 Globe Clear with 30' White Cord #82025 | ♥

6 Globe Bronze with 30' Black Cord #82024 | ♥

sleep number.

STARTING AT  
CLUB SALE  
**\$1259<sup>97</sup>**  
Reg. \$1479.99

CLUB MEMBERS SAVE  
UP TO **\$350 OFF**



**BEST SELLER!**

**Sleep Number® Bed RV Premier**

- Luxurious European-style™ Pillowtop offers a supersoft sleep surface
- A full two inches of exclusive Intralux® offers three unique comfort zones
- Firmness Control™ System allows quick, extra-quiet Sleep Number® adjustments
- Wireless remote includes a Memory button for your favorite setting
- Radius cut beds have two rounded corners

Short Queen RV Premier, 60" x 75" #44073

**Club SALE \$1259.97** Reg. \$1479.99

Queen RV Premier, 60" x 80" #44074

**Club SALE \$1284.97** Reg. \$1499.99

King RV Premier, 76" x 80" #44077

**Club SALE \$1399.97** Reg. \$1749.99

Other sizes available by Special Order | [Let Us Install It—Club SALE \\$89](#) | | ♥



Taupe

Chocolate

Burgundy

CLUB MEMBERS SAVE  
UP TO **25% OFF**

STARTING AT  
CLUB SALE  
**\$59<sup>97</sup>**  
Reg. \$79.99

**NEW!** 10-Piece Bed-in-a-Bag Sets

Includes reversible comforter, 4-piece brushed microfiber sheet set (top, fitted bottom, 2 pillow cases), 2 bed pillow shams and 3 throw pillows. Available in Short Queen and Queen sizes. King size is special order.

## CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAYS!

FRIDAY, JULY 10<sup>TH</sup> — SUNDAY, JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
& FRIDAY, JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> — SUNDAY, JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>  
AT SUPERCENTERS NATIONWIDE!

**SAVE UP TO 50% OFF**  
ON EVENT-ONLY DOORBUSTERS!

**PLUS, SPIN THE PRIZE WHEEL**  
FOR A CHANCE TO SAVE EVEN MORE!

By Owen Mitchell

# SUN DIFFUSION

Installing custom-cut shade mesh on motorhome windows is made practical and simple with kits from EZ Snap Direct — no drilling required

**S**ince motorhomes aren't built like houses, with thick walls and lots of insulation, we're often looking for ways to keep the hot sun from streaming through our ample — and often large — windows, without having to draw the shades.

Shade mesh is one of the best answers — polyethylene fabric, attached to the window frame on the outside, partially blocking the sun. This type of mesh has been marketed for years to homes in hot regions and is available in a variety of con-

figurations including drop shades from awnings, and windshield covers for motorhomes. Depending on the weave, the mesh may block 50 to 90 percent of the sun's rays, greatly reducing heat and UV damage while still allowing daytime visibility and

some airflow.

While installation of shade mesh on windows usually requires mounting twist-locks on the side walls and grommets in the fabric to allow removal for travel, a company out of Oroville, Washington, and Vernon, British Columbia, Canada, EZ Snap Direct, offers kits that simplify the process with the use of unique three-piece snaps that are easy to install and require no drilling.



[1] A metal tool for prying off the snaps and a special white snap locations on the window frames and cut lines on the fabric are provided with each kit. [2] Studs that mount on window frame (or wall) are available in black, beige or white colors. [3] Rubbing alcohol is used to clean frames before attaching studs.

[4] Studs use 3M VHB double-sided adhesive tape for mounting on frames or walls. The tape is strong, meaning users don't have much leeway for relocating the stud once it touches the frame. [5] Moderate pressure is applied to the studs after sticking to the frame surface. The manufacturer recommends allowing the studs to sit for 15 minutes or so to ensure a good bond. Studs can be removed down the road, but it takes some effort.

The snaps, which are key to facilitating the installation for a do-it-yourselfer, are included with shade mesh kits marketed by the company. Once the three-piece snaps are assembled, they look like buttons and remain on the fabric. The EZ Snap mesh fabric can be custom cut for use on windows, windshields, skylights, wheel housings (protecting tires) and any other sun-shielding use that seems practical.

We chose a kit with 75 sets of snaps (caps, pins and adhesive studs) plus a 15-by-6-foot piece of black mesh for cut-to-fit application on large windows that even though tinted, admitted too much direct sun and heat.

The company offers optical-grade mesh that it rates at 90 percent sun blockage — black because it's the best for see-through from the interior of the motorhome. The kit also includes a special marking pencil (handy while cutting the material to size) and a tool with which to easily pry off the snaps and remove the mesh from the windows.

The adhesive studs utilize 3M VHB double-sided adhesive tape that is very strong, yet unobtrusive when attached to plastic window frames, or to metal, fiberglass or glass. Snaps are available in black, beige or white.



4



5

[6] At first, the studs were placed on the radius of the window frame as a starting point, but we modified that for better symmetry after installing the first screen. [7] It is recommended that the snaps be spaced 9-12 inches apart. White pencil makes it easy to find location marks. [8, 9] Once the studs are placed and secure, special pins are pushed into each stud. It takes some effort to push the pins over the stud, so we used a ratchet socket after our fingers became sore. [10] When measuring for cutting the fabric, it's best to add one-half inch to the numbers.



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

[11] A large table is used to stretch out the fabric for measuring and cutting. It's best to follow the fabric weave when cutting to make sure the material ends up square. [12] White pencil is used to mark cut lines and to identify the side of the fabric that will be placed against the window.

Calculating the amount of mesh and number of snaps needed for a specific motorhome takes some planning and the EZ Snap website features instructions that can help with this process. The company recommends that the snaps should not be spaced more than 12 inches apart. It also recommends that one-half inch be added to window width and height measurements to make up for possible slight errors in cutting the mesh. Obviously, accurate measurements are necessary.

After cleaning window moldings with isopropyl alcohol, we chose to place snaps on the window corners when installing the first mesh, and then later modified the process to stick the snaps on either side of window corners, which seemed to add a little more symmetry to the look of the installation. We spaced the snaps 9-12 inches apart. The adhesive studs are easy to apply, after which cleverly designed pins are pressed onto the studs.

Although we measured precisely, our mesh cuts turned out to be a fraction of an inch off — the cut fabric was not quite square. But with the additional one-half inch to play with on all sides, the errors were not visible. While measuring and cutting, it seemed best to follow the weave of the mesh.

To install the mesh, EZ Snap recommends beginning

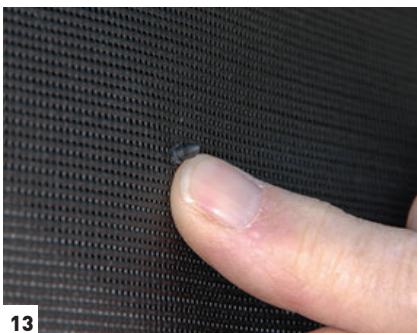
at one corner when pressing the fabric over the pins, which punctures the mesh, then working downward. The fabric should not be stretched across the pins. The caps are then pressed into place on the pins, which protrude through the mesh. Basically, you're building the caps with the fabric in place, so there is no guesswork in matching up the buttons to the studs on the window. During the process of pushing the pins through the fabric, if necessary the mesh can be removed from pins and reinstalled for minor readjustments.

We used the special tool supplied in the kit to pop the pins off the studs and remove the mesh for travel — a procedure that goes very quickly. It's necessary to mark each window covering for reinstallation if any are identical in size, because placement of the snaps will not be precisely the same from one identical window to the next.

Inside the motorhome, the sun's glare and heat were dramatically reduced while see-through was relatively good. The mesh noticeably reduced airflow through the slider window panel at the bottom of the

**➔ INSTALLATION TIP**

Follow the natural lines of the fabric weave when cutting to size. A sharp scissors is mandatory, and take your time; using a bright light is very helpful.



13



14



15

[13] The fabric is pushed over the pins before [14] the caps are seated. Tiny barbs in the pins keep the cap from backing out. It's best to start at one corner and work downward. [15] Metal tool is used to dislodge snaps on fabric from the mounting studs. This process goes very fast.



16



17

[16] The newly cut and installed screens look nice on the windows and while they block 90 percent of the sun's rays, [17] the optical-grade mesh allows good visibility to the outside.

large windows, which means a fan such as those made by Fan-Tastic Vent would be needed to accelerate air circulation, or the mesh could be sized short enough (studs attached to glass) to leave the slider uncovered. At night, the mesh only partially blocks the view from the outside with interior lights on.

We found the EZ Snap approach to sun protection easy to install, effective in reducing the sun's heat-soak of the interior, and potentially good for protecting the interior of the motorhome from sun damage — a good choice not only for use in campgrounds but also when the motorhome is in storage.

The kit we chose is priced at \$269.99 including shipping. Snaps can be ordered separately in 15-, 30- or 60-pack sizes for \$1.99, \$1.30 or \$.83 per snap, respectively, if the buyer chooses to use shade mesh of another color from a different source. **M**

**For More Information**

**EZ Snap Direct**

877-439-7627, [www.ezsnapdirect.com](http://www.ezsnapdirect.com)



**PROTECT ALL**

**PROTECT YOUR RV INVESTMENT**

SERVING THE RV INDUSTRY FOR OVER 25 YEARS






**RUBBER ROOF CLEANED & RUBBER ROOF TREATMENT**

REDUCES RUBBER ROOF MAINTENANCE BY 75%



**OXIDATION REMOVER**

ONE-STEP APPLICATION  
CLEANS, POLISHES & SEALS



**PROTECT ALL**

5 PRODUCTS IN 1  
CLEANS, POLISHES, WAXES, SHINES, PROTECTS



**BLACK STREAK CLEANER**

REMOVES GREY STREAKS, GREASE, BUGS  
CLEANS FIBERGLASS, AWNINGS,  
TIRES, WHEELS & MORE



**SLIDE OUT DRY LUBE & RUBBER SEAL**

LUBRICATES & PREVENTS RUST  
ON METAL SLIDES, EXTENDS SEAL  
LIFE

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

**WWW.PROTECTALL.COM**

# For those who like the **STRONG, SILENT TYPE**

Coach House's patented one-piece hand-laid fiberglass shell



**PLATINUM**  
Ford E-450 Super Duty chassis



**PLATINUM II**  
Mercedes Sprinter chassis

## Coach House® makes a quieter, more durable RV

Most motorhome bodies are made of multiple pieces of fiberglass that are joined together — and every joint is a potential leak or squeak.

Coach House is different. The Coach House Platinum® and Platinum II® are constructed with a patented *one-piece* hand-laid fiberglass shell, reinforced with carbon fiber. The result is an RV that is quieter and more durable than one manufactured in the traditional way.

Our one-piece shell is more costly and difficult to make, but we wouldn't have it any other way. Nor would our loyal customers, some of whom are now driving their fourth or even fifth Coach House motorhome!

Beyond the unique one-piece shell, here are some of the other factors that make the downsized Platinum and Platinum II your best motorhome value:

- More standard features than any other motorhome in their class.

- Professionally decorated interiors with solid-surface countertops, porcelain toilets, name-brand appliances, 32-inch HDTV, and more.
- Choice of chassis: Ford E-450 (gas) or Mercedes Sprinter (diesel).
- Nationwide warranty service.
- High ratings for ride and safety.



### PLATINUM



### PLATINUM II



### Arriva



**NEW!**  
Class B

#### BUY FACTORY-DIRECT AND SAVE!

Coach House motorhomes are sold direct from the factory — there is no middleman. The "Coach House Buying Experience" includes: personal attention from courteous employees; a generous trade-in allowance for your current RV; on-the-spot financing (for qualified buyers); and instruction in how to operate your new RV.



#### VISIT THE COACH HOUSE PLANT

Seeing is believing. That is why we invite you to visit the Coach House factory, at I-75 exit 195 near Venice, Fla., about one hour south of Tampa. You are welcome to visit during regular business hours to examine the latest models on display in our spacious showroom. Guided factory tours are also available; please call ahead.



**COACH HOUSE, INC.** 3480 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE · NOKOMIS, FL 34275 (941)485-0984 TOLL-FREE 1-800-235-0984  
VISIT US ONLINE AT [www.coachhousesrv.com](http://www.coachhousesrv.com) · PLANT TOURS AVAILABLE. PLEASE CALL AHEAD.



▲ Dometic's Patty O'Room turns an awning into a comfortable, screened-in enclosure that protects from flying insects and nearly doubles the livable space.

# MADE IN THE SHADE

How to reduce solar heat-soak inside a motorhome



**S**hade mesh, also described as shade cloth, appears in RVs in an infinite variety of uses as owners battle with hot sun streaming through windows during summer months.

The mesh blocks much or most of the sun's rays while permitting visibility and admitting some light as well as airflow. It's available in a variety of weaves that provide sun

blockage ranging from 60 to 95 percent for just about any motorhome window. In the daytime, the mesh offers privacy, but at night it's possible to see into a lighted interior, so curtains or blinds are still necessary. Also, with more sun blockage comes more limited airflow.

The material is PVC-coated polyester, which doesn't necessarily have to be hemmed, as illustrated in

◀ Dometic's Patty O' Shade claims to reduce sun intensity by more than 50 percent. The kit includes tie-downs and stakes, and fits all A&E and most other awnings. Measuring 54 inches high, this drop shade is available in 10- or 15-foot lengths and four colors: burgundy, blue, coffee and white.



▲ Most awning rollers are fitted with utility grooves or slots into which a shade-mesh panel can be threaded. Several companies offer mesh drop shades designed to fit these slots.

the article on kits by EZ Snap Direct beginning on page 50, but hems may be required for other attachment methods.

The largest window challenge appears to be in motorhomes with expansive windshields. With a coach facing the sun on a hot day, the interior warms up fast. And windshields aren't double-pane, as side windows often are, so the amount of heat that enters the interior can impact overall interior comfort. Warmth of the sun can be pleasant in winter, so mesh shades can be rolled up or packed away.

Large windows generally exacerbate the solar heating problem in a motorhome, and in extremely hot weather, tax the air-conditioning

system to its maximum capacity. Motorhomes parked where direct sun enters through large windows are difficult to cool, especially if the windows have single-pane glass.

While the shade-mesh material works well in a broad variety of applications and in many colors, attachment methods vary. Many companies offer products for a variety of applications.

### Motorhome Windshields

Among methods of attachment for windshield shades, twist-locks and snaps have been common for a number of years, usually requiring that the owner use a ladder while installing or removing. And the studs typically require screws. Fortunately, at least two companies offer mesh covers with methods that don't require a ladder or screws:

RV Quick Shades ([www.rvquickshades.com](http://www.rvquickshades.com)) offers a shade-mesh attachment with suction cups intended for attachment to the interior of the windshield. Ideally, the mesh blocks sun best when it's on the outside, but the difference in sun protection is not substantial, according to the company, and installation/removal convenience is an important factor. While suction cups vary in quality, the cups used by this company hold up well and are inexpensive to replace. The company offers the same method for interior side windows and for wheel housings (tire protection).

Magne Shade ([www.magneshade.com](http://www.magneshade.com)) builds mesh shades with perimeter pockets that contain magnets. Matching magnets are attached inside the windshield or window, and a telescoping wand is



### Screen Room

Sunpro awning drops are made with 85- or 90-percent sunblocking mesh material and can be fitted with awning end panels, as shown. They're custom-made and come with necessary hardware.



## A Darker Shade

The SunBlocker by Carefree cuts nearly 85 percent of the light and is available in navy (shown), black, bordeaux and Sierra brown.



provided to lift a corner of the mesh into position so it will attract the appropriate magnet (no need for a ladder) after which the other magnet attachments are easy to position. Same method is used for side windows. The company also offers shades for tires.

Many other companies offer covers/shades for windshields and cockpit side windows, usually utilizing twist-locks, snaps or hook-and-loop attachments. Most of these windows are fitted on the interior with blinds and/or curtains that cannot be used on driver/passenger side windows in the cockpit while on the road. Roller shades using mesh, either motorized or manual, are the solution when in an RV park or while the motorhome is in storage.

Carefree of Colorado ([www.carefreeofcolorado.com](http://www.carefreeofcolorado.com)) offers motorized as well as manual roller shades for motorhome side windows along with an extensive line of patio awnings, awning drop shades, awning sideblockers and window awnings.

Above from left: Awning drop shades like Dometic's Patty O'Shade (shown in burgundy) and Carefree SunBlocker make it possible to enjoy the patio on hot days.

### Awning Drop Shades and Sideblockers

Most awning rollers are fitted with utility grooves or slots into which a shade-mesh panel can be threaded, and many companies including Dometic ([www.dometic.com](http://www.dometic.com)), Carefree, Sunpro ([www.sunpromfg.com](http://www.sunpromfg.com)), RVAwningsMart ([www.rvawningsmart.com](http://www.rvawningsmart.com)) and ShadePro ([www.shadepro.net](http://www.shadepro.net)) offer mesh drop shades designed to fit those slots. Sunpro also offers a two-piece zip-off awning drop for motorized awnings that often are too high to reach. A top mesh panel is mounted in the awning groove and is rolled in or out with the awning, after which the large lower mesh panel can be zipped on.

### Roller Shades

In addition to mesh interior roller shades, Carefree markets exterior roller shades utilizing sunblocking

mesh, while also offering conventional window awnings.

### Fabric, Supplies

For do-it-yourselfers, bulk shade mesh, thread and other supplies are available from a number of companies, including Home Depot, Lowe's, ShadeClothStore ([www.shadeclothstore.com](http://www.shadeclothstore.com)), Outdoor Fabric Store ([www.outdoorfabricstore.com](http://www.outdoorfabricstore.com)), Amazon ([www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)), and Arizona Sun Supply ([www.arizonasunsupply.com](http://www.arizonasunsupply.com)). Depending on the situation, bulk shade mesh can be cut to size and attached to awning fabric using clamps, for example, while the bottom ends can be staked to the ground using grommets in the fabric.

### Tarps

While a do-it-yourselfer may choose to work with unfinished bulk shade mesh, there may be a use for a hemmed tarp with grommets on all sides — a temporary awning for example. Suppliers include Canopies and Tarps ([www.canopiesandtarps.com](http://www.canopiesandtarps.com)) and Tarps Plus ([www.tarpsplus.com](http://www.tarpsplus.com)).

Use of mesh on windows and awnings can significantly improve comfort while lowering utility bills and wear and tear on the air-conditioning system. **M**

Below: Magne Shade windshield shades install using magnets and are custom-made for each coach. They install from the ground (no ladder required) and are available in different colors and optional digital prints.





# NeXus RV

Factory Direct Manufacturer

We Build Your Dream

*Buy Factory Direct and Save Thousands*



**Viper 29V**



Starting at  
**\$81,999**



**Phantom 32P**



Starting at  
**\$74,999**



**Phantom 32SC**



Starting at  
**\$115,999**



**Ghost 36DS**



Starting at  
**\$179,999**



**Bentley 34B**



Starting at  
**\$179,999**

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice.

Made in USA Elkhart, IN | [NexusRV.com](http://NexusRV.com) | [info@nexusrv.com](mailto:info@nexusrv.com) | Toll Free 855.786.3987

Elkhart, IN | Ft Worth, TX | Temecula, CA | Clearwater, FL

Nexus RV, Circle 114 on Reader Service Card



# Hold Everything

Before you take your next RV trip, make sure the black and gray tanks are properly treated

**T**here are so many things we love about the RVing lifestyle. Satisfying that traveling bone. Meeting new friends. And seeing the places that you used to only read about in magazines. There are few things better in life than gathering underneath the stars in the evening, and waking up to a spectacular morning in a new place, greeted by the scent of freshly cut grass or desert sage – and realizing there’s nothing on your agenda for that day.

But the one thing that can suck the joy out of every RV trip is holding-tank odor. It’s bad enough when it arrives like a malevolent ghost whenever you flush the toilet – but when it permeates the interior, you’ll begin to notice fewer and fewer accepted invitations to your social events. Maintaining a clean holding tank is not unlike taking care of your health – it’s a lot easier to maintain good practices every day than to make up for neglect later on. Most holding-tank odors are the result of improper and/or infrequent maintenance, so proper holding-tank treatment dosage along with the correct dumping practices are key to olfactory bliss.

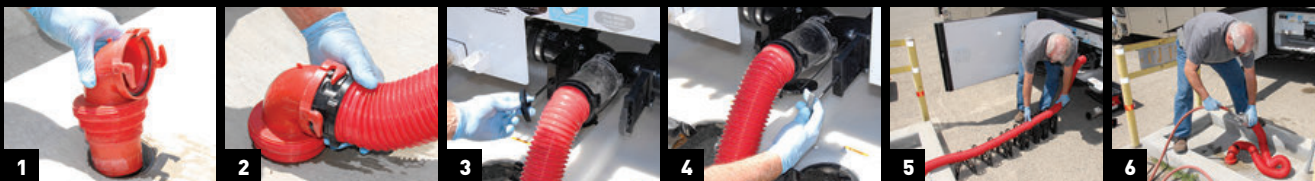
Proper dumping practices and effective holding-tank products are key to an odor-free RV experience.

## Tanks A Lot

Dumping an RV’s holding tanks seems like a pretty simple process — and it is, if you know how to do it properly. The trouble is, many new RVers aren’t shown the basics from the beginning, and some learn the hard way that incorrect practices can result in rather unpleasant surprises. To prevent you from becoming another amusing story around the campfire, here are some helpful tips:

- Buy yourself disposable gloves and keep them, along with a bottle of hand sanitizer and some paper towels, in the utility bay.
- When using the toilet, it’s tempting to conserve water, but too little can cause buildup in the tank, making it hard to empty.
- When you’re camping with sewer hookups, it’s OK to leave the gray valve open, but NOT the black. Wait until this tank is around half full, then go outside and pull the handle. Leaving the valve open allows liquids to drain away, leaving solids behind.
- If you don’t have a black-tank flush, keep a 5-gallon bucket on hand. After dumping the black tank, open the toilet valve and dump a bucket full of water down — it’s a lot more sanitary than dragging the dump station hose through your rig or running it into a window. Repeat the process a couple of times if you have a larger holding tank. It doesn’t have to be full — just enough to rinse away leftover stuff at the bottom of the tank.
- When you’re finished, put about a gallon of water in the tank, and add some toilet chemical.





**Doing The Deed**

**1.** Get yourself a good hose with a 90-degree, threaded fitting like this one from Valterra. It will work with a variety of sewer ports, and even if the one you're using isn't threaded, having this fitting will prevent the hose from coming out when you dump and keep odor to a minimum.

**2.** It doesn't really matter which end of the sewer hose you connect first. For our purposes, we started at the sewer port. Before connecting the hose, make sure the fitting on the end is properly attached, then turn it clockwise into the elbow until the pegs on the hose fitting are completely seated in the barbs on the elbow. As you can see here, the hose is not completely locked into the fitting yet.

**3.** Remove the sewer cap from the RV and attach the other end of the hose. You'll note that we use a clear fitting, which may sound gross, but it allows you to see when the tank is rinsed completely clean, as it is here. If you're hooked up at an RV park, open the black-tank valve only after making sure the gray-water valve is closed. Once empty, close the black-tank valve and either dump your bucket(s) of water down the toilet,

or attach the dump station hose to the black-tank flush port, and turn it on. It's a good idea to leave the black-tank valve open during flushing to prevent the tank from getting full and possibly rupturing. However, as long as you stay with the rig while running the water, it's OK to close the black-tank valve, and open it after a minute or so (depending on the size of your holding tank, of course). Repeat this step twice.

**4.** Close the black-tank valve, then open the gray-tank valve. Since gray water is primarily soapy water from the sinks and shower, it helps to further clean the inside of the sewer hose.

**5.** Some dump stations may have a curb around the sewer port, which can make dumping a challenge. Keep a sewer hose support like this one in your storage compartment.

**6.** When you're all done, wash your sewer hose thoroughly, and don't put the water hose inside — it's bad form. Hold the sewer hose up straight after rinsing to make sure it has no more liquid in it, then pull it from the port and thoroughly rinse the dump station with water so it is clean and ready for the next person.

There are dozens of holding-tank treatments on the market today, which can make choosing the right one for your needs daunting. The most important considerations are whether you prefer a natural/biodegradable product, or a chemical-based product that may contain formaldehyde, dyes and perfumes — an important consideration if you are sensitive to such additives. From there, it's simply a matter of the delivery method: liquid, powder, or the most recent development, the drop-in (aka toss-in).

Because the choice of a holding-tank product is a very personal one, we're presenting this guide to some of the most popular holding-tank products, in each company's own words. Keep in mind that we can't possibly cover every product each company makes, but a visit to any of these websites will reveal a multitude of choices.

**Camco**

**TST:** When you're shopping for a holding-tank treatment, odds are that good value and long-lasting odor control are at the top of your list. Lucky for you, Camco's original TST RV toilet treatment offers these benefits and more. Just four ounces treats a 40-gallon holding tank and controls odor for up to seven days – during any season. The product also breaks down waste and tissue, lubricates valves and cleans sensors. And, environmentally sensitive campers will appreciate that TST contains no formaldehyde and is 100 percent biodegradable. Retail cost: \$6-\$7 (32-ounce liquid).

**Grey Water Odor Control:** When we think about holding-tank odor, it's usually the black tank that comes to mind. But the truth is, the gray tank can also play an offending role. Months (or years) of food particles and grease can eventually build up, causing unpleasant smells to rise from drains throughout the motorhome. Camco's Grey Water Odor Control is designed specifically to combat these issues by removing grease buildup in the gray-water tank, sink and shower drain lines. Just four ounces treats 40 gallons, and the end result is a fresh, lemon scent. Retail cost: \$8-\$10 for 64-ounce liquid.



# HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

How Does Harbor Freight  
Sell GREAT QUALITY Tools  
at the LOWEST Prices?

We have invested millions of dollars in our own state-of-the-art quality test labs and millions more in our factories, so our tools will go toe-to-toe with the top professional brands. And we can sell them for a fraction of the price because we cut out the middle man and pass the savings on to you. It's just that simple! Come visit one of our 550 Stores Nationwide.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

# 20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM

**LIMIT 1** - Save 20% on any one item purchased at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. \*Cannot be used with other discount, coupon, gift cards, Inside Track Club membership, extended service plans or on any of the following: compressors, generators, tool storage or carts, welders, floor jacks, Towable Ride-On Trencher, Saw Mill (Item 61712/62366/67138), Predator Gas Power Items, open box items, in-store event or parking lot sale items. Not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with original receipt. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

# FREE

WITH ANY PURCHASE  
3-1/2" SUPER BRIGHT  
NINE LED ALUMINUM  
FLASHLIGHT

LOT 69052 shown  
69111/62522/62573

**\$6.99**  
VALUE

**LIMIT 1** - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

LOT 60728/69034 shown

## 10 FT. x 20 FT. PORTABLE CAR CANOPY

**SAVE \$80**

**\$119.99**

REG. PRICE \$199.99

**LIMIT 5** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**HaulMaster**

## 72" x 80" MOVER'S BLANKET

LOT 66537 shown  
69505/62418

**\$5.99**

REG. PRICE \$17.99

**LIMIT 8** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**WOW SUPER COUPON**

**CENTRAL PNEUMATIC**

## 3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSOR

LOT 60637/61615  
95275 shown

**\$39.99**

REG. PRICE \$59.99

**LIMIT 3** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**HaulMaster**

## 12 VOLT MAGNETIC TOWING LIGHT KIT

LOT 67455 shown  
69925/62753  
69626/62517

**\$9.99**

REG. PRICE \$29.99

**LIMIT 6** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**WOW SUPER COUPON**

**SAVE \$150**

## 26", 4 DRAWER TOOL CART

US\*GENERAL

• 580 lb. Capacity

LOT 95659 shown  
61634/61952

**\$99.99**

REG. PRICE \$279.99

**LIMIT 4** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

## 40 PIECE 1/4" AND 3/8" DRIVE SOCKET SET

• SAE and Metric

**PITTSBURGH**

LOT 61328  
47902 shown

**\$3.99**

REG. PRICE \$9.99

**LIMIT 6** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**WOW SUPER COUPON**

**PREDATOR GENERATORS**

## 8750 PEAK/7000 RUNNING WATTS 13 HP (420 CC) GAS GENERATORS

• 76 dB Noise Level

LOT 68530/69571 shown  
LOT 68525/69677 shown  
CALIFORNIA ONLY

**\$537.13**

REG. PRICE \$799.99

**LIMIT 4** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE**

## RAPID PUMP® 3 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK

LOT 69227/62116/62590  
62584/68048 shown

**\$74.99**

REG. PRICE \$159.99

• Weighs 74 lbs.

**LIMIT 4** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

## AIRLESS PAINT SPRAYER KIT

**KRAUSE & BECKER**

LOT 60600

**\$174.99**

REG. PRICE \$299.99

**LIMIT 6** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

**HaulMaster**

## SUPER-WIDE TRI-FOLD ALUMINUM LOADING RAMP

LOT 90018 shown  
69595/60334

• 1500 lb. Capacity

**\$79.99**

REG. PRICE \$149.99

**LIMIT 5** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**WOW SUPER COUPON**

**SAVE 56%**

## 18 VOLT CORDLESS 3/8" DRILL/DRIVER WITH KEYLESS CHUCK

**drillmaster**

LOT 69651  
68239 shown

**\$15.13**

REG. PRICE \$34.99

Includes one 18V NiCd battery and charger.

**LIMIT 6** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

## FOLDABLE ALUMINUM SPORTS CHAIR

LOT 62314  
66383 shown

• 250 lb. Capacity

**\$24.99**

REG. PRICE \$39.99

**LIMIT 5** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/1/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

• 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed • No Hassle Return Policy • 550 Stores Nationwide  
• Over 25 Million Satisfied Customers • Lifetime Warranty On All Hand Tools • HarborFreight.com 800-423-2567

**Other products:** TST Singles, TST Tabs, TST Drop-Ins, TST Probe Cleaner, TST Orange Power. **Camco Manufacturing Inc., 800-334-2004, www.camco.net**



# NEVER GET ON YOUR ROOF AGAIN!

- **RV ARMOR is lightweight:** Seamless, and maintenance free
- **RV ARMOR is convenient:** Don't Move! We'll come to you and install your new roof. Two-day process with nationwide service.
- **RV ARMOR is permanent:** Lifetime material and labor warranty. Tracked by the VIN #
- **RV ARMOR is affordable:** Less expensive than a traditional roof replacement



**FIND OUT WHY MANY EXPERTS CONSIDER RV ARMOR THE ULTIMATE RV ROOFING SOLUTION**

[www.RV-ARMOR.com](http://www.RV-ARMOR.com)

**Call 855-RV-ARMOR (855-782-7667)**

**RV ARMOR** is the "Direct Bond" new RV roof system with a manufactured, custom fit

**Bonds directly over:**

- rubber • metal
- fiberglass • wood decking

RV ARMOR is a Federally Registered Trademark of RV Armor, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

## Century Chemical

**Travel Jon:** Century Chemical not only makes holding-tank products for RVs, but for marine, aviation, charter bus and portable applications as well, so it's safe to say they know a thing or two about odor control. The company's Travel Jon product has a familiar blue color that is biodegradable and contains no formaldehyde. The highly concentrated formula (only 2 ounces per charge) helps break down waste and tissue, and the detergent component helps keep the holding tank clean. Retail cost: \$14-\$18 (128-ounce liquid); \$5.99-\$7.99 (dry). **Other products:** Travel Jon Waste Digester, Travel Jon Blue Max toss-in packets. **Century Chemical Corp., 800-348-3505, www.centurychemical.com**



## Dometic

Dometic is practically a household name, but it wasn't until a couple of years ago that the RV giant introduced its own line of holding-tank products. One of its most popular offerings is its Premium Holding Tank Treatment, available in liquid and dry formulas. Aside from long-lasting, formaldehyde-free odor control (even in hot weather), the product's additives break down waste and help tanks rinse cleaner during pump out. Retail cost: 32-ounce liquid, \$10.94; 24-pack drop-ins, \$24.99. **Other products:** 3 'N 1 Bowl Cleaner and Tank Treatment, Clean 'N Green holding-tank treatment, Gray Water Tank Treatment. **Dometic USA, 800-544-4881, www.dometic.com**



## Eco-Save

**Eco-Save Dry:** Looking for an alternative holding-tank treatment product? Eco-Save Dry could be it. Eco-Save Dry is a bacteria/enzyme-based product that works in both black- and gray-water holding tanks, and contains no perfume or surfactants – just friendly bacteria that actually enhances the digestion of waste in septic systems. The environmentally safe, nonstaining product does not clean the holding tanks, but it does reduce solids and control odor. Plus, it is very economical – an 8-ounce jar of the product treats 30-35 tanks (not gallons) of waste. Retail cost: \$25 (8-ounce jar). **Other products:** Eco-Save Original Formula (liquid), Eco-Save Fragrance Enhanced, Eco-Save Concentrate. **Eco-Save products, 800-950-9666, www.eco-save.com**



## Kronen

**Kronen Premium Holding Tank Treatment:** Why use chemicals that actually preserve black water, when you can break it down and eradicate it? That's the question ProPack Packaging asks when referring to its Kronen



product. Using a potent combination of naturally occurring microorganisms that are specifically engineered to break down organic materials, Kronen reduces the holding-tank contents to liquid and leaves behind a subtle, herbal scent. Kronen liquid is available in a 32-ounce size, a half-gallon jug, and a six-pack of 4-ounce single-use bottles. Retail cost: \$32.99 for a 128-ounce jug. Also available in a pack of 10 Drop In's for \$13.99.

**Other products:** Kronen Toilet Bowl Cleaner. **ProPack Packaging, 888-260-1288, www.kronen1.com**



### Monochem

**T-5:** If you believe that experience counts, consider that the Monochem name has been synonymous with holding-tank products for the RV, commercial motor coach, aviation and marine industries for more than 55 years. Even if you haven't used it, you've probably already experienced its benefits; this blue powder toilet chemical has been used to neutralize waste odors in recirculating and portable toilets since the company's inception. The premeasured, 2.25-ounce, moisture-resistant foil packets are simple to use – just pour the contents of one packet into the toilet, and T-5 will immediately begin combating odor-causing bacteria. Retail cost: \$15.95 for a box of six 2-ounce packets. **Other products:** T-5 NF (non-formaldehyde), Aqua-Toss toss-ins, Dyna-Bact toss-ins, L-10 liquid toilet chemical, L-10 NF RTU

**h innovations housing**

14th-Annual Charity Raffle



**WIN**

a New Winnebago Adventurer Motorhome

— or —

**a Quarter of a Million Dollars in Cash!**

All proceeds benefit Innovations Housing, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds affordable homes for low-income families around the world.

Raffle monitored by Redwine & Tegerstrand, CPAs of Redding, CA. State of California, Department of Justice Raffle Registration Number R-173. Must be over 18 to enter. Void where prohibited. Winner need not be present to win.

Winner will take home a new 38-foot Winnebago Adventurer motorhome or \$250,000.00. Winner responsible for taxes, title and license.

To purchase tickets with a Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express call **+1 (800) 764-8096** toll free or **+1 (530) 243-5693**, or mail a check to Post Office Box 991846, Redding, CA 96099-1846, USA. For more information visit **www.innovationshousing.org**.

**Tickets Only \$100.00 Each**  
**No More Than 7,500 Tickets Will Be Sold**  
**Drawing Will Be August 31st, 2015**

INTRODUCING

**SMI DELTA FORCE**



**THE PORTABLE-BRAKING SOLUTION**

- *PROPORTIONAL*
- *FLEXBALL ACTUATOR MOUNT*
- *WIRELESS COACHLINK™*
- *SET-IT-ONCE PEDAL CLAMP*



**75% SMALLER**

SMI MANUFACTURING, INC. 800.893.3763 WWW.SMIBRAKE.COM

Innovations Housing, Circle 108 on Reader Service Card

SMI Manufacturing, Circle 125 on Reader Service Card

# The Last LEAK You'll Ever Have... The Last ROOF You'll Ever Need!

100%  
MAINTENANCE FREE



10 YEARS to get this

- No Caulking Roof Vents, Seams or Skylights
- No Streaking • No Leaks...EVER!

*Beautifully finished seamless roof*



3 DAYS to get this!

- ✓ 10 Year Material & Labor No Leak Guarantee.

# RV ROOFING Solutions

888-847-7010

[www.rvroofingsolutions.com](http://www.rvroofingsolutions.com)

Call for FREE Information Kit

Booking appointments  
for July and August  
for Northern California,  
Oregon & Washington

HOLD EVERYTHING

liquid toilet chemical, T-5 super concentrated liquid. **Worldwide Monochem, 512-267-5190, [www.satellite-environmental.com](http://www.satellite-environmental.com)**

## TankTechs

**TankTechs RX:** "The science of awesome" is how TankTechs describes its unique holding-tank treatment. Developed by a family-owned business that specializes in the pumping, cleaning and sanitizing of RV and boat black/gray holding tanks, TankTechs RX is a liquid tank treatment that uses probiotic organisms to remove odor and break down waste and paper to a liquid that contains healthy antioxidants. TankTechs RX also controls struvites (crystals that form when sewage breaks down). Retail cost: \$39 for a 34-ounce bottle (68 tank treatments). **Other products:** TankTool RX. **TankTechs, 800-625-7945, [www.tanktechsrx.com](http://www.tanktechsrx.com)**



## Thetford

**Aqua-Kem:** If you looked up "holding-tank chemical" in the dictionary, you'd probably find a picture of Thetford's Aqua-Kem product. Billed as the No. 1-selling holding-tank deodorant of all time, Aqua-Kem liquefies waste and breaks down tissue fast to prevent clogs, while powerful detergents clean tank walls and drain lines. Aqua-Kem works around the clock in all weather conditions, and although it contains formaldehyde, it is biodegradable and environmentally safe when disposed of properly. Aqua-Kem is available in a one-gallon jug, 64-ounce bottle, 32-ounce bottle, six-pack of 8-ounce bottles, and a three-pack of 8-ounce bottles. Retail cost: \$10-\$38. **Other products:** Aqua-Kem toss-ins, Aqua-Kem DRI.



## Eco-Smart, Eco-Smart Free & Clear:

A kinder, gentler way to treat holding tanks. Original Eco-Smart uses a nonstaining, formaldehyde-free formula that quickly breaks down and liquefies waste and toilet tissue and provides odor control, while a detergent additive keeps tanks clean. Orange Eco-Smart is also nonstaining and uses an enzyme formula with a natural enzymatic deodorizer, while Eco-Smart Free & Clear offers the same benefits as the above but is fragrance-, dye- and formaldehyde-free and is 100 percent biodegradable. Eco-Smart products are available in liquid or toss-in form. Retail Cost: \$16 for Eco-Smart Free & Clear 36-ounce liquid, \$9-\$12 for pack of 12 toss-ins. **Other products:** Drain Valve Lubricant, Tissue Digester, Level Gauge Cleaner. **Thetford Corp., 800-543-1219, [www.thetford.com](http://www.thetford.com)**



## Valterra Products

**Odorlos:** Recently added to the Valterra family of products, Odorlos uses a sophisticated, natural technology originally developed in Scandinavia, Odorlos provides the naturally occurring bacteria with a





# Great TV on the Road... Just the Way You Want It!

Wherever your RV takes you, DISH Pay-As-You-Go programming allows you to tune in to your favorite TV programs. PLUS—the **NEW** DVR Expander lets you record and watch your favorite programs anytime!

**FREE HBO**  
**FOR 3 MONTHS!**  
with activation of DISH Pay-As-You-Go programming.



CLUB MEMBERS SAVE  
UP TO **\$40 OFF**



**NEW! My Book®**  
AV DVR Expander #84114  
**Club SALE \$129.99 \$99.99** with  
purchase of #73912 Receiver Reg. \$139.99

**NEW! My Book® AV DVR Expander lets you:**

- Turn your DISH® ViP 211 or 411 series receiver into a DVR
- Record up to 150 hours of HD programming
- Simple USB connection (USB 2.0 & eSATA interface)
- May require one-time \$40 DVR activation fee

CLUB MEMBERS SAVE  
**\$20 OFF**



DISH ViP 211z Satellite  
Television Receiver #73912  
**Club SALE \$89.97** Reg. \$109.99

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

- Pay only for the months you use
- Only DISH lets you watch your favorite shows in HD
- No charge to start or stop monthly service
- Programming for **as little as \$49.99 per month!**

Hurry! Offer expires July 26, 2015!

**Call Camping World at 1-888-875-1540 to activate your DISH programming!**

\*Important Terms and Conditions: Requires antenna and receiver purchase. Monthly fees and limits on number and type of receivers will apply. All prices, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice. 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. Offer 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. Premium Channels: Premium offer value is up to \$57; after 3 months then-current everyday price applies unless you downgrade. Offers end 10/30/15. HBO® and related channels and service marks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc.



**CAMPING WORLD®**

SuperCenters Nationwide | 1.888.875.1540 | [CampingWorld.com](http://CampingWorld.com)

DISH Network, Circle 105 on Reader Service Card

continuous supply of the best alternative energy source to pure oxygen: nitrates. This eliminates the need for bacteria to target sulfate for energy, and the result is no holding-tank odor. Scent-free, formaldehyde-free and 100 percent biodegradable, all it takes is one ounce for every 10 gallons to prevent odor and break down waste and tissue. The product is available in a 168-ounce bottle, a nine-pack of

4-ounce bottles, a 40-ounce self-measuring bottle, a 68-ounce self-measuring bottle, a box of 10 4-ounce dry packets, a 6-pound tub of dry product, and a 10-pack of quick-dissolving drop-ins. **Other products:** Pure Power Blue, Pure Power Green, Pure Power Toilet Bowl Cleaner, Sensor Power Sensor Cleaner. Retail cost: \$12.99-\$38.99. **Valterra Products Inc., 818-898-1671, www.valterra.com**



**Walex Products Company**

**Bio-Pak, Porta-Pak:** When you're ready to leave on your next trip, just drop a single Bio-Pak into the holding tank and add water. The natural enzyme formula starts working immediately to control odor and break down solids. Packaged in a resealable slide-zipper bag containing 10 drop-ins, the formaldehyde-free formula also cleans sensors and lubricates valves. Porta-Pak, meanwhile, offers similar benefits and is now available in two fragrances: Original and Lavender Breeze. Retail Cost: \$10-\$13 for a pack of 10 Bio-Pak drop-ins; \$9-\$11 for a package of 10 Porta-Pak drop-ins. **Other products:** Bio-Active holding-tank treatment. **Walex Products Co., 800-338-3155, www.walex.com**



**Adventure Anywhere**

You really can have it all. Luxury, affordability, the absolute freedom to make each day your own adventure on the road or in the campsite. We have nine floorplans and can custom build your unit. Call Phoenix and begin living your dream today.

**#1 Choice in Downsizing**

**FREE FACTORY TOURS DAILY**

**We take trades and we offer financing. Call us today to begin your adventure...**

**Factory Direct** phoenixcruiser.com Visit our website for more photos and information.  
2601 Marina Drive Elkhart, IN 877-754-8535

**3X:Chemistry**

**nuGen:** Better living through science? Perhaps. NuGen's 3X:Chemistry product is an advanced nano-technology formula that creates a self-cleaning nano-shield on holding-tank walls, keeping waste in suspension while eliminating odors on contact. The fast-acting, "all-in-one system" cleans the tank and walls, breaks down waste and tissue, lubricates valves and cleans sensors. The formaldehyde-free liquid requires just 2 ounces to treat a 40-gallon tank. Retail Cost: \$16-\$20 for 20-ounce tip-and-pour bottle. **Other products:** Total Tank Bags, Total Tank Liquid, Total Tank Powder. **3X:Chemistry, 866-773-6136, www.3xchemistry.com**



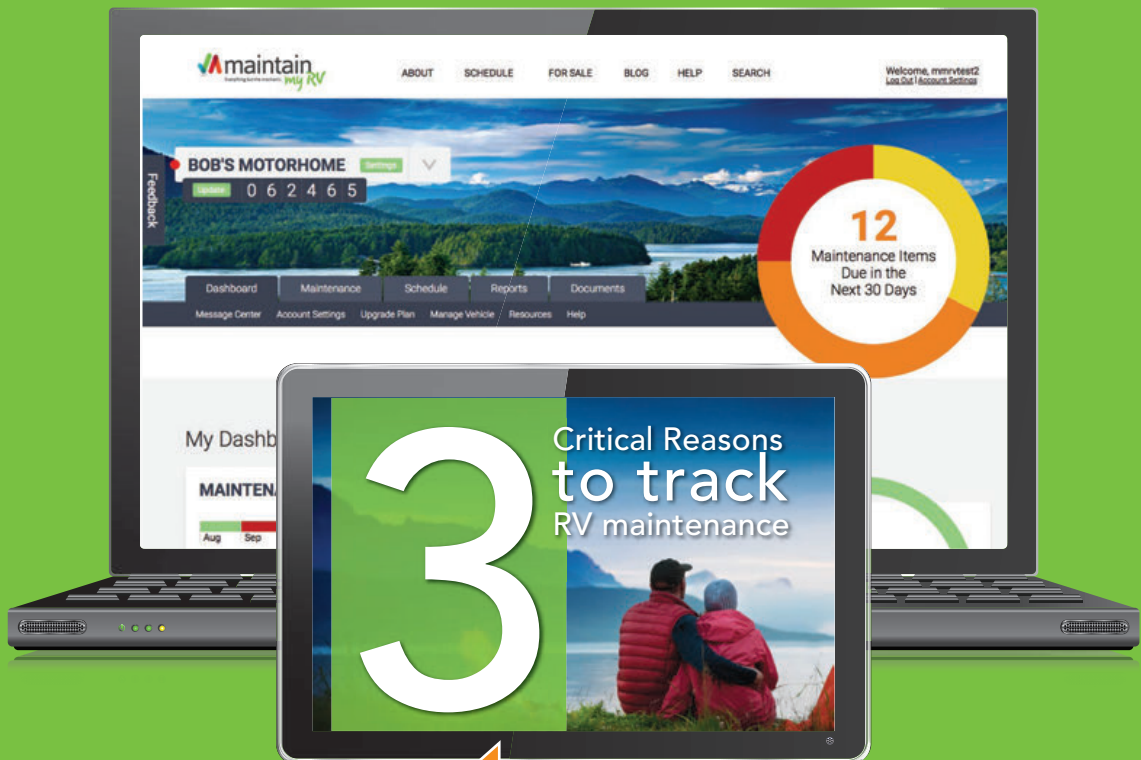


MaintainMyRV.com

Organize all of your maintenance schedules and records online.

FREE 30 day trial.\* No credit card needed.

\*Only \$39.99 per year after trial period.



GET YOUR FREE EBOOK  
MaintainMyRV.com/MH

Knowing *what* scheduled maintenance to do and *when* to do it, will keep your RV in top condition – keeping your family safe and protecting your investment. Don't let unexpected maintenance issues put a wrench in your plans.

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES

ALERTS & REMINDERS

FUEL MANAGEMENT

## Bringing More to the Table

Our 2012 Jayco Seneca is like many motorhomes that have a dining table that can be lowered and made into an extra bed. It is convenient, but makes for a very small table. Only my wife and I could comfortably sit at ours, so having guests always meant we ate outdoors. My wife came up with an idea for a table extension and I built it.

First, decide how big you want your table extension to be. We wanted one large enough to allow four more people to sit at the table. We used  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch MDF and had the store rip it to the correct width.

Next, cut the end of the extension to match the contour of your table (ours was rounded). Then purchase one 4-foot length of 1-inch aluminum box tubing and two 4-foot lengths of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch aluminum box tubing. These will slip inside one another and make a telescoping support.

Attach two pieces of the 1-inch tubing to the bottom of the table. Drill a larger hole to allow screwdriver access into the tube and then a small hole to accommodate the flat-head screw. Countersink the screw hole inside the tubing so the screw head won't catch the smaller tubing when inserted. I used No. 8  $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch flat-head wood screws.

Attach two pieces of the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch tubing to the bottom



of the table extension lined up with the pieces on the table. Make one extend farther than the other to ease the process of inserting them. You'll need to buy a table-leaf locking mechanism to keep the two units tight and an adjustable table leg and cup to support the far end of the extension. When drilling and screwing into the table from the bottom, do not drill or screw through to the top side!

We stained and sealed the table and my wife made a cover for it when stored. I built this using a jigsaw, sander, drill, drill bits, countersink and screwdriver.

**Jim and Betty Stroh | Loveland, Colorado**

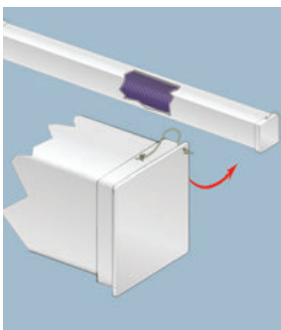


## Top-Shelf Storage

After many years of family camping, my husband and I stepped up to a Class C motorhome. While spending three months in Florida last winter, I was determined to find more storage space in the coach. I fashioned a shelf unit for the bathroom that utilizes empty space and affords us extra storage for tall items and supplies for long trips.

For less than \$20 in lumber, I built a set of shelves that fits into an unused nook. The top shelf uses a bungee cord to hold paper supplies. Finishing nails were used to attach the shelves, while wood glue was used to attach the molding. The entire unit was secured with Loctite glue and then screwed into the wall.

**Kathy Ondrasik | Downingtown, Pennsylvania**



## Fence the Hose In

I needed a new sewer hose carrier for my RV. According to reviews of the Valterra EZ hose carrier, the inside diameter seems to be a half-inch smaller than the fittings on most sewer hoses, so I decided to make my own since trimming the hoses to fit didn't make much sense.

I bought a 5-inch-square vinyl fence post (end post) and two caps. The posts are 7 feet long with three rectangular holes for fence rails. I cut the post to the desired length, taped over the rail holes inside and out, put on the caps and drilled a small hole for a cotter pin to hold them in place. I attached a nylon cord to the pin and the cover to keep from losing them. It can be bolted on or mounted with straps to the rear bumper.

**Joe Tryman | Blaine, Minnesota**



**Have an Idea?** Quick Tips is looking for submissions. Please send your DIY ideas to: *MotorHome* Quick Tips, 2750 Park View Ct., Ste. 240, Oxnard, CA 93036, or email [letters@motorhomemagazine.com](mailto:letters@motorhomemagazine.com). Be sure to include any photos, illustrations or drawings. If your tip is selected for publication, you will receive \$35. All payments require an FEIN or SSN.



**Good Sam**

**RV Loans**



# Private Party RV Loans It's Easier than You Think

**Recreational Use  
APRs\* As Low As**

**3.99%\*\***

on loan amounts of  
**\$75k+**

**4.12%\*\***

on loan amounts of  
**\$50k to \$74,999**

**4.59%\*\***

on loan amounts of  
**\$25k to \$49,999**

Today, approximately 40% of all RVs are sold through private parties. With easy access to neighborhood, local and online listings, shopping around for used RVs is easier than ever – but obtaining financing for a private party loan can often seem anything but simple.

Luckily, the Good Sam Finance Center specializes in private party loans, so you can hit the road stress-free.

Whether you're looking for a fifth wheel, motorhome or travel trailer, obtaining private party financing for a 2007 model year or newer rig with the Good Sam Finance Center is a breeze. Our friendly loan specialists are ready to guide you through the loan process every step of the way.

Plus, the Good Sam Finance Center's rates and terms for private party loans are the same as if you purchase a new or used rig from a dealer, and today's low rates are fixed throughout the entire loan term.

Let us take care of the heavy lifting – we'll pay off the seller, put the new registration in your name and handle all other necessary paperwork so you can focus on what matters most – enjoying your time on the road!

**Good Sam Finance Center Also Offers\*\*:**

- **Loans for new RVs**
- **Refinancing of existing RV Loans**
- **Competitive fixed rates**
- **RV loans and refinancing for Full-Timers**

**Call us at 1-800-444-1476 and mention priority code 443**

**Or visit us online at [GoodSamRVLoans.com/443](http://GoodSamRVLoans.com/443)**

\*Estimated APR (Annual Percentage Rate). Subject to consumer loan program requirements and credit approval. Certain fees, closing costs, and restrictions may apply.

\*\*Rates and terms may vary with market conditions and are subject to change without notice. APR applied to the loan is the APR in effect on the date the application is received and is valid until 30 days after the loan is approved. APRs may vary with loan term. For a refinance request, RV must be 2005 model year or newer. For a purchase request, RV must be 2007 model year or newer. Maximum loan to value is determined by the following: credit score and model year, with collateral value being established per NADA Used Wholesale Trade-in value. Maximum loan term may vary based on model year, loan amount, loan type and lender guidelines. Example of a recreational use RV loan: A 15 year fixed-rate \$55,000 loan. Based on an APR of 4.12%, this loan has 144 monthly payments of \$484.75 each. Information is accurate as of May 21, 2015.

FULL TIMERS: This offer is not available to applicants who use their RV as a principal dwelling (Full-Timer); visit website for Full-Timer rates and terms.

Good Sam Finance Center™ provided through Essex Credit, a division of Bank of the West. © 2015 Bank of the West. NMLS ID # 19116.

Member FDIC. GRL40621 - 0415



EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

## Splatter-free Surface ... Pronto

ProSol Bugs N All makes easy work of removing dried insects from painted surfaces and windows

By Bob Livingston



### CLEANING

Cost: \$9.95 \$44.95

Time: varies

Difficulty: 2/10

**K**eeping bugs off the front of a motorhome is an endless battle. It's best to remove the bugs before they dry and harden, so most owners judiciously clean the splatter before leaving the RV park. The process is relentless;

welcome to life on the road. In an effort to make bug cleaning palatable, if that's even possible, I discovered a product that actually uses enzymes to dissolve bug carcasses, taking a lot of the elbow grease out of the process. Called ProSol Bugs N All, this spray-on/wipe-off solution could change your attitude about bugs, especially if you're a fanatic about keeping your motorhome clean.

Bugs N All is actually more than just an insect remover; it's a versatile cleaner that will also remove black streaks, road crud and diesel soot — without damaging paint or removing wax. While I "concentrated" on the bug-cleaning capabilities of this product, it's good to have a multipurpose waterless cleaner on hand, especially if you live in or travel to areas plagued by drought.

To test this product, a well-coated, bug-encrusted front end was allowed to dry for a month. Under these circumstances, the bugs will dry hard as a rock and strain most owners' patience when cleaning. The key to using Bugs N All is to allow the solution to remain on the surface for 30 seconds or so (up to two minutes for really tough splatter and black streaks) in a cool, shaded area. We found that the splatter began releasing from the surface in less than 30 seconds; once the bugs can be smushed around with a finger, the surface is ready for wiping.

The secret to making this stuff work is keeping the

Mixing from a gallon of concentrated solution is most cost-effective.

surface wet with the solution while it does its magic. Since we're dealing with a vertical surface, it's necessary to reapply the solution because it runs toward the ground. That's why it's important not to work in the sun and/or on a hot surface. Some of this can be mitigated by using a garden sprayer, which provides a finer spray, allowing the solution to "stick" better. A concentrated version that can be mixed with water is available and is much more economical than the 32-ounce, ready-to-use product.

Although the company provides tips on how to best apply and remove the solution, I settled on a routine that worked well after experimenting with a few applications. The solution was sprayed on a manageable-size area and allowed to dissolve the bugs. Then I used a damp (almost wet) microfiber cloth to wipe off the dirt and bugs, followed by drying and buffing with another microfiber towel to eliminate any possible streaking. In a few places, a second dose of cleaner was needed to release stubborn splatter. Overall, the cleaner worked like a champ, without much effort. Be prepared to use quite a bit of cleaner, so the case for buying the concentrated product becomes even stronger.

Bugs N All is starting to show up in retail stores, but it's easiest to order online. A 32-ounce, ready-to-use spray bottle sells for \$9.95; a gallon of the concentrate is \$44.95.

With Bugs N All in my cleaning arsenal, I no longer snarl at each bug that sacrifices itself on my front cap and windshield. **M**

**ProCelle**, 866-464-6659, [www.procelle.com](http://www.procelle.com)



From far left: Special enzymes break down the bugs as long as the surface remains coated with the cleaner. A finger is used to determine when the splatter is released from the surface. A wet microfiber cloth works best for removing the cleaner, followed by wiping with a dry cloth.

# AMERICA'S LARGEST SMALL RV DEALER



Born Free Majestic

R.V. World is proud to announce the addition of *Pleasure-Way* and *Born Free* to its Small RV inventory. Nobody sells more Class B & B-Plus!



Pleasure-Way Lexion TX



Born Free Freedom



Born Free Triumph



Pleasure-Way Flanagan



Pleasure-Way Ascent



Forest River Sunseeker MBS



Winnebago Travato (Nokomis only)



Roadtrek E-Trek



Winnebago Trend (Nokomis only)



Coachmen Prism



Winnebago ERA (Nokomis only)



Great West Legend



Evergreen Imperial



Renegade Villagio



Roadtrek 170 Popular



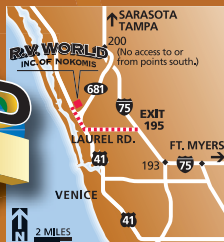
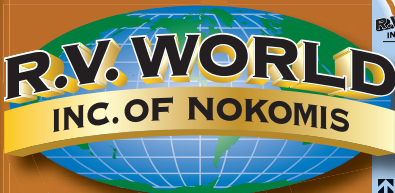
Midwest Weekender



Leisure Travel Serenity

**FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1977 • TWO LOCATIONS**

Please note: Not all brands are available at both locations. Please call.



2110 N. TAMiami TRAIL · NOKOMIS, FL 34275  
 BETWEEN SARASOTA AND VENICE ON U.S. 41  
 (941) 966-2182 · TOLL FREE 1-800-262-2182



940 LAKELAND PARK CENTER DRIVE LAKELAND, FL 33809  
 (FORMERLY CREVASSE ST.) I-4 EXIT 32  
 (863) 853-9177 · TOLL-FREE 1-877-663-7506

**E-mail:** info@rvworldinc.com • **Web site:** www.rvworldinc.com

**Turn your RV into \$\$\$.** Sell it. Consign it. Trade it. CALL MARK A. SANTANGELO AT 1-800-262-2182

COACH HOUSE PLATINUM, PLATINUM II, ARRIVA • RIVERSIDE WHITEWATER, CLASSIC & RETRO • GREAT WEST LEGEND SE, LEGEND EX • PLEASANT VALLEY T@B

## Refrigerator Ruckus

Wrestling with their service-contract provider over compensation for repair work, two readers asked Hot Line to intervene. They wrote:



“When we bought our Tiffin motorhome in 2012, we also purchased extended warranty coverage from CornerStone United. We had one previous claim with CornerStone, in regard to our awning, and it was covered. Now, however, we are having difficulty with a new claim, which is for replacing a control kit in our refrigerator, that has been denied.

CornerStone said no to the claim because we did not get preauthorization. I told the customer-service rep that the card we carry states “preauthorization is required on all claims over \$1,500.” Our claim was for \$641.18. He said that they were supposed to be sending out new cards that stated, “preauthorization is required on all claims.” But we never received the new card.

Can Hot Line please help us with this problem?

**Karen Angebrandt and Sidney McIntyre | Fort Gratiot, Michigan**

Hot Line’s letter to CornerStone prompted the following reply from the company as well as a follow-up letter from Angebrandt and McIntyre:

We received the forwarded letter from the contract holder, Karen Angebrandt, as supplied by *MotorHome*, and reviewed the claim in question for repairs completed on Sept. 10, 2014. The customer’s contract terms do stipulate that all repairs must receive prior authorization, though we do understand the customer’s reported confusion and frustration with indications to the contrary on the supplied and referenced customer card.

The customer has been contacted, and the situation was reviewed with the contract holder further, confirming the circumstances indicated within the letter and the reason for the claim’s initial denial. Due to the confusion and the customer’s unawareness that prior authorization for approval must be given on all claims, the claim was reopened, evaluated under the contract terms and approved

for reimbursement to the customer, as desired. A copy of the customer’s contract was also additionally mailed to the contract holder, in lieu of the customer card.

**CornerStone United  
Hickory, North Carolina**

“Thank you for intervening on our behalf. We received a check and a nice phone call from CornerStone. We are very satisfied with the results, which we are certain wouldn’t have happened if not for you wonderful folks.

**KA and SM**

### Headlight Headache

Frustrated with ongoing problems on his new motorhome, a reader turned to Hot Line for help. He wrote:

“In 2013, my wife and I bought a Winnebago Vista 35B. Shortly after picking up the unit I had to take it back for warranty repairs — the coach leaned to the passenger side and the hydraulic pump went out. Then, a couple of months ago, we were breaking camp before dawn and noticed that our high beams weren’t working. I called Winnebago customer service and was told that it sounded like a Ford problem.

I took the coach to Larry Hill Ford for routine service and to check the headlights. The service technician found the problem: An improperly wired ground had blown the high-beam bulbs. The Ford dealer asked me if I wanted them to fix the problem or if I wanted to take it back to Winnebago for repair. Since I had had the motorhome for 18 months, I decided to pay the \$225.96 to fix the headlights.

**Ed Hannah | Cleveland, Tennessee**

Hot Line passed Hannah’s complaint on to Winnebago Industries for its review and consideration. We heard back from Winnebago and Hannah as follows:

Ed Hannah is being reimbursed for the work order that Larry Hill Ford charged him. It is being taken care of. The reimbursement check is on its way to Hannah.

**Brian Golwitzer, Service Advisor  
Winnebago Industries, Forest City, Iowa**

“Thank you so much for your help. I received a check from Winnebago for the full amount of the repair cost.

**EH M**

### Take Action Contact Hot Line for Help

Hot Line assists in mediating conflicts between consumers and RV dealers and manufacturers, accessories suppliers and service providers. After exhausting all other resources, send typed letters to *MotorHome* Hot Line, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036 and enclose copies of appropriate bills and correspondence, plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Selected letters will be edited and published unless otherwise requested.



Come to  
the...

# LARGEST **MOTORHOME SHOW**

## IN NEW YORK STATE

at *Turning Stone Resort Casino*

Sponsored by **RVOne Superstores**

*July 31st to August 2nd*

### Show Hours

Friday & Saturday - 10am to 8pm

Sunday - 10am to 5pm

- ✓ **The Nation's Top Brands**
- ✓ **Gas Motorhomes**
- ✓ **Diesel Motorhomes**
- ✓ **New & Pre-Owned**
- ✓ **Over 100 Units on Display**
- ✓ **Special Financing Available**
- ✓ **Bank Reps On Hand**
- ✓ **Free Admission**

Also Now Featuring



When You Know The Difference

Also Now Featuring



Touring Coaches & Travel Trailers

SPONSORED BY



**RVONE.COM**



ENTEGR  
COACH\*



THOR  
MOTOR COACH



Jayco

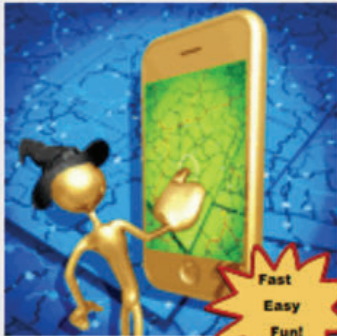
*July 31st to August 2nd*

IN THE EVENT CENTER AT  
TURNING STONE RESORT CASINO  
**5218 PATRICK RD  
VERONA, NY 13478**

ALBANY RV • BUFFALO RV • DES MOINES RV • ORLANDO RV • TAMPA RV

RV One Superstores Inc., Circle 120 on Reader Service Card

## RV Trip Wizard™ BEST EVER RV TRIP PLANNER



Plan trips the way you want to.  
Over 17,000 parks of all types.  
57,000 points of interest including  
golf, casinos, Walmarts, vets, fuel.

Highlight your memberships.  
Take advantage of discounts.

Try our **FREE Demo!**  
[www.RVTripWizard.com](http://www.RVTripWizard.com)

# Keep it COLD

Don't buy a new RV refrigerator

Replace your  
existing cooling  
unit with a **NEW**  
replacement  
cooling unit  
Made in the USA



Consider Doing a  
Factory Install



- Each unit individually tested
- Extend the life of your existing RV refrigerator
- 3 Year warranty on ALL of our units
- Fast & friendly customer service



**JC Refrigeration**  
Call Us Today  
(260) 768-4067

[www.JC-Refrigeration.com](http://www.JC-Refrigeration.com)

## NEW for RV Owners Group

### SAVE 70% ON WHOLE LIFE INSURANCE PREMIUMS

A male age 65 can buy  
with the group \$100,000  
permanent life policy for  
only \$150.80 a month

Learn more at [ipm1.com](http://ipm1.com)  
For a no obligation quote call toll-free

## 877-572-4889

**UltraRVProducts**  
.COM



## Workhorse Parts

**Actia Instrument Cluster Repair**  
3912 Harrison Ave Centralia, WA

Free Shipping on Orders of \$100 or More!  
[www.ultraRVproducts.com](http://www.ultraRVproducts.com)

## MotorHome.com



The online  
resource  
for the RV  
enthusiast

**NO EXTENSIONS  
NO LEAKS  
EASY TO AIR UP  
FOR DUALY  
PICK-UP & MOTORHOMES  
REPLACEMENT VALVE STEMS**

OUR STEMS CARRY A WARRANTY, EXTENSIONS DO NOT

BRASS  
**\$110<sup>00</sup>** + \$8<sup>00</sup> SH

[duallyvalve.com](http://duallyvalve.com)  
**800-300-2674**

## Auto-Park Brake Problems?

Chevy/Workhorse P32 & Workhorse W24

We manufacture high quality  
Pressure Switches that will  
never leak!

We manufacture a kit that  
protects your Auto-Park Brake  
from applying while in motion

We manufacture an Air Operated  
Park Brake System that is a much  
more reliable and cost effective  
replacement than the Hydraulic  
System you currently have

Call Brazel's RV Performance for more  
information or for help with any Auto-Park  
Brake problems. If you have an Auto-Park  
Brake problem, we have the solution!

**BRAZEL'S RV PERFORMANCE**

"Leading Quality Supplier"  
[www.brazelsrv.com](http://www.brazelsrv.com)  
**877-786-1576**  
Online Ordering RV Park Service Facility

If you want a basic, reliable  
towed vehicle brake system,  
here it is. The

## Ready Brake



- Supplemental Surge Brake
- Lifetime Guarantee
- Works with any brand of tow bar
- Call us or buy from any dealer

[www.readybrake.com](http://www.readybrake.com)

**NSA** 800-933-3372  
RV PRODUCTS INC Since 1996

## ADVERTISERS' INDEX

RS #	ADVERTISER	PAGE #
126	Avion Vans .....	83
107	BrakeBuddy .....	10
	Camping World .....	47-49
	Classifieds .....	79-81
	Coach House Inc. ....	54
103	Crossing Creeks RV Resort .....	5
105	DISH Network .....	65
104	Dave & LJ RV Interiors .....	78
	Destinations .....	75
101	Fleetwood RV .....	9
	Good Sam Extended Service Plan .....	30
	Good Sam RV Loans .....	69
	Good Sam Roadside Assistance .....	41
	Good Sam Travel Assist .....	83
	Good Sam Visa .....	20
105	Guardian Automotive .....	15
	Harbor Freight Tools .....	61
106	Holland Motor Homes .....	31
102	Hospad .....	5
108	Innovations Housing .....	63
129	Leisure Travel Vans .....	35
110	Lippert Components .....	29
115	MaintainMyRV.com .....	67
111	Miller Insurance .....	78
112	Newell Coach Corporation .....	84
113	Newmar Corporation .....	25
114	Nexus RV .....	58
	Phoenix USA Inc .....	66
116	Progressive Insurance .....	19
117	Protect All Inc. ....	53
119	RV Armor, Inc. ....	62
	RV Marketplace .....	74-75
120	RV One Superstores Inc .....	73
121	RV Roofing Solutions .....	64
122	RV World of Nokomis .....	71
123	RVRoof.com .....	77
109	Renegade RV .....	2
118	Roadtrek Motorhomes Inc. ....	17
125	SMI Manufacturing .....	63
124	Safe-T-Plus .....	46
127	Thetford Corporation .....	23
128	Thor Industries .....	45
130	Vogt RV Center .....	18
131	Walex .....	8
132	Winnebago Industries .....	13

While every effort is made to maintain accuracy and completeness, last-minute changes may occasionally result in omissions or errors.

## DESTINATIONS

### ARIZONA

**WATERFRONT RV CAMPING**  
Over 1400 Camping Sites & RV Sites in AZ

**Cattail Cove SP**

Kingman, AZ

Lake Havasu  
Cattail Cove  
River Island  
Buckskin Mountain

Lake Havasu City

Alamo Lake

Extended Stay 84 Days.

Available Online 24/7 at [AZStateParks.com](http://AZStateParks.com)  
or Call (520) 586-2283 (8 am to 5 pm MST)

Learn more & watch videos!

Arizona State Parks

## NEVER WAX AGAIN

Easy 2-step process. Wipe on, let dry. Looks like new, lasts over 12 months.

**Wildwood**

Restore and protect. No rubbing or buffing.

**SEE** our video demo on our website!  
[www.poliglowproducts.com](http://www.poliglowproducts.com)  
**800-922-5013**

**GUARANTEED**

## USA ROADBAG

### The Finest/Toughest Bikecover Built To Beat The Weather

- Made of 600D Canvas
- Call for Colors Available
- 3 Sizes Available
- Made in the USA

**USARoadbag.com**  
**(208) 660-6351**

## ENGINE OIL DRAIN VALVE

Makes your oil change easy and clean!

For  
-RVs  
-Generators  
-Water drain  
-Trucks

ORDER ONLINE  
tel:425-270-3466  
[www.OilDrainValve.net](http://www.OilDrainValve.net)

## TO ADVERTISE IN THE RV Marketplace or Dealers & Destinations

### CONTACT:

Terry Thompson  
206-310-6234  
[terry.thompson@goodsam.com](mailto:terry.thompson@goodsam.com)



**Good Sam Club**

**Good Sam Club now offers even more money-saving reasons to join!**

- Good Sam RV Park Camping Discounts
- Camping World Club Pricing
- Pilot Flying J Fuel, Propane & Dump Station Discounts
- Preferred Rates on Insurance and Roadside Assistance
- Plus Many More!

Join today at  
**GoodSamClub.com**  
or call  
**1.800.234.3450**



By Ken Freund

## Towing a Beetle

**Q** I just purchased a used 2005 Jayco Granite Ridge motorhome and have been looking for an older vehicle that can be towed. I had a Class C years ago and towed a 1978 Volkswagen Beetle. I was thinking of getting another one to tow now and it fits my budget, but there's no rating for any VW in your listings. Would a 1970s Bug be a good choice to tow with a 2005 Class C?

**Vicki Cosier | Lincoln, Nebraska**

**A** I find air-cooled VW Type 1 Beetles to be very good for towing. They are lightweight, track well and



replacement parts are still plentiful. They don't require any sort of modifications, just make sure there's enough oil in the gearbox, unlock the steering, put the transmission in neutral and release the parking brake. The last air-cooled Beetles sold in the U.S. were 1979 models.

### Speedometer Fluctuates

**Q** We have a 1996 Dolphin motorhome on a Ford F53 chassis with a 7.5-liter V-8 and a Power Gear jack system with four jacks. My problem is that my speedometer randomly fluctuates significantly when my jacks are raised or lowered. It doesn't do it all the time. I had it checked by various electric-type service technicians to no avail. They cannot accurately troubleshoot something that is not happening at the time. I've tried to document each response, but it doesn't show a pattern. The only way to stop the fluctuating is to release the emergency brake and then shut the engine off. If the engine is not shut off, and I try to drive away, it keeps fluctuating for 5 or 6 miles.

Also, it will not correctly shift; I can shift it manually without a problem. The speedometer works fine otherwise. I did change out the speed sensor on the transmission, and it didn't help. I emailed Power Gear, but the company just sent me a manual (which I appreciated).

I did change out the emergency contact switch in January 2013. The wiring goes from the ignition switch

through the emergency switch to the jack panel. The system worked great until last August. Then the random problems began again.

I've checked the wiring for connections and for cracks and everything appears OK. I changed the battery out, but there was no change. Even though the switch is new, could the switch contacts be causing the random issues? I am at a loss as to what to try next.

**Gordon Eno | Via email**

**A** This is very strange. I assume that you are operating the Power Gear system correctly and not trying to move the coach when any jacks are partially extended. The automatic transmission relies on the speedometer signal to control shift points. A short or ground in the wiring from the vehicle speed sensor to the speedometer could cause erratic readings. Running temporary wires could help rule that out. A weak battery should not cause something like this. It is possible that you are getting voltage feedback from the Power Gear unit into the ignition switch circuitry and then to the speedometer.

With the jacks retracted, try disconnecting the Power Gear system from the coach's electrical system

and see if you still have the problem with the speedometer and shifting. You might also have a faulty ground connection, which causes a similar condition. Clean and check the ground connections, and if that doesn't solve it, I would temporarily set up a voltage meter to monitor for spikes at the point where the speedometer gets its power. The fact that the switch replacement didn't coincide with the problem leads me to believe that it is not related to the cause. However, by disconnecting the Power Gear system and then troubleshooting the speedometer and shifting problem, this will eliminate the switch. I'd like to hear from others who have had, and solved, this problem.

### Dolly Causes Brake Activation

**Q** We have a 2013 Tiffin Allegro Open Road 36LA. I purchased an American Car Dolly with electric brakes to tow behind the coach. The motorhome has a factory-installed tow package and wiring harness by Ford. With the dolly connected and wiring plugged in, with or without a car on the dolly, when the motorhome brakes are applied, the front ABS system activates on the motorhome 50 percent or more

of the time. The ABS warning light does not come on. It seems that only the front brakes lock up. They do as advertised for antiskid braking: lock up then chatter. This occurs at a slow speed, 20 mph or less, when coming to a stop. At that point I release brake pressure then softly reapply braking. Sometimes it will lessen the chatter and sometimes not.

I had an authorized Ford dealer in Tucson, Arizona, do a diagnostic check, but it couldn't find anything wrong. I contacted Ford chassis experts and was told that Ford has heard about this issue with certain car dollies and suggested installing a diode in the brake wiring as other RVers with similar issues have done. My question is what size diode?

**Jay Sayrahder | Tucson, Arizona**

**A** It appears that you may be getting feedback from the EZ Brake control unit. Try putting diodes (rated 20 amps and at least 15 volts) in the two wires coming from the turn signal/ brakelights of the motorhome to the dolly (one per wire). You should be able to get them from an RV dealer or electronics store. They are directional, so make sure to install them so the end with the white or silver marking is on the side toward the dolly.

### Rough-riding Chieftain

**Q** We have a 1998 Winnebago Chieftain 36WL gasser in which we feel every bump in the road when driving. The motorhome has 53,000 miles on it. Is there a shock absorber that is better than the 1998 version? I even considered air-ride seats. Is there a company that makes air-ride seats with a stand-alone air tank or pump?

**Glenn Cannon | Waco, Texas**

**A** Air-ride seats could be installed in your motorhome, but I really don't think you need them if you get the suspension set up right. Start with the tires. Many people inflate them to the pressure listed on the sidewalls. Instead, weigh the motorhome's

axles when it is fully loaded for a trip, including passengers. Then use these numbers to find the proper inflation pressures to carry the weight in the load-inflation tables, which can usually be found at the tire dealer or on the tire manufacturer's website. Next, replace those old, worn-out original-equipment shocks with quality aftermarket units. Many RVers like the Bilstein shocks, which provide a good ride with well-balanced damping control. At 17 years old, your original shocks are probably pretty well gone.

If you find that you still want air-ride seats, check out the Knoedler Manufacturers Canada LTD website ([www.knoedler.com](http://www.knoedler.com)). It has several seats designed for motorhomes, but they aren't cheap. You can get a small onboard air compressor with an air tank, regulator and pressure-control switch for automatic operation and have it installed by many 4x4 shops and RV dealers.

### Slow Refueling Comment

**Q** I am writing in reference to the "Slow Refueling" letter from June that states, "Sometimes the coach will take fuel readily ..." and other times not. Your response was to blame the coach due to a crimped hose or a blockage causing the problem. I think that if the coach takes fuel once it should take it all the time. My feeling is that the problem lies simply with the pump nozzle, and in most cases the automatic shut-off is too sensitive, or the pump is flat worn-out (probably the culprit in all cases). Where the equipment looks good it works well.

**Robert Mayou | Via email**

**A** Over the years I have heard from many owners who have suffered from these problems, and I've often found that improper hose routing and installation by the coachbuilder was a contributing factor. It is easy to look underneath and determine if the hoses sag or are pinched, and correcting these problems is also usually inexpensive. Blaming the pump nozzles

Lifetime No-Leak Guarantee  
on RV FlexArmor®Roofs!



For more than a decade, RV FlexArmor® has been providing RV owners with peace of mind.



187 mils thick,  
dry to the touch in 6 seconds!

**RV FlexArmor® roofs are unlike any other option in the RV industry.**

- No More Leaks!
- No More Caulking!
- No More Tears or Punctures!
- Insurance Approved!
- Fully Transferrable Warranty!
- Dry in 6 seconds!

**CALL**  
**904-814-2104**  
**OR VISIT**  
**RVRoof.com**  
**TO FIND A LOCATION**  
**NEAR YOU!**



RV • HOME • BOAT • AUTO



**Shopping for Insurance is not like comparing apples to apples...**

**All apples are different**



**The right Insurance begins with your agent**

Home Autos	Mobile Homes
Recreational RV's	Rental Homes
Travel Trailers	In-home Business Boats
Renters Insurance	Snowmobiles
Condominiums	Motorcycles
Manufactured Homes	Personal Umbrella
ATV's	Medium Duty Truck
Park Models	5th Wheels
	Personal Watercraft


**multiple carriers**

**Choose the Agency that knows the RV lifestyle!**

5805 SW Willow Lane | Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
[www.gomillerinsurance.com](http://www.gomillerinsurance.com)  
**1-800-622-6347**

**DAVE & LJ's**  
RV INTERIOR DESIGN

**THE NATIONS PREMIER  
RV INTERIOR  
REMODELING CENTER**



**RV SHADES**

FLEXSTEEL FURNITURE - FLAT SCREEN TV INSTALLATION  
 AUTO MOTION SHADES - RV FLOORING - CUSTOM CABINETRY  
 Exit 21 Off I-5 Woodland, WA (360)225-7700  
[www.daveandljs.com](http://www.daveandljs.com)

## COACH & POWERTRAIN

in all cases is likely to overlook these problems and therefore not lead to a solution. However, there are many variables that can be caused by fuel-station pumps. Some pump nozzles have more sensitive shut-offs than others. Fuel that is hot or pumped faster may also foam more, which can cause the pump to shut off. Sometimes the refueling area is not exactly level, and when motorhomes lean one way or the other it can greatly affect whether the pump shuts off or not while filling. These are a few of the reasons refueling can sometimes be accomplished readily, sometimes not.

### Tire Troubles and Dinghy Choices

**Q** I have a 2001 21-foot Coachmen on a Ford chassis. I bought it used in 2011 and in 2012 replaced all the tires. During a trip in 2012, I lost a valve stem and the tire wobbled. It took four hours to get it fixed. Recently, I had another tire failure. I pulled off the highway and checked to see what happened. The inside left rear tire had shredded. Luckily I was only 5 miles from a small town that had a great tire shop. On the return trip, I felt a wobble again. This time, the right rear inside tire showed a smooth spot, so I had it replaced with a matching tire. This one had a blister on the inside. Then, when I stopped for the night and checked the tires, I saw that the left rear outside tire, which was not a match to the newer inside tire, had a bald spot. I felt it as the steering wheel wobbled again at 60 mph. So I made my way to a tire shop and had a matching tire put on. So if you feel a wobble in the steering, slow down and check all your tires. Also, if you have insurance on the tires like I did, be sure to get the date from the back side of the tire. I was reimbursed for my three tires and am insured again for the 2015 tires on the motorhome.

Also, I would like to pull my Jeep, but have been told my 21-foot Coachmen, even though it has a hitch, should not pull a vehicle.

**Mary Patton | Long Beach, California**

**A** You didn't mention what the tire dealers stated was the cause of the failures. Often, heat-related damage caused by underinflation is the culprit. I recommend that you purchase a tire-pressure-monitoring system and maintain pressures based on actual tire loading. Use scale weights and look up the correct pressures in the tire manufacturer's load-inflation tables. If you have the motorhome weighed loaded for a trip, including passengers, your tire dealer should be able to help you with this.

Regarding towing, many Class C's in the 21-foot range (continued on page 81)

### Prolong Extended Life Engine Treatment

To protect gas and diesel engines for up to 12,000 miles, Prolong Super Lubricants offers Extended Life Engine Treatment, created to address the two leading causes of engine wear: damaging friction and heat. Prolong's Engine Treatment is formulated with the company's exclusive Anti-Friction Metal Treatment, advanced technology that chemically bonds to metal surfaces in the engine and creates a protective layer that prevents metal-on-metal grinding, according to the company. It is designed to restore engine efficiency, optimize fuel economy and protect the engine. Prolong's Extended Life Engine Treatment is poured into the engine crankcase and is recommended for use as part of the regular vehicle maintenance. Prolong products do not alter the viscosity of the motor oil and owners are encouraged to follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding oil weights and service schedules. A 12-ounce bottle is available for \$19.95.

**Prolong, 800-540-5823,  
[www.prolong.com](http://www.prolong.com).**



## ACCESSORIES

**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](http://www.AdvancedRubberCoatings.com)

## MOTORHOME MOTORCYCLE CARRIER

all aluminum loader, 12 volt system removes in 90 secs. \$2,595 plus cargo deck platform. [mountainmaster.net](http://mountainmaster.net) 623-451-7121

## 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.

## MULTI-RESORT CAMPING RESORT LOCATED NEAR

THE MOHICAN RIVER AND AMISH COUNTRY WITH THE ABILITY TO CAMP ACROSS THE US/CANADA FOR \$10-15 PER NIGHT. CALL 740-258-3910.

## Gettysburg Battlefield Resort Membership

includes \$10 camping for US/Canada. Many more amenities including cabins. Asking \$3,800. For more information call 240-674-6097.

## FOR SALE

Multi Resort Membership  
\$10-\$15 per night w/your RV or Trailer  
Call Rod @ 330-324-5148.

## Year Round Camping Membership Located

Near Salt Fork Lake Includes Condominiums in 77 Countries + Camping across U.S. & Canada. \$10-\$15 a night. For Information Call 614-370-4873

## Multi-Resort/Year Round Camping Membership

Near Southern Pines, NC with camping throughout US & Canada + condo stays in 77 countries. For info contact Wayne Bradshaw 704-883-7719

## Year Round Camping Membership near Salt

Fork, OH, w/ability to camp across US & Canada for \$10-15/night. Adult child use privilege. Coast deluxe option \$5K 419-602-7980 Paul

## Mohican River Camping Membership For Sale

with ability to camp across US & Canada for \$10-15 a night. Also includes condos in 77 countries. For information call me at 740-454-2463



**MotorHome.com**  
The online resource for the RV enthusiast

## HELP WANTED

### SEEKING HIGHLY MOTIVATED COUPLES LOOKING

FOR AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY IN ADVERTISING SALES & RV TRAVEL. Good Sam is looking for highly qualified, self-motivated couples with proven sales experience, attention to detail and excellent customer service skills. Must be computer savvy and proficient in Microsoft Excel & Word, as well as comfortable working with mobile devices, such as iPads, iPhones, Androids and other tablet type mobile products. Experience in selling intangible products is a plus. Couples will represent the Good Sam RV Travel & Savings Guide, our websites and mobile app products as self-employed, independent contractors. Your focus will be selling print and digital advertising to RV Parks/Campgrounds and the Travel/Tourism market, while also rating and inspecting RV Parks/Campgrounds. Responsibilities include face-to-face visits in your RV, presenting sales and marketing opportunities, gathering accurate, in-depth information and applying criteria in evaluating RV Parks/Campgrounds. Early Spring through Fall commitment, traveling in your own RV throughout an assigned territory. *Contact us to learn more. Email: [christine.dist@goodsam.com](mailto:christine.dist@goodsam.com) with your name, address, phone and include in the Subject line: AC Desk WkUS.*

## HOMES FOR SALE



### #1 RATED RV RESORTS - S. Texas

Retama Village & Bentsen Palm Village  
RV Lots \$20s, RV Casitas \$120s.

956-380-6500 [www.bentsenpalm.com](http://www.bentsenpalm.com)



### TOP RATED RESORT - S. Texas

Retama Village - Supersites \$50s.  
RV Casitas \$120s RV Port Homes \$170s.

956-380-6500 [www.bentsenpalm.com](http://www.bentsenpalm.com)



### LILY LAKE GOLF RESORT- FROSTPROOF, FL

• Developer Close Out • RV Porte Lots 1/2 Price  
From \$29,950 While They Last.

1-863-635-3685 • [www.lilylake.com](http://www.lilylake.com)

## INVESTMENTS

### EARN 9.6% INTEREST

PER ANNUM

1 (855) 306-3223 Toll Free

*Not available in some states.*

## MAIL FORWARDING

### AMERICAS MAILBOX Forwarding in SD

LOW Rates/NO State Income Tax/Save \$\$\$

NO Wheel Tax/NO Safety Inspect / 866-747-3700

[www.Americas-Mailbox.com/TL](http://www.Americas-Mailbox.com/TL) Call us first!

## MOTORHOMES FOR SALE



## RV CENTERS

*-Adventure Starts Here!-*

### 3 Locations in So. California! 800-961-4464

San Marcos-Off Hwy 78-Camping World  
Accessory Store on Site.

Santee - Off Hwy 67 @ Riverford

Palm Desert - Off I-10 @ Washington St.

Over 300 Motorhomes & Towables!

[HOLLANDRVCENTERS.COM](http://HOLLANDRVCENTERS.COM)

### 2003 Winnebago 34' Journey DL, 330 HP Cat

65,813 miles, 4 Door Refrigerator, Washer/

Dryer Combo. 2 Slides Left Side. Diesel

Generator. Garaged. Loaded. \$65,000

805-489-7336



## Good Sam Club

Now, more money-saving reasons to join!

- Good Sam RV Park Camping Discounts
- Camping World Club Pricing
- Pilot Flying J Fuel, Propane & Dump Station Discounts
- Plus Many More!

Join today at

[GoodSamClub.com](http://GoodSamClub.com)

or call 1.800.234.3450

## MOTORHOMES WANTED

**SELL RV NOW**  
Fast cash for your Motor Home

**1-800-607-9754**  
**405-534-1405**  
**SELLRVNOW.com**



**\$ RV BUYERS OF AMERICA \$**  
**WE BUY YEAR 2003 & NEWER DIESEL**  
**& GAS • FREE NATIONWIDE PICKUP**  
**TOLL FREE 1-888-782-8987**  
**[www.rvbuyersusa.com](http://www.rvbuyersusa.com)**  
**WE WILL BEAT ANY DEALER PRICE**



**LUXURY MOTOR HOMES FOR SALE**  
**888-783-4009 / 813-783-4000**  
**[MotorHomeFinders.com](http://MotorHomeFinders.com)**

**WE BUY LATE MODEL MOTORHOMES**  
**- INSTANT CASH**  
**- NATIONWIDE PICKUP**

**CALL JOE:**  
**831-458-6166**



50 Years of Business Integrity

**CASH FOR YOUR RV!**  
**LA MESA RV**  
**EXPERIENCE LIFE**

**Buying 2005 and Newer Motorhomes!**  
**[www.usedrvpros.com](http://www.usedrvpros.com)**  
**Call 866-687-2274**

**WANTED USED DIESELS**  
SPECIALIZING IN NEWMARS  
NATIONWIDE PICKUP  
(602) 421-3870

**I BUY MOTORHOMES**  
CALL RALPH...Regardless of your payoff!  
Get Paid in LESS than 48 hours.  
I'll come to you...ANYTIME-ANYWHERE!!  
NATIONWIDE 210-287-2628

**NORTHEAST MOTORHOME WHOLESALER**  
Cash for your late model gas or  
diesel motorhome. Will buy nationwide.  
Toll free 866-803-6787 [www.futuresrv.com](http://www.futuresrv.com)

**NATIONWIDE RV BUYER**  
Searching for Pre-Owned RVs  
Call 303.717.0880 or [topbuyer@rvbuyerswest.com](mailto:topbuyer@rvbuyerswest.com)  
[www.rvbuyerswest.com](http://www.rvbuyerswest.com)

**\$ CASH \$ TOP DOLLAR PAID for late-model motorhomes.**  
All makes and models.No hassles.  
For instant cash call Keith Roy  
(toll-free) at 1-888-227-4078, PEDATA RV CENTER.

**WE BUY MOTORHOMES**  
2000 & NEWER - Best Prices for Best Coaches  
CASH Payment & NATIONWIDE Pick Up  
Contact Bill Fishfader @ 1-509-993-0321.

## RECREATIONAL VEHICLES FOR SALE

**RV REGISTRY**  
[www.rvregistry.com](http://www.rvregistry.com)  
Motorhomes, Trailers & Fifth Wheels  
For Sale by Owners  
No Sales Commissions  
Buyers/Sellers 800-546-8457

## RV FINANCING

**THE ORIGINAL RV FINANCING ONLINE 1998**  
LOW RATES, GREAT SERVICE, NATIONWIDE  
1998 AND NEWER RVs ALL TYPES  
[www.RVFINANCING.COM](http://www.RVFINANCING.COM)  
CALL NOW-toll free 888-929-4424

**LIST YOUR RV FOR SALE, BUYERS WAITING**  
WE WILL FINANCE YOUR RV BUYER  
RVs of all types. Diesel, Gas, Trailers, 5ers, Toads  
•••[www.RVclearinghouse.com](http://www.RVclearinghouse.com)

**MONTANA FINANCING/INSURANCE**  
[www.RVLLC.COM](http://www.RVLLC.COM)  
[www.DIESELPURSHERSFORSALE.COM](http://www.DIESELPURSHERSFORSALE.COM)  
[www.TOYHAULERFINANCING.COM](http://www.TOYHAULERFINANCING.COM)



## RV LOTS FOR SALE OR RENT



**Scaley Mtn, NC RV Lot w/stream. Private**  
10 site condo park. El 3100' gated, paved  
storage unit. Restricted to Diesel Pushers.  
Sell or rent 1-706-746-5886.

## RV RESORT LOT RENTALS



**THE ULTIMATE MOTOR COACH RESORT™**  
**OUTDOOR RESORT INDIO is a beautiful Class A**

Resort located near sunny Palm springs, CA.  
This active luxury adult resort features  
free golf, tennis, pickle ball, fitness ctr &  
much more. The Ultimate Motor Coach  
Experience in the Palm Springs area.  
[www.orindio.com](http://www.orindio.com) 1-800-892-2992

## RV SPACES FOR RENT

**LARGE RV SPACES-Bellflower, CA. 55+ only**  
1 mo. min. Pool, billiards, clubhouse, WIFI.  
Website: [rosewoodland.com/mhp](http://rosewoodland.com/mhp)  
[Rosewoodrvpark@gmail.com](mailto:Rosewoodrvpark@gmail.com) 562-867-3227

## SERVICES



Jared S. Heggen  
Serving clients since  
~ 1997 ~

Register your vehicle in Montana.  
Avoid sales tax and  
high licensing fees.

Call to speak to a licensed MT  
attorney about forming a LLC.

**Heggen Law Office, P.C.**

[www.HeggenLawOffice.com](http://www.HeggenLawOffice.com)  
(888)777-5032



**NATIONWIDE WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT SERVICE**  
Insurance claim specialists, OEM Glass  
All makes and models, National warranty  
\$100 off [MobileRVGlass.com](http://MobileRVGlass.com) 855-778-4527



Let us help you BUY YOUR RV ... TAX FREE!  
 We guarantee BEST service and price  
 Receive \$100 Gas Card & FREE Mail Fwding  
 Call 888.430.3388 www.MontanaRV.net

**ACTION SERVICES, LLC**

Consult a Licensed Montana Attorney  
 No Sales Tax in MT -- Low License Fees  
 Financing & Insurance -- For Professional Service  
 Call 800-481-0013 www.actionservices-mt.com

**TAX FREE RV -- YOUR TAX SAVINGS EXPERTS**  
 The best RV tax package in Montana. Save  
 Thousands! Call now to speak to a specialist.  
 888-441-5741--www.taxfreerv.com

**PAY NO SALES TAX**

**Get the Facts, not the Hype**

Speak to an Attorney, not a Salesman  
 Three Montana Attorneys on Staff  
 Bennett Law Office, P.C., Missoula, MT  
 www.bennettlawofficepc.com 866-543-5803

**#1 IN SALES TAX SAVINGS**

PAY NO SALES TAX! We have helped 1000's save  
 over the past 18 yrs. Call & talk to a CPA for  
 professional, friendly service! [www.rvtax.com](http://www.rvtax.com)  
 Mountain States Consulting 800-565-4504

**TOURS**



**RV Tours & Rallies across North America**

Alaska • Canada • USA • Mexico+Overseas  
 Visit [www.AdventureCaravans.com](http://www.AdventureCaravans.com) or  
 call for your FREE Catalog 844-872-7897



**RV CARAVANS AND RALLIES**

Experience the joy of organized RV Tours  
 to destinations across the USA, Canada,  
 Alaska & Overseas. Maximize your Travel.  
 800-952-8496 [www.fantasyrvtours.com](http://www.fantasyrvtours.com)

**CLASSIFIED RATES**

**Display Classified Advertising Rate**

1" ad B/W..... \$395  
 2" ad B/W..... \$675  
 Add \$75 for color.  
 Frequency discounts apply.

**Boldface Type**

Please note first line is boldface at no  
 charge. Add \$5/line for additional bold  
 type.

**Private Party**

For individuals selling personally-  
 owned items, such as an RV, truck,  
 auto, campground membership  
 resale. \$32 per line, four-line  
 minimum, 40 characters per line. No  
 charge for phone number OR email  
 address.

**Photos**

For ad with picture, add \$65 (B/W or  
 color print acceptable; high-resolu-  
 tion digital image preferred).  
 Limit one photo per ad.

**Optional Red Type**

For your ad to appear in red type, add  
 \$50 for Commercial ad, add \$25 for  
 Private Party ad.

**How To Place An Ad**

Submit ad copy by mail, email or fax.  
 Please include your name, address  
 and phone number. Mail: Send with  
 payment (check; money order; VISA,  
 MC, Discover or American Express  
 number, signature and expiration  
 date) to:

MotorHome Classifieds  
 Attention: Katey Purgatorio  
 3431 S. 257th Street  
 Kent, WA 98032

**Questions:** Phone 847-229-6756  
**Email:** [katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com](mailto:katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com)

(continued from page 78)

can handle moderately sized dinghy ve-  
 hicles. Subtract the total weight of your  
 motorhome from its gross combined  
 weight rating and you'll have the towing  
 limitations. Weigh the Jeep and you'll  
 know if it can be towed by your coach.  
 You can take it to the same scale as you  
 use for the motorhome.

**Baffled by Batteries**

**Q** I have a 2000 Four Winds 5000  
 Class C. While it was in storage  
 and plugged into electricity, I started  
 the engine to let it run for a while. Then  
 it occurred to me that that might not be  
 a good idea. I understand there is a so-  
 lenoid switch that separates the chas-  
 sis and house battery when the engine  
 is not running, that the house battery  
 is charged by the alternator when the  
 engine is running, and that the house  
 battery is charged by the converter  
 when plugged into electricity. But what  
 happens when both are connected to  
 electricity and the engine's running?  
 Does the converter sense the alternator  
 charge current and drop out?

**Steve Hettinger | Tuscola, Illinois**

**A** If you have a smart-charger type  
 converter (typically added after-  
 ward, because they didn't fit them to  
 these coaches 15 years ago), the con-  
 verter would cut back. An alternator  
 will also limit charging voltage based on  
 what voltage its regulator "sees." The  
 power source putting out the highest  
 voltage will prevail. Both are limited at  
 the high end, and it won't hurt anything.  
 Otherwise, you would hear about lots  
 of parts and battery failures from doing  
 this, which you don't. **M**

**Have a Tech Question?**

**Contact our experts:**

Email [tech@motorhomemagazine.com](mailto:tech@motorhomemagazine.com)  
 or write to *MotorHome*, 2750 Park View  
 Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036  
 (please include your name, city and  
 state). Selected letters will be answered  
 in the magazine, but time does not permit  
 individual replies.



# Freedom Isn't Free

Even so, it comes at a price these two full-time creative “technomads” feel is more than worth it

By Alan Rider

In his book “On the Rez,” author Ian Frazier suggests that it was the American Indian who first introduced our ancestors to the then-revolutionary idea of individual freedom.

Instead of being bound to a life of serfdom, bowing and scraping before some feudal lord, our forefathers saw in those Native Americans an egalitarian society where every man was free to speak his mind and go his own way.

Fast forward six centuries, give or take, and this idea of self-determination has become deeply rooted in American culture. Which I believe helps explain the passion many of us feel for motorhome travel. In fact, I’m convinced that our rolling homes are nothing less than the ultimate manifestation of individual freedom in our modern world.

Of course, historical figures from Eleanor Roosevelt to existentialist philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche would be quick to remind us that with that freedom comes responsibility. What a couple of buzz-kills, huh?

Nevertheless, it’s a balancing act that my friends Cherie Ve Ard and Chris Dunphy seem to be managing quite nicely. This pair of 40-somethings has been crisscrossing the U.S. nonstop since 2006, most recently in a converted 1961 GM bus they named Zephyr.

Because they’re neither retired nor independently wealthy, Chris and

Cherie constantly find themselves juggling the freedom that comes with their nomadic lifestyle with the responsibility of earning a living.

“We work hard on our computer consulting jobs, partly because we feel like we need to overcome the perception that nomads are just footloose and fancy-free,” Cherie explains. “But the flip side of that coin is just as important, namely that we make it a point not to overcommit to too many projects so we have a chance to enjoy the benefits that come with life on the road.”

In their spare time, the pair blog extensively about their travels and the technology that makes their mobile lifestyle possible. The combination of these two subjects has resulted in a website ([www.technomadia.com](http://www.technomadia.com)) with more than a half-dozen useful online resource guides, and the development of three RV-friendly smartphone apps (Coverage?, State Lines and US Public

Lands). They’ve also written a comprehensive book-length guide called “The Mobile Internet Handbook” ([www.rvmobileinternet.com/book](http://www.rvmobileinternet.com/book)) that’s an absolute must-read for any RVer who needs to stay connected while on the road.

Consequently you’ll find their online home filled to overflowing with useful advice from two full-timers who have quite literally been there and done that. Content runs the gamut from down-to-earth practicalities (how to handle finances on the road) to cutting-edge technology (updating an older coach to lithium-ion house batteries). Whether you’ve just bought your first motorhome or have been on the road full time for years, it’s a safe bet you’ll learn a few things from the techy pair’s blog and YouTube video channel.

When I asked Chris and Cherie — a couple who refers to themselves as “technomads” — if they could put their finger on one thing that’s been the key to their success, they came up with a surprisingly low-tech answer: flexibility.

“We set our intentions on going there or doing that, but then we try to not get too attached to that plan,” Chris says. “We’re big believers in serendipity, so we always try to be open to whatever cool opportunities might come up along the way.”

In other words, my friends, they give themselves the freedom to enjoy all those unexpected pleasures that are out there awaiting us all along The Road Ahead. **M**

“Our rolling homes are nothing less than the ultimate manifestation of individual freedom in our modern world.”

## Technomads ➔

For more than eight years, Chris Dunphy and Cherie Ve Ard have been perpetually on the road, combining technology and travel in their vintage bus conversion.



# DON'T BRING HOME **UNEXPECTED** **MEDICAL BILLS** FROM YOUR NEXT TRIP

TRAVEL WITH  
 PEACE OF MIND  
 WITH GOOD SAM  
 TRAVELASSIST



Join today and pay just  
**\$79.99**

## Good Sam TravelAssist Benefits Include:

- Emergency Medical Evacuation
- Transportation Home After Stabilization
- Prescription Replacement Assistance
- RV/Vehicle Return Service
- Travel Companion Benefits
- Medical Referrals

CALL OR CLICK TO LEARN MORE

**GoodSamTravelAssist.com**

**888-289-4615**



**Good Sam**  
 TravelAssist 

INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL & TRAVEL ASSISTANCE



# AZUR-BUY FACTORY DIRECT AND SAVE

built by



**FACTORY DIRECT  
MANUFACTURER  
OF LUXURY  
CLASS B  
MOTORHOMES**

**Factory Direct**

Starting at

**\$89,995**

## Standard High-end Components

- Ultra Quiet Ultra Insulated Shell Construction
- 3500 Mercedes Sprinter chassis longest wheelbase and extended version with walk in ceiling height
- White euro laminated cabinetry throughout with European hidden hinges
- Unique expanded pods allow 2 adults to sleep side to side adding 16 more inches and the following improvements to the 24KBX floorplan:
  - Comfortable 80 by 76 level king bed arrangement in rear convertible to a dinette
  - Exclusive 32 cu ft capacity storage compartment underneath the king bed
  - Floor to ceiling wardrobe with full size hanging capacity
  - Customizable passenger layout accommodates up to six people for travel

## Your "Ultimate Freedom Machine"



**National  
Factory  
Service  
Network**



Made in USA Wakarusa, IN | [avionvans.com](http://avionvans.com) | [info@theRVfactory.com](mailto:info@theRVfactory.com) | 844-284-6678

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice.

Avion Vans, Circle 126 on Reader Service Card

# Success...



**N E W E L L**

Success doesn't happen by chance. It comes from blending dreams with plans—imagination with calculation. It comes from attention to detail and boundless inspiration. It is the result of staying true to your vision while taking bold chances.

You've achieved it. Now enjoy the rewards. Step up to a Newell.

*Take the good life with you.*

To start your journey, visit [newellcoach.com](http://newellcoach.com), or call 1-888-3NEWELL.

Check our website for a nationwide list of Newell-preferred service centers.

Newell Coach Corporation, Circle 112 on Reader Service Card