

**UTILITY PLAYERS:** BATTERY BASICS AND A LOOK AT HEATING SYSTEMS

# MotorHome

Travel, Tech, Lifestyle – For the RV Enthusiast

February 2017



**HOME  
THEATER  
TO GO**

A GUIDE TO HIGH-TECH GEAR

**COSMIC  
EXPLORATION  
ON THE NEW  
MEXICO  
SPACE TRAIL**

**GREAT  
ASPIRATIONS**

Entegra's Aspire 42DEQ achieves a new level of design, luxury and function

**EXECUTIVE DECISION**

MONACO'S CLASS A IS A CLASSIC RIDE

**CANADA'S  
150<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY**

CELEBRATE WITH  
FREE ADMISSION TO  
PARKS CANADA  
LOCATIONS







FORETRAVEL  
MOTORCOACH

ih-45

*2017 Model Celebrating Our 50th Year*



See the Travelride III  
in Tampa



*Travel Without Leaving Home*

Nacogdoches, Texas

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

800.955.6226

Foretravel, Circle 107 on Reader Service Card





Admission to Waterton Lake National Park — and other select locations — is free in 2017 as part of Canada's 150th birthday celebration (see page 32).



Thor's Hurricane 35M is a family-friendly floorplan with dual slideouts, a spacious open living area and one-and-a-half bathrooms. Pg. 14

## 4 ON RAMP

A Winter Wonderland, Sans the Snow

## 6 P.O. BOX

MotorHome readers share their opinions

## 11 ESCAPES

Road Foodie, Wheels & Gear, Crossroads

## 64 TECH SAVVY

Quick Tips, Hot Line, Coach & Powertrain

## 74 THE ROAD AHEAD

People and places worth the drive

## FEATURES

### Owens Valley High..... 18

Follow in the footsteps of famed photographer Galen Rowell as you explore this California Sierra Nevada Wonderland

### Cosmic RVing ..... 27

Discover the final frontier and beyond with a handful of interstellar stops along the New Mexico Space Trail

### Park It! ..... 32

Celebrate Canada's 150th birthday in 2017 with free admission to Parks Canada locations while enjoying unheralded scenery and loads of outdoor activities

### Mobile Home Theater..... 38

Grab the popcorn: Enjoying the cinematic experience from the comfort of your motorhome is easy, provided you have the right equipment

### Great Aspirations..... 46

Luxury abounds in the 2017 Entegra Aspire 42DEQ, where attention to detail and top-notch craftsmanship help this motorhome live up to its name

### Power Source ..... 52

Motorhome battery systems are dependent on proper setup, care and maintenance

### The Heat is On..... 57

The evolution of existing heating systems and advanced new technologies help keep RVers warm throughout the winter

### The Classic Ride: Executive Decision..... 61

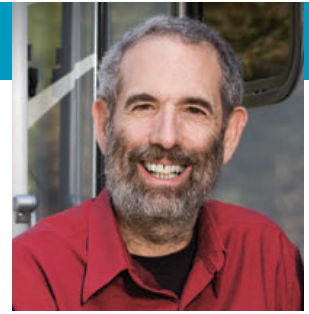
Monaco's 2002 upscale Class A motorhome challenges Father Time as it continues to look great on the road and in camp

## ON THE COVER

Built on the Spartan K2 raised-rail chassis with independent front air suspension, the Entegra Aspire offers a smooth ride to match its impressive exterior appearance (see test on page 46). Photo by Michael Gordon.



By Bob Livingston



## A Winter Wonderland, Sans the Snow

**S**taring out the large window that adjoins the dining table, I watched as puffy white clouds cleared the top of Mount San Jacinto, California, revealing a gorgeous dusting of snow. Earlier, in what seems like a rarity these days, a rainstorm blanketed the Palm Springs area where we were set up in an RV resort. While the abrupt change in seasons ushered in the reality of winter, it was hard to say goodbye to the balmy evenings sitting outside in our summer attire and visiting with other RVers.

Only a few days before, we were riding up the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway to watch the sunset and gawk at a tremendous full moon that made the ride down the mountain almost surreal. We were still in short pants that evening, although the cool air made us realize that wishing for spring and fall conditions to continue was futile. Still, Southern California and the Palm Springs area rate right up there with the best places to escape the winter cold — and the vast migration to the area from northern residents is evident.

The diversity of the California ecosystems, within relatively easy driving range, is amazing. Friends, who were parked next to us in the resort for a weeklong visit, reported that their journey home was curtailed by chain controls on Donner Pass, not far from Sacramento. They purchased chains for their motorhome, but made the wise choice to ride out the storm. That

evening, while talking on the phone to our (sort of) stranded friends, my wife, Lynne, and I were still sitting outside, enjoying a glass of wine and dinner.

For motorhome enthusiasts, traveling in cold, unpredictable weather does not have to be difficult or scary, and in many times is an adventure, as long as you have an open mind and a penchant for winter travel. Modern heating systems in motorhomes make it possible to be comfortable in adverse conditions with little effort. The array of systems used to keep our motorhome interiors warm is illustrated in the article that begins on page 57.

Battery maintenance also plays an important role in winter travel, especially for those of us who enjoy the adventure and exhilaration snow sports offer. While a generator certainly takes the pressure off of battery reliance, there are times when quiet and solitude are important to

the experience, and hookups may not be available in pristine locations. The primer on page 52 will help you understand batteries and their maintenance requirements.

The day before the aforementioned rain event that brought much needed water to Southern California and the reality of winter to our friends north of us, we were on a photo shoot in nearby Joshua Tree National Park. As the heavy, moisture-laden black clouds rolled into the area, the bright yellow sun filtering through the deep blue-sky openings produced epic lighting conditions. Visually, it was the kind of day photographers dream about, and clearly a prime example of the diversity of state of California.

Spending time in Joshua Tree's campgrounds is mostly off limits to bigger motorhomes, but those who can will be in for a treat as long as their unit is self-contained; the sites are strictly primitive. A trip through the park using your dinghy vehicle is also a great way to enjoy the spectacular desert scenery.

I'd be remiss not to mention that travel in California is far from nirvana; traffic problems in this state are legendary and fuel prices are among the highest in the nation. But good planning and patience will net motorhome owners a wonderful winter destination. **M**

### Contributors | February



**Ann Eichenmuller** is a retired educator and freelance writer living in Virginia's Northern Neck. She and her husband, Eric, divide their time between sailing and traveling in their Minnie Winnie.



**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.



**Dave Houser** is a Florida-based travel writer and photographer who has served as a regular contributor to *MotorHome* and *Trailer Life* magazines since 1985.



**Rhonda Ostertag** is a freelance writer of guidebooks and articles and frequent contributor to *MotorHome*. She travels and collaborates with her husband, photographer George Ostertag. The couple lives in Oregon.



**Alan Rider** has been wandering America's backroads for more than four decades, and is passionate about collecting memories of the remarkable people and unforgettable places he encounters along the way.



**Mary Zalmanek** and her husband, Jim, enjoy traveling in their 2003 Safari Trek when they are not at home in Monument, Colorado. Mary is the author of *The Art of the Spark* ([www.artofthespark.com](http://www.artofthespark.com)).



# MotorHome

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

**Consulting Editors** Wes Caughlan, Ken Freund, Jeff Johnston

**Contributors** Ann Eichenmuller, Michael Gordon, Chris Hemer, Rhonda Ostertag, Alan Rider, Mary Zalmanek

**Vice President National Sales** Terry Thompson

**RV 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 Seiditz (Southwest Region)  
 847-229-6813, sue.seiditz@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

## Customer Service

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

**Website** www.motorhome.com

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

## GS MEDIA & EVENTS

**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 2017 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

## Travel Ready Sea Eagle® TC16 Travel Canoe™

- 16' x 38" fully inflated
- Weighs only 70 lbs.
- Holds 2-3 people or 915 lbs
- Folds down to 40" x 24" x 16"
- Inflates to 10 psi
- Handles up to Class IV rapids



The Sea Eagle® Travel Canoe™ TC16 inflatable canoe can go from your motorhome, car trunk, or truck bed to the water in minutes. The 16' inflatable Travel Canoe packs small to fit in small spaces, but is one solid canoe. Three high pressure chambers provide superior buoyancy, solid rigidity and high performance. Perfect for fishing, camping, running rapids (Class IV) or just touring ponds, lakes, rivers and bays.

**SEA EAGLE.com**

For more information and a Free catalog call:

**800-748-8066** M-F, 9-5 EST

19 N. Columbia St, Dept MH027B  
 Port Jefferson, NY 11777

More than just  
Pennekamping.



With two oceans, abundant RV parks and campgrounds and an ideal location between The Everglades and John Pennekamp State Park, Key Largo is the perfect place to recharge your batteries.

fla-keys.com/keylargo

1.800.822.1088

**Key Largo** The Florida Keys



Sea Eagle, Circle 119 on Reader Service Card

Key Largo, Circle 102 on Reader Service Card



**If you frequently take long motorhome trips, what advice can you offer other RVers who plan on doing the same? What steps do you take to get your residential-home affairs in order? And, do you have any tips/tricks that could help out the bottom line?**

That's the question we asked in our November 2016 issue, and here are some of the replies we received.

### Better Safe Than Sorry

Things we do before an extended trip:

1. In addition to forwarding mail and stopping newspaper delivery, we also turn off the main water valve into our home. We learned about a friend who was deployed in Afghanistan whose toilet tank ruptured from a rusted bolt under the tank; his neighbor noticed water leaking from the front doorway. We also shut off the water valve to the washing machine.

2. For safety, we unplug the TV, home computers, copier/fax, toaster, washer, dryer and coffee machine, in case there is a power surge. A new trick we use to see whether we lost electricity temporarily is to put a quarter on top of ice cubes in a small bowl and put the bowl in the freezer. If we return home and the quarter has dropped and is now under the ice, we know our freezer

defrosted, then refroze. We also take in or secure outside furniture in case of strong winds.

3. To help with saving money, we adjust the thermostat to the HVAC, depending on the season we are traveling. Also, we suspend service on our TV/Wi-Fi/phone.

4. For security, we put two lights on timers in different areas of the house. We also notify credit-card companies of where we will be traveling, so we no longer get declined for charges made on the road. Our neighbors know to text us if any packages are delivered.

5. We have a wireless home phone, so we take the small unit with us to attach to any phone plugged into an electrical outlet (\$20 a month with Verizon; no need for an expensive landline from the phone company). No need to forward your calls to a

cellphone if you plug your home phone into your inverter outlet.

6. And (because I'm obsessive), I double-check to make sure the oven/stove knobs are in the off position.

**Tony and Maria Z. | Quitman, Texas, and Danbury, Connecticut**

### Communication is Key

When taking a trip of more than a month we always alert our utility companies. As we arrived home from one six-month trip, a guy was working on the water meter. I asked him what was wrong and he said that he was changing it because it was not working. I stopped him just in time. He advised me to let the company know when we will be gone. It's now part of our routine, and I usually turn off the water as well.

**Jon A. | Keizer, Oregon**

### Featured Letter

## No Stone Unturned

My wife and I often take extended trips in our Class A motorhome. The first thing we do is inform our neighbors, and we also have our daughter come in and inspect the house every other week. It's also a good idea to inform the local police department. Our house thermostat has a vacation hold setting, and we set the temperature to a colder temperature in winter or a warmer temperature in summer. This way any houseplants will be OK. The water heater should be set on vacation setting, which will conserve gas and keep it from freezing in winter. In order to make the home appear occupied while away, we put

lamps in strategic locations on timers that will emulate the way we use them while at home. It's a good idea to have all your utilities on auto pay so as not to have utilities terminated while away, but I've found that most counties don't have auto pay for water and sewer. I also have a local high-school kid mow the lawn/remove snow while we're traveling.

**Stephen and Deb B. | Fridley, Minnesota**







# THE DIFFERENCE IS IN THE *details*

2017 KING AIRE



## INTRODUCING THE 2017 NEWMAR LINEUP

Led by the redesigned King Aire, the 2017 Newmar lineup is better where it counts. 40% of all floor plans are new. And our Customer Quality Inspection is now twice as thorough, for industry-leading fit and finish that makes other coaches feel like a compromise.

Experience the difference for yourself at **NewmarCorp.com**.



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

Newmar Corporation, Circle 111 on Reader Service Card



**Check It Twice**

About the request for tips on getting the home ready when you are gone for a long period of time: The best thing I do is make a list about three months ahead of time so I can check things off as I do them. I hang it on the kitchen cabinet so I check it to see how much there is left to do. My checklist includes:

- Setting up bills to be paid online.

- Having someone cut the grass at my home, at the very least in the front yard, making it look like someone is there. I also have that person check for any flyers on the front step.

- Using timers for some inside lights.

- If you have a cellphone, give that number to your bank and any other place that currently calls your home for business purposes.

- Putting sprinklers on a timer, and utilizing a home-security system.

**Kathy W. | Sacramento, California**

**Water Wars**

We learned this from our neighbors, who learned the hard way. If you can, shut all water off for the entire house. If that's not practical, the minimum is to shut down the water supply to the icemaker at the source not just in the refrigerator. While our neighbors were away, the hose to their refrigerator fractured and resulted in extensive water damage to their kitchen and basement.

Another idea: arrange for someone else to walk through the house once or twice a week to make sure nothing is awry.

**Michael M. | Via email**

Turning off your house-water supply is a good idea. Nothing spoils a great RV trip like coming home to a flooded basement. Regrettably, I know this firsthand!

**Richena H. | New Haven, Kentucky**

**Primer Numbers**

Congratulations to Chris Dougherty on an excellent article on dinghy towing (November 2016). Though we have been flat towing for years, I read the article with interest and was glad to refresh my own checklist as I read. Three more things I'd like to call to dinghy-towers' attention (I know that, in a primer, Dougherty could not cover everything):

1) Know your tow-bar manufacturer's recommended maximum height differences between the center of the motorhome's tow-bar-receiver hitch and the hitching points — or baseplate mounting height — on the dinghy vehicle. Check it when your towing hardware is installed.

2) If you use rubber "keepers" on your safety cables, which I believe is a good idea, check them on every hook-up. They do wear, and can tear.

3) To know that your auxiliary brake system is working as needed, install a signal light on the dash of the coach. Be sure this is installed where it is not obscured by the steering wheel. (I wish

## Reader's Voted us #1 in Towed Vehicle Braking...



## AGAIN, For a Reason!

*The people have spoken, for the fifth consecutive year (2012-2016) SMI Brake has received the prestigious Readers Choice Award from MotorHome Magazine! SMI has three auxiliary braking systems for your motorhome that fit all cars, two that are permanent installations and one that is portable. Trust all your towed vehicle braking needs to SMI, family owned & operated for nearly 30 years. Made in the USA... and proud of it.*



**Be safe. Be legal. Be confident.**

www.SMIBrake.com • 1-800-893-3763



someone had told me that!]

**Bobby Bennett | Santa Fe, New Mexico**

*Thank you, Bobby, for the compliment. You are absolutely correct about the additional points you make. The height difference is usually outlined in the tow bar's instruction manual, and the tow-bar manufacturers offer drop and rise hitch receivers to keep the recommended angles within check.*

*I like the point you make about the rubber keepers. Some manufacturers are now using spring clips to keep the S-hooks securely fastened, but keeping an eye on the rubber ones and carrying an extra set is definitely a good idea.*

*In regard to the signal light, that's a good thing to keep in mind when looking at buying a system, and make sure that if a technician has to install the light "unit" on the dash, that they consult with you first to make sure it is installed where you'll be able to see it and access the controls. — Chris Dougherty*

### Room with a View?

When we first got our new 2002 Rexhall Vision 26-foot Class A motorhome, we were thrilled. Our first trip was to a beachfront campground. In the afternoon, the air cooled sharply and a light fog began to roll in, so we headed inside to be more comfortable. That was when we realized that most of the outdoors was still visible thanks to the panoramic view afforded by the Rexhall's abundant use of good-sized windows. We could enjoy the natural campground view from the comfort of being inside. Similarly, eating meals inside was more comfortable (i.e. better seating, no bugs or cold food, no traipsing meals in and out). Recognizing this brought to the forefront how important to us the panoramic view really is — enabling us to effectively "be outside" even in inclement weather.

Sadly, a panoramic view from major seating areas doesn't seem to be a priority with many manufacturers today, as evidenced by most of the new motorhomes we've seen. And admittedly, for some users, it isn't

either, as the presence of a panoramic window can limit counter heights and cabinet space. But if you go camping primarily to enjoy the scenery, you may want to be aware of the outside visibility afforded by window placement, quantity and size before you make that purchase.

I'd love to hear other readers' thoughts on this.



**Chris Klein | Manhattan Beach, California** 

## Question of the Month


**How important is a panoramic view, given the wall space/storage you trade for it? Have you found a motorhome that provides this kind of encompassing view? Would you like manufacturers to offer more designs with wider visibility?**

**Send your comments to:**

MotorHome, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036; or email [letters@motorhomemagazine.com](mailto:letters@motorhomemagazine.com)



## For us, leisure time is the most precious time of all



The Alde Heating System uses hydronic heating technologies that are more sophisticated than in most people's homes. Even though innovation is one of our strengths, we don't innovate for the sake of it. The comfort of thousands of camper owners all over the world is what drives us. For us, leisure time is the most precious time of all.

[www.alde.us](http://www.alde.us)



# Customer Appreciation

Get a Free Carefree Picnic Blanket with qualifying purchase

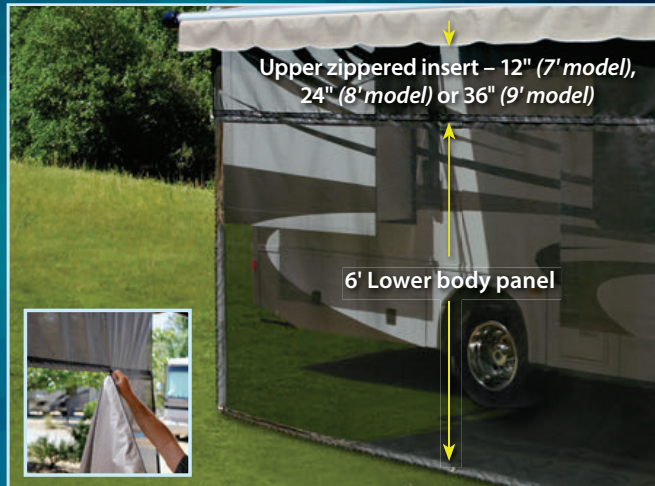
## LED Lights™

Light bright enough to read by!



## EZ ZipBlocker™

Block the sun ... not your view!



3M adhesive backed LEDs are great for enjoying the evening outside. They operate on 12V or 110V power for quick, easy DIY installation and work with competitive brands. They are available in white or RGB colors, feature a waterproof RF receiver and wireless remote control with an adjustable color wheel. Install them anywhere on your coach!!

The EZ ZipBlocker is a one-of-a-kind, two-piece blocker featuring a variably sized zippered insert and 6' body panel. This allows you to easily reach the zipper on taller RVs where you would otherwise need a ladder to install your blocker. Available in 10', 15', and 19' widths with a 7', 8', or 9' drop. Includes stakes, cords, and storage bag.



## FREE PICNIC BLANKET!

Return this coupon with proof of purchase of Carefree's Awning Extend'r, Pole Kit, any LED kit, EZ ZipBlocker, or Sun/SideBlocker and get a Carefree blanket for FREE! A \$29.99 value. Mail the completed coupon to:

MH-Promo, Carefree of Colorado, 2145 W 6th Ave, Broomfield, CO 80020

Coupon expires 4/30/2017.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Carefree wins best awning of 2016!



For more information about Carefree products, please visit us at [www.CarefreeOfColorado.com](http://www.CarefreeOfColorado.com)

Carefree of Colorado, Circle 104 on Reader Service Card





## Old Car City USA

Mother Nature intertwines with manmade steel, plastic and rubber for an automotive art exhibit

By Dave G. Houser

**H**idden away in the Georgia woods, about an hour's drive north of Atlanta, an extraordinary museum has taken root.

Scattered across 34 acres in the rural community of White is a vintage-car scrapyard that serves as the final resting place for more than 4,200 American autos and trucks, dating from 1918 to 1972. Old Car City USA is said to be the world's largest auto junkyard. But more than a traditional junkyard, it exists as a decaying repository of the auto industry, lovingly neglected and open for all to see as one of north Georgia's most popular tourist attractions. Visitors can wander more than 6 miles of trails, paying \$15 to browse and \$25 to take photos.

Strewn about in various stages of rusting ruin, the vehicles are only part of the attraction. Mother Nature has added her input, draping the cars in greenery, wrapping them in vines and coating them with moss. They have become literally one with the environment.

The result is nothing less than a sprawling outdoor art gallery – a picturesque scene of abandonment where nature has helped create stunning color schemes in rusting hoods, roofs, door panels and engine blocks.

A sign at the entrance reads "Welcome to the World's Largest Knowd Old Car Junkyard." Another proclaims "CARS, ART, NATURE, HISTORY," which pretty well sums up what Old Car City USA is all about.

Visitors are welcome Wednesday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, call 770-382-6141, or visit [www.oldcarcityusa.com](http://www.oldcarcityusa.com).



From far left: Old Car City USA began life as an automotive dealership in 1931 and remains family-owned and operated to this day. More than 4,200 cars reside among the lush vegetation of the deep South, resulting in a true one-of-a-kind experience.



By Bobbie Hasselbring

# Wing It!

**N**othing is more synonymous with the western New York city of Buffalo than Buffalo wings, crispy chicken wings sloshed with hot sauce and served with celery and blue-cheese dressing. These tasty appetizers make the perfect finger food for tailgating or for a big-game get-together with your favorite RVing friends.

Most food history experts credit Teressa Bellissimo, co-owner of the Anchor Bar in Buffalo, New York, with inventing Buffalo chicken wings, though the story of how they came about varies.

In one version, it was late at night in 1964 and a group of Bellissimo's son's friends showed up hungry at her bar. Her son, Dominic, asked her to prepare something for them to eat. She used what she had on hand — chicken wings separated into flats and drumettes and fried crisp without breading. She slathered them with vinegary cayenne pepper sauce and butter, and served them with celery and blue cheese dressing. In another version of the story, Dominic's father recounted the invention as having been the result of receiving an accidental delivery of chicken wings rather than the usual chicken necks.

Either way, the wings were an instant hit. Today, you can eat Buffalo chicken wings at the original Anchor Bar at Main and East North Streets (and other locations) and at many bars and eateries throughout the city. Chicken wings have traveled well beyond Buffalo's borders, and flavors have expanded from the original hot-wing sauce to flavors like barbecue, Parmesan garlic and sweet and sour. Chain restaurants such as Wings N'Curly, Buffalo Wild Wings, Hooters and even Pizza Hut now offer Buffalo chicken wings. The National Chicken Council estimates we'll eat 1.3 billion pounds of wings during the Big Game this February.

We recently enjoyed wings at Duff's Famous Wings in Buffalo, where they offer crispy wings with sauces that range from mild to searingly hot. We ordered mild sauce (800 Scoville heat units) and it was flavorful and hot enough to keep us dipping those crunchy celery sticks in blue-cheese dressing.

We also purchased some Duff's Wing Sauce and some from the original Anchor Bar.

## Have an iconic recipe or eatery you'd like to share?

Email [bobbie@realfoodtraveler.com](mailto:bobbie@realfoodtraveler.com) with "Historic Recipe" in the subject line.



At Duff's Famous Wings, even the mild wings are spicy, measuring 800 Scoville heat units, or about ½ to ⅓ that of a typical jalapeño.

## BUFFALO CHICKEN WINGS



Here's a recipe to make your own Buffalo chicken wings. You can use premade wing sauce, or prepare your own using the recipe below.

### Sauce

- ☐ 6 tablespoons Frank's RedHot Original hot sauce
- ☐ ¼ cup (½ stick) butter
- ☐ 1 tablespoon white vinegar
- ☐ ⅛ teaspoon celery seed
- ☐ ⅛ to ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ☐ ⅛ teaspoon garlic salt
- ☐ Dash black pepper
- ☐ ¼ teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- ☐ 1 to 2 teaspoons Tabasco sauce (to taste)

► Mix all the ingredients in a small saucepan over low heat until butter is completely melted, stirring occasionally.

### Wings

30 chicken-wing segments

### Frying Method

► Fry wings in a deep fryer set at 375 degrees Fahrenheit using vegetable or peanut oil. Fry 15 wings at a time for 12 to 15 minutes. Drain wings for a few minutes then place in a bowl. Pour sauce over crispy wings and shake to completely coat.

### Baking Method

► Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit. In a large bowl, toss wings with a tablespoon or two of vegetable oil, and then dredge in a teaspoon or so of salt and some flour. Spread out on foil-lined baking pans. Bake for 20 minutes. Turn wings and bake 20 minutes more or until golden brown. Toss wings with sauce.

Serve with celery sticks and blue-cheese dressing.



*Presenting the all-new Forza 38W. With accommodations for nine.*

When it comes to finding a motorhome that fits your lifestyle, the right floorplan can make all the difference. That's why we offer more than 3 dozen floorplans, including the new Forza 38W. With three slideouts, two full baths and a budget-friendly price tag, this diesel pusher is sure to be a hit with families everywhere.

So whatever your family size or traveling style might be, chances are we've got the perfect floorplan for you. See them all at [WinnebagoInd.com](http://WinnebagoInd.com).



**Drive it to your next family reunion.  
Better yet, hold your next family reunion *in it*.**



*Miles ahead.*<sup>TM</sup>

Winnebago Industries, Circle 123 on Reader Service Card

©2016 Winnebago Industries, Inc.





## 20-Foot Titan

Thetford has ramped up its Titan Sewer Kit by offering the popular sewer solution with 20 feet of hose. The new 20-foot Sewer Kit comes with two 10-foot hoses and fittings for increased versatility, and also includes a Revolve sewer adapter, replacement sewer-fitting seals and four End Caps. Built with Thetford's proprietary Thermal Plastic Elastomer (TPE), Titan hoses provide puncture- and abrasion resistance to protect against pinhole leaks, and are designed to perform in extreme temperatures, according to the company. The Revolve Universal Sewer Adapter fits most sewer hookups, and its revolving head allows a straight connection to the motorhome outlet. It is also translucent, allowing users to visually verify when the tank is empty and clean. When the Titan is stored inside the motorhome, the secure End Caps will ensure that there are no messy drips. Msrp: \$49.99.

**Thetford | 800-543-1219, [www.thetford.com](http://www.thetford.com)**

## Rock You Like a Hurricane

Thor Motor Coach has expanded its Hurricane lineup for 2017 with a new family-friendly floorplan. The 35M features double slideouts; a large, open living area; and one-and-a-half bathrooms. The 35M isn't all kids and crayons, though, and also offers a touch of adult-style luxury with solid-surface kitchen countertops, leatherette fabrics and high-sheen cabinetry all standard. The Hurricane is powered by the 6.8-liter Triton V-10 engine, offering 320 hp and 460 lb-ft of torque. In the cockpit, leatherette chairs provide comfort while driving and convenience while in camp; simply swivel the captain's chairs around and place the coffee table in between to create a cozy dining area for two. For sleeping, the 35M features a walk-around king-size bed in the master, a sofa bed, a Dream Dinette booth and a drop-down overhead bunk that can support up to 500 pounds. A 40-inch TV in the living area keeps everybody entertained, and a 32-incher in the master offers a welcome retreat for mom and dad. A third TV is located outside, making campsite tailgating easy. The Hurricane is plumbed for a stackable washer and dryer, and features automatic hydraulic leveling jacks. Msrp: \$139,350.

**Thor Motor Coach | 877-855-2867, [www.thormotorcoach.com](http://www.thormotorcoach.com)**



## Key Grip

Part of setting up camp often involves attaching a coaxial cable to the RV park pedestal or to your satellite antenna. Problem is, twisting that small hex on the end of the cable can be difficult, especially without a wrench. RV Cable Grip solves that problem by attaching to the cable/hex nut and greatly increasing the surface area for easier installation. The RV Cable Grip stays on the cable, eliminating the hassle of small co-ax ends. Each kit (\$16.99) includes one pair of grips, an installation tool and easy-to-follow, full-color instructions. A pre-assembled 25-foot co-ax cable (\$28.99) with two RV Cable Grips installed is available, as is a cable grid jumper (\$7.99) for advanced satellite-antenna installations.

**J Wright Concepts | 916-955-0048, [www.rvcablegrip.com](http://www.rvcablegrip.com)**

## Temporary Taillight Fix

A broken taillight or turn signal is more than a minor annoyance; it's a definite safety issue, and can lead to costly repairs.

The High Strength Lens Repair Film from 3M Auto offers

a quick and convenient temporary fix, providing a weatherproof, airtight solution that helps prevent further damage until you can have the problem rectified. The 3M High Strength Lens Repair Film can be applied to flat or curved lenses and is designed to mold to fit any surface. To apply the film, the user simply cuts the film to the correct size, removes the adhesive liner and applies to the broken lens. The film is offered in three colors — red, amber and clear — and is compatible with most vehicles. Msrp: \$6.99.

**3M Auto | 877-666-2277, [www.3mauto.com](http://www.3mauto.com)**



# LONG RANGE, HIGH PERFORMANCE WIFI EXTENDER



WINEGARD®  
**Connect™**



**Increased**  
*WiFi range*



**Secure** *personal connection*



**Simple** *to scan and find network*



**Connect** *to WiFi where others can't*

IDU (Indoor Unit)  
black

ODU (Outdoor Unit)  
white or black

Winegard Connect WiFi  
WF-3000 ODU white, IDU black  
WF-3035 ODU black, IDU black

**x3** HIGH PERFORMANCE ANTENNAS  
MAXIMIZE SPEED & RANGE

Designed as **one unit, to work as one system.** Other WiFi offerings mix and match components, while the Winegard Connect is engineered for the rigors of the mobile life. Designed, built and tested in Burlington, Iowa. Optional Ladder Mount available.

© 2017 Winegard Co



WINEGARD - READER'S CHOICE AWARD  
WINNING SATELLITE TV ANTENNAS FOR  
THE 5<sup>TH</sup> CONSECUTIVE YEAR

*On Sale Now for Good Sam Club  
members at Camping World. Also  
available at other RV retailers.*



## RV Armor Lifetime Roof



# leak and worry-free FOR LIFE.

- ❗ **Lightweight:** Seamless, and maintenance-free
- ❗ **Convenient:** Don't Move! We'll come to you and install your new roof. Two-day process with nationwide service.
- ❗ **Affordable:** Less expensive than a traditional roof replacement
- ❗ **Permanent:** Lifetime material and labor warranty. Tracked by the VIN #



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

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



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

### Abilene, Texas

## Lone Star Frontier

Learning about life on the Texas frontier is fascinating — learning it from life-sized, high-tech holographic figures of real people adds a very personal dimension. Frontier Texas!, a highly interactive, brilliantly conceived Western heritage center in Abilene, focuses on the 100 years between 1780 and 1880, when the identity of the area underwent a cataclysmic change from Comanche territory to Texas ranches and settlements.

Video presentations and holographic people instantly draw visitors into the extraordinary lives of the settlers and Comanche. Multiple perspectives provide a balanced view of a complex history. There are also surprising elements in the exhibits, including a huge pile of buffalo skulls symbolizing the mass hunting of these creatures one hunter called “shaggies.”

Three Good Sam RV Parks are located within 10 minutes east of the facility: Abilene RV Park (325-672-2212, [www.abilinetexasrvpark.com](http://www.abilinetexasrvpark.com)), Big Country RV Park (325-677-1401, [www.bigcountryrv.com](http://www.bigcountryrv.com)) and Buck Creek RV Park (325-672-2825).

**For more information** on Frontier Texas!, call 325-437-2800 or visit [www.frontiertexas.com](http://www.frontiertexas.com) — Neala McCarten



Photo: Neala McCarten

### Rancho Mirage, California

## Sunnylands Sojourn

If your snowbird travels take you to the Palm Desert, California-area this winter, a visit to Sunnylands Center and Gardens is a great side trip. Built in the mid-1960s by Walter and Leonore Annenberg, this compound is now the meeting place for foreign dignitaries and U.S. politicians, including the past seven U.S. presidents. Plan for at least a day to see the spectacular house and gardens, but first be sure to check the Sunnylands' website to confirm that the facility is open for tours and not closed for a high-level government meeting.

Your first stop should be at the Center, where you can watch a 20-minute orientation video that explains the compound's history and

details recent events. Next, check out the displays and artwork and, of course, the gift shop.

Then it's time to walk the 9-plus-acres of gardens, which feature more than 50 plant species. From November through April, a one-hour guided tour is offered.

Once you've had your fill of the beautiful flora, check out the Annenbergs' home, which was built to blend in with the desert environment. Much of the furnishings and art are from the Annenberg collection, and are well worth the time.

Sunnylands is located at 37977 Bob Hope Drive in Rancho Mirage, California. Parking is available for large motorhomes.

**For more information** and tour tickets, call 760-202-2222, or visit [www.sunnylands.org](http://www.sunnylands.org) — Morey Edelman



Photos: Morey Edelman



# GREAT COVERAGE

**For Every Mile of your Journey**

---

When the road opens up and you've got nothing but adventure on your mind, you'll have one less thing to worry about with us on your side.

**GEICO**® *for your RV*

[geico.com](http://geico.com) | 877-434-2678 | Local Office







# Owens Valley High

Photo opportunities abound in and around the town of Bishop, California

By Rhonda Ostertag

In our years of travel writing, I have made a number of writer pilgrimages. I have gazed at the items on Mark Twain's mantle that launched evening tales to amuse his children. I've placed a stone at the site of Henry David Thoreau's cabin at Walden Pond; walked the paths of Jack London's Ranch; and bowed my head at the final rests of Hawthorne, Emerson, Thoreau and Louisa May Alcott at Concord's Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. So, when my photographer husband, George, started to channel Galen Rowell's spirit, I was

more than ready to reciprocate and pack my bags for Bishop, California.

A world-renown outdoor photographer and adventurer, Galen Rowell's impact and creative eye invigorated the art of landscape photography. More than a decade after his tragic death in a plane crash, his work remains a mainstay in print media. On Bishop's Main Street, Mountain Light Gallery still exhibits his fine Sierra work and offers popular photography workshops with leading professionals.

Of all the magnificent places in the world, Rowell chose remote Bishop to make his home. The picturesque Owens Valley, the contrasting alpine and desert landscapes, and the 14,000-foot Sierra Nevada and White Mountain guard offered



BISHOP, CALIFORNIA

## Getting There

Bishop is located in the northern end of the Owens Valley in the eastern part of central California. From Los Angeles, take U.S. Highway 101 North to California State Route 170 North. CA-170 N becomes Interstate 5 North. Merge onto California State Route 14 North. Continue for approximately 70 miles, then turn right onto State Highway 14/CA-14. In about 50 miles, CA-14 becomes U.S. 395 North. Continue approximately 122 miles on to Bishop.

Photos: George Ostertag





Mobius Arch, accessed by a moderate hiking trail in Alabama Hills Recreation Area, offers the perfect frame for the mesmerizing sight of Mount Whitney.

him the ideal studio. The area is an important touchstone to photographers, and these days nearly everyone is a photographer.

U.S. Highway 395 — the Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway and Birding Trail — is the artery to inspiration. Subject destinations stretch from the Nevada border to Death Valley National Park. When you visit, plan to tap in to your adventurer's soul, exploring heights and dirt roads less-traveled. Having access to a dinghy vehicle expands opportunity and greatly eases mobility. Some locations are simple drive-to destinations, while others offer boot-to-trail discovery. But even at valley level and paved surface, you'll find stunning subjects.

Area camping falls short of high-end extravagance, but comfort is within reach. For more primitive stays, the backdrop usually compensates for "roughing it." RV campgrounds can be found in Bishop, Big Pine, Bridgeport,



Above: Sand tufas at Navy Beach, seen here in Mono Lake State Reserve, are the result of freshwater springs interacting with the alkaline lake water. This cemetery at Manzanar National Historic Site serves as a somber reminder of an unfortunate chapter in U.S. history.

Independence, Lone Pine and Lee Vining. But do your research, as some are dry camps and others cannot accommodate large rigs. Smaller BLM and USFS camps put you next door to shoots. Come prepared for wind and sun, carry water and keep fuel tanks topped.

The listed outings will get you started. Finding the light and soul is up to each photographer.

### Owens Valley

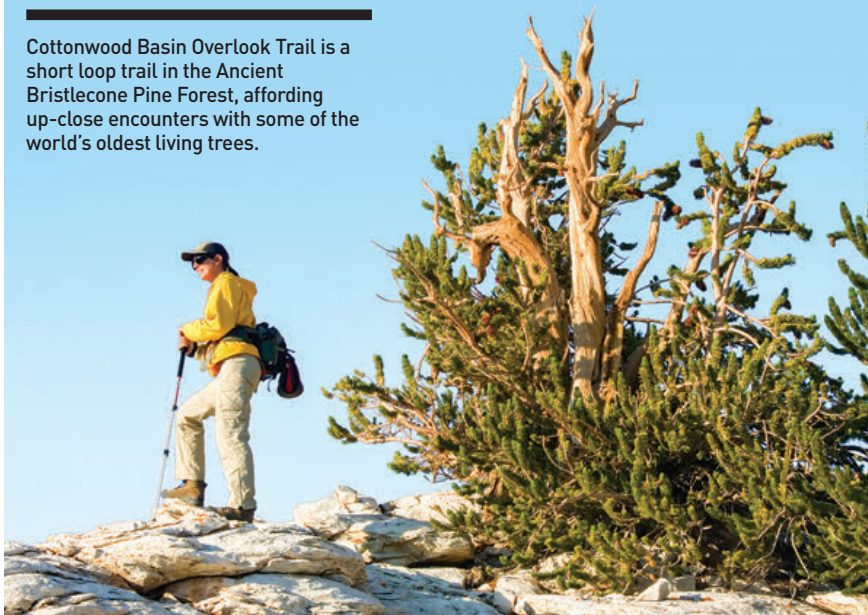
An ancient river and lake system, and lava, fashioned this picturesque valley in the rain shadow of the High Sierras. Ranching, mining and rail sponsored its dotting of

small towns, with Bishop being the largest. Bounded by forbidding heights, the valley suggested a natural passage for Native American migrations, wagon roads, railroads and now U.S. 395. Grasslands, wetlands, lakes and volcanic cones, craters and tablelands create vital wildlife habitat. Small museums, rustic structures, fences, one-room schoolhouses and the historic Mono County Courthouse in Bridgeport or the Inyo County Courthouse in Independence lend photographic detail.

### Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest

The ear-popping heights of the White Mountains, east of Bishop,

Cottonwood Basin Overlook Trail is a short loop trail in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, affording up-close encounters with some of the world's oldest living trees.





hold some of the world's oldest living trees. Twisted, runted (less than 25 feet tall), sand-polished and defying the elements, these trees sunk root when the great pyramids were erected in Egypt. The Methuselah Walk strings past members of the 40-century club, including Methuselah. A new recordholder tops 50 centuries of life, and snags can linger a thousand years beyond even these generous lifespans. What self-respecting photographer could pass up an alpine desert of gravelly white sand, an incomparable blue vault and such weird living sculptures?

From U.S. 395 near Big Pine, head east-northeast on State Route 168 to follow climbing White Mountain Road, paved to Schulman Grove and passable dirt road (no motorhomes) to Patriarch Grove. Self-guided nature trails at Schulman Grove and Patriarch Grove welcome strolling. Methuselah Walk is a more demanding 4-mile hiking loop.

### High Sierras

The weather-making Sierra Nevada range stretches nearly 2 vertical miles above Owens Valley. Dramatic and uncompromising, the range has attracted the world's best photographers, including Ansel Adams and Galen Rowell. Flowing and standing waters, chiseled peaks, high meadows, naked boulders, exposed rocky heights and high timber compose award-winning subjects. The mountains achieve heightened beauty with brewing storm, awakening and waning light



Fish Slough Bureau of Land Management ACEC combines red-rock petroglyphs with stunning views of the eastern Sierra Nevada.



and seasonal brush strokes. Most any east-west highway through the mountains promises grandeur. Whitney Portal (out of Lone Pine) and Onion Valley (out of Independence) are two paved, switchbacking swal-low-hard high routes. Whitney Portal Recreation Area has no motorhome parking but does have reservable RV sites (family sites; no hookups in the facility); Onion Valley Campground's RV sites are 25-foot maximum. Smaller is better.

### **Fish Slough BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)**

At the edge of the Great Basin, in a volcanic tableland that starts 5 miles north of Bishop, seekers of the road-less-traveled can find a trio of exceptional rock-art sites. Each jumble — warped and cracked — stands as a tablet to a bygone time, recording geologic processes and the passage of early travelers, most recently the Owens Valley Paiute Indians.

“The mountains achieve heightened beauty with brewing storm, awakening and waning light and seasonal brush strokes.”

Crowding the dark volcanics are petroglyph images of hunters and animals. Look for paw, hand and foot prints, as well as suns, dots, masks and geometric forms. Some consider the art spiritual, others hunting magic because of nearby game trails. Overcast days typically improve shooting. Because shadow and light can hide or overpower some images, photographers should seek different perspectives.

Slough marshes and shade pockets of willows and cottonwoods accentuate the desert, making the ACEC a Watchable Wildlife Area. Travel is on a good graded dirt road suitable for dinghy vehicles; the rock-art sites are only steps from parking areas.

### **Mono Lake**

Off U.S. 395 near Lee Vining, cinder cones and craters break the valley floor, low veils of steam announce area hot springs, and giant calcium-carbonate (tufa) towers scatter the lakeshore of the magnificent blue orb of Mono Lake. With the ancient lake having no outlet other than evaporation, concentrated minerals have rendered it three times more saline and 80 times more alkaline than the ocean. When this chemistry combined with percolating bottom springs and receding depths, the peculiar and grand cavelike structures found the light of day.

The brine shrimp and brine flies nurtured by the chemistry feed nesting California gulls and 70 species

THE LUXURY YOU DESERVE IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

It's time to reward yourself for your hard work. It's time to reach without a stretch. It's your time for Entegra Coach. Beyond superior construction, an industry-leading 2-year limited warranty and deluxe finishes, our 2017 lineup is packed with never-before-seen technology:

- En-telligent™ VegaTouch whole coach command center with larger touchscreen controls and HDMI input
- Blind spot monitoring
- En-Telligent Collision Mitigation System from OnGuard™ alerts the driver and automatically brakes in dangerous situations when deemed necessary
- Electronic stability control automatically slows the coach on extreme grades
- Pulsing third brake light
- Low-beam LED headlights

To learn more—and find your nearest dealer—visit [EntegraCoach.com](http://EntegraCoach.com)

*Some features not available on all models.*



**ENTEGRA**  
COACH®

THE QUIETEST RIDING, BEST HANDLING COACH ON THE MARKET TODAY. PERIOD.

Jayco, Circle 109 on Reader Service Card



PHOTO TIPS FROM GEORGE OSTERTAG

- Adjust your schedule to the light, not the clock.
- Shoot subjects of all scale.
- Use foregrounds to lead into your image.
- Seek contrasts in light, subject and mood.
- Take advantage of the unexpected.
- Be patient and try again. Even Galen Rowell had to court his subjects.

of migratory bird and waterfowl. The doubling reflections amplify the magic.

Mono Lake Committee and Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area visitor centers have materials to spark ideas and staff to point the way. Mono Lake County Park and the South Tufa Area are within easy reach.

### Bodie State Historic Park

North of Mono Lake, the surviving 5 percent of Bodie's original buildings capture the spirit and hardship of this wild gold town of the late 1800s. The leaning structures of darkened timber hint at once-bustling streets. Everywhere is subject matter, from the cobwebs on distorted window glass to the peeled, yellowed

newsprint holding back the wind at the clapboard cracks. Leaky washtubs, cure-alls in a store window and the repeated names on infant gravestones, all tell a story. Reach the park 13 miles off U.S. 395 via State Route 270, the last 3 miles on rough dirt.

### Manzanar

North of Lone Pine, this place given the charming Spanish name for "apple orchard," represents a dark chapter in American history: internment camps. In 1942, some 10,000 Japanese-American men, women and children were stripped of their property and held here behind barbed wire without due process. Most were U.S. citizens. Somber, haunting, pensive, the site

Above: Sunrise at South Tufa on Mono Lake reveals an alien landscape that contrasts with the magnificent blue waters.

truly evokes mood.

The visitor center provides the backstory, with exhibits, a short film and nearby reconstructed barracks and mess hall. The 3.2-mile auto tour reveals remnants of camp orchards, gardens and foundations. Internees lived and worked within the confine. Erected to the 150 who died during incarceration, the gleaming white cemetery obelisk is a striking emblem against the Sierra backdrop. On our visit, a Japanese tour group had left folded paper cranes. Prayer flags were other tributes.

### Alabama Hills

Viewed from Whitney Portal Road and dirt Movie Road (usually safe for dinghy vehicles, but check current conditions/road reconstruction), this rocky playground west of Lone Pine wears the name of a Confederate warship and triggered the imagination of Hollywood filmmakers in addition to Galen Rowell. From here, Rowell took his celebrated image of the Sierras, looking through Mobius Arch, also

NEW

## Low Cost Permanent UL TERM Life Insurance for Good Sam Members

WITH GUARANTEED LEVEL PREMIUM UP TO AGE 100

Call now to see how low cost your premiums can be!

[www.ipm1.com/gs](http://www.ipm1.com/gs) No-obligation quote 877-572-4889

## Our low-price guarantee: We will not be undersold!

Here's how it works: Shop around. Get your best deal.  
We will match or beat any written offer on an identical unit from our stock.

# HOME OF THE HAPPY CAMPER®

### CLASS A FULL-SIZE MOTORHOMES (GAS & DIESEL)



### CLASS C MINIHOMES



### CLASS B AND B+ SMALL MOTORHOMES



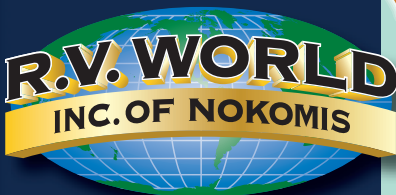
### TRAVEL TRAILERS, FIFTH WHEELS, TOY HAULERS, ULTRALIGHTS



## New RVs • Used RVs • Service • Parts & accessories

### Two convenient Florida locations to serve you!

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

**FAMILY OWNED AND  
OPERATED SINCE 1977**



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

E-mail: [info@rvworldinc.com](mailto:info@rvworldinc.com) • Web site: [www.rvworldinc.com](http://www.rvworldinc.com)

**TURN YOUR R.V. 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 • HEARTLAND TRAIL RUNNER, EDGE TOY HAULER, FAIRFIELD PARK TRAILER



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

**100%  
MAINTENANCE FREE**



Before

10 YEARS to get this

- No Caulking Roof Vents, Seams or Skylights
  - No Streaking • No Leaks...EVER!
- Beautifully finished seamless roof*



After

3 DAYS to get this!

- ✓ 10 Year Material & Labor
- ✓ No Leak Guarantee
- ✓ Work performed at our location or yours

# RV ROOFING Solutions

**888-847-7010**

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

**Call for FREE Information Kit**

**Booking appointments  
For February & March  
California & Arizona**

**Call to book your  
appointment now**

**Franchises Available.  
[www.RVRoofingFranchise.com](http://www.RVRoofingFranchise.com)**

**GETAWAY**  
BISHOP, CALIFORNIA



Clockwise from above: The remaining buildings at Bodie State Historic Park provide the backdrop for these abandoned autos. Time for quiet reflection awaits at Sawmill Lake on Bennettville Trail in Inyo National Forest. A turnout at the Old Marina Tufa Area offers RVers an expansive view of Mono Lake.



called Galen's Arch. A loop trail visits the site; expect plenty of tripod-carrying company.

The hills' rounded granite explores shades of buff, gold and pink, depending on lighting and lichen etching. The sharp-edged Eastern Sierras rise in contrast to the windows, blobs, bread loaves, pillars and imaginative layered forms. Phlox, paintbrush and cactus bloom lend seasonal accent. Where better as a photographer to practice Rowell's "previsualization," anticipating light and shadow and choosing the elements to invoke the desired impact or emotion?

Jeep roads and paths entangle the hills. Visitors can download the Movie Road Touring Brochure at [www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/bishop/suv.Par.46073.File.dat/movie\\_road\\_tour\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/style/medialib/blm/ca/pdf/bishop/suv.Par.46073.File.dat/movie_road_tour_brochure.pdf). In October, Lone Pine hosts a film festival, with guided caravan tours.

## Creative Juices Still Flowing?

Yosemite, Mammoth Lakes, Devils Postpile, Sequoia and Kings Canyon and Death Valley await nearby. **M**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Bishop Chamber of Commerce**  
888-395-3952, [www.bishopvisitor.com](http://www.bishopvisitor.com)

**Bureau of Land Management, Bishop**  
760-872-5000,  
[www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bishop/blmfacts.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/bishop/blmfacts.html)

**California State Parks**  
800-777-0369, [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

**Lone Pine Film Festival**  
Ticket office: 760-876-9103,  
[www.lonepinefilmfestival.org](http://www.lonepinefilmfestival.org)

**Manzanar National Historic Site**  
760-878-2194, extension 3310,  
[www.nps.gov/manz/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/manz/index.htm)

**Mountain Light Gallery**  
760-873-7700, [www.mountainlight.com](http://www.mountainlight.com)

**USFS, Inyo National Forest**  
760-873-2400,  
[www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/inyo/recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/inyo/recreation)





# NeXus RV



Factory Direct Manufacturer

## PHANTOM

Class C Motorhome



factory-direct  
pricing starts at  
**\$65,999**

High strength low alloy steel  
framing throughout motorhome  
– **72 % stronger than aluminum!**

Azdel® substrate in sidewalls  
and roof – **No wood products!**

Prices and specifications subject to change without notice.



*We Build Your Dream*



VIPER CLASS B+ • PHANTOM CLASS C • PHANTOM SUPER C DIESEL • GHOST SUPER C DIESEL • MAYBACH CLASS A GAS • BENTLEY CLASS A DIESEL PUSHER

Made in USA Elkhart, IN • **NexusRV.com** • info@nexusrv.com • Toll Free 855.786.3987

Elkhart, IN • Ft Worth, TX • Temecula, CA • Clearwater, FL • Mesa, AZ • New Castle, DE

Nexus RV, Circle 112 on Reader Service Card



# ONLY 1 IN 10 RV OWNERS HAVE SPECIALIZED RV INSURANCE.

Are you the one?



If your RV is currently insured with **ordinary auto insurance**, your policy may not cover all of the components of your RV. These gaps in coverage could **cost you thousands in the event of a claim.**

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



RV • AUTO • HOME • BOAT • MOTORCYCLE

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

Call: **1-800-951-1255** and mention savings code **TD-CX**

Click: **[GoodSamRVInsurance.com/code/CX](http://GoodSamRVInsurance.com/code/CX)**

Availability, eligibility, benefits, discounts and coverage may vary by state and carrier. The content herein is for descriptive purposes only. The exact protection provided is subject to the terms, conditions and expectations of the policy contract issued. Average savings based on new policyholder reported data from November 1, 2015 to November 1, 2016. ©2017 Good Sam Insurance Agency. GOOD SAM and the GOOD SAM ICON are registered trademarks of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC. Unauthorized use of any of GSE, LLC's trademarks is expressly prohibited. All rights reserved. GSI51552 - 1016



By Mary Zalmanek

# COSMIC RVING

## Exploring New Mexico's Space Trail, from early pioneers to space tourists

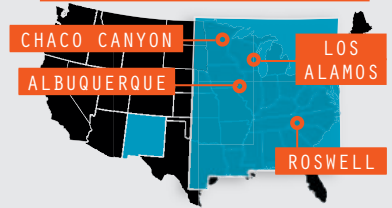
**T**he people of New Mexico have a longstanding fascination with space. As early as 100 B.C., Native Americans tracked heavenly movements from the prehistoric Wizard's Roost Observatory in the Sacramento Mountains near Alamogordo to determine when to plant corn. This fascination with the final frontier is well documented in the ancient sites, laboratories, military bases, universities and museums on New Mexico's Space Trail. Of the 52 sites on the Space Trail ([www.nmspacetrail.com](http://www.nmspacetrail.com)), less than 20 are open to the public. My husband, Jim, and I visited eight, traveling generally north to south, zigzagging hundreds of miles west and east of Interstate 25.

Chaco Culture National Historical Park's Sky Watcher's Station is one of eight archaeoastronomy sites on the Trail (four are open to visitors). Between A.D. 850 and 1250, Chaco Canyon was a major cultural center. Chacoans built complex structures along a 9-mile stretch of the canyon

floor. Some buildings were aligned to the lunar standstill, an 18.6-year cycle of minimum and maximum moonrise and moonset. On the nearby Fajada Butte, a site known as the Sun Dagger was used to identify solstices and equinoxes. Shafts of light passing through gaps in three large stone slabs

While visitors are not permitted on the White Sands Missile Range itself, more than 50 missiles and rockets that were tested at White Sands are on display at Missile Park.

A FEW STOPS ALONG THE  
NEW MEXICO SPACE TRAIL



### Getting There

The author began at Chaco Canyon in northwest New Mexico. Access from the south is not recommended for RVs. From the north, turn off U.S. Route 550 at CR 7900. Follow the signs to the park for 21 miles. This includes 13 miles of rough dirt road, the last 4½ extremely so.

pierced a pair of spiral petroglyphs on a rock wall. After rock slabs shifted in 1989, possibly due to increased erosion due to visitors, the site was closed to the public. In 2013, Chaco Culture National Historic Park earned an International Dark Sky Park certification as one of the best places in the country to stargaze. The park offers Night Sky programs and telescope viewing. Go to [www.nps.gov/chcu/planyourvisit/nightsky.htm](http://www.nps.gov/chcu/planyourvisit/nightsky.htm) or call 505-786-7014, ext. 221, to verify times and dates. Gallo Campground at the park has 49 campsites (14 for tents only; no showers or hookups, but a dump station is on-site). RVs longer than 35 feet cannot be accommodated.

Los Alamos, 165 miles east of Chaco, is best known as home to Los Alamos National Laboratory ([www.lanl.gov](http://www.lanl.gov)). It was established during World War II as a top-secret facility for the





Manhattan Project, where scientists built several atomic devices, including the two atomic bombs used in the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Today the mission of the lab is to “solve national security challenges through scientific excellence.” Included in the broad array of scientific endeavors are Earth and space sciences. They have been designing and building instruments for space missions for more than 50 years. When Mars rover Curiosity landed on the red planet in 2012, hundreds of excited scientists and science buffs gathered at the Bradbury Science Museum to watch NASA coverage of the historic event. Technology aboard Curiosity to test for signs of life on Mars was developed in Los Alamos. Visitors are not permitted at the lab, but we learned all this and

more in the History, Defense and Research Galleries at the Bradbury Science Museum ([www.lanl.gov/museum](http://www.lanl.gov/museum)), “Your window into the Los Alamos National Laboratory.” Although sci-fi fans often think of the writer Ray Bradbury, the museum was named after Norris E. Bradbury, the laboratory’s second director.

The White Rock Visitor Center Complex, which includes a campground, is 10 miles from Los Alamos. Payment for the 16 RV sites with electric hookups is made at a self-pay machine; that’s something I’d never seen at an RV park. The park doesn’t take reservations. The visitor center acts as gateway to Bandelier National Monument, where Ancestral Pueblo People lived in cliff dwellings in the picturesque canyons from 1150 CE to 1550 CE.

Our next stop was the RV park at Isleta Resort & Casino, south of Albuquerque. The casino offers plenty of entertainment, including a 27-hole golf course, concerts, a spa, a bowling alley and fishing at the RV park’s Isleta Lake. The New Mexico Rail Runner Express — New Mexico’s first commuter rail service — makes a stop near the RV park, delivering passengers along the 100-mile track between Santa Fe to the north and Belen to the south. Even though we were tempted to stay longer, we stuck to our agenda on the Space Trail.

At the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History ([www.nuclearmuseum.org](http://www.nuclearmuseum.org)) in Albuquerque, visitors can learn about everything from the origins of atomic theory, the Manhattan Project and the Cold War, to today’s peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Planes, rockets and missiles are displayed in the 9-acre outdoor Heritage Park behind the building. A volunteer explained the difference

---

Below: Some buildings in Chaco Culture National Historic Park were aligned to the lunar standstill, an 18.6-year cycle of minimum and maximum moonrise and moonset. The International UFO Museum in Roswell tells the story of a flying saucer that supposedly crashed in 1947, the recovery of debris and bodies, and the military’s supposed cover-up of the event.



Some day in the not-to-distant future, Virgin Galactic expects to take space tourists into outer space and back from Spaceport America, the world’s first commercial spaceport.





Above: The Bradbury Science Museum is "Your window into the Los Alamos National Laboratory," which was established during World War II as a top-secret facility for the Manhattan Project. Little Albert's Lab at the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History has numerous interactive exhibits that explain basic physics to children of all ages.

between a missile and a rocket; a missile has a guidance system, while a rocket goes where it's initially pointed. Inside the museum, two Minuteman Mk 5 re-entry vehicles for the W59 thermonuclear warheads sat side by side. One of them has been shot into outer space to test the heat shield. The other has not been used. The differences were striking. Re-entry ablation (melting or vaporizing) had removed several inches and many pounds of insulation from the nose-cone section.

After more than a decade of planning and construction, the National Radio Astronomy Observatory ([www.nrao.edu](http://www.nrao.edu)) formally dedicated the Very Large Array (VLA) Radio Telescope in 1980. The site, located on the plains of San Agustin 50 miles west of Socorro, was chosen for three reasons: The ancient lake bed is flat for 55 miles, it's far away from the radio pollution of cities and it's dry. Janet, our tour guide, told us they get 6-inch rain; when it rains there's a drop every 6 inches. The VLA consists of 27 antennas, each measuring 82 feet in diameter and weighing 230

tons. They are distributed along three arms of a Y-shaped configuration. The four commonly used configurations are easily remembered this way. In configuration A, the antennas are "a" long way from each other with a maximum antenna separation of 22 miles. In configuration D, they are "darn" close together, with a maximum separation of a half-mile. The antennas are moved on railroad tracks approximately every four months. The VLA is used by astronomers from around the world, who must submit proposals for observing time. Only 17 percent of proposals are accepted by a committee using a blind review process. Most proposals come from universities, but a few high-school projects have been accepted. The VLA has been featured in documentaries and movies. In 1980, it played a key role in the documentary "Cosmos: A Personal Voyage." In the 1997 movie "Contact," Jodie Foster

plays a scientist who uses the VLA to make contact with aliens. A major digital upgrade was completed in 2012, replacing the original 1970s-vintage electronics.

For reasons not worth explaining, we did the VLA as a day trip in our dinghy vehicle from Albuquerque. We would have preferred to find an RV park in Socorro or San Antonio. On previous trips to Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, we'd stayed at Bosque Bird Watchers RV Park. We moved the motorhome to Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort so we could visit the nearby Spaceport America.

Secluded on 18,000 acres in the desert outside Truth or Consequences, Spaceport America ([www.virgingalactic.com](http://www.virgingalactic.com)) is the world's first commercial spaceport. When the state of New Mexico built the Spaceport, it envisioned the day when Virgin Galactic would take passengers into space





# DIESEL TOWN TEXAS

Airstream Touring Coaches



Leisure Travel Vans



*Exclusive Dealer in Texas!*

Midwest Automotive Designs



Tiffin Motorhomes



Full-Line Dealer!

## VOGT

RV CENTERS

Airstream - Allegro - Jayco  
Tiffin - Leisure Travel Vans  
Midwest Automotive & More!

## VOGTRV.COM

### 817-831-4222

## COSMIC RVING



Above: The Very Large Array (VLA) is a radio astronomy observatory consisting of 27 antennas, each measuring 82 feet in diameter and weighing 230 tons. They are distributed along three arms of a Y-shaped configuration. The New Mexico Museum of Space History in Alamogordo has an outdoor exhibit with large space-related artifacts documenting mankind's exploration of space.

and back. After a fatal crash during a test flight of SpaceShipTwo in October 2014, the timeline for space tourism has been pushed back indefinitely. Nearly 800 wannabe astronauts have already paid the \$250,000 required to secure a seat on a future flight. Since we had neither the cash nor the courage required to buy a ticket to space, we settled for a preview bus tour of the facility through Follow the Sun Inc. On our three-hour tour, we visited the Space Operations Center, drove on the 12,000-foot "spaceway," which is a sufficient runway for anything that flies, and stood outside the futuristic Virgin Galactic's Gateway to Space facility. Sir Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic is Spaceport's anchor tenant, with a 20-year lease on their facility.

From White Sands Community RV Park, we explored the final three stops on our Space Trail Tour. The New Mexico Museum of Space History ([www.nmspacemuseum.org](http://www.nmspacemuseum.org)) in Alamogordo was the driving force behind the development of the Space Trail. Curator George House began the project in 2000. The John P. Stapp Air and Space Park is an outdoor exhibit with large space-related artifacts documenting mankind's exploration of space. My favorite part of the

outdoor exhibit was a pair of parabolic "Whisper Dishes." When I whispered sweet nothings into the focus of the acoustic mirror, Jim could hear me with his ear to the other one 72 feet away. Inside the museum, there are numerous fascinating exhibits and displays. Icons of Exploration showcases a real moon rock and replicas of the first man-made satellites. The X-Prize/X-Cup exhibit describes the competition that led SpaceShipOne to become the first manned commercial ship to journey into space and return safely. The International Space Hall of Fame, which was established in 1967, commemorates the accomplishments of men and women who have contributed to man's quest for space. One team and 154 individuals have been inducted to date. The 12 individuals inducted in 2014 included astronauts, engineers, science-fiction authors Jules Verne and H. G. Wells, Space X founder Elon Musk (PayPal co-founder) and the sole investor for SpaceShipOne and Strato-launch Systems founder Paul Allen (Microsoft co-founder).

The White Sands Missile Range covers almost 3,200 square miles in southern New Mexico. The U.S. Army conducts quality-testing, evaluation, research and other technical services.

While visitors are not permitted on the range itself, the White Sands Missile Range Museum ([www.wsmr-history.org](http://www.wsmr-history.org)) has more than 50 missiles and rockets that were tested at White Sands on display at Missile Park. Inside the museum, we learned about people who have made significant contributions to the success of the mission at White Sands, like rocket scientist Dr. Wernher von Braun and astronomer Dr. Clyde Tombaugh.

In July 1947, something crashed on a ranch northwest of Roswell. Whether it was an unidentified flying object or a weather balloon remains a mystery. Nearly 70 years later, believers and skeptics still debate the Roswell Incident. The International UFO Museum ([www.rosewellufomuseum.com](http://www.rosewellufomuseum.com)) in Roswell tells its version of the story, including the crash of a flying saucer, the recovery of debris and bodies, and the military's cover-up of the event. The museum also explores other UFO phenomena, including crop circles, UFO sightings, Area 51 in Nevada and alien abductions. A research library is a resource for scholars and anyone interested in the subject.

For millennia, the clear skies above New Mexico have offered great viewing, whether it's from ancient rock formations or a 22-mile-wide radio telescope. Perhaps those clear skies also offer extraterrestrials a good view of us too. Next time you're RVing in New Mexico, be sure to look up and wave. **M**

### For More Information

**Boque Bird Watchers RV Park**  
575-835-1366

**Elephant Butte Lake RV Resort**  
575-744-5996,  
[www.elephantbuttelakervresort.com](http://www.elephantbuttelakervresort.com)

**Isleta Lakes RV Park**  
505-244-8102, [www.isleta.com/camping](http://www.isleta.com/camping)

**White Rock RV Park**  
505-662-8159, [www.losalamosnm.us/parks](http://www.losalamosnm.us/parks)

**White Sands Community RV Park**  
575-437-8388,  
<http://westernm.com/whitesands>

# Take advantage of Today's Low Rates

APRs\* AS LOW AS

**3.89%\*\***  
on loan amounts of \$50k+

**3.99%\*\***  
on loan amounts of \$25k to \$49,999

**5.49%\*\***  
on loan amounts of \$15k to \$24,999

APR is fixed for the life of the loan. Other rates with different loan terms are available. Rates are accurate as of November 5, 2016. See our website for current rates and terms, as well as financing for Full-Timers and loan amounts below \$15,000.

### The Good Sam Finance Center Offers:

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



**Good Sam**  
**RV Loans**

CALL

**1-800-444-1476**  
mention priority code 461

VISIT

**GoodSamRVLoans.com/461**

\*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 2007 model year or newer. For a purchase request, RV must be 2009 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 Base 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 7 year fixed-rate \$55,000 loan. Based on an APR of 3.89%, this loan has 84 monthly payments of \$749.00 each.

Good Sam Finance Center™ provided through Essex Credit, a division of Bank of the West. In South Dakota, Bank of the West operates as Bank of the West California. NMLS ID #19116. Member FDIC.

©2017 Good Sam Finance Center. GOOD SAM and the GOOD SAM ICON are registered trademarks of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC. Unauthorized use of any of GSE, LLC's trademarks is expressly prohibited. All rights reserved. GRL51716 - 1016



EQUAL HOUSING LENDER



by Alan Rider

# PARK IT!

With free admission throughout 2017, Canada's national parks are the places to be this year

The distinctive blue waters of Moraine Lake in Banff National Park are due to the light refraction off silt caused by glacial erosion.

## IF IT'S FREE, IT'S FOR ME

Canada is celebrating its sesquicentennial year by offering free entry to all national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas operated by Parks Canada, as well as free lockage to its historic canals and waterways throughout 2017. To learn more, go to the Parks Canada website ([www.parkscanada.gc.ca](http://www.parkscanada.gc.ca)) and click on Plan Your Visit.



**T**raveling to Canada this year is like attending a birthday party only to discover you're the one getting the presents. That's because a big part of Canada's nationwide sesquicentennial celebration (that's the country's 150th birthday party to you and me) is the decision to make admission to the national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas operated by Parks Canada free for everyone all year long. Or, looked at another way, the more Canadian national parks you visit, the more money you'll save.

If you're someone who likes a bargain, you owe it to yourself to check out these national parks — places full of jaw-dropping scenery by day and starry skies by night — for yourself. To help you plan your itinerary, here's a look at a few of our favorite parks you may want to consider adding to your must-visit list:

### **Banff National Park, Alberta**

No discussion of Canada's national parks would be complete without this 2,564-square-mile preserve that started it all. One look and you'll understand why this land of jagged peaks and turquoise lakes in the Canadian Rockies became the country's first national park (and only the third in the entire world) way back in 1885. Don't-miss attractions include Moraine Lake, Lake Louise and the Icefields Parkway, arguably the most scenic drive on the continent. Of the park's 14 campgrounds, Tunnel Mountain Trailer Court Campground and Lake Louise Trailer Campground are your best bets if you need hookups.



### **Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Nova Scotia**

Located between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Atlantic Ocean, this park stretches across the northern tip of Cape Breton Island. Atlantic

Bay of Fundy's Hopewell Rocks are at the site of some of the world's highest tides, where visitors can walk among the flower-pot formations.

Canada's first national park packs a lot into its 569 square miles, including the chance to spot moose, bald eagles, and even minke and pilot whales surfacing offshore. Visitors can drive the world-famous 186-mile Cabot Trail for views of both coasts and the rugged highlands in between that give the park its name. Four of the park's six campgrounds are primitive; hookups are available at Broad Cove Campground and Chéticamp Campground.

### **Fundy National Park, New Brunswick**

If you find the name of this national park rings a bell, it's because of its centerpiece, the 174-mile-long Bay of Fundy, where daily tides can rise and fall as much as 56 feet. Besides the chance to explore the exposed sea bottom, you'll find hiking trails that lead through lichen-draped forests to more than two-dozen waterfalls. High points include the eye-popping vistas from the viewpoints on the 29-mile Fundy Circuit (seven linked hiking trails), kayaking among the sea caves at Hopewell Cape and snorkeling

amid schools of endangered Inner Bay of Fundy salmon. The park's Chignecto North Campground has full- or partial-hookup sites; Headquarters Campground and Point Wolfe Campground offer partial hookups.



### **Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan**

Time was, not so very long ago, that wide-open prairies covered much of this continent's midsection. You can get a feel for what this rolling grass-covered landscape was like before the settlers' plows turned it under at this 544-square-mile park just north of the Montana border. Aside from watching the wind ripple through the mixed-grass prairie like waves on the ocean, you can hunt for dinosaur bones and amuse yourself with watchable wildlife that includes comical black-tailed prairie dogs. The days here save the best for last, however, with the thousands of stars you'll find visible here in what is the darkest of Canada's designated Dark Sky Preserves. Note that campground facilities are limited at Grasslands; Frenchman Valley Campground/West Block has 20 electric sites, and Rock Creek Campground/East Block has 10 RV sites.







Photo: Max Maerich

## Jasper National Park, Alberta

As you'd expect from the largest national park in the Canadian Rockies, this 6,527-square-mile park has lots to offer. Like sawtooth mountain peaks, crashing waterfalls and nearly 600 miles of hiking trails. Though 97 percent of the park is considered wilderness, there's still plenty to see off the Icefields Parkway, including the soak-worthy Miette Hot Springs, thundering Athabasca Falls and the Columbia Icefields, which include the Athabasca Glacier, where you can hop a ride onto the glacier itself aboard the massive six-wheel Ice Explorer buses. There are plenty of campsites available in Jasper. Whistlers Campground is the largest, with 120 full-hookup sites and 126 partial-hookup sites.

## IN THE DARK

Canada has nine Dark-Sky Preserves, as designated by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Not surprisingly, northern Alberta's Wood Buffalo National Park is the world's largest Dark Sky Preserve, but the second-largest, Jasper National Park, hosts the much more accessible Jasper Dark Sky Festival every October, while Grasslands National Park is the darkest Dark Sky Preserve in Canada.

## CREATURE FEATURE

If you're a wildlife lover, we suggest you put Wood Buffalo National Park — a single preserve that's larger in size than all of Switzerland — on your must-visit list (note that access to some areas is via hard-packed gravel road). Besides being home to one of the world's largest bison herds (and Parks Canada's mascot, Parka!), this park on northern Alberta's border with the Northwest Territories is the world's only natural nesting place for whooping cranes. If that's not enough, you can always book a charter to fly over the world's longest beaver dam. Inaccessible by land, the impressive structure measures a half-mile long and is still growing.



Diverse Mount Revelstoke offers visitors the chance to explore subalpine meadows and lush cedar rainforest.

## Mount Revelstoke National Park, British Columbia

It's not every day you get to summit a mountain. That's just one of the attractions of the 16-mile Meadows in the Sky Parkway (note that the road's 16 switchbacks make it no place for larger motorhomes, so take your dinghy vehicle; parking is available .3-mile from its junction with the Trans-Canada Highway). In addition to reaching the top of the peak with

no more effort than it takes to walk across the parking lot to board the shuttle bus, you can enjoy strolling the fern-lined boardwalks that lead through the world's only inland cedar rainforest, and stopping to admire the wildflower-filled subalpine meadows that line the road. There are no road-accessible campgrounds in the park, but there's a good selection of full-service RV parks in the city of Revelstoke.



Located in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Prince Edward Island is known for its wide, sandy beaches and ties to the maritime industry. It's the only Canadian province that has no land boundary.





Above: Fort MacLeod is about an hour north of Waterton Lakes NP. Right: Point Pelee NP's forest and wetlands make for an ideal migratory stopover for neo-tropical birds.



## Point Pelee National Park, Ontario

Here at the southernmost spot in mainland Canada, you'll find natural wonders to make your imagination take flight. And we mean that quite literally, as its location at the intersection of two major migratory routes makes this one of the nation's top birdwatching spots. More than 370 avian species have been documented here during the spring and fall migrations, to say nothing of the Monarch butterflies that stop by to rest their delicate wings before or after their long flight across Lake Erie. While you're here, don't miss the chance to paddle your way through the park's lily-pad-studded marshlands aboard a 10-person freighter canoe with one of the staff naturalists, and stare up at the thousands of stars in the heavens above this Dark Sky park. Point Pelee does not have campground facilities, but there are a number of

private campgrounds nearby, including Sturgeon Woods Campground just 2 miles to the north.

## Prince Edward Island National Park, Prince Edward Island

Dig a little deeper and you'll find this tiny park on the Gulf of St. Lawrence has long been a favorite camping spot, according to park archaeologists who've determined prehistoric Paleo-Indian peoples first set up housekeeping here 10,000 years ago. They were followed to the island's north shore by other native people as well as French, Acadians, Scots, Irish and English settlers. Today, the island is known for rugged red sandstone cliffs and unusual red-sand beaches. Perhaps the most popular attractions here are man-made, however, namely the picture-postcard Covehead Lighthouse and the farmhouse that inspired the classic "Anne Of Green Gables"

novels. Mountain bikers will also want to put the freshly minted Robinsons Island trail system to the test (cycling helmets are mandatory on the island). Of the park's two campgrounds, Cavendish is the best bet, as Stanhope has a 27-foot-length limit.



Photo: 1000 Islands Tourism Council

## Thousand Islands National Park, Ontario

While many tourist destinations are given to hyperbole, this park's name is actually an understatement. You'll discover more than 1,000 islands (1,864 to be exact) here in the St.





## HISTORY LESSON

Canada has a long history of protecting the natural landscape, dating back to the 1885 founding of what was then known as Banff Hot Springs Reserve. The Dominion Parks Branch — the agency we now call Parks Canada — was formed in 1911, predating America's National Park Service by five years. Today there are 46 national parks spanning all 13 Canadian provinces and territories.

Lawrence River, not to mention a 3.5-square-mile park that balances easy access to mainland visitor facilities with solitude that comes from the possibility of having an entire island to yourself. There are several ways to explore this national park, including renting a canoe, kayak or powerboat; hopping aboard a ferry or water-taxi-like shuttle service; or setting sail on one of several tour boats that regularly ply these waters. Only tent camping is available at this park.

### Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta

Part of the world's first international park, the Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, this relatively small preserve in the southwest corner of Alberta abuts Montana's much larger Glacier National Park. This makes this narrowest spot in the Rocky Mountain chain a great place to spot more than 60 species of mammals (including grizzly and black bears, wolves, coyotes and cougar) and 250 species of birds. You'll find that wildflowers bloom in low elevations in June, while the higher country's color extravaganza doesn't get going until mid-July. And



Alberta's prairies meet the Rocky Mountains at Waterton Lakes NP.

Photo: Asymmetric/Dustin Parr

though the park is busiest in July and August, its off-the-beaten-path location means it stays relatively uncrowded throughout the season. Don't miss the dramatic Prince of Wales hotel, with its sweeping views of Waterton Lake, the deepest body of water in the Canadian Rockies. There are three campgrounds in Waterton Lakes: Townsite Campground, Crandell Mountain Campground and Belly River Campground. **M**

# Experience Life...the *Pleasure-Way*







ESCAPE INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS WITH MOTORHOME COVERAGE STARTING AT JUST \$125

**PROGRESSIVE**

Progressive Insurance, Circle 114 on Reader Service Card

PROGRESSIVE CASUALTY INS. CO. & AFFILIATES. \$125 PER YEAR PREMIUM EXCLUDES STATE FEES AND TAXES, AND IS NOT AVAILABLE IN MS, NJ, & OR.



# Mobile Box Office

Assembling a motorhome theater makes the audio/visual experience more pleasurable

**I**t all started in 1927, with a movie called "The Jazz Singer." For the first time, audiences were introduced to moving pictures with a synchronized soundtrack, and the cinematic experience was born, drawing patrons to the theater in order to get away from the humdrum of day-to-day life, in order to be truly entertained.

To say we've come a long way since Al Jolson's controversial classic is an understatement; not only do today's movies feature computer-generated images, eardrum-ringing explosions and \$200 million budgets, but the way we watch them has evolved as well. We

no longer have to pack in to crowded movie houses to see the latest Hollywood flick, as modern technology allows us to view these cinematic gems (or duds) from the comfort of our homes, with picture quality and audio rivaling that of the local movie theater. And, naturally, that technology has extended to our motorhomes — why should stick-house owners have all the fun?

In order to enjoy a fully immersive cinematic experience, there is a fair amount of equipment involved, much of which comes standard on your motorhome. But understanding what

The Winegard Trav'ler automatic rooftop satellite antenna delivers DirecTV content in crystal-clear HD.



Photos courtesy of the manufacturers

you'll need in order to get the highest-quality experience is more important than ever, and can be a bit more involved than simply flipping a switch and flopping down on the couch.

To begin with, there obviously needs to be a way for a motorhome to receive television-programming signals. At minimum, your motorhome likely came equipped with an antenna that has been designed to acquire free, over-the-air (OTA) signals, and which can be adjusted from inside the motorhome in order to find the best reception — though its effectiveness is limited by local-signal strength. There is a variety of OTA antennas available to receive free programming.

### Batwing/OTA Antennas

KING offers the Jack antenna (\$159), with a wider signal range than traditional batwings and a built-in signal meter for added convenience.

Shakespeare's SeaWatch lineup (msrp begins at \$56.99) offers four omni-directional, in-motion antennas to receive over-the-air signals to view local programming. Each antenna is equipped with a low-noise amplifier (for improved signal quality) and is able to receive HD signals, depending upon the availability in the area in which you're traveling.

Winegard offers a quintet of antennas to handle OTA signals. The roof-mounted Rayzar Automatic (\$399.99) is designed to receive VHF and UHF signals, therefore increasing the chances of receiving clear OTA HD broadcasts. It automatically detects the best position and locks in for increased viewing performance. The Sensor (\$106.25) features a range of 55 miles from the source and is a batwing-style antenna with a built-in amplifier. The Rayzar z1 (\$109.99) doesn't require any cranking and is designed to receive optimal UHF reception in addition to high-band VHF signals where available. The Rayzar (Micro, \$29.99; Amplified RV-RZ85, \$69.99) is a portable, indoor multi-directional antenna designed for stations within a 30-mile range [50 for the RV-RZ85]. The permanently roof-mounted RoadStar antenna (\$89.99) offers 360-degree signal reception and doesn't require hand-cranking for use.



The KING Tailgater can be used in either portable or permanent-mount applications to receive DISH HD programming.

### Satellite-Provider Antennas

If you don't wish to be at the mercy of the OTA programming, you'll need to either utilize the campground cable connection, or you'll have to subscribe to a satellite provider such as DISH Network, DirecTV or Bell TV. In some cases, the companies offer special packages to RVers that allow users to activate and deactivate the receiver box based on their travel schedule.

Along with the satellite subscription comes the more advanced (and, yes, more expensive) antennas. Your motorhome may already be equipped with a satellite antenna (commonly referred to as a satellite dish). Antennas come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and can be permanent structures on the motorhome's roof or portable units that are set up on demand. This is where the selection gets much more varied, and prices adjust accordingly as features are added on.

#### KING

For DISH Network subscribers, KING offers a pair of portable antennas, the DISH Tailgater (\$329) and the KING Tailgater (\$379), the latter of which can also be permanently attached to the motorhome's roof. Both are HD-compatible units that feature automatic signal acquisition, and are powered via a receiver. They are designed for stationary use.

The KING Quest (\$549) shares many of the same features as the Tailgater series, but is compatible with non-HD DirecTV programming. A portable Quest model compatible with Bell TV is also available (\$649), and can be reprogrammed to receive DISH programming stateside.

KING's flagship KING Dome satellite receives programming from all three providers (DirecTV non-HD), and the fact that it's an in-motion satellite means the kids can watch TV while on the road.

#### KVH TracVision A9 ▶



#### KVH

TracVision satellite TV systems are permanently mounted, in-motion automatic antennas designed to be compatible with the major satellite providers. The popular TracVision RV1 antenna (\$2,695) weighs only 8



An over-the-air antenna such as the KING Jack or the Winegard Sensor allows RVers to receive free programming from local broadcast stations.



pounds, while the TracVision A9 (\$4,995) boasts a low 5-inch profile and includes a receiver. Both antennas are HDTV-compatible and can support multiple receivers.

### RF Mogul

When it comes to delivering DirecTV HD programming to your motorhome, your options are limited. RF Mogul offers the Eagle DirecTV Satellite System (\$1,995), which the company claims features the fastest satellite lock time of any HD satellite. RF Mogul offers satellites for DISH Network and Shaw Direct as well.

### Winegard

Perhaps the most popular antenna supplier among RVers, Winegard offers a host of satellite antennas to meet most every TV-viewing need.

The portable DISH Playmaker (\$329) works exclusively with a DISH HD Solo receiver. The Playmaker is fully automatic and weighs only 10 pounds, making set-up easy. The Carryout G2+ (\$649.99) can be permanently roof-mounted or used in a portable configuration, and even enables users to choose a proprietary satellite TV provider. The small and compact antenna is powered through coax cable and supports multi-TV viewing. The in-motion RoadTrip T4 (\$1,399) allows passengers to watch TV while on the road. The fully automatic roof-mounted antenna features one-button on/off operation.

The Trav'ler is Winegard's crown jewel and is designed for enhanced performance with live TV programming and DVRs. The Trav'ler can receive programming from multiple satellites and is available in the DirecTV Slimline (\$1,899) and DISH Network 1000 and Bell TV (\$1,599) models, both of which fold down to less than 10 inches for storage.

Winegard's portable DISH Playmaker is compact and easy to store when not in use, while the permanent-mount Trav'ler can receive programming from multiple satellites.



◀ Furrrion LED TV

### TV Time

Whether or not you have satellite service, to watch a movie or TV content you need the proper equipment. Naturally, that begins with a TV (or two, or three ...). In many cases, your motorhome may have already been equipped with a Jensen TV from ASA Electronics. These Jensen TVs have been road-tested to withstand vibration and temperature extremes. The JTV4015DC is a 12-volt-DC-powered TV available in either 28- or 40-inch models. The TV is housed in a rugged metal cabinet and offers component video, stereo-audio and two HDMI inputs. The TV's integrated jCOM protocol provides direct, seamless communication to Jensen HDMI-equipped head units and DVD players. Additionally, a Jensen 120-volt-AC-powered lineup of flat screens ranges in sizes from 19 to 55 inches.

Aftermarket manufacturer Furrrion offers LED TVs made specifically for the RVing segment as well. In addition to HDMI inputs, each TV features a Vivid A+ LED panel, Furrrion's Climatesmart technology (to withstand harsh weather conditions), Furrrion's Vibrationsmart technology (to withstand vigorous vibration and shock created during travel), audio out through RCA audio cables as well as an optical port and side or bottom access controls. They are available in sizes ranging from 19 to 65 inches.

### 📺 SMART TV UPGRADES

Don't have a TV or Blu-ray/DVD player that offers smart capabilities? No problem; these relatively inexpensive devices plug in to the HDMI port on your TV and connect to Wi-Fi (when a signal is available) to offer streaming capabilities, including Netflix, Vudu, Hulu, YouTube and more.

**Roku Stick** provides a streaming hub offering access to hundreds of TV apps. Msrp: \$39.99. [www.roku.com](http://www.roku.com).

**Google Chromecast** is designed to work with a smartphone or tablet to "mirror" its content to the TV screen. Msrp: \$36.68. [www.google.com/chromecast](http://www.google.com/chromecast).

**Amazon Fire TV Stick** is designed to stream Amazon video services and is compatible with other popular apps as well. Msrp: \$39. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

**Apple TV** is a bit larger than a streaming stick, but offers access to iTunes and App store content for Mac users. Msrp: \$149.99 (HDMI cable sold separately). [www.appletv.com/tv](http://www.appletv.com/tv).

Many newer TVs offer Ultra High Definition (UHD; also referred to as 4K or even 8K) technology, which is like HD but up to 16 times the resolution of standard HD. It should be noted that not only do you need a source (cable/satellite provider) capable of broadcasting that kind of enhanced resolution, but it is quite difficult to discern the improvement in picture quality, unless you have a monitor that's way too large for a motorhome, or you prefer to sit with your nose against the screen. Adjust your budget accordingly.

Of course, you could always go to the local electronics store and purchase a TV, but be warned: many of the TVs on the market have not been designed to withstand the on-the-road bouncing and banging, nor are they engineered to experience the temperature extremes of units manufactured specifically for the RV market.

## Head Units

So, now you have a signal, and a monitor, so it's time to turn our attention toward the audio-visual (A/V) stereo receiver, or head unit. An A/V receiver handles both the visual and the audio aspects of your motorhome's theater experience. Residential-type receivers can certainly deliver on both fronts, but may not be ideal for mobile use and are usually big and bulky. Plus, a motorhome is often pre-wired for a mobile-type unit with easy-to-operate CD/DVD/AM/FM stereo features, so it makes sense to look in that direction when considering a new/upgraded purchase.

When selecting a head unit, it's important to first plan out how you'll be using it. Convenience items like

.....  
Furrion DV3300 is equipped with HDMI and Bluetooth for today's technological demands. Jensen JWM9A sports seamless Apple-device control via USB.



Today's speakers blow the doors off their larger, bulky forefathers, and there are dozens of manufacturers that produce them.

Bluetooth connectivity, app control and auxiliary input can add a few dollars to the cost, though the additional coin is generally well justified. It should be noted that these units are not capable of playing Blu-ray discs, so if that's on your wish list, you'll likely have to look outside of the models designed for RV use. You should also note that due to the random placement of the speakers in a motorhome, calibration for enhanced-audio features like Dolby Digital Plus and DTS-HD Master Audio aren't possible and therefore are not included. To enjoy those features, a traditional A/V receiver would be needed; a growing trend has even seen some of the more expensive motorhomes being outfitted with these higher-end audio components.

There are a few recognizable names on the market, most notably those from Furrion, Jensen and Fusion. Examples of motorhome-friendly units include the Furrion DV3300, which features HDMI ports and Bluetooth, and can be configured to handle up to three TVs. Furrion also makes the DV7100, which can also handle multiple TVs and offers a front HDMI jack, perfect for HD game systems like Xbox1 and Sony PS4. As of press time, msrps on the Furrion units were not available.

The Jensen JWM9A features a slot-type DVD/CD-player mechanism

and AM/FM electronic tuner. A jControl downloadable app controls the functions of the stereo, which ASA Electronics claims is the RV industry's first wall-mounted unit with all-digital connectivity and Apple (iPhone/iPad) control via a USB port. The unit supports up to three TVs, up to 1080i resolution and offers up to 160 watts of total power for audiophiles.

Fusion, headquartered in New Zealand (but offering many products stateside), offers the MS-AV750 (\$799.99) marine AM/FM/CD/DVD receiver, which runs a standard-definition DVD picture via HDMI, but its built-in Bluetooth, ability to control up to four zones and the fact that it's water-resistant certainly up the cool factor.



▲ Fusion Sport speakers

## Speakers

Half of the theater experience is the audio, so it's important to select high-quality speakers/soundbars to deliver the proper kaboom of an on-screen explosion while still being sensitive enough for the whispers of a conversation. In all likelihood, your motorhome is already equipped with ceiling-mounted speakers, for stereo (or all-channel) playback. Again, speaker placement makes it difficult to enjoy a pure, fully immersive audio experience using the latest in digital technology, but, c'mon, we're just splitting hairs here. Today's speakers blow the doors off their larger, bulky forefathers, and there are dozens of manufacturers that produce these replacements.

If, however, you're looking for specialized RV or waterproof speakers, you'll want to start with manufacturers like Furrion, ASA (Jensen), PQN Audio and Fusion.



## ☺ WI-FI HELPERS

Anytime you employ the smart features on your TV, phone or tablet, you are essentially at the mercy of the connection speeds at the campground or RV park. And, that can make things like checking email or logging on to Facebook difficult, not to mention listening to streaming music or watching a movie. These manufacturers offer Wi-Fi signal boosters, which are designed to amplify an existing signal (not create a new one). In some cases, depending on the number of users at the time, that bump is enough to stream content directly to your motorhome



▲ Singlepoint Wi-Fi In Motion

(though we should stress that although the boosters definitely help with speeds, movie-streaming capabilities are usually nonexistent at a crowded RV park). Other times, although the movie-viewing process can

get frustrating due to constant buffering, these products are great at enabling you to surf the web and social media with ease.

**C. Crane**, 800-522-8863, [www.ccrane.com](http://www.ccrane.com)

**PDQ**, 858-598-5001, [www.pdqconnect.com](http://www.pdqconnect.com)

**Shakespeare**, 803-227-1590, [www.shakespeare-ce.com](http://www.shakespeare-ce.com)

**Singlepoint**, 866-959-9434, [www.yoursinglepoint.com](http://www.yoursinglepoint.com)

**Wi-Fi Ranger**, 208-321-5544, [www.wifiranger.com](http://www.wifiranger.com)

**Winegard**, 800-288-8094, [www.winegard.com](http://www.winegard.com)

The following manufacturers offer products that are designed to boost your cellphone signal, which can then be used to send a “mirror” image of its screen to your larger, smart-enabled device.

**Shakespeare**, 803-227-1590, [www.shakespeare-ce.com](http://www.shakespeare-ce.com)

**SmoothTalker**, 877-726-3444, [www.smoothtalker.com](http://www.smoothtalker.com)

**Wilson Amplifiers**, 800-568-2723, [www.wilsonamplifiers.com](http://www.wilsonamplifiers.com)

Furion produces a variety of affordable wall- and ceiling-mounted speakers, many at or below \$20. Jensen does the same. Laying some additional money down will get you higher quality units capable of handling a higher range of sounds, such as Furion's FSBT43S-BL line.

PQN is a specialty speaker manufacturer that specifically designs speakers for the RV/marine markets, in addition to outdoor applications like spas. PQN's Audio SPA series speakers (msrp begins at \$79.99) are waterproof and chemical-resistant (as in, hot-tub chemicals), and are also available with audio-driven blue LED lighting for additional fun. PQN also offers dual-cone waterproof speakers (\$109.99-\$119.99) and ultra-slim speakers (\$79.99-\$84.99) for increased installation versatility.

The 230-watt Signature Series Coaxial Sports speakers (msrp begins at \$349 per pair) from Fusion combine beauty and brute strength to bring the

(pleasant) noise, and are available with a sound-activated blue or white LED light.

For a lively, outdoor listening party, KING offers a premium Outdoor Speaker and Light combo to replace your traditional exterior illumination. The combo unit (\$199-\$249) can stream music, is waterproof and produces up to 100 watts of sound for listening enjoyment.

Another alternative to speakers placed around the vehicle's interior is a soundbar. A soundbar is generally a solid speaker-type unit that connects to the TV/receiver's audio output for a clean installation. Inside a soundbar, you will often find multiple speakers designed to handle the highs and lows of Hollywood's finest blockbusters; there's also sometimes a wireless subwoofer to be placed out of sight that will deliver the big-box explosions to which we're now so accustomed. Soundbars, like many other components, are easy to find at electronics stores but, once again, we're looking here for road-tested, RV-specific models. To that end, Jensen's JSB4000 features six drivers and two subwoofers, designed specifically for installation inside an entertainment-center wall. Furion also offers a soundbar rated for up to 80 watts.

Overall, that may seem like quite a lot

of equipment, and let me assure you, it is. But it most certainly doesn't have to be difficult to achieve A/V nirvana, as more and more manufacturers are including higher-end entertainment features on their motorhomes standard, or at the very least as an optional package. Apart from that, if you're looking for an instant-gratification upgrade to immediately up the entertainment factor, changing out the components of your mobile theater is one of the best — and most easily noticeable — investments. **M**

## Sources

### ASA Electronics (Jensen)

877-305-0445, [www.asaelectronics.com](http://www.asaelectronics.com)

### Furion

888-354-5792, [www.furion.com](http://www.furion.com)

### Fusion Entertainment

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

### KING Controls

952-922-6889, [www.kingconnect.com](http://www.kingconnect.com)

### KVH Industries Inc.

401-847-3327, [www.kvh.com](http://www.kvh.com)

### PQN Audio

805-794-6475, [www.pqnterprises.com](http://www.pqnterprises.com); speakers are available at [www.rocktheboatmarinestereo.com](http://www.rocktheboatmarinestereo.com)

### RF Mogul

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

### Shakespeare

803-227-1590, [www.shakespeare-ce.com](http://www.shakespeare-ce.com)

### Winegard

800-288-8094, [www.winegard.com](http://www.winegard.com)



PQN SPA series speakers are waterproof and available with cool, audio-driven blue LED lighting.

*Everything you need is within reach.*

# RIVERSIDE RESORT RV PARK LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

*We're pleased to offer you the following special  
MotorHome Magazine Weekly Rate.\**



## \$139 WEEKLY RATE

*Plus...Two Complimentary Breakfast Buffets!*

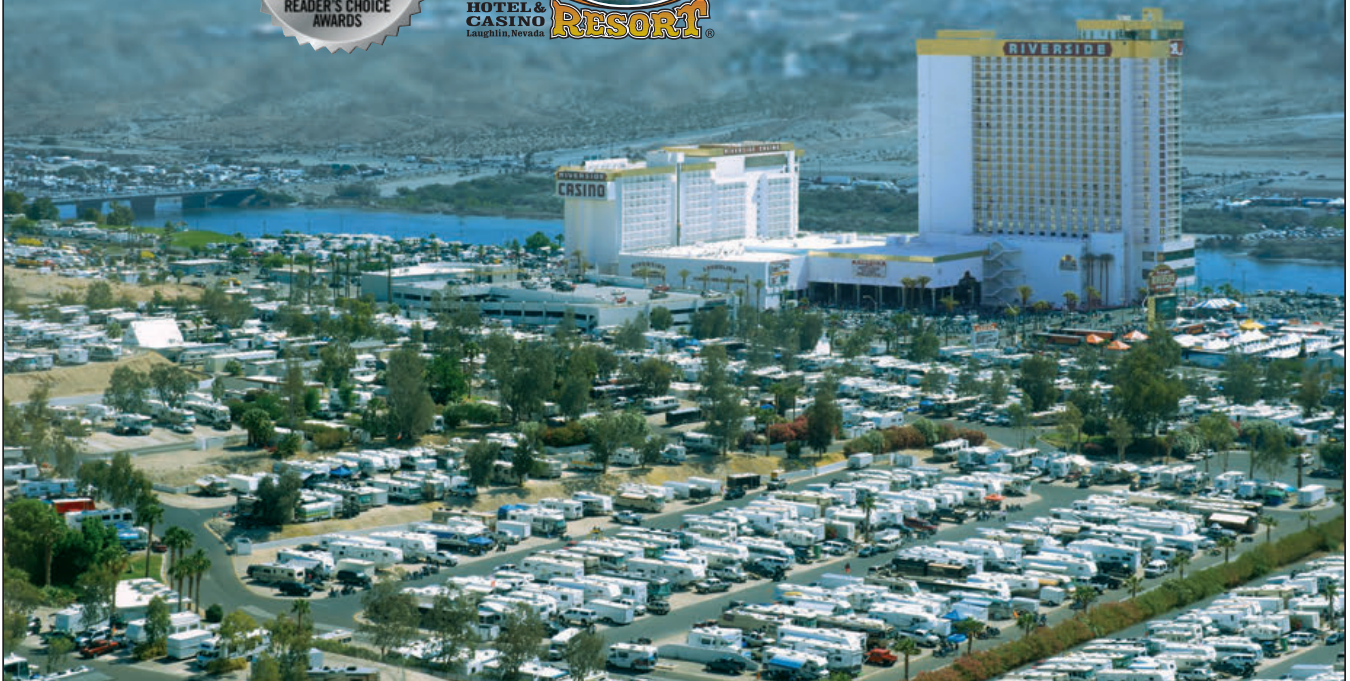
**To Make Your Riverside RV Park Reservations  
CALL 1.800.227.3849**

**ASK FOR THE MOTORHOME MAGAZINE SPECIAL WEEKLY RATE.**

\*Excludes holidays and special event periods. Subject to availability. Two complimentary Breakfast Buffets per space, per week (excludes Sunday Champagne Brunch). Management reserves all rights. Offer valid through February 28, 2017.



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







# New Year

# NEW



18" W

225 lb. capacity

Folds to 4"D

**WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**



CLUB MEMBERS  
**BUY 1 GET 1  
50% OFF!**

**CLUB SALE  
\$32<sup>99</sup>**

Sienna Chair #69194  
Lightweight, easy to transport folding chair eliminates the uncomfortable crossbars of standard folding chairs. | Reg. \$36.66 | 🚚 | ♥



Easy-grip plastic handle

CLUB MEMBERS  
**Save 30%**

Propane powered



234 sq. in. porcelain wire cooking surface

12,000 BTU

**CLUB SALE  
\$49<sup>97</sup>**

BBQTek™ Gas Grill #72908  
Hood features a built-in thermometer. Lid latches securely to base and legs fold under for storage. 14½"H x 25⅝"W x 16"D. Reg. \$75.99 | ♥

**CLUB SALE  
\$24<sup>97</sup>**

Portable Pup Pet Bed #90975  
47"L x 24½"W for dogs up to 95 lbs. Includes convenient carry bag. | Reg. \$34.99



**CLUB SALE  
\$16<sup>97</sup>**

Bungee Table, 2-Pack #89632  
Stands 16⅝"L x 16⅝"W x 20⅝"H open, folds to 2"H. | Reg. \$33.99



CLUB MEMBERS  
**Save 50%**

100 lb. capacity



Supports up to 1000 lbs.

**CLUB SALE  
\$99<sup>97</sup>**

Adjustable Leg Platform Step #54911  
4 different leg heights from 6¾" to 8¾". Reg. \$127.99



**CLUB SALE  
\$14<sup>97</sup>**

Clean Machine® Scrubbing Bristle Star Mat, 18" x 30" #75172  
Trap and hide dirt! Stops the mess before it enters your RV or home. Easy to clean—just hose it off. Mfr. 2 year warranty. | Reg. \$18.99

**NEW!**



**CLUB SALE  
\$9<sup>99</sup>**

Woof Doormat, 18" x 30" #91548  
Strong and durable PVC noodle mat features a textured surface to trap debris. Weather-resistant and easy to clean. Reg. \$12.99

# ADVENTURE!

Prices Expire January 29, 2017



**CLUB SALE**  
**\$477**

Good Sam RVND™ 8" Tablet GPS Powered By Rand McNally® #85056 Rand McNally's most advanced GPS system comes preloaded on an Android™ tablet. Award-winning routing plus preloaded apps to make RV travel seamless. Includes magnetic mount, anti-glare screen protector, 12-volt and 120-volt chargers and USB cable. | Reg. \$549 | ♥

Use Android™ Tablet as GPS or Dash Cam!

8" touchscreen

**CLUB MEMBERS**  
**Save \$70**

Download your favorite apps for news, entertainment and more



Designed by Good Sam—  
Powered by Rand McNally

**NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2017!**



**CLUB SALE**  
**ONLY \$6.95**

**NEW! 2017 Good Sam RV Travel & Savings Guide #95717**

Covers RV parks and campgrounds in North America, including all Good Sam Parks where you save 10%! Includes Good Sam's exclusive RV park ratings and \$1,000 in Camping World savings. | Reg. \$19.95



Porta-Pak® Tank Deodorizer Toss-ins, 10-Pack  
Lavender Scent #69990 Fresh Scent #23913  
**Club SALE \$6.97 Reg. \$11.99**

**CLUB MEMBER**  
**HOT DEAL!**

**CLUB MEMBERS**  
**Save 40%**



13 1/4" H x 9 1/2" W x 6 1/2" D

Mini Heater #65879  
700/1200 watts, 4095 BTU. 120-volt, 10 amps. ETL listed.  
**Club SALE \$32.97 Reg. \$55.99** | Select Stores | ♥

*New Year*  
**KICKOFF**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY**  
**JANUARY 13 & 14!**  
Supercenters Nationwide

*Club Members* **SAVE UP TO 50%**  
**ON DOORBUSTERS**

*Plus* **SPIN to WIN!**



**OFF TO Adventure**  
**SWEEPSTAKES**



**\$25,000 VALUE!**

**ENTER TO WIN A**  
**2017 COLEMAN® TRAVEL TRAILER**

Enter at Camping World SuperCenters or  
online at [CampingWorld.com/Adventure](http://CampingWorld.com/Adventure)

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. For full Official Rules, by which this sweepstakes is governed, go to [www.CampingWorld.com/Adventure](http://www.CampingWorld.com/Adventure). Must be 18 or older and a legal resident of the U.S. or Canada. Promotion begins 12/09/2016 at 12:00:01 a.m. CST and ends 5/07/2017 p.m. CDT. Sponsored by CWGS Group, LLC, Lincolnshire, IL.





# Grand Aspirations

Entegra Aspire 42DEQ gets high marks for quality, livability and design **By Chris Dougherty**

**A**ccording to Merriam-Webster, “Aspire” means to seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal. Well, the 2017 Entegra Aspire 42DEQ has certainly attained a new level of design, luxury and function in a modern motorcoach.

For this evaluation, we took an Aspire 42DEQ to Aces High RV Park in East Lyme, Connecticut, a park perfectly suited for big motorhomes with its large number of lovely waterfront sites.

The Aspire, which occupies the middle spot in the company’s line of luxury diesel coaches, is designed for discerning couples who have reached a stage in life where their journeys will take them just about anywhere they want to go in comfort and style. Approaching the coach from the outside, the detailed full-paint scheme, available in six color and pattern combina-

tions with a Sikkens-brand clear-coat paint system, is further evidence the motorhome is a major player.

The entry door is a standard bus-style door with electronic locks, which activate via remote control or the numeric keypad integrated into the chrome LED lighted assist handle. Locking the coach also activates the intrusion-alarm system, which can also be engaged by a keypad directly over the master bed. We did find that a certain sound within the coach in the morning, probably from the radio, set off the alarm, which was quickly reset. This was because of the integrated audio sensor by Directed Electronics, which detects sounds like breaking glass, and sets off the alarm.

Upon entering the coach, the first thing you notice is the well designed and equipped driver’s compartment. The nicely cushioned Flexsteel seats,

adorned in delightfully soft brown Ultraleather, feature six-way power adjustment, as well as adjustable arms, back and the ability to rotate into the living space. Once rotated, there is also a power footrest that rises at the touch of a button.

Drivers of all sizes will find that it’s possible to adjust the seating position to suit any individual preference. Users can modify the seat, pedals and steering-column positions to adapt to 6-footers with ease, and I suspect people of shorter stature could just as easily find their comfort zone. Once adjusted, all the gauges are visible without having to contort one’s body, and all the switches and controls are pretty easily reachable. The view out of the full-width windshield was excellent, and there was no distortion at the edges of the windshield in relation to the electrically powered Ramco rearview mirrors.

**ABOVE:** The full-paint scheme of the Aspire is available in six color and pattern combinations; the 42DEQ sported the attractive Autumn Berry, complete with an impressive Sikkens-brand clear-coat to ensure continued looks of approval from passersby for years to come.

Right: The king bed is housed in a streetside slideout in the master. Handy solid surfaces on each side are perfect for nightstand duties. A large closet runs the length of the back wall.

The dashboard hosts an elaborate touch-screen entertainment, navigation and communications center just above the screen for the rearview camera system by Riverpark. The stereo features Bluetooth audio, HDMI input, USB input and AM/FM stereo, and the Rand McNally RV GPS system is integrated into the unit. The camera inputs are also routed through this head unit.

The coach is equipped with an Equalizer automatic hydraulic leveling system, which coordinates hydraulic leveling with the release of air-bag pressure and works flawlessly on a relatively level site; the system will lock out if too much of a slope is detected.

The passenger seat is extra-wide and very comfortable. It has all the same features as the driver's seat plus a power footrest and power step cover. Electrically operated day/night shades cover the windshield and are adjustable from both positions, although the passenger can control his/her side only. There are also USB power connections all over the driver's compartment.

Entegra has included a removable carpet mat for the entire front area; however, the coach features marble tile flooring from front to back, which adds to the air of luxury. The living room features a Villa expandable J-Lounge with integrated recliner and full queen inflatable sofa bed, which is very comfortable for guests and easy to deploy. Across from the lounge is a nicely sized Ultraleather recliner, also by Villa, which is movable so the user can enjoy



the LED HDTV and built-in fireplace.

The natural cherry cabinetry throughout, with occasional white-washed accents, is exquisite and constructed flawlessly. Detail is everywhere, down to the inlaid multi-colored tile rosettes on the slideouts. The cabinetry and countertops have lots of LED lighting accents, including the counter edges, which had an onyx-like glow. Most of the multitude of LEDs are dimmable or adjustable using the multiplex switching system.

The galley consists of a bi-level solid-surface countertop with the aforementioned accent lighting, dual-basin stainless-steel sink with gooseneck extendable faucet and dual burner induction cooktop. Above this is a nicely designed upper cabinet with slide-out wire baskets and interiors trimmed out with Ozite carpet. Next to this is the built-in microwave convection oven with range-top vent system.

Below, the drawers are solidly con-

structed and plentiful. The silverware drawer is of unique design, with the top solid-oak tray utilizing regular ball-bearing drawer slides, and which automatically stows when the drawer is closed. This high level of quality and attention to detail is common in all the cabinetry. Below the sink is a large pull-out drawer for trash, storage and recycling, next to the drawer-type Fisher Paykel dishwasher. Across from this is the residential Samsung French-door-style refrigerator/freezer with ice and water in the door.

The mid-coach bath continues the attention to detail, and while a bit tight, gets the job done. Dual lavatory sinks in the solid-surface countertop are a nice touch and have a great amount of counter space around them. The only thing we wished was that the lavatory faucets sat closer to the sink bowls or that the fixture had a longer neck. It's difficult to get hands under the faucets for washing, as the water stream is



Left: The comfy Ultraleather pilot and co-pilot seats, in addition to the living-area furniture, are by Villa. The freestanding recliner can be moved as necessary, and the expandable J-Lounge sofa with integrated recliner enhances floorplan versatility. All seating offers a nice view of the 50-inch LED HDTV above the electric fireplace.



within an inch of the back of the sink bowl. Apparently no one checked this detail while selecting the bathroom sink and faucet hardware. The lavatory is contained in a large slide, which also moves the bedroom wall out.

The separate room, on the off-door side across from the lavatory sinks, contains the electric-flush toilet, a corner fiberglass shower stall with sliding rounded glass surround, and the rear coach control center, which includes the Airxcel HVAC controls. The rear-slide controls are also located here. That's an interesting but functional placement, and the controls are completely accessible with the slides retracted. This room is a bit tight, so it helps to leave the lav door open while closing the locking solid-hardwood sliding pocket doors to the kitchen and bedroom to create a bathroom suite that makes for much more room to get ready for the day.

The master suite is of pretty common design, with the king bed in an off-door side slideout. The back wall contains a large wardrobe with an automatic motion-sensing light fixture and a separate area for the stackable washer and dryer. The motion-sensor light was super sensitive and turned the closet lights on and off all night long. We stuffed a towel into the space between the sliding doors for a temporary fix, as we could find no back-up switch.

The king-size bed has solid-surface bedside stands, perfect for the alarm clock or a continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) machine. Over the head of the bed are two flexible LED

reading lights, which make reading in bed easy while minimally disturbing the spouse. Auto lock and alarm buttons are also directly overhead, along with the controls for the ceiling fan.

The mattress is a residential-style king-size pillow-top and is remarkably comfortable. For cross-ventilation, there are single hung windows to the sides of the bed in the slideout, and centered between is a deluxe headboard, utilizing oak with fabric and Ultraleather padded insets. Lifting the bed to reveal a spacious storage space is easy due to the lift-assist props, revealing a good place to store the additional folding dining chairs when not in use.

Across from the bed is a thoughtfully designed oak chest of drawers with a solid-surface countertop, window and LED accent lighting. The 32-inch LED TV mounted as part of the upper set of cabinets pulls open to reveal the entertainment electronics and a digital-combination safe to store valuables.

On the exterior, the paint scheme exemplifies the luxury of this coach, and the test model, with its tans, golds, browns and black, was accented with just the right amount of chrome to make this an appealing motorhome. The front end is designed like a fine motorcar. The relatively aerodynamic shape of the front cap is adorned with a chrome accent bar across the lower section connecting the LED head and fog lamp bezels, all with LED accent lighting. The detail continues at the top with a bright bezel around the center DOT lights. Chrome-backed bus-style electric mirrors with sideview cameras

### WHAT'S HOT

Cabinetry, lighting, drivability and handling, exterior paint and appearance

### WHAT'S NOT

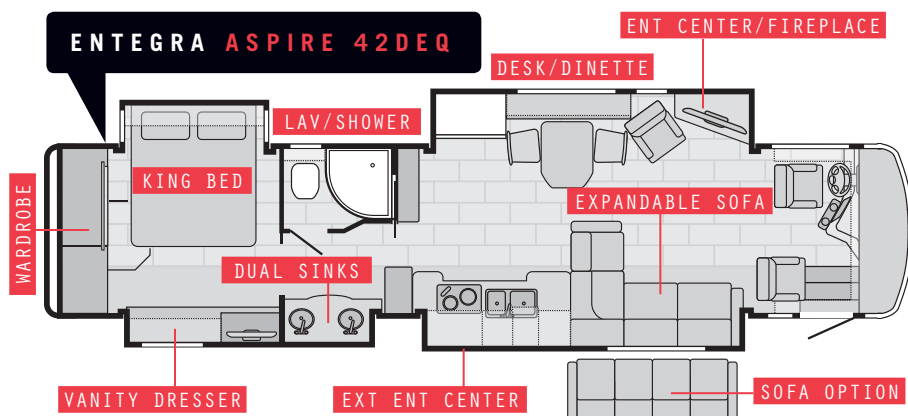
Closet light, generator slide, no emergency backup for rear engine-compartment door



and auto-defrost complement the front-end styling.

External storage on the Aspire 42DEQ is ample, with one full pass-through basement compartment fitted with the optional two-way slide-out tray (\$517) that functions well, has latches on both ends and is carpeted with Ozite to match the rest of the basement. The design of the basement is exceptional; the entire compartment is trimmed out very nicely, with hook-and-loop-attached panels where needed for electronics access. All the satellite-TV and entertainment-system components are very neatly dressed and easily accessible. Entegra has installed a panel on the door side, which allows quick disablement of some key systems and sections of the electrical system for safety, such as the 3,000-watt power inverter system. The basement is heated separately via its own zone thermostat neatly and conveniently mounted on the wall. The 12-volt DC and 120-volt AC outlets allow for plugging in any powered or charging accessories you may need, like thermo-electric coolers or power tool chargers.

You won't need to use those outlets for outside entertainment, though, because the coach has a side-wall-mounted digital entertainment center, complete with a JVC stereo system and 40-inch Samsung LED HDTV on a swing-away bracket that allows angling the TV for viewing anywhere under the twin Girard electric lateral arm awnings. The JVC stereo offers TV



audio, Bluetooth audio, an audio feed from the inside stereo system and its own AM/FM radio; however, we were unable to pull in any radio stations using that unit. Being in southern Connecticut, we felt we should be able to receive more, and indeed with the inside stereo we did.

The coach is built on the Spartan Chassis K2 raised-rail chassis, which is equipped with a Cummins ISL turbocharged engine that belts out 450 hp and 1,250 lb-ft of torque at 1,400 rpm. It is mated to the Allison 3000MH series six-speed automatic transmission. A built-in, two-stage engine brake with driver controls does an excellent job of slowing the coach, and the Reyco Granning independent front air suspension makes driving this coach like riding on a flying carpet. Entegra works hard to stiffen its chassis to reduce flex and maintain structural integrity. The company welds X-bridge frames into the chassis for just that reason, and uses 2-by-4-inch floor trusses, on top of which is ¾-inch seven-ply plywood decking. Overall, this makes for a 5-inch floor assembly, one of the thickest in the industry, according to the company. The benefit: better insulation and reduced, noise

and vibration.

The walls of the coach are 2½ inches thick with welded tubular aluminum topped with hung gelcoat fiberglass. Inside, fiberglass-batt insulation is tucked and glued to ensure interior comfort. The crowned roof features aluminum truss rafters that are insulated with the company's Flex-foil fiberglass insulation. With this insulation and the thermopane radius edged frameless windows, the interior of the coach was quite comfortable in cool and warm temperatures, and exterior noise — including a neighbor banging on the underside of his truck, and another playing hip-hop music — was basically unnoticeable when the coach was closed up. Four-season usability is built into its DNA.

The aforementioned powertrain is easily accessed from the rear compartment on the door side, where many of the filters required for the engine and air system — as well as the diesel exhaust fluid tank — can be filled and serviced (or from a convenient remote fill on the streetside). A switch in this compartment electrically raised the back access door to the engine, which sits in a nice roomy compartment. Everything is accessible, which

**Below:** The lav is separate from the sink area and includes an electric-flush toilet and a corner fiberglass shower stall with a sliding glass surround. The sink area features his-and-hers basins integrated into the solid-surface countertops and plenty of storage for bathroom accessories.



# "It works!"

We looked at a lot of options to fix the leak in our RV roof and couldn't be happier with choosing RVroof.com! They were friendly, knowledgeable, and the product works as guaranteed.

## Need a New RV Roof?

RV FlexArmor® is the solution!



Art & Rose Neiderhofer  
RV Type: Newmar Mountaineer A Class 1998  
Installed on 06/2009  
Florida



VISIT A LOCATION OR  
GO TO [RVROOF.COM](http://RVROOF.COM)  
OR CALL 1.844.353.9276



RVRoof.com, Circle 117 on Reader Service Card



# Specifications

## Chassis

Manufacturer	Spartan Chassis
Model	K2 450 Mountain Master Raised Rail
Engine	Cummins ISL
SAE Hp	450 @ 2,100 rpm
Torque	1,250 lb-ft @ 1,400 rpm
Transmission	Allison 3000 MH 6-Speed
Tires	295/80R22.5 LRH
Wheelbase	296"
Brakes	Air
Suspension	Air bag, Independent Front Suspension
Fuel Capacity	100 gal; DEF 15 gal
Warranty	Basic 3 years/50,000 miles; Engine 5 years/100,000 miles; Transmission 5 years/200,000 miles

## Coach

Exterior Length	43' 2"
Exterior Width	8' 5"
Exterior Height	12' 9"
Interior Width	8' 1"
Interior Height	7'
Construction	Aluminum framing, fiberglass skin and roof, batt insulation
Freshwater Cap	100 gal
Black-water Cap	41 gal
Gray-water Cap	62 gal
Air Conditioner	(3) 15,000 Btu with heat pump
Heating	Aqua Hot 4000 hydronic, diesel/electric
Refrigerator	22.5 cu ft
Inverter/Charger	2,800 watt
Batteries (2)	12-volt chassis, (2) L16 AGM coach
AC Generator	10 kW diesel
MSRP	\$415,097
MSRP as Tested	\$422,564
Warranty	2 years

## Wet Weight

(Water & Heater, Fuel Tanks Full; No Supplies or Passengers)

Front Axle	14,120 lbs
Rear with Tag Axle	24,080 lbs
Total	38,200 lbs

## Chassis Ratings

GAWR, F/R/TAG	17,000 lbs/20,000 lbs/12,000 lbs
GVWR/GCWR	49,000 lbs/64,000 lbs
ROCCC	10,800 lbs

GAWR	Gross Axle Weight Rating
GVWR	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating
GCWR	Gross Combination Weight Rating
ROCCC	Realistic Occupant and Cargo Carrying Capacity (Full Water, Fuel, No Passengers)

is a great feature of this coach. The side-mount radiator is out of the way on the left side, so servicing the engine is pretty easy. As usual, panels in the floor of the closet help for additional access. We were concerned about engine-compartment access in the event of a power failure, and while this feature is nice, we think manual gas-prop powered versions might be a safer bet, as we could not find a manual override in the event of a power failure.

The coach utilities are well designed on the Aspire, and make hooking up as well as dumping tanks a breeze.

One particular feature we found interesting is that the 100-gallon freshwater tank has three ways of being filled. Inside the utility bay is a valve to divert the city-water inlet to the freshwater tank through the integrated water filter. On the door side is a standard gravity fill, which allows for easy filling from another pumped-in source. It's just not filtered unless you attach one to the hose from which you're filling. This would be the fastest way to load the 100 gallons. The third way, which is somewhat unique, utilizes the main coach-water pump so the winterize valve and hose, along with the city-water-tank fill valve, allows the user to draft off a static water source and fill the tank. This is great if you have a portable water tank or jerry jugs that are used to carry water, say, from the community water spigot in a national or state park, making it unnecessary to move the coach to get some water. This would admittedly be a pretty slow process, but it would work nicely.

The utility bay is also home to the new Thetford Sanicon Plus macerator system. When you remove the access door, the Sanicon Plus allows dumping the holding tanks using a small, permanently attached hose, and a special nozzle with a fitting that attaches to the sewer connection. In this case, the Sanicon hose and handle are accessible from a separate hatch on the side of the coach for ease of use. The Sanicon grinds up waste and pumps it through the hose, making the process clean and sanitary. Another

benefit is that this system can make dumping at home after a trip possible by running the hose to a clean-out in the basement or outside your home. For backup, Entegra has plumbed in standard dump valves and a single 3-inch sewer connection under the coach, and has a sewer-hose holder built into the front, streetside compartment. The mass of pipes and valves in there can be a bit disconcerting, but with a little study, it's pretty easy to figure out.

Handling the usual utility connections is easy; the freshwater hose and the 50-amp electrical cords are on electric reels, making stowing them a breeze. Should the water hose fail, a backup/extension freshwater hose can be easily hooked up to a connection in the utility bay until a new hose can be put on the reel. In this coach there is no integrated pressure-relief valve or pressure regulator, so a portable one should still be used at the spigot.

The Aspire comes with a Cummins Onan 10 kW diesel genset mounted, customarily, up front, under the steel-reinforced front cap, and is attached to an Onan Energy Command 30 auto start system. Opening the electrical access compartment located beneath the driver's side window reveals a pull handle that unlocks the front cowling. The front cowling is easily pulled out from the bottom, revealing the front of the generator, and allows easy access to all the front-cap lighting. However, to do any maintenance on the generator it must be separately unlocked and manually pulled out, which can be difficult. Once out, generator access and service is straightforward and easy. That said, in the event of a total coach power failure, generator and front-end access is guaranteed.

The Entegra Aspire is a beautifully crafted motorcoach, with thoughtfully designed and placed amenities with which anyone in the market for a motorhome of this caliber will certainly be delighted. **M**

## Entegra Coach

800-517-9137, [www.entegracoach.com](http://www.entegracoach.com)

# Great TV on the Road— *Whenever & Wherever* You Want!



*Small footprint is perfect  
for RV living!*

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

Wally™ DISH® HD Satellite Receiver #87758 **Club SALE \$99.97** Reg. \$129

### **NEW USER-FRIENDLY FEATURES!**

- **NEW!** The radio frequency remote can be used inside and outside the RV up to 200 ft. away
- **NEW!** Locate your missing remote with the Remote Finder
- **NEW!** Improved search helps you find programs fast!
- Additional Wally™ accessories available including: Bluetooth adapter and headphones, Wi-Fi adapter and additional remotes
- Works with DISH® Pay-As-You-Go programming

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

- Compatible with all DISH-specific antennas and most mobile satellite antennas
- 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
- **NEW LOWER PRICE!** Programming for as little as \$36.99 per month!

**Hurry, offer expires January 29, 2017. Call Camping World at 1.888.875.1540 to activate your DISH programming!**

\*Important Terms and Conditions: All prices, fees, charges, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice. **Installation/Equipment Requirements:** Monthly fees and limits on number and type of receivers will apply. All charges, including monthly programming, pay-per-view and equipment upgrades, must be paid in advance; failure to pay by due date will lead to service disconnection within 24 hours. Miscellaneous: Offers available for new and qualified former customers. Offers subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. Taxes or reimbursement charges for state gross earnings taxes may apply. Additional restrictions may apply.



# CAMPING WORLD®

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

DISH Network, Circle 125 on Reader Service Card

**dish**  
AUTHORIZED RETAILER



# POWER SOURCE

Batteries are the lifeline of any motorhome, and proper care and maintenance will keep appliances and

**S**ince the beginning of modern RVing, the concept has always been to be able to take the comforts of home along on our travels, and as we have progressed into the electronic age, our dependence on portable electricity has continually increased. Today's motorhomes have advanced direct current (DC) electrical systems with battery banks to help power the demands whether the motorhome is on the road or off the grid. Having an understanding of how a battery bank is designed and the proper methods to maintain it will help keep the lights on for a long time.

Due to their overwhelming popularity, we will concentrate on the most common batteries used in RVs: flooded, absorbed glass mat (AGM) and gel cell, in six and 12-volt configurations. We will not address lithium-ion batteries as they are, for the most part, mainly installed in the aftermarket by specialized installers, and require different equipment to run the systems than what is installed in most production motorhomes.

Every motorhome manufactured today has two DC electrical systems,

one for the house and one for the chassis. Electrically separating the systems is common in production motorhomes because of the chassis being manufactured by an independent vendor requiring its own DC system, and also that it really makes good sense. After all, if the chassis has its own batteries and system that are electrically isolated from the coach batteries and the 12-volt DC system, even if you leave the interior lights on and drain the batteries, the engine will still start.

The two DC systems generally utilize different types of batteries, and are frequently wired in different ways, so a discussion of battery types and how batteries are connected into a motorhome is in order.

## Battery Types

The most common and economical type of battery on the market today is the flooded lead-acid (FLA), wet-cell battery. These batteries are basically a vented case containing cells, which are made up of lead plates and separators, one set of plates per cell. These cells are submerged in a mixture of sulfuric acid and water. Each cell delivers about 2.1 volts, so a 12-volt battery will have six cells, and a 6-volt battery, also common in RVs, will have three.

When charging, flooded batteries produce hydrogen gas, which can be explosive, so the batteries need to be housed in a well-ventilated compartment. It's also important to keep the water level maintained with this type of battery, and to make sure they stay clean.

A variation on this technology is the AGM battery. Instead of the cells being submerged in a sulfuric acid and water bath, the electrolyte, as it is called, is contained within a special saturated glass mat, which separates the cells. Because of this technology, the chemical reaction within the battery is much more efficient than with typical flooded batteries, allowing faster charging, reduced sulfation and thus a longer life cycle.

AGM batteries are sealed, and therefore are maintenance-free and



# FORCE

d accessories running for a long time

can be mounted in any position. The charging profiles for AGM batteries are similar to FLA, but annual equalization charges are recommended to eliminate sulfation, and to correct the slightly different voltages that occur from each plate as a normal part of cycling. Equalization is a process whereby a charger equipped with this function essentially overcharges the batteries slightly to eliminate sulfation on the plates, returning all the plates to an equal state of condition or charge. So, when used in an RV environment, a charger designed for AGM batteries is recommended.

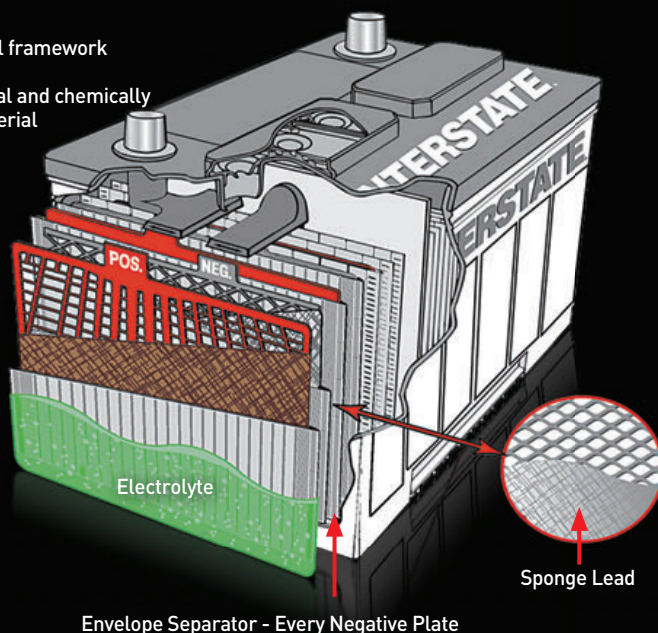
Gel-cell batteries are also sealed batteries, but without liquid; instead, the electrolyte is in gel form. Gel-cell batteries are quite expensive, and popular with off-road enthusiasts, as the batteries are tough and, like AGM batteries, can be mounted in any position. Plus, if the vehicle rolls over, it's still not an issue. Gel batteries are, however, prone to overheating when charging, and require a special charging system. Gel batteries are rarely seen in the RV world because of this.

Most starting batteries used in motorhomes are 12-volt batteries. Starting batteries are designed to deliver a short burst of high power to start an engine. These batteries are sized in Battery Council International (BCI) group numbers which, while designating the case size of the battery and not the amp-hour size, will note a change in the capacity of the battery because it is larger or smaller in physical size. Gas-powered motorhomes will usually have a single

starting battery, whereas diesels, because of the additional current required to crank over a high-compression diesel engine, will have two.

Deep-cycle batteries, often called Marine/RV batteries, come in 6- and 12-volt configurations. Deep-cycle batteries are designed to deliver a lower amount of amperage over a longer period of time for things like appliance circuit boards, lighting, radios and so on in the living section of the motorhome. These are also described as the "coach" batteries, while the engine starting and operating batteries are the "chassis" batteries. Less-expensive motorhomes will generally have one or maybe two 12-volt coach batteries, whereas larger more expensive motorhomes with larger systems and heavier loads — including inverters — will have multiple 6-volt batteries.

This is where battery connection comes into play. Hooking up a single battery is a simple affair. The positive lead goes to the positive terminal, and the negative to the negative. However, to increase the available capacity, multiple batteries can be combined into a battery bank. Cumulatively, they provide more power to stay off the grid longer while using higher loads.



## Connections

Batteries are connected in three different ways:

**Series:** Batteries wired in series increase the voltage in the system, but not the amps, nor the capacity of the bank. So, when we use 6-volt batteries, we wire two of them together, positive to negative, to create a single 12-volt battery. So, if each battery is rated at 225 amp-hours (AH), in the end, you still have 225 AH.

**Parallel:** Batteries wired in parallel do not increase the voltage of the system, but rather the amp capacity. So, if we have two 12-volt RV batteries wired positive to positive and negative to negative, we'll still have 12 volts, but the amp capacity of the batteries doubles. (Only identical batteries should ever be connected.) So if each battery is rated at 255 AH, you will have 510 AH with this combination.

**Series/Parallel:** Batteries connected in this way increase voltage and capacity. So, two 6-volt batteries are connected in series to make a 12-volt battery, and multiple combinations of these are combined in parallel to increase system amp capacity. In this example, four 6-volt batteries rated at 300 AH each, will produce a bank rated at 600 AH. Add two more, and you're up to 900 AH, etc.



## Maintenance

Battery maintenance and safety go hand in hand. If your motorhome is equipped with maintenance-free batteries, then you're in luck, as there's little you have to do to your batteries except keep them charged and clean. If, however, you have FLA batteries, then you have some regular maintenance to do.

Battery maintenance should only be done after the batteries have been fully charged, and they should have no load on them when performing maintenance. Be sure to wear goggles, rubber gloves and other protective clothing when working with these batteries. Only work on them in a well-ventilated area. When removing caps, tilt the caps toward you, with the inner part of the cap tilting away in case there is splashing to avoid injury from the acid electrolyte.

It is essential that the plates in the cells remain completely flooded in order to operate properly and to avoid undue sulfation. Batteries that are allowed to dry out will have a much shorter life than those that have been maintained. Battery cells should only be filled with distilled water, and filled up to the bottom of the fill tube.

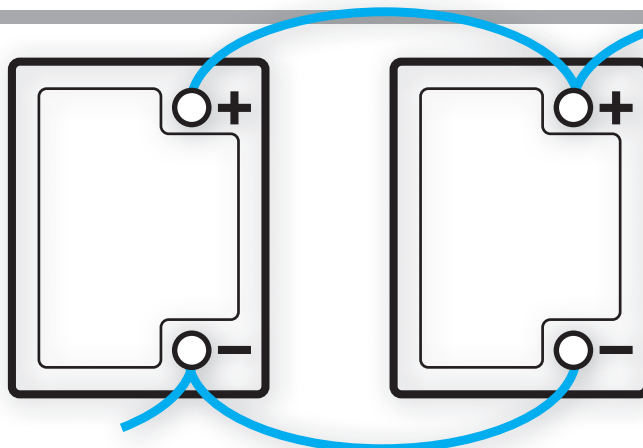
As an alternative to manually filling each cell, battery-filling systems are available from companies like Trojan Battery and Flow-Rite that will allow remote, semiautomatic filling of the cells, and are a great investment, especially if reaching the tops of the batteries is difficult.

If battery corrosion is forming on the terminals, it can be cleaned with a terminal brush and a mixture of baking soda and water or battery-cleaning spray. To prevent this from recurring, seal the battery terminals with battery-terminal spray. Heavy corrosion on the batteries and in the battery compartment is almost always a sign of dry and/or poorly charging batteries, and occurs as the hydrogen gas is released and contacts the metals in the battery terminal connector.

### PARALLEL CONNECT

To increase capacity, connect batteries in parallel. This will not increase the system voltage.

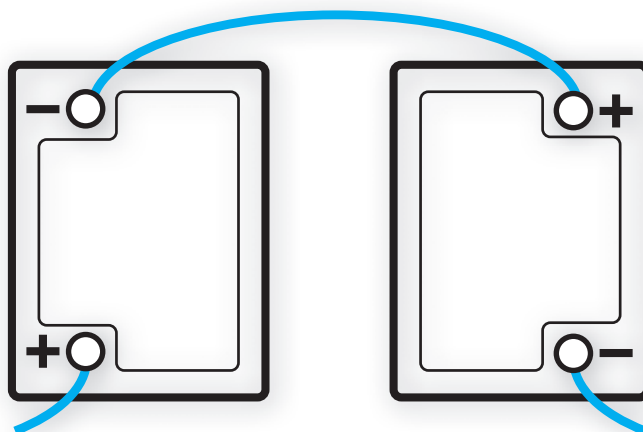
Two 27TMH 12-volt batteries rated at 115AH.  
Voltage: 12V  
System Capacity: 230AH (115AH+115AH)



### SERIES CONNECT

To increase voltage, connect batteries in series. This will not increase the system capacity.

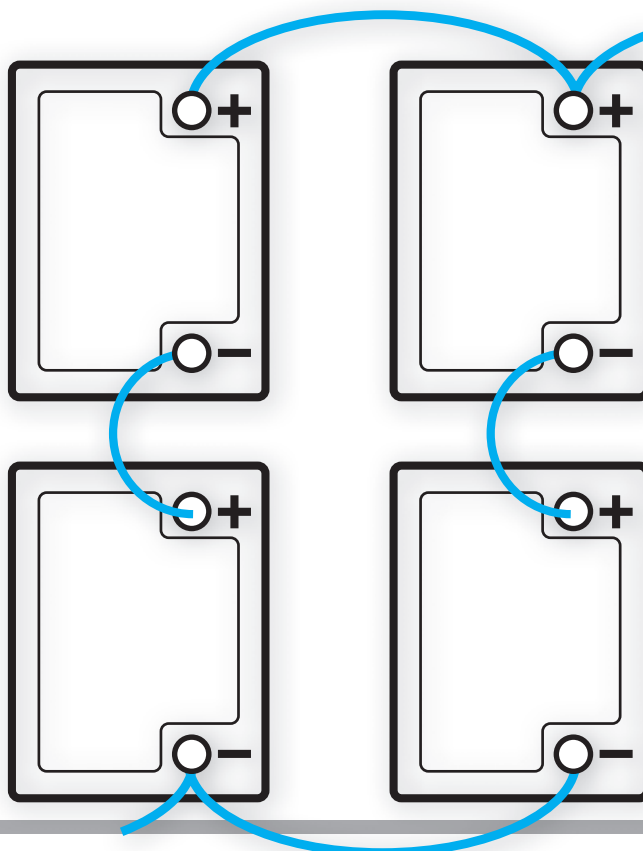
Two T-105, 6-volt batteries rated at 225AH.  
Voltage: 12V (6V + 6V)  
System Capacity: 225AH



### SERIES/ PARALLEL CONNECT

To increase both voltage and capacity, connect additional batteries in series and parallel.

Four T-105, 6-volt Batteries rated at 225AH.  
Voltage: 12V (6V + 6V)  
System Capacity: 450AH (225AH + 225AH)



Right: A motorhome's batteries may be in a single compartment, under the steps or elsewhere. If they're inaccessible, a battery-watering system is helpful. Right: Corroded terminals and connectors provide resistance, which reduces the effectiveness of batteries. Battery-terminal spray can help prevent this.

## Storage

Many RVers ignore the proper off-season storage of their motorhome's batteries, which can be an expensive oversight, especially in below-freezing climates. Batteries that are stored outdoors in freezing climates must be kept fully charged, or at almost full charge, in order to prevent freezing damage to the plates and cases. The BCI service manual states that a battery at a 100 percent charge will freeze at minus 92 degrees Fahrenheit, while a battery at 20 percent charge will freeze at +19 degrees Fahrenheit.

Unfortunately, various parasitic loads in an RV, and the nature of batteries to discharge naturally while in storage, can lead to completely



discharged batteries, which can freeze at +32 degrees Fahrenheit and because they have been completely discharged, may not accept a charge again at all.

Many RVers in cold climates spend hundreds or thousands of dollars unnecessarily replacing batteries due to poor storage practices. Once the RV is stored, if all the batteries can be kept on charge, then in most climates the batteries will be fine. If they can't be kept on charge, they all should be removed from the RV, charged and stored in a cool, dry location, protected



Photos: Bob Carpenter

from the elements. The batteries should be given a boost charge in the spring before reinstallation if possible, or charged thoroughly using the motorhome systems once reinstalled. Lastly, don't forget the chassis batteries. Often, they are not charged by the on-board charging system, so they may require a separate charger or battery maintainer.

The batteries are the foundation of the 12-volt DC electrical systems in motorhomes, and with a little care and understanding, can power our homelike comforts for a long time. **M**

# Order Now & Save!

The largest collection of new RV models in the marketplace — all in one handy volume



## 2017 RV BUYERS GUIDE

Completely Revised & Updated for 2017 • More Than 500 Listings

1-800-309-0311 • [www.rvbgb.com](http://www.rvbgb.com)

Send me a total of \_\_\_\_ copies of the **2017 RV Buyers Guide** for only \$7.99 plus \$2 shipping and handling per copy. Total Payment due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check or money order made out to RV Buyers Guide enclosed

☐ Charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Available to US and Canadian residents only (U.S. funds only). Publication date is February 2017. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

2091 2017 RVBG - MH02



Clip out and mail to: 2017 RV Buyers Guide, P.O. Box 9291, Oxnard, CA 93031



# CONNECT TO NEW *Adventures*



**CLASS C  
MOTORHOMES** **\$329**  
 ISLAND LAKE, IL **STARTING AT**  
 STK# 1286106  
**PER MO.<sup>^</sup>**

Based on 10% down @ 4.99% APR for 240 mos.



**CLASS A  
MOTORHOMES** **\$407**  
 OLIVE BRANCH, MS **STARTING AT**  
 STK# 1231070  
**PER MO.<sup>^</sup>**

Based on 10% down @ 4.99% APR for 240 mos.



**CAMPING WORLD RV SALES<sup>®</sup>**

**866-9-RV-CENTER | [CampingWorld.com/RV](http://CampingWorld.com/RV)**

**Visit Your Local SuperCenter Today!**

BUY AN RV & BECOME A

**Good Sam  
ELITE MEMBER<sup>™</sup>**



\*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, MS, LA, WA, OR or UT). Inventory and floorplans vary by location, not all advertised manufacturers available at participating dealers. New units will be delivered from the nearest authorized dealer. Contact your area dealer for availability. VIN numbers posted at dealership. \*\*All payments to qualified buyers with approved credit. Subject to lender terms. \*\*\*Available to qualified buyers based on lender credit qualifications. Down payment may be required (Not applicable in PA). \*\*RV must be purchased at a participating Camping World RV Sales Dealership to qualify. Offer is not retroactive on previous RV purchases. Benefits are subject to certain limitations and restrictions, and are subject to change. Discounts and benefits offered through your Good Sam Elite membership for 3 years from date of RV purchase. See dealer for full program details. Advertisements 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. © 2017 FreedomRoads, LLC. CAMPING WORLD and the CAMPING WORLD Mountain Logo are registered trademarks of CWI, Inc. and used with permission. Unauthorized use of any of CWI, Inc.'s trademarks is expressly prohibited. All rights reserved. Offers expire 2/8/17.

FR076866-1016



# THE HEAT IS ON

IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING SYSTEMS, AS WELL AS NEW TECHNOLOGIES, ENSURE WARM WINTER TRAVEL FOR YEARS TO COME

**T**here's one thing, and one thing only, that makes all-season RVing possible. It's not comfy couches or home-theater systems, nor is it kitchen appliances or fancy bathrooms. It's heat.

Warm air and hot water make it possible for us to ignore the driving rain or falling snow outside, and to enjoy a comfortable, cozy existence indoors. Whether you own a Class B motorhome or Class A diesel pusher, there's no underestimating the importance of heat; all it takes is one night without it to realize that all other conveniences pale by comparison.

Early on, RVs of all kinds relied upon simple convection heaters to provide warm, dry air to the interior. Then came ducted furnace systems, which mimicked the units in our residences by distributing warm air throughout the motorhome, even including the storage compartments in some models. Today, the choices in RV heating systems are more widespread than ever before. Though they can still be divided into two very broad categories—forced-air and hydronic — new designs have made it possible to heat RVs big and small quickly, efficiently and quietly. It's no longer a “one size fits all” proposition; today's RVs are being fitted with systems that are ideally suited

for the size and even the shape of a particular motorhome. Though none of the systems that you're going to read about here can be easily retrofitted (save for an updated/replacement forced-air furnace) to an older motorhome, they illustrate differences in design and implementation that may play an important role in your next motorhome-buying decision.







Left: At the core of Alde's hydronic heating system is the Compact 3010 central heating and hot-water boiler, which operates on either LP-gas or 120-volt AC power. The 3010's boiler heats the motorhome's water supply and provides warm air to the living spaces with a series of convectors. Below: Alde's clean, intuitive control panel makes it easy for the user to adjust air and water temperature.



## ALDE CORP.

In Sweden, where subzero temperatures are commonplace, staying warm isn't a convenience — it's a necessity. Founded in 1949 by Alde Rask, what is now known as Alde International Systems AB started out building electric brakes for trailers, but by 1966 had developed the first mobile boiler — what we now know as a hydronic heating system. Today, Alde still manufactures hydronic heating systems for the RV market, with subsidiaries in Germany, the UK and, most recently, the United States in 2012 (Alde Corp.). So while it may be new to our shores, Alde is profoundly experienced at radiant heat, particularly in smaller RV applications prevalent in Sweden and throughout Europe.

Alde's systems consist of an LP-gas-fired furnace with two 120-volt AC

electric elements that heat a mixture of water and glycol (antifreeze), which is circulated through a series of convectors and under-floor pipes using a 12-volt DC electric pump.

The convectors, which are located along the walls, are heated by the mixture that is pumped into them. As the warm air from them rises, it creates a boundary layer between the walls and windows, keeping the interior warm. The air eventually rises to the ceiling, where it circulates down to the floor and is again heated by the convectors.

When installed correctly, the company maintains that the natural flow of warm air from the convectors will wrap the entire living space in cozy warmth that eliminates cold spots. The boiler also serves to

provide the motorhome with hot water. Multiple features can be added to the Alde system, including heated floors, engine heat, towel warmers and more.

At the core of Alde's system is the Compact 3010 central heating and hot-water boiler. Measuring just 12.25 inches high by 13.5 inches wide and 20 inches long, the 3010 weighs only 31 pounds. The other key components include the circulation pump, an expansion tank that stores the circulated water and glycol mixture, the convectors and a touch panel that allows users to easily adjust air and water temperature. Currently, Alde's systems can be found in Class B and C motorhomes manufactured by Roadtrek and Winnebago.

**Alde Corp. | 877-860-9814, [www.alde.us](http://www.alde.us)**

## AQUA-HOT

The Aqua-Hot name is synonymous with luxury diesel coaches, providing moist, evenly distributed heat throughout the interior, as well as an unlimited supply of hot water. Founded in 1984 by Harold "Hap" Enander, today the company offers a variety of diesel-fired hydronic heating systems to suit a variety of diesel-motorhome applications. Recently, the company also introduced what it claims is the first and only California Air Resources Board (CARB)-approved diesel burner for use in RVs, beginning with the 600-series diesel.

Aqua-Hot 600 series heating systems are the company's most powerful products for diesel motorhomes. Shown here is the 600D, which can produce up to 65,600 Btus of interior heat as well as continuous hot water.



At its most basic level, the Aqua-Hot hydronic heating system uses tubing to run hot liquid into heat exchangers that distribute warm air into the living areas. At the same time, coils containing potable water wrap around the boiler to transport hot water to faucets and appliances. Aqua-Hot systems can supply in-floor heat, with multiple heat zones throughout the motorhome. Each zone (up to five, depending on the motorhome) is equipped with a sensor that regulates the user-set temperature in that area, ensuring consistent temperature. In addition to limitless hot water with zero recovery time, Aqua-Hot systems are whisper-quiet, using only small circulating fans with heat exchangers, to help distribute the heat. Like the other systems featured in this article, Aqua-Hot systems are installed at the factory level, and are currently offered as standard or available equipment in leading luxury coaches, including those from American Coach, Foretravel, Monaco, Newell and others. Aqua-Hot systems are serviced by a network of more than 160 factory-authorized service centers, including mobile service technicians located throughout North America.

**Aqua-Hot | 800-685-4298,  
www.aquahot.com**

## GOLD HEAT, WARM FEET

Though not a furnace nor a hydronic system, Gold Heat by Aries Engineering nonetheless adds warmth and comfort to any size motorhome with its radiant-floor heat solutions. And, unlike the other systems in this article, Gold Heat can be retrofitted to an older motorhome, making it a great supplement to the existing furnace when camping in cold environments.

Aries Engineering introduced Gold Heat in 2003 and began supplying custom radiant-heat floor mats to custom-home builders and luxury-coach manufacturers such as Newmar and Tiffin. Designed for use underneath stone or ceramic tile, Gold Heat's wire mats are thin, lightweight and easy to install with a single mortar application, according to the company. Gold Heat can be custom-designed to fit the exact size and shape of the floorplan, making it fast and easy to install, and the mats can be made up to 20 feet long for design flexibility. Made from "Ruggedized" wire that is encased in a stainless-steel outer braid, Gold Heat mats are incredibly tough and virtually unbreakable. Also available is Black Gold, a system designed for use under carpet, vinyl, wood and laminate.

Gold Heat does not heat the air like a furnace, but gently warms the floor surface, allowing for a lower thermostat setting while providing the same comfort level. The 120-volt AC system operates via a controller that regulates the floor temperature by means of a sensor built into the floor.

**Aries Engineering | 503-848-6190, www.goldheat.com**



Infrared imaging shows the difference Gold Heat radiant heat floor mats can make under the stone or ceramic tile of a luxury motorhome. The company also manufactures the Black Gold system, for use under carpet, vinyl, wood and laminate.

## ATWOOD DOMETIC

Atwood Mobile Products has been a global provider in designing, engineering and manufacturing appliances and hardware for the RV, On-/Off-Highway and Marine industries for more than 50 years, and has been manufacturing gas appliances since the acquisition of Hemco Inc. in 1964. With that in mind, it's easy to see why Atwood furnaces are among the most widely used in the RV industry. Atwood furnaces are LP-gas fueled, and the company's latest models have been designed for reduced noise and greater efficiency through revisions to the burner and blower assemblies. The unit's compact size provides greater flexibility in the furnace location, which increases storage space, and provides enhanced floorplan flexibility and optimum furnace/ducting locations. They're designed for easy serviceability, too, with all controls and crucial components easily accessible from the outside of the RV, eliminating the need to remove the furnace.

**Atwood Dometic | 800-546-8759, www.atwoodmobile.com**



Atwood furnaces are among the most widely used in the RV industry. Steady improvements to the burner and blower assemblies, as well as easy maintenance, make Atwood a favorite among manufacturers and RVers alike.





## SUBURBAN

If you own or have owned an RV, you are doubtlessly already familiar with Suburban furnaces, as they are offered as standard equipment on many of the LP-gas-fueled travel trailers, fifth-wheels and motorhomes on the road. Suburban furnaces work similarly to the furnace in your home, with an LP-gas fired burner that supplies the heat, and a fan that distributes it — either through a single outlet (smaller motorhomes) or through a multi-ducted system. The company's newer SH Series furnace offers quieter performance than ever, thanks to larger blower wheels that turn at a lower RPM to reduce fan noise. The SH Series is available in 35,000- or 40,000-Btu ratings.

**Suburban Manufacturing | 423-775-2131, [www.airxcel.com](http://www.airxcel.com)**

Suburban's newer SH Series furnace offers quieter performance than ever thanks to larger blower wheels that turn at a lower RPM to reduce fan noise.

## TRUMA

Another newcomer to the American RV industry, Truma is a German company founded in 1949 and named after president Harry S. Truman, who made it possible for Germany to become industrialized at the end of World War II through the Marshall Plan for economic recovery. In Truman's honor, company founder Philipp Kreis named his new business Truma. In August 2013, the company made its involvement in the U.S. market official with the opening of an office and warehouse located in Elkhart, Indiana. The company introduced the "first officially recognized caravan heater" in 1961, making winter camping possible.

Truma's Combi heating systems are unique in that they combine a furnace and a water heater in one compact unit that can function on LP-gas, 120-volt AC electric or a combination of both. This makes them ideal for smaller motorhomes, where limited space can make the use of a separate water heater and furnace a challenge. Available in four models — Combi eco, Combi comfort, Combi eco plus and Combi comfort plus — the units offer up the three operating levels to suit the conditions at hand. For example, the Combi comfort and comfort plus models operate at 7,500 Btu on level one; 14,300 Btu on level 2 and 20,400 Btu on level three. This lets the user tailor the unit's output to his/her specific needs, which

makes the Combi very efficient (the company claims 90 percent efficiency) and easy on LP-gas consumption when dry camping. It's also almost silent in operation, so there is no audible clicking on/off or fan roar in the middle of the night. A stainless-steel water tank is integrated into the unit and does not contain heating elements, so there are no anodes that will require replacement. A sleek, intuitive, programmable thermostat allows the user to set room tempera-

ture, water temperature and power selection (LP-gas or electric). In the future, the Truma app, available from the Apple App Store and from Google Play, will allow users to operate Truma devices from up to four smart phones via the Truma INet Box. The Truma Combi is standard on Winnebago Travato, Era 70x and 70a; Hymer Aktiv; Coachmen Galleria; and other motorhomes.

**Truma Corp. | 855-55-TRUMA, [www.trumacorp.com](http://www.trumacorp.com)**



The Truma Combi combines a furnace and a water heater in one, compact unit that can function on LP-gas, 120-volt AC electric or a combination of both.

By Ann Eichenmuller

## EXECUTIVE DECISION

A 43-FOOT MONACO PROVED TO BE THE PERFECT MOTORHOME FOR THIS COUPLE'S RETIREMENT RIG

*This article is part of a continuing series looking at motorhomes that have stood the test of time. They may have miles under their wheels, but they can still make dreams come true. Each has earned the right to be called "the classic ride."*

Shopping for a used motorhome may start out with a dream, but the experience can be challenging. At least that is what Jay Tullis and his wife, Jeanie, found when they began the search for their retirement RV. Lifelong motorhome enthusiasts, they had sold their last coach years ago when they were too busy expanding their Utah dog-grooming business to do much traveling. Now they were in the process of selling that same business, and were looking forward to leisurely

meandering across the states without a set schedule.

But at "76 years young," Jay realized they might use the motorhome for a decade or less. The couple concluded that it made more financial sense to buy a preowned motorhome, giving them the option to resell after their travels with a minimum loss of investment. They were leaning toward a Monaco or a Country Coach, having owned and been impressed with those units in the past. Their dream was to find a 38- to



Above: Jay and Jeanie Tullis were glad to find their Monaco motorhome after a long and sometimes disappointing search.

40-foot used motorhome from one of those two manufacturers in excellent condition, equipped with the amenities to make long trips comfortably — and to do it for less than \$125,000.





# The Classic Ride



Above: New bronze cabinet hardware complements the motorhome's original neutral color scheme. Tile was used to update the walls in the coach's galley and bathroom. In the cockpit area, redesigned cabinetry and a new TV provide an additional 5 inches of clearance above the dash.

So, the Tullises knew what they wanted ... the trouble was actually finding it.

They started scouring online classified ads, and eventually located two motorhomes in California that seemed to fit their requirements. After getting additional photos and talking to the owners, the Tullises felt the coaches were worth pursuing. With high hopes, they scheduled a road trip to take a look. But pictures can be deceptive, and both units were worse than disappointing.

"They were in terrible condition," Jay said. "Neither one came even close to our expectations."

They decided they might have to expand their search a bit farther from home, and eventually found a 2002 43-foot Monaco Executive DS in Fort

Worth, Texas, that looked promising. It had been used regularly, primarily for shorter trips, and had only 62,000 miles on the odometer. Determined to avoid another nightmare, Jay told the seller he would buy a one-way ticket to look at the unit. If the RV didn't live up to its billing, the seller would have to pay for Jay's return ticket home. The trip was still a gamble, but at least this way, Jay wouldn't be the only one losing.

It was a gamble that paid off.

"There were small issues, like needing new tires, but it was really very close to what we were looking for," Jay said.

The Executive is powered by a 500-hp Cummins with an Allison 4000 series six-speed transmission, and has an Onan 10-kW diesel generator. It includes two driver's side slideouts,

three roof-mounted air conditioners with heat strips and an Aqua Hot diesel-powered hydronic water and comfort heating system. One of the features Jay appreciated most was the Manabloc water system, which allows the owner to control each water line individually, so that a leaky faucet can be repaired without turning off water to the entire motorhome.

A major selling point of this Monaco was the condition of the interior. The Executives of this period featured Ralph Lauren designs that coordinated soft, neutral colors with muted patterns. Jeanie was concerned that everything would need to be redone, but Jay was surprised to find that the off-white leather sleeper J-lounge and loveseat looked showroom-new, as did the window treatments and the carpet. The unit also came with high-end amenities such as heated tile floors in the kitchen and bathroom, and heated captain and co-pilot chairs. He

## MULLING A MONACO?

Monaco produced the 2002 Executive in 40-, 42-, and 43-foot-long models, with two or three slides. There is a good supply of these motorhomes on the used market, with an average retail price of \$91,000. As with all older coaches, price is often an indicator of condition, with some units listed for as little as \$59,900 or as much as \$124,000. One important note: Monaco filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in 2009 and certain assets of Monaco Coach Corp. were acquired by Navistar International Corp., then later sold to Allied Specialty Vehicles (now REV Recreation Group) in 2013. While parts and service are sometimes affected in these situations, the company has continuously produced its line of coaches and provides support for its products.

► The 2002 Monaco Executive at home in Utah.





snapped a few photos and sent them to Jeanie, and she agreed that the Monaco was nearly perfect.

Jay negotiated a final price of \$89,000 for the coach and then drove it home. That was 2014. The Monaco has run flawlessly ever since.

Which is not to say that the Tullises haven't made some changes to their motorhome. The first expenditure was eight new tires, a must for safe travel. The original navigation system and back-up camera were no longer working, so Jay installed a new Kenwood Bluetooth hands-free system connected to the original Triptek computer system, and "Now, everything works wonderfully!" he says enthusiastically. While the previous owner had replaced the bedroom TV, the front TV was original. That was replaced with a new smart HDTV on a swinging mount, and with some cabinet modifications, this provided storage behind the TV and 5 additional inches of clearance above the dash. The in-motion dome antenna on the roof was also replaced with a new HD satellite dish.

The only other major technical change was the removal of the old monitoring system for the holding tanks, batteries and LP-gas. It did not work consistently or reliably, and after much research, Jay replaced it with a SeeLevel II tank-monitoring system.

The couple also made changes to the interior and the exterior that upgraded the motorhome's

appearance. First, the gold cabinet hardware was replaced throughout the coach with bronze. The bathroom walls were originally wallpapered, with the exception of a small Corian backsplash. These were tiled, as were the walls in the kitchen, giving the motorhome a more contemporary look.

Outside, the body paint on the sides and rear was still in excellent condition, but the front had a clear protective film that was cracked and fading. The Tullises had this removed and the front of the coach sanded and repainted. The match was perfect, making it impossible to tell that the work was ever done.

Jay put the total cost of their renovation at about \$10,000, still bringing them in well under budget. They were thrilled with the end result, but like many purchasers of older pre-owned coaches, the Tullises were still concerned about what could go wrong. They signed up for an extended-service plan through Good Sam, which is designed to cover vehicles up to 18 years old with 80,000 or less miles on the odometer. (Note: to initially qualify for Good Sam Extended Service Plan coverage, the motorhome can be up to 15 years old. The Plan is renewable on an annual basis until the RV is 18 years old or has 150,000 total vehicle miles.)

"I think Monaco, especially in the early 2000s, built an awesome coach," Jay said, but he noted that even the best motorhome can have problems as it ages, and the cost of the service plan is worth it for the added peace of mind.

With the renovations done and the business sold, the Tullises are planning a trip across the United States of up to a year, staying anywhere from a week to a month at stops along the way.

"We are going to enjoy everything we can about every place we go ... time doesn't matter," said Jay.

That is every RV owner's dream. The Tullises' motorhome, 15 years young and still going strong, is the coach that will take them there. Fulfilling dreams, year after year — that is what makes the Monaco Executive a classic ride. **M**

# WANDER THE MAP → NOT ← THE ROAD



## SAFE T PLUS Steering Control

**True Precision Steering**  
reduces the effects of:

- **Road Wandering**
- **Side Winds**
- **Passing Semi-Trucks**
- **Over-steering**
- **Front-tire blowouts**

Fits all motorhomes  
and tow vehicles.

Lifetime Vehicle Warranty

**[www.safe-t-plus.com](http://www.safe-t-plus.com)**

**CALL FOR  
PHOTOS**

Let us feature your  
motorhome photos for free  
Safe T Plus swag!

Email [kathy@safe-t-plus.com](mailto:kathy@safe-t-plus.com)  
for details.

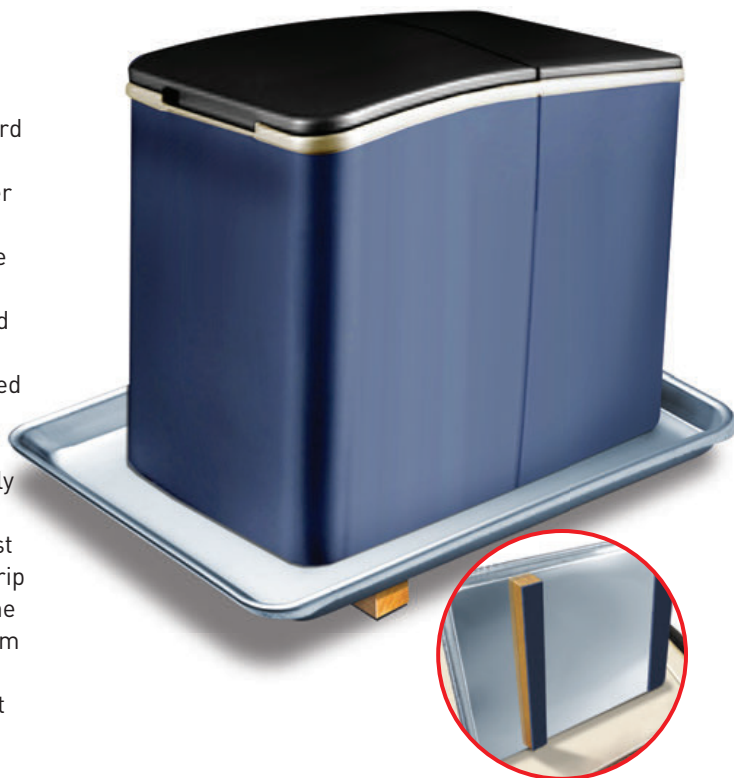


## Icemaker Platform

As do many other owners of motorhomes with the standard RV refrigerator, I got tired of buying bags of ice or fiddling with ice-cube trays in an already small and packed freezer compartment. I bought a portable icemaker to solve the supply problem, but was then faced with where to operate the unit. Storage while on the road was easy: the floor of the shower. The only space the unit could be operated and be out of the way while parked was on the dash. But the surface sloped downward, and I knew the icemaker needed a level surface to run properly. I solved the problem by buying a large heavy-duty aluminum baking sheet.

A piece of 1-by-2-inch hardwood from the home supply store was fastened near one end of the underside with stainless-steel screws. The thickness of the wood was just right to raise that end of the sheet to a level position. A strip of self-stick felt under the wood and at the other end of the sheet protects the dash. As a bonus, the baking sheet's rim also helps protect the dash and any contents in or under it from ice-basket drips and also against a leak that might possibly develop in the unit.

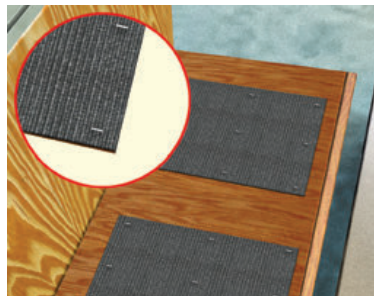
**Tom Becker | Bernalillo, New Mexico**



## Soap Dish

As RVers, we have to be conscious of conserving water and not filling up our motorhome's holding tanks. Most of us leave the water running the whole time we wash our hands, which wastes water and fills up the holding tanks. We limit our water usage by using a foaming-soap dispenser for hand washing. There is enough liquid in the foam to clean your hands without turning on the water beforehand, and when you are ready to rinse the soap off of your hands, you use just enough water to do the job. We bought an inexpensive foaming hand soap in a plastic dispenser that travels well. When it's empty, we just add about ½ inch of liquid soft soap in the bottom and fill the rest with water.

**Sue Hankins and Pat Yacklon | Torrance, California**



## Slide Stopper

I've had problems with the cushions in most of my motorhomes sliding out of place while the vehicle was moving (and sometimes while sitting on them). My solution has worked well over the years. I simply stapled rubberized drawer liner to the plywood platform below the cushions, which stops the cushions from moving while on the road and in camp.

**Don Callahan | Fairbanks, Alaska**



### 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.

# HARBOR FREIGHT

## QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

**SUPER COUPON**

**12,000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE**

**BADLAND** ITEM 61256 61889 60813 shown

**SAVE \$453**

**\$299<sup>99</sup>**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**\$399<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$752.99

40234686

LIMIT 1 - 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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON**

**SOLAR ROPE LIGHT**

**one stop gardens** ITEM 62533/68353 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE 66%**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**

**\$13<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$29.97

40326034

LIMIT 2 - 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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON**

**RAPID PUMP® 4 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK**

**PITTSBURGH** ITEM 60706/62319 68056 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE \$80**

**\$119<sup>99</sup>**

**\$129<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$199.99 • Weighs 105 lbs.

40290013

LIMIT 1 - 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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON**

**MOVER'S DOLLY**

**1000 lb. capacity** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**HaulMaster** ITEM 60497/93888 shown 61899/6399/63095/63096 63098/63097

**SAVE 59%**

**\$7<sup>99</sup>**

**\$10<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$19.97

40320311

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**WOW SUPER COUPON**

**4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER drillmaster**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

ITEM 60625 shown 95578/69645

**SAVE 50%**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**

**\$14<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$20.26

40335883

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**VALID NOW ON 5,000+ ITEMS**

**20% OFF**

ANY SINGLE ITEM

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. \*Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, automotive lifts, compressors, floor jacks, saw mills, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, trenchers, welders, Admiral, Badland, Bremen, CoverPro, Creekstone, Daytona, Diablo, Doyle, Drummond, Earthquake, Franklin, Hercules, Holt, Jupiter, Lynox, Maddox, Portland, Predator, Quinn, StormCat, Union, Viking. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 5/10/17.

**SUPER COUPON**

**6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINES**

ITEM 60363/69730

ITEM 68121/69727 shown CALIFORNIA ONLY

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE \$228**

**\$99<sup>99</sup>**

**\$119<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$328

40328366

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON**

**20 TON SHOP PRESS**

**Pair of Arbor Plates Included** Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE \$215**

**\$154<sup>99</sup>**

**\$109<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$369.99

ITEM 32879 60603 shown

40238199

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**WOW SUPER COUPON**

**12 VOLT MAGNETIC TOWING LIGHT KIT**

**HaulMaster** ITEM 69626/63100 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE 71%**

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**

**\$19<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$34.95

40310981

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

• 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed  
• Over 30 Million Satisfied Customers  
• No Hassle Return Policy

**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 700+ Stores Nationwide.

**SUPER COUPON**

**FREE**

WITH ANY PURCHASE

**PITTSBURGH**

**1" x 25 FT. TAPE MEASURE**

**\$4<sup>97</sup> VALUE**

ITEM 69031/69030 shown

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 5/10/17. Limit one FREE GIFT coupon per customer per day.

40278798

**WOW SUPER COUPON**

**3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS AIR COMPRESSORS**

**A. HOT DOG** ITEM 69269/97080 shown

**B. PANCAKE** ITEM 95275 shown 60637/61615

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE 59%**

**\$39<sup>99</sup>**

**\$59<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$98.62

40309739

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**WOW SUPER COUPON**

**US GENERAL® 26" 16 DRAWER ROLLER CABINET**

ITEM 61609/67831 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE \$633**

**\$319<sup>99</sup>**

**\$369<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$952.99

40358322

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON**

**1500 LB. CAPACITY MOTORCYCLE LIFT**

**PITTSBURGH** ITEM 69995 shown 60536/61632

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE \$65**

**\$69<sup>99</sup>**

**\$89<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$135

40339515

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON**

**3/8" x 14 FT. GRADE 43 TOWING CHAIN**

**5400 lb. capacity** Not for overhead lifting.

**HaulMaster** ITEM 60658 97711 shown

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE 63%**

**\$21<sup>99</sup>**

**\$39<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$60.95

40294198

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON**

**CENTECH AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER**

ITEM 42292 shown 69594/69955

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE 82%**

**\$5<sup>99</sup>**

**\$8<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$34.99

40276868

LIMIT 9 - 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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON**

**RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL WITH 3/8" x 50 FT. HOSE**

ITEM 93897 shown 69265/62344

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

**SAVE \$129**

**\$59<sup>99</sup>**

**\$89<sup>99</sup>** comp at \$189

40323019

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 5/10/17. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "comp at" price means that the same item or a similar functioning item was advertised for sale at or above the "comp at" price by another retailer in the U.S. within the past 180 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "comp at" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

• 700+ Stores Nationwide  
• Lifetime Warranty  
• On All Hand Tools

• HarborFreight.com  
• 800-423-2567





# Warm Norcold

Unhappy with the performance of a new refrigerator in their motorhome, two readers sought Hot Line's assistance. They wrote:

**“** We are contacting Hot Line as our last resort in dealing with Norcold Inc. We replaced the old Norcold refrigerator in our Leisure Travel Vans motorhome with a new Norcold model, as we had been having problems with the old refrigerator keeping food cold. In January 2016, Carl's RV in Phoenix, Arizona, installed the new replacement fridge. We put the motorhome in storage and flew back to Alaska.

Two months later, we flew to Arizona and took the coach out of storage. At that time we realized the new refrigerator was not working well. We drove to an RV service facility in Wickenburg (Arizona Auto Tech) and had the thermocouple checked. Unfortunately, that did not solve the problem. We were scheduled to leave for a trip to Alabama, so we stocked the fridge with ice and headed out.

When we got to Dickinson, Texas, we stopped at Dues Camping Center for service on the fridge. The technicians found that the burner was putting out a lot of heat, and the fan ran, but the unit would not cool. They sent a no-cooling check sheet to Norcold on April 14. After almost a week of waiting to hear back from Norcold, we asked Dues if there was any other brand of refrigerator we could buy to fit in the existing cabinet space. Dues ordered a Dometic and installed it for \$1,272. We were back on the road and the new fridge kept everything cold.

The last time I contacted Norcold, they said they would need to examine the nonfunctional fridge and have photos sent to them for review. Now we are running out of time on the warranty and \$1,000 is a tough pill to swallow for people living on retirement income. Can Hot Line help us out of this mess?

**Johnelle and John Reid | Homer, Alaska**

Hot Line forwarded the Reids' request to Thetford Corp./Norcold Inc. for its consideration. Sometime later, we received a copy of Norcold's letter to the Reids, which reads as follows:

We received a letter from Hot Line regarding your unsatisfactory experience with your Norcold refrigerator. After reviewing the call logs, it seems the dealer was reluctant to provide the full diagnostic information we require for an accurate diagnosis. This is contradictory to your report in the letter.

It is unfortunate that we were unable to resolve the issue when it was brought to our attention in June 2016 when the old refrigerator had been disposed and the poor service

you received. We have addressed this with our team.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to make this right. A check request has been submitted for reimbursement for the purchase of your Norcold refrigerator and the additional work performed based on the receipts you submitted.

**Kim Gordon, Senior Manager Customer Service, Thetford Corp./Norcold Inc. | Ann Arbor, Michigan**

## Successful Complaint Resolution

*Hot Line is a forum for the resolution of conflicts between consumers and RV manufacturers and dealers, accessories suppliers and service providers. Periodically, we like to remind readers of a few things that may be helpful in securing a positive resolution to their Hot Line complaints. Approaching this process with these points in mind will increase your chances significantly of achieving a settlement.*

*The most important element in the process is a well-written letter, which should spell out your issue(s) in simple terms and include what you would consider a fair resolution. Be sure to include copies of all receipts, work orders or any other pertinent information regarding the repair/replacement of the product(s). The tone of your complaint can also be crucial, as many resolutions from the business world are made on a goodwill basis.*

*Complaint letters must be typed, should only include points that are relevant to your case, and be no more than two pages in length. Do not include laundry lists of everything that ever went wrong with your motorhome, and please refrain as much as possible from editorializing about your travel itinerary, unless it relates directly to your complaint.*

*Finally, we'd appreciate a follow-up letter from you, if you've received a positive resolution from a company and it looks like Hot Line was not notified. This way, we can give credit where credit is due, involving a situation that may be of interest to all of our readers. **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.

By Ken Freund

## Water Filters

**Q** For the past five years we owned a fifth-wheel and used an external water-filter system consisting of a sediment filter (changed twice a year) and a charcoal filter (changed once a year). This system made the water more usable for us, and saved us the extra cost and weight of carrying more drinking water. We now own a Class A coach with an in-line filter. We are still using our external-filter system, since we already have it. We know that most filters need to be changed at the most every year. By using my system, is there a need to still change the in-line filter once a year, or can we wait a little longer to change it?

**Larry Danner | Appomattox, Virginia**

**A** By using an external water filter before the in-line filter, you are reducing the amount of particles that the secondary filter is receiving and being called upon to filter. This should have an effect on how often the filter should be

changed. The micron rating of the filters is important, too. You should have the coarser filter first, then the finer one. Part of the consideration is that you may pick up a load of water, which might clog up the filter more than at other times.

I suggest that, when the time comes when you would normally replace the filter, open it up and examine the insides carefully. This will give you an idea of how much crud the filter has trapped, and although it will ruin the filter, it will give you a guideline interval for future replacements.



## Antifreeze Coolant Life

**Q** My 1999 diesel pusher has a Cummins M-11 with a side-mounted radiator and 110,000 miles on the odometer. I perform most of my own service, so disposing of waste fluids is always a consideration. Oil is easy to recycle, but few facilities take used antifreeze, so I haven't changed the fluid since 2006. I check the coolant freeze point regularly, use Fleetguard test strips to check its condition and add supplemental coolant additive accordingly, as well as change the coolant filter. The antifreeze still looks new, and I haven't had any issues with the cooling system. I've heard about bubbles that can cause pitting on the outside of the cylinder liners, but obviously can't know if that's occurring. I think I'm saving money by using what still works, and with the motorhome's age, warranty is not an issue. Do you think I'm being foolish by not changing the antifreeze?

**David Rossman | Corbett, Oregon**

**A** That's a great question, and the short answer is, I don't think there is a definitive lifetime expectation for the antifreeze chemical mixture in terms of either miles or time. The easy answer is, follow the manufacturer's guidelines. However, there's certainly more to this. Manufacturers need to provide simple guidelines that offer clear-cut intervals, while covering a wide range of operating conditions (kind of one size fits all).

I've seen some vehicles that had very cruddy looking coolant after just a few years, and others that looked like new after a decade. I think some of the variance is due to the particular brand and mix, and some of the variation is caused by how often and how long the engine is run, plus the makeup of the metals in the engine and cooling system. Dissimilar metals cause electrolytic corrosion along with the usual oxidation and rusting. Problems such as air trapped in the system and head-gaskets leaking combustion gases into the coolant can speed up the deterior-

ation of the fluid.

The coolant filter (which is typically only used on heavy-duty diesels, not gas models) does an excellent job of extending the life of coolant, as does adding factory-recommended additives to boost performance and extend service life. The use of distilled water instead of tap water also helps by reducing the amount of minerals in the cooling system, which can leave solid deposits that can reduce heat transfer.

Testing freeze temperature and using test strips are both good methods and are recommended, along with a Refractometer Coolant Tester. Using a commercial testing lab is an additional and definitive method of determining if your antifreeze coolant should be replaced. You can send in a sample, and in a few days receive the test results. You can Google "automotive antifreeze coolant testing lab;" one of them is Polaris Laboratories (877-808-3750, [www.polarislabs.com](http://www.polarislabs.com)). While this may be a little pricey, particularly for gasoline engines that **(continued on page 71)**



**TireTraker™**  
Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems



**TT-500**  
The Most Innovative  
TPMS On The Market  
Today With A  
"Lifetime Warranty"

- Pressure & Temperature Monitoring
- USB Rechargeable Monitor
- Monitors Up To 22 Tires (0-232psi)
- 0.5 oz. Sensors - Lightest on Market
- User Replaceable Sensor Batteries
- Visual & Audible Alarms
- Automatic Update Feature

**4 Sensor Systems**

With Lifetime Warranty

**\$289.00**

Additional Sensors ~ \$35.00 ea.



866-200-9773  
info@tiretraker.com  
www.tiretraker.com

## Unique, Flat Adjustable German Beds for RVs

The Only Truly Flat  
Adjustable Bed  
Starting at \$898!



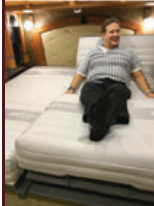
**Easy to Install!**

**Adjustable Frame  
is only 5" thick!**

★ Place Flat on Platform!

★ No Holes need to  
be cut in the platform.

**Call & Save \$100!**



Willkommen!

axelbloom  
MADE IN AUSTRIA  
german schlafsysteme

866.696.8387  
axelbloom.com



**SULASTIC®**  
RUBBER SPRINGS

**SMOOTHER RIDE**  
just replace the stock shackle

Not-affected  
Load Tow

Sulastic  
OEM Shackle  
Leaf Spring

**www.sulastic.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**



## ADVERTISERS' INDEX

RS #	ADVERTISER	PAGE #
101	Alde .....	9
103	Brazel's RV Performance .....	73
	Camping World .....	44-45
	Camping World RV Sales .....	56
104	Carefree of Colorado .....	10
	Classifieds .....	69-71
105	Custom Glass Solutions .....	75
106	Dave & LJ RV Interiors .....	71
125	DISH Network .....	51
107	Foretravel .....	2
108	Geico .....	17
	Good Sam Insurance Agency..	26
	Good Sam RV Loans .....	31
	Harbor Freight Tools .....	65
109	Jayco .....	20-21
102	Key Largo .....	5
	Members Life Insurance .....	22
110	Newell Coach Corporation .....	76
111	Newmar Corporation .....	7
112	Nexus RV .....	25
113	Pleasure Way .....	36
114	Progressive Insurance .....	37
115	RV Armor, Inc. ....	16
	RV Buyer's Guide .....	55
	RV Marketplace .....	68
116	RV Roofing Solutions .....	24
124	RV World of Nokomis .....	23
117	RVRoof.com .....	49
126	Riverside Resort & Casino .....	43
121	SMI Manufacturing .....	8
118	Safe-T-Plus .....	63
119	Sea Eagle .....	5
122	Vogt RV Center .....	30
120	Wi Fi In Motion .....	72
127	Winegard Company .....	15
123	Winnebago Industries .....	13

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

**Steele**  
RUBBER PRODUCTS®

**OVER 100 RV  
EXTRUSIONS  
AVAILABLE**



Call for your  
**FREE RV Catalog**

**800-650-5137**

**www.steelerubber.com**

## ACCESSORIES

**LEAKY ROOF? Liquid Roof® goes on like paint --** cures to a sealed EPDM rubber membrane. UV & Ozone resistant - z good to 300° F. 5-year warranty. 800-467-7135 [www.AdvancedRubberCoatings.com](http://www.AdvancedRubberCoatings.com)

## CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIPS FOR SALE

### CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIP OUTLET-SINCE 1991

To buy 800-272-0401

To sell 800-952-0401

Any Membership-Nationwide. Best prices ever.

## HELP WANTED

### SEEKING HIGHLY MOTIVATED COUPLES looking

for an opportunity in advertising sales while traveling in your RV. Good Sam needs highly qualified, self-motivated couples with proven sales experience in closing deals & selling intangible products. Couples will represent Good Sam RV Travel & Savings Guide & our digital assets as self-employed, independent contractors working on a commission based income. Meet face-to-face with customers selling print & digital advertising while gathering accurate data & applying Good Sam's criteria in evaluating RV parks & campgrounds & be in an assigned territory from early Spring-Fall. Must be: Digital & tech savvy, proficient in Excel & Word, detail oriented, organized & have impeccable customer service skills. Email: [MaryEllen.Foster@goodsam.com](mailto:MaryEllen.Foster@goodsam.com) with your name, address, phone & include in the subject line: AC Desk MAG

### 1880 TOWN ATTRACTION needs couples

May-Sept 2017. Cashiers, sales, tickets, gift shop, costume shop, train diner help, housekeepers, maint, carpenter. Non-smokers please. Wages, RV parking provided. W/E/S. Send resume: 1880 Town, Box 507, Murdo, SD 57559. Cell 605-530-4032, Fax 605-669-3263 or email [murdojb@goldenwest.net](mailto:murdojb@goldenwest.net)

### Demonstrate & sell healthy cooking systems

at RV Shows & Expos. High Commissions. Write off travel expenses. \$800 - \$1,500 a weekend. [www.CookingShowHost.com](http://www.CookingShowHost.com)

## HOMES FOR SALE



### TOP RATED RESORT - S. Texas

Retama Village - Supersites \$50s.

RV Casitas \$120s RV Port Homes \$170s.

956-380-6500 [www.bentsenpalm.com](http://www.bentsenpalm.com)



### #1 RATED RV RESORTS - S. Texas

Bentsen Palm Village & Retama Village

Rentals available for Pull-throughs,

Back ins, Super sites, and Casitas

956-585-5568 [www.bentsenpalm.com](http://www.bentsenpalm.com)



### Bella Terra announces the finest RV port-homes in

America. Home & Lot begins at \$249,000. Come see

using our 4 day/3 night \$99 Stay & Play at Bella

Terra or Test a Port-Home for \$349. Get Details @

866-417-2416 OR [ReunionPointe.com](http://ReunionPointe.com)

Richard@ReunionPointe.com 321-223-9043



### LILY LAKE GOLF RESORT - FROSTPROOF, FLA

• Manufactured Home Lots, RV Port Lots

• New Home/Lot Packages from the \$120s

• 1-863-635-3685. [www.lilylake.com](http://www.lilylake.com)



### Ultimate Priv RV Home - N. Georgia

Climate controlled RV Barn, 13+ ac, 8800+

sq. ft. house. 3-12'x14' garage drs & 2 wash

racks. Call Alex 678-642-8227 for info & pics

### RV Resort Home w/RV Lot - Orlando, FL

Complete Remodel, Full Hookups, Carports, 3 Sheds. Too many extras to list. Deeded Lots.

\$155,000 Invested-Reduced \$123,900.

Call Rich for Info & Pics 407-257-8558

## MAIL FORWARDING

### AMERICAS MAILBOX Forwarding in SD/Low Rates

NO Wheel Tax/NO Sales/Income Tax/Save \$\$\$

NO Safety Insp/4-Season Campground & Hotel

We Scan Your Mail/Insurance/Ext Warranties

[www.AmericasMailbox.com](http://www.AmericasMailbox.com) Call Us First!!

## MOTORHOMES FOR SALE



*-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 400 Motorhomes & Towables!

[HOLLANDRVCENTERS.COM](http://HOLLANDRVCENTERS.COM)

## MOTORHOMES WANTED

# WANTED:

2003 & Newer Gas or Diesel  
"A" "B" or "C" Motorhomes

# INSTANT CASH NATIONWIDE PICK-UP



Contact Mike at

(509)994-0718

[mmohondro@freedomrvusa.com](mailto:mmohondro@freedomrvusa.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



**SELL RV NOW**  
**FAST CASH**  
 For 2002-2015 Gas Or Diesel Motor Homes  
*Free pickup with no hassles*  
**1-800-607-9754**  
**SELLRVNOW.com**

**FAST CASH FOR 2002-2015 GAS OR DIESEL MOTOR HOMES** **888-783-4009**  
**FREE PICKUP**  
  
**MOTOR HOME FINDERS**  
 MotorHomeFinders.com

**WE BUY LATE MODEL MOTORHOMES**  
 - INSTANT CASH  
 - NATIONWIDE PICKUP  
  
**CALL JOE:**  
**831-458-6166**  
 50 Years of Business Integrity

**VOGT**  
**RV CENTERS**

### VOGT RV NEEDS YOUR MOTORHOME

We need clean, late model motorhomes  
 Buy - Sell - Trade - Consign  
[vogtrv.com](http://vogtrv.com) - (817) 831-4222

**WANTED USED DIESELS**  
 SPECIALIZING IN NEWMARS  
 NATIONWIDE PICKUP  
 (602) 421-3870 **MOTORHOMES WANTED**

**\$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 can sell your RV Fast & for the Highest Price**  
 Florida's #1 Consignment RV Sales Center  
 Conveniently located on the Space Coast in  
 Titusville, FL. Pickup available. Visit us at  
[Eaglespriderv.com](http://Eaglespriderv.com) or call Al @ 321-383-4495

### 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 2005 and newer Pre-Owned RVs  
 Call 303.717.0880 or [topbuyer@rvbuyerswest.com](mailto:topbuyer@rvbuyerswest.com)  
[www.rvbuyerswest.com](http://www.rvbuyerswest.com)

### I BUY MOTORHOMES

CALL KIRK...Regardless of your payoff!  
 Get Paid in LESS than 48 hours.  
 I'll come to you...ANYTIME-ANYWHERE!!  
 NATIONWIDE 210-363-1141

### RECREATIONAL VEHICLES FOR SALE



### BUY OR SELL RVS ONLINE! RVT.com ®

Reach Millions of RV Buyers with a FREE AD.  
 80,000+ RVs for Sale - By Owner and Dealer Listings.  
[www.RVT.com](http://www.RVT.com) or 1-877-705-0025

### LIST YOUR RV FOR SALE, BUYERS WAITING

•••[www.RVclearinghouse.com](http://www.RVclearinghouse.com)•••  
 WE WILL FINANCE YOUR RV BUYERS  
 RVs of all types. Diesel, Gas, Trailers, 5ers, Toads  
[www.RVFINANCING.COM](http://www.RVFINANCING.COM)

### RV FINANCING

### THE ORIGINAL RV FINANCING ONLINE

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

### RV SHOWS

### HOUSTON RV SHOW

Feb. 15-19, 2017 -- NRG Center  
 361.790.5300  
[houstonrvshow.com](http://houstonrvshow.com)

### RV SPACES FOR RENT

### LARGE RV SPACES 55+, Bellflower, CA

POOL, CLUBHOUSE, ACTIVITIES, WIFI  
 Website: [rosewoodland.com/mhp](http://rosewoodland.com/mhp)  
[Rosewoodrvpark@gmail.com](mailto:Rosewoodrvpark@gmail.com) 562-867-3227

### RV WARRANTIES

### www.RVWARRANTY.COM

RV EXTENDED SERVICE CONTRACTS  
 Get your FREE quote here  
[www.RVWARRANTY.COM](http://www.RVWARRANTY.COM)

### SERVICES

### Register your Vehicle & SAVE THOUSANDS

Avoid high licensing fees and sales tax

### TAX FREE Montana Vehicle Registration

Assisting clients worldwide with Montana  
 vehicle registration for over 19 years.

Jared S. Heggen, Licensed Attorney  
 888-777-5032 | [heggenlawoffice.com](http://heggenlawoffice.com)

**HEGGEN**  
 LAW OFFICE, P.C.  
*Attorney at Law*



### NATIONWIDE WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT SERVICE

Insurance claim specialists, OEM Glass  
 All makes and models, National warranty  
 \$100 off MobileRVGlass.com 855-778-4527

ALL DAY

**\$49**

**MONTANA  
 REGISTERED  
 AGENT LLC**

### \$800 for a 1 day MT LLC and RV Registration

All fees incl. Plates in your hands in 3 days.  
[www.49dollarmontanaregisteredagent.com](http://www.49dollarmontanaregisteredagent.com)  
 Call for more info 406-552-0004.

### 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](http://www.MontanaRV.net)**

### ACTION SERVICES, LLC/WILSON LAW OFFICE

**No Sales Tax in Montana.** Consult a Licensed  
 Montana Attorney for an understanding of  
 LLC vehicle ownership. Call the Professionals  
 to get a comprehensive explanation.  
**800-481-0013 [www.actionservices-mt.com](http://www.actionservices-mt.com)**

## #1 IN SALES TAX SAVINGS

PAY NO SALES TAX! We have helped 1000's save over the past 20 yrs. Call & talk to a CPA for professional, friendly service! [www.rvtax.com](http://www.rvtax.com)  
Mountain States Consulting 800-565-4504

## 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](http://www.bennettlawofficepc.com) 866-543-5803

## TOURS



### ALASKA GUIDED RV CARAVANS

Take a trip of a lifetime! Pre-planned routes, expert guides and safe travel.  
[FantasyRVTours.com](http://FantasyRVTours.com) or call 800-952-8496.



### Guided RV Tours & Rallies

Lower 48 • Alaska • Canada • Mexico • Overseas  
Free RV Vacation Catalog 844-872-7897 or  
[www.adventurecaravans.com](http://www.adventurecaravans.com)

## CLASSIFIED RATES

### Display Classified Advertising Rate

1" ad B/W .....\$395

2" ad B/W .....\$675

Add \$75 for color.

Frequency discounts apply.

### Optional Red Type

For your ad to appear in red type, add \$50 for  
Commercial ad, add \$25 for Private Party

### Photos

For ad with picture, add \$65 (B/W or color  
print acceptable; high-resolution digital image  
preferred).

Limit one photo per 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 num-  
ber, 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)

## COACH & POWERTRAIN

(continued from page 67)

have smaller system capacities, it starts to make sense with larger diesel-cooling systems on heavier coaches. Some radiator shops have coolant-recycling machines, which filter and restore additives to further extend the life of the antifreeze mix. I suggest you check around for one of these places when it comes time to drain and replace the coolant. Of course, owners should use a product that is approved for use in their specific engine, in the correct percentages, along with any recommended additives for (diesel) cavitation erosion, etc.

## Reefer Madness

**Q** We have a 2005 Damon Challenger with a Dometic RM2852 refrigerator, and the freezer gasket has been compressed and isn't rebounding. I tested the seal with a dollar and there is no compression against the bill with the door closed. After cleaning the existing gaskets, will applying a self-adhesive closed-cell foam gasket (the kind you find at a home-improvement store) be sufficient, and will it last? Or, is there any way to rejuvenate the original gasket? The unit is still functioning well. If I have to, can I buy a new gasket from Dometic? I looked online and haven't been able to locate an OEM gasket. I saw a kit that you tape onto the original gasket, but it received poor ratings.

**Stephen Brown | Via email**

**A** I don't recommend trying to glue one seal over another, except in an emergency. There's no practical way I know of to "revive" an old compressed door seal, either. When Dometic builds its doors, the seals are integrated into the foam core behind the plastic liner of the door, and are therefore not replaceable, and Dometic recommends ordering replacement doors for your refrigerator. You can order parts such as doors for your Dometic RV refrigerator directly; call 800-544-4881 to be referred to a local Dometic factory dealer or service center. You can get aftermarket kits from other suppliers that are a double-sided tape, glue-on version, applied after cutting off the

old ones; a Google search for "Dometic RM2852 refrigerator door gaskets" brings up a slew of them. Expect to spend around \$200, and reviews, as you stated, are not very good.

## More on Cherokee Wheel Wobble

I want to weigh in on the Jeep Cherokee "wheel wobble" issue, as there seems to be a variance between the resolution I experienced from Fiat-Chrysler and that experienced by other readers. I tow a 2014 Jeep Cherokee TrailHawk with a 2015 Tiffin Phaeton. I have never had an issue with wheel wobble, and I didn't learn about it until speaking with another RVer. He had to change two sets of front tires and had serious issues due to the problem. He contacted a customer-service employee at Chrysler last March, who told him that a wiring harness was in production and would be sent to the Jeep dealer of his choice for installation when the manufacture was complete. The RVer

**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)

Dave & LJ RV Interiors, Circle 106 on Reader Service Card



also suggested that I call his contact, which I did, and explained my situation to him, which was not a single wobble issue in more than 10,000 miles of travel. The Chrysler contact told me that I should have the harness fix installed anyway and that [Chrysler] would arrange to do so.

In about two weeks I received a call from Chrysler saying that the harness was ready. I explained that I wanted the fix done at my local dealer but wouldn't be back for another few weeks. The harness was sent to my dealer and Chrysler followed-up with me to make certain I had made the appointment for the installation. They were insistent that the fix be completed. My dealer installed the harness, which does require a 10-amp fuse be inserted in the harness wiring connected to the battery (under the hood) and a toggle switch installed in the center console to be activated once the vehicle has been made tow-ready. It's a simple procedure, and has worked well.

It is imperative to also install a battery-charging line, which Chrysler recommends, and I did at a personal cost of \$50. I have not experienced any problems since the fix, and Chrysler paid for everything except the cost of the battery charger. Chrysler also sent a one-page addition to the owner's manual, which I think was sent to all Cherokee owners, outlining the potential problem and the fix. I feel Chrysler has acted professionally and responsibly in my situation, and to my satisfaction, and that it should provide the same solution for everyone who tows a Cherokee.

**Bill Halderson | St. Simons Island, Georgia**

## SmartPlug System Makes Using Heaters Safer

Portable heaters are a convenient way to ward-off winter's chill, but these devices increase amperage loads that poorly maintained

electrical systems can't handle. SmartPlug Systems, maker of the SmartPlug, offers tips to identify potential safety hazards in shorepower systems, and ways to safeguard against overheating and possible fire. With a traditional twist-type connector, pitting and corrosion can form on the metal surfaces due to arcing, which is why savvy RVers shut down all appliances before plugging in to shorepower. That avoids arcing.

A moist environment speeds the process. With less surface contact, electrical resistance increases, which causes overheating, especially when running high-amperage devices like heaters. Scorching (a yellow or brown discoloring) around inlet pins is the first sign this is happening and that the parts should be replaced. SmartPlug Systems' 30-amp Inlet and Retrofit Connector includes everything needed to safeguard against such situations. Unlike twist-type power cords, the SmartPlug System has dual locking clips and a sleeved inlet that are easier to use than older, traditional styles. The asymmetrical design pushes straight in, making connecting easy, even in the dark. Replacing an inlet and connector is straightforward and requires only common household tools. The kit includes an inlet and connector, and is installed using an existing cable. Improved wire guides and a new mechanical cord restraint are recent improvements. The inlet typically uses the existing mounting hole pattern. It comes in four trim colors: black, white, gray and stainless steel. MSRP for the 30-amp model starts at \$227.

Available online through Camping World at [www.campingworld.com](http://www.campingworld.com).



I'm glad to hear that Jeep is taking care of the problem under warranty, at least in your case. It's been my opinion all along that since these models were approved and sold as being flat towable, but require this electrical harness and modification to be safe while towing, that the manufacturer should bear the cost. Hopefully Jeep will step up and cover expenses for owners who have already paid for this conversion.

## Ghostly RV Steps

**Q** I've had ongoing problems with my motorhome's steps. I thought I'd solved the issue, but then, one morning the stairs were out again. Frustrated, I tried to see if I could move the magnet. I unscrewed the thing and found one of the wires to the magnet had broken away due to too much tension on the wire. When I touched the wire, it extended and retracted the steps. The temperature variance from night to day must have been enough to expand or contract the wire. My fix was to pull more wire up, replace the connector and attach it to the magnet.

The RV is currently at the dealer for another problem, but I don't have confidence that they can repair it correctly based on my past experience with this facility. Is there a dealer out there that is trustworthy and has a competent service department?

**Michael Lessard | Dunbarton, New Hampshire**



**1-866-959-WiFi (9434) • [wifiiinmotion.com](http://wifiiinmotion.com)**

**A** Sorry you had the problem, Michael, but I'm glad you got it fixed. That's an odd one, indeed, and I can see how the solution to an intermittent problem that changes with temperature could easily be missed.

One of the problems with recommending shops is that it all depends on the particular problem and who gets assigned the work. The technician you get one time may have just solved a similar problem and knows all about it and therefore finds and fixes it quickly. However, the next time you (or somebody else) come in, that tech may no longer work there, may be off that day or perhaps simply isn't good at diagnosing the new particular problem. That's why different people have different results, even with the same shop. It's also why I'm reluctant to recommend or endorse shops. We don't have a national database of recommended shops, but some web searches of end-user forums may turn up some useful suggestions for your area.

### Power Programmers

**Q** I have a 2006 Fleetwood Bounder 35E on a Ford F-53 chassis powered by a V-10 gas engine. I've been researching programmers, but the only one I hear recommended is the Banks model. Do programmers really make a noticeable difference?

**Mac Vaughn | Navasota, Texas**

**A** Gasoline engines don't respond as strongly to power programmers or engine tuners as do turbodiesel engines. Part of this is because you can't vary the boost on naturally aspirated gas engines as you can on the turbocharged diesels. Another challenge is that you can't vary the air-to-fuel ratio or timing very much on gas engines. By careful testing and dyno tuning, it is possible to reprogram gas engines and to obtain measurable gains in power and even fuel economy. However, simply stated, there's not as much "room" for big power increases while still retaining exhaust emissions and fuel economy at reasonable levels. California sets stricter standards than the federal EPA, and it is difficult to

modify programming and stay within the prescribed limits. A number of states also do smog testing of motorhomes and look for California Air Resources Board (CARB) executive order (EO) numbers on aftermarket products that modify emissions-controlled engines. Therefore, many owners need to consider this and obtain products that meet CARB standards. There aren't a lot of tuners out there for motorhomes that have a CARB EO number.

### Hot Floor Solved

Jerry Sheets had a hot-cab problem with his 2007 Ford V-10 ("Hot Cab," October 2016). My new 2002 was all but undrivable because of the same problem until I solved it with your approach, plus a full Banks system, just weeks after buying my motorhome. While I had the doghouse and stock exhaust system out of the way, I went crazy with a wide variety of Thermo-Tec products, simple hand-cut sheet-metal heat shields screwed or pop-riveted between heat sources (especially the headers) and the floor, then installed the Banks system to get the hot exhaust out of there more effectively. The result was a cool interior floor and doghouse. My three-pronged approach was, and still is, a 100-percent successful solution to an original factory problem.

**Mike Fick | Richland, Washington**

Thanks for sharing your solution. What many people don't realize is that reducing exhaust-system backpressure also relieves a lot of heat (which is radiated into the floor from the exhaust system). Heat shields also block radiated heat, so the add-on floor insulation doesn't have as much heat to block. **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.

**UltraRVProducts<sup>®</sup>.COM**



### WORKHORSE PARTS SPECIALISTS

#### Actia Instrument Cluster Repair



Now Offering D.I.Y. LCD SCREEN KITS!  
**ONLY \$199**

**800-417-4559**

Free Shipping on Orders of \$100 or More!  
**WWW.URVP.COM**

### RV CHASSIS UPGRADE SPECIALISTS



ARE YOU TIRED OF WHITE KNUCKLE DRIVING?

**YOUR RV CAN HANDLE LIKE A CAR**

TRANSFORM THE HANDLING OF YOUR F53 RV

**FREE SHIPPING**  
ORDERS OVER \$100

**CALL US!**  
**800-417-4559**

Free Shipping on Orders of \$100 or More!  
**WWW.URVP.COM**





# I Do, Times Two

Renewing your vows at Las Vegas' Graceland Wedding Chapel makes for a truly unforgettable Valentine's Day gift

By Alan Rider

If there's anything I love more than being on the road, it's spending time with my wife. Fortunately, I've often been able to combine the two, a neat trick that's allowed us to enjoy many memorable adventures together.

It was remembering one of these experiences that got me thinking of the forthcoming Valentine's Day festivities. Because I know that, even as we speak, there are all manner of significant others out there wracking their brains looking for a suitably romantic gift for their sweethearts.

Now as far as I'm concerned, flowers and candy may be dandy, but nothing says, "Baby, I think you're the ginchiest!" quite like sharing an unforgettable experience.

And apparently I'm not alone. Recent studies have shown that an increasing number of Americans would rather get the gift of an experience — particularly something they can share with their special someone — over another shiny bauble.

To that end, let me tell you about one of the most romantic things my wife and I have ever done: renewing our wedding vows in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Now as a general rule I'm not a huge fan of Vegas; it's all just a little too over the top for my tastes. But after many visits, I've discovered the town's real gems are hidden in the shadows cast by all those flashing lights.

One such place is the Graceland

Wedding Chapel (800-824-5732, [www.gracelandchapel.com](http://www.gracelandchapel.com)). Located on a somewhat less glamorous section of Las Vegas Boulevard north of The Strip for more than a half-century, this unassuming operation is equal parts quaint and kitsch.

Admittedly, Las Vegas, the marriage capital of the United States, has no shortage of wedding chapels. But Graceland is unique in that it's one of the few places in town where you can get hitched by a genuine jump-suited Elvis impersonator. In addition to a serious set of mutton-chop sideburns, our Elvis — aka Norm Jones — was at the time the only Elvis in town who was also an ordained minister and thereby able to actually perform the ceremony, not just perform at it.

Now you might think an Elvis wedding would be nonstop silliness

(OK, admittedly, it is a little silly), but Norm managed to imbue our ceremony with a heartfelt touch that recognized it as the momentous decision it was (I mean, how often do you get to say "Why yes, I'd marry you all over again," huh?)

An average day will see 10 couples walking down the aisle at the Graceland Wedding Chapel, and that number can grow tenfold on busy weekends or holidays like New Year's Eve or Valentine's Day. While most of these visitors are just average folks looking for a memorable way to tie the knot or to reaffirm their vows, the chapel has also played host to a long list of celebrity nuptials including those of Jon Bon Jovi and Aaron Neville.

Like those more famous entertainers, Norm Jones — like all the "Elvae" here — knows every show needs a big finale. After our "I Do's" were done, my wife and I linked arms with the King and strutted back down the aisle to a rousing rendition of "Viva Las Vegas!" Even many years and countless visits later, we both agree it was the most fun thing we've ever done in the glitzy desert oasis.

So here's to all of you who venture out to explore the world with your beloved. May you find much joy — and a few fabulously quirky folks like Norm Jones — out there waiting for you along The Road Ahead. **M**

“Flowers and candy may be dandy, but nothing says, ‘Baby, I think you’re the ginchiest!’ quite like sharing an unforgettable experience.”

## Viva Las Vegas! ☺

Right: Our Elvis, aka Norm Jones, is now retired, but another fully ordained faux Elvis has stepped in to fill his larger-than-life blue-suede shoes and will surely confirm that you love each other tender.



Broken Windshield?

INSURANCE OR NOT

**CALL US FIRST**

**1 (855) RVCLAIM**

- Insurance Claims Processing • Nationwide Replacement Services
- #1 Supplier of OE RV Windshields • American-Made Replacement Product

[rvglassparts.com](http://rvglassparts.com) • 1-855-782-5246

Custom Glass Solutions, Circle 105 on Reader Service Card



# *Luxury* MEETS *Adventure*



NEWELL

With a Newell, there's never a need to compromise. Each coach combines unsurpassed performance with every amenity.

The result: extreme luxury for every adventure.

Take the good life with you.

To start your journey, visit [newellcoach.com](http://newellcoach.com) or call 1-888-3NEWELL

Newell Coach Corporation, Circle 110 on Reader Service Card