

TRAVEL • TECH • LIFESTYLE

FOR THE RV ENTHUSIAST

MOTORHOME

APRIL 2011

40 FEET OF LUXURY ENTEGRASPIRE



THE RESORT LIFESTYLE
CAMP, GOLF & RELAX ON HILTON HEAD ISLAND

BEHIND THE WHEEL
OF THE NEW CLASS A
WINNEBAGO VISTA

**STEP-BY-STEP
INSTALLATION:**
SPLENDE WASHER/DRYER COMBO



FLEETWOOD RV



For Family. For Fun. Forever.



CLASS A DIESEL

PROVIDENCE
DISCOVERY
 EXPEDITION



CLASS A GAS

PACE ARROW • SOUTHWIND
BOUNDER • BOUNDER CLASSIC
 TERRA • STORM



CLASS C DIESEL

TIOGA DSL
 TIOGA RANGER DSL
 JAMBOREE DSL
 JAMBOREE SPORT DSL



CLASS C GAS

TIOGA • TIOGA RANGER
 TIOGA MONTARA • **JAMBOREE**
 JAMBOREE SPORT
 JAMBOREE SEARCHER



Join us at the
 third annual
Fleetwood RV
National Rally.
 June 25-29
 Shawnee, OK

www.fleetwoodrv.com/mhevent

Whatever your motivation to own a motor home, you want a vehicle you can trust on the road ahead. That's why Fleetwood RV offers a full line of motor homes engineered to support your lifestyle and provide much-needed reliability. And we proudly stand behind our products with one of the industry's best warranties and a 24/7-365 roadside assistance program through Coach-Net.* Find out what keeps our customers coming back at fleetwoodrv.com, or call 800-444-4905 and get to know us even better.

*All 2011 Fleetwood RV motor homes include a 1-year membership to Coach-Net.



31

FEATURES

23 | A No-Fret Solution to Taking Your Guitar on the Road

Voyage-Air's compact, folding VAD-04 acoustic guitar will have you singing kumbaya around a campsite in no time

27 | Way Above Par

On South Carolina's Hilton Head Island, 24 golf courses, shopping, tennis and beach-centered activities highlight the resort lifestyle

31 | Land of the Navajo

Ancient traditions still play a prominent role at the photographer's paradise of Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park in Arizona and Utah

38 | Entegra Aspire 40DRQ

Built by veteran RV manufacturer Jayco, this luxury coach boasts plenty of features and four slides

43 | Wash 'n' Go

Upgrade to one machine that does it all — the Splendide XC combination washer/dryer — and you can skip the public laundry facility

47 | Riding on Air

Source Engineering's Ride Enhancement Kit tames the harsh ride of Monaco R4R and R4RR chassis without compromising handling

49 | Winnebago Vista 36D

The long list of options for this roomy entry-level Class A means you can get what you need and leave out what you don't

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 | On Ramp
- 6 | P.O. Box
- 12 | Contact MotorHome
- 15 | Escapes
- 16 | Events
- 17 | Noteworthy/News Briefs
- 18 | Wheels & Gear
- 20 | Crossroads
- 54 | Quick Tips
- 55 | Hands-On
- 56 | Hot Line
- 58 | Coach & Powertrain
- 66 | Advertisers Index
- 70 | Off Ramp



47



49



27

On The Cover: The 2011 Entegra Aspire 40DRQ pulls out of one of the luxury campsites at Emerald Desert RV Resort in Palm Desert, Calif. (see test on page 38). Photo by Rich Cox Photography.

PICKIN' AND GRINNIN'

The summer heat seemed to follow us from our Southern California home as we worked our way along the majestic Sierra Nevada on U.S. Highway 395. Our destination was Mammoth Mountain RV Park in Mammoth Lakes, a town that offers splendid RVing opportunities once the snow melts. As we settled into our site, we heard the sound of guitars filtering through the trees. We quickly discovered that a large group of RVers had congregated in adjacent sites for a weekend of jamming.

In the warm evening, all the musicians gathered in a circle to play, while the numbers of onlookers from other sites grew rapidly. It didn't take long to transform this mountain campground into a mini music festival site and transcend this camping community into musical bliss. How lucky for us to have picked that weekend to be in Mammoth.

MUSIC IS CERTAINLY A UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE, AND WITHOUT A DOUBT BRINGS SMILES TO RVERS IN JUST ABOUT ANY SETTING

There's something magical about sharing beautiful — and especially natural — settings with a strumming guitar and voices singing old camping favorites. Let's face it, singing around a campfire is about as American as apple pie. Even the cowboys played their beat-up guitars, blew into hand harps and sang the nights away to the sound of howling coyotes. The coyotes don't serenade us too often these days, and it's always comical when our campfire participants hit the wrong chord or sing out of tune. But that's part of the experience, and nothing a good s'more won't fix.

As a guitar player, I always enjoy meeting fellow pickers who might want to jam in camp. Since I never leave home without my guitar, I make sure to carve out space for it when I pack for a camping trip. I have even rigged up



ways to stash a gig bag in out-of-the-way places using straps to attach the bag to the ceiling or wall. Motorhome enthusiasts who don't have the luxury of huge pass-through storage know how difficult it can be to stash odd-shaped items. When I discovered the Voyage-Air guitar, a full-size acoustic guitar that folds at the neck and stores in a clever bag that's easy to stow, the paradigm changed.

Until I found the Voyage-Air, I considered one of the diminutive guitar models that are designed for backpackers, looked at guitars designed for youngsters and even bought a couple of travel guitars. But none of them provided the big sound that most players desire, especially when making music outside. When you read the article by Preston Gratiot (page 23), you'll see just how well the Voyage-Air fits the bill as an RVer's travel guitar. He also provides a few tips on how to keep from damaging your guitar while playing outside and especially around a fire.

Music plays a big role in planning our trips throughout the year. My wife, Lynne, and I are big fans of traditional jazz and literally follow the festival circuit when our schedule allows. We've attended bluegrass festivals, which can be quite lively, and traveled to cities just to attend special concerts.

But by far our most memorable trips are those where fellow RVers pull out their instruments and jam until quiet time forces the guitars and voices to be silenced. Music is certainly a universal language, and without a doubt brings smiles to RVers in just about any setting — and enhances the senses already afforded by the great outdoors. ♦

EDITORIAL

Publisher ■ Bob Livingston
Editor ■ Eileen Hubbard
Senior Managing Editor ■ Patricia Marroquin
Associate Editor ■ Meaghan Alfier
Assistant Online Editor ■ Christina Bullock
Editorial Correspondent ■ Betty Abramson
Midwest Bureau Chief ■ Sherman Goldenberg
Consulting Editors ■ Wes Caughlan; Ken Freund; Jeff Johnston
Contributors ■ Jeff Crider; Bert Gildart; Chris Hemer; Fred Pausch; E. Don Smith

CREATIVE

Art Director ■ Susie Lieu Almazan

PRODUCTION

VP/Production ■ Bob Dawson
Senior Ad Production Manager ■ Brenda Hutchinson

CIRCULATION

Circulation Director ■ Jill Anderson
Consumer Marketing Manager ■ Kathryn Knudson
Fulfillment Manager ■ Melissa Vizzo

WEBSITE:

www.motorhomemagazine.com
 Part of the RV.NET Family

CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Call 800-678-1201 (U.S.) or e-mail mhmcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com.



Audit Bureau of Circulations Member

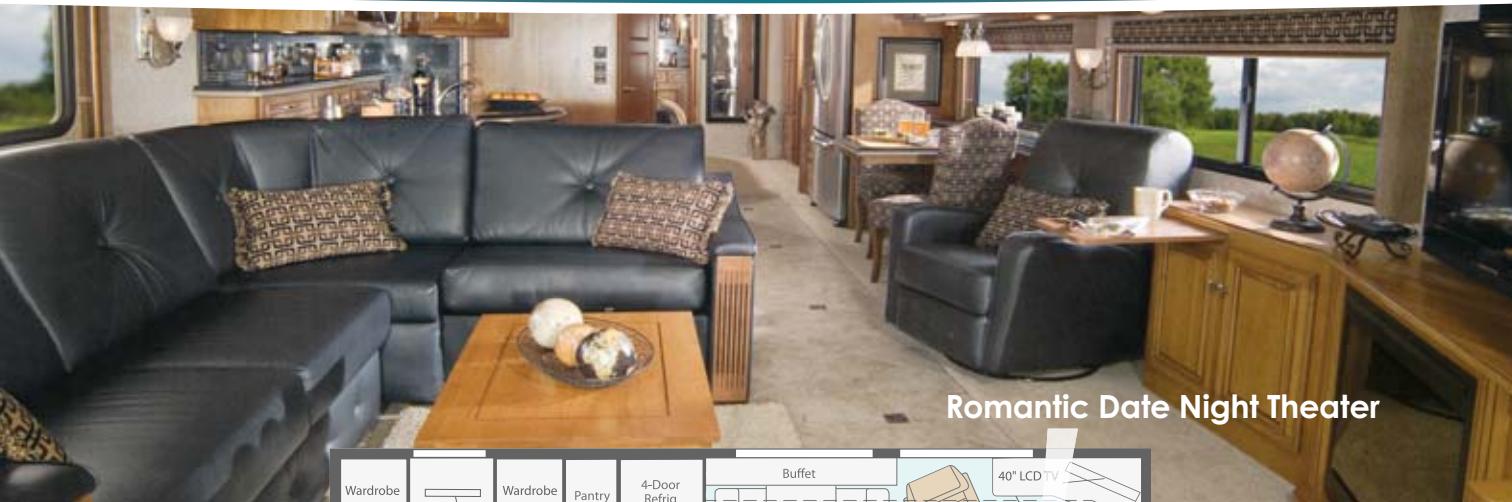
MotorHome (ISSN 0744-074X) is published monthly by TL Enterprises, 2575 Vista Del Mar Drive, Ventura, CA 93001. Periodicals postage is paid at Ventura, CA 93001 and at additional mailing offices. Subscription price for U.S.: \$19.97 for 1 year. All other countries, including Canada and Mexico: \$31.97 for 1 year.

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

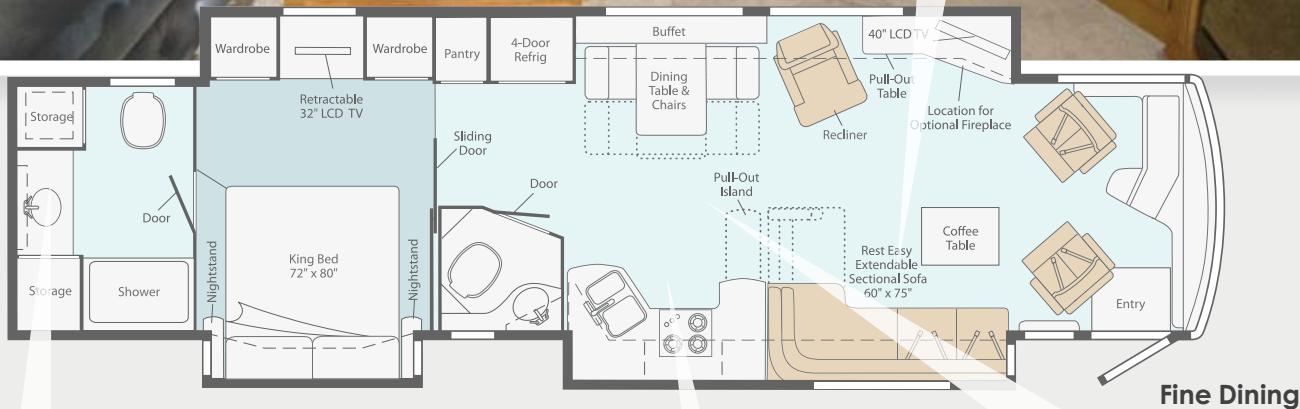
Publication Sales Agreement No. 1488163. Canadian Post Sales Agreement No. 40012332. Canadian return address: Affinity Group, Inc., 4960-2 Walker Road, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6J3.

Printed in the United States. MotorHome is a registered trademark of Affinity Group, Inc. Copyright 2011 by Affinity Group, Inc. All rights reserved. AGA is an authorized subscription agent.

PRIVACY PROMISE: We recognize that your privacy is important and we're committed to helping you protect it. We will never intentionally share your name, address and other personal information with anyone for their use if you have asked us not to do so. When you subscribe to MotorHome, please tell us if you don't want your name and address shared with other reputable companies or if you don't want to receive our marketing offers. We'll mark your account for a three-year period so that it will not be selected for product and/or service offers that you've told us you aren't interested in receiving. If you change your mind, contact us and ask that we include you in future offerings. You may ask to not be included in future offerings at any time and it will be taken care of promptly. Please contact us at MotorHome Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 5860, Harlan, IA 51593-1360, or call us at 800-678-1201. This policy does not apply to e-mail marketing; we will not send you commercial e-mails unless you have authorized us to do so.



Romantic Date Night Theater



Master Bath

Gourmet HQ



Luxurious. Livable.
And unlike any Itasca you've ever seen.

The stunningly redesigned exterior of the all-new Ellipse[®] 42QD is surpassed only by its breathtaking interior. The extendable sectional sofa provides true residential comfort and ideal seating for the home theater system and optional fireplace; the gourmet-worthy galley with available Maytag residential refrigerator is sure to inspire; the mid-coach half-bath is perfect for guests; while the master bedroom suite with bath provides a spacious private retreat at day's end.

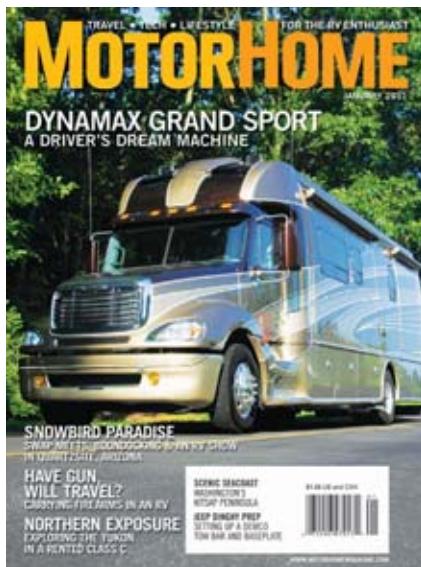
Built on the 400-hp or 450-hp* Maxum[®] Freightliner[®] chassis, our flagship coach has performance to spare — and storage to match. Make every journey the trip of a lifetime: See all four new Ellipse models at your nearest Itasca dealer, or visit Goltasca.com to see our innovative 2011 lineup.

*400-hp initial production, 450-hp with 2010 EPA emissions running line change Fall 2010



Learn more at Goltasca.com or call 1.800.643.4892.

Itasca, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info



“WHAT DO YOU SEE AS MANUFACTURERS’ BIGGEST DESIGN FLAW IN MOTORHOMES?”

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

LEAKING INFORMATION

No cussin’, fussin’ or discussin’ about the “biggest design flaw in motorhomes” — it’s exterior water leaks. There is absolutely no excuse for the frequency of exterior water intrusion problems experienced by motorhome owners.

JOHN YODER | MASCOUTAH, ILL.

GLARING COMPLAINTS

I have two complaints regarding motorhome design flaws: sunlight glare and instrument placement. Driving into the sun with a 24-inch by 84-inch flat, light-colored dash is hard on the eyes. There’s so much light coming in the windshield that most of the instruments mounted at knee level or below can’t be seen. A low dash may give the appearance of roominess, but the driver’s line of sight doesn’t require that it be at waist level and flat. If it started higher and sloped down away toward the windshield, and was a darker color, it would reflect less light without diminishing visibility. The placement of gauges also needs more thought. Instruments used for driving ought to be the only ones on the dash and they ought to be huge.

TED ‘SQUINT EYE’ BAIR | LAKE MARY, FLA.

‘TOO MUCH FANCY STUFF’

We are full-timers and think the biggest flaw is too much fancy stuff in motorhomes. What we look for in a coach is first, the kitchen and storage, and next, the upkeep. You put in all those lights and fancy stuff — it’s just more to keep clean and more things to break down. A lot of the newer motorhomes have motors that need to be accessed from inside at the bedroom floor, through a very little hole. Not a good idea. It’s a mechanical nightmare. We own a 2002 Rexhall Aerbus and have yet to find a coach that compares.

LEONARD AND BETTY HECK | BELFIELD, N.D. | YUMA, ARIZ.

MORE OWNER INPUT NEEDED

I believe the biggest design flaw is a lack of interest in what motorhome owners think. I commend Tiffin Motorhomes, which takes an interest in owner feedback. Owners can attend meetings at Tiffin dealerships. What a great way for the company to find out what buyers think about its products. I also think that most designers are not motorhome users or they wouldn’t make the mistakes they do. We spend six months out of the year in our 2006 Holiday Rambler Endeavor and the flaws become a real pain when I have to repair or redesign what the factory didn’t do in the first place.

CHRIS NELSON | POULSBO, WASH.



Good Sam

Chairman

Stephen Adams

President / CEO

Mike Schneider

Senior VP / CFO

Tom Wolfe

Senior VP / Human Resources

Laurie James

Senior VP / Group Publisher

Bob Livingston

Senior VP / Affinity Clubs /

Interactive and Multimedia

Joe Daquino

VP / RV Trade Publications

Sherman Goldenberg

VP / Controller

Dale Hendrix

Membership Benefits Director/

Good Sam Club

Susan Bray

Chairman Emeritus

Art Rouse

Publisher Emeritus

Bill Estes

EDITORIAL / BUSINESS OFFICE

2575 Vista Del Mar
Ventura, CA 93001
Tel 805-667-4100
Fax 805-667-4484

ADVERTISING

VENTURA, CALIFORNIA

VP National Sales

Terry Thompson

RV Marketplace

Sue Seidlitz

Classifieds

Joyce Reweda

Business Manager

Denielle Sternburg
P.O. Box 8510
Ventura, CA 93002
Tel 805-667-4100
Fax 805-667-4379

ELKHART, INDIANA

Midwest Sales Director

Chuck Lasley

National Advertising Sales

Tacy Hendershot, Lou Cicirelli

RV Dealer Sales (Southeast)

Kathy Dresser

2300 Middlebury Street
Elkhart, IN 46516
Tel 574-295-7820
Fax 574-522-0418

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

National Advertising Sales

Scott Oakes, John Marciano
1818 Westlake Avenue, N. #420
Seattle, WA 98109
Tel 206-283-9545
Fax 206-283-9571

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Crompton Holdings

Scott Crompton
2031 Kings Highway
Shreveport, LA 71103
Tel 334-546-7243
Fax 334-356-7740
scottcrompton@mac.com

He likes to make the most
of his family's free time.

She likes to make less
of his deductible.



DISAPPEARING DEDUCTIBLES. You love having fun on the road. And what keeps that fun going is Progressive decreasing the deductible on your RV insurance 25% every year you are claim-free. Start making your deductible disappear. Call 1-800-PROGRESSIVE, go to progressive.com or call an independent agent.



PROGRESSIVE.COM

PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Casualty Ins. Co. and its affiliates, Mayfield Village, OH. Optional Disappearing Deductibles is not available for all coverage selections, and is subject to policy terms. 10D00135 (12/10)

Progressive Insurance, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

NeXus RV

We Build Your Dream

You'll find the newest RV company revolutionizing its industry by giving you:
A Straightforward 1-2-3 approach:

1... We build your motorhome -

An experienced group of manufacturing technicians handcrafts your RV down to the last bolt. These experts will build your dream with **unmatched quality and the highest of performance.**



2... We sell directly to you -

The owners of NeXus RV, Claude Donati and David Middleton, will personally guide you through the buying process assuring your satisfaction with the best value in motorhomes. **Not only will you save thousands of dollars by purchasing direct from NeXus RV, you will receive an unmatched buying experience.**

3... We service you nationwide -

We have established the largest **nationwide service network** covering more areas than any other RV dealer in the country. Throughout the United States, rest assured you're close to a NeXus certified service center.



NeXcellence

Nationwide Service Coverage Map

The NeXus campus has a 20,000 sq. ft. indoor showroom located next to our enormous 85,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility.

Toll Free 1-855-RV-NEXUS
1-855-(786-3987)

Check out our **NeXclusive** FEATURES at

www.NEXUSRV.com



Factory Direct

From Elkhart, Indiana, to Your Driveway



Saving You Thousands!



2011
Class C
by Nexus
RV

32P



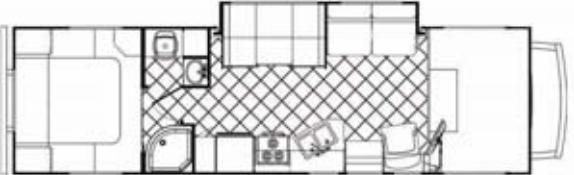
Factory Direct Price

SAVE

\$63,999 **\$30,501**

Double Slide • 32' • Bunk Model • Loaded!

31P



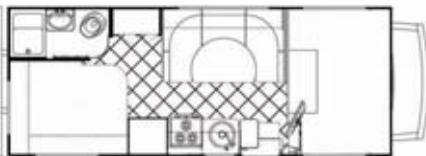
Factory Direct Price

SAVE

\$61,999 **\$27,015**

Super Slide • 31' • Sleeps 8 • Loaded!

23P



Factory Direct Price

SAVE

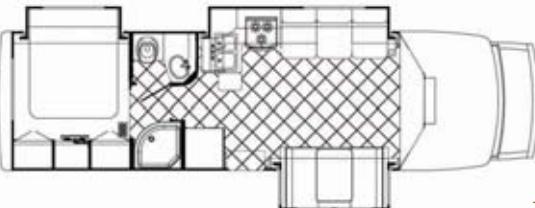
\$49,999 **\$23,751**

Large Horseshoe Dinette w/Down Queen Bed



2011
Class B+
by Nexus
RV

29V



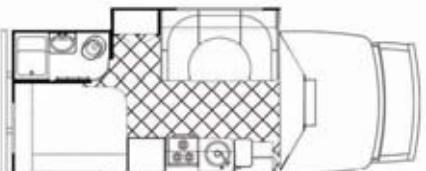
Factory Direct Price

SAVE

\$74,999 **\$42,251**

Triple Slide Spacious Floor Plan • #1 Selling Class B+

23V



Factory Direct Price

SAVE

\$64,999 **\$39,651**

Slide • 23' • Horseshoe Dinette w/Down Queen Bed

Nexus RV, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

Time Tested  **Time Proven**

"I swerved to avoid a collision with a truck in the wrong lane, and veered off the road into the brush. I could see my Ford Explorer in the motorhome's rear view camera, whipping back and forth. I thought for sure it was going to roll on its side. I know a little about physics, and I was amazed that your Falcon 2 tow bar held it in place. You folks make a damn good product."

—Walt Leutwyler
Dallas, TX



Roadmaster Falcon 2

- Stainless steel in virtually every moving component.
- One-person quick connect and disconnect
- A lustrous, high-tech powder coat finish for maximum durability
- Made in the USA

800-669-9690 or visit www.roadmasterinc.com

One of many reasons Roadmaster sells more tow bars than anyone.

... from Espar






Visit us at www.espar.com for more information, or contact Espar directly at 1-800-387-4800

Espar Heater Systems
a member of the Eberspächer group of companies

55,000 Btu Hydronic 16 coolant heater
AC Electric supplemental heat
Demand hot water
Engine coolant interface
5 zone systems controls
Easy diagnostics

(800) 387-4800

Espar Heater Systems, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

P.O. BOX

BIG COACHES, FEW SLEEPING SPOTS

I'm a new RV owner and I think the biggest design flaw is building large motorhomes that can only accommodate four people. I understand the desire for comfort, but seriously! We own a 2002 36-footer. We have two small children, and with my wife, my kids and me, we take up all of the possible sleeping spaces available. It seems that the smaller the RV, the more sleeping quarters it has. Am I the only one who finds that crazy?

E. OCON | NORWALK, CALIF.

WORKMANSHIP WORRIES

One of the biggest design flaws is lack of thought as to maintaining and repairing motorhomes — no consideration is given to dismantling coach work and cabinetry for service or repair of onboard components. However, my biggest gripe is the shoddy workmanship and lack of quality inspection.

We really need foreign countries to get into the big RV business to force the domestic manufacturers into shaping up, as has been the case in the U.S. car market.

ROGER SLATER | MICA, WASH.

BRING IN THE NASCAR BUILDERS

As a product designer in the auto industry, I see many flaws. Why won't they make the Class A's more aerodynamic? Curve and slant the front caps more. Have a rubber spoiler under the front bumper to block the wind going under the chassis. Recess all the stuff hanging off the sides and sticking off the roof. Use the Michelin single tire that replaces the dual tires on the rear axle. Have a full-wall slide on both sides and just call it a day; it would probably cut some overall weight out. Let some of the NASCAR builders take a crack at a design — then you would have my attention.

GERRY PARIJ
STERLING HEIGHTS, MICH.

BRING BACK BATHTUBS

The biggest design flaw in most big coaches is weight distribution. I see a lot of new RVs with the kitchen and bath on one side and a fluffy couch and dinette on the other side. Also, what's up with split bathrooms? I don't want a shower in the hall where everyone can see me. Bring back bathtubs in the single bathroom. That's why I bought my Fleetwood Bounder; it has a bathroom with a tub.

LYNELLE N. PHILLIPS | AURORA, COLO.

Power, Performance, Precision & Selection



ISATA E-SERIES

- Five floorplans to choose from
- 36" deep living room slide outs
- Radiused side walls and roof for excellent handling and fuel economy

E-Series – available in 24' to 28' lengths



ISATA F-SERIES

- Six floorplans to choose from
- 19,500 lb. GVWR
- Deep slide outs (36" living room & 24" bedroom)
- Radiused side walls and roof for excellent handling and fuel economy

F-Series – available in 27' to 31' lengths



DYNAQUEST ST

- Five floorplans to choose from
- Cummins ISB 325 HP engine - 750 lb. ft. of torque
- 26,000 lb. GVWR
- Radiused side walls and roof for excellent handling and fuel economy

DynaQuest ST – available in 27' to 30' lengths



DYNAQUEST XV

- Two floorplans to choose from
- Cabover design with wider body
- Seven ft. interior ceiling height
- Sleeps six comfortably

DynaQuest XV – two 34' models



DYNAQUEST XL

- Five floorplans to choose from
- Cummins ISC 350 HP engine - 1,000 lb. ft. of torque
- 33,000 lb. GVWR
- Radiused side walls and roof for excellent handling and fuel economy

DynaQuest XL – available in 33' to 39' lengths



GRAND SPORT GT

- Six floorplans to choose from
- Cummins ISX 500 HP engine - 1,650 lb. ft. of torque
- Radiused side walls and roof for excellent handling and fuel economy

Grand Sport – two models in 34' to 45' lengths



Call Dynamax today at **888.295.7859**,
to experience the drive for yourself, or visit us at: **www.dynamaxcorp.com**.

DYNAMAX
CORPORATION

Dynamax Corporation, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

HE WANTS TO SEE DOUBLE

It's almost impossible to find a motorhome with twin beds. Twin beds are a much more efficient use of space and don't require a slideout. Bedroom slides increase cost and weight and create awkward storage spaces. When I use the motorhome for hunting and fishing trips my friends appreciate the twin beds. My wife and I want to upgrade to a newer and larger unit, but we won't until we can find one with twin beds.

KENNETH NEAL | PALO ALTO, CALIF.

MORE ACCESS PANELS

A simple thing we would like to see added would be an outside port on the wall of the bathroom that will admit a standard water hose to enable a real cleaning of the holding tank from time to time with a wand.

**BERT AND JUDY FLETCHER
PORT ANGELES, WASH.**

ARMED ADVICE

Kudos to Chuck Campbell for the "Armed With Information" article in the January issue, as much of what he discussed has great bearing on RVers. I believe that further comment and sources of information may be of help to your readers. I'm a firm believer in the right of each of us to self-protection.

The best advice I can give is that if you're going to arm yourself for traveling, first get a concealed-carry permit. The National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action does continuous research into state-by-state gun laws and the latest on state-to-state reciprocity. Furthermore, it regularly posts the most recent information available on its website (www.nra-ila.org).

Campbell also states that we have rights concerning searches of our person and

vehicle, and covers it fairly well. Just remember, never voluntarily give blanket permission to search your vehicle, or anything else.

The chances you will need a firearm for protection while traveling are fairly minor, but like the old saw cautions, it's better to have a gun and not need it, than need it badly and not have it. Good RVing to you all.

BILL DIETRICK | PUEBLO WEST, COLO.

EXERCISE CAUTION

I enjoyed the well-written article, "Armed With Information," dealing with the carrying of defensive weapons in an RV. As a retired special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (a firearms instructor for 13 of those years), I have a few comments.

On occasion I have heard elderly travelers bragging that they have firearms in their RVs and what they will do with those weapons if they find themselves in a threatening situation. I have also often noticed RVers camping at sites that, at best, are unsafe. Perhaps they are not concerned for their safety because they think they can defend themselves with a firearm.

I think those people need to wake up to reality. Most of us no longer have the physical ability (even with a firearm) to challenge one or more younger people who wish to do us harm. Nor do most of us know how we will react mentally in a crisis situation. Some bad things can happen if you display a weapon to an assailant and find you don't have the ability to use it and it's turned against you.

Let us all try to use good judgment, stay safe and enjoy our RVs.

DAVID BRECHWALD | STILLWATER, OKLA.

A TOURING DRIVE CUT VERY SHORT

In your January issue, I viewed with inter-

CONTACT MotorHome

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Send an e-mail to letters@motorhomemagazine.com or write to MotorHome, 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, CA 93001; include your name, city and state. Letters may be edited for clarity.

CONTRIBUTE AN ARTICLE: We welcome article submissions from our readers. Writers' guidelines are available on our website at www.motorhomemagazine.com/contactus. Articles submitted for publication must include your Social Security or tax I.D. number. Although every reasonable precaution is taken, MotorHome assumes no liability for unsolicited manuscripts and/or photography.

SUBMIT A QUICK TIP: Quick Tips is our monthly forum for RVers to exchange time- and money-saving ideas and simple tips. Please send submissions to MotorHome Quick Tips, 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, CA 93001, or e-mail info@motorhomemagazine.com. Include any photos, illustrations or drawings, if necessary. We'll pay \$35 for each tip we publish.

SEND A PHOTO: Showcase your best photo on our "Postcards From the Road" Off Ramp page. Please send your image, name, address and phone number, as well as the story behind your image in 60 words or less, to: MotorHome "Postcards From the Road," 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, CA 93001, or e-mail letters@motorhomemagazine.com. We'll pay \$50 for each image we publish. See the Off Ramp page for specific instructions.

ASK A TECHNICAL QUESTION: Questions for our Coach & Powertrain column may be sent to MotorHome, 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, CA 93001 (please include your name, city and state). You may also send questions via e-mail to tech@motorhomemagazine.com. Selected letters will be answered in the magazine, but time does not permit individual replies.

RESOLVE A CONFLICT: Hot Line is our forum for the resolution of 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 (no phone calls, please) at 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, CA 93001 and enclose copies of appropriate bills and correspondence, plus a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Selected letters will be edited and published unless otherwise requested. MotorHome does not knowingly accept deceptive or misleading advertising; please notify Hot Line if you have a contrary experience with any merchandiser or service provider advertised herein.

ORDER REPRINTS OR BACK ISSUES: Copies of articles are \$3.95 each. Specify the article title and issue, and send a check or money order payable to Affinity Media, plus your name and address, to MotorHome, 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, CA 93001. Back issues are available for \$5.95 each; please follow above procedure. Permission to reprint or quote excerpts from published articles is considered upon request, when credit is given.

SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW: Call 800-678-1201 8 a.m.-10 p.m. CT Monday-Friday; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. CT Saturday.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK: Go to www.facebook.com/MotorHomeMagazine.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: Visit www.twitter.com/MotorHomeMag.

CONTACT OUR EDITORIAL OFFICE: MotorHome, 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, CA 93001. Fax: 805-667-4484; Web: www.motorhomemagazine.com; E-mail: info@motorhomemagazine.com. ♦

DAVE & LJ'S RV INTERIOR DESIGN

The Nation's Premier RV Interior Remodeling Center

Flexsteel RV Furniture Custom Tile Installations Flat Panel TV Installations



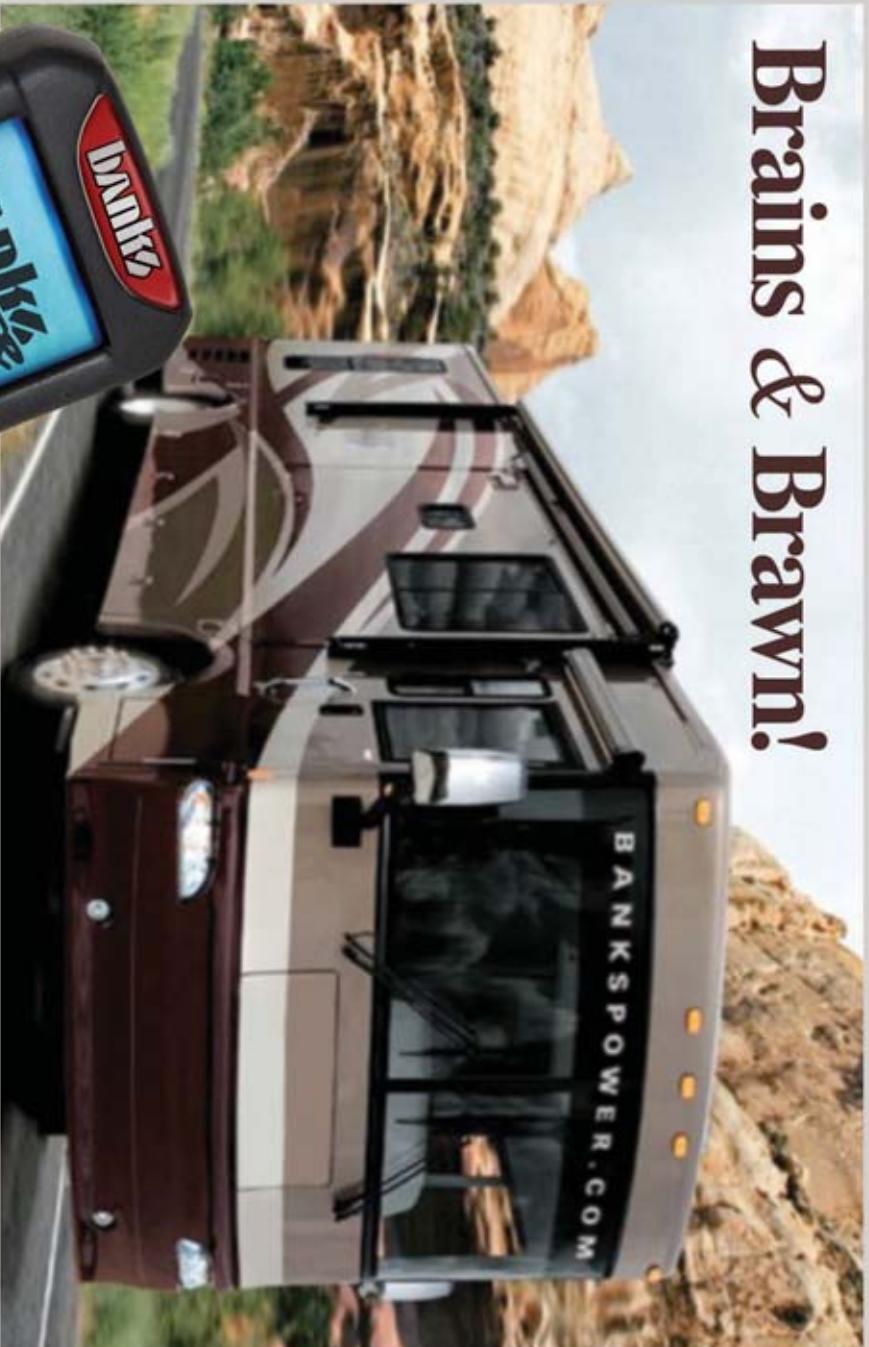
Computer desks, Flat screen TV modifications, Heated tile and more!

Visit our newly redesigned website www.customRVint.com
*Now with pricing and expanded flooring and remodeling sections

1625 Heritage St., #102 • Woodland, WA 98674 • (360) 225-7700 • www.customRVint.com

Dave & LJ RV Interiors, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

Brains & Brawn!



Introducing Banks AutoMind™ Programmer

A device that's crammed with over 50 years of record-setting automotive knowledge. It's the centerpiece of the Banks PowerPack® system, ensuring that you'll get the most available power while netting the best fuel economy. The complete system allows your engine's inner athlete to breathe and perform letting you cruise longer, merge into traffic easier and treats mountainous hills as though they were smooth, level terrain. Your rig will run better while reducing stress on your engine, and your mind. Brains and brawn... that's the Banks Advantage.

**NOW INCLUDED WITH
BANKS POWERPACK® SYSTEM**

Available for:
Ford Motorhome
GM Motorhome

POWER • FUEL ECONOMY • PERFORMANCE

BANKS



Scan
Shop
Save



SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

CALL OR CLICK

800-398-9376

bankspower.com/automind

GASOLINE / DIESEL MOTORHOME

©2011 Gale Banks Engineering • Since 1958

est the photo of a bridge in the Florida Keys that appeared over the headline, "Best Touring Drives" (Noteworthy, Escapes). I suspect that a drive over that bridge, with its center section missing, might be titled "Shortest Touring Drive." **JEFF WESLEY | WALKER, LA.**

Mr. Wesley, we like your sense of humor. Our intention was to use an image representing the Florida Keys Scenic Highway, however we erroneously published a photo of the Bahia Honda Rail Bridge at Bahia Honda Key. The former bridge, with two sections removed, is now used as a fishing pier. Thank you for your "catch of the day."

QUESTION:

Would you pay more for a motorhome with green, energy-efficient, fuel-efficient features? Why or why not?

Send your comments to MotorHome, 2575 Vista Del Mar Drive, Ventura, CA 93001; or e-mail letters@motorhomemagazine.com. ♦



WHAT YOU'RE SAYING ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE:

We posted an item sharing a link to a story about a man who used his smart phone while watching a football game at a restaurant to buy a 2007 Tiffin Zephyr with a winning bid on eBay of \$178,100. We asked our Facebook fans if they had ever purchased a vehicle via the Internet. Here's what some of them said:

Mary Earlene Olsen:
Not Smart! I have sold a car and a motorhome on eBay, but I wouldn't pay that much for a motorhome that I didn't drive. A lot of \$ for a 2007.

Scott Thompson:
I bought my truck online in 2003 new. I hate car dealerships and saved myself the pain while getting a good deal.

Mary Beth Bohn:
Absolutely! Bought a new car and

ordered a new motorhome, all online. I am not the one haggling over the price and getting slammed by salesmen anymore. They are doing the work, bidding against each other. I would never buy used unless it has been checked out by a mechanic.

Paula Mair:
We sold a Discovery 39S recently on eBay and it went well.

Julie Yap:
Bought our first RV on eBay. Drove all the way to Georgia to pick it up. Dumb dealer didn't check it out before they listed it. It wouldn't run. Drove all the way back home without it and bought one elsewhere.

Kenneth Compton:
I sold 2 RVs on eBay and bought 3. All 3 made it home. Just ask questions before you buy.

David Anderson:
Bought a 2001 Saturn as a tow car on eBay. The car was as described.

 *Become a fan of MotorHome on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com/MotorHomeMagazine and click "Like."*

RV BUYERS GUIDE 2011

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

Send me a total of _____ copies of the *2011 RV Buyers Guide* for only \$7.99 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling per copy.

Total payment due: \$ _____

- Check or money order enclosed
 Charge my: Visa Mastercard Discover

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



1-800-309-0311 • www.rvbg.com

Order Now & Save!
Completely Revised & Updated for 2011
More than 400 Listings

CA residents please include 50¢ sales tax. Remit in U.S. funds only. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

CLIP OUT AND MAIL TO: 2011 RV Buyers Guide, PO Box 421090, Palm coast, FL 32142

20110101LEFT

28PP

escapes

edited by PATRICIA MARROQUIN

EVENTS | NOTEWORTHY | WHEELS & GEAR | CROSSROADS

Stunning sunsets, 10 state parks and historical must-sees make the Florida Keys an ideal “low-key” escape for any nature-lover. But if you’re more into sightseeing, the superb musical entertainment, gift shops and fine seafood restaurants do not disappoint.

A portion of the Keys island chain is connected by the Florida Keys Overseas Highway — which is the only All-American Road in the state of Florida, as designated by the National Scenic Byways Program — and perfect for long, leisurely drives in your motorhome or dinghy (RVs are not permitted on the highway after 11 p.m.). Follow the mile markers south from Florida City to Key Largo, Islamorada, Marathon, Big Pine Key and Key West.

Four of the state parks offer full-service camping, but reservations are highly recommended. Key Largo’s John Pennekamp Coral

Reef State Park has 47 full-facility sites that can accommodate RVs up to 45 feet, and its proximity to the Everglades makes it a popular spot for eco-tourists and birders.

In Key West, history and modern-day attractions combine. The Old Town area includes Hemingway House, where cats with extra toes roam freely. History buffs won’t want to miss the Harry S. Truman Little White House and the John Audubon House and Tropical Gardens with first-edition Audubon works. At Mallory Square Dock, there is a Sunset Celebration of arts, crafts and performers every night.

Outside of the state park system, there are several campgrounds, including two popular military RV parks and Calusa Campground Resort in Key Largo, and Bluewater Key RV Resort farther south in Key West. For more information, call 800-352-5397 or visit www.fl-keys.com.

— *Meaghan Alfier*

LOW ‘KEY’ GETAWAY

PRISTINE
NATURE
AND TOURIST
HOT SPOTS
STRIKE A
PERFECT
BALANCE
IN THE
FLORIDA KEYS

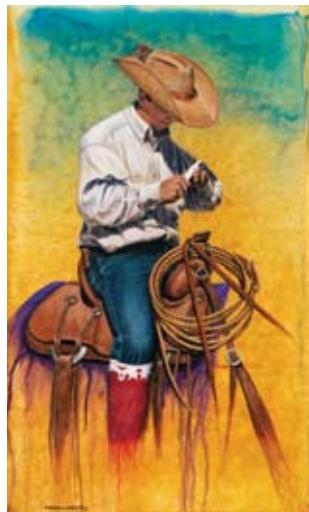


APRIL 2-3 As the snow melts away, the **Central New York Maple Festival** in Marathon, N.Y., celebrates the maple syrup production that has provided income for area farmers of the region for decades. You can compete in a pancake-eating contest, or purchase them to eat purely for enjoyment's sake. A quilt show, bake sale, pony rides, demonstrations of the sugar-making process and much more supplement this family-friendly event; 607-745-7710, www.maplefest.org.

APRIL 7-17 | Originally created to honor the memory of the heroes of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto, **Fiesta San Antonio** in San Antonio has evolved into a celebration of the Texas city's diverse cultures. More than 100 events, each sponsored by a nonprofit group, include parades, historical re-enactments, an oyster bake, pilgrimage to the Alamo, arts fair, pooch parade, food tastings, Earth Day events, a jazz concert, mariachi festival and

a children's festival; 877-723-4378, www.fiesta-sa.org.

APRIL 8-10 | Lasso up some fine Western art at the 21st annual **Cattlemen's Western Art Show & Sale** at the Paso Robles Event Center in Paso



Robles, Calif. Sixty painters and sculptors will exhibit 500 landscapes, scenic and wildlife depictions, and will answer questions about their work. The Central Coast wine country offers scenic areas to visit with plenty of RV parks along the Pacific

Ocean and in the valley; 800-248-8433, www.cattle-menswesternartshow.com.

APRIL 8-10 | Bring your favorite lawn chair and sit back to enjoy the largest free music festival in the South since 1984, the **French Quarter Festival** in New Orleans. Eighteen stages throughout the famous French Quarter will present musical genres that include jazz, rock, R&B, funk, gospel, Cajun and zydeco. There's also a parade and the "World's Largest Jazz Brunch," featuring more than 90 food and beverage booths showcasing the best of what local restaurants have to offer; 800-673-5725, www.fqfi.org/frenchquarterfest.

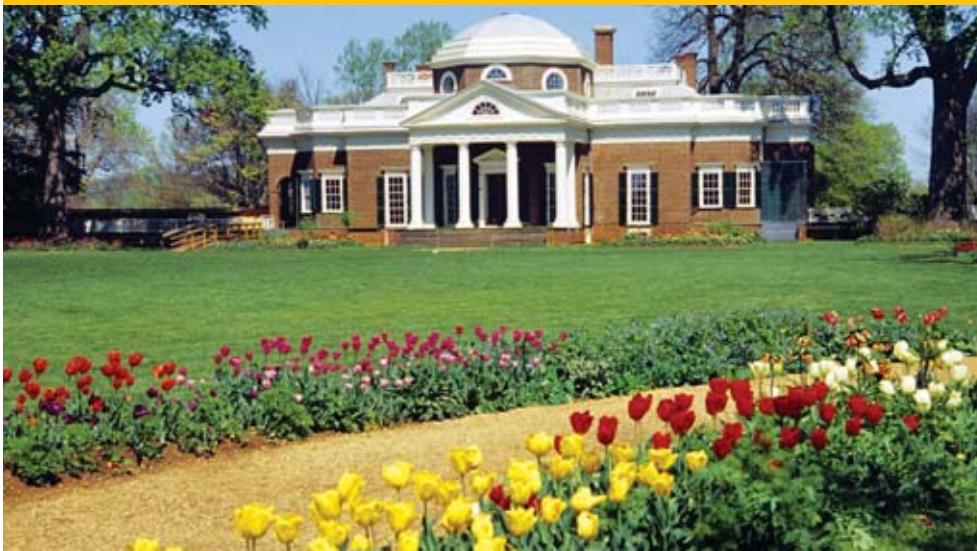
APRIL 14-17 | Mid-April is peak blooming time for the dogwoods and azaleas at the annual spring **Dogwood-Azalea Festival** in Charleston, Mo. Follow the six-mile trail that winds through town and tour the historic homes that are complemented by the burgeoning flowers. There will

also be a plant sale, arts and crafts show, ice cream social, parade, piano concerts and carriage rides at this small-town America, old-fashioned event; 573-683-6509, www.charlestonmo.org.

APRIL 28-30 | More than 3,000 colorfully costumed dancers will strut onto University of New Mexico's field during North America's biggest powwow, the **Gathering of Nations Powwow** in Albuquerque, N.M. Besides dances and musical performances showcasing Native American culture, there will be storytelling, an Indian Market with jewelry, pottery, crafts and food, and a Miss Indian World contest. Nearby Isleta Lakes RV Park is the campground host for the event; 505-836-2810, www.gatheringofnations.com.

APRIL 16-23

Although nothing is for sale, **Historic Garden Week in Virginia** in Richmond, Va., is known as "America's largest open house." More than 30 tours of over 250 of Virginia's finest homes and gardens — including the popular James River plantations — are offered by the Garden Club of Virginia to benefit the restoration of historic gardens. The time periods of the properties range from American Revolution to Civil War to present day; 804-644-7776, www.vagardenweek.org.



RV SHOWS

APRIL 1-3

Kitchener RV Show
Kitchener, Ontario;
888-331-8885

APRIL 1-3

Nashville RV and Boat Supershow
Wilmington, Ohio;
941-780-0538

APRIL 7-10

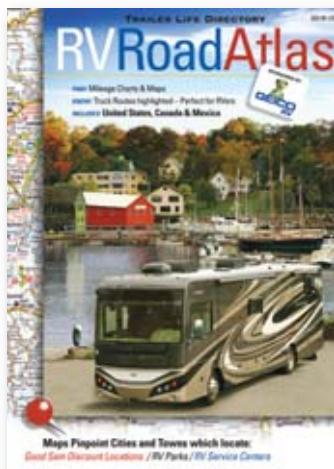
6th Annual Pomona RV & Trade Show
Pomona, Calif.;
702-348-1570

APRIL 7-10

Tampa Bay Spring RV Show
Plant City, Fla.;
813-741-0488

APRIL 28-MAY 1

Puyallup RV Show
Puyallup, Wash.;
206-719-1277



THE ATLAS FOR RVERS

The Trailer Life Directory

RV Road Atlas has been updated for 2011. The guide is the only road atlas designed especially for RVers. Now spiral-bound for easy referencing, the atlas includes new roadways, campgrounds and RV-friendly travel centers.

The atlas highlights trucker-friendly routes, a helpful feature for owners of larger coaches. There are more than 11,800 RV parks, campgrounds and service centers plotted on maps by cities and towns, and it's the only road atlas that shows all U.S., Mexico and Canada listings found in the Trailer Life RV Parks & Campgrounds Directory.

If you're a Good Sam member, you'll find all the locations that offer Good Sam Club 10 percent discounts.

The Trailer Life Directory RV Road Atlas has a suggested retail price of \$29.95, but Good Sam members may purchase it for \$14.95 plus shipping and handling.

Trailer Life Books, 877-209-6658, www.trailerlifedirectory.com/travelstore.



WANTED: YOUR FAVORITE CAMPGROUND

Woodall's is searching for North America's 100 preferred campgrounds and RV parks through its "Woodall's Vote for Your Favorite Campground Sweepstakes."

Campers may vote for their favorite campground or RV park and be entered to win a Hawaiian cruise. The owner of the campground or RV park with the most votes will also receive a seven-night cruise for two in the Hawaiian Islands, including airfare.

Privately owned parks received signs to promote the contest as well as a personalized cell phone code for voters to text their entries. The sweepstakes ends on Sept. 15.

The top 100 campgrounds and RV parks will be revealed in November at the National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds (ARVC) annual trade show in Savannah, Ga.

To vote, go to www.woodalls.com/myfavoritecampground or text the park's personal cell phone code.

News Briefs

Winnebago Industries Inc. has acquired towable RV manufacturer SunnyBrook RV Inc. of Middlebury, Ind., for \$5.7 million in cash. The sale is Winnebago's first acquisition in more than 20 years, and analysts have said it indicates that the RV market is seeing a sustained economic recovery. According to Winnebago, it will expand the SunnyBrook towable product line to include Winnebago brand trailer and fifth-wheel RVs.

The National Park Service is waiving admission fees on 17 selected dates throughout 2011. Besides Jan. 15-17, the weekend of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the other fee-free dates for 2011 are: April 16-24, National Park Week; June 21, the first day of summer; Sept. 24, National Public Lands Day; and Nov. 11-13, the weekend of Veterans Day. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar encouraged Americans to visit a national park this year.

On Jan. 3, Country Coach Corp. opened a 200,000-square-foot service center in Junction City, Ore. "Country Coach has now come full circle," stated Ron Lee, president of the newly formed Country Coach Corp., "and it is once again a family-run business." Ron is the younger brother of Country Coach founder Bob Lee. The corporation owns all of the intellectual property of the former Country Coach Inc. and Country Coach LLC. The facility will provide coach service and parts manufacturing, and specialize in Country Coach motorhomes.

Motorhome manufacturer MVP RV has created an all-electric motorhome. In testing the vehicle late last year, the model traveled 65 to 70 MPH for 180 miles on one charge. In a news report, MVP RV President and CEO Brad Williams said the RV could be charged in as little as 20 minutes with the proper equipment. The motorhome, called "Winston," is named after MVP RV's Chinese business partner Winston Chung, who developed the lithium ion battery used for the coach. As of press time, there were no plans by Riverside, Calif.-based MVP to sell the vehicle, but a second one was scheduled to be built.





CROSSBAR DISGUISE

Keep the front of your dinghy vehicle looking sharp (and your knees protected) with the **Nixtopper** crossbar cover from Roadmaster. It fits onto any Roadmaster towing system that has a quick-disconnect release and is an easy and affordable way to keep the crossbar and brackets clean and ready to go the next time you plan on taking the dinghy along on a trip.

The Nixtopper is made of black high-impact ABS plastic and comes with a front license plate frame. To install, simply remove the linchpins, position the Nixtopper over the quick-disconnects and replace the pins. The product retails for \$69.50.

Roadmaster Inc., 800-669-9690, www.roadmasterinc.com.



MADE IN THE SHADE

Spending the season in a sunny spot like Arizona or Texas? Protect your cockpit's surfaces from the damaging effects of sunlight with a windshield shade such as **Magne Shade**, which uses no straps, snaps or suction cups — and you won't even need a ladder to install it.

The Magne Shade system uses very strong rare-earth magnets that are mounted on the inside of your motorhome's windshield, with corresponding magnets sewn into the shade pockets. To install, just raise each corner of the shade with the included fiberglass rod and let the magnets do the rest. Every shade is custom-made to fit your motorhome's windshield or window using a template, and there is a wide selection of colors and patterns to choose from, all of which are at least 90 percent sun- and UV-blocking fabrics.

Pricing starts at \$395 for solid-colored shades.

Hunckler Fabrication, 336-414-4364, www.magneshade.com.

FIRST AID FOR FIDO

Be prepared to handle doggy mishaps while on the road with **Dr. Bill's First-Aid Kit**. The kit comes fully stocked with all of the necessary tools for first-aid and hot-spot treatments, and could save you an expensive visit to an unfamiliar vet in whatever area you're visiting.

The kit includes a compact case with removable tray and clear lid, battery-operated hair trimmers for prepping the affected area, a quick reference manual, instruments (including a digital thermometer, tweezers, bandage scissors, penlight and syringe), topical antiseptics, wound dressings, medications, and a muzzle for making sure that the patient doesn't inadvertently make matters worse. The website also provides thorough how-to and wound treatment instructions. Of course, the kit is no substitute for veterinary care in the case of an emergency.

The kit retails for \$89.95 and part of the proceeds are donated to Best Friends Animal Society, a grassroots network with a mission to reduce the number of homeless pets across the country.

Dr. Bill's Dog First Aid, 805-687-2612, www.drillsdogfirstaid.com.





Let's pretend this is a magic outlet.

You could stick it anywhere. On a chair, rock, picnic table and have the power you need for all your camping conveniences. That's the

way quiet, reliable Honda



portable generators work. Only they come in different sizes and offer a three-year warranty.*

Happy trails!

HONDA
GENERATORS

SHOP ONLINE honda.com



*Warranty applies to all Honda GX Series Engines and GX Series-powered Honda Power Equipment, 100cc or larger, purchased or put into rental service since January 1, 2009. Exceptions apply. See full warranty details at honda.com. Does not apply to EU1000 models. Please read the owner's manual before operating your Honda Power Equipment and never use in a closed or partly enclosed area where you could be exposed to carbon monoxide. Connection of a generator to house power requires a transfer device to avoid possible injury to power company personnel. Consult a qualified electrician. ©2010 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.



Honda Generators, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info



PHOTO: GUY LOUIS SELBERT

Views from the Road

Al Luehmann and his wife, Mary, are committed RVers from the North Star State of Minnesota. When they're away from home, Al and Mary enjoy our country's beautiful landscape in their 2007 Itasca Horizon motorhome, spending the winter months in Casa Grande, Arizona.

Al describes his time on the road as "a way of life after you retire. I have a whole new set of friends from around the country - we've become a family."

Even when traveling, he enjoys the comforts of home, including live TV. Al chose DISH Network to bring TV to his RV because of the unique service benefits.

"The ability to deactivate it whenever we aren't using the motorhome is a terrific feature. Plus, the rate was better than the competition, and we can get high definition free. I would highly recommend DISH Network service."

And what does he watch most when on the road? "Sports - the (Minnesota) Vikings and Wild, and my wife is a Jimmie Johnson (NASCAR) fan."

So what's next for Al and Mary? "Nova Scotia - beautiful country - and Yosemite."

Happy travels.



Al and Mary traveling the country



PRESERVING THE PONY EXPRESS

The Pony Express, founded 151 years ago and in operation for just 18 months, was a dangerous undertaking. It was also expensive to operate and ultimately a financial failure. But the innovative mail service caused a sensation in its day and was a prominent player in the colorful saga of the American West.

"The Pony" was a mail relay service between St. Joseph, Mo., and Sacramento, Calif., founded by Missouri freighting firm Russell, Majors and Waddell. Riders often contended with harsh weather as they sped across the nearly 2,000 miles.

Over the decades most of the Pony Express stations have disappeared. But near the small town of Gothenburg in central Nebraska, two likely stations still stand.

Machette's Station originally stood about four miles east of Fort McPherson, but it was dismantled in 1931 and reassembled in Ehmen Park. It opened as a museum in 1954 and is currently open daily from April through October.

Midway (above), also known as Cold Water and Pat Mullaly's Station, is the second station in the Gothenburg area. It was located about three miles south of town on Harry Williams' "Lower 96 Ranch."

For more information, contact the Gothenburg Area Chamber of Commerce, 800-482-5520, or visit www.gothenburgdelivers.com. — Pamela Selbert

DÉJÀ VU IN MEMPHIS

For visitors, at least those who remember the late 1960s, the scene is starkly familiar. The two-story motel exterior, aqua blue doors, balcony and cars parked below have been etched in American minds for more than 40 years.

Here, on the balcony of Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., Martin Luther King Jr. was slain. Today the motel is the National Civil Rights Museum. The inside has been gutted and reorganized into a smooth-flowing exhibit of the civil rights movement from 1619 to present day.

The exhibit begins with the arrival of slaves on America's shores and continues with abolitionists, slave revolts, the civil war, reconstruction, Jim Crow laws, marches, legislation and individuals breaking the color barrier. It winds through a city transit bus where a plaster figurine of Rosa Parks sits, a lunch counter where college students sit in protest of segregation and a jail cell where King's famous "Letter From a Birmingham Jail" is posted. The museum parking lot can accommodate small- to medium-size motorhomes.

For more information, call 901-521-9699 or visit www.civilrightsmuseum.org. — Betty Prange ♦



PHOTO: BETTY PRANGE

Get this **show** on the **road**



Introducing **Pay-as-you-go TV** for your RV, only from DISH Network

DISH Network is the first – and only – provider to offer **pay-as-you-go** television service for your RV.

So you can watch all of your favorite programs and movies no matter where you are. And when you take a break from your adventures, your bill does too. *Only DISH Network* gives you the flexibility to start and stop monthly service as often as you wish – at no charge.



CALL TODAY AND HIT THE ROAD!

1-800-970-7144

dish.com/RV

Get 60 top channels

\$34⁹⁹
MO

EVERYDAY LOW PRICE

+ NO CHARGE TO
START AND STOP SERVICE

+ NO COMMITMENT

+ NO ADDITIONAL
MONTHLY SERVICE FEE



DISH Network is #1
in Customer Satisfaction among all
cable and satellite TV providers.*

dish
Let's Watch TV™

* According to the 2010 American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey results for the U.S. largest cable and satellite TV providers. The claim excludes fiber optic carriers. Requires purchase of receiver. Monthly fee may apply if receiver is being added to an existing DISH Network account. All prices, packages and programming subject to change without notice. Restrictions may apply. © 2011, DISH Network L.L.C. All rights reserved.

SAVING PEOPLE MONEY
on more than just car insurance.SM



GEICO[®]

Call 1-877-434-2678 today
or visit your local office.

Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Boat and PWC coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Government Employees Insurance Co. • GEICO General Insurance Co. • GEICO Indemnity Co. • GEICO Casualty Co. These companies are subsidiaries of Berkshire Hathaway Inc. GEICO: Washington, DC 20076. GEICO Gecko image © 1999-2011. © 2011 GEICO

Geico, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info



A NO-FRET SOLUTION TO TAKING YOUR GUITAR ON THE ROAD

VOYAGE-AIR'S TRAVEL GUITAR IS A FULL-SIZE INSTRUMENT THAT FOLDS AND STOWS

by PRESTON GRATIOT

Guitars have always found a place alongside the campfire. No matter if strummed by a lonely cowboy to calm restless dogies during a cattle drive across the plains, or picked by a modern-day RVer leading a pack of two-legged young'uns in song under a crisp, starry sky. Yup, the guitar has earned a traditional place in the camping lifestyle that cannot be ignored. However, not everyone is ready to take up valuable space inside the motorhome to store a full-sized acoustic guitar.

Luckily, guitar makers have recently developed special "travel guitars" designed to make taking your guitar on the road much less of a hassle or liability. Although many of these more compact designs feature a full-size neck for easy playing, most balance the need for portability with a lack of tone or volume. Even a talented builder is met with a monumental task when trying to get a big sound out of a smaller guitar.

Granted, the larger "dreadnought" style of acoustic guitar produces the best combination of tone and volume for a campfire singalong. But with portability and storage a major factor in transporting the instrument, a new design was called for so your road guitar could sound like the treasured instrument that serves as your main guitar at home — yet still be compact enough to fit inside your motorhome.

Voyage-Air Guitar co-founders Harvey Leach and Jeff Cohen didn't accept the restrictions of rich tone versus portability as an unavoidable problem, and struck out to engineer this rather drastic solution, thanks to luthier Harvey Leach's 35 years of guitar-building ingenuity. The end result is the VAD-04, a unique, full-size guitar with a fold-and-stow design that allows for storage in small spaces.

Leach's solution for making a full-size guitar fit in small compartments hinged on an extremely strong neck joint that allows the player to simply loosen a single securing bolt and then fold the guitar in half — pivoting the neck forward so the fretboard lays flat against the guitar's top. While stored in the case, the securing strap acts as a buffer between the neck and bridge, minimizing any chance of damage during transit.

If you are really into guitar construction, you know how players can argue over how the neck joint design can enhance, hinder or maximize the tone of the guitar, and Voyage-Air's hinged-neck design may seem to fall on the negative



PHOTOS: BOB LIVINGSTON

A LIFETIME OF ADVENTURE AWAITS.

Count on Guaranty's 44 years of industry experience and expert sales advice to help you make the most of every mile. Our unrivaled selection of top quality new and pre-owned, gas and diesel motorhomes means we can help you find the right RV. Visit world famous Guaranty today!

GUARANTY

RV SUPER CENTERS

JUNCTION CITY OREGON • 866-354-1293

NOW IN STOCK – BANK REPO UNITS – WWW.GUARANTY.COM

SIMPLE WAYS TO MAINTAIN YOUR RV'S VALUE: REGULAR ROOF CLEANING



Help your rubber roof last longer and look better.

Regular cleaning extends the life of your rubber roof, eliminates stains, removes mold and helps you spot problems that need fixing. All Dicor cleaners will perform exceptionally on your roof. But be careful, some cleaning products will actually damage the roof.

Available at all RV Dealerships and Camping World locations.

A NO-FRET SOLUTION TO TAKING YOUR GUITAR ON THE ROAD

side of this argument. But the VAD-04 will easily fool many players as the neck joint both looks and feels solid.

Folding the Voyage-Air in half is easy thanks to the unique double hinge. Simply twist the heel-mounted screw, which doubles as a strap pin, and the neck releases from the neckblock. However, be forewarned because string tension can swing the neck away from the heel with a slight jolt if you're not prepared. I found the best way to control the neck motion was to brace the guitar's body — strings facing me — against my chest with my right arm and loosen the nut holding the joint together with my right hand while holding the upper part of the neck with my left hand. The trick is to hold the neck joint closed until after the mounting screw clears the threads.

Returning the guitar to a playable configuration again is no major feat, but those used to treating guitars gently may be leery of the force required to overcome string tension. However, after a few successful transformations, you'll be amazed at just how simple this design is. While folding and unfolding the guitar may require a minor re-tuning, the guitar often remained in tune even after being folded in half.

The neck hinge isn't the only technical feature on the Voyage-Air. The Corian nut (tuner end of the neck) uses small ports rather than the typical slots (the manufacturer refers to this component as the "proprietary captured nut") to hold each string in place while the guitar is folded over and stored in its case. Voyage-Air overcame the limitations of this nut design by incorporating a zero fret — a feature that's uncommon in contemporary steel-string design, but I've got some older collector





guitars with this feature and stand behind this design as an easy way to maintain playability while retaining string alignment.

The Voyage-Air VAD-04 featured here (the company makes more than a dozen models ranging in price from \$399 to \$1,995, depending on body style and trim options) offers roving guitarists a traditional full-size dreadnought design. There is a hand-inlaid rosette around the sound hole and six-ply alternating black-and-white-striped purfling on the edges of the main body that complement the one-piece spruce top. The neck, sides and back of the body feature African mahogany, a tonewood that enhances warmth and low-end sonic response while still allowing the higher notes to ring crisp and clear. The matte finish on the neck helps to keep your palm from sticking to the back of the neck, while the body of the guitar has a highly polished gloss finish that enhances the depth and beauty of the mahogany's grain and color.

The VAD-04 comes with a soft case that protects the guitar in its folded configuration. In addition, the case features a removable laptop/storage case.

Passing the guitar around the room at a recent jam session, few players had any idea that this full-size acoustic guitar was a true shape shifter. The folding neck seam, located between the 13th and 14th frets, went totally unnoticed until I finally



got the guitar back, loosened the securing nut and folded the VAD-04 in half. Suddenly, everyone wanted to play it again.

As an avid guitar player and frequent RVer who also spends a fair amount of time traveling around on work assignments, I have found that this VAD-04, and all of the other guitars in the Voyage-Air line, offers an easy solution to the usual problems I face when trying to bring a full-size, full-scale guitar along for the ride. Besides, it's fun to hear the gasps around the campfire as you break your guitar down to take it back inside your motorhome. ♦

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VOYAGE-AIR GUITAR
800-371-6478,
www.voyageairguitar.com.

Get the right scoop!

The right insurance coverage begins with your agent

ask for member discounts

Choose the agency that **knows** the RV Lifestyle!



MILLER

INSURANCE AGENCY INC.

1-800-622-6347



licensed to do business across the country



www.MillerRVInsurance.com



Miller Insurance, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

WINDSHIELDS



**NATIONWIDE
MOBILE SERVICE
RV WINDSHIELD
REPLACEMENT**

**CALL
1-800-808-9762
www.nomadglass.com**

Nomad Glass, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

CAMPFIRE COMMON SENSE

One of the true joys of taking your guitar on the road is playing it alongside a crackling campfire. However, most guitars are made of wood and wood will expand or contract depending on the temperature. If this happens too fast, the clear finish on the guitar may develop cracks, while in a worst-case scenario, the heat of the fire might even loosen the glue joints, leading to expensive repairs. If you are taking the guitar out of a warm motorhome and settling down at a winter campfire, bring it outside earlier in the evening and let it sit in the case. And don't play the guitar too close to a roaring bonfire. If the fire feels hot on your face, it's probably too hot for the guitar, too. During the day, keep your guitar in the shade. Remember, if you are comfortable with the temperature, it should be fine for the guitar too.

Pass the buck!

(and save a bundle on RV repairs)

Policyholder Claims Report #: 473

“Transmission failed on Christmas Eve”



PAID: \$5,336.69
to replace torque convertor
& transmission

Torque Convertor overheated
to 600° F causing severe
damage to transmission.

“Not only did Good Sam Extended Service Plan pay the \$5,336.69 to replace my transmission, torque converter, and parking brake assembly, but they also bought us Christmas dinner! It turned out to be a Merry Christmas after all!”
Good Sam Extended Service Plan Policyholder W.H., Newport, OR



Good Sam
EXTENDED SERVICE PLAN
ABI

Now you can pass the buck, too!

Pass the buck to save a bundle on RV repairs. Good Sam Extended Service Plan is reliable Mechanical Breakdown Insurance, designed exclusively for the Good Sam Club by Affinity Brokerage, Inc.

This affordable plan offers Good Sam members **more dependable coverage** than many unregulated extended warranties.

The Good Sam plan is a genuine insurance policy underwritten by QBE Europe/Lloyds of London, regulated insurance carriers with an A+ rating for their outstanding financial stability.

All program benefits are subject to the limitations set forth in the current terms and conditions. ©ABI 2010

Good Sam Extended Service Plan is better than an extended warranty!

- Save money on major RV repairs
- You choose repair facility
- Affordable, customized plans
- Available for both new and used vehicles

Call now for a FREE Quick Quote

1-877-592-4170

Mon-Fri: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Mountain Time)

www.GoodSamESP.com

WAY ABOVE PAR

Resort-style Hilton Head Island, S.C., is much more than a golfer's paradise



PHOTO: ISTOCKPHOTO/VIKREBOXHERO

From the harbor and marina on Hilton Head Island, visitors may depart on such excursions as a nature photography cruise or a dolphin-watching expedition.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE HILTON HEAD ISLAND VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU

Hilton Head Island, S.C., is known by many as a golfer's paradise because of its 24 championship golf courses and 16 additional courses over the bridge on the mainland. But there's a lot more to do on "The Golf Island" than just hitting the links. Despite its small "footprint" (the island is shaped like a shoe), the 12-mile-long by 5-mile-wide island is chock-full of natural beauty.

Although Hilton Head Island has a population of about 39,000 people and hosts more than 2 million visitors annually, it has an uncommercialized look and plenty of undeveloped areas. The island is located just off the Atlantic coast between Savannah, Ga., and Charleston, S.C., both of which offer a great day trip from Hilton Head.

There are plenty of activities on the island to keep visitors smiling, or you can simply relax and do nothing more than enjoy the resort atmosphere — about 70 percent of the island is either a resort or a gated community. Several of the resorts offer their own hotels, villa rentals, time share properties, shopping, golf courses and restaurants. Each one is almost a city of its own and you could literally spend a whole vacation inside of a resort and never leave.

Of course, there are many common areas on the island that include all the things you would expect from

Nicknamed "The Golf Island," Hilton Head Island has 24 golf courses, 19 of them public. The courses were designed by such famous golfers as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Greg Norman and Tom Fazio. There are 16 additional courses over the bridge on the mainland.



Hilton Head Harbor RV Resort and Marina, left, is one of two beautiful RV resorts on the island. There are waterfront and shaded sites available. About 70 percent of Hilton Head Island is either a resort or a gated community. Some resorts are like small self-contained cities, offering amenities such as restaurants and shopping. Bicycling on the beach, tennis and fishing are also popular activities. To get a short history lesson of the area, visitors may take a ferry ride to Daufuskie Island, bottom left. Daufuskie, an 8-square-mile island, is a throwback to Hilton Head's origins and is home to several hundred residents from the Gullah culture, which preceded modern-day life on Hilton Head Island.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

**HILTON HEAD HARBOR
RV RESORT AND MARINA**

800-845-9560,
www.hiltonheadharbor.com.

**HILTON HEAD ISLAND
MOTORCOACH RESORT**

800-722-2365,
www.hiltonheadmotorcoach
resort.com.

**HILTON HEAD ISLAND VISITOR
& CONVENTION BUREAU**

800-523-3373,
www.hiltonheadisland.org.



**HILTON HEAD
ISLAND**



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE HILTON HEAD ISLAND VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU

PHOTOS: E. DON SMITH (DAUFUSKIE ISLAND, RV PARK)



a vacation destination, such as movie theaters, restaurants, a local museum and even a comedy club, which we enjoyed during our stay.

An interesting thing about Hilton Head is that the commercial and shopping areas are designed to blend in with their natural surroundings. That means that if you are driving around looking for a grocery store, you better have a pretty good idea of where it is before you go. Even chain stores and restaurants must abide by the island's strict building codes and are required to blend in with the resort atmosphere. It's a welcome change from the typical street

after street of brash retail signs that litter many beach cities. Hilton Head Island has done a nice job of keeping the entire island pristine and without commercial overload, thus preserving the beauty of the island.

There are two RV resorts on the island and both are beautiful. We stayed at Hilton Head Harbor RV Resort and Marina, in part because of its close proximity to the water. But should you want to be a bit closer to the heart of the island, you may prefer Hilton Head Motorcoach Resort. We chose a waterfront site at Hilton Head Harbor RV Resort, which made for a great location to watch the boats going in and out from fishing, and the

Smart Choice Formaldehyde-Free



Eco-Smart

- The best all-temp, formaldehyde-free formula odor control
- Liquefies waste and tissue fast to prevent messy clogs
- Detergent additive keeps tanks clean



Eco-Smart is EcoLogo certified

Best Choice for Performance

Aqua-Kem

- The most powerful odor control available today – bar none!
- Liquefies waste and tissue fast to prevent messy clogs
- Works in all conditions, hot and cold



Coming Soon!



THETFORD

www.thetford.com

Thetford Corporation, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

property offers plenty of shaded sites to keep you out of the sun. It also offers 30- and 50-amp sites as well as Wi-Fi and cable TV.

Without even leaving the resort you can enjoy fishing, swimming, tennis and personal watercraft rentals as well as a playground for the kids. Another great benefit of this property is that it has one of the best restaurants on the island, Sunset Grille at the marina. Speaking of food, this entire area is noted for having some of the best restaurants on the coast. Of course, there are seafood restaurants, but there are many other choices, too, such as Italian, Greek and Southwestern.

Regarding those golf courses, there are 24 on the island, 19 of those public, and golf is a huge part of the island experience and its history. In 1786, Scottish immigrants organized the United States' first golf course in the Charleston area and golf remains an important part of the economy. The island has courses by famous designers including Jack Nicklaus, Tom Fazio, Pete Dye, Arnold Palmer, Gary Player and Greg Norman. Beaufort County

sees about 700,000 rounds of golf each year. Hilton Head is also host to The Heritage annual PGA TOUR event, which is played on the most famous course on the island, Harbour Town Golf Links, located in The Sea Pines Resort.

Fishing is another popular activity on the island. Some of the local fish include Spanish mackerel, sea bass, tuna, amberjack, redfish, cobia, shark and barracuda. If you have access to one of the resorts and want to fish in their lagoons, on the beach or offshore, a state license (valid for seven days) is required for an \$11 fee. This may be obtained before your visit at www.takefishing.org or at the local Wal-Mart on the island.

To enjoy Mother Nature up close and personal, you may want to take a cruise excursion, nature photography cruise or dolphin cruise. Hilton Head Island is one of the few places where dolphins team up and use a herding technique known as "strand feeding" to drive fish onto the banks of the marshes. Then while on the muddy shores the dolphins feast on their prey.

A ferry ride to Daufuskie Island offers a short history lesson of the area. Daufuskie is a throwback to the origins of Hilton Head and still is home to several hundred residents. After an hour ferry ride to Daufuskie you can rent a golf cart and ride around the island on the dirt roads and get a look into the Gullah culture that preceded the modern life today on Hilton Head. The Gullah culture has its own language and folk tales and old superstitions dating to 1728. Many full-time residents of this unique 8-square-mile island work elsewhere and ferry to and from Hilton Head Island daily for the 1-nautical-mile trip. Many of them even leave a car parked at local marinas or parking lots so they have transportation when back on Hilton Head. Jimmy Buffett fans may recall his song "Prince of Tides," which is about Daufuskie.

If you are interested in a resort-style island vacation, keep Hilton Head Island on your short list. Many people come back year after year and we can see why. After spending 10 days here in July, we can't wait to come back again. ♦

BORN FREE MOTORCOACH




- ★ **QUALITY**
BEST BUILT MOTORCOACH IN AMERICA
- ★ **SAFETY**
42 YEARS WITHOUT A FATALITY
- ★ **DRIVABILITY**
THE ULTIMATE TOURING VEHICLE
- ★ **SOLD FACTORY DIRECT**

800-247-1835

www.bornfreemotorcoach.com



NOW APPROVED FOR SALE IN CANADA
Transport Canada "Pre-Clearance"
listing; CSA Z240 RV Series certified



Born Free Motorcoach, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

LAND OF THE NAVAJO

BEAUTY, TRADITION AND MYSTERY DRAW HALF A MILLION VISITORS A YEAR TO THE DRAMATIC DESERT LANDSCAPE OF MONUMENT VALLEY IN UTAH AND ARIZONA

by RICHARD AND ELLEN THANE

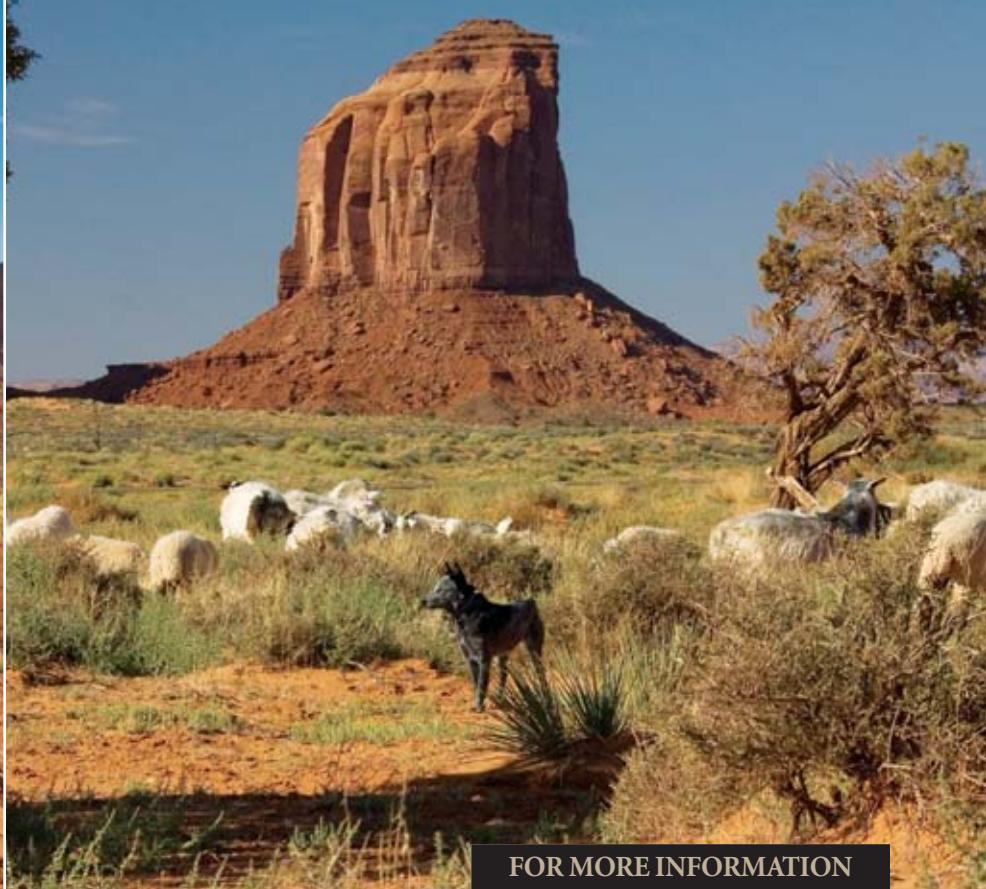


A blazing pink glow crept in around the edges of our window shades. Shaking off the mists of sleep we hurried outside to watch the sky turn every color of the rainbow as the sun slowly rose behind the famous rock formations known as the Mittens. We were dry camped near the visitor center in the Arizona section of Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park (the park also extends into Utah) with the hauntingly beautiful valley filled with spectacular sandstone spires, buttes and mesas spread before us.

We'd pulled in the night before and found the Mitten View Campground next to the visitor center closed for construction of a new hotel (the visitor center, campground and The View Hotel are now open), but a wide, flat parking area nearby offered adequate camping with an outstanding view. And

A spot near the visitor center in Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park offers views of sandstone spires, mesas and buttes. Visitors can set their own pace on a 17-mile self-guided drive. A highlight of the authors' trip was visiting with Susie Yazzie, a well-known resident in Monument Valley. The Navajo weaver has been demonstrating rug weaving for tourists since the 1940s.





Clockwise from top left: The 3.3-mile self-guided Wildcat Trail is the only unescorted hiking trail in Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park. A dog keeps watch over a flock of sheep in Monument Valley. Hand-woven Navajo rugs are among the items for sale at the visitor center gift shop. Near the Sun's Eye arch, ancient petroglyphs can be found. A tourist shops at legendary Goulding's Trading Post, established in the early 1920s.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

GOULDING'S LODGE
 435-727-3231,
www.gouldings.com.
MONUMENT VALLEY NAVAJO TRIBAL PARK
 435-727-5874,
www.navajonationparks.org/hlm/monumentvalley.htm.



though we could have camped at Goulding's Lodge (located just outside the park), we wanted to experience closeup views of the valley from our campsite.

Somewhere around 500,000 people, most of them from overseas, visit Monument Valley each year, with photography high on their list of priorities just as it was on ours. Communication with the eclectic mix of campers around us was an interesting challenge as English, German, French, Russian and Spanish words flew from campsite to campsite. But accompanied with lots of laughter and hand gestures we compared camping rigs, cameras and travels. What fun.

Located about 315 miles north of Phoenix, Monument Valley is not a state or national park but, with 91,696 acres, it is a small part of the great Navajo Nation that covers

Here's What Consumers are Saying



GREAT PRODUCT! GREAT SERVICE!

"We love the easy setup and the unit's ability to do proportional and/or full braking, not to mention the "adjust on the fly" remote control. A beautiful product, and a great company that stands behind what they build. Fabulous!"

-Michael B (OH)

Inventor and Leader of Towed Vehicle Braking Since 1996

Visit www.BrakeBuddy.com for 5 Must-Have Answers Before you Buy a Towed Vehicle Braking system.

Visit www.BrakeBuddy.com to see our Video or Call (800) 470-2287

Applies Brakes In Your Towed Vehicle



Reduces Your Stopping Distance Up to 50%

Legendary Performance, Reliability and Ease of Use... Only from BrakeBuddy®

BrakeBuddy, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

The Latest in Tire Safety Technology

NEW & Improved

5-Level Alert Tire Pressure Monitoring System



SAFE TIRE CONDITIONS

- Properly inflated tires are safer, run cooler, last longer
- Helps increase fuel economy
- Increases tread life 50% or more

LOW PRESSURE

- Add air to tire at next convenient stop
- Under inflated tires wear out more quickly and reduce fuel economy

DANGEROUSLY LOW PRESSURE

- Immediately get off the road and air up your tire(s)
- 9-out-of-10 tire failures are caused by low tire pressure

HIGH PRESSURE

- Sends signal when tire is over-inflated
- Accelerates tire wear
- Overinflation reduces vehicle handling and braking performance

HIGH TEMP

- Alerts when tires become too hot
- Hot tires increase the risk of a blowout



JUST RIGHT!

"I love that feeling of being safe, because I know when I'm losing tire pressure. You can spend a lot more, but this system is all you need."

-Rosemary V. (NE)

Giving RV'ers the Peace of Mind They Deserve

Find out more at:
www.nVisionSafety.com

nVision go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

From the Makers of



AIR FORCE ONE **STAY-IN-PLAY**
SMI Manufacturing, Inc. **DUO**

Under the Hood and Out of the Way!

- Vacuum Assisted
- Zero Setup Time
- Voted #1!

Under the Hood and Out of the Way!

SMARTBOX™ BRAKING CONTROL

SMI

WORLD'S SMALLEST BRAKE ACTUATOR

Towed-Vehicle Braking Simplified

Vacuum-Assisted Braking

**1 Choice for Diesel Motorhomes*

- Exclusive DOT Compliant Air Tap
- 100% Proportional Braking
- Five-Year Warranty

**1 Choice for Gas Motorhomes*

- Patented Dual-Signal Activation
- 100% Progressive Braking
- Five-Year Warranty

SMI Manufacturing, Inc. • 800-893-3763 • www.smibrake.com

SMI Marketing, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

much of northeastern Arizona and stretches into Utah and New Mexico. Known as Tse'Bii'Ndzisgaii or Valley of the Rocks to the Navajo, they believe it to be a gift from their creator and each unique formation has a story. The dramatic high desert landscape was formed over billions of years, beginning with violent volcanic eruptions and then covered by warm oceanic waters. Earthquakes, wind and erosion also played roles in shaping this area.

Entering Monument Valley is to enter a world of mystery, incredible beauty and age-old tradition, a world where you have an opportunity to find people still speaking the native language and living in the old ways, herding flocks of sheep and living with no running water or electricity. You will also see the struggle the Navajo experience to maintain their traditional lifestyle even as the young people are drawn to the outside world with its jobs and modern conveniences. You will find the Navajo to be gracious hosts and they will strive to make your visit a wonderful experience.

After photographing the sunrise and enjoying a leisurely breakfast the visitor center was open and we went in for information. Downstairs, a large room is dedicated to plaques and stories of the legendary Navajo Code Talkers who played such a vital role in World War II. The tribe is justifiably proud of these heroic young men. Upstairs a gift shop offers books and brochures on Monument Valley and the Navajo Nation as a whole. The Navajo are fine artisans and you can't help but be impressed by the expertly handcrafted pottery, baskets, rugs, kachinas and jewelry for sale there. A small adjoining sandwich shop provides a quick lunch while outside, on the observation deck, telescopes offer closeup views of the famous rocks.

We found a number of attractive choices for exploring and photographing the valley. A 17-mile self-guided drive lets you set your own pace and time your arrival at each viewpoint to maximize the sunlight for each photograph or you may choose to tour with a Navajo guide, traveling to parts of the valley not open to unescorted visitors. Escorted tours vary from an open van-like vehicle carrying groups of up to 20 people to smaller semi-private tours with groups of four to six to a private tour of your own. These guided tours are not as expensive as you might

DIRECTV for Your Home and RV!
More TV, Less Money

FREE Professional Installation
No Equipment to Buy!

Packages Starting at **\$29.99** /MO.
FAMILY™ PACKAGE

DIRECTV Offers Access to **285+** CHANNELS
Locals Included†

FREE RV KIT
Dish, Travel Tripod & 50ft of cable*

CHOICE and above. New customers only. Available to existing customers at additional charge. While supplies last. S/H fees apply. Courtesy of Direct Sat TV.

included with all DIRECTV Packages!

Offers ends 07/20/11. Credit card required (except in MA & PA). New approved customers only. Lease agreement required. **Hardware available separately. Lease fee \$5.00/mo. for second and each additional receiver. Handling & Delivery fee may apply. Applicable use tax adjustment may apply on the retail value of the installation.



LIMITED TIME OFFER
Call Now! PROMO CODE:
RV KIT
800-644-7968

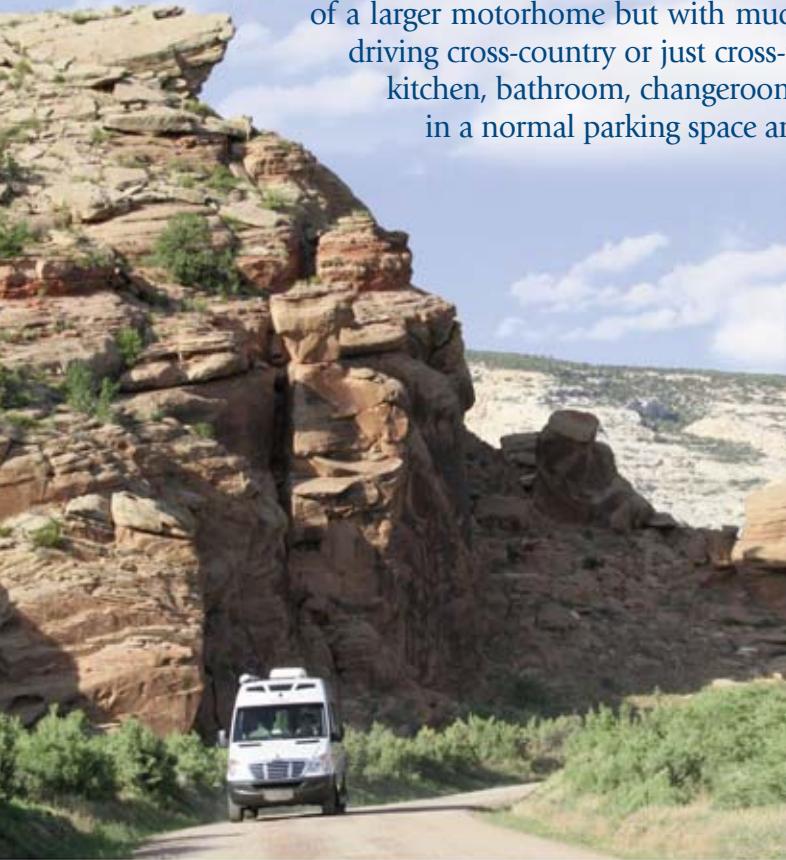


*RV SATELLITE KIT OFFER: Offer valid with new residential home DIRECTV service activation and purchase of CHOICE programming or above. Includes satellite dish, travel tripod and 50' of coaxial cable. RV Kit available to existing for a charge. HD dish will incur additional fees. Tripod for HD dish not available. Programming and pricing may vary for service in your RV. For service in RV, customer will receive NY Distant Network Signal, based on geographical location. LA Distant Network is available upon request and requires special hardware, which will incur additional fees. DNS waiver required. **2-YR. LEASE AGREEMENT: EARLY CANCELLATION WILL RESULT IN A FEE OF \$20/MONTH FOR EACH REMAINING MONTH. Must maintain 24 consecutive months of your DIRECTV programming package. No lease fee for only 1 receiver. Lease fee for first 2 receivers \$6/mo., additional receiver leases \$6/mo. each. NON-ACTIVATION CHARGE OF \$150 PER RECEIVER MAY APPLY. ALL EQUIPMENT TO BE LEASED AND MUST BE RETURNED TO DIRECTV UPON CANCELLATION, OR UNRETURNED EQUIPMENT FEES APPLY. VISIT directv.com OR CALL 1-800-DIRECTV FOR DETAILS. INSTALLATION: Standard professional installation only. Custom installation extra. †Eligibility for local channels based on service address. Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change at any time. Pricing residential. Taxes not included. Receipt of DIRECTV programming subject to DIRECTV Customer Agreement, copy provided at directv.com/legal and in first bill. DIRECTV and the Cyclone Design logo are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.

Direct Sat TV, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

Fuel Efficient Motorhomes You'll Love to Drive.

Imagine what you could do with a vehicle that has the spacious comfort and convenience of a larger motorhome but with much better fuel economy and driveability. Whether driving cross-country or just cross-town, enjoy the convenience of having your own kitchen, bathroom, changeroom, family room and bedroom in a vehicle that fits in a normal parking space and can be used as a second car.



- 15 to 22 miles per gallon
- Easy to drive & park, use everyday
- Available in four-wheel-drive
- Automotive styling (helps avoid RV parking restrictions, keep it at home)
- Seats up to 7
- Comfortable to drive in
- Comfortable to live in
- Bathroom with shower
- Separate eating & sleeping areas
- Sleeps up to 4
- Up to king-size bed
- 4 year/48,000 mile motorhome warranty

To find out why Roadtrek is the #1 selling North American class B motorhome (camper van), visit us at www.roadtrek.com/MHM or call us toll free at 1-888-ROADTREK (762-3873).

 **Roadtrek**™
Fuel Efficient Motorhomes
You'll Love to Drive!™

Roadtrek Motorhomes Inc., go to motorhomemagazine.com/info



Best in the West



NEWELL COACH



FLEETWOOD DISCOVERY - CLASS A DIESEL



FLEETWOOD CLASS "A" & CLASS "C" GAS



LEISURE TRAVEL - FREE SPIRIT/LIBERO/SERENITY



ROADTREK - America's #1 Selling Class B Motorhome



**NEW & PRE-OWNED
GAS & DIESEL**

Visit our online showroom:
www.hollandmotorhomes.com

800-961-4464

San Diego, California

**40 Years & Going Strong
RV Sales & Service**

LAND OF THE NAVAJO

think and can last anywhere from a couple of hours to several days. For a completely different perspective you might even enjoy seeing Monument Valley on horseback or by hot air balloon. Guides are stationed outside the visitor center to arrange the tour of your choice or you may set one up through Goulding's Trading Post or over the Internet.

We decided to take the self-guided drive first and acquaint ourselves with the area before arranging a guided tour. In a swirl of dust we dropped down over the valley rim in our four-wheel-drive dinghy. The gas tank was full, our cooler containing water and sandwiches and our guide map in hand. You won't find any services along this route so bring everything you'll need with you.

It's suggested that you allow two hours for this drive but we spent all afternoon as we wound our way past the Mittens, Elephant Butte, the Three Sisters and out to John Ford's Point — named for the famous director who made movies in Monument Valley, many of them starring John Wayne. Of course, in the movies, Monument Valley always represented someplace else, such as Texas or New Mexico or another western location, making it an icon of the American West in the minds of the public.

This is considered one of the finest places in the world for photography. It was here that famous photographer Josef Muench took his first photographs and introduced Monument Valley to the world. Early mornings and evenings when the sun is low and the shadows are long are the best times for photography but with a little ingenuity you can take satisfactory photos all day long. (If you plan on publishing your photos, be sure to obtain a commercial photography permit at <http://navajonationparks.org/permits.htm>.)

The weather was perfect — sunny but not sweltering — as we continued on past Camel Butte, the Hub and on to the Totem Pole and Yei Bi Chei. The changing light and shifting shadows created a never-ending stream of views and we backtracked several times to see and photograph things in a new light. The sky with its billowing clouds is just as much a part of the landscape as the desert floor and the towering rock spires so remember to include it in your photos. Though rough in spots and probably impassable in wet weather, this road was easily traveled on this day and we even saw

a few small motorhomes along the route.

At several of the overlooks we encountered groups of Navajos selling their handmade jewelry. There are lovely items here at incredibly low prices and family members living in other parts of the country are always excited to receive these Southwest treasures as gifts. And for many of the Navajo who strive to retain their traditional lifestyle here in Monument Valley, this is their only means of supporting themselves. For generations they have mastered the fine art of beadwork, silversmithing and rug weaving, so take advantage of their skills.

Continuing on around Raingod Mesa we timed our drive to reach Artists Point just before sunset when a lavender-tinged sky forms a perfect backdrop for the delicate rock spires located there.

The next morning we went over to the legendary Goulding's Trading Post, established in the early 1920s by Harry Goulding and his wife "Mike." For half a century they maintained a warm relationship with the Navajo, trading with them and finding markets for their handmade items, helping to lift them from the poverty that plagued the reservation. Then, during the Great Depression, Harry went to Hollywood armed with a portfolio of Muench's photographs and sold John Ford on the idea of making western movies in Monument Valley, bringing still more much-needed revenue to the Navajo.

The old trading post building remains and is used now as a museum. Memorabilia from many of the movies filmed there fills one room and another is dedicated to Muench and his incredible photographs. The trading post room reminded us of the kitchen utensils and product brands that used to fill our homes years ago.

Famous the world over, Goulding's still sells a wonderful selection of Navajo handcrafted items. Next door the Stagecoach Restaurant cooks up a good lunch and even though a tour bus full of passengers pulled in right after we placed our order, cheerful young Navajo men and women served everyone quickly. A motel and attractive RV park with full hookups are part of the trading post and the grocery store and gas station seem to be the most convenient in the area.

Exploring farther we drove 11 miles past Goulding's to the old Oljeto Trading Post established in 1906. It looked closed but no matter — it was still very photogenic.

The next morning we set out on the 3.3-mile self-guided Wildcat Trail, the only unescorted hiking trail in the park. Leaving from our camping area it took us around West Mitten Butte passing a number of interesting desert shrubs used for centuries by the Navajo in various products such as medicine, baby diapers and dyes for their wool.

Then, after packing a cooler of sandwiches, we met our Navajo guide, Howard Holiday, for an afternoon guided tour. First he took us to fabled Tear Drop Arch, where Monument Valley is perfectly framed in an opening shaped like a tear. It's a short walk over large boulders to reach the arch, so wear good walking shoes if you go. Our next destination, the highlight of our trip, was to the home of Susie Yazzie, one of Monument Valley's most well-known residents. Residing deep in the valley between Raingod and Thunderbird mesas, she continues to live in the traditional way, dressing in a flowing broomstick skirt and velveteen blouse along with her silver and turquoise jewelry.

"Her career as a weaver began when

she was about 10 years old," her daughter explained, "and she has been demonstrating rug weaving for tourists since the '40s." We heard estimates of her age anywhere from 82 to 102 years and so we asked her daughter. "It's hard to know the ages of the elders," she said, "as written records weren't kept back at the time of their births," but she thought her mother was about 86.

Speaking Navajo, Holiday introduced us to Mrs. Yazzie as she was seated in her hogan carding wool, many of her exquisite rugs hanging from the walls around her. A small sign said pictures could be taken for \$1 each. We gave her a \$20 bill and her beautiful face, lined from years in the sun, lit with a big smile. She let us take all the photos we wanted. Perhaps you have seen her, as she appeared in a few of the westerns filmed in Monument Valley.

Continuing on, we passed several Navajo hogans and stopped at ancient petroglyph sites. The land was silent except for the sound of the wind and the clatter of an occasional horseback rider racing

across the valley. Holiday took us to several arches with names such as Sun's Eye and Ear of the Wind. As I set out our picnic supper he entertained us by playing his deer hide drum. Sharing our sandwiches, he talked about his beloved home and lifestyle. With sadness he told us that his children had all moved away to Salt Lake where they had jobs. "Maybe they'll come back when they are older," he said wistfully. "Many of them do." Time passed all too quickly and darkness descended as we returned to camp.

We think each RV trip we take is special but this one was truly extraordinary. We look forward to visiting again with our newfound Navajo friends and to see some of the things we didn't have time for this trip — a guided tour of nearby Mystery Valley with its ancient Puebloan dwellings and also a visit to the Navajo Cultural Center in Kayenta, where Navajo history is skillfully told through exhibited artifacts and also arts and crafts demonstrations. Perhaps we'll see you there, too, in this fascinating land of the Navajo. ♦

LAZY DAZE *Class C coaches*

*Loaded with standard equipment, features and quality.
55th year sold factory direct... no middle man.*

www.lazydaze.com

OUTSIDE CA. (800) 578-1103
INSIDE CA. (909) 627-1103

Lazy Daze, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

ENTRY-LEVEL LUXURY COACH MADE BY VETERAN RV BUILDER JAYCO ENLISTS FOUR SLIDES AND PLENTY OF FEATURES TO ENHANCE LIVABILITY

by BOB LIVINGSTON

Forty-year-old manufacturer Jayco is very well versed in producing affordable RVs earmarked for the general populace. Heck, the name “Jayco” is virtually synonymous with the tent trailer, the quintessential camping machine that elevated many of us off the ground. But now the company, after acquiring certain assets from one-time luxury motorhome builder Travel Supreme, has entered the high-end coach space — a place where only the top producers can play.

The new marquee for Jayco reads “Entegra” and the Aspire is the company’s entry-level coach in the model lineup. It sports sticker prices slightly north of \$300,000, and for the money potential owners get a feature-rich coach backed by a two-year warranty and an additional five years’ protection against defects in the structure. To see if Jayco can cut the mustard in the high-end arena, we tested the Aspire 40DRQ, a 41-foot-long coach with a front living area, a center bath suite and a rear bedroom.

Construction technique plays a big part of the Jayco mindset in producing coaches that will appeal to discriminating buyers. Starting with a Freightliner XCR chassis, the frame is beefed up using a proprietary process dubbed “Aluma-Tru Superstructure.” This entails an X-Bridge support system with additional reinforcements in the rear of the chassis to prevent flexing, which relates to crack prevention in the extensive network of tile flooring and grouting — and is designed to reduce windshield movement and noise. To that end, Jayco has successfully built a coach that is very quiet on the road, sans the melodic hammering of the microwave oven shelf and revolving pan. Wind noise is just about absent,



2011 ENTEGRA ASPIRE 40DRQ

WHAT'S HOT

Quiet ride; good fuel economy for a large coach; ergonomically placed cockpit controls and instrumentation; roomy shower; handsome exterior graphics and full-body paint.

WHAT'S NOT

Limited cargo carrying capacity; hooking up satellite receiver to the TV is problematic; toilet room is small and placement of lavatory sink is inconvenient.



PHOTOS: RICH COX PHOTOGRAPHY



GRA ASPIRE 40DRQ



The four slideouts provide exceptional livability in the Entegra Aspire 40DRQ. Two Ultraleather couches are opposite one another in the airy living room. The galley features Corian countertops and a recessed cooktop. A 40-inch LCD TV is set next to the galley. The master bedroom can be outfitted with an optional king-size bed with Select Comfort air mattress. Instrumentation and controls in the cockpit are ergonomically placed, although some are not clearly marked, so an acclimation period is needed.

which makes conversation with the copilot pleasant and lifts the enjoyment level of the high-quality sound system (with pigtails for an iPod and computer) built into the instrument panel. Integrated into the sound system is a powerful navigation component and the backup/sideview camera screen.

Overall, the driving experience is very nice, with much of the credit going to the proven Freightliner chassis. Powered by a 400-HP Cummins engine, the coach scoots along the flats with nary a whimper. Its 31,000-pound body weight slows the performance on the grades, but the coach still manages to keep pace, and outperform the big-truckers by a long shot. Fuel economy is appealing for such a big motorhome, turning in 9.7 MPG when we maintained constant speeds.

Driver comfort is a high point and instrumentation and controls are ergonomically placed, although some are not clearly marked so there's an acclimation period needed. The passenger can cuddle up in an oversize seat and can slide the floor over the entry well to keep feet from dangling. Front sunshades are electronically controlled by the driver and/or passenger, and the side shades are manual. When parked, the privacy shades are implemented by a switch that's part of the multiplex control panels placed strategically throughout the coach's interior.

While long stints behind the wheel are clearly comfortable, once the coach is set up in an RV park, the exceptional livability afforded by the four slideouts really shines. Up front, the living room opens to an airy expanse furnished with opposing couches upholstered in Ultraleather. The couch on the driver's side has flip-up leg extensions and can be converted/inflated for additional sleeping. Adjacent is the dining table that extends from the wall structure and is augmented with two free-moving chairs. The



In the split-bath configuration, the vanity and shower stall are on the curbside. The shower is roomy, the glass doors work perfectly and the fixtures are top-notch.

table can be pulled out to cozily accommodate four diners (using two folding chairs that are stored in the rear closet).

The rest of the living room is filled out with a residential double-door refrigerator with built-in water and ice dispensers, and the opposing galley. A 2,000-watt inverter, tied to a generous golf-cart battery bank, services the refrigerator's power needs while on the road. Should the batteries lose their charge, the 8kW diesel AC generator can be called into action automatically or manually.

While the galley is not exceptionally large, it does the trick for most cooking adventures. Corian graces the countertop and sink complemented by nice fixtures and an expansive array of cabinets and drawers. Additional countertop space is provided by the recessed cooktop. Storage space for foodstuffs and cookware is good, but adjustable shelving in the overhead cabinets would provide additional flexibility for storing taller items.

Next to the galley counter, a 40-inch LCD TV is the focal point of a cabinet structure. Most of the TV screen is hidden when



SPECIFICATIONS

PERFORMANCE

FUEL ECONOMY: 9.7 MPG

ACCELERATION:

0-60: 30 SEC

40-60: 15 SEC

CHASSIS

MODEL: FREIGHTLINER XCR

ENGINE: CUMMINS ISL

SAE HP: 400 HP @ 2,200 RPM

TORQUE: 1,250 LB-FT @ 1,400 RPM

TRANSMISSION: 6-SPEED ALLISON 3000MH

AXLE RATIO: 4.63:1

TIRES: 275/80R22.5

WHEELBASE: 266"

BRAKES: ALL-WHEEL ABS, AIR DISC FRONT

BRAKES, TWO-STAGE JAKE BRAKE

SUSPENSION, F/R: NEWAY AIR

FUEL CAP: 100 GAL

COACH

EXT LENGTH: 40' 9"

EXT WIDTH: 8' 5"

EXT HEIGHT WITH A/C AND SATELLITE: 12' 8"

INT WIDTH: 8'

INT HEIGHT: 7'

CONSTRUCTION: WELDED TUBULAR ALUMINUM SIDE WALLS, ALUMA-TRU SUPERSTRUCTURE, GEL COAT FIBERGLASS WALLS, FIBERGLASS ROOF, FLEXFOIL INSULATION

FRESHWATER CAP: 81 GAL

BLACK-WATER CAP: 60 GAL

GRAY-WATER CAP: 60 GAL

WATER-HEATER CAP: 12 GAL

LP-GAS CAP: 50 GAL

AIR CONDITIONER (2): 15,000 BTU

FURNACE: 42,000 BTU

REFRIGERATOR: 12 CU-FT

INVERTER/CHARGER: 2,000 WATTS/50 AMPS

BATTERY: (4) 6-VOLT CHASSIS,

(2) 12-VOLT COACH

AC GENERATOR: 8 KW DIESEL

MSRP AS TESTED: \$313,797

WARRANTY: 2 YRS/24,000 MILES; STRUCTURAL 5 YEARS

WET WEIGHT

(WATER AND HEATER, FUEL, LP-GAS TANKS FULL; NO SUPPLIES OR PASSENGERS)

FRONT AXLE: 11,680 LBS

REAR AXLE: 19,440 LBS

TOTAL: 31,120 LBS

CHASSIS RATINGS

GAWR, F/R: 12,400/20,000 LBS

GVWR/GCWR: 32,400/42,400 LBS

ROCCC: 1,280 LBS

(DEDUCT WEIGHT OF PASSENGERS FOR NET CARGO CAPACITY)

GAWR: GROSS AXLE WEIGHT RATING

GVWR: GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING

GCWR: GROSS COMBINATION WEIGHT RATING

ROCCC: REALISTIC OCCUPANT AND CARGO CARRYING CAPACITY (FULL WATER, NO PASSENGERS)

ENTEGRA COACH

800-945-4787, WWW.ENTEGRACOACH.COM.

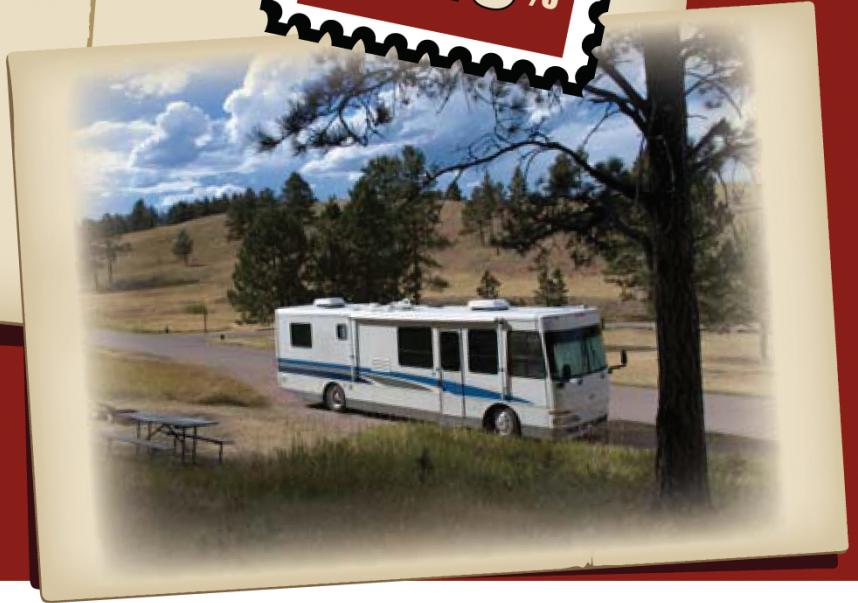
REFINANCE RATES as low as 5.49%^{0% APR*}

POST CARD

ATTENTION!

LIMITED TIME OFFER ON LOAN
AMOUNT OF \$50,000 AND
GREATER WITH A MAXIMUM
17 YEAR LOAN TERM. VISIT
WWW.GOODSAMRVLOANS.COM/412

RV MUST BE 2001 MODEL YEAR
OR NEWER AND YOUR CURRENT
LOAN MUST BE OPEN FOR A
MINIMUM OF 6 MONTHS.



GREAT NEWS from the Good Sam Finance Center! You still have time to refinance your RV or boat and potentially save hundreds of dollars every month with refinance rates as low as 5.49%. The Good Sam Finance Center makes it easy to refinance. Don't wait - visit www.goodsamrvloans.com/412 to complete a secure online application and start saving money with your next RV or boat loan payment.

For purchase transactions or refinance terms longer than 17 years, contact us today for a free custom rate quote.



Good Sam
FINANCE CENTER

Take advantage of this limited time
refinance offer - apply online today at:
www.goodsamrvloans.com/412

1.800.444.1476 (mention priority code 412)

* Estimated APR (Annual Percentage Rate). Subject to loan program requirements and credit approval. Restrictions may apply. The 5.49% interest rate is available for refinance transactions only on loan amounts \$50,000 and greater with a maximum 17-year loan term. This offer is not intended for applicants who use their RV or Boat as a principal dwelling (Full-Timers or Liveaboards). Other rates and terms available. Current loan must be open for a minimum of 6 months. An application for credit must be submitted by April 30, 2011, and loan must close by May 15, 2011, to be eligible for the 5.49% refinance interest rate. A 17-year refinance loan at 5.49% APR will have a payment of \$7.55 per thousand borrowed. Information is accurate as of January 24, 2011. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice.

Good Sam RV Financing, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info



If it was any easier, it would hook-up itself.

VICTORY SERIES TOW BARS



Commander
Patent# 6502847, 6612604, 6764092 & Patent Pending

Self Supporting



Independent Arms



Demco
Since 1964

Doing Our Best to Provide You the Best.

Boyden • Iowa

Toll Free:
888-689-1810
712-725-2311

www.towdemco.com

Dethmers Manufacturing, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

the slide is retracted, so another TV mounted above the dashboard can be viewed if conditions prevent the slides from being extended. The home theater component (with iPod hookup) is concealed behind the upper cabinet housing the main TV, and so is the pigtail to connect the in-motion satellite dome. But we couldn't find a way to hook the satellite receiver to the TV without disassembling the TV mounting hardware. Same problem in the bedroom. A discussion with the service people at Jayco brought promises of clearly marked connections and further improvements. Apparently, the bedroom and outside TVs are hooked together as are the TVs in the living room. Looks like two receivers will have to be used if satellite is preferred. A distribution center is certainly in order here.

The floorplan utilizes a split bath configuration, which is partially hidden by the partition that's created by the main TV cabinet. Curbside, a curvy shower stall with skylight is tucked in neatly next to the lavatory structure. This shower is roomy, the glass doors work perfectly and the fixtures are top-notch. The lavatory sink would also work much better if it were relocated closer to the front edge of the cabinet structure. The way it's positioned now, our heads met the medicine cabinet when brushing our teeth. Nevertheless, the shower was one of the best we've ever used in a motorhome. Part of that praise goes to the optional Aqua-Hot 375-LP propane-fired hydronic water and comfort heating system. Typically coaches this size use a diesel-powered hydronic system, but this LP-gas version — that also can operate on 120-volt AC — is super efficient and quiet. Of course, the LP-gas requirement forces the 50-gallon propane tank to be part of the standard equipment package.

While we never ran out of hot water, the system also provided near-perfect heat distribution throughout the coach. The only flaw in the system was the lack of heat in the toilet room, which is disproportionately small. Because of the minimum allocated space, it was necessary to use a smaller china toilet and a compact lavatory. I'd rethink that design decision.

Carpeting is picked up again in the bedroom. The only other places you'll find carpeting are in the front slideouts. The optional king-size bed with a Select Comfort mattress (\$1,358) contributed to great

sleeping. For those awake moments, a 26-inch LCD TV, mounted in a swing-up door, provided entertainment. Concealed behind the TV/door was a second home theater system. The entire rear wall is occupied by a wardrobe closet (with sliding mirrored doors) and a compartment housing for the optional stackable washer and dryer.

There's plenty of room to store all the bedroom essentials in the cabinets and drawers, plus there's more than adequate walk-around space, although on one side the floor is elevated to provide access to the engine compartment.

The Burnt Walnut décor and Mocha Glazed Maple cabinetry are contrasted nicely against the light-colored tile flooring and ceiling with sculptured highlights. Recessed lights, complemented by numerous other lighting fixtures, are controlled by switches in the multiple multiplex panels that have dimmers to soften the atmosphere.

Outside, large pass-through compartments are fitted with swing-out doors, making access convenient, even for those areas below the slideouts. Optional slideout trays enhance one's ability to access stored items, eliminating the need to crawl inside the compartment to retrieve items. Utility compartments house the hookup essentials, including optional power take-up reels (\$410) for the water hose and 50-amp power cord. Compartments are also heated for winter use and controlled by an independent thermostat, all part of the optional Polar Pack (\$1,343).

While the compartments are cavernous, owners need to be mindful of the limited cargo capacity. After doing a little math, the coach is capable of handling an additional 1,280 pounds' worth of supplies and people before hitting the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR). Adjusting the amount of water carried will help, but leaving super heavy items out might be more practical to keep the load under control.

Exterior graphics are handsome and enhanced by the flush-fitting slideouts and frameless dual-pane windows. The front entry door can be locked by a wireless key fob. Polished aluminum wheels make the full-body paint and exterior graphics really pop. Overall, the coach sports eye-appealing body lines that will certainly exude pride of ownership — and no doubt an in-park experience that will be enjoyed. ♦



WASH 'N' GO

STEP-BY-STEP INSTALLATION OF A NEW SPLENDIDE XC WASHER/DRYER COMBO

by CHRIS HEMER

Most RVers are familiar with the concept of “roughing it.” And in the short term, it can be fun — communing with nature, living among the wildlife and gazing at the stars from a resting spot on the forest floor. But in the long term, living without the amenities of residential life can grow tiresome, especially when it comes to clean laundry. Many RVers travel for months on end or are full time — and the last thing they want to do is visit a public laundry facility.

Thankfully, they don't have to, if their motorhome is equipped with a laundry center, or at least is washer/dryer ready. Thanks to combination washer/dryers and stackable washer/dryers tailor-made for the RV environment, motorhome owners can clean their clothes

on the go as needed.

Westland Sales of Clackamas, Ore., has specialized in meeting the appliance needs of the RV industry since 1967. In the early '80s, Westland saw an increasing need for a laundry center that could work within the confines of a motorhome, yet be robust enough to tolerate the vibration and harshness of life on the road. The answer was its now-famous Splendide laundry centers, which could fit under a counter or in a hall closet, and could wash and dry a load of laundry in a single, compact unit.

Today, the Splendide combination washer/dryer is America's best-selling RV laundry appliance. Over the years, Splendide has increased the size of its washtub by 25 percent, increased spin speeds by 33 percent, reduced water consumption by 30 percent, reduced weight by

37 pounds and doubled the number of cycle options available to the consumer.

The latest Splendide combo washer/dryer, the XC, measures just 23½ inches wide by 33½ inches tall by 22½ inches deep. It has a 15-pound wash load capacity and weighs just 148 pounds. Its convenient size and generous capacity allow it to use only 0.37 kW of power and 7.5 gallons of water. The XC runs much faster than older units — it takes only 20 minutes to wash, 20 minutes to rinse and 40 minutes to dry.

All Splendide models have such features as a stainless steel drum, heavy-duty shock absorbers and a reinforced case for long life. Splendide combos and stackables are Energy Star certified, run on only 120-volt AC and draw as little as 4 amps, depending on the model. And unlike residential units, which require too much clearance for most motorhome applications, the Splendide can be installed with clearances as narrow as 0 inches on the sides and 1 inch front and back.

Splendide laundry centers offer the features consumers have come to expect from residential units, such as automatic temperature control, variable spin speeds, automatic water level and an automatic load-balancing system. The dryer even tumbles clothing both left and right for faster drying with less creasing, and a built-in moisture sensor prevents over-drying.

Having owned a Country Coach Intrigue for more than seven years with the original Splendide washer/dryer combo in place, a customer of Bill's RV in Ventura, Calif., was looking to upgrade to the new Splendide XC, and we were there to document the process. As you'll see in the accompanying photos, replacing (or installing in a washer/dryer-ready coach) a Splendide combo isn't difficult if you know the correct procedure — and you'll enjoy many more miles without ever having to stop at a coin-operated laundry. ♦

FOR MORE INFORMATION

BILL'S RV SERVICE

805-339-0882,

www.billsrv.net.

WESTLAND SALES INC.

800-356-0766,

www.splendide.com.



1. Depending upon the RV, the washer/dryer combo should fit in the door or a window. On this Country Coach Intrigue, the window opening was large enough to pass the unit through without having to remove the window itself. Since you probably don't own a forklift, you'll have to figure out how to get the unit inside, which is the most difficult step.



2. The forklift placed the washer/dryer as close to the coach as possible, then it was tilted downward.



3. The original washer/dryer was housed in a cabinet in the master suite. There is a removable panel near the rear of the cabinet that allows access to the water lines, power outlet, etc.



4. The panel is narrow, but it allowed just enough room to reach in and remove the power plug and water lines. The ducting and drain line had enough slack in them to be removed once the old unit was pulled from the cabinet.



5. The wooden strip at the base of the cabinet, which keeps the washer/dryer combo secured, was temporarily removed and placed aside.



6. A strip of plastic along the base of the old washer/dryer combo was held in place with silicone sealant. It was simply peeled away from the floor.



7. The original unit is grabbed by the top of the drum and pulled free from the cabinet.



8. The cabinet was then cleaned of lint. Note placement of the water lines and power outlet, upper right.



9. The dryer exhaust ducting and water drain line were located on the left side of the cabinet.



10. Before the new XC washer/dryer can be installed, the four transit screw/grommet assemblies at the back of the unit must be removed. These help keep the drum and other components secured during shipping.



11. After the water lines and exhaust ducting have been attached to the back of the washer/dryer it's ready to go in the cabinet. Air-conditioning duct tape is used around the connection to securely hold the dryer duct in place on the unit. Be sure you connect the appropriate hot/cold water lines to their respective fittings on the unit, and take care not to pinch or kink water lines/exhaust ducting when pushing the unit into the cabinet.



12. It's a good idea to use nylon ties to secure the washer/dryer's drain hose to the drain line — you don't want that coming out when you're doing laundry!



13. The new unit is slid into place.



14. Silicone is used to reseal the nylon strip to the floor of the compartment.



THOR

MOTOR COACH

ONE COMPANY PROVIDING A COMPLETE LINE OF CLASS A & CLASS C MOTORHOMES



INTRODUCING THE ALL NEW A.C.E. - THE MOTORHOME WITH A STORY...

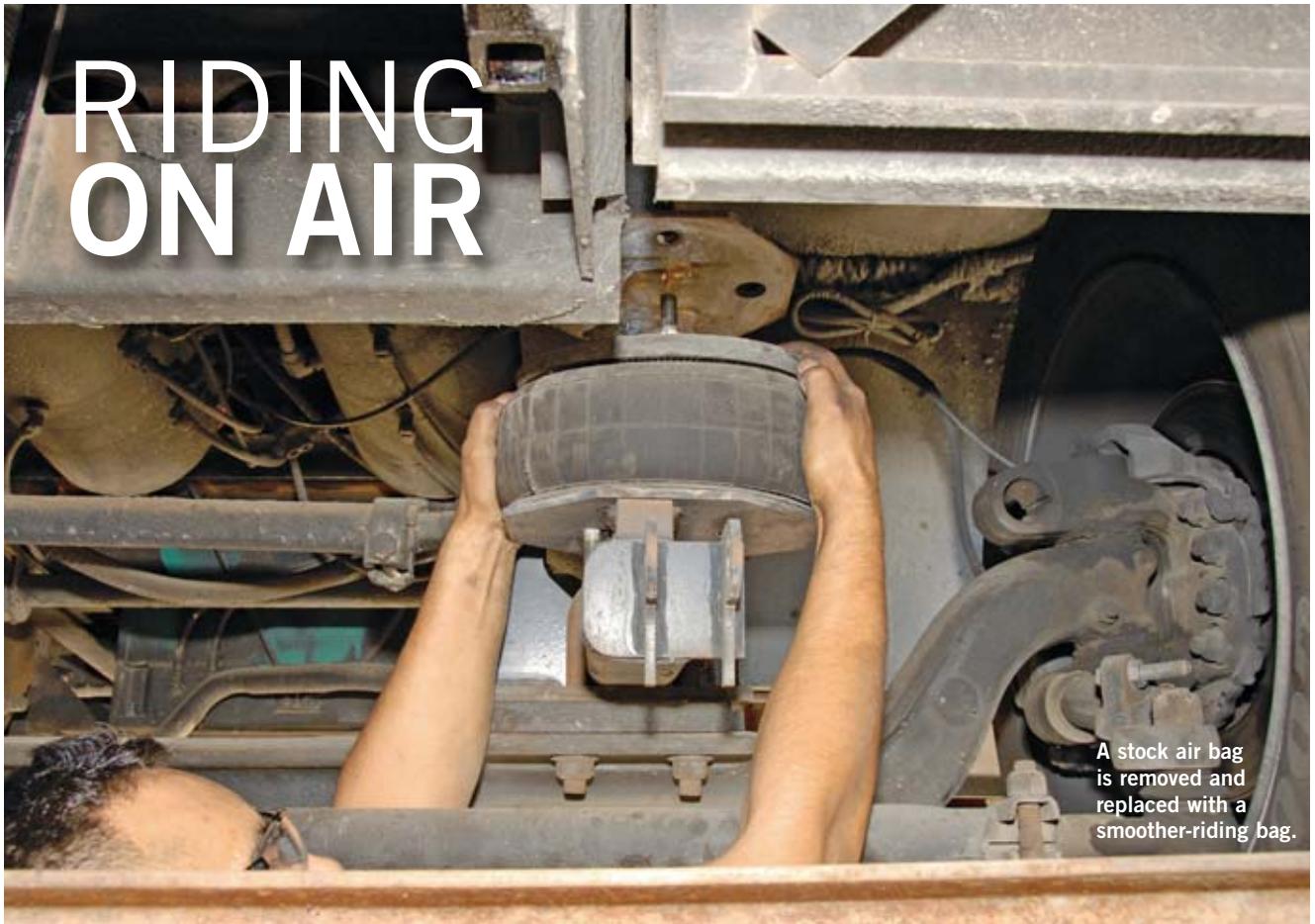


"Once you are labeled 'the best' you want to stay up there, and you can't do it by loafing around."
~ Larry Bird

A.C.E. • ASTORIA • AVANTI • CHALLENGER • CHATEAU/CITATION • DAYBREAK
FOUR WINDS/SIESTA • HURRICANE • OUTLAW • SERRANO • TUSCANY • WINDSPORT

www.thormotorcoach.com
Thor Industries, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

RIDING ON AIR



A stock air bag is removed and replaced with a smoother-riding bag.

SOURCE ENGINEERING'S RIDE ENHANCEMENT KIT SMOOTHES OUT THE BUMPS, IMPROVES HANDLING ON MONACO R4R AND R4RR CHASSIS

by CHRIS HEMER

In the January issue of *MotorHome*, we presented an article about Source Engineering's TRA-1003 trailing arm kit, which effectively solves the problem of cracking factory trailing arms on Roadmaster R4R and R4RR chassis manufactured by the former Monaco Coach Corp. (MCC) and equipped with a "Monaco Gold" suspension. During the course of that installation, we learned about another product that should be of interest to owners of these coaches: the REK-202 Ride Enhancement Kit.

Consisting of new proprietary Firestone air bags and custom Bilstein shocks engineered specifically for this kit, the REK-202 also incorporates a reserve ping tank and $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch air lines in the front suspension. According to the company, the Firestone air bags have more travel than the original bags, while the larger air lines

and ping tank provide more air volume for the front suspension. This in turn softens the ride without compromising handling.

It should be noted here that, while you can install the Source Engineering TRA-1003 trailing arms and retain the stock air bag suspension, Source Engineering will not sell the Ride Enhancement Kit unless the original defective trailing arms have been replaced with the TRA-1003 trailing arms; this is because of concerns over liability.

As with the TRA-1003 trailing arm kit installation, we photographed the Ride Enhancement Kit installation at Redlands Truck and RV in Redlands, Calif., an authorized Source Engineering dealer. We were given the opportunity to drive the coach with the stock suspension in place first, then give it another try after the kit was installed so we could

experience the difference.

The stock coach's suspension felt pretty good to us — that is until we compared it with the modified coach. The stock front suspension felt like it would drop out from underneath going over bumps, would "crash" over larger bumps and potholes, and would sway from side to side several times when driving into/out of driveways. With the Source Engineering Ride Enhancement Kit installed, the coach rode much smoother and handled more securely than before, and definitely felt like it was easier to drive.

With a suggested retail price of \$2,195 plus \$100 freight and labor costs (an installation time of four to five hours is typical), the Ride Enhancement Kit is indeed a significant investment, but one that should go a long way to improving ride comfort and handling. ♦



1. The stock front shock absorbers are removed and discarded, as they will be replaced with new Bilstein shock absorbers designed specifically for the REK-202 Ride Enhancement Kit.



6. A front cross member on the R4R and R4RR chassis is an ideal spot for the Source Engineering ping tank.



10. The owner of this coach had already had the Source Engineering trailing arms installed, but wanted to upgrade to the Ride Enhancement Kit.



2, 3. The lower air bag mounting nuts are removed first, followed by the upper mounting nuts. Then the bag is removed.

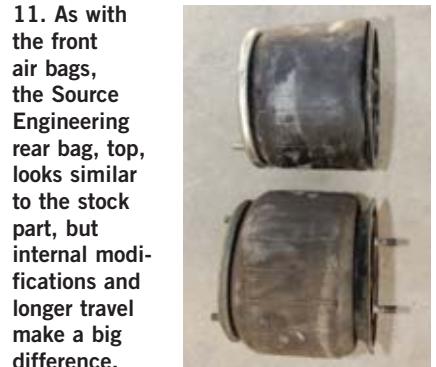
4. The Source Engineering air bag, bottom, may look similar to the original air bags, but a different internal design and increased travel results in a smoother ride.



7. To mount the ping tank, a bracket is placed behind the cross member, and the fastener placed through mounting tabs on the ping tank. No drilling is required.



8. The passenger-side air bag is shown with the new 3/8-inch air line installed.



11. As with the front air bags, the Source Engineering rear bag, top, looks similar to the stock part, but internal modifications and longer travel make a big difference.



12. Replacing the rear bags is a fairly straightforward procedure. The shocks are removed first, followed by the lower air bag mounting nuts, then the upper nuts. The stock air lines are left in place as the Source Engineering air bag has a much lower spring rate than the stock parts. The finished installation is shown here.



5. The new air bag and Bilstein shock absorber are shown in place on the driver's side.



9. Here's the completed front suspension upgrade. As the air bag compresses, the air escapes through the larger line and into the ping tank, resulting in softer compression characteristics and a smoother ride. Air line routing from the compressor to the tank depends on the particular motorhome, but is usually handled with a "T" fitting, as shown here.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

REDLANDS TRUCK AND RV
888-249-0124,
www.redlandstruckservice.com.
SOURCE ENGINEERING INC.
541-935-0308,
www.rv-chassis.com.

WINNEBAGO VISTA 36D

WHAT'S HOT

Abundance of storage, competitive price tag, American Solo Privacy Shades from MCD Innovations, easy to clean vinyl flooring, Comfort Sofa Sleeper, lots of available options

WHAT'S NOT

Ford chassis rides rough, backup camera system doesn't work well at night, headlights are inadequate, bedroom and bathroom are on the small side



WINNEBAGO VISTA 36D

PLENTY OF ROOM, A REASONABLE PRICE AND ABUNDANT OPTIONS HIGHLIGHT THIS **ENTRY-LEVEL CLASS A**

by CHRIS HEMER

With so many models, configurations, options and colors to choose from, deciding upon the right motorhome isn't always easy. Gas, mid- or rear-engine diesel, tag axle, three slides, quad slides, full-wall slides ... you get the picture. While manufacturers engage in a seemingly endless pursuit of the biggest, fanciest, most luxurious motorhome, you may have asked yourself, "Doesn't anyone build a nice, affordable motorhome that has room enough for me and my family?" The answer is yes, that manufacturer is Winnebago, and the coach is the 2011 Vista.

The Vista is available in five revised floorplans, including the new 35F, and our test unit, the 36D. Built on a rugged Ford chassis with a 22,000-pound gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) and a 6.8-L V-10 engine, the Vista 36D is a traditional double-slideout floorplan with a base price of \$108,342. Like other

Winnebago products, the Vista offers thoughtful details and features that make the coach feel more expensive and give the general impression that you're getting more for your money. For example, the vinyl flooring in the living area/galley has a rich color and looks durable, and the countertops, while laminate, have a color and texture reminiscent of solid surface products. Day/night shades would be a nice surprise in an entry-level Class A, but Winnebago takes it one step further with standard American Solo Privacy Shades from MCD Innovations that keep the interior dark when it's time to turn in for the evening.

To keep the Vista affordable, Winnebago equips the coach with the features RVers need, and offers an extensive line of options that allows the buyer to upgrade comfort, appearance and mechanical features. For example, the cockpit in our unit had been outfitted with Ultraleather seats (\$350), a rear-view mon-



The cockpit features an expansive one-piece windshield, optional Ultraleather seats and an optional rear-view monitor system. In the living area, a computer desk/workstation with lounge chair (\$252) replaces the standard curbside sofa.



The roomy galley has adequate countertop space for preparing meals. Mounted in a rear wall cabinet is a standard 40-inch LCD TV visible from the dinette, which can be converted into sleeping quarters.

Wherever

...let it begin

2011 Entegra Cornerstone 45RB



500 HP, Spartan K2 Chassis, Girard awnings, Sikkens paint, tag axle, granite counter tops, Aqua hot and much more!



Retail: **\$577,328**

Now **\$432,996** **SAVE \$144,332**

Vin# - BC073446

New Jayco Eagle 5th Wheel 321RLMS



Full wall slide, corian countertops, 2 year warranty, solid wood cabinetry, 8 cu foot refrigerator and more!



Retail: **\$55,136**



Now **\$37,136** **SAVE \$18,000**

Now **\$37,136**

\$289
per mo.



2011 Entegra Aspire 40SKT

Cummins ISC 400 HP engine, Freightliner chassis, hand laid porcelain tile floor throughout, power shades, custom paint package, and much more!



Retail: **\$312,683**

Now **\$234,573**

SAVE \$78,110

Vin# - BCAY9012

INSTOCK INVENTORY

Over 100 New & Used Travel Trailer & Fifth Wheels
Over 20 New Jayco Melbournes & Jayco Greyhawks
Over 60 New & Pre-Owned Motorhomes from America's Best Brands!

Open 7 Days a Week

Orlando RV

407-409-7707

* all prices are 2010 models unless otherwise noted, see dealer for details. Valu offers as of 01/26/11

the road takes you...

with **Orlando RV**

"Florida's Best Priced RV Dealer!"

2011 Hurricane 30Q



Generator, large awning, Ford V-10, microwave, pass-thru storage, large interior and much, much, more!



Retail: **\$81,578**

Now **\$64,995** **SAVE \$16,583**

New Jayco Melbourne 24E



Fiberglass roof, Ford Chassis, Full Body Paint, Solid surface countertops, easy to drive, 2 year warranty and more!



Retail: **\$98,322**

Now **\$69,995** **SAVE \$16,942**

\$509 per mo.

New Jayco Jay Feather 199



Ultra light weight, slide out, spare tire, fiber-glass sidewalls, aluminum frame, Amish quality and much, much more!



Retail: **\$19,514**

Now **\$13,995** **SAVE \$5,519** **\$129** per mo.

2011 Georgetown 300FWS



Full wall slide - living room to bedroom! Sleeper sofa, table & chairs, stove/oven, convection microwave, walk around queen bed and much more!



Retail: **\$109,744**

Now **\$79,995** **SAVE \$29,749**

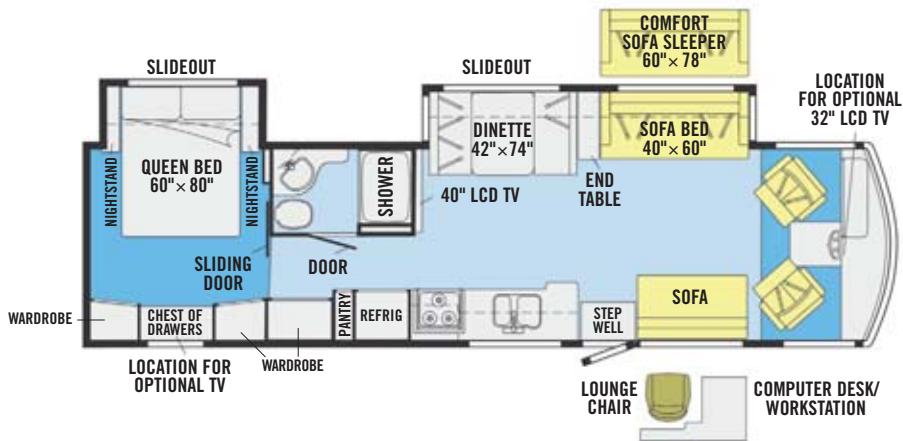
Mon-Thurs.
Fri.
Sat.
Sun.

9am-9pm
9am-7pm
9am-5pm
11am-4pm

860 W. Fairbanks Ave
Winter Park Florida
Just off I-4 Exit 87.

www.rvone.com





itor system with audio (\$630) and something we didn't expect to find in a coach at this price point: an optional video camera system (\$406), which incorporates side-view cameras. These are activated whenever the turn signals are switched on, and the image is displayed on the central monitor.

These features, combined with the expansive one-piece windshield, make the cockpit a fun and comfortable place to roll on the miles. The backup camera monitor enables the driver to easily hear instructions from a helper, and the video camera system provides a wide-angle view of vehicles on either side of the coach. Unfortunately, the system didn't work as well at night, as headlight glare made it difficult to determine just how close adjacent vehicles were to the coach, or to judge their closing speed. It also takes a few seconds for the cameras to switch on when the turn stalk is activated, which takes some getting used to.

In the living area, our coach featured the Winter Moss interior with Coffee

Glazed Maple cabinetry (\$413) as well as the optional computer desk/workstation with lounge chair (\$252), which replaces the standard curbside sofa. This is a great option for those who work on the road, or just want a dedicated area for paying bills, using the computer and other tasks. On the streetside, you can equip the slideout with either a standard 40- by 60-inch sofa bed, or optional 60- by 78-inch Comfort Sofa Sleeper — a sofa that folds out into a bed with a self-inflating mattress.

There are five belted positions within the living area, and both the sofa and dinette can be converted into sleeping quarters. The galley is roomy and has adequate countertop space for meal preparation, and we were pleased to find both a convection microwave oven (\$392) and a three-burner range with conventional oven (\$154). Whether you're sitting down at dinner or just relaxing on the sofa, you can watch your favorite program on the standard 40-inch LCD TV on the rear wall cabinet, as well as on the optional 32-inch LCD TV over the cockpit (\$833).

The master bedroom has a 60- by 80-inch queen bed and abundant storage, including a chest of drawers as well as storage cubbies beneath nightstands on either side of the bed. The relatively small bathroom is located amidships and is equipped with a vanity, toilet and shower.



SPECIFICATIONS

PERFORMANCE

FUEL ECONOMY: 7.37 MPG

ACCELERATION:

0-60: 20 SEC

40-60: 1.5 SEC

CHASSIS

MODEL: FORD F53

ENGINE: 6.8-L V-10 SEFI TRITON

SAE HP: 362 HP @ 4,750 RPM

TORQUE: 457 LB-FT @ 3,250 RPM

TRANSMISSION: 5-SPEED TORQSHIFT

WITH TOW-HAUL

AXLE RATIO: 5.38:1

TIRES: 245/70R19.5

WHEELBASE: 244"

BRAKES: HYDRAULIC WITH ABS

SUSPENSION, F/R: LEAF SPRING

FUEL CAP: 80 GAL

WARRANTY: 3 YRS/36,000 MILES

COACH

EXT LENGTH: 36' 3"

EXT WIDTH: 8' 5.5"

EXT HEIGHT: 12' 4"

INT WIDTH: 8' ½"

INT HEIGHT: 6' 8"

CONSTRUCTION: STEEL AND ALUMINUM FRAMING, STEEL CAB STRUCTURE, FIBERGLASS SKIN AND ROOF, BLOCK-FOAM INSULATION

FRESHWATER CAP: 84 GAL

BLACK-WATER CAP: 50 GAL

GRAY-WATER CAP: 52 GAL

WATER-HEATER CAP: 6 GAL

LP-GAS CAP: 18 GAL

AIR CONDITIONER (2): 14,800 BTU

FURNACE: 40,000 BTU

REFRIGERATOR: 8 CU-FT

CONVERTER/CHARGER: 45 AMP

BATTERY: (1) 12-VOLT CHASSIS,

(2) 12-VOLT COACH

AC GENERATOR: 5.5 KW

BASE MSRP: \$108,342

MSRP AS TESTED: \$120,039

WARRANTY: 1 YR/15,000 MILES

WET WEIGHT

(WATER AND HEATER, FUEL, LP-GAS TANKS FULL; NO SUPPLIES OR PASSENGERS)

FRONT AXLE: 5,860 LBS

REAR AXLE: 12,100 LBS

TOTAL: 17,960 LBS

CHASSIS RATINGS

GAWR, F/R: 8,000/15,000 LBS

GVWR/GCWR: 22,000/26,000 LBS

ROCCC: 4,040 LBS

(DEDUCT WEIGHT OF PASSENGERS FOR NET CARGO CAPACITY)

GAWR: GROSS AXLE WEIGHT RATING

GVWR: GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING

GCWR: GROSS COMBINATION WEIGHT RATING

ROCCC: REALISTIC OCCUPANT AND CARGO

CARRYING CAPACITY (FULL WATER, NO PASSENGERS)

WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES

641-585-3535, WWW.GOWINNEBAGO.COM.

The Standard for Excellence
PHOENIX
Cruiser

Adventure Anywhere



Floorplan of the month
Our new 2551



Don't buy anywhere else
before you call to see
what Factory Direct
can do for YOU!



We are happy to
take anything of value
in trade
and put you in the
RV of your dreams

#1 CHOICE
in Downsizing!

put yourself in a Phoenix and
you can put yourself anywhere.

877-754-8535
phoenixcruiser.com

Elkhart, Indiana

Phoenix USA Inc., go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

WINNEBAGO VISTA 36D

The Vista 36D has the traditional Class A bathroom layout with the vanity, toilet and shower in one relatively small but useful area amidships. If you prefer more room in the bath area, consider the 35F floorplan, which has a guest bath in the living area and a full bath behind the master suite.

One thing that we really appreciated about the Vista 36D was the abundance of storage, especially inside the coach. While it is often a challenge to fit the clothes of just two travelers on board, this coach will have no problem swallowing four seasons' worth. There's a large wardrobe directly across from the bath area, plus two more wardrobes and a chest of drawers in the master suite. There are also storage cubbies beneath the mini nightstands on either side of the 60- by 80-inch queen bed. Though the bedroom may seem small for some, we found it to be large enough for our needs and a comfortable place to watch the optional 19-inch LCD TV (\$371).

Our unit was also equipped with numerous features that make living outdoors a pleasurable and comfortable experience. The motorhome is easy on the eyes with the silver paint and graphics package (\$2,899), and once the power patio awning (\$805) was extended, it was fun to surprise our guests with the exterior entertainment center. This \$1,610 option includes a 32-inch LCD TV, AM/FM stereo with DVD player and built-in speakers in a locking compartment.

Overall, we have very few complaints about the Vista. The Ford chassis rides on the rough side, has a lot of engine/gear noise, and suffers from numb steering on center, requiring quite a bit of steering wheel input before the coach reacts. We also noted that the headlights were seriously inadequate, especially around corners on dark roads, but that's a Winnebago matter not related to the Ford chassis. In fact, one passenger asked if the headlights were even on. Perhaps this was only a problem in our early production tester, and/or could possibly be remedied with auxiliary lighting.

Whether you travel with a companion or the whole family, the Vista 36D can accommodate you with plenty of room and a long list of options. And with a competitive price tag, it could be the coach for creating many fond memories. ♦

HOLLAND
Motor Homes



Newell Coach



Dynamax Grand Sport



Renegade Motorhome & Toters



Dynamax DynaQuest XL



Dynamax DynaQuest ST



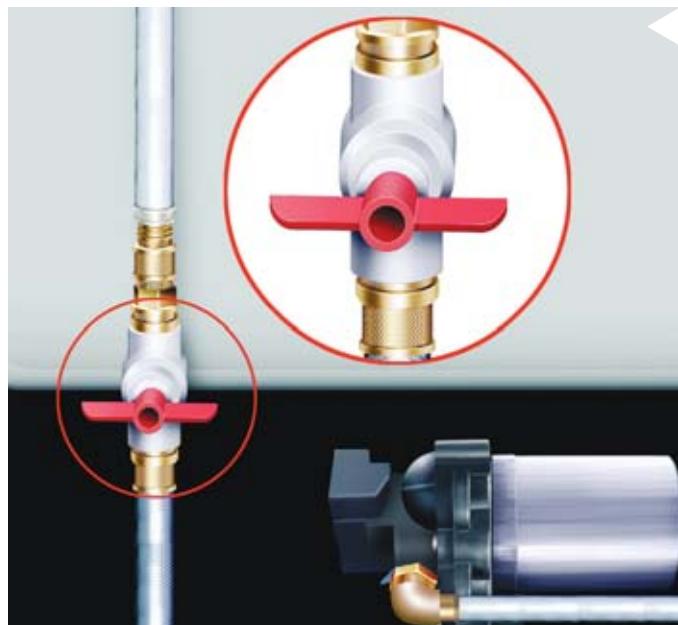
Dynamax DynaQuest XV



Isata UTV

For the Best Value Call:
1-800-221-7197 - MI
Website:
www.holland-motorhomes.com
 Holland MI 49423

Holland Motor Homes, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info



LEAKS ARE WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

Most motorhomes leak water out of the fresh-water tank while the vehicle is in motion. To eliminate this mess (and people telling you, “There’s something leaking under your motorhome”), here’s the cure.

Locate your motorhome’s freshwater tank. It will have one or two drain hoses from the top of the tank exiting out of the bottom of the compartment floor toward the street. Simply cut this drain hose anywhere and install an inline ½-inch plastic shut-off valve (you will also need two ½-inch nipples). This will eliminate the loss of up to 25 percent of your fresh water. Shut the valves off while traveling and remember to open them when parked.

The total cost was about \$10 and it only took 15 minutes to install.

JAMES BRINER | BRADENTON, FLA.

WATER WATCHDOG ▼

Water tanks, water pumps and water heaters are located out of sight and leaks can cause lots of damage if not noticed. I installed an alarm to give me early warning of any potential leaks. It’s a Basement Watchdog Battery Operated Water Alarm (model BWD-HWA) made by Glentronics that I purchased from



Lowe’s for about \$11. The alarm has a remote sensor pad on a 6-foot wire.

I drilled two screw holes in the sensor pad, placed a piece of cellulose sponge (the kind used for washing dishes) under it and mounted it on the floor near potential leaks. The sponge will wick water to the contacts in case of a leak. Be sure to tighten the screws only enough to lightly compress the sponge.

JIM ANDERSEN | AMITY, ORE. ♦



RIVETING ▲ SOLUTION

The attaching screws on the gas struts of my motorhome’s outside compartments continued to come loose. After replacing some of the screws with slightly larger diameter screws I noticed that the thin aluminum made this a short-term fix.

I found that a better way to secure the brackets is by adding a rivet between the screws that are still tight. On stripped-out holes I replaced the screw with a rivet. If I need to replace the strut, I just drill out the rivet with the same size drill bit as I used for its installation.

Some of my fixes are 6 years old and are still going strong.

**FRANK WOYTHAL
ANDOVER, N.Y.**

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Quick Tips, MotorHome’s monthly column of useful, handy and simple tips by fellow RVers, is looking for submissions. Please send your favorite do-it-yourself ideas to: MotorHome Quick Tips, 2575 Vista Del Mar Drive, Ventura, CA 93001, or e-mail info@motorhomemagazine.com. Be sure to include any photos, illustrations or drawings, if necessary. If your tip is selected for publication, you’ll receive \$35.

techsavvy

HANDS-ON | HOT LINE | COACH & POWERTRAIN



HANDS-ON | by DAVE RIGGS

PORTABLE SOLAR POWER

Solarland's folding panels are rated at 80 watts and can set up in minutes

Battery charging is part of the regular routine for motorhome owners, especially those who frequent areas without hookups. While running a generator will certainly get the job done, and more efficiently with a multistage charger onboard, many owners prefer a more green — and quiet — approach to charging batteries. That's why solar panels have become so popular.

Solarland Solar Powered Products offers a unique way to capture the sun's rays with its folding portable solar battery charger. Two 40-watt solar panels are configured in a folding frame that measures 26 by 42 by 2 inches when open, and with adjustable legs can be positioned for spot-on exposure to the sun.

The whole setup is packaged in a polyester carrying bag that's padded adequately to protect the panels. All the cables are included, allowing connection to the battery via clamps or an accessory receptacle/plug. For motorhome purposes, the battery clamps are used, and there's more than 16 feet of cable so there's good versatility in positioning the panels.

To set it up, the panels are unfolded and two legs are extended. You simply connect the battery clamps to the long cable and attach the clamps to the terminals on the battery you want to charge. There are three pretty stout hinges that connect the panels, and holes are provided in the bottom of the frame for pinning to the ground for additional stability. The panels weigh 33 pounds without the case, which increases the total



weight to just shy of 40 pounds. Its portability makes it easy to position the panels to take advantage of direct sun — and reposition as the sun moves in the sky.

An automatic solar controller is attached to the rear of one panel and connected to both using junction boxes. The controller has a rated current of 7 amps and will automatically cut out when the batteries are fully charged and when reverse polarity is detected. A switch accommodates lead-acid or gel batteries. When the batteries are charging, a yellow LED is illuminated constantly; yellow and green LEDs will illuminate when the batteries are fully charged.

To test the effectiveness of the panels, we positioned them toward the sun during the most opportune time of the day and hooked them up to the motorhome's batteries. Using a sophisticated meter, we recorded up to 5.5 amps.

Granted, using just one panel is not a practical way to keep up with seriously depleted house batteries during a trip, but it will keep you going minimally if you use 12-volt DC power judiciously and have strong sun exposure for most of the day. It's also possible to connect up to four panel sets, which changes the dynamics completely. If you struggle with a depleted starting battery while in storage, this panel will serve you well.

The 80-watt system retails for \$595; a 120-watt version is \$795. The panels may be purchased through: **CEA Solar, 602-339-1549, www.rvsolarnow.com.**



Starter Switch Situation

UNHAPPY ABOUT THE REPEATED FAILURE OF HIS MOTORHOME'S IGNITION SWITCH, A READER ASKED HOT LINE FOR HELP. HE WROTE:

I own a 2001 Class A motorhome on a Workhorse chassis that has had three ignition switch failures. Each time the switch failure required a tow to a repair shop. I sent a letter to Andrew Taitz, chairman and CEO of Workhorse, detailing the starting failures on my motorhome and requesting reimbursement for the out-of-pocket expenses I have incurred because of these ignition-related breakdowns. So far, I have not received a reply. If Workhorse decision makers decide not to honor my request, perhaps they would at least implement an ignition switch recall. I hope Hot Line can help bring this situation to a just conclusion.

DAVID MULCAHY | SAN DIEGO

Hot Line contacted Workhorse Custom Chassis and requested a review of Mulcahy's complaint. Although the company took no further action, it did offer information on ignition switch issues for the Workhorse P chassis, which we think will be of interest to many readers. The company responded:

Thank you for contacting Workhorse Custom Chassis and forwarding correspondence from David Mulcahy. We appreciate the opportunity to review the situation regarding his motorhome and request for assistance with regard to the ignition switch. We have reviewed Mulcahy's provisions and are unable to assist with any of the provisions as this ignition switch failure is not a Workhorse responsibility.

On some Workhorse P chassis units there may be a complaint of repeated ignition switch failure or overheated connector at the ignition switch. This overheating issue can be related to the overloading of the ignition circuit. The ignition circuit on the Workhorse P chassis is rated as a 40-amp circuit.

This circuit can become overloaded from added aftermarket components or even original equipment components when the body is installed on our chassis, depending on the level of accessories. Workhorse provides a body builder two 30-amp circuits in the under-dash fuse box to use for accessories. These circuits are fused battery feeds and are not part of the ignition circuit and should be used for the addition of accessory components.

In an effort to reduce the ignition circuit overloading concern some of our customers have experienced, Workhorse added a relay to the service replacement ignition switch. This relay is provided with instructions for the technician to remove the power feed going to the HVAC system's blower motor from the ignition switch circuit and use one of these 30-amp battery feeds while installing a relay in line to feed power to the blower motor. The relay protects the blower motor and control circuit and still provides battery power to the motor. This HVAC blower motor, when operated in the high position, can draw 25 amps or more. This can be a big part of the cause of overloading the 40-amp ignition circuit. We have found that moving the body builder blower motor power feed off the ignition circuit in most cases will resolve the overloaded condition — provided there are not other accessories added to this ignition circuit causing the issue.

This should not in any way be interpreted as a Workhorse admission of fault. Overloading circuits with accessories becomes the responsibility of the party that is adding the accessory to choose adequate circuits that are capable of handling the voltage and amperage of the component being installed. Workhorse's only intent on this issue is to provide a solution to our customer through a service-part upgrade by removing some of the unwanted load off the ignition circuit.

**DEBRA ANDERSON
REIMBURSEMENT COORDINATOR
WORKHORSE CUSTOM CHASSIS
TROY, MICH.**

BATTERY BLUES

Believing he was owed a refund on subpar roadside service, a reader turned to Hot Line. He explained:

Last August I went to a gas station and fueled up my motorhome but when I tried to start the coach the engine wouldn't turn over. I called Good Sam Emergency Road Service and they dispatched a driver from World Truck Towing & Recovery. When he arrived, he checked the batteries under the step, then took the cover off the engine, crawled under the coach and checked the starter. After an hour or so he somehow jumped it and got it started. He said the starter was bad and that a new solenoid was needed. He didn't install any parts and he charged me \$127.80.

I drove the motorhome to 3 Cross All American Truck & Trailer Repair and told them what the tow truck driver had said. They checked it out and said that the starter and solenoid were good, but the switch on the engine battery was not in the down position so the battery wasn't feeding the engine. They charged me \$120.95.

I shouldn't have to pay for anything! The tow truck driver should have known what he was doing. That's why I have road service. I hope Hot Line can help me.

FRED LEMERAND | TOLEDO, OHIO

Hot Line contacted Good Sam Emergency Road Service (ERS) on Lemerand's behalf. The company responded as follows:

After further review of this complaint, we have decided to reimburse Lemerand \$248.75 for this disablement. I spoke with Lemerand and he is very happy with the resolution provided.

**PATRICK VANDERPOOL
ERS COORDINATOR
AFFINITY ROAD AND TRAVEL CLUB
ENGLEWOOD, COLO. ♦**

TO CONTRIBUTE TO HOT LINE, please refer to Contact MotorHome, on page 12.

WELCOME TO VOGT COUNTRY

FULL LINE TIFFIN DEALER

ALLEGRO • BREEZE • PHAETON • ALLEGRO BUS • ZEPHYR



TEXAS NUMBER ONE TIFFIN DEALER

Vogt RV is your ticket to a super deal on a new Tiffin. Ask about our fly and drive program with complementary limousine service from D/FW airport. Let us make your dreams come true.

TOP TEN TIFFIN DEALER IN THE COUNTRY



VOGTRV.com

VOGT MOTORHOMES • 5624 Airport Freeway • Fort Worth, TX 76117 • 817-831-4222

Vogt RV Center, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info

Overheating Cummins Diesel

I have a 2000 Fleetwood Discovery powered by a 5.9-L ISB Cummins. My problem is overheating when climbing on a steady incline. It then cools off going downhill. Do you have any ideas about what I should do?

JOHN MALONEY | DENVER

If it's going to overheat, that's when it'll do it. You didn't mention how you determined it is overheating, or how hot it is getting. Boiling over is considered overheating, while a rise in temperature up to about 230 degrees Fahrenheit climbing a steep grade fully loaded on a hot day is usually acceptable. A proper mixture of 50/50 antifreeze and water with a pressure cap brings the boiling point up to about 264 degrees F (at sea level, slightly less at altitude).

If you are lugging it, try downshifting more and earlier to get the revs up and the fan going faster. Is it losing coolant? Is the fan working properly? If so, check that the radiator is not coated with oil and crud, which insulate it. This is a common occurrence and the oil and crud need to be steam-cleaned off. It's also possible that the inside of the radiator is coated with mineral scale; you'll need a radiator shop for that one. Cummins dealers are usually very good at diagnosing these engines and should be able to check fan operation, radiator effectiveness, etc.

DISCHARGED DINGHY DEUX

I, too, am having problems with a dead battery while towing a 2010 Ford Explorer as discussed ("Discharged Dinghy") in your February column. You recommended a charging line from the coach back, but don't say if it should be from the starting battery or house batteries. I am leaning toward using the house batteries, so I can charge while on shorepower overnight when traveling long distances. I've traveled two to three days at a time with-

out disconnecting. I, too, am using a Brake Buddy, but on a separate power source. I think that when the brake pedal is depressed, it is discharging the battery. Ford says not to pull fuses when towing. Your input would help.

DOUG WATERS | THE DALLES, ORE.

Normally, the charging line goes to the motorhome's alternator, not a battery. When you park, you should shut off the ignition switch and any accessories in the dinghy such as a Brake Buddy. Then you don't need to charge it while parked.

TIRE TIPS

We just bought a 2006 Gulf Stream with 3,500 miles and it needs new tires. Can you help? The 225x75R16 tires are 5 years old and have little cracks on the sidewalls. We will probably buy them from Discount Tire. What kind of pressure do we need on the front and back?

ALAN AND BETH SPEED | PHOENIX

We recommend all-steel radials from a reputable manufacturer. Based on the

WE RECOMMEND ALL-STEEL RADIAL TIRES MADE BY A REPUTABLE MANUFACTURER.

BASED ON THE NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS WE'VE RECEIVED, I SUGGEST YOU AVOID TIRES MADE IN CHINA.



number of complaints we've received, I suggest you avoid tires made in China. You need to weigh each corner, or at least each axle, to determine the loads on tires before you can look up the required pressures in a load/inflation chart. The tire dealer should have that chart and they are available on tire manufacturer websites. If you don't know how much weight each tire is carrying, you need to inflate to the pressure noted on the sidewall until weighed.

ESTIMATING DINGHY TOWING MILEAGE

I own a 1990 32-foot Class A motorhome that has a Ford 460 V-8 gas engine. I plan on towing a Ford Focus behind the motorhome on a car dolly for the first time and wondered how it will change the gas mileage. I normally get 8 to 9 MPG and want to know how much lower it will be. It's an older unit and the gas gauge is broken. I will need to judge how far I can get on a 75-gallon tank.

WALT BUZA | DALLAS

As they say, your mileage may vary. You can estimate the percentage of change by comparing the weights of the dinghy vehicle and motorhome. If the car weighs 20 percent as much as the coach, mileage will likely drop about that much. Usually it's a 1 to 2 MPG loss. Consider getting the gauge fixed to avoid being stranded.

VOLTAGE GAUGE FLUCTUATIONS

I have a concern about the voltage gauge on my 2000 Holiday Rambler with a Cat diesel. Last year I had starting problems and also noticed that the gauge appeared to act and read correctly while the coach was idling, but on climbing hills it would drop below the normal reading of about 13 down to 10 to 11. When coasting down hills the needle would indicate about 14 to 15 until returning to normal cruising and then return to 13.

On cold-morning starts the gauge would drop to about 11 while the glow plugs were on and then go back to 13 when they turned off. I had Freightliner check the coach and it indicated I had a bad battery and I replaced both the

Functional bathrooms and kitchens are high on the list of reasons why people enjoy traveling in motorhomes. The word “functional” is key, because even the best of sanitation systems are only effective when properly maintained by the motorhome owner.

Sanitation systems include a waste or “black” holding tank connected to the toilet, as well as a separate tank for “gray” water, into which the flow from all sinks and the shower is channeled. The tanks are evacuated through separate valves, usually located in a special exterior compartment that may also contain the dump hose.



The penalty for neglecting these tanks can be offensive odor, especially in hot weather. Fortunately, keeping the tanks in good condition is not difficult.

Regular use of high-quality holding tank treatment (deodorizer) in both holding tanks is essential. Without it, solids in the black tank do not break down properly, and odor builds up. Food particles also may make the gray tank odorous if treatment is not used.



Thetford’s Aqua Chem, which contains formaldehyde, or Thetford’s Campa Chem Natural, which does not.

Toilet paper should be of single-ply thickness, used in conservative quantities. Use at least one cup of water for each flush; higher fluid-to-waste proportions reduce concentration of solids, aiding evacuation of the tank. Concentration of solids can become a problem if the motorhome is in full-time use (parked for long periods), so it’s especially important to ensure adequate water flow into tanks during these periods.

In addition to using treatment in the gray tank, it’s good to use screens (available at houseware stores) in kitchen sink drains to reduce the amount of food and other debris that is flushed into the tank.



While operating holding tank equipment, use protective

gloves (mechanics’ latex gloves) and water hoses that are dedicated only to flushing holding tanks. Discard the gloves before touching freshwater hoses or equipment.



Level the motorhome if possible when preparing to dump.

Be sure the dump hose is securely connected to its fitting and that the discharge end is held securely in place in the drain pipe,



A good quality, leak-free dump hose such as the Rhinoflex, which retains the desired length or shape, makes the dumping task easier. Be certain that all hose clamps and connections are secure.

Level the motorhome if possible when preparing to dump. Be sure the dump hose is securely connected to its fitting and that the discharge end is held securely in place in the drain pipe, using rocks or other weights on the discharge if necessary. Open the black-tank valve first and allow it to drain. When it’s empty, use a tank-flushing device while the dump hose is still in place and the discharge valve is still open. It may be an in-tank spray nozzle or a wand connected to a water hose and inserted through the toilet to flush the tank. If neither of those is possible,

partially refill the tank with water and dump again.

Close the black-tank valve and open the gray-tank valve, allowing its content to drain. Close the valve, disconnect the hose and flush it as well at the dump station catch basin.

While connected to RV park utilities, keep tank valves closed, allowing content to build to the three-fourths full level before dumping. This enables better waste breakdown and creates more rapid flushing action during the dumping process.

To remedy an odor problem, refill and flush the tank several times with a tank-flushing device. Before a day on the road, refill to about the one-half tank level and add a strong dose of treatment. Dump again on arrival at an RV park. Thereafter, use more water and flush the tanks more often.

With good maintenance, an RV sanitary system will go for many years without a problem, improving motorhome travel comfort and convenience. ♦

TECH NEWS

BAE DEVELOPING HYBRID PROPULSION SYSTEM

Fuel-thrifty hybrid drivetrains may become more readily available for motorhomes soon. The HybriDrive series-propulsion system, which uses a diesel-electric system consisting of a generator, electric motor, and lithium-ion batteries developed by BAE Systems, is designed for urban driving and is currently being used in more than 3,000 buses around the world. BAE reports it's developing a new parallel-hybrid propulsion system that's better for higher speeds and less frequent stops. The HybriDrive parallel system integrates an electric motor/generator between the engine and the transmission. BAE reports that the system reduces fuel consumption and emissions and is in the final stages of development, with road tests slated this spring.

In a related development, Eaton, a pioneer in large hybrids, is conducting a demonstration project with hybrid trucks using Ford F-50 chassis. Eaton reports that a 70 percent gain in fuel economy is expected compared with similar standard vehicles, along with similar emission reductions.

starting batteries at that time. I was told the charging system checked out normal and no other issues were found.

Since then, I've noticed the same symptoms, but the gauge seems less jumpy and doesn't swing as far above or below normal. I haven't had any starting problems but would like your thoughts on the symptoms. I think that while under heavy load the fuel pump is the cause for the drop and then coasting downhill it is not using the pump so it jumps to 14 to 15 volts.

HAROLD HANSEN | ATLANTA

If a battery were internally shorted, that would account for some of the low readings. However, it's more likely that the gauge or voltage regulator is erratic. First, clean, inspect and retighten all battery cables and terminals, including both ends and ground straps. Temporarily connect a separate digital voltmeter set on its 20-volt DC scale. Run test leads right to the engine-starting batteries (with a low-

COACH & POWERTRAIN

amperage fuse to protect the wiring from a short). Test drive the coach in the conditions you mentioned, and compare the results to your previous readings. If the voltage readings are still erratic, it's likely the voltage regulator. If the digital readings are steadier and in the ballpark, then the voltage gauge is probably faulty.

REFRIGERATOR TOO COLD

We have a Dometic model DM2852 refrigerator that stays too cold. Liquids in the refrigerator start to freeze. The temperature adjuster is set all the way to warm. This happens in both hot and cold weather. Is there a way to check the temperature sensor or do I need to replace something?

JOHN ARTZ | OKLAHOMA CITY

According to Dometic, if the control circuit cannot read the temperature sensor and control the preset temperature, the control will run the cooling unit continuously on the energy source available. The refrigerator will continue to operate in this mode indefinitely, or until a new sensor is installed and the system reset.

DINGHY DRAWS

I have a 2010 Jeep Wrangler that I flat tow. Because of the ignition in the UNLOCK position it will draw down the battery if the battery isn't disconnected. But in order to maintain braking in the towed vehicle I need 12-volt power. I've read that I can disconnect the Ignition Off Draw (IOD) fuses. There are four of them, one a 60-amp fuse that my dealer said not to disconnect, but couldn't tell me which to pull. Or would I be better off running a lead from the charge circuit in the motorhome to the battery in the Jeep? If so, what gauge wire and fuse should I use?

BURT THOMAS | PORTLAND, ORE.

LSL Products offers its Toad Charge (www.lslproducts.com/ToadChargePage.html) charging kit that comes with everything you need. Roadmaster also has a new Automatic Battery Disconnect system (www.roadmasterinc.com) that will do the job of protecting your dinghy's battery from discharge. I think it's easier to install a charging circuit or battery disconnect once rather than having to fiddle with fuses every time you tow.

DAMP BASEMENT CURE

In your November 2010 column, Gerald Eskow wrote about a damp basement in a 1999 Coachmen Mirada ("Damp Basement"). I may be able to solve his problem very easily. We had a similar issue with a 1999 coach and struggled for years. I am assuming he has the same basement compartment doors that we had — oval-cut doors that hinge at the top and open to clip flush with the vertical side of the coach.

My wife finally figured out that as we went down the road, the airflow around the coach created a vacuum that slightly sucked out the front compartment doors just enough to allow water inside the vertical seals. In a hard rain, we could have two inches, sometimes just damp. We made numerous trips to the dealer. Seals and door latches were adjusted. All we did was take some masking tape and place it along the door opening on the vertical sides (not necessary on the top or bottom)



REFUELING BIB PROTECTS COACH SURFACES

Diesel and gas spills when filling the tank can harm paint and fiberglass and make a mess. The patented Chadd Padd catches and contains minor spills or overages that may occur at the pump. The new disposable refueling bib protects motorhomes' and other vehicles' surfaces from hose and nozzle damage. The 10-inch by 10-inch Chadd Padd is antistatic treated and is made from absorbent polymers that can hold up to 4.5 ounces of petroleum products. The Chadd Padd accommodates most filler ports for refueling or adding oil and can be used multiple times. For more information, contact Chadd Padd, 888-393-8358, www.chaddpadd.com. Enter promo code EZFUEL8 at www.chaddpadd.com to save 10 percent.

THE BEST DEALS HAPPEN HERE!



Save
20% TO 40%
On Your Next RV Purchase!

Lowest internet prices in North America,
Shipped anywhere in the world.



Georgetown 300FWS

MSRP
\$109,729
RV Direct Price

\$69,995

You Save

\$39,734

\$469/mo.

similar to model shown
Huge living room slide, 80" U-dinette, king bed, upgraded interior and much more!



Laredo 266RL

MSRP
\$41,683
RV Direct Price

\$23,995

You Save

\$17,688

\$225/mo.

Easy lube axels, electric rear stabilizer jacks, aluminum wheels, entertainment center w/ TV cabinet, and more!



Greyhawk 31FK

MSRP
\$106,943
RV Direct Price

\$62,295

You Save

\$44,648

\$449/mo.

J-Steel sofa, queen and bunk bed, lots of storage, flat screen TV, slide and much more!

Plus, similar savings on over 1,000 RVs!
100% Financing Available!



800-641-7723

www.rvdirect.com



to have the driest basement ever. Just tape before travel on a rainy day, and the masking tape comes right off when you need access to the compartment. Many times we stopped while traveling when it started to rain to tape the compartment doors. It was way too simple, but we never had another problem. Sometimes the easiest fixes are the best. I hope you can pass this along.

RALPH GRIFFITH | ASHEVILLE, N.C.

Thanks for writing. Generally, I prefer to provide permanent cures, but sometimes you have to do something like this.

COLD-RUNNING CAT

I have a problem with my 2005 Safari Cheetah by Monaco. It has a 350-HP C7 Cat diesel engine. The problem I'm having is with the temperature gauge. Any time I'm not on the throttle, the gauge goes to cold. If I stop, after driving for several hours, and let the motor idle or shut it off for a few minutes, it goes to cold. If I'm going down a hill, long or short, it goes to cold. I have talked to the service technicians at Cat and they have no idea what the problem is. I have checked the coolant level and the wire connections on the sending unit and all appear good.

BOB SMITH | BIG LAKE, ALASKA

This sounds like a classic case of a thermostat that's stuck open. Replace it and consider changing the antifreeze/coolant at the same time, if it hasn't been done in several years.

DINGHY IDLING

We just got a Class A motorhome and have a 1997 Ford Aspire, front-wheel drive, automatic transmission. The book says no to flat towing, but a mechanic friend who has been in the business for many years thinks we could flat tow this if we leave the motor idle as we are towing, and stop every so often to put it into gear, etc. Have you heard of this being done and will it affect the transaxle? Also, is there a list of older, small vehicles that would work?

WAYNE NELSON | REDFIELD, S.D.

We get similar requests fairly often and the answer is always the same: I do not recommend it. Leaving an unattended engine idling for long periods results in carbon for-

PREVENT WATER SPOTS

After a rain or a good washing, owners may be left with water spots on their motorhomes' sides and windows. Water spots can't be entirely eliminated but there are some simple ways to minimize them.

Water spots occur when water left sitting evaporates, leaving behind any mineral deposits or pollutants. This creates a slight outline of the spot. Waxing regularly will help prevent deposits from seeping into the surface. This makes it easier to remove deposits with regular washing. Hard water also tends to leave more spots behind than soft water. Using a filtered hose reduces pollutants and mineral deposits in the water.

If only hard water is available, owners will have an easier time getting rid of water spots if they use an inline water softener, too. A high-quality soap can help prevent water spots, as it often contains an additive that softens the water. It's also important to not use too much soap and to rinse well when washing. Drying the wet areas quickly when washing in smaller areas will keep spots at bay. Owners shouldn't rely on sun-drying. Wet areas should be squeegee-dried, while any still-damp surfaces should be wiped with a microfiber cloth or terry towel to ensure they're completely dry.

Shurhold's 12-inch SHUR-Dry Flexible Water Blade easily molds to curved surfaces, drying any surface in one-third of the time. It's made of soft rubber so it's safe to use on even delicate areas and it eliminates water spotting without chamois or towels. The company's SHUR-Dry PVA Towels are said to absorb 50 percent more water than natural chamois, prevent water spots on all surfaces and come in an extra large size of 17 inches by 27 inches. Contact Shurhold, 800-962-6241, www.shurhold.com/rv.



mation in the engine, and it may lead to overheating or loss of oil pressure, and nobody will be there to shut it off. Additionally, it wastes fuel and creates additional pollution. MotorHome publishes annual dinghy guides, and you will find the 2011 guide packaged with our March issue. Past years' guides are available on our website (www.motorhomemagazine.com) and years before 2002 may be ordered by calling 805-667-4341.

STINKY HOT WATER

My hot water tank smells of sulfur since it was contaminated with RV antifreeze. How can I solve this problem?

JOHN SULLIVAN | ST. PAUL, MINN.

RV antifreeze doesn't smell like that; it's more of a sweet kind of odor. A water heater can provide an ideal environment for the conversion of sulfate to hydrogen sulfide gas, which smells like rotten eggs. The water heater can produce hydro-

gen sulfide gas in two ways: creating a warm environment where sulfur bacteria can live, and sustaining a reaction between sulfate in the water and the water-heater anode.

Water heaters often contain a metal rod called a "sacrificial anode," which is installed to reduce tank corrosion. The anode is usually made of magnesium, which can supply electrons that aid in the conversion of sulfate to hydrogen sulfide gas. Disinfect and flush the water heater with a chlorine bleach solution, as chlorination will kill sulfur bacteria if done properly. If all bacteria are not destroyed by chlorination, the problem may return within a few weeks. Sulfate comes from the water, and is most commonly in well water. Try using another water source, preferably with a low or no sulfate content. ♦

TO CONTRIBUTE TO COACH & POWERTRAIN, refer to Contact MotorHome, on page 12.

Honda Generators Super Sale



In Stock and Ready to Ship

Honda Generator Model #EU-2000i

\$899

Free Shipping

Model #EU-1000 **\$679**

Remote starter available with this generator \$239

Honda Generator Model #EU-3000i

\$1,799

Free Shipping



Full line of Honda Generators in Stock

• Now Available: NEW #EU-6500i, Pair of EU-2000's and Parallel Cables \$1979

Visit Us ONLINE NOW at www.speedwaysales.com/Honda

SPEEDWAY

sales & service

16600 W. Cleveland Ave., New Berlin, WI 53151



NO EXTENSIONS NO LEAKS EASY TO AIR UP

FOR DUALY PICK-UP & MOTORHOMES REPLACEMENT VALVE STEMS

OUR STEMS CARRY A WARRANTY, EXTENSIONS DO NOT

BRASS **\$110.00** + \$8.00 SH



dualyvalve.com

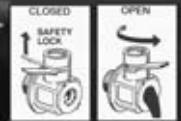
800-300-2674

ENGINE OIL DRAIN VALVE

makes your oil change easy and clean!



Drain your engine oil with a touch of a finger



Order online now!

www.OilDrainValve.net
info@oilrainvalve.net



The Ultimate RV Information Center.

RV.NET
Serving Enthusiasts of the Open Road

rv.net provides you with the latest news on clubs, products, publications, resources, services and more . . . at home or on the road, visit today.



LAMBRIGHT COMFORT CHAIRS, LLC

1150S 700W

Topeka, IN 46571

Approx. 15 miles east of Elkhart 4 miles south of Shipshewana on SR 5 east on 100S to 700W south 1/8 mile

Full Wall Hugger Recliners

We manufacture quality swivel, wall hugging, reclining chairs and sofas.

Visit our family shop and showroom in Shipshewana, Indiana

or call for more information

260.768.4820



We Ship Nation-Wide
Optional Computer Table

Replace your sofa with 2 Relax-r chairs and still have space left!

2010 **BOLLY** GENERATOR



Quiet!

EPA & RV Park Approved 53dB

Lightweight!

Only 68 lbs (SI) and 75 lbs (SI/E)

Powerful!

3300 watts runs 15,000 BTU A/C.

Compact!

23" x 16.5" x 18.5" (Both Models)

Efficient!

Variable Throttle & DSP

\$1,199.00 (3600 SI/E) Electric Start

\$1,099.00 (3600 SI) Manual

1-866-757-3780
Rec-Direct www.rec-direct.com/bolly

FAQ (frequently asked question):

Q: What's the quickest way to sell my RV?

A: Go to RVSearch.com or call 1-800-SHOP-4-RV

For info on advertising in this section, please call or write:
Sue Seidlitz
805.667.4385
sseidlitz@affinitygroup.com

Be sure to visit MOTORHOME's website:
www.motorhomemagazine.com

WHEN ONLY THE

For all your RVing needs, visit the best-of-the-best...your nearest *RV Business* magazine Top 50 Dealer. These dealers represent the RV industry's elite, receiving the highest possible honor for their professionalism, overall business operations and, of course, customer service. For new or used RVs, service and repair, financing or storage, these dealers can be trusted. And as the official voice of the RV market, *RV Business* magazine knows its dealers.

ARIZONA:

Little Dealer Little Prices
Phoenix, AZ
www.littledealer.com

CALIFORNIA:

Altmans Winnebago ●
Carson, CA
www.altmans.com

Mike Thompson's
RV Super Stores
Santa Fe Springs, CA
www.mikethompson.com

Richardson's RV Centers
Riverside, CA
www.richardsonsrv.com

CANADA:

ArrKann Trailer & RV Centre ●
Edmonton, AB
www.arrkannrv.com

Bucars RV Centre
Balzac, AB
www.bucarsrv.com

Woody's RV World
Red Deer, AB
www.woodysrv.com

COLORADO:

Windish RV Center
Lakewood, CO
www.windishrv.com

DELAWARE:

Parkview RV Center
Smyrna, DE
www.parkviewrv.com

FLORIDA:

Dusty's Camper World
Bartow, FL
www.dustysrv.com

LAZYDAYS ●

Seffner, FL
www.lazydays.com

ILLINOIS:

Pontiac RV
Pontiac, IL
www.pontiacrv.com

Rick's RV Center
Joliet, IL
www.ricksrv.com

INDIANA:

Modern Trailer Sales
Anderson, IN
www.moderntrailer.com

Mount Comfort RV
Greenfield, IN
www.mountcomfortrv.com

MARYLAND:

Beckley's Camping Center
Thurmont, MD
www.beckleysrvs.com

MICHIGAN:

American RV Sales & Service
Grand Rapids, MI
www.americanrv.com

Veurinks' RV Center
Grand Rapids, MI
www.veurinksrv.com

MINNESOTA:

Coates RV Center
Columbus, MN
www.coatesrv.com

Hilltop Trailer Sales
Fridley, MN
www.hilltoptrailers.com

PleasureLand RV Center
St. Cloud, MN
www.pleasurelandrv.com

Steinbring Motorcoach
Garfield, MN
www.steinbring.com

MISSISSIPPI:

Aberdeen RV Center
Aberdeen, MS
www.aberdeenv.com

MISSOURI:

Apache Village RV Center
Hazelwood, MO
www.apachevillagerv.com

Coachlight RV Sales
Carthage, MO
www.coachlightrv.com

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

Campers Inn ●
Kingston, NH
www.campersinn.com



BEST WILL DO

RV BUSINESS



DEALER AWARDS

NEW JERSEY:

Colonial Airstream & Itasca
Lakewood, NJ
www.colonialairstream.com

Driftwood RV Centers
Clermont, NJ
www.driftwoodrvcenter.com

NEW MEXICO:

Aloha RV
Albuquerque, NM
www.aloharv.com

NEW YORK:

Alpin Haus
Amsterdam, NY
www.alpinhaus.com

Boat N RV Superstores
West Coxsackie, NY
www.boatnrv.com

Wilkins Recreational Vehicles
Bath, NY
www.wilkinsrv.com

NORTH CAROLINA:

Bill Plemmons RV World ●
Rural Hall, NC
www.billplemmonsrv.com

Carolina Coach & Camper
Claremont, NC
www.carolinacoach.com

Terrell Camping Center
Terrell, NC
www.terrellcampingcenter.com

Tom Johnson Camping Center
Marion, NC
www.tomjohnsoncamping.com

NORTH DAKOTA:

Capital RV Center
Bismarck, ND
www.capitalrvcenter.com

OREGON:

Big Country RV
Bend, OR
www.bigcrv.com

Curtis Trailers
Portland, OR
www.curtistrailers.com

Guaranty RV Supercenters
Junction City, OR
www.guarantyrv.com

TENNESSEE:

Tennessee RV Sales & Service
Knoxville, TN
www.tennesseeerv.com

TEXAS:

ExploreUSA RV Supercenter
Plano, TX
www.exploreusa.com

Topper's Camping Center
Waller, TX
www.toppersrvs.com

VIRGINIA:

Dixie RV Superstore ●
Newport News, VA
www.dixiervsuperstore.com

Dodd RV
Portsmouth, VA
www.doddrv.com

Safford RV
Thornburg, VA
www.saffordrv.com

WASHINGTON:

Poulsbo RV
Kent, WA
www.poulsborv.com

Roy Robinson Motorhome
& RV Center
Marysville, WA
www.royrobinsonrv.com

WISCONSIN:

Greenway RV Sales & Service
Winsconsin Rapids, WI
www.greenwayrv.com

Kings Campers
Wausau, WI
www.kingscampers.com

● Blue Ribbon Award Winner

● Dave Altman Award Winner

FOR FREE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OFFERED IN THIS ISSUE, VISIT WWW.MOTORHOMEMAGAZINE.COM/INFO

ARIZONA



Voyager RV Resort

Voyager has it all for you!

- 100 ft pull thrus
- 3 pools, 2 hot tubs
- Golf Course, Pickle Ball, Tennis
- Bar/Grill/Market
- WiFi Hotspots/DSL available at Sites
- Phone to all sites
- 24 Hour Fitness and Laundry
- 36 Room Inn, Rentals, Homes & more

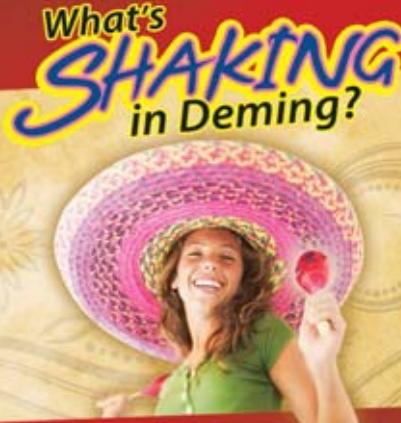
Rated RV Park Of The Year 1992, 2001 & 2004

encore Equity Lifestyle Properties

8701 S Kolb Rd - Tucson AZ 85756
1-800-424-9494
www.VoyagerRV.com
Info@VoyagerRV.com

Age qualified community
Exit 270 off I-10, 1/2 mile south on Kolb Rd

NEW MEXICO



What's **SHAKING** in Deming?

- Apr. 2: Smokin' Oldies Car Show
- Apr. 9: Desert Alive & Native Plant Show
- April 23: Easter Egg Hunt
- May 7: 6th Annual Cactus Carnival

EXPLORE DEMING NEW MEXICO

360° OF FUN!

www.cityofdeming.org
800-848-4955 • www.DemingChamber.com

ARKANSAS

Lake Catherine State Park




USE OUR HOOKUPS TO RECONNECT.

888-AT-PARKS
ArkansasStateParks.com

TEXAS




Retama Village
at Bentsen Palm

Live Here, Play Here, Stay Here

An Active Adult RV Community in the beautiful Rio Grande Valley of South Texas. RV Supersites and RV Port Homes Available.

956.381.1500
www.bentsenpalm.com



ADVERTISERS PAGE #

Banks Power.....	13
Born Free Motorcoach	30
BrakeBuddy	33
Classifieds.....	67-69
DISH Network	20-21
Dave & LJ RV Interiors	12
Dealers & Destinations	66
Dethmers Manufacturing	42
Dicor Corporation	24
Direct Sat TV	34
Dynamax Corporation.....	11
Espar Heater Systems	10
Essex Credit Corporation	CV3
Fleetwood RV	CV2
Geico	22
Go RVing	71
Good Sam Extended Service Plan....	26
Good Sam RV Financing	41
Guaranty RV	24
Holland Motor Homes	36
Holland Motor Homes	53
Honda Generators	19
Itasca by Winnebago Industries	5
Lazy Daze.....	37
Miller Insurance	25
Newell Coach Corporation	CV4
Nexus RV	8-9
Nomad Glass	25
nVision.....	33
Orlando RV	50-51
Phoenix USA Inc.	53
Progressive Insurance	7
RV Buyer's Guide	14
RV Direct	61
RV Marketplace	63
RV Search	72
RVB Top 50.....	64-65
Roadmaster Inc.	10
Roadtrek Motorhomes Inc.	35
SMI Marketing	34
Thetford Corporation	29
Thor Industries	46
Vogt RV Center	57

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

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A 59-YR-OLD NAT'L ADVERTISING CO SEEKING
Independent Contractors • Home or RV based
• NO INVESTMENT or inventory • Immediate
Cash Flow • Like Selling call 1-800-299-0510

DIESEL FUEL

NO LONG LINES, EASY ACCESS, CLEAN,
well lit with 1400 locations countrywide.
Open 24/7 for your convenience. Call for FREE
MEMBERSHIP to our select group of Frequent
Fuelers! Pioneer Fuel, an independent franchisee
of Pacific Pride Commercial Fueling
1-800-959-3835 • www.pacificpride.us

HELP WANTED

ESTABLISHED RV TOUR COMPANY
seeks retired couples with top-level
communications and management skills to explore
new horizons in RVing as contract wagon master
at www.tracksrvtours.com. Click on wagon
master opportunities for job description and
application instructions.

HOMES FOR SALE



LILY LAKE GOLF RESORT - FROSTPROOF, FL
• Porte & Manufactured Homes • Stand Alone
Portes • Resale RV Lots, Park Models & Manuf
Homes. 1-800-654-5177 • www.lilylake.com



RETAMA VILLAGE - Live Here, Play Here, Stay Here
At our exclusive 55+ active adult community in
the fabulous Rio Grande Valley of South Texas.
Large RV Sites, RV Port Homes and Single Family
Homes. Clubhouse, library, pools, fitness center,
billiards, hiking, biking, kayaking and birding.
RV Sites from the mid \$40s. RV Port Homes from
\$169,900. www.bentsenpalm.com 956-381-1500.



LUXURY NEW HOMES IN LAUGHLIN NV
50' RV Garages - 40' Boat Garages. 3 Bedroom,
2 bath. Single Story. Energy Star. Call
800-828-2744 or visit www.laughlinhomes.net

LOTS FOR SALE

MOTORCOACH COUNTRY CLUB, INDIO, CA
Lot resales, golf, boating, health club and
restaurant. Large lots. Prices and descriptions
at www.motorcoachlotsales.com or call Kerry
Johnston, broker, 541-912-6409. Rental
reservations at 888-277-0789.

MAIL/MESSAGE SERVICES

AMERICAS-MAILBOX FORWARDING IN SD
LOW Rates/NO State Income Tax/Save \$\$\$
NO Wheel Tax/NO Safety Inspect / 866-747-3700
www.Americas-Mailbox.com/MH *Call us first!*

MOTORHOMES FOR SALE



FACTORY-CERTIFIED PREOWNED NEWELLS
Coaches up to and including 8 model years
from the current model year have a 2 Year/
24,000 Mile Limited Warranty. Call for details.
NEWELL COACH CORPORATION, Miami, OK
1-888-363-9355. View our inventory at
www.newellcoach.com

HOLLAND MOTOR HOMES
www.hollandmotorhomes.com
800-961-4464
San Diego, CA
SEE OUR AD ON PAGE 36.

MOTORHOMES WANTED

\$\$ CASH FOR YOUR MOTORHOME! \$\$
Buying '02 model year & newer motorhomes!
FREE Nationwide Pickup
Call Jim Cash Toll Free — 866-687-2274
www.usedrvpros.com • La Mesa RV Center

\$ CASH \$ TOP DOLLAR PAID FOR LATE-MODEL
motorhomes. All makes and models. No hassles.
For instant cash call Keith Roy (toll-free) at
1-888-227-4078, PEDATA RV CENTER.

WE BUY MOTORHOMES

2000 & NEWER - PAID FOR OR NOT
CASH Payment & NATIONWIDE Pick Up
Contact Bill Fishfader @ 1-509-993-0321.
RVs NORTHWEST • SPOKANE, WA

2011 - 1999 MOTORHOMES WANTED

Nationwide — Gas or Diesel
Free Appraisals — No Hassles
Call 813-783-4000 or 888-783-4009
for Instant Cash MotorhomeFinders.com

#1 CASH RV BUYER \$\$

Specializing In Short Sales!
Owe More Than Your RV is Worth?
Tired of High Payments?
Need Cash Fast?
Call Now for a Free Appraisal.
Toll Free: 888-870-3989
BIG SKY LIQUIDATION

NORTHEAST MOTORHOME WHOLESALER

Cash for your late model gas or
diesel motorhome. Will buy nationwide.
Toll free 866-803-6787 www.futuresrv.com

NATIONWIDE RV BUYER

Searching for Pre-Owned RVs
Call 866.365.1028 or topbuyer@rvbuyerswest.com
www.rvbuyerswest.com

PERSONALS

GENTLEMAN SEEKS NO SMOKING, SOBER LADY

Traveling companion, no cats. 40' Silver Eagle.
Towed quad runner w/rm for tools & equip.
Semi-retired fabricator, mechanic & stunt man.
Jon Ward, 661-256-3545, Southern CA.

RECREATIONAL VEHICLES



SELL YOUR RV FAST! Online at RVT.com.

15,000+ Customers Daily. 40,000+ Private
and Dealer Listings. www.RVT.com
Serving the RV Trade since 1999.
1-800-479-1099

SERVICES

AVOID SALES TAX ON RVS AND VEHICLES

Call to speak to a licensed MT attorney about setting up an LLC. 10+ years of experience. Heggen Law Office, P.C., Missoula, MT
www.heggenlawoffice.com 888-777-5032

ACTION SERVICES, LLC

Consult a Licensed Montana Attorney
No Sales Tax in MT — Low License Fees
Financing & Insurance — For Professional Service
Call 800-481-0013 www.actionservices-mt.com

#1 IN SALES TAX SAVINGS

Pay no sales tax on your next RV. We have helped clients legally save \$1000s over the past 12 yrs. Call Mountain States Consulting **800-565-4504** & talk to a CPA for professional, friendly service or visit us on the web at www.rvtax.com

PAY NO SALES TAX ON VEHICLES

Let us explain how we can legally help you. We've helped thousands in the last 11 years. Call one of our three Montana Attorneys. Bennett Law Office, P.C., Missoula, MT
www.bennettlawofficepc.com 866-543-5803.

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

TOURS

ADVENTURE CARAVANS RV TOURS & RALLIES

Canada • USA • Alaska • Central America
Mexico • Greece • Europe • United Kingdom
Mexico RV Insurance www.adventurecaravans.com
Free 86-page catalog (800) 872-7897
Experience the Adventure, We'll do the Rest!

ENHANCE YOUR BUSINESS AD WITH A LOGO!

Logo size same as photos
(2.187 x 1.1 inch).

Color Logo \$115 per issue.
Frequency discounts apply.

Call Joyce at 800-765-1912,
ext. 392 for more info.

*(Photos are restricted to real estate and RVs;
logos are unrestricted.)*

Be sure to visit:
motorhomemagazine.com

RUN THIS AD FOR ONLY \$150!

REACH THOUSANDS OF POTENTIAL BUYERS!



2006 MONACO DYNASTY 42' QUAD SLIDE.
400HP dsl, 10KW generator, 2800W inverter,
A/C, TV, micro/conv, sleeper sofa, and much
more. No smoke, no pets. Excellent condition.
(805) 555-1234.

If you're selling your own personal RV or home, you can take advantage of MotorHome's low Private Party photo classified rate! For only \$150 per issue (no charge for telephone number), you can create an eye-catching classified ad with a black-and-white photo (one photo, please) and four lines of copy, 40 characters/spaces per line ... just like the sample ad shown above. For \$15 more your photo can appear in color.

Fill out ad coupon, enclose a black-and-white or color print (not a negative or slide) and indicate method of payment.

Please mail to:
MotorHome CLASSIFIEDS
P.O. Box 8510
Ventura, CA 93002-9912

Or email to classifieds@tl.com

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISERS:
Please refer to CLASSIFIED
RATES for photo ad requirements.

MOTORHOME

classified rates

COMMERCIAL

Open to firms or individuals advertising the sale or resale of a commercially produced item or service. \$50 per line, four-line minimum, 40 characters per line. For **photo** ad, *limited to RVs and real estate*, add \$65 (B/W), \$85 (color). For **logo** add \$95 (B/W), \$115 (color). *No category limitations for logos.*

We offer a 5% discount for 6 issues and a 10% discount for 12 issues to our commercial advertisers.

RV CLUBS

For national or local RV owners and enthusiast clubs or chapters soliciting members. \$35 per line, four-line minimum, 40 characters per line.

EVENTS

For national or regional RV rallies, trade shows, expositions and other events. \$35 per line, four-line minimum, 40 characters per line.

BOLDFACE TYPE

Please note first line is boldface at no charge. Add \$5 per line for additional boldface type.

PRIVATE PARTY

For individuals selling personally-owned item, such as an RV, truck, auto, campground membership resale. \$25 per line, four-line minimum, 40 characters per line. No charge for phone number. For ad with picture, add \$45 (black-and-white or color print acceptable, no Polaroids, negatives or slides). Limit one photo per ad.

OPTIONAL RED TYPE

For your ad to appear in red type:
Add \$50 for Commercial ad.
Add \$25 for Private Party ad.

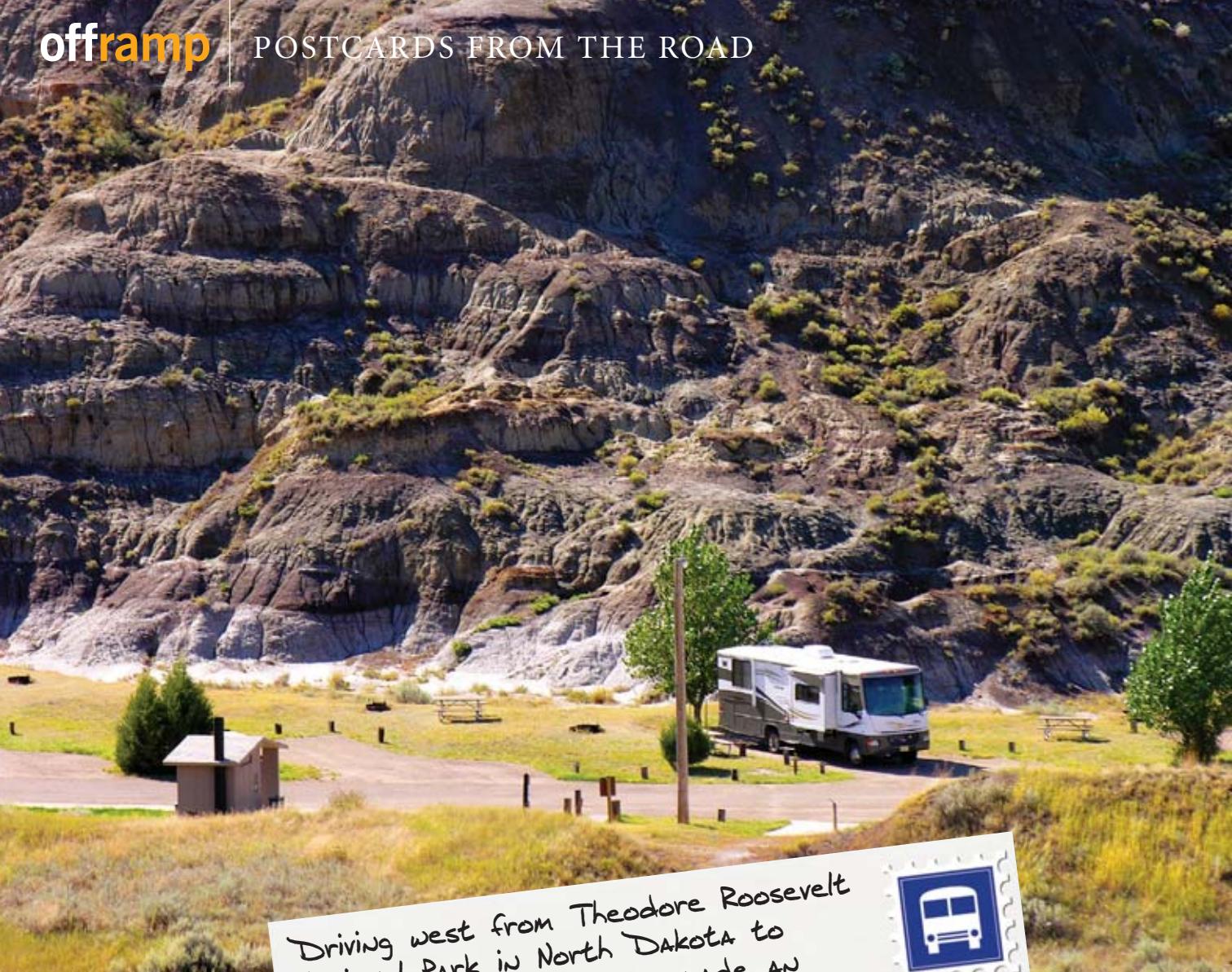
HOW TO PLACE AN AD

Use our form or your own stationery. Please include your name, address and phone number.

Send with payment (check; money order; VISA, MC, or Discover #, signature and expiration date) to:

MotorHome Classifieds
P.O. Box 8510
Ventura, CA 93002-9912

Credit card orders: Fax to (805) 667-4379, Email: jreweda@affinitygroup.com. Any questions, call Joyce Reweda at (805) 667-4392.



Driving west from Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota to Great Falls, Montana, we made an overnight stop at Makoshika State Park in Glendive, Montana, to stretch our legs and recharge for our drive the next day. Makoshika — Montana's largest state park — features three developed hiking trails, fossils of a duck-billed dinosaur and a great rustic campground surrounded by the badlands with big sky vistas.
Morey and Ruth Edelman
Bridgewater, New Jersey



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: We accept transparencies, prints and digital images saved as TIFF, JPEG or EPS files. We prefer uncorrected photos at the highest available resolution. All images must be unaltered and at least 300 dpi. For prints, we accept 4x5 or 5x7. Transparencies should be original 35mm or larger. MotorHome pays \$50 for each published photograph. Images, which preferably show a motorhome or motorhomes in the setting, must be your own work. Submissions cannot be returned. Send your image, name, address and phone number, as well as the story behind your image in 60 words or less (location, special trip or significance, etc.), to: MotorHome "Postcards From the Road," 2575 Vista Del Mar Drive, Ventura, CA 93001; or via e-mail to letters@motorhomemagazine.com.

JOURNEY TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

without spending your means.

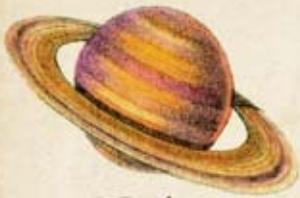


Fig. 1 Saturn



Fig. 3 Asteroid Gaspra



Fig. 5 Mercury



Fig. 7 Jupiter



Fig. 2 Neptune



Fig. 4 Phases of the Moon



Fig. 6 Mars

Go Affordably. Go RVing. Save your money for a rainy day while still enjoying a few star-filled nights. See how RVing stacks up to other modes of travel with our Vacation Cost Comparison at GoRVing.com. **WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?**

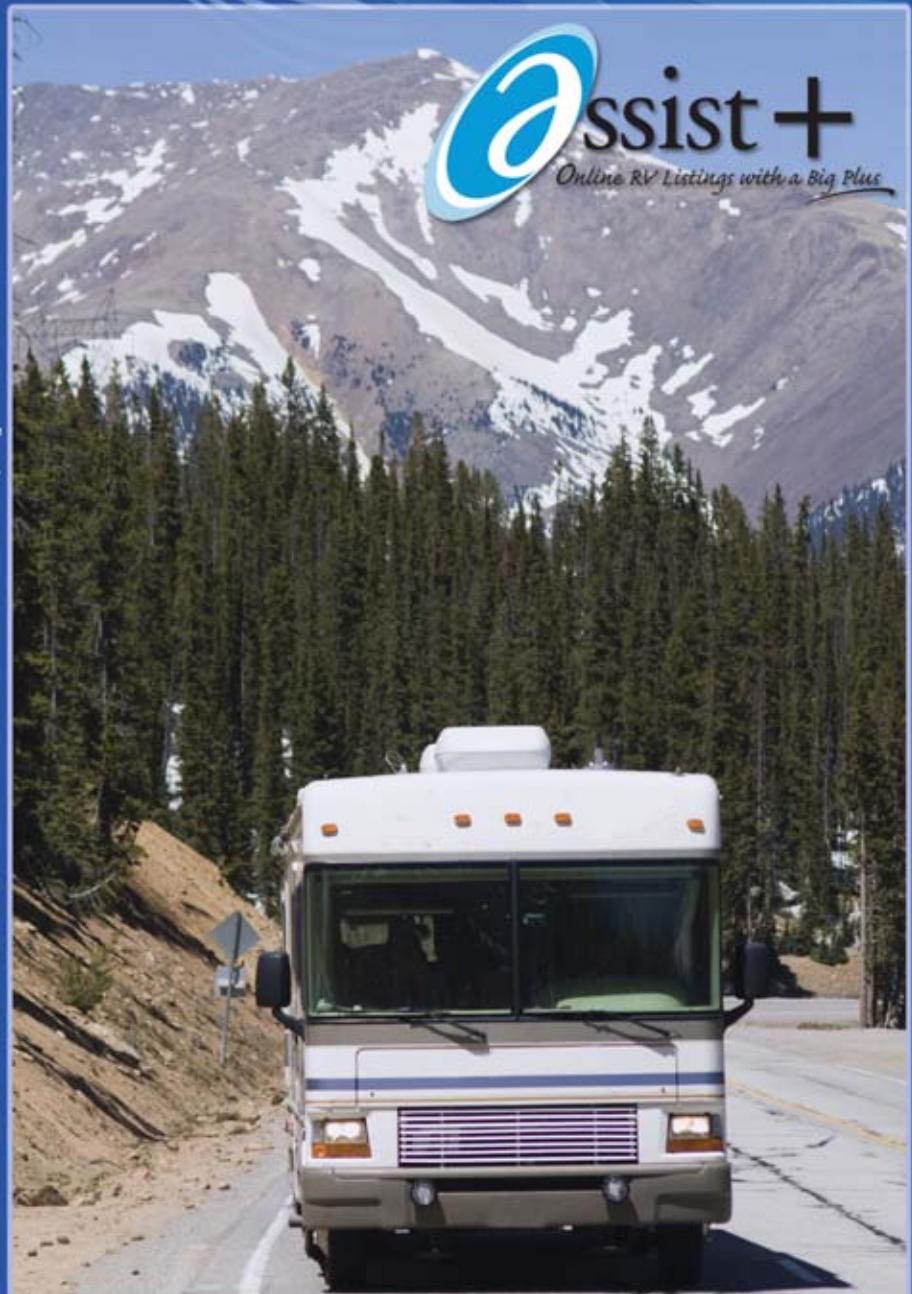
Go RVing.



Sell Your RV in 6 months or less, or your ad is on us. **Guaranteed.**

With Assist+, Get All This:

- Money-back guarantee
- Featured homepage rotation
- Listing also on RV.net, Good Sam Web site & Trailer Life Directory Web site
- Sorted to the top of searches
- FREE 6-month membership to Good Sam Emergency Road Service to add extra value to your vehicle
- Unlimited vehicle description & display 12 photos +floor plan



rvSearch.com/mh

The Best Way to Buy or Sell an RV!

RV LOANS MADE EASY!

“This has by far been the best experience that I have had applying for a loan. I wish I would not have taken the time to shop around. I would definitely recommend Essex Credit to all my family and friends!”

- Debbie (TX)



Check out our Refinance Specials!

EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY LENDER

*Your experience may differ.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF PROUDLY SERVING YOUR RV COMMUNITY!

Solid & Dependable

Essex Credit makes it easier to realize your goal of RV ownership. As a national leader in recreational financing, we offer RV loans with competitive rates and extended terms up to 20 years. Wherever you're located, our RV Finance Specialists will be with you every step of the way - from initial application to post closing paperwork. Essex Credit is committed to getting you approved quickly and easily, so you can hit the open roads!

- Minimum Loan Amount \$20,000
- National Lender
- Financing available for:
 - Class A, B, C & Super C Motorhomes
 - Travel Trailers, 5th Wheels & Slide-in Campers
 - Pleasure use or Full-Timer



NEW - USED - REFINANCE

Subject to loan program guidelines and credit approval. Restrictions may apply. Other terms available. Loan programs are subject to change without notice.

www.essexcredit.com/mh

866-377-3948

Essex Credit Corporation, go to motorhomemagazine.com/info



The Newell Motorcoach:

Pure luxury. And it turns on a dime.

Introducing EasiSteer—the most significant advance in large-vehicle steering ease and driver comfort since hydraulic power steering.



Take the good life with you.

To start your journey, visit www.newellcoach.com, or call 1-888-3NEWELL.