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October 2004
The RV Education 101 Newsletter
Learning RVs the easy way www.rveducation101.com
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Issue # 8
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Quote of the Month
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"The various features and aspects of human life, such as longevity, good health, success, happiness, and so forth, which we consider desirable, are all dependent on kindness and a good heart." - The Dalai Lama

The last time four hurricanes hit one state in one season was in 1880. The recent hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding have devastated peoples homes and lives all over the country. Here is a link where you can make a donation or volunteer to help.

<http://www.networkforgood.org/topics/animal%5Fenvirom/hurricanes/>

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Editorial by Mark
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Oddly, after writing in last months editorial about having our motor home to use in the event of a storm we did just that. We have been fortunate to avoid being in the direct path of the many storms this season, but people in every other direction have not been so fortunate.

Hurricane Ivan managed to work its way up to Pennsylvania and flood the area where my mother and one sister live. We took our motor home, some tools and a pressure washer to help out with the clean up. On the trip there we encountered roads and highways closed due to the flooding and saw houses, campgrounds and towns completely under water. At one point in time I thought we might be spending the night on the side of the road, but we managed to detour around the flooded areas.

We were still much more fortunate than a lot of other people. The basement and garage were full of water. The well was contaminated and there was no hot water or heat for many days. The motor home provided fresh potable water, hot water and heat on one night when the temperatures dropped. We use our motor home for recreation, work, as a guest house and now we add to

the list disaster relief. We realize how fortunate we were with the storms and how fortunate we are to have our motor home. Again, our thoughts and prayers go out to everybody affected by this years bad weather. Thanks to all of our friends who wrote and called to check on us and to all of those who pitched in to help any disaster victims.

If you enjoy this newsletter please pass it along to your friends and RV companions. E-mail us with any suggestions on how we can improve the newsletter and / or anything you would like to see.

Happy Camping,

Mark

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Feature Article ****Can I Winterize my RV?****

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I am convinced that just about anybody can winterize their own RV. It is really very simple and once you understand how to do it you can save time and money. You don't have to worry about making an appointment or taking it in to have it winterized. You can do it whenever the weather dictates and don't need to worry about having problems next spring.

Before we get started there are a few items you will need to have. Once you purchase these items the only cost involved with winterizing your RV will be the nontoxic RV antifreeze.

1) Non-toxic RV antifreeze--The amount depends on the layout and length of your plumbing lines. Two to three gallons will normally do.

<http://camperschoice.com/Product.cfm?productGroupID=3066&showlowestprice=Yes>

2) A water heater by-pass kit, if not already installed.

By-passing the water heater when you winterize your RV will save you six or ten gallons of antifreeze depending on the size of your water heater tank.

<http://camperschoice.com/Product.cfm?productGroupID=2563&showlowestprice=Yes>

3) A water pump converter kit. Once the water pump converter kit is installed on the water pump you can easily draw the antifreeze from the bottle to winterize the RV water lines.

<http://camperschoice.com/Product.cfm?productGroupID=2549&showlowestprice=Yes>

4) RV Education 101 Winterizing & Storing Your RV video or DVD.

If you would like a step by step visual presentation on how to winterize your RV this is the video for you.

<http://www.rveducation101.com/detailpages/WinterizingDetail.htm>

5) Basic hand tools to remove drain plugs.

Now we can winterize the RV water system to protect it from freezing. Be sure to read your owner's manual's for unit specific winterizing guidelines. Follow the steps below that apply to your RV.

If you have any inline water filters remove and bypass before starting.

Drain the fresh water holding tank.

Drain and flush the gray and black holding tanks. If your RV doesn't have a built in tank flushing system clean the black tank out with a wand, or use a product like Flush King that allows you to clean both the black and gray tanks.

Drain the water heater. Remove the drain plug and open the pressure relief valve. CAUTION: Never drain the water heater when it is hot or under pressure!

Open all hot and cold faucets; don't forget the toilet valve and outside shower.

Locate and open the low point drain lines. There will be one for the hot and cold water lines. Using the water pump will help force water out, but turn it off as soon as the system is drained.

Recap all drains and close all faucets.

By-pass the water heater. If you don't have a by-pass kit the water heater will fill up with antifreeze before it goes through the water lines, wasting six gallons of antifreeze.

Install a water pump converter kit on the water pump If you don't already have one. Connect the piece of clear tubing to the converter and put the other end into a one gallon container of non-toxic RV antifreeze.

Turn the water pump on and pressurize the system. Starting with the closest faucet, slowly open the hot and then cold valves until antifreeze appears. Replace the antifreeze container as required.

Repeat this process on all faucets from the closest to the farthest away. Don't forget the outside shower, if equipped.

Flush the toilet until antifreeze appears.

Turn the water pump off and open a faucet to release the pressure. Go outside to the city water inlet. Remove the small screen over the inlet and push in on the valve with a small screwdriver until you see antifreeze. Replace the screen.

Pour a cupful of antifreeze down each drain. Pour a couple of cups in the toilet and flush into the holding tank.

If your water heater has an electric heating element make sure it is turned off. This will protect the element if the unit is plugged in while being stored.

Make sure all the faucets are closed.

Consult your owner manuals for winterizing icemakers and washing machines.

Your RV is winterized.

This checklist is a basic guide that was intended to assist you in winterizing your RV. As with many other checklists it would be impossible to cover every RV. It is extremely important that you read your owner's manuals for unit specific winterizing guidelines.

For information on how to properly store your RV for the winter you can purchase our Winterizing and Storing Your RV video or DVD. <http://www.rveducation101.com/detailpages/WinterizingDetail.htm>

Happy Camping,

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Tip of the Month
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This months tip is from Robert Lowe the co-author of a great new book on RVing titled "All the Stuff you Need to Know About RVing" Bob served for 3 years as the Editor of the Bounder Beacon, a bimonthly, 32-page newsletter read by approximately 3,000 Bounder motorhome owners. He's been their Technical Editor for six years.

AC Safety:

- 1) Use Dog Bone adapters: Others generate too much heat with no way to dissipate it but through plastic around pins.
- 2) Use AC Polarity Checkers before hooking up and AC Test Meters to Monitor voltage. Avoid using sensitive appliances if voltage is out of range.
- 3) Use proper 30 or 50 amp rated outdoor extension cords for your rig.
- 4) Turn Fridge to GAS if on 15 Amp Service. Your Fridge AC heating element draws 160 watts (13 amps) so little is left for other appliances.

For more details about this new book for RVers go to>>
http://www.rveducation101.com/DetailPages/all_the_stuff_you_need_to_know.htm
We are offering a discounted price for a limited time. See our Monthly Product Discount section.

For more information on why you need a three in one digital voltmeter to check polarity, measure voltage and measure frequency go to>>
<http://www.rveducation101.com/detailpages/GoodGovernor.htm>

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Readers Favorite Recipes
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CORNBREAD

Cream 1 cup butter and 3/4 cup sugar in a mixer.
Add 4 eggs, beating well after each addition.
With mixer on low speed, blend in 1 1/2 cups creamed corn,

1/4 cup crushed pineapple,
1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese,
1 cup flour,
1 cup cornmeal,
2 tbsps baking powder,
1 tsp salt.
Pour into a buttered 9 inch square cake pan and bake at
325 degrees for about an hour or until golden brown.
Serves 8

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RV Living and RV Education 101 Contest for our Reader's
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internationally acclaimed author Peggi McDonald recently finished a wonderful new book for RVers titled "RV Living in the 21st Century" Peggi is offering our newsletter reader's an opportunity to win a FREE copy of her new book. The contest winner will also receive a FREE RV Education 101 e-book titled "Checklists for RVers"

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

- 1) Go to Peggi's contest page on her website
<http://www.rvliving.net/RVEducation101cont.htm>
- 2) Scroll down and click on Octobers photo.
- 3) We realize it's not easy to solve this mystery so here's a hint! Visit Peggi's Destinations page. You'll find the answer in one of her destination articles.
<http://www.rvliving.net/destcont.htm>
- 4) The 50th person to correctly identify which article the photo was in will win the contest. E-mail your answer to:
info@rveducation101.com
- 5) We'll tell you who won in next months newsletter and the winner will be notified right away.
- 6) Last months winner was Rob Green.

GOOD LUCK!!!

Here's a short excerpt from Peggi's book. RV Drinking Hose Tip:

We often see RVers use green garden hoses to connect their RV to park water supplies. This is a dangerous practice because these hoses are not insulated and the heat generated from the sun creates a perfect atmosphere for bacteria growth. RVers beware – always use the specially designed drinking water hoses to bring water into your RV. It's not only tastier; it's a lot healthier. Attaching a water hose to the RV city water connection can be a difficult task unless you use a quick disconnect designed for home garden hoses. Place one end permanently on your coach with the opposing end on your water hose and connection is a snap.

These handy adapters are also a convenient way to join two hoses together.

For more information about Peggi's new book, or if you don't win the contest and would like to get a copy go to <http://rveducation101.com/detailpages/RVLiving.htm>

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Monthly Product Discount
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To celebrate our 5th year in business and to thank you, our readers, for your continued support we are happy to announce our monthly product discount program. Each month We will offer you a great product at a discounted price. This month we are giving you a choice between two brand new RV books.

"RV Living in the 21st Century" (regular price \$16.95 discount price \$15.75) For details about this book>>
<http://www.rveducation101.com/detailpages/RVLiving.htm?siteID=0>
and

"All the Stuff you Need to Know about RVing" (regular price \$24.95 discount price \$22.75) For details about this book>>
http://www.rveducation101.com/DetailPages/all_the_stuff_you_need_to_know.htm?siteID=0

If you're having trouble making up your mind we are offering both books as a package (regular price \$41.90 discount price \$36.95) This offer will expire on 16 October 2004 so order yours today. To receive this discount you must order through this link>>
https://more-information.org/Secure_rveducation101/specials.asp

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Classified Ads & Informative Links
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The Dummy's Guide to Buying Your Pre-Loved RV!
This e-book was written by Les Doll, a working Certified RV technician, with years of RV construction and maintenance experience. In this guide you will find many little-known secrets and methods used by professional buyers to evaluate a used RV. Study this guide before going out to buy a preowned RV - it will save you many times the cost of the guide and it will provide you with a basis with which to evaluate each RV you are interested in. Starting from the top down, it will cover the RV exterior, interior and all the operating systems. You will be guided through the process in plain language that you can understand and relate to. Inside you will find the methods used by professional RV buyers and inspectors. Many tips and tricks that are used by the pros to find the hidden damage and problems the RV owner, himself, may be unaware of.
<http://www.rverscorner.com/dummyltr.html?hop=rved101>

The Hurricane effect!
Read how these major storms effect our economy from fuel prices to fruit prices.
http://www.southbendtribune.com/stories/2004/10/03/business.20041003-sbt-MICH-B1-The_.sto

Don't forget to wave!

As you are traveling down the highways and byways of this great country keep in mind that you can spread good cheer with a simple act. Wave! We always wave to other folks that are driving any type of RV. And we're not prejudice. We even wave to the folks who are driving an RV which costs ten times what our rig cost. We get rather enthusiastic when...

Read the full article >>

http://www.rvvacationplanner.com/article_display.php?article=12

Donna Flanders and her husband are the owners of RV Vacation Planner. They take care of all the research offering customized RV vacation kits and much more.

American Journeys features over 2,000 pages of free RV travel information covering the subjects RVers want to know-- by State and City. Check out all the great information American Journeys has to offer>> <http://americanjourneys.com/>

RV Friendly Signs:

The concept of using a symbol on highway signs to help RV travelers find easily accessible businesses and tourist attractions that cater to their needs works, and is gaining momentum...

To read the full article>>

<http://www.fmca.com/fmc2004/sepmag/insights.asp>

What's going to happen to Walmart's overnight camping policy?

Read the full story>>

<http://www.knoxstudio.com/shns/story.cfm?pk=WALMART-09-29-04&cat=AN>

We added two more excellent new RV books to our RV Publications page this month. "All the Stuff you Need to Know About RVing", and "Live Your Road Trip Dream." For more information on what each book has to offer go to:

http://www.rveducation101.com/DetailPages/all_the_stuff_you_need_to_know.htm

http://www.rveducation101.com/DetailPages/Live_Your_Road_Trip_Dream.htm

Do you know where to find the cheapest gas in the city you live in? If not this might help>> <http://www.gasbuddy.com/>

RV Education 101 is proud to offer a new software product designed specifically for your RV. It's called the "RVers Notebook" Just load this easy to use program in your PC or lap top and you have instant access to all of your RV information right at your finger tips. With eleven menus to choose from you can track everything from your service and maintenance records, expense reports, campground details and weights. It even calculates the correct tire pressure based on axle weight and tire load rating. To read what else the RVers Notebook has to offer go to>>

<http://www.rveducation101.com/detailpages/rvsoftware.htm>

Would you like a free Camper's Choice RV Supplies & Accessories catalog? Just call 1-800-833-6713 (24 hours a day), and to get \$5 off your first order mention code RV8001 when ordering. Offer is good through 12/31/04, or go to the website and click

on free catalog.

<http://www.camperschoice.com/index.cfm>

If you're like me checklists help to remind you of things that you would probably forget. This is never more true than with RVs. My "Checklist for RVers" e-book has all the checklists an RVer will ever need all in one place. There are checklists to use from the time you purchase your RV until you store it for winter and everything in between. This e-book is 54 pages with over 25 checklists designed for the RVer.

<http://www.rveducation101.com/ebooks.htm>

Would you like to personalize your RV with a great looking mural? If it sounds interesting check this out!

<http://www.heritageartltd.com/index.htm>

RVeducation 101, in partnership with Financial Underwriters Network, now offers RV financing at competitive rates. Our services include financing for a new or used purchase from either a dealer or a private party, or we can help save you money by refinancing your existing RV loan. We make your financing process smooth and hassle free and offer competitive rates, loan terms up to 20 years, titling services and 24/7 live assistance to complete an application over the phone.

<https://www2.digital-dialogue.com/Applicants/ApplicantAboutYou.asp?InstitutionID=77&LenderID=213>

RV Companion Magazine--Each issue features a different travel destination across North and Central America, with articles written by a staff of veteran RVers who have "been there, done that." Plus lots of how-to and technical articles to help you on your journey. Whether you're a serious RVer or someone who loves to travel--this magazine is for you!

For more information or to subscribe

<http://rvcompanion.com>

Be smart and safe when using generators>>

<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/sports/9845456.htm>

Check out this great deal. Camp for half price at over 1,000 quality resorts and campgrounds? Get the extra money spent on gas back with half price camping.

http://www.rveducation101.com/happy_camper.htm

Would you like a free 168 page, 2004 KOA campground directory?

<http://www.koa.com/orderadirectory/>

The Recreation Vehicle Safety Education Foundation (RVSEF) is dedicated to the improvement of recreation vehicle safety, with a focus on education provided in a professional and objective way. To learn more about RVSEF visit their website at

<http://www.rvsafety.org/index.htm>

Support our troops!!

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General & Unsubscribe Info
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About us:

Our goal with this monthly newsletter is to provide you with helpful information to make all of your RV experiences more enjoyable. I left my position as an RV Sales and F&I manager in 2000 to start my own company, RV Education 101. We produce educational videos, DVDs and e-books on how to use and maintain your RV.

The reason I left my job was due to my concern about the lack of educational and safety awareness material available to the RV consumer, in other words, you. We are a small company. My wife Dawn left her position in RV sales to help start the company and is our Sales and Marketing Director.

We currently have a 28-foot Class C motor home. We have two boys, Tyler 7 and Josh 13, both avid RVers and two dogs, Gracie and Buck. Gracie is the good one. If you would like to learn more about us and RV Education 101 feel free to visit our website at <http://www.rveducation101.com>

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Happy Camping,

Mark