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March 6, 2004
The RV Education 101 newsletter
Learning RVs the easy way www.rveducation101.com

When I wrote this newsletter I had (0) subscribers!!!

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Issue # 1
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Quote of the Month

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"People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness.
Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've
gotten lost."
-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

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Editorial by Mark

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I guess a brief introduction is in order. My name is Mark Polk
and I would like to welcome you to the first issue of the RV
Education 101 newsletter.

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>

Writing a newsletter is a new experience for me, and as with
all things new there is a learning curve involved. Please bear
with me through these early stages. Over time and with your

input we will make the necessary adjustments to provide you with the highest quality, most informative RV newsletter possible. If you enjoy the newsletter please pass it along to your friends and RV companions. Happy Camping,

Mark

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Feature Article ****Some Things to Consider****
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Did you go to an RV show this year? If so, did it make you want to buy an RV or trade the one you have for something different? We are perfectly happy with our Class C motor home, but when we go to an RV show something comes over me. I start to think maybe we need something bigger, or maybe we should trade for a Class A motor home. I can't explain it, but it happens everytime. Fortunately reality sets in when I consider the higher payment that comes along with the new RV!

When you purchase an RV there are many things to consider. I wrote an article on this subject some time ago. I thought it would be helpful to include an excerpt from the article on some of the things to consider. This is just in case you go to that RV show and take the plunge into the exciting world of RVing.

Some Things to Consider:

What type of RV is best suited for you and your family?

What type of floor plan will work best for you and your family?

Do you plan to travel cross-country with the RV or is it going to be set up at one location and left there?

If you're going to be towing the RV is the tow vehicle capable of handling the weight of the RV and do you have the proper hitch work to safely tow it?

How many people will be in the RV and what are the sleeping requirements?

Is there enough seating space?

Do you need a slide out(s) for additional living space? If you get slide outs how is the RV interior affected when they are in the stored, travel position?

Is their enough outside storage, and are the storage compartments large enough to accommodate what you plan to take?

Is there enough closet, cabinet and drawer space for all of your personal belonging?

Are there enough cabinets and drawers in the kitchen? Don't forget about the pots and pans.

How much counter space does it have in the kitchen? Is it enough?

Where is the dinette table in relation to the range, oven and the refrigerator? Does it make sense?

How does the bed feel when you lay down? Is it long enough and wide enough?

Can you walk around the entire bed or is it built into the corner of the walls?

Are there windows where you want windows?

Is the refrigerator large enough?

Can you reach the microwave?

Is the A/C ducted throughout the unit? If not will it cool the entire unit?

Do you prefer a split bathroom where the shower is separate, or a bathroom where everything is together?

Can you stand up in the shower?

Is the bathroom large enough?

Can you sit on the toilet?

How much fresh water can you take with you? Is it enough?

How large are the gray water and black water holding tanks? Are they large enough for the way you plan to use the RV?

How much LP gas does it hold? Is it enough for how you plan to use the RV?

Is the RV too big or too small for your needs?

If you want a motor home drive it before you buy it.

If you're towing a vehicle behind the motor home what are the weight limits?

What type of electrical service does the RV have, 30 Amp or 50 Amp?

Do you need a generator?

If equipped with a TV where is it located in relation to the seating arrangements?

How many TV outlets do you want?

Do you need a phone jack?

Does the RV have an awning? If so, where is it situated, does it interfere with any storage compartments or windows etc?

How long is the warranty on the RV? Do you need extended coverage to protect your investment?

How is the RV constructed?

If it's a travel trailer / 5th wheel do you prefer a corrugated aluminum or fiberglass exterior? How hard is it to keep clean?

If you're buying a motor home do you want gas or diesel? Which type is more practical for how you plan to use it?

This list does not cover everything that must be considered, but it is a good start. Sometimes when we make an impulse buy we regret it later. Take the time to consider all of the factors involved before you make the purchase. Perhaps most importantly consider who you are purchasing from. In most cases this is who will be taking care of you after the sale!

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Tip of the Month
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If your RV is equipped with a generator, at a minimum, it should be exercised for 2 hours on a monthly basis with a 1/2 to 3/4 rated load. Consult your generator owner's manual for load ratings. If your generator has a carburetor and it is not exercised on a regular basis the fuel will begin to gel around the jets. If this happens and you manage to get it started it will have that all too familiar surging sound. It can damage electrical appliances and equipment not to mention the cost of having the carburetor removed and cleaned. If the generator will be in long term storage you can add a fuel preserver to the fuel tank and run the generator long enough for the preserver to get through the fuel system. This will protect it until you are ready to use it again. More RV storage tips are available on our Winterizing and Storage video or DVD available at <http://www.rveducation101.com>

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Readers Favorite RV Destinations
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I included this section in the newsletter for our readers to write in and tell us your favorite RV destination. It can be a campground, a resort, where you boondock or anything else. In 200 words or less tell us where your favorite RV destination is and why it's your favorite. If we print your short story in a future issue you get your choice of an RV Education 101 e-book free of charge.

With (0) subscribers I guess I'll go first

One of our favorite RV destinations is the KOA in Cherokee NC. The first time we went was in the fall of the year and the drive

alone was breathtaking. Nestled in the Great Smokey Mountains of NC the landscape surrounding the campground was alive from the brilliant foliage on the trees. The hosts and staff were all wonderful and regardless of when you go the event calendar is always full. We enjoyed the Halloween decorating contest where individual campsites competed against each other for the top prize. We toured the Great Smokey mountain National Park, spent a day in Dollywood, and tried our luck on the slot machines at the casino in Cherokee. To be totally honest with you my favorite part of the trip was just kicking back, fishing at the trout pond and taking in the beautiful scenery.

Readers Favorite Recipes

Part of the fun in RVing is not spending all of your time in the kitchen cooking, unless that's what you enjoy doing! We want simple and easy meals that don't require a lot of time to prepare. Send us your favorite RV recipes or easy ways to make a meal. If we print it in a future newsletter you will receive a free RV Education 101 e-book of your choice.

FAQ and Answer

I receive a lot of emails from past and present customers with questions on certain topics. It is impossible to respond to all of the questions I receive. I thought it would be a neat idea to include some of the more Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) I get and expand a bit on the answer. Here is this month's FAQ.

How do I get rid of mice in our RV?

I am by no means an expert on pest and rodent control, but after researching the subject I can offer a few ideas that seem to work for other RVers.

The first and most important step is to try and prevent mice from being able to access your RV. This can be difficult because they can enter the RV through some very small areas. Start by inspecting the underside of your RV for any gaps or holes. Fill these gaps using silicone or expanding foam. A word of caution, if you never used expanding foam before you should experiment with it on something other than your RV first. When it dries it can expand a great deal more than you expect.

Next, open drawers and cabinet doors inside your RV. Look in all of the corners and crevices, especially where plumbing and wiring enter the RV. If you can see any daylight mice can get in. Again, fill these areas with silicone or foam.

Mice also enter through vents like the furnace. You can purchase wire mesh type covers from your RV dealer that can be installed over these vents. Many RVers suggest you spray some type of insect spray (that contains mint oils) around the tires to discourage mice. The only problem with this is you would need to

do it every couple days. I don't recommend any type of poison. It can take several days for the poison to work and the mice will usually die somewhere that you can't find them. If this happens you may never get rid of the smell.

Other RVers recommend using mothballs throughout the RV and in storage compartments, if you don't mind the smell of mothballs. The alternative to mothballs is dryer sheets, like Bounce. People swear they work and the smell is much more pleasant. If you are close to where your RV is being stored you may want to use conventional mouse traps and check for mice every few days. The only problem with traps is the bait can actually attract mice. Of course you will want to remove any food from the RV that can also attract mice. If all else fails I ran across product called Fresh Cab that claims to put off a sweet woodsy-alpine scent that will keep mice away for up to three months. I have not personally tried this product, but if you would like to read more about it go to <http://www.goodearthenterprises.com/>

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Classified Ads & Informative Links
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Visit our e-book page. <http://www.rveducation101.com/other.htm>
#1 selling e-book "Checklists for RVers"
"RV Towing, Weights, Hitch Work & Backing"
"Pop-Up Basics 101"
"RV Maintenance for Motor Homes"
"101 Tips for RVers"
Watch for new titles coming soon

FIVE of RV Education 101's training videos now available on DVD
Pop-Up 101 DVD
Class A Motor Home DVD
Class C Rental/Owner DVD
Winterizing and Storing Your RV DVD
Trailer Towing, Weights, Hitch Work & Backing DVD
<http://www.rveducation101.com/>

Do you have questions concerning trailer towing, weights, hitch work and backing? If so we have the answers. We just completed our 7th video, "Trailer Towing, Weights, Hitch Work & Backing" It is available in VHS and DVD. <http://www.rveducation101.com>

Do you own a Coleman pop-up by fleetwood? Would it sound strange to hear Coleman by Coachmen? You may need to get used to it. To read more click here. http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040211/nyw160_1.html

Do you have spare time on your hands, but don't know what to do? The US Army Corps of Engineers can use you. The Corps of Engineers is the steward of almost 12 million acres of land and water across the country. Volunteers play an important role in protecting the natural resources and maintaining recreation facilities. You could serve as campground hosts, staff visitor

centers, conduct programs, maintain park trails and much more.
www.orn.usace.army.mil/volunteer

Are you getting ready to purchase an RV? Before you do read the latest edition of this must have book "RV Buyers Survival Guide" and save more money than you ever dreamed possible!
<http://www.rveducation101.com/other.htm>

Who says you have to go to work to do your job? With an RV and modern technology anything is possible.
http://www.freep.com/money/tech/mwend16_20040216.htm

Would you like to camp for half price at over 800 quality resorts and campgrounds?
http://www.rveducation101.com/happy_camper.htm

Are you thinking about letting an RV dealer sell your RV on consignment? Make sure it is on the up and up! Don't let this happen to you. <http://www.wftv.com/news/2860090/detail.html>

Would you like a free 168 page, 2004 KOA campground directory?
<http://www.koa.com/orderadirectory/>

Do you own a pop-up or you're considering getting one? Did you know there is a magazine and a website dedicated solely to pop-ups and their owner's?
<http://www.popuptimes.com>

To make all of your RV experiences safer and more enjoyable it is essential that you understand RV weights, tires and how to weigh your RV. To get your FREE 14 page brochure from Bridgestone/Firestone and the Recreation Vehicle Safety Education Foundation (RVSEF), go to http://www.trucktires.com/us_eng/home/index.asp To download your free copy click on "order your copy now" and don't forget to get your FREE "How to weigh your travel trailer or RV" too. It comes complete with charts that you can take to the scales with you when you weigh your RV.

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>

Every RVer should have a meter that can measure voltage, frequency and check polarity.

Why measure voltage? If voltage falls below 100 volts, or rises above 135 volts electronic equipment in you RV will overheat and burn out.

Why measure frequency? Appliances are designed to operate at 60 Hertz. Are you sure that your generator is operating at 60 Hertz?

Why check polarity? Improperly wired outlets are dangerous and can cause electrical shock, or even electrocution resulting in death.

Now there is a 3-in-1 digital meter that can monitor all of this for you.

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

Have you ever heard of the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA)? For some really good information on tire maintenance and safety go to https://www.rma.org/tire_safety/

RV Companion Magazine is an RV lifestyle & travel magazine written by RVers for RVers. For more information or to subscribe <http://rvcompanion.com>

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Happy Camping,
Mark