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May 27, 2004

The RV Education 101 newsletter

Learning RVs the easy way [www.rveducation101.com](http://www.rveducation101.com)

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Issue # 4

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Quote of the Month

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"Good, better, best; never let it rest until your good is better  
and your better is best." - Anon

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Editorial by Mark

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Well the kids are out of school for the summer and it's time to hit the road. We have plans for a couple of big trips in the RV this summer and a few weekend getaways. This months newsletter is going out a little early because like many of you we're taking a trip in our motor home through the first week of June. It feels good to be getting the RV ready for our next adventure. I'm not real excited about the continuing rise in gas prices, but I'm not going to let that interfere with our plans.

The kids aren't the only ones that get excited about our next RV adventure. Our dogs know when we're getting ready to take a trip. They get excited when I pull the motor home up beside the house to check it out and load everything. Both of them are seasoned travelers in the RV. They started traveling with us when they

were very young and they seem to enjoy visiting places other than the back yard.

There is more to traveling with a pet than just loading their food and water bowl and heading out. Sometimes pets and traveling don't mix. Some pets are extremely nervous and don't like having their daily routine disrupted. In some cases your pet may be better off staying with a pet sitter, friend or relative while your away. There are many other considerations, so for those of you that travel with pets or may be considering getting a pet this months feature article offers some tips for traveling with pets.

The Humane Society of the United States offers some good information about traveling with a pet at <http://hsus.org/ace/11854>

AAA estimates 36.9 million Americans will travel 50 or more miles from their home this holiday weekend. Be safe and have a great Memorial Day weekend!

If you enjoy the newsletter please pass it along to your friends and RV companions. Happy Camping,

Mark

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Feature Article \*\*Tips for Traveling with Pets\*\*

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For many people one of the primary reasons for buying and traveling in an RV is so their pets can go with them. If you're a pet owner new to RVing or an RVer with a new pet there are many things to learn and consider to make traveling with your pet a pleasant experience for both of you.

We have a West Highland White Terrier (Gracie) and an Australian Terrier (Buck). They are completely opposite of each other. One good (Gracie), one bad (guess who). One shy (Gracie), one aggressive (guess who). The only thing they have in common is they both like to travel in the RV. We learned a few things about traveling with pets the hard way when we first got them. When Gracie was only a few months old we stopped at a campground to spend the night. After a short walk we put her on a leash outside the motor home. When we checked on her a while later the leash and collar were there but she wasn't. Not sure what had happened we started to look for her. Fortunately we found her

about three or four sites down from us visiting some other campers. What we realized was if she would have got lost that night there was no way for someone to identify who she belonged to.

When I wrote my "Checklists for RVers" e-book I included this checklist on traveling with pets based on what we learned and what other people have offered.

If you travel with pets certain precautions must be taken. An RV can get extremely hot or cold inside.

- Always make sure there is some type of ventilation and / or heat and air.
- Always have fresh water available for your pet. Please keep this in mind if your pet(s) will be left unattended for any length of time.
- Pets should always travel in a pet carrier or crate. There are many unforeseen dangers for an unsecured pet.
- Campground pet etiquette is a must. Be considerate of other campers where your pet is concerned. Always pick up behind your pet.
- When making reservations be sure and ask about pets.
- Get a current health certificate from your veterinarian before traveling.
- Always take the pets medical records and an updated color photo of your pet with you.
- Update vaccinations before leaving on your trip.
- Take a proof of rabies vaccination.
- Take medications (flea, tick, heartworm , etc.)
- Take your vets regular and emergency phone numbers with you.
- Food and food bowl
- Travel water bowl
- Walking leash

- Collar with identification or microchip. Along with basic information such as your name, address and phone number. Include travel contact information.
- Harness
- Tie out anchor and leash or chain. Give your pet plenty of room to move but be cautious of traffic and obstacles that they can get hung or caught on.
- Grooming tools
- Pet toys
- Treats
- Cat litter
- Cat box
- Plastic bags for pet clean up.
- Pet bedding / crate
- Old towels
- Perform a daily health check on your pet. When your pet is away from home and off its regular schedule it can affect their health. Watch for any signs that are out of the ordinary.
- Some campgrounds offer kennels and boarding for pets. If your travel plans include day trips or extended travel away from the campsite inquire about these services before making reservations.
- When you arrive at your destination look up the number of a local vet.
- Stop for pets to stretch and relieve themselves every few hours.

Happy Camping

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 Tip of the Month  
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We bought two of the folding exercise pens to take with us. You

can use them separately or they can be put together to make a good size pen for both dogs. It's portable so you can easily move it to keep pets in the shade. This way they don't have to be on a leash and the pens are easy to transport when their folded up.

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### Readers Favorite Recipes

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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.

Last months recipe winner sent us this recipe:

#### "HUNGRY BUT NO TIME TO COOK" RICE

- 1- 7 oz pkg. Minute Rice
- 1 - 5 1/2 oz. can boned chicken
- 1/2 c. cashews
- Soy Sauce

Cook rice as directed on pkg. (stove, or microwave). When rice is almost done, add the chicken and the cashews and as much soy sauce as you prefer and finish cooking!

ENJOY!

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### FAQ and Answer

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A FAQ I get is concerning what type of car you can tow behind a motor home with all four wheels on the ground, and what do you need to tow it.

The most important consideration is how much weight the hitch receiver on the motor home is rated to tow. The motor home itself might be rated to tow 7,000 pounds, but the hitch receiver may only be rated at 3,500 pounds. You can look on the receiver for the weight ratings. Do not exceed the receivers weight rating. You also need to be concerned with the Gross Combined Weight Rating (GCWR) of the motor home. This is the maximum permissible

weight of the fully loaded motor home and the fully loaded tow vehicle combined. You will need to visit the scales to check this out.

The lighter the tow vehicle the better. I recommend that you go to [www.motorhomemagazine.com](http://www.motorhomemagazine.com) to compare tow vehicles. In the left hand column of their homepage click on Dinghy Towing. It will provide listings of vehicles that can be towed with all four wheels on the ground and it also gives you the weight of the vehicles. Based on the weight range you can then determine what price range you are considering.

As for the towing equipment you will need a tow bar, tow bracket kit for the tow vehicle, wiring for lights, and a supplemental brake system for the tow vehicle. There are several good brands on the market. I use a stowmaster tow bar by Roadmaster. As far as reliability and price go it can't be beat. The advantages of more expensive towbars are that they are lighter and somewhat easier to handle. You can go to [www.roadmasterinc.com](http://www.roadmasterinc.com) and [www.blueox.com](http://www.blueox.com) to look around at some of the products and they offer some excellent advice on towing a vehicle. You will also need to look at some of the supplemental brake systems available for the tow vehicle. Roadmaster's website has Braking Laws for the US and Canada in the Braking Systems section.

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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 101s 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/>

Are you considering the ultimate RV trip to Alaska? If so, or if you would just like to learn more about it check out John Holod's "The Last Great Road Trip", and his newest production "Alaska's Inside Passage", (VHS & DVD), and Bob and Judy Howens "Alaska by RV" (VHS).

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

Would high gas prices make you cancel your RV trip to Alaska? Read what one couple had to say.

<http://www.news-miner.com/Stories/0,1413,113~7244~2172884,00.html>

Are you considering buying an RV but would like to rent one first to see if its right for you? If so here is a good article on how to rent an RV.

[http://www.frommers.com/activities/road\\_trip/article.cfm?articleid=1945&destid=ROADTRIP](http://www.frommers.com/activities/road_trip/article.cfm?articleid=1945&destid=ROADTRIP)

Maybe you're ready to take the leap and buy that new RV. Before you do take a minute and read this helpful article on how to buy an RV.

[http://www.frommers.com/activities/road\\_trip/article.cfm?articleid=1946&destid=ROADTRIP](http://www.frommers.com/activities/road_trip/article.cfm?articleid=1946&destid=ROADTRIP)

Preventive Maintenance is the cornerstone for maintaining your RV in peak running and operating condition. Preventive Maintenance is maintenance that you the owner can perform on your RV before a problem exists. This e-book "RV Preventive Maintenance Checks for Motor Homes" offers 30 pages of preventive maintenance checks, designed to prevent or identify potential problems that could lead to mechanical breakdown, or failure of a component or system on your RV. Preventive Maintenance consists of cleaning, inspecting, lubricating, adjusting and servicing your RV.

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

Have you ever considered visiting the RV Hall of Fame? Maybe you would rather visit the International Clown Hall of Fame, or the International Hamburger Hall of Fame. There's sure to be a Hall of Fame for you.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/05/24/hall.of.fames/>

Would you like to communicate with other RVers about certain topics or maybe there's a specific question you would like to ask. There is an excellent forum available to RVers.

It's called the Open Roads Forum and with over 30 forums available you're sure to find one helpful to you.

<http://www.trailerlife.com/cforum/index.cfm?site=TLM>

Do you stay in National Parks several time during the year? Did you know you can purchase a National Parks Pass (NPP) for only 50 dollars? It's good for one year from the date of purchase and covers admission fees at all National Parks. It's a great gift for fellow RVers that stay in National Parks. More than 80% of the funds go right back into the National Parks to fund vital projects.

<https://buy.nationalparks.org/default.asp?ref=nps>

If you're a solo woman RVer, or you're thinking about taking an RV trip by yourself we recently added a new e-book written specifically for you. "The Woman's Guide to Solo RVing"

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

Something we don't often think about is handling food safely when were traveling and camping. Here is some excellent information from the US Department of agriculture on "Handling food safely on the Road"

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OA/pubs/onroad.htm>

It's not something any RVer enjoys doing but it is something that must be done. Eventually your RV's holding tanks must be emptied, and finding a public dump station is becoming more difficult. Now there is an e-book available to tell you where the dump stations are. The RVer's Guide to Dump Stations presents a comprehensive directory of public dump stations throughout the United States. Included are places like rest areas, truck stops, travel centers, city and county parks, gas stations, and more. And many of these places offer the service free of charge. Arranged by state, dump stations easily accessed from Interstate highways are listed first followed by other locations throughout each state.

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

(scroll to bottom of page)

Would you like to camp for half price at over 800 quality resorts and campgrounds?

[http://www.rveducation101.com/happy\\_camper.htm](http://www.rveducation101.com/happy_camper.htm)

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>

Would you like to learn more about our National Parks? You might get some great ideas for your next RV trip.  
<http://www.nps.gov/>

Are you apprehensive about driving or towing an RV? Read what the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association has to say about it.  
<http://www.dunnconnect.com/articles/2004/05/26/wheels/rvs.txt>

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>

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

Support our troops!!

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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