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July, 2004

The RV Education 101 newsletter

Learning RVs the easy way www.rveducation101.com

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Issue # 5

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Quote of the Month

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"The journey is the reward"

-Taoist saying

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Editorial by Mark

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Well America is almost another year older. It's hard to believe that half of this year is already over. It seems like just yesterday I was taking the RV out of winter storage and now it's only a couple of days from the fourth of July.

The July 4 holiday is the heaviest travel period of the summer. AAA estimates 39.4 million Americans will travel 50 or more miles from their home over the fourth of July weekend. 87% of that number will travel by motor vehicle.

Along with the fourth of July comes the heat. Traveling in hot weather requires certain precautions be taken, especially for RVers. This months feature article will highlight some of these precautions to help make your summer travel and camping be safe, fun and trouble free. Have a great fourth of July weekend!

Be careful with the fireworks!

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 in Hot Weather**

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Summer travel puts more stress and strain on your vehicle and makes some of your RVs appliances, like your refrigerator and air conditioner, work harder. This added stress and strain can

cause untimely breakdowns and shorten or possibly end your camping trip.

You can avoid your trip from being disrupted by performing some simple preventive maintenance checks on your chassis and coach.

Vehicle Chassis Checklist:

Always check your owner's manual for routine and scheduled maintenance intervals. Service your vehicle as recommended.

Check all fluid levels: engine oil, transmission, power steering, brakes and windshield washer fluid.

Check the air filter. A clean air filter helps your engine perform better and improves fuel economy.

Check for any leaks: Look under the RV for any indications of leaks. Locate the source of the leak and have it repaired. Transmission fluid leaks contribute to vehicle fires.

Check radiator coolant: level, condition & concentration of anti-freeze. Antifreeze not only protects the engine in cold temperatures, it helps the engine run cooler in hot temperatures. **NEVER CHECK WHEN HOT!!**

Check radiator hoses & clamps: Look for worn, cracked, brittle or soft spots in the hoses. Replace as required.

Check heater hoses & clamps: Look for worn, cracked, or soft spots in the hoses.

Check all belts: Look for signs of wear and for any cracks in the belt. Check the belts for proper tension. It's a good idea to take spare belts with you on your trip.

Check all lights.

Check wiper blades for wear & poor operation. Its to late once it starts raining.

Check the battery state of charge, water level, cables & connections. If you're not familiar with working around lead acid batteries have them checked at a qualified service center.

Check the condition of your tires: Look for uneven wear, tread depth and check for proper tire inflation. Check the tire pressure when the tires are cold, before traveling one mile.

Start the engine and allow it to warm up. Check all gauges for proper operation. Monitor your gauges while driving in hot temperatures. If a gauge is out of the normal range pull over as soon as it is safe and call for assistance.

Check the dash air for proper operation. If you're pulling a pop up a travel trailer or driving a motor home try to avoid

using the dash air when the engine is under a strain, such as on an upgrade.

Check your emergency kit for a flashlight, extra batteries, jumper cables, first aid kit, basic hand tools, and warning devices.

Coach Checklist:

Test the roof air conditioner(s). Clean or replace A/C filters. Clean filters will help the A/C work more efficiently.

Test the refrigerator in A/C & LP gas mode. Install a thermostatically controlled refrigerator vent fan.

Strategically park your RV to take advantage of shade. This can make the refrigerator and roof A/C more efficient.

Install Maxx Air vent covers over roof vents to allow ventilation even when it's raining.

Check all awnings for proper operation. Awnings will help keep the RV cooler.

Check the auxiliary battery(s) state of charge, water level, cables & connections. If you're not familiar with lead acid batteries have them checked by an authorized service center.

Check operation of the generator under load. Check generator engine oil & all filters. It may be necessary to change oil with the manufacturers recommended oil viscosity for hot weather operation. Put the summer/ winter preheat lever in the summer position (if equipped).

Check all appliances, electric and gas, for proper operation.

It may be necessary to add more chemicals when treating the black tank during hot weather camping.

Check fire extinguishers, smoke alarm, carbon monoxide and LP leak detector.

Take all precautions when traveling with pets in hot weather. Never leave them inside a hot RV. Give them plenty of fresh water and ventilation.

These lists are not all inclusive, but if followed you can rest assured that there is a much less chance of those unfortunate and untimely breakdowns ruining your summer camping trips.

Happy Camping,

Mark

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Tip of the Month

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Your RV refrigerator is directly affected by the outside temperature. During hot weather it has to work much harder to do its job. There are some things that You can do to help make your refrigerator more efficient. Allow the refrigerator to cool down before putting any food in it. Make sure the food you put in it is already cold. Leave space between the food so air can circulate. Do not over pack with food. Get a battery operated refrigerator fan and place it in the compartment to promote air circulation. Have a thermostatically controlled refrigerator vent fan installed. Park your RV with the refrigerator in the shade. Try to limit opening the doors as much as possible. Check the refrigerator vent on the roof for any obstructions. Monitor the refrigerator temperature with a thermostat. It should be in the range of 38 to 41 degrees. Food can begin to spoil in any higher temperatures.

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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:

Tortilla-Wrapped Mexican Sandwiches
6-oz container frozen avocado dip, thawed
3-oz pkg. cream cheese, softened
6 (8-inch) flour tortillas, softened
8 oz. thinly sliced, cooked roast beef or turkey
leaf lettuce
4 oz. (1 cup) shredded Monterey jack cheese
Salsa or taco sauce

In a small bowl, combine avocado dip and cream cheese; blend well. Spread each tortilla evenly with avocado mixture to within 1/2 inch of the edge.
Arrange slices of meat, lettuce and cheese over avocado mixture.
Spoon on desired amount of salsa.
If sandwiches are made ahead, omit salsa until just before serving.
Roll up each tortilla; secure with toothpicks.
Serve immediately or wrap in plastic and refrigerate until serving time.
6 sandwiches.

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FAQ and Answer
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When I bought my travel trailer it didn't come with a battery. Do I need one, and if so is there a certain kind?

All travel trailers, 5th wheels and pop-ups with brakes should come equipped with a battery. The electric brakes on the trailer has a safety mechanism built in called a breakaway switch. In

the event that the trailer separates from the tow vehicle the pin is pulled from the switch and activates the trailer brakes. This important safety feature does not work if there is not a battery on the trailer. Of course if you plan to do any dry camping (without hookups) you will definately need one.

You will want to purchase a deep cycle battery. These are different from a vehicle starting battery. Deep cycle batteries are designed to be discharged and recharged repeatedly. Deep cycle batteries are rated in amp hours or reserve capacity. Very basically these ratings mean how long you can use the battery before it needs to be recharged. The larger the battery is the longer it can be used. If you plan to do a lot of dry camping use the largest deep cycle battery that the battery compartment can handle. If you are really serious about dry camping you can use more than one battery. I'll write more about this in a future article.

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Classified Ads & Informative Links
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Do you have an RV emergency road service? If so does it cover:
24-Hour Emergency Road Service
Towing Service
Tire Service
Jump Starts
Lock Out Benefit
Fuel Delivery
Roadside Mechanical Repairs
Travel Delay Assistance
Emergency Medical Referral Service
Protection for your RV
Protection for ALL Household Vehicles
Family Coverage
Coverage in the U.S., Canada & Mexico
Don't be caught without Good Sams Emergency Road Service for only \$79.95
<http://www.qksrv.net/click-1128665-10294049>

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>

If you would like to follow an interesting RV trip check this out. The owners of booklocker.com and writers weekly.com are taking a trip to see if it's possible to live on the road for weeks at a time in an RV when your lives depend on high-speed Internet access. Follow their every move and get tons of helpful information concerning wireless Internet access and much more.
<http://www.wirelesstrips.com/>

Read a funny story (of course not true) about Fords new Behemoth 2 motorhome that weighs 57,942 pounds is 32 feet tall and gets

50 yards to a gallon.

<http://www.thespoof.com/news/spoof.cfm?headline=s8i4772>

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>

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/>

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>

Fleetwood RV enters into a relationship with Caterpillar

read more http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040629/latu085_1.html

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 admmission 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>

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)

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>

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

Read some campground reviews submitted by fellow campers. Lots of other good information too.

<http://camping.about.com/b/a/095741.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/>

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