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August 2004

The RV Education 101 Newsletter

Learning RVs the easy way www.rveducation101.com

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Issue # 6

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Quote of the Month

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"The indispensable first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: decide what you want."

-Ben Stein

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Editorial by Mark

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We just returned from a 4,000 mile round trip from Fayetteville, NC to Colorado Springs, Colorado. We had a great time, but the motorhome seemed like it shrunk with two boys, two dogs and my wife and I. We've been considering upgrading to a 32 to 35 foot Class A in the near future. It's amazing how quickly you can out grow an RV.

We only experienced one minor set-back and what I would consider one major set-back during the trip. We tow a 1981 Jeep CJ7, that I restored, behind the motorhome. When we got to Colorado the only part on the Jeep that wasn't replaced broke (major set-back). It's difficult to get some parts for an 81 Jeep so needless to say it sat idle for the entire trip. Without the Jeep to get around in we used the motorhome which resulted in the minor set-back. I didn't turn wide enough on a city street and the rear outside dual tire hit the curb and blew the tire out. This is where a roadside assistance plan comes in handy. I do think the guy at the tire shop saw dollar signs when I walked in to buy a new tire. 188 dollars later we were back on the road.

Gas prices during the trip ranged from \$1.74 to \$2.07 a gallon. Despite the continued high price for gas I still say it's the only way to travel. If you ever get a chance to go to Colorado Springs you should go. It's beautiful country and there are so many things to do and see within a few miles of the city.

This months feature article will give you suggestions on how to stretch your gas mileage.

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

Mark

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Feature Article **How to Improve your Fuel Economy**
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Today we're going to be discussing something near and dear to all of us, especially RV owners. How can you improve your fuel economy? The 99 cents a gallon days are long gone. We'll probably be lucky to see the \$1.50 a gallon days again and depending on what part of the country you live in you may be lucky to see the \$2.00 a gallon days again. It took a while but as with everything else you eventually accept the fact that higher fuel prices are here to stay.

I for one am not going to let sky rocketing fuel prices change my plans for using and enjoying our RV. So, with that said and a motorhome that averages 7 to 8 miles to a gallon I am forced to find ways to save on fuel rather than waiting and hoping for fuel prices to go down. After a little research I was surprised to learn how easy it can be to improve our fuel economy. Whether you're towing a trailer or driving a motor home there are many ways to improve fuel economy. By performing some simple maintenance procedures and changing our driving habits a little we can save a significant amount of fuel.

One shocking discovery was that for each 5mph you go over 60 mph is equivalent to paying 10 cents more per gallon. So if you're traveling down the Interstate at 75 mph add 30 cents to the price on the pump! Wow, that can add up quick. If fuel prices drop to \$1.65 a gallon you'll still be paying \$1.95 a gallon.

So how can we improve our fuel economy?

Talk to other RVers that have a motor home or tow vehicle and trailer similar to yours. Compare gas mileage. If there is a significant difference compare notes and try to determine what makes the difference.

Something as simple as a clean air filter can improve your fuel economy up to 10%.

Checking and adjusting your tire pressure to the proper pressure can increase fuel economy by 3%, not to mention preventing premature tire wear and failures or blowouts caused by over or under-inflated tires. Tires can look normal when they are seriously under-inflated. Use a quality air pressure gauge and check your tires when they're cold, before traveling more than one mile.

Excessive idling wastes fuel. If you're going to be sitting still for more than a couple of minutes shut the engine off.

Using overdrive whenever you can saves fuel by decreasing the engines speed.

Using the cruise control whenever possible saves fuel because it keeps the vehicle at a constant speed rather than variable speeds. But keep in mind the over 60 mph rule applies here too.

Keeping the vehicle tuned up and in top running condition saves fuel. A poorly tuned engine can lower fuel economy by 10 to 20%.

Poor emissions and / or a faulty oxygen sensor can cause a 40% reduction in fuel economy. Can you believe that? A 40% REDUCTION.

Following the recommended service and maintenance schedules will save you fuel.

Using the recommended grade of motor oil will increase fuel economy by 1 to 2%.

Speeding and rapid acceleration reduces fuel economy anywhere from 5 to 33% depending on your individual driving habits.

Added weight that you don't need reduces fuel economy significantly. We're all guilty of this one!

Only using the dash air conditioner when it is absolutely necessary will save a significant amount of fuel.

Use regular gas unless your owner's manual specifies a higher octane gas. You're just throwing money away when you pay the extra money for premium fuel.

We may have no control over the prices at the pump, but as you can see we have total control over getting the most out of the fuel we put in our tank.

Happy Camping,

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Tip of the Month

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Do you know how many miles you get to a gallon of gas? Here's how to find out. Fill the fuel tank and write down the odometer reading. The next time you stop for gas fill the tank again. Now divide the miles you traveled between fill ups by the amount of gas you bought the second time you filled up. This is how many miles you are getting to a gallon of gas.

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Readers Favorite Recipes

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Last months winner sent this recipe.

CAMPFIRE POTATOES

5 medium potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced
1 medium onion, sliced

6 tbsps butter or margarine
1/3 cup shredded cheddar cheese
2 tbsps parsley
1 tbs. Worcestershire sauce
salt and pepper to taste
1/3 cup chicken broth

Place the potatoes and onion on a large piece of heavy-duty foil (about 20in. x 20in.); dot with butter. Combine cheese, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, salt and pepper; sprinkle over potatoes. Fold foil around potatoes and add the broth. Seal foil tightly. Grill, covered, over medium heat for 30-35 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Open foil carefully to allow the steam to escape. Serves 4-6 servings.

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New RVTV Program Holds Summer Contest
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I recently got some exciting news for our small company. RVTV, a television program in Canada that showcases RV destinations, products, lifestyle pieces, tech tips and safety advice contacted me. The Outdoor channel in the United States picked the show up for 13 episodes to begin airing in January 2005 and RVTV wants me to do the tech tip segments for the show.

They also announced their summer contests program. They are running three separate contests, a photo contest, story contest and RV video contest. The winners of these contests will receive some great prizes and some winners will be broadcast on RVTV. For contest guidelines and information go to www.rvtv.ca and click on RVTV Summer Contests!

Don't wait to long, the deadline for submissions is 31 August 2004!

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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>

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>

Is your RV a LEMON? Learn everything there is to know about lemon laws for RVs!!

<http://www.ohiolemonlaw.com/rvll-site/index.html#>

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 another success story about working full time while you roam the country in an RV.

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/chronicle/archive/2004/07/18/SPGGK7NK2F1.DTL>

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>

To search a database of recalls and for some other good safety related information go to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration website <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

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

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 thinking about buying a pop-up, travel trailer or 5th wheel get this video first. Don't make the same mistake thousands of other people have made. Learn all about weights, how to properly match the tow vehicle with the trailer, proper hitch work and how to tow and back the trailer.

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

If you're considering purchasing a towable RV read some pros and cons on each type before you do.

http://www.frommers.com/activities/road_trip/article.cfm?articleid=2197&destid=ROADTRIP

If you're considering purchasing a motorized RV read some pros and cons on each type before you do.

http://www.frommers.com/activities/road_trip/article.cfm?articleid=2196&destid=ROADTRIP

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>

If you like to travel by RV and haven't visited the National Parks of the Rockies you need to see this video. "Summer in the Parks...The Rockies by RV" A great place to spend a summer. Along with all the scenery and activities in the Parks, you'll also get information on driving routes,gateway cities, campgrounds and other useful information for planning your trip. And even if you have already "been there and done that" you would be hard pressed to find a better souvenir to re-live the experience or a better gift to give your spouse or some other RV enthusiast.

<http://www.rveducation101.com/travelvideos.htm> and scroll down to Summer in the Parks...The Rockies by RV

See who won Nevada tourism's "Your Koollest RV Moment" photo contest.

<http://www.ledger-dispatch.com/life/lifeview.asp?c=117815>

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

Are you getting the most performance from your RV or tow vehicle? Rowells Inc. offers high performance accessories and service for trucks and RV's. <http://www.rowells.com/>

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