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From: Newsletter-owner@rveducation101.com on behalf of RVED101@aol.com
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September 2004
The RV Education 101 Newsletter
Learning RVs the easy way www.rveducation101.com
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Issue # 7
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Quote of the Month

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I have enjoyed the summer Olympics immensely and thought this quote was appropriate. Congratulations to all the athletes.

"Adversity cause some men to break; others to break records."
-William A. Ward

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Editorial by Mark
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I don't know where to start, its been a busy month. We weathered Hurricane Charley, Tropical Storm Bonnie and Tropical Storm Gaston as they passed through our area, and we are keeping a close eye on Hurricane Frances that looks like a very strong storm system. We are further inland and we're much more fortunate than our neighbors to the South. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they begin the long process of recovery.

One advantage of owning an RV is to have it after one of these storms when the power goes out. We have our fully self-contained house on wheels with all the amenities of home and can offer our neighbors a hot cup of coffee and a home cooked meal. We always keep the gas tank and propane tank full during hurricane season!

On a brighter note we also took a short trip to the beach in the motor home, watched the summer Olympics and the Little League World Series. I am originally from Williamsport, Pennsylvania where the World Series are held each year and I enjoy it as much now as I did when I played in Little League a long, long time ago.

Well that's enough rambling, this months feature article will help answer the question; Do I need an Inverter?

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

Mark

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Feature Article **Do I Need an Inverter?**

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Your RV batteries produce power in Direct Current (DC) that run at low voltages. Power companies and AC generators produce sine wave Alternating Current (AC), which is used to operate 120-volt appliances and electronic equipment. An inverter takes 12-volt DC power from your RV batteries and electronically changes it to 120-volt AC.

If you've been RVing for awhile you have probably been in a situation where you needed an inverter at one time or another. Maybe it was when you were dry camping and didn't have access to electricity or even when you have a generator but its after quiet hours and you still want to watch a TV program. You don't want to buy a bigger inverter than you need, and you don't want one that's too small for how you plan to use it either.

If you only plan to use an inverter to run one or two small appliances you can probably get by with about a 300 watt inverter. Lets say you plan to use a 19-inch TV, a VCR, and an overhead light all at one time. You total all the wattage's, about 80 watts for the TV, 25 watts for the VCR, and 20 watts for the light. This is a total of 125 watts so a 300 watt inverter would be sufficient.

Other RVers use inverters to operate microwaves, coffee pots and other larger appliances which will require a much larger inverter. When you purchase an inverter the output capacity must be capable of operating the loads that will be placed on it. Inverters have two different capacity ratings, a continuous output rating and a surge capacity rating. Continuous output is the maximum wattage the inverter can output for a long time period. Surge capacity is the maximum wattage the inverter can output during initial start up. All appliances require more power when they initially start, compared to what they use when they are running. They can use as much as two or three times the amount to start that they use to run, so the starting power required for any appliance that you plan to use with the inverter must be within the surge capacity rating.

There are modified sine wave inverters and true sine wave inverters. I recommend a true sine wave inverter. They're more expensive, but they are capable of producing power as good as a power company and all appliances and electronic equipment will run the way they are intended to. Keep in mind that you are drawing the power from your RV batteries to operate the inverter and any power used has to be put back in through some type of effective charging system.

Happy Camping,

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Tip of the Month

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The life expectancy of your RV deep cycle batteries depend on you. How they're used, how well they're maintained, how they're discharged, how they're re-charged, and how they are stored all contribute to a batteries life span. One important factor to battery life is how deep the battery is cycled each time. A battery discharged to 50 % everyday will last twice as long as it would if it's cycled to 80%. The life expectancy also depends on how soon a discharged battery is recharged. The sooner it is recharged the better.

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Readers Favorite Recipes

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CHICKEN SCAMPI

2 tbsp. butter
 4 boneless chicken breast halves
 1 can cream of chicken soup
 2 tsp. lemon juice
 1/4 tsp garlic powder
 1/4 cup water
 4 cups hot cooked thin spaghetti

Heat butter in skillet. Add chicken and cook until browned.
 Add soup, water, lemon juice and garlic.
 Heat to a boil. Cover and cook over low heat 5 min. or until done.
 Serve with pasta.
 serves 4

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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 to the text "Click to enlarge photo" which is a mural painted on the back of their motor home.
- 3) Enlarge the photo and try to identify where the picture was taken. The 20th person to correctly identify where it was taken will win the contest. E-mail answer to info@rveducation101.com
- 4) We realize it is not easy to solve this mystery so here's a hint! Visit <http://www.rvliving.net/aboutcont.htm>
- 5) We'll tell you who won in next months newsletter and the winner will be notified right away.

GOOD LUCK!!!

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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 Classified Ads & Informative Links
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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. Starting this month and continuing in all future newsletters We will offer you a great product at a discounted price. This months product is the "Winterizing & Storing Your RV" video and DVD. This offer will expire on 09 September 2004 so order yours today. VHS only \$19.95 DVD only \$21.95. To receive this discount you must order through this link>>

https://more-information.org/Secure_rveducation101/specials.asp

AAA estimates that 34.1 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home this holiday, a 2.2 percent increase from last year's record-matching 33.4 million travelers. BE SAFE!!!

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>

Making Memories You Can Remember

Let's face it. We're all getting older. There are times when we can't remember what we had for lunch yesterday, let alone remember the name of the campground we stayed at two years ago on our way to some destination. Ever thought about keeping a travel journal? I find a journal to be very helpful and fun...

Read the full article >>

http://www.rvvacationplanner.com/article_display.php?article=6

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.

Travel Trailers provide temporary housing for Hurricane Charley's victims. Read more about it here >>

http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/florida/orl-lochomeless30083004aug30_0_3704665.story?coll=sfla-news-florida

Read some interesting RV statistics, like RVers spend billions of dollars in local communities.

http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/040830/dam007_1.html

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/>

We added three excellent new books to our RV Publications page this month. "RV Living in the 21st Century", "RV Traveling Tales Women's Journeys on the Open Road" and "Support Your RV Lifestyle An Insiders Guide to Working on the Road" For more information on what each book has to offer go to:

<http://rveducation101.com/detailpages/RVLiving.htm>

<http://rveducation101.com/detailpages/RVTRavelingTales.htm>

<http://rveducation101.com/detailpages/WorkingOnTheRoad.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 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 to the trailer, proper hitch work and how to tow and back the trailer.

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

Here are some good tips and information on financing an RV.

http://motortrend.com/features/news/112_news47/

Fleetwood RV gets a license agreement with NASCAR and will unveil all of its new NASCAR-licensed products during the October 16, 2004, race weekend at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, NC.

Read the full story>>

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=109&STORY=/www/story/08-21-2004/0002235732&EDATE=>

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>

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 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 relive 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

I'm usually open minded about most things, but this article irritates me. I apologize in advance if you disagree, but this is not RVing in my opinion and it's a long way from camping in general. They can have their high dollar resorts, I'll stick to exploring the backroads and all of the great little campgrounds America has to offer! Read the full story and e-mail me with your thoughts.

http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/index.php?page=business&story_id=083004d1_mansion

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/>

RV friendly highway signs sound like a good idea. Read the full article>>

<http://www.democratherald.com/articles/2004/08/27/news/oregon/state03.txt>

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

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

Do you own a pop-up or maybe 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