

Subject:

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How To Rent Your RV and Earn \$17,000 a Year

An RV is a fantastic way to vacation and do it your way. You control where you go, what you see, what and when you eat, and even where you sleep. But, you still pay for insurance, licensing, and taxes on your RV throughout the year, even if you use it for just a few days of the year. What if you could rent your RV and earn up to \$17,000 a year to not only pay for these costs, but earn you a second income? This idea is taking RV owners by storm.

Sharing Physical Assets Through a Peer-To-Peer Economy Unless you've lived under a rock for the past few years, you know about Uber, a taxi cab alternative. With Uber, an app on your smartphone hails a ride from private individuals who are using their own vehicles and are registered as Uber drivers. The Uber app uses time and distance to compare rates and gives you the best deal.

Uber is based on a new economic concept called collaborative consumption, a basis for peer-to-peer businesses such as Uber, in which the underlying theory is that by sharing a physical asset normally not in use, you boost the value of your piece of property. Conversely, when an asset, such as an RV, is not used, its value is wasted.

Considering your RV, each month it's sucking money from your hard-earned paycheck. It also drops in value with each month that it ages. So, while it sits idle, you're spending money on a piece of property, which is conversely losing its total valuation. You're in a lose-lose situation, because you're spending money on property that continually drops in valuation.

A primary concept behind collaborative consumption is that when you separate the value of an asset—in this case, your RV—from your immediate possession, money has a chance of changing hands and everyone comes out ahead. You make additional cash on an asset that was idle and someone else gets to enjoy your RV while they're on vacation. It's a plus-plus proposition.

This type of arrangement involves sharing. You share the use of your RV with someone, who in turn pays you to enjoy the comfortable transportation and the instant housing capability of your RV. Trust is required. You need to trust an entity to provide you with RV-rental candidates

who respect the value of your RV and handle it as if it was their own rig. There is a risk, so insurance is required for this idea to work correctly.

There Now is an Uber for RVs The Uber concept was adapted to lodging with Airbnb, except that instead of getting from one place to another using private people who are driving their vehicles, you rent an apartment, or home for a night or a week from a private property owner. Think of it as getting a hotel room from a private individual, instead of from a hotel company. So, if there is an Uber for transportation and an Airbnb for lodging, why isn't there a similar entity for RVs?

Actually, a peer-to-peer entity exists for RVs. The first such enterprise to create such a business was RVshare.com, which began offering RVs from North American private owners in August 2014. Because RVshare is the first to provide this service, it's also the most trusted and the largest peer-to-peer RV rental business in the world.

The sharing nature of a collaborative consumption peer-to-peer business model works well with RVs. According to the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association, over 9 million United States (U.S.) households owned an RV in 2015 and the average owner spent anywhere from \$5,000 for a tent trailer to \$500,000 for an A Class motorhome in order to use their RV for only three weeks a year. There are huge numbers of idle RVs that could earn their owners an income.

What Kind of Money Does an RV Produce? The income you earn depends on the type of RV you own and what area of the country you live in. For instance, average per day rental prices run from \$75 to \$175 for tent trailers, from \$125 to \$250 per day for Class C RVs, and from \$150 to over \$300 per day for Class A RVs.

RVShare takes a commission as low as 15 percent after money is earned on your rental. A secure payment system through RVShare processes rental payments and security deposits from renters, which moves funds directly into your bank account.

Now, imagine that instead of your Class C RV sitting in your driveway collecting leaves falling off trees, you rented it out when you weren't using it.

If you set your rental price at \$250 per day, a six-day rental would produce a gross total of \$1,500. Add several rental bookings up and in one year you could easily earn a net income of \$17,000. One Class A RV owner says he earned nearly \$68,000 in income for the year, which isn't bad for a piece of property that normally sits idle.

For almost all RV owners, the rental income pays for the RV's monthly finance payments. The average RV owner earns between \$10,000 and \$20,000 per year in extra income renting out their RV when they aren't using it.

The Bottom Line Modern RVs take the comfort of users' homes into a vacation setting. By sharing your RV with renters, you let them enjoy this unique vacation experience. Better yet, you make money on an asset that usually eats up a portion of your hard-earned income.

Instead of sitting in your driveway, aging, your RV is earning you additional revenue. Using the peer-to-peer enterprise, RVShare, is a win-win situation for all involved.

Who Is Buying RV's Today?

The following article sent in by Sally Haynes

There was a time when the word 'RV' was associated with older purchasers who, after a lifetime of work, finally retired and bought into an RV to see more of the country, and the world at large. However, research has shown that the RV industry is thriving (US News – RV Sales Booming) and the reason for this is that the market is getting younger with each passing year. According to the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA), the fastest-growing group of RV owners in 2013 belonged to the 35-44-year-old age group, which is just slightly less than the industry's largest group of owners (aged 45 to 54). In the 1980s, the average RV owner was aged 50; these days, that number is closer to 48, with further drops expected ([RVIA Faq's](#)) over the next few years.

The change has been spurred on by RV manufacturers themselves, who realize that to attract younger buyers ([CNBC – RV Buyers Getting Younger](#)), specific features must be given importance. Fitness, for instance, is an important consideration for those in their 30s and 40s and RVs today contain features such as bicycle and kayak racks, which are majorly tempting for those who typically head out to lakeside and forest destinations, to hone their fitness while getting up close to Nature.

Modern RV parks have also woken up to the demand for better fitness offerings, by offering clients a wide array of fitness installations, gyms, etc. Some parks offer guided walking activities in nearby natural areas, while others make life easier for clients via rental bikes, kayaks, and more. Indeed, in recent years, the concept of the luxury RV Resort has made RV life more tempting than ever for singletons and families with young children alike. If you are travelling to Texas, for instance, check out SunRV Resorts, an example of how these days, there is little difference between a stay at an RV resort, and a good three- or four-star hotel. Top RV resorts have shuffleboard courts, outdoor pools, games rooms, tennis and pickleball courts, and more. Also lined up are a host of activities, including dancing, parties, activities for kids, etc. RVs are therefore an ideal choice for families with small kids who wish to have fun while their kids are entertained with a host of led activities and games.

RV Parks are also catering their services and facilities to different demographics. Again in Texas, for instance, the Fort Amarillo RV Resort is built to please the discerning spa goer, with an indoor heated pool, hot tub, fitness room, and a stream-fed fishing pond promising to take stress levels back to zero.

The RV purchaser these days is also someone who longs for the plentiful Health Benefits of Nature, which have been verified by many recent studies. Forest settings, it seems, will lower levels of harmful stress hormones, but also help everyone from those recovering from cancer, to children with ADHD. RVs, then, appeal to health-conscious purchasers who are beginning to forego traditional city sightseeing breaks in favor of relaxing breaks in the many natural paradises that pepper America. Current studies show that the average American child spends as little as 30 minutes in unstructured outdoor play, and over seven hours each day in front of an electrical device. An RV holiday is the ideal antidote for our over-reliance on technology.

Reduced costs are another reasons why RVs are becoming more attractive to buyers of all ages, across the globe. In the UK, RV sales are hitting record numbers, and a number of collateral markets have sprung up to cater to the burgeoning demand. Take the RV insurance sector – in the UK, Specific Insurance Coverage is catered to RVs of all types and sizes, covering any damage which may occur to the vehicle itself, as well as emergencies, campsites and vacation coverage, etc. Moreover, RV manufacturers now offer a wide range of vehicles catering to all budget types, so that cost is a lesser issue than it was even a decade ago. Banks are also more willing to finance an RV purchase, so that even couples in their late 20s are buying into the RV trend.

The RV industry has enjoyed solid growth, with figures indicating that the industry has enjoyed an 11 percent gain year on year, and a 116 percent gain since its recession low, in 2009. Experience has shown that as the RV industries expands, the demand from younger buyers continues to grow, meaning that the nature of RV vehicles, resorts and associated services, will probably be changing over the next few years, in more ways than we can imagine.

BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT IN YOUR RV

Summer is for camping. But when the mercury starts to rise, you want to make sure you and your RV are ready for the heat. With a little preventative maintenance and a few hot weather camping tricks, you'll be ready for those dog days of summer in no time!

The RV air conditioner is your first line of defense against the blazing summer heat. RV air conditioners are designed to cool the warm air going into the air conditioner by 16-22 degrees when the conditioned air comes out the ducts. Keeping the AC filters clean will help your RV air conditioner achieve peak performance. In most cases, you can wash the filters in warm soapy water, rinse thoroughly and allow them to dry before re-installing. Another option is to clean the filters with a small hand-held vacuum cleaner. I recommend keeping a new set of filters on hand just in case the old ones have seen better days. If you don't think your AC is

cooling properly, the condenser and evaporator coils might need a good cleaning or some other routine maintenance performed. Before you leave on your next camping trip, have the air conditioner checked out by a qualified RV service facility.

Even if the air conditioner is performing at maximum efficiency, the hot outside temperatures can put an added strain on it and your RV refrigerator. To help alleviate this, try to find a shady site to park the RV. Shade alone will allow the AC unit and refrigerator to work more efficiently. When you arrive at the campground, ask for a campsite with trees.

Another heat reducer for your RV is your patio and window awnings. Awnings help keep the RV cool and protect the interior from direct sunlight. In addition to using the awnings to combat the sun, you can use your window blinds, curtains or day/night shades to help keep the sun out and the cool air inside.

I mentioned that direct sunlight affects the RV refrigerator's efficiency a moment ago. Parking in the shade will help, but to really protect the refrigerator you can install a thermostatically controlled vent fan in the back of the refrigerator. These small fans help draft the hot air away from the refrigerator. If you are mechanically inclined, these fans are fairly easy to install, or you can have your local RV dealer install one for you. Either way, it's worth it. The fan removes the hot air trapped behind the refrigerator, improving the performance by up to 40%. Another refrigerator efficiency tip is to leave room between the foods in the refrigerator. In other words, do not over pack the refrigerator. RV refrigerators need air to circulate throughout the box to cool efficiently.

Another ingredient to beating the summer heat is good ventilation in the RV. Proper ventilation helps prevent excess heat from building up in your RV. I recommend installing vent covers, like Maxx Air vents, over the roof vents for added ventilation. They are inexpensive, easy to install and they let the fresh air in, even when it's raining. You can install one at each end of the RV to help promote cross ventilation.

Getting the RV cool is one thing, but keeping it cool is another. To help keep the inside of the RV cool throughout the day, start and run the the AC early in the morning when it is cooler outside, try to avoid opening the door as much as possible and cook outside rather than inside whenever possible.

Happy Summer Camping,
Mark J. Polk

Guide to Hitches for a Fifth Wheel Trailer

The truck you use for towing will determine what hitch to buy for your fifth wheel trailer. It's more comfortable to tow a trailer when you have the right kind of hitch. Manufacturers have different styles for different hitches but some basic functions are available. They rate different hitches for specific gross vehicle weight rating. You have to take different considerations when choosing a hitch. These include the road and type of truck you are driving.

1. When you need to tow using a short bed truck and are going to pull a 5th Wheel trailer you need to decide if you need a slider hitch. If you have a new trailer or a used one that was manufactured in the past few of years you probably don't need a slider hitch. The newer trailers are designed for short bed trucks. The trailers have extended kingpins and rounded front trailer corners and are rated that they will turn at 88 degrees. The sliding hitch when pulling is placed in the forward position and mounted over the axle's rear. When backing the trailer, the hitch gets slid back to a rearmost position. When the hitch is slid back, it prevents the trailer's nose from hitting the truck cab when turning sharply. This is due to the shortness of the truck bed.
2. Purchase a gooseneck adaptable hitch in case you are towing a gooseneck trailer. If you use an adapter to change your 5th wheel king pin to a Gooseneck, you should be carefully in deciding this option. Most 5th Wheel trailer are not deigned to work with this adapter because it adds additional stress to the substructure of the 5th Wheel. Some trailer manufacturer stated the warranty may be voided with type of adapter.

3. If you intend to only use the truck for towing the trailer, you can use standard fifth wheel hitches. You can also mount the hitch without the bed if it will not be of use. Attach the hitch to the two bars that have been mounted permanently in the truck bed. You can remove the hitch when not in use but not the bars. Some of the newer trucks have the factory installed Reese Underbed system and the 5th wheel hitches can be mounted on the adapter that connects to the Underbed system. You can also purchase an aftermarket Underbed system from Reese. There are different adapters for the Ford factory, Dodge, and aftermarket systems. Currently there is not an adapter available for the GMC/Chevy trucks.
4. If the road you are to tow your fifth wheel trailer is bumpy or rocky, or you travel a lot use an air ride hitch. The [air ride hitch](#) smooths out the ride by providing an air shock. This will reduce stress to the hitch and truck and also the pressure on your vehicle. The hitch is a bit expensive, but makes towing so much easier. You mount it just like a standard hitch on your truck.

Make sure you get the best price for your hitch too. To make sure you get variety in style and types, visit different stores or online sites.

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Loose Ends

Written by Travis Mai

Although I've been towing for many years, I have never been in any form of towing accident or true emergency. I have had plenty of flats and lost cargo, but never had any equipment malfunctions. Working as a technical support representative for CURT Mfg., I've heard a few horror stories and most of them resulted from user error.

-Pins, Clips & Chains

The most common problems arise when a person doesn't check over their towing setup. The absence of [safety chains](#), proper lighting, and routine maintenance are often the common denominators. People tend to lose hitch pins and clips when removing or storing their ball mounts. This can be dangerous because many times people will use a random bolt or other insufficient means of securing their ball mount. This can result in the trailer pulling the [ball mount](#) out of the receiver while towing. Even with safety chains the potential for serious damage is there. If this were to happen the tongue of the trailer could slam into the ground turning your camper into a three ton terror of the highway ripping the trailer hitch from the frame of your vehicle. This has even been known to happen without a trailers weight tugging on the ball mount as this unlucky Oregon man found.

-Trailer Lighting

Although rare, accidents can occur due to poor trailer lighting. If you are towing a boat or utility trailer without proper lighting, you could be rear ended by someone not paying attention. In this instance it's quite possible that your insurance company would have to pay for the damage if the other driver can prove that your lighting was not working. This would then place at least a percentage of the fault on you resulting in fines or increased insurance rates.

-Coupler & Structural Trailer Maintenance

I believe that the lack of routine maintenance is the greatest likely cause of towing related accidents. For example, failure to grease your trailer's coupler over the winter can cause a "false hook-up" which happens when the coupler's lever will go all the way down but not tighten over the ball potentially causing the trailer to come off during towing. Also if you have a steel trailer, fight rust by painting at least a coat of primer every couple of years. Another maintenance related problem that can arise is failure to check for tire wear or dry rot. A tire blow out can cause uncontrollable sway sending even an experienced driver into the ditch or into oncoming traffic.

The scariest of all towing related accidents is when your equipment fails, because no amount of maintenance can prepare for these situations. A few weeks ago I spoke with an intriguing couple on our Live Chat Service who had experienced this first hand. Should have gone with CURT! The word "towing" is synonymous with fun. We all love the many different activities and life styles that come with it. Whether you're a weekend boating enthusiast or a hardcore off-roader trouble can be around any corner.

So keep safe, secure your ball mount, and know your limits!

Contact Us

East Coast Partners Grp
1041 Old Blush Road
Celebration, Florida | 34747
Tel. 321-939-2132
Fax. 866-201-3391
www.airsafehitches.com

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