

*Air-Hitch Advisor*

**AIR SAFE**



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## **RV Camping - Protecting Your Equipment**

RV camping... you've spent the day out sightseeing or on the lake fishing only to discover when you return your camper has been compromised. The storage compartment where you locked up your valuable generator is open, the generator gone, and you are left wondering how someone got into your camper without tearing up the rig? Perhaps you stop at a busy Interstate highway rest area, and when you return from walking the dog or using the restroom, you see your storage compartment open and wonder how you forgot to lock it, only to discover your compressor is gone. RV theft is a common occurrence, and knowing that hundreds of thousands of other RVers (as well as the bad guys) have a key to your RV may make you think twice about the stuff you stick in those outside RV storage compartments.

### **CH 751 Lock & Key Sets - Most RVs Use Them**

Most RV manufacturers have been using the same security lock and key set for years. CH751 keyed locks are used on the outside storage compartments of nearly every moderately and low priced RV available in the USA.

From a manufacturing and sales standpoint, using a standardized lock and key makes sense. Keeping track of hundreds of thousands of unique keys needed for each RV manufactured would be difficult, and few if any RV dealers inform their customers that the locks on their RV storage compartments are the same as every other RV on the lot. From pop up campers to class A motorhomes, the CH751 lock and key have been installed on every type RV.

### **Replacement Locks - Easy RV Security Upgrade**

Replacement locks are available to help protect valuables stored in your RVs outside compartments that currently have CH 751 keyed locks. Some locks offer combination activation so you don't need a key at all, while others use thousands of differing unique keys for their locks.

[www.rv-camping.org](http://www.rv-camping.org) prefers the key locks as we can open a storage bin in the dark without needing a flashlight as would be needed for the combination locks.

# Items of Interest

Create a Natural Mosquito Repellent - No one wants to be bitten by a mosquito; the bites itch and the bugs may carry disease. When outdoors, crush the leaves of an elderberry bush and rub the liquid against your skin.

Pizza in a Pie Iron Create a new pizza tradition. Take a pie iron and use it to create pizzas and even deserts over the fire. Pie irons can provide even heating and allow for an open fire crisp to be added to your pizza. Don't forget the pie fillings and toppings for desert pizzas.

Pre-make Food and Vacuum Seal It Save time at the camp ground and pre-make food at home. Once the meal is prepared, vacuum seal it to protect it and ensure flavor until use. Open the packets with either a knife or scissors and prepare over the fire. You can also pre-wrap with foil.

Store small amounts of spice. Save space, but still have a variety of spices on hand by finding smaller, easier to pack containers. Try tic-tac boxes, They'll save space and are incredibly easy to pour with the built in lid. Also, try packing spices in straws, old film canisters, and pill bottles.

Throw bunches of spices directly onto the coals Speaking of adding flavor, try throwing bunches of rosemary, thyme, or other herbs directly onto the coals. Just be sure to wait till the briquettes have started to turn to ash colored and you'll have flavorful meat and vegetables.

Use Old Laundry Detergent jugs as make shift hand washing stations Just because you're outside doesn't mean you can't have clean, sanitary hands. Use an old laundry detergent container, preferably the ones with the spigot. Fill with water, and have some soap and towels nearby.

Use Greasy Foods if Kindling Is Wet Nothing is more important when spending time outside than a fire. It will keep you warm, as well as provide a light source and cooking source. If you bring kindling and it gets wet because of a rainstorm, open the nearest bag of greasy chips. A little cooking oil on a paper towel is also a great fire starter.

Pack Bandanas Pack bandanas in your backpack. These items can be used for various things, including creating cooling devices. They can even be used for first aid if needed. They are lightweight, so bring as many as needed to keep all members of the group comfortable.

Use a Clothes Pillow Even when sleeping outdoors, pillows can help create a comfortable environment. Instead of bringing a traditional pillow, pack a pillow case and some extra clothing, including some thick sweatshirts. When it is time for bed, fill the pillow case with the extra clothes. If you have a sleeping bag that is stored within a bag, it can substitute for the pillow case.

Amplify sound with a cup If you have your smart phone (or better yet, an old phone or iPod) with you, put the player into a cup to amplify the sound. You won't have to worry about remembering the speaker or all the extra cords. It won't sound as good, but you'll have less to pack.

Store Toilet Paper in an old coffee container Keep your toilet paper dry and easily accessible with this trick. Simply cut a slip into an empty coffee container and pull the toilet paper through. Easy enough to pick up and carry when you're on the go and you don't want to run out!

Wrap Meat in Cabbage Leaves While Cooking When making the shopping list for camp, don't forget to put cabbage on it. Cabbage can be used as a moist and tasty vessel for cooking your meat over a fire. If you want even faster cooking, wrap the meat and cabbage in foil and toss it right in the flame.

Buy Time Travel constrains the mind from multi-tasking, and causes the

entire inner world to slow down. This allows for observation, reflection, and general thoughts not usually acquired in the day-to-day routine of the workforce. Traveling buys the traveler the life experiences that others may never receive or learn from; much less have the time to think about.

**Find the Self** Most people do not realize the reality of their career until it is too late to make any changes. An important exercise in career choice is to know the self. Travel permits an independence and identification process that inevitably leads to self-knowledge and awareness. Upon return, a traveler is much better prepared to tackle life decisions.

**Break Routine** Once a career has started, it is easy to get sucked into the cycle of a routine. Days blur together in a changeless streak of commutes, coffee breaks, and boring lunches. Disrupting this cycle recharges the mind, heart, and soul. Many people require this type of jolt to get himself or herself off of perpetual autopilot.

**Poverty Is Not the Worst** Taking time off from work or quitting a job altogether to travel is a daunting task. However, everyone has been their own version of impoverished before and probably will be again before they die. It is much easier to be poor in a new and interesting place than poor on the living room couch. Travel will also enhance a resume and is a good measure of self-reliance for prospective employers.

**Education** Education is in books and lecture halls, but it is also available on the road. Lessons learned through life experiences tend to influence an individual's perspective and values to a greater depth than any other form of learning. Travel changes a person forever, while book learning is easily forgotten.

**Stories** Sitting in a cube typing and answering the phone never makes as good of a story as running with the bulls, hiking a volcano, or attempting to order from a real French patisserie. Even the private stories that are never shared and are only memories will follow a wanderer and offer enjoyment for years to come.

**Personal Growth** Individuals gain personal growth from travel mainly through the shifting perspective. Travel teaches the roamer their place in the world and how each person connects to all the others in a million small ways. A contradictory lesson of human significance and insignificance is not acquired or studied in a life centered on the self.

**Work Waits** In America's consumer driven society it may difficult to find a job but there is always work. In the big picture, a company will not crumble and fall because one person was not there, a law degree is still a law degree after a year, and the big office upstairs will still be standing.

## **A Dog Vacation That Helps Rescue Dogs!**

Imagine your dog running through gorgeous green fields, exploring nose-down as fast as possible, catching all the smells of the earth - being the happiest dog alive!

That's what happens in the countryside of [Glen Highland Farm's Canine Country Getaway](#) when vacation season is underway. Nestled in the rolling hills of upstate NY, canines and humans delight in discovering an off-leash paradise designed just for them to enjoy. But, this unique dog lover's vacation does good, too!

As you and your dog frolic through 175 acres of countryside, you can feel great knowing that your camp fee is helping dogs that are a part of the

year-round rescue program at Glen Highland Farm (GHF). Your vacation dollars go directly to the dogs! Sweet Border Collie Rescue (<http://www.glenhighlandfarm.com/ghfdogs.htm>) is on premises in a separate section of Glen Highland Farm, housing up to 40 dogs waiting for their forever homes. The rescue effort has led to the successful rehoming of over 1600 Border Collies to date. This misunderstood and high-energy breed endlessly lands in rescue. The beautiful little puppy never outgrows the need for a job, no matter what age and not everyone has the lifestyle that suits the mentality of an active working dog so the rescue program at GHF is always full.

The beauty of the Canine Country Getaway is that all the spots that you and your dog love, were created by the rescue dogs! They use the trails and fields for hiking too so every spot truly was designed by dogs FOR dogs! The land at Glen Highland Farm was once home to the Iroquois Indians who lived near the beautiful Butternut Creek, a curvy stream filled with trout, abundant wildlife, endangered butterflies and birds. The Creek winds through 175 acres of rolling meadows and winding trails and a 2-acre spring-fed pond, all perfect surroundings for you to enjoy a great vacation at the same time your dog enjoys an outdoor adventure.

The Canine Country Getaway has a wide selection of RV's to rent whatever your personal preference or budget for the ultimate in convenience, privacy and luxurious comfort. Got your own RV? Load up the dogs and come on over! We have RV hookup sites for you to rent. There are other lodging choices including spacious luxury tent camping and well-appointed cabins & cottages. The lodging rental fees cover not just accommodations, but also your enjoyment of the property that includes full use of the dining pavilion, pantry, bathroom & shower facilities, rest areas, agility field equipment, the Farm's trails, the winding creek, the pond and acres of fields and meadows. We provide the perfect backdrop for hiking, swimming and wading, playing fetch, bird watching, relaxing, napping, and more. Plus, there are bike routes for back-road country biking with gorgeous vistas of open land. And, for those who love fishing, there is a spring fed pond filled with trout and bass as part of our catch and release fishing at GHF.

With 175 acres to roam, you and your dog will feel as though you have the Farm all to your own to explore. It's a very unique vacation experience to have so much land and so few people because dogs can enjoy it all off-leash! Even when the Getaway is fully booked, it's very private with a maximum of 5 -18 adult guests. Guests travel with their dog(s) from as far away as Canada, California and Florida! Some guests make the Glen Highland Farm their destination while others pass through while traveling. Read what a few guests have had to say:

For the past three years, we've gladly driven 10 hours to spend a few days of pure bliss at Glen Highland Farm's Canine Country Getaway. We enjoy cooking over a wood fire, roasting marshmallows, exploring the fields, and relaxing in hammocks next to the bubbling stream. The comfortable cabins and hot showers turn this into a luxury vacation. For the dogs... it's paradise. At Glen Highland Farm, our dogs can just "be". They can run, swim, and sleep to their hearts' content. It's not just a vacation with our dogs, it's a vacation FOR our dogs. Bless you, for giving us the chance to see what pure joy looks like on a dog's face. – Danica

Every year I always make sure I go to the farm for my birthday. It is my gift to myself and of course my dogs. They absolutely without a doubt, love love love it here. I hate to leave when the time comes! This year, as with all others was just great. It is wonderful to see your dogs just be dogs and have the time of their lives. -- Vanessa

## January 2015 RV Shipments

**Source: RVIA**

Total RV shipments to retailers in January improved to 28,494 units, 11.9% greater than this same month last year and the largest January total in 9 years. Fueled by growth in all vehicle categories the January total represented a seasonally adjusted annualized rate of more than 400,000 units, the highest such total since the spring of 2006.

Shipments this January were 6.5% greater than a strong final month last year, holding promise of further gains ahead. Improved consumer confidence buoyed by an improved general economy, increasing consumer discretionary income and low interest rates have all been credited with providing an enhanced environment for RV sales.

Towable RV shipments continue to increase, growing to 24,762 units in January, 3.8% ahead of the previous month and 11.5% better than this same month one year ago. Motorhomes were up even more, gaining 14.2% on shipments of 3,732 units and representing 13% of all RV shipments this month.

The Index of Consumer Sentiment rose for the sixth consecutive month in January, reaching a reading of 98.1, the highest reading of this indicator in more than a decade. Gains were measured across all income groups as consumers saw improved trends for income and employment prospects ahead.

According to Dr. Richard Curtin, director of these consumer surveys, "Consumers judged prospects for the national economy as the best in a decade, with half of all consumers expecting the expansion to continue for another five years."

**Towable RVs**

Wholesale shipments of all towable RVs were reported at 24,762 units in January, up 11.5% above this same month last year. On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, all towable RVs were at a rate of 353,000 units in January 2015, the highest level in nearly a decade.

This was the strongest January total for conventional travel trailers since 2006 and the strongest 5th wheel start since 2008. Conventional travel trailers were up 12.6% to 18,006 while fifth wheel travel trailers grew by 9.1% over January 2014.

**Motorhomes**

All motorhome shipments to retailers were reported at 3,732 units, a gain of 14.2% over this same month one year ago. Seasonally adjusted, January's motorhome total represented an annualized rate of more than 50,000 units.

Both type A and type C motorhomes reported strong gains this month with type B motorhomes only slightly ahead of this month last year. Together these totals reflect a continuation of the growth trends reported last year.

## Living Together 24-7 in an RV - How Do You Do It?

Do you think you and your spouse or partner can live together 24 hours a day, seven days a week in 240 square feet of space - more or less? Put that way, it seems daunting, yet thousands do so happily in an recreational vehicle or RV!

When you consider, that for many of these couples, one or both have been working and out of the house for years until right before they take off

together in their RV, it means two adjustments. Not only do they adjust to living in a tiny space, they are also adjusting to living together constantly. Either one can be a big adjustment. Adjusting to both together can strain the relationship. A little knowledge and planning can ease the way into all this togetherness.

### **Tips for Living Together in an RV**

At first, it may seem like you are on vacation. And, you are. That is familiar and you have past behavior to draw on. As the days move on, it may feel like too much togetherness. How do you cope? Here are some suggestions from other RVers. By the way, most caution two things:

You and your spouse must like each other. Both you and your spouse must want to live this lifestyle, even if only for a certain period of time.

If you have those two things going for you, the rest can be worked out.

### **Here are 10 techniques you can use:**

1. **Own space:** Have your own bit of space, however tiny. You might stake out a certain place to sit in the evenings or a place to work on crafts or hobbies. Claim a cupboard or bin underneath for the things you like to do: read, carve, bead, knit. Do not go into your spouse's cupboard without permission. George and I each have our computer spots and work to remember not to interrupt the other without asking permission. Even though we are only a few feet apart, we have a sense of separateness.
2. **A retreat:** The bedroom or perhaps a corner can be a "retreat" for whomever is needing a little "space." If one of you heads to the bedroom, you can say something to the other, or the other should ask permission to enter. Using the bedroom as personal space shouldn't interfere with the other's bedtime, however.
3. **Different bedtimes:** One spouse may already stay up a little later or wake up earlier. This gives the other a little "alone" time.
4. **Marriage saver:** Whoever watches TV alone should use headphones. Listening to music should be the same unless both people want to listen. The fact that one partner has on headphones gives both a sense of privacy. I call headphones "marriage savers!"
5. **Solo activities:** Do some activities by yourself. You may be traveling in close quarters but that doesn't mean you have to be joined at the hip and do everything together. Walking, biking, walking the dog, shopping, rig maintenance can be done alone. I enjoy plays and George does not. If there is a local theater production, I'll attend by myself.
6. **"Jaimie day":** Substitute your name for Jaimie and go off for the day on your own. I learned this from Kay Peterson, one of the founders of the Escapees RV Club. When she was feeling like she needed some space, she would tell her husband she needed a "Kay day." She might go to the library or walk around a mall - something on her own. It didn't need to involve spending money, just some time away. Invariably these days were renewing and she had things to share with her husband.
7. **Get involved:** If you are staying at an RV park or resort, check to see if there are any activities going on in the park or community that you might have an interest in. Invite your neighbors over to sit with a cup of coffee or an afternoon drink and snack. If you'll be there several days, you could organize a get-together to work on a hobby like writing, beading or quilting. Men can meet other men by raising the hood of their truck or motorhome!
8. **Find friends:** Join an RV club or interest group within it so you can have individual friends as well as couples who are friends. Working or volunteering on the road can give you time doing your own thing plus the chance to interact with other people.

9. Recognize stress: Recognize when you are getting stressed from traveling. Packing up and changing locations every day can be stressful. Schedule some days to putter around and for rest and relaxation.
10. Communication skills: Improve your communication skills. Here are two techniques. One is to argue by the numbers. When you have a difference of opinion, state how important it is on a scale of one to ten. Often an item is very important to one and not that important to the other so that makes the decision. If you both have it ranked high, then you need to negotiate. but many decisions become non-issues. The other is to designate one day a week for arguing - say Tuesday. And, you can't write it down! On Tuesday you can discuss any of the issues from the week that you still remember!

Most couples we talk to are closer to each other and are better friends for having decided to RV together. It can, however, end the marriage. Either that, or the couple will get off the road and go back to a more conventional lifestyle where they have more physical space and their own activities. One may even get a job to get away from their spouse.

If you respect each other and recognize your partner's need - and your own - for personal physical and psychological space now and then, you can create an even better relationship and enjoy this lifestyle. Keep in mind that your partner may need more or less space than you do. Each needs to take responsibility for themselves and find ways to meet this need. And, remember not to take your partner's genuine need as a personal affront to you or your relationship.

**About the Author:** Jaimie Hall Bruzenak is an RV Lifestyle Expert. She has been RVing since 1992. She and her late husband weren't retired so RVed on a budget and worked on the road. She is the author of [Support Your RV Lifestyle! An Insider's Guide to Working on the Road](#) and other RV books. See <http://www.RVLifestyleExperts.com> for more information about the RV lifestyle. RV Traveling Tales: Women's Journeys on the Open Road, co-edited by the author, offers several contributions on communicating skills for RVers.

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# RV Accident - What to do Before You Have One

by Fran Crawford

To some it may seem pointless to make advance preparations for an accident in your motorhome, travel trailer, or fifth wheel or another vehicle. An accident you may never have. You have always been a careful driver and are even more cautious when driving your motorhome or pulling your towable trailer. Even if you never need the preparations or 'what-to-do' information it is better to have it and not need it than to need it and not be prepared.

Travel trailers, fifth wheels, and motorhomes are 'special' vehicles, and therefore seem to be more newsworthy than regular, family or business automobiles. Should a family vehicle have an accident it would normally not make national news, but RV accidents are often reported on national television news programs. So we know there are such things as RV accidents even though no one ever expects to be involved in one.

It's a good idea to insure your motorhome, travel trailer, or fifth wheel with a company that specializes in RV insurance. And you should know what your RV insurance company advises as to handling an accident and what information they would like you to gather.

## **An accident, no matter how slight, can be upsetting and frustrating.**

You could easily forget key information if you are not ready to jot it down. Keep a small writing pad and a pencil (or pen if you check it often and replace it if it dries out) in a zip type plastic bag in your glove box. You might also put your vehicle registration and insurance information in the bag as the zip would keep everything watertight. Make sure your insurance information contains your policy number and a number to call to report accidents.

Keep a list of people and companies you might need to call in an emergency should also be in the package. If you don't travel with your camera handy ...beside you or in your bag... you should put one of those disposable cameras in your 'be prepared' bag in your glove compartment. Pictures go a long way to showing facts that might be overlooked in the confusion of the moment.

## **What to do If you have an RVing Accident.**

Make a quick assessment of your people, your RV and tow/towed vehicle then contact the police. 911 on most cell phones will connect with first responders in the area of the closest cell tower. If possible check with those in all other involved vehicles to establish need for emergency equipment... ambulances, fire engines... to report to police when you contact them.

If you are not too shaken up or injured, gather information from the other driver(s)... Name, address, phone number, insurance company, policy number, driver & vehicle license numbers and jot down anything else you might think important about what has happened... that you could forget.

Do not admit liability or discuss the cause or fault with others involved. That is your insurance company's job. Call your insurance company right away or as soon as possible to report the accident and the information you have. If your RV is drivable the police will let you know when you may leave the scene.

To remain calm when your wonderful RV has been in an accident is a lot to ask, but remind yourself that it has already happened and despite

frustration there are things that need to be done.

One more thing. First responders... firefighters, EMTs, police... suggested a good idea that would help them immensely in emergencies. If you take your cell phone and put in the numbers of people to call In Case of Emergency and then put ICE where you would put the name, they can easily look up who to call for you. ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. I have my cell phone ICEd.

## Full Time RVing in a Motorhome, Travel Trailer or Fifth Wheel and Working on the Road

by Steven Fletcher:

Earning a living while full time RVing depends a lot on your lifestyle and how much money you need to get along... if you have some pension, have a lot of bills etc. There are as many ways working while RVing as there are full time RVers and as many ways to work while full timing as there are full timers who work. Everyone's health and abilities and interests are unique and that's what determines the kind of work they do.

To get an idea of the jobs available for RVers visit [Workamper News](#) and [Work For RVers and Campers](#). You will find lots of listings for jobs at both sites. Most of these jobs are in campgrounds and RV parks as managers and maintenance. Registration, bathroom cleaning, mini-mart, and grounds keeping. But other kinds of jobs are also listed. Also check out the [Coolworks](#) web site. It's not specifically for RVers but does have jobs for and of interest to RVers.

If you have construction related skills you will have no problem finding work. The park we called home-base for many years always has several construction workers. Most professional skills will allow you to full time.

There is also seasonal work... that's what Fran is doing as I write this. She works at the local peach cannery dispatching trucks that haul the peaches into the cannery. The job lasts about three months... July thru September... and pays enough to get work done on the truck and RV etc and put a little in savings. She gets to draw unemployment most of the rest of the year and that, along with a little social security, gets us by. If we manage to pick up a few dollars with an odd job or two that's all the better.

I know of a couple who ran off and joined the circus... she tutored the circus children. I don't remember what the husband did if anything.

I knew a young man who was a computer programmer and telecommuted to his job from an RV park in Lake Havasu Arizona.

There is a couple who manage mini-storage lots temporarily until the company can find permanent managers.

Kay Seliskar does professional seminars all over the US. If they can't drive to the next seminar she flies there. Tom, her husband then often drives on to the next place they want to visit and she flies back to the nearest airport. Tom does photography and is developing a business.

The bottom line is it is easy to find work, or make work, but you might have to be flexible about what you are willing to do.

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