

Subject:

December 2016 Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

Air-Hitch Advisor

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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Take time during the rush of the holidays to enjoy the things in life that really matter. Take in the serene moments spent with friends and loved ones, and may the wonder of Christmas surround you throughout the holiday season.

East Coast Partners Grp - AirSafe Hitches

AIR SAFETM



RV Trends to Watch for in 2017

DECEMBER 16, 2016

Outdoor recreation is booming these days, and RV camping is a big part of it. In fact, RVing hasn't been this popular since before the recession in the early 2000s. People of all backgrounds and ages are getting away to the outdoors, and the coming year is poised to be the Year of RV Camping.

Want a peek into the year ahead for the camping lifestyle? Here are the RV trends to watch for in 2017.

RV Enthusiasts RVing is no longer just for retired snowbirds. More and more adults in their 20s and 30s are discovering the world of RV camping. And no wonder! Today it's easier than ever to go RVing. Telecommuting to work is commonplace, gasoline and RV prices are low, simple living is a thing now, and millennials love escaping to the outdoors. Expect to see more young people enjoying the RV lifestyle in 2017.

Emerging RV Tech It's no secret that we Americans are in love with our digital devices, so it's not surprising that RV tech is becoming more advanced too. Some newer RVs are coming equipped with a "smart home" system that lets you use a touchscreen to control your RV environment, like drawing the awnings and dimming the lights.

RVs and RV campgrounds are also integrating smartphone technology, so you can use GPS systems or your favorite camping apps just about anywhere. 2017 will see more campground sites that offer online booking systems, Wi-Fi, and satellite TV. So this year, you'll be able to get away from it all while still keeping in touch.

Outdoor Gear

Are you a camping gear geek? Then keep your eyes open for the drones. Gear Junkie predicts that one of the outdoor trends for 2017 is taking your drone camping to follow and film your activities. Mountable digital

cameras like GoPro and Nikon's Key Mission 360 will find their way to more camping adventures this year as well.

It might not be a surprise to learn that hammocks are still trending up. 2017 will bring more hammock upgrades, like inflatable hammocks and superlight hammocks.

Outdoor footwear is a big deal now, too—especially for hiking. Look for lowcut, lightweight trail boots that are designed for all day-comfort.

Destinations In 2016, the National Park Service celebrated its 100th anniversary, and outdoor enthusiasts around the nation came out like never before to enjoy the parks. In fact, the national parks have never been more popular. Expect more of the same this year.

But the NPS isn't the only set of parks that are popular with RV owners. The KOA system is seeing a resurgence as well. With double-digit increases in occupancy rates over the last few years, more RV owners are discovering how great it can be to stay at the KOA.

RV Models and Designs RV sales have been climbing over the past few years, and the trend isn't slowing down. And as the motorhome industry has become more popular, RV designs have become more interesting—and this year is no exception. Here's what you can find in 2017:

- RVs are becoming more aerodynamic and they're using lighter materials. So not only will they look sleeker, they'll be more fuel-efficient too.
- RVs, and especially tow vehicles, are becoming smaller. Teardrop trailers are more popular than ever—and they're also being designed more innovatively. Check out [Airstream's Basecamp!](#)
- Your camping experience will be more comfortable. Manufacturers are producing some of the most enjoyable living spaces ever in 2017—both living and sleeping spaces will be more luxurious.

This year is the year of the RV. With more and more people hitting the road in motorhomes and discovering outdoor living away from suburbia, RV trends in 2017 are more exciting than ever.

This is the year to take advantage of the latest RV trends—see what's on our lot right now, or discover your roadmap to the RV dream life.

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How to Cope with Dust when Camping in the Desert

By Rene Agredano - The Full Timing Nomad

Desert dry camping is one of those things that RVers either enjoy or despise. If you're not sure you want to give it a whirl this snowbird season, these tips might help you decide.

Coping with Desert Dry Camping Dust

I've gone desert dry camping in many great spots throughout the Southwest. My husband and I enjoy it because desert dry camping is usually:

Affordable. It's often free.

Beautiful. Colorful desert sunsets are unforgettable.

Calming. You leave city sounds and lights far behind.

But like life itself, there's a big trade off to dry camping in Arizona, California and New Mexico, and the great winter snowbird destinations in the southwest: the dust! In fact, as I write this a major windstorm is rocking our fifth wheel. We're camped near the Salton Sea and a dust cloud is coming toward us. Like it or not, a fine layer of grit will coat everything when this is over. To combat the inevitable filth, here's how I'll cope during and after the storm.

You can't do anything about the weather but you can prepare for it. Also, keeping dust under control during a wind storm is one of the critical dry camping tips new RVers must know (as well as veterans). Here's what I do when I know we're in for a doozy.

Activate Anti-Dust Measures If you've ever traveled to the Southwest in March, you know that desert dry camping dust is a way of life during spring. To cope, I follow the simple preventive measures that The Burning Man Festival RVers recommend. First, cover your RV window air vents with painter's tape. It's not attractive but it's effective for keeping out the dust.

Brace for What's to Come The deafening roar of constant wind is so irritating. When you live in a RV, wind noise is loud and scary. Since there's nothing we can do about it anyways, I just brace myself for the oncoming storm and try not to worry.

Begin Wiping Surfaces When the storm begins, a damp rag is all it takes to start removing dust. It's a never-ending ordeal during heavy, ongoing winds but it keeps my mind off the storm.

Close Windows This is easy if you're hooked up to shore power. You can always run your air conditioner if things get too hot. But desert dry camping when it's warm is another matter

because closing windows can make you sweat. To keep our home cool I darken the living area with heavy day/night RV shades.

Cover Floor Vents We have magnetic strips over the heater vents on our floors. They prevent pet fur from falling into the ducts, and also help to minimize dust in our living area.

Once during a bad desert dust storm while dry camping we were trapped inside for three days. On the fourth morning, the wind was still blowing enough to be a nuisance but not dangerous, so we moved to a less windy camp site.

Like it or not, desert dry camping dust is one of the trade-offs of a more freewheeling lifestyle. Whether you go sun seeking in winter and stay in one place all season, or drive on dusty roads in summer, your things will get dusty, dirty and beat-up. I've found that it's best to just accept the inevitable and focus instead on all of the awesome adventures that await you on perfectly windless days.

The Million Dollar Highway is One Route that's Worth a Visit

By Dave Helgeson - Adventures in RVing

Known as one of the top 10 scenic highways in the United States, [The Million Dollar Highway](#) is a must-do when traveling through the Colorado San Juan Mountains. However, RVers need to be aware that this is a mountainous road. It has steep grades, switchbacks, and lack of guardrails. Also, RVers should know the highway has little to no shoulder in the most inopportune places.

The "official" Million Dollar Highway is a 12-mile stretch of US Hwy 550 that starts south of Ouray. Although [RVers shouldn't pass up Ouray](#), the route traverses through the Uncompahgre Gorge, and the ghost town of Ironton to the summit of 11,018 ft at Red Mountain Pass.

The highway was originally carved out of the mountains in 1883 by Russian immigrant Otto Mears. Although the route was as a toll road to transport ore from mines in Silverton and Ironton to the railroad in Ouray, the origin of the highway is uncertain. There are several stories, however. These include it cost \$1 million per mile to construct. Other stories entail that it was purchased for a million dollars, and that the dirt for fill contains \$1 million in gold ore. While beautiful, locals are fond of saying, "you'd have to pay me \$1 million to drive it in the snow."

Although the 12-mile stretch built by Mears is the official Million Dollar Highway, many sources will list the entire 25-mile stretch of Hwy 550 as such due to the million-dollar scenery.

To admire the views, perhaps stop at the Yankee Girl Mine Overlook that has educational interpretive panels about the mining history of the Ironton area. You will find the overlook at N37° 54.890 W107° 42.130 just north of Red Mountain Pass.

There are many sites and attractions to see in this region. So, perhaps discover [Yankee Boy Basin](#) or experience [a unique adventure in Durango](#).

The Million Dollar Highway Traveling north from Silverton to Ouray puts your vehicle on the mountain side of the road, descending through Uncompahgre Gorge. Also, use lower gears to avoid overheating your brakes. Traveling south from Ouray to Silverton perches your rig on the precipitous edge of the highway. It then ascends through Uncompahgre Gorge without guardrails or shoulders. If the person in the passenger seat has a fear of heights maybe forgo traveling in this direction.

RVing the Million Dollar Highway is just another adventure in RVing!

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