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Sentimental Journey

by Valerie Law
February 1, 2016

In the post-World War II years, movies and the media often portrayed returning GIs with their girlfriends or young wives, and Trailer Life was no exception. The November 1948 cover of Western Trailer Life (“Western” was dropped the following year) showcases a University of Southern California letterman holding hands with a smiling coed. Parked between them and the Los Angeles Coliseum is a 23-foot Columbia “trailer coach.” The then-state-of-the-art trailer, equipped with an electric refrigerator and water heater, sold for “a moderate price that is attracting collegians and young folks,” reads the caption.

With the end of rationing and a booming economy, couples were living the American dream with a home, a car and, if they were lucky, a travel trailer. Manufacturers that provided temporary military housing during the war had returned to building trailers and were busy bringing out innovations. The November 1948 issue promotes the virtues of Masonite exteriors and dual butane cylinders, and introduces trailer turn signals from Bargman, a company that still supplies light fixtures and wiring to the RV industry. Bathtubs and flush toilets also appeared in the late '40s, and heaters that ran on bottled gas were replacing oil-fueled models. As trailers became more sophisticated, so did Trailer Life. Page layouts show the influence of Life and Look, popular magazines in the '40s known for their photo essays. In a November 1948 article on making a sofa bed, a series of black-and-white photos shows a woman in pajamas demonstrating each step. Another page pictures a “young miss” who could double for the teenage Shirley Temple displaying the proper way to light a kerosene wall heater.

Editor Milt Hill understood that pretty girls and celebrities sell magazines. His November 1948 column drops the names of luminaries who “have taken to trailering,” including Cornelius Vanderbilt, Leopold Stokowski and his wife, Gloria (another Vanderbilt), and Prince Peter and Princess Irene of Greece and Denmark. Ads in the November 1948 issue have come a long way from those in the 1941 debut, particularly Airstream’s center spread, which helped establish the now-iconic trailer’s image. Other trailer

brands that advertised in the issue didn't stand the test of time, including sound-alikes Travelite, Travelon and Traveleze, although the latter had a long run from 1931 to 1990. The Columbia Trailer Company, manufacturer of the retro-cool two-tone rig on the cover, went on to build trailers for another 10 years.

Coollest RV Accessories You Won't Want to Camp Without

FEBRUARY 23, 2016 6:37 AM

Looking for the coolest RV accessories and gadgets to make your camping trips even better? We've got the hottest accessories every RVer needs.

RV GPS device

For RV owners, planning a trip involves more than just finding the quickest route to your destination and having money for tolls and gas. You've also got bridge heights and weight restrictions to consider, and you may find yourself looking for campgrounds when you didn't expect to.

The TripMaker RVND 7710 GPS has you covered. With a giant 7-inch display, you can mount the device anywhere on your dash and easily see the screen. Routing directions include legal height and weight restrictions, and you can discover more than 14 million points of interest.

The TripMaker even includes RVer tools, like checklists, mileage calculations, and maintenance logs.

Mobile WiFi Hotspot

If you're getting the most out of your motorhome, you're camping off the beaten path—which means you're not connected to the internet. For a lot of campers, that's a deal breaker. But you can stay connected with a mobile WiFi hotspot. There are other options, but if you want the best bang for your buck with less trouble and frustration, a hotspot is the way to go. AT&T and Verizon are far and away the best carriers.

Oxygenics Shower Head

Let's face it—your RV's bathroom isn't going to be featured on HGTV anytime soon. But that doesn't mean you can't enjoy your shower every morning. All you need is the right shower head.

The Oxygenics BodySpa shower kit gives you the best shower experience possible. By infusing oxygen into the stream, it adds pressure to the water flow for an invigorating shower that'll make your RV's modest bathroom feel like a luxurious en suite.

Wireless Weather Station

If you're like most RVers, you spend a lot of time outdoors when you're camping. And there's nothing worse than getting caught mid-hike in a nasty thunderstorm. That's why we love wireless weather stations like the Ambient Advanced Weather Station. The device displays indoor and outdoor temperature and humidity, outdoor dew point, and barometric

pressure. Forecast icons tell you at a glance what to expect for the day, and you can track barometric trends.

GoPro Camera

GoPro has become the go-to camera for capturing your outdoor adventures. GoPro cameras let you capture beautiful photos of your vacation, take time lapse videos of the night sky, or record HD videos of your hiking excursion. The cameras are light and versatile, and GoPro offers a range of accessories to outfit your trip. Wherever you go, don't go camping without one!

Panda Mini Washing Machine

Doing the laundry was never this cool. Occupying a mere 4 cubic feet, this tiny and extremely portable washing machine makes laundry on the road easy and convenient. It's simple to operate and handles your dirtiest clothes.

RV Tire Pressure Monitor System

There's nothing that can ruin a camping trip quicker than a blowout. Not only are they inconvenient and expensive, they're dangerous. With an RV tire pressure monitor system, you'll always know the health of your tires.

Pro tip! Be sure your TPMS monitors enough channels—if you've got a 6-wheel motorhome and a towed vehicle, get a monitor with 10 channels to cover all of your vehicles.

Solar Charger Kit

If you're boondocking or dry camping, your house battery will start to drain, even if you don't use it. A solar kit lets you charge your RV's batteries, and some can even power your other electronics. There are several options available, from a trickle charger to a four-panel, 1000-watt system—make sure you get the type that suits your needs best.

Outdoor Entertainment Center

Want to spend more time outside? Add a slide-out kitchen, bar, or flat-screen TV entertainment center to the side of your RV! It's a great way to meet the neighbors.

Used 25K AirSafe Omni-Directional 5th Wheel

Used 25K Omni-Directional 5th Wheel Hitch for Sale

The used 25K 5th Wheel with the Holland/Binkley head is in excellent condition. The hitch is about 6 years old and is the current model hitch. Hitch has a Ford Under bed adapter option.

Call or reply to this email if you are interested.

(321) 939-2132 or (866) 448-2475

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and



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AirSafe Adapter for Ford and aftermarket Reese Underbed system rated at 25K GTW and only 1 3/4" high.

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Receiver Quick Change Bracket – easily raise or lower your ball mount by pulling 2 Clip Pins.

Class 8 Receiver that will connect to the Tote bracket system on Sport Chassis Truck Box.

Full-time RV Tips – Mail, Domicile, Insurance, Saving Money!

The full-time RV lifestyle is absolutely fantastic, and we've been loving our nomadic life since 2007. Many people who are new to the idea of RVing full-time wonder how full-timers get their mail or file their taxes or what kind of insurance they buy. What the heck do they use as a home address (known in legalese as a "domicile") and where do they register to vote? And how do they save money on RV park and campground costs?

This page, the third part in our series on full-time RVing, reveals all that we have learned about these topics in our many years on the road.

SELECTING A DOMICILE: TAXES, MAIL FORWARDING & VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Once you run away in an RV, you lose all the familiar pillars that supported your life before: mail no longer arrives daily at your doorstep, the washer and dryer are no longer just steps from the kitchen, the bank is no longer on a familiar corner. With a little flexibility all these things are easy to handle in a traveling lifestyle.

Selecting A Home State – Taxes and Vehicle Registration Rates

When you trade your home address to live on the road in an RV, you need to decide how to receive mail and what to call “home” on your tax returns. Some of the full-time RVers we meet retained the state of residence where they were living before they hit the road. Most of them still own property in that state, and they often have a relative or friend who forwards their mail. However, most full-time RVers change their state of residence, or *domicile*, and there are valid reasons for doing so, including tax, insurance and vehicle registration rates.

States Without A State Income Tax

Not every state has a state income tax. **South**

Dakota, Florida and Texas are among the states that have no state income tax, and they are the most popular states for full-time travelers.

They are also fairly lenient for establishing residency, and they have many companies that offer mail forwarding and vehicle registration services.

State Sales Tax Rates

The sales tax rates also vary from state to state. The sales tax in one particular state may not seem important for someone who is going to be traveling all over the country, but the sales tax in your home state can actually be very important. If you buy a new vehicle — car, truck, trailer or motorhome — during your travels, you will register it in your home state and pay that state’s sales tax in the process. Many full-time RVers upgrade either their RV, tow vehicle or “toad” at some point. **We have purchased a truck and two trailers** during our years on the road. The sales tax rates in the most popular states for full-time travelers are:

South Dakota 4%

Florida 6%

Texas 6.25%

Other Considerations

Vehicle registration and insurance, cell phone taxes and health insurance rates also vary between those states.

South Dakota is popular among full-time travelers because it boasts no inheritance tax, no property tax and no vehicle inspections. We chose South Dakota as our domicile right before we hit the road as newbie full-time RVers in 2007.

There are other states that have either no income tax and/or no sales tax. However, those states make it a little more difficult to establish residency, leaving full-time travelers in a bind, and they have fewer companies offering mail forwarding and vehicle registration services.

The Impact of Non-Residents

The advantage to these states and communities is that they receive many thousands of dollars of sales taxes, insurance premiums and registration fees from their traveling “residents” that wouldn’t otherwise come their way.

At the same time, this non-resident residency impacts the local politics of the cities and towns where the biggest mail forwarding companies do business because of the huge number of absentee voters. These voters may vote like each other — full-time RVers have a lot in common with each other — but they don’t necessarily vote like the other residents of their adopted hometowns.

Selecting A Mail Forwarding Company — Your Home Address

In addition to finding a state that makes financial sense for your lifestyle needs, finding the right mail forwarding company is very important. This company will give you your actual legal mailing address for everything you do, from banking to borrowing to filing income taxes to voting.

South Dakota, Texas and Florida are all home to major mail forwarding services that will help you become a legal resident, help you register and insure your vehicles and help you become a registered voter. Your postal mail will be sent to your address at the mail forwarding service. They will then sent it to you, wherever you are. You will have to show up in person in your new home state to get your driver's license. The terms for renewing a driver's license vary from state to state.

If the company goes out of business (and we've heard of that happening), not only might you lose some mail, but you are left without a legal address. Of course, it is easy enough to "move" when you live on the road, so you won't be homeless for long. But you will have to make a lot of phone calls and online address changes wherever your mailing address is recorded.

"Virtual Mail" Service

Most of the bigger mail forwarding services now offer some kind of "virtual" service where you can see a scanned image of each envelope as soon as it arrives and then request to have the envelope opened and the documents inside scanned as well, with options to do something special if the document needs to reach you physically right away.

We have been enjoying the Virtual Mail Service at **Dakota Post** since they implemented it, and we have found it is really handy to know what is waiting for us in the mail before we have it shipped to us.

Mail Forwarding Service Providers

In **South Dakota**, one of the largest mail forwarding services is **Dakota Post** out of Sioux Falls. We chose to work with them when we started and have been very happy. We call them once a month and tell them where to send the mail. Other mail forwarding providers in South Dakota are **My Dakota Address, America's Mailbox, Your Best Address,** and **Escapees**.

In **Texas**, **Escapees** has the largest mail forwarding service in the country. They receive a semi tractor-trailer load of mail everyday. We saw this truck come in everyday while visiting the main Escapees Headquarters campus in Livingston, Texas, and we toured their mail sorting facility. We were absolutely floored by the operation (our blog post about it is here: **Rainbow's End – Escapees RV Club Headquarters in Livingston Texas**). Another Texas mail forwarding service is **Texas Home Base**.

In **Florida**, cruising sailors have relied on **St. Brendan's Isle** mail forwarding for ages. To my knowledge, they were the first (by at least 5 years) to provide virtual mail where you could see a scanned image of your mail in an email message. This kind of service is now provided by Dakota Post and Escapees and others as well. Other mail forwarding services in Florida are **Nato Mail, Escapees, Good Sam Club** and **My RV Mail**.

How Do You Get Your Mail Forwarded To You?

Usually we have the mail sent to a post office, addressed to us via "**General Delivery**." We get the zip code for the post office online from USPS. If we are in transit, we try to guess what town we might be traveling through in a few days. The post office holds all General Delivery mail for 30 days, so there is plenty of time to locate the post office and retrieve our box.

The format for a General Delivery address is:

Your Name
General Delivery
City, State Zip

When selecting a post office, be sure they offer General Delivery services (you can find out at the USPS link). Virtually all full service post offices do,

but some of the "Approved postal providers" that they list don't. When you go to get your box o' mail, they will ask for your ID before handing it to you.

You can also have your mail sent to an RV park where you are staying or to a friend's house. If mail is going to a friend, address it:

Your Name
c/o Your Friend's Name
Street
City, State Zip

We find it is far preferable, in all mail and shipping matters, to select a smaller, quieter rural post office instead of a big chaotic urban one.

How Do You Have Packages Shipped To You?

Because we don't like to plan more than a day in advance, we have small items sent to our South Dakota mailing address. Sure, we pay double shipping sometimes (first to get it to SD and then to get it to us, wherever we are), but that's a small price to pay to be **on the road full-time**, happy, free and independent.

We have larger packages shipped directly to us, wherever we are. This takes some planning and strategizing, as explained below.

Can FedEx and UPS Packages Be Shipped to General Delivery Post Office Addresses?

UPS and FedEx packages are most easily shipped to real street addresses (RV Parks or friends) or to post office box holders at a post office or to a shipping store like FedEx/Kinko's or a UPS store or Mailboxes Etc. If you are staying somewhere for the season, you can get a PO box at a mailing services store.

If you don't have a real street address at the moment (i.e., you are **boondocking**), the easiest way to go is to have packages shipped by the US Postal Service to General Delivery at a post office. Doing it this way, the package stays within the US postal system the entire time from shipping to delivery.

*We have at least two dozen shipping addresses listed in our **Amazon account**. LOL!! Reading through those addresses is like reading a brief history of our RV travels, as the addresses date back to our first year on the road!!*

If the shipper can't or won't use the Postal Service, then they can ship via a dedicated shipping company like UPS or FedEx to a post office General Delivery address. However, this is more complicated because the package is handled by both the Postal Service and the shipping company.

The Postal Service coordinates shipping and deliveries with UPS and FedEx, but they are also direct competitors with them, so things can get muddy and there are no strict rules and regulations that we know of.

We've had the Postmasters at several different Post Offices give us totally conflicting information. We pressed two different Postmasters to call their district supervisors to get the details clarified, and even then we got conflicting information. So it seems the Postal Service is still working out its relationships with UPS and FedEx as far as General Deliveries go.

Postal Service Fees For Packages Shipped By UPS and FedEx

Sometimes packages shipped by UPS or FedEx to a General Delivery address at a post office are handed to the recipient free of charge. However, sometimes the Postal Service charges the recipient a fee at the pickup counter before handing over the package. I know this seems odd, because FedEx or UPS carried the package all the way across the country while the Postal Service is merely carrying it from the mail room to the front counter. But it happens.

We have received many Post Office General Delivery packages shipped by both UPS and FedEx without being charged a penny by the Postal Service. However, we have received just as many packages where we were charged a fee of as much as \$12, depending on the size of the package, when we went to the post office window to pick it up. There is no way of knowing what the fee will be ahead of time, as it is out of the hands of the company that shipped the package and is entirely up to the local Post Office that delivers it to you via General Delivery.

Shipping to a Warehouse Distribution Center

To get around this, you can look up the nearest warehouse distribution center for either FedEx or UPS and have the package shipped to that distribution center with "Hold for Pickup" written on it. You will not be charged a fee at pickup. However, you will need to track the package and you will have 5 days to pick up the package before it is returned to the sender.

Delivery to a Shipping/Mail Services Store

If the distribution center is too hard to get to, you can opt to have the package shipped to a UPS Store or FedEx/Kinko's store or other shipping store like MailBoxes Etc. The store will likely charge you a fee, even if it is a UPS store and you are shipping via UPS or is a FedEx/Kinko's and you are shipping via FedEx. We've seen the fee range from a flat fee of \$3 whenever you pick it up to \$7 per day, however these stores are more likely to hold the package longer than 5 days. So, check with the store before having something shipped to them to get the details and verify how they want the package to be addressed.

Case History – UPS Goes Above And Beyond!

This all may sound complicated, but sometimes it's as smooth as silk.

One time we had a package shipped via UPS to a post office General Delivery address in a small town. We tracked the package, and noticed its status was "On the truck and out for delivery." This seemed to imply that the package was on its way to the post office, so we called the UPS distribution center to find out at what time of day the truck might get to the post office so we could drive in to get it.

The UPS distribution center was small, and they said only the driver would know the exact time. To our utter astonishment, they gave us the UPS driver's cell phone number. So we called him!! He was very friendly and said he could drive over to where our RV was parked and hand deliver the package in about 10 minutes. We were both totally shocked when he pulled alongside our rig and handed our package to Mark — at no charge. Now how's that for service?!

Vehicle Registration

We have registered four vehicles with **Dakota Post**: two trucks and **two trailers**. Each time they have emailed us a few forms and worked with us on the phone to fill them out properly. They have then submitted the forms to the registry of motor vehicles and we have received our license plates in the mail a few weeks later.

Each year we get new tags for our plates. We handle this via the phone or online with a credit card or check, and the tags come within a week or so. Easy!

Banking

Online banking has made full-time travel much easier than it was years ago. Almost everything can be done with plastic in person and then by paying the credit card bill online. For cash needs, you can get "cash over" on a debit card at the supermarket without any fees rather than worrying about finding a branch of your bank in some obscure town or paying extra to get money from an ATM machine. Buy a pack of gum for a buck and get \$100 over. If you need to deposit a check, get the mailing address of your bank branch and mail them a short explanatory note, a deposit slip and the

check, endorsed "For deposit only."

If you will be RVing in Canada or Mexico a lot, get checking and credit card accounts from **Capital One** to avoid international currency exchange fees (Capital One doesn't charge anything whereas most US banks charge a 3% fee on every transaction made outside the US).

FULL-TIME RV INSURANCE

These are notes from my own recent calls to 7 different insurance agents representing a variety of providers. I got multiple quotes from **National General** (Good Sam Club), **Nationwide** (Allied), **National Interstate** and **Progressive**.

Some agents represented the same companies as each other, but getting an apples-to-apples comparison between agents and providers proved extremely difficult and required repeated phone calls and lots of persistence. The differences are all in the fine print, which no one likes to read.

How Much Is That RV Worth?

New insurance policies for late model RVs can cover the RV for its **Replacement Value**. That is, within the first 2 to 5 or so model years, depending on the insurer, if the RV is destroyed, you can shop for a new one of similar type and features. In the next model year after the insurer's time limit for Replacement Value coverage has ended, your coverage will change to **Actual Cash Value** which is the current market value of the year, make and model of RV.

If your RV is covered for Actual Cash Value, at the time of a claim, the insurance adjuster will determine what that current value of it is using the **NADA guide** or similar pricing tool.

Liability Coverage

When you give up your home owner's policy, you give up a lot of nice blanket coverages that come with it, like liability coverage and the loss of personal belongings. Quite a few companies offer "**Full-time RV insurance**" that includes liability coverage similar to what would typically come with a home insurance policy. Coverage for personal belongings is a whole different story, however. See below.

Personal Effects

The biggest problem for full-timers is covering their personal belongings. Anything that was not originally sold with the RV and is not attached (imagine turning the RV upside down to find out what's "not attached"), is considered "Personal Effects," and most RV policies include some kind of coverage for Personal Effects. However, from my research, this coverage is woefully inadequate if you have anything beyond basic camping gear in your rig.

The value of Personal Effects coverage available generally ranges from \$2,000 (National Interstate) to \$20,000 (National General), and the full amount is reimbursed in the event of the RV's total loss. In the event of theft, there has to be proof of forcible entry and a police report must be filed (the time limits for filing the report vary). In case you disagree with the value the adjuster assigns to an item at the time of a claim, it helps to have dated photos of each item and receipts.

In the event that there is a partial loss, like theft of just a few items, there are caps on what is covered. With National General, if the theft occurs inside your RV, then the cap is 25% of the total value of all the Personal Effects coverage that you carry. For example, if you have a \$20,000 Personal Effects policy, then this means there is a cap of \$4,000 per claim. If the theft occurs outside the RV but on your campsite, then the coverage is 10% of the total value of all the Personal Effects coverage that you carry. Again, for \$20,000 total coverage, this means a cap of \$2,000 per claim. There is no coverage if the theft occurs away from the RV (i.e., your bike is stolen from the bike rack at the coffee shop in town).

In the case of Nationwide (Allied), there is a four page description of how personal effects are covered and the capping methodology used, including more than a page of listed exclusions. Some highlights: There's a cap of \$500 per individual item. Groups of similar types of items are capped differently, for instance items grouped as "camera equipment" or "fishing gear" or "musical instruments" are capped at \$1,000 per group while items grouped as "computer equipment," "tools" and "silverware" are capped at \$3,000 per group.

On the other hand, the "outside the RV" coverage with Nationwide is more generous than National General at 25% of the total Personal Effects coverage rather than 10%.

All of these reimbursements may be subject to your overall policy deductible or may have a specially applied Personal Effects deductible (for Nationwide it is \$250).

Getting Personal Effects coverage above and beyond the \$20,000 limit generally requires scheduling each item and giving it a value. Progressive requires each item to be appraised ahead of time and submitted as part of the application process for securing an insurance policy. Nationwide doesn't require appraisals but asks for receipts showing prices paid and date of purchase so they can determine the depreciated value. I'm not sure how either handles the "outside the RV" scenario if the base coverage is higher than \$20,000.

So, as you can see, you won't get much for your stuff unless the whole RV and everything in it goes up in smoke, even if your policy says that \$20,000 of personal belongings is covered.

We had National Interstate at first and were very happy with their speedy payment in covering a very large claim. However, their Personal Effects coverage just isn't adequate, so we have National General at the moment and are still shopping.

How About Renter's Insurance?

Renter's Insurance provides tenants with a policy that is much like a homeowner's policy, covering all the items in the home whether the loss occurs in the home or somewhere else. These can be set up with small deductibles (like \$50) that make sense for a \$2,000 loss. However, you must be renting a stationary home and you must provide the address of the place you are renting. Unfortunately, your mail forwarding address or a relative's address don't count, and using an address where you are not living constitutes insurance fraud.

Awww... We Don't Have Nuthin' — We're Livin' Cheap!

You may look around at your stuff and say, "Bah... I don't have anything of real value here." But imagine trying to replace all your clothes (winter and summer), shoes (running, walking, hiking, dress shoes, slippers, sandals, boots), jackets, sweaters, blankets, pillows, sheets, towels, everything in the bathroom vanity, food in the fridge as well as pantry, dishes, pots and pans, kitchen appliances, CDs, DVDs, BBQ, portable generator, tools in the basement, spare parts, musical instruments, laptops, printers, cameras, smartphones, bicycles, kayaks, books, etc.

It adds up quick! It is worth it to take five minutes with a calculator and get a figure, just so you know.

With any luck, as the full-time RV lifestyle grows in popularity, insurance companies will come up with a way for full-time RVers to insure all their worldly belongings beyond just their vehicles and to provide useful replacement coverage for it.

How To Insure Specialty Items Like Camera Gear and Bikes

If you have expensive camera gear or very high end bicycles, it is possible to insure them with specialty insurance. Cameras can be covered through

a photography membership in **NANPA**. Bikes can be covered through **Big Ring Insurance**.

Upgrades to the RV

If you install **solar power**, a **big battery bank**, or upgrade your **converter** or **inverter** or have any kind of add-on that is permanently attached to the rig, and you have an older rig that you are insuring for Actual Cash Value, that upgrade will be part of the Actual Cash Value figure that the insurance adjuster will be calculating at the time of a claim. If you are insuring for Replacement Value, check with your agent how best to cover major upgrades.

Photograph the equipment you have upgraded, locate the receipts, and ask your agent if they want those things at the time you apply for insurance or if they should be supplied at the time of a claim. They all vary!

RV Extended Warranties We carry a warranty policy on our trailer now that the original manufacturer's warranty is no longer in effect. This four year warranty paid for itself — and left us \$786 ahead — in the first 12 months that we had it.

*Unexpectedly, we needed to **replace our trailer axle** which paid for 2/3 of the four year policy. A month later, we had to **replace our RV refrigerator** which left us \$786 AHEAD! As of this writing, we are on our way to **a third major repair** that will be completed at the NuWa Service Center where our fifth wheel trailer was manufactured, in Chanute, Kansas.*

The beauty of an is that it picks up where a regular insurance policy leaves off. Our entire trailer is covered for all failures other than regular wear and tear. This includes having the frame crack or slides fail to come in and out or having the air conditioner or refrigerator die (which it did). These could be very expensive repairs, and it is worth the peace of mind to carry an RV Extended Warranty policy rather than risk a large, unexpected repair expense.

Internet and Phone – Staying Connected On The Road We do not have a cell phone, but getting internet on the road is pretty easy. We have written an article on how we get internet access and live without a phone here: **RV Mobile Internet Access – A Minimalist Approach**

Laundry

Many RV parks have laundry facilities on-site, and some full-timers purchase RVs equipped with a washer and dryer. We like to use the local laundromat in town. We can do four, five or six loads of laundry in two hours flat. We use the biggest front loading washers in the laundromat we can find because they are usually the best ones both for washing and for spinning dry. Laundromats can be a great place to meet people and learn about an area. In **Flagstaff, Arizona**, if you want to meet Navajo Indians, go to the local laundromat, preferably on a Saturday when it's busy!

However, if you want the place to yourself, go to the laundromat midweek around noon, well after the daily morning rush and before the after work crowd arrives.

Laundry facilities in RV parks can be very crowded and usually have just a few smaller top loading machines. Most parks have only a few machines and when a park is full they can get very busy and it can be hard to get a machine.

Washers and dryers installed in RVs are really small, and it is common to do a load a day to keep up. However, you can do it "in the background" while doing other things around the rig, the way you used to in your old conventional life back home!

Hair

Along with all the other changes when you start a life in an RV on the road, you'll find yourself adjusting to having a new hair stylist — and sometimes

a new hair style — every time you get your hair cut. There are Great Clips and Super Cuts everywhere, and Walmart has their in-store salons.

One of the best ways we've found to get to know a small town is to get a haircut from the local barber. We have many special memories from haircuts in towns from **Kansasto Utah** to **North Carolina** to **Mexico's Pacific Coast**.

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