

Subject: May Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

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Newsletter

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Just some thoughts!!



Some national parks have long waiting lists for camping reservations. When you have to wait a year to sleep next to a tree, something is wrong.

If you don't do anything stupid when you're young, you won't remember something funny when you're old...

Canoe plus waterfall equals I don't go camping anymore.

Light a campfire and everyone's a storyteller.

Indiana RV Industry Set to Have Big Year

The recreational vehicle industry centered in northern Indiana continues its record pace of shipping new units.

April 26, 2018

ELKHART, Ind. (AP) — The recreational vehicle industry centered in northern Indiana continues its record pace of shipping new units.

The Recreation Vehicle Industry Association counted more than 51,600 unit shipments last month, an 8.5 percent increase from last year, The South Bend Tribune reported . March was

the best month on record since the association began tracking monthly totals.

Total shipments have increased more than 13 percent compared to last year, which saw a record high of 504,000 RV shipments.

The organization predicts RV shipments could reach 540,000 by the year's end, said Kevin Broom, a spokesman for the association.

"I think the biggest thing we've seen is the strengthening of trends we saw coming out of the recession," Broom said. "RVs are getting smaller, lighter, more fuel-efficient and aerodynamic. And as millennials are entering the market, there's been some changing styles."

Travel trailers are still the most popular product, with more than 35,000 shipped in March.

"That's a trend that goes back a while now," Broom said. "There's no question that travel trailers are the dominant product. In terms of market share, they're 85 to 90 percent."

Spring months tend to have the highest shipment rates and that seasonal pattern seems to be continuing, Broom said.

Several thousand people work at RV-related factories in and around northern Indiana's Elkhart County, producing most of the country's RVs, according to the association.

The strong performance of the RV industry has given Elkhart County the state's lowest unemployment rate at 2.5 percent, a major turnaround from when that rate hit nearly 19 percent in early 2009 when the recession caused RV sales to crash.

The area is hosting the Spring Hall of Fame RV Show at the RV/MH Hall of Fame & Museum in Elkhart this weekend.

Top 10 RV Destinations 2018

If you live or travel in an RV, you have far more freedom than other travelers. You can take any road you want, go as fast or slow as you want (within legal limits of course), spend the night just about anywhere you want and more. This freedom allows you to go and see virtually everything but deciding what to see can be a challenge. Here is a list of awesome destinations that you and other RVers can go see. Let us know in the comment section which ones you have been to and if your favorite spot is not listed, let us know what it is.

1. [Yellowstone National Park](#) Oh my gosh! Yellowstone, the flagship of the National Park system! See Old Faithful, amazing wildlife, stunning geological formations and much, much more. Lots of great campgrounds in and around the park but you may want to make reservations if during the peak season.
2. [Grand Canyon National Park](#) It is what it is... a chasm 277 miles long and up to 18 miles wide. It was formed by the Colorado River which flows through the canyon. Check for campgrounds or boondocking locations in the area of the park you plan to visit.
3. [Redwood National Park](#) Most visitors know Redwood National and State Parks as home to the world's tallest trees, icons that inspire visions of mist-laden primeval forests bordering crystal-clear streams. But did you know that the parks also protect vast prairies, oak woodlands, and nearly 40 miles of wild coastline, all of which support a rich mosaic of wildlife diversity and cultural traditions? Definitely a must see!
4. [Crater Lake National Park](#) No place else on earth combines a deep, pure lake, so blue in color; sheer surrounding cliffs, almost two thousand feet high; two picturesque islands; and a violent volcanic past. It is a place of immeasurable beauty.
5. [Colonial Williamsburg](#) The Historic Area of Colonial Williamsburg stretches over 301 acres, and includes 88 original 18th-century structures. Hundreds of houses,

shops and public outbuildings are reconstructed on their original foundations. Some buildings are open to the public, while others are private residences and administrative offices. A flag at a building's entrance indicates that the site is open.

6. [Blue Ridge Parkway](#) Outstanding scenery and recreational opportunities make the Blue Ridge Parkway one of the most visited sections of the National Park System. Split-rail fences, old farmsteads, mountain meadows and scenic overlooks with endless vistas make the Blue Ridge Parkway a popular attraction. The Parkway incorporates numerous campgrounds, picnic areas and trails.
7. [Mount Rushmore National Memorial](#) Mount Rushmore National Memorial is a sculpture carved into the granite face of Mount Rushmore near Keystone, South Dakota, in the United States. Mount Rushmore features 60-foot sculptures of the heads of former United States presidents (in order from left to right) George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. The entire memorial covers 1,278.45 acres and is 5,725 feet above sea level.
8. [Arches National Park](#) Arches National Park preserves over 2,000 natural sandstone arches, like the world-famous Delicate Arch, as well as many other unusual rock formations. In some areas, the forces of nature have exposed millions of years of geologic history. The extraordinary features of the park create a landscape of contrasting colors, landforms and textures that is unlike any other in the world.
9. [Rapid City, South Dakota](#) There are so many things to see and do in and around Rapid City, it would take several paragraphs to mention them. The obvious things are Badlands National Park, Mount Rushmore, Dinosaur Park, Bear Country USA, Custer State Park, Devils Tower, Wind Cave National Park and more! If you want to see a whole lot and only go one place, Rapid City, SD is the destination you should set.
10. [Fall Foliage Tour](#)

Every autumn, nature puts on a brilliant show of color in many parts of the United States. From bright yellows to vibrant reds, the leaves transform, showing their rich and vibrant hues. From the Northeast United States, to the Southeast and Midwest United States, the foliage season begins in early September in the northern regions and ends in southern locations in late October or early November. Every year, people flock to these areas to take in the fall foliage, to catch a glimpse of nature's splendor.

RVing Tip of the Day

Avoid trouble when buying an RV

By Chuck Woodbury

RVing is one of the best ways to travel, whether for family vacations or full-time for retirees or anyone who can combine work and RVing — whether by motorhome, travel trailer or other recreational vehicle. Buying an RV is a complicated process, and the RV is often the second largest investment most people will make in their lifetimes after their homes. It pays to buy “right.” If not, good luck. Here are a few tips on common buying mistakes. If you’re about to buy an RV, pay attention. If a friend is about to buy one, pass this advice along.

Common buying mistakes. . .

Buying before doing proper research (smart buyers research a year or two before buying) or on impulse.

- Buying an RV without ever having traveled in one. The dream may be far from the reality! (Rent an RV for a week or two to see how you like the experience.)
- Buying the wrong RV for your needs.
- Paying too much. Most dealers and salespersons want top price. Will you be their “sucker of the week”? Start by offering 30 percent off MSRP. Walk away if you can’t get it, or close. You might have your best luck and get your best price buying in the off-season, or at the end of the month when a sales person needs to meet a sales quota to get the commission sooner rather than later.

- Buying at an RV show because “it’s the best price you will ever see!” Wrong! It’s not. You’ll almost always get the same price later at an RV dealership.
- Buying an RV before seeing it with its slides pulled in (sometimes you may not be able to get to the kitchen, bedroom or even the bathroom).
- Buying a motorhome before test driving it.
- Buying before doing a “mock live-in.”
- Buying a used RV with hidden damage. Hire a RV technician to check it top to bottom.
- Buying an RV from a supermarket parking lot or campground.

Stretching financing out too long (Camping World is known for talking buyers into a 20-year payment plan). Some RVers have ended up in bankruptcy by doing this. Never buy with no down payment. Don’t buy based solely on an affordable monthly payment — you are asking for trouble if you do.

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RV Tech Q&A: Pressure Washing an RV

By Jeff Johnston - February 27, 2018

I have a 2017 CTS192RD Coleman travel trailer with exterior aluminum paneling running horizontally. Is it possible to get water behind the panels when power washing the sides? Should I stand on a ladder so the water would be at a downward angle, or is it OK to have some of the spray going up as I stand on the ground? I don’t want to increase the chances of water getting behind the panels around the seams and creating dry rot.

Larry Young | Dayton, Nevada

The use of a pressure washer to clean an RV is a dicey subject, Larry, and unless you are sure of what you’re doing, it’s probably best not to use one. Yes, you can force water into places where it would not normally go under average rain conditions or when washing with a garden hose, and once that moisture is inside a wall cavity, for example, it can take a long time to evaporate.

That’s a surefire recipe for causing wood components to rot, and although it doesn’t apply in your circumstance, it can also lead to delamination. In addition, a misused pressure washer can also cause damage to vinyl graphics or paint, and it can dislodge material such as putty

tape, and RTV-silicone or RTV-acrylic sealants around windows and compartment doors.

It's more work, but the use of an appropriate cleaning solution, a brush and a low-pressure water hose is the best way to go for cleaning an RV exterior.

Stabilize While Standing



My wife always puts down the stabilizer scissor jacks when we park. It has gotten harder for her to bend down and use the electric drill socket, so I made an extension so she can stand up straight while extending and retracting the stabilizers. I bought a 30-inch 3/8-inch-drive socket extension, a 3/4-inch-deep well socket, a 3/8-inch flex universal swivel and a 3/8-inch electric drill adapter, and snapped them all together. All she has to do is put the 3/4-inch socket on the jack and use the drill to raise and lower the jack, using forward and reverse.

Putting down the stabilizers is now an easy process she can do while standing.

Steve Witcher | Florissant, Colorado

RV Resorts, RV Parks, RV Campgrounds... What's The Difference?

So you have the phone number of an RV-friendly place to make reservations for your next RV trip.

So you have the phone number of an RV-friendly place to make reservations for your next RV trip.

Do you just nail down a date and price, or is there something else you should inquire about? Truth is, how an RV facility labels itself should tell you quite a bit about what you can expect when you get there.

Be aware though, this information isn't written in stone, and there are many places out there that didn't get the memo.

RV Resorts

When a place labels themselves as an RV resort, you should be able to expect some extra features not normally found at other RV establishments.

This may include cable TV at your site, wireless Internet service throughout the campground, swimming pools, tennis courts, maybe even a golf course.

Sites will be roomy with paved, level parking pads. Usually, the number of RV spaces will run into the hundreds as it will take quite a traffic flow in order to be profitable.

Some RV resorts are gated with manned gate houses and you might find that your RV must be of a certain caliber in order to gain entry. Tents, crudely converted school buses, and large rowdy groups are likely to be turned away.

The RV sites may or may not be pull through, but you can expect both 30 amp and 50 amp power to be available, as well both water and sewer hookups.

The facility may even provide shuttle busses to transport you to nearby activities.

RV Parks RV parks tend to be more of a woodsy or park-like setting.

There is less in the way of high-end amenities, although the trade-off for more secluded sites could be more appealing.

Still, most RV parks cater to the motorhome or large travel trailer crowd, so adequate room should be available for maneuvering your large RV into position.

Inside an RV park, the roads should be either paved or well-maintained gravel, and parking pads should be level and spacious.

RV Campgrounds RV campgrounds tend to be much closer to primitive camping.

Maybe electricity will be available, though not in all instances. Likewise water and sewer hookups may not always be there.

Usually, there will be a dump station within the facility, but that too may be unavailable at some RV campgrounds.

The sites should be large enough and level enough to accommodate most RVs. However, if your rig is a 45-foot highway coach, a walk-thru would be a good idea before you take your RV off the paved highway. It's hit or miss as to the number of RV campgrounds that can accommodate large motorhomes.

Regular Campgrounds Campground is a rather generic term. It can mean anything from "full-sized RVs welcome" to a "pack in, tents only" scenario.

Absolutely every RV owner should walk through the campground before venturing down that narrow trail with tree branches waiting to take off your TV antenna or air conditioner.

On the one hand, you may be surprised with the amount of space available, and it might be a delightful little spot in the woods tailor-made for you.

On the other hand, it might consist of little more than a half dozen spots to set up tents, and any attempt to enter with your RV is going to result in serious damage.

RV Camping Reviews Remember, every proprietor has their own view of what their facility should be called.

There is a large selection of guides and review resources on the Internet. They can all help you make a more educated decision when you start planning your RV vacation.

Here are some of the more respected ones:

- [RV Park Reviews](#)
- [RV Park Hunter](#)
- [Wheelers RV Resort & Campground Guide](#)
- [Woodall's RV Campgrounds](#)
- [U.S. National Forest Campground Guide](#)
- [CampUSA National RV Park Campground Directory](#)

In addition, almost every state has its own campground guide. Your best bet is to do a search online for whatever type of establishment you're interested in (RV park, RV resort, RV campground) and add the name of your state to the search. Then, you will see only RV-friendly camping places within your state.

When you do call for reservations, be sure to give them a detailed description of your RV (size, height) and what your requirements are in the way of hook-ups and additional services. They want you to have an enjoyable stay, but that won't happen if you can't get your RV off the road and into the camping space.

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