

Subject:

May 2020 Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

# May 2020

Newsletter

5/1/20

## Message to our Friends and Customers

**Just be alert and be safe, be vigilant.**

We value your business and our relationship, and as always, our goal is to service your needs efficiently while ensuring the health and safety of our associates and their families. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us via email at [LStegemann@AirSafeHitches.com](mailto:LStegemann@AirSafeHitches.com).

I am available for any questions or support during this time.

Sincerely,  
Lloyd Stegemann

## Will 2020 Be The Year Of RV Travel?

**Everett Potter**

Will this be a banner year for RV travel? Consider that millions of cooped-up Americans are eager to get out and travel. Driving will be the preferred method of transportation and self-cocooning in some sort of RV would seem to be one of the most desirable ways to travel with family or close friends. It's not just millennials who will be going after the van life. So I asked Craig Kirby, President of the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) for his thoughts on this coming boom.

**Everett Potter: Domestic travel is likely to recover first as the coronavirus restrictions are lifted. Where do you see the role of RVs in this recovery?**

Craig Kirby: Americans love the space and freedom of the outdoors and the enrichment that comes with living an active outdoor life. RVs not only enable this lifestyle; they also provide a self-contained existence that other forms of travel don't allow. After an indeterminate period of isolation, we believe families will be more enthusiastic than ever to get outside and see new places, even within their own states. RV travel allows people to sleep in their own bed, cook gourmet meals, and control where they go. Once federal and state restrictions are lifted, they'll be able to experience the endless range of outdoor wonders throughout the country and the

freedom of independent travel that RVs offer. This includes the option to forego a campground since RVs have everything a family needs to camp remotely.

**EP: Let's talk a little about the self-isolating aspect of RVs. How self-contained are they and can you stay off the grid?**

CK: RVs are the ultimate self-contained units—it's the reason why so many RVs are currently being used by medical professionals and others to self-isolate during the COVID-19 pandemic. RVs range from small towables to large motorhomes and many of them are designed to be completely self-contained with generators, solar panels, and laundry facilities, allowing RVers to live off-the-grid for weeks at a time. Not only are manufacturers onboarding new and improved technologies that promote efficiency and convenience, individual RVs owners are becoming increasingly creative at adapting their RVs for true off-the-grid living.

**EP: For those who've never taken an RV vacation, what is the appeal?**

CK: RVs provide travelers control: they allow people to travel where they want, when they want, and offer a unique travel experience that allows people to pursue their favorite activities and experience places in the country they may have only seen pictures of in a coffee table book or on Instagram. They can do this all with the ability to stay connected to family and friends. These are all positive features, but particularly attractive during this most unprecedented time. RVs provide a wonderful opportunity for people to continue to enjoy vacations with their families, while still adhering to social distancing, which will likely stay in place in some form for the foreseeable future.

## Sheltering in place when your home is a camper van

*"Our quarantine is this five-foot-by-six-foot van. Yours has got to be better than that"*

By **Megan Barber**@megcbarber Mar 27, 2020, 1:00pm EDT

Throughout the U.S., at least 200 million Americans in 22 states have been asked to stay home in an attempt to stop the spread of the novel coronavirus. But whether it's called "shelter in place" or "safer at home," the stay-at-home mandate has thrown some nomads into a crisis: How do you "stay home" when your house is mobile?

For decades, people have chosen to live full-time in RVs, often as "snowbirds" who travel south to avoid harsh northern winters. But since 2011, an increasing number of younger Americans have swelled the ranks of full-time nomads. And many of them travel in smaller, more sustainable off-grid camper vans, finding in #VanLife both a way to maximize made-for-Instagram adventure and a solution to rising housing costs.

Now, both savvy van lifers and traditional RV snowbirds are facing the realities of life on the road during a pandemic. The details of stay-at-home orders vary across the country, but in general, they dictate that people can only leave their homes for necessities, like going to the grocery store or the doctor.

At first, it felt like life as usual, said Amber Baldwin, a digital storyteller who documents her travels on a YouTube channel and her website Story Chasing while living in a 2018 Hymr Aktiv Class B camper van. "We felt like we were already self contained, it's easy for us to move around, we can just change spots," Baldwin said. But as the news kept coming, "Everything changed. We heard that cities were closing, and that there weren't enough supplies."

As cities closed restaurants, stores, and schools, a mishmash of messages flowed to the outdoor community. A March 18 announcement from Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt asked the National Park Service to waive entrance fees until further notice. According to Bernhardt, parks offered the opportunity to "recreate, embrace nature, and implement social distancing."

But while the federal government encouraged recreation, some local campgrounds started to close. The rationale? Although camping seems like a proactive way to distance from others, campers are still reliant on services like water, toilets, showers, visitor centers, and dump stations—all places where, if they remained open, the virus could spread.

The closures of campgrounds and basic facilities—both public and private—had an immediate impact on the RV community. Isaiah Photo and his wife, Karin, went full-time in a Dodge Ram van 11 months ago in order to travel and save money on rent. Normally, the couple uses a gym or campgrounds that allow them access to showers and bathrooms. As Photo documents on his YouTube channel, closures meant “I have no running water, I have no shower, I have no toilet, and I have a very limited supply of food, because, well, I live in a van.”

Most camper vans and RVs don't have much storage for food. Kitchens can range from the most basic (like a camping stove and a cooler) to more built out vans with small refrigerators and pantries. A lack of space means that stocking up on supplies can be difficult, necessitating more trips to the grocery store—and more exposure to the virus.

Baldwin, meanwhile, was camping on land overseen by the Bureau of Land Management when the announcement of closures began. She left and went to the Thousands Trails Campground in Palm Springs, where she has a membership, because she was worried about maintaining access to water and dump stations. While that campground has remained open, the idea of not having the resources Baldwin had come to rely on was upsetting. “We need [the campgrounds] the most right now,” she said. “We need to stay put.”

To date, at least 29 states—including places like California, Colorado, Florida, Washington, and New York—have closed or delayed opening their state park campgrounds. And as restless urbanites flock to the open spaces that haven't yet closed, there are growing calls that a shutdown of all national parks will be necessary to protect park employees and avoid straining nearby small towns, many of which have limited medical resources.

As the entire country copes with increased anxiety and stress stemming from COVID-19, the normally free-wheeling RV community is also feeling the strain. “We're all making plan B, plan C, plan D in case things close,” says Baldwin. “I woke up bawling; I was terrified, because it's so surreal.”

Normal van life actually doesn't involve a ton of time inside the camper—people often use biking, hiking, and exploring to counteract the small spaces. Now, as Photo puts it, “It's hard to stay home when you live in a van ... Our quarantine is this five-foot-by-six-foot van. Yours has got to be better than that.”

All of the people interviewed for this story agreed that sheltering in place in an RV is a drastic lifestyle change and can get claustrophobic; each of them is doing what they can to find solace in the outdoors, whether that's surfing at a secret beach break or walking around a campground at odd hours.

## **AirSafeHitches.com**



We carry the largest selection of AIRSAFE™ Hitches, 5<sup>th</sup> Wheels, Goosenecks, and Receivers.

**Check out our Hitches and Prices**

[Receiver Hitches](#)

[5th Wheel Hitches](#)

[Gooseneck Hitches](#)

"Buy from us and save"

Accessories Available

[Receiver](#)

[5<sup>th</sup> Wheel](#)

AirSafe Hitches

[Videos](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

# The RV Industry Is Playing Its Part During The Coronavirus Crisis

March 24, 2020

*By: RV Industry Association Staff*

We are all doing what we can to cope and to help others during this coronavirus outbreak, and the RV industry is no exception. Time and time again RV businesses across the country have served a critical role during times of disaster - and the RV industry stands ready to help again during this current coronavirus pandemic.

This national health crisis is different than anything we have seen in our lifetimes, requiring a response that is both quick and adaptable in the everchanging environment. RVs are uniquely able to meet critical needs in an expedited timeframe and RV businesses are already seeing demand for their products related to the support of mobile health care, command centers, and other logistical needs that local, state and federal government may require during this crisis.

Manufacturers of RV component parts have also heeded the call for needed medical supplies by manufacturing masks and surgical gowns. Another RV manufacturer has supplied trailers to a county government for use as mobile testing facilities for the COVID-19 affliction. In California, an executive order has authorized the purchased of over 1,300 RV trailers to provide emergency isolation for the most vulnerable. Similarly, in Texas an RV dealer has provided units to a major city. This is just the beginning of what the RV industry is prepared to do.

Equally important, RV dealers across the country have continued to perform crucial maintenance and repairs for consumers who are currently RVing, ensuring that LP/propane gas systems and electrical, plumbing, and refrigeration issues are quickly addressed, allowing RVers currently on the road to follow health guidelines and remain in their units.

The final piece to the puzzle is the RV park and campgrounds. More and more, traveling families and Americans who are in between homes commonly utilize campgrounds as their only source of temporary accommodations. During this national health crisis, RV parks and campgrounds owners are committed to providing these Americans with places to stay in their RVs.

Particularly important, members of the Traveling Nurses program often stay in campgrounds and can be deployed in hard hit areas related to the crisis. Some campgrounds are seeing an uptick in reservation requests from traveling nurses, many of whom use their RVs as their self-contained home while they are on temporary assignment at hospitals and other medical facilities across the country.

RVs are woven into the fabric of America and while the industry cannot wait to get back to the freedom of the outdoors and the enrichment that comes with living an active outdoor lifestyle, right now the industry is focused on doing our part to help our fellow Americans through the current national health crisis.

# Top 10 Reasons To Self-Quarantine In Your RV

By Patrick Buchanan News, Sustainable

*Here are the top 10 reasons to self-quarantine and avoid COVID-19 in the safety and comfort of your own RV.*

With so much fear and hype about the need to self-quarantine against COVID-19, aka the coronavirus, it seems that only RVers are finding the positive side of the whole self-quarantine process. Here are the top 10 reasons to self-quarantine and avoid COVID-19 in your RV.

## 1. It's fun.

Let's face it, an RV is really just a big blanket-and-box fort for adults. Sure, camping, hiking, and hitting the road is great, but the zenith of that great camping day culminates in a 300-square-foot box with a miniature kitchen and a fake fireplace.

## 2. It makes sense.

Secluding yourself away from society, whether in your own driveway or at a local campground makes sense, according to the CDC. Even in a public campground, you're likely to be at least 20 yards from your neighbor. A quick shout hello and an air fist bump and you get on with your day, no human contact needed.

## 3. Your RV needs cleaning.

Did you clean your RV after the last trip? Probably not. Do you typically feel like cleaning it when you head out the next time? I doubt it. Now is the best opportunity you've had in years to take time to really clean your RV inside and out.

## 4. Because there are no sports, or anything else, going on right now.

That's right, you aren't going to be able to watch your favorite golf tournament or hockey game this week. You won't be going to concerts, RV shows, or any kid's soccer games. You might as well go camping in your RV, where you can stare at a campfire, the stars, or even your significant other. (Just don't make it creepy for the latter.)

## 5. Your RV needs use.

Like most mechanical things, periodic use is actually better for your RV. Regularly using the appliances, slides, tank valves and all the other components on your RV is better for it than just sitting for extended periods. Those with generators and motorhome owners already know this. Here's a great opportunity to exercise both.

## 6. Your boss said you could.

Well, technically your boss said "work from home." Like many, you may be claiming your RV as a second home on your taxes, and most of us consider our RV their home away from home. So yes, your boss said you could. Just be sure you have considered these important things for reliable mobile internet.

## 7. Get away from the madness.

Generally, when holed up in a campground, life moves at a slower pace. We tend to check our phones less frequently and watch less TV. Now would be a good time to slow things down, take a deep breath and read a book. Or perhaps, take a camp nap in a hammock outside, dreaming about endless rolls of toilet paper and pallets full of bottled water.

## 8. Do it for the kids.

Those with children are no doubt struggling to explain this pandemic to their kids. Take this opportunity to go and spend some quality time with them. Most likely they won't be going back to school right away, so take their minds off the world's problems and take them RVing.

## 9. Because you can.

Rarely does something intercept the arc of the mundane and afford us the opportunity to radically change our daily lives without any notice or planning. As sudden and scary as it may seem, you may now find yourself with time on your hands.

Why sit at home and worry? Go camping. Hike your stress away on a nature trail. Burn your fears, and marshmallows, with a campfire. Stoke the embers of your creative mind while you have this rare downtime. When life returns to normal, what will you do to improve the quality of life for you and your family?

## 10. It's not the end of the world (yet).

With each new outbreak, there is a sense of panic. Whether Swine flu, SARS, or COVID-19, the world inevitably moves on. That's not to say that tragically, people do not die, which is a primary reason to self-quarantine. But it is to say that you should plan on living and moving forward. Sometimes a little alone time and seclusion can put your life, and your belief system, in perspective.

As outbreaks like coronavirus continue to unfold, traditional vacation options that often incorporate hundreds or even thousands of people together in one place will quickly lose favor. RVing promises to be the next best alternative.

Most RVers are already familiar with the benefits of RVing. While for some it is a hobby, for others it is a lifestyle. No matter what your prevalence, the time to RV is now.

### Contact Us

Air Safe Hitches  
264 Lincoln Ave  
Island arkh, New York | 11558  
Tel. 321-939-2132  
Fax. 866-201-3391  
[airsafehitches.com](http://airsafehitches.com)

### Follow Us



### Unsubscribe

This email is intended for  
[stepemann@ecpodinc.com](mailto:stepemann@ecpodinc.com).  
[Update your preferences](#) or  
[Unsubscribe](#)

