

Subject:

September 2020 Newsletter from Air Safe Hitches

September 2020

Newsletter

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RVIA: July's Shipment Numbers Highest in Four Decades

RV PRO Staff

The RV Industry Association's monthly survey of manufacturers reveals July had the highest RV shipment numbers in four decades. Shipments totaled 43,035 units, an increase of 53.5 percent from the 28,044 units shipped in July 2019.

"RV shipments continue to show impressive gains again this month," said RV Industry Association Chairman Garry Enyart. "Reflective of the booming RV sales across the country and the appeal of RVs to a wide range of consumers, production is up this month for both the towable and motorized segments of the industry."

Towable RVs, led by conventional travel trailers, totaled 39,160 units for the month, an increase of 56.6 percent compared to last July's total of 25,002 units. Motorhomes finished the month with 3,875 units, up 27.4 percent compared to the July 2019 total of 3,042 units.

Park Model RVs finished the month up 17.6 percent compared to last July with 334 wholesale shipments.

"RVs have been the ideal way to travel this summer, providing the freedom and fun of RVing while also allowing people to control their environment. As we look towards fall, families and professionals who can work and learn from the road will continue to drive interest in RVing," said RV Industry Association President Craig Kirby. "Our manufacturers are working very closely with their dealer partners and component suppliers to meet the increased demand for RVs."

Ten tips for proper hydration

We need water. But many of us do not drink enough of it, which is bad for our health. Here are some tips about how much water you should drink.

1. Drink about eight 8-ounce servings of water each day. The more active you are, the more water you need to replenish lost fluids.
2. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink water. By the time you feel thirsty, you have probably already lost two or more cups of your total body water composition.
3. Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Convenience is a must, so carry a bottle of water with you as you drive, commute to work, run errands or shop. While driving, keep a bottle of water by your side.
4. Don't substitute beverages with alcohol or caffeine for water. Caffeine and alcohol act as diuretic beverages and can cause you to lose water through increased urination.

5. Once you start exercising, whether at a gym or at your campsite, drink water throughout your workout. Keep a bottle of water with you and take frequent water breaks.
6. Don't underestimate the amount of fluids lost from perspiration. Following a workout, you need to drink two cups of water for each pound lost.
7. Start and end your day with water. Your body loses water while you sleep, so drink a serving before bed and again when you wake up.
8. Common colds and the flu frequently lead to dehydration. Keep a large bottle of water next to your bed so you can sip it throughout the day without having to get up.
9. Cool water — not carbonated beverages or sports drinks — is the best fluid for keeping hydrated when it's warm outside. Cool water is absorbed much more quickly than warm fluids and may help to cool off your overheated body. If you're going to be away from home or outdoors, make sure you keep a bottle of water close by.
10. Make sure your children drink enough water. Children need water to balance their intake of other beverages — especially during activities. Packing bottled water in a child's lunch instead of juice or regular soda can also help prevent childhood obesity.

RV Essentials

Keep your RV stocked with basic supplies, nonperishable foods, linens and clothes, and you'll be ready to go anytime, anywhere. RVs give you the freedom to be spontaneous.

Everyone has favorites and must-haves they can't survive without, but here's a list of some stock items to keep on board at all times:

- Adapters for 30 amp and 50 amp outlets
- Batteries
- Binoculars
- Bottle/can opener
- Camera and memory cards
- Dishes/cooking utensils
- Firewood
- First-aid supplies
- Flashlights, lanterns
- Folding chairs
- Games
- Grill and fuel
- Heavy-duty extension cords
- Insect repellent
- Jacket/raincoat
- Maps and GPS
- RV toilet paper
- Matches/lighter
- Nature field guides
- Pillows, blankets, sheets
- Picnic basket
- Plastic bags (large and small)
- Pots and pans
- Road flares
- Rope and bungee cords
- Shovel (small folding type)
- Soap and toiletries
- Sports equipment
- Sunscreen
- Tool kit
- Towels
- Trash bags
- Umbrellas

- Water hose (white potable water type)

Before you leave home, be sure to balance your load – and don't over pack. Consult the weight label on your RV for more information.

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[5th Wheel Hitches](#) - Omni-Directional 4 air bag vs competitor 2 air bag system

A four-air bag hitch is designed to allow the hitch head to move on the air bags in any direction based on articulation from the trailer itself. The result of such continuous motion results in a smooth ride and decrease chucking and surging forces from the trailer on the truck. In addition to the movement from the trailer, the 4-airbag hitch support 100% of the pin weight, increasing the effectiveness of the air springs. This results in a smooth and controlled motion for the trailer on the truck.

[Receiver Hitches](#) – If you want a smoother ride and the ultimate in control, then you need the advantage provided by Air Safe Hitches with the Receiver Hitch by AirSafe™. With an Air Safe Receiver Hitch you will get a 90% smoother ride than with a traditional hitch, which can save you money. Glide across the highways and roads avoiding the constant bouncing, which leads to a decrease in gas mileage and early wear and tear on your tires. Our Air Safe Receiver Hitches also reduce stress on your truck and trailer suspension and help eliminate breakages inside the trailer. Our design allows total air ride vs the **Shocker Hitch** with the hinged approach.

[Gooseneck Hitches](#) – Air Safe offers the industry's largest selection of air hitches. Innovation and engineering insures you receive the safest and smoothest ride. "Enjoy the ride, arrive alive." With AIRSAFE™ you stop the flow of shock flow between the tow vehicle to the trailer and greatly reduce the explosion of energy when these two forces meet. The patented AIRSAFE™ hitches are engineered so the connection to the trailer is separated from the connection to the tow vehicle by an industrial strength airbag. Air Safe Gooseneck Hitches by AIRSAFE™ are simply the best air product money can buy. They are engineered with you and your precious cargo in mind. Simply remove your existing gooseneck tube and coupler and replace it with the AIRSAFE™ system. Available in round and square necks

[Click to check out the benefits of an air hitch vs a rigid hitch.](#)

RV Scenic Drives

Camping is one of the best ways to escape into the wilderness and enjoy the great outdoors. And while tent camping is great for a more rustic and minimalist experience, RV camping creates a whole new level of adventure by combining luxury with nature. Some say that RV camping is superior to tent camping just for the hygiene factor alone! Who actually enjoys sharing a bathroom with complete strangers? Plus, in an RV, you'll eat better, sleep better, you're protected from inclement weather..the list goes on and on.

And fortunately for RV travelers, the United States is home to some of the most famous road trip routes and scenic drives in the world. Many campsites along these routes have outstanding RV sites, and some roll out the red carpet for RV travelers. However, it's important for RV owners and operators to be aware that despite their beauty, some of these famous scenic drives can be hazardous for the inexperienced driver due to high winds, high altitudes,

and narrow roads.

Here are a few things you should know if you plan to take an excursion through any of these scenic routes in your RV, plus information about highly rated RV campsites in these areas.

Trail Ridge Road, Colorado

Trail Ridge Road in Colorado is among the most scenic and rocky in the U.S. With a peak altitude of 12,183 feet, this two-lane highway isn't too narrow or winding, so it shouldn't pose much of a risk in the summer months. The road is closed during the winter but spring snow melt can create icy conditions. Weather conditions in the area change rapidly so you might want to call the Trail Ridge Road recorded phone line to get an update before you start out.

Paradise on the River RV Park has sites along the Big Thompson River where you can fish, go for a hike, or sit back and enjoy the surrounding nature that includes very large, historic pine trees (note that due to the large pine trees, RV sites have a 32 foot limit, with some exceptions).

The Blue Ridge Parkway

As America's longest and most visited linear park, this gorgeous Appalachian parkway stretches a grand total of 469 snaking miles through both Virginia and North Carolina. As far as the drive itself, it's very curvy and winding in some areas, so make sure your RV's brakes and cooling system are in tip top shape. A list of tunnel heights is available on the parkway's website, so take some time to compare the height of your RV to avoid a potentially dangerous situation.

Chantilly Farm camping and RV park is just minutes from the parkway in Floyd Virginia. The picturesque farmland offers acres of grassy fields, woodlands, abundant wildlife, a local thriving arts and music scene, including an Annual Bluegrass & BBQ Festival.

Highway 101 Oregon

Thousands of RVs make the drive through this scenic Oregon route year-round. Most of the highway is two lanes, but through some of the coastal towns, it expands to four. It isn't a particularly difficult or treacherous drive, but there are some areas with dips and rough spots as a result of land movement, so you may want to slow down in these areas.

The Sea & Sand RV Park is located on Highway 101, on the central Oregon coastline. It has spectacular ocean views, seven miles of sandy beach, and sightings of migrating grey whales are almost a daily happening in nearby Depoe Bay.

Going-to-the-Sun Road, Montana

Although there is no set date for the road to open each year, Going-to-the-Sun Road generally opens between late June and early July. With a length of about 50 miles, it offers a wide variety of amenities and activities and takes about two full hours to traverse. At 6,646 feet, its highest point is Logan Pass, which offers spectacular views. There is no entrance fee, and the National Park Service refers to Going-to-the-Sun Road as an 'engineering marvel.' Most visitors have no problem navigating the road with their RVs, but if you have concerns, make sure to take it slow and stay alert.

You don't have travel too far from Glacier National Park to get to Polson RV Resort that offers stunning views of Montana's endless blue sky! The secluded resort is just off the shore of Flathead Lake and is exclusively for RVs.

Highway 12, Utah

Many visitors rate Highway 12 as the most scenic in Utah. With deep canyons, red rock formations, boulders, mountains, valleys, and cliffs, traversing this road surely offers some break taking views. Although it is a bit steep and winding in some areas, the majority makes for a pleasant and exciting drive. If you need to take a break, there are plenty of spots to pull over and enjoy the view.

The unusual Shooting Star RV Resort and campground is worth checking out can be found in Escalante. Airstream trailers make up some of the accommodations available. Outdoor movies included at the "drive-in".

Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive – Michigan

Sleeping Bear Dunes is one of the most picturesque areas in the U.S. Towering at 450 feet over Lake Michigan, it features miles of relaxing beach coastlines and a plethora of wildlife to observe. With plenty of activities for people of any age, this is a place that has something for

everyone. However, the Pierce Stocking Scenic Drive does have some tight curves and steep hills, so the National Park Service offers a designated area for trailer parking, allowing visitors to take the drive and pick up their trailer once they return.

RV camping is one of the most luxurious and carefree ways to enjoy any vacation and for many folks truly gives new meaning to the phrase, "the journey is the destination."

RV Camping Goes To The Dogs!

Here at rv-camping.org, we're pet lovers. Now we know not all RV campers are and if you are not a dog lover, then go ahead and hit the back button now as the following information is for those of us that love dogs. Still here? Good! We just learned of an interesting place to take your dog for an off leash experience like non we've heard of before, and want to share their concept.

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

FIDO Friendly (<http://www.fidofriendly.com/>) a popular dog travel and lifestyle magazine, polled their readers about favorite places to go with their dog on trips and vacations. The January 2011 issue of the Top 50 Fido-Friendly Destinations featured the Canine Country Getaway at number 2!

5 Easy Ways to Make Your RV Feel Like Home

Maybe you recently purchased your first **RV** and are hunting down affordable ways to make your home on wheels more inviting or perhaps you're ready to embark on a freshening up journey but need a little design inspiration to get you going. No matter the reason, making your RV feel like home is an exciting part of owning an RV. Below you'll find cost effective ways to channel your inner Joanna Gains and spark your imagination for the adventures to come with your motorhome. Check out our five easy ways to make your RV feel like home below.

1. LIGHTING, LIGHTING, LIGHTING

Lighting is a simple and practical way to make a space feel cozy. Try **LED** lights for your room and kitchen. Bonus – they use 1/10 the power of most bulbs. If you want to go the candle route, real candles are ideal for both lighting and to freshen up the scent of your motorhome (just make sure they're not lit while you're traveling, sleeping or when you leave your RV!) If you're nervous about flame candles, try LED candles. They have a similar glow and are 100% safe. Looking for outdoor lighting? Try string lights on your awning!

2. WALLPAPER

A simple way to make your RV feel like home is to wallpaper your bedroom. This is a cost efficient and super fun way to decorate your space. The supplies: **double sided tape** and your favorite magazines. Rip or cut out images that inspire you and overlap them along the wall. There is no right or wrong way to do this so be creative. Are you an artist? Collect tapestries? Enjoy displaying family photos? Do you collect maps? Use any one of these as your wallpaper. There are endless opportunities for what you can display on your walls and best of all, what you pick will most represent you!

3. COZY UP YOUR SPACE WITH PILLOWS AND BLANKETS

Extra blankets are a must have in your RV. They're excellent for late nights by the campfire, early mornings while making coffee and for practical use, in the event your heater malfunctions are you're unable to hook up to power. And let's not forget pillows as they make every room feel comfortable and are an easy way to add a pop of color. If you plan on having guests, keep extra bedding stored in your RV.

4. HOUSE PLANTS AND FRESH HERBS

If you're like us, you find that live plants really give a space life and vibrancy. Plants have a myriad of health benefits including increased oxygen, air purification and are known to help **reduce cold-related illnesses** by 30%. They also smell wonderful so hang them, plant them, and keep them in secure spots in your motorhome. Bonus – fresh herbs are ideal for cooking. Having these in your pantry will remind you of cooking at home while you adapt to your new house on wheels. We suggest keeping rosemary and cilantro in your pantry at all times.

5. INVEST IN A RUG OR TWO

Rugs, especially in the kitchen and walkway, are necessary in any RV. It doesn't matter if you're a solo RVer or you have a family of six living out of your motorhome, tracked dirt and mud will always find its way into your house. Invest in a few of these, at least one for the doorway and one for the kitchen, and you'll spend far less time cleaning leaving more time enjoying the fresh air. **Target** has excellent and affordable rug options. Side note, keep warm, fuzzy socks in the glove compartment of the passenger seat so you can co-pilot in comfort any time of day.

Do you have any tips and tricks on how to decorate your motorhome? Leave us a comment in the section below sharing your favorite decorating ideas for a chance to be featured on our Instagram! Looking for literature on how to RV with kids? Check out our recent round up featuring, **Everything You Need to Know When RVing with Children**.

The Rise and Possible Fall Of All-Aluminum Horse Trailers

Why do many of the large, well known horse trailer manufacturers such as Sooner, Sundowner, Featherlite, Four Star, and Exxiss, build horse trailers with all-aluminum frames, walls, roofs and interior dividers, whereas others such as Trail-et, Hawk, Bee, use mostly steel, and/or a combination of both?

I believe the answer lies, not so much in benefits of one over the other, but in the history and development of the horse trailer industry itself.

Back in the late seventies and early eighties, horse trailer manufacturers such as Sooner Trailers, Featherlite horse trailers, and Four Star horse trailers, began searching for alternate materials to replace steel since steel horse trailers were quickly deteriorating from rust. Since rusted horse trailers were generally everywhere horse trailer owners went, it didn't take much to convince consumers to switch to something better.

After many materials were considered - Sooner and Merhow trailers had built some of their horse trailer models with a product called FRP (fiberglass-reinforced plywood). Others such as Bison Horse Trailers experimented with all fiberglass - aluminum was the ultimate chosen material, and all-aluminum trailers quickly grew.

What horse owners didn't know were the negatives and dangers of using aluminum in the frame, sidewalls, floor and roof - that it was a more brittle material, would shear and tear when stressed beyond its capacity, and that it conducted heat. These negatives were not readily apparent, and the ability to research construction materials of horse trailers was not as easy as it is now. What most consumers basically did know about aluminum was that it didn't rust - and that seemed to be enough.

One of the negatives that was apparent to the manufacturers, and worried them, was the high cost of aluminum. However, the high costs eventually worked in their favor - the market was ready to spend more for a supposedly better product, and the high cost gave consumers the impression that it was a superior trailer. It costs a lot more therefore, it must be better.

Once the "all-aluminum" horse trailers hit the market full force, the market quickly perceived that the all-aluminum trailer was a high quality, premium product. Therefore, horse trailers such as the models built by Sooner trailer manufacturing, Featherlite trailers, and Four Star trailers were perceived as being top of the line, not realizing that the extra expense was directly attributed to the higher cost of aluminum, not necessarily, because it was a better product. Because of this consumer perception, combined with the rapid market acceptance of the all-aluminum trailer, and the alternative being rusting steel, many existing manufacturers switched over to aluminum, such as Sundowner, Merhow, Cherokee, and Bison. Through the years, many new start ups opted to build all-aluminum horse trailers such as Exiss, Eby, Adam, and Gore for the same reasons.

Of course, it is true that all-aluminum trailers are not equal - some are better than others are. Companies such as Sooner, Featherlite, Exiss, and Four Star will vary in quality and design according to the company's construction and design philosophy. The real issues to look at are the problems inherent in the aluminum material itself.

Pound for pound, aluminum used in most horse trailers is only 1/3 the strength of steel, so

when it is used in the frame, this has to be taken into account. Manufacturers often have to boost the amount of aluminum used in the horse trailer floor and frame to get the equal strength of a steel frame. This is why some of your better "all-aluminum horse trailers, such as 4 Star, will be the same weight, or sometimes heavier as a similar model steel built trailer. Where aluminum often fails the consumer and their horses is in the interior dividers. Since aluminum is weaker by about a 1/3 from that of an "equal in size" steel divider, it will fail quicker under stress. When aluminum fails, it shears and tears.

This creates a danger of minor to major lacerations to horses, often occurring from relatively minor mishaps, such as severe braking, or swerving to avoid hitting something. Aluminum is also a good conductor of heat - it makes good cookware. Keeping horses in a comfortable, controlled environment in a trailer with aluminum floor, sidewalls, and roof is a real problem, especially on hot days. Repair issues are also difficult since aluminum is not only difficult to weld, welds can never be re-welded to their original strength.

Some of the major "all-aluminum" manufacturers that I have mentioned - Featherlite, Sooner, Sundowner, Exiss, Eby have now been around long enough that they have vastly improved their manufacturing process, and thus, their trailers. However, the aluminum trailers have also been around long enough, that consumers are now seeing aluminum floor deterioration from the alkaline in urine and manure - a direct result from not cleaning. They have also directly experienced the heat problems, and are seeing the broken welds, and torn aluminum on fenders, running boards, ramps, and dividers.

SO WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE?

Because of the demands placed on steel from the auto industry, it's little surprise that almost all the rust problems with steel have been eliminated. Since rust is what originally started the crossover to aluminum, Galvaneel steel, galvanized steel, powder coated steel, and other new technologies, are now available as a viable, and better alternative. Besides adding strength and protection for the horses, steel is still less expensive than aluminum, and is easy to use, and repair.

Since consumers have more access to information today from many sources, but particularly the internet, they are realizing that if the car industry is surrounding drivers and passengers in a highly protective steel cage, and steel body, why should their horses not get the same protection. Consumers are also seeing very little, if any, rusting in automobiles over the last ten years. Processes such as undercoating and Z-Bart rust protection on cars, have all but disappeared.

SO WHY ARE ALL-ALUMINUM TRAILERS STILL BEING BUILT?

It would be highly difficult and much too costly from both a manufacturing and marketing standpoint for the larger horse trailer manufacturers to just quit, or change over. In addition, the horse trailer manufacturers have done such a good job over the last twenty years of convincing consumers that all-aluminum is first class, that it will take some time for horse trailer owners to form a new mind-set about what they have believed. But the market is dwindling, and horse trailer manufacturers will surely have to change their thinking if they want to survive.

SO WHERE IS THE MARKET HEADED?

For one thing, quality built, all steel trailers are having a resurgence. Those steel manufacturers that have hung in there over the years are seeing new growth in sales.

It's my belief that the future of horse trailer manufacturing will be in what I call, the composite-built trailer - using a variety of today's technologically advanced materials. Galvanized steel (dipped protected against rust), galvaneel steel (electrochemically treated against rust), power coated steel (baked against rust), fiberglass, and a variety of new products that are appearing on the market every year.

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