

**NEW FOR 2015** » NEXT YEAR'S TRENDSETTING TRAILERS

# TRAILER LIFE

FOLLOW THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE

DECEMBER 2014

## Time for Reflection

Grand Design's Easy-Towing 27RL



**KEEP COLD OUT**  
NO-PAIN DUAL PANES

## South by Southwest

Vicksburg, Mississippi | Sedona, Arizona | Calico, California

## Fifth-Wheel Facts

ARE HALF-TON TOWABLES A MYTH?

[www.trailerlife.com](http://www.trailerlife.com)

## Shifty Business

Transmissions and Torque Converters

A GROUNDBREAKER'S GUIDE TO  
BREAKING NEW GROUND

★  
No.5

WHATEVER THE  
**QUESTION**  
BE THE  
ANSWER.

GUTS · GLORY



RAM

THE COSTLIEST WORDS YOU'LL EVER USE ARE THE EXCUSES FOR WHY SOMETHING CAN'T BE DONE.  
TURN DON'T INTO DO, SHOULDN'T INTO SHOULD, AND CAN'T INTO CAN.



**NEW RAM HEAVY DUTY**  
**CUMMINS® TURBO DIESEL WITH 850 LB-FT OF TORQUE**  
**HEAVY DUTY AISIN® 6-SPEED TRANSMISSION**  
**SMART DIESEL EXHAUST BRAKE • 5-YR/100K-MILE POWERTRAIN WARRANTY**

When properly equipped. See dealer for a copy of the powertrain limited warranty. Ram is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. Cummins is a registered trademark of Cummins, Inc. AISIN is a registered trademark of Aisin Seiki Co., Ltd.



16



26



40

## FEATURES

### 16 Arizona's Red Rock Country

Expect to be enchanted by the chic galleries, stone monoliths and spiritual energy of Sedona, the cliff dwellings of Montezuma Castle and the copper-mining community of Jerome, once known as the Wickedest Town in the West

### 22 Calico's Silver Lining

California's Old West mining town unearths a mother lode of history and good old-fashioned fun with a narrow-gauge railroad, gold panning and ghost tours

### 26 The Heart of Dixie

Vicksburg, Mississippi, played a pivotal role in the Civil War. Now home to a national military park, the city has more to explore than historic battlefields

### 34 Reflection 27RL

The smallest fifth-wheel in Grand Design's lineup delivers big features and value

### 38 Half-Ton Towing: Fact or Fiction?

It depends on the fifth-wheel and how the truck is equipped

### 40 New for 2015

The glory days of RVing return with an impressive crop of innovative and trend-setting towables for the coming year

### 49 Holiday Helpers

'Tis the season to find the right gifts for RV enthusiasts

**Calico Ghost Town in the Mojave Desert of Southern California offers lots to do and see. Page 22**



## DEPARTMENTS

### 6 Driver's Seat

It's Been a Great Year

### 8 Letters

Readers respond loud and clear

### 11 Around the Bend

News, events, places and trends

### 14 RV Resolutions

*Trailer Life* is your referee

### 54 New Products

Goodies to improve the RV lifestyle

### 56 Performance Corner

Tech, accessories and news

### 60 Hands On

Frost King Window Insulation Kit

### 63 RV Clinic

Answers from the *Trailer Life* tech team

### 72 10-Minute Tech

Now why didn't I think of that?

### 74 America's Outback

Missoula, Montana

➤ Genesis Supreme RV's Classic, a trailer designed to create a nostalgic feel. Page 12

**On the cover:** Grand Design's lightweight Reflection 27RL, towed by a properly equipped Chevrolet Silverado 1500. Photo by Scott Hirko

# THE STARS HAVE ALIGNED.

INTRODUCING OUR AMAZING NEW FIFTH WHEEL LINEUP  
THAT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD!



**SOLSTICE | TRAVEL STAR GALAXY | TRAVEL STAR**

Discover the advantages of our all-new fifth wheel line today!

At Starcraft RV, reaching for the stars was never uncharted territory for us. Introducing the all-new Solstice, Travel Star and Travel Star Galaxy, the latest additions to complete our full towable lineup. These new fifth wheels come loaded with what we call UFOs (Unbelievable Features and Options). Visit our website or a dealer near you today to start your adventure!

**STARCRAFT** 

THE FUTURE OF CAMPING | *pure and simple.*

Better have a seat when you visit: [starcraftcamping.com/fifth-wheels/](http://starcraftcamping.com/fifth-wheels/)

# It's Been a Great Year

A thriving RV industry continues to offer a wide variety of floorplan innovations and new models



Hoofing it up and down countless rows of RVs on display at September's annual Open House dealer event in Elkhart, Indiana, was quite an experience. Top of mind were the burning legs and fatigue after spending eight hours each day walking miles and climbing in and out of dozens of RVs to check out the latest innovations and floorplans. Clearly the RV industry has more to offer than ever before.

The lion's share of the offerings was travel trailers in every configuration and size imaginable, but there were also plenty of fifth-wheels. If you're in the market for a new towable, get ready to do some extensive shopping. To help you out, we distilled the hundreds of RVs into a sampling of what's really new for 2015 with the roundup on page 40.

One thing was evident: the proliferation of trailers and fifth-wheels that can be towed by "half-ton" pickups will not let up anytime soon. The evaluation of the Grand Design Reflection 27RL (page 34) is a good example of a fifth-wheel that's marketed as half-ton towable. Whether or not a half-ton pickup can actually be used to tow a fifth-wheel is debatable. Half-ton trucks can be rated to tow up to 12,200 pounds, and when compared against the 8,780-pound wet weight of the Reflection, it seems like a no-brainer.

But it's not that simple.

Hitch weight can be a deal breaker. Many half-ton trucks cannot handle the hitch weight without exceeding the capacity of the rear axle and likely the gross vehicle weight rating. To find out more, we talked our local Chevy dealer into borrowing a new Silverado 1500, filled it with gas and drove it to the scales. We then scoured the specs for this truck line and the new Fords and Rams. Check out the article on page 38 for some interesting observations.

I'd be remiss not to mention the holidays, as we wind down 2014 and look forward to a new year. The season for giving is upon us, so we've compiled a list of thoughtful gifts (page 49) that will make any RVer's time on the road more pleasant.

It's been a heck of a year for RVers and the RV industry. Here's to a festive holiday season and an upcoming year of great travels — maybe even in a new RV. 🚐

— Bob Livingston, publisher

**Connect with us...**

[facebook.com/TrailerLifeMagazine](https://facebook.com/TrailerLifeMagazine) [twitter.com/TrailerLifeMag](https://twitter.com/TrailerLifeMag)

## DID YOU KNOW?

Automotive and RV antifreeze do the same job — so why is automotive antifreeze poisonous while RV antifreeze is nontoxic? The difference is in the glycol. Antifreeze designed for use in engines uses *ethylene glycol*, while RV antifreeze uses *propylene glycol*.

**Publisher** Bob Livingston  
**Editorial Director** Eileen Hubbard  
**Editor** Valerie Law  
**Managing Editor** Donya Carlson  
**Technical Editor** Chris Hemer  
**Senior Art Director** Rick Damien  
**Production Director** Bob Dawson  
**Production Manager** Brenda Hutchinson  
**Sales Administrator** Katey Purgatorio

**Consulting Editors** Wes Caughlan, Ken Freund, Jeff Johnson  
**Contributors** Christopher Bunker, Emily Fagan, Bill Graves, Bruce Hampson, Donna Ikenberry, Kevin Livingston, James Richardson, Pamela Selbert

**Vice President National Sales** Terry Thompson  
Tel 847-229-6759 Fax 270-282-7356

**RV Marketplace/Classifieds** Katey Purgatorio  
3431 S. 257th Street, Kent, WA 98032  
Tel 847-229-6756 Fax 270-495-6278  
[katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com](mailto:katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com)

**Sue Seidlitz (Southwest Region)**  
10556 Combie Road #6443, Auburn, CA 95602  
Tel 530-268-3005 Fax 530-853-2090  
[sue.seidlitz@goodsam.com](mailto:sue.seidlitz@goodsam.com)

**Tacy Heendershot-Sargent (Southeast Region)**  
1010 SW Lighthouse Drive, Palm City, FL 34990  
Tel 772-288-0387 Fax 772-288-0085  
[tacy.heendershot@goodsam.com](mailto:tacy.heendershot@goodsam.com)

**Lou Cicirelli (Northeast Region)**  
1400 NW 108th Avenue 266, Plantation, FL 33322  
Tel 954-297-9234  
[lou.cicirelli@goodsam.com](mailto:lou.cicirelli@goodsam.com)

**Scott Oakes (Northwest Region)**  
8417 SE 34th Place, Mercer Island, WA 98040  
Tel 847-229-6758 Fax 270-282-7356  
[scott.oakes@goodsam.com](mailto:scott.oakes@goodsam.com)

**Crompton Holdings, Scott Crompton (Detroit, MI)**  
2031 Kings Highway, Shreveport, LA 71103  
Tel 334-546-7243 Fax 334-356-7740  
[scottcrompton@mac.com](mailto:scottcrompton@mac.com)

**Chairman Emeritus** Art Rouse  
**Publisher Emeritus** Bill Estes

**GS MEDIA & EVENTS**

**President** Mark Boggess  
**Senior Vice President/Group Publisher** Bob Livingston  
**Vice President/Advertising Sales** Terry Thompson

*Trailer Life* (ISSN #0041-0780) is published monthly by GS Media & Events (a division of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC), 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036. Periodicals postage paid at Oxnard, CA 93036, and additional mailing offices. The annual subscription rate is \$15.97 per year in the U.S. For Canadian and International subscriptions, add \$12 per year. U.S. funds only.

**Postmaster** Send address changes to *Trailer Life*, P.O. Box 5860, Harlan, IA 51593-1360.

**Canadian Return Address** GS Media & Events, 4960-2 Walker Road, Windsor, Ontario N9A 6J3. Publication Sales Agreement #40012332.

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

Email [trailerlife@cdsfulfillment.com](mailto:trailerlife@cdsfulfillment.com) or call 800-825-6861 or Visit [www.trailerlife.com](http://www.trailerlife.com) part of the RV.NET family

Printed in the United States.



*Trailer Life* is a registered trademark of Affinity Group, Inc. Copyright 2014 by Affinity Group, Inc.

**Privacy Promise** We recognize that your privacy is very important to you, and we're committed to helping you protect it. You should know that we will never intentionally share your name, address and other personal information with anyone for their use if you have asked us not to do so. When you subscribe to *Trailer Life*, please tell us if you don't want your name and address shared with other reputable companies, or if you don't want to receive our marketing offers. We'll mark your account for a three-year period so that it will not be selected for product and/or service offers, which you've told us you are not interested in receiving. If you change your mind, just get in touch with us and ask that we include you in future offerings. You can ask not to be included in future offerings at any time, and it'll be taken care of promptly. Please contact us at *Trailer Life* Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 5860, Harlan, IA 51593-1360, email us at [trailerlife@cdsfulfillment.com](mailto:trailerlife@cdsfulfillment.com) or call us at 800-678-1201. Please note that this policy does not apply to email marketing. We will not send you commercial emails unless you have authorized us to do so.

A DIVISION OF GOOD SAM ENTERPRISES, LLC

**Chairman & CEO** Marcus Lemonis **Executive VP** Tom Wolfe



## Flo doesn't personally cover your RV, but we do.

Progressive is America's #1 specialty RV insurance provider.  
From motor homes to camper vans and travel trailers, we've got you covered.

**PROGRESSIVE**<sup>®</sup>

1.800.PROGRESSIVE / PROGRESSIVE.COM

Progressive Casualty Ins. Co. & affiliates. Insurance prices and products are different when purchased directly from Progressive or through independent agents/brokers.  
No. 1 in specialty RV insurance from 2013 Millward Brown national survey data.

Progressive Insurance, Circle 114 on Reader Service Card



## Trips and Tips

The October issue really hit the spot! We are planning a trip back East next fall, and this issue with Kathy Cabrera's 10 fall RV destinations, "Autumn Across America," is a keeper. In addition, Melissa Riley's 10-Minute Tech tip is great — what an idea! Richard and Gail Berte's opinion on KZ in the Letters section is right on — great product and great customer service, even after the warranty expired, in my case. I would recommend KZ to anyone.

**Bill Warren, Angel Fire, New Mexico**

We have really enjoyed all the info in your magazine. We loved Melissa Riley's October tip, "Water Hookups After Dark" — we just bought the recommended brass quick-connectors.

**Jerry and Jane Tuck, San Andreas, California**



## Eager B'ers

In the October Letters, Linda LaDuc suggested that *Trailer Life* keep its content strictly to trailers. *Trailer Life's* articles on upkeep and maintenance are excellent and can also be applied to Class B motorhomes. We Class B people need advice, too, and don't want to be left out.

**Mike and Carol Hardie, Culver, Oregon**

Please keep the Class B's in *Trailer Life*. We own a 36-foot travel trailer and a Class B motorhome.

**Wayne and Cinda Hollister, Toronto, Ohio**

## The Rockford Files

Reading "Rockford's Time Warp" in September's *Around the Bend* was such a nice surprise. I was born in Rockford, Illinois, and we just visited Midway Village in August. I suggest the Stockholm Inn restaurant as another

## Much Ado About Moab

In the September issue, we read Ed Austin's letter suggesting a scenic drive out of Moab, Utah. Since we were about to leave on an RV trip to the area, we saved the letter. We had visited Arches and Canyonlands National Parks and Dead Horse State Park on previous visits but for some reason hadn't driven Route 128, the Upper Colorado River Scenic Byway, and found the drive offered spectacular scenery. Thank you for a timely tip!

**Mike and Carol Hardie, Culver, Oregon**



place not to be missed. Rockford has a Swedish heritage, reflected in the menu and adjoining gift shop. Another treat is the Fannie May candy shop right across the parking lot. The Mint Meltaways are divine.

**Libby Kendrick  
Stokesdale, North Carolina**

## What Were They Thinking?

I just finished reading Michael Gleason's letter, "Just the Facts," in the September issue. I have to agree wholeheartedly with his viewpoint that RV manufacturers and designers should have to camp in their RVs before putting them into production and selling them to the public.

I have been camping for more than 50 years, first in a tent, then in a couple of tent trailers and finally in four different fifth-wheel trailers. I didn't expect much from the pop-ups and just accepted things the way they were. However, the fifth-wheels are another matter. My second fifth-wheel, a 2001 Dutchmen, was designed so that one could not access the only exit door when the sleeper sofa was extended without climbing across it — not a great feature if kids had an early bedtime or if someone had to get up to walk the dog!

My current fifth-wheel, a 2009 HitchHiker, has three glaring design flaws. The bathroom clothes basket cannot be removed without removing

the toilet stool. The bedroom TV cabinet door partially blocks the TV. And my favorite design flaw: the location of the water hookups and sewer cleanout underneath the bedroom slideout. When attaching the water hookups or accessing items within the compartment, there's no way to hold the compartment door open, just a top hinge, so I resort to using an old broomstick. I camped next to a 2008 HitchHiker whose cabinet door was totally accessible and held in place with a latch — NuWa changed something that wasn't broken.

**David Meade, Savannah, Missouri**

I couldn't agree more with the letter written by Michael Gleason about manufacturers who apparently don't use their products. Michael's mention of the backup lights, the vanity and, yes, the useless owner's manual all point to a thoughtless approach to designing and producing an RV.

It should be said that many improvements have been made in RVs, including the entertainment center. However, if you can't sit comfortably because the foam cushions don't support a person of 150 pounds, there's something wrong. I think manufacturers would benefit from user's groups to learn how customers feel about the experience of their RV.

**Jacques Pelletier  
Peachland, British Columbia, Canada**



I am in agreement with Michael Gleason's comment, "What were they thinking?" We just purchased our eighth trailer and downsized to a 21-footer. Finding a good trailer in that size is challenging. Some of the small lightweights are unbelievable, with single axles and window A/C. We finally ordered a 2015 Flagstaff Micro Lite. It is good quality with all the bells and whistles at a decent price.

Keep up the real evaluations.  
**Harley Hauck, Boyertown, Pennsylvania**

### Nonnegotiable Nightstands

Last year, we searched for a new travel trailer, our fourth RV in 10 years. We love our small Lance, towable by an existing SUV. A priority — after weight — was a comfortable, user-friendly bedroom. The first thing I look for is a nightstand that will accommodate a plethora of books, water bottles, electronic gear and the odd

knickknack. A search stops dead in its tracks for us when we see a mattress crammed into a tight, shelfless space. Chris Hemer's review of the otherwise commodious KZ GoldRush Durango in the August issue made a plea for designers to take this need into consideration. I add my voice to that plea.

We are pretty laden with technical gear, including smart-phones, tablets and e-readers, not to mention a few actual books, and these, plus tissues, water and other things take up space. You need to be able to reach them without getting out of bed. I do not understand why so many manufacturers ignore this basic requirement. Maybe they haven't yet become addicted to their devices, but even a book and a pair of glasses need a spot that is not the floor. Thanks for doing a great job!

**Polly Morgenstern, Durango, Colorado**

### Shower Door Enigma

My wife and I attended the September RV show in Hershey, Pennsylvania, and were disappointed that the two fifth-wheels we were looking for — the front-living Open Range and Keystone Montana models — were not on display. Additionally, I was amazed at how many units had the shower doors installed backward. In a residential shower, the doors always overlap away from the showerhead so as not to allow water to leak on the floor. This can be a major problem for an RV. Has anyone else noticed this issue, or am I just being too picky?

**Del Rothrock, Sunriver, Oregon** 🚐

**TALK TO US!** Write to: *Trailer Life*, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036 or email [info@trailerlife.com](mailto:info@trailerlife.com). Please include your full name and location.

ONE PRICE (ALL 4 MONTHS)

**\$1495\***

Jan, Feb, March & April 2015

\*New Customers Only. Tax & electric are extra. Some restrictions apply. No other discounts - Offers expire 4/30/15

**\$350\***

FOR ONE (1) MONTH

Jan, Feb, March or April 2015

**First Timer Special: Site rental applied to purchase.**



**RV LOTS FOR RENT & RV LOTS FOR SALE**



266 full hook up sites with all the amenities you'd expect at a price you can afford.

**WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN?**

SUPER SIZE SITES STARTING AT **\$16,600**

Maps, Rates, Photos & Discounts: [www.desertgardensrvpark.com](http://www.desertgardensrvpark.com) • Inquiries, Reservations & Special Offer Restrictions email: [desertgardens@gmail.com](mailto:desertgardens@gmail.com) or tel: 520 868 3800  
 Sales Info: 520-705-7065 • 5 miles S of Florence, Arizona in the village of Cactus Forest

# Earn **REC REWARDS** on every purchase<sup>1</sup>...your ticket to **RV Gear, Good Sam Membership & Services, Fuel & more!**<sup>2</sup>



**2,000 Bonus REC REWARDS points** (up to a \$25 value) with your first purchase<sup>3</sup>

**5x**

REWARDS  
POINTS

at **Camping World** and  
on **Good Sam** purchases

**3x**

REWARDS  
POINTS

at **private campgrounds**  
across the **U.S. and Canada**

**1x**

REWARDS  
POINTS

everywhere else **Visa**  
is accepted

## **APPLY TODAY! 1-844-271-2591**

[WWW.GOODSAMCAMPINGWORLDVISA.COM](http://WWW.GOODSAMCAMPINGWORLDVISA.COM)

GCR34931-0914

<sup>1</sup> Offer subject to credit approval. Cardholders will earn five (5) points for every one dollar (\$1.00) of Net Purchases spent on Good Sam Club related products and services made on their Account rounded to the nearest dollar. "Good Sam Club eligible purchases," are defined as products and services purchased from Good Sam Enterprises, LLC and its affiliates and partners, including but not limited to the following: Coast to Coast, Camping World, Good Sam, TL Enterprises, and NGIC. Cardholders will earn three (3) points for every one dollar (\$1.00) of Net Purchases made at any retail establishments that classify their merchant location to Visa as Campgrounds and Trailer Parks within the U.S. and Canada. For all other purchases made anywhere else, Cardholders will earn one (1) point for every one dollar (\$1.00) of Net Purchases made on their Account rounded to the nearest dollar. This rewards program is provided by Comenity Capital Bank and its terms may discontinue or change at any time.

<sup>2</sup> For information about the rates, fees, other costs, and the reward program rules (including point accrual rate, bonus point awards, etc.) and benefits associated with the use of this credit card program please visit [www.comenity.net/goodsamcampingworld](http://www.comenity.net/goodsamcampingworld) for complete terms and conditions.

<sup>3</sup> A one-time bonus award of (2,000) Rec Rewards Points will be awarded to new cardholders after the first purchase is posted to the Account. Bonus Rec Rewards Points will be posted approximately 30 days after the initial qualifying transaction.

The Good Sam | Camping World Visa® and Visa Signature® cards are issued by Comenity Capital Bank, pursuant to license from Visa® U.S.A. Inc.

## Where the Buffalo Roam in Nebraska

Fort Robinson State Park is a paradise for the outdoor enthusiast with hiking, swimming, trout fishing, wildlife viewing and scenic camping under the pines

article and photos by James Richardson

Nebraska's largest state park, Fort Robinson, is located in the northwest corner of the state just west of the town of Crawford. What a history it has! Fort Robinson served from the days of the Indian Wars until after World War II. It was the site of the 1879 Cheyenne Outbreak when the death of the Sioux chief Crazy Horse occurred. Throughout its history, the fort served the Red Cloud Indian Agency as a cavalry remount station, a dog-training center, a POW camp and a beef research facility. In 1885, the 9th Cavalry Regiment, nicknamed the Buffalo Soldiers, an all-black unit, was stationed at Fort Robinson. In 1960 the fort was declared a National Historic Landmark.

### FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK

**Red Cloud** and **Soldier Creek** campgrounds have picnic tables, restrooms, showers, a dump station and equestrian facilities. The park's campgrounds are open year-round, but water is shut off during winter months. 308-665-2900, [www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov/parks/guides](http://www.outdoornebraska.ne.gov/parks/guides)



**(Top)** Horse-drawn wagon tours are popular at Fort Robinson State Park. **(Above left)** The Fort Robinson Lodge and Restaurant was formerly an enlisted men's barracks. **(Above right)** Four-wheel-drive vehicles take wildlife seekers to view bighorn sheep.

The Nebraska State Historical Society operates the Fort Robinson Museum and several restored or reconstructed exhibit buildings. The museum is situated in the 1905 post headquarters. The University of Nebraska operates Trailside Museum of Natural History, which interprets the geology and paleontology of the region.

The history alone makes a visit to Fort Robinson worthwhile, but there is more. The state park has three campgrounds: a primitive one and the modern Red Cloud and Soldier Creek campgrounds with full hookups and mostly tree-shaded campsites. The park's lodge, formerly the enlisted men's barracks, has overnight accommodations and a full-service restaurant. Rental cabins once housed the officers of the fort.

The current fort sits on 22,000 acres of beautiful Pine Ridge scenery with some of its original buildings. This setting provides a backdrop for a multitude of activities and many opportunities for outdoor recreation. Horseback riding, visiting the park's museums, touring the fort's historic buildings and taking Jeep rides to observe bighorn sheep, buffalo and longhorn cattle are examples. The park also provides excellent wildlife and bird watching opportunities, and it's a good place to just hang out.

The Post Playhouse, located near the lodge, is an excellent venue for live theater. It produces several musicals running in a repertory schedule every summer and utilizing the talent of local professional actors and singers from across the country.



## Throwback Travel Trailer

In the 1950s *I Love Lucy* was keeping TV viewers entertained, Yankees' centerfielder Mickey Mantle was a household name and simple travel trailers were the rage. The designers at Genesis Supreme RV have created that nostalgic feel with trailers with straightforward floorplans. Said Pablo Carmona, president and CEO of Genesis, "I want people to enjoy their trailer...so I thought how fun it would be to design and build a trailer for families to create great memories like families did when I was growing up."

Three Genesis Classic floorplans are named after California coastal towns — Malibu, Palisades and Del Mar. They range in length from 16 feet 6 inches to 20 feet and feature a 1950s exterior design with many of the needed amenities inside. The galley has a two-burner cooktop, a stainless-steel sink with a high-rise faucet, a residential-size microwave and lots of storage cabinets. The Classic

can sleep up to four people. The RV's rounded-body style is available with an Ivory White or Slate Gray exterior accented in five color choices. Standard are a retro awning, 14-inch wheels with "moon" hubcaps, wet bath, furnace, flip-up dining area storage and wardrobe, 6-gallon water heater, dual 5-gallon LP-gas cylinders, 10-watt solar-power system, pass-through storage and a 22-gallon freshwater tank.

Claimed dry weight starts at 2,280 pounds, and gross vehicle weight ratings start at 2,980 pounds. MSRP starts at \$16,380.

951-657-3500

[www.genessupremerv.com](http://www.genessupremerv.com)



## NEWSWIRE

### RV INDUSTRY NEWS



### Expansion Projects Planned for RV Factories

Recreational vehicle sales are up, and Airstream, Heartland and Keystone are planning factory expansions. Airstream will add about 94,000 square feet to its 134,000-square-foot plant in Jackson Center, Ohio. The \$5.9 million project is expected to be completed by mid-2015 and will add approximately 125 jobs during the next three years. Airstream President Bob Wheeler said, "RVs are built by hand, so there's not a lot of equipment we need."

Thor Industries is planning expansion projects at two RV factories in northern Indiana. Company officials say it is spending \$8 million on its Heartland expansion and expects to add 85 jobs, while work has already started on a new \$6 million plant in Goshen for Keystone travel trailer production.

### EXTREME DOG PARK



### Sit, Stay and Play in New York

Lake George RV Park in upstate New York has added a 2-acre on-site dog park and off-leash recreation area. The RV park's president and CEO, David King, estimates that more than 60 percent of guests bring their dogs. Your best friend will feel like royalty when chasing a ball or Frisbee over the synthetic-turf play area, cooling off in a spray fountain and participating in agility events. Areas for large and small dogs are designated, and the pavilion includes a dog wash station and pet-treat vending machine. King says the over-the-top dog park is an industry first. The RV park offers deluxe amenities for two-legged guests as well, including indoor and outdoor swimming pools, shuffleboard, pool tables, paved biking trails and a trolley shuttle service. [www.lakegeorgervpark.com](http://www.lakegeorgervpark.com)

### ECO-FRIENDLY AWARDS



### Certified Green RVs

A number of makers of Certified Green RVs were on display at Elkhart, Indiana's RV Open House Week in September. The event is one of the RV industry's largest annual trade shows where massive outdoor displays showcasing most RV manufacturers spread out across a 3-mile radius. For an RV to qualify for Green status, administered by TRA Certification International, the manufacturing facility's practices must pass an evaluation measured against a national consensus standard for energy, water and resource efficiency, indoor air quality, and operation and innovative practices. Green RVs exhibited at the 2015 RV Open House Week include those from Airstream, Coachmen, DRV, EverGreen, Forest River, Gulf Stream, Renegade and Roadtrek. [www.certifiedgreenrvs.com](http://www.certifiedgreenrvs.com)



See Santa rappel at North Carolina's Chimney Rock State Park and save \$2 on admission.

## More Fun for Less Money

If your holiday season involves leisure travel, visit [www.couponsforfun.com](http://www.couponsforfun.com), which offers savings at attractions ranging from outdoor activities to theme parks to just about everything in between in more than 20 states.

Going to Springfield, Illinois, to visit the Lincoln Presidential Library? Click to save \$2 off admission. While in Springfield, get a free ride on the Ferris wheel inside Scheels sporting-goods store. Bring the kids to make an ornament on December 1, decorate a cookie with Mrs. Claus on December 15 and see live reindeer on December 20 and 21.

Visiting Mashpee, Massachusetts? Buy one admission ticket at the Cape Cod Children's Museum and receive another one free. Get the same deal at the Hoover Dam Museum in Boulder City, Nevada. Heading to Florida to see Ripley's Believe It or Not! or the Clearwater Marine Aquarium? Save \$2.

In Ogdensburg, New York, get two-for-one admission to the Frederic Remington Art Museum. Better yet, visit on December 14 and enjoy free admission to see beautiful holiday decorations. Or kick off Christmas at Chimney Rock State Park in North Carolina by watching Santa rappel 200 feet on December 6 and 13.

The website also lists offers for free admission to active military families. Happy saving, and don't forget to check expiration dates.

[www.couponsforfun.com](http://www.couponsforfun.com)

## Cowboy Up at the National Poetry Gathering

Go West, young man — and woman — to celebrate ranchero culture at the 31st National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 26-31, 2015. The small desert town of Elko, Nevada, welcomes Baja's *vaqueros*, who will share with their American cowboy counterparts traditional lore, acoustic music, local arts and crafts, and ranch cuisine. Learn the ropes about cowboy culture from around the world, listen to tall tales, dance the two-step and train in a traditional skill. See the website for a list of participating poets and musicians.

[www.westernfolklife.org](http://www.westernfolklife.org)



### RV PARKS IN ELKO

#### Double Dice RV Park

888-738-3423

[www.doubledicervpark.com](http://www.doubledicervpark.com)

#### Iron Horse RV Resort

800-782-3556

[www.ironhorservresort.com](http://www.ironhorservresort.com)



## New Dates for 2015 Phoenix Rally

Come join the fun, February 26 to March 1, 2015, at the Camping World/Good Sam Rally in Phoenix, Arizona! Organizers announced a new date for the upcoming Rally due to a change in NASCAR's 2015 race schedule.

The Rally features a vast exhibit area with hundreds of motorized and towable RVs, more than 300 indoor booths with the latest RV accessories and dawn-till-dark seminars and activities. You can even test drive an RV on the track. Nightly entertainment includes tribute bands Ticket to Ride (Beatles), Super Diamond (Neil Diamond) and the RealTones Band ('50s, '60s and '70s music). Bring your best friend to Halo's Best in Show dog show on February 28. Take part in the Salute to Veterans on March 1, which includes a special appearance by members of the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club, many of whom represent veterans from different military branches. The Rally will attempt to break the record for the world's largest wedding vow renewal.

**Camping World/Good Sam Rally**  
800-701-1399

[www.therally.com](http://www.therally.com)



## Turn Up the Heat

After feeling the chill when his RV's furnace stopped working, an Oregon reader paid a mobile repair service for a quick fix. Now he's hoping to get reimbursed by the manufacturer of his then-four-month-old fifth-wheel:

▶ On May 13, 2013, we purchased a new Forest River Columbus fifth-wheel at Camping World RV Sales in Hillsboro, Oregon. That fall, the furnace quit working one chilly night at Fogarty Creek RV Park in Depoe Bay.

I called Coach-Net, which provides Forest River's free one-year roadside assistance coverage. They said they had no one to send out to our coastal location. We then traveled south to Pacific Pines RV Park in Florence. The manager told us about Siuslaw Mobile RV Service in Mapleton. They replaced the circuit board, and I paid the bill of \$390.

Since then, I've called Forest River multiple times regarding reimbursement and have repeatedly been told they're looking into it. I hope you can help. This is a brand-new RV.

**Don Barnes, Florence, Oregon**



RV Resolutions contacted Forest River's Palomino division to explain Don Barnes' predicament. A few months later, we received a thank-you note:

▶ Thank you so much for your assistance! I finally got a check for the full amount from Forest River.  
**D.B.**

## Black-Valve Blues

Right after his warranty expired, a North Carolina reader was stuck between his RV's manufacturer and his RV service center when seeking reimbursement for a part that had recently been replaced:

▶ I purchased a Keystone Laredo fifth-wheel from Bill Plemmons RV World in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on April 30, 2013. In December of that year, Bill Plemmons' service department replaced the faulty black valve under the warranty and winterized the Laredo.

In May 2014, just days after the warranty expired, I noticed a leak when I removed the cover and began flushing out the winterizing chemicals in the lines and tanks. I took the Laredo to Bill Plemmons on May 14, and the technician said the black valve needed to be replaced at a cost of about \$400. This is the same valve that had failed in

December, and it had not been used since its replacement.

Bill Plemmons' service manager, Russ Carroll, said he would replace the valve at no charge if Keystone authorized the replacement, but Keystone was slow to give approval. I wound up paying for the repairs myself because I needed the fifth-wheel for a trip with my grandkids.

I don't think I should have to pay to replace a new valve that failed without my using it, so I've continued to ask Keystone and Bill Plemmons for reimbursement. Anything you can do to help me recover the \$392.81 would be

greatly appreciated.

**Ben Bryer**  
**Pilot Mountain, North Carolina**

Not long after RV Resolutions contacted Bill Plemmons RV World and Keystone RV Company regarding reimbursement, Ben Bryer replied with the following thank-you note:

▶ Good news. The letters from RV Resolutions worked. Keystone and Bill Plemmons RV Center both contacted me, and I received a check for the cost of the valve repair. Thank you so much for your assistance.

**B.B.** 🚐

**NEED HELP? »** RV Resolutions is a forum for the settlement of conflicts between consumers and RV dealers and manufacturers, accessory suppliers and service providers. After exhausting all other resources without success, please send a typed letter to *Trailer Life* RV Resolutions, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036. Include copies of appropriate bills and correspondence as well as a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

# Great TV on the Road... When You Want It!

**FREE  
HBO  
FOR  
3 MONTHS!**

with activation of DISH  
Pay-As-You-Go  
programming.

No matter where your RV takes you, the Tailgater® Portable Satellite Antenna and Pay-As-You-Go programming allow you to take your favorite TV programs along.



#65148 **Club SALE \$349**  
Reg. \$379.99

#### Tailgater by DISH offers:

- Quick and easy setup
- Lightweight and compact to fit any space
- Automatic satellite detection
- HD programming



#73912 **Club SALE \$99.95**  
Reg. \$109.99

#### With DISH Pay-As-You-Go programming\*:

- Pay only for the months you use
- No term contracts
- No charge to start or stop monthly service
- Programming for as little as **\$44.99 per month!**

**Call Camping World at 1-888-875-1540 to activate your DISH programming!**

\*Requires antenna and receiver purchase. Limit one receiver per antenna. All charges, including monthly programming, pay-per-view and equipment upgrades, must be paid in advance; failure to pay by due date will lead to service disconnection within 24 hours. Premium Channels: 3-month Premium movie offer value is \$57; after 3 months then-current everyday price applies unless you downgrade. Offer available for new and qualified former customers and subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. State reimbursement charges may apply. Additional restrictions may apply. Offer expires 1/6/15.

**dish**  
AUTHORIZED RETAILER



# CAMPING WORLD®

SuperCenters Nationwide | 1.888.875.1540 | [CampingWorld.com](http://CampingWorld.com)

DISH Network, Circle 104 on Reader Service Card

# ARIZONA'S RED ROCK COUNTRY

Expect to be enchanted by the chic galleries, stone monoliths and spiritual energy of Sedona, the towering cliff dwellings of Montezuma Castle and the copper-mining community of Jerome, once known as the Wickedest Town in the West

Resting the hill on the road into Sedona, Arizona, my husband, Mark, and I simultaneously gasped and blurted out an astonished "Wow!" Majestic landscapes lined with exotic red-rock formations filled the view to the horizon in every direction. Our truck and trailer swooped over the beautiful hilly roads leading into town,

and I bounced around in the passenger seat trying to capture the incredible scenery on my camera. We had been to Sedona years before, but we had been weekend touring tourists staying in a hotel. On this trip we were lucky enough to be visiting for a few weeks in our fifth-wheel trailer and couldn't wait to get set up and start exploring.

The most stunning aspect of Sedona is the dramatic drives around the Y-shaped town. Downtown Sedona is on the right fork, West Sedona on the left and the Village of Oak Creek at the base. There aren't a lot of roads, but every one is a pure joy to drive.

Running errands, even in the significant traffic that proves this town's immense popularity, is something we looked forward to doing. "Let's go do the laundry!" I suggested, eagerly hopping in the truck without knowing where a coin wash was, just so we could poke around town and soak in the views in our search for one. When we found ourselves taking photos of parking lots because of the striking red rocks towering in the background, we knew we were in a uniquely scenic place.

Despite its small size (population 10,000), Sedona stands tall on the world stage for travelers. As we ventured





out onto Bell Rock Pathway, perhaps the most popular hiking and biking route through the red rocks, we heard languages from all over the world being spoken as we mingled with Asian and European tourists. This hiking trail is an easy stroll right into the heart of the red rocks, and we soon discovered it was a great place to get our biking legs in action, too.

The Templeton Trail forks off Bell Rock Pathway, and a challenging mountain-bike ride on this trail took us along a winding route to the towering monolith known as Cathedral Rock. The fun thing about this trail is the smooth ride along the base of the cathedral. Glorious red-rock peaks are easily visible in the distance, while the trail hugs massive rock walls that reach up to the cathedral's steeples. As we rounded the last curve, the buttresses and spires of Cathedral Rock soared

into view before us, looking as regal and ethereal as any manmade sanctuary ever built.

Another wonderful route into red-rock country is the Airport Mesa Loop trail. Starting close to downtown Sedona, this trail follows the edges of enormous cliffs, offering panoramic views across valleys and canyons that change colors throughout the day as the light shifts in the sky. The views were most stunning toward the end of the day, as the hues of the red rocks deepened to burnt orange and shadows crept across the valley floor.

Sedona is considered by many to have a strong spiritual power. Bell Rock, Cathedral Rock, Airport Mesa and a few other spots around town are known as "vortexes" where tran-

scendent energies are particularly concentrated and most easily sensed. These New Age sentiments about the area may sound a little far-fetched, but the ancient Indians felt a similar mystical inspiration here, and some modern tribes still perform sacred ceremonies in the area. I can't say that we experienced anything out of the ordinary at these vortex sites, but it is easy to believe that the majesty of the landscape surrounding all of Sedona reflects the work of a divine hand.

Human hands are responsible for the abundance of exquisite and whimsical works of art around town. Home to many artists, Sedona is full of galleries and art studios. Several lovely bronze sculptures line the main street of town. An especially charming

---

**[Right] Near Sedona, Montezuma Castle National Monument is the site of ancient and well-preserved cliff dwellings built by the Sinagua people 1,000 years ago.**



Dozens of beautiful hikes in the Sedona area offer stunning red-rock views in every direction.

one depicts an artist standing before an easel, holding a paint palette. He is gazing at a magnificent mountain view, as a child by his side takes his photo. On an even more playful note, a group of oversize xylophones stands under a ramada in the center of town. Mallets resting on each xylophone tempt passersby to strike the instruments and listen to their deep, mellow tones.

In addition to Sedona's art galleries, dozens of boutique shops and fun eateries occupy the main drag. After strolling through a few galleries and admiring red-rock-inspired images and sculptures, we stopped at Rollies Camera shop to find out which of the 250 hiking trails in the area their professional photographers thought was the most photogenic. "West Fork is my favorite," photographer and shopkeeper Tom Kelly told us.

Without pausing to ask why, we were soon on our way there. Just a half-mile onto the West Fork Trail, we suddenly understood what sets this unique place apart and makes it such a favorite among locals. Whereas most of the Sedona area is about vast, open, sunny views and awe-inspiring red-rock formations, West Fork is a shady stroll under leafy branches alongside a cool stream.

We walked under a thick canopy of lush green vegetation and then found ourselves next to a series of huge rock overhangs that jutted out over a wide, shallow pool, creating perfectly mirrored reflections in the water.



**On the photogenic West Fork hiking trail, gorgeous rock overhangs filled with colorful patterns reflect in the glassy pool below them.**

Here and there, red-rock cliffs peaked through the luxuriant greenery, forming a vivid backdrop. Another mile or so down the trail, the thick forest stepped back from the stream for 20 yards or so, revealing an inviting little wading pool surrounded by wide, flat rocks. Several hikers had stripped down to swimsuits and were enjoying a refreshing dip.

Two weeks after we left Sedona, we were agonized to learn that the West Fork area to the north of Sedona had become the victim of wildfire. Fortunately for visitors, it appears that the West Fork hiking trail itself was spared and that the worst of the damage was much deeper in the wilderness. This trail must be spectacular in the fall when the green leaves turn to shades of gold and red. A return trip is on our bucket list so we can find out.

Fires are a regular threat each summer season, and near the entrance of the West Fork Trail the remains of the charming Mayhew Lodge serve as a sobering reminder. Once a tiny cabin built by legendary grizzly hunter "Bear" Howard, the building was expanded by later owners and surrounded by apple orchards. Popular Western novelist Zane Grey loved this area so much, he set his novel *The Call of the Canyon* here. And when Carl Mayhew came to the site to photograph the filming of Grey's novel, he bought the property and opened it to guests in 1926.

Mayhew's lodge soon became a

favorite retreat for A-list celebrities including Clark Gable, Jimmy Stewart and President Herbert Hoover. The Mayhew family eventually sold the lodge to the U.S. Forest Service in 1968, and tragically, in 1980, a fire reduced it to ashes. Walking around the broken ruins of the stone fireplace in what was once the living room, I ran my hands along the partial stone wall and glassless round window that still stand. It is hard to imagine the sounds of those Hollywood voices booming through a two-story building here, sun pouring in the large windows and glinting off a 1940s vintage car parked out front, as portrayed in an antique photo of the lodge on a plaque nearby.

Celebrities still flock to Sedona, and the town has a decidedly upscale tone. Loaded with spas, high-end hotels and fine dining, it is a playground for the rich and a welcome escape from the desert heat for folks from nearby Phoenix. We discovered that one of the best ways to cool off after a day outdoors was to stop in for a delicious microbrew beer at the Oak Creek Brewing Company in the Village of Oak Creek just south of Sedona. Their Nut Brown Ale has long been a favorite of ours, and we got a kick out of drinking it in the brewery's tasting room, right next to the massive fermenting tanks.

After a few days of playing in the red rocks, we were ready for a change of scenery, and a day trip to Montezuma

## RV Parks and Campgrounds

### Coconino National Forest

Three U.S. Forest Service campgrounds — Cave Springs, Chavez Crossing and Pine Flat — accommodate small trailers and motorhomes. In Sedona and Oak Creek Canyon.

[www.fs.usda.gov/coconino](http://www.fs.usda.gov/coconino)  
Reservations: 877-444-6777  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

### Dead Horse Ranch State Park

Electric hookups only. Daily rates from \$25. In Cottonwood, 20 miles from Sedona.

928-634-5283  
[www.azstateparks.com/parks/deho](http://www.azstateparks.com/parks/deho)

### Oak Creek Mobilodge

Shady campground with access to Oak Creek. Monthly rates from \$495. In Sedona.

928-282-7701  
[www.oakcreekmobilodge.com](http://www.oakcreekmobilodge.com)

### Rancho Sedona RV Park

A Good Sam Park with sycamore and cottonwood trees for shade. Daily rates from \$48.50. In Sedona.

888-641-4261  
[www.ranchosedona.com](http://www.ranchosedona.com)

### Rio Verde RV Park

On 30 acres along the Verde River. Daily rates from \$31.23. In Cottonwood, 18 miles from Sedona.

928-634-5990  
[www.riverdervpark.com](http://www.riverdervpark.com)



(Above) Visitors can enjoy outdoor markets and art festivals all summer long in Sedona. (Right) Known as the Wickedest Town in the West, the hillside town of Jerome is full of classic Western architecture, including the Hotel Conner, and makes for a fun day trip.



Castle National Park fit the bill perfectly. Montezuma, also known as Moctezuma, was the Aztec king whose Venice-like canaled city in what is now Mexico City was destroyed by Spaniard Hernán Cortés and his army in 1521. As we approached a cliff dwelling high up on a sheer rock wall, I wondered what Montezuma had been doing in Arizona. Had he made the 1,500-mile trip here at some point during his life?

The walls and windows of the cliff dwelling resemble Indian ruins found throughout the Southwest, and we soon learned that when early settlers discovered these ruins, they incorrectly assumed the Aztecs had built them. They named the site Montezuma

Castle, and it has stuck through the years. However, these evocative 20-room cliff dwellings were built by the Sinagua (Spanish for “without water”) people about 1,000 years ago. Until the late 1970s, visitors could climb up into the ruins on wooden ladders, but today preservation takes precedence over tourism, and the dwellings can be viewed by the public only from ground level.

A few miles away but still in the national monument, Montezuma’s name was given to a natural spring and deep-water pool, Montezuma Well, where there are a few more ancient

An RV trip to this unique part of Arizona offers fun for the whole family, and the Sedona area has loads of different kinds of camping options.



# Imagine what

it would mean to your loved ones to know you'd set up an extra \$10,000.00 (or more) ... just to help them out if something happened to you. Paid on top of any coverage you might already have.

Choose your benefit amount. \$10,000.00 is a popular choice but \$15,000.00 or \$25,000.00 can mean extra money for your loved ones just when they may need it most.

## Competitive Rates for Good Sam Club Members:

**Secure Your Competitively-Priced Rates Today — Protect those you care about most**

As you'd expect from the Good Sam Club, this term life insurance plan has group rates.

And because rates are based on your age on the day your coverage starts, you'll save over time.

Your rates will stay the same no matter what happens to your health. It doesn't matter how long you keep this important protection.

## Questions? Call 1-866-417-3412

Underwritten by:

Monumental Life Insurance Company, Cedar Rapids, IA



A Transamerica company

Monumental Life Insurance Company, a Transamerica company, is going through renaming activities. As the transition takes place both Monumental Life Insurance Company and the new name, Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company, will be in use.

## Term Life Insurance Monthly Rates\* for Good Sam Members & Spouses

Issue Age	\$10,000		\$15,000		\$25,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
45	\$34.20	\$28.70	\$49.80	\$41.55	\$81.00	\$67.25
46	\$35.20	\$29.60	\$51.30	\$42.90	\$83.50	\$69.50
47	\$36.20	\$30.50	\$52.80	\$44.25	\$86.00	\$71.75
48	\$37.20	\$31.40	\$54.30	\$45.60	\$88.50	\$74.00
49	\$38.20	\$32.30	\$55.80	\$46.95	\$91.00	\$76.20
50	\$39.30	\$33.10	\$57.45	\$48.15	\$93.75	\$78.25
51	\$40.30	\$34.00	\$58.95	\$49.50	\$96.25	\$80.50
52	\$41.30	\$34.90	\$60.45	\$50.85	\$98.75	\$82.75
53	\$43.30	\$36.50	\$63.45	\$53.25	\$103.75	\$86.75
54	\$45.30	\$38.10	\$66.45	\$55.65	\$108.75	\$90.75
55	\$47.40	\$39.60	\$69.60	\$57.90	\$114.00	\$94.50
56	\$49.40	\$41.20	\$72.60	\$60.30	\$119.00	\$98.50
57	\$51.40	\$42.80	\$75.60	\$62.70	\$124.00	\$102.50
58	\$53.50	\$43.90	\$78.75	\$64.35	\$129.25	\$105.25
59	\$55.60	\$45.00	\$81.90	\$66.00	\$134.50	\$108.00
60	\$57.60	\$46.20	\$84.90	\$67.80	\$139.50	\$111.00
61	\$59.70	\$47.30	\$88.05	\$69.45	\$144.75	\$113.75
62	\$61.80	\$48.40	\$91.20	\$71.10	\$150.00	\$116.50
63	\$64.40	\$50.30	\$95.10	\$73.95	\$156.50	\$121.25
64	\$66.90	\$52.20	\$98.85	\$76.80	\$162.75	\$126.00
65	\$69.50	\$54.00	\$102.75	\$79.50	\$169.25	\$130.50
66	\$72.00	\$55.90	\$106.50	\$82.35	\$175.50	\$135.25
67	\$74.60	\$57.80	\$110.40	\$85.20	\$182.00	\$140.00
68	\$80.30	\$62.50	\$118.95	\$92.25	\$196.25	\$151.75
69	\$86.00	\$67.20	\$127.50	\$99.30	\$210.50	\$163.50
70	\$91.80	\$71.90	\$136.20	\$106.35	\$225.00	\$175.25
71	\$97.50	\$76.60	\$144.75	\$113.40	\$239.25	\$187.00
72	\$103.20	\$81.30	\$153.30	\$120.45	\$253.50	\$198.75
73	\$108.90	\$86.00	\$161.85	\$127.50	\$267.75	\$210.50
74	\$114.60	\$90.70	\$170.40	\$134.55	\$282.00	\$222.25
75	\$120.40	\$95.40	\$179.10	\$141.60	\$296.50	\$234.00

\* Premiums may be changed only if they are changed for the entire group policy. Rates include a \$3.00 administrative fee.

IMPORTANT: Spouse benefit amount cannot be greater than member's.

This is a limited term life insurance plan with reduced benefits the first 2 years.



Sinagua ruins. Walking along a paved path that descends to the level of the water, we were surprised to find ourselves by a brook surrounded by tall leafy trees in a very cool and moist habitat. Beautiful yellow columbine flowers were in bloom everywhere, and the sound of rushing water drew us to a mini-waterfall at the end of the path.

Another delightful day trip from Sedona took us to the turn-of-the-last-century mining town of Jerome. This tiny town sits high on Cleopatra Hill with views of the Verde Valley from every street. Once home to two thriving copper mines (and all the wild brothels and bars that went with them), Jerome is now a charming town of art galleries, bistros, landmarks from days gone by and just 448 residents.

Plaques on the historic buildings tell stories of those early times. A few structures were left open to the elements after the last of many fires burnt them down; just the stone walls remain. The story of madam Jennie

Bauters on a plaque outside her establishment characterizes the rough-and-tumble nature of life in those days. Arriving straight from Belgium in 1896, Bauters built two brothels that burned down in successive citywide fires. The third one, from 1898, still stands, and the activities inside quickly made her the richest woman in the Arizona Territory — until she was murdered in 1905.

Back in modern-day Sedona, one of the most popular excursions is a 4x4 Jeep tour on Schnebly Hill Road. We opted to take our own truck on this road instead, and the drive out of the cool pine forests near Flagstaff down into the blazing red rocks of Sedona was a trip we will long remember. The road is extremely rough in places, but the views and vistas were worth every bump. As we snapped photos of jubilant Jeep tourists being tossed all over the place, we heard one fellow yell to his buddy, "This is going on Facebook!" as he held his camera high in the air for

a selfie in the Jeep with the jagged red rocks behind him.

Sedona, Arizona, fulfilled all our expectations and delivered so much more. Quaint, rugged, chic and picturesque, all at the same time, the town gave us a fantastic array of things to do and left us wanting to come back for more. 📷

### For More Information

#### Coconino National Forest

928-527-3600

[www.fs.usda.gov/coconino](http://www.fs.usda.gov/coconino)

#### Jerome Chamber of Commerce

928-634-2900

[www.jeromechamber.com](http://www.jeromechamber.com)

#### Montezuma Castle National Park

928-567-3322, [www.nps.gov/moca](http://www.nps.gov/moca)

#### Sedona Chamber of Commerce

800-288-7336

[www.visitsedona.com](http://www.visitsedona.com)



## The First Big Movement in More Than 50 Years



#### Secure Cam Lock

The Waste Master isn't just a hose and nozzle, it comes complete with a time-tested Cam Lock connector that ensures a leak-proof connection to the sewer outlet. Traditional RV hose bayonet fittings can leak, but industrial grade cam locks have been used in the liquid transportation industry for decades and are proven to provide a strong, reliable seal.



#### Tough Clean Hose

Unlike traditional hose coils that trap debris, the patented Waste Master hose is designed with its helical coil on the outside, while the inside is much smoother, preventing waste from getting trapped inside the hose. The UV-protected hose is 18 feet fully extended and 5 feet compressed including the nozzle. The hose also features technology that keeps it extended during use to the exact length required.



#### User-Friendly Nozzle

The permanently-connected nozzle is molded with an easy-grip handle, an integrated shut-off valve and a clear view port that allows the user to see when waste has completely evacuated, helping ensure the tanks and hose are clean. The nozzle also features a 90 degree discharge port that is easy to fit and secure into most sewage inlets.

\*Hose support not included

Buy Online! [store.lci1.com](http://store.lci1.com)



[lippertcomponents.com](http://lippertcomponents.com)

# CALICO'S SILVER LINING

California's Old West mining town unearths a mother lode of history and good old-fashioned fun with a narrow-gauge railroad, gold panning and ghost tours

Mention the words "ghost town," and most of us probably think of an old haunted town, one devoid of humans and inhabited by nothing but otherworldly beings. Ghost towns are often wonderful places to photograph rickety old buildings or pursue paranormal experiences, but not much else.

To the contrary, there's a ghost town in the Mojave Desert of Southern California that offers much to see and do. At Calico Ghost Town you can shop, take a self-guided mine tour, pan for gold, ride a train, eat a nice meal, hike or mountain bike a nearby trail, and

even hunt for ghosts. Better yet, Calico has a campground from which you can settle in and explore. It's right off Interstate 15 but far enough away to be free of highway noise.

Situated 126 miles northeast of Los Angeles and 148 miles southwest of Las Vegas, Calico Ghost Town is just a few minutes east of Barstow in Yermo. On a recent visit, my husband, Mike, and I parked for a couple of days in the campground's full-hookup section. We had a great time walking to the ghost town from our campsite and venturing out on our mountain bikes.

I first visited Calico when I was a

kid. I grew up in Southern California, and my folks used to enjoy taking my brothers and me to places like Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park. When they heard about Calico and its ties to the Knott family, they packed us up in the car and went to check it out. That was a long time ago, so I don't remember much, but I know we had fun because we always did.

Calico Ghost Town was born in March 1881. Once a bustling community filled with prospectors intent on striking it rich, the Calico Mining District possessed one of the richest silver deposits in the state. During its run, the mine was the greatest producer of silver in Southern California, digging

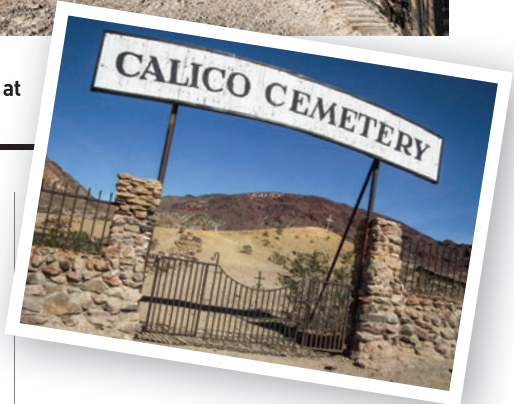
---

**Calico House serves Big Buckaroo cheeseburgers and views of the railroad from the back patio.**





(Above left and right) Day-trippers and overnight RVers explore the old town of Calico on foot and aboard the narrow-gauge train. (Right) Some interesting characters have been laid to rest at Calico Cemetery, originally a Boot Hill graveyard for those who died with their boots on.



up \$86 million in silver and \$45 million in borax. The region had more than 500 mines between 1881 and 1907, including the Silver King, Odessa, Waterloo, Garfield, Oriental, Bismarck and Maggie mines.

In its heyday, the town had a population that grew from 40 people in 1881 to 1,200 in 1887. Lots of folks meant lots of saloons, and by 1887 there were 22 of them, plus brothels, of course, and even a China town. Around 1907, the price of silver plummeted from \$1.31 an ounce to 63 cents, and Calico was on its way to becoming a ghost town. Today, fewer than a dozen people live there.

In 1910 Walter Knott worked briefly in the mine while homesteading nearby with his wife, Cordelia. Four decades later, Knott inherited his uncle's silver mill in Calico, and in 1951 he proceeded to purchase the entire town. He moved some of the buildings

to the ghost town attraction at Knott's Berry Farm and restored and rebuilt the remaining structures to appear as they did in the 1880s. The town became a California Historical Landmark in 1962, and in 1966 Knott donated it to San Bernardino County. In 2005 then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger proclaimed Calico California's official Silver Rush Ghost Town.

Now a regional park, Calico Ghost Town resides in one of the most colorful desert settings around. The brilliant reds, golds, greens and blues of the Mojave — a real myriad of colors — provide a beautiful backdrop. RVers can enjoy both the town and the surrounding landscape while camping at the adjacent Calico Ghost Town Campground (see "Camping at Calico" on page 25). Those staying at the campground have free access to the ghost town and can explore to their heart's content but have to pay extra

to pan for gold, tour the Maggie Mine, visit the Mystery Shack and ride the Calico & Odessa Railroad.

The best way to visit old Calico is to take a self-guided walking tour. We picked up a brochure at the park office and found descriptions of some of the oldest buildings. For instance, Lane's General Store is thought to date from the early 1880s. Restored for use by Walter Knott, the building's original cellar is still being used. The Bottle House, built by Knott in the 1950s, has been restored and is now called Dorsey's Dog House, a place with gourmet treats for pampered pets. The whole town is dog friendly.

Is Calico a ghost town or an amusement park? Thanks to the Walter Knott family of Knott's Berry Farm, it's both.





Walking around Calico a couple of times, we imagined what life was like back in the 1800s. We visited the jail and the old-time photo studio, along with various shops for crafts, candles, sweets, woodwork and leather goods. We dined on hamburgers on delicious homemade buns while sitting on the back porch at the Calico House Restaurant, drinking iced tea from mason jars and watching the train pass by.

The excursion train is reminiscent of the narrow-gauge railroad

used both inside and outside Calico's mines during its boom years. The most well known was the Daggett & Calico Railroad, which from 1888 to 1903 spanned about 7 miles to carry silver ore from Calico down to the Waterloo Mill in the Daggett area.

In reading more about Calico and its rail systems, we learned about the Western Mineral Company's "gravity railroad." Morning after morning, mules would haul empty ore cars up to the mine at nearby Odessa Canyon. Miners

**(Above from left) Built with more than 5,000 bottles, the Calico Bottle House is now home to Dorsey's Dog House. A saloon facade invites visitors to pose for Wild West photos.**

would load the cars and descend by gravity 1½ miles to the refining plant in the valley below the town. At the end of the day, cars would be saved to transport both the miners and the mules back down. Seeing the mules riding in an otherwise empty car must have been a sight to behold!



## The *Easiest* Way to Empty a Holding Tank!

**THETFORD**  
**SANI-CON**<sup>®</sup>

*Hooks up to RV's sewer connection – Powerful Pump action works fast and clean.*

- ✓ *Space saving 7-ft x 1" hose extends to 21 feet!*
- ✓ *Transfers waste quickly – 20 ft. uphill and 150 ft. distance – lets you use hard-to-reach dump stations*
- ✓ *Stepped & threaded Nozzle fits most dump ports*

***From the RV Sanitation Expert***



Although there are many old mines around, the only one that is safe to visit is Maggie Mine. For a fee you can take the self-guided tour. Before you begin, be sure to look at the photos and displays in the exhibit area.

In addition to exploring the town, Mike and I hiked the East Calico Trail where we looked for plants and animals native to the Mojave. Though we didn't see much in the way of wildlife, we searched for rattlesnakes and desert cottontails. We found desert holly and learned that old-timers used the plant with the holly-shaped leaves and red berries for decorating at Christmastime.

We found plenty of old roads to ride our mountain bikes on, and also took our bikes to the cemetery where we left them at the gate and walked around to look at all the old markers. In the wall surrounding the cemetery, we found a large desert lizard called a chuckwalla peering out from its shady space. Although we don't have an off-highway vehicle, those who do can explore the OHV trail that runs from the campground to the Bureau of Land Management riding area.

Whether on foot, bike or OHV, or even from the comfort of your RV, it's easy to enjoy the colorful realm of Calico Ghost Town. 🚗

## Camping at Calico

Tucked in the Calico Mountains, Calico Ghost Town Campground has 250 campsites in two sections. The closest section to the ghost town rests in a narrow canyon below the town and offers everything from primitive campsites to ones with full hookups. The other section sits west of the park entrance and has mostly non-hookup sites, though a few have partial-hookups sans sewer connections.

Campground amenities include showers, dump stations and water. In addition to accommodating RVs and tents, the campground rents six camping cabins and a large bunkhouse with heat and air conditioning.

Calico Ghost Town is open from 8 a.m. to dusk daily, except Christmas. The restaurant serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, and shops and attractions are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The entry fee is \$8 per adult, but it's free for those who have paid to camp. Overnight camping runs \$30



without hookups and \$35 with full hookups. Seniors pay \$25 to \$30 per night, Sunday through Thursday.

Reservations are recommended during the Civil War re-enactment (Presidents Day weekend), Calico Spring Festival (early spring), Calico Days (Columbus Day weekend), Ghost Haunt (late October) and Holiday Fest (Thanksgiving Weekend).

**Calico Ghost Town Regional Park**  
800-862-2542  
www.calicotown.com  
**Calico Ghost Town Campground**  
877-387-2757  
www.sbcountyparks.com



**THETFORD**

**Aqua-KEM Toss-Ins™**

**HOLDING TANK DEODORANT**

**Morning Sky**  
*New Clean Scent,  
Same Great Performance!*

- Powerful odor control & superior waste digestion
- Rapid-dissolve, water-soluble packs deodorize fast
- No measuring, spills or mess
- 100% biodegradable

*The newest member  
of the family!*



A3177

# THE HEART OF DIXIE

Vicksburg, Mississippi, played a pivotal role in the Civil War. Now home to a national military park, the city has more to explore than historic battlefields

article by Pamela Selbert



**N**orth of Vicksburg, the Mississippi Delta stretches table-flat from the mocha-colored Mississippi east to the Yazoo and all the way to Memphis, a distance of about 250 miles. The delta is a world of vast fields made smooth and rich by floodwater over the centuries.

Long ago the fields grew the cotton that made fortunes for Southern planters. These days, the fields sprout corn, soybeans and sorghum, though not much cotton, in seemingly endless rows. From U.S. Highway 61, the Great River Road, the main route through this leaf-shaped alluvial plain, there's little

interrupting the view to the horizon in any direction.

But then, less than a dozen miles from town, the delta ends, and the landscape changes abruptly, rumpling into thickly treed foothills that culminate in high bluffs towering some 300 feet over the Mississippi.

This high ground, where Vicksburg had been incorporated less than 40 years before the Civil War broke out, was an ideal location for a town, as it could be easily defended. Ulysses S. Grant, a major general for the Union Army at the time, realized that in the spring and summer of 1863, as he

tried for months to defeat the city without success.

At the time, Vicksburg was all that stood in the way of Union control of the entire Mississippi. Union control would split the Confederacy in two, ultimately strangling it. Today, Vicksburg National Military Park and Vicksburg National Cemetery stand on the bluffs where the town's fate and in large part the outcome of the war were decided.

On our recent visit, my husband, Guy, and I arranged for a two-hour tour — which wound up stretching to five hours — of the park and historic town. Our guide was the personable David

Steamboats still roll along the Mississippi River through Vicksburg, though these days their business is sightseeing.



PHOTO BY GUY SELBERT

**(Top)** The Illinois Memorial at Vicksburg National Military Park is a miniature of the Pantheon in Rome and considered the “jewel in the crown” of the park’s memorials. **(Above)** Union cannons and earthen fortifications help visitors experience what the Civil War battlefield looked like.



Maggio, a recent retiree from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a licensed guide for the military park for the past 10 years and an enthusiastic wealth of information.

Maggio explained that after numerous unsuccessful attempts by river on Vicksburg — which has been called the Gibraltar of the Confederacy — Grant landed tens of thousands of troops downstream and fought his way north to swing in behind the town. Still, Confederate defenders were able to resist two major Union assaults.

Vicksburg held till Grant laid a siege in late May, surrounding the

town with trenches and artillery batteries. Even then it hung on for nearly seven more weeks, with the citizens digging tunnels to protect themselves against the cannonballs and shells the Union lobbed in, some 11,300 mortar rounds and 113,000 cannon rounds during the 47 days, said Maggio. By early July Vicksburg was starving, its people reduced to eating dogs, mules and even rats.

In what some Southerners considered a traitorous act, Lieutenant General John Pemberton, commander of Confederate forces in the town, surrendered on July 4, 1863, and the

entire Mississippi came under Federal control. Grant’s forces marched into town and raised the Union flag from the clock tower on the Old Court House, now a museum.

Our afternoon began at the park’s visitor center, where exhibits and the 20-minute film *Here Brothers Fought* explain the campaign and siege of Vicksburg. Afterward, Maggio was waiting to begin our battlefield tour in our vehicle. The 16-mile tour, which can also be self-guided, includes 15 numbered stops — red for Confederate lines or emplacements, blue for Union.

Over the next three hours, we

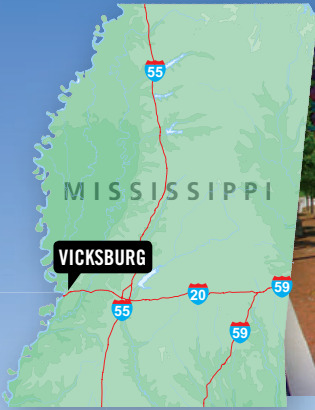


PHOTO BY GUY SELBERT

stopped dozens of times, while Maggio explained the events of the siege. Vicksburg National Military Park, 1,910 acres, includes some 1,700 stone and metal markers, and was established in 1899 as the country's fifth national military park. It spans the entire extent of the siege and defense lines, and although much of the land is now thickly wooded, it was pastureland in 1863.

Of the 34 states at the time, 28 were represented here during the campaign. Each state is responsible for erecting its own monument, and most were here before 1917. Connecticut didn't put one up until 2006, and Vermont has yet to. The marble neoclassic Illinois Memorial is the grandest, the park's "jewel in the crown," said Maggio. A one-quarter replica of the Pantheon in Rome, the monument was dedicated in 1906 to commemorate the sacrifice of more than 36,000 soldiers from Illinois who fought, more than from any other state.

The African-American Monument, a 3,000-pound,

**(Above left and right) Kids explore the River City Story Walls and play in the splash fountain at Catfish Row Children's Art Park near the riverfront in Vicksburg. The massive playground encourages folks to play among historically and artistically important exhibits.**

9-foot-tall bronze sculpture, dedicated in 2004, honors the 1st and 3rd Mississippi Infantry (Union regiments) and all Mississippians of African descent who participated in the Vicksburg campaign. The monument depicts a black soldier and black farm laborer assisting a wounded black soldier.

At the north end of the crescent-shaped park is Vicksburg National Cemetery, and nearby, the USS Cairo Museum. The imposing *Cairo* (pronounced *KAY-roh*, after Cairo, Illinois), now restored, was a Union ironclad warship on a mine-clearing expedition in the Yazoo River when it was sunk by underwater torpedoes on December 12, 1862 (no lives were lost). Resting on the bottom under 36 feet of water, the boat was preserved by mud and silt until it was raised 102 years to the day later. Some 60 or so ironclads were built during the war, just a dozen of them by the South. The *Cairo* is the last of its type.

The Civil War was not kind to Vicksburg. The 47-day siege destroyed much of the old city. Nonetheless, a number of magnificent antebellum mansions remain and are included on tours of the historic district that Maggio leads. Among these is Anchuca, meaning "happy home" in Choctaw, which was built in 1830 as a humble pioneer dwelling. The

**The Old Court House, built in 1858, now houses a museum. Visitors can purchase actual Civil War bullets and shell fragments at the shop.**

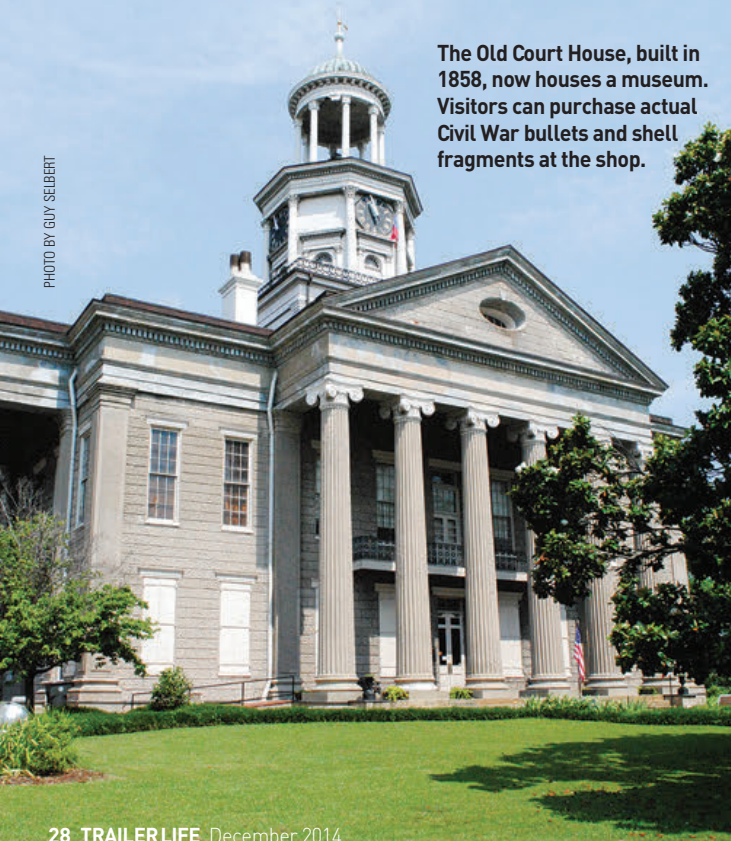


PHOTO BY GUY SELBERT



**A child surveys artifacts at the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum in downtown Vicksburg. Here, the popular flavor was first bottled in 1894.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VICKSBURG CVB AND KEN LUND/MISSISSIPPI TOURISM

## Where to Camp

We stayed at Vicksburg's first-rate Rivertown Campground. This RV park on the Great River Road (U.S. Highway 61) has 108 campsites, including 45 pull-throughs and 45 back-ins, with 30- and 50-amp service at all sites, plus water and sewer hookups and free Wi-Fi. Facilities range from a playground and swimming pool to a clubhouse, laundry room and bathhouse with showers. Pets are welcome. Rates are \$24 to \$28 per night.

866-442-2267



The Old Depot Museum is also of interest. Here, the 47-day siege comes to life in the film *Vanishing Glory* and a 250-square-foot diorama of the battlefield with 2,300 miniature soldiers. Some 250 ship models — towboats, Civil War gunboats, U.S. Navy vessels and others — are on display, and 150 model cars chronicle the develop-

Greek-revival building you see today, the first columned house in Vicksburg, was completed 17 years later. Joseph Davis, brother of Confederacy President Jefferson Davis, died here in 1870, and the balcony is where Jefferson Davis gave his last public address.

The dozen or so homes open for tours include the Greek-revival Cedar Grove Mansion Inn & Restaurant, built in 1840 (a Union cannonball is still lodged in the parlor wall); the three-story Duff Green Mansion, new in 1856 and used as a hospital during the Civil War; the George Washington Ball House, built in 1822 in Vicksburg's oldest neighborhood (Ball was a distant cousin of George Washington); and the Martha Vick House, built around 1830 and named for the unmarried daughter of Vicksburg's founder, Newitt Vick.

As we drove, Maggio taught us a little Vicksburg 101. The French claimed the area in the late 17th century and built Fort St.-Pierre here in 1719, he said. A decade later, Native Americans wiped out the settlement. Over the years, through a series of transfers, the land was under British control for a time, then Spanish, and in 1790 Spain established a military outpost here, calling it Nogales. When the Americans took possession in 1798, the year Congress created

the Mississippi Territory, the name was Anglicized to Walnut Hills. The sprawling community on the bluffs grew rapidly.

Newitt Vick, a Methodist minister and Virginia planter, arrived in 1819, having purchased a large tract of land from the government that he intended to divide into lots to sell. However, Vick had sold just two lots when he caught yellow fever and died. In 1820, John Lane, the husband of another of Vick's daughters, named the burgeoning town for his father-in-law. It was officially incorporated in 1825.

Other Vicksburg attractions include the Old Court House Museum, "quite possibly the region's finest antebellum structure," said Bill Seratt, executive director of the Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. Built in 1858, the courthouse has been a museum since 1948. Its nine rooms and 15,000 square feet of exhibit space display artifacts dating from pre-Columbian times to the Civil War to more recent times. A Confederate flag that was never surrendered is here, as are the necktie Jefferson Davis wore at his inauguration as president of the Confederacy, numerous fine portraits, pioneer tools, antebellum toys and even an original teddy bear given to a local youngster by President Theodore Roosevelt.



(Above from left) The USS *Cairo*, one of the ironclad gunboats built by James Eads, who later built the Eads Bridge, a landmark on the St. Louis riverfront. The African-American Monument at the battlefield commemorates the service of nearly 200,000 black soldiers. (Left) It's sobering to walk into the beautiful Cedar Grove Mansion Inn & Restaurant and see a Civil War cannonball lodged in the parlor wall.

ment of the automobile. The museum also houses Civil War artifacts, model railroads, paintings and more. Tours are self-guided.

Washington Street is home to three of Vicksburg's main attractions: Yesterday's Children Antique Doll and Toy Museum, the Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum and the Lower Mississippi River Museum.

Until you go there, you can't imagine so many dolls in one place as those on display at Yesterday's Children. It is a doll world, with literally hundreds of dolls from 1843 to the present crowding the walls. One of the country's largest collections of rare 19th- and 20th-century French and German bisque dolls is here, according to curator Carolyn Bakarich. There are also rocking horses, toy soldiers, cars, planes, trucks and much more.

The Biedenharn Coca-Cola Museum, which opened in 1979, is just across the street in the building where the famous drink was first bottled in

1894, curator Nancy Bell told us. The ceramic syrup dispenser looks antique, but Bell said it's a replica of the 1896 green onyx model that was once here and dispensed such sweet syrups as crème de menthe and orgeat (made from almonds, sugar and orange flower water), as well as grape, claret and rose. Elsewhere in the museum, exhibits illustrate how Coca-Cola was bottled in its early days.

At the Lower Mississippi River Museum, displays explore various aspects of the river and offer a look at what life is like along it. Behind the main exhibit hall, on Levee Street, is a rubberized scale model of the Mississippi, from Greenville to just below Vicksburg, completed in 2012 for kids to play on. Maggio said designing it had been his final project before he retired from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Nearby on Levee Street, 32 large murals on the floodwall illustrate the history of Vicksburg from 1825 to around 2000. The murals, exqui-

sitely done by artist Robert Dafford, depict such things as the steamboat era, a 1902 bear hunt with President Theodore Roosevelt, African-American history and more.

Vicksburg is rife with popular attractions, but during the four days of our visit, Catfish Row Children's Art Park, across Levee Street from the floodwall murals, seemed most popular of all. The park includes garden area walks, children's art and other exhibits, and also a large fountain, the main attraction. It's designed for kids, and they come by the hundreds to shriek and splash away their warm-weather days. 🚗

### For More Information

#### Vicksburg Convention and Visitors Bureau

800-221-3536, [www.visitvicksburg.com](http://www.visitvicksburg.com)

#### Vicksburg National Military Park

601-636-0583, [www.nps.gov/vick](http://www.nps.gov/vick)

Welcome to the *Family,*  
Companion Slider.



RAILS.



NO RAILS.



SLIDE.



PUCKS.



The hitch may be small, but don't underestimate its importance. This engineered metal can make the difference between a comfortable ride and a nail biter. That's why B&W developed a line of hitches based on a single goal; creating a smooth, worry-free ride. Choose the model for your truck today.

[turnoverball.com](http://turnoverball.com)



B&W Trailer Hitches, Circle 101 on Reader Service Card

# YEAR-END CLEARANCE



**CAMPING WORLD  
RV SALES**

**NOW THRU DECEMBER 10TH!**



SAVE  
**\$2,940**

NEW 2014 Starcraft  
**LAUNCH 15FD**

Stk. #BAT474701 | MSRP \$15,935 | Bath, NY

**\$12,995\*** OR **\$111/MO.\*\***

Payment based on 10% down @ 5.50% APR for 144 mos.



SAVE  
**\$10,452**

NEW 2014 Forest River  
**GREY WOLF 28BH**

Stk. #CRV520685 | MSRP \$28,447 | Island Lake, IL

**\$17,995\*** OR **\$154/MO.\*\***

Payment based on 10% down @ 5.50% APR for 144 mos.



SAVE  
**\$14,464**

NEW 2014 Keystone  
**COUGAR 30RKS**

Stk. #KY483321 | MSRP \$38,959 | Kaysville, UT

**\$24,495\*** OR **\$209/MO.\*\***

Payment based on 10% down @ 5.50% APR for 144 mos.

**DON'T LET ANYBODY STEAL YOUR DEAL!**



SAVE  
**\$14,867**

NEW 2014 Crossroads  
**SUNSET TRAIL 270BH**

Stk. #SAC485297 | MSRP \$43,581 | Roseville, CA

**\$28,714\*** OR **\$204/MO.\*\***

Payment based on 10% down @ 4.99% APR for 180 mos.



SAVE  
**\$14,843**

NEW 2014 Jayco  
**EAGLE 30.5BHLT**

Stk. #LAC499502 | MSRP \$50,837 | Lake City, FL

**\$35,994\*** OR **\$249/MO.\*\***

Payment based on 10% down @ 4.99% APR for 180 mos.



SAVE  
**\$5,516**

NEW 2015 Forest River Rockwood  
**SIGNATURE ULTRALITE 8282WS**

Stk. #CHN533788 | MSRP \$48,511 | Charleston, SC

**\$42,995\*** OR **\$306/MO.\*\***

Payment based on 10% down @ 4.99% APR for 180 mos.

ASK HOW YOU CAN UPGRADE TO **Good Sam ELITE**



\*Government fees, state taxes and dealer fees as applicable will be added to comply with state vehicle codes. Freight and prep costs vary by state (Not applicable in CA, OH, TX, TN, GA or UT). Inventory and floorplans vary by location, not all advertised manufacturers available at participating dealers. New units will be delivered from nearest authorized dealer. Contact your area dealer for availability. ^^All payments to qualified buyers with approved credit. Subject to lender terms. Advertised inventory available at time of production. New unit photography for illustration purposes only. May not be combined with any other offer and not applicable to prior sales. Offers valid at any Camping World RV Sales or FreedomRoads dealer only. See dealer for details. Offers expire 12/10/14. FR034830-0914

**866-9-RV-CENTER | CWRVS.com**



# FALL *into*

QUIET, PORTABLE, RELIABLE  
& FUEL-EFFICIENT

CLUB MEMBERS

**SAVE \$50**

ON 2000 OR 3000 HONDA GENERATORS!

HURRY! LIMITED TIME OFFER!

SEE STORE OR CALL FOR SPECIAL PRICING!



**HONDA**  
GENERATORS

**SAVE \$100**  
on a 7000!

**NEW!**



Use flame  
feature with or  
without heat

13¼"H x 9¼"W x 6½"D

**CLUB SALE**  
**\$47<sup>99</sup>**

Reg. \$55.99

**Mini Fireplace Electric Heater #65879**  
Realistic 3-D simulated flames. Ceramic element efficiently disperses heat as air passes through. 700-1200 watts. 4095 BTUs. 120-volt. | Ship Wt. 6 lbs. | ♥

**YOUR CHOICE!**

**WHILE  
SUPPLIES  
LAST!**



**CLUB SALE**  
**\$21<sup>97</sup>**

Reg. \$34.99-\$39.99



- A** Steel Mesh Globes, 10 C7 Bulbs, 12' #69223  
Ship Wt. 1 lb. | ♥
- B** Jewel Tone Lights, 20 C7 Bulbs, 21' #69823  
Ship Wt. 4 lbs. | ♥

**EXCLUSIVE!**  
**GOOD SAM RV GPS**

**CLUB SALE**  
**\$329<sup>99</sup>**

Reg. \$349.99

**EXCLUSIVE!** Good Sam 7" RVND 7735-LM  
GPS Powered by Rand McNally® #77601

- **NEW!** Faster processor for quicker routing
- **NEW!** Robust lane guidance and junction views
- **NEW!** View toll costs and compare toll vs. non-toll routes
- **PLUS!** Displays 8000 privately owned RV parks and campgrounds, including 2100+ Good Sam Parks
- **PLUS!** RV Safe routing for 11 RV types, plus car mode
- **PLUS!** Wi-Fi® connected services: weather, fuel prices and more

Ship Wt. 2 lbs. | ♥

See more features at [CampingWorld.com/GoodSamGPS](http://CampingWorld.com/GoodSamGPS).



**INCLUDES**  
® RAND McNALLY  
**LIFETIME MAPS**  
\$99.99 VALUE



Folds to  
35" x 28" x 33"

**CLUB MEMBERS SAVE**  
**\$90 OFF**



12" seat  
width

**EXCLUSIVE!**

20"  
tires

250 lb.  
capacity

**CLUB SALE**  
**\$349<sup>97</sup>**

Reg. \$439.99

**EXCLUSIVE!** 3-Speed Folding Trike #70088  
Maintenance-free 3-speed gears with rear coaster  
brakes and front hand brake. | 🚚 \$50 \$9

**FREE INSTALLATION**  
**on Select Products!**

**Dometic**



**SAFE T PLUS**

**STROMBERG CARLSON  
PRODUCTS INC.**

**HURRY!**  
**LIMITED TIME  
ONLY!**



# SAVINGS!

Prices expire November 30, 2014



**Dometic**

**CLUB MEMBERS SAVE**  
**\$50 OFF**

**CLUB SALE**  
**\$249<sup>97</sup>**

Reg. \$299.99

**Portable Stainless Steel Ice Maker #55033**

Make up to 33 lbs. of ice per day. Makes 12 ice cubes in only 14 minutes in three selectable cube sizes. LED touchpad controls. 120-volt. Rated 2.4 amps. 15"H x 13½"W x 17"D. UL approved.

🚚 \$20 \$9 | ♥

**CLUB MEMBERS SAVE**  
**25% OFF**

**CLUB SALE**  
**\$17<sup>97</sup>**

Reg. \$25.59

**Personal Table**

**EXCLUSIVE COLOR!** Clay #74982

**Granite White #48945**

Adjusts to 24", 26" or 28"H. | 🚚 \$15 \$9



Granite White

**NEW & EXCLUSIVE!**



17½" W

Tan

**CLUB SALE**  
**\$39<sup>99</sup>**

Reg. \$44.49

**NEW & EXCLUSIVE!** Home Is Where You Park It Chair #75011

Coordinates with Recliners #72910 and #72909 (below). | Ship Wt. 7 lbs. | ♥

**EXCLUSIVE!** Home Is Where You Park It Recliner

Navy #72910

Tan #72909

All-weather, fade-resistant Oxford fabric on a durable steel frame. Removable pillow with retro RV logo. Ergonomic poly armrests. **Club SALE \$59.99** Reg. \$79.99 | 🚚 \$17 \$9 | ♥

**CLUB MEMBERS SAVE**  
**UP TO 25% OFF**

250 lb. capacity



**EXCLUSIVE!**



17½" W

## SPECIAL BUY!

**CLUB SALE**  
**\$84<sup>97</sup>**

Reg. \$129.99

**NEW!** The Big Easy®TRU-Infrared

Oil-less Turkey Fryer #75009

Connects to a refillable 20 lb.

propane tank (sold separately).

Rotary ignition. | **FREIGHT** | ♥

- Propane powered
- 16,000 BTUs
- 800 cu. in. cooking capacity

**CLUB MEMBERS SAVE**  
**\$45 OFF**



**NEW!**

**CLUB MEMBERS SAVE 25% ON TRAVEL JON® PRODUCTS**

**STARTING AT CLUB SALE \$5<sup>97</sup>**  
Reg. \$7.99



**C** Travel Jon® Waste Digester #49347

**D** Blue MAX Toss Ins, 10-Pack #58993

Liquefies waste and controls odors. One packet treats a 40-gallon holding tank.

**E** Travel Jon® RV Holding Tank Liquid Deodorizer/Cleaner, 128 oz. #49345

Use only 2 oz. per 40 gal. tank.

Ship Wt. 1-9 lbs.

## AFTER THANKSGIVING SALE

**HUNDREDS OF ITEMS OVER 50% OFF!**

**NOVEMBER 28-29, 2014**

Share your email address with us for a sneak peek at some of the best prices of the season on a huge selection of RV and outdoor accessories!

**IT'S AS EASY AS 1-2-3!**

1. Visit [CampingWorld.com](http://CampingWorld.com)
2. Enter your email address in the box in the lower right corner
3. Click the Sign Up button

CA035028

♥ Product Protection Plan available

To request a **FREE CATALOG**, go online or call & mention code **MZ TL**

article by Chris Hemer photos by Scott Hirko

# Reflection 27RL

Grand Design's smallest fifth-wheel delivers big features and value



In life, we're constantly reminded that we can't have everything. And yet, we always seem to be on a quest to find the best of all worlds. Delicious and nonfat. Luxurious and inexpensive. Powerful and fuel-efficient. Most of the time, a satisfying solution eludes us, because life's principles are usually in inexorable conflict with our ideals. But sometimes, through clever engineering or outright determination, or both, we achieve what was once believed virtually impossible. Case in point: Grand Design's new Reflection 27RL fifth-wheel, which is both roomy and surprisingly lightweight.

Of course, the word "lightweight" can be subjective, but it's hard to deny that a 31-foot triple-slide fifth-wheel that weighs only 8,000 pounds dry is feathery indeed. In fact, with a GVWR of 9,995 pounds, it was designed specifically to be towed behind the current crop of properly equipped half-ton

pickups (see "Half-Ton Towing: Fact or Fiction?" on page 38). Certainly, Grand Design may not be the first manufacturer to do this, but its execution is quite possibly one of the best we've seen in the lightweight fifth-wheel category.

Usually, when you walk into a lightweight, you can see where the manufacturer saved some pounds — but in the 27RL, Grand Design has done a commendable job making you feel like you've walked into a higher-end fifth-wheel, albeit a little bit smaller. It's got hallmarks like the Beauflor faux wood-plank flooring, hand-rubbed maple cabinet doors and LG solid-surface countertops — and from the outside, it just looks like a smaller version of the company's bigger trailers, which it essentially is. That's not always the case with a smaller, lighter offering in a company's lineup.

In fact, it's only after you start using the trailer that you



**The living area in the 27RL is a scaled-down version of Grand Design's bigger models but uses the same furniture and high-quality cabinetry. The dining area is a little tight, and you'll need to move two dinette chairs to access the storage space behind the television and fireplace.**

start to get a sense of its smaller proportions. For example, when packing the trailer for our test, we realized that the entry door is so close to the front storage that it must first be closed (or at least released from its catch) before accessing the front storage on the curb side. And once inside the living area, you notice that there's no ceiling fan and no kitchen island, and the large pantry found in other Grand Design models is absent. Other than these details, the trailer feels surprisingly roomy and livable.

In fact, this trailer has the same furniture in the living area as other, larger company products. At the rear wall of the trailer is a comfy sofa that turns into a trifold sofa bed, and in the streetside slideout are theater seats that are among the best we've sat in. They're easy to deploy and stow, and are equipped with a removable armrest in the center that features integrated cupholders — a thoughtful and welcome addition. We found the seats ideally placed directly across from the entertainment center, which features a flat-screen television, a Furrion AM/FM/DVD player and an electric fireplace. The Furrion unit was easy to use, and like other products in the market, has switches to control sound in the living area and patio. Sound was OK inside, but outside, the speakers are built into the ends of the power

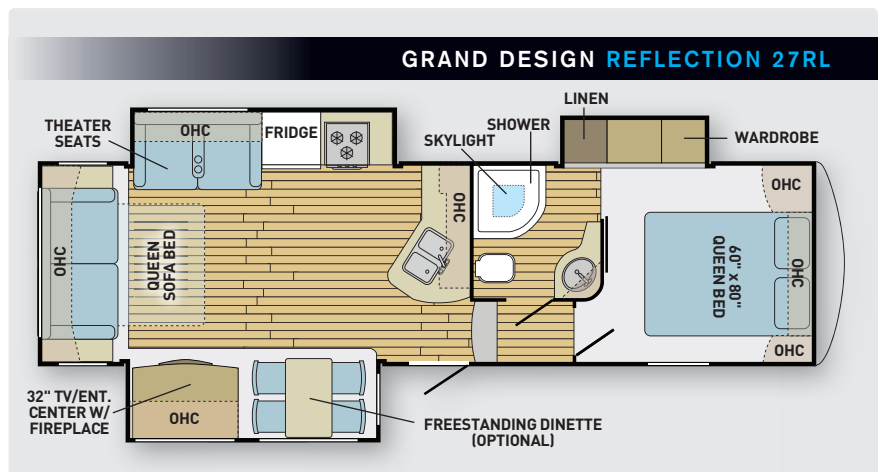
awning and produce tinny sound quality. We'd prefer it if the speakers were larger and built into the side wall, but we understand that space is at a premium and there is a budget to consider on a unit like this one.

Overall, we found the living area to be well executed, but we did find some areas that could use improvement. The curbside dinette is designed to seat four, but it's pretty tight. You can use the table extension for more room, but if you do, the outermost legs of the outer chairs fall off the step in the slideout floor. There is storage space behind the TV and fireplace — but the cabinet doors are on the side facing the dinette, requiring you to move dinette chairs

anytime you want to stow or access something here. In lieu of a ceiling fan, there's an overhead vent, but it can't be turned on with a wall switch, and it's too high to reach. And, at a time when even entry-level travel trailers have LED lighting throughout, most of the lighting in the 27RL is still incandescent.

The kitchen may seem small compared to other fifth-wheels, but it is well-configured and nicely designed. The appliances have black faces, but the stove has a glass cover with an integrated solid-surface front that looks good and was easy to clean and stow. There is a small cabinet next to the microwave, and another next to the oven that is narrow but deep. The drawer underneath the stove would be a good place for large, low-profile items like cookie sheets and frying pans.

The forward kitchen wall has a semi-L-shaped counter that offers lots of prep space, and a solid-surface countertop with a double-bowl stainless-steel sink. Angling one side of the counter away from the wall not only looks good but is a clever way to add more counter space, and the huge cabinet underneath the sink can easily accommodate a residential-size kitchen trash can. Above this forward counter are two large, deep cabinets on either side, with a smaller cabinet in the middle fitted with smoked-glass doors. There are also three big drawers to the left of the sink. As mentioned earlier, there isn't one of Grand Design's famous pantries here, but the cabinet space should work well enough





**(Above from left) The theater seating is super-comfortable, and the kitchen is well-equipped with plenty of countertop and storage space. Although nothing fancy, the bath area is well-executed and has all the necessities.**

for most. We also appreciated that the monitor panel, slideout controls and fuse panel are conveniently located on the side of these cabinets facing the entry door.

From the front staircase forward, the 27RL is almost identical to the larger 303RLS that we tested in the February 2014 issue of *Trailer Life*. It features a queen bed that we found firm but comfortable, and offers storage underneath. On either side is a stubby cabinet with a nearby power outlet, and adequate storage space above. There are no lights directly underneath the overhead cabinet, but nice-looking sconces on either side provide enough light for reading. Dual air-conditioning ducts in the ceiling kept us cool, and an overhead vent here circulates air when the air conditioning isn't on. Our unit didn't have a television, but it did have TV prep on the curbside wall, which would necessitate a telescoping arm in order to watch TV from bed.

The bathroom is accessed via a door in the hallway and a sliding door from the bedroom. The semicircular shower is elegant looking and has clamshell-style doors that open from the middle. Once inside, there's plenty of room to move around, and a large skylight above

provides enough headroom for 6-plus-footers. We liked the fact that, when the doors are closed, the two knobs come together and can be secured by a supplied rubber strap during travel. There's a porcelain toilet with a foot flush, and directly across from it, a cabinet with a small sink, storage space and a corner-mounted medicine cabinet with a mirror. On the street side next to the sliding door is a mirrored linen closet with a large drawer underneath. Interestingly, this is part of the wardrobe slide in the bedroom, which contains his-and-her wardrobes and one large drawer un-

derneath. The only things we'd wish for in the bath area would be a lock on the hallway door to prevent unpleasant surprises, and genuine brushed-nickel faucets, not plastic ones.

The aforementioned exterior storage compartment may be smaller than what you're used to, but it has enough room and is fully finished. Thoughtful details here include interior lighting, a 120-volt AC power outlet and a battery disconnect on the curbside. The underside of the floor is covered in a tough vapor barrier, and the area is heated as well via a register in the ductwork that

**The bedroom offers a firm queen bed, overhead cabinets, small nightstands and a mirrored wardrobe in the streetside slideout.**



passes above the compartment. A front storage compartment with a steel floor and a single battery box vents to the outside.

Seven-gallon propane cylinders are located in compartments on either side of the trailer, and the utility center on the street side offers plumbing options such as "normal," "city fill tank," "city fill fixtures" or "sanitize/winterize." There are also handy features like a black-tank flush, outdoor shower, water-pump switch and light, plus the obligatory black- and gray-tank dump controls, which are cable-operated. Grand Design thoughtfully locates a sewer hose storage tube underneath the chassis, just forward of the axles.

One of the things we like about Grand Design is that the company always seems to add unexpected touches. For example, the Reflection's entry steps are aluminum, not steel, and have grip tape on them. They look

good and feel very sturdy. The power awning is large and has an LED strip porch light. Even the screen door is designed so that it's not necessary to slide a small hatch to open it; a clear knob on the outside is simply pushed down. This is great when there are a lot of bugs in your area. This trailer also comes standard with 50-amp service, which is pretty unusual in a unit this size. It would be a good idea to haul along a 50-to-30-amp adapter because many smaller electric-hookup campsites that can accommodate a trailer of this size may not always have 50-amp service available.

The Grand Design 27RL is a full-featured fifth-wheel that is perfect for those who would like to step up to a bigger trailer but don't necessarily want to have to change to a larger tow vehicle. It looks great, and sacrifices very little in the way of comfort compared to its larger siblings. ☺

**At lighter than 9,000 pounds, as tested, the Grand Design 27RL is built to be towed behind properly equipped 1500- or 2500-series trucks.**

## SPECIFICATIONS

### GRAND DESIGN REFLECTION 27RL

Exterior Length	30' 11"
Exterior Width	8'
Exterior Height	11' 11"
Interior Width	7' 8"
Interior Height	8' 4.5" (living area) 6' 7" (bedroom)
Construction	Aluminum-frame walls and floor, wood-frame roof, gel-coated exterior, walk-on roof with one-piece roof membrane, R-30 insulation in main floor, R-34 in roof, R-9 in walls
Freshwater Cap.	54 gal.
Gray-Water Cap.	75 gal.
Black-Water Cap.	43 gal.
LP-Gas Cap.	14 gal.
Water-Heater Cap.	6 gal.
Refrigerator	8 cu. ft.
Furnace	34,000 Btu
Air Conditioner	13,500 Btu
Converter	55 amp
Battery	Dealer supplied
Tires	ST225/75R15
Suspension	Leaf spring w/ Equa-Flex, E-Z Lube axles, Correct Track Axle Alignment System
Weight (water and propane full, no supplies)	8,780 lbs.
Hitch Weight	1,640 lbs.
Axle Weight	7,140 lbs.
GVWR	9,995 lbs.
GAWR	(2) 5,080 lbs.
Cargo Carrying Cap.	1,215 lbs.
MSRP, base	\$46,313
MSRP, as tested	\$46,759
Basic Warranty	One year
<b>Grand Design RV</b>	
574-825-8000, <a href="http://www.granddesignrv.com">www.granddesignrv.com</a>	
Circle 125 on Reader Service Card	



## HALF-TON TOWING:

# FACT OR FICTION?

It depends on the fifth-wheel and how the truck is equipped

**S**o-called half-ton-towable fifth-wheels are becoming increasingly popular for a variety of reasons. The most obvious, of course, is that a half-ton (150 or 1500 series) pickup is less expensive than a comparably equipped HD truck and consumes less fuel. A lighter duty truck is also smaller and usually rides better as well, which becomes important when driving solo. And while a lot of folks like the towing stability a fifth-wheel provides, they don't necessarily want a big trailer, so a bigger truck just doesn't make sense.

But is this new breed of lightweight fifth-wheel really towable by half-ton trucks? We've had quite a few of our readers debate that point in recent months, and a few have felt that we are helping to perpetuate the half-ton fifth-wheel myth. Their concern is that, while a 150/1500-series truck may be capable of pulling a 9,000- to 10,000-pound fifth-wheel, the truck's payload, or more importantly, the gross axle weight rating (GAWR) and/or gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) could be violated by the trailer's pin weight, which is typically 15 to 20 percent of the total weight.

It's a good point, though not necessarily a valid one. Trailer weights and truck capabilities don't live in a world of

black and white, and there are always a number of variables to consider. For example, while light-duty trucks may be lumped into the same class, their capabilities vary widely, depending on how they are configured and equipped. To wit, GVWR in this category can range from 6,300 pounds all the way up to 8,200 pounds when a heavy-duty payload or towing package is specified.

Then there's the matter of intended use. The Grand Design 27RL tested in this issue had a wet weight of 8,780 pounds but a GVWR of 9,995 pounds. Is it likely that the average user is going to pack more than 1,000 pounds of belongings in a fifth-wheel that isn't designed for full-time use? Not very.

Is the average RVer going to fill the freshwater tank when they're going to stay at an RV park with full hookups? Probably not.

And what about payload? Remember, payload is the total weight of all supplies, passengers and hitch weight allowed in the tow vehicle before exceeding the GVWR. So, will the truck be carrying two people averaging 150 pounds each (the federal standard for payload capacity), or a family of four averaging 200 pounds each?

Even if you crunch the numbers, there's no way of knowing for sure that you're not facing an overload situation, unless you weigh your truck-and-trailer combination — and this is particularly true if you plan to tow a fifth-wheel with a half-ton pickup.

For example, when we ordered the Grand Design 27RL for our test, we paired it with what was the most robust half-ton tow vehicle in GM's media fleet, a 2014 Chevy Silverado High Country with a brutish 6.2-liter, 420-horsepower V-8 and a 9,500-pound tow rating. It seemed like this truck would be OK if the trailer wasn't loaded



The 2015 Chevy Silverado is available with a GVWR of up to 7,600 pounds, a GAWR of 4,300 pounds and a tow rating of up to 12,000 pounds, based on the SAE J2807 standard.



to capacity, and the truck's GVWR of 7,200 pounds and 1,957-pound payload suggested that we had a suitable match on our hands. However, when the trailer was filled with water and propane but no supplies, it weighed 8,780 pounds and had a pin weight of 1,640 pounds — leaving us with only 317 pounds of payload capacity — without passengers in the truck. So we traveled with no water in the tank, packed lightly and squeaked by for this test.

"Aha!" our detractors exclaim. "So you're *admitting* that the trailer isn't towable by a half-ton!" Not so fast. Note that the test vehicle was the best truck in GM's media fleet but not the highest capacity half-ton it builds. That honor goes to the Double Cab standard-box 4WD with a 5.3-liter V-8 and Max Trailering Package, which has a maximum payload of 2,270 pounds, but more importantly, a GVWR of 7,600 pounds and a rear GAWR of 4,300 pounds.

We wanted to get hold of this particular truck and weigh it to find out how much weight it carried over the rear wheels, and therefore how much capacity was left over, but this exact model was not available. So, we turned to our friends at Paradise Chevrolet in Ventura, California, to help us find the next best thing: that same model but without the Max Trailering Package. Running it across the scales, the truck weighed 5,500 pounds with a full gas

**Owing in part to its new aluminum body that has reduced weight by 700 pounds, the 2015 Ford F-150 can tow up to 12,200 pounds and has a payload of up to 3,300 pounds.**

tank, and the weight on the rear axle was 2,200 pounds. After making the assumption that the truck will transport two people at 150 pounds each, the realistic payload was reduced from 1,676 pounds (the figure on the data tag in the doorjamb) to 1,300. Using this scenario and subtracting the actual weight on the rear axle from its 3,950-pound GAWR and estimating that 100 pounds of passenger weight will end up on the rear axle, we calculated that the rear axle could handle 1,650 pounds before exceeding capacity. Based on that number alone, it would look like the truck can just handle the 1,640-pound hitch weight for our example above.

But wait. You can't put 1,640 pounds on the rear axle without exceeding the GVWR. As determined above, the effective hitch weight that can be carried by this truck is limited to 1,300 pounds, after accounting for the realistic payload, without putting anything else in the bed, including the hitch. Therefore, hitch weight here is limited by GVWR.

The same truck with the 7,600-pound GVWR and 4,300-pound GAWR — assuming that the truck will not weigh that much more — will be able to handle a hitch weight of approximately 1,800 pounds, using the same formula as above. How did we get there? We

subtracted the actual weight of the truck (5,500 pounds) from the GVWR (7,600 pounds) and ended up with 2,100 pounds. From here we accounted for 300 pounds' worth of passengers and ended up with 1,800 pounds. Again, while the rear axle can actually handle around 2,000 pounds, the realistic capacity is limited by GVWR. Nevertheless, even though the actual weight of the truck with the 7,600-pound GVWR will likely be a little higher, this truck can get by with limited loading.

Better yet, a 2014 Ford F-150 regular cab 2WD longbed with the heavy-duty payload package and EcoBoost engine has 3,100 pounds of payload capacity and a GVWR of 8,200 pounds, and the 2015 F-150, with its new aluminum body, can tow up to 12,200 pounds and has a payload of up to 3,300 pounds.

While the Ram touts superior towing muscle for its heavy-duty pickups, the numbers for its 1500-series models are actually on the weak side. Fifth-wheel towing is possible, but owners will have to equip their Ram 1500s carefully and likely have to look at shorter, lighter fifth-wheels.

As with any truck-and-trailer combination, doing your homework and choosing the right combination is important to safe towing. If you don't exceed the GVWR, GAWR, gross combined weight rating (GCWR) or tire capacity of the tow vehicle, you *can* successfully tow a fifth-wheel with a half-ton pickup. But one final note: Dial in a margin of safety because you're likely to be heavier than you think. 🚚

## DOING YOUR HOMEWORK AND CHOOSING THE RIGHT COMBINATION IS IMPORTANT TO SAFE TOWING

# NEW FOR 2015

## THE GLORY DAYS OF RVING RETURN WITH AN IMPRESSIVE CROP OF INNOVATIVE TOWABLES FOR THE COMING YEAR

**A**t first blush, the little 16-foot travel trailer looked as if someone had painstakingly restored a “canned ham”-styled 1961 Shasta Airflyte — right down to its matador-red-and-polo-white color scheme and the iconic wings riding high on the rear side walls.

“Someone” had: the crew at Middlebury, Indiana-based Shasta RV.

Now a division of Forest River, Shasta RV elected to re-create the classic trailer in both 16- and 19-foot versions, with MSRPs of about \$17,200 and \$18,200, to celebrate the company’s 75th anniversary. More than simply a contemporary take on a classic, the “new” trailer not only preserves the look of the original but also maintains many of its venerable construction techniques.

“We’re rolling over the metal edge of the roof like a ‘61, the windows will fit a ‘61, and the three color choices — matador red, seafoam green and buttercup yellow — are as close to original as we could make it,” said Shasta President Mark Lucas. Updated with contemporary running gear, lighting and appliances to meet current RV standards and comfort, the new Airflyte debuted in mid-September at the seventh annual Elkhart County RV Open House Week, a dealer-only event that was born out of the recession and has since grown into one of the largest trade shows in the industry.

It was also retired there.

With a production run of only 1,941 units — again, as homage to the company’s founding 75 years ago in 1941 — the Airflyte reissue sold out to visiting dealers the first day of

the Elkhart show, a testament not only to Shasta RV’s eye-catching authentic reproduction but also the literal rebirth of the RV industry.

Every industry of substance has enjoyed a Golden Age at one time or another, although most such references are found only in history books. The Golden Age of radio? You’re talking the 1920s to 1940s. Films? Arguably from the beginning of “talkies” in 1927 through the spread of television in the ‘50s. And, while automotive performance is enjoying a renaissance of sorts, it doesn’t take more than a casual mention of the “muscle-car era” of the mid-1960s to early ‘70s to make the eyes of a horsepower enthusiast glaze over.

The RV industry, on the other hand, doesn’t have to look in the rearview mirror for its glory days — we’re living them. Wholesale shipments to RV dealers have grown for 32 consecutive months (through August) and are on track to hit perhaps 350,000 units this year. An estimated 4,000 dealer personnel converged upon Elkhart County for Open House, where more than 80 percent of North America’s RVs are built, to tour new models from nearly 60 manufacturers. By week’s end they had ordered “at least a billion dollars’ worth” of motorhomes and towables, in the estimation of Doug Gaeddert, outgoing chairman of the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) and a group general manager at Forest River.

And while financial institutions are loosening their purse strings, the RV boom has less to do with available credit lines than it does with extraordinary innovation and build quality. Open House wasn’t the only good thing to come out of the



economic downturn; as sales dropped off and it became a buyer's market, RV manufacturers re-evaluated their product lines — sometimes gutting brands or eliminating them altogether in a concerted effort to redefine contemporary camping units with more curb appeal and usability. The auto industry went through a similar change, but while U.S. automakers floundered for decades, the RV industry turned itself around in just a few short years. From lengths and

weights to equipment and floorplans, the products displayed at the Elkhart show — models that will start showing up on dealers' lots this winter — truly do represent a sea change in RV design.

Granted, it will take more than a modernized canned-ham-style travel trailer to convince you, so we've focused on a dozen other examples from the Elkhart show that doubtless will find their way onto a lot of RVers' hitches next spring.

## CROSSROADS CARRIAGE AND CAMEO

When CrossRoads RV and its sister company, Redwood RV, acquired the Cameo and Carriage brands, no one was sure when, or if, the once-prestigious fifth-wheel monikers might resurface.

Now they have. Both nameplates were on display in Elkhart, aimed at different segments of the industry.

The Carriage fifth-wheel fills a top-of-the-line void for CrossRoads in an era when "high end" has been redefined from prerecessionary times when a top-end Carriage fifth-wheel might have retailed for \$100,000-plus. The "new" Carriage, according to CrossRoads President Andy Cripe, "will retail in the \$80,000 to \$90,000 range."

Along with contemporary residential cabinetry and woodwork, the new Carriage features master suites, full-body-painted exteriors and a complete two-year residential warranty along with "smart" electronics enabling owners to control most every function

possible with a tablet. The Carriage has five floorplans in lengths from 35 to 41 feet and unloaded weights ranging from 13,000 to 15,000 pounds.

The Cameo is positioned at a lower price point, in the range of \$64,000 to \$75,000, and includes, among other things, a patent-pending upper-deck, flush-floor slide design. "This feature yields significantly more slide headroom and greater versatility as it pertains to furniture configurations," said Cameo Product Manager Rudy Boals.

Other interior appointments include a freestanding residential entertainment center with a 55-inch LED HDTV, dual recliners with multiple end tables and a 70-inch sofa. The Cameo comes in 10 floorplans, including a bunkhouse model and rear- and front-living-room configurations. Lengths range from 32 to 40 feet with unloaded weights from 11,000 to 13,000 pounds.

**CrossRoads RV**  
855-226-7496, [www.crossroadsrv.com](http://www.crossroadsrv.com)

## CRUISER STRYKER

RVing is sometimes defined by "stuff" — the things you take with you to maximize your time outdoors and the things you collect along the way to remember the moment. Problem is, all this stuff adds weight. If you're financially comfortable and want a motorhome, you can always opt for a tag-axle model, but there are fewer options in travel trailers.

In its triple-axle Stryker ST-3316 floorplan, Cruiser RV upped the ante in its relatively lightweight (8,600 pounds fully equipped) toy haulers. Cruiser debuted the Stryker in two-axle mode in July (pictured below) and took the wraps off the three-axle version — in development for 24 months — at Open House.

Stretching the tape at 38 feet, the ST-3316 boasts a fully functional 16-foot-deep garage that, when not filled with hobby equipment, accommodates a wealth of uses, courtesy of a fold-up streetside sofa opposite paired swivel recliners and, at the rear, a queen bed that tucks out of the way via a power lift for 76 inches of clearance. The open floorplan also features a midway angled galley on the street side, with a sizable bath between it and the forward king-bed-equipped sleeping quarters.





The triple includes a barreled interior ceiling with LED lighting throughout, a 30-gallon fuel station, 98 gallons of freshwater storage and a lighted awning. MSRP for the ST-3316 is \$48,746.

By the way, starting with the 2015 model year, all Cruiser RVs will utilize the company's SmartKey system. All doors, from the entry to storage compartments, will open with a single key. Cruiser RV, 866-277-5630, [www.cruiserrv.com](http://www.cruiserrv.com)

## DRV FULLHOUSE

Although DRV Luxury Suites did, in fact, offer a toy hauler several years ago, its design, featuring a movable wall, never really caught on. So the Howe, Indiana, builder dropped it and focused on developing high-end four-season fifth-wheels. At this year's Open House, DRV introduced the FullHouse, an all-new fiver lineup with a garage, based on the company's popular Mobile Suites platform.

"We've basically taken a look at what the toy hauler is — a garage for your toys — then upgraded everything around it so it's at the top end of the luxury scale," said Kyle Miller, national sales manager.

With MSRPs in the \$185,000 range, DRV's FullHouse is available in three 46-foot floorplans: two with 12-foot garages and one with a 10-foot toy space. Built around a 15-inch triple-tube steel frame with aluminum superstructure and stud construction,

3¼-inch-thick side walls/slideouts with R-16 insulation and residential wool insulation throughout, the FullHouse has a 24,000-pound GWR and features a garage with high-gloss fiberglass interior walls, metal overhead cabinets, LED lighting, a 46-inch flat-screen TV and a 30-gallon refueling station, plus plenty of options for cleaning and maintaining your toys.

All of the four-slideout, 101-inch wide-body designs boast a 20-cubic-foot refrigerator, dishwasher, hardwood cherry cabinetry, Corian countertops and LED lighting, as well as a king-size master suite. Each floorplan also features bath areas spanning the width of the coach between the main galley and the forward bedroom (one, the LX455, also includes a half-bath off the garage), while two of the layouts incorporate islands in the galley.

**DRV Luxury Suites**  
260-562-1075, [www.drivfullhouse.com](http://www.drivfullhouse.com)

## EVERGREEN ALPHA GOLD

EverGreen RV has been one of the more prolific RV designers of late, and the company introduced a number of new tricks in Elkhart including a top-to-bottom revamping and enlarging of its I-Go lineup, a refresh of its Ever-Lite brand and the introduction of new models. These include the Cloud, a lightweight product line from the Ascend series; the Reactor brand of toy haulers, described by the company as a "less-expensive Amped product;" and the Star-Lite, a fifth-wheel designed for half- and three-quarter-ton short-box trucks that doesn't require a slider hitch and features a front cap that lifts to reveal a panoramic window once in camp.

The real buzz, however, was being generated at EverGreen's Lifestyle Luxury RV division, where Gary Stanley, product manager for Lifestyle and its Alfa Gold line, was demonstrating the new 40-foot 4-inch Alfa Gold 3905SH. The "SH"



signifies Side Hauler — an impressive slideout system that, in various configurations, allows the slideout to carry a motorcycle, be turned into a storage room or mobile office, or in the “kid’s room” option, be set up with twin bunks, a wardrobe and a TV. The full-size HappiJac bunks are retractable to create a 36-square-foot playroom.

The motorcycle garage option is a head-turner. Featuring an exclusive 8-foot-long lift system actuated by a

hardwired remote, the lift ramp raises or lowers the motorcycle into place after you strap on the bike securely. The streetside Side Hauler system is rated to carry 1,000 pounds, which has no effect on the fifth-wheel’s weight distribution; a longer, heavier slideout housing the freestanding dinette, pantry and paired recliners counterbalances it on the curb side.

Inside, entry to the room is via a door set just ahead of a fireplace-and-

LED-HDTV combo, centerpiece of the rear living room that also includes an 80-inch sofa bed. With an MSRP of \$99,570 and a GVWR of 18,079 pounds, the four-slideout 3905SH also features a forward master bedroom suite, cherry hardwood cabinetry, Corian countertops, a Norcold 12-cubic-foot four-door refrigerator, two-zone LED lighting and an island kitchen.

**EverGreen Recreational Vehicles**  
574-825-4298, [www.goevergreenrv.com](http://www.goevergreenrv.com)



## GRAND DESIGN REFLECTION

It was only a matter of time before the respected braintrust at Grand Design applied to conventional towables the same build quality that’s made it a force in luxury fifth-wheel production. Playing off the looks and brand name of the existing lineup, the new Reflection trailer is initially available in one 36-foot 7-inch, triple-slide floorplan, the 308BHTS, with a \$38,289 MSRP. The

313RLTS, with a \$38,989 MSRP, should be in production by the time you read this. (See page 34 for a review of the Reflection 27RL fifth-wheel.)

Built around a five-sided aluminum-frame superstructure, the 308BHTS has a 9,900-pound GVWR and is finished with laminated side walls, gel-coated tan fiberglass, a one-piece roof membrane, pass-through storage and a one-touch power awning with LED patio lights.

The interior has residential cabinetry with hand-rubbed maple doors, an island with a dual-basin sink, solid-surface countertops and an entertainment center housing a 32-inch flat-screen TV and electric fireplace. A booth dinette and theater seating ride in the forward streetside slide, while the full-size pantry, cooktop, microwave and 8-cubic-foot refrigerator are located in the curbside slideout.

A third slide in back houses stacked bunks, and the bottom sofa bed is capable of pairing up with an opposing sofa bed to create a king-size sleep station. Did we mention there’s also a fully outfitted exterior kitchen and all-in-one heated docking station with an EZ winterization system?

**Grand Design Recreational Vehicles**  
574-825-9679, [www.granddesignrv.com](http://www.granddesignrv.com)

## GULF STREAM GULF BREEZE

The advent of toy haulers introduced a whole new genre of RVs and a whole new way to utilize not only the garage but the ramp itself as an outdoor patio. That’s great if you’re packing toys, but for outdoor enthusiasts without motorcycles, kayaks or ATVs who still want the benefits of a patio, Gulf Stream Coach debuted its Gulf Breeze 30RKP, a 34-foot 11-inch travel trailer with a 60-square-foot side patio capable of supporting 2,500 pounds of campers, friends and equipment. Access is through a sliding-glass door, and Gulf Stream built the trailer to allow the interior TV to be placed on mounts for outside viewing or another to be added to the sealed compartment. There’s even a small refrigerator and a cubbyhole for storing snacks.

“The patio is available from Gulf Stream’s Gulf Breeze and StreamLite divisions as a Champagne series unit,” noted Paul Campbell, director of marketing. Inside, the trailer features a rear galley, a U-shaped dinette and sofa bed in the rear streetside slide, and an eat-in counter/bar with stools and an entertainment center in the forward bulkhead. The forward slide houses a mirrored wardrobe within the bedroom suite. The 30RKP has a 10,600-pound GVWR and a \$31,167 MSRP.

**Gulf Stream Coach, 800-289-8787, [www.gulfstreamrvtrailers.com](http://www.gulfstreamrvtrailers.com)**





### HEARTLAND RV EDGE

According to Heartland RV President Chris Hermon, “Toy haulers have evolved into the industry’s most versatile product, as consumers keep discovering new uses and functions,” so it’s not surprising that the manufacturer builds three distinct fifth-wheel lines with garages. Wait, make that four.

At Open House the company introduced its Edge, which General Manager A.J. Jones claims is a “high-end unit with a low-end price.” According to Jones, the Edge was in development for a full year and offers a number of features unique to the segment, including “the first-ever actual bathroom master suite. This [fifth-wheel version] also is the only unit out there with two full bathrooms. It’s great not only for a toy hauler but also as the ultimate bunkhouse,” Jones added.

The Edge is available in three fifth-wheel floorplans, each with a 12-foot garage. Heartland also has integrated its exclusive side patio into the onboard garage on all fifth-wheel models, while adding fold-down sofas to give the area “a residential look and feel.” The ramp door converts to an outdoor patio, and the living room is set off by a 50-inch TV and built-in fireplace. Other features of the fiver include six-point landing gear, 7,000-pound Dexter axles, a 23-cubic-foot refrigerator and “unmatched” kitchen storage. MSRP

for the 44-foot triple-axle “behemoth,” as Jones put it, is around \$80,000. GVWR is 20,000 pounds.

The Edge is also available in a single travel trailer floorplan with 10 feet for storing toys.

**Heartland RV**  
877-262-8032, [www.heartlandrvs.com](http://www.heartlandrvs.com)

### JAYCO SEISMIC WAVE

Mike Alpin, product manager for Jayco’s new Seismic Wave lineup, tends to chafe a bit when you call the Wave a “toy hauler” because the smaller version of Jayco’s popular Seismic doesn’t, in his words, “look like a typical toy hauler, it’s not built like a typical toy hauler — and most importantly, it’s not warranted like a typical toy hauler.”

So what is it?

“It’s a luxury fifth-wheel that just

happens to have a garage,” Alpin pointed out.

The Wave is designed to provide accommodations to outdoor enthusiasts who appreciate the crossover capability of a towable-with-garage but don’t want the higher cost or weight of the Seismic, itself a relatively new Jayco line introduced for the 2012 model year. The Wave is currently available in three 36- to 38-foot floorplans with GVWR just less than 16,000 pounds and MSRPs starting in the mid-\$50,000 range.

“It’s a ‘mini’ Seismic,” Alpin noted. “Certain amenities common to the Seismic aren’t included, and neither are options. Also, it’s a little smaller, insofar as overall lengths — it’s designed for people who maybe have one motorcycle or a golf cart and don’t need a bigger unit to tote them around.”

Depending on the model, the Wave comes with two or three slideouts and a 10- or 12-foot garage with facing sofas that convert to queen beds with electric lifts. All offer far-forward bedroom-and-bath suites with queen beds, interior hardwood cabinetry, solid-surface countertops, MCD blackout roller shades and, in a streetside slideout, theater seating aft of the entertainment center sporting a 40-inch LED TV with DVD, sound bar and Bluetooth capability. Larger models also feature an island kitchen.

Oh, and about that warranty?

“Every toy hauler has a 12-month warranty,” Alpin said. “We doubled that to two years. That’s something we’re really proud of.”

**Jayco, 574-825-5861, [www.jayco.com](http://www.jayco.com)**





## KEYSTONE MONTANA

According to longtime RV marketing guru Jim Mac, the 42-foot 11-inch Keystone Montana 3791RD “was clearly the hot floorplan at Open House.” And while he’s a bit biased, inasmuch as he’s communications director for Keystone RV, there’s no denying that the elevated rear-den floorplan attracted considerable attention. Nearly surrounded by plush seating with sofa beds in opposing slideouts, the area is made more dramatic by backlit crown molding, a vaulted ceiling and a faux-stone rear wall, which houses an electric fireplace, a 40-inch flat-screen TV and storage cabinets.

Storage, in fact, plays a key role in the Montana 3791. “Because the living room is raised and the front bedroom also is raised, what you end up with is a phenomenal amount of exterior pass-through storage — this unit has more than 250 cubic feet,” Mac explained.

By virtue of both the forward bedroom and bath, and the rear den being elevated, it creates a “sunken” galley “with none of the normal kitchen incursion into the main cabin,” said Mac. The fifth-wheel has a 16,960-pound GVWR and a \$78,656 MSRP.

The 3791 reflects the significant improvements Keystone made to the Montana kitchen for the 2014 model year, including solid hardwood cabinetry in a choice of three finishes, stainless-steel appliances, an island with a two-bowl sink and a Samsung residential 18-cubic-foot refrigerator. A Dometic 18-cubic-foot RV refrigerator also is available, which Mac noted has proven popular in the company’s Raptor line. “It’s big and looks residential, but you don’t have to worry about having an extra battery or an inverter or be plugged into shorepower,” he noted. **Keystone RV Company**  
866-425-4369, [www.keystonerv.com](http://www.keystonerv.com)

## PRIME TIME SPARTAN 300 SERIES

It could be said that Forest River’s Prime Time division, launched in 2009 during the recession, had nowhere to go but up, but the growth of the Wakarusa, Indiana, builder’s travel trailer and fifth-wheel lines has nonetheless been surprising. At Open House, the company debuted a Spartan 300-series line of toy haulers intended, in the estimation of Prime Time President Jeff Rank, to appeal to customers looking for a well-built, less-expensive garage unit.

“The whole intent with the new line was to offer customers units that may have slightly smaller floorplans and a little less equipment but retain all of the functionality — and for a smaller price,” Rank noted.

The company actually introduced its first Spartan 300 travel trailer a few weeks earlier but brought out a new trailer floorplan as well as a new fifth-wheel at the Elkhart show. A 30-foot trailer with a 14,000-pound GVWR, the 2510 has an open floorplan that features a 5-foot 6-inch garage on one side with the other side capable of stretching 14 feet into the unit for additional storage. The 2510 joins the 3010, a 34-foot unit with a separated 10-foot garage.

Built around the laminated aluminum-frame main floor, side walls, slide-room walls and roof, the trailer boasts enviable R-values along with heated and enclosed water lines, heated holding tanks (105-gallon freshwater, 87-gallon gray water and 45-gallon black water) and an enclosed underbelly. Both utilize a HappiJac electronically lifted bed above dual folding sofas.

Both the 2510, with a \$39,000 MSRP, and the 3010, with a \$45,000 MSRP, feature queen beds up front



# NEW FOR 2015

and residential Lane furniture, glazed cherry hardwood cabinetry, LED lighting, an 8-cubic-foot refrigerator, a radiused shower and oversize tub, LED TVs and satellite/cable connections. The 2510 has a \$39,000 MSRP, and the 3010 runs \$45,000.

The fifth-wheel variant stretches for 37 feet and carries an MSRP beginning at around \$55,000.

**Prime Time Manufacturing**  
574-862-3001, [www.primetimerv.com](http://www.primetimerv.com)





**YOUR HOUSE ON WHEELS MAY OUTDO YOUR HOUSE WITH THE ZIP CODE.**

With DuPont™ solid surface, your countertops are just as beautiful as the places you drive them to. Beautiful, nonporous and durable, DuPont™ Corian® solid surface is the #1 U.S. brand in kitchen and bathroom countertops, and a sure sign of a quality RV manufacturer. Also, due to its incomparable quality, Corian® has had zero RV product warranty claims since 2006.

Visit [www.rvsurfaces.dupont.com](http://www.rvsurfaces.dupont.com) to learn more about DuPont™ Corian® solid surface and the quality RV manufacturers that use it.





Photo provided by  **Keystone RV Company** 

© 2014 E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. All rights reserved. The DuPont Oval Logo, DuPont™ and Corian® solid surfaces are trademarks or registered trademarks of E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company or its affiliates.

## TAXA CRICKET

While more than 80 percent of North American RVs are built in Elkhart County, the Cricket calls Houston home. That's not a surprise, inasmuch as its edgy, angular design was crafted by Garret Finney, founder of Taxa and a NASA engineer who had a hand in designing the International Space Station. Towable by just about anything, because the 15-foot-long and 6-foot 7-inch-wide Cricket has a 2,500-pound GVWR, the trailer is, more or less, a base camp. "It contains exactly what you need," said a company spokesperson. "No more, no less."

An expanding roof with a single-touch latch raises the interior height to 6 feet 4 inches, and dual entry doors provide easy access. The Cricket features five swing windows, removable tent sides, marine-grade cushions, a 75- x 57-inch V-berth bed, a recessed sink with a cover, an energy-efficient electric water heater, a shower system for interior or exterior use, city-water connections and 12-gallon fresh- and gray-water tanks. Options include a small top-loading refrigerator, a portable toilet and even kids' berths that hang from the ceiling and support up to 130 pounds. MSRP \$21,700. Taxa Inc., 713-861-2540 [www.crickettrailer.com](http://www.crickettrailer.com)



DuPont Surfaces, Circle 106 on Reader Service Card

# NEW DATES!



# JOIN US IN PHOENIX!

## FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 1, 2015

### AT THE PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY



**TICKET TO RIDE**  
Beatles Tribute Band - Friday, Feb. 27th



**SUPER DIAMOND**  
Neil Diamond Tribute Band - Saturday, Feb. 28th



**REAL TONES**  
Sunday, March 1st

## DON'T MISS OUT!

- Hundreds of Motorized & Towable RVs in all shapes and sizes on display!
- Shop for the Latest RV Accessories! Over 300 indoor booths!
- More than 20 Informative Seminars Each Day!
- Rally Golf Tournament at Tres Rios Golf Course
- Unforgettable Entertainment!
- Test Drive an RV on the Track!
- Thousands of the Friendliest RVers in the World... Good Sam Club Members!

## WORLD'S LARGEST WEDDING VOW RENEWAL CEREMONY

**TIE THE KNOT ALL OVER AGAIN**  
and help us break the World Record of 1,087 couples!  
Prizes for the best dressed couple!



## REGISTER TODAY!

Registration includes:

- 4 Days of Camping!
- 4 Days of Festivities!
- Evening Entertainment!

\*Fee is for RV with 2 people.  
Early bird days & electric are available at an additional cost.

**REGISTRATION STARTS AT ONLY \$199\***

Visit Us: [TheRally.com](http://TheRally.com) Call Us: 800.701.1399



# GS | MEDIA & EVENTS

## 2015 RV SHOW LINE-UP



Join us at a show near you to find the **PERFECT RV** at the **PERFECT PRICE!**  
 You will go home with **EVERYTHING YOU NEED** to **HIT THE ROAD!**

Event Name	Show Dates	Venue
Colorado RV Adventure Travel Show	January 7-10	Colorado Convention Center
South Carolina RV & Camping Show - Greenville	January 9-11	TD Convention Center
Mid-America RV Show	January 15-18	Bartle Hall At Kansas City Convention Ctr
Washington Camping RV Expo	January 16-18	Dulles Expo Center
New Jersey RV & Camping Show - Edison	January 16-18	New Jersey Expo Center
Minneapolis/St. Paul RV, Vacation & Camping Show	February 12-15	Minneapolis Convention Center
Richmond Camping RV Expo	February 13-15	Richmond Raceway Complex
North Carolina RV & Camping Show - Greensboro	February 13-15	Greensboro Coliseum
Atlantic City RV & Camping Show	February 13-16	Atlantic City Convention Center
Harrisburg RV & Camping Show	February 26 - March 1	PA Farm Show Complex & Expo Center
Colorado RV, Sports, Boat & Travel Show	February 26 - March 1	National Western Complex
Greater Atlanta RV Show	March 6-8	Georgia World Congress Center
Virginia RV Show	March 13-15	Hampton Roads Convention Center
New Mexico RV & Travel Show	March 27-29	Albuquerque Convention Center
Rhode Island RV & Camping Show & Sale	April 10-12	Rhode Island Convention Center

**800.848.6247 | GSEvents.com**





# Holiday Helpers

**'TIS THE SEASON TO  
FIND THE RIGHT GIFTS  
FOR RV ENTHUSIASTS**

**Ah,** yes, we've reached the end of yet another year, which means it's time to celebrate the holiday season. That's right, 'tis the season for Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah or whatever festive event lifts you into the holiday spirit. It goes without saying that, for most folks, the end of the year is a time for gift giving. For those special people in your life who happen to be RVers, we've put together a holiday gift guide to help with your shopping list.

Starting with everyone's favorite room in the RV, the galley, we found a stocking stuffer that's sure to please the chef. The **Scrap Trap** comes from KitchenArt, a retailer of unique and convenient cooking products. Designed to catch food scraps, the 11.5-inch-long, 2-quart Scrap Trap clips to the top edge of any kitchen cabinet door or drawer that's beneath a countertop. Built into the molded plastic oval container is a front pocket for storing the handy scraper/brush. The Scrap Trap is available for about \$12 at [www.kitchenart.com](http://www.kitchenart.com) and online shopping sites such as Amazon.



**KITCHENART SCRAP TRAP**

PHOTOS BY KEVIN LIVINGSTON AND COURTESY OF MANUFACTURERS

# Holiday Helpers



• ORIGAMI RSB-01

When outfitting an RV, the wonders of collapsing and nesting goodies always come to mind. Succeeding at both, the **Origami RSB-01** storage box set consists of three pleated plastic containers (two with handles) that collapse and conveniently store within the largest container, which comes with a lid. Once needed, simply grab a compressed container and expand it by pulling the top from the bottom. The Origami storage box set is available for around \$25 on Amazon.

Trailerists usually have to lug around their hitch-ball mount and are constantly reminded of just how dirty and greasy this bulky piece of equipment can be. Transporting a ball mount and sliding it into a hitch receiver shouldn't result in a hand-scrubbing session followed by a complete wardrobe change, particularly not when the RVer is equipped with the **HitchGrip**. This industrial-strength coupling tool is a glass-filled nylon handle supported by a steel frame and tough tungsten-carbide tips that grip the ball for easy lifting and handling. Aside from keeping clothing and hands clean, the HitchGrip also reduces back stress by stabilizing and distributing the heavy load more evenly. Designed by LMD Products, the HitchGrip sells for about \$40 at Camping World.



• LMD HITCHGRIP



• HITCHSAFE

• PROTECTALL ALL SURFACE CLEANER

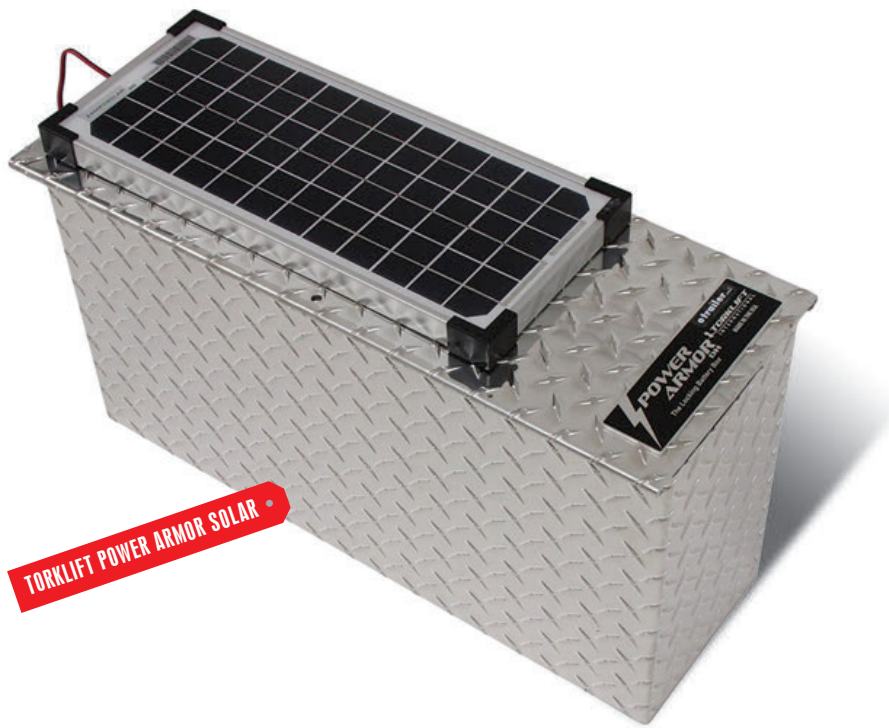
Still at the business end of the tow vehicle, the hitch receiver provides a base for another practical stocking stuffer that offers security for small items like keys. The **HitchSafe** is an all-steel mini-safe meant to turn the end of a standard 2-inch hitch receiver into a vault. The HitchSafe fastens to the receiver using two blind bolts captured by sliding bars inside the safe. The small storage drawer has a combination lock, so it's OK to leave keys, cash, ID, credit cards or other valuables behind when hiking, swimming or participating in other outdoor activities. HitchSafe is available at [www.hitchsafe.com](http://www.hitchsafe.com) and has a suggested retail price of \$59.95.

For most RVers, keeping their trailer and tow rig clean are fairly high up on the priority list. Unfortunately, some of the necessary washing equipment can occupy precious cargo space that RVers aren't necessarily willing to give up. Addressing these issues, Camco has created the ideal RV wash bucket — two of them, in fact. Made of PVC-coated polyester, **Camco RV/Marine Collapsible Buckets** come in 3- and 5-gallon capacities. Both flatten quickly to store in compact zippered bags. Of course, they're not just for washing; they're real buckets and can be used for other tasks that fit the bill. Available at Camping World for \$14.99 for the 5-gallon pail and \$12.49 for the 3-gallon pail, these buckets make an inexpensive and useful gift for any RVer.

Another longtime favorite product among RVers is a spray bottle loaded with what some consider to be the wonder formula for exterior cleaning and preservation. This miracle mist of sorts is known as **ProtectAll All Surface Cleaner**. There really isn't much to tell except that it does what it claims to do quite well, keeping an RV's exterior walls in a clean and preserved condition. It doesn't hurt that ProtectAll contains UV blockers and water-repellent carnauba wax. The 32-ounce spray bottle retails for less than \$24 at [www.campingworld.com](http://www.campingworld.com).



• CAMCO RV/MARINE COLLAPSIBLE BUCKET



For those who store their trailer in a less-than-secure location, it's not unheard of to find things missing. To prevent batteries from disappearing from trailer A-frames, Torklift International offers a solar-powered lockable battery box. The stout **Power Armor Solar** is made of heavy-gauge aluminum diamond plate topped off with a 10-watt solar panel that's hardwired to the inner part of the box. Batteries are not only secure but can be trickle-charged at the same time. Battery boxes come in three sizes including the 26½-inch version, intended to house two Group 31 deep-cycle batteries. For an attractive look, the boxes are available in bright tread diamond plate or high-impact powder-coated black diamond plate. Available at [www.torklift.com](http://www.torklift.com), the Power Armor Solar isn't the least expensive gift for RVers on your Nice List, but at a suggested retail price of \$385, it beats replacing expensive batteries.

Winter travelers are well aware of the issues associated with trying to keep the heat inside an RV. Unless a trailer is specifically designed to withstand frigid climates, cold-weather RVers are going to have to look for ways to keep comfortable. **Camco RV Vent Covers** provide four solutions for keeping heat from escaping through the roof vent.

The SunShield RV Vent Cover consists of a simple pre-cut piece of reflective-foil bubble insulation that's held to the vent via hook-and-loop fasteners. The Dual Vent Cover adds a specially shaped piece of plastic that reduces draft. Both Camco RV Vent Insulators include a 3-inch-thick foam pad wrapped in a zippered synthetic fleece cover, and one includes a sewn-in piece of reflective-foil bubble insulation on one side. Camco vent covers range in price from about \$6.49 to \$14.15. To find a retailer, go to [www.camco.net/dealer/search](http://www.camco.net/dealer/search).

Campfires are always enjoyable, but not everyone likes the associated smoke — and some campgrounds prohibit wood-fueled fires. **Campfire In A Can** keeps the convivial ambience alive while providing an approved means to sit around and enjoy a soothing flame — and it's pretty warm, too. The propane-powered portable campfire is made of a cylindrical aluminum stand that doubles as a carrying case, plus a small propane burner assembly, a log set, some black fire glass and even a removable cooking grate. Campfire In A Can sells for \$249.99 at [www.campfireinacan.com](http://www.campfireinacan.com).



# Holiday Helpers

THE DISPENSER •



When shopping for gifts for RVers, don't forget about the bathroom. Better Living has an inexpensive gift idea that helps do away with bath and shower bottles and bulky soaps that always end up on the floor of the shower or in the sink. Known simply as **the Dispenser**, the three-chamber cleanser container makes it push-button easy to access your favorite soaps and shampoos. A must-have for RVers looking to eliminate flying bath products and clutter, the Dispenser is available for about \$30 at Camping World.

RVers are always looking for tools that add convenience to life on the road, and a squeegee certainly comes in handy. Although useful and necessary, squeegees can take up a disproportionate amount of storage space because of their odd shapes. Longtime RV and automotive product manufacturer Hopkins Manufacturing supplies a unique squeegee to cover all the bases. The **Carrand Compact Squeegee** stores just about anywhere — yes, even in the glove box — thanks to folded-down dimensions of 10 x 4.25 x 1.25 inches. This super slick device extends easily for use and can be purchased for less than \$10 from most automotive retail stores, warehouse clubs and websites such as Amazon and Walmart.



CARRAND COMPACT SQUEEGEE

For many RVers, traveling into unknown territory is just another day. However, that sometimes comes at a cost when buying fuel at a small no-name service station. To even the playing field while filling up with suspect-quality fuel, Hopkins steps in with another stocking stuffer. A funnel in form and shape, but with a twist, the **Mr. Funnel Portable Fuel Filter** consists of a decent size funnel with a combination fuel filter and water separator built right into the center. While the funnel filter is designed as a multiple-use device, it really comes in handy when filling a portable generator from an approved fuel container. Available from a long list of automotive suppliers and big-box stores for around \$23, the funnel filter offers cheap insurance when dealing with unknown fuel brands.



MR. FUNNEL PORTABLE FUEL FILTER

VORTEX OPTICS DIAMONDBACK 8X42 •



RVers frequently venture into the great outdoors, and getting a good look requires good binoculars. **Vortex Optics Diamondback 8x42** binoculars bring far-off sights clearly into focus without getting too close to timid or less-than-friendly wildlife. Vortex is well-known among outdoor enthusiasts for incredibly clear optics, even in low-light conditions. The company stands behind its products with a no-questions-asked lifetime warranty. Retailing for about \$220, Diamondback 8x42 binoculars can be found at major sporting-goods stores such as Cabela's and Sportsman's Warehouse.

Always wanted to bring a couch outside and snuggle with your honey? Nice idea but not very practical until Picnic Time introduced its **Reflex Portable Couch**. Here's a couch that is portable enough to lounge in under the RV awning or throw in the tow vehicle for off-site events — and it can be packed into small spaces. The steel-framed couch is a folding, reclining

PICNIC TIME REFLEX PORTABLE COUCH





and snow tools provides three methods of defense against the elements. The Ice Crusher comes with an extendable aluminum handle that stretches to 50 inches and supports a rotating 10-inch snow broom at one end and a 4-inch ice scraper/chipper at the other. The Pivoting Avalanche Snow Broom has a 54-inch reach and comes with a combination 8.5-inch broom and 9.25-inch squeegee on one side

and an ice scraper on the other. Then there's the Monster Snowbrush with a rotating 10-inch brush on one end and a 4.5-inch ice scraper/chipper on the other. The sturdy adjustable foam-grip tube extends a full 60 inches. Available at retailers like Amazon and Walmart, these extendable winter tools make thoughtful gifts for RVers.

We wish you happy holidays and happy shopping! 🚐

love seat measuring less than 4 feet long when flattened and providing 37.5 inches of comfortable seating for two in the set-up position. A great gift for RVing couples, the couch sells for between \$125 and \$140 on Amazon and comes in red, navy or black.

For many RVers there comes a time when more space is needed for food, particularly frozen food. This is especially true when transporting a recent catch from a fishing trip or just finding a good deal at a big-box grocery store. Portable refrigerators and freezers have been around for a long time, but the 1.1-cubic-foot **Dometic Portable Fridge Freezer** takes advantage of new technology. Outfitted with a WAECO CoolFreeze CFX series compressor cooler, also known as the CFX35, this go-almost-anywhere appliance is designed to refrigerate or freeze from minus-8 degrees to 50 degrees Fahrenheit using 120-volt AC or 12-volt DC power. Retailing for around \$780 from Camping World, Dometic's new refrigerator/freezer has plenty of other features such as a USB port and a dual zone to refrigerate and freeze simultaneously.

We'll top off our gift offerings with a bit of frosting, so to speak. The **Hopkins SubZero** line of extendable ice



T H E Y ' R E H E R E



**Highland**  
RIDGE RV  
LIVING LARGE / TRAVELING LIGHT

WWW.HIGHLANDRIDGERV.COM  
(260) 768-7771

Highland Ridge RV, Inc., Circle 108 on Reader Service Card



## Waste Master

There's no denying that emptying the holding tanks can be a dirty job, but Lippert Components is trying to give this task a cleaner image with its new Waste Master waste-management system. Unlike traditional sewer-hose coils that trap debris, the tough, wireless Waste Master hose is designed with its helical coil on the outside, while the inside is much smoother, preventing waste from getting trapped inside. The permanently connected nozzle is molded with an easy-grip handle, an integrated shutoff valve and a clear-view port that allows the user to see when waste has been completely evacuated. The nozzle also features a 90-degree discharge port that is easy to fit into any sewage inlet.

**MSRP: \$169**  
**574-537-8900, [www.lci1.com](http://www.lci1.com)**  
Circle 126 on Reader Service Card



## Husky Liner

No matter how careful you are to wipe your feet before getting into the tow vehicle, mud, dirt and slush are sure to find their way onto the floor mats and sometimes the carpet, causing ugly stains that may never come out. Husky Liners recently introduced X-act Contour floor mats, which the company says perfectly match the contours of any truck or SUV and combine strength with a soft, comfortable cushion. The patented FormFit Edge is a raised ridge that runs along the doorjamb, protecting the truck or SUV from all manner of messes. StayPut Cleats help keep the liners securely in place. Throw in good looks and a lifetime guarantee, and you have what could be the ultimate floor mat.

**MSRP: \$119.95**  
**800-344-8759, [www.huskyliners.com](http://www.huskyliners.com)**  
Circle 127 on Reader Service Card



## Softening the Flow

Stain-Less Water Filters provide a water filtering and softening system for potable water that also greatly minimizes water spotting and staining on surfaces including chrome, fiberglass, metal, paint, glass and plastic. Its softening properties help preserve plumbing lines, water-heater elements, fixtures and ice machines, and make for a more pleasant showering experience. Stain-Less filters work with municipal or well water, providing a supply that's safe for washing or drinking. The company claims the filter will not reduce pressure or volume of water flow. The filters come in three sizes, with the standard size accommodating up to 5,000 gallons of tap water.

**MSRP: \$250 to \$700**  
**609-296-2564**  
**[www.stainlesswaterfilters.com](http://www.stainlesswaterfilters.com)**  
Circle 128 on Reader Service Card



## Drier Air

Winter brings with it cool, damp air that can cause mold, mildew and corrosion inside your RV. The Air-Dryer from Davis Instruments uses natural convection to circulate air without any switches, fans or thermostats. Just place it on the floor and plug it into a 120-volt AC outlet. The air is heated to the point that moisture is held in suspension, above dew point, then released through the top vents of the device. As warmed air rises, cooler damp air is drawn in, and the process repeats. Costing no more to operate than a lightbulb, according to the company, the Air-Dryer makes no sound, is safe to touch and features a thermal cutoff in case airflow is impeded. Available in two sizes.

**MSRP: \$59.99, 800-678-3669, [www.davisnet.com](http://www.davisnet.com)**  
Circle 129 on Reader Service Card



# PURCHASE OR REFINANCE

your RV with an APR\* as low as **4.12%\*\***



## NOW IS THE TIME...

Purchase a new or pre-owned RV or refinance your existing RV loan with competitive rates. Good Sam Finance Center has experienced RV associates ready to provide fast and convenient service to make the process hassle-free so you can focus on enjoying your RV.

## THINKING OF PURCHASING...

Did you know that Good Sam Finance Center offers financing for private party and dealer purchases? Whether you are purchasing an RV from your neighbor or dealer down the street or across the country, we have the RV financing you may need.

## THINKING OF REFINANCING...

If you'd like to take advantage of the current interest rates and the potential to reduce your monthly payments, refinancing your existing RV loan may make financial sense - get the ball rolling today!

## ARE YOU A FULL-TIMER?

Good Sam Finance Center offers financing for the perfect RV to call home. Contact us for rates and terms for full-timer financing.

**4.12** %\*\*  
**APR\***

on loan amounts of  
**\$50k+**

**&**

**4.79** %\*\*  
**APR\***

on loan amounts of  
**\$25k-49,999**

APR is fixed for the entire loan term.  
Lower rates with shorter terms are available.

Rates are accurate as of September 19, 2014. Rates and terms may vary with market conditions and are subject to change without notice. See website for current rates and terms.

**CALL: 800.444.1476** (mention priority code 536)

**CLICK: GoodSamRVLoans.com/536**



**Good Sam**  
**RV Loans**

\*Estimated APR (Annual Percentage Rate). Subject to consumer loan program requirements and credit approval. Certain fees, closing costs, and restrictions may apply. Loans not available in all states. Minimum loan amount may vary by state.

\*\*APR applied to the loan is the APR in effect on the date the application is received and is valid until 30 days after the loan is approved. APRs may vary with loan term. For a refinance request, RV must be 2004 model year or newer. For a purchase request, RV must be 2006 model year or newer. Maximum loan to value is determined by the following: credit score and model year, with collateral value being established per NADA Used Wholesale Trade-in value. Maximum loan term may vary based on model year, loan amount, loan type and lender guidelines. This offer is not available to applicants who use their RV as a principal dwelling (Full-Timer); visit website for Full-Timer rates and terms. Good Sam Finance Center™ provided through Bank of the West. © 2014 Bank of the West. GRL34921 - 0914

 **EQUAL HOUSING LENDER**

## Automatic Transmissions and Torque Converters

Towing large, heavy trailers with powerful diesel and gasoline engines puts tremendous stress on transmissions and torque converters. Considering a trailer can weigh three or even four times as much as the truck towing it, these modern engineering marvels are often pushed to their limits and sometimes beyond, potentially with catastrophic failures. These failures can be expensive and time consuming, and may ruin an otherwise great trip or vacation. Therefore, it's important to understand the limitations of these drivetrains and learn how to extend their service life and reduce the likelihood of a breakdown.

Perhaps the easiest and certainly the least expensive step is simply to take a few minutes to read the sections of the owner's manual that cover the transmission's operation and maintenance and follow the recommended maintenance schedules. Next, make it part of your routine to check the fluid level, look for signs of leaks and note any changes in the way the transmission shifts.

Planetary gearsets, popularized more than a century ago by Ford's venerable Model T manual transmissions, paved the way for modern automatic transmissions. For many years, automatic transmissions have been electronically controlled. Although the complexity of these control systems has become greater with time and product development, the basic internal parts continue to be planetary gearsets, bands and clutch packs.

The 1940 Oldsmobile and Cadillac are credited with offering the first fully automatic, mass-produced trans-

mission developed for passenger automobile use, the Hydramatic. These early Hydramatics used a simpler hydraulic coupling, rather than a torque converter, to connect the engine to the transmission. Later automatic transmissions were driven by the engine using a more complex torque converter. A torque converter uses turbine-like vanes and routes the fluid through these to effectively provide "high" and "low" ratios, which is similar to adding two ratios in each gear of the transmission. Typical stall torque multiplication ratios range from 1.8:1 to 2.5:1 for most automotive applications.

Over the years, automatic transmissions have become progressively more complex, ranging from simple two-speeds, such as Chevrolet's Powerglide, to eight-speed automatics found in the latest trucks. The all-new GM-developed Hydramatic 8L90 eight-speed transmission is available with the 6.2-liter EcoTec3 V-8 gas engine in 2015 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pickups.

The transmission has 11 percent greater torque capacity than GM's 6L80 six-speed automatic, which will be needed with the 6.2-liter, the most powerful engine offered in a light-duty pickup, rated 420 horsepower and 460 lb-ft of torque.

With four simple gearsets for optimal efficiency and five clutches (two brake clutches and three rotating clutches), the eight-speed automatic fits in the same space as the previous six-speed automatic, with less weight. Smaller steps between gears optimize performance and efficiency by making the most of the engine's horsepower and torque. Having more gears also makes it practical to have taller (numerically lower) rear-axle ratios, which reduce engine RPM on the highway for lower fuel consumption. Although having more gears increases engine flexibility and fuel efficiency, it also increases complexity and initial cost.

Another important development was the introduction of lockup clutches in torque converters, starting in the late 1970s. Conventional torque converters slipped constantly as the vehicle was driven, even at highway speeds. By eliminating this unneeded slippage, fuel economy was improved by about 5 percent. In addition, the reduced slippage resulted in less heat being generated in the fluid, which had to be removed with larger transmission coolers.

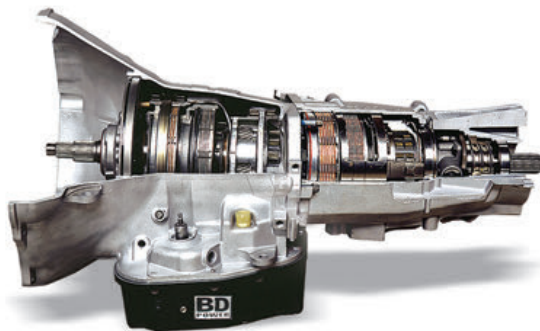
However, high torque — especially from modified diesel engines — can cause unwanted lockup clutch slippage, which often leads to failure of this part. Failure can result in debris circulating with the transmission fluid and may require an expensive transmission overhaul along with torque converter

**Torque converters can lower fluid temperatures and improve fuel economy. This exploded view of a heavy-duty aftermarket torque converter shows the turbine section on the left and the lockup clutch on the right.**





The aftermarket offers a variety of automatic transmission products, up to and including complete high-performance transmissions like this one from BD. Heavy-duty clutches, new input shafts and hubs, a redesigned valve body and a high-capacity aluminum pan are all part of the package.



replacement. Today, there are many aftermarket heavy-duty torque converters available that are designed with more durable lockup clutches.

Modern powertrain controllers coordinate engine and transmission functions and provide features not available previously, such as TAPshift (touch activated power) and Tow/Haul mode. General Motors added the TAPshift feature on the 2006 Duramax LBZ series, along with the then-new six-speed Allison automatic transmission. TAPshift enables a double overdrive for lower cruising RPM and better fuel economy. Tow/Haul mode, meanwhile, raises shift points based on accelerator pedal position and engine RPM, and engages torque converter lockup earlier. Aftermarket retrofit kits are available to modify shift points and torque converter lockup for many earlier models.

Automatic transmission fluid (ATF) is the lifeblood of an automatic transmission. It lubricates moving parts, carries away worn bits of friction material, transfers heat and must provide just the right amount of friction so that the internal clutch packs and torque converter lockup function properly without excessive slipping, grabbing or chatter. Therefore, it's essential that ATF levels are maintained properly and changed at recommended intervals. Torque converters hold most of the transmission's fluid and should be drained as well. Some shops have special transmission-flushing equipment, which does a thorough job and is recommended. Heavy towing is considered extreme service; hence, the more frequent service intervals suggested by the vehicle manufacturer should be followed.

Many new automatic transmis-

sions come from the factory with semi-synthetic fluid. Synthetic transmission fluid is even more stable and resistant to high temperatures and extreme operating conditions, and for towing it's highly recommended (by Allison Transmission, for instance). Use a name brand to ensure good quality and be sure to buy the correct blend for your vehicle's transmission. Different formulas have different coefficients of friction and can change how the clutches slip and engage.

Transmission service usually includes replacement of the filter, which requires dropping the pan for access. While the pan is down, look for traces of metal shavings or shiny particles, which may indicate the early stages of failure. This is also a good time to install a threaded bung in the pan for an aftermarket transmission-fluid temperature gauge.

ATF is usually routed through a separate heat exchanger in the radiator, which is surrounded by engine coolant and warms the ATF when it is cold and cools it when it is too hot. Many heavy-duty vehicles used for towing also route the ATF through a separate cooler mounted ahead of the radiator after it leaves the heat exchanger in the radiator. Most modern automatic transmissions have warning lights on the shifter or dash that alert the driver if the transmission is getting too hot.

One of the most common causes of automatic transmission failure among trailer owners is excessive heat. Typically, the maximum safe operating temperature is about 275 degrees Fahrenheit for short periods such as climbing a grade on a hot day. Constant running temperatures should be considerably below this and vary with load, outside temperature, road gradient

**GOT  
ODOR/SENSOR  
PROBLEMS?  
LOOK NO  
FURTHER!**



**SAVE MONEY, SAVE  
SPACE, CUT WASTE!**

**1 OZ TREATS UP  
TO 50 GALLONS  
OF WASTE**

**ONLY 1/4 - 1/2 OZ  
TREATS GREY WATER**

**T-5 SUPER  
CONCENTRATED LIQUID  
TOILET CHEMICAL  
FORMALDEHYDE FREE  
& NON DYE**



**ASK FOR OUR  
PRODUCTS AT YOUR  
LOCAL DEALER**



Like us on Facebook

# BUYING AN RV?

65,000+ For Sale

- New & Used
- By Owner & Dealers



# SELLING AN RV?

Advertise to Millions of RV Shoppers...  
FREE



and conditions.

When a modern automatic gets too hot, its electronic controller often has a strategy that puts it into a “limp-home” mode, locks up the converter to reduce slippage and sometimes keeps it in a lower gear. Before it gets this hot, you should pull over in a safe place, activate the warning flashers, set the parking brake and place the transmission in Park, then run the engine at a fast idle to circulate fluid and allow it to cool. If your vehicle’s transmission runs too hot, have an auxiliary transmission cooler added. These units must have sufficient flow capacity; some are available with electric fans and can be remotely mounted under the vehicle if there is not sufficient space in front of the radiator.

With older nonelectronic transmissions, a shift kit can be installed in the hydraulic valve body to change shift points, line pressure and shift firmness, etc. But with today’s electronically controlled transmissions, these functions can be modified by using aftermarket electronic tuners, which typically connect to the OBD-II diagnostic port. As with everything else, stick with known brands to ensure high quality.

Modifications can also be done to strengthen and upgrade automatic transmissions. Special high-performance aftermarket torque converters and transmissions are available that are typically precision balanced and have furnace-brazed fins, high-strength internal components and/or larger clutches. The transmission must be removed to change a torque converter. Torque converters should generally be replaced with a new or rebuilt unit when the transmission is overhauled or replaced.

A number of aftermarket accessories are designed to increase transmission flexibility and improve operation. For instance, a flexplate is a metal disk that connects the engine’s crankshaft to the torque converter. These are prone to crack and fail if abused or forced to handle much more power and torque than they were designed for, such as with souped-up

engines. Some companies often make flexplates from stronger steel billet, allowing the transmission to shift faster and harder without running the risk of breaking the flexplate.

Banks Power’s SmartLock electronic braking device automatically activates when conditions call for braking. The SmartLock locks the torque converter and simultaneously raises transmission-line pressure to reduce vehicle speed smoothly. Besides saving on brake wear, SmartLock improves automatic transmission durability by increasing its holding capacity, eliminating excessive clutch slippage and reducing transmission-fluid temperatures.

BD Diesel makes the ProTect 68RFE transmission pressure-control kit. The kit includes a newly designed valve body separator plate and a pressure-control module that delivers up to 250 psi clutch apply pressure, providing 150 percent of the holding force above stock to prevent clutch slippage without modifying the transmission pump or removing the transmission. The ProTect 68RFE dynamically adjusts hydraulic apply pressures based on turbo boost and engine load.

For heavy-duty users and modified engines, another option is to purchase a complete, specially modified and upgraded transmission through an aftermarket company. Besides the products and companies listed below, there are many others; a quick Google search for “automatic transmission” and “torque converter upgrades” will bring you many hours of reading to tide you over during the winter season. 🚗

## SOURCES

### BD Diesel Performance

800-887-5030

[www.dieselpower.com](http://www.dieselpower.com)

### Gale Banks Engineering

800-601-8072, [www.bankspower.com](http://www.bankspower.com)

### TCI Automotive

888-776-9824, [www.tciauto.com](http://www.tciauto.com)

### Transmasters Transmissions

801-974-5777

[www.transmastertransmissions.com](http://www.transmastertransmissions.com)



# 3 MONTHS FREE!

## OUR GIFT TO YOU



**This Holiday season, let there be peace on earth ... and peace of mind.**

'Tis the season for giving, and we'd like to give you and your family the gift of peace of mind by offering you **3 FREE MONTHS of Good Sam Roadside Assistance** when you enroll now through December 31, 2014.\* Although your RV may be parked for the winter, you can count on Good Sam Roadside Assistance if you experience a roadside emergency in your car, truck or SUV. **Wherever you are, we're just a phone call away -- 24/7, 365 days a year.**



### 5 GREAT REASONS to have Good Sam Roadside Assistance

- **24 Hour Service** with **UNLIMITED** distance towing to the nearest network service facility
- **Protection** for your RV and ALL household vehicles
- Coverage for your spouse and dependent children – **AT NO EXTRA COST**
- **Dispatch** of a mobile mechanic for minor roadside repairs
- **Caller locator technology** which allows us to pinpoint your location using GPS and cellular technology

**3 MONTHS FREE**  
when you enroll

For Just **\$79.95\*** Reg. \$114.95 per year

**CALL 1-888-626-5494**

**CLICK [GoodSamRoadside.com/ourgift](http://GoodSamRoadside.com/ourgift)**



**Good Sam**  
**Roadside Assistance**

\*Introductory rate available for first-time buyers only. Benefits and services provided by Americas Road & Travel Club, Inc. for members residing in Alaska, Alabama, Utah and Virginia; and by Affinity Road & Travel Club, LLC for members residing in all other states. All program benefits are subject to the limitations set forth in the current Member Benefit Brochure, which is accessible at [GoodSamERS.com/mbbs](http://GoodSamERS.com/mbbs). Offer expires 12/31/2014. GRA34344 - 0814

# Window Wear

Adding inexpensive, temporary plastic film helps maintain comfort in cold weather by restricting heat loss and condensation

## DIFFICULTY

1 2 3 4 5

## TIME TO COMPLETE

 30 MINUTES PER WINDOW

## TOOLS NEEDED

 RAZOR BLADE OR KNIFE, SCISSORS, HAIR DRYER

No matter how much we all love our time RVing, let's face it, for many it's still a seasonal thing. Typically, RVing is most desirable during the fall, spring and summer months when it's warm and friendly outside and we don't have to struggle to keep the interior — and systems — warm. Many RVs are not designed for cold-weather travel, and getting them to that level requires some modifications. When considering a cold-weather adventure, preparation must include improving the insulation, especially at the windows where heat loss can be huge.

Most RV windows are not dual-pane and therefore don't offer the insulation needed to reduce heat loss or gain. Additionally, condensation can build up easily on the inside due to the extra cold coming in through non-insulated windows and moisture that's created by using the shower and stove, and from occupants breathing. Adding a second pane, commonly referred to as a storm window, helps immensely, as does buying the dual-pane window option when you order a new RV. Storm windows are impractical, heavy and must be stored in the winter months, but the space between the two panes provides excellent insulation.

There is an easy way to add this vapor barrier. Frost King, a company that specializes in home weather stripping and insulation, offers an af-



**(1) Double-sided tape is applied to the window frame after cleaning. The tape has a strong adhesion but will need to set for 15 minutes before applying the window film.**

fordable, effective and temporary alternative to dual-pane or storm windows, and can be installed by just about any do-it-yourselfer. The kit is basically a length of plastic sheeting (shrink film) that is "stuck" to the window frame, creating space between the window and film. The Window Insulation Kit we used for the installation was the company's heavy-duty version, which uses a more rugged double-strength shrink film that is 1.5 millimeters thick. Just like in the standard kit, the heavy-duty kit includes three 42- x 62-inch clear

sheets and a roll of extra heavy-duty double-sided tape to attach it.

To install the Window Insulation Kit, you have to start with a clean window-frame surface. Using a 50/50 mixture of acetone and water to prep the area will remove all the dirt and grease. From here, the double-sided

**VAPOR BARRIER»** The heavy duty-version of Frost King's Window Insulation Kit makes the most sense for RV applications. Each kit comes with three 42- by 62-inch sheets of film.



**(2) When cutting the film, leave a 1-inch overlap so that the material can be stretched over the window. (3) A hair dryer is used to shrink the film so it forms a tight fit. (4) Once the film provides a tight surface over the window, the edges are trimmed with a razor blade or knife.**

tape is applied using firm pressure to the cleaned surface and is allowed to sit for 15 minutes for proper adhesion. While waiting for the tape to finish bonding, the film can be unfolded and stretched out to help simplify the installation. Since RV windows are usually smaller than standard house windows, it may be easiest to trim the film closer to the size of the window getting the treatment. Make sure to leave at least 1 inch more film than the dimensions of the frame so there's something to hold on to.

The plastic is then attached to the double-sided tape starting at both upper corners and continuing around the edges, while trying to pull all the wrinkles out simultaneously. Pressing firmly on the tape assures good adhesion. The next step involves the use of a hair dryer and moving warm air across the film until the remaining wrinkles have literally disappeared before your eyes. To make a tight fit, the film is actually shrinking. The film is then trimmed carefully with a razor blade, and the job is done.

Frost King advertises an increased R-value of a single-pane window by a whopping 90 percent with properly installed heavy-duty film. At first we were skeptical, until the installation was finished. No, it wasn't crystal clear, but the difference in temperature at the test window versus the others was obvious. Bottom line is this stuff works, you can see through it and considering the less-than-\$10 investment from Home Depot or a similar store, it's well worth the gain in heat retention. It can be easily removed when the weather gets warmer (although the double-sided tape residue will likely give you a bit of a struggle) and there's nothing to store. 🚚

### **Frost King**

800-299-5700, [www.frostking.com](http://www.frostking.com)



'Tis the season for giving, and we'd like to give you

# 3 MONTHS FREE

## WHEN YOU ENROLL IN GOOD SAM TRAVELASSIST!

A \$25 VALUE!

Whether you're traveling to visit family for the holidays, headed out on a roadtrip or traveling abroad – don't leave home without emergency medical and travel assistance.

### Good Sam TravelAssist benefits includes:

- \* Emergency Medical Evacuation
- \* RV/Vehicle Return Service to Your Home
- \* Transportation Home After Hospitalization
- \* Lost Prescription Replacement Assistance

**3 MONTHS FREE**

when you enroll

For Just **\$79.99\*** Reg. \$99.99 per year

CALL **1-888-557-3677**  
CLICK **GoodSamTravelAssist.com/3free**



**Good Sam**  
**TravelAssist** 

This is only an outline of the plan's features. Please read your Plan Description carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any terms, conditions, and limitations. Offer expires 12/31/2014.

GTA34347-0814

## TODAY'S TRAILER SIZES

**Q** I am president of a neighborhood homeowner association. One homeowner asked if our 20-foot limit on trailer length could be increased for residential RV parking. He claims that most camping trailers are longer than 20 feet. I said I would check into it and that this seemed like a reasonable request to take up for vote, but, wow, I need some help on this one. Is it true that most camping trailers are longer than 20 feet? What are the minimum and maximum lengths on the market now?

**Dave Kompara, Fort Wayne, Indiana**

**A** There are a lot of trailers longer than 20 feet, Dave, but there are also a lot of them shorter.



Ultralight trailers are very popular today, and many of those are really small compared to the average RV. On the higher end, travel trailers in the 22- to 26-foot range are extremely common, and you can find them as long as 34 feet, although those aren't as common. Fifth-wheel trailers can reach as long as 40 feet. Increasing the size limit for your HOA would certainly accommodate more RV owners. — **Jeff Johnston**

## SILICONE SEALANTS

**Q** Manufacturers of silicone sealant and glue would have you believe that these products are the cure-all for leaks. My experience says that is not so.

Silicone is acidic-based and will begin to corrode and eat holes in metal. When it cures, it is very slick, and liquid will always find a way around it. The cure is to go to an auto-glass replacement business and purchase their sealer (generally black in color and very sticky) or go to a home-improvement store and buy a very good latex-based sealer and use either of those.

I purchased a replacement sliding back window for a truck, and it leaked when I installed it using silicone sealer. I removed and reinstalled the window four times and could not get it to stop leaking. So I went to my cousin who owns a body shop and asked him what I should do. He showed me the back window of a car that someone had used silicone sealer on, and it was all eaten up. He's the one who suggested the pre-

viously mentioned idea, which I did one time and never had another problem with leaking.

Similarly, in working on and around commercial airplanes, we had a real problem with the stainless-steel waste-disposal ducting leaking until we stopped using silicone sealer. That is where that pretty blue ice that rarely falls from the sky comes from, and that's why you should never touch it.

**Fred Dawn, Kent, Washington**

**A** Your advice about the blue ice is well taken, Fred. "Silicone sealant" has become a generic term for room-temperature vulcanizing (curing) adhesives or sealants used for many RV and residential applications, and it's a good idea to be sure about the products' content. The acid-cure silicones, which have that strong vinegar-type smell, can affect metal surfaces, so a neutral, nonacidic sealant is often a better choice for such applications. As you suggested, a latex-based sealant

or caulk is a safe bet. Try to choose a sealant that's a match for your rig's sidewall color such as white, almond or tan, for example, as black sealant may be hard to keep hidden when placed around windows or compartments. A sealant such as ProFlex, available at Camping World and other outlets, is a good idea for many RV applications, other than EPDM rubber roofs, and there are special sealers designed specifically for roof repairs. — **J.J.**

## ROTTED FLOOR, DRY CLIMATE

**Q** I brought my trailer to a dealer for a trade-in toward a new one. Our trailer is a 2008 Rockwood Signature Ultra Lite. The salesman looked at the trailer roof and floor and said it was worthless due to moisture and rot. The inside of the trailer shows absolutely no signs of moisture or discoloration. Am I dealing with a reputable dealer?

**George Nutting, Lake Havasu City, Arizona**

**A** It's hard to say if that dealer is reputable or not based on one incident, George, but given your other factors, the dealer's analysis is a bit suspect.

That you have no signs of leaks inside the unit is one clue, and if your trailer hasn't experienced leaks during your travels, that's another hint. You live

### THE TECH TEAM



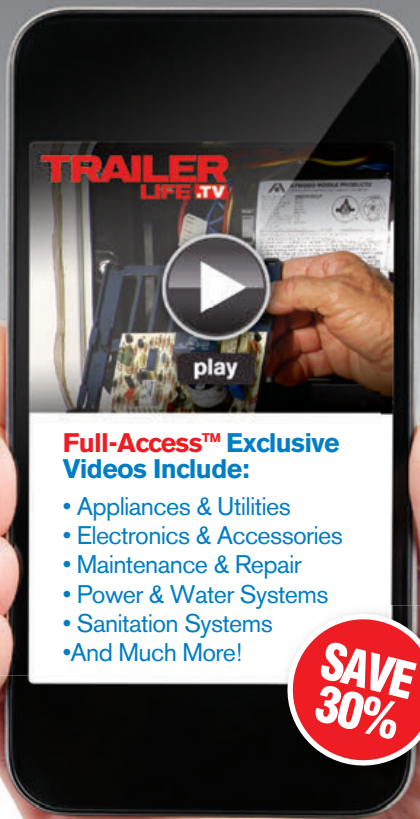
**KEN FREUND:** Ken is a former ASE Certified Master Technician, service manager and shop owner who has authored numerous books on automotive repair.



**JEFF JOHNSTON:** Jeff served as technical director of *Trailer Life* for 19 years and has been an RV enthusiast, mechanic and writer since he could hold a wrench.

# YOUR DESTINATION FOR RV HOW-TO VIDEO

- ▶ Keep your RV running in tip-top shape using our Expert Tech Tips and RV How-To Video Library
- ▶ Access anytime from your PC, Mac or Mobile Device



**LIMITED TIME OFFER  
ONLY \$20.98/YEAR!**

Go to <http://go.trailerlife.tv/tlvideo>  
to claim your discount and learn more!

Presented by:  
**Good Sam Club**

\*Limited time offer expires December 2, 2014. Valid on Annual Membership only. Discount cannot be combined with other offers.

## RV CLINIC

in an area with minimal rainfall, so long-term leak damage seems unlikely. If you were in, say, Seattle or Forks, Washington, and the trailer was stored outdoors, it might be a different story.

Ultralight-designated trailers are built with materials designed to reduce weight, and sometimes that means a floor structure that's thinner than on a comparable standard trailer. This can cause a bit of sagging or spongy feeling in a floor that's in fine condition. If the salesman was a person of robust girth, then he or she may have been further causing the floor to sag during the inspection.

Still, it wouldn't hurt to check for dry rot as a precaution. You'll need to get access to the wood floor in the area in question. Since your rig most likely has a one-piece vinyl floor, you're probably best off to approach it from underneath. Isolate the alleged "rotted" area and open the underside fabric so you can bend it back and take a look at the wood. It's likely the material is held in place with fender washers and self-tapping screws. If it's damaged, it may be readily apparent, or you may need to use a screwdriver or other pointed probe to see how the wood feels. After you check it out, be sure to reattach the fabric.

Checking for roof structure rot is a bit more challenging because you have a solid-piece skin up top and some type of headliner inside. You'd need to get inside the structure to check for rot, and that could mean a lot of disassembly and subsequent reassembly later. Again, you'll need to locate the place(s) the salesperson indicated were rotted and check those spots. If the areas are close to a roof opening, such as a roof vent, you may be able to remove the interior trim ring to gain access to some of the roof structure to check for integrity. A project like this may best be handled by a professional RV service technician, if you're uncomfortable with this kind of job. While you're at it, you can get a second opinion. — J.J.

### NOISY TRAILER

Q My wife and I are new to the trailer camping life and bought our first

trailer this year. It's a 2015 Keystone Hideout that's about 26 feet long. We have noticed that when we are driving through campgrounds or at a relatively slow speed, the trailer suspension makes a lot of squeaking and creaking noises. For some reason I don't think this is a common noise, because we haven't heard it on other trailers driving past our campsites.

Is there a remedy for this annoying problem, or is it something we just have to live with? Also, is it causing any problems or damage to the suspension or trailer itself?

**Matt Griffin, Herriman, Utah**

A That noise you hear sounds like squeaky spring-suspension parts, because those parts are seldom lubricated at the factory. Most RVers routinely add a bit of heavy gear oil or grease to the leaf-spring hanger and shackle-bolt parts as part of a regular maintenance procedure. An even better idea is to replace the stock bolts and shackles with bolt hardware that features Zerk fittings, which allow you to add a shot of grease now and then that flows inside the parts where it does the most good. Any RV service center that sells parts should be able to order the correct size pieces for your trailer. — J.J.

### DRYING OUT A WET FLOOR

Q Recently, the toilet in our RV overflowed on the floor, leaving about 1/4 inch of water. We cleaned it up as fast as we could and have a dehumidifier running. However, the material under the camper is holding water. I sliced it open, and the water is draining out, but I am worried about mold. What else can I do to dry it out?

**Gary Koester, Aurora, Illinois**

A You've taken the right steps, Gary. About all you can do is loosen the underbelly material to expose as much of the wet flooring as possible to air circulation. Given that the water wasn't soaking into the floor for a long period of time, I don't think it will be that hard for the wood to dry out. — J.J.



## WHEEL BALANCING, LOAD RATING AND CAPACITY

**Q** I noticed that the wheels on my 2011 Keystone Sprinter 311BHS had no wheel-balancing weights on them. I looked at a few trailers at my dealership, and none of them had weights. Don't trailer tires require balance?

The trailer came with ST225/75R15 load range D tires. I am replacing them with the same size tires but load range E. The specs for the trailer call for 65 PSI, which was what I inflated them to. The new tires can be inflated to 80 PSI. Which pressure should I use?

**Bob James, Las Cruces, New Mexico**

**Q** In the "LT Tires Versus ST Trailer Tires" Q&A in the October 2014 RV Clinic, you mentioned checking and not exceeding wheel-pressure ratings when switching to LT tires. I own a 2010 Toyota Tundra with passenger-car tires and am considering changing to LT tires to tow my 2008 Flagstaff ultralight travel trailer. How do I determine the inflation-pressure rating for the stock 18-inch wheels?

**Michael Simonelli, Bordentown, New Jersey**

**A** Bob, inflate the tires to their indicated 80 PSI, but be sure the wheels are rated to handle the higher pressure. This also applies to Michael's question about upgrading his Tundra's tires. Wheels must have their load and pressure ratings stamped, molded, embossed or otherwise applied somewhere on the wheel, usually on the back or inside for cosmetic reasons. In some examples, the weight rating is there but not the pressure rating, in which case you need to contact the wheel manufacturer for that data. As long as the ratings for the higher-capacity tires don't exceed the ratings for the wheels, you're OK.

Michael, trailer wheels do not require balancing, but it's still a good idea for the same reasons that it's a good idea to keep your car or tow rig tires balanced. There's no one riding in the trailer to feel any out-of-balance vibrations, and that's probably why most trailer manufacturers don't bother with balancing. **(continued on page 70)**

## HIT THE ROAD, NOT THE PUMP.



With a Transfer Flow fuel tank, you'll bypass those expensive fuel stations and fill up where fuel is cheaper - saving you time and money!

Transfer Flow — your source for safe, durable and LEGAL fuel tank systems.

**TRANSFER FLOW, INC.**

The Leader in Aftermarket Fuel Tank Systems™

800-442-0056 | 530-893-5209

WWW.TRANSFERFLOW.COM



REPLACEMENT FUEL TANKS



AUXILIARY FUEL TANKS



REFUELING TANKS



## Hook it up Yourself with a WIRELESS CAMERA!



**iBALL**

Wireless Trailer Hitch Camera

- 100% Wireless & Portable
- Easy—Installs in Seconds!
- Magnetic & Submersible Camera
- Trailers (Boat, Camper, Horse, ATV, Livestock and More!)

**\$149<sup>95</sup>** w/Free US Shipping  
SAVE \$15 Today! Use Promo Code TL1214

Info/Buy Now: 1-877-298-2055 or visit our website at:

**www.iballhitchcam.com**

**awningpro-tech.com**

**20% DISCOUNT**  
 Code HD2014  
 Exp. 12/31/14

**Holiday Savings!**

**AWNING PRO-TECH**

**PROTECTS RV AWNINGS FROM COSTLY DAMAGE**



PREVENT THIS WITH THIS

**EASY TO USE JUST SNAPS ON!**

- Greatly Extends The Life of Your Fabric
- Lifetime Warranty
- Patio, Slide-Out & Window Awning Covers Available
- Our Products Are 100% Made In The USA

**855-RVCOVER (855-782-6837)**

**TS TRUCKSPRING**  
 SUSPENSION SPECIALISTS

**Your Source for Firestone Air Spring Kits and Accessories**



**Eliminate Suspension Sag  
 No Drilling Kits  
 Competitive Prices  
 Quick Shipments  
 Free Shipping**

**CALL 1-800-358-4751**  
 OR ORDER ONLINE AT  
**WWW.TRUCKSPRING.COM**

**KSH Fuel Products**  
**www.kshmarine.com**  
 We Don't Dabble We Specialize!



- Toolbox/Tank combos in 45, 60, and 98 gallon Capacities.
- Auxiliary Fuel Tanks in 30, 50, 70, and 100 Gallon Capacities.
- Custom Fuel Tank Fabrication.
- Installation Kits for Chevy, Dodge & Ford.



KSH Fuel Products  
 1675-103 Kiowa Ave.  
 Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

**tel 928-680-6610**  
 fax 928-680-7379 email: [kshmarine@rraz.net](mailto:kshmarine@rraz.net)

**Idaho Tote**

**"NO JACKKNIFING!"**



The IDAHO TOTE is attached and not drawn as a regular trailer.

Simply put:

**"YOU DO NOTHING BUT DRIVE!"**

- 3000 lb GVW
- Pressure sensing steering axle
- Steers traveling forward or backing up



**IDAHO TOTE DOLLY, INC.**  
**www.idahotote.com**  
 Call 208-276-3203 or 509-751-6297

**HONDA GENERATORS**



EU3000i  
 Electric Start  
 Extended Run Time

EU2000i & EU2200i Companion

**All units are shipped pre-serviced and tested for output with extra spark plug.**

Free shipping continental U.S. No sales tax. No insurance charge.

**Get your back-up power now!**

**Ball POWER EQUIPMENT**  
 Full Line Honda Dealer

Lightweight • Super quiet • Eco throttle • D.C. charging  
 Couple 2 units together to Double output

**Kansas City, MO**  
**(877) 225-5200 Toll Free**

For optimum performance and safety, we recommend you read the owner's manual before opening your Honda Power Equipment. Connection of a generator to house power requires a transfer device to avoid possible injury to power company personnel. Consult a qualified electrician.  
 ©2005 American Honda Co., Inc.

**WaterKing USA**

**SAVE YOUR RV PLUMBING!  
 Soft Water and Great Drinking Water**

Water-KingUSA has designed the WK-RV specifically for use in Motorhomes and Recreational Vehicles.

Whether you are a full-time RVer or Vacationer, calcium deposits can permanently damage your water heater and plumbing fixtures.

Protect your RV or Motorhome no matter where you travel. Enjoy soft water as well as good drinking water with the new WaterKing water softener.



Contact us Toll Free  
**1-800-808-1974**  
[sales@WaterKingUSA.com](mailto:sales@WaterKingUSA.com) [www.WaterKingUSA.com](http://www.WaterKingUSA.com)

**TRAILER LIFE.com**



**The online resource for the RV enthusiast**

**M4 Retrofit LED Lights**  
Easy Retrofit LED Bulbs for  
all Motorhomes & Trailers  
Save 80% of your Battery Power  
and Reduce Heat!



Round & wedge base, tube lights,  
halogen replacements, festoons,  
plate lights, reading lamps, and more.  
Priority Mail Shipping!

Made Specifically for RVs  
Quality Circuits, Realistic Prices  
dealer inquiries welcome

detailed informative website  
<http://m4led.com>  
5% off code: TL5 818.961.6497

**Parkit360**  
Power Trailer Dolly  
Simple Parking For Every Trailer

1.888.926.5517  
[www.parkit360.com](http://www.parkit360.com)

**Good Sam Club**

Now, more money-saving reasons to join!

- Good Sam RV Park Camping Discounts
- Camping World Club Pricing
- Pilot Flying J Fuel, Propane & Dump Station Discounts
- Plus Many More!

Join today at  
**GoodSamClub.com**  
or call **1.800.234.3450**

**Park it with Power Caster!**

Maneuver your trailer easily in limited space, around corners, forward or reverse with the flip of a switch!

**SAFE to use:**  
✓ Chain guard  
✓ Ground wire

The Original Trailer Mover!  
Manufactured since 1967.

Made in the U.S.A.  
Since 1967

**POWER CASTER INC.**  
(800) 773-3833  
(626) 287-6117  
[www.powercaster.com](http://www.powercaster.com)  
5001 Encinita Ave., Temple City, CA 91780

**NEVER WAX AGAIN**

Easy 2-step process. Wipe on, let dry. Looks like new, lasts over 12 months.

Restore and protect. No rubbing or buffing.

**GUARANTEED**

SEE our video demo on our website!  
[www.poliglowproducts.com](http://www.poliglowproducts.com)  
**800-922-5013**

**TO ADVERTISE IN THE RV Marketplace or Dealers & Destinations**

**CONTACT:**  
Terry Thompson  
206-310-6234  
[terry.thompson@goodsam.com](mailto:terry.thompson@goodsam.com)

**United States Postal Service  
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,  
MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION**  
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: Trailer Life; 2. Publication No.: 0454-9700; 3. Filing Date: October 1, 2014; 4. Issue Frequency: Monthly; 5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12; 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$17.97; 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: GS Media & Events, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036, Ventura County; Contact Person: Kolin Rankin; Telephone: 305-441-7155, ext. 225. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: GS Media & Events, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036; 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher and Editor: Publisher: Bob Livingston, GS Media & Events, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036; Editorial Director: Eileen Hubbard, GS Media & Events, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036; 10. Owner: Good Sam Enterprises, 250 Parkway Drive, Suite 270, Lincolnshire, IL 60069; 11. Known Bond Holders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None; 12. Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months; 13. Publication Name: Trailer Life. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: November 2014. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation: a. Total No. of Copies (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 236,066; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 190,419. b. Paid Circulation (1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 169,830; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 156,317; (2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 0; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 0; (3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 2,957; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 2,700; (4) Paid Circulation by Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 0; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 0. c. Total Paid Distribution (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 172,787; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 159,017. d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (1) Outside-County as Stated on PS Form 3541 (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 53,898; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 21,631; (2) In-County as Stated on PS Form 3541 (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 0; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 0; (3) Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 0; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 0; (4) Distribution Outside the Mail (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 0; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 0. e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 53,898; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 21,631. f. Total Distribution (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 226,685; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 180,648. g. Copies Not Distributed (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 9,381; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 9,771. h. Total (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 236,066; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 190,419. i. Percent Paid (Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months): 76.2%; (Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date): 88%; 16. Publication of Statement of Ownership: Publication required. Will be printed in the December 2014 issue of this publication.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner:

BOB LIVINGSTON, PUBLISHER

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

### ACCESSORIES

**LEAKY ROOF?** Liquid Roof® goes on like paint -- cures to a sealed EPDM rubber membrane. UV & Ozone resistant -- good to 300° F. 5-year warranty. 800-467-7135 [www.AdvancedRubberCoatings.com](http://www.AdvancedRubberCoatings.com)

### CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIPS FOR SALE

#### CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIP OUTLET-SINCE 1991

To buy 800-272-0401  
To sell 800-952-0401.  
Any Membership-Nationwide. Best prices ever.

#### FOR SALE

Multi Resort Membership  
\$10-\$15 per night w/your RV or Trailer  
Call Rod @ 330-324-5148.

### HELP WANTED

#### DELIVER RVs w/YOUR TRUCK. DRIVERS NEEDED NOW

to pick up & deliver RVs to dealer!  
Top pay. Choose your own trips -- drive as much or as little as you like all across US & Canada. Free orientation & training. See video: [www.classic-transportinc.com](http://www.classic-transportinc.com). Email Rhonda at [rblandhard@classic-transportinc.com](mailto:rblandhard@classic-transportinc.com) or call 866-724-1606.

#### Earn While You Travel. Up to 65% Commission.

Complimentary RV Site While Working. Need self-motivated people with computer & sales experience. Adventure Awaits!!!  
800.832.3292 • [SoutheastPublications.com](http://SoutheastPublications.com)

### HOMES FOR SALE



#### #1 RATED RV RESORTS - S. Texas

Retama Village & Bentsen Palm Village  
RV Lots \$20s, RV Casitas \$120s.  
956-380-6500 [www.bentsenpalm.com](http://www.bentsenpalm.com)



### Good Sam Club

Now, more money-saving reasons to join!

- Good Sam RV Park Camping Discounts
- Camping World Club Pricing
- Pilot Flying J Fuel, Propane & Dump Station Discounts
- Plus Many More!

Join today at  
[GoodSamClub.com](http://GoodSamClub.com)  
or call 1.800.234.3450



#### GORGEOUS NEW MEXICO MOUNTAIN CABIN

Surrounded by National Forest. Within a gated retirement community at Quemado Lake. 1750sf, 2bd & loft, 2-1/2 bath, 1-1/2 acre heavily wooded lot. RVs OK. \$170s  
575-773-4526

### LEGAL SERVICES

#### MONTANA LLC LAWYER • SAVE SALES TAX \$

on next RV purchase • Attorney operated.  
• Go with 36+ years experienced law firm.  
1-406-360-3409; [www.montanallcattorney.com](http://www.montanallcattorney.com)

### LOTS FOR SALE



#### RV Site and Garage in Andrews, NC

1.5 acre lot with 20x40 Garage, full bath, septic system and drilled well. Large RV pad with 50 amp service, hot and cold water. Near Smokey Mountains, Casino, airport. Call Bob 828-360-5973 or Richard 404-217-2724 \$84,500

#### ARIZONA RV SITES FOR SALE-Yuma area

Large lots, utilities & fence included-\$36,500  
Mention this ad & receive \$5,000 discount  
Debi 928-502-1144 [www.copperridgerv.com](http://www.copperridgerv.com)

### MAIL FORWARDING

#### AMERICAS MAILBOX Forwarding in SD

LOW Rates/NO State Income Tax/Save \$\$\$  
NO Wheel Tax/NO Safety Inspect / 866-747-3700  
[www.Americas-Mailbox.com](http://www.Americas-Mailbox.com)/TL Call us first!

### RECREATIONAL VEHICLES FOR SALE

#### RV REGISTRY

[www.rvregistry.com](http://www.rvregistry.com)  
Motorhomes, Trailers & Fifth Wheels  
For Sale by Owners  
No Sales Commissions  
Buyers/Sellers 800-546-8457



#### SELL YOUR RV FAST! Online at RVT.com

Reach Millions of RV Buyers with a FREE AD.  
60,000 RVs For Sale - By Owner and Dealer Listings  
[www.RVT.com](http://www.RVT.com) or 1.877.705.0025

### RV SPACES FOR RENT

**Snowbirds: RV spaces \$325/mo or \$1500/5 mo**  
pre-pd + electric. Any age RV on approval. Large spaces in quiet all-age park. Nearby shopping. Desert setting in sunny Coolidge, AZ. Reservations 509-540-4838 also Casa Grande AZ 509-430-9154

### SERVICES

Let us help you BUY YOUR RV ... TAX FREE!  
We guarantee BEST service and price  
Receive \$100 Gas Card & FREE Mail Fwding  
Call 888.430.3388 [www.MontanaRV.net](http://www.MontanaRV.net)

#### ACTION SERVICES, LLC

Consult a Licensed Montana Attorney  
No Sales Tax in MT -- Low License Fees  
Financing & Insurance -- For Professional Service  
Call 800-481-0013 [www.actionservices-mt.com](http://www.actionservices-mt.com)

#### #1 IN SALES TAX SAVINGS

PAY NO SALES TAX! We have helped 1000's save over the past 18 yrs. Call & talk to a CPA for professional, friendly service! [www.rvtax.com](http://www.rvtax.com)  
Mountain States Consulting 800-565-4504

### TOURS



#### RV Tours & Rallies across North America

Alaska • Canada • USA • Mexico • Overseas  
Visit [www.AdventureCaravans.com](http://www.AdventureCaravans.com) or  
call for your FREE Catalog 844-872-7897



# READER SERVICE



## WORLDWIDE RV TOURS AND RALLIES

Mexico, Canada, Alaska, Overseas & USA  
 Rallies: Rose Parade, Kentucky Derby, NYC  
 Albuquerque Balloon, Calgary Stampede  
 800-952-8496 [www.fantasyrvtours.com](http://www.fantasyrvtours.com)

## TRAVEL TRAILERS & FIFTH-WHEELS

True 4 Season Camper (Zero Rated)



### NEW 2015 Heartland Landmark

Bath and 1/2. Loaded Only \$87,900. Guar Best Price! 877-643-7532 New units-Loaded. Cust order avail no chg. View/New/Used Units [www.rvs4less.net](http://www.rvs4less.net)



### NATION'S LOW PRICED 5th WHEEL EXPERTS

Huge inventory of new/used high end 5th  
 DRV Mobile Suites, Lifestyle, Trilogy, HitchHiker  
 View units at [www.kansasrvcenter.com](http://www.kansasrvcenter.com)  
 800-835-0676 or [sales@nuwa.com](mailto:sales@nuwa.com) for info

True 4 Season Camper (Sub-Zero Rated)



### NEW 2015 DRV MOBILE SUITES 36RSSB3: Loaded

Only \$102,232 New units-Cust order avail at no chg.  
 Guar Best Price! More info at 877-643-7532. View  
 Full Line of New/Used Units. [www.rvs4less.net](http://www.rvs4less.net)

## Classified Rates

**Private Parties:** \$32 per line, four-line minimum. Add \$65 for color photo. All red text add \$25.

**Commercial:** \$74 per line, four-line minimum, 40 characters per line. For photo ads (limited to RVs and real estate), add \$95 B/W or \$115 color. For logo add \$95 B/W, \$115 color. No category limitations for logos. All red text add \$50.

**Display Advertising:** 1" ad B/W \$475. 2" ad B/W \$800. Add \$75 for color. Frequency discounts apply.

**Payment:** Check, VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express.

**Email:** [katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com](mailto:katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com)

**Phone:** (847) 229-6756

**Fax:** (270) 495-6278

**Mail:** Trailer Life

Attn: Classified Dept.  
 3431 S. 257th Street  
 Kent, WA 98032



## ADVERTISERS' INDEX

RS#	ADVERTISER	PAGE#
101	B&W Trailer Hitches	30
	Camping World	31-33
102	Chevrolet Motor Division	75
	Classifieds	68-69
104	DISH Network	15
103	Desert Gardens RV Park	9
105	Dodge Truck	2-3
106	Dupont	46
	Good Sam Life and Health Services	20
	Good Sam Media & Events	48
	Good Sam RV Loans	55
	Good Sam Roadside Assistance	59
	Good Sam Travel Assist	62
	Good Sam Visa	10
	Harbor Freight Tools	73
107	Hensley Manufacturing Inc.	71
108	Highland Ridge RV, Inc.	53
113	iBall Hitch Cam	65
109	KZ Inc.	76
110	Lippert Components	21
115	Monochem	57
112	Northwood Mfg.	70
114	Progressive Insurance	7
	RV Marketplace	66-67
111	RVT.com	58
116	Sea Eagle	71
117	Starcraft Recreational Vehicles	5
	The Rally	47
118	Thetford Corporation	24-25
	Trailer Life TV	64
119	Transfer Flow Inc.	65

## EDITORIAL PRODUCT INDEX

RS#	ADVERTISER	PAGE#
129	Davis Instruments	54
125	Grand Design RV	34
127	Husky Liners	54
128	Stain-Less Water Filters	54
126	Waste Master by Lippert	54

While every effort is made to maintain accuracy and completeness, last-minute changes may occasionally result in omissions or errors.

(Continued from page 65) That and cost, of course. But the vibration can be hard on the trailer's structure and mechanical parts, which is another story. — J.J.

### HOLDING-TANK MONITORING

**Q** My wife and I have enjoyed reading *Trailer Life* and the Performance Corner column for several years. In preparation for a weekend trip, I pulled our 2008 Keystone fifth-wheel from the storage slot and noticed that our dog had made some unexpected wiring modifications under the rear of the trailer. The wires that were hanging down were the four wires that should have been attached to four terminals on the side of the freshwater tank for the level-sensing monitor.

It was an easy fix to attach new lugs to the wires and reattach them to the terminals. In doing so, I also found that the nuts and spring washers, which attach the lugs to the terminals, were not tight and appeared to have never

been tightened into place. When we got home from the trip, I pulled the underbelly material down to get access to the black- and gray-water tanks and found the same problem on both tanks. I cannot testify to the accuracy of the readings, but at least all sensing levels on all the tanks are now working.

**Merl Post, Tucson, Arizona**

**A** Thanks for writing and sharing your experiences, Merl. Although we don't get reports of dog-induced problems often, we do hear of many instances of improper assembly at the factory. Therefore, it's good to check the wiring and connections. Sometimes rodents chew on wiring, too.

It is quite common for in-tank sensors to become ineffective due to debris covering them. Quick-dissolve RV toilet paper should be used. To clean the sensors, drain the gray- and black-water holding tanks and then close the drain valves. Fill both tanks with water and the appropriate holding-tank product(s), fol-

lowing the manufacturer's directions.

There are a number of black-tank chemicals on the market that are bacterial-enzyme based and are designed to break down and digest waste rather than just mask odors. Left in the holding tank for a day or more allows the product to clean the sensors and tank walls (depending on the level of buildup, of course). Some of these same products can be used in the gray tank as well, while other products are designed exclusively for use in the gray tank. After allowing the tanks to sit, take the trailer on a short road trip to agitate the liquid in the tanks, then drain and rinse them thoroughly.

There are also a number of chemicals you can buy that are designed specifically to clean the sensors, including TST Probe Cleaner. Also, there are spray wands (also sold at RV stores) that can be connected to a garden hose and lowered into the tank through the toilet, as well as dump-valve flushing adapters.

For those who can't seem to get their RV's monitoring system going, Camping World offers a Tank Monitor System Kit from Tech-Edge Manufacturing (catalog item number 55603), which can be installed on the outside of most tanks. — Ken Freund

### GFCI PROBLEMS

**Q** We have a Heartland Sundance fifth-wheel trailer and for the past 18 months have had no difficulty connecting to my house power when parking the RV next to the house and using an extension cord plugged into a 15-amp GFCI socket located under the eaves. I've been able to run the refrigerator and, when necessary, a small electric heater without a problem. However, last March, when I returned from a trip south, I found that every time I tried to connect to the house electric, the GFCI tripped. I tried changing the extension cord, replaced the 30-amp plug on the fifth-wheel and replaced the GFCI on the house — all without success. I then replaced the GFCI with a regular receptacle. This worked, and the breaker in the house panel did not trip.

Last month, I went RVing and had

**NW NORTHWOOD**  
**STRONG**  
**COMMITTED TO:**  
**SUPERIOR QUALITY**  
**LASTING RELATIONSHIPS**  
**VALUE ADDED EVOLUTION**  
**1 QUALITY FIRST**  
**NEW for 2015**  
[www.Northwoodmfg.com](http://www.Northwoodmfg.com)  
**Arctic Fox**  
**DESERT FOX**  
**SNOW RIVER**  
**Northwood Manufacturing builds:**  
 Arctic Fox-Nash-Desert Fox-Snow River-Fox Mountain-Wolf Creek

Northwood Mfg., Circle 112 on Reader Service Card

no electrical issues when I plugged into the campground outlet. I've spoken to a number of knowledgeable RV repair people, electricians and other RVers, but no one has been able to tell me what I should do to trace the source of the problem. I'm concerned about electrical safety, of course, both in the fifth-wheel and the house, and would really appreciate your thoughts and suggestions on this matter.

**Alan Dodds, Delta, British Columbia**

**A** This can be very frustrating. Ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) systems can be extremely sensitive. They compare the current flow going in and coming out, and if there is any tiny detectable difference, they trip. I have found a number of times that moisture that got into an outlet caused just enough of a current leak that it would trip a GFCI but not a circuit breaker.

Check exterior power outlets, which often become damp due to rain and condensation. Prop the covers open and let them dry, either by blowing them out with compressed air or drying them in the sun. If this doesn't solve the problem, try shutting off all of the circuit breakers in the trailer, set the GFCI on and then bring the circuit breakers back on one at a time while a helper watches to see if the GFCI trips. The circuit that trips the GFCI is the guilty one, so then you just inspect the appliances and other components on that circuit.

In one instance, we ran into a new trailer that did the same thing. It kept tripping the house GFCI circuit each time it was plugged in, and each time we tried resetting the house GFCI receptacle. After tracing the problem, we found it was a new but defective GFCI outlet in the trailer. A new replacement part solved that perplexing situation. — K.F. 🚚

**HAVE A QUESTION? »** Email our experts at [RVclinic@trailerlife.com](mailto:RVclinic@trailerlife.com) or write to RV Clinic, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036. No phone calls, please.

# ADVENTURE TO GO!



**Easy to Carry, Easy to Set Up, Easy to Paddle, Easy to Store, Could You Ask for More?**

Our Sea Eagle 370 inflatable kayak provides instant adventure to go! This large 12' 6" inflatable kayak packs to the size of a small duffel bag, inflates in less than 8 minutes and can be used almost anywhere there is water. Paddle wild rivers, remote ponds, scenic lakes... even ocean surf! The SE 370 weighs just 32 lbs., holds up to 650 lbs. of people & gear. This great inflatable kayak features 2 deluxe kayak seats with deluxe valves, 2 skegs for better tracking, 5 deluxe air valves, drain valve, rigid I-beam floor, spray skirts & carry handles.

**NEW LOWER PRICE - Our Sea Eagle 370 Pro Kayak Package** includes: SE 370 kayak, 2 8' 4-Part Aluminum Paddles, 2 Super Comfortable Deluxe Kayak Seats, Foot Pump, Repair Kit and Convenient Nylon Shoulder Strap Carry Bag that holds it all. **NEW ONLY \$339. Was \$379, SAVE \$40 with FREE Shipping!** 6 month Trial Guarantee / 3 Year Warranty Against Defects. Visit [SeaEagle.com](http://SeaEagle.com) for more details. Call 1-800-748-8066 Mon-Fri, 9-5 EST



Join us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SeaEagleBoats) /SeaEagleBoats

**SEA EAGLE.com**

Dept TL125B,  
19 N. Columbia St., Suite 1  
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Sea Eagle, Circle 116 on Reader Service Card

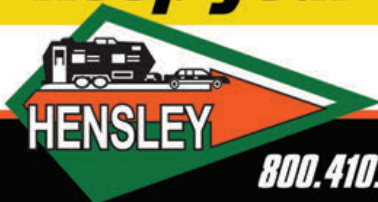
## Trailer Sway Control only DAMPENS trailer sway

**Eliminate  
trailer sway completely!**

Hensley® Towing Systems are **Guaranteed to Eliminate Trailer Sway.** Call one of our Towing Specialists today and ask which Hensley® is right for you.



**Keep your family safe.**



Call or visit us online **Free Video**

**800.410.6580 • [www.HensleyMfg.com](http://www.HensleyMfg.com)**

Hensley Manufacturing Inc., Circle 107 on Reader Service Card

## Keep Water Out

I prefer to use a power-cord connector with an angle head to take stress off the connector, but wet weather was a concern. I came up with an idea to keep the connection point between the pigtail and power cord dry, whether it's misty out or raining hard. Split a 6- to 8-inch plastic funnel and fit it around the power cord above the connector. Seal the funnel split with heavy-duty duct tape. Attach a hose clamp to the funnel tip to hold it in place. The power cord can still be easily disconnected below the funnel when you're packing up your campsite.

**Jim Freiheit, Clarence, New York**



## QUICK FIX

### Snug as a Bug in a Rug

I must be a slow learner. I had owned my third fifth-wheel for a year before I finally realized why, early in the morning, I got cold in bed whenever it was cool outside. Turning up the heat or applying another blanket didn't seem to help much. Then it occurred to me that most beds in fifth-wheel trailers don't allow for air circulation underneath the bed. Thus, when it's cool outside and after a certain period of time, the cold air from outside cools the storage area under the bed, and then by early morning, the bed itself. I was getting cold from the bottom up!

The fix was easy and effective. I purchased a sheet of 1½-inch-thick foam-insulation board, the kind with the foil surface. With some cutting and splicing, one sheet did the job. I applied it between the top of the plywood box and the mattress, and attached it to the plywood with several small reversed loops of duct tape. Once installed, the insulation is not visible. If there is a hinge on the plywood top, you may need to make a bevel cut on both sides of the hinge to allow the top to open. The insulation not only keeps me warmer, it raises the bed by 1½ inches, which is not a bad thing.

**Gary Bradshaw, Bend, Oregon** 🚐



## Cabinet Items Stay Put

When we're traveling, items in our RV's cabinets tend to slide around. More often than not, these items end up at the cabinet doors, and when we open the doors, they fall out. Like many RVs, the bottom shelves of the kitchen cabinets have lips on the inside; however, the top shelves do not. I measured and cut ¼-inch round molding to the length of each cabinet and tacked these strips to the inside front of all the top shelves. Now we no longer have the problem of falling pans, etc.

**Alice Ricciardi, Crossville, Tennessee**

To send your submission, write to 10-Minute Tech, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036 or email [10minutetech@trailerlife.com](mailto:10minutetech@trailerlife.com). Please include an illustration or photo, if applicable. *Trailer Life* will pay \$35 for original 10-Minute Tech ideas.



# HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

# 20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM

**LIMIT 1** - Save 20% on any one item purchased at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. \*Cannot be used with other discount, coupon, gift cards, Inside Track Club membership, extended service plans or on any of the following: compressors, generators, tool storage or carts, welders, floor jacks, Towable Ride-On Trainers, Saw Mill (Item #1129226/657138), Predator Gas Power Items, open box items, in-store event or parking lot sale items. Not valid on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase date with original receipt. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.



11089280

**How Does Harbor Freight Sell GREAT QUALITY Tools at the LOWEST Prices?**

We have invested millions of dollars in our own state-of-the-art quality test labs and millions more in our factories, so our tools will go toe-to-toe with the top professional brands. And we can sell them for a fraction of the price because we cut out the middle man and pass the savings on to you. It's just that simple! Come visit one of our 500 Stores Nationwide.

# FREE

WITH ANY PURCHASE

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

# FREE

WITH ANY PURCHASE  
PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE  
**6" MAGNETIC PARTS HOLDER**

ITEM 61428/97825  
Item 97825 shown



**\$6.99**  
VALUE

**LIMIT 1** - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.



11104264

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

# FREE

WITH ANY PURCHASE  
**3-1/2" SUPER BRIGHT NINE LED ALUMINUM FLASHLIGHT**

ITEM 69052/69111  
Item 69111 shown



**\$6.99**  
VALUE

**LIMIT 1** - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.



11125226

**SCISSOR SUPER COUPON**

# FREE

WITH ANY PURCHASE  
**CENITECH 7 FUNCTION DIGITAL MULTIMETER**

ITEM 90899  
98025/69096  
Item 90899 shown



**\$14.99**  
VALUE

**LIMIT 1** - Cannot be used with other discount, coupon or prior purchase. Coupon good at our stores, HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Offer good while supplies last. Shipping & Handling charges may apply if not picked up in-store. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.



11105831

**SUPER COUPON!**

**CENTRALPNEUMATIC**

**3 GALLON, 100 PSI OILLESS PANCAKE AIR COMPRESSOR**

LOT NO. 95275  
60637/69486/61615

Item 95275 shown

**SAVE 50%**

**\$39.99** REG. PRICE \$79.99

Item 95275 shown

**11109872**

**LIMIT 5** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**PITTSBURGH AUTOMOTIVE**

**RAPID PUMP® 3 TON HEAVY DUTY STEEL FLOOR JACK**

LOT NO. 68048  
69227/62116

Item 68048 shown

**SAVE \$85**

**\$74.99** REG. PRICE \$159.99

Item 68048 shown

• Weighs 74 lbs.

**11088120**

**LIMIT 4** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**"Voted the Best Deal in Winning" - Off-Road Magazine**

**12,000 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH REMOTE CONTROL AND AUTOMATIC BRAKE**

LOT NO. 68142/61256  
60813/61889

Item 60813 shown

**SAVE \$200**

**\$299.99** REG. PRICE \$499.99

Item 60813 shown

**11089922**

**LIMIT 3** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**TRIPLE BALL TRAILER HITCH**

LOT NO. 94141  
69874  
61320  
61913  
61914

Item 94141 shown

**SAVE 66%**

**\$19.99** REG. PRICE \$59.99

Item 94141 shown

**11104657**

**LIMIT 5** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**MOVER'S DOLLY**

**HaulMaster**

• 1000 lb. Capacity

LOT NO. 93888  
60497  
61899/62399

Item 93888 shown

**SAVE 40%**

**\$8.99** REG. PRICE \$14.99

Item 93888 shown

**11103883**

**LIMIT 7** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**\* WINNER \* Truckin' Magazine**

**US \* GENERAL**

**26", 4 DRAWER TOOL CART**

LOT NO. 95659  
61634/61952

Item 95659 shown

**SAVE \$180**

**\$99.99** REG. PRICE \$279.99

Item 95659 shown

**11124575**

**LIMIT 3** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

**SUPER COUPON!**

**PREDATOR GENERATORS**

**6500 PEAK/ 13 HP (420 CC) GAS GENERATORS**

**5500 RUNNING WATTS**

**13 HP (420 CC) GAS GENERATORS**

**SUPER QUIET**

LOT NO. 68529/69672  
LOT NO. 68526/69674  
CALIFORNIA ONLY  
Item 68529 shown

• 74 dB Noise Level

**SAVE \$140**

**\$459.99** REG. PRICE \$599.99

Item 68529 shown

**11088974**

**LIMIT 3** - Good at our stores or HarborFreight.com or by calling 800-423-2567. Cannot be used with other discount or coupon or prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase with original receipt. Offer good while supplies last. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 3/13/15. Limit one coupon per customer per day.

• 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed  
• Over 25 Million Satisfied Customers

• No Hassle Return Policy  
• Lifetime Warranty On All Hand Tools

• 500 Stores Nationwide  
• HarborFreight.com 800-423-2567

# Rocking Around the Carousel

The college town of Missoula in Montana's Banana Belt celebrates the season with free rides for kids and breakfast with Santa



Every city in Montana has a distinct personality with a well-defined look and feel about it. Helena, the capital, with its vintage buildings, looks like a screensaver image of the Old West. Butte, once a wide-open mining town, has a blue-collar feel. Billings, the state's biggest city, projects a professional, businesslike atmosphere —

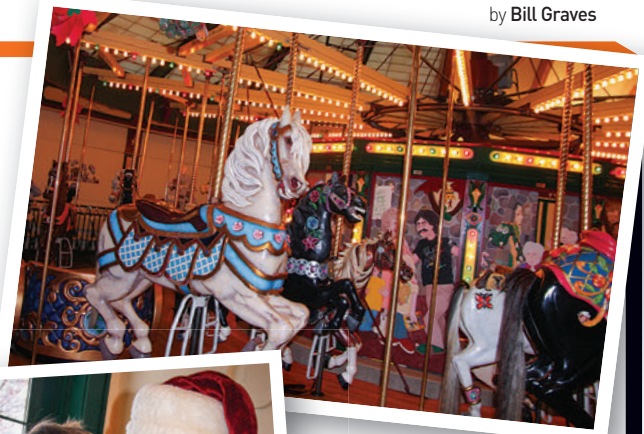
despite the fact that cowboys still run cattle through town every so often. Then there's Missoula, a college town that has defined itself with a very special carousel.

But now it's winter, and that has its own personality as well. Winter settles over Montana like a blanket of we're-all-in-this-together. Each city now has the same snowy look and definitely the same frigid feel. Plows move the snow, but it comes back. The days are short, the nights are long, and they are all cold.

The arctic air that blasts much of Montana in the winter does not reach Missoula; mountains block it. So they nicknamed this scenic valley of the Bitterroot Mountains Montana's Banana Belt. Still, winter temperatures are relative up here.

Being a college town, Missoula has demographics that are skewed to a younger population; the University of Montana swells Missoula by more than 20,000 during the academic year. Being three hours from both Yellowstone and Glacier National Park, this city of 70,000 attracts thousands of visitors in the summer, and many students stay during summer break to help serve them.

A Carousel for Missoula was built by local volunteers — carvers, artists, mechanics, technicians and laborers — who, together, put in more than 100,000 hours. They made 38 ponies, two chariots and 14 gargoyles. In the making for four years, the carousel opened in 1995. It has the largest band organ in continuous use in the country. It has pipes, like those of an organ, that are 10 feet tall. It turns at 7.8 miles per hour, which makes it one of the fastest in the country.



(Top) Local artists hand-carved the ponies on Missoula's beloved carousel. (Left) Breakfast with Santa, where children's last-minute gift requests are welcome, takes place annually at the carousel.

PHOTOS BY JESS COULTER

The merry-go-round, which has its own building, opens every morning at 10 a.m. in the summer and 11 a.m. in the winter. Snow and ice do not shut it down. If they have a big blizzard overnight and the plows haven't cleared all the roads yet, the person opening the carousel that day often gets here on skis. "We don't take snow days," Theresa Cox, executive director of A Carousel for Missoula, told me.

The carousel spins in a park next to the now-frozen Clark Fork River. Volunteers decorate it for Christmas and change many of its 966 light bulbs to either red or green. The sides of the building, with panels that roll up in the summer, are resplendent with Christmas scenes.

"Everybody who works here gets to be creative," Theresa said. "Christmas is special. On Christmas everybody gets to ride for free." The Saturday morning before Christmas, an event called Breakfast with Santa means free carousel rides for the kids and quality time spent with Santa.

Theresa explained that the carousel gives some families a chance to be part of a world that most of us take for granted. She showed me a letter from a mother, Heidi Kestrel:

"Today I got to feel the body of my child relaxed and happy against my own body. He was happy and laughing. We were riding the carousel together, sharing the same pony. You see, he lives with autism. He spends much of the day in tantrums. When this happens, I hold him tight against me so he doesn't hurt himself. Today was different. I felt him against me, and he was happy. It felt so good, I nearly cried. Thank you for giving us this gift."

Merry Christmas from Missoula. 🎅



**THE FIRST STEP OF THE LONG HAUL.**  
THE 2014 CHEVY SILVERADO HD WAS AWARDED  
“HIGHEST-RANKED LARGE HEAVY-DUTY PICKUP IN INITIAL QUALITY.”\*



**INTRODUCING THE NEW 2015 SILVERADO HD**

FROM THE FAMILY OF THE MOST DEPENDABLE,  
LONGEST-LASTING FULL-SIZE PICKUPS ON THE ROAD\*\*

*FIND NEW ROADS™*

\*The Chevrolet Silverado HD received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among large heavy-duty pickups in the proprietary J.D. Power 2014 Initial Quality Study.™ Study based on responses from 86,118 new-vehicle owners, measuring 239 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2014. Your experiences may vary. Visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com). \*\*Dependability based on longevity: 1987-April 2013 Full-Size Pickup registrations. ©2014 General Motors. All rights reserved. Chevrolet® Chevrolet emblem® Chevy™ Silverado®



# DURANGO GOLD



**13 Time Winner Since 2000**

## FULL TIME Luxury Fifth Wheel

The Durango Gold is the pinnacle of over 42 years of innovation and engineering excellence. This luxury fifth wheel has been equipped with standard features that other companies only offer as an option, if offered at all. Additionally, the Gold is backed by KZRV's 24 month warranty!



[KZ-RV.com](http://KZ-RV.com)

KZ Inc., Circle 109 on Reader Service Card