Time for 1 More Summer Camping Trip

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I want to begin by saying thank you to all the folks who commented and provided feedback on our new RV DIY Channel site. We are glad to hear you enjoy the new site and we look forward to providing lots of RV DIY content for all you RV do-it-yourselfers out there.

This month’s issue is about getting out and enjoying one more summer RV camping trip before we need to change gears and prep the RV for some fall and winter camping.

Camping trips don’t always need to be long distance trips. As a matter of fact some of my favorite RV trips are less than 100 miles from our home. Let’s explore some ways we can squeeze in one final summer camping trip without breaking the budget or taking any more vacation days. Enjoy this month’s issue of RV Consumer Magazine.

Mark
Our new digital RV Product Catalog puts all of our RV training products in one place, and we separate which products apply to which type of RV. For example if you own a travel trailer you can browse through the single DVD titles or go directly to the DVD value sets that apply specifically to travel trailers.

Browse our RV Product Catalog now.
Squeeze in One More Summer RV Camping Trip

In the United States summer is officially over after the Labor Day Weekend. That means if you hurry you can squeeze in one more summer RV camping trip.

RV trips don’t always need to be long, planned vacations. Sometimes we make last minute decisions to get away for a quick weekend RV trip. Just pack some clothes and food in the RV, complete your RV pre-trip checklist (see page 12) and hit the road.

Some of our favorite camping trips are less than 100 miles from our home. These short quick RV trips don’t require lots of planning, but do require some spontaneity. Keeping the RV prepped and ready to go on a moments notice is a great start.

Sometimes spending your weekend at home is just plain boring. There really isn’t much to do, but on the other hand you don’t have much of time before the weekend is over and it’s back to work again. How about a weekend RV getaway close to home? Not only can a quick RV trip alleviate the boredom, but it is cost effective too. A 200 mile, or less, round trip from home won’t cost much in fuel, food or campground fees and it might be just what the doctor ordered for some well deserved relaxation and time to recharge the batteries.

Lots of times, when planning RV trips, we tend to think you need to get away from home for it to be any fun. Truth be told there are probably lots of private, state and/or federal camping locations and other fun RV destinations right under our noses that we’re not even aware of.

The other day I was searching the internet and came across a website that I visited before, but had forgotten about. It’s called Reserve America and it is the largest provider of campsite reservations in North America, facilitating over 4 million transactions per year.

Using the site’s “Find an Adventure” feature I searched for RV sites close to our zip code. Pages of choices within 100 miles of our zip code popped up immediately. You can scroll down the

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Site Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reserve America</td>
<td>Largest provider of campsite reservations in North America, facilitating over 4 million transactions per year.</td>
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www.rvconsumer.com
Quite honestly I was surprised to find so many camping destinations close to where we live. There were many I never knew existed. With several pages of camping choices within 100 miles of where we live I think there will be many more cost effective weekend RV trips in the near future.

If you think about it, it really doesn’t matter if it’s a 200 mile trip, or a 5,000 mile trip, what’s important is you get out and use and enjoy your RV.

Have a great last summer camping trip. ~RV101
Visit the World’s Largest RV Online Training Resource

RV Education 101: The Largest Online Digital RV Training Provider
Your premier online source for RV education! Mark Polk, the RV Savvy Guy and founder of RV Ed 101, is recognized as THE foremost authority on professional RV training material. Mark will walk you through a comprehensive selection of online training programs that will simplify your personal RV training needs.

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   - Comprehensive, in-depth or specific, you choose your RV topic

6. visit Mark’s RV Garage Internet TV Series
   - Telly Award Winning RV entertainment
   - Each episode of this hit series provides valuable RV information!

Don’t forget to check out Mark’s Blog, our free RV101.TV site and the brand new RV DIY Channel too!
How will you Remember your travels?

The laptop we would’ve used to keep in touch with the kids.

The guy from Ed’s Towing. Spent three hours with him.

Cook’s Field, the week after we missed the Bluegrass Festival.

Not all insurance is equal. Just because you have your RV insured, doesn’t mean your whole RV experience is covered. Things like personal effects coverage, vacation liability, and towing expenses are frequently left out of other carriers’ policies. But at Explorer RV, we believe it’s more than just your RV we’re covering. It’s the travels, the good times, the memories. Visit us online to learn more or to get a quote.

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Q&A with Mark

**Question:**

Hi Mark, You have talked on several occasions about the differences between tires use on tow vehicles. I just realized that both the Ford 150 and the Dodge Ram 1500 do not come with LT tires standard in my area. They come with P rated tires, whatever that is.

The trailer I have my eye on has a base weight of about 4300 lbs and a GVWR of 7000 lbs with a tongue weight of 500 lbs. I had “assumed” that with the tow package and class 4 hitch, LT tires would be standard.

Am I right in thinking that these P tires are not up to the task of towing much of anything?

**Mark’s Answer:**

The different types of tires used on vehicles can get pretty confusing. The most important thing to consider is the tire’s load range or carrying capacity. There are actually three different types of tires used on light trucks and SUVs. You have Euro-metric, P-metric and LT-metric. **Lots of today’s 1/2 ton trucks have P-metric tires**, and the larger 3/4 ton and 1 ton trucks come equipped with LT-metric sized tires.

They use P-metric tires on lighter weight trucks and SUVs because they figure most folks are only hauling passengers and not using the truck for work, or to haul cargo.

What you need to do is look at the load rating/load range of the tires and then determine how much weight will be placed on them. Make sure you account for the tongue weight that will be transferred to the rear tires. Then you will know if the tires on the truck will work with the intended load. ~RV101

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- **RV DIY Videos**
- **RV DIY Projects**
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To get this special discounted price you must go here and pick from the 14 DVD titles on this page.
RV Pre-Trip Checks

RV pre-trip checks is a topic I discuss often, and for good reason. Taking the time to make a few simple checks on the tow vehicle and RV prior to leaving on a trip can be the difference between a relaxing fun trip, and a stress filled trip sitting stranded along side the road. Pre-trip checks are even more important if the RV has been sitting idle for a couple months, or more, since your last RV trip.

Okay, we established it is a good idea to make a few simple checks before heading out on a camping trip, but what exactly should you check?

Regardless of the type of RV you have here are a few things I think you should check. You can tailor this list to your specific needs.

**Let’s start with the outside of the RV.**

- Check and adjust the air pressure in all tires. Always check the tires when they are cold, before traveling more than one mile.
- Check the lug nuts on the wheels. Discoloration and stains around lug nuts indicate they may be loose.
- Make sure all items in the storage compartments are secure. Lock all outside compartment doors.
- Check the bike rack and bikes for secure mounting if applicable.
- Make sure the power cord, water hose, and sewer hose are disconnected and properly stowed.
- Make sure all slide-outs are in the travel position and any travel locks are securely in place.
- Make sure the TV antenna and/or satellite are down and stowed in the proper position for traveling.
- Check the awning. Make sure it is securely stowed and all travel locks and knobs are tight and locked.
- Raise all stabilizer jacks or hydraulic leveling jacks.
- Look under the RV (motorized) and tow vehicle for any indications of leaks or anything out of the ordinary. Have any leaks checked out and repaired prior to leaving on your trip.
- Stow or retract the steps.
- Fill the fresh water holding tank with enough potable water to get to your destination.
- Check and secure the cap on the sewer outlet.
- Turn all LP gas appliances off and turn the gas supply off at the tank or cylinders.
- Double check all hitch work on towable RVs and on vehicles being towed behind motor homes.
- Check all fluid levels for motorized RVs and tow vehicles.
- Check the condition of auxiliary and starting batteries.
- Remove and store wheel chocks and any type of leveling blocks.
✓ Check all running lights, turn signals, brake lights and headlights on the RV and tow vehicle.
✓ Check for an up to date inspection or emission sticker and license plates.
✓ Check the operation and condition of the windshield wipers. Replace wiper blades as necessary.
✓ Check all fire extinguishers for a full charge and serviceable condition.
✓ Check trailer brakes for proper operation.

Do one final walk-around of the RV and tow vehicle checking for anything you may have overlooked.

Don’t forget the inside of your RV:
✓ Walk through the entire RV and secure all loose items that could move, fall or get damaged during travel.
✓ Turn off all appliances gas & electric.
✓ Turn off all pilot lights.
✓ Close all roof vents.
✓ Close all doors, drawers and cabinets.
✓ Check for anything in the refrigerator that could spill. Secure the refrigerator and freezer doors.
✓ Turn off the 12-volt water pump.
✓ Close the range top cover.
✓ Turn off all 12-volt lights and accessories that could drain the auxiliary battery. Don’t forget the TV antenna booster.
✓ Close the windows and secure blinds.
✓ Secure any large items like TVs or computers that might move or fall while traveling.
✓ All weight in the RV should be distributed evenly.
✓ Adjust your mirrors and seat and hit the road.

This checklist is not all-inclusive, but it’s a good start. I mentioned earlier that you can add to this list and tailor it to your specific needs or type of RV. The most important thing is to use a checklist every time you use your RV. It’s easy to forget something without a reminder. I always make one final walk-around of the RV just before pulling out. You’ll be amazed at what you may have missed the first time around. ~ RV101

Every RV checklist you will ever need
The Original Checklist for RVers £-book Series

LEARNING RVs THE EASY WAY
by Mark Polk

RV 101®
The Original Checklist for RVers
1988 was a bad year for the Brazilian RV industry. A new transit regulation was promulgated by Federal Regulators. A new article in the Transit Code expressed that only holders of a Class E driver’s license were authorized to tow trailers. Class E is the top driver’s license used by heavy burden professionals. Prior to this change people with a B license could tow a travel trailer. Similar to other countries, the average age of people towing travel trailers in Brazil was between 50 and 65 years-old. The new Transit Code made it more difficult for older individuals to acquire a new driver’s license, especially the most difficult one to get.

In 2012 the Transit Code was renewed, after a 24 year battle by camping enthusiasts, allowing people with a Class B driver’s license to tow trailers. During this time the RV industry in Brazil was in decline, linked to a stagnant economy and high inflation rates. Traditional RV companies like KarmannGuia and Turiscar closed their doors. Others like Motortrailer survived these tough times by producing commercial trailers for private owners and for the government.

This situation lasted for more than two decades, and Brazil’s RV industry just started to revive over the past 6 to 8 years. During the downturn motorhome builders struggled with low demand, with traditional builder’s producing less than 100 RVs per year. And during this period a large portion of motorhomes produced were self-made, by contracting independent professionals (woodworkers, electricians, etc) and through do-it-yourself ability. Today it is prohibited to produce self-made RVs, and RV prices in Brazil are very expensive. For example, a new 7 ton Class C motorhome (Iveco diesel) costs around US $170,000, A 30-foot 160 HP, diesel Class A motorhome is around US $230,000 and a 40-foot 310 HP, diesel is priced close to US $310,000. A 20-foot travel trailer with no slide-out costs about US $45,000. We can attribute these high prices to low demand (no automation, manufactured piece by piece) and high importation high taxes applied to RV equipment.
Many remaining RV manufacturers in Brazil are associated with the Turiscar company that closed operations in 1998. Most of the employees worked for Turiscar in the past and there has been little increase in new trailer and camper manufacturers.

A major aspect in Brazil’s RV industry is you cannot find a new RV for sale. If you want a new RV it is necessary to negotiate a manufacturing start date in industry. This start date could be 4 months later, or more than one year later. This does however result in the RV owner having many choices; every new RV is an unique customized product where the client can decide the layout, colors, equipment manufacturer, paint, baggage van locations, equipment distribution, room sizes, slide positioning, and other individual requirements. In Brazil there is currently only one manufacturer with some automation and standardized procedures and RV layouts.

I watched a video showing all motorhome mounting phases in a USA RV company. I may say our RV industry has similar procedures, but are limited by no automation.

Now let’s look at some of the main procedures/steps in building a motorhome in Brazil. Travel trailer procedures are similar, without the use a motorized vehicle.

The first step is on the client: he must buy a proper vehicle for the project. This vehicle can be a van, truck or other type, with or without a cabin. You can also use an old bus or van, but the windows, baggage van, seats, etc, are removed to build the motorhome project.

After the vehicle is located at the manufacturer site, the second step is to build the RV metallic skeleton (frame). Some frames are made of galvanized iron, others are galvanized iron and aluminum. At his time all structural equipment and furniture necessities are implemented.
The third step is to implement all electric and hydraulic circuits, here including holding tank (fresh, gray and black water) installation. They also install the floor and lateral wood walls supported by the frame. During this time all internal furniture is in production at woodwork.

The fourth step is to build a front fiberglass structure integrated with frontal modules to adapt all vehicle equipment (panels, gear, steering wheel, cables, headlights, electric/electronic modules, etc). It is also time to start mounting some wood cabinets.

In the fifth step all external fiberglass (in some cases metallic plates) are mounted. Internal wood arrangements continues with walls and cabinets. External aluminum baggage van doors are been built and mounted.

In the sixth step all internal wood furniture installation is close to complete. Plumbing is completed (faucets, shower, toilet) and the RV is moved to paint position and all basic painting and graphical painting designs are implemented at this time.
All structures are completed and now, in the **seventh step**, all equipment is installed. By equipment one may understand TVs, antennas, stoves, refrigerator, DVDs, Home Theater, air conditioner, generator, inverter, converter, batteries, luminaries, water heater, microwave, washer, etc. At this stage the front panel is mounted with all vehicle controls and the windows, doors and awnings are installed. All equipment and vehicle mechanicals are tested.
Jose Adauto de Souza is a Geophysicist in Brazil and a avid RVer. Adauto and his family have had their new RV for eight months, and have traveled over 25,000 km to date.
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OR LEAVES WILL TURN
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RV Education 101 recently teamed up with Explorer RV Insurance to provide the RV consumer with a free RV driving video series & RV Care & Maintenance download brochure.
Sweet Onion Casserole

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. (177 degrees C)
- Lightly oil or spray a casserole dish (8×8) with canola oil or non-stick cooking spray.
- Combine the butter and olive oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat until the butter is melted.
- Add the coarsely diced onions. Cook and stir onions until they are soft and slightly browned.
- Remove onions from the frying pan with a slotted spoon. Set onions aside in a bowl to cool.
- While the onions are cooling, whisk the eggs, light cream, and red wine vinegar, together in a large bowl.
- Stir in the brown sugar, salt, pepper, nutmeg, and cheese. Mix well. Add the cooked onions. Mix again.
- Pour the onion mixture into the casserole dish.
- Bake for 50 to 60 minutes. Test for doneness by shaking the casserole dish. If the center of the casserole jiggles, continue to cook until set. Let stand for five minutes before serving.
- This recipe can be made ahead and refrigerated overnight. This is one of those dishes that tastes even better the next day. Serve hot or cold.

The Cooking Ladies, Phyllis Hinz and Lamont Mackay, are freelance writers, restaurant consultants, cookbook authors, event speakers, and RVers. Please take a minute to visit their website: www.thecookingladies.com

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<tr>
<td>1 tablespoon (15 ml)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 cups (1.25 L)</td>
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<td>1/4 cup (60 ml)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cup (250 ml)</td>
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Happy Hour Recipes PDF E-book
This #1 best selling e-book is the first in The Cooking Ladies' Favorite series. And to make this cookbook even more outstanding, The Cooking Ladies have included a photo of each finished dish. Recipe ingredients are given in both Imperial and metric measurements.
Your RV comes equipped with a 12-volt on-demand water pump. It is part of the essential equipment that makes your RV self-contained. If you aren't connected to a city water supply you can store potable water in the RV fresh water tank and when you need water you simply turn the water pump switch on.

When the water pump is turned on the pump will run until it pressurizes the water system to the factory set shut-off pressure. When you open a water faucet in the RV (place a demand on the pump) water pressure will start to drop and a switch closes turning the pump back on, pressurizing the water system again. Keep in mind that RV water pumps are designed for intermittent duty cycles, not constant running.

**RV Water Pump Preventive Maintenance:**

RV water pump preventive maintenance is quite simple. It primarily consists of periodically inspecting and cleaning the strainer and keeping the water system sanitized. SHURflo, a leading water pump manufacturer stated that a lack of sanitizing is the number one reason for premature pump failure and poor performance over time. And that a lack of sanitizing will cause scale build-up on the diaphragm and valves, causing low flow and leak back (occasional pump cycling with no faucets open or tank filling up when hooked up to city water).

**Cleaning the water pump strainer:**

- Make sure the water pump and any water supply going to the RV is turned off.
- Open a faucet in the RV to relieve the water pressure.
- Disconnect the water line going to the strainer.
- At this point I prefer to unscrew the strainer assembly from the pump for easy access.
- With the strainer removed simply grasp the front section of the strainer, push in slightly and turn counter clockwise. It will separate from the strainer bowl.
- Now you can remove and clean the strainer screen.
- When the strainer is clean reassemble in the opposite order.
- Make sure there is water in the fresh water holding tank, turn the pump on to pressurize the system.
- Check all connections for leaks.

These simple preventive maintenance steps can help keep your RV water pump in top operating condition for many camping seasons to come. I like to inspect and clean the water pump strainer a couple times a year or whenever I notice a low flow of water from the water pump. ~ RV101

Watch Water Pump PM Video

Tired of dead batteries?
Stop the problem for good with the charger, maintainer & conditioner Mark uses on all of his batteries. The Battery Minder
We travel everywhere in our RV and we always stay at KOA campgrounds. Even when we don't have the RV we like to stay at KOA, so we camp out in a KOA camping cabin or KOA deluxe camping cabin.

These camping cabins are perfect for folks who don't own an RV but enjoy going camping, for motorcyclists who want a roof over their head at night, and for single parents who want to take their kids camping and still have a sense of security.

KOA offers camping cabins that fit your budget and your needs. There are economical and practical one and two room camping cabins, and there are the more luxurious deluxe cabins.

Today were going to look inside a KOA deluxe camping cabin. Keep in mind the floorplans can vary and you will need to bring your own linens and bedding.

With over 4000 KOA camping cabins and deluxe cabins available it's easy to locate and enjoy a peaceful camping experience that offers privacy and security. The KOA deluxe cabins offer a variety of floorplans, designed to sleep four to six people, and you can rest assured you will find the same standard of cleanliness and care that KOA is known for. After a day at the beach, hiking or the theme
Watch KOA Deluxe Cabin Video

Whether you are a tent camper at heart or an RV owner KOA has a camping cabin suited for your specific needs. Visit www.koa.com to check with the KOA you plan to stay at for specific camping cabin floor plans and amenities and make your reservations today. It's a perfect way to end a perfect day. ~ RV101

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RV Education 101 Learning RVs the Easy Way

Media Kit
Our goal with RV Consumer E-Magazine is to provide you with helpful information to make all of your RV experiences more enjoyable. I left my position as an RV Sales and F&I manager in 2000 to start RV Education 101.

We produce RV educational videos & DVDs and publish books and e-books on how to safely & properly use and maintain your RV. The reason I left my job was because of my concern about the lack of educational and safety awareness material available to the RV consumer, in other words you.

My wife Dawn left her position in RV sales to help start the company, and is our Sales and Marketing Director. We currently have a 35-foot Class A motor home. We have two boys, Tyler 17 and Josh 23, both avid RVers and two dogs, Roxie and Gracie.

If you would like to learn more about us and about RV Education 101 please visit www.rveducation101.com

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