

# RV University this Week



Learning RVs the Easy Way

by RV Education 101

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From the industry leader in RV Education



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Hi Folks,

Much akin to the famous Nike slogan "Just Do It" I want to introduce my new slogan "Just RV It" We purchase RV's to go on adventures, explore the country and to build lasting memories with our family and friends. Too often our dreams of traveling in our RV get pushed aside because of our busy schedules, work and a lack of prior planning.

I am promoting a new movement among RV consumers, the "Just RV It" movement. It doesn't matter if you take an overnight trip 20 miles away from home or a 1,000 mile week-long RV adventure, the important thing is you "just RV it!"

I think it's sad when folks buy an RV only to not use it very often. For whatever reason the enthusiasm and expectations people have for traveling in their RV diminishes to it sitting idle in the driveway for extended periods of time. I understand that RV owners have many valid reasons for not using the RV like the weather, lack of funds and time constraints, but it is also my belief that the real culprit is a lack of planning. Remember the 5 Ps? Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance! When you plan a trip you take a trip, even if it's just for a quick weekend getaway. I really do believe it's that simple.

Planning an RV trip in advance can solve all the reasons we come up with excuses not to use the RV. When you pencil-in a date on the calendar you set aside a block of time to use the RV. Planning an RV trip in advance gives you time to budget money for the trip and to make any necessary arrangements to go on the trip.

Don't give up on your dreams of exploring the country in your RV; instead plan to make your dreams come true. You worked hard to buy the RV, now you need to work just as hard on enjoying your RV. Plan your RV trip, load it up, hook it up, fuel it up and "Just RV It!"

Adopt the slogan "Just RV It" in your RV household.

Until next week, plan your trip, travel safe and enjoy your RV experiences. Remember, getting there is half the fun!

*Mark Polk*

# This Week's RV Bulletin Board



"For the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: 'If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?' And whenever the answer has been 'No' for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something." ~ Steve Jobs

**Plan your RV trip, load it up, hook it up, fuel it up and Just RV It!**



**Question:** I have a question for you. If we only go camping for 2 or 3 days and don't come close to filling the black and gray water holding tanks do you empty them right away or can you wait to empty them later. And how long can you wait? The reason I ask is because we like to go camping locally at least once a month.

**Mark's Answer:** You have a couple options. If you plan to use the RV in the next week or two it's not really necessary to empty the tanks right away. Just make sure the black water tank is treated with holding tank chemicals .

On the other hand I personally prefer to take advantage of a sewer hook-up whenever I have one available. If the tanks are not quite full enough to empty (I recommend at least 2/3 full) you can simply add more water to the tanks through the sinks and the toilet to assist with filling them to an acceptable level.

# RV News for the RV Consumer

## Snowbirds are Heading South

In News-Press, Laura Ruane writes, You don't need binoculars to see them. The birds are coming back – the human snowbirds. And, it's a lovely sight for recession-sore eyes.

"That nice, cold weather up north is helping our Florida businesses," said Mike Spetsios, general manager and head golf pro at San Carlos Golf Club. [Read the entire article>](#)



**RV Buzz Terminology:** In the world of RVs snowbirds are RVers who head for warmer weather during the cold winter months.

**Older Americans put Dreams on Hold** Commonwealth Magazine reports that many seniors are running the numbers and deciding to put off retirement or combine work and retirement. According to research by the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University, the total number of workers 65 and older in Massachusetts increased by 64,000, or 63 percent, between 2000 and 2010, reports Commonwealth Magazine.

The article stated that Donna Pavloski understands the dilemma. Pavloski retired from her commercial locksmith business and decided traveling was the best way to go. She lives in an RV and has spent 25 years on the road, but had to get a job, saying she has outlived her money.

**EXPLORER RV**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

# RV News for the RV Consumer



## Connecticut RV dealer sponsors RV Jamboree to Support Make-A-Wish

The Make-A-Wish Foundation's mission is to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions, to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

"The Make-A-Wish Foundation steps into a child's life and offers a sense of hope, strength and joy right when they need it most," said Make-A-Wish Development Director Kim Smith. "At a time in their lives when their reality is sometimes nothing more than hospitals, doctors, and treatments, we try to bring a smile to their face by granting their one true wish." The Hemlock Hill RV Jamboree has offered an incredible amount of support to the Foundation over the past 13 years, raising over \$275,000 and granting countless wishes for children across the state, said Smith.

## Fleetwood RV Announces Customer Loyalty Programs

Fleetwood RV, Inc. – a Decatur, Indiana-based manufacturer of motorhomes that includes brands like American Coach and Bounder - announced the introduction of two new customer loyalty programs. One program focuses on customer retention whilst the other addresses new customer referrals.

Current Fleetwood RV and American Coach motor home owners can receive up to a \$10,000 instant discount savings at the point of purchase of a new Fleetwood RV or American Coach motor home through the Owner Loyalty Program. [READ MORE>](#)



## Own a Motorhome?

[Membership in FMCA](#) brings with it a wealth of benefits and services, all specially designed to meet the needs of motorhome owners. The value of these benefits and services far exceeds the cost of the annual dues.

[Click for info](#)

# This Week's Feature Article



This Week's  
Feature

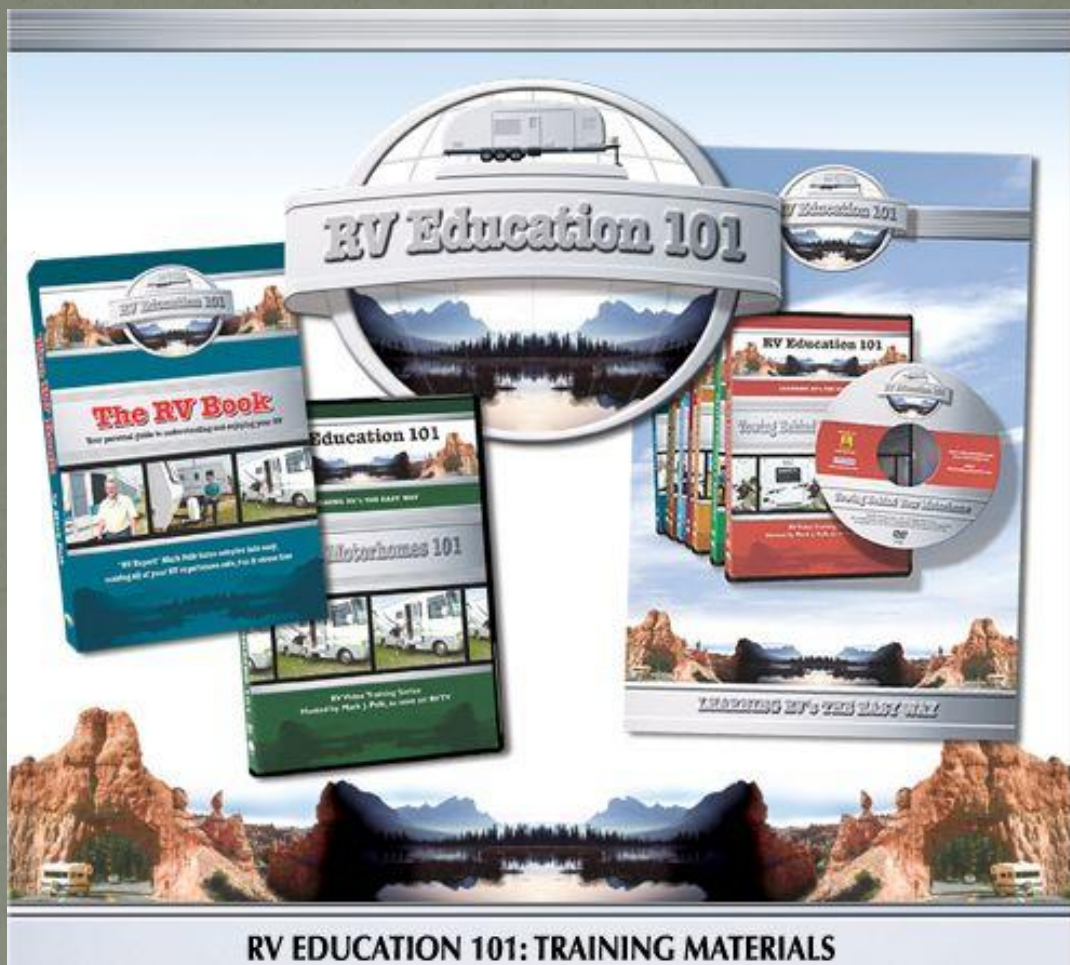
## Polk's Top 7 Reasons for Using a Tire Pressure Monitoring System

I think most RV owners have heard stories about an RV that had a tire blowout at one time or another. Some of these tire blowout stories are worse than others, and hopefully if you ever experience a tire blowout it will result in little damage and no one will be hurt.

For many years I have known about tire pressure monitoring systems (TPMS), but it wasn't until we were planning to take a long RV trip that I decided it was time to take a closer look.

[Read the Full Article >](#)

# Easy Ways to Learn About Your RV



## RV Education 101 RV Training Library

Click for info: [RV Instructional DVDs](#)

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# RV Buzz Quick Tips

## Tip #1



If you are ever camping and most or all of your 120-volt outlets suddenly quit working check to see if the main GFC, usually located in the bathroom, has tripped and needs to be reset. When an outlet is exposed to moisture or water, usually the outside receptacle, it will trip the main GFCI disabling all of the outlets on that circuit.

## Tip #2



When it comes to a GPS for an RV I recommend one that is designed for professional truck drivers. RV's are tall, long and heavy and when you are using a GPS with truck route settings you don't need to worry about height and weight concerns like you do with a GPS that is designed for use with automobiles.

Read my article on [“A GPS for RV Owners”](#)

## Tip #3



One secret to controlling odors and extending the life of your RV holding tanks is to add plenty of water to the black tank after you empty it. You want the bottom of the tank to be completely covered by water and depending on the size of the tank this might require 3 toilet bowls of water or it might take 6 or 7. The other thing to keep in mind is to add plenty of water to the bowl every time you flush it so there is enough water in the tank at all time to help control the odors.

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# A Battery Charging Solution

I personally use a product called Battery Minder on all of my RV, boat, ATV and classic car batteries. In the past I would always test my batteries to determine the state of charge and put them on the battery charger whenever they dropped below an 80% state of charge.

All of that changed when I discovered an even better and easier way to keep my batteries charged, maintained and conditioned using the Battery Minder.

Properly charging your RV batteries needs to be done in stages. The Battery Minder is a three stage maintenance charger, which means it will keep the battery fully charged but never overcharge the battery. It also conditions sulphated batteries, actually reversing the primary cause for battery failure.

When I'm not using the RV, boat, ATV or vehicles I simply hook the Battery Minder up to the battery and plug it in. You can leave the battery in the vehicle or remove it, and you rarely need to check or add water because it doesn't overcharge the battery. Our RV batteries are over six years old and are still in great shape. This product really does a great job!

To learn more about this product [click to watch the video](#)

 **BatteryMinder®**  
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# Pet Friendly RV Travel Tips



**our  
Westie,  
Gracie**

Pets and RV's just seem to go together. One of the really great things about traveling in an RV is that you can take your pets with you. In many cases a big reason people buy an RV is so their pets can travel with them. All 3 of our dogs, Buck, Gracie and our rescue Roxie love traveling in the RV. Buck & Gracie have been traveling with us since they were puppies. They all get extremely excited when they see us loading the RV for another trip.

It's fun and convenient to be able to take your pets along with you, but I realized a long time ago that certain precautions must be taken when you travel with pets. There were lots of things to remember about traveling with our pets, so to make it easier I included this checklist in my [Checklists for RVers e-book](#).

- ❖ First and foremost always keep in mind that an RV gets extremely hot and / or cold inside depending on the outside temperature. Always make sure there is some type of ventilation and heat or air available when pets are left in the RV.
- ❖ Never leave your pets in an RV for long periods of time without somebody checking on them periodically. If you will be away from your pets and the RV for an extended period of time leave a key with someone you can trust to check on the pets and in case of an emergency.





## Pet Friendly Travel Tips Cont.

- ❖ Always have fresh water available for your pets. You never know the quality of the drinking water when you are traveling so it's a good idea to take a container of water from your home that your pets are accustomed to, or use bottled water.
- ❖ Get a current health certificate from your veterinarian before traveling.
- ❖ Always take the pets medical records with you.
- ❖ Take a recent color photograph of your pets along in the event that they get lost.
- ❖ Update all vaccinations before leaving on your RV trip & take a proof of rabies vaccination.
- ❖ Take flea, tick, and heartworm medications.
- ❖ Take your veterinarian's phone number and emergency phone numbers with you. Get the phone number for a local veterinarian when you arrive at your destination.
- ❖ Don't forget to take the brand of pet food your pet(s) is used to and take a food and water travel bowl.
- ❖ Pets should always travel in a pet carrier or crate for their personal safety.

**Note:** For more great pet traveling tips download my free

[Traveling with Pets checklist](#)



## U of RV “How To” Videos

[Click Here](#)  
to Play



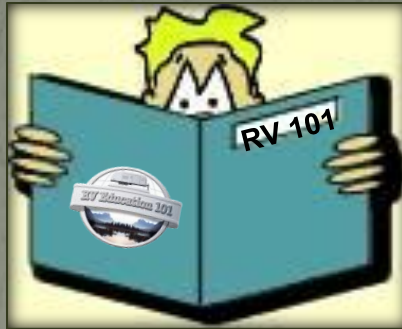
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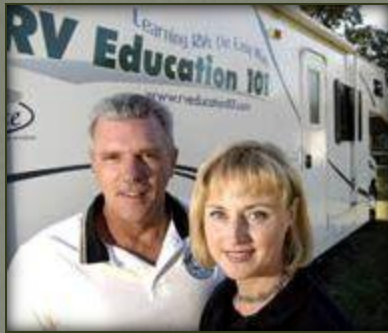
## Links to Informative RV Articles



- [Cost Effective RV Weekend Fun \(Just RV It\)](#)
- [Government Diesel Emission Standards & RVs](#)
- [Bedsaver, Inexpensive Insurance for 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel Owners](#)
- [RV Campground Etiquette](#)

Click on the links above to read the articles





## U of RV E-Newsletter

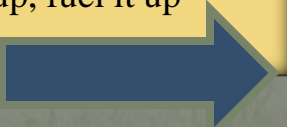
I hope you enjoyed our new format for the U of RV e-newsletter. In addition to changing the format we have plans to send out an RV How-To special e-news issue on a monthly basis. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, or just want to learn more about your RV you will love our RV How-To e-news edition.

We want our e-newsletters to be enjoyable to read, but more importantly we want them to be educational. If there are how-to topics you would like to see in future issues e-mail me at [Mark@rveducation101.com](mailto:Mark@rveducation101.com) and let me know what they are.

Happy RV Learning

*Mark & Dawn Polk*

ENJOY YOUR RV: Don't give up on your dreams of exploring the country in your RV; instead plan to make your dreams come true. You worked hard to buy the RV, now you need to work just as hard on enjoying your RV. Plan your RV trip, load it up, hook it up, fuel it up and...



## Just RV It!

# General & Unsubscribe

## About us:

Our goal with this RV e-newsletter 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 my own company, RV Education 101.

We produce RV educational videos, DVDs and e-books on how to safely & properly use and maintain your RV. The reason I left my job was due to 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 14 and Josh 21, both avid RVers and three dogs, Roxie, Gracie and Buck.

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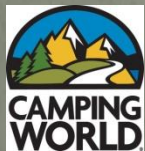
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