



7 Things You Need to Know About Living in an RV (Part 1)

By Sondra Rochelle

I've lived full-time in various RVs over the years and have loved every minute of "living the life." Learn if doing the same is for you.

Living the mobile life in a coach or RV can be a life-changing experience, but it does come with some drawbacks. Find out if RV living is right for you.

Do Your Research Before You Make the Switch

Thinking of moving into an RV? If so, there are several basic things you need to know before you make the leap from standard living to motorhome or camper living. You are going to need to do a great deal of research to determine whether transitioning to the mobile lifestyle will be beneficial to you. For some people, moving into an RV or camper is a great decision, while for others, it can be a costly mistake. You may be dreaming of living year-round in a recreational vehicle, but before you make this commitment, you need to understand that doing so will change your life in many ways, some of which may not be as pleasant as others. This is why you doing plenty of research before making your move is so important.

This article will provide the basic information you

will need to help you figure out whether trading in your brick-and-mortar home for a live-in automobile or trailer is the right choice for you.

What to Consider Before Moving Into an RV

- You'll have to store or discard most of your possessions.
- You must choose an RV that meets your needs.
- You'll probably want to set up a home base.
- RV living is not ideal for families with children.
- Living with pets in an RV is difficult.
- A mail-forwarding service is usually necessary.
- You'll need to get the right insurance.

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HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



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Ramblin's from Roxanne



Hello, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and welcome to a new year and hopefully a better one. I hope this finds everyone in good health and ready to begin getting out and enjoying our RV's.

Winter here in Arizona has not been the norm. Temps have been much lower than normal with extraordinarily little rain. November, December and January were in the mid 60's but the weather is finally warming up. We both just got our first vaccine shot and will have the 2nd before we leave here.

Mike and I have been lucky to have my son and his girlfriend visit twice and took care of our honey-do lists. We now have the garage wired with lights and outlets. The Model A is running with a new battery and gauges.

We were able to get a motorized wheelchair for Mike and he is now able to take walks around the block. The kids then helped put a carrier on the back of the car and added lights to it.

It is not too late to drop by for a visit, we have full hooks up for you.

We will be heading back to Washington the first part of April and hope to see everyone at the April outing at Cedars RV Resort.

Roxanne

"Don't make me flip by witch switch"

Message from your Wagon Master

Hello All, it's time to consider making reservations with the parks for the 2021 Rally season, especially for April and May. See the back page of this newsletter for all of the rally information.

Also I recommend that you text me at 360-402-0820, when you make a reservation so I can provide the hosts with an accurate headcount, so they can plan food.

Bob Fite



Secretary/Treasurer Reminder:

Dues for the 2021 Rally season are now \$20.00.



Please send your 2021 dues with a check made out to:

Puget Sounders
4931 Scott Rd. NW
Olympia, WA 98502

If you have any questions, please call me at 360-402-7956

Thank you,
Elsie Fite

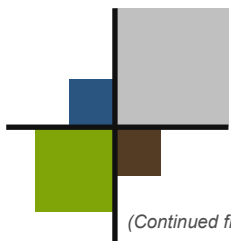
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RV Tips & Tricks - Part 1

- **Tip To Store A Portable Propane Tank:**
Use a 12" x 12" milk crate to help keep the portable propane tank upright while traveling or when in use. The cylinder fits snugly inside.
- **LED Lights For Power Saving:**
Replacing normal incandescent bulbs or fixtures with LED's can save exponential amounts of energy, as most LED's use one-tenth the amount of power of normal bulbs.
- **Tip Tire Pressure:**
Check before every trip. Over inflation or under inflation can age the tires faster. It can make the ride or handling of a coach less comfortable and less safe. Under inflation can cause the tire to heat up and risk potential tire failure. This is also how tires degrade from within the tire. Refer to the manufacturer's loading sticker for loads and tire pressure located in the kitchen cabinet or near the driver's seat.
- **Tip Water Hook Up:**
Turn on the fresh water through the fill hose before hooking up to the RV. This will wash out any sediment or other debris and not go into the RV plumbing.
- **Turn Breaker Off:**
Before hooking up the power cord from the RV to the campsite power, be sure to turn off the breaker switch first for safety.
- **Tip Water Hose:**
Carry an extra hose just in case one is not long enough to reach at the camp site.
- **Motorhome Tips and Tricks for Clean Hands:**
Carry a box of disposable rubber gloves for use during sewer hookups and the dump station.
- **Co-Pilot:**
Let your co-pilot learn to drive the RV and let him or her take the wheel often. Sharing the driving duties cuts down on driver fatigue while reinforcing the notion that RVing is for both of you. If the main driver should ever become sick or hurt, you won't be stranded.
- **Motorhome Tips and Tricks for RV Cover Storage:**
I can never get my cover put into the provided storage bag. So, when not using my RV cover, I purchased the largest plastic trash can with a lid to store it in. Make sure it has wheels to roll it out of the way.



To be continued in the next newsletter, March 2021.



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7 Things You Need to Know About Living in an RV (Part 1) Cont'd.

1. You'll Have to Store or Discard Most of Your Possessions

Before choosing the RV lifestyle, you must decide which is more important to you—your possessions or your desire to live a simpler, less burdensome life. Most people who become full-timers sell their homes and all but one of their vehicles (the one that either tows their travel unit or is towed by it). They also shed themselves of furniture, artwork, and anything else that takes up a lot of space.

Think about all of your hobby materials, holiday decorations, boxes of family photos, books, magazines, collectibles, pets, bulky electronics, excess clothing, duplicate household goods (e.g. second sets of dishes and silverware), decor items, heavy cleaning equipment (e.g. full-sized vacuum cleaners), duplicate tools, and recreational equipment (e.g. kayaks, skis, and clunky sports equipment). These are all things you will not have room to bring with you in your new mobile dwelling.

Some people find it difficult to make the transition all at once, so they put their belongings in storage units they can rent by the month. Those who are lucky enough to be able to place their belongings at the homes of family members or good friends usually buy storage sheds. In the long run, sheds are usually less expensive than renting a unit and are often more secure. A one-time purchase of a shed will pay for itself in a year or so, and it can be sold later in the event that you decide to return to living in a house or choose to sell off your remaining belongings because you feel your new lifestyle works for you.

Storing items makes people feel more secure and gives them an "out" if they change their minds about RV living. It also allows them to keep their most valued possessions without wasting space in their vehicle.

2. You Must Choose an RV That Meets Your Needs

When your living space is limited, comfort and privacy are important. You must make sure that the unit you select for full-time living is large

enough to serve your purposes and has everything you will need to keep yourself comfortable. Otherwise, you will be miserable.

Coaches are rated for living and traveling in various types of weather. It is best to choose an all-weather unit to ensure that it will hold up to temperature differences and be comfortable no matter its location.

If you join RV Consumer Group, you will be able to access books and magazines that provide temperature ratings and other important information for almost every make, model, and year of motor home or camper. It costs a good bit to do this, but it can save you money and help you avoid problems in the long run.

3. You'll Probably Want to Set Up a Home Base

Many people set up home bases by

- renting campsites on a long-term basis,
- purchasing a deeded RV lot, or purchasing and developing properly zoned land.

Doing this gives them a permanent address and provides a sense of security they might not otherwise be able to have. However, having a home base is not always necessary.

Some folks just rent as they go. In this situation, you generally pay nothing but a nightly, weekly, or monthly fee. Although this sounds simple, it can get pricey because campgrounds always charge more for short-term visits than they do for more extended stays.

On the other hand, people who choose not to set up a home base can often camp inexpensively or even for free at a number of locations. Before assuming you will be able to do this, be sure to do your research and find out how much it costs to park at any campgrounds you plan to visit and how long visitors are allowed to stay.



To be continued in the next newsletter,
March 2021.



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2021 Rally Schedule

Cedars RV Resort

Friday, April 23 — Sunday, April 25
6335 Portal Way, Ferndale, WA 98248
36-384-2622

Icicle River RV Park

Friday, May 21 — Sunday, May 32
7305 Icicle Rd, Leavenworth, WA 98826
509-548-5420

Riverbend RV Park

Friday, June 18 — Sunday, June 22
19961 Hwy 20, Twisp, WA 98856
800-686-4498, 509-997-3500

North Whidbey RV Park

Friday, July 23 — Sunday, July 25
565 Cornet Bay Rd, Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360-675-9597

Swinomish Casino & Lodge

Friday, August 20 — Sunday, August 22
12885 Casino Drive, Anacortes, WA 98221
360-588-3600

American Sunset RV & Tent Resort

Friday, September 17 — Sunday, September 19
1209 N Montesano St, Westport, WA 98595-1878
800-569-2267, 360-268-0207

Elwha Dam RV Park

Friday, October 15 — Sunday, October 17
47 Lower Dam Rd, Port Angeles, WA 98363
360-452-7054

Silver Cove RV Resort

Friday, November 12 — Sunday, November 14
351 Hall Rd, Silverlake, WA 98645
877-380-7278, 360-967-2057



FMCA NW Area Rally

Cancelled

FMCA's 103rd International Convention

Wednesday, July 7—Saturday, July 10
CAM-PLEX Multi Event Facilities
1635 Reata Drive, Gillette, WY 82718

For the latest rally information, check the Puget Sounders website at www.pugetsoundersrv.net, contact the Wagon Master or sign-up online.

2021 Officers and Staff

President: Roxanne Parish
Vice President: Bob Fite
Secretary/Treasurer: Elsie Fite
National Director: Mike Parish
Alt. National Director: Sandra Older
Wagon Master: Bob Fite
Asst. Wagon Master: TBD
Sheriff: Sandra Older
Sunshine Person: Sandi Hersh
Newsletter/Historian: Laurie Cameron
Merchandise: Elsie Fite
Webmaster: Gene Kenney



Visit us on the web at
www.pugetsoundersrv.net

RALLY NOTES:

Remember: Call/text/email your wagon master when you make or cancel reservations
Bob Fite: 360-402-0820 or bob.fite@comcast.net

All parks require you to call individually, to make a reservation with your credit card.

Generally sites will not be held past 30 days prior to the rally. We recommend that you make reservations early.

August rally does not have a clubhouse.

For members no longer traveling with an RV there are cabins available at the May, June, July, September, October, and November rallies, and hotel rooms at the August rally.

Expect rallies to be open air (without clubhouse) weather permitting.