



RV Shipments Reach All-Time High In First Quarter of 2021

Market Report | March 2021

The growing demand from Americans hungry for the freedom to travel and experience the great outdoors is clear. According to the newly released data from the RV Industry Association’s March 2021 survey of manufacturers, more RVs made their way to RV dealerships across North America in March than in any prior single month. The 54,291 wholesale RV units shipped this past March is a more than 5% increase over the previous record set in March of 2018. The March shipments also bring total RV shipments in the first quarter of 2021 to a record-breaking 148,507 units, the most RVs ever shipped in a single quarter and a nearly 10% increase over the previous record set in the first quarter of 2018.

love of road trips, a desire to travel in comfort, wanting to explore the great outdoors, and the ability to use an RV as a basecamp for other outdoor recreation activities,” Kirby continued. “While many new buyers reported the pandemic did have some impact on their decision to purchase, the survey results showed ‘restriction on other travel due to COVID’ came in fourth from the bottom of the list. This really shows that people didn’t buy RVs over the past year because there weren’t any other options, they bought RVs because of the endless opportunities RVing provides to travel and get outdoors.”

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“Over the past year, many Americans have rediscovered the great outdoors and the desire to get outside and live an active outdoor lifestyle. And many of these same people also discovered for the first time that an RV is the perfect way to get the most out of the great outdoors,” said RV Industry Association President & CEO Craig Kirby. “What our members have accomplished over the past year has been incredible. They overcame challenges presented by the pandemic and delivered a record number of RVs.”

“When we looked at the motivations for purchasing an RV over the past year, we found the reasons were the same as they had always been for buying an RV: the

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PUGET SOUNDERS

Ramblin's from Roxanne

I have heard from all those RV's that are sitting idle in garages, storage lots, and next to houses. They all want to go somewhere and not sit at home all summer. There are still 5 outings left this year and we have very few people signed up. This is an RV group and yet we are not RV'ing. Is everyone going their separate ways and not wanting to come together as a group? Have you not been vaccinated and are afraid to be in a crowd? Or have you lost the keys because it has been so long since you used the RV?



We need individuals who are willing to be officers and/or who are willing to host a rally? If you have never hosted, I am here to help in whatever way you would like. It isn't hard. In fact, it is easier than trying to write this article with the cat laying on the computer and putting in her own keystrokes.

Enough ramblin's, we are currently on our way to Gillette, Wyoming for the FMCA National Rally and elections. Our hottest day was 108 in Newport, WA and that was the day the circuit breaker blew, and we had to run the generator for 8 hours. Luckily, we had a full tank of diesel, so we were able to cool the coach to mid-80's. Also have wonderful friends who let us hang out all day in the house, even Phoenix and our host is allergic to cats.

Roxanne

"Don't make me flip my witch switch."

Puget Sounder News

Evelyn Petersen passed away Saturday, June 26th. Evelyn & her late husband, Wayne, were longtime members of the Puget Sounders. Until this last year she divided her time between her home in Renton and her winter getaway in Yuma Arizona. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

We would like to express our condolences to Bobby Radford in the loss of her son, **Bret Espey**, who passed away on Tuesday July 6th in Bellingham WA.

Note for June 2022: The FMCA NW Area rally will be held in Coos Bay, OR.

FMCA has lowered their yearly dues to \$50 per year. You can pay your dues for up to three years at this lowered rate.

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

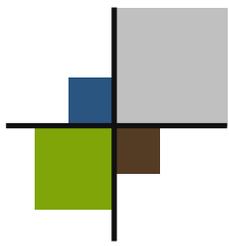
All parks require you to call individually, to make a reservation with your credit card.

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

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

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

Editor's Correction: There was a typo in the dates for the upcoming rally in September. The dates had changed from the original plan and I did not reflect that change on the rally schedule on the back page. Dates are now correct.



PUGET SOUNDERS

Rally Recap: June 2021

Riverbend

Donna Barker:

There were five coaches in attendance. The weather was perfect along the banks of the beautiful Methow River.

Friday night was the usual appetizer routine. Saturday breakfast was waffles with bacon, sausage and fruit. After breakfast, most of the group visited the Twisp Farmer's Market. Roxanne bought a dish and some of us went to the quilt shop. That is where I donated to the local economy.

Saturday night we had hamburgers and hot dogs in the newly remodeled clubhouse, and after dinner there was a rousing game of Left Right Center. Both games were won by Holly Platz. I still want my laundry money back, after all we were the hosts.



Sunday breakfast was something different. We made breakfast burritos for everyone thinking if they wanted they could take them on the road; BUT everyone, all 5 coaches were staying until Monday. So on Sunday night we had another round of hamburgers and hot dogs. Monday morning breakfast was more burritos. Needless to say there was no left over food at this rally, it is almost like we knew we would be hosting an extra day.



Roxanne Parish:

Wow!! What a great weekend. We only had 5 coaches, but the weather was great and so was the campground. Four of the five coaches came in on Thursday and everyone gravitated over to Platz's to sit until the sun moved over and we were all in the sunlight. So, we then moved over one site to the Parish's. This site was great, trees for shade and a breeze to keep the mosquitos away.

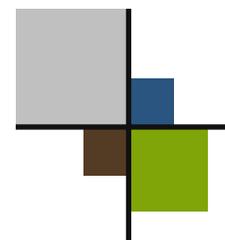
Friday turned out to be warm, high 80's so once again we sat around and just visited and swatted mosquitoes. My supply of bug repellent came in quite handy. At 5:00 we headed to the clubhouse for "snacks", BBQ ribs, salads, brownies, and cookies.

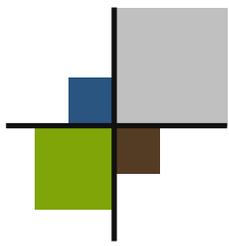
Saturday's breakfast was waffles, bacon and sausage supplied by our hosts, Ben and Donna Barker. After breakfast everyone attended the Farmer's Market in Twisp.

Saturday afternoon found us all sitting outside in the shade and breeze until it was time for our simple dinner of hot dogs and hamburgers, grilled inside due to the abundance of mosquitoes.

After dinner we were joined by Jarl and Becky, a couple parked next to Donna and Ben who are interested in joining FMCA and our group. We had 2 rousing games of 31. Even though they did not win either of the games they are still interested in our group and hope to be able to join us later in the year. Oh, both games of 31 were won by Holly Platz.

Sunday was muffins and breakfast burritos. The entire group was staying over an extra day so dinner on Sunday was leftovers and there were even leftovers for breakfast on Monday before we all went our separate ways. No one was headed home just off on more adventures.





PUGET SOUNDERS

International Rally: Gillette, WY

July 6-11, 2021



Puget Sounder Attendees: Mike & Roxanne Parish, Bob & Elsie Fite, Brad & Sandy Older (and Olivia), Gene & Melanie Kenney and Ken & Laurie Cameron.

Highlights from attendees:

Roxanne Parish

The fun started on our way to Gillette, we had a flat tire. FMCA Roadside Assistance came to the rescue and changed the tire. It seems I had picked up a nail somewhere and we had a slow leak.

Eleven of us caravanned from Buffalo, WY to Gillette and we were parked in 30 amp full hookups. Tuesday was spent in workshops for the Governing Board Meeting on Wed and I had Mentor training and well as picked up my assignments for Seminar monitoring.

We spent all day Wednesday at the Governing Board and elected Rett Porter as the new President of FMCA. Thursday, Friday and Saturday was spent touring the vendors, buying things and renewing friendships. Can't wait for the next one!



Brad Older

We had a wonderful time in Gillette. Vendor displays were great and the seminars covered many topics we were interested in. I enjoyed the opportunity to meet people while driving a volunteer shift on the Activity Golf Cart. Unfortunately, we were separated from our Puget Sounder group by 30 and 50 amp service which spoiled us from being with our friends.

Elsie Fite

We were looking forward to Gillette, our first International FMCA rally since Albany, OR. First stop was Spearfish, SD to meet up with the Entegra owners. There we camped at Elkhorn Ridge RV resort along with the Kenney's and ~80 other Entegra owners. We went site seeing, dined and dance with Entegra crowd and had a great time. While at Spearfish we went to Mt Rushmore and the Badlands.

Coming into Gillette was an awesome sight to see so many happy campers. We were joined in Gillette by Roxanne/Mike; Laurie/Ken; Brad/Sandy; and Gene/Melanie. While most of us participated in seminars and shopping I spent the first day at the Governing Board meeting. Here I was privileged to participate in National officer elections and the review & approval of Policy/Procedures. I was a delegate for a Western chapter, "Against the Odds". It was exciting and educational. I felt like I was back at Intel as a Program manager.

Next day I went shopping and bought Bob a Euro-scooter. This will allow him to get around when we head for the Grand Canyon, Bryce and other places on our list. Overall, it was a great trip and I will definitely go back next time.

Laurie Cameron

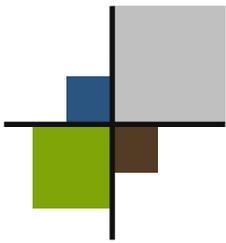
We had a wonderful time in Gillette. The seminars that were offered covered a wide variety of topics. There was always something interesting to attend.

HOT! It was very hot in Wyoming. Actually it was pretty hot all the way from the Northwest to Wyoming. We lost our AC on the 3rd day into our trip through WA, OR, ID, UT, CO, WY, & MT. The part needed to fix the AC is a month out so our whole trip was pretty sweaty!

We had great restaurant outings to Old Chicago for some amazing pizza, Las Margaritas for some good old Mexican food and then a trip to the Rib & Chop House on my birthday!

Friday night entertainment was Three Dog Night. This group fit in very well with the age demographics of the crowd. Yeah, they showed their age but they sounded great.

We also spent some money at the vendor stations. Who could resist? Apparently, not us.



PUGET SOUNDERS

Puget Sounders Chapter Fair



Chapter Fair



BBQ Night



Northwest Area Caucus



Three Dog Night

You know you're in Wyoming when...



Five gadgets for the RV

By Lauren Grijalva

1. RV GPS With Back Up Camera

If you've been RVing for any amount of time, you know how tough it can be to maneuver when trying to back in. There's nothing better than an RV back up camera to assist you with this daunting task! The GPS is also specifically for RVs, which is amazing. You enter in the dimensions of your rig, and the GPS will make sure your route doesn't include obstacles your rig can't handle, such as narrow roads or low bridges. You *can* buy an RV GPS and back up camera separately, but we like the [Garmin RV 770 LMT-S](#) because it combines both products, and gets great reviews!



2. Dash Cam

I recommend that EVERYONE have a dash cam, but it's especially important when you're pulling your HOME around with you! Accidents happen all the time and the more you drive, the greater your chances of being in one. A dash cam gives you the reassurance that you're taking steps to protect yourself. If you're involved in an accident, there will be challenges as to who is at fault. Dash cams are invaluable in clearing up questions, which will protect you and your RV from legal liability and help you receive insurance settlements quickly. They can also be used to capture great driving moments as you explore the country! We absolutely love our [Rexing V1 Car Dash Cam](#). It has a sleek, low profile design and a 170-degree ultra-wide angle lens. It captures beautiful Full-HD 1080p video at 30fps, and even features accident auto-detection (GSensor). Having this item gives me such a peace of mind when we're on the road!

3. weBoost Signal Booster

One of the first things we purchased when we set out to live on the road full time in our RV was a weBoost. We knew we'd be traveling through areas with weak cellular signal and heard from multiple people this would give us a boost in weak areas. The weBoost boosts your cell signal up to 32 times for fewer dropped calls, higher audio quality, and faster uploads and downloads. Cell signal is especially important for us, as we work on the road and get our internet connection from our cell signal using.... the next item on this list! \

4. Wi-Fi Hotspot

Sometimes people like to unplug during their RV travels. It's a time to get away into nature and enjoy the great outdoors. However, for those that live full-time in their RV, unplugging isn't usually an option. A need for reliable internet is a necessity for most due to their jobs, homeschooling kids, even streaming your favorite shows.

Many times, your cell phone plan can include a certain amount of hotspot data. For the infrequent user, this may be all you need. If you are consistently needing 50+ GB per month, finding the right Wi-Fi hotspot plan is vital. One of the best plans out there for full-time travelers is Verizon's prepaid unlimited plan using their Jetpack MiFi 8800L. You can connect up to 15 different devices at a time over Wi-Fi, it offers truly unlimited high-speed data, and it gives us that home Wi-Fi network that we had in our brick and mortar home.



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PUGET SOUNDERS

(Continued from page 1)

RV Shipments Reach All-Time High In First Quarter of 2021

This new insight into the purchase motivations of people who bought RVs in 2020 is continued good news for an RV industry that has been experiencing forty years of long-term growth. A recent study from Go RVing echoed this growth, reporting that 11.2 million households now own an RV, up 26% over the past 10 years and 62% over the last 20 years. Even more importantly, nearly a quarter of current RV owners are now under the age of 35, and 84% of those younger owners plan to purchase a new RV in the next 5 years.

“The health benefits and mental wellbeing that come from being outdoors cannot be overestimated,” said Kirby. “The RV industry is proud to build a product that makes it easier for people to get outdoors. And with more and more people using RVs to experience the great outdoors, that is great news not only for the RV industry but for the health and wellbeing of many Americans.”

(Continued from page 6)

5. Portable Solar Panel

If you like to camp without paying for hookups from time to time, a portable solar panel is a great investment. Solar in general is wonderful, but unless you dry camp more than you camp with hookups, it might not be worth it to invest in mounting a full solar system on top of your RV. A portable solar panel is perfect for anyone who dry camps occasionally and needs to keep their RV batteries charged!

A generator can also be used for this, but generators aren't always welcome in certain places! They can be loud, and you have to continuously refill them with gas. Solar is a much more economical and a quieter way to generate energy! We love our [Go Power! PSK-120 Portable Solar Kit](#) and highly recommend it. It's 120 watts and has a 25-year warranty. Having this item has enabled us to save money on RV parks and stay in some beautiful, remote places!



Message from your Wagon Master

Hello All, it's time to be making reservations **with the upcoming parks for the 2021 Rally season. See the back page of this newsletter for all of the rally information.**

Also I recommend that you text me at 360-402-0820, or email me at bob.fite@comcast.net when you make a reservation so I can provide the hosts with an accurate headcount so they can plan the appropriate amount of food.

Bob Fite



Secretary/Treasurer Reminder:

- ◆ Dues for the 2021 Rally season are due.
- ◆ Dues = \$20.00/year
- ◆ Do you need a new dangle for your name-tag? Please let me know ASAP.
- ◆ 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

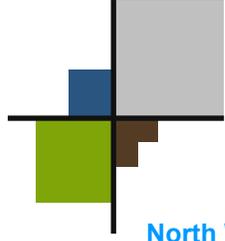
PUGET SOUNDERS

On the Lighter Side



1. Knock, knock!.....Who's there?..... RV..... RV who?..... C'mon, *RV there yet!?*
2. Why didn't the elephant need a suitcase on his RV trip?*She already had her trunk!*
3. Cop pulls over a swerving RV....**Cop:** You're under arrest for driving while intoxicated..... **Guy:** You can't arrest me... I am already home!
4. You might be an RVer..... if roughing it is only water and electric.
5. You might be an RVer..... if you stay away from RV shows after the last incident of only looking
6. You might be an RVer..... if you think the capital of the United States is Elkhart, Indiana (home of the RV industry!)
7. You might be an RVer..... if you have disowned any friends or family that doesn't have full hookup access for your visits.
8. My trailer park party went off without a hitch.....No one showed up!
9. Once you've seen a lion eat a camper,.....you've seen em maul.
10. What do you call a camper driving through frozen rain?.....*Van Hailin?*





PUGET SOUNDERS

2021 Rally Schedule

North Whidbey RV Park

Friday, July 23 — Sunday, July 25
565 Cornet Bay Rd, Oak Harbor, WA 98277
360-675-9597
Host: Mike & Roxanne Parish
Co-Host: Volunteer needed

Columbia Sun RV Resort

Friday, August 20—Sunday August 22
103907 Wiser Pkwy, Kennewick, WA 99338
509-420-4880
Host: Volunteer needed
Co-Host: Volunteer needed

American Sunset RV & Tent Resort

Friday, September 10— Sunday, September 12
1209 N Montesano St, Westport, WA 98595-1878
800-569-2267. 360-268-0207
Host: Ken & Laurie Cameron
Co-Host: Bernard & Becky Robinson

Elwha Dam RV Park

Friday, October 15 — Sunday, October 17
47 Lower Dam Rd, Port Angeles, WA 98363
360-452-7054
Host: Brad & Sandra Older
Co-Host: Volunteer needed

Silver Cove RV Resort

Friday, November 12 — Sunday, November 14
351 Hall Rd, Silverlake, WA 98645
877-380-7278, 360-967-2057
Host: Bob & Elsie Fite
Co-Host: Volunteer needed

FMCA NW Area Rally 2021

Cancelled

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



Hi all, I included this survey in last month's newsletter, but I didn't get a single response. So, I'm going to try again.

Group survey

(Name your favorites in the following categories)

- ⇒ RV park in WA
- ⇒ Long term RV Park in AZ, CA and/or NV
- ⇒ Best RV repair shop in WA state

Email your responses to Laurie at lauriecmrn@aol.com. The results of the survey will be included in the next newsletter.

Hosts & Co-hosts Needed:

Hi all, If you look at the Rally Schedule to the left, you'll notice that we have very few co-hosts signed up for the upcoming rallies. Please consider throwing your hat into the ring for one of these dates. Also, get those reservations in for the upcoming rallies. Our numbers have been low. We'd love to see more of you!

Laurie
Newsletter Editor