

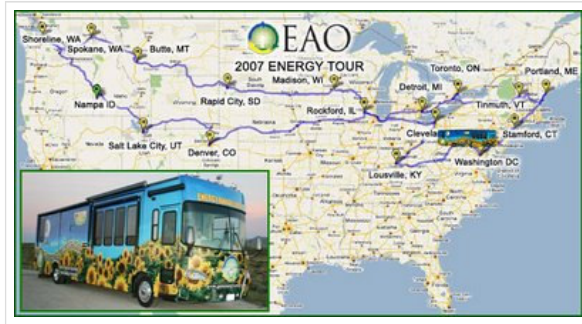
RVs in the News

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Monday, July 16, 2007

RVing family crosses country promoting biodiesel



Here's a whole new spin on the age-old, "What did you do over your summer vacation?" routine. For the children of Taylor and Christina Jenkins of Nampa, Idaho, the story may be too much for some to swallow. It might go something like this, "We spent the summer crossing the country to talk about alternative energy." But it's all too true.

The Jenkins family of six have been crossing the US in their bio-diesel fueled Monaco Class A motorhome, promoting earth-friendly fuels and lifestyles. The family left their Idaho home on the 25th of June, and have already made it to the east coast. The problem, they've noted with the east is that many of the biodiesel sales outfits sell to "members," and often during limited daylight hours. Perhaps things will go better as they make the 'flip flop' heading for their final event in Shoreline, Washington slated for July 21, the Sustainable Living and Renewable Energy Fair.

Check out their [website](#) with interesting commentaries on all forms of alternative energy, and traveling blog entries.

Labels: [alternative fuel](#), [biodiesel](#), [family](#)

posted by Russ and Tiña De Maris at 7/16/2007 04:46:00 PM | [0 comments](#)

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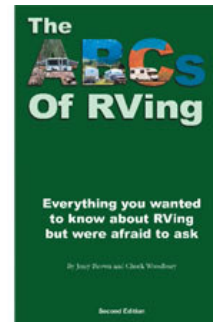
Friday, July 13, 2007

Washington State Parks Concerts Draw RVers



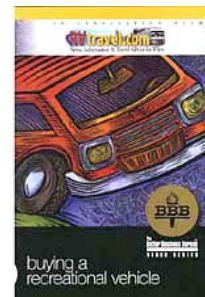
About

Consider us "concentrated RV news." We sift out the chaff and bring you practical, useful, and fun news on recreational vehicle issues.



[The ABCs of RVing](#)

The editors of Beginners Guide to RVing answer more than 200 of the most-asked questions of beginning and novice RVers.



[DVD: Better Business Bureau: Buying a Recreational Vehicle](#)

Join host Chuck Woodbury as he explains how to buy an RV. Sponsored by the Better Business Bureau and RVtravel.com, learn to choose the right RV at the right price and avoid making costly mistakes.

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[Washington State Parks Concerts Draw RVers](#)
[Supplier Predicts Free Wifi Coming to RV Parks](#)

Seems like even governments are trying to sweeten the deals they make. Wifi at highway rest areas? Well, why not free concerts at state parks? Washington State Parks has kicked off a summer series of free concerts at its popular Cape Disappointment State Park along the blue Pacific, near Ilwaco.

These freebie concerts take place at 2:00 in the afternoon on Saturdays in the Confluence Project Amphitheater, which--when the rain isn't too thick--provides neat views of both the ocean and the confluencing Columbia River.

If you hurry you can catch the Beerman Creek String Band who tune up in the key of bluegrass this Saturday, July 14. Miss them, catch up with a Celtic music group from Portland called Circled by Hounds on the 28th. The August lineup includes Juan Manuel Barco and his Tex Mex Band on the 11th, and rounding out August on the 25th is the Naselle Marimba Band.

Photo courtesy Circled by Hounds.

Labels: [concerts](#), [freebies](#), [Washington State Parks](#)

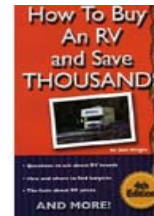
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"You can observe a lot by just watching." -- Yogi Berra



"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant." -- Robert Louis Stevenson



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Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Supplier Predicts Free Wifi Coming to RV Parks

Kelly Hogan keeps RVers keyed into the internet. As the man-in-charge of NomadISP, Hogan makes sure his RV park owning customers keeps the internet signals flowing to RVers around the



country. To make sure it happens, Hogan's company has service trucks parked in strategic places around the country. If a problem comes up, or a new customer needs service, one of Hogan's employees hops a plane and flies to where the service truck is located.

Hogan's company is big: Looking to pull in over a million dollars in revenue this year, NomadISP is KOA's choice of wireless internet providers. But to Hogan, this should be no surprise--after all RVers are becoming more and more dependent on internet access, to pay bills, do banking, and surely to keep up on blogs like these.

With wifi at your local coffeshop or fast food franchise, it's only natural that the internet would be at the RV park. Since you'll probably only spend a couple of bucks for a java and get your

free after you'd laid out considerably more dollars to spend the night at the RV park. Hogan agrees, "The consumer has pretty much come to the conclusion that Internet access should be anywhere and free." He predicts paying for wifi at RV parks will become a thing of the past. Check out the whole story on the [Corvallis, Oregon, Gazette Times](#).

Photo courtesy Imeallach on flickr.com

Labels: [computers](#), [internet access](#), [rv parks](#), [wifi](#)

posted by Russ and Tiña De Maris at [7/11/2007 12:00:00 PM](#) | [0 comments](#)

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Wednesday, July 04, 2007

Motorhome Europe, Asia, Australia . . . ?

For decades folks from around the world have "swapped holidays," by making arrangements to "loan out" their home in one country for a home in another. Now the concept has taken another stride: Loan out your motorhome in the states for one in say, New Zealand.



MotorhomeHolidaySwap.com asks an annual fee of about \$90 to register on their service. Members provide information and photos about their motorhomes, and a computerized database "matches" up potential swaps. After that, it's up to the individual members to contact one another to ensure they're happy with the deal. "Borrowers" agree to cover the rig they're loaned with appropriate insurance, and the matchmaking company suggests everyone have a close friend or relative check out the returned rig to ensure everything's in order.

To build the company database, motorhomeholidayswap is offering to waive the first year's fees to the first 175 members. For more information, [visit the company website](#).

Labels: [foreign rv travel](#), [motorhomes](#), [rv swaps](#)

posted by Russ and Tiña De Maris at [7/04/2007 03:54:00 PM](#) | [1 comments](#)

Friday, June 29, 2007

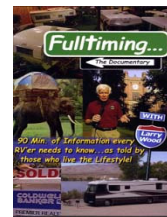
Motorhomer Cries "Foull!" at Colorado State Park Policy

An RVer with a motorhome and a "toad car," visiting Colorado's Cherry Creek State Park feels the state discriminates against motorhome owners. On pulling into the state park, the RVer was charged--in addition to his \$22 per night campsite fee--\$7 for his motorhome and \$7 for his towed car. These latter two charges are assessed "gate fees," charged for entering the park. At the

eyes when your imagination is out of focus."
-- Mark Twain



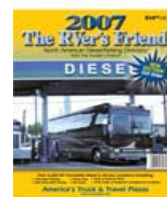
"To avoid criticism do nothing, say nothing, be nothing."
-- Elbert Hubbard



"To be a champ you have to believe in yourself when nobody else will."
-- Sugar Ray Robinson



"Take time every day to do something silly." -- Philpa Walker



"The most thoroughly wasted of all days is that on which one has not laughed." -- Nicolas de Chamfort

trailer or fifth wheel would only be hit with a single \$7 gate fee. Feeling a bit nettled, and in his view, discriminated against, the RVer wrote to our parent website, RVTRAVEL.COM

Our diligent research elves put in a call to the rangers at Cherry Creek. They cheerfully told us, indeed, since the vehicle pulled by the motorhome was a *motorized* vehicle, there would be an additional gate fee; at the same time since the trailer wasn't motorized, there would be no additional charge. We decided to 'give the dog another bite,' so we checked with the home office. A slightly different version of the tale was related by the agency's public information officer, Clare Sinacori.

Ms. Sinacori told *RVs in the News* that if the toad car remained hitched to the motorhome, then only one gate fee would be charged--that for the motorhome. We explained that in the "real world," it was highly unlikely a motorhome could be backed into a campsite with a towed car in place. "That would be fine," we were told, "As long as once you were settled, the towed car is hooked back up to the motorhome and isn't used."

Having never visited Cherry Creek, but drawing on our experiences at other state parks around the country, the likelihood of hitching the toad back up to the motorhome once it was "settled," is pretty unlikely. The typical design of campsites would likely not allow for maneuvering the car back around behind a parked motorhome, at least not without driving off onto "sacred" non-paved ground. If that is the case in reality, then RVers, prepare to pay more for the privilege of bringing your toad car with you to Colorado State Parks.



Why such a stringent policy? It may lie with the fact that Colorado legislature reduced its park system's share of general funds by \$750,000 for the current biennium. As a result, in the park system's own words, it has, "increasingly focused on cash generation." At \$7 per day, per "motorized vehicle," "cash generation" falls primarily to the wallets of motorhome owners.

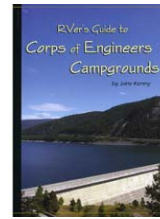
Labels: [double standards](#), [government](#), [motorhomes](#), [park fees](#), [RV Walmart Colorado](#), [toad cars](#), [towed cars](#)

posted by Russ and Tiña De Maris at [6/29/2007 03:23:00 PM](#) | [23 comments](#)

Thursday, June 28, 2007

Danger warning on cheap Chinese tires

Nearly a half million tires manufactured in China may be rolling time bombs on light trucks and some RV recreational vehicles. A lawsuit filed in June blames cheap Chinese tires for a fatal Pennsylvania traffic accident. The suit says tread separation caused a cargo van carrying four passengers to crash, killing two passengers and injuring the other two.



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In June, Foreign Tire Sales appealed to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) for aid in recalling an estimated 450,000 light truck tires sold under the names Westlake, Telluride, Compass and YKS after the company allegedly learned that the manufacturer, the Hangzhou Zhongce Rubber Company, had left a critical component out of the tire.

FTS said an unknown number of the tires it sold were made without a safety feature called a gum strip which helps bind the belts of a tire to each other, the company said in a filing to the NHTSA. Some of the tires had a gum strip about half the 0.6 millimeter width that FTS expected, it said.

Foreign Tire Sales said the tires could suffer tread separation, a problem that led to the nation's largest tire recall in 2000 when more than 14 million Firestone tires were recalled for a similar problem.

But the number of defective tires could be much higher because Hangzhou has refused to specifically identify by Tire Identification Number.

The Hangzhou tires join tainted pet food, lead-coated children's toys and toxic toothpaste as some of the latest Chinese imports deemed hazardous to American consumers. According to the New York Times, Chinese products now account for 60 percent of all product recalls today.

After a fatal May crash of an ambulance, FTS said it removed tires from other ambulances and found insufficient or missing gum strips on tires manufactured by Hangzhou in 2004 and 2005. In September 2006, Hangzhou finally admitted to FTS that it had reduced or omitted the gum strip from an unspecified number of tires, FTS alleges.

But Hangzhou officials told FTS that in January 2006 it began to reintroduce some amount of the gum strip back into the tires. In March 2007, FTS did further testing and analysis on Hangzhou tires and found that they experienced tread/belt separations at 25,000 miles.

"These tires could pose an immediate danger to consumers and should be removed," said Sean E. Kane, president of Safety Research & Strategies, a safety advocacy and consulting firm that has been pushing for tougher tire safety standards.

While this is not a complete list, consumers should be on the lookout for steel-belted radial light truck tires sold under the names Westlake, Telluride, Compass and YKS in the following sizes:

- LT235/75R-15
- LT225/75R-16
- LT235/85R-16
- LT245/75R-16
- LT265/75R-16 and
- LT3X10.5-15

posted by Chuck Woodbury at [6/28/2007 09:07:00 PM](#) | [13 comments](#)

RVtravel.com editor Chuck Woodbury will appear on the Travel Show with Arthur Frommer on Sunday, July 1. The show airs from Noon to 2 p.m., EST, on radio stations across the USA. Woodbury's segment in which he talks about the popularity of RVing with Pauline Frommer will most likely be in the show's second hour between 1 and 2 p.m. The Travel Show can be listened to live at the website of New York City's [WOR-AM](#).

Arthur Frommer is generally acknowledged to be the nation's foremost authority on travel. Guidebooks containing the Frommer's Travel name account for nearly 25 percent of all travel books sold.

posted by Chuck Woodbury at [6/28/2007 04:20:00 PM](#) | [0 comments](#)

Friday, June 22, 2007

Newspaper Columnist Blogs and Flogs RV Cross Country

Dawn Witlin as a newspaper journalist used to cover crime on the east coast. She gave it up, and it appears by the paper trail she's left behind, her life is a lot more interesting now.

Dawn and husband Curt decided to leave the east and head west, looking for jobs, education, and cheaper housing. Their way out? A 1983 Class-C motorhome they bought for \$3,500. The plan was to make their way west to Seattle, and blog about their experiences in the *Boston Herald*. It didn't take long for Dawn to develop material for the new blog--a day on the road, and the motorhome, "sputtered, stalled and lurched to a halt." We all know the saga: There's just no adventure like one on the road.

In addition to her blog, Dawn's been tasked to do a weekly column for the *Herald*. We 'dialed up' the paper's website: Woops, sorry, this week's feature isn't available--apparently the motorhome is in non-cooperational mode, the column didn't make it, and if anybody has any suggestions on fixing leaky RV plumbing, please send e-mail. Yep, life is a lot more interesting in an old RV than covering the crime beat. [Check out the opening gambit for Dawn Witlin's saga here.](#)



Photo from the *Boston Herald*

Labels: [blogs](#), [Boston Herald](#), [rv blogs](#)

posted by Russ and Tiña De Maris at [6/22/2007 10:12:00 AM](#) | [2 comments](#)