



RV Education 101 Presents

## ***The RV Book***

Your Personal Guide to Understanding and Enjoying your RV

Take an RV tour with Mark Polk and get all of your questions answered

- What is an RV?
  - RV Terminology
  - Selecting your RV
  - Buying your RV
  - Using your RV
  - Maintaining your RV
  - Weighing your RV
  - Winterizing your RV
  - Storing your RV
  - RV Towing
  - RV Safety
- ...and everything in between

By Mark J. Polk

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## Chapter 2

# RV Terminology

When you work in the RV Industry and around RVs almost everyday you take some things for granted. One of those things is RV terminology. When you hear these terms everyday you just assume that everybody else understands them. Before we go any further there are some RV terms that you should be familiar with. If you hear or read an RV term that you don't understand you can come back here and find out exactly what it means.....

## Chapter 3

# Before you Buy

Before you go out and purchase an RV, there are many things to consider and many things to learn. This section covers everything you need to know if you are thinking about buying a towable RV.

### **Precious Cargo**

Just the thought of towing a thirty foot long, three ton trailer down the Interstate can be somewhat intimidating, not to mention dangerous if it's not done properly. The last thing we want to do is to put anybody in harms way. So, whether you have already purchased an RV, or you are thinking about it, let's talk about some things you need to know before you tow.



## **Tow Vehicle Capacity**

If you already have the vehicle that you plan to tow with, you need to find a trailer that is within the weight range of your vehicle. This was a common problem I ran into during my days as an RV Sales Manager. Customers would come in to purchase a travel trailer only to find out that their tow vehicle did not have a very good tow rating. It can be extremely frustrating to go out and find the perfect travel trailer or fifth wheel and then be told that you can't tow it. On the other hand it can be worse if you go to a less reputable RV dealer and the sales person tells you that you can tow it! This happens every day, and this is why you need to be armed with the right information before you buy.

It is not my intention to upset any RV dealers, but if you go to a dealership and they don't ask you for information about the tow vehicle it would be wise to go elsewhere. The first question my salespeople were required to ask was....

## **Chapter 4**

# **S**electing and Buying Your RV

### **Which RV Type is Right for You?**

Now that you have a better understanding of the types of RV's, you need to decide which type is right for you. I pointed out a few pros and cons to help guide your decision, but there are many other things you must consider too....

➤ **Is the A/C ducted throughout the unit? If not, will it cool the entire unit?**

RV air conditioners are mounted on the roof of the RV. Some RV's are cooled from one central location where the A/C comes through the roof. Other RV's have A/C ducting between the ceiling and roof of the RV, with vents in all or most of the rooms in the RV. Some larger RV's have two roof mounted air conditioners. If the RV is cooled from one central location will it cool the entire RV? This is not a problem with pop-ups or a smaller RV, but it can be with larger RV's. Keep in mind that doors may be closed at times making it even more difficult to cool the RV without ducting.

**Note:** Some RVs are now manufactured with air conditioners below the floor, in a storage unit. RV consumers should be aware of, and test RV's that may have this type of A/C unit. These are appearing more as manufacturers raise the interior height of motorhomes, and a roof top AC could put the total height over 14 feet.

## **LP Gas**

LP gas is portable, safe when handled properly and it's very efficient, so it only makes sense that it is used in RVs. I mentioned a moment ago that LP gas is compressed in a liquid state and stored in containers. Because of the amount of pressure involved, the containers are manufactured under very stringent codes....

Regardless of the type, all LP gas containers are only filled to 80% of their capacity to allow for expansion when the temperature around the container rises. LP gas cylinders are equipped with



Overfill Protection Devices or OPD valves to prevent them from being overfilled. LP gas can be measured in weight or in gallons. You may have

heard somebody say that the gas cylinders on their travel trailer are 30 lb. cylinders, or they may say their cylinders hold 7 gallons apiece. One gallon of LP gas weighs 4.26 pounds....

## Chapter 9

### **W**eighing your RV

Portions of this chapter are excerpts, courtesy of the Recreation Vehicle Safety Education Foundation (RVSEF) & Bridgestone/Firestone North American Tire.

Understanding RV weight issues can be confusing. I want to assist you in making your RV travel safe by understanding and managing your vehicle weights. Remember, getting to your favorite destination safely is half the fun.

Weighing your RV can be the difference between a safe, enjoyable trip and a costly, disastrous trip....

## Chapter 10

### **G**etting there Safely

Forty thousand people in the United States die each year on the road! This would be a good time to discuss getting to your RV travel destination safely. Getting there can be half the fun, as the saying goes, if you take a few precautions to make your trip safe....

## Chapter 13

# RV Preventive Maintenance

### Types of Maintenance

It doesn't matter whether you own a pop-up or a diesel pusher, when you made the decision to purchase an RV it was a major investment. Like any other major investment there are certain things we must do to protect our investment so we can enjoy it. Your RV needs to be maintained just like your house and automobiles need to be maintained. There are three basic types of maintenance for your RV: preventive maintenance, scheduled maintenance and emergency maintenance....

## Chapter 14

# W Winterizing & Storing Your RV

### Winterizing your RV

When winter approaches it is a time to make some decisions. If you live in a climate where temperatures drop below freezing you need to protect your RV water system from getting damaged. Parking the RV for winter will require some preventive measures so it will be ready to use next spring. You'll also be glad you did it when you don't have costly repair bills due to the damaging results of winter....



## Chapter 15

### **S**pring Preparation

Your RV has been sitting idle over the winter. Now the early signs of spring are here and it's time to take it out of storage and prepare the coach and chassis for this years camping season. If you're like me, you want to have some type of logical sequence to follow rather than haphazardly checking the unit out. I made a simple checklist to use so that nothing is overlooked....

### **Summer Camping Tips**

As summer approaches it not only means prime travel season is upon us, but so is the heat. If you ever walked inside an RV that is sitting in the direct sunlight on a hot summer day you know what I mean. Fortunately there are some things we can do to make our summer RV camping trips more pleasurable.....

### **A** Collection of RV Tips

In conclusion, I wanted to include some basic RV tips....

# Epiogue

Well, if you got this far you must have finished “The RV Book.” My goal with RV Education 101 and “The RV Book” is to help make all of your RV experiences safe, fun and stress free. We purchase RV’s so we can travel to new destinations, relax and build lasting memories with our family and friends. We want to get away from work, the phone calls and other day-to-day hassles. RV’s give us the freedom to go wherever we want, whenever we want. But, nothing will ruin a trip or a vacation quicker than not understanding how to properly use and maintain your RV.

Whether you own an RV now, or you are getting ready to purchase one in the future, I hope that reading “The RV Book” made you feel more comfortable about using an RV. I tried to touch on all aspects of RV ownership; from selecting the right RV to setting it up at your favorite campground. In an attempt to make your RV experiences even more enjoyable we offer a complete line of RV training videos. Sometimes it’s easier to understand how things operate if we can visually see it, and you can watch it as many times as you want, or need to. I am including an order form at the back of the book with all of our current titles. You can go to **[www.rveducation101.com](http://www.rveducation101.com)** for more information about our company and our products.

Thanks for purchasing “The RV Book” and happy camping,

*Mark J. Polk*

