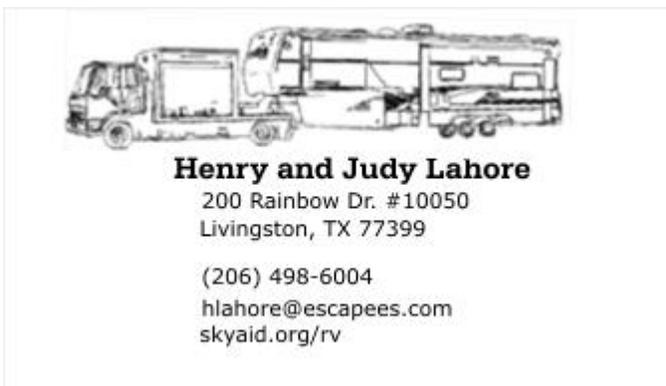


[Henry](#) and Judy Lahore have been Full Timing in a [Teton Homes](#) 36' recreational vehicle since May 2002. **This is just a portion of our web site at www.skyaid.org/rv**



Teton RV and Isuzu truck Finally made a transfer of this image onto two T shirts April 2006



= 'retirement' card

2007

Henry's TOP10 fulltime RV tips: Aug 2007

After 5 years of full time RVing and writing 50 of so pages of notes on this website I realized that I should highlight the important things – so here they are.

1) Join the **Escapees RV Club** and plan years ahead and put your name on an Escapees Co-op lot to be used 1-10 years in your future.

Escapees allow you to lease a lot to live in your RV for a cost which is about 1/10 that of commercial facilities in some areas of WA, OR, CA, AZ, TX and FL. To put your name on an Escapees park list you just have to put down a \$1,000 deposit which will be returned to you if you change your mind. When your number finally comes up, 2 to 120 months later, you put down an additional \$5,000 to \$20,000 (depends on the specific park) to lease the lot for as long as you want. You get your money back when you give up your lease. www.escapees.com

2) **Life on Wheels** provides an excellent 1 week introduction to the RV lifestyle. If you have not been RVing much before this I would say that you **MUST** go to Life On Wheels. It is also a good idea to attend LOW if you are just thinking seriously about full time RVing, before taking the plunge. [notes on what you might learn are here](#) www.rvlifeonwheels.com

- 3) If you are not used to driving big rigs it is essential that you take one or two **RV driving classes**. A short course in RV driving is offered at Life on Wheels and at most RV rallies.
- 4) As soon as one of you is at least 60.5 years old you can get the best bargain of your life – a lifetime pass to all of the National Parks and many other NPS facilities as well as half-price overnight camping in NPS, for just \$10 = **golden age passport**.
- 5) **Passport America** is one of the best deals for short-term, low-cost RV camping. For \$50 a year or less you can get 1-3 nights of ½ price camping at thousands of locations in the US and Canada. Generally Passport America locations are not available on holidays or weekends [details on memberships here](#)
- 6) Buy the **US Atlas** from any Wal-Mart at about \$5 (½ price). It has Wal-Mart and SamClub locations in addition to the excellent road maps – updated yearly.
- 7) Buy a **Trailer Life** directory of RV parks – available at most RV stores. You can get it at a discount if you join Good Sam RV club, which also gets you a 10% discount at many RV parks
- 9) If you have a computer, buy an **electronic mapping** program, such as Microsoft Streets and Trips then import batches of RV important locations (Passport America, AOR, RPI, Coast to Coast, Western Horizons, Wal-Mart, Wal-Mart which prohibit RV parking, Costco, Casinos, Low clearance, RV parking for Moose Lodge or Elks Club members, etc.) from the internet. Probably takes less than 1 minute to import each category of locations. [Map examples](#) [icon details here](#)
- 10) Buy a cell phone and an external antenna and have a contract which provides free roaming for all areas that you want to travel. [details here](#)

Replaced our 5 year old mattress with a **memory foam mattress** (custom shape, \$1200). Great sleep. Costco and Wal-Mart have memory foam toppers in different thicknesses and sizes: Wal-Mart 4" twin memory foam topper is just \$90

Fluorescent light ballast burned out. Cost over \$30 to replace the fixture. Was told that this happens when batteries float above 13 volts (virtually all RVs). I have now added a resistor for each fixture which drops the voltage by 3/4 of a volt - I anticipate that it will add 5+ years to the life of the remaining ballasts.

Joshua Tree National Park in SE California. The Jumbo Rocks campground is GREAT and only \$2.50/day with Golden Age Card

Click [HERE](#) for a slideshow we put together of our pictures - of the Zen-like environment. Large = 18MBytes WMV format plays with MicroSoft Media Player, RealPlayer, etc

DryzAir - white crystals which adsorb lots of water - from truck, from books (eliminating mildew), etc.



Used safety pins to create **laptop pockets** for the sides of our recliner chairs. Excellent way to keep the laptops off of the floor and tables

Attended Escapees Boomers Rally in Quartzite - Jan 2007. About 170 rigs signed in. Distributed about 30 copies of "my favorite RV links. See [RV links](#)

Presented a discussion on [Boomeritis](#) - which was a take-off on a Dec 2006 NY Times article



Added an external cellphone antenna.

Antenna and adapter for the cellphone cost about \$30 and really brings in the signal

Search for a supplier in Froogle: wilson magnetic antenna

It is much better than the window-mounted antenna also made by Wilson.

It is designed to operate on metal - it needs the 'ground plane'

Many suppliers offer a metal disk for several dollars which is glued to the roof of an RV to simulate a ground plane



Kipor gas generator 2200 watt - works great.

Cost \$400 used

You can [run a single air conditioner](#) (click for details) on 20A or perhaps even a 15A circuit. A SPP8E 200uF capacitor from SUPCO allowed up to start and run air conditioner on Kipor 2200 watt gas generator



Added shelving to hold tote boxes in Isuzu truck. Works great. Very easy to get to any tote box now

Have now heard of problems from 3+ owners of Tetons made after 2003. Apparently there was a big change in ownership, management, and employees and subsequent decrease in quality

2006 Fall

Enjoying **towels** which hold **15 times their weight in water**.

We able to dry our ourselves and the shower stall then wring most of the water out of the towel.

Many suppliers offer this. We got 3 big towels for \$11.50, including shipping, from www.ferret.com

You can [run a single air conditioner](#) (click for details) on 20A or perhaps even a 15A circuit.

Will be trying to run air conditioner on new gas generator after adding a capacitor for starting

<http://find.mapmuse.com/re1/mmHomeBrands.php> Maps of locations of over 1,000 chain stores, RV parks, Golf courses, US Post Offices, etc. etc. Need high speed internet connection

Travels thru **hardwater** regions in the Southwest fall 2006 were not a problem - the very low cost [de-ionization cartridge](#) worked very well.

Google does much more than search. [Here are the functions that I use regularly.](#)

This previous list is a subset of the [Google functions listed on wikipedia.](#)

Be sure to check out the Google free Accelerator - it speeds up surfing by about 2.5X - modem, DSL, WiFi, etc.



Judy wrote and directed a farce for the Coho Escapee RV Park in Washington State. It had about 15 speaking characters.

Everyone could read their scripts - no memorization. It was a lot of fun for everyone.

We video taped the presentation to a packed house on Aug 2, 2006.

We made a bunch of DVDs after purchasing Photoshop Premier and a DVD burner

You can see the 1 hour farce for free on Google Video - just search for "**Coho Murders**" You will need a high speed connection to download it

Hawking Hi-Gain WiFi dish antenna: HWU8DD: works much further than the WiFi in the Dell laptop. 8db gain We often are able to surf the internet from our RV while 300 feet from the nearest WiFi antenna.

many suppliers cost less than \$60

<http://www.hawkingtech.com/products/productlist.php?CatID=32&FamID=60&ProdID=280>

Photo update: We love our new Panasonic TZ1 digital camera [click here for details](#)

We are trying out High Dynamic Range (HDR) photos.

- which allow capturing scenes which have both light and dark sections of interest such as a cliff in shadows along with the details in the clouds

we are using free demo software from Photomatrix - will probably buy it later this year.

You can see some nice HDR photos at www.flickr.com just search for tags of HDR or Photomatrix
Photoshop Elements Version 5.0 is coming out Oct 6 - we may upgrade from our version 3.0

<http://www.cellreception.com/towers/index.html> Map of cellphone towers in a city

- via Google Maps so you need high-bandwidth connection to use it.

Stock prices, etc from Google via your cellphone for 5 cents each.

Send message to 46645 and content = stock ticker symbol

Get Dow Jones Average with 'symbol' = dji

[Here is an introduction to RVing](#) for people who "refuse to choose" or are "RENAISSANCE SOULS"

[Photos of Early 2006](#). - Including Redwoods and Oregon Coast, after attending Escapees Spring Rally

Best seen with full screen browser = F11 in Internet Explorer



Purchased a small folding white table.

It's ability to tilt provides great ergonomics when using a laptop computer in the recliner.

Added an under-counter light near the sink. Use it every day. Why did it take us 4 years to think of it?

Caulking: lap seal caulking is only 2X more expensive than silicone, but far-far better.

We leave a portable air cleaner on while driving - eliminates diesel smell when we go back into the RV.

Ignite stovetop with a small amount of propane. After 4 years of RVing we have just learned that the propane stove top burners (Atwood) ignite best with just a small amount of propane. (Too much propane flow does not allow for enough Oxygen needed for ignition) We had often had to click the piezo ignitor 10 times to start the burners before, now it ignites with just 1 or two clicks. Jan 06

[Nutritional Supplements and health](#) Started Jan 06, updated April 06

[Low Vision](#) - we purchased a large LCD monitor for my 93 year old father-in-law so that he can see the computer, TV and small print with his macular degeneration.

[Photos from Fall 2005](#)

Satellite Radio: Purchased XM radio kit from Costco for about \$75 and \$13/month subscription.

Costco Kit includes two antennas:

one antenna for vehicle (truck, auto) which has metal roof (ground plane) and

one antenna for use in on top of the RV - goes thru a few trees OK - much better than satellite TV signal

Also available at Camping World - unsure of antenna which they sell.

update April 2006 - its has been great. (We do not watch TV, and so have no satellite TV antenna).

XM Signal goes thru dry RV roof. When roof is wet we put the XM antenna in a plastic bag and throw it on top of the roof

Purchased 2 new laptops (Dell Inspiron 6000). Fall 2005
We have purchased over 20 computers during the past 28 years.
Happy to find out that Dell now offers a home/RV maintenance contract.

Have added yellow tape to stabilizer jacks and the jack handle to **increase visibility**.
No longer forget them when getting ready to leave.



RV Leaks can be detected by inflating the RV via the bathroom vent and putting bubble liquid on the suspected leak locations. The equipment was created by www.rvleaks.com and they list the service providers all around the US.



Indoor leg exercise just got easier - we bought the essence of an exercycle.
Available at many places: Wal-Mart, Target, etc. for surprising cost range of \$10 to \$50.
'Minicycle' (AKA "pedal exerciser") folds up very easily between uses
Mild exercise for when we can not ride on our tandem bike.
We have opened up the snap rings and added grease to
to eliminate it's squeaky annoying sound.



Life on Wheels (RV University) is now being also held in Tucson March 13 to March 17, 2006
We have decided that we do not need to go to LOW a 2nd time [Our notes from LOW in 2002](#)

CANADA May-Sept 2005

Seattle to Eastern Maritimes (Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, etc.), generally thru the US
Fuel prices seemed higher in the provinces than the states: check for yourself at <http://www.gasbuddy.com>
Tried to use SMS messaging (about 170 characters in a message) on our cellphone in digital areas
to keep in touch with stock market and friends while outside of Verizon coverage area.

but did not get anyone to send me SMS messages - they continued to call us via the cellphone
Finally Judy is old enough to buy by far the best deal for RVers- US Golden Age Park Pass only \$10 for
lifetime!

[Canada1](#) Photos May 17 to June 16

[Canada2](#) Photos PEI and Nova Scotia June 17 to July 9 - Burst photo mode was great for action photos - like
the eagle

[Canada3](#) Photos July 10 to Aug 5 Bay of Fundy, Birds, Niagara Falls, Circus Museum, exploding cars in an art
museum, Worlds Largest Bookstore, etc.

Discovered why there are fewer Canadian than US RV full timers

- health benefits are cut off if they are out of the area for more than 6 months of the year.

[Clippings from Canadian Govt](#) web sites describe that and other problems

Passport America worked out very well in Canada - paid for the membership in less than a month.

We were surprised by great Internet access in Canada - they subsidize a "Community Access Program"
which provides 100's of high speed public terminals in each province. **WiFi** also available - see link below
Canadian rough roads destroyed 2 tires on our 5th wheel and 1 on our truck

Canadians are very aware of their rough roads and high fuel costs.

We were unable to have our packages and magazines forwarded to Canada from the US - some new customs
restriction

Apparently can extend life of fluorescent lamps by about 30% by reversing them a couple times each year.

Updates on **analog** cellphones and cancer in our [communications page](#)

<http://www.rv.net/forum/index.cfm/fuseaction/thread/tid/14514727.cfm> **RV parks with Instant Phone or WiFi**

April 2005

<http://www.rv.net/forum> updates will be at this forum - probably just search for 'instant phone'

RV links updated Jan 2007

Favorites: distributed at Escapee Boomer Rally in Quartzite Arizona Jan 2007

<http://find.mapmuse.com/re1/mmHomeBrands.php> Interactive maps of over 1,300 chain stores, RV parks, Golf courses,..

www.discoveryowners.com/cginfo.htm has add-on files for Delorme and Microsoft Streets and Trips. includes icons for locations of Wal*Mart, Costco, Coast 2 Coast, RPI, Passport America, Thousand Trails, street clearances, Elks, Hot Springs, Casinos, and many many more

www.usroadconditions.com / Links for road conditions, snow, weather, etc. for every state.

www.hometownlocator.com 42,000 US towns. details include: census, demographic and income data, parks, schools, libraries, hospitals, airports, hotels, environmental conditions, local newspapers, media outlets, employment, maps, coordinates and aerial photos.

<http://weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/index.php> great graphical weather presentation

www.cellreception.com/towers/index.html Map of cellphone towers in a city - via Google Maps so you need high-bandwidth connection to use it.

www.gasbuddy.com Gas and Diesel prices. Has map of lowest prices to allow easy trip planning as to where to fill up

Dec 2004

<http://www.usroadconditions.com/> Links for road conditions, snow, weather, etc. for every state.

<http://weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/index.php> great graphical weather presentation

Sept 2004 update:

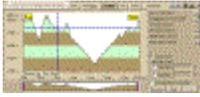
[Heart Inverter](#) has power sharing and allows battery to lose it's memory.

Our RV has a minimum of 100 watts power draw, so the Heart inverter can never idle *added 12/02, updated 12/04- replaced 2007*

We like using [portable electric heaters](#) to augment our propane RV heater

We have one electric heater over the bed and a more powerful one in the living room

Update: higher fuel costs have made electric heating more economical than propane so we are replacing the bedroom heater with a more powerful one *updated 12/04*



Hard Water - Low cost way to prevent hard water from "rotting the RV" added this file 12/04

The following are additional *tips* for RVing based on lessons learned **updated 05/05**

[Tips for any RV owner from Life On Wheels](#) 8 tips **see below**

[Other RV tips](#) 44 tips **see below**

[Any 5th wheel](#) 5 tips **updated Oct 2004 see below**

[Computers and RVs](#) 6 tips

[Digital Camera and RV](#) **updated July 2005**

[Communications while RVing](#) 5 tips **updated Oct 2004**

[Ideas for a late model Teton owner](#) 20 tips

[What they should tell a new Teton owner](#) 13 tips

[Highlights of our 2002 Teton order and why we selected Teton](#) 8 features and 9 "whys"
and what options we also should have bought



HP multifunction PSC 950 (printer-scanner-copier) continues to work well in the RV. It prints, scans and makes great color images in addition to reading and processing photo information from 3 types of media cards. Have not used FAX capability while in the RV since we have no phone connection. Continues to work great Fall 05. This model is not longer available, but

newer ones are smaller and lower cost. **Update Nov 2005 - HP's lowest cost Printer Scanner Copier is now just \$80**

Our cell phone service provider is **Verizon**:

Works well inside of our fiberglass walled Teton (very little metal).

Verizon appear to provide the best coverage of all cellphone providers

See [update](#) on Verizon

Mapping software from DeLorme, [Topo USA](#) 3.0 creates a profile of hills for anywhere in the US.

Click to see full size image

\$99 list price with 7 CDs or 1 DVD. **2006 version cost \$99 for all US on DVD or \$50 for 1/2 of US on CDs**
excellent for our bicycling

Version 4.0 no longer shows small roads in black.

Small Roads were so hard to see that we returned the 2004 version. 2006 portable version may be OK



We are now using Microsoft Streets and Trips as our primary e-map, and is the only one we can use in Canada Comparison of Streets and Trips to Topo USA

Microsoft has lots of detailed streets in Canada, but can only make one trip at a time
DeLorme allows multiple trips to be saved concurrently.

Rarely used DeLorme in 2005

so much easier to access Streets and Trips - no CD to find and insert

Streets and trips is augmented with the [locations of RV parks and Wal-Marts.](#)

My view of RV Memberships Additions May 2005

Full-Time RVers need to have park memberships to reduce the cost per night.

There are a wide variety of RV membership park organizations.

We bought memberships to Coast To Coast, RPI, Escapees, GoodSam, AOR, and Passport America. Another popular membership we have not purchased is Thousand Trails. Many RVers also belong to Elks Club - which had a great many RV facilities.

Membership prices vary widely.

The upfront cost for a membership to the same organization can cost anywhere from \$200 to \$5,000, depending on which 'home park' it is purchased from. Annual dues vary from \$69 to \$250.

The rules for each membership also vary widely

- reservations required/not required from central office
- nightly cost \$8 to \$10
- sometimes additional costs for pull thru, electricity, telephone, etc.
- maximum stay 1 week/2week/3week on/off season
- limitation on stays within 200 or so miles of 'home park' or your home address

Escapees is the only membership group that I am aware of which has a fixed low cost (\$60 first year, \$50 renewal) and allows very long stays in most of their co-op parks. We stayed for 2 months at their Coho park in western Washington for \$220 a month + electricity (approx \$70 during winter). They also permit dry camping for \$2.50 and nightly stays with full hook-ups for \$12 per night.

We have been on the waiting list to be a leaseholder for an Escapees lot in Washington State. **Became Escapees life time members in 2004**

We, like many RVers also make frequent single night use of **Wal Mart** parking lots. Although the stay is free, you would want to show appreciation by shopping at the Wal Mart while there. Many, but not all, Wal Marts encourage overnight stays by RVers. A database is kept of the Wal Marts which do not permit overnight parking. The database is available for only \$3 from <http://www.freecampgrounds.com/noparking.html>

RV Membership links

<http://directory.google.com/Top/Recreation/Outdoors/Camping/Memberships/?il=1> most RV membership parks

<http://www.rvnetlinx.com/htclubmember.php3> another comprehensive list of RV memberships

<http://www.coastresorts.com/index.cfm> Coast To Coast - **Dropped membership Fall 05 - many parks dropping it as well**

<http://www.resortparks.com> RPI 290 parks.

Changed their 125 miles rule Jan 06 - can not frequently use a park within 125 miles of your residence

<http://www.escapees.com/website/> Escapees **We became Escapees life time members in 2004**

<http://www.whresorts.com/aor/> AOR - a part of Western Horizon.

<http://www.goodsamclub.com/> GoodSam - !0% discount in nightly rate, 1600+ parks

<http://www.passport-america.com/> 50% off nightly rate. Good Canadian coverage. **Very low cost. We joined in April 2005**

<http://koa.com> Nice campgrounds, they give a modest discount if you buy a low-cost card. **Most KOA now have WiFi.**

Books we use while planning and driving- most of these are updated annually

Coast to Coast Resorts Directory includes Good Neighbor Parks **now have parks as icons on our e-map**

Resort Parks International **now have parks as icons on our e-map**

AOR Camping Guide **now have parks as icons on our e-map**

Trailer Life nice, rarely lists any membership campground, includes about 1800 Good Sam Club parks

the Next Exit - for diesel, food, Wal Marts, etc. near freeways ESSENTIAL

Woodall's - nice, rarely lists any membership campground

Tips for any RV owner from Life On Wheels

We attended a great RV school in June 2002: Life On Wheels (www.lifeonwheels.com). This is a week long summer school available at Universities in Idaho, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Iowa. My wife and I each took about seventeen of the over one hundred 90 minute classes. Tuition is under \$200 per person. RV parking with electrical and water was available at the Idaho location for \$130, which we needed for air conditioning in the 100 degree heat. Dry (hot) camping was available for \$35. The following are just a few of the ideas we learned at LOW.

Foam Fire Extinguisher is much better than Dry. A Life On Wheels excellent class dealt with RV fires. RV manufacturers are required by law to provide dry type extinguishers which emit corrosive and toxic material. Dry fire extinguishers (type B& C fires) are not designed for wood, fuel, or cloth type of fires, but the new foam (type A) is. His demonstration of the extinguishing capabilities of foam was very impressive. An 8A extinguisher is rated for 8 square feet of wood, fuel, or cloth type of fire. Foam has only recently become available for use in RVs. We immediately purchased 3 small (Hawk) and one large (Fire Out Foam by Kidde 8A, 70B) foam extinguishers for our RV and truck for about \$100.

Velcro glue can be removed with heat. Some Velcro products have glue backings. The Velcro glue residue can be removed by heat from a hair dryer.

Glued attachments which are designed to be removed 3M makes a neat set of glue hook attachments which are designed to not leave any residue. These cost \$2 to \$4 at Wal-Mart, Home Depot, etc. The 3M Command Adhesive comes in three sizes: small = 1/8 pound vertical, medium = 1/4 pound vertical, and large = 1/2 pound vertical. We use 3 large attachments to glue our multifunction printer down to the desktop.

Membership parks We have very cost effective memberships to Coast to Coast, Adventure Outdoor Resorts, and Resort Parks International. Our "home park" for all of them is Wind River View in Wyoming (307-537-5453) Please note: each RV membership park is unique, with different initial costs, annual costs, daily costs, reservation policies, maximum length of stay, minimum number of days between stays, distance from "home park", etc.

Keep turbo-charged diesels running for at least 30 seconds The turbo chargers on most diesel engines turn at about 150,000 rotations per minute. It is important that a turbo charger is not left without lubrication when it is hot. Therefore a diesel engine with a turbo charger should be running for at least 30 seconds under normal use. You should wait about 3 minutes after a hard pull (say uphill) before turning off the engine. If you should happen to have an exhaust temperature gauge, do not turn off engine until you see the exhaust temperature fall below 300 degrees.

BLM Boondocking You can boondock in all Bureau of Land Management Long Term Visitor Areas (BLM LTVA) with a \$100 permit for all year www.ST.BLM.GOV – where "ST" can be AZ, OR, CA, etc.

Truck wash chemicals probably remove wax from RV. Life on Wheels class on exterior care by Steven Scott of Valley RV Center indicated that Truck wash and other strong soaps were to be avoided. However, car wash soaps do not remove RV wax

RV suggestions not just 5th wheel

Level the RV for your comfort, not for the comfort of the refrigerator People waste effort leveling RVs for the refrigerator. Thirty years ago RV refrigerators which were not leveled would fail after a few months of operation. Now the coolant system in RV refrigerators no longer fails if the RV is not level. Non-level refrigerators are less efficient, but they do not fail.

Eliminate clothes falling while driving by reversing clothes hangers We found that rough roads would cause our clothes hangers to fall/jump off the rods in the rear closet. Just reversing the coat hangers, so that the hanger openings were in the direction of RV travel eliminated this problem.

Reduce driving fatigue I reduce driving fatigue by using ear plugs as well as sun glasses.

“Books on Tape” are nice to listen to while driving Books on Tape (or CD) are available **free from libraries** and can be rented from Flying J truck stops. Several internet companies also have “Books on tape” in MPEG format which can be downloaded. Downloadable audible files are not practical unless you have a fairly high speed internet download connection.

Make a night light We needed a toilet night light. I powered it from the 12volt wiring in the toilet wall. I purchased a bright (1600 mcd = 1.6 candle) LED from Radio Shack and wired it in series with two 250 ohm resistors to make a night light which constantly draws only 1/50 amp. Total cost was about \$3.00. I connected the two resistors near the 12 volt source so as to share the power dissipation and greatly reduce the chance of accidentally shorting the 12 volt source.

Mail forwarding There are a variety of local and national mail forwarding services available to RVers. We are using the biggest – Escapees www.escapees.com . We must call in at least one day before shipment. US mail is the cheapest forwarding method but typically takes 3-4 days. We have gotten into a habit of having the mail sent on Friday. It usually arrives on Monday while we are in the Western US, but 1 time in 10 it will not arrive until Tuesday , and 1 time in 30 it will not arrive until Wed. We suspect that the Wed arrival is due to the post office not actually getting shipment sent out of Texas until Monday.

Reduce engine failure by reducing cooling system cavitation Antifreeze used to have an additive to reduce engine cavitation. Engine cavitation can erode holes in the engine after many years. This was pointed out by Bill Farlow in his book “Professors Farlow’s Guide to RVing” Vol1 \$14 published 1998. A coolant additive which also reduces cavitation costs about \$5. It is only needed when flushing the coolant - once or twice a year.

A low cost source of RV toilet tissue The toilet tissue must pass the test of dissolving quickly in a glass of water. The single ply **Scott** toilet tissue is one which passes this test. See http://www.rvclub/rving_faq/rv_faq_tp.cfm Scott tissue is available at many Wal-Marts

You can reliably sense the level in the black and gray tanks

Our RV black tank sensing is apparently fairly typical, in that it is unreliable. Our black water monitor frequently indicates that the tank is partially full immediately after dumping as the sensing wires are easily coated. We are considering replacing the monitors at a cost of about \$125 with wireless monitors from www.catconproducts.com or <http://www.boatfix.com/elec/acugage.asp> . One model of Stud Finder nicely indicates the water level when slid up the wall of the tank. Zircon had 4 models at Home Depot. Their 2nd lowest cost model (\$20) Studsensor projects a nice red line and beeps to show the edge of the water (the edge of the water is a stud to the sensor)

Additions we have made 6 to 26 months after starting full timing.

Sears sells a nice **vacuum** for RV: small, low cost, fairly powerful, good CR rating, narrow enough head, quiet, no detectable dust out of bag, variable suction motor controlled at wand

Added resistors in series with 12 volt lights. This addition greatly reduced the rate at which the bulbs burned out. 1) reduces inrush current and 2) reduces the 13 volts down to the 12 volts that the bulbs are designed for.

Reduce AC power consumption by replacing many incandescent fixtures with [compact fluorescents](#)

Tinted windows block UV and heat in Teton and many other RVs– but absorb so much heat that the RV heats up. Our workaround to minimize heating up the RV and overtaxing the single air conditioner is putting aluminum foil shielding inside or outside of the RV

We also cleaned the roof which had gotten slightly gray after a year of dirt, rain, etc.

Electric blanket and portable electric heaters are nice and even heat when we use the inverter – after lobotomy of the electric blanket computer controller.

Changed keys for all of the outside compartments – many of the RVs on the road have the same exact keys for compartments.

Improved storage in closet with a [modified shoe shelf from Home Depot](#)

Marked the [top of polarized AC plugs](#) with white-out:

This allows easily which is the top side for plugging in various devices which do not have 3rd wire ground: portable heater, electric blanket, laptop chargers, cellphone chargers

Bought a “chop chop” thin transparent cutting sheet for kitchen. Stores easily in the narrow slot above the microwave.

Microfiber cleaning cloth is AMAZING. Helps cleaning all sorts of things: RV exterior, steering wheel, woodwork, ... It puts other rags to shame. You must buy at least one. I doubt that after trying microfiber you will limit yourself to just one. Lowest cost supplier appears to be Wal-Mart for about \$1 each.

TV antenna channel reception seemed strange until we finally realized that the TV has to “memorize” the channels at each new location.

[Sewer spill eliminator](#) was a great \$30 addition when our waste water valves ceased to operate after a year and it would cost us perhaps \$500 to repair since the valves are buried inside of our RV so as to not freeze at 0 degrees. The sewer spill eliminator and exposed pipe would probably freeze up now, but we have no expectation of being in such a cold area - we are snowbirds now. Now sold at Camping World

Use www.TouchOfOranges.com (wood wax: bees and carnoble) This product really restored the shine to the wood cabinets.

[Wireless thermometer](#) was a nice addition. Tells us the temperature under the RV. Battery lasts about 1 year.

The shower drain broke, as we were told would happen at some point. We replaced the broken drain pipe with a [rubber coupling](#). This stops the stress fractures generated by the shower bouncing differently than the plumbing while we drive down the road.

We reduce the rock and roll of RV if we are parked for more than a few days with 2 [bottle jacks](#)

END