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Twenty Years of Go RVing

By Phil Ingrassia, CAE, president

"How high is up?"

That was the question Tom Faludy, then of Carefree of Colorado, posed to the RV industry a little more than 20 years ago during the organizational meetings that would lead to the formation of Go RVing.

The RV industry had shipped about 250,000 new units to North American dealers in 1995 and 1996. In the 1970s, the industry had shipped roughly double those amounts. Of course, those '70s products were different, but still, many in the industry wondered what it would take to break through and push consumer demand to those levels once again.

The idea of a true national advertising campaign for RV travel, which had been kicking around for years, started to gain momentum.

After presentations by some of the best advertising agencies in the country, the industry rallied around the moniker of "Go RVing" and its initial theme: **Recreation Vehicles: Wherever You Go,**

You're Always at Home.

After months of intense discussion, the new unit assessment funding mechanism to pay for the national advertising program was approved by the RVIA and RVDA boards of directors. The associations formed Go RVing Inc., and it continues to be co-owned by both groups today.

Success has a thousand mothers and fathers, and that's certainly the case with Go RVing. The entire list of industry people who contributed to the outcome would fill this page. RVDA leaders like Tom Stinnett, Dan Pearson, the late Dave Altman, and former president Mike Molino were at the forefront of building dealer consensus.

On the manufacturer and supplier sides, Tom Corson of Coachmen, former RVIA president Dave Humphreys, and Tom Go RVing

"Throughout the year, you'll be hearing more about the 20th anniversary of Go RVing as well as new initiatives in store for the program."

Faludy carefully built the necessary support that would push the program over the top.

So, how high is up?

It's an unanswerable question. The most recent shipment estimate for 2017 is 472,200 units, and 487,200 units are forecast for next year. I know Tom Stinnett and Tom Faludy are smiling about those forecasts.

Go RVing is not the only reason for the industry's growth. An advertising and promotion campaign without great products, and great retailers to sell them, would fail. The entire industry has delivered on the promise of Go RVing themes like "Life's A Trip" and "Find Your Away."

Go RVing has evolved. From those early TV spots and magazine ads to the digital, social, and event-driven advertising and multi-faceted marketing communications program of today, Go RVing remains an important part of the industry's future.

Throughout the year, you'll be hearing more about the 20th anniversary of Go RVing as well as new initiatives in store for the program. It's fun to look back to see how far the industry has come, but it's more important to focus on the road ahead.

I hope you're having a great summer, and thanks for your support!



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RV Executive Today is published monthly by the Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association of America at 3930 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-2515. Periodicals postage paid at Fairfax, VA 22030 USPS No. 062450. Issued monthly to all RVDA members as a membership benefit paid for by their dues.

Postmaster please send address changes to: *RV Executive Today*, 3930 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-2515 *The annual subscription rate of \$30 is a part of membership dues.*

Editorial/Business Office:

3930 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-2515 Phone (703) 591-7130 FAX (703) 359-0152

RV Executive Today (ISSN #1088-873X) Volume 21, Issue 7

For advertising information contact: Julie Newhouse, marketing manager (703) 591-7130 x 103

Success Breeds Challenges for RV Industry

By Darrel Friesen, chairman



Some fantastic news came out for the RV industry last month - more than 470,000 units are projected to be produced in 2017, and the RVIA estimate for next year is a shade over 487,000.

While that's great news for manufacturers and dealers, it also exposes long-building issues: the need for more camp sites and for enhancements to customer support, especially in parts and warranty. It's hard to say which is the biggest challenge right now, but they could be termed problems 1 and 1A.

Campground capacity

The volume of new units entering the market is starting to exceed the inventory of campsites currently in existence in the private and public campground systems. Our own customers and

consumer websites tell tales of limited campground availability in many parts of the country. In some popular tourist areas, there aren't enough RV parks, and it can be hard to get a reservation if you can find one.

Many of the current public campgrounds were constructed during the Eisenhower Administration and need

maintenance and to be brought up to current standards. When these sites were constructed, officials never imagined the size and features of today's RVs. In addition to larger spaces with more hookups, today's campers require WiFi, not only for safety reasons, but also for access to social media. People want to be able to share the beauty of the great American outdoors and at the same time advocate for our lifestyle.

One way to modernize and increase the National Parks' campsite capacity is to create additional publicprivate partnerships on federal land. This is the path favored by the recently formed Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable, which includes RVDA and RVIA.

Last month, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke indicated that he was considering privatizing his department's

"The good news is that everyone seems to be working together for the common good. There's no time like the present to tackle the challenges that will affect our future."

> campgrounds to offset billions of dollars in deferred maintenance costs. It's an interesting idea. New partnerships could create revenue for the government while private businesses develop campsites that the public can use. A win-win proposition.

Parts issue



We also need to improve performance in parts and warranty support if we want to keep the new entrants to the RV industry happy and the growth continuing. Last winter, members of all segments of the industry met to address this subject and form a task force. Members decided to use the Six Sigma quality control process made famous by General Electric CEO Jack Welch to deter-

mine the strengths and weaknesses of the RV industry. This process includes gathering data to determine where in the parts supply process things are getting bogged down and what can be done to improve the interaction between dealers, suppliers, and manufacturers.

As a member of this working group, I am encouraged by the progress since we started, and we expect to have recommendations for all segments of the Industry in the next couple of months.

The good news is that everyone seems to be working together for the common good. There's no time like the present to tackle the challenges that will affect our future.



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Chairman

QUICKTAKES

Info For The Big Picture

Half of all small businesses in the United States feel the government doesn't do enough to support them, according to an annual survey conducted by Wasp Barcode Technologies. The survey, which was taken one week after the 2016 elections, shows that the smaller the company, the less satisfied the owner/manager is with the amount of support given to small business.

How Small Businesses Feel About the Federal Government

50% of all small business owner/managers think government doesn't do enough to support small business.

> don't want the government involved

> > 22%

Yes, government

does enough

15% Undecided 50% No, government doesn't do enough

Only 14% of businesses with 5 to 10 employees think the government does enough for small business, but 38% of those with 101 to 499 employees think the government does enough.

Impact of new president on small business growth:

Extremely negative

8%

Extremely positive **31%**

31% Positive 32%

11%

Negative

Neither negative nor positive

Pulling in a New Generation with Light-Weight

By Jeff Kurowski

The Millennial generation - people in their late teens to early 30s and Generation Xers - those in their early 30s through early 50s are becoming a bigger share of the outdoor enthusiast market, so RV manufacturers are designing more units that these consumers can afford and that appeal to their tastes. Here's a round-up of several new sub-brands and floor plans introduced by towable manufacturers this spring.

Reflection 150-Series by Grand Design

Grand Design RV Co. introduced in June the Reflection 150 Series of fifth wheels aimed directly at the huge segment of RVers who own, or plan to buy, a half-ton pickup. With dry weight starting at less than 7,000 pounds, Reflection 150 Series units can be towed by popular pickups such as Ford's F-150 series and the 150 series by Chevrolet, GMC, and RAM.

One of the key components of the Reflection 150 Series is its



turning point pin box, which allows for 90-degree turning radius capabilities without the need for a slider hitch, according to Micah Stanley, general manager for the Reflection series. This means the units can be pulled by extended cab/short box pickups.

"The 150 Series of fifth wheels targets a wider range of tow vehicles, giving more customers the opportunity to upgrade their RV without needing to upgrade their truck," Stanley says.

The first Reflection 150 Series model unveiled in June was the

spacious master

bedroom up front with a large panoramic window, a rear living area with a 38-inch-deep slide out, 72-inch theater seating, refrigerator access when the slide out is closed, four-season insulation, all-in-one utility center, 17-foot awning, laminated aluminum framing, and a gel-coated fiberglass exterior.

Prime Time Launches Ultralight Tracer Breeze

The Tracer Breeze is Prime Time Manufacturing's latest entry in the ultralight towable segment. "We've





Towable RV manufacturers aren't the only companies in the industry to introduce new products during the past few months. Renegade RV, which was acquired by REV Group last December, launched the Valencia Super-C motorhome built on the Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp. (FCCC) front-engine S2RV chassis, which is designed specifically for the RV industry. While towables builders are focusing this year on designing entry-level priced products to attract younger buyers, Renegade is sticking close to its roots by adding

Towables Attracting Millennial and Gen-X Buyers Is the Goal



struck the perfect balance of affordability for the budget-conscious family with a long list of features that will look impres-

sive pulling into the campground," says Tracer product manager Shane Miller.

"No Sacrifices" is the Tracer Breeze's motto. Starting at 3,900 pounds, the travel trailer is easy to tow and can be pulled by many of today's crossover and mid-sized SUVs. Features include frameless windows, LED lighted power awnings, heated and enclosed underbellies, and walk-on roofs. "Many of the items we've included with Breeze aren't typically found on products in its price range," Miller says.

Keystone Introduces Bullet Colt



The Bullet Colt travel trailer is Keystone RV Co.'s latest entry in the "luxury lightweight" market. Weighing

about 3,000 pounds and measuring 6 1/2-feet wide, the Colt was designed to satisfy the growing demand for easy-to-tow RVs that offer a full complement of features at a popular price, says Nick Sweazy, product manager.

Two floor plans, both 20 feet long, were brought out in June, with more models to come later this summer. All feature a fully equipped kitchen with a flushmounted covered range, convection microwave, gas/electric refrigerator, and U-shaped dinette in the slide-out that converts into a bed. Other interior features include a queen size bed and a tinted window at the front of the coach, a 24-inch TV, and roof-mounted A/C.

Sweazy says that the Colt should appeal not only to first-time buyers, but also to campers seeking adventure in out-of-the-way

places, since the trailer is smaller and more maneuverable. It can be pulled by many vehicles without the use of mirror extenders, he adds.

Gulf Stream Vintage Cruiser Adds Two Bunk Bed Floor Plans

Gulf Stream Coach Inc. in May released two new Vintage Cruiser floor plans – the 19BFD and 23BHS,

continued on page 10

Renegade Intros Valencia Super-C

another high-end motor coach to its lineup. "We believe the Valencia will turn heads and will usher in a new era of luxury motor coaches in the market," says Kevin Erdman, Renegade's director of sales and marketing.

"We saw the need for a high-end 'Super C' motor coach that offered all the amenities and features Renegade is known for," says Jim Jacobs, president of Decatur, IN-based REV Recreation Group. "This is a high-end product that falls at a price point that offers consumers a real value."

Not long ago, all Class C motorhomes were powered by gasoline engines, while diesel power plants were found only in Class A motorhomes. FCCC's S2RV chassis is powered by a Cummins ISB 360-hp diesel engine with 800 lb. ft. of torque and has a 12,000pound towing capacity.

The Valencia is offered in two floor plans - the 38BB and the 38VRW. The 38BB offers a spacious living area and large bunk beds, while the 38VRW offers a large living area up front with a spacious master suite at the rear of the coach. The new 'Super C' model has "all of the high-end features that Renegade owners have grown to expect, like solid-



By Jeff Kurowski

cherry cabinets, high towing capacity, large fuel capacity, air-ride seating for driver and passenger, and adult size bunks," Erdman says.



Gulf Stream Vintage Cruiser continued...





Gulf Stream Vintage Cruiser

both of which feature two rear bunk beds for RVers with families. The 22foot 19BFD and 26-foot 23BHS both include a full dry bath, galley-style kitchen with stainless steel appliances, a roomy dinette, and a fullsize Murphy bed. The 23 BHS also features a single slide out and sofa.

"The new floor plans come in direct response to numerous suggestions we've heard at RV shows, dealer open house events, and other retail activities," says Tim Dennig, national sales manager for Gulf Stream's lightweight division. RV-savvy couples love the Vintage Cruiser, but we've discovered that families do too, whether or not they've ever been camping before. We're excited about bringing the

Vintage Cruiser experience to that huge family market."

The two new floor plans also include welded aluminum frames,

laminated fiberglass sidewalls, Azdel synthetic wall substrate (which replaces wood in sidewalls), and one-piece fiberglass roofs.

Highland Ridge Launches New Ultra-Lite Floor Plan

The Highland Ridge Ultra-Lite floor plan UL2510BH launched in late May, weighs around 5,300 pounds, and sleeps up to eight family members. The new trailer model, built by a unit of Jayco Inc., also

features a full-sized bathroom, large pass-through storage (including bicycle storage), chef's kitchen, bunk bed sleeping for four, and a private master bedroom with a walk-around queen bed. Highland Ridge engineers and product designers focused on creating a floor plan for a compact and lightweight trailer, while still providing the comfort and storage space normally found in much larger and heavier units, says Marc Hauser, vice president of Jayco's towable divisions.





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Finding and Grooming a Sales

" I'd rather find the right person with the right culture fit and set of values and ethics and then train them. If they also have RV experience, well, that's just a plus."

- Debbie Brunoforte

sk dealers how they identify someone with potential sales manager qualities and their answers tend to be a variation of "I know it when I see it." These candidates show through their work habits that they have the right sales and people skills and are a good fit with the dealership culture.

Though they have certain traits in common, good sales managers can come from radically different sources. Most dealers grow their own when

possible and look outside when necessary, sometimes far afield.

Dealer Debbie Brunoforte offers a career ladder at Little Dealer, Little Prices, Mesa, AZ, so employees can continue to move up. She looks first within the ranks when she needs a new manager, and three of her current six sales managers came from the sales staff. But the other three came from outside the company and didn't even have RV experience.

"One was from the auto industry, but the other two were from completely different indus-



tries," she says. "But they were the right people, and they had managerial experience. I'd rather find the right person with the right culture fit and set of values and ethics and then train them. If they also have RV experience, well, that's just a plus."

That certain something

More important than where the person comes from is whether he or she has the right qualities. For Brunoforte, that means someone who fits well with her group and "who has our

Most Common Sales Objections (and How to Respond)

Sales managers say they've heard these a million times:

- "I need to go think about it." People "tend to be cautious," says sales manager Joe Hendrickson of Stoltzfus RVs & Marine, West Chester, PA, "but with today's hot market, if you don't buy it today you really may lose the opportunity, and it could take 12 weeks to order another unit. And we're running out of used inventory, so the situation is amplified in that market segment. This explanation sways a lot of people."
- "This is the first place we've gone, and we need to look around more."
 "I tell them, 'I've got the number one selection in the area, so why would

you want to waste your time going to look at the second best selection?'" says Pat Fitzgerald, sales manager at Byerly RV Center, St. Louis.

- "I have to make sure it'll fit in my driveway and that my tow vehicle will pull it." "I can help them with all of those objections," says Fitzgerald. "I tell them, 'If you're unsure about your driveway, we'll get out the tape measure and make sure the unit will fit.'"
- There's a stalemate. "Maybe they're waffling on the floor plan or want to look for financing," says Hendrickson. "There may be a specific reason that's hanging them up, and you just haven't figured out



what exactly it is. And that's where a second person can sometimes step in and help identify the problem – maybe the customer is actually looking at the wrong unit."

Manager By Mary Anne Shreve

principles of caring service, empathy, compassion, a high degree of personal integrity, and a desire for continual improvement."

General manager Joey Shields of Pan Pacific RV Centers, Sacramento, CA, has tapped sales managers from within and without the dealership, although two of the current three managers are family members and the third was groomed from within. "I've also hired from outside the industry, from within family, and from other dealerships," he says. "We look for character first, and from there we can groom just about anyone." If the person follows the sales department's detailed processes, "they should be successful."

The benefits of hiring from within are numerous, says Michael Rees, president, A World of Training. Promoting one person lifts everyone's morale by showing there are rewards for doing well and a career path for those who want to advance at the dealership. And of course, the promoted employee is already familiar with the dealership's processes and surroundings and doesn't have to be retrained. "I'd almost rather choose an inside employee even if the person isn't quite ready," Rees says.

Look for the standouts

To find a potential manager, Brunoforte looks among her staffers for individuals who are already exhibiting leadership. In her service department, for example, one of the technicians was a natural leader and magnet during the training sessions, so she put him in charge of all classroom training.

Some other things to watch for when assessing an individual's potential, says Rees: Do other staffers go to that person to ask for help instead of going to the manager? How does the person react - does he help others? How well is he doing his own job? Does he already act like a manager?

"These are the people who present themselves well," says Rees. "They show up regularly, they look good every day, they're proud to be at the dealership, they get in early and stay late without pay. If you see a person doing these things and enjoying it, let's take it a step further if a management opportunity becomes available."

The best choice for manager isn't necessarily the dealership's best salesperson. Those individuals don't always want to step up, says Rees. "They're too busy selling and are all out for themselves, they're too busy to help other people."

Not only are the required skills different, notes Brunoforte, but "if you make your top salesperson a manager, you're losing your best salesperson, and you have to take that into consideration."

continued on page 14

A Consultant's Best Tip for Sales Managers

ccept the fact that salespeople need constant guidance, says Michael Rees, president of A World of Training. "I'm always hearing, 'I didn't sign up to be a babysitter.' Yes, you did. You just didn't know it." Managers must repeat instructions daily – accept that reality instead of fighting it.



"Training is repetitive, it's ongoing," says Rees. "It's like lifting weights. You can spend six months training to bench press 275 pounds and then, if you don't practice for 10 days, you can no longer lift that weight. Training isn't something you've done – it's something you do."

To keep the training process in place, take 10 or 15 minutes every day to role play. "Pick a topic and work on it," says Rees. "Then do another topic, then go back to the first topic again."



*Per dealer location. Prices available with dealer contract. Call for details.

continued from page 13

Also, not everyone wants to be promoted. Brunoforte has offered the position to individuals who turned her down. "Some people like what they're doing," she says. And not everyone wants to take a pay cut, even if it's for a long-range goal. "It's no mystery why someone might not want to be a manager," says Shields. "It's 'Welcome to management – now you have more work for less money.'" The key is to help them understand that the path they're on is bigger than where they stand at the moment.

Give them what they need to succeed

Helping a salesperson move into management "can be difficult," says Shields. "That's where our process comes into play. As long as the person follows the process, they can still be a good manager. But they have to be able to lead many versus just leading themselves."

Shields and the dealership's general managers train candidates by spending a lot of "seat time" with them, grooming them to be able to take customers from the meet-and-greet all the way to the close.

New managers get daily coaching at Little Dealer, Little Prices, says Brunoforte, who emphasizes the necessity of training. She recalls an employee who asked to become manager of his department, "and we gave the position to him and we should not have. We put the person in a position he wasn't prepared for. The skills that made him very good at his job were very different from those needed to be a manager. That was our mistake." She ultimately lost the employee, whose pride wouldn't allow himself to return to his previous position.

And since managers, in turn, need to be able to inspire and coach their sales people, "that's why you go to RVDA's convention and to 20 Groups – to always be seeking that next good idea, ideas that have stood the test of time and that can be implemented at my dealership."

Getting the team onboard

A new sales manager's biggest fear is "working with his colleagues in a different way," says Rees. "Now he's asking them to do things – how are they going to react? Are they going to push back? Especially if the other salespeople have been there longer. The manager is wondering, 'How do I act with people who used to be my peers?' "

And what if salespeople are resentful of their colleague's promotion? "You have to find a way to help them realize that the new manager can help them sell more," says Rees. "Let the other salespeople come to realize they can use his skill set to sell more to their customers. Once that new manager shows them, 'I'm here to help,' they'll understand, especially when they know he's taking a pay cut to do it."

Shields says he's not had problems with resentment from colleagues. "With our process, there's a rank and file, and employees respect the office. That's a culture thing here. They recognize who should be a manager, and they respect it."

Sales Managers' Biggest Challenges?

Here's what sales managers say are the hardest parts of their job:

Keeping up with product knowledge and highly educated consumers

Between today's more complex products and customers who have already done extensive research online, today's sales process "is at a totally different level," says Joe Hendrickson, sales manager, Stoltzfus RVs & Marine.

Hiring and retaining good employees

"Quality help is the biggest challenge that we face," says Pat Fitzgerald, sales manager, Byerly RV Center, St. Louis.

Getting salespeople to follow the dealership's sales process

To get staff to conduct the sales process properly, says Michael Rees of A World of Training, "Just keep asking them the same follow-up questions, again and again, and after a while the salespeople know, 'He's always going to ask me that, so let me get the information for him before he asks,' and they start doing what you want them to do," says Rees.

Having enough of the right inventory when it's needed

In a market that's been setting new sales records, this is a near-universal challenge.



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What's Sizzling at Your Dealership This Summer?

RV Executive Today asked dealerships about their most successful summer sales campaigns and found that most market continuously through the high season. As one individual said, "Any excuse for a promotion is good!"

Joey Shields, general manager Pan Pacific RV Centers Sacramento, CA

"We run specials on bunkhouse units, since kids are out of school and families are planning vacations. That seems to work well. We'll also run special tiered bonuses for the salespeople, based on how many units they sell. We have something going on all the time during the summer, because that's when we have to maximize sales."





Debbie Brunoforte CEO, Little Dealers, Little Prices, Mesa, AZ

"One of our favorite promotions is the Fourth of July, because it's patriotic and flags are up everywhere. We try to have something fun and exciting all the time, especially around holidays. Over Easter we hired an Easter bunny,

bought Easter baskets, loaded them up in a Momentum Grand Design, and gave them out to the children at Phoenix Children's Hospital. That was one of the most fun events we've ever done. We also have a very popular Parts Extravaganza every year that we promote to our existing customer base. During the extravaganza, we have a party and special offers on parts and accessories, and sometimes parts vendors give seminars."

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Pat Fitzgerald sales manager, Byerly RV Center, St. Louis

"All of my lot promotions are good – I'll typically sell 20 to 30 units during a three-day event. We build promotions around a theme, like a Spring open house or a beat-thesummer-heat event. We had a Flag Day event and gave away



American flags, and coming up is our customer appreciation event. We're having a huge year, and I'm getting used to having successful promotions, so when an event isn't huge, I'm disappointed."



Joe Hendrickson sales manager, Stoltzfus RVs & Marine, West Chester, PA

"We recently did a very successful event for the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, which collects donations for the fight against childhood cancer. We also will choose a brand and promote six

or eight of its units at a time. And having factory reps visit the dealership always draws people into the dealership."

Dealers Honor Industry Leader Rex Floyd

embers of the Oklahoma RV Association paid tribute during their recent annual convention to industry leader Rex Floyd, who served as president of the Central Oklahoma RV Dealers Association and was a former RVDA chairman. He died on June 9 in Norman, OK.

Floyd founded Floyd's Recreational Vehicles in 1969, operating from a small rented lot. The company soon outgrew that space and built a larger dealership on Interstate 35, where it remains today.

"Rex Floyd was one of the most visionary dealers in RVDA when I

joined the staff in 1988," said former RVDA President Mike Molino. "He was hungry for knowledge and was an early adopter of new ideas."

For his outstanding contributions to RVDA, he received the association's highest honor, the James B. Summers Award,

in 1988. He was the first active dealer to receive the award. He was inducted into the RV/MH Hall of Fame in 2010.

omo

oyd's RV (left)

nemorial to his late her during the associa-

s annual convention.

vho aav





Ryan Krenek of Krenek RV Center, Coloma, MI, had an opportunity to meet Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchen during RVIA Advocacy Week. During the annual event in Washington, D.C., Krenek spent time with his father, Scott Krenek, and others visiting legislators on Capitol Hill to promote the passage of the bipartisan National Park Service Legacy Act of 2017 (H.R. 2584 and S. 751).





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he Society of Certified RV Professionals' recognition program publishes a guarterly update of individuals who have earned certification or recertification from either the Mike Molino RV Learning Center or the RVDA-RVIA RV Service Technician Certification program. The following list includes only individuals whose dealerships have chosen to participate in the recognition program. If you'd like to join the program, complete and return the form below.

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Brent Jokela.	Certified Technician
Mitchell Daniels	Certified Technician
Donald Easterday	Certified Technician
Randall Haupert.	
William Miller	
Barry Swinford	
William Brousseau	Certified Technician
Michael Barlow	Certified Technician
Richard Woods	Certified Technician
Gregory Williams	Certified Technician
Robert Champion	Certified Technician
Michael Lane	
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Marvin Nieman	
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Mitchell Collie	. Certified Technician
Patrick Melby	Certified Technician
James Carey	. Certified Technician
Jacob Gunn	Certified Technician
David Compton	. Certified Technician
Mike Downing	. Certified Technician
Daniel Emanuel	. Certified Technician
Devin Smith.	. Certified Technician

John Emanuel	Certified Technician
Zachery Drew	Certified Technician
Gary Reeves	Certified Technician
Jase Murray	Certified Technician
James Lanigan	Certified Technician
Roy Mayer	Certified Technician
James P. Campbell	Certified Technician
Eric Wolfe	Master Technician

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Doug McKay Parts Manager	
Todd Price Parts Manager	
Anthony L. Yerman Parts Manager	
Kip Kuehner Parts Specialist	t
Steven Johnson Parts Specialist	t
Daryl Wood Parts Specialist	t
Jessica Balac Parts Specialist	t
Anne Baucom Parts Specialist	t
Dawn Goven Parts Specialist	t
Regina Kerr Parts Specialist	t
Christy Compton Parts Specialist	t
Dominique Ervin Parts Specialist	t
David Smith Parts Specialist	t
Todd Price Parts Specialist	t
Patrick Rockwell Parts Specialist	ł
Nancy Arcaro Service Manag	er

Darrin Gray Service Manager David J. Behuniak Service Writer/Advisor Lori A. Beyer-Teal Service Writer/Advisor Bobby Horton Service Writer/Advisor Darin Robert Lo Picolo Service Writer/Advisor CJ Mathewson Service Writer/Advisor	David J. Lori A. B Bobby H Darin Ro
Kayla Niepoth Service Writer/Advisor	Kayla Ni
Todd Price Service Writer/Advisor	
Victor Van Avery Service Writer/Advisor	Victor Va
Deborah Vaughn Service Writer/Advisor	Deborah
Michal Wieprzowski Service Writer/Advisor	Michal V
John Winter Service Writer/Advisor	John Wi
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Krystal Hujus Warranty Administrator	Krystal I
Kelly Hutchins Warranty Administrator	Kelly Hu
Christine Newman Warranty Administrator	Christin
Ricardo Manzanares Warranty Administrator	Ricardo
Anthony L. Yerman Warranty Administrator	Anthony



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Pet Peeves of a Parts Person

By Anne Baucom

very dealership has its issues. One problem common to many dealerships is the relationship between the parts department and the technicians. It's always a battle to get both sides to work together seamlessly. Techs don't understand the needs of the parts department and vice versa, making it hard to find a solution that works for everyone. I don't have all the answers, but here are a few pet peeves of parts associates and the reasons why we're always so short with techs.

Not listing parts on repair orders

Techs might not realize that some of us get paid commission on the parts we sell. This is why we're always so adamant about getting those parts on the repair orders. If the part you took doesn't get paid for, we don't get paid.

Requesting parts late

Having the parts you need by the next day isn't always possible. We have multiple vendors we can order through, but they all have cut-off times. So when you come to the parts person at 4:30 p.m. and need something next day, you're most likely out of luck. Please let us know as early as possible if you're going to need something specific so we can try to accommodate you.

★ Being impatient

Please wait your turn! Customers at the parts counter come first. Always. If you don't have time to wait, come back later. We have lots of people to take care of, both internally and externally. You are not our only customer.

* Not keeping track of where part is used

At my dealership, some of the service shop supplies come from my parts store, including things like electrical adapters, water hoses, and chemicals for our rental units. Those items get charged to the dealership. Other items get used on customers' units, such as Teflon tape, putty tape, and washers. Please know where the part you've requested is being used so it gets billed correctly.

* Not submitting parts inventory info immediately

Inventory management is always a parts person's least favorite responsibility. Techs make keeping an accurate inventory nearly impossible when they don't submit parts information immediately – we may under order or over order on parts. If we under order, you won't have what you need for the next job, which costs us time and money.

Writing down wrong part numbers

We order parts from multiple vendors, so some of the same parts have different part numbers. Don't get too comfortable writing down part #1234 for a small battery box when we might



Anne Baucom

get a better deal from another vendor whose part number is #5678. If your number doesn't match with my inventory, the customer might get charged the wrong price.

* Not returning unused parts

Another inventory issue – techs who take parts for a job, charge them off, but then fail to use them. Please put those parts back on the shelf or give them back to your parts person as soon as you're finished with the job. This enables us to remove the part from the customer's bill and put it back on the shelf in the correct place.

* Not having correct part numbers handy

Here are some things a parts person should never have to ask for when a tech requests a part. First, the job (or RO) number and the model/serial/product numbers on the appliance you need parts for. We need that information 99 percent of the time so we can find the correct part. Please don't make us ask for the information you should already have ready. Even if you don't think we'll need it, get it anyway. The rule of thumb at my dealership is that too much information is better than not enough.

* Not keeping the part store clean

The parts department personnel are responsible for keeping the store tidy. If you track in mud, we have to clean up after you. We won't be happy about it. Please be considerate of our time and do your part.

I'm still trying to come up with solutions for having a smoother relationship between parts and service at my store. But if technicians would apply what they've learned from this article, I strongly believe that your parts people will take notice and be truly grateful.

Anne Baucom is the parts manager and warranty administrator for RV Connection in Lawton, OK. If you would like to submit a response to this article, please send it to Tony Yerman at tyerman@rvda.org.

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Credit Card Processing Bank of America Merchant Services

https://rvdealer.bankofamerica.com jay.machamer@ bankofamericamerchant.com (678) 784-0567

Bank of America Merchant Services offers members an annual savings averaging 10-15 percent on each Visa and MasterCard transaction. Advanced equipment provides fast authorization, around-the-clock support, and improved funds availability for those with a depository relationship with the bank.

Disability Income Insurance/ Paycheck Protection Benefits American Fidelity Assurance Company

www.afadvantage.com Ted Brehoney ted.brehoney@af-group.com (800) 654-8489, Ext. 6530

Dealerships can provide disability insurance to provide security for a portion of an employee's paycheck if they are unable to work due to a covered accident or illness.

Emergency Roadside and Technical Assistance **Coach-Net**

www.coach-net.com sales@coach-net.com (800) 863-6740

Coach-Net provides emergency roadside and technical assistance solutions to RV dealers throughout the U.S. and Canada and for many RV and chassis manufacturers, RV clubs, and customer membership groups. Coach-Net uses over 150 employees with advanced communications technology tools combined with a database of more than 40,000 service providers. The company uses trained customer service agents and master certified technical service agents.

Employee Behavioral Assessment Omnia Group

www.OmniaGroup.com/rvda/ Carletta@OmniaGroup.com (800) 525-7117 x1226

The Omnia Group's assessment solutions help dealers select the right person for the job, increase retention, and build a strong workplace culture. In fewer than 15 minutes, the Omnia Profile reveals personality tendencies of candidates and employees, giving dealers the insight to select, retain, and develop their biggest asset. By navigating the complexities of human behavior, dealers can make more informed hiring decisions and improve return on investment.

Software & Consulting Services

www.kpaonline.com (303) 356-1735

KPA provides consulting services and software to more than 6,500 automotive, truck, and equipment dealerships. Its Environmental Health & Safety product line provides onsite, on-call, and online services. Its Human Resource Management software ensures your business is in compliance with state and federal regulations. Users have access to on-demand advice from attorneys with expertise in the RV industry.

Extended Service Agreements XtraRide RV Service Agreement Program

www.protectiveassetprotection.com (800) 950-6060, Ext. 5738

The XtraRide RV Service Agreement Program is offered through the Asset Protection Division of Protective Life Insurance Company. The program has been exclusively endorsed by RVDA since 1992. The XtraRide programs and F&I solutions bring dealers increased profit opportunities while providing quality protection for their customers. Protective is dedicated to providing the RV industry with superior products and services given its ability to underwrite, administer, and market its own programs.

Health Collective Purchasing Arrangement

Brown & Brown Insurance

www.bbinsservices.com/index.php/form aweilage@bblouisville.com (502) 550-2399

The RV Dealers Health Collective Purchasing Arrangement offers members a way to provide employee health benefits while saving money. Through a combination of leveraged buying power and program metrics that carve out excess costs, RVDA members have an opportunity to lower health care premiums. Dealers can maintain their current health benefits or customize their offering to employees. The program includes a dedicated Brown & Brown service rep, turn-key compliance solutions, and administrative support.

Hiring Tools

Careerco RVDA@careercocorp.com

Maryellen Adams (718) 307-6258

CareerCo is a network of pay-for-performance job sites, including Jobhub.com and FindTheRightJob.com. It reaches more than 5 million job seekers each month, connecting them with career and training information to help them pursue their professional goals. CareerCo also offers HR departments an array of staffing and recruiting solutions, including performance-based job postings, training, and recruitment.

Health Insurance Mass Marketing Insurance Consultants Inc. (MMIC)

www.mmicinsurance.com/RVDA/ quotes@mmicinsurance.com (800) 349-1039

MMIC creates customized insurance programs best suited for individual dealerships. Coverage is available to individual members and firms with two or more employees. With group coverage, all active full-time employees are eligible. Spouse and dependent children under age 19 (23 if full-time student) are also eligible. The cost of the coverage for the RVDA program may be paid in whole by the employer or shared with the employees. However, the employer's contribution must be at least 50% of the total cost.

Lead Qualifier Program Customer Service Intelligence Inc. (CSI)

www.tellcsi.com bthompson@tellcsi.com (800) 835-5274

The scene: high inventory – low sales. The need: more sales. The solution: CSI's Lead Qualifier Program. Your sales leads are sent to CSI following initial contact with your sales staff. CSI then makes a personal phone call to each lead, captivating their attention before your competitor does. We will uncover the prospect's initial impression of your dealership and staff, fully qualify the lead including exact needs and time frame for purchase, and provide you with their deal maker.

Loan Origination and Warranted Loan Documents **AppOne**

www.appone.net

AppOne is a web-based indirect loan origination platform designed to help recreational vehicle dealers and lenders manage the origination process of retail credit applications from lender submission to funding. It provides dealers and lenders access to a library of compliant and warranted loan documents. The loan documents are regularly reviewed for compliance with the latest the federal and state laws in all 51 U.S. jurisdictions. Dealers using AppOne also have access to their lender(s) on the AppOne Lending Network, a community of national, regional and local financial institutions. The network makes it easier for dealers to establish lender partnerships and secure financing for their customers.

Market Intelligence Program RV Industry Data Program from Statistical Surveys Scott Stropkai

sstropkai@statisticalsurveys.com (616) 281-9898 ext.128

Dealers receive a 10 percent discount on customized reports through Statistical Surveys' RV Industry Data Program. Using Tibco Spotfire software, the program provides dealers with data visualization and analytics that can yield valuable insights for better decision making, including data on where new units are being registered and which dealers sold which units by make, model, length and axles.

Office Supplies Office Depot

www.officediscounts.org/rvda.html

RVDA members can save up to 80% on over 93,000 products at Office Depot and OfficeMax. Shop online or in any Office Depot or OfficeMax store for printing, cleaning, break room, and office needs. Enjoy free next-day delivery with online orders over \$50. Visit the website to shop online or to print off a free store purchasing card.

Pre-owned RV Appraisal Guidance N.A.D.A. Appraisal Guides & NADAguides.com

www.nada.com lsims@nadaguides.com (800) 966-6232, Ext. 235

The N.A.D.A. RV Appraisal Guide is an essential tool to determine the average market value for used RVs. A new online program, RV Connect, provides updated RV values, creates custom window stickers for both newer and older RVs, and more. These products are all available at the RVDA "members only" rate.

Propane and Propane Supplies Suburban Propane

www.suburbanpropane.com sholmes@suburbanpropane.com (800) 643-7137

Suburban Propane offers discounts to RVDA members on propane along with attractive and safe equipment for refilling most any propane cylinder, 24-hour service, on-site "Train the Trainer" instruction for dealership personnel, signage, and a periodic review of filling stations by safety experts.

RVDA/Spader 20 Groups Spader Business Management www.spader.com

info@spader.com (800) 772-3377

RVDA/Spader 20 Groups managed by Spader Business Management help dealers improve their management skills, recognize market trends, and solve problems. The groups include non-competing dealers who share experiences to develop best practices.

Shipping Discounts PartnerShip LLC

www.PartnerShip.com/79rvda (800) 599-2902

The RVDA Discount Shipping Program, managed by PartnerShip, provides RVDA members with substantial shipping discounts. RVDA members who enroll in the free program will save on small package shipments with FedEx and less-than-truckload (LTL) freight shipments with UPS Freight and Conway Freight. Visit our website for more information and to enroll.



The Mike Molino RV Learning Center proudly recognizes these CONTRIBUTORS



*Active donors are those who have contributed to the RV Learning Center

Received From	Contributed 6/9/15- 6/9/17	Total Lifetime Contribution	Total Lifetime Pledge	Last Contributed
MAJOR GIFTS				
	5150,000	\$667,987 \$	\$1.000.000	6/8/16
Protective	75,668	270,584	/ /	12/2/16
Newmar Corporation	50,000	260,000		12/7/16
Fom Stinnett Derby City RV	2,500	105,000		12/16/16
Brown & Brown Recreational Insurance		40,000	100,000	3/21/16
Campers Inn	15,000	81,000	100,000	12/16/16
PleasureLand RV Center Inc.	4,000	96,850		12/14/16
Bill & Kristen Fenech	10,000	72,500		8/23/16
Horsey Family Memorial Fund	2,000	72,000		6/14/16
Ron & Lisa Fenech	10,000	70,000		8/23/16
Byerly RV Center	10,000	62,000		1/3/17
RVAC	7,000	52,000		4/8/16
Bill Plemmons RV World	5,000	20,050	50,050	6/9/16
All Seasons RV Center	2,000	38,049	47,049	12/20/16
McClain's RV Superstore	2,000	44,000		6/18/15
Pan Pacific RV Centers Inc.	3,000	41,500		11/23/16
Reines RV Center Inc.	7,500	39,025		1/6/17
Palm RV	7,500	7,500	37,500	2/18/16
Bill Thomas Camper Sales Inc.	1,000	37,000		1/3/17
Holiday World of Houston	7,000	33,000		9/30/16
Wilkins R.V. Inc.	4,900	23,000	33,000	1/8/16
Pikes Peak Traveland Inc.	1,500	32,700		6/26/15
Diversified Insurance Management Ind		26,400	31,200	4/19/17
Paul Evert's RV Country Inc.	2,000	29,000	30,000	3/11/16
CHAMPIONS		,		
Greeneway Inc. (Route 66 Dealer)	2,500	22,350		12/12/16
Alpin Haus	2,000	20,500		7/5/16
MBA Insurance Inc.	2,000	17,100	20,100	6/1/16
Hartville RV Center Inc.	2,000	15,750	20/100	5/30/17
Mike & Barb Molino	550	12,136		8/14/16
Little Dealer, Little Prices	500	11,550		12/6/16
Affinity RV Service Sales & Rentals	2,000	11,000		6/15/16
Floyds Recreational Vehicles	250	10,500		4/13/16
Motley RV Repair	1,000	10,075		9/17/15
Jnited States Warranty Corporation	3,000	10,250	10,250	5/19/17
Don Clark	10,000	15,000	10,200	10/7/16
Hemlock Hill RV Sales Inc.	3,361	10,000		8/12/15
Curtis Trailers Inc.	1,500	9,750		12/28/16
Crestview RV Center	3,500	8,000		12/28/16
Burlington RV Superstore	1,250	7,500		12/31/16
Circle K RV's Inc.	750	7,500		6/9/16
All Valley RV Center	5,500	7,000		2/21/17
Hayes RV Center	200	6,850		6/20/16
A World of Training	3,500	6,500		9/17/15
Madison RV Supercenter	1,000	6,500		
Camperland of Oklahoma LLC	1,000	6,350		11/30/16 6/22/16
•				
Best Value RV Sales & Service	1,500	6,250		6/6/17
Topper's Camping Center	1,803	6,053		10/7/16
Phil Ingrassia	2,000	5,500		12/12/16
Good Life RV	2,000	5,100	E 000	5/26/17
	2,000	3,000	5,000	2/16/16
ROUTE 66 RV Network	2/00			2/3/17
Noble RV Inc.	2,600	4,505		
Noble RV Inc. RCD Sales Company Ltd.	1,099	4,349		6/17/16
Noble RV Inc. RCD Sales Company Ltd. J. D. Sanders Inc.	1,099 250	4,349 3,750		6/17/16 7/11/16
Noble RV Inc. RCD Sales Company Ltd.	1,099	4,349		6/17/16 7/11/16 6/22/15 6/27/16

Passivad From 6	ntributed /9/15- 5/9/17	Total Lifetime Contribution	Total Lifetime Pledge	Last Contributed
American Guardian Warranty	2,400	3,300		6/1/1
RV Outlet Mall	750	3,300		6/20/10
United RV Center	100	3,200		11/10/15
Highland Ridge RV Inc.	250	3,000		4/11/10
Tacoma RV Center	1,500	3,000		6/17/16
The Trail Center	600	2,550		11/21/16
Alliance Coach	1,000	2,500	2,500	5/19/17
Austin Chapter of Texas RV Association	2,500	2,500		6/27/16
Bill & Shannon Koster	500	500	2,500	12/2/10
Onsite Temp Housing	500	1,000	2,500	10/29/15
LEADERS				
Dinosaur Electronics	300	2,200		6/14/16
NERVDA	1,100	2,100		1/30/17
Leo's Vacation Center Inc.	2,000	2,000		3/11/16
Mount Comfort RV	2,000	2,000		10/17/16
Candys Campers	500	1,800		6/6/16
Ocean Grove RV Supercenter	1.750	1,750		6/14/16
Out of Doors Mart Inc.	250	1,750		10/13/15
Camp-Site RV	500	1,500		1/30/17
Gib's RV Superstore	2,500	2,500		6/6/17
Colerain Trailer Center	1,000	1,250		3/6/1
Ronnie Hepp	500	1,125		12/31/15
Airstream Adventures Northwest	500	1,000		6/10/10
Beckley's Camping Center	250	1,000		6/12/15
Bill Mirrielees	250	1,000		5/5/16
Colonial Airstream & RV	1,000	1,000		4/19/17
Moix RV Supercenter	1,000	1,000		12/22/16
Tennessee RV Sales & Service LLC	500	1,000		6/14/16
Clear Creek RV Center	1,000	1,000		6/6/17
	1,000	1,000		0/0/1/
BENEFACTORS	700	000	050	10 (00 (1)
Keepers RV Center	700	800	850	12/23/16
The Makarios Group LLC	500	750		5/30/17
Setzer's World of Camping Inc.	500	600		3/17/17
American Family RV Inc.	500	500		9/2/16
Camp-Land RV	500	500		6/14/16
Dodd RV	500	500		3/18/17
Florida Outdoors RV Center	500	500		6/15/15
Holiday Hour Inc.	200	500		3/14/16
Kroubetz Lakeside Campers	250	500		11/9/15
Modern Trailer Sales Inc.	250	500		6/22/15
RH Power & Associates Inc.	500	500		5/8/17
Total Value RV of Indiana Inc.	500	500		1/18/17
Tri-Am R.V Center of East Tennessee	500	500		1/3/17
SUPPORTERS				
Starr's Trailer Sales	450	450		6/16/16
Lou Novick	100	400		11/25/15
Carolina Coach & Camper	250	350		6/15/16
Liberty RV	250	300		9/6/10
Black Book RV Value Guide	150	250		3/16/16
Clippership Motorhomes Rental	250	250		4/3/1
Elizabeth RV	250	250		10/11/16
Macdonalds RV Center	225	225		1/18/1
Richard's RV ServiCenter	120	120		7/15/16
Richard's RV Servicenter				
Chesapeake RV Solutions	100	100		2/29/18
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We are honored to have XtraRide[®] be the exclusively endorsed service contract program of the RVDA for 25 years.

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An RVDA endorsed product or service is one that has been extensively evaluated by the RVDA to assure quality, dependability and overall value. RVDA and the RVDA Education Foundation receive compensation from a Protective company for business generated by RV dealers.

The XtraRide service contract program is backed by Lyndon Property Insurance Company, a Protective company, in all states except New York. In New York this product is backed by Old Republic Insurance Company,