



TECHNOLOGY

AND THE

DEALERSHIP

Half your online visitors come via mobile devices — is your website mobile-friendly? Repair Technician

– page 10

Also:

Campers Today Are More Diverse and Want Free Wi-Fi page 12

Dave and Debbie Norris -"Certification Is Just a Given" page 16

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C 0 E S N T Ν Т

May 2015

How Mobile Is Your Website? 10

Google's new algorithm – and consumers' stampede to mobile devices – require changes to dealership websites.

Modern Camping Characterized by 12 **Greater Diversity of Participants, Demand for Free Wi-Fi**

The percentage of minority campers has doubled since 2012, and one of the most-valued campground amenities is now access to free Wi-Fi.

CAST for Kids Exec Sees Growing Tie 14 **Between RVing and Fishing**

Jim Owens, executive director of a charity that takes disadvantaged children fishing, promotes the organization with a custom-wrapped motorhome. He says fishing enthusiasts are turning to RVs as the perfect way to travel from tournament to tournament.

Dave and Debbie Norris: "Certification Is Just a Given at our Dealership"

The Norrises, who were recently honored by the Society of Certified RV Professionals, have both worked at Parkview RV of Smyrna, DE, for almost 30 years. He's a certified technician, and she's a parts specialist.

18 **Website Listings of RVDA Associate Members and RV Industry Resources**

Need a new DMS? Want to find a trainer? Maybe you need help with your website? Did you know that RVDA has dozens of associate members that provide every product and service an RV dealership could need?

More than 250 Dealers Benefit from 25 **Go RVing Tie-In Program**

Although every dealer benefits from Go RVing's national media campaign, dealers in the tie-in program have access to the leads that the campaign generates.



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CFPB Vehicle Lending Guidelines Get the Attention of Congress, Media

By Phil Ingrassia, CAE, president

y mother grew up in Quincy, IL, which is a short drive across the Mississippi River from Hannibal, MO, the boyhood home of Mark Twain. She passed on her love of the great American writer to me, and I've read just about everything the man published. In his autobiography, he wrote, "There are three kinds of lies: Lies, damned lies, and statistics."

Twain saw through attempts to bolster weak arguments through the misuse of number crunching. In 2015, the dubious practice continues in the offices of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB).

The Wall Street Journal took the agency to task last month for its methodology in determining alleged discrimination in vehicle lending, methodology it used as the basis for its guidance to lenders that now threatens the current system of dealer-assisted financing.

The *Journal* article outlined the "bizarre" federal campaign against lenders in which "bureaucrats guess the ethnicity of borrowers based on their last names and addresses... then claim discrimination in interest rates if the people they assume are minorities on average pay more than similar borrowers that the feds assume are white."

No, it's not a joke. These statistical "assumptions" are the basis for the CFPB guidance that threatens the vehicle financing system that has worked so well for so many years.

Thankfully, many in Congress agree that the CFPB has a weak case. Reps. Frank Guinta (R-NH) and Ed Perlmutter (D-CO.) have introduced H.R. 1737, the Reforming Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Indirect Auto Financing Guidance Act of 2015. The legislation would repeal the 2013 agency bulletin that was designed to pressure

"We need to educate the public, Congress, and regulators to prevent flawed statistics from having a negative impact on our customers' ability to get RVs, boats, cars, and trucks financed."

lending institutions into eliminating the availability of vehicle financing discounts. These discounts save consumers millions of dollars every year.

The CFPB's lack of transparency and accountability has prompted 91 members of Congress to request additional information from the agency on how it arrived at the conclusions it used to justify its original guidance to lenders, but none of these requests have been completely fulfilled, and many have gone unanswered.

RVDA is working with NADA and others in the vehicle financing industry to support rescinding this flawed CFPB guidance that would harm consumers by limiting their ability to obtain financing. RVDA firmly believes that dealer-assisted financing promotes competitive financing rates for consumers and is good for business.

We need to educate the public, Congress, and regulators to prevent flawed statistics from having a negative impact on our customers' ability to get RVs, boats, cars, and trucks financed. RVDA will keep members and the industry updated on this legislation and other actions designed to protect dealer-assisted financing.

Thanks for your support.

Phil

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Getting Involved to Move the Industry Forward

By John McCluskey, chairman



ne of many things I've learned since I became an RV dealer is that getting involved in local, state, and national associations not only helps the industry but also helps the individual develop and improve leadership skills.

I'm fortunate as RVDA chairman to follow in the footsteps of an outstanding dealer leader, Jeff Hirsch of Campers Inn, who was recently honored at the RVIA Annual Meeting with a Unity Award for his work to strengthen dealer-manufacturer relationships. Jeff understands that RVDA's and RVIA's goals may not always be the same, but that maintaining an open dialog built on trust helps achieve the best outcome for both.

Jeff generously gave two years of his time to be our chairman, and he remains an important leader who helps move our industry forward. Congratulations to him on his award, and we look forward to benefiting from his continued involvement on the board of directors as a past chairman.

The RVDA board met a few weeks ago to review and ratify our association's strategic plan. The core purpose of the organization remains the same – to help dealers. The board does review the plan annually to make adjustments in goals and strategies on such key initiatives as education, legislation, and member services. A revised goal for the next two years is to increase membership by 10 percent so that even more dealers are involved in protecting our industry and are eligible to receive benefits.

Another major topic of discussion was how RVDA can encourage manufacturer efforts to improve warranty and parts support to improve the customer experience. You may have received communications from manufacturers about their recent investments in systems, facilities, and people to improve customer service. RVDA's role, through the Dealer Satisfaction Index and other tools, is to let manufacturers know if the situation is improving, standing still, or getting worse.

Another topic, which seems never to go away, was new model introduction. RVDA has been very clear over the years that a consistent new model year introduction is better for dealers and the consumer. However, there are significant numbers of dealers who either don't care or don't mind early model releases. Some manufacturers say they need months to change over multiple lines. While there may not be complete consensus on the issue, RVDA's position is unchanged. I encourage you to contact your

"The RVDA board recently met to review our strategic plan. A major topic of discussion was how RVDA can encourage manufacturer efforts to improve warranty and parts support."

manufacturers' top managers directly to let them know how you feel on this issue.

Getting involved in RVDA means more than just having a voice in industry issues – it also provides members with an array of dealers services and benefits that have been negotiated with key industry partners (for a complete list of endorsed products and services, see page 34).

Another key benefit of belonging to RVDA is having access to information that helps us learn from each other. For instance, this issue of *RV Executive Today* focuses on technology, which we all struggle to keep up with. The sheer number of choices and issues can be daunting. RVDA can't make your IT decisions for you but it can help keep you informed and aware of the issues you need to know about so that you don't fall behind.

Finally, I want to thank all the dealers who serve on RVDA's board and on state association boards. It's not easy to invest valuable time and energy for the benefit of all dealers, but it is very rewarding. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer leader, call RVDA headquarters or your state group and start small by joining a committee or task force.

No matter how you choose to be involved, I urge you to thank the leaders of your local dealer groups, your RVDA state delegates, and your RVDA national board for their commitment to helping our industry stay strong. Times are good, but we all need to remain vigilant and involved to protect the RV business.

John milly

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North American Dealers Build Inventories

By Thomas Walworth, Statistical Surveys/The Thrive Group

s is typically the case, U.S. and Canadian dealers built up their product inventories in January in anticipation of the wintertime retail show season and busy springtime sales season, according to market research firm Statistical

Surveys/The Thrive Group.

North American dealers built their towable inventories at slightly faster rates during January 2015, compared with January 2014, as indicated by an inventory index of 46.3 for last January versus 47.3 in January 2014.

When the RV Inventory Index is below 100, there's an expansion of dealer inventories. When the index is above 100, there's shrinkage. If the industry sold a unit at retail for every unit delivered at wholesale, the RV Inventory Index would be 100.

The same was true in the case of motorhomes,

which had an inventory index of 57 in January 2015, compared with 64.2 a year earlier.

The 11,391 towable RVs retailed by U.S. and Canadian dealers in January 2015 represented an 8.2 percent increase compared with the 10,523 units sold in January 2014.

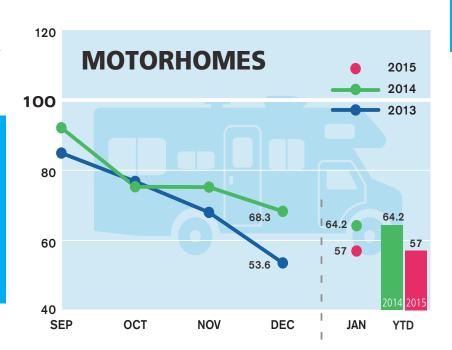
(U.S. towable retail sales were up 7.6 percent and Canadian towable retail sales were up 8 percent last January.)

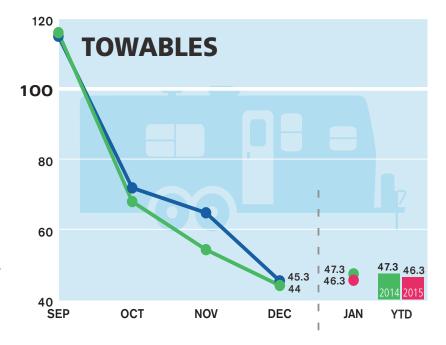
Wholesale shipments of towables increased 11.8 percent in January 2015 to 24,600 units, compared with 22,000 units delivered in January 2014.

In the case of motorhomes, 2,110 units were retailed in the United States and Canada during January 2015, a 0.4 percent decrease from 2,119 units sold in January 2014. (U.S. motorhome retail sales declined 0.3 percent, and Canadian motorhome retail sales were down 5.3 percent in January 2015.)

Meanwhile, motorhome shipments increased 12.1 percent in January 2015 to 3,700 units, compared with 3,300 units in January 2014.

Based in Grand Rapids, MI, Statistical Surveys/The Thrive Group tracks RV retail sales for the RV industry. For more information, contact Tom Walworth at (616) 281–9898. The Thrive Group is a partnership between Statistical Surveys and Spader Business Management.





How Mobile Is Your Website?

A new Google algorithm - and consumers' stampede to mobile devices require changes to dealership websites

By Mary Anne Shreve

If your dealership website isn't mobilefriendly – easy to navigate on smartphones and tablets — it's going to drop in ranking on Google searches, thanks to a new algorithm the Internet goliath recently put in place.

Even if Google wasn't forcing the move to mobile-friendly websites, consumers eventually would. At least half of your website visitors are now arriving via smartphones and tablets versus desktops, and that percentage is rising fast, according to market research.

Penalizing non-mobile websites

Consumers now spend more time accessing the Internet from their mobile devices than they do from desktops, a development that some analysts hail as "the biggest shift since the Internet began." In response, Google's search engine now gives higher rankings to websites that are optimized for smartphones and tablets.

"Google doesn't want people to click on sites that are hard to read," says Traeanne Reynolds, international director of sales, marketing, and implementation for Sys2K. "Google is trying to minimize that inconvenience for its customers. because it doesn't want them to use other search engines."

"Almost 60 percent of our visitors are coming from mobile, and that seems to be standard behavior among consumers now."

> - Corv Levine. Campers Inn



Why you need a mobile-friendly website

- More of your website visitors use smartphones and tablets than desktops.
- Consumers use mobile devices to price shop while they're on your competitór's lot.
- Google will punish you if you don't.



The latest algorithm change could significantly lower some dealerships' rankings, say industry experts, and that could equate to lost business. "My impression is that it's going to be very important for dealers who haven't yet optimized to do so as quickly as possible," says Reynolds.

With smartphone and tablet users accounting for about half of the visits to the websites of his largest RV dealership clients, says Dealer Spike spokesman Derrick Brown, "the mobile space is critical."

"They're predicting there will be more Internet searches made on mobile devices than desktops within 18 months," Brown says. "I think it will be even faster. Businesses are going to start getting penalized pretty badly if they don't keep up."

How to be responsive

When viewed on a mobile device, an optimized website appears with a clean, relatively simple homepage where the main information is in a large, easy to read format. The buttons are bigger so they can be touched with a finger instead of a mouse. The content is configured into vertical blocks so site visitors can easily scroll up and down. Non-optimized sites force users to constantly pinchzoom or scroll left and right to see all of the content. They load slowly, cut off text, and drop images. These sites, says Google, will now automatically rank lower than sites that cater to mobile devices.

Companies can make their websites function better on smartphones and tablets by using responsive design, a fluid, grid-based design that automatically adjusts to whatever device a website

visitor is using. It was developed so that a single website could respond to screens ranging in size from desktop computer monitors to 4-inch smartphones.

It doesn't necessarily take an expensive website makeover to become mobile-friendly. If your current site was originally designed in a template style, chances are it can easily and affordably be converted to mobilefriendly, says Reynolds. If you don't already have a template-style website, talk with your webmaster about changing.

60% and growing fast

The Campers Inn dealership group, headquartered in Kingston, NH, recently launched a new website that was optimized for mobile devices. "It brings our dealership into 2015, whereas the previous website was pretty dated and didn't offer an optimized experience for customers," says marketing manager Cory Levine. While planning the new site, "We put a lot of thought into what content we wanted to include and how it should be organized. We wanted inventory to be easy to find."

Now, all of the text and images that appear on the desktop version of the website are also available to mobile visitors, but they're automatically presented in a grid design better suited to a 4-inch screen.

"Almost 60 percent of our visitors are coming from mobile, and that seems to be standard behavior among consumers

"I still see RV dealership sites that say 'Call for pricing.' Customers aren't going to take the time to do that this is an instant gratification world. If you don't have prices listed, your competitors will."

have to respond in kind." Levine believes Google's algorithm will have a substantial impact on businesses in all industries. "The world continues to revolve around Google, and companies need to respond to consumer trends and the direction that the major commercial influencers like Google are going in," he says.

now," says Levine.

"And it's not just

the younger genera-

tion – older generations

are also adopting it. We

Be mobile or be left behind

But placating Google isn't the only argument for going mobile. There's probably a visitor on your lot at this moment who's price-shopping your competitors with his smartphone, says Reynolds. If your site isn't mobile-friendly, with easily viewable prices and photos of your inventory, you're losing potential customers.

Moving to Mobile

Consumers are shifting in droves from desktops to smartphones and tablets for accessing the Internet. These numbers from the Campers Inn dealership group illustrate the trend.

2012 website visitors by device

Desktop: 85% Mobile: 8% Tablet: 7%

2013 website visitors by device

Desktop: 69 Mobile: 14% Tablet: 17%

2014 website visitors by device

Desktop: 57% Mobile: 22% Tablet: 21%

2015 YTD website visitors by device

Desktop: 43% Mobile: 38% Tablet: 19%

"You're not going to stop price shopping," says Reynolds. "It's a different world out there – you can't count on the kind of customer loyalty as in the past where, if a person bought one RV from you, they tended to continue buying from you."

With consumers converting to mobile devices at such a dramatic rate, it's essential that dealership websites be designed with them in mind. Sys2k, like other providers, has already converted all of its dealership clients. "We tell them, 'If a website's not responsive, why do it?" says Reynolds.

Does Your Website Pass Google's Test?



on mobile devices, use Google's easy test site, says Blaine Vik, search engine marketing manager for ARI. Go to www.google.com/webmasters/tools/mobile-friendly/, copy your URL into the indicated space, hit the button, and your site will be analyzed for problems such as links that are too close together or text that's too small to easily read. "In general, the simpler the homepage, the more mobile friendly it is," says Vik. "Some dealers do things to their websites that hinder mobile friendliness. If you put enormous amounts of content on your homepage, it won't pass the Google test."

Modern Camping Characterized by Greater

Source: KOA Edited by RVDA staff



amping today is more diverse than ever before, from who's getting outdoors and how they're planning their travel, to what amenities they most want and why they value camping.

The percentage of Hispanic, Asian-American, and African-American campers across North America has doubled since 2012. Today, a quarter of all campers are from one of these groups. And free Wi-Fi ranks as one of the three most valued campground amenities, according to the 2015 North American Camping Report, an independent study supported by Kampgrounds of America Inc.

The majority of campers today prefer Wi-Fi over traditional amenities such as access to cabins or recreational activities, according to the report. By far, the most popular piece of camping gear is the cell phone – 83 percent of all campers bring their mobile phones to the great outdoors, according to the survey, which polled nearly 3,000 people across the United States and Canada.

The reasons for camping have changed, too. More people today view it as a way to escape the stress of everyday life rather than as simply an affordable vacation.

"Camping is not a one-size-fits-all travel experience," says KOA CEO Jim Rogers. In response, KOA has adapted its facilities to meet campers' expectations, "whether they're enjoying the outdoors with a smartphone in hand or a good old-fashioned map."

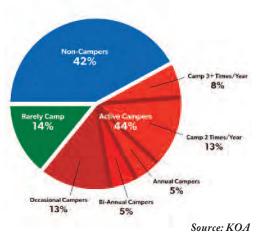
Mobile phones as important as toilet paper?

Today's campers are "plugged in" when they prepare for camping trips and while they're at campsites. Half of all survey respondents say they go online at least once a day while camping, and 41 percent say that having free Wi-Fi influences their decision to stay at a campground.

In fact, free Wi-Fi ranks as the third-most important amenity when selecting which campgrounds to visit,

Diversity of Participants, Demand for Free Wi-Fi

ACTIVE CAMPER HOUSEHOLDS



behind only clean bathrooms and a kidfriendly environment. It outpaces access to a campground store, cabins, and even safety lighting.

Unsurprisingly, the youngest campers (those under 25) are the most likely to bring a mobile phone (86 percent), compared to campers age 65+ (77 percent). Some younger campers even say that having a smartphone is almost as important as having toilet paper. Conversely, campers 25+ are somewhat more likely to bring along a laptop or notebook (29 percent) compared to the youngest campers (21 percent).

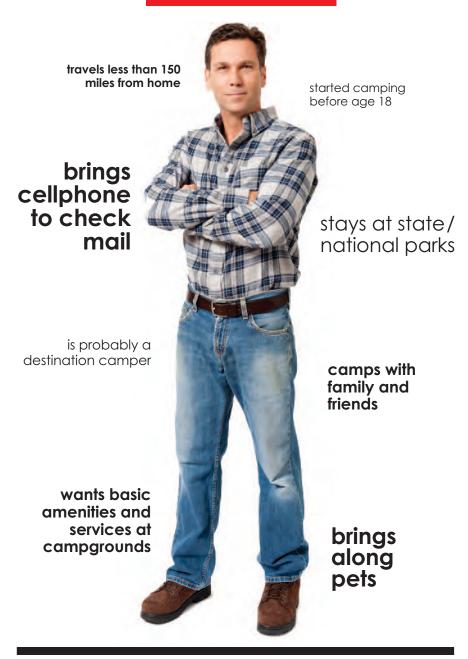
Camping does the soul good

The image of camping as an inexpensive vacation option remains, but survey results suggest that, while saving cash is still important, people camp to build relationships with family and friends in nature.

According to survey respondents, the key reasons they camp are to reconnect with nature (55 percent), reduce stress (54 percent), and spend more time with family and friends (49 percent). Less than 35 percent listed economic and practical issues as their reasons.

Forty-one percent of campers say the activity improves family relationships. A third say it has a positive effect on their relationships with family and friends, and 36 percent say it's good for their emotional well-being.

TYPICAL CAMPER





Half of campers plan to take more trips and spend more nights camping this year.



More campers will make reservations via websites (39% in 2015 versus 29% in 2014).



Most campers bring along pets at least some of the time.



More than half of campers say they camp with multiple generations.



Two-thirds of campers say lower gas prices will allow them to camp more often.



Destination camping is on the rise.

CAST for Kids Exec Sees Growing Tie

By Jeff Kurowski and Mary Anne Shreve

im Owens, executive director of CAST (Catch a Special Thrill) for Kids Foundation, a non-profit that arranges one-day fishing and boating events for special needs children, found out last summer that a great way to raise money for the foundation was to drive around North America in a Class A motorhome advertising CAST for Kids and its sister program, Take a Warrior Fishing.

Owens, based in Renton, WA, drove his Tiffin Allegro Class A motorhome, purchased from Poulsbo RV, from the Seattle area to Ontario, Canada, and then back to Washington state by way of Kansas. "It's an amazing promotional tool," he says about the vinyl-wrapped motorhome, which also housed a mobile office. "People would see it and start handing us \$20 bills."



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Between RVing and Fishing

Owens, who will retire from CAST for Kids on July 1, has been involved in bass fishing tournaments and youth sport fishing programs for 30 years. He's seen a growing connection between RVing and fishing, especially among bass fishing enthusiasts who travel to many tournaments and find sleeping in an RV much more comfortable than roughing it in a tent or in a sleeping

bag in the back of a pickup.

CAST for Kids and its companion program, Take a Warrior Fishing, which uses fishing as an activity to help military personnel adjust to civilian life, have participated in many American Recreation Coalition (ARC) activities, including Great Outdoors Month each June. RVDA is an ARC member and, along with CAST for Kids, supports

the idea of getting more young people involved in healthy outdoor activities.

Once he retires, Owens says he'll continue driving his motorhome across the continent to spread the word about CAST for Kids and Take a Warrior Fishing and because, he says, "I want to fish."

CAST for Kids was founded in 1991 and is a 501(c)3 organization.

CAST for Kids

AST for Kids events provide an adaptive environment where disabled and disadvantaged children ages 5 to 18 can enjoy a day of fun on the water that they may not otherwise have the chance to experience.

The kids are hosted at a local lake or other body of water and are supplied with fishing equipment and clothing. An experienced volunteer angler and a parent or guardian accompany them on a

boat, where they learn fishing techniques and how to enjoy the outdoors. After their morning fishing excursion, there's a BBQ lunch and an awards ceremony.

CAST for Kids has hosted more than 675 events during its 24-year history, and there are more than two dozen 2015 events scheduled on its website (www.cast-forkids.org).

CAST for Kids pairs experienced anglers with disabled and disadvantaged children for a day of fun on the water.



Take a Warrior Fishing

he Take a Warrior Fishing program encourages outdoor recreation – specifically, fishing – as a therapeutic outlet for military personnel and their families. Studies have shown that traumatic events can affect the relationships between individuals and their families and communities. This program seeks to restore those connections by

Take a Warrior

program seeks to restore those connections by increasing family interaction and social interaction in the civilian world.

Each Take a Warrior Fishing event attracts multiple families and brings in many community partners. Last year, 436 military families participated in the fishing trips. Information on upcoming events and ways to donate or volunteer can be found at www.castforkids.org.

Take a Warrior
Fishing believes
spending time
outdoors among
family and
supporters can
have a therapeutic
effect on military
personnel
returning from
duty.



FOURTH IN A SERIES

The Society of Certified RV Professionals recently honored five individuals who have maintained their professional certifications for 10 years or more. These five received certificates and congratulations from RVDA leaders before a standing-room-only audience at the society's reception during the RVDA convention in November. This is the fourth of RV Executive Today's new series that celebrates these individuals and explores their reasons – and rewards – for remaining certified.



Dave and Debbie Norris: "Certification Is Just a Given at our Dealership"

By Tony Yerman

n September, Dave Norris will celebrate his 30th anniversary with Parkview RV of Smyrna, DE, and wife Debbie will celebrate her 29th in February. Dave has been a certified technician since the 1990s, and Debbie was one of the original pilot testers for the parts manager certificate program. They have both maintained their certification ever since.

The Norrises felt very honored when they were recognized for their longevity during the Society of Certified RV Professionals' reception. It was especially fitting that one of the people who presented their certificates was their



Debbie Norris, a certified parts specialist at Parkview RV of Smyrna, DE, was one of the original pilot testers for the parts manager certificate program.



Dave Norris will soon celebrate 30 years of employment at Parkview RV; he began as a technician and is now service manager.

boss, Rick Horsey, who is also chairman of the society. Horsey is a great advocate of professional training, say the Norrises, and "training and certification are a given at Parkview RV."

Debbie says the dealership's sales department touts its employees' certification when it promotes service and parts sales. Technicians are required to be certified, and the certificates are hung prominently so customers will see.

Since Dave is a technician and Debbie is a parts

specialist, they have slightly different approaches to maintaining their certificates. While he's learning daily in the service bays, she keeps up on manufacturer changes. They both agree that the schooling is never done, and that recertifying ensures they stay on top of everything.

Dave has used several different sources for tech recertification, including the Florida Trade Association's Distance Learning program, factory training, and welding classes at a school in New Jersey. He's also had Dometic training.

Debbie has attended workshops at RVDA's convention and had onsite supplier training from PullRite and other companies. She has also trained through Marzahn & King Consulting. She believes that the RV industry could be more helpful in providing and promoting training opportunities.

In fact, one of the reasons for the society's creation is to find and publicize sources for training, through the online RV Training Calendar and the CEU (continuing education units) opportunity list that are both constantly updated on RVDA's website.

The Norrises' story shows that there's a lot to be said for training and certification. The proof is in their personal success and the success of the dealership they work for.



The Norrises were recognized by the Society of Certified RV Professionals for their long tenure as certified professionals.

RECOGNIZE PROFESSIONALISM!

Want to give your certified team members credit for their hard work and achievement? Their names can appear in the next update. Just return this form by email to info@rvda.org or fax to (703) 359-0152. More information about the Society of Certified RV Professionals and the recognition program is available at http://tinyurl.com/SocietyofRVProfessionals.



Authorization to Include Employee Certification Information



I understand that RVDA and the Mike Molino RV Learning Center are implementing a news release program that will recognize individuals who earn or renew a certified, master certified, or specialty certification, or service manager, service writer/advisor, parts manager, parts specialist, or warranty administrator certification in the previous quarter. The announcement will include the names of the individuals and the type of certification. Employers will not be identified.

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☐ Check enclosed (payable to	o the Mike Molino RV Learning Cen	iter) 🔲 Send an invoi	ce (members on	ly)
Credit Card:	MasterCard	Discover		
Carrel Name Is a m		Security	Code:	Expires:
Card Number:				
		Signature:		

ONLINE TRAINING WITH FRVTA'S DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK

The DLN offers your dealership:

- Onsite training
- Group training
- No travel time or expenses
- Self-determined pace
- One fixed price of \$995 for the subscription term

The Florida RV Trade Association and RVDA's Mike Molino RV
Learning Center partner to provide distance learning opportunities to RV dealers and their employees. The Distance Learning Network is \$995 per year for each dealership location. Over 50 sessions available, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with full access to training through July 31, 2015.

The DLN offers online training for:

 RV Technicians – The certification prep course helps technicians get ready for the certification exam.
 Your subscription includes unlimited access to more than 50 training sessions, reviews, and test preparation sections. Also included are manufacturer- and supplier-specific advanced repair and trou-

bleshooting classes designed to upgrade technicians' skills. Completion of these classes qualifies for recertification hours. Classes are available 24/7 throughout the program year, providing maximum flexibility.

• Service Writers/Advisors – This three-hour program is valuable for both new staff and experienced personnel preparing for the RV Learning Center's Service Writer/Advisor certification.

- **Greeters/Receptionists** This 50-minute session is suitable for all employees who need customer service skills. It includes a final exam and certificate of completion.
- **Dealers/GMs** This program features important topics for management, including lemon laws, LP gas licensing issues, and the federal Red Flags Rule.

Company Name:					
Address:		City:		State:	Zip:
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More than 250 Dealers Benefit from Go RVing Tie-In Program

Edited by RVDA staff

ore than 250 U.S. dealers are making the most of the \$15 million Go RVing media plan for 2015, getting leads, professional marketing materials, and enhanced visibility through the valuable Dealer Tie-In Program.



Every RV dealer benefits from the visibility of the Go RVing campaign, but the tie-in program gives participating dealers access to consumer leads generated by the national campaign. Leads are accessed online and prioritized based on purchase time frame.

Dealers in the tie-in program can also purchase stock footage from the national campaign to create custom commercials and can customize all the currently running national spots with 5-second bumps featuring their dealership's name.

Dealers in the tie-in program also receive special Go RVing

branded marketing materials each year. The 2015 premium is a bright green and white string of pennants – ideal for lots, showrooms, and special events – which visually connect the dealership to the high-profile national campaign.

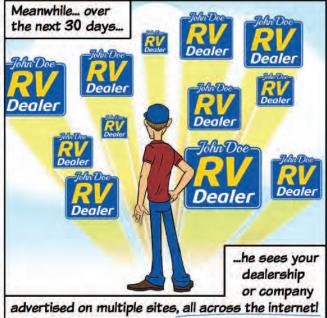
The tie-in program is affordably priced for dealers at just \$250 for a year of leads and access to other marketing materials.

To sign up, visit www.rvda.org or email Chuck Boyd at cboyd@rvda.org or call him at (703) 591-7130 x113.

Remarketing from RVT.com

Now you can reach our RV buyer audience... Internet wide!





Call 1-800-282-2183 or RVT.com/remarketing

RV

RV TECH CERT PREP COURSES

<u>Every</u> technician can have access to individual self-study training and certification preparation for all sections on the career ladder.



Just getting started?

Take the FREE online Candidate test by clicking on "How to Become Certified" at www.rvtechnician.com

REGISTERED TECHNICIAN

Course A. \$89

The Registered Technician Course prepares RV Service Technician Candidates to take the Registered RV Service Technician test. *

Already a Registered Technician?

Choose Your Path:

PREP COURSE

Course B. \$249

Comprehensive Certification
Preparation Course that represents the
left side of the RV Service Technician
Career Ladder. This course is
preparation for testing as a Certified
Technician. *

CERTIFIED SPECIALIST PREP COURSE

Course C. \$69/specialty

Prepares a technician to be tested and certified* in five areas of specialty:

- C1. Appliances \$69
- C2. Body \$69
- C3. Chassis \$69
- C4. Electrical Systems \$69
- C5. Plumbing \$69

ALL COURSES USE AN INTERACTIVE MULTIMEDIA ONLINE FORMAT. Combines text, graphics, and video with mentor support. <u>All content is online</u>. No extra materials needed. Courses align with core knowledge areas of certification tests.*

*Each fee offers access to the specific online preparation course and DOES NOT cover certification testing.

YES, I WANT TO REGISTER MY TECHNICIANS! (Copy this form to register more than four.)

Company	Control of the contro	2000		in the state of	
Address			ed by RVIA and av ike Molino RV Lea		h
City/State/Zip				™ Mike Molino	
Phone	FAX	KV		LEARNING CENTER	
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indicate which COURSE	a technician is choosing with A, B, or C. If cho	osing C, indicate chosen	specialities by nu	moer.	
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Send progress reports a	and other notifications to the following supervi	isor:		TOTAL \$	*
Name	Title	Email			_
Method of Payme	ent All registrations must be pre-paid in	U.S. funds. Fees sub	ject to change	without not	ice.
Check enclosed: Pay	able to the Mike Molino RV Learning Center C	redit CardVISA	MC _ AMEX _	DISCOVER	
Cardholder Name	Billing Address	5		- XU 4	
Acct #		Exp	_ Security Code _		
Cardholder Signature					
F 4- (702) 250 0152 -	a mail to the Adiles Adeline DVI coming Control	0000 Habitanita Da 5-1-6	VA 22020		

Fax to (703) 359-0152 or mail to the Mike Molino RV Learning Center, 3930 University Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030. Call (703) 591-7130 to enroll by phone.

Help Select the 2015 Recipient of RVDA's Highest Honor

Send us your nomination for the James B. Summers Award

By Ronnie Hepp

o you know someone who has worked tirelessly for RVDA and its members over the years, someone who is consistently outstanding? In short, someone who deserves a big, public thank you?

Nominate that person for RVDA's highest honor – the James B. Summers (JBS) Award, created in 1986 to recognize individuals who make outstanding contributions to the association. Ensure that person gets the recognition he or she deserves by submitting a compelling description of what he or she has done or is doing that warrants the award.

Don't just send in a name – describe in detail why that person deserves to wear the gold JBS ring, and make the narrative so compelling that it would be difficult for the board of directors not to select your candidate. The board carefully evaluates all of the information submitted by the nominators before choosing an honoree.

The award will be presented during the RV Dealers International Convention/Expo, November 2-6 at Bally's on the Las Vegas Strip. Nominations are due by May 21



Debbie Brunoforte of Little Dealer, Little Prices, Mesa, AZ, receives the 2014 James B. Summers Award from RVDA President Phil Ingrassia during last fall's convention/expo.

and should be sent to Ronnie Hepp via email (rhepp@rvda.org), fax (703/359-0152), or mail (3930 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030).



LEARN HOW TO STAND OUT FROM YOUR COMPETITORS!

Get your Passport to Excellence: Education and Training



THE JOURNEY to excellence begins with education and training, and that's what you'll find at the 2015 RV Dealers International Convention/Expo: A week of learning opportunities and leadership development for the entire dealership staff.

To stand out in a crowded field of competitors, you need skilled professionals throughout the dealership. The convention offers dynamic training for dealers, general managers, fixed operations leaders, and individuals on the management track. And, due to its popularity last year, the social media and digital marketing track will return with expert presenters to help attendees master the art and science behind social media success.

Beyond the educational and networking opportunities, the convention takes place in a sought-after locale at the center of the Las Vegas Strip – the iconic Bally's. Being at "the center of the action" gives dealers easy access to nearby dining, world-class entertainment, and the famous Las Vegas nightlife. Guest rooms at the convention rate are available at both Bally's and adjacent Paris.

The convention floor plan at Bally's is easy to navigate, with most sessions within steps of the registration desk, dealer lounge, expo halls, and general session ballrooms.

Building on last year's highly acclaimed launch at Bally's, this year's event will again feature:

- Streamlined education sessions emphasizing content and presentation in a shorter timeframe
- A Wi-Fi equipped dealer lounge for networking and socializing
- A free smartphone app to help you plan your days
- Targeted educational and leadership programs for young execs
- Vendor Training +Plus on Monday and Tuesday
- Society of Certified RV Professionals reception with education recognition and networking

The Value: Low Early Bird Rates and Lock-ins

Dealers have a choice of registration and payment options that are designed

for maximum flexibility and affordability. Vendor Training +Plus training sessions on Monday and EARLY BIRD FULL REGISTRATION RATE

\$599 \$540 for first dealership registrant per each additional

per each additional registrant

If you've registered for the convention and want to bring employees to attend just the Vendor Training +Plus program, you can register them for that program for \$205 per person. The Vendor Training +Plus badge will also give the holder access to the expoand the opening reception on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

RVDA dealer members only – expires 6/30/15

Tuesday are available to all full registrants. Dealerships with one full registrant can bring additional staff to attend Vendor Training +Plus only at a low, two-day rate. And dealers can lock in a low rate for additional staff by registering at least one person before the early bird deadline.

Register online now for the industry's premier event for RV dealers, and let your journey to success begin!

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within steps of

FOR MORE INFO VISIT

WWW.RVDA.ORG/CONVENTION

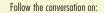
AND REGISTER TODAY!

Presented by:

















DEALER REGISTRATION FORM

1. Registration Information. Please copy this form if adding registrants.

Company Name	
Phone	Fax
Address	
City	State/Prov Zip/PC
Email	



Nov. 2-6, 2015 Bally's on the Las Vegas Strip

2. Registration Fees:

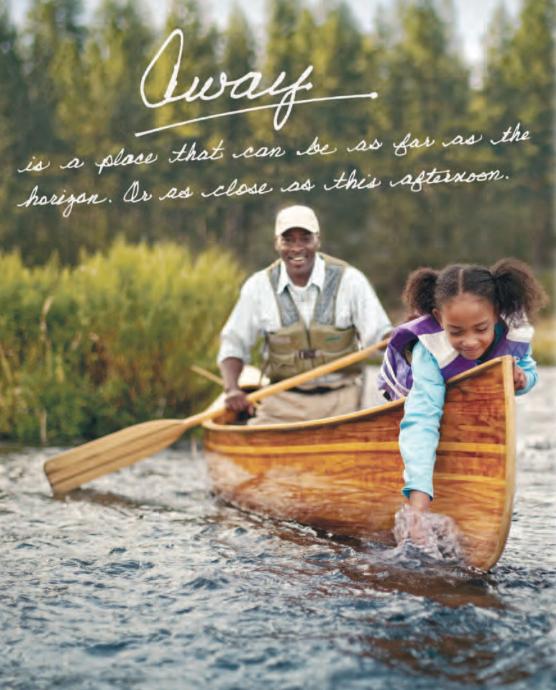
2. Registration Fees:					
First registrant locks in today's	lowest rate for all future dealership personnel!	Early Bird Thru 6/30	Advanced 7/1 - 8/31	Regular After 8/31	Amount
First Registrant – in	ncludes Vendor Training +Plus, a \$205 value!	\$599	\$659	\$919	\$
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Second Registrant	– includes Vendor Training +Plus, a \$205 value!	\$549	\$639	\$919	\$
Registrant Name	Email				
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Third Registrant – i	includes Vendor Training +Plus, a \$205 value!	\$549	\$639	\$919	\$
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Fourth Registrant -	- includes Vendor Training +Plus, a \$205 value!	\$549	\$639	\$919	\$
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I would like to add a contribution	to the Mike Molino RV Learning Center to promote education for our industry.	k			\$
VENDOR TRAINING + Plus ONLY	Dealership must have one full convention registrant to brin The cost is \$205 per person and includes Vendor Training and Tuesday's reception in the Expo. Photocopy this form	g +Plus training	g on Monday, I	Nov. 2 and Tu	esday, Nov. 3,
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Name on Card	Card #		Expires	Securit	y Code
Billing Address	City		State/Prov	Zip/PC	

MAIL OR FAX A COPY OF THIS FORM TO:

RVDA of America, 3930 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030-2515 • (703) 591-7130 • Fax: (703) 359-0152 • www.rvda.org
RVDA of Canada, Ste. 145, 11331 Coppersmith Way, Richmond, BC V7A 5J9 • (604) 718-6325 • Fax: (604) 204-0154 • www.rvda.ca

CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY: All cancellations must be in writing and received by August 31, 2015, to qualify for a refund. A \$50 administrative fee will be deducted from each refund request received by July 31, 2015. A \$100 administrative fee will be deducted from each refund request received between August 1, 2015 and August 31, 2015. No refunds will be made after August 31, 2015. *The Mike Molino RV Learning Center is a tax-exempt organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions may be tax deductible as charitable donations.

GET ON BOARD WITH GO RVING!



The Go RVing dealer tie-in program is back...

and better than ever! The "Away" campaign returns to the emotion-driven family focus of past campaigns, along with continued emphasis on the affordability and accessibility of the RV lifestyle for multigenerational families. This optional program also gives dealers, state dealer associations, and their agencies options to use materials connected to the national campaign. Here are the highlights:

Leads - Plus Program

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, Go RVing dealers signed up for the tie-in program can access via the Internet Go RVing leads that are prioritized according to the consumer's purchase timeframe.

Digital RV Image Library Pictures on GoRVing.com

Go RVing dealers signed up for the program have access to multiple all-new, high resolution images of consumers enjoying a variety of RV products. These images can be used in advertising, Yellow Pages ads, websites, and other promotional materials.

To give dealers maximum flexibility, the Go RVing Dealer Leads-Plus Program also features a menu of other promotional items. These items are available separately.

Get on board with Go RVing! Return this form TODAY!

	9		
lame:		Please enroll dealership(s) at \$250 each.	
Company:		Make checks payable to RVDA. 🚨 Check here for le	ads delivered by U.S. mail.
.ddress:		Credit card (circle): VISA MC DISCOVER	AMEX
		Credit card #:	Exp. date:
hone:	Fax:	Cardholder:	Security code:
mail:		Signature:	
)ealer website			

Fax to (703) 359-0152, or mail to RVDA, 3930 University Dr., Fairfax, VA, 22030. For more information, visit www.rvda.org or send an email to info@rvda.org

 1872
Find your Givens
Go RVing

The Mike Molino RV Learning Center proudly recognizes these



ENDOWMENTS

The Mike Molino

LEARNING



Mike Molino RV Learning Center Scholarship Program



FACT SHEET AND APPLICATION: 2015-2016 ACADEMIC YEAR

About This Scholarship

The RV Learning Center's Scholarship Program awards \$2,500 scholarships to deserving college undergraduate students majoring in business, finance, economics, accounting, or other RV industry-related subjects. A factor for awarding the scholarship may be an applicant's background of RV industry employment or a desire to work in the RV business after completing post-secondary education. The scholarship program is made possible through the generosity of the Newt and Joanne Kindlund Family.

Eligibility Requirements

We will award a scholarship to an RV-related company employee or their dependent based on a combination of factors.

Requirements*

- Must be a rising sophomore, junior, or senior college undergraduate student
- Must complete an essay on their goals and objectives for attending college
- Must submit a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The form is available at: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Must demonstrate the ability and willingness to fund a portion of their educational expenses on their own
- Must be accepted into an accredited four-year college or university as a condition of receiving the scholarship
- Must have a 2.8 or better cumulative grade point average, and a 1050 minimum SAT score (1575 minimum on the 2400 point scale; a minimum ACT Composite Score of 22 is also acceptable.)

*All requirements must be met by the application deadline. Dealer principals and their dependents are not eligible.

Enclose with Application:

- **1.** An official copy of your most recent college transcript
- 2. A copy of your SAT/ACT scores
- **3.** An essay of not more than 500 words on "My Goals and Objectives in College"
- **4.** A list of extracurricular activities, honors, etc.
- **5.** A copy of your FAFSA form (available at your school or at www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- **6.** Digital photo for publicity (only used if candidate receives scholarship)

Submit application packet to:
Mike Molino RV Learning Center
3930 University Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030
or fax to: (703) 359-0152,
or by email to info@rvda.org

Applicant's Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	Email:
Sponsoring RV-related Company:	
Address:	
	Email:
High School:	Year Graduated: SAT/ACT Score:
Address:	Phone:
College Attending in 2015-2016:	
Address:	Major:
Have You Been Accepted?: If No, When Do You Expec	t to Be? College Credits Completed:
College GPA: Estimated College Expenses (One Year):	\$% to Be Covered by Self/Family:%
Are You Employed? No 🗌 Yes 🗍 Employer:	
How Long/When?	
By signing below, I indicate that I have read the fact sheet tha criteria specified for scholarship applicants.	t accompanies this application and that I meet the eligibility
Signature:	

Deadline: June 3, 2015. To be considered, all application materials must be received by the deadline. For more information and to download additional applications, visit www.rvlearningcenter.org or email info@rvda.org.

RVDA Endorsed Products



Certified Green RV Program TRA Certification Inc.

www.tragreen.com aleazenby@trarnold.com Phone: (800) 398-9282 Fax: (574) 264-0740

TRA, the leading third-party green certification company, through its "Certified Green RV Program," measures, evaluates, and certifies RV manufacturers and verifies vendors for energy efficiency and environmental friendliness. This program empowers dealers to guide environmentally-conscious consumers in making betterinformed decisions about their RV purchases, leading to increased customer satisfaction.

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 RVDA members an annual savings averaging 10-to-15 percent on each Visa and MasterCard swipe 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 in the event they are unable to work due to a covered accident or illness.

Emergency Roadside and Technical Assistance Coach-Net

www.coach-net.com dealersales@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 provides dedicated service using over 150 employees with advanced communications technology tools combined with an extensive database of more than 40,000 service providers. The company

employs trained Customer Service Agents and RVDA-RVIA/ASE Master Certified Technical Service Agents.

Employee Testing Caliper Corp. www.calipercorp.com

Ralph Mannheimer rmannheimer@calipercorp.com (609) 524-1214 For nearly a half-century, Caliper has consulted with over 25,000 companies on improving every aspect of their workforce - from hiring and selection to employee development and succession management. Starting with accurate, objective insights our consultants gain from our timetested personality assessment, the Caliper Profile, we are able to help our clients reduce the high cost of turnover, help first-time managers excel and create solutions that are tailored, practical and adaptable. Whether you are looking to hire top performers, develop talent,

Extended Service Agreements XtraRide RV Service Agreement Program

build teams or transform your

organization, we can help.

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 Insurance Mass Marketing Insurance Consultants Inc. (MMIC)

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

MMIC contracts nationally with a number of health insurance companies to provide a wide variety of benefits. MMIC creates a customized insurance program best suited for individual dealerships. Coverage is available to individual members and those 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.

Hiring Tools Employment Network-A Careerco Company

www.employmentnetwork.net (718) 307-6258

The Employment Network is a network of pay-for-performance job sites. Its flagship site, FindTheRightJob.com, reaches more than 5 million job seekers monthly. Employers can drastically reduce their cost-per-hire by using The Employment Network's FindtheRightJob.com portal and other sites. Employers set the job requirements and only pay for candidates that meet them.

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-New methods to meet circumstances. The Solution: CSI's Lead Qualifier Program. How it Works: Your sales leads are sent to CSI immediately following initial contact with your sales staff, either in the showroom or by phone, website contact, Go RVing leads, and anywhere else you might acquire leads. CSI then makes a personal phone call to each lead, captivating their attention before your competitor does and establishing impressive rapport! 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!

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 for dealers needing to determine the average market value for used RVs. A new online program, RV Connect, is also available that 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 **S**uburban 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 Con-way Freight. Visit our website for more information and to enroll.

Software & Consulting Services KPA

www.kpaonline.com ccreuziger@kpaonline.com (303) 228-2383

KPA provides consulting services and software to more than 5,100 automotive, truck, and equipment dealerships. Its Environmental Health & Safety product line provides on-site, on-call, and online services. Its Human Resource Management software, a total HR solution designed in collaboration with leading labor and employment attorneys, ensures your business is in complete compliance with state and federal regulations. Users have access to on-demand advice from attornevs with expertise in the RV industry.

Visit www.rvcareers.org

RV dealers can access resumes and post job openings through a partnership with Boxwood Technology at www.rvcareers.org.

Home Disclaime Search Eve CENTRAL TRAINING CALENDAR Online Event June 2015 << Back **Manage Events** Sun Wed Mon Tue Thu 3 Write-Up and Comprehensive Dealer/GM Sales Course (3 cr) Show Online Events Show Online Events Close Course (2 Sobel University cr) Service Registration Begins Show Online Events RV Service Technician

Go RVina

events listed? Visit www.rvtrainingcalendar.com to upload your events to the calendar.

RVDA Welcomes Our Newest Members 3/1/15 - 3/31/15

Dealers

Jerry's Home and RV Atkins, VA

Lloyd's Trailer Sales Orange, TX

Stoops Freightliner Indianapolis, IN

Aftermarket

Eddie's Truck Center Rapid City, SD

Rental

California RV Santee, CA

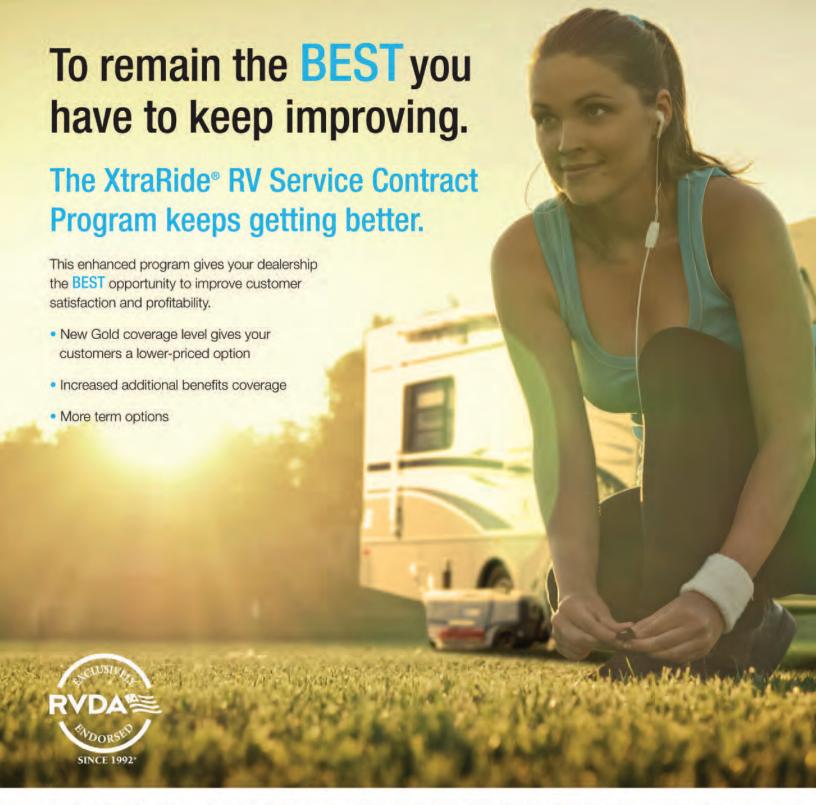
Street Suite RVs Douglasville, GA

Yosemite RV Rentals Coarsegold, CA

Fwd >> Fri Sat 5 Show Online Events Show Online Events **Show Online Events** 12 10 13 RV Inspector/RV Ally Legal Ally Legal Ally Legal Show Online Events Maintenance Tech Show Online Events Show Online Events Awareness Awareness Awareness Canton AM Columbus AM Cincinnati PM Training Session Session Session Show Online Events Ally Legal Ally Legal Show Online Events Awareness -Awareness Cincinnati AM Columbus PM Session Session Show Online Events Show Online Events 20 Aqua-Hot Moss Adams Show Online Events Service Show Online Events Show Online Events Show Online Events Show Online Events 2015 CFO and Technician Controller **Certified Training** National Class Conference Kelly Show Online Events Enterprises 3-**Day Financial** Center Seminar Show Online Events 22 24 25 26 27 RV Inspector/RV Show Online Events Maintenance Tech Show Online Events Training RV Preventive Maintenance Show Online Events **ONGOING ONLINE EVENTS:** 30 RV Technician Technician FRVTA's Distance Service Writer/ Show Online Events Certification Show Online Events Learning Network -Training for Every Service Training Certification Advisor Self-Study Training Training - w/hands-Prep Course Position at Your through through FRVTA'S DLN FRVTA'S DLN Dealership Show Online Events

ADVERTISERS INDEX

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MBA Insurance Inc. (800) 622-2201	Sobel University (253) 565-2577
ProSalesRV (800) 899-28004	Spader (800) 772-337714



Find out how Protective Asset Protection can help your dealership protect customers' tomorrows so they can embrace today. **Call us at 866 483 5088 or visit protectiveasset protection.com to learn more.**

Protect Tomorrow. Embrace Today.™

XtraRide Service Contracts | Post-Sale Programs

Dealer Experience Refund & Reinsurance Programs

F&I Training | On-Line Rating, Reporting & Contracts



*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.