
The Arvee Gazette

News of the Funny side of life on the road!

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"Three-Day Rule" enriches camping experience

By Gerry Bruder.

When I was a new RVer, I rushed from campground to campground like a shopper scurrying through the aisles at a department store on half-price Saturday. So much to see, so little time! Rarely did I spend more than a day in one place. I'd pull into a campground in the afternoon, sample the attractions, hike some of the trails, and be on my way to another campground by noon the next day.

Then I got married. At first, Suzanne tolerated my whirlwind RV pace. But she's a laid-back, spiritual person who prefers strolling to striding, and soon she began to protest what she dubbed our "one-night stands." We ought to stay a week, she said, to relax and properly explore a destination. I maintained that with so many interesting places to visit, we should keep moving to squeeze in all we could in the allotted vacation time.

So we compromised: at least three days everywhere, unless a long distance between destinations, or bad weather or mechanical trouble en route, necessitated an overnight stop. We could stay longer than three days, if each of us agreed.

While Suzanne reveled in the extra time, I felt shackled at first. After the usual post-arrival sightseeing at a particular campground, I'd find myself inside our fifth-wheel, reviewing the route to the next destination on the road atlas, oppressed with another day or two until the three-day rule permitted a departure. To occupy myself, I began revisiting the local attractions. I also started spending more time there initially,

knowing I had three days to fill. (With Suzanne holding my hand to slow me down, it was impossible to rush around, anyway.)

Now I studied museum exhibits tucked into corners I would have hurried by before. I read informational placards I would have previously ignored, and attended educational talks by rangers I would have avoided in a one-day visit. Soon, I found myself admitting that the additional attention enriched each experience, just as reading a book is more meaningful than merely skimming it. We were stopping at fewer campgrounds but enjoying each one more.

Lingering at destinations also created opportunities for day trips that added further spice. On a recent RV outing we stayed at Three-Island Crossing State Park in southwestern Idaho. My one-day habit would have restricted us to sights within the park. Because of the three-day rule, we had the freedom to hike a whole afternoon in Little City of Rocks 30 miles away, a BLM-administered valley of wondrous gargoyle-like rock formations.

On the same vacation our three days at Massacre Rocks State Park, in south central Idaho, allowed a 60-mile drive to the original site of old Fort Hall, a major trading post and Oregon Trail refuge built on the Snake River in 1832. The site lies in a remote section of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and we had to obtain written permission from the Tribal Business Council to enter the area. Without a commitment to stay at least three days at the state park, we might have

left before taking the time to savor the sense of history that radiates from this quiet place.

But for the three-day rule, in fact, we might not have learned about Little City of Rocks or the old Fort Hall site at all. On my own, I had done only minimal research for a trip. Instead, I would choose a general region--southern Utah, say--and plan on making spontaneous stops at campgrounds within it as I came to them. If a particular spot seemed especially interesting, I would linger. If not--another one-night stand. Now, under the three-day rule, we research extensively not only the region but specific campgrounds and their surrounding areas to select those that promise to best justify three days of our time. That's how we discovered these two highlights.

Suzanne and I have returned to many spots I visited as a bachelor because, I came to realize, I blew through them with blinders the first time around. Invariably, after three days I'm astounded at how much I missed.

Easy-going by nature, most RVers already follow a fairly relaxed travel schedule. But occasionally we meet some with the same hurry-hurry attitude that once possessed me. They often decline an invitation to join us on an outing, explaining that they have to be home by a certain date and still have X number of stops on their itinerary. Like evangelical missionaries Suzanne and I tell them how I came to see the light and urge them to slow down and enjoy. We also point out that longer stays mean less driving and lower fuel costs.

We hope we've made a few converts along the way.

Arvee Gazette to Publish RVing Carbon Footprint

The Arvee Gazette staff will be publishing a series of articles related to the environmental affects RVing has to the planet.

In this series, RVing will be compared to other modes of travel and their affects on the environment as well.

The articles will begin with the Sept. issue of the Arvee Gazette. Comments may be sent to admin@rvtoons.com.

British families go camping as they tighten their belts

By Angela Monaghan

British families are abandoning their annual summer holiday in Europe for cheaper camping holidays at home, as they tighten their belts and stay away from the more expensive euro.

At retailer Blacks Leisure, while sales of its boardwear fashion are down, the peak camping season has started strongly with like-for-like sales in July so far up 6.1%. It comes at a time when most retailers are reporting falling sales as consumers cut back spending in the face of an economic downturn and the rising cost of living.

Neil Gillis, Blacks' chief executive, said: "We ring around all the UK camping sites and the picture we're getting from them is that bookings are up by about 10%."

He said the shift could be explained by Brits cutting down on spending, and also because the pound is weaker against the euro, prompting more people to stay away from Europe because they can get less for their money.

Mr. Gillis said that UK camping sites were expecting bookings to be up even more next year, by about 20%, because a lot of holidays for this year had already been booked before the problems with the euro and the consumer downturn had taken hold.

rvtoons.com Announces Schedule of Features

The site is done (for now) and a regular schedule has been established for the Special Features of rvtoons.com.

The Arvee Family Adventures will be updated twice monthly around the 7th and 21st. The Arvee Gazette will be published monthly around the 14th and a

New Cartoon will be added to the viewing page around the 28th of each month.

This Isn't Your Father's Winnebago

This was the title of a story that hit the wires via www.thestandard.com and authored by Zilah Bahar. The article spoke of recreation vehicles heading for the open road despite rising gas prices.

The author states, "This fall in consumer confidence has put the kibosh on a period of spectacular growth predicted on how effectively the RV industry could use technology to transform a hulking, diesel powered vehicle into a luxury apartment."

Four major players in the RV industry were discussed in the article: Coachman, Fleetwood, National RV and Winnebago. She also quoted Chris Morrison, RVIA's director of public relations who said, "We're still down from where we were, but seeing signs of improvement."

What's really interesting about this article is it was originally published in 2001. The more things change, the more they stay the same...or get better. Keep on truckin'.

Camping by Dan Quayle

You all look like happy campers to me. Happy campers you are, happy campers you have been and as far as I am concerned, happy campers you will always be.