
The Arvee Gazette

News of the funny side of life on the road!

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RV Toons.com to display at California RV Show in Pomona

The rvtoons.com team will finally go on the road to Pomona, California for the 56th Annual RV Show. The show runs from Friday, Oct. 10 through Sunday, Oct. 19, 10am – 6 pm daily. The show will be held at the Fairplex, L.A. County Fair, Hotel & Exposition Complex, Gate 9, White Ave., Pomona, CA.

RVToons.com has commissioned the award winning artist, Angus Bowie Wilson to paint six original Vintage RV Christmas scenes. These paintings have been printed onto Christmas cards that will be for sale during this show. One of the original paintings has been framed and will be given away to one lucky winner from the show.

RV Toons.com has created four RV Christmas cartoons for cards that will also be on sale at the Pomona show.

Original cartoon design tee shirts and a variety of other products from the Arvee's Gift Shop will be available at the show.

This is the 56th year of the California RV Show. For more information call 951-274-0696.

Michigan RV Group Says "Green" Vacations are Easy Using RV

With restricted space and resources, RVers are natural conservers while traveling. Conscious of waste, high utility bills and saving energy, RVers practice rising and reusing containers, selecting paper ducts over plastic and using natural gas for heat and cooking.

RV's have a limited supply of water, so RVers are naturally frugal about the amount used. Many RVers conserve water by taking "military showers," or showers in which water is only running while rising. Employing the "military shower" technique can cut water usage from about 17.2 gallons to five gallons or less.

It's common for RVers to use the natural environment as a method to providing basic necessities such as light, heat and air in order to save energy. The sun's blaze can be utilized instead of turning on lights and heat, opening a window on a cool day, replacing air conditioning

and cooking over a campfire instead of an electrical stove.

Most RVers aren't spending hours in front of the TV for entertainment. RVers usually opt for outdoor fun like hiking, biking, fishing, swimming or exploring nature.

RV solar panels are becoming an increasingly popular trend in conserving energy and cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Solar panels convert light from the sun into electricity and charge the RV's batteries and all the basic lighting and appliances.

For more information visit www.marvac.org or call 517-349-8881.

Consider More than Price When Purchasing an RV

A friend recently handed me a copy of Time magazine cover from October 1974. On the cover, was the then-President of the United States, Gerald Ford, rolling up his sleeves looking as though he was getting ready for a fight. As a matter of fact, the cover said, "Trying to Fight Back" with three words below it. 1. Inflation 2. Recession 3. Oil.

Hints of familiarity to what we are now experiencing some 34 years later. So, if history is going to be our guide, and you are on the fence about buying and financing a Recreational Vehicle, now may be the time to buy.

If you are in your 50's or older, you will recall the 1970s and the early 1980s and

what happened to the RV market and interest rates. It is not to say history will exactly repeat itself, but it doesn't hurt to revisit and learn from the lessons of the past. Focusing on this past period, interest rates rose to as high as 18%. In 1978 RVs were selling at the bargain interest rate of 12.5% and people were thrilled. Today's interest rates -- That are floating at the 7% range -- look like a bargain. Combine low interest rates with the readjustment of the RV prices and you may want to give more consideration to today's RV bargains.

Looking at the effects of interest rates on potential RV ownership, if you buy an RV today for \$150,000 with 20% down at a 6.99% interest rate, your monthly payment will be \$930. If you're are looking at a 10% depreciation rate over the next three years your RV will be worth \$110,000 (again putting 20% down your financed amount would be \$88,000). But what if interest rates return even to the level of 1978, which was 12.5%? Your monthly payment would be \$999 or \$69 per month for a three year old used unit. So which is the better value? Another benefit, you have the use of that RV for those three years.

You will feel the effect of the purchase price once, but you will feel the impact of the interest rate every month when you make your payment, in this case, \$16,560 over the life of the loan.

"Camping Quote" of the Month

But the place which you have selected for camp, though never so rough and grim, begins at once to have its attractions, and become a very center of civilization to you: "Home is home, be it never so homely. — Henry David Thoreau, U.S. philosopher, author, naturalist

EasyLab

EasyLab Cost Comparison

Note that this comparison only includes costs related to the necessities of travel and, of course, actual costs can vary significantly. Personal purchases, eating between meals, side activities, etc. are not included.

RV Vacation		Hotel / flying Vacation	
Driving 1,200 miles in a motorhome and camping 5 nights with 4 people and a pet.		Flying domestically and staying in a hotel for 5 nights with 4 people while their pet stays behind.	
Gasoline at approx. \$4/gal.	\$500	Flights for 4	\$1,400
Pet boarding (Pete the dog went in the motorhome)	0	Pet boarding for 6 days	\$210*
		Airport parking for 6 days at about \$24 per day**	\$140
Travel snacks and drinks	\$16	Airport snacks, drinks	\$34**
		Overweight bag	\$50***
		Extra checked bag	\$25***
Car rental: oh, that's right, you don't need one!	0	5 day car rental at about \$50 per day including taxes and insurance	\$250
Lodging: 5 nights in a campground	\$125	Lodging: 2 rooms for 5 nights in a mid-level hotel	\$1,250
Bike rental: oops, they took their own bikes!	0	Bike rental: 4 bikes for 2 hours	\$160
Meals for 6 days ^a Breakfast avg. \$2 /person/day Lunch avg. \$5/person/day Dinner avg. \$9/person/day	\$384	Meals for 6 days**** Breakfast avg. \$6 /person/day Lunch avg. \$8/person/day Dinner avg. \$15/person/day	\$696
Total travel cost	\$1,025	Total travel cost	\$4,283

* Eliminate if you don't have a pet. Double this if you have two!

** If you're lucky!

***Depends on airline. Also, maybe you could pack more carefully to avoid this cost altogether. Of course there's no need to worry so much in an RV.

****Based on a mix of fast food and restaurant meals

^a Based on most meals at campground, plus a few fast food/restaurant meals

This is a comparison based on a hypothetical travel party of four. The estimated costs are intended to represent typical costs encountered in the real world. Actual costs can vary considerably depending on innumerable factors.