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RV Lifestyles  
Issue 153

April 23, 2008  
Publishers: Jaimie Hall-Bruzenak and Alice Zyetz  
<http://www.rvhometown.com>  
Blog: RV Home Yet? <http://rvhometown.typepad.com>  
Columnists: Tom Vineski, Alice Zyetz

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Sharing information on the full-timing lifestyle, job tips, travel experiences, and much more. Part I comes out on or about the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Part II comes out around the 25<sup>th</sup>.

You can read this issue online in its entirety at  
[http://www.rvhometown.com/HTML/Newsletter/APR\\_2008\\_Pt\\_2.pdf](http://www.rvhometown.com/HTML/Newsletter/APR_2008_Pt_2.pdf) The links are live. Hold your mouse over a link and you'll be able to click on it to go there.

Find links to back issues at [http://www.rvhometown.com/HTML/Newsletter/rv\\_lifestyle\\_newsletter.htm](http://www.rvhometown.com/HTML/Newsletter/rv_lifestyle_newsletter.htm)

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IMPORTANT: Do not reply to this e-mail address. You can contact the publisher/editor at calamityjamie @ gmail or youshoulda @ aol.com

Please forward this ezine to anyone who is interested in learning more about or would like additional resources for living the RV lifestyle.

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#### IN THIS ISSUE

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1. JAIMIE'S VIEW
2. AT RVHOMETOWN.COM
3. COLUMN: FULL-TIME RVING: MORE THAN BEAUTIFUL SCENERY - Alice Zyetz
4. ON THE LIGHT SIDE
5. COLUMN: SOLAR AND OTHER THINGS Tom and Nancy Vineski
6. RV RESOURCES
7. RVs IN THE NEWS
8. READER CONTRIBUTIONS

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1. JAIMIE'S VIEW

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We welcome our new subscribers! Please pass this newsletter on to friends who might enjoy reading it.



Yesterday was Earth Day. I just read that the date for Earth Day was chosen because it was the birthday of stage, screen & TV star and passionate environmental activist Eddie Albert. From another source I read that Eddie Albert helped launch Earth Day in 1970, so the date was chosen partially to honor him. In any case, we took our cloth shopping bags to the grocery store.

Is "green RVing" an oxymoron? Tom and Nancy don't think so. They write about Earth Day in their column. Read further to find out changes at Whole Food grocery stores.

Alice shares a new book in her column. It may bring back memories or encourage you to be adventuresome!

Speaking of new books, I just reviewed In Transit by Mary A. Agria. This novel is about a recently widowed 64 year old woman who had been a full-time RVer. After a year of living with her children, she decides to go back to the lifestyle she loves. The author obviously knows about RVing and that was confirmed by an e-mail. Read the review to find out more about the book and also about Mary's interesting RVing adventures. I recommend it. [http://www.rvhometown.com/HTML/Books\\_For\\_RVers/Serpents\\_trail.htm](http://www.rvhometown.com/HTML/Books_For_RVers/Serpents_trail.htm)

George and I have been doing some geocaching. In the photo I'm showing a finger puppet found in the "Whine" cache. See RV Home Yet? blog for the full story. Next week we will be exploring Crown King so look for postings in our blog. We'll also be RVing to Chaco Canyon and Canyon de Chelly National Parks in May and maybe Monument Valley and the Grand Canyon. We'll get several new stamps in our national parks passport book plus see these fascinating places.

Find other interesting tips and tidbits: Read about ants, chickens and rattlesnakes. Learn about a new computer-based phone. Escapee members who use their mail service need to read the update for them - it could affect your credit report. All these and more in this issue.

Safe travels,

Jaimie

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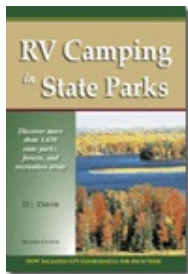
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2. AT RVHOMETOWN.COM:

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FEATURED RVAC BOOK: RV Camping in State Parks by David Davin



RV Camping in State Parks by David Davin. The book details some 1650 US state parks in North America (no Hawaii) that offer RV accommodations. Information for each park includes its GPS coordinates, location relative to nearby communities or major highways, address, telephone numbers, total spaces per park, reservation information and numbers, web addresses and telephone numbers for the state agency in charge of parks, driving directions, facilities, such as hook-ups, size limitations (if any) wireless WEB parks, swimming areas or pools, equestrian parks, parks with golf courses and boating areas or ramps. Each state has a map showing locations of its state parks. \$14.95. [http://www.rvhometown.com/HTML/RVAC/RVAC\\_DAVIN.htm](http://www.rvhometown.com/HTML/RVAC/RVAC_DAVIN.htm)

READ OUR BLOG: RV Home Yet? <http://rvhometown.typepad.com/>

- \* No health insurance? Free and low-cost checkups and doctors visits
- \* More geocaching
- \* Will using biodiesel fuel void your warranty?
- \* Where do you get your books to read?
- \* How fun to see elk!
- \* Locals know the good spots!
- \* Eating alone
- \* Storytelling
- \* Exercise on the road- geocaching

SURVEY RESULTS: Why do you RV? What aspects most motivates your RV travels? If more than one applies, choose the biggest factor or what originally motivated your travels.

- 54% - See the U.S. and more
- 14% - Live fully on less money than in a stick house
- 8% - Able to travel more for less money than hotels, etc.
- 1% - The social life - meet people
- 10% - Need(ed) a change
- 1% - Find a place to eventually relocate
- 0% - Lessen my environmental footprint
- 11% - Camp in remote places and enjoy nature

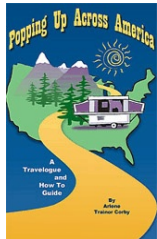
NEW SURVEY AT RVHometown.com : Have you taken your rig into Mexico? Vote at <http://www.rvhometown.com>

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### 3. COLUMN: FULL-TIME RVING: MORE THAN BEAUTIFUL SCENERY # 57 - Alice Zyetz

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#### Popping Up Across America



This column is about the many options available to the full-time RVer and how to access the information needed to pursue a specific interest. This month we look at another way to travel economically since fuel prices are so high. After we graduated from sleeping on the ground in tents, many of us advanced to a pop-up trailer for weekend and short vacation camping. We then sold those and bought motorhomes, travel and fifth wheel trailers of Class B vans for more extensive travel.

Just as many people are going back to smaller, more economical rigs, Arlene Trainor Corby, in her recent book *Popping Up Across America* (<http://www.poppingup.com>), describes how she and her husband traveled for 11 months across America in their pop-up camper. They loved it so much they did it for a second year. Part travelogue and part how-to guide, Corby whets the reader's appetite for life on the blue highways and then details how to make it happen in a pop-up.

Arlene and Charles followed their noses to explore the little known sites as well as the more famous. They visited local museums, the oldest dance hall in Texas, Three Rivers Petroglyphs Site, but they also made sure they didn't miss New Orleans, San Francisco, and the Oregon Trail along the Columbia River. Reading the book is like having Arlene across the table, sharing the sights, the people she met, and of course the typical RV horror stories about weather.

The last part of the book gives great ideas on how to organize the small spaces in the pop-up and provides lots of lists of what to bring and buy. They outfitted their truck so they could sleep in it occasionally, enabling them to stay in a Wal-Mart when passing through, for example. Once in a while

they went to a motel for a night when adverse conditions prevented them from camping in the pop-up.

Although our old pop-up is long gone, after reading this book I found myself longing for the simplicity of those days. Go to *Popping Up Across America* and find out how to save money and still enjoy our great country.

We welcome *your* stories. If you are involved in a special interest as you travel, please contact me at youshoulda @ aol.com

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Alice Zyetz

Co-author, *The Woman's Guide to Solo RVing*

Co-editor, *RV Traveling Tales: Women's Journeys on the Open Road*

Author, *You Shoulda Listened to Your Mother: 36 Timeless Success Tips for Working Women.*

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#### 4. ON THE LIGHT SIDE

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QUOTE:

It is a funny thing about life; if you refuse to accept anything but the best, you very often get it. Somerset Maugham

KNOWLEDGE QUIZ: I saw a section on chickens and groups of animals in the Sunday comics. Thought I'd see what you know!

1. A fear of chickens is A. alektorophobia B. apiphobia C. abibliophobia D. amaxophobia
2. The collective noun (meaning "a group of") for chickens is A. a murder B. a float C. a peep D. a pride
3. T/F Chickens are the most numerous bird in the world. They number in the billions.

TIP - GET RID OF ANTS: Put small piles of cornmeal where you see ants. They eat it, take it 'home', can't digest it, so it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains, but it works and you don't have the worry about pets or small children being harmed!

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#### 5. COLUMN: SOLAR AND OTHER THINGS

Tom and Nancy Vineski

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22 April 2008 Earth day

Greetings again from sunny SoCal (southern California)

It's been a wonderful 38th annual Earth Day. We had good sunshine and a great solar cooked cake and separately beans for soup and humus, along with a swim, a good hike in the California chaparral and the Internet to tie it all together. We even gave Priscilla the Prius the day off. Once again we looked at our RV living, climbing fuel prices and the implications for our travel plans and our impact on the world as measured in one way by our carbon footprint. In many ways we have come to better appreciate "green" the RV lifestyle can be. Less space, less stuff, solar electric for daily living, careful water usage, well-tuned engine (and to a lesser degree our own bodies, too:) and a diet based primarily on fruits, nuts and vegetables, not meat. We're sure many of you have similar awareness and appreciation for these opportunities to live lightly and respectfully, too.

A few new Web sites we've found informative on world climate change, advocacy and action we can take individually and nationally are <http://www.climateprotect.org>, and for a discussion on the nature and various plans that deal with "carbon neutrality and carbon offsets." These are organizations that offer methods to offset one's carbon impact or carbon removal opportunities for a price: <http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/ConsumersGuidetoCarbonOffsets.pdf>. Finally, a fun way to look at all the "stuff" of our lives, <http://www.storyofstuff.com/index.html>. We're still trying to find an appropriate carbon calculator for the RV lifestyle...so if you have found one, please send it along.

And for those of you bringing your rigs out of winter storage, here's a few tips to get ready for travel:

- \* Check thoroughly the inside and out for water damage, check the roof seams and smell for mildew in the interior
- \* Reinstall or recharge battery and check out wiring, lights and CO and propane detectors
- \* Check freshwater system and replace water filter, sanitize tank, flush out entire system
- \* Drain black and gray water tanks, grease valve slides if sticky
- \* Check propane system connections with soapy water, clean air conditioning filters and double check that GFI circuit
- \* Fuel it up and get ready for some great summer adventures!

Happy trails and see you next time...  
tom and nancy vineski

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Tom and Nancy Vineski  
800-652-0826  
solarnomads @ aol.com

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#### ANSWERS TO KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

A. Fear of chickens is alektorophobia  
Apiphobia is fear of bees. C. Abibliophobia is fear of being without books. RV Traveling Tales has a story about this very topic. D. amaxophobia is fear of riding in vehicles- not a good thing for an RVer! See <http://www.indianchild.com/phobias.htm> for an extensive list of phobias.

2. C a peep or a brood Others: a murder is a group of crows, a float is a group of crocodiles D. a pride is a group of lions

3. T There are more than 24 billion chickens in the world!

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#### 6. RV RESOURCES

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MAGICJACK: If you have broadband access with your computer, check out MagicJack for making phone calls. This small device plugs into a USB port on your computer. You plug a landline phone into that and make calls. The price is \$40, which includes \$20 for the first year of long distance service. Make calls to any phone. The device is small but could block other USB ports, depending on your configuration. You can't get phone calls unless your computer is on (though it will take voice mail). For more information and a free 30-day trial see <http://www.magicjack.com>

CREDIT CARD OFFERS: Shred credit card and other financial offers rather than throw them away to protect your identity. You can also opt out of these offers, for either five years or permanently, by calling 888-567-8688 or at <http://www.optoutprescreen.com> To opt out permanently, go online, then complete the form, print and mail it.

PLASTIC BAGS: As of April 22, Earth Day, Whole Foods stores in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom will no longer offer plastic bags for purchases. Only paper bags and reusable totes will be available. A number of supermarkets are offering free or inexpensive totes to shoppers on Earth Day. Fryes in AZ will take 5 cents off the order each time a shopper re-uses a bag.

RV WORKERS RESOURCE: Amazing Resumes: What Employers Want to See and How to Say It by Jim Bright, Ph.D. and Joanne Earl, Ph.D. is well worth a read. This book focuses on proven strategies based on psychological and human resources research.

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## 7. RVs IN THE NEWS

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RVs AND THE HOMELESS-SQUIRRELMAN: A homeless Seattle man, known as "Squirrelman," had been living in a treehouse for two years. He was evicted. With a pet rat, a ferret and an off-balance squirrel, Squirrelman had few options. Read about his new home, which is an RV. [http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2004337442\\_apwatreehouse.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2004337442_apwatreehouse.html)

GREAT SANTA FE TRAIL RIDE: RVers are invited to accompany about 50 riders and their horses on an endurance race as they take two weeks to ride 515 miles on part of the Santa Fe Trail. Each night Race Village will be set up where RVers, campers and participants can gather. The race begins on August 15 in New Mexico and finishes in Kansas. RVers can volunteer to help with the event. In addition, race organizers have compiled a unique and interesting itinerary for RVers to enjoy including stops at the historic Fort Union National Monument near Wagon Mound, New Mexico to the New Mexico Ghost Town of Yates to Dodge City, Kansas - Queen of the Cowtowns (longhorns, that is) to the World's Largest Chuck Wagon Supper and Race Finale Celebration in Council Grove, Kansas on September 13th - all along the historic Santa Fe Trail. <http://www.byways.org/press/news/travel/2008/756>

RATTLESNAKE SEASON: For those still in the desert Southwest, rattlesnake season is upon us. Five people were hospitalized in the Phoenix area for rattlesnake bites the weekend before last. Be alert when outside. Watch and listen for snakes and give them a wide berth. As an aside: Rattlesnake bites are rarely fatal if treated. The Australian taipan is the world's most toxic snake. A single drop of its venom is as deadly as 50 drops of the Indian cobra.

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UPDATE FOR ESCAPEES MEMBERS: Recently the "city" for zip code 77399 for mail service users was changed to "Escapees." It has been changed back to Livingston but it may take a while for that to be reflected in company software. When Rainbow Dr. was inadvertently replaced by Robin Dr. it was changed back but I found Robin Dr. on my credit report. Remember, you can request a free credit report each year from each of the three credit reporting bureaus. Go to <https://www.annualcreditreport.com>

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## 8. READER CONTRIBUTIONS

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Do you have feedback on the contents of this ezine? Suggestions for future topics or resources? An RVing question to ask? Information to share? Write to me! Send your suggestions, praise, criticism and feedback to me at [calamityjaimie @ gmail.com](mailto:calamityjaimie@gmail.com). Put RV Lifestyles in the subject line.

Q&A: I'm pretty confused about internet access. Could you share your thoughts and/or experiences about what you've found to be the best way to stay connected to the internet from an RV? What have you found to work the best? I think I'll need to be online an average of 15 - 20 hours a week for the next couple of years (at least).

A. You might want to read my article at our new Web site [RVLifestyleExperts.com](http://www.rvlifestyleexperts.com) which is under development. <http://www.rvlifestyleexperts.com/free-rv-info/getting-started/internet-on-the-road>

First of all, no method works all the time. I used to have a Verizon Aircard. When George and I were in Big Bend NP, TX, it didn't work at all. We bought a satellite Internet dish. We have the tripod mount. The roof mount will find the signal itself but if you are parked under trees, forget finding a signal. Even with the tripod mount, which you can move around to get a signal, we had many nights last year while back east where we could not get a signal with that either. We had a router so we could both get a signal. We just went back to a Verizon Aircard. I'm sure there will be places where that won't work. See the full story at our blog.

[http://rvhometown.typepad.com/rv\\_home\\_yet/2008/03/internet-servic.html](http://rvhometown.typepad.com/rv_home_yet/2008/03/internet-servic.html)

COMMENT: I recently purchased the DVD on Season of the Sand Blossoms (reviewed in the March 24 issue) and it is EXCELLENT!!!! I would enjoy more of this type also. I believe I talked with you about purchasing this and did get it through the California contact. Thank you so much. Reta

READER WEB SITES & BLOGS: We list your blog or Web site here. Send your information to [calamityjaimie @ gmail.com](mailto:calamityjaimie@gmail.com) with RV Lifestyles in the subject line.

Dick S, who has a homebase in Payson, AZ near us, has an interesting Web site: [BoomerRVer.com](http://www.boomerrver.com)  
<http://www.boomerrver.com/>

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^RV LIFESTYLES^

AVAILABLE AT RVHOMETOWN

- \*\* Support Your RV Lifestyle! An Insider's Guide to Working on the Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition with or without the companion CD (price reduced)
- \*\* RV Traveling Tales: Women's Journeys on the Open Road
- \*\* Working on the RV Road DVD
- \*\* Job Search Notebook as recommend in Support Your RV Lifestyle!
- \*\* The Woman's Guide to Solo RVing in CD or eBook format
- \*\* Taking the Mystery out of RV Writing in CD
- \*\* Hall & Zyetz collection on CD: The Woman's Guide to Solo RVing and RV Traveling Tales
- \*\* Taking the Mystery Out of Retiring to an RV by Alice Zyetz in CD or eBook format
- \*\* You Shoulda Listened to Your Mother by Alice Zyetz- for the young business woman. Great gift.
- \*\* Malia's RV Checklist
- \*\* Frugal RVing or Pinching Pennies without Getting Bruised and Other Advice from the Road by Adrienne Kristine
- \*\* I've Got a Convection Oven in My RV. Now What? E-book by Adrienne Kristine
- \*\* Casino Camping 3rd ed. by Jane Kenny
- \*\* Camping with the Corps of Engineers by Jane Kenny
- \*\*\* and several books authored by members of the RV Authors' Co-op. Check them out!

ORDER INFORMATION - Order at <http://www.rvhometown.com> at our secure Web site. Or send a check to Pine Country Publishing, 127 Rainbow Dr., #2780, Livingston, TX 77399-1027. Include \$3.95 for media postage for one item, \$2.25 for CDs and DVDs only.

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HOUSEKEEPING

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