

TrailerLife

EDITORIAL GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in America's favorite monthly magazine for recreational vehicle (RV) enthusiasts. For more than half a century, *Trailer Life* has been providing enthusiasts with travel and technical information to enhance their enjoyment of the RV lifestyle. Our readers are owners or prospective owners of all types of RVs—folding trailers, fifth-wheel and travel trailers, all sizes of motorhomes, camping vans and truck campers—and range from weekend travelers to full-timers, with a median age of 60.3. All share an active interest in exploring the world, plus a love of RV travel for its own sake. They are interested in a broad spectrum of topics, including the purchase of an RV, do-it-yourself maintenance projects (from brief items to full-length how-to features), leisure-time activities, special RV campgrounds, personalities who exemplify the RV lifestyle, and, of course, exciting travel destinations.

The primary prerequisite for all submitted material is that it be RV oriented and written with an RV focus for our specialized audience. We publish approximately eight freelance features each month, most of which fall into either of two categories: 1) activities involving RVers, such as travel, hobbies and lifestyle; and 2) technical aspects of RVing, including advice on equipment and maintenance.

Material purchased from freelancers includes travel features (1,500-2,000 words), "Faces & Places" items (150-350 words), personality profiles (1,200 words), technical features (1,000-2,000 words), "10-Minute Tech" items (50-200 words) and do-it-yourself features (1,200 words). Other topics cover the RV lifestyle, controversial issues and

legislation affecting RV owners, humor and news.

We do not accept responsibility for unsolicited material. To gain a better understanding of the material we publish, study some recent issues. We require written queries; telephone queries are not accepted. If we are interested in your article idea, we can make your job easier by suggesting an approach or specific details. Manuscript acknowledgments are sent upon receipt; acceptance or rejection notification usually follows within 45 days. Payment is made upon acceptance.

We reserve the right to edit all manuscripts for style or length, but will discuss major changes or revisions with the author whenever possible. For assigned articles, if we request major changes and the revised manuscript is still unacceptable, we will pay a kill fee of one-third the agreed-upon rate.

Manuscripts are purchased with first North American serial rights and electronic rights (see freelance contract). We do not buy simultaneous submissions or articles that have appeared elsewhere. Manuscripts must be on a 3.5-inch disk (separate disk for each article) and must be accompanied by a typed, double-spaced hard copy. Prepare the material on a Macintosh or IBM-clone computer with a word-processing program, such as Microsoft Word, or in ASCII. Be sure to tell us which program you use. Include your name, address, telephone and social security numbers. Please mark the envelope "Requested Material" if it is an assigned article. **NOTE: Seasonal articles must be received at least six months prior to publication date.**

TRAVEL

Travel destinations are virtually unlimited—as long as they are accessible by RV—and can range beyond the borders of the United States to Canada, Mexico and around the world. We are seeking adventure features on lesser-known but exciting destinations and attractions, as well as articles written with a unique approach on the more widely known areas.

Travel submissions should be accompanied by a map showing the route, campgrounds and boundaries of the area described, and a wide selection of quality color transparencies, including shots of scenery, people, activities and RVs in scenic settings.

ACTIVITIES

The readers of *Trailer Life* are an energetic group who seek many activities and forms of outdoor recreation on their travels. We will consider features on any activity or hobby that can be enjoyed by RV travelers. Include color transparencies; they must include people participating in the activity and captions for each image. Indoor hobbies should be photographed inside the RV; other activities should be photographed with an RV in the background, if possible, or in at least a few scenes.

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PERSONALITY

Articles about RVers are regularly included. Features may focus on ordinary people with very unusual hobbies or individuals who use RVs in unique ways, and unusual people or celebrities who are RV travelers. A strong RV connection is a must. Submissions should include color transparencies, which must include photos of the individual either inside or near the RV.

TECHNICAL

Although vehicle and product tests are staff written or assigned to contributing editors, we welcome additional technical articles on almost any subject related to RVs—from brakes to solar battery-charging. Technical features must be comprehensive, accurate and clearly written, and accompanied by black-and-white proofsheets with negatives, although illustrations may be used as well. Rough sketches will be sufficient for staff artists to render camera-ready artwork.

Note: Only a writer who has obtained explicit permission of the editorial staff may contact a manufacturer or any other business purporting to be a representative of Trailer Life magazine.

DO-IT-YOURSELF

Many RVers are interested in learning how to do it themselves. Typical how-to articles in the past have included making toolboxes, magazine racks, computer tables and entertainment centers, but sometimes do-it-yourself projects involve more major modifications of a coach. In all cases, there must be ample illustrations, either black-and-white proofsheets with negatives or sketches, to fully show the reader how to accomplish the project. Staff artists will make professional illustrations from rough sketches so contributors need not be artists themselves.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

Quality and suitability of photographs often determine acceptance or rejection of manuscripts. All photos and transparencies must be numbered and accompanied by descriptive captions. Please submit original transparencies for reproduction; duplicate transparencies are not

preferred and outdated transparencies are not acceptable. Mark all transparencies and prints with the photographer's name to ensure their return. Transparencies must be submitted in protective sleeves; we cannot be responsible for damage to transparencies submitted in envelopes, boxes or gathered with rubber bands. Photos or transparencies provided by someone other than the manuscript author should be clearly identified for photo credit; the author is responsible for compensating the photographer.

Although we customarily buy a package of manuscript and photography, we occasionally purchase supplemental photos on a one-time basis, such as scenic shots of RVs for use on the cover or with travel features. Any photos featuring identifiable people must be accompanied by signed model release forms.

We purchase first North American rights and will return all transparencies and photos after publication, along with those that were not used. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for this purpose.

PAYMENT

Our usual rates range as follows:

Manuscript with Photos

Technical	.....\$400-\$800
Major Travel	.....\$400-\$600
Personality	.....\$300-\$500
Do-It-Yourself	.....\$200-\$400
Faces & Places	.....\$100-\$200

Supplemental Photos

Cover	.....\$400-\$600
Spread	.....\$250
Full Page	.....\$175
Half Page	.....\$125
Quarter Page	.....\$100
Spot	.....\$75

QUERIES AND SUBMISSIONS

Please send queries and submissions to: *Trailer Life*, Managing Editor, TL Enterprises Incorporated, 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, California 93001. **No phone calls, faxes or e-mails, please.**