

RV OMNIBUS

RVs Make Appearances in Popular Television Shows



RVs have been featured in a number of popular network and cable television series over the past weeks, with reality television casts hitting the road to find adventure in rented RVs and RVing chefs cooking up tasty treats.

On TLC's popular reality series, *One Big, Happy Family*, the Cole family – all weighing between 300 and 400 pounds – go RVing together as a way to break out of their comfort zone and embrace a healthier lifestyle. Accustomed to finding spaces and furniture too small for them, the family is pleasantly surprised to find that the Type C motorhome they rent for their trip is large and roomy enough for all of them to move comfortably around inside. And sixteen-year-old Amber says she is especially glad to have the RV because, "that means we don't have to sleep in a tent." As the family embarks on their RV adventure, Mom Tameka vows, "I am going to get this family hiking and sweaty by the end of the weekend." But when too much physical activity causes Amber to sprain her foot, the family agrees that a weekend RV trip taught them to "slow down and appreciate how far we've come" and brought them closer together.

On the January 25 episode of ABC's *The Bachelor*, eligible bachelor Jake Pavelka and the nine ladies vying for his attention all got aboard two Type A motorhomes rented from Allstar Coaches and journeyed together up the California coast. "I am ready to get my relationship with Jake rolling down the highway of love," said contestant Ella as the group embarked on their weeklong RV adventure which included stops at a vineyard, a historic hotel as well as RV camping on Pismo Beach.

"Commissioner of Tailgating" Joe Cahn is now hosting TLC's *Tailgate Takedown*, which will follow Cahn as he explores a different college stadium and rivalry game each week. Three competing teams of local tailgaters face off against one another in a spirited cooking competition. Each episode of the popular show features Cahn taking viewers on a tour of the contestants' tricked-out RVs.

RVs get a lot of air time on TLC's *BBQ Pitmasters*, which takes viewers behind the scenes of competitive barbeque. Following some of the biggest names on the barbeque cooking circuit, many of whom tow custom-made barbeque pits behind RVs, each episode of the show covers a different barbeque competition and shows viewers what it takes to win big in barbeque.



Attendance Tops 17K, Up 52% at Toronto RV Show

Attendance of 17,585 people at the Toronto RV Show & Extravaganza Jan. 21-24 represented a 52% increase from 2009, according to the sponsoring Ontario Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association (Ontario RVDA).

"We were pretty excited," Shannon O'Callaghan, Ontario RVDA executive assistant, told RVBUSINESS.com. "It blew us away."

Forty dealers displayed about 500 RVs at the show indoors at the Toronto Congress Center.

"On the Thursday alone, which was Senior Day, we were up 78%," O'Callaghan said. "That seemed to really work this year."

She reported that some dealers experienced more than 100% increases in sales.



Green Vacations Are Easy in an RV

Standard habits exercised on an RV vacation make energy conservation and eco-friendly practices easy. With restricted space and resources, RVers are natural conservers while traveling. Conscious of waste, high utility bills and saving energy, RVers practice rinsing and reusing containers, selecting paper products over plastic and using natural gas for heating and cooking.

RVs 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 rinsing. Employing the "military shower" technique can cut water usage from about 17.2 gallons to 5 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 can replace air conditioning, and cooking over a campfire instead of an electrical stove.

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

The latest Campfire Canvass, a bi-annual survey of RV owners, reveals that RVers are making efforts to be more energy efficient while traveling in their RVs. According to the survey,

- 66 percent drive or tow their RV at 90 KPH
- 68 percent turn off water while bathing
- 74 percent turn out lights in their RV
- 76 percent minimize use of air conditioning by opening windows
- 15 percent use solar panels on RVs

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.