

Vintage Campers: History and Renovation

By **MARCELLA GAUTHIER** #12371

RV magazines are filled with new, modern RVs. They have all the bells and whistles that come at a price, grand with all their features of automatic this and that. However, somehow, they lack the charm of vintage units.

There are an increasing number of RV resorts with restored RVs (trailers for the most part) with authentic vintage interiors. One of the oldest is The Shady Dell (theshadydell.com) in Bisbee, Arizona.

The fifties trailers often have only a record player, with old '50s records or old black-and-white TVs. I stayed there one night soaking up some wonderful '50s ambiance in a teardrop trailer and could imagine it being the mid-1950s, with my two-toned 1955 Ford Fairlane parked outside. It was fun!

One new park is The Vintages Trailer Resort, in Dayton, Oregon, (www.the-vintages.com), located in Oregon's world-class wine country. You can enjoy modern wine tours and tastings, then spend an evening in your vintage RV imagining past travel adventures even if you weren't alive back then!

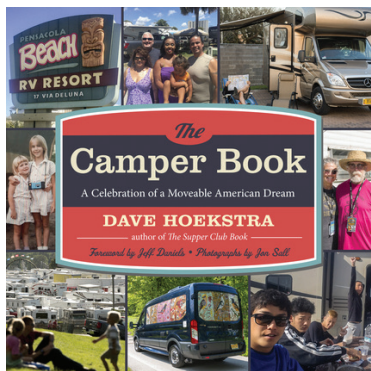
This month, we celebrate the history and adventure of RVs and RV travel with two books: a comprehensive book of camper history and stories, and a rehab book with photos and guides to help you restore an older trailer.

You can personalize a vintage trailer, making it uniquely yours. And, if you have a vintage automobile to pull it, you will have onlookers giving you a "thumbs-up" as you pass by and will collect a crowd when you stop.

THE CAMPER BOOK, A CELEBRATION OF A MOVEABLE AMERICAN DREAM

DAVE HOEKSTRA (AUTHOR) JON SALL (PHOTOGRAPHER) CHICAGO REVIEW PRESS 2018

ISBN: 978-1-61373-820-7 • PAPERBACK \$24.99 • KINDLE: \$16.99

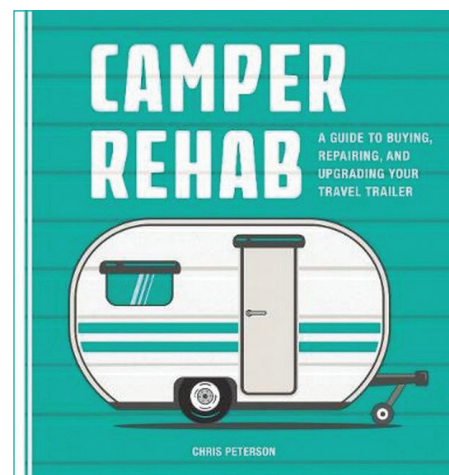


This book sees RVs through the loving eyes of Dave Hoekstra, a *Chicago Sun-Times* columnist and radio program host, and Jon Sall, a professional photographer. Jeff Daniels, the actor and RV enthusiast, wrote the hilarious foreword about his travels in an RV. The book covers the history of campers, the subcultures that have arisen around them and their potential future.

In the preface of the book, Dave speaks about the magic of RV travel, saying, "If you're at home with yourself, then isn't home wherever you are?" This is similar to

the title of Escapees RV Club co-founder Kay Peterson's, first book, *Home Is Where You Park It*.

Today, camping is on the upswing with millions of households hitting the road. New RVs are coming to market every day; Volkswagen is reintroducing their classic camper-van, so there is something for everyone. Dave is a thoughtful and enchanting writer who makes the people he meets, the places he visits and the history of RVing come to life.



CAMPER REHAB: A GUIDE TO BUYING, REPAIRING, AND UPGRADING YOUR TRAVEL TRAILER

CHRIS PETERSON • COOL SPRINGS PRESS 2017

ISBN: 978-076-0353523 • PAPERBACK: \$18.18

KINDLE: \$14.99

This book covers only trailers, but even if you are thinking of restoring a motorhome, you might enjoy the design and decorating ideas.

From the top to the bottom of the camper, you will be guided by this book. Step-by-step and how-to instructions will make the job so much easier.

Sections of the book include how to select a used camper to renovate, basic troubleshooting, trailer structure, interior- and exterior-wall restoration, window and floor repairs, electrical and plumbing and much more. The author skillfully guides you through each process. This book is a must-have for anyone wishing to refurbish a camper. 