

TRAILER

FOLLOW THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE

LIFE

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, ranging in age between 50 and 60. All share an active interest in exploring the world, plus a love of RV travel for its own sake. They are interested in many 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 (1,500-1,800 words), "Around the Bend" items (75-100 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, including original photography. 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. Payment is made upon acceptance of complete editorial package, which includes manuscript, photos and captions.

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 CD, DVD or via email, and must be accompanied by a typed, double-spaced hard copy. Prepare the material on a Macintosh or PC, preferably with Microsoft Word. 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 U.S. borders. We seek adventure features on lesser-known but exciting destinations and attractions, as well as articles with a unique approach to well-known areas. Travel manuscripts should be accompanied by a map showing the route, campgrounds and boundaries of the area with a wide selection of images (see *Photo Requirements*), including shots of scenery, people, activities and RVs in scenic settings.

Activities

Readers of *Trailer Life* seek many forms of outdoor recreation on their travels. We consider features on any activity or hobby that can be enjoyed by RVers. Include photos of people participating in the activity (see *Photo Requirements*). 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.

Technical

Vehicle and product tests are staff written or assigned to contributing editors; however, we welcome additional technical articles on subjects related to RVs—from brakes to solar battery-charging. Technical features must be comprehensive, accurate, clearly written, and accompanied by proofsheets with negatives or illustrations. 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 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 include making toolboxes, magazine racks, etc., but sometimes do-it-yourself projects involve major RV modifications. Ample illustrations must accompany the manuscript, proofsheets with negatives or sketches, to fully show readers how to accomplish the project. Staff artists will make professional illustrations from rough sketches, so contributors need not be artists themselves.

Personality

Features about RVers may focus on ordinary people with unusual hobbies, individuals who use RVs in unique ways, and unusual people or celebrities who are RVers. A strong RV connection is a must. Submissions should include photos (see *Photo Requirements*), which must include the individual either inside or near the RV.

Photo Requirements

Quality and suitability of photos often determine acceptance or rejection of manuscripts. Please submit original high-res digital images (300 dpi or higher at 5x7 inches) and/or transparencies. Mark all transparencies and prints with photographer's name to ensure their return. Images provided by someone other than the author should be identified for photo credit; the author is responsible for compensating the photographer. All images must be numbered with descriptive captions. Transparencies must be submitted in protective sleeves, as we cannot be responsible for damage.

We also purchase supplemental photos on a one-time basis, such as scenic shots of RVs for covers or features. Photos with identifiable people must be accompanied by signed model release forms.

We purchase first North American serial rights and electronic rights. We will return all transparencies and photos received after publication.

Payment

Our usual rates range as follows:
Manuscript with Photos

Technical	\$400-\$700
Major Travel	\$400-\$600
Personality	\$300-\$500
Do-It-Yourself	\$200-\$400
Around the Bend	\$100

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 Inc., 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, California 93001. Or please email: info@trailerlife.com.