

## Meet the Team!



The Koepps—Darren, Anne, Madison, Dakota

"These are a few of my favorite things"



Favorite history resource:  
<https://wallbuilderslive.com/>.

Favorite learning resource:  
<https://www.lynda.com/>.  
(Free through our local library system!)

Favorite cookie:  
Mrs. Browns Cookies (recipe included!)



The Vandivers— Sid and Tricia

"These are a few of my favorite things"



Favorite book:  
Anne of Green Gables Series

Favorite TV show:  
Little House on the Prairie

Favorite cookie:  
Chewy Chocolate Chip

### RV Tips and Tricks by Anne Koepp

Less is more is a motto our family has had before we started having kids and started RVing so many years ago.

After kids, we now say use it or lose it! Decluttering and organizing is so rewarding and joyful!

There are tons of resources out there for sure but a great series we like on Netflix is called Tidying up with Marie Kondo.

She also has great books too and a favorite of ours is <https://amzn.to/2Wf9U4j>.

### Destination Hurricane Ridge by Tricia Vandiver

Looking for a fun way to celebrate my husband's birthday this year, we made a trek up to Hurricane Ridge and arrived to a mostly empty parking lot.

The sledding and skiing area weren't in operation that day, but we took our sled up the tubing hill and had a blast!

So if you are looking for a winter wonderland (or just feeling a little stir crazy amidst all these covid restrictions!), consider checking out your local mountain pass!

For those local to the Olympic Peninsula, Hurricane Ridge is open right now every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday!



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### Inside tip: RV Tech/Darren

With many of us huddling in our RV's keeping warm through the winter I thought I would take a moment to touch on the important topic of Propane and carbon monoxide safety. In addition to wanting your appliances to work well and for you to stay warm, I also want you to be able to do so safely!

I am in a lot of RV's, as you can imagine (over 1,100 in 2020!), and I see a lot of these LP alarms that are beyond their 'useful life', so I make a point of checking the date as a courtesy to our customers. I inform them of the importance of keeping these safety alarms effective.

#### 'Useful Life'

LP safety alarm units have a 'useful life' of 5-years, regardless of the manufacture. These alarm units are powered by the coach 12 VDC power. There is a manufacture date stamped on the back of these alarm units – usually in red ink.

The 'useful life' time is counted only when power is applied to the alarm, so if you store your RV for 6-months and remove the house batteries during the storage – and therefore no power to the alarm – you can extend the 'install life' up to 10-years, but the 'useful life' will still be 5 years (6-months of connected power and 6-months not connected for each year).

#### Purpose and Importance of LP and CO Alarms

Your LP Alarm is meant to detect deadly gases that can work their way in to your RV from a leak in your LP piping or faulty gas appliances. Even for LP gas, which has the odorant Ethyl Mercaptan added to it at the refinery to help us detect this otherwise odorless gas, the odorant alone is not sufficient to rely on detecting a leak. For example, in a 2002 Journal of American Medical Association study, of those aged 60 to 69, over 17% had problems with the smell test, like detecting the odorant added to LP gas. For those aged 70-79, over 29% had problems smells and odors.

LP is not the only deadly gas that can work its way into your RV. LP is a gas that is heavier than air and will settle into low spaces, while carbon monoxide (CO) readily mixes with the air, so it can fill an entire enclosed space and you may never know it is there. Additionally, carbon monoxide (CO) is odorless and therefore undetectable.

There are many potential sources of Carbon Monoxide Gas on RV's. Engine exhaust, generator exhaust, gas stoves, grills, gas appliances, heaters, gas lanterns and even RV's parked nearby. A cracked burn chamber in a furnace can allow CO gas into the living space of an RV, which is why it is important to have your furnace burn chamber inspected each season.

#### How to check and replace your LP and CO Alarm

The Propane/LP alarm in your RV will be mounted near the floor – I usually find them in the kitchen/galley area. Some have a combined LP and Carbon Monoxide (CO) functionality built into one unit – these are the ones I recommend. Unscrew your detector and check the back for the 'useful life' date. If they are older than 5 years, it is time to replace them!

Note: You will want to find an alarm marked approved for "Use in Recreational Vehicles - UL 2034" to install in your RV. CO Alarms sold at the big box stores like Home Depot or Lowes are only listed to residential standards, and these alarms are not listed to work at extreme temperatures like RV listed units are. Many RV stores stock these units. We also have an Amazon affiliate site on our website where you can get them: <https://myrvworks.com/resources/darrens-tool-list/#parts>

So, everyone please take a moment, grab a screwdriver and check the back side of these very important alarm units. If you need to replace your unit, make sure it is rated for RVs. You can make a trip to the store (or order online!) so that you can replace your alarm!



Wishing you a safe and warm holiday season now and always!

-Darren Koepf



### Christmas Celebration Ideas

- 'Tis the Season!**
1. Bake cookies! This is a fun activity, plus it can become an annual gift to family and friends!
  2. Visit a living nativity. They really do bring the true meaning of Christmas to life with the birth of Jesus Christ. You might even get to see a camel up-close and personal!
  3. Drive around to see Christmas lights. The Keopps took Tricia along for a ride this year while Sid was at work—wow, Port Angeles had some great light displays!
  4. Decorate! It doesn't take much—a strand of lights here, a garland there, will be sure to get you in the festive mood!
  5. Listen to Christmas music! There is something so special about Christmas music!

From our family to yours we wish you a safe, joyful and healthy Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2021!

## Kids Corner

Madison and Dakota have been RVers for basically their whole lives! Growing up as full-time RVers with parents that own a mobile RV Repair business, they are very familiar with all things RV. In fact, you may have seen Dakota hard at work with his dad on service calls—at ten years old, he is already quite the tech!



One of Madison and Dakota's favorite card games—especially great for traveling and camping trips—is Skip-Bo. If you haven't played this game, now is your chance! Pick it up today at your local Wal-Mart, or order online: <https://amzn.to/3nwYpl3>. You and your family are sure to have fun!

Madison and Dakota also enjoy watching videos from the Bible project. You can check that out here: <https://bibleproject.com/>.

## Winterization

Hopefully you have been able to take care of winterizing your RV, but just in case, we wanted to give you a few tips on winterizing your water supply lines, and encourage you—if you haven't winterized yet, now is the time!!

- ◆ Make sure to use approved RV antifreeze!
- ◆ Begin at the city water connector to ensure you reach all the places the water supply lines go.
- ◆ Flush water out of your supply lines to the low point drains to ensure a top-to-bottom protection.
- ◆ Drain and bypass your water heater. When you are done with the winterizing procedure, put the water heater back in normal mode. This will save you a step when you are ready to use your RV again. In the spring, there is nothing you need to do to your water heater except fill it and turn it on.
- ◆ Verify the winterization fluid flows through all of your fixtures and equipment and fills the 'P' traps at your sinks and showers.
- ◆ Winterizing will protect your RV water supply lines to 50° below zero!

If winterizing yourself isn't an option, or if you would just rather have a tech do it, we will be happy to winterize your RV's water supply lines and prepare them for the cold winter months. Just submit a service request at: <https://myrvworks.com/submit-service-request/>

### A look ahead: What's coming up in 2021

We are excited to announce that we will be launching a new business, T3Interface! If you have seen Darren using tools that you haven't been able to find, this new business will have just what you need! Stay tuned, and visit [www.t3interface.com](http://www.t3interface.com) for a sneak peak!

YouTube: Our goal in the new year is to upload videos weekly so that you have regular content from us! And we are hoping to add a Podcast, so that you can get more Insider RV Tech knowledge while you're driving!

**Attention:** My RV Works is hiring! If you or anyone you know has been in the RV business and has a passion for finding and identifying parts (note: may include defective work!), then we may have just the position for you! Please contact Anne Koepp at [anne@myrvworks.com](mailto:anne@myrvworks.com).



WWW.T3INTERFACE.COM (800) 720-9747

**A little note:** We recognize that this time of year can be difficult for some. We have each had seasons in life where the holidays were difficult, and we understand. If you need friendly conversation or prayer, you can always reach out to us!

## Bonus: Christmas Special

### DIY Embroidery Hoop Ornament



A few weeks ago, my friend Sharlane invited me to our ladies Christmas party at church. That invitation was welcome news! With so many cancelled plans this year, hearing that something was 'on' - and staying on - was such an encouragement! She let me know to bring a wrapped ornament to share. I thought - "I'll make an ornament and bring it!" I did a little research and ended up with this ornament, which was different than my original idea, but one I was excited about (simple + looks good = great in my book!). And even though I had a little bit of nerves that my ornament might fall apart while it's recipient was opening it, I enjoyed making and giving it. (And Sharlane ended up with it - funny!). Hopefully you'll enjoy the ease of this project - perhaps it can be something you do on Christmas day as a fun project, or as an annual tradition for yourself or to give to others! - Tricia

#### Materials Needed

Embroidery Hoop

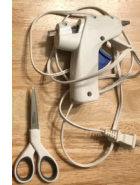
Fabric

Accent

Hot Glue Gun (plus glue stick)

Scissors

Ribbon



*Note:* The original idea for this came from <https://www.morelikegrace.com/diy-embroidery-hoop-christmas-ornaments/>.

#### Instructions

**Step 1** - Loosen the embroidery clasp. Place the smaller hoop under your fabric, and the larger hoop over it. Tighten the clasp to secure.

**Step 2** - Using the scissors, cut fabric around hoop. Trim fabric.

**Step 3** - Place a thin line of hot glue on the part of the embroidery hoop you want your accent to go on. Secure accent to hoop.

**Step 4** - Using the scissors, cut a strip of ribbon. Thread through top of embroidery hoop, tying in a knot. *Tada! You're done!*

*Check out her website for more ideas—you can easily add to this project by painting your embroidery hoop or adding different embellishments, and using paper instead of fabric!*

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#### Mrs. Brown's Cookies

This is a Koep family favorite—you can make with cookie cutters too! That is our plan this Christmas season! Yummy!

#### Ingredients

3 cups flour	1 1/3 cups sugar
1 tsp baking soda	2/3 cup brown sugar
1 tsp salt	1 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup butter	1—11.5 ounce bag Quittard milk chocolate chips
2 large eggs	1—10 ounce bag SKOR English toffee bits

#### Directions

Blend flour, baking soda and salt together, set aside.  
Cream butter and sugars together, add vanilla and eggs, mix well.  
Combine flour mixture and creamed sugars together.  
Add chocolate chips and toffee bits, mix until evenly distributed. (see notes)  
Spoon mixture onto cookie sheets and bake at 325 degrees F for 12 minutes.  
Let cool on baking sheet for approximately 6 minutes before removing to cooling rack.



**Notes** I normally mix the chocolate chips and toffee into the batter with my hands instead of the mixer, works better with less mixing. They will be soft coming out of the oven and need the rest time before removing to a cooling rack. Then check for preferred doneness and adjust baking time accordingly.