

Dear Happy Campers,

The beauty of summer is evident in our area. The flowers are blooming, the sun is shining, and the lakes and rivers are more inviting than ever.

RV'ers are out in full force, and service requests reflect it!

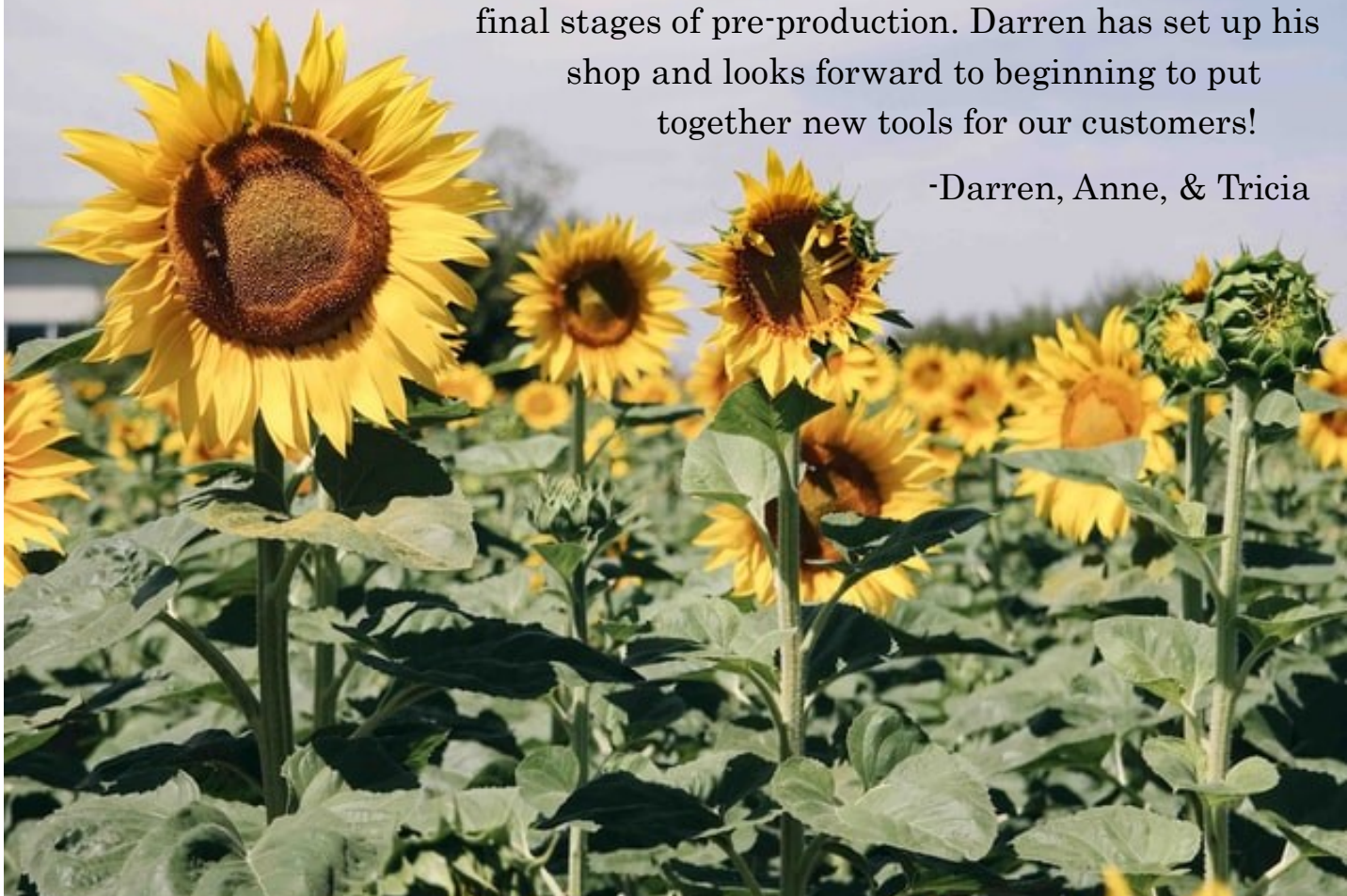
And those ramped up service requests are keeping us busy! We have even received requests from people throughout the U.S. who have watched our YouTube channel, who want to travel to our area. Wow! Thank you!

For any of you that are not in our service area, remember that we do have a remote service! This service is \$75/issue, and Darren works with customers to identify the cause of the issue, as well as available options for fixing it. This is especially handy for people that are in remote locations, or those that are handy and just need a little extra help pinpointing the issue and how to fix it.

We also have a new contributor to our newsletter, Darla Preston. You will see an article she wrote as a 'special edition' to this newsletter. We are very grateful that she reached out to us, and look forward to the contributions she will make!

We are making headway on our T3I tools, and are in final stages of pre-production. Darren has set up his shop and looks forward to beginning to put together new tools for our customers!

-Darren, Anne, & Tricia



Inside Tip: RV Tech/Darren

Running your RV Air Conditioner with a Generator

You may find yourself in the following situation: Your RV has a rooftop air conditioner, and you would like to use it to stay cool during the hot summer, but you do not have access to shore power. So, you decide to buy a generator to generate the AC power you need to run your air conditioner - but wonder what size generator you need.

We are often asked about how to size a generator for running an air conditioner onboard RV's. Generators typically come with a wattage output rating - 2,000 watts, 3,500 watts, 5,500 watts etc. But air conditioners are rated in amps of consumption, not watts, so what gives?

I find it best to convert everything to watts when doing electrical calculations. It is a simple calculation. For an RV air conditioner, you multiply the (*amps*) x (*120*) and you get (*watts*). A typical A/C consumes around 12 amps so $(12 \text{ amps}) \times (120) = (1,440 \text{ watts})$. It is always good to have more generator power available so best to settle on 2,000 watts output in this application. But there is another consideration that we need to cover.

To run the air conditioner on an RV with a generator you need to address the 'inrush' power that is required just to start the fan and compressors on the air conditioner. This power requirement is many times the running power and if you do not account for this power requirement, the unit will bog down the generator and the air conditioner will not start at all.

To address this issue, you have two options:

- Option 1: Size the generator big enough to handle the inrush to get the fan and compressor motors running.
- Option 2: Install a soft starter on the air conditioner so you do not have to have such a large generator just to handle the inrush.

If you choose to buy a generator big enough to handle the inrush (option 1), there is a simple way to determine the generator size if you are willing to do some sleuthing on your end.

On the air conditioner you will need to find the mfg sticker that has all the numbers on it. Best access is by removing the cover on the roof. Look for the **LRA** number. LRA stands for 'Locked Rotor Amps'. Once you have identified that number, size the generator to $\frac{2}{3}$ of that number and you should be just fine. We usually find that number somewhere around 60 amps so a generator that can output 40 amps in this example will work. $(40 \text{ amps}) \times (120) = (4,800 \text{ watts})$ but best to round up to a generator with a 5,500-watt output.

If you choose to install a [soft starter](#) on your air conditioner (option 2) what that will do for you is eliminate the inrush power required and you can size the generator to the running amps and ignore the LRA calculation. So, in our example above, with a 12-amp air conditioner, a generator with an output of 2,000 watts would do just fine but you must have the soft starter installed. The soft starter can do this because it slowly starts the air conditioner over a few seconds instead of all at one time. Ergo no 'inrush'.

One more thing to check for is heat in the electrical cords. When you are running your air conditioner(s), make it a habit to periodically feel the shore cord that is connected to the generator and take the back of your finger and run it along the breakers in your power distribution box (breaker panel) inside your RV. If you feel excessive heat, you are consuming too many amps and looking for trouble down the road. Ensure your shore cord prongs are clean and (with power disconnected) open your power distribution box and make sure all the screws holding the wires are tight, and you should be on your way to a cooler (and safer) summer!



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Lemonade is Madison's favorite drink to cool off in the summer—we think you will enjoy it too!!

Lemonade Recipe

8 cups water

1 1/2 cups fresh squeezed lemon juice

1 3/4 c sugar

To make this easy lemonade recipe, you are going to first make a simple syrup by boiling the sugar and 1 c water in a saucepan until the sugar is dissolved.

Once the simple syrup has cooled, you can add it to a pitcher of 7 c water and 1 1/2 c lemon juice.

Variations:

**Add mint leaves*

**Add fresh raspberries*

**Add fresh strawberries*



This summer, Dakota is learning how to rappel!

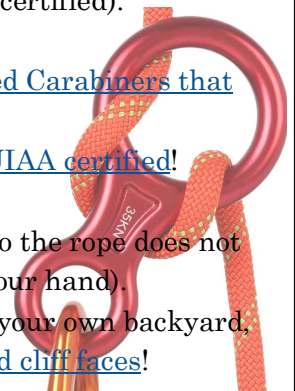
Tips For Beginners

- Have an experienced climber teach you the ropes and how to use the equipment.
- Inspect every piece of equipment before you begin. Check and recheck as you snap in.
- Make sure you have clear communication with others and eliminate all distractions between you and your belayer.
- Practice your knots—even one handed.
- Rope management is critical. Check and recheck the descent before you commit.

Essential Gear

- [Static climbing rope](#) (UIAA certified).
- [Figure-8 Descender](#).
- [A collection of UIAA certified Carabiners that screw closed](#).
- [Harness – make sure it is UIAA certified!](#)
- [Helmet](#)
- Gloves (good leather palm so the rope does not burn as it passes through your hand).

You can start with the trees in your own backyard, and make your way to [crags and cliff faces!](#)



Rhubarb Pudding Cake / Tricia

I have never grown rhubarb in my garden, but my mom always seems to have an abundance in hers. I guess that is typical of rhubarb, once you plant it! This is my favorite recipe for rhubarb pudding cake. I hope you will enjoy it!

Ingredients

1 c flour

1 1/4 tsp baking powder

1/8 tsp salt

5 tbsp unsalted butter, softened

1 1/3 c granulated sugar

1 tsp vanilla extract

1/4 tsp cinnamon

1 egg

1/2 c milk

4 c sliced rhubarb



Directions

Combine flour, baking powder, and salt, stirring well with a whisk. Place butter in a large bowl and beat at medium speed until smooth. Add 2/3 c sugar, beat until well blended. Add vanilla, cinnamon and egg, beating well. Beating at low speed, add flour mixture and milk alternately to sugar mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat until just smooth. Combine rhubarb and remaining sugar in an 8-in square baking dish, greased. Spoon batter over rhubarb. Bake at 350 degrees 45 minutes.

Summer Flashback: Staying Cool & Having Fun

Darren Koepp: Louisiana

Summer was always very hot and humid in Southern Louisiana. Lots of sunburns and ear infections for me! As a kid growing up in the '70's there was a lot of bike riding barefoot, in nothing but shorts -and no helmet. We even rode around on each other's handlebars!

The subdivision I grew up in had a lot of house construction during that time. It was always exciting to 'inspect' all the builds after the workers left (and re-appropriate some wood for a tree house in a nearby wooded area). Some of my fondest memories from that time are exploring with my bike all the different earth moving machines and watching how everything got built over time.

There was also a lot of road construction throughout the region during that time. When I am back there today, I see the stamp on some of the concrete works from the '70's and I remember the day they poured that concrete! It takes me back to that time of wonder and adventure.

To cool off, we ran and jumped off boat docks into the river, but had to watch out for snakes. There was also a lot of playing in the sprinklers on the golf course, and drinking out of garden hoses. Lake Pontchartrain was always a destination to float in inner-tubes or go sailing if you were lucky enough to hook up with someone with a boat. Floating down a river on an inner-tube was also a fun thing to do to stay cool.

Anne Koepp: Ohio

Summers were also hot and humid in Ohio! My brother and I always had a blast with lots of neighborhood friends. We would ride our bikes and swim in our pool 24/7—a great way to stay active, and a refreshing way to cool off!

We also enjoyed outdoor activities and could be found camping with my grandparents and playing on the lake. We would boat, fish, ski, and tube. Swimming in the pool and going boating are activities that I love to this day!

Tricia Vandiver: Guam

Summers were year round on Guam, with hot and humid temperatures steadily throughout the year—the only changes between seasons is that one is drier (“dry season”) and one is wetter (“rainy season”).

One of my favorite activities to cool down was to go to the beach with my grandpa - he would take me when he would go for a run, and I would watch the tourist boats drive by playing music as the sun set.

At the end of each school year, I looked forward to field day—it was a whole day full of fun activities! I also enjoyed getting to spend time playing with cousins—which I have a lot of!

Now it's your turn:

What are some things you did to cool off in the summer? What are your favorite summer memories?

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