## Whether You Go Near Or Far, RVing Has Many Benefits

## By Karen McBride

Over the last few years, the word "staycation" has been incorporated into our vocabulary. More people are staying home for vacation to avoid the high cost of travel and long security lines at the airport that you have to endure when flying across the country. What if you could still go on vacation, but take your home with you?

Recreational Vehicles (RVs) have been around for a long time. People who ride in RVs are called RVers. They have the joy of seeing this beautiful country, with the added luxury of taking their home with them. With rising gas prices, this may not sound appealing, but the good news is that you don't have to go far to enjoy beautiful RV parks and all the activities they may offer.

Lazydays RV is located at 6130 Lazydays Boulevard, in Seffner. This camper's paradise began in 1976 with two travel trailers. The 126-acre site has grown and now holds an assortment of new and used RV campers, a service department and campground. Their qualified, friendly salespeople will take you on a tour via golf cart around their vast inventory of Class A, Class B & C, Campers, Fifth Wheels, Toy haulers, Travel trailers, and Truck Campers.

"Class A" campers are all about luxury, from the driver seat with 360-degree swivel and recliner to the rear vision camera with hide-a-way monitor. The Berkshire has 3 interior décor choices, with options such as solid wood freestanding dinette or booth dinette with retractable table top, washer and dryer, and dual pane tinted windows.

"Classes B and C" are also campers that you drive and may be a little easier to maneuver. "Class B" is known as a conversion van (slightly larger than a conventional



Enjoy a "staycation this year. All the comforts of home, meet new friends, and have a soft place to lay your head after a long, adventurous days

van and may include a bathroom) and "Class C" campers are identifiable by having the sleeping bunk over the cab. "Campers" are towable; light weight A frame, folding campers. "Fifth wheels" have a split-level floor plan and can be towed using a pickup or medium duty truck. "Toy haulers" are great for motorcycles, jet skis, golf carts, and ATVs. The owners can haul their toys and have the convenience of a kitchenette, sofa bed(s), and a washroom.

Lazydays offers more than just RV sales. Training classes are held Tuesday through Friday. Beginning in the Classroom from 9:00 to 10:30 am, and followed by a driving session either from 1:00 to 3:00 pm or 3:00 to 5:00 pm. All students must attend the classroom training and one driving session to receive a course certificate. Training will include adjusting the mirrors, negotiating curves, and backing into campsites. You will learn tricks to locating the back tires, which is a very important thing to know when maneuvering your motor home. Educational Seminars are offered each month, which cover topics such as "Keep your RV working", "A/C Maintenance", "Tire Safety" and "Fogged Windows". Visit lazydays.com/explore-lazydays/ education-training.html or call 866-703-3076 for reservations.

Lazydays RV Campground offers daily rates starting at \$32.99, weekly rates starting at \$230.93, and monthly rates starting at \$869.29. Discounts are available for stays of 4 months or longer. There is a lot to do while staying at the campground. In addition to the screened pool area and tennis

courts, the campground has special events throughout the month such as:

May 12 - Classic Car show May 15 - 17 - Old Fashioned Fun bringing back the 50s and 60s May 25-28 - WooHoo! Memorial Day Weekend

If you are afraid of commitment, try renting an RV from Suncoast RV Rental. Class A, B, and C campers can be rented starting at \$200/day with a 3-day minimum. A \$500 security deposit is required for a camper up to 33 ft, \$1000 for 33-40 ft and over 40 ft the deposit will be determined. Optional rental items include a grill for \$20, satellite TV for \$50, picnic table for \$20 per trip and canvas chairs for \$5 per trip. Driving lessons are scheduled once the reservation has been made. For more information, call 813-984-0107 or visit their website at www. flarvrental.com.



David Lastinger, an RVer from the Land O' Lakes area, has enjoyed RVing for the past five years. He camps one or two times a year. He first became interested when he borrowed a camper and went to the mountains. "I have loved it ever since," says Lastinger. "I like the freedom of coming and going as you please and I love being outdoors." Some of his favorite places include North Carolina, Tennessee, and Fort Wilderness near the Magic Kingdom.

In addition to the Lazydays campground and Fort Wilderness, you will find many more campgrounds in our area. Ft. DeSoto park is well known for its beautiful beaches and amazing campgrounds with waterfront views. The 238 site family campground has electrical and water hook ups, facilities include washrooms, showers, and even washers and dryers.

There is so much to do within walking distance of the Ft. DeSoto

campground. Bikes, kayaks and canoes can be rented to explore the beautiful coastal area. You can also enjoy fishing on the piers, taking in nature on the hiking trails, letting your dog meet new friends at the dog park, and taking in a little history at the fort and museum.

Prices range from \$30-37 per night. For more information, go to www.pinellascounty.org/park/05\_ft desoto.htm

When you return from your trip in your recreational vehicle, contact Maron Presnell, owner of Mpres Mobile Detailing. Presnell started his business over 6 years ago; it began as a favor he would do for his elderly neighbors and he soon realized there were many people that could benefit from his service. He wants people to feel comfortable recommending him to their friends. Most of his business has been built by word of mouth. He maintains about 75% of the RVs in Blueberry Hill in Bushnell and many of the Rvs

in Paradise Oaks. Prices begin at \$99.95 and include washing sides, roof, awnings, rims, windows, spray wax and more. He can also do light maintenance such as sealing vents. For more information, call 813-480-2613 or visit the website at www.autodetailtampa.com.

Another benefit to traveling in an RV is the camaraderie you find with other RVers. To find others who enjoy RV Camping, check out these Camper groups:

Family Campers & Rvers.
Participate in group camping
adventures (Travalongs), canoe/
rafting trips, bicycle rides, hiking
trips and enjoy the opportunity to
participate in Campventions/rallies
at the State/Provincial, Regional
and National Level. www.fcrv.org/
membership/join.php

SMART - Special Military Active Retired Travel Club

Social club founded in 1982 for active, retired, and honorably discharged military veterans, including reservists and National Guard. www.smartrving.net

Tampa Bay Group Camping and RVing. As stated on their website: "Camping, whether in a tent or RV, in a state park or a private resort, is best enjoyed as a social activity!" www.meetup.com/westfloridacamping/

If you are feeling adventurous in your recreational vehicle, you may want to visit Sebastian Inlet on the east coast. The white sandy beaches are similar to the beautiful beaches on the Gulf of Mexico, and surfers will love the waves. Visit Florida Caverns State Park in Marianna to view the formations of limestone stalactites, stalagmites, soda straws, flowstones and draperies in the underground caverns.

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