



February 2011

SUNSHINE GREETINGS FROM BEAUTIFUL KANSAS . . .

Here in the Central Plains we may have a bit of snow on the ground, but it hasn't stopped potential customers from visiting our plant and placing orders. We've been busy! So thanks to all of our wonderful customers out there. We appreciate you . . . and we're working hard to earn and keep your business.

The sun is shining and it's a beautiful day in Kansas. Call us for a plant tour today! We're anxious to show you around, introduce you to our staff of skilled craftsmen, and explain our high quality production process. Our product specialists, Mac and Cole, are ready to assist you at 1-800-235-3140.



EARLY 2011 SPECIALS

Don't miss a great opportunity & savings right now as owner & CEO Phil Brokenicky has offered a special incentive to the first six (6) customers who place orders in 2011. Two more slots are available! Hurry before this opportunity passes you by!

Receive FREE full body paint and FREE rustic Cherry cabinetry on any unit! That's a nearly \$8,000 value – absolutely FREE!

NEW PAINT PROCESS

New Horizons RV is proud to announce its new partnership with Carrera Designs Inc. (CDI) of Forest City, IA to provide all the body painting for our trailers. CDI is the nation's largest independent custom painter of new and used RVs. With more than 35 years of experience in the industry, they are well equipped to provide quality service and attention to detail in their painting process.

Look for several new paint options which will be introduced in the near future.

**NEW HORIZONS NEWEST
AMBASSADORS LOVE EXPLORING
THE WEST**



New Horizons newest Ambassadors Dave & Renee Zittel love the full-time RVing lifestyle most probably because they have always loved camping. From tents to a pickup camper to a 40 ft. motorhome, the Zittels have always been “all about the outdoors.” Finally in July 2006, they bought their first fifth wheel and “hit the road” in October of the same year.

One of the most appealing things for the Zittels about the full-time RV lifestyle is its flexibility and how it offers a great way to visit family and friends with the benefit of living in your own home. Having the ability to move easily from area to area and meet up with friends and family for vacations is also a big benefit.



Meeting other RVers and making wonderful new friends along the way have added fun and joy to the Zittels’ lives. And, they get to share life with two dogs and one cat—all of whom have been rescued. There’s 11-year old mixed breed Bailey, 5-year old Sheltie Casey, and 4-year-old Miss Kitty. They are of the mindset that “if the dogs can’t go, we don’t go.” Evey, an 8-month-old pup, found abandoned in the desert, is their latest rescue. They are nursing her back to health with the anticipation of finding her a forever home.

The Zittels love to explore, but prefer the Southwest and the West especially for its openness, the mountains, less traffic and fewer people. Part of their regular travel schedule takes them to visit family members in Missouri, Montana, and New Mexico. The last four winters they have spent in Yuma, Arizona where they enjoy the open land for jeeping and terrific weather. In the near future they’d like to venture to unexplored areas of Utah, eastern Montana, Idaho, parts of Wyoming, as well as the Pacific Northwest and the Gulf Coast—two regions they’ve never explored before.

Exploring parts unknown brings all kinds of adventures like when they were staying in a Wyoming national forest and heard their neighbors ask “Did you see the bear this morning?” Oops--Dave and Renee missed the sneaky bear that walked right under their slideout, right under their noses, as they were drinking their morning coffee inside the same slideout. They were a bit disappointed to have missed the sighting and especially that close.



As New Horizons Ambassadors, the Zittels have already shown their unit to friends and campground neighbors quite often. They kindly welcome anyone in their area to call or stop by for a visit. They believe that is the best way for anyone interested in New Horizons to see one of the units short of traveling to the factory in Kansas.

To schedule a visit, contact the Zittels at strawdog@escapees.com or by phone at 505-280-3121. They will be in Yuma, AZ until April 2011.



CONNECTIVITY ON THE ROAD--IMPROVING YOUR WIFI (PART 2)

by Jack Mayer

(www.jackdanmayer.com)

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In Part One of this series we surveyed methods to connect to the Internet via cellular technology. This article will cover connection via Wifi and some of the ways you can improve those connections. As with the last article, I can't cover all the details in the space available (it would likely bore you if I did), but more information is available on our website. I do mention certain products here. These are given as examples of the technology; other products are available. Hopefully, with the information in this article you can make informed decisions about how to improve your Wifi experience.

First, it is helpful to understand a little about how Wifi works, some of the jargon, and the technical limitations of the technology. Wifi is a two-way radio system that operates on the 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands. For our purposes, we will assume that we are dealing with 2.4 GHz radios since that is what is commonly used by a consumer device. Like any radio system, it takes "two to tango" – the Wifi radio in your laptop, smartphone, tablet or other device has to "talk to" the Access Point (AP) set up by the provider of the Wifi system. This AP (Access Point) is the radio that eventually connects you back to the Internet. If this provider is an outside company selling/providing the service they are generically referred to as the WISP (Wireless Internet Service Provider). Examples of a WISP might be Tengo (a popular RV park wireless provider), a city-wide Wifi system, or a provider of Wifi to a hotel complex. When WISP's set up wireless networks in geographically distributed areas there are often "dead spots" in radio coverage. These areas may have signal available, but to most Wifi devices the signal is not strong enough to effectively use. In many cases a CPE device (Customer Premises Equipment) is used by the WISP to pull the signal in rather than put in more APs. This is cheaper for the operator and more effective for the end user in most cases. More about these CPEs later.

Before you can connect to any Wifi network you have to discover the network. One of the best tools for seeing what Wifi networks are available around you is inSSIDer which is free Wifi scanning software. It will tell you many things about the network that the tools included with your computer will not.

OK, enough of the acronyms. Now that we have a little background info, let's look at what affects your Wifi experience. Since we are dealing with radios, the obvious things are power and blocking the line-of-sight to the AP. Radio waves at the 2.4 GHz frequency are pretty easily blocked by dense objects like cement walls, anything with water in them, and metal. Thus, the typical RV park is a pretty hostile environment: you have an RV with (perhaps) metal sides next to you that blocks your line-of-sight (LOS) to the AP, and/or you are in trees. The trees have water in the leaves/needles/branches, which is very bad for signal propagation. In addition, you are using a laptop or other device with a weak radio in it, and you are pretty far (in relative terms) from the AP in many cases. Providing Wifi in a typical RV park is a very challenging technical problem from both the providers view and the consumers view – which is why so many people have issues with it.

The typical laptop or consumer Wifi-enabled device has a radio in it with 10-15 mW (milliwatts) of power (or less). And the antenna is built into the device which is not the optimal situation. The simplest and cheapest way to improve Wifi performance is to replace this radio and antenna set with an improved Wifi adaptor with an external antenna. This new adaptor should have more power output, and a higher performing antenna on it – it might even have a directional antenna (like a panel) that you have to point at the signal source (the AP). Simply turn off the in-built Wifi adaptor, and follow the instructions for installing and using the new one. It is pretty simple – everyone should be able to do this. Look for an adaptor with: at least 200 mW of power, a removable antenna and the ability to plug in a longer USB cable. Plugging in a longer cable (up to a 16' passive cable) allows you to position the new adaptor in the best location for reception – like maybe high in a window of your RV. Note that you are now “tethered” to the device – you have a cord coming from the laptop to the device, so it somewhat limits mobility. And you have only improved that one laptop’s connection. Here are some examples – there are lots more out there: Alpha Adaptors. Popular manufacturers of these high-power external adaptors are Alpha, Orinoco, RealTek, and Hawking. If you need a USB cable over 16' look at some of the “active” cables like this one that allows for 10 meters between your laptop and the adaptor. Just make sure anything you buy in an extension cable has the correct ends on it.

The upgraded USB adaptor is typically an under \$50 solution, but it is for a single device. What if you want to be able to support multiple devices at the same time? Well, you could deploy multiple USB adaptors if you are just dealing with laptops –but these don’t work for many other Wifi-enabled devices. Usually, with multiple devices you want a local area network (LAN) that all your devices connect to, and that then connects to the Internet through the Wifi. This allows all your devices to just know about your network and you don’t have to keep changing things around on the individual device when you find another Wifi network to access the Internet. But now you “get to” manage a network on your own. This can keep you up at night when things go wrong.

The easiest way for a novice to have a local network and connect to Wifi as the backhaul to the Internet is probably with the PepWave Surf Mini, which has a 200 mW transmitter in it. The PepWave combines the ability to hook into RV Park Wifi and simultaneously support a local LAN (hotspot) just for your use. It is relatively easy to configure and manage but you do have to understand a little about networking. It is available through many sources but, because a networking novice may run into issues, I recommend that you purchase it through the 3GStore. If you run into issues, you will have help just a phone call away. The PepWave is nice, but it has limitations. First, it is an indoor device – it is not weatherproof so you cannot put it on the roof of the RV (although some have done so in a weatherproof enclosure). Second, although it has an external antenna with an RP-SMA male connector it can be complicated to extend this antenna to the roof, where it would get best reception. Third, if you need more than one Ethernet port you will have to add a switch to it. Normally, I recommend that the PepWave be high up on a window on the side of the RV that faces the AP. If you can get any sign of the Wifi signal on your laptop without the PepWave, then the PepWave will be a good solution for you – use inSSIDer for discovering the signal strength.

In the last article, we talked about the WifiRanger which is a device that operates much like the PepWave but also handles cellular modems as a source of Internet, as well as Wifi. What differentiates the WFR (WifiRanger) from the PepWave, besides the fact it can handle a cellular modem, is its WAN and LAN ports. It is also a general-purpose router not just a specific-function device like the PepWave. It is much more flexible, and it has a pretty easy user interface for configuration and management. In the future the WFR will also handle interfacing to a remote CPE on the roof of your RV or residence. This solves one of the issues with Wifi-capture that the other devices do not; that of having clear line of sight to the AP. The WFR is a new product and like any new product is going through growing pains. You should be aware of this if purchasing one. Another product that does a similar thing is the Cradlepoint CTR35 wireless N router. The CTR35 supports “Wifi as WAN” just like the WFR, as well as data sources from cellular, cable, and DSL modems – just like the WFR. It retails for slightly under the price of the WFR. I have not yet tested the CTR35, but Cradlepoint certainly has a good track record in bringing cellular routers to the market. As far as I know, the CTR35 will not support an integrated connection with a remote CPE, like the WFR will. Both of these routers deserve consideration, however both are new products on the market.

There are other solutions combining portions of what we have discussed to solve Wifi connection issues. To round out a sampling of them take a look at the following: Jefa Tech, RadioLabs. If you look carefully at the solutions you see advertised you will notice that the products solve one or more of the following issues, in order of sophistication and cost:

Power – most have advanced higher-powered transmitters in them.

Antenna – either a better antenna or an antenna that has better LOS to the AP.

Multiple users – a local hotspot (LAN) so that you can connect multiple devices.

Multiple data sources – the ability to handle Wifi, cellular modems, DSL, cable modems, etc. Sometimes all in one device.

So what device or combination of devices “does it all”? That would be a router that handles multiple data sources and has good local connectivity in combination with a remote (rooftop) CPE for the best Wifi capture. The closest we have to that today is the WifiRanger and the Cradlepoint CTR35. But today you have to provide your own CPE interface and management.

In Part Three of this series we will cover CPEs and how they fit into this picture in more detail, and then attempt to pull everything together into one cohesive picture.

NEW HORIZONS AMBASSADORS

New Horizons RV is pleased to introduce their factory authorized ambassadors. Now you can see a New Horizons without having to make a trip to Junction City, KS! Our ambassadors will share their experiences and open up their RV for your viewing.

Each of these couples is available to meet with potential customers. Simply look for a location nearest you and contact them directly to arrange a visit. If you do not have internet access, please don't hesitate to call our offices (1-800-235-3140) for their contact information.

Jack & Danielle Mayer
2010 Majestic 102 F42RLTSS
jackdanmayer@gmail.com
www.jackdanmayer.com
678-492-1346

Location: Mission TX until April

Dave and Renee Zittel
2010 102 F40RLTSS
strawdog@escapees.com
505-280-3121

Location: Yuma, AZ until April 2011

Bob & Lissie Storey
2010 Majestic 102 F39RETSS-KB
bob@storey.uk.net

Location: Borrego CA at the Springs at Borrego RV Park from 2 February until 9 March

Roger & Debbie Rauch
2010 Majestic 102 F41REKB4S
rauch6@juno.com

Location:
19785 Hwy 105 West
Montgomery, TX
Houston North KOA Lake Conroe, TX

Ken & Cec Dorman
F39RLTSS CUSTOM SUMMIT
kenandcec@aol.com

Location: Dallas/Fort Worth area
Cedar Hill, TX at Cedar Hill State Park until
January, 2011

John & Peggy Bowes
F45TYTSS CUSTOM SUMMIT
4mobilebowes@gmail.com

Location: Mount Airy NC and will be for the
unforeseen future.

Jim & Chris Rett
F30RKSSS CUSTOM SUMMIT
cjrett@escapees.com

Location: Alaska for summer and back to Benson, AZ in the fall

Phil & Kim Gove
F34RKSSS CUSTOM CLASSIC
happyfeetr@gmail.com

Location: Currently in Yuma AZ

Bob & Beck Miller
F39RLTSS CUSTOM SUMMIT
bmiller247@aol.com

Location: at the following address until May 1st:
1117 Bayou Avenue, Site 230
Davenport, FL 33897

Bob & Donna Hutsler
F37RLTSS CUSTOM SUMMIT
rhutsler@hughes.net

Location: Citrus Ridge, Davenport, FL

Tom & Vicky Sprott
2008 F34RLTSS SUMMIT FIVE STAR
tomspratt@msn.com

Location:
December 2010 – Casa Grand /Apache Junction areas Arizona
January to mid February 2011 – Sedona, Arizona area
Mid February through March 2011 – Southern Oregon: 2465 Jeremy St, OR 97592

Ralph & Linda White
2009 F39RLTSS MAJESTIC
spur29@comcast.net
Ralph — cell— 505-400-2868
Linda — cell— 505-400-2869

Location: Address 7513 Roehl Ct. NW,
Albuquerque, NM 87107



RECIPES OF THE MONTH (Planning a romantic dinner for two? Build your menu around these great recipes from www.tasteofhome.com.)

Asparagus Steak Oscar

1 envelope béarnaise sauce
1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed
¼ pound fresh crabmeat
2 tablespoons butter
½ teaspoon minced garlic

1 tablespoon lemon juice
4 beef tenderloin steaks (1 in. thick & 3 ounces each)
1/8 teaspoon paprika

Prepare béarnaise sauce according to package directions. Meanwhile, place asparagus in a steamer basket; place in a large saucepan over 1 in. of water. Bring to a boil; cover and steam for 8-10 minutes or until crisp tender.

In a large skillet, sauté crab in butter for 3-4 minutes or until heated through. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer. Stir in lemon juice; keep warm.

Grill steaks, covered, over medium heat or broil 4 in. from the heat for 6-8 minutes on each side or until meat reaches desired doneness (for medium-rare, a meat thermometer should read 145°; medium, 160°; well-done, 170°). Top with crab mixture, asparagus and béarnaise sauce. Sprinkle with paprika. Yield: 4 servings.

Raspberry Swirl Frozen Dessert

2/3 cup graham cracker crumbs
2 tablespoons butter, melted
5 teaspoons sugar

Filling:

3 eggs, separated
¼ cup plus 1 tablespoon water, divided

1 cup sugar, divided
1/8 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon cream of tartar
1 package (8 ounces) reduced-fat cream cheese
1 ½ cups reduced-fat whipped topping
1 package (10 ounces) frozen sweetened raspberries, thawed

In a small bowl, combine the cracker crumbs, butter and sugar. Press into an 11" x 7" dish coated with cooking spray. Cover and refrigerate for at least 15 minutes. Meanwhile, for filling, in a small heavy saucepan, combine the egg yolks, ¼ cup water, ½ cup sugar and salt. Cook and stir over low heat until mixture reaches 160° or is thick enough to coat the back of a metal spoon. Cool quickly by placing pan in a bowl of ice water; stir for 2 minutes. Set aside.

In a small heavy saucepan over low heat, combine the egg whites, cream of tartar and remaining water and sugar. With a portable mixer, beat on low speed until mixture reaches 160°. Transfer to a small bowl; beat on high until soft peaks form.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth. Gradually beat in egg yolk mixture. Fold in whipped topping, then egg white mixture. Drain raspberries, reserving 3 tablespoons juice. In a small bowl, crush half of the berries with 1 tablespoon juice. Set remaining berries and juice aside.

Spread a third of cream cheese mixture over crust; spoon half of crushed berry mixture over the top. Repeat layers. Cut through with a knife to swirl raspberries.

Top with remaining cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle with reserved berries and drizzle with remaining juice. Cover and freeze for 5 hours or until firm. Remove from the freezer 15 minutes before cutting. Yield: 12 servings.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH US - Facebook (give us the "thumbs up" as you hit the "Like" button); join the New Horizons Owners Group Forum (NHOG) at <http://www.irv2.com/forums/f269>; or stop by next time you're in Central Kansas.

As always, we hope to see you down the road.

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