



2011

## 2011 New Horizons Owners Rally Goes East!



This year's New Horizons Owners Group Rally will be held in Bushnell, Florida, October 24-29—the first time it is held east of the Mississippi. This annual event is for current and former New Horizons owners as well as New Horizons' wannabees! It provides a great opportunity for newbies to get their first look at a New Horizons coach and learn first-hand from owners what makes their coach special.

The Rally will take place at Blueberry Hill RV Resort, 6233 C.R. 609, Bushnell, FL 33513 and will include six to eight discussion sessions around possible topics like: safety, troubleshooting, RV cooking, solar power, craft sessions, favorite destinations, digital photography, etc.

Early in the week, attendees will hear from Phil & Karen Brokenicky, owners of New Horizons RV.

Terrific sightseeing opportunities abound in this area of Florida including the Withlacoochee Trail, Homosassa Springs with their captive pod of manatees, picturesque Mount Dora, and Dade Battlefield State Historic Park just to name a few. Before or after the Rally, you might want to venture further to take in Daytona Beach, Orlando, Disney World or NASA.

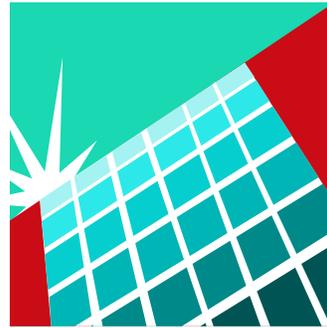
Registration forms and more detailed information is available on the New Horizons Owners Group forum at <http://www.iry2.com/forums/f269/2011-nhog-rally-information-85370.html>. Rally fee is \$50 per adult

(Fee includes three dinners and rally expenses such as supplies, reproduction costs, refreshments, coffee, equipment rentals, door prizes, etc.). Direct inquiries or questions to:

Rally Masters Mike & Sharon Williams  
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## Living “Off-Grid” in Your RV – Is Solar A Feature You Need?

(Jack Mayer, [www.jackdanmayer.com](http://www.jackdanmayer.com))  
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All RV's are capable of off-grid living for some period of time. How long depends on the standard features as well as what options the RV has. The amount of time one can live effectively “off-grid” is primarily dependent on your water storage capabilities and the size of your battery bank (or how much you want to run your generator, if you have one). Most RV manufacturers do not provide advanced boondocking technology as a standard part of their RV's, so you are usually limited to 2-4 days without hookups. Enhancing the standard RV's capabilities can allow you to live indefinitely without hookups.

So what do you need to effectively live off grid indefinitely? The heart of your system is the battery bank. You will need enough battery capacity to supply your energy needs. That means translating some of the DC battery power to AC, so it can be used by your normal RV appliances. You do this with an inverter.

Next, you need a way to replenish the battery power you use. That can be either a generator in combination with a modern battery charger or solar panels in combination with a solar controller. Or a little of both, which is what most people use. Solar is really an option here. You can live effectively off grid with just a generator and a proper battery bank, but for long term use you will find it most convenient to combine this with some solar panels.

You also need a way to monitor the status of the system. Without monitoring the system you will not know how much energy is available for use or when to use the generator to help recharge the battery bank. If the battery bank is the "heart" of your electrical system, then the monitors are the "brains". You need them both.

Other considerations, not related to power, include: obtaining fresh water, disposing of waste water, and efficiently heating the RV. This series of articles focuses on power issues so we will skip these other requirements.

Use of solar and other power management components is a lifestyle decision. The freedom to be totally self-contained and “live” anywhere comes at a cost – in both money and in lifestyle compromises. You really should consider how much you plan to boondock, and for how long, before committing to a full-fledged implementation of solar and its related components. It is unlikely that you can recoup the cost of upgrading your RV in exchange for campground fee savings due to extended boondocking.

## Typical Components

So you've decided that the lure of the "wild" has overcome the desire to save money! Remember, adding the capability to effectively boondock can cost a significant amount depending on how you do it.

The typical items you need – either supplied aftermarket or by the RV manufacturer – are:

- A larger battery bank than normally supplied. This will allow for extended power use. In my opinion, 200 Ah of battery capacity is the minimum. This is equivalent to two 12 volt batteries or two 6 volt batteries. Four batteries are more typical for those who boondock regularly or for extended periods of time.
- A decent battery monitor.
- A charging system that can restore battery power effectively and efficiently. This is typically an inverter/charger. The inverter supplies 120 volt power from the battery bank for use in the RV and also has a high-quality charger built into it. This charger is driven by a generator; either a small portable generator like a Honda 1000/2000 series or a larger built-in generator.
- The inverter is typically a larger model that can support most of RV 120 volt loads. Inverters cannot support air conditioning or other large electrical loads like hot water heaters – primarily because the battery bank is not large enough to store enough energy for running these loads for the time required.
- Solar is used for longer-term battery charging. The generator is used for short-term battery charging and for large electrical loads – like running a microwave. The solar panels require a solar controller which is really just another type of battery charger.

These components add cost to the RV and require careful design consideration so that the proper components are chosen. Otherwise, the system will not function effectively. Many systems available from RV manufacturers do not operate optimally because of implementation and design considerations. New Horizons uses "best of breed" components in their electrical upgrades and the system is designed as a whole so it operates efficiently. Taking the off-grid "plunge" can be costly however, with a New Horizons, you are assured that your money is well spent and the system will work well.

AM Solar, of Springfield, Oregon, is the primary supplier of solar components to New Horizons. Their website is a great resource on solar energy education and product information. Start by taking a look around the educational section: [http://www.amsolar.com/home/amr/cpage\\_9/rv\\_solar\\_education.html](http://www.amsolar.com/home/amr/cpage_9/rv_solar_education.html).

Next month I'll cover in some more detail what to look for in an upgraded electrical system (including solar), and why so many systems do not function well.

## Price Increase Expected in June

President/CEO Phil Brokenicky has announced, effective June 15, 2011, a 4% increase in base prices of all New Horizons units. "This increase is necessitated by so many of our suppliers taking increases since January 1, 2011. Many have taken more than one increase in the last five months, and we simply can no longer absorb them."

Orders placed prior to June 15, 2011 will enjoy existing pricing.



## RECIPES OF THE MONTH (Memorial Day Cookout Grilling Ideas)

### *Grilled Pesto-Stuffed Steaks* ([www.razzledazzlerecipes.com](http://www.razzledazzlerecipes.com))

2 beef rib eye steaks, 1 ½" thick (about two pounds)  
¼ cup Pesto  
2 Tablespoons finely shredded Parmesan cheese  
1 Tablespoon olive or vegetable oil  
1/3 cup finely shredded Parmesan cheese

Heat coals or gas grill. Make a horizontal cut in side of each beef steak, forming a pocket (do not cut through to opposite side).

Mix pesto and two tablespoons cheese; spread evenly on insides of pockets; press pockets closed.

Drizzle oil over beef. Roll beef in 1/3 cup cheese until well coated. Cover and grill beef 4-5 inches from medium heat 12 to 14 minutes for medium doneness, turning once. To serve, cut each beef steak into thick strips

Makes 4 servings.

### *Margaritaville Veggies* ([www.razzledazzlerecipes.com](http://www.razzledazzlerecipes.com))

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 2 tomatoes, quartered                          | 3 Tablespoon tequila       |
| 4 small yellow squash, cut bite-sized pieces   | 1 ½ Tablespoon Triple Sec  |
| 1 medium-sized zucchini, cut bite-sized pieces | 2 Tablespoons Kosher salt  |
| 8 green onions, cut into 3-inch pieces         | 2 Tablespoons chili powder |
| ¼ cup vegetable oil                            | Juice of 2 limes           |

Garnish: lime wedges, cilantro, sliced jalapeños

Combine oil, tequila, Triple Sec, salt, and chili powder in another bowl; pour over vegetable combo; stir to coat.

Grill vegetables over hot coals until vegetables are tender, turning frequently. Remove to platter; drizzle with lime juice. Garnish with lime wedges, fresh cilantro, and sliced jalapeños.

**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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