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HRRVC Western Holiday Pusher  
Chapter 500

Volume 9, Issue 3

November 2010

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**2011 Dues Are Now Payable**

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**Incoming President's Message**

I want to thank all the Pusher 500 members and the two buddies who attended the Maintenance Session in Las Vegas. Everyone seemed to enjoy the Oasis RV Park and the weather was perfect while we were there. By the time you read this we will be working on next year's Maintenance Session.

We had a full schedule of speakers, seminars, and round table discussions that gave us a lot of information on the operation of our diesel pusher motorhomes. At the round table discussions, numerous problems were discussed and some of them were resolved. Keith Shoemaker from Redlands Truck & RV presented several seminars and then went out to the motorhomes to troubleshoot some problems and install new products. Bert Minchow from Rocky Mountain Cummins answered engine, transmission and generator questions for several hours and then went out to the motorhomes to look at some specific problems. He offered a free engine diagnostics printout (normally \$50) to anyone that wanted to stop by their shop. Dennis Franklin from Franklin Tire Service told us everything you ever wanted to know about tires and how to care for them. We also had very informative seminars on Interstate Batteries, Carefree Awnings, Aqua-Hot, MotoSat satellite dishes, inverters and brake systems for the towed vehicles. Joseph Fackrell, a Nevada State Trooper told us how fast over the speed limit we could go before being pulled over and numerous other facts about driving in Nevada. The ladies had their own seminar by Cheryl Hofstetter from Pampered Chef and the men had to give up their credit cards.

I want to thank Clayton Nelson for all the hard work and time he spent putting this Maintenance Session together and his leadership for the years as our President. I also want to thank all the ladies that worked to be sure everybody had food and snacks for our Happy Hours, Burgers and Hot Dogs. Last but not least, thanks to the men that got their Bar-B-Ques out and cooked the food.

Overall, I thought we had a great Maintenance Session and am looking forward to next year.

Rich Rust, President

### **Past President's Message**

For the past six years Ruth and I tried to do our best in leading our Chapter 500. Now it is time for new leadership and ideas and I think our new people will do a great job. Please give them your help and cooperation as you have with us.

Our Chapter provides an excellent service to our members with our newsletter and annual Maintenance Session. Each rally we have had has been enjoyable and informative for those attending. The group has been small enough so everybody has gotten acquainted and looks forward to seeing each other at future sessions. Regardless of the number of seminars I have attended I always learn something. As an example, our coach has always been low in the rear to the point the mud flap has worn all the rubber off. I have had the ride height adjusted numerous times to no avail. At our session just completed, I find out the ride height is to be 10 1/2 inches rather than nine inches when you have the Detroit engine due to the extra weight. If you are not attending our session you are missing some great information.

Finally, I ask again that you give your officers your help and cooperation and bring in some new members. If you talk to diesel pusher owners about our Chapter they usually will join. See you down the road at future Maintenance Sessions.

Clayton & Ruth Nelson

### **Election of Officers**

At the Maintenance Session in Las Vegas, the following officers and directors were elected for the 2011 year.

President – Rich Rust, Napa CA. [richrust@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richrust@sbcglobal.net)

Vice President – Ed Heissel, Tehachapi, CA [ejheissel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ejheissel@sbcglobal.net)

Secretary – Ma'Lena Heissel, Tehachapi, CA [ejheissel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ejheissel@sbcglobal.net)

Treasurer – Tom Struthers, Windsor, CA [tomstru@gmail.com](mailto:tomstru@gmail.com)

Immediate Past President - Clayton Nelson, Windsor, CO [claytonnelson@hotmail.com](mailto:claytonnelson@hotmail.com)

### **Members' Mailbox**

This is the section where members share questions and input of interest to all members. We've had some great input here and encourage all our readers to offer their ideas and experience to the membership of Chapter 500. Thank you to those who contributed!

## Trailing Arm Info from Monacoers

I know this is not good newsletter etiquette but the following is excerpted from the Monacoers Forum on Yahoo. Brett Wolfe was a chassis consultant for the persons who designed the Alpine motorhome chassis. He is or was the President of the Cat RV club and is very knowledgeable. I am posting this as it contains valuable information for HR owners who MAY have the suspect arms.

Brett Wolfe: According to my information, there are THREE different suspensions under the R4R and RR4R chassis over the years. ONLY ONE IS AFFECTED.

The recall affects Rear Suspension Trailing Arms ONLY ON THE R4R and RR4R CHASSIS with the "Monaco Gold" or sometimes referred to as "R-Way" suspension. It is an in-house copy of the Neway suspension. It does NOT include any suspension systems made by Neway or Reyco.

The recalled R-Way arm goes UNDER the rear axle and is made of 3" square tubing. They are on either side in the rear. The rear air bag is bolted to the rear/back end of the trailing arm. The center of the trailing arm is bolted to the rear axle with a large u-bolt and plates and the front is bolted to the frame. The cracks happen on the upper or lower portion of the center of the trailing arm where the u-bolt holds it to the axle.

You can identify the Reyco rear suspension (NOT AFFECTED BY THE RECALL) by the trailing arms that go over the axle rather than under.

If you have the FOUR air bag suspension and your trailing arm goes OVER the AXLE= Reyco= no problem.

If you have the FOUR air bag suspension and your trailing arm goes UNDER the AXLE= Neway OR R-Way= MAY, repeat MAY BE SUBJECT TO THE RECALL.

If the trailing arm is 3" square tubing, it is R-Way and is part of the recall. The Neway was used basically from 2000 thru 2002 and those arms are identified by the fabricated weldments using multiple pieces of plate welded into a box assembly (Not tube) and are NOT part of the recall-- there are no problems with this design.

Monaco had a previous recall on the trailing arms because of bad welds. IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT THE ARMS REPLACED UNDER THIS EARLIER CAMPAIGN ARE STILL THE OLD DESIGN THAT ARE SUBJECT TO BREAKING-- I.E. THEY ARE THE 3" SQUARE TUBE DESIGN. They need to be upgraded just like the original trailing arms.

The trailing arm allows the rear axle to move up and down using the air bag to cushion and limit the movement. A lot of stress is placed on the pivot point at the arm on the axle.

The recall essentially includes any R4R or RR4R Monaco Roadmaster chassis produced after the 2002 model year. This change was made as a running change and it is possible that some very late 2002 models could be affected.

Holiday Rambler Ambassador 2002 – 2004; Holiday Rambler Neptune 2002 - 2009

NHSTA didn't think they could do anything because Monaco is out of business and the "new" Monaco appears to be under no legal obligation to accept responsibility.

The arms crack, allowing excessive rear suspension movement AND CAN BE DANGEROUS, as the arm holds the axle in place front to rear.

## **More Norcold Problems**

Norcold has initiated a new recall to include many refrigerator units manufactured before October, 2010. If your unit has a Norcold Refrigerator, I encourage you to carefully read the following instructions to determine if your unit is included within this particular recall.

***Norcold, Inc. Product Recalls – Call 1-800-767-9101***

***The Norcold, Inc. refrigerators listed below have been recalled.***

**It is important to implement this safety enhancement to prevent an unsafe elevation in the temperature of the cooling unit should the unit fail in operation. This enhancement seeks to minimize the risk of injury or death due to fire.**

If you suspect you own one of these recalled refrigerators:

1. ***Immediately***, turn the refrigerator off at its inside controls AND unplug it from its 110 volt source through the service vent door.
2. **Disconnect** from shore power.
3. **Call 1-800-767-9101** for assistance to verify if your refrigerator is on recall and/or report and get information as to where you can take the vehicle to get your Norcold refrigerator professionally repaired.

These refrigerators will be *repaired at no cost to you*.

Norcold, Inc. cannot accept responsibility if you do not immediately arrange to take your refrigerator into a Dealer/Service Center for repair. Moreover, you could be personally liable to third parties for property damage or bodily injuries resulting from your failure to have your refrigerator immediately repaired.



If you have any questions, please contact us at 1-800-767-9101, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

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**Models 1200, 1201, 1210 and 1211** How to Tell if Your Refrigerator Has Been Recalled

**4 door refrigerators with cooling unit serial numbers ranging from 700000 to 13085759. These refrigerators were installed as original equipment in vehicle model years 1997 to 2010. Other N600 and**




N800 Series Models 1082 Free-Standing LP Models N841, N821, N641, N621 and 1082 gas/electric 2 door refrigerators, having cooling units with serial numbers from 1038000 to 1099000.

These refrigerators were mostly installed in, but limited to vehicle models 1999 to 2000.

Owners who have had the heater element replaced in one of these cooling units should call: 800-767-9101 to get their refrigerator upgraded to current product configuration.

recalled refrigerators may have been purchased as replacement during the same period.

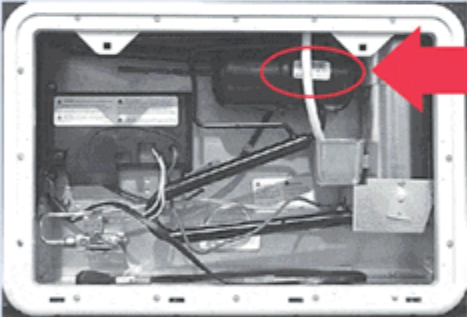
**1 Find the model number.**  
All Norcold refrigerators have an identification panel on the inside, upper right. The model number will be listed on the panel.



**Four-Door Models:**  
1200, 1201, 1210 & 1211  
Found in RVs made 1997 - 2010

**Two-Door Models:**  
N621 N641, N821, N841 & 1082  
Found in RVs made 1999-2000

**2 Find the cooling unit serial number.**  
Remove the refrigerator's intake vent cover on the exterior of the vehicle. The cooling unit's serial number is in plain sight on the unit's lower right as shown here.



**Serial numbers subject to recall:**  
**Two-Door Models:**  
N621, N641, N821, N841 & 1082  
Serial Numbers 1038000 to 1099000  
**Four-Door Models:**  
1200, 1201, 1210 & 1211  
Serial Numbers 700000 to 13085759

**3 Take the next step.**  
If your cooling unit's serial number falls within the appropriate sequence for your refrigerator's model number, **UNPLUG IT**

**1-800-767-9101.**  
This repair is at **no cost to you.**

## Smaller Gas Absorption Models

Due to a potential safety defect, Norcold has recalled the following smaller gas/electric refrigerator models, built from January, 1987 through May 1995, listed below.

If the serial number for your refrigerator model is within the specified range as listed below, the refrigerator's gas valve needs to be remedied immediately. Refrigerator model and serial numbers can be viewed by looking on the inside right of your refrigerator cabinet.

***Continued propane gas mode operation of a refrigerator under this recall could result in a fire causing injury or death.***

<u>Model</u>	<u>Serial #'s</u>
442	01000-08255
443	01000-11972
452	01000-11972
452	01000-14302
453	01000-05418
462	00001-120909
463	00001-05210
482	00001-24398
483	00001-03518
EV452	01002-10327
EV452	01002-10327
EV462	01000-01283
EV463	01266-01283
EV482	01000-01204
EV483	01050-01319
874EG2	01000-03988
874EG3	01000-02347
875EG2	01000-24711
875EG3	01000-05696

**If you own an affected model:**

- 1. Immediately switch your refrigerator's controls to AC power (or DC power, if available, while in transit). No LP gas power operation should occur because it could create an unsafe condition.**
- 2. Contact a servicing Dealer/Service Center to arrange a service date soon. The gas valve in your refrigerator will be replaced at no charge.**

## N260, N300, 322/323 Models

<u>Models</u>	<u>Built</u>	<u>Serial Numbers (ID Label inside the refrigerator)</u>
322/323	August, 1992-August, 1999	lower than 734882
N260/N260.3	April, 1998-August, 1999	lower than 738527
N300/N300.3	April, 1998-August, 1999	lower than 738626

**Persons owning one of these models should:**

1. Turn the manual shut-off valve to OFF and operate it only on AC or DC power until the defect is repaired. (No gas leak can occur during AC or DC operation.)
2. Contact a Dealer/Service Center to arrange a service date as soon as possible. A remedy kit, and the labor to install it, is free to the consumer.
3. Call Norcold at 1-800-767-9101 with any questions; and to obtain the location of the nearest Norcold Service Center.

## **Need a Build Sheet or Window Sticker for your coach?**

The 'build sheet' for your coach is a factory document that lists the major assembly components by manufacturer, model number and serial number. Included are the engine, transmission, axles, levelers, as well as the refrigerator, microwave, TV's and many other components of your coach. The 'Window Sticker' is self-explanatory. It is a copy of the standard and optional equipment for your coach, just as it is for any vehicle.

To get copies of your build sheet and/or window sticker, copy one of the following web sites into your browser and hit <enter>.

<https://www.mncdealer.com/Service/Inquiries/DataCardFrame.asp> (for Build Sheet)

<https://www.mncdealer.com/Service/Inquiries/build/BuildFrame.asp> (for Window Sticker)

You will get a screen that says there's a problem with the Security Certificate, and it recommends that you not continue to the web site. Click on "Continue to this website". Next, enter your coach's VIN, and click on "find". On the next screen, click on "Window Sticker" or "Data Card" to get the information for your coach. You can either print or copy and paste those documents into your word processing program.

## **Using your RV to survive in an earthquake or other natural disaster**

Natural disasters can occur any time of day or night, and can affect any area in the country. Earthquakes are a common occurrence in California, while hurricanes can devastate many of our southern states. Tornadoes strike the vast middle of our country far too often. Too often after a natural disaster, local disaster agencies are overwhelmed by the need to provide food and shelter to those displaced by the event.

Have you ever stopped to think how a natural disaster of similar proportions would affect your life? Having a mechanically maintained and fully stocked RV could make a huge difference in the quality of your life following such a disaster. But do you have the skills to live in your RV for an extended time without support such as the hookups you normally take for granted? Obtaining supplies—food, water, and electrical power—may be impossible due to flooded roads, fallen or damaged bridges and highways, supplies inaccessible due to damaged or closed stores, power supplies cut off, water mains broken.



As an RV owner, to assure that you will be prepared for emergencies only takes a bit of planning, and if you develop the habit following each camping trip, no extra effort. To be sure of your preparedness leave your RV in a ready-to-go state, rather than wait until your next trip.

- Replace all food used on trip, including adding several days more of canned and dry stores (with long expiration dates) than you might carry for just a weekend trip—including extra toilet paper, paper towels, and dishwashing and bar soap.
- Fill your fuel, propane, and fresh water tanks.
- Dump both holding tanks.
- Launder all clothes, bedding, towels, etc. and return to rig.
- Keep plenty of fresh batteries for flashlights, book reading lights, and all battery-operated devices. Consider buying a solar battery charger.
- Fill at least one 6-gallon Jerry jug of back-up fresh water.
- Verify that your fire extinguishers are up to date.
- Upgrade your first aid kit and check that all contents are replaced after usage.
- Keep on board an emergency backpacker's water filter that would enable you to produce drinking water from even foul water sources, one that removes the microscopic bugs that could cause dysentery and other water-borne illnesses.
- And don't underestimate the emergency value of duct tape, wire ties, adequate tools, and emergency instruction, repair, and survival manuals.
- In an earthquake disaster, don't extend your levelers until the aftershocks have stopped.
- And lastly, hone your boondocking skills, so that you can live comfortably without outside support until services return and roads and power supplies are repaired.

### **HRRVC Chapter 500 Contacts**

**President** - Richard Rust, 1179 Whitney Avenue, Napa, CA. 94559, [richrust@sbcglobal.net](mailto:richrust@sbcglobal.net)

**Vice President** - Ed Heissel, 24120 Rand Ct, Tehachapi, CA 93561 [ejheissel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ejheissel@sbcglobal.net)

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**Newsletter Editor** - Tom Struthers, 189 Moll Drive, Windsor, CA. 95492 [tomstru@gmail.com](mailto:tomstru@gmail.com)

### **Web resources**

**HRRVC Chapter 500 (our) Web site is [www.westerndieselpushers.org](http://www.westerndieselpushers.org) *NEW!***

HR web site is [www.holidayrambler.com/service](http://www.holidayrambler.com/service).

RV forums at [www.rv.net/forum.index.cfm](http://www.rv.net/forum.index.cfm) and [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ramblin\\_pushers/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ramblin_pushers/)

A good web site is [www.IRV2.com](http://www.IRV2.com)

### **The Fine Print**

Statements of fact and opinion within this newsletter are those of the authors and editors alone. The opinions and facts set forth by the authors and editors are not necessarily those of officers or members of HRRVC and the Western Holiday Pusher Chapter 500. The officers, editor and/or members of HRRVC and Western Holiday Pusher Chapter do not assume any responsibility or liability for any personal injury or property damage suffered by the attendees before, during, or after a Chapter 500 sponsored event.



## 2011 Dues

Just a short reminder that your 2011 Western Holiday Rambler Pusher dues of \$15.00 are due and payable. If you did not renew your membership at the Las Vegas Maintenance Session, please complete the Membership Application below and remit to Tom Struthers, Treasurer, at the address below.

### HRRVC Western Holiday Pusher Chapter 500 Membership Application

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

HRRVC National Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ FMCA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Pusher Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Engine HP: \_\_\_\_\_ Engine Mfg.: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to receive your newsletters by e-mail only? (Please check one.) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_, Date: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Dues: \$15      Make check payable to: Western Holiday Pusher Chapter 500

Send application and check to: **Tom Struthers**, Treasurer, 189 Moll Drive, Windsor, CA, 95492

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### Western Holiday Pusher Chapter 500 Problem Resolution Information (OK to use a separate page or email)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ HRRVC # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Chassis: \_\_\_\_\_ Engine: \_\_\_\_\_ HP: \_\_\_\_\_

Problem:

How it was resolved and what did it cost?

Send to: Tom Struthers, 189 Moll Dr., Windsor, CA 95492, or [tomstru@gmail.com](mailto:tomstru@gmail.com)

Western Holiday Pusher Chapter 500  
c/o Tom Struthers  
189 Moll Dr  
Windsor CA 95492-9112

*First Class*