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HRRVC Western Holiday Pusher  
Chapter 500

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In This Issue:

President's Message	1	Chapter Contacts	4
2012 Maintenance Session	1	Membership Renewal Form	5
Election of Officers	1	Member Recommended Businesses	6
Member's Mailbox	2	Problem Resolution Form	7
34 Fire Facts	2		

**President's Message**

Welcome to all of the members of the Holiday Rambler Pusher 500 Chapter. Our membership is growing, but we can always use more members. Whenever you talk to or know somebody with a diesel pusher be sure and tell them about becoming a member and our Maintenance sessions.

We hope to have good attendance at this year's Maintenance Session. We have a full schedule of seminars, excellent speakers and hope everybody enjoys themselves and learns something. We are again having the Maintenance Session in Las Vegas at the Oasis RV Resort and hope to see all of you there. If anybody has any suggestions for speakers or seminars, please send them to me and I will see what we can do.

Also, do not forget to send any questions, problems and resolutions that you may have to the Newsletter Editor.

I look forward to seeing all of our members in Las Vegas at the 2012 Maintenance Session.

Rich Rust  
President

**2012 Maintenance Session**

The time to register without paying a "late fee" for the 2012 Maintenance Session is rapidly approaching. There are just over 10 days left before the \$15 fee takes effect. Registrations are flowing in, and we don't want you to have to pay extra. Just send in the registration form along with your check right away. Remember that this is a 'Buddy Rally', so invite your friends with other brands of diesel motorhomes. You can reserve your site at the Oasis RV Resort for "early parking" or "extended parking" by calling them at **1-800-566-4707**.

**Election of Officers**

Officers and Board Members for a two-year term will be elected at the Maintenance Session. If you would like to serve your chapter, please contact Director Dick Smith by email. [richlinda.smith@mindspring.com](mailto:richlinda.smith@mindspring.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!

### 34 Fire Facts That Can Save Your Life - By Mac the Fire Guy, McCoy Enterprises

At best, a fire in your RV can delay or ruin a vacation. At worst, it can mean injury, financial loss, and even death. Unfortunately, RV fires are one of the largest causes of motor coach loss in America today. The following tips can help you recognize the most common fire hazards and protect yourself from the damage and injury fires are notorious for causing.

1. A pinhole-size leak in a radiator or heater hose can spray antifreeze on hot engine parts. Antifreeze contains ethylene glycol concentrate and water. When the water boils off, the remaining ethylene glycol can self-ignite at 782 degrees F. During your monthly fire inspection, check all hoses for firmness, clamp tightness, and signs of leaking.
2. Rubber fuel lines are commonly used to connect metal lines to the electronic fuel injection system, or to the carburetor in older coaches. Check all the lines and connections between the fuel tank and the engine on a monthly basis. If there is any sign of a leak, have the lines replaced and the entire system inspected by a qualified mechanic as soon as possible.
3. A hard-working engine manifold can get as hot as 900 degrees F. The heavy insulation in the compartment reflects the heat back to the top of the engine, and a fire can easily break out. Inspect your radiator and have any problems repaired by a qualified person as soon as possible.
4. Grease, oil, and road dust build up on the engine and transmission, making them run hotter. The grime itself usually doesn't burn, but if combined with a fuel leak or short-circuited wire, a fire could start. Keep your coach's underpinnings clean, and it will run cooler, more economically, and longer.
5. A dragging brake can create enough friction to ignite a tire or brake fluid. Some of the worst fires are those caused when one tire of a dual or tandem pair goes flat, scuffs, and ignites long before the driver feels any change in handling. At each stop, give tires at least an eyeball check. When tires are cool, tap your duals with a club and listen for a difference in sound from one tire to the next. You can often tell if one is going soft.
6. Spontaneous combustion can occur in damp charcoal. Buy charcoal fresh, keep it dry, and store it in a covered metal container. Rags soiled with auto wax or cleaners that contain petroleum products or other oil-based cleaning materials can also spontaneously combust if disposed of in a combustible container. Put dirty cleaning rags in a metal container with a lid.
7. A hot exhaust pipe or catalytic converter can ignite dry grass.
8. Driving with propane on can add to the danger if you are involved in an accident or have a fire. Most refrigerators will keep food cold or frozen for eight hours without running while you travel. Shut the propane off at the tank.
9. If you store your coach, be sure to check the flue before starting your refrigerator on propane. Birds and insects can build nests and clog the flue, causing a fire or excess carbon monoxide to enter your coach.
10. Batteries produce explosive gases. Keep flame, cigarettes, and sparks away. Be sure your battery compartment is properly vented. Keep vent caps tight and level. Check your battery monthly. Replace swollen batteries immediately. Use extreme care when handling batteries—they can explode.
11. Have any wiring in your coach done by a capable electrician, and use common sense in using any electrical aid. Check all 12-volt connections before and after every trip. Most coach fires are caused by a 12-volt short.
12. Gasoline and propane can pose an immediate, explosive danger. Though diesel fuel is less volatile, it dissipates more slowly, so it remains a danger longer. Deal at once with any leaks or spills, and use all fuels in adequately vented areas.
13. Even if the flame on your galley stove goes out, gas continues to flow and could result in an explosion. A stove should never be left unattended or used to heat your coach. Open propane flames release high levels of carbon monoxide.

14. In a compact galley, all combustibles—from paper towels to curtains—are apt to be closer to the stove, so use even more caution in your coach than you do at home. A box of baking soda—the ingredient in powder extinguishers—can be used in lieu of a fire extinguisher for minor galley flare-ups.
15. Develop a plan of action before a fire occurs.
16. Make sure all travelers know what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear it. Test your smoke detector regularly.
17. Have at least two escape routes—one in the front and one in the rear of the coach. As soon as they're old enough, teach children to open hatches and emergency exits.
18. Review with everyone the "Stop, Drop, and Roll" rule so they know what to do when clothing is on fire.
19. Make sure visitors can open the front door. Not all manufacturers use the same lock and latch assembly.
20. Choose a rallying point where everyone will meet immediately after escaping, so everyone can be accounted for.
21. Show travelers how to unhook electricity (screw-on cords can be tricky) and how to close propane valves, in case either of these measures is called for.
22. Practice unhooking your tow vehicle as quickly as possible to avoid spreading the fire to other vehicles.
23. Re-emphasize to everyone aboard that objects can be replaced, people can't. Never stay behind or re-enter a burning coach to retrieve anything.
24. There are plenty of fire and life safety tools that can save lives, but for them to be effective, they must be in working condition and you must know how to use them properly.
25. You should have three fire extinguishers for your coach—one in the galley, one in the bedroom, and one outside of the coach in an unlocked compartment or in your tow vehicle. Make sure family members know how to use the extinguishers and understand which extinguishers are effective on various fires.
26. During your monthly inspection, check the fire extinguisher gauge to determine if there is pressure in the extinguisher. If the gauge indicates empty or needs charging, replace or recharge the extinguisher immediately. To test non-gauged extinguishers, push the plunger indicator (usually green or black) down. If it does not come back up, the extinguisher has no pressure to expel its contents. If you need help testing your fire extinguishers, check with your local fire department.
27. Do not pull the pin and expel the contents to test your powder extinguisher. If you use a portion of the powder extinguisher, have it refilled or replaced immediately. When you have a fire extinguisher refilled, ask to shoot off the charge first (most refill stations have a special place where this can be done safely). This lets you see how far it shoots and how long a charge lasts.
28. Invert and shake your dry-powder or dry-chemical extinguisher monthly to loosen the powder. The jarring of the coach does not loosen the powder; in fact, it packs the powder, which may make your extinguisher ineffective.
29. Deadly, invisible, odorless CO usually results from exhaust leaks or misuse of heating devices. Be sure to put your CO detector in the bedroom. The proper location is on the ceiling or on an inside wall at least eight inches from the ceiling and at least four feet from the floor.
30. Liquid petroleum gas, like gasoline fumes, tends to pool in low spots in the coach until a spark sets it off. Newer motorhomes are equipped with an automatic shut-off for when its sensor detects an LPG leak. If you have a leak, be sure to shut the propane off at the tank.
31. The first rule of RV firefighting is to save lives first and property second. Get yourself and your family to safety before attempting to extinguish a fire. Only if you can do so without endangering yourself or others should you use firefighting aids on hand.
32. Get help. Adults and older children should know how to dial 911 or 0, and how to get emergency help on any CB, VHF, or ham radio available.
33. It's crucial to know your location so firefighters can find you.
34. If you have a quick-disconnect fitting on your water hookup, these hoses can be unhooked instantly to fight a fire. If a nearby coach is burning and you cannot move your coach but can safely stay close enough to keep it hosed down, you may be able to save it.

For more information on fire safety and fire safety products, see Mac's web site: <http://macthefireguy.com>

## HRRVC Chapter 500 Contacts

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**Treasurer** - Tom Struthers, 189 Moll Drive, Windsor, CA. 95492 [tomstru@gmail.com](mailto:tomstru@gmail.com)  
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## Web resources

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

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.

**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

**Member Recommended Businesses**

Do you have a favorite vendor for RV service, repair, or sales? Send their business card to the Newsletter Editor to have it added to this page.



**Rocky Mountain**

**Bert Minchow**  
Operations Manager

Cummins Rocky Mountain LLC  
2750 Losee Road  
North Las Vegas NV 89030  
Phone 702 399 2339  
Direct 702 294 5263  
Fax 702 399 2614  
Cell 702 343 1376  
bert.l.minchow@cummins.com



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www.apachervservice.com

## 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)