

Modern Mobile Living

Joseph Parish

Have you ever wondered what your life would be like if you lived a mobile type of existence? Your home would be your RV, camper or van. You would have no permanent brick and mortar home setting and you would essentially be as free as the birds overhead. You would be able to come and go pretty much as you pleased. If you did not like where you were currently living all you would need to do is turn the key to your vehicle and take off. Nothing could be more carefree.

There are a host of people who live this lifestyle each and every day of their lives and with the economy as bad as it is their numbers are quickly escalating. We are rapidly becoming a mobile society. When you question these people on the choice they have taken they appear happy and very much content. If you inquire from them that if they had it to do all over again to determine if they would follow the same footsteps that they had previously taken their usually response is yes they would.

We played camp host for a period of time prior to purchasing our home and it was an enjoyable and awesome experience. We got to live free in the campground in exchange for a small amount of work. Our primary goal was to greet new campers who arrived at the state park and to answer any questions and concerns which they may have had. I worked at the nature center at the park making my job exceptionally enjoyable. It was a fairly simple job with little responsibility. During our tour as camp host we met several elderly families who resided in a somewhat mobile existence. They would live at one state park for about three or four months and then move on to another. The simple life was readily in their grasps. I once asked one gentleman what he would do differently if he were able to change anything in the past and his reply was that he would get an RV which got better gas mileage. He stated that his first RV got seven miles per gallon whether it was traveling in the city, cross country, downhill, uphill, or on the highway. It did not matter in the least as mileage was constant. He jokingly said he could would pass everything on the road but a Gas Station!

I suppose the best thing about this sort of lifestyle is that if you do not like your neighbors you merely put your key in the ignition and take off. One could also take delight in sitting comfortably in the RV watching some other poor individual sweating as they mow their grass.

National Forests are usually the most attractive locations for parking the RV especially if you participate in the camp host program mainly because it is free living. You can become a host in any of the federal parks as well as the various state operated camping facilities. For overnight stays as you are traveling from one location to another a popular stopover in any city is Wal-Mart's parking lot. Many people seek out specific commercial or residential zones where the people don't really care and do not feel overly territorial about their space. I personally would be a bit weary of these locations. Some people have mentioned parking in front of churches or in front of vacant lots in small towns

but again extreme caution is advised. One of the largest “No Parking Zones” would be in front of a single-family home. Always put yourself in the position of those people who will see you. I reside on the outside of town and if I saw someone parked near my home, I would get very suspicious of them.

I asked one person if their living arrangements ever scare them or if they get lonely and they replied that they never have experienced any scary situations and in the event, you start to feel lonely there are plenty of other people parked near you that you can meet up with. Speaking briefly on the subject of being scared, years ago while in the military we would do a considerable amount of camping. At the time we had a pop-up camper and not an RV. We were stationed in Texas and we decided to go camping for the week end. For safety the camping area we were at was enclosed with a large fence. Unknown to us a server thunderstorm with tornados was coming our way. The campground where we were located was owned and operated by the military. We had taken a nap and when we wake up, we heard on the radio about the approaching storm. As we prepared to leave, we discovered that the gate to the camp area had been locked. Fortunately for us we had the telephone number that we could call to get the area opened for us so we could leave.

Mobile living does have some advantages but if the thought of putting down roots is important to you than I recommend that you reconsider the idea. If you decide to go with it, I suggest stating out as a camp host to get your feet wet and see if it is really for you