

RVers' Opinions and Advice from the Road

Submissions that are sent by e-mail can be directed to DEPARTMENTSEDITOR@ESCAPEES.COM.



RV Stands for “Roads Vary”

I am sure a lot of us had the best laid plans for this past year and naturally a lot of us were thrown off track. My husband and I and our dog, a Shiba Inu named Cozy, plus a motorcycle and a sidecar, started our adventure in March 2020. I worked online with my 10-year-old travel company and planned to transition it to a full-time travel lifestyle. Unfortunately, over 80% of my business focused on group and company cruises. Need I say more? Yes, I was highly off track, within a month of going on the road, due to issues beyond my control. The whole cruise industry shut down. I worked for free the rest of the year just making sure clients were getting their refunds back or rebooking cruises for the future.

I cannot have idle hands and I still needed to contribute to the family income and retirement plans. Like many others, I sought out other work options with the complication of being on the road while waiting for the travel industry to reopen. For once in my life, I decided not to go all organized and make my full-time job turn into job searching. So, I decided to do something that does not come easy for me: taking time to relax and to enjoy my hobbies, too.

My hobbies are writing, riding my sidecar, traveling and now a new one, coming up with creative solutions in our new RV. Note that I had said I cannot have idle hands. So, I wrote a few stories about our new life, our travels and my sidecar adventures. I got a few published. I also got busy creating a brand for our new RV adventure so we could keep family and friends updated online.

Then an editor of a motorcycle magazine for which I had written an article, followed our new branded Facebook page. He mentioned that our RV adventure might be interesting to other motorcyclists. I emailed back and suggested we do a series – one that would progress for two years on how we manage careers on the road with

an RV that takes us from one motorcycle event to another, as well as our rides and motorcycle adventures. I declared at the end of the two years, I would create the first RV/Motorcyclist Rally and invite all the readers and subscribers to attend in the fall of 2022. What was I doing? Creating my own job, one out of my hobbies and one I was really enjoying. The editor was onboard. Writing about a unique RV full-time life niche, within an even smaller motorcycle, sidecar niche, really got people's wheels rolling.

At the same time, I was looking for ways to get more involved with Escapees because the organization was central to our domicile, mailing address and other services we depended on for our RV life. My husband and I joined Xscapers because we are still working as we go. Then I found out about Escapees Birds of a Feather (BOF) groups. Scouring all the incredibly unique and creative get-togethers, I saw there was not anything related to motorcycles. Well that was a sign! I put in a request to lead a BoF group and it was approved. Twist Your Throttle was born. I set up a Facebook page, website and I send out a quarterly newsletter. The first one was released in October 2020. A big thanks to Twist Your Throttle's early 20-something subscribers who shared our interest in traveling via RV with motorcycles. That is enough for a rally or RV caravan!

I have to say when your "roads vary," you can adapt easily when in an RV. It was not as hard as I expected it to be. I found the things I enjoyed doing most were things I could apply to my cruise business, so I could start with a fresh perspective for my clients. Cruise clients are benefiting from my continuing to travel by motorcycle, to learn about the world around us and apply that to travel plans.

I learned that whether it is something big, such as this past year that has affected everyone, or if it is something small that creeps in, you do not have to be waylaid. Find a new scenario that lets you explore. Explore what comes naturally. Then all the pieces that seemed separate will fit together. Avoid saying "no" or "I am not qualified to do that" to anything. You might find yourself branching out to even greater roads. I took a sidecar trip on my own and, long story short, I'm now a board member of the United Sidecar Association!

I've also discovered that when you *stay* passionate about something, you find a way to connect and get the word out so everyone else can share your experiences. Posting on Facebook, creating newsletters—this is all about my passion for RVing and being a sidecarist. When you look at what you are doing and think, "it can't get any better than this," you have found the right road.

I happen to be an introvert. Between starting a new full-time life in an RV and getting involved in all these groups and writing activities, I found people reaching out to me because we shared something in common: RVs and motorcycles. This was a great way for me to connect, since it is hard for me to reach out, and it's even harder when on the road full-time. All my work over this past year has put me in a scenario where I have met so many new people because my road varied. I hope you let your "RV" become "Roads Vary" because it can lead you down some very wonderful paths with some great people. Ride on, my friends!

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Lucinda is a full-time RVer and an avid sidecarist. She has been a member of Escapees since March 2020 and also leads the BoF group Twist Your Throttle. Follow her at DWO.net and TwistYourThrottle.com.



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