

Ken_and_Sarah
joined.

billm joined.
netters joined.
Darrell joined.
Jenny_J joined.
Sandra_ON joined.
Dee_NC joined.
macattack joined.
Bill_KY joined.
Howard joined.
brucedelta joined.
alfie joined.
Jim_NC joined.

Howard Hi everyone & Happy New Year!! We will give it a
couple more minutes so I don't have to repeat myself.
:)

phyllis joined.
tinabeane joined.
James joined.

Bill_KY you made iy
Jesse joined.

Jesse Hello all and Happy New Year
Donna162_MO joined.

James What is the difference between this one and the other
mwk joined.
mwk left.
mwk joined.

Howard James this room works the same. But we just try to
stay more on topic when we are doing these scheduled
chats.

James Ok

Howard Well folks, I just thought this might be a good topic to
start off the New Year. I'm not really sure how this
will go and how broad or narrow the questions might
be.

mwk left.

Howard I have a feeling some might be a little too personal so we can deal with those questions one on one at another time.

Howard Though I will try to help with finances and budgeting as it relates to full-timing, we can certainly have some general discussion as well.

Darrell I used your budget, Norm and Linda Payne's budget, Rich Emond's budget and a few others to create my fulltiming budget.

alfie Howard, if we are just "part timers", can we ask questions that involve us too?

Howard Absolutely alfie

Donna162_MO In trying to come up with a proposed budget, not being an RVer, how do you come up with estimates?

Darrell That certainly gave us a starting point and helped us cover most of the bases

Donna162_MO I've done some searching for sample budgets and yours is about all I come up with.

Ken_and_Sarah Howard, the lines in your budget, are they summary line? Do you have sub-lines or do you use a bucket type and just place charges where ever they fit.

Howard Donna, Darrell may have just given you a couple other ideas.

netters How did you figure what amount to use for your fuel and campground fees for a month..aren't they different every mnth depending on where you are?

Howard But it is really hard to find good detailed information.

Donna162_MO I think he did.

Darrell Donna, you can go on my website and look at the links, that will get you to the people I mentioned

Howard K&S, the lines you see on the spreadsheets in our financial pages are the categories we use. There are no other sub-categories.

billm We are trying to plan for full timming - Howard I have seen your budgets and thanks very much for them - - where can I find these others that are talked about (Norm and Linda, and Rich Emonds?)

Donna162_MO Thanks, I'll do that.

Ken_and_Sarah That's what I thought.

billm Thanks Darrell - (can you give a link to your site)

jdensie joined.

James Good nite all

Darrell <http://www.WanderingAmerica.com>

tinabeane left.

billm thanks

James left.

JRP joined.

Mitch joined.

Howard netters, in trying to do a budget for the year, you have to make lots of assumptions. We just used \$25 a day at 30 days a month for an average campground fees budget.

Mitch Is that you Jesse

Jesse Yes Mitch, is that you

Mitch No, its not me. It's Stanley

netters ok thanks howard..we weren't sure

brucedelta Howard that is far off from the 450 mo in your budget

Donna162_MO Is \$25 a day a good cost for campgrounds with electric, water, and sewer?

Howard As for fuel, we estimate our average miles per month, about 1,000 and take our miles per gallon and multiply by an average price per gallon - estimating high

tinabeane joined.

Mitch Happy Newyears Jesse.

Jesse Ditto

netters ok..not knowing how many miles we will travel, that is a good estimate..thanks!

Howard Bruce, that \$25 a day comes out to the \$750 a month we used in our first two years. That didn't take into account any boondocking or volunteering for campsites.

billm so here is a question - - do you find you are able to eat healty on a budget? (it seems like eatting healthy is a bit more expensive)

Howard Now that we know we can find cheaper rates, volunteer, etc. we adjusted down to \$450 per month based on experience.

Darrell Billm, eating healthy foods does cost more, but go to portion control and it will come out about the same

Ginger joined.

Jenny_J it would also depend on how much boondocking (not paying for sites) you plan to do wouldnt it

brucedelta Based on what I saw on your budget and other guestimates I figured 500 mo was about right

Ginger hello everyone

Howard Eating healthy is definitely more expensive. We have really struggled on our \$400 per month food budget. But it can still be done reasonably.

netters we were figuring about 600 - 650 a month

Darrell Our actuals came out to \$304 per month for campgrounds

netters for camping

Sandra_ON Do you buy organic veggies Howard

Howard Sometimes Sandra, but we don't go out of our way to do it.

brucedelta \$400 a month for food and eating out seems toughest to me of all your numbers. I put 1200 Mo in that catagory for my budget, but we eat out a lot already.

Howard netters, that's a good number. A lot depends on what amenities you want and whether you can get weekly or monthly rates

Howard Bruce, most people think that is by far our tightest number. It is tough, for sure.

netters that's what we were thinking..i know that we will be doing some weekly and some monthly rates

Howard We will raise it a bit for 2008

billm Howard is that why you increased your food budget for 2008

Howard Yep

Darrell We struggle to stay at \$480 per month for groceries and household goods and another \$75 per month for dining out

phyllis we spend more than 400.00 A month for food and very rarely go out, expcept for a pizza or burger

alfie Howard, with gas prices climbing the way they are, do you have a cap in mind that you "just cannot go above?"

Wel-don joined.

jdensie We are spending less than \$400/mo and that includes beer. We eat out very rarely.

Howard No alfie. Fuel is just an integral part of the lifestyle. We may adjust in other areas or stay put longer in some places, but we don't worry about fuel too much. I've budgeted \$3.50 per gallon for diesel in 2008

Darrell ah, nothing like a liquid diet :)

Sandra_ON Our average per month for 2007 was \$450 for food not counting eating out. We don't eat out often.

Jim_NC jdensie, what kind of diet are you guys on that you can eat for less than 400/mo? Do you eat meat? Vegetarian?

Howard Lib joined.

Howard That 450 - 500 number seems to be a good one for groceries. We are a bit tighter than that.

brucedelta As a non-fulltimer I often wonder if the lack of space will help the budget or hurt it. ie. buy less because no room for it, and therefore less spoilage.

Sandra_ON It just seems high for 2 people

jdensie We cut back on meat, we do eat it. We also prefer turkey burger , chicken , fish and eat less red meat

Sandra_ON Where does everyone shop for groceries?

brucedelta but that is also likely countered by small selection of shopping venues.

Darrell Wal-Mart mainly and local markets for fresh fish, meat, etc

Howard Sandra, Wal-mart has been consistently cheapest for groceries, although their meat selections are not the best

Sandra_ON Mitch left.

Jenny_J I usually shop Walmart in the U.S. and local grocery stores in Canada as no Superwalmarts in our area

alfie i agree and walmart will match other advertised prices

jdensie How about places like Sam's? They have very good meat and lots of veggies..

Howard we try to stay away from Wal-mart for fresh meat and produce

Howard Bruce, the small space and weight considerations does make you go to the grocery more often and buy less in

bulk.

Jenny_J especially if you clip coupons etc

netters that is what i like about WalMart..they price match other store ads

phyllis Alfie, but Sam's you have to buy big packages of stuff. No room in the MH

Sandra_ON When you're on the road, you don't get the coupons like you would at home

Howard Sam's are rare unless you stay near larger cities. And not enough room to buy too much in bulk.

Jack_Mayer_FT joined.

Jesse Hi Jack

netters hi jack

brucedelta Howard with a low budget like that, how do you compare it to your prior life. Were you frugal back then, or is this a new experience for both of you.

netters you do if you buy a local Saturday or Sunday paper

Howard Bruce, the budget has been one of the biggest changes for us. The few years before we went on the road, we weren't frugal at all. That's why we HAD to make a decision to track every penny.

brucedelta I know we are very wasteful currently, so I question if we can realistically change habits.

Jenny_J i always look for different newspapers

netters Some smaller communities have their sale ads coming out on Monday or Tuesday..you just need to check the paper

phyllis Bruce, believe me you do, especially when you are on a fixed income like we are

Sandra_ON We don't buy newspapers anywhere

Dee_NC how much cash do you carry at a time? or do you use cards only, are ATM's hard to find that don't cost fees?

billm so here is a different question - We are looking to full time in a year or so - One of the main things I am concerned about is how to properly invest the money we do have for fulltimeing. - my question

Darrell the internet is a good place to get coupons

Howard We do avoid taking certain tours or doing some touristy things we would have done before. But we aren't on vacation now and we have more time to

explore free recreation. :)

Sandra_ON At home, I check the on-line flyers and I know where the best prices are

phyllis Dee, we found that you need Bank of America. They are everywhere

brucedelta We found clipping coupons always resulted in buying more than we did not need or want. I have found it much better to focus on need over coupons.

Howard Billm, sorry. I forgot to tell you that you have only 200 characters per post. You got cut off at "question"

billm Do you invest for a combination of growth and income now?

billm (Thanks howard - I am breaking them up)

Jack_Mayer_FT I invest mainly for growth, and sell what I need.

jdensie We do our banking online and when we need cash we will go to Wal-mart

macattack left.

Jesse Do you do it yourself Jack or do you use a broker

Howard Billm, we personally turn everything over to trusted financial planners. But if we were doing it on our own, we would have mutual funds as follows: growth, growth & income, aggressive growth, and international

Jack_Mayer_FT we use a financial planner as well

Jesse That is what we are in the process of doing now

Sandra_ON left.

macattack joined.

Howard In searching for mutual funds, you want track records of at least five years, longer if possible.

Jack_Mayer_FT And when I said "growth" I meant as opposed to income. Like H we also have a diversified portfolio. Including Real Estate (real stuff)

alfie left.

Bill_KY left.

billm that leads into what was going to my second question - does anyone have a financial planner they can recommend that understand the needs of fulltimers?

Jenny_J left.

Jack_Mayer_FT Fulltimer needs don't seem much different, to me....

Jack_Mayer_FT from a financial view

Howard We can recommend our folks and have to several people. They will be at our Rally in June

brucedelta Howard, I seem to recall that your retirement money was much smaller than your nest egg (Like 100 vs 300) or similar. Do you feel a need to enlarge the retirement account or since you are already ret

Ginger left.
phyllis left.
red joined.

Howard Bruce, no we don't feel the need to do that. We would if we were earning a salary, but at our age and situation, we need to keep as much liquid and aggressively invested as possible.

Tim joined.

netters howard, who is your financial advisors..we won't be able to make it to the rally this year

Jesse Our guy said we need to convert ours of income generating so the principal will last till our later years

brucedelta After selling house and buying rig I anticipate being similar but opposite of you and am trying to figure if I should skip my contributions for this year

Howard We use a young pair of folks with Merrill Lynch in Louisville. If you send me an email or private message I will get you their info.

brucedelta last year really

netters Thanks Howard, I will

brucedelta Jack, I read from your site that you bought a lot as an investment. DO you think that it will have capital gain?

Jack_Mayer_FT Depends on when I sell it...

brucedelta or ar you planning for a future parking spot hwile you can pay now?

Jack_Mayer_FT I actually have 4 lots

netters where have you bought lots, jack?

JRP H why is your insur line item so far under budget? those would seem to be known, fixed costs?

Jack_Mayer_FT we may keep one. But will probably sell and buy over time

brucedelta are they good investments. I ask out of ignorance of that market sector

Jack_Mayer_FT One in North Ranch (AZ) and 3 in the Valley

Howard JRP, which insurance line? :)

macattack Howard ,do you invest in real agressive stocks or kind of take the middle road?

netters ok thanks, just wondering if they were at resorts or not.

Jack_Mayer_FT One in a SKP park, 3 at a resort-type

Howard mac, we leave that all up to our advisors, but we are considered about a 4.5 on a scale of 5 for aggressiveness

Tim left.

netters thanks for the info, Jack..it is sure something for us to think about

Jack_Mayer_FT I'm also about a 4.5 on the aggressiveness scale. You have to consider your age, as well as risk taking.

Jack_Mayer_FT The lots are good investments IMO. But you do hae to be careful on selection

macattack that is pretty agressive

brucedelta H - were you always aggressive or does the ability to go back and earn more allow you to be more aggressive?

Darrell I'm also at the 4.5 on the scale

netters what percentage of your investments are that aggressive?

Ken_and_Sarah left.

Howard Bruce, we have always been pretty aggressive

Ken_and_Sarah joined.

brucedelta H - we are similar age to you and I know my ability to go back to fulltime work anytime is what allows me to make this decision.

Howard netters, the overall plan is considered aggressive, but it is diversified and we adjust each year with our planners.

Donna162_MO left.

netters ok..thanks

Howard I couldn't tell you what is invested in what. I watch everything monthly, but the key is a "TRUSTED"

planner with a track record
tinabeane left.
Donna162_MO joined.

macattack Maybe I need to rethink. I was thinking about getting very aggressive with about 33% and kind of down the middle with the other 66%

brucedelta Jack, did you ever find the answer about dissolving a MT LLC?

netters Ok, Thanks Howard and I will email you for the info on your advisors

Howard Bite your tongue Bruce. Going back to w-o-r-k. :)
tinabeane joined.

Jack_Mayer_FT No, Bruce. It was for a friend...and he is contacting Bennett

Howard mac, depends on your age, goals, and risk tolerance

brucedelta I don't think I know how to not work. I figure this to be a semiretirement.

Darrell what's w*rk?

Darrell :)

Jack_Mayer_FT I like doing a little work. That is why we workamp, plus it cuts the expenses

Howard Be careful of the definition of "aggressive" as well. We are aggressive compared to someone of retirement age with a solid portfolio. But we are not so aggressive to be trying to hit 20% every year.

macattack Yea,I'm 59 but I definatly don't want to start all over

billm So on the topic of work - how hard / easy is it find work (I fall in the category of someone who will need to work some - both for the money and I will go crazy if I don't work some)

Ken_and_Sarah Howard, would it be fair to say that the advisor will be able to do their best job if a person knows what they want up front, growth or income?

brucedelta Jack can I send you PM to hear about any result on that if you find an answer?

Jack_Mayer_FT Sure Bruce

Jack_Mayer_FT Bill, it is easy to find workamping jobs. But that is not enough income to live on.

Donna162_MO What are the plans for when you need a new RV or

tow vehicle?
roy_and_ann joined.

brucedelta I plan to leave NJ and become a texan, but I figure an in between stop during aquisition of RV would be wise.

Howard K&S, in looking for advisor with the heart of a teacher (a Dave Ramsey thing), they should guide you into what you need for your goals without selling you a product.

Jack_Mayer_FT Donna, we have bought a new truck, a new trailer and a Jeep since hitting the road. We just cash in stock, as required

jdensie We began fulltiming in Spring 2007 and also workamp. We found part time jobs quite easily using Workamper News and workamper.com. It helps a lot with expenses and also meeting people.

Darrell Bill, it is not hard to find w*rk - RGIS is hiring part time audits to take inventory. Home Depot hires part time, etc.

Howard I wouldn't have a pre-conceived notion of what you want unless you REALLY, REALLY know what you are doing.
Wel-don left.

macattack The guy I'm thinking about going with has been averaging !6 the last % years

billm I know it will not be enough to live on - just looking as something to supplement - what can I expect to make?

Jack_Mayer_FT Bill, it totally depends on the type of job you get and how much you want to work

Jack_Mayer_FT For example...we work 2 on/4 off in the summer and make about 8500 for 4.5 months

Ken_and_Sarah Howard, I don't remember reading, have you had to delve into the next egg for expenses or has investment earnings kept you going?

Darrell RGIS starts people at \$8 per hour and it increases over time

Jack_Mayer_FT For both of us

macattack 16%

billm ok - thanks

Howard Donna, we will probably have to stop and work to replace a truck or rig, but that's why we bought quality up front. So we could put that off 10 years or so. :)
Jim_NC left.

Jack_Mayer_FT Of course, our living is free during that time, except for food
jdwsr joined.

macattack 16% the last 5 years
Wel-don joined.

Donna162_MO Jack, how long did you go with the first RV?
HighwayRanger joined.

billm Jack - 2 on 4 off - - days., weeks - - ?

Donna162_MO Did you buy again because you needed to or wanted to?

brucedelta Jack, will most places accept 1 worker in a vehicle.
HighwayRanger left.

Jack_Mayer_FT Donna, only 3 years. But that was a choice, not a necessity
Jim_NC joined.

Howard Ken, we did dip into the funds this year. With the market taking a downturn at the end of the year, we will be down about \$10,000 in 2007. But we bought a Jeep, had an electrical upgrade, and a cruise. So not too bad.

Jack_Mayer_FT Most fulltimers do change rigs in the first 5 years.....
Jim_NC Yeah.
HighwayRanger joined.

Jack_Mayer_FT Bruce, some will but many want a couple, to cover the office and do maintenance.

Donna162_MO So, the closer I get to something I really want the better off I'll be for not changing soon.....

Jack_Mayer_FT Some volunteer positions will do single without any issue
Lib left.

Jack_Mayer_FT Donna, buying used if you can is the way to go.

Jack_Mayer_FT Use others depreciation....

Wel-don do you stay i one place for a long time (working camping)

brucedelta I can/ will do my internet based work, but wife would like to workcamp. I am counting on this in our budget to lower campground cost
HighwayRanger left.

Darrell Donna, what Jack said is true - but look for quality units

Donna162_MO Plan to buy used, but there are some things I know I want and if I don't get them the first go around I will want something else.

Jack_Mayer_FT We stay 4.5 months in CO, and 2 months in UT

billm Bruce - what kind of internet based work (if you don't mind saying)?

Howard Wel-don, most places require at least 3 months or a "season"

Wel-don were in ut

Jack_Mayer_FT Arches NO

Jack_Mayer_FT NP

Jack_Mayer_FT In Moab

Wel-don where in UT

brucedelta I have a small computer consulting business, IT management. I plan to still run the operation from the road.

Howard Donna, get what you want up front if at all possible roy_and_ann left.

billm thanks - - I am in the computer field - but have always worked for big companies

brucedelta I am currently trainging a guy to take over my day to day on location work

Jack_Mayer_FT I agree Donna. Get what you want first, if you can

Howard JRP, were you talking about our health insurance line?

Wel-don we plan to go to cedar brakes Natl Mon this summer

brucedelta A big part of the reason to keep involved in to keep health insurance paid for by business.

JRP H yes, your health, life, etc insur line
Dee_NC left.

Donna162_MO Howard, you've probably already said this somewhere on your web site, but I'll ask again, do you use an Excel spreadsheet to track expenses?

Dee_NC joined.

Howard Folks, before everyone leaves I want to make sure that you all check your credit reports at least annually. annualcreditreport.com for free check of all three credit bureaus.

Ken_and_Sarah Howard, is that calendar year?

brucedelta Donna, if you do not have excell the use google documents for a speadsheet. I can not see doing this without a spreadsheet

billm not sure if anyone asked this - - how do you plan for replacement of cars, or rigs?

Howard JRP, for 2005, & 2006 we paid annually up front. We budgeted for an annual payment in 2007, but decided it was time to go monthly. So we made 5 monthly payments for 2007 instead of an annual that covered part of 2008

Jack_Mayer_FT Donna, I use Quicken to track every single penny. It is by far the easiest way to do it, IMO

brucedelta bill - that is my big concern. I am not sure how to plan for that eventuality.

JRP ahh ok

Donna162_MO I use Quicken for my checking account, I guess I could just expand that a little to categorize my entries more than I do now.

Howard Donna, I do use Excel. Lots of folks swear by Quicken, but I like to manipulate the information to my liking.

Jack_Mayer_FT I have pretty fine-grained categories

brucedelta I have found quicken type apps good for tracking and excell good for planning.

Howard K&S, I think it is any 365 days, not necessarily calendar year for the credit reports

Jack_Mayer_FT I do use Excel for play what-ifs....

mwk joined.

Jack_Mayer_FT playing...

Ken_and_Sarah Thanks, Howard, later.

Ken_and_Sarah left.

Donna162_MO Thanks, I think I'll play with my Quicken a little more.

Donna162_MO I haven't upgraded it for several years. Is there a need?

mwk left.

Jack_Mayer_FT No need nless you want to....

Howard Bill & Bruce, that is probably the most often asked question - replacement. The short answer is full-timers change out their rigs and they just seem to make it happen.

Donna162_MO It's hard not to worry about how you can afford to change out rigs.....

brucedelta Most in the RV dreams community have a fifth wheel. Am I crazy for wanting a MH and how much more \$ will it really be.

red left.

tinabeane left.

Jack_Mayer_FT I consider a rig-change like any other expense. When the time comes you have to sell investments.

Lib joined.

Donna162_MO We will have a fixed income for the monthly expenses but not sure how a big change would be financed....

billm Bruce - good question- - Iam also leaning toward a MH not a fiver

Jack_Mayer_FT So you need enough to factor in that eventuality.

Jesse left.

lk joined.

alfie joined.

Jesse joined.

jdensie We decided on a MH and are very happy with it. We tow a Saturn Vue and it is very comfortable and economical to drive locally, when we are parked.

Howard Bruce & Bill, nothing wrong at all with going with a motorhome. There are some incredible deals out there. You will likely want a diesel pusher.

Donna162_MO If enough is not there somehow, would it be something that would keep you from FTing?

lk left.

Darrell Bill and Bruce, we have a fifthwheel but wish we had purchased a MH. We did a lot of traveling last year and a MH would have been better for us

Wel-don what do most of you spend a mounth?

Jack_Mayer_FT I spend 26-28K a year...

brucedelta I just thing a MH would be better for us and I need to pony up the premium cost for that.
red joined.

Darrell We spend around \$3000 per month

Jack_Mayer_FT Bruce, you need to consider carefully how you travel. This is not a vacation :)

macattack What is the average life span of 5er or mh when fulltiming.

brucedelta H - do U like having the jeep and truck. Not wanting to do that is a large reason I favor the MH.

Howard Donna, that's the problem with worrying too much about a replacement vehicle. It can keep some folks from ever trying. But I know lots of full-timers that find a way to meet their needs whatever they may be.

jdensie We did a lot of shopping around, on the internet and locally, for our MH. We ended up buying from a reputable local dealer. Also, buying used is the best deal for the money.

Darrell Wow Mac, that is a good question. It depends on quality of the rig and care given it.

billm yeah - - I am looking at used DP's

Howard Bruce, the Jeep was one of the top two or three decisions we have made.

Jack_Mayer_FT I don't see any reason why any well-maintained rig can not last for 15-20 years.

brucedelta top = best?

Jack_Mayer_FT But you will put money into it.

Howard I agree Jack

Donna162_MO That makes me feel better.....15-20 years would be good....wouldn't worry so much about replacement.

billm Do you think the 15 to 20 years is also valid for a good quality DP?

Jesse But you would have to put more money into a stick and brick house over 20 yrs

Jack_Mayer_FT Even more so, Bill

Donna162_MO If I had something I liked, I wouldn't mind putting money in it.

Wel-don you will spend money on the up keep of anything

brucedelta I guess I look at it like a vacation. I am planning on a

2 to 4 yr fulltime sting with a reevaluation after 18Mo.
Basically this is falling etween us downsizing froma
house to a condo.

Jack_Mayer_FT Consider - the cost of rebuilding a gas engine is about
\$6K. A lot cheaper than a new rig

Howard I agree 15- 20 years on a rig, but most full-timers
change before then - not out of necessity. They just
want something different and make it happen. :)

Donna162_MO So.....more reason to get what you want the first time!

Howard yep

Jack_Mayer_FT I agree H. I don't know very many fulltimers who have
not changed within 5-6 years

Donna162_MO I definitely won't be rushing that decision.

JRP and you will need a cushion for unplanned
breakdowns/repairs/replacement

Donna162_MO Wish me luck.....I don't want to change in 5-6 years.

Howard JRP, everyone should have some type of emergency
fund or cushion for such things

Donna162_MO Is the \$500 a month that Howard budgets sufficient for
that cushion?

Jack_Mayer_FT Donna, people change because their needs/wants
change after fulltiming for awhile.

brucedelta I ahve identified what I think we want. We are going
to tampa in 2 weeks to make sure that we still think it
is the right decision.

Jack_Mayer_FT Or, like in our case, a great deal comes along

macattack Howard how are you going to get the rig and jeep both
around when you decide to travel some

Donna162_MO I'm keeping my eyes and ears closed to great deals!

billm Bruce - what did you decide on?

Donna162_MO After I get the first one bought.

brucedelta Newmar Mountain Aire with rear bath

Howard mac, one of us just follows in the Jeep. No big deal.
We don't go that far between moves. And I figured out
today that the extra gas evens out when not driving the
truck locally.

netters left.

Jack_Mayer_FT And in our case, we double tow the Jeep

Jack_Mayer_FT Where we can

billm very nice - - I have seen them - just really started looking - - going to an RV show this weekend

brucedelta Jack - I don't think you could come east and do that.

Jack_Mayer_FT Been all across the south, and up into VA. Would not go to the NE anyway....

Wel-don do you find many places you can not double tow???

Jack_Mayer_FT There are some.

Jack_Mayer_FT And it is not something I recommend to others

bobguy joined.

Joezilla joined.

Wel-don i plan to double tow a 4-wheeler

netters joined.

macattack That was going to be one of our problems because we are probably going to move than most fulltimers

We bought a used MH that was 20 years old and in great condition. It is a 35 footer. Spend 2.5 years looking and very happy. The way I see it, nothing is ever absolutely perfect. I made a list of

red jdwsr left.

alfie left.

Howard Again, before everyone leaves, if anyone wants personal help with budgeting, finances, email me or private message me on the forum.

Jack_Mayer_FT Mac, you may have issues depending on where you go

Donna162_MO How much should be budgeted for the breakdown/repairs/emergency cushion per month?

brucedelta Does towing a trailer over a toad make any sense? I love the idea of the extra storage, but do not know where we would put the trailer, so I doubt it is realistic.

Jack_Mayer_FT Bruce, my opinion is that it is a pain for a fulltimer. But people do it.

billm Thanks Howard - - I will take you up on that

JRP donna I think that depends on the type/age of your rigs, goes up as they age

Howard Donna, it depends on how much coverage you get up front in roadside assistance, extended warranties, etc.

Donna162_MO What do you budget?

Donna162_MO If your buying used, you probably won't get much of a

warranty, right?

Darrell Donna, there is another item that we discovered - that is upgrades. Like TVs, inverters, etc

brucedelta Jack - do people do it. It looks like a pain! on the other hand I would love to carry my very comfortable outdoor furniture set and extra stuff.

Donna162_MO What do you budget for upgrades?

Jesse Donna, if you buy used from a dealer they will be more than happy to sell you an extended warranty
jdensie left.

Darrell This year \$1200

Donna162_MO We're looking more at used from an individual.

Howard Jesse is right. But extended warranties must be researched.
Joezilla left.

Howard We budget \$600 a year for RV Maintenance, but we also have a seven year warranty and a great roadside assistance plan.

billm question - - who do you have roadside assistance from?

Howard As you mentioned, we have \$500 a month for emergencies/upgrades but that's probably high unless you know of an upgrade and are planning for it.
Lib left.

Howard We have Coach-Net. Coach-Net and Good Sams plan are both highly rated.

billm thanks
Lib joined.

JRP thanks Howard, nite all

Wel-don nite

Donna162_MO Forgot what category you budget the road side assistance costs?
JRP left.

brucedelta H - as an aggressive person do you still think the extended warranty is a good idea. Basically my theory is to self insure for any event that is not a catastrophic loss. An extended warranty claim

Howard Donna, that was paid up front, so it will be a few years before we budget for that again.

billm Howard - - are you and Linda thinking of changing rigs in the near future?
bobguy left.
Jack_Mayer_FT left.

brucedelta Although I am sure the warrenty cost on a DP is much higher so that could be a big factor in my thinking.
Jim_NC left.

Howard Bruce, that's a loaded question. Lots of disputes over whether extended warranty is a good idea. As someone who can't fix much, I wouldn't be without it and ours has already paid for itself in little things.

Howard Bigger problems and bigger money can occur with a motorhome and engine.
Darrell left.

brucedelta Interesting - how much was yours?
Howard billm, no plans for changing rigs

Donna162_MO So, for a used rig without warranty or road side assistance, would you budget more in the repairs/maintenance category, like the \$500 per month for upgrades?

brucedelta I am hearing numbers like 6-9K for a big DP
Howard Freedomcare full system coverage for 7 years - \$1,894
Howard I would Donna
brucedelta I think 2K is much more palatable.
Lib left.

brucedelta Donna - I figure for 500mo for repair maint on a rig. Then another 250 Mo for improvements changes, replacements

Howard Donna, you will want roadside assistance - it's cheap enough

Howard Our 3 year Coachnet was \$199

Howard Also we have a seven-year tire policy that was \$499

billm Howard - thanks so much for your site and your time - time to call it a night

Howard nite

Donna162_MO Tire policy? What does that cover?

Wel-don i had roadside assistance cancel on me after i used it a few time one year like 4 times for flats etc no pulles

Wel-don nite
red Nite all...
Howard Donna, I don't have the details on that, but it covers some tire damage and other issues that the extended warranty won't
Dee_NC left.
Howard nite red, wel-don
Wel-don nite
brucedelta I rented a 40' DP for a week and personally discovered tires are 450 a pop.
Howard exactly :)
Howard Tire pressure monitors are a great investment
brucedelta that toll both island took 2
brucedelta but that is the price of learning!
Howard Well that was a whirlwind. :) Covered a lot of territory.
brucedelta good night all
Donna162_MO Sure did, it was great! Thanks
Howard Nite bruce
brucedelta thx H
Wel-don we need to do it again THANKS HOWARD nite
Howard Nite all
Donna162_MO left.
Wel-don left.
brucedelta left.
Jesse Good nite
Jesse left.
macattack I've had a couple of those self inflicted wounds myself
Howard Me too. :)
macattack nite
Howard Good luck on the house sale mac
netters night
red left.
macattack ty howard
netters thanks we'll need it
Howard Anything else folks?

netters left.

macattack left.

Howard

Well, for those that are reading this via the transcript, I will do some personal counseling and accountability for those that are interested. I'll do a year's worth for a bargain price. :) Just email.

Howard left.

billm left.