

MOTORHOME®

WRITERS GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in writing for the only national monthly newsstand magazine dedicated to enthusiasts of all types of motorized recreational vehicles (RVs): Class A and Class C (mini) motorhomes, camping vans and customized buses.

MOTORHOME's goal is to both entertain and inform our readers. We are devoted to covering all aspects of the RV lifestyle, including travel destinations, activities and events, the newest motorhomes on the market, do-it-yourself projects and RV service and repair recommendations.

We publish approximately eight to 10 freelance features each month, most of which fall into two categories:

(1) activities involving motorhomes and motorhomers, such as travel, recreation and lifestyle; and (2) technical aspects of motorhoming, including advice on equipment and maintenance. Other topics we're looking for address controversial issues and legislation affecting motorhome owners, plus humorous stories with an RV focus and profiles of celebrities who own motorhomes.

The primary prerequisite for all material is that it be written with an RV angle. MOTORHOME readers are active, ranging from 30-something singles and couples with and without children to mature people of retirement age and from weekend to full-time travelers. To gain a better understanding of the type of material we publish, it's a good idea to study recent issues. Lively, colorful writing is just as important as accuracy. Regarding the latter, contact phone numbers, addresses and Web sites, if any, should be provided.

Written queries are preferred over faxed or e-mail queries; telephone queries are not welcome. If we are interested in your article idea, we can make your job easier by suggesting a specific focus. Manuscript acceptance or rejection usually is made within 30 days; payment, upon acceptance. We cannot accept responsibility for unsolicited material.

We reserve the right to edit all manuscripts for style and/or length, but we will discuss major changes or revisions with the author. If we request major changes

in an assigned article and the revised manuscript is still unacceptable, we will pay a kill fee of one-third the agreed-upon rate.

TRAVEL

Travel destinations are virtually unlimited—as long as they are accessible by motorhome—including around the world. We are seeking adventure features on lesser-known but exciting destinations and attractions, as well as articles on more widely known areas written with an RV-related approach.

Travel submissions should include a map, showing the route and boundaries of the area described, and a wide selection of no more than 40 quality 35mm (or larger format) slides, featuring scenery, people, activities and motorhomes in scenic settings.

Length of material ranges from major travel features (1,200-1,800 words) to *Short-Stop* features (750-1,000 words) to brief items for *Crossroads* (100-200 words).

ACTIVITIES

We welcome features on any activity or hobby that is appropriate for motorhome travelers. Submissions must include good color 35mm or larger slides that show people participating in the activity. Photograph indoor activities/hobbies inside the motorhome; others should be photographed outdoors with a motorhome in the background or in a few scenes.

PERSONALITY

Personality profiles (900 words) may feature ordinary people with unusual hobbies, people who use motorhomes in unique ways, or celebrities who are motorhome enthusiasts. A strong motorhome connection is a must. Submissions must include good color 35mm or larger slides, with close-up shots of the individual inside or near the motorhome, as well as exterior shots of the motor-

home and the owner. Try to get action shots, rather than static posed shots.

TECHNICAL/DO-IT-YOURSELF

Although vehicle and product tests are staff-written or assigned, we welcome additional technical articles on almost any subject related to motorhomes. Separate detailed data sheets that cover road-test text and road-test and technical photo guidelines are available on request. Technical features (1,000-1,800 words) must be comprehensive, accurate, clearly written and accompanied by magazine-quality 35mm (or larger format) slides or appropriate illustrations. Because of the very specific requirements for technical material, these queries should be sent to our technical director.

Many motorhomers are interested in learning how to do RV-related projects, though they may not be mechanically inclined. Typical do-it-yourself articles (1,000 words) have included making toolboxes and magazine racks, but these projects can also involve more major modifications of a coach. In all cases, the submission must include 35mm (or larger format) slides or appropriate illustrations to fully show the reader how to accomplish the project. We use professionals to make illustrations from rough sketches, so contributors need not be artists. Do-it-yourself queries should be sent to our technical director.

Note: Only a writer who has obtained explicit permission from the editorial staff may contact a manufacturer or any other business purporting to be a representative of MOTORHOME magazine.

MANUSCRIPTS

Manuscripts are purchased with first North American rights and nonexclusive electronic rights (detailed in our freelance contract). We do not buy simultaneous submissions or articles that have appeared elsewhere. We prefer text submissions on a 3.5-inch disk or CD (separate disks for more than one story), accompanied by a double-spaced hardcopy. Prepare the material on a Macintosh or IBM-compatible computer with a word-processing program, such as MicroSoft Word, or in text-only format. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and Social Security number. Please mark the envelope "Requested Material" if it was assigned. NOTE: Seasonal or event articles must be received at least six months prior to date of event.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

Quality and suitability of photography often determine the acceptance or rejection of manuscripts. Please submit original 35mm or larger format slides for reproduction; outdated slides are not acceptable. Mark all slides with the photographer's name and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for their return. Each slide should be numbered, and it should be listed and briefly identified/described on paper and the CD accompanying the story. Slides must be submitted in protective sleeves; we cannot be responsible for damage to those in boxes or envelopes. Nor are we responsible for unsolicited slides/prints. (High-resolution digital images are acceptable for technical stories based specifically on express prior consent of, and final image approval by, the assigning editor or art director. All images must be @ 300 DPI, RGB or CMYK file format. CDs with digital images must include a separate index sheet, so we can tell what's on them without searching through and opening each image. For major travel articles, we suggest a maximum of 40 slides; for *Short-Stops*, activity or people pieces, 20. The author is responsible for compensating any photographer whose work is submitted with his/her manuscript.

Although we customarily buy a package consisting of manuscript and photography, we occasionally purchase additional slides, such as scenic shots of motorhomes. Any set-up shots featuring identifiable people must be accompanied by signed model releases.

We purchase first North American rights and non-exclusive electronic rights (see our freelance contract). All submitted photography will be returned after publication, along with tearsheets of the published article.

Our usual rates range as follows:

	MANUSCRIPT WITH PHOTOS		SUPPLEMENTAL PHOTOS
Major Travel	\$500-\$700	Cover	\$500-\$600
Short-Stop	\$350-\$450	Spread	\$250
Crossroads	\$100-\$200	Full Page	\$200
Personality	\$400-\$600	½ Page	\$150
Technical	\$500-\$900	¼ Page	\$100
Do-It-Yourself	\$300-\$600	Spot	\$ 75

QUERIES AND SUBMISSIONS

Please send nontechnical queries to: MOTORHOME Managing Editor, TL Enterprises Inc., 2575 Vista Del Mar, Ventura, California 93001. Send technical queries to the attention of the technical director.