



## SUMMERIZING YOUR OFFROAD TRAILER

*This is a basic guideline checklist to assist you in getting your trailer ready for the road. Be sure to read your owners manuals for refrigerators, furnaces, etc. before you start for specific start up guidelines.*

### How To "Summerize"

- Check **tire** condition, air pressure and lug nut torque.
- **Water system.** If you used low pressure air to empty the system last fall, all you need to do is close the drain petcock and fill it up. Turn on the pump and pressurize the system. It will fill the water heater, and once pressure has built up it will shut off.
  - If you pumped antifreeze through the potable (drinkable) water tank, pump, and lines, then you will have to **flush the system** with water. You may find that sanitizing the water system with an RV water tank sanitizer is the best way to take care of any bad taste or odor. If you have bypassed the water heater, don't forget to redirect water flow into it.
  - **DIY method for sanitizing the water system yourself:**  
Add 1 cup of bleach to a gallon of water and pour it into the empty tank. Then fill the tank and run all faucets until you smell bleach. Let the water system set for 24 hours, then drain and fill with fresh water. Run water through all faucets until there is no longer a bleach smell. This may take a couple tanks of water to eliminate the bleach from the system.
  - With water in the system, and the **water heater FULL (not bypassed)**, plug the trailer into shore power. The reason you should wait until you have the water system full and working is to make sure you don't accidentally have the electric mode for the water heater turned on. Applying electricity to an empty water heater will burn out the element at best, and burn down the trailer at worst. Next, turn the refrigerator on automatic. It should go to the electric mode of operation and start cooling.
- **Gas appliances.** Turn on one of the LP tanks and light the stove burners. This will take most of the trapped air out of the gas line. After they light, turn them off and try lighting the refrigerator on gas. Leave it running because, while driving, it will be on gas and you want to make sure it stays lit.

Follow suit on the **furnace and water heater.** Hopefully everything works for you. It may take a little patience, as gas appliances can be a little finicky after being stored for months at a time.

- **The last step,** before you load up the pretzels and beer, is to install new batteries in the smoke detector and the carbon monoxide detector. While you're at it, check the fire extinguisher to make sure the needle is in the green.

