

Stupid RV Trick 02

How to determining the exact size of your RV fuel tank!

(Roger and Jane Rowe – Monaco Knight)

After the Branson rally, we headed north to Minnesota. Somewhere in northern Missouri late Sunday afternoon, my fuel was getting low. The book said my RV fuel tank was 100 gallons. Even though my gauge was nearing empty, a quick calculation said I should have at least 10 gallons fuel remaining so I decided to bypass the local fuel stop and go for the next town where there was a truck stop. Well 10 minutes later I ran out of fuel on I35, on a stretch on road with an unusually narrow shoulder. I turned the wheel to the shoulder, and as I got onto the shoulder, TRIED to swing parallel and stop.

Did you know you lose power steering when the motor quits? The RV went straight into the ditch and tilted about 20 degrees to the right as it sank in the soft soil.

Did you know that a 100 gallon tank does not hold 100 gallons. I immediately called the factory support line to ask why I ran out of gas when I should have has 10 gallons remaining. Monaco support staff said that a 100 gallon tank is a “size rating” and my tank only holds 92 gallons usable fuel.

Did you know when a motorhome is tilted 20 degrees, that the 10 gallons of diesel fuel the tow truck brings is not enough fuel to reach the intake valve?

Oh, did I mention that in all this excitement and chaos I locked myself out of the RV? This turned out to be a long delay in our trip and a few grey hairs. I now gas up when the gauge hits 1/3 remaining.

LESSON: Pay attention to gauges and forget about your cute computer calculations.