

What GPS/Mapping program do you use?

Replies by RV Lifestyle Ezine readers 11/2011

Garmin

- *Garmin* regular auto GPS with 2011 maps on it. But I've ordered a Rand McNally 0528004360 TripMaker RVND7710 7-Inch GPS Device. Jean

Magellan

- *Magellan*. It has been user friendly. Updates can be done via USB port connection to computer. Earlier Magellan models had trouble with cloudy weather. My current one works fine, even in cloudy weather. JJ
- *Magellan for RVs* [Magellan RoadMate Pro 9165T] while at the Good Sam Rally this year and were so impressed, bought it a few weeks ago. We have used it only once and it worked as expected. This program is a dream. You enter your weight, width, length and height one time. It will not send you where you cannot go. It even tells you which lane to be in when approaching an exit. John and Judy

Rand McNally TripMaker RVND 7710

- I'm using the *Rand McNally GPS* for RVers. It took me about 10 days of use and practice to decide to keep it. It is not intuitive, and I found it difficult to learn. However, after a month of solid use I don't know what I'd do without it. I like that it allows me to input the length, height, weight, and lbs of propane I carry and routes accordingly. I like that I can input my preferences regarding types of roads, direction of turns. I really like the warning for upcoming speed changes and the ease of changing the GPS between RV and car when I'm not pulling my 5'er. Steven
- We just received our *Tripmaker RVND 7710* a week ago, and have been playing with it ever since. We were so glad to replace our old 3000T that we both constantly fought with while traveling. So far the 7710 is far better maybe because of being several years newer, but it has so much more to offer the RVer. It has pre-trip check list and camping set up list, take down lists, before you leave the campsite list, you can have reminders for just about everything (great for new RVers) including RV maintenance. The RV info is very easy to program in fact most of what we wanted to enter was already filled in when we got to the screen. The touch screen is very easy to use - no buttons to accidentally push while handling it. The 7" screen is like watching TV compared to our old unit, and the window mount is really heavy duty. It is a lot more user friendly, and my wife is not afraid of changing screens fearing that she won't be able to return to the screen she was on. The POIs are great - many more than we ever had before with the old unit, and many RV related - that is one of the main reasons for the purchase. It does live up to being an RVers GPS.

We are still learning what is available, because the manual is very basic... just enough to get you started, but not very detailed on all the sub screens and details that are available in the GPS. We've still got a lot to learn about the capabilities of the unit. One other thing I would have like is the ability to transfer all our addresses from the 3000T to the RVND 7710, but Rand McNally said there is no way except to enter the address over again to the 7710. We will continue to play and learn before we head out again in the spring - looking forward to seeing the west coast again. We would both recommend this unit to anyone looking to upgrade their older GPS. Bob and Elaine

MS Street and Trips

- We use *MS Streets and Trips* and have for 5 or 6 years. It has only steered us really wrong once - sent us down a back road to a WWII fort/camp with the same name as an active historic fort/camp in Texas. And once, a road had been changed to jog right rather than left as it wanted us to go, but we could see that change and the signs for it - so no harm, no foul. I find it really easy to use and to move from computer to computer - I route the trip on my computer at home and copy it to the MH computer before we leave. It works very well.
Kathy
- I have a couple of mapping programs on my laptop, but my favorite by far – the one I use the most, is *Streets & Trips*. It is easy to use, Very easy to plan our trips on. My wife & I try to take one big trip (couple of weeks) every other year. I usually put our start planning by inputting our start point and our furthest destination. Then I make sure our max travel time is in the options giving me an idea of where overnight stops need to be. I can then easily check out those areas for possible overnight stops. I can then check out each days segment to find interesting sites to visit each day to make the trip interesting. Then I can hook the laptop to the GPS and use the laptop as we drive, showing each turn and stop along our way.

What would I change? It would be nice if *Streets & Trips* had a section in the options that would allow you to input your rig size (height mainly) and then show any undersized overpasses along your proposed route, so if needed you could re-route ahead of time.
Chuck

- We use *Microsoft's Streets and Trips*. This is our first big trip out and it has really helped in the planning. It not only gives us the miles, but the total miles and hours as well. The feature that I really like is that it calculates what the total fuel cost will be. I put in an amount per gallon that was slightly higher than our Texas base. As it turns out, that was the correct thing to do since we got over to Florida and then worked our way up the East Coast where the prices were higher. Great for planning a budget.

The only thing I have to figure out is how to incorporate a version of *Streets* that has hundreds of places, such as Cracker Barrel, Costco, campgrounds, etc. listed in the Overview and Legends file. I found it online when searching an RV online forum as to what GPS system people liked. Chris Gould gave some instructions but so far I haven't been able to incorporate them so I just switch back and forth in the interim. It's called North American Map.stt It's been a lifesaver. Vickie