



RV Buddies Visits Pismo Beach and Solvang in the Winnebago Sightseer 35J

by: Mark Summers

I've written a lot of articles in my time, and usually, you do this big build up thing to create suspense before you reveal the climax of the story. I can't do that this time because the Winnebago Sightseer 35J is simply too great. In a word – *valuetastic!*

Before getting into some details here are some major points: **quality control is amazing** on this coach. Everything worked. **Fit and finish were excellent.** Out of thousands of parts and processes to assemble this beast, only one rubber gasket was askew and one closet light switch needed adjusting. That's just remarkable. I know you've all heard of people taking delivery of coaches and having punch lists pages long. Not so with the Sightseer, we hit the road and camped – no problems!



Here's a significant fact. We got a tad over 9 miles per gallon. In fact, **9.235 MPG** over our 513 mile adventure which included a lot of rolling hills and a few serious grades. (Mind you this is a new coach – not even broken in!) On those grades, our Ford chassis provided exceptional engine braking and total control of the fully loaded coach. (We



were close to our CCC due to my overweight dogs!) By the way, the **CCC** with all options **was generous** at over 2200 pounds.

Handling was exceptional. There was no abusive feed back through the steering wheel on rough roads. Winds and passing trucks had virtually no effect on the coach. No tail wagging the dog here! Another pleasant surprise was the rigidity of the coach structure. The coach was quiet, solid, creak and rattle free. Only on the worst of roads could I get it to complain and make some noise. The driver's compartment was very comfortable and quiet enough to carry on a normal conversation, even when accelerating uphill or engine breaking down.

Winnebago brags about making use of every cubic inch of the coach for storage. After living with this coach for a week, that cannot be disputed. Our crew does NOT travel light. **We packed this coach and still had room to spare!**

Much to my crew's dismay, I like it cold. The weather was unseasonably hot for the west coast and the dash air worked really great. But I like the coach to be *really* comfortable for the dogs. So I ran the generator and roof air conditioners as well. More than the chill factor, the system kept the humidity down and totally comfortable and livable. The dogs were very happy!

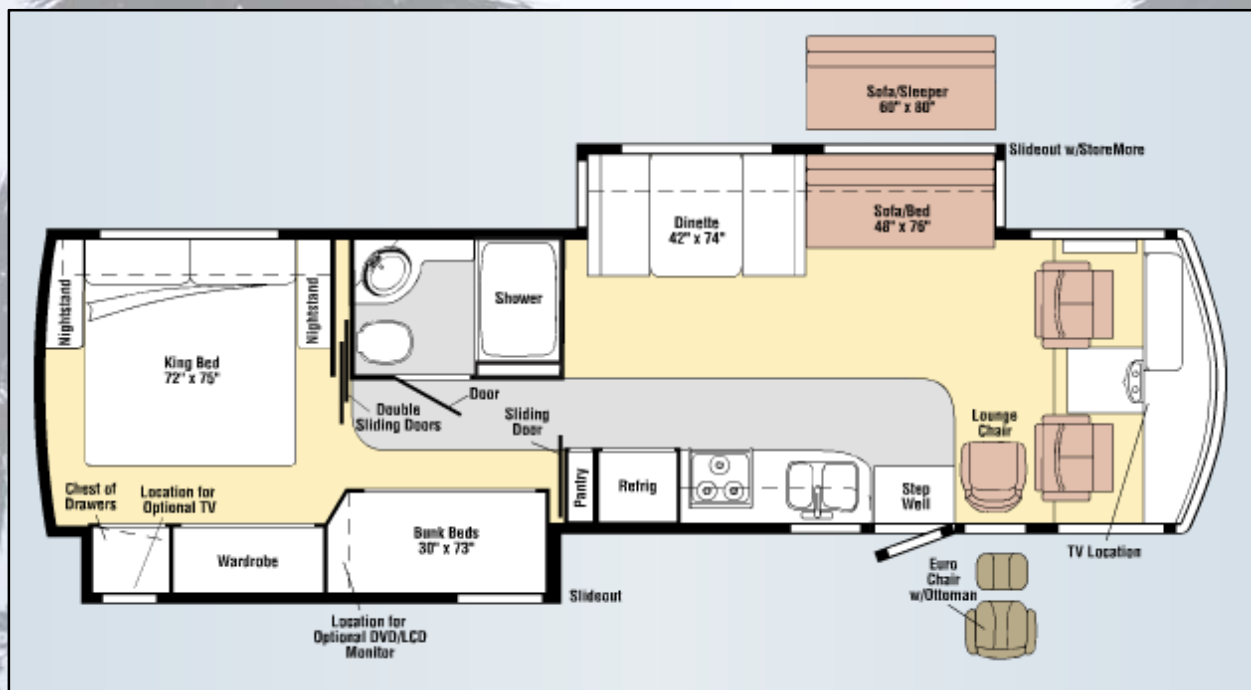


Our coach had minimal carpet. I recommend this highly. I don't care where you go, going in and out of a coach tracks in all sorts of dirt. With linoleum, you can sweep the floor in no time. The bedroom and drivers area did have carpet which proved practical and comfy.



I was incredibly impressed by the interior look of the coach. The combination of fabrics was not cheesy, trendy, or gaudy like in some other RV's. The Sightseer felt warm and cozy, light and airy – welcoming. To my surprise, I liked the fabric and wasn't left yearning for the leather option. The captains and swivel chair were in a suede-like fabric that was not only comfortable, but extremely durable. The sofa and dinette were flawlessly upholstered in a very subdued pattern. You would think you bought this furniture at an upscale store – it's built that well!

I want to comment on the durability. First, I have to laugh when I see a used RV for sale that brags "no pets". Someone isn't telling the truth. At our campground, virtually every RV had a dog. As for ours, we had 2 rather portly pups, the RV Buddies dogs – Alex and Toby. Talk about two bulls in a china shop! These guys may be big babies, but they're less than gentle on things. I have to get a few comforters a year for my bed at home due to wear and tear! I always cringe when taking them on a trip as the manufacturer's loan us the RV's for review – and I don't want to return the unit they so graciously loaned with damage! Well, no fear this time. I can honestly tell you that **the interior of this coach is pet friendly** and you don't have to worry about issues with the upholstery. (Hints: Do keep chew toys handy though, and a scratching post if you have cats! With the linoleum, we recycle dish towels down to the floor to wipe up drips by the water bowl.)





A few additional thoughts: **The coach features a great HDTV** which is better than most people have at home right now. The king size bed was actually comfortable – and I'm a VERY finicky sleeper! **The shower is "man-sized"** and the bathroom has room to turn around, dry off and dress without falling over or into the toilet! That's a nice thing after a day of hiking, biking, swimming or exploring. One of our crew wanted to camp outdoors, but wimped out at 53 degrees and fell in love with the jack-knife sofa!

So there you have it. "*Valuetastic*". If you are looking for a Class A with quality, durability, handsome looks and style, this is the coach for you. For the money, it's an incredible deal. It's a GREAT coach, and easy to use and operate. Oh – and over 9 MPG!

Look for the full video of our adventures in Pismo Beach at the Pismo Coast RV Village, ATV'ing with the crew at Arnie's, Robert eating bugs at Hotlix, and our visit to world-famous Olsen's Bakery in Solvang, along with our review of the 35J at www.RVBuddiesOnline.com.