Understanding the Web and How to Seize Its Latest Opportunities

Deb Kohls, Friend Communications Peter Pelland, Pelland Advertising March 14, 2008





Nothing can stop automation



Current Trends and Strategies Direct and Indirect Channels



Review of the Marketing Basics

Build Awareness – Web traffic = SEO

Generate Interest

Call to Action

Convert \$\$\$

The Goal



Traffic + Action = Revenue (Conversions)

Managing the Direct Channel

Designing Your Website With SEO in Mind

Direct Channel Benefits

- You control the message
- Lower cost of multiple channel advertising
- Increased conversions

SEO Basics:

Web design and SEO go hand in hand.

Influencing Organic Search Results

Two Most Important Meta Tags: Keywords List | Site Description

List your **keywords** in order of importance, all on a single line, including appropriate words and phrases from the following categories:

Industry-specific: Examples might include campground, camping, RV park, RV resort, camping resort, family campground, family camping, tenting, travel trailer, motorhome, fifth wheel, pop-up camper.

Geographical: Examples should include your city or town, nearby cities and towns, your county, your region, your state, adjoining states or regions (if you are close to a line), topography (such as mountain, farm, lakefront, rural).

Nearby Destinations: These should include all major attractions within a reasonable driving distance of your business. **Your Amenities**: This should include all features and amenities which your business offers which may be decision-making factors. Examples are swimming pool, cabins, cabin rentals, pull-thru sites, 50-amp, miniature golf, mini golf, entertainment, horseshoes, bocce, bocci, bingo, etc.

The **Site Description** should describe your business in two or three sentences, using proper third-person grammatical structure, incorporating as many of your important keywords as is practical.

The Site Description may be, in fact, an abbreviated version of your site's first paragraph of text.

Additional Tags of Importance:

Title Tag | Robots Tag | Alt Tags | Header TagsOther Key Factors:

First paragraph or text | Embedded (Anchor) Links | Keyword Density | Inbound Links

Limited Flash content

Submit site to Google, Yahoo!, and DMOZ

Create and update sitemaps for Google and Yahoo!

Build a network of incoming links to your site, particularly anchor text links

Submit your site to approximately 25 niche directories that specialize in serving the interests of the campground community. Submit your site to local and regional directories, chambers of commerce websites, and business association websites.

Submit your site to upstart directories. One of these may become tomorrow's Yahoo!.SEO is only half the battle. The site's **content must retain the visitors** that the search engines deliver. Things to avoid:

Outdated content Dead links Poor design (including frames and excessive Flash)

Pop-ups



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2 Internet Explorer

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Success stories User and reference documentation	Getting Google's view of your site, and diagnosing potential problems The first step to increasing your site's visibility on Google is learning how our robots crawl and index your site. • <u>Crawl info</u> : You can make sure we have access to your site, and see when Googlebot last visited. You can	It makes total sense to push new links to users quickly. We don't want to wait on t engine to deliver results - we want to get content into the engine faster. Whenever possible, we opt to push content rather t	the rit's
Webmaster central Webmaster help center Using the Sitemap protocol Using the Sitemap generator	 also view URLs that we've had trouble crawling and why we couldn't crawl them. This way, you can fix any problems preventing us from indexing all of your pages. <u>Robots.txt file validation</u>: See if we're having trouble with your file, and test out changes to that file before you change it on your server. <u>Website content</u>: View top content from your site and see the words that other sites use to link to it. 	have it pulled. That gives us a more intera experience with Google." — Marshall Simmonds Vice President Enterprise Search Marke	active
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Download the package from Sourceforge.	 <u>Top queries</u>: Find the top queries that drive traffic to your site and where your site is included in the top search results. This will let you learn how users are finding your site. <u>Indexing information</u>: See how your site is indexed and which of your pages are included in the index. If we find 	The practical benefit to our clients is that are now providing every opportunity for th	
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rvNetLinx http://www.rvnetlinx.com/htaddalink.php3		
RVZone http://www.rvzone.com/AddNewURL1.cfm		
RV Family Fun <u>http://www.rvfamilyfun.com/</u> If your park is not listed, click on the "Add Campground" link in the upper right.		
RV Park Hunter		
(Features campgrounds which have websites with photos.) http://www.rvparkhunter.com		
If your park is not listed, get a free 12-month listing by sending an e-mail to: <u>submit@rvparkhunter.com</u> using reference # 0127		
Roaming Times		
<u>http://www.roamingtimes.com/controlpanel/index.htm</u> (Follow the simple procedure to see if you are listed. If not, follow the links to submit the form.)		
Recreational Vehicle and Campground Directory <u>http://rv-directory.com/</u> (Scroll down and click on your state to add URL.)		
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Recreation USA (Claims that they are compiling a new directory and now accepting free listings.) http://www.recreationusa.com/rusaquote.html		
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RV Park Reviews http://rvparkreviews.com/

When I checked recently, this site had 25,464 user-submitted reviews posted online and in an RSS feed. It is currently posting approximately 500 new reviews each month. Do the math: There is a good chance that your campground is listed. When I checked the site, the most recent reviews (posted on the site's Home page) included everything from 5 star reviews to 1 and a half star reviews for campgrounds which I will politely allow to remain anonymous. Not surprisingly, in the winter months, most of the latest reviews are for campgrounds located in Southern states. You can also click on a map to view reviews for campgrounds in individual states.

Campground Reviews

(Not as well organized as the RV Park Reviews, and only 431 reviews posted.)

CampgroundReport.com

http://www.campgroundreport.com/

This site claims to present "unbiased campground and RV park reviews." Reviews cover the entire United States and Canada.

RV Buddy

http://www.rvbuddy.com/

This site also covers campgrounds throughout the United States, with reviews that are read by hundreds of your prospective campers.

CampRate.com

http://camprate.com/

Offers a more campground-friendly, proactive approach to campground reviews. Follow the links to confirm your listing, submit a listing (if necessary), and to check for consumer reviews.

iRV2.com

http://www.irv2.com/

That's Camping

http://www.thatscamping.com/index.php/camping/links (This site reviews campgrounds in the Northeastern states only.)

NewEnglandCamper.com

http://www.newenglandcamper.com/ (This site reviews campgrounds in the New England states only.)

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	Overall Cleanliness	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○) NA			
	Bathhouses	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○	NA			
	Swimming Pool	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○	NA			
	Playground	○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○	NA			
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	members are friendly and go out have camped at the campground f	a amenities are great, there is so much for the kids to do. Staff of their way to be helpful. Overall it was a great experience. We for the past two summers and plan to continue to make it a part staff members are friendly and polite and go out of their way to ugust 2007		
	The weather was perfect. The kid staff was very nice. Robin Desruisseaux, Southwick, M	ls had a great time at candy Bingo and in the pool. The entire MA – July 2007		
	I love the whole camping experie campground. <i>Kim Lavigne, Brockton, MA – July</i>	ence. Everything is close by and so much to do right on the v 2007		
	Everyone was friendly and helpful. will return! Gail Beaudet, Glens Falls, NY – J	. The pool was wonderful and the whole area was beautiful. We luly 2007		
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The Indirect Channel

Managing the Message When You're Out of Control!

Indirect Channel Benefits

- Increased traffic and brand awareness
- Leverages others' marketing dollars
- Improved operational efficiencies
- Improved customer satisfaction

Indirect Channels

- Consumer generated content sites (CGC)
- Directory listing/outdoor recreation sites: CampNCA.com
 GoCampingAmerica.com
 Camping.com
 Other outdoor recreation websites
 Travel industry websites: Travel industry websites: Travelocity, Orbitz, Expedia

Consumer Generated Content (CGC)

• What is it?

Sites that attract consumers of special interests and invite comments, discussions and advice Blogs Discussions boards Review Sites Social networks

Blogs

• What are they?

Online journals on specific subject matter written by author to establish credibility and encourage discussion on the internet

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Home | The Best of Universal Orlando »

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 200

RV's - The Best Kept Travel Secret in America

What would you say if I told you I knew the <u>best</u> kept secret for <u>traveling</u> in America? A safes_<u>cost</u> effective, hassle-free way to see more of this beautiful country we live in. A way to <u>travel</u> at your own pace, on your own schedule, while <u>building</u> lasting memories with your <u>family</u> and friends. It <u>sound</u> too good to be true doesn't i? Wait, it gets even <u>better</u>. What if I told you its <u>not</u> by plane, train, <u>bus</u> or your <u>family</u> automobile? Are you curious? Would you like to be let in on the secret that <u>over</u> 7 million households in America already discovered? If so, let me introduce you to the wonderful <u>world</u> of Recreation Vehicles (RVs) and camping.

Im <u>not</u> talking <u>about</u> roughing it in the backwoods with tents and sleeping bags, <u>not</u> that theres anything wrong with camping like that. What I'm talking <u>about</u> is your home away from home. An RV is your living room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom on wheels. <u>not</u> to mention <u>air</u> conditioning, <u>satellite</u> TV, and being able to take a hot shower. An RV offers you the <u>freedom</u> to roam Americas back roads and the flexibility to go whenever and wherever you want. Imagine this, you wake up <u>one</u> weekend on a beautiful crisp fall morning and just outside your front door is a 20-acre lake full of hungry rainbow trout. How <u>about</u> a <u>two-week</u> summer vacation 50 yards away from the tranquil <u>sound</u> of waves breaking on the <u>beach</u>, or just a Saturday afternoon talgate party at your favorite <u>college</u> football <u>game</u>. Your RV is a private guesthouse for relatives when they come to visit and a weekend getaway to your favorite campground. ABOUT ME
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Blog

Provides subject matter expert information

Links to website



Oakley, KS Population, 2030

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Blogs

- Travel community blogs for travel clubs or hotel reward programs
- Affinity blogs for people with common interests or strong opinions about subject
- Expert blogs written by the business' subject matter

• Ideas:

Create an experience sharing blog (who did what) Create a photo sharing blog with monthly "Best Photo Award"

Create a peer voted Top Ten List, Top Ten things to see, best restaurants, family activities

Discussion Boards/Forums/Review Sites

• What are they?

Created by community members in a specific interest area to share information and provide feedback.





Discussion Boards/Forums

Specific subject matter/interest

Share and get information from other community members



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Review Sites

Provide specific information about specific properties/locations

Discussion/Forums/Review Sites

- Travel related
- Camping related

• Ideas:

Monitor for feedback Get involved in discussion as a traveler

Get involved as a business owner

BE AUTHENTIC!









You Tube

Broadcast Yourself™



Social Networks

General and specific in content

Designed to include all forms of information: reviews, information, photos

flickr

Content generated by consumers

Managing CGC

- Defensive strategy
- Sponsored strategy
- Advertising/Marketing strategy

THREAT OR OPPORTUNITY?

FACT: Recent study of hotels indicate:43% CGM is an opportunity57% CGM is both threat and opportunity

CGM Goals

Defensive/reactive strategy

Protect your brand! Goal: Monitor and protect web chatter

CGM Goals

How?

Identify CGM sites that cover your industry TripAdvisor.com, IGOUGO.com, TravelBlogs.com, CampRate.com, RVParkReviews.com http://www.rvparkreviews.com/regions/New_York/Verona.html#CGID2000

Monitor internet for postings about your company Google alerts, staff assignments
From:	Google Alerts [googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
To:	Deb Kohls
Cc	
Subject:	Google Alert - campgrounds

Sent: Wed 11/7/2007 7:07 PM

Google News Alert for: campgrounds

Letter: Seniors affected by campground closings

Siftings Herald - Arkadelphia, AR, USA

The only campgrounds open this winter are Shouse Ford on DeGray, Tompkins Bend on Ouachita and Narrows Dam on Greeson. We are seniors and only camp at ... See all stories on this topic

Northern Lights and Heights

MotorHome Magazine - USA

But with the proper vehicle; excellent road maps; the Trailer Life RV Parks, Campgrounds & Services Directory; and a copy of The Milepost (the bible of ... See all stories on this topic

Google Blogs Alert for: campgrounds

Campgrounds - North Rim

By Daily Planet(Daily Planet)

The National Park Service operates the North Rim campground which is open from mid-May through mid-October. There are no hookups except for a dumpstation at the campground. Pets are allowed, must be leashed at all times, and may not be ... US National Parks - http://nationalparksofus.blogspot.com/

New to businesss - New Page 2Database of campgrounds in this state

New side 2Database von Campgroundsindiesem condition and new to businesss list closegelegenenattractions. Source:www.newjerseycampgrounds.comOfficialWebsite new England of thePatriotsOfficialMannschaftaufstellungsortes with theaudio and ... new to businesss - http://www.uni-page.com/new-to-businesss/

Camping With Beautiful Views of the Desert, Lake and Mountains in ... By admin

CGM Goals

How?

Identify CGM sites that cover your industry TripAdvisor.com, IGOUGO.com, TravelBlogs.com, CampRate.com, RVParkReviews.com http://www.rvparkreviews.com/regions/New_York/Verona.html#CGID2000

Monitor internet for postings about your company

Google alerts, staff assignments

Encourage satisfied customers to express themselves via popular CGM sites

Implement suggestions made, address criticism, and contact critical users to discuss improvements and results

Communicate changes made as a result of the discussion!

CGM Goals

• Proactive Corporate sponsored strategy

Goal: Leverage expert knowledge that currently exists about your property on the web.

Identify the type of CGM that suits your organization:

- Corporate/Campground sponsored blog
- Customer trip planning
- Advice and experience sharing
- Delegate responsibility and ownership of creating and monitoring

CGM Goals

- Advertising and Marketing Channel
 - Goal: Communicate with readers on high traffic CGM sites

Identify all possible sites that accept display ads and sponsorships that cover our industry

Golf, spas, destinations sites, RV travel sites

Discover if ads can be placed geographically (target pages)

Measure return (impressions/click-thrus)



Why is Managing the Channel Important

- 2008 Projections (Merrill Lynch/HeBSS): 60% of online bookings will be direct to consumer 40% via third-party online agents
- 3rd Qtr E-commerce facts: (ComScore) \$143B YTD in e-commerce revenue Travel = \$60B Travel = 13% increase in 12 months

Managing the Indirect/Direct Internet Channel

• Goals: utilize the least cost channel

- Manage the channel
- Reduce # of channels being used
- Prohibit 3rd party agents from utilizing your name to optimize for search engine marketing campaigns

Analyzing Results of All Channels

Web analytics is a necessity, not a luxury

• Goal: Measure ROI on online marketing costs







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Benefits of Analytics



Balancing the Marketing Budget for 2008

• Facts:

37-38% of all travel bookings will be transacted over the web Traditional marketing budgets are shifting to the web.

Balancing the Marketing Budget for 2008

- Target areas to devote budget:
 - Search engine (organic, paid search, local search, meta search)/website redesign
 - Banner advertising
 - Newsletter sponsorships
 - **Email Marketing**
 - Strategic Linking (utilize blogs/UGC)
 - Install and monitor Website Analytics and Conversion Tracking
 - Measure effectiveness of:
 - Billboards/road signs
 - Print brochures
 - Other traditional means of advertising

Online Resources

- <u>www.google.com/alerts</u>
- <u>www.hotelmarketing.com</u>
- <u>www.bizreport.com</u>
- <a>www.pelland.com/SiteSubmissionLinks2008.htm

Contacts:

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- Peter Pelland 413-268-0100
 plpelland@pelland.com