

NEW LIMITS: 2020 CHEVY HD GOES FOR THE GUSTO

TRAILER LIFE

FOLLOW THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE

HEAT UP THE NIGHT

17

PORTABLE FIREPITS
AND OUTDOOR
HEATERS Page 60



OUT BACK
BUILD A PERFECT
CARGO AND
BIKE CARRIER

**FULL-TIMING
FIFTH-WHEELS**
TIPS FOR MAKING
THE RIGHT DECISION

TESTED

Off to the Races

AT THE TRACK OR SANS PAVEMENT, ATC'S ALUMINUM TOY HAULER SETS THE STAGE FOR EXHILARATING SPORTS AND COMFY LIVING

PLUS RAMPED-UP 2020 JAYCO TALON 403T

» ADVENTURE AT ANY ALTITUDE

0'



4072'

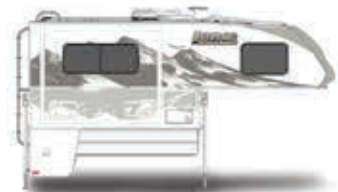


2201'



8350'

Lance Camper has been designing the highest-quality Truck Campers for 54 years. Born from a history of adventure and a pedigree of providing full amenities and comforts; no matter where you travel or what you're into a Lance Camper is the tool for the job. With models to fit most 1/2-1 ton trucks and available all season weather package, a Lance Camper is the most "turn-key" way to transform your vehicle into the ultimate adventure RV.



Lance

RV GROUP

f t p i g + a LANCECAMPER.COM

Lance Campers, Circle 126 on Reader Service Card

Features

17
JAYCO TALON
 A home-style living room, ample sleeping and storage space, and a generous-size garage make the 41-foot, 5-inch 403T a worthy fifth-wheel toy-hauler contender.

43
RV HOUSE HUNTERS
 After a dozen years of full-time living and dry camping in a 36-foot fifth-wheel, one enterprising couple takes on the task of shopping for a new rolling home.

20
ATC TOY HAULER
 Featuring a modern, motorsports-focused interior, Aluminum Trailer Company's 33-foot 8528-FB spends time at the racetrack with a silver Ducati Imola and Ford F-250.

51
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FISHING
 An RVer's guide to casting a line in the jewel-blue lakes and crystal-clear rivers of North America's loftiest mountain range.

ON THE COVER

32
2020 CHEVROLET SILVERADO HD
 The new Chevy 2500 and 3500 heavy-duty pickups offer class-leading towing capacity and versatile features designed for RVers.

60
THE HEAT IS ON
 Since Mother Nature doesn't always cooperate, we've rounded up a selection of portable patio heaters and firepits to bring the warmth outside.

36
VAGABONDS IN THE ADIRONDACKS
 In this East Coast playground, the author retraces the early Model T camping adventures of Edison, Ford, Firestone and Burroughs.

64
SECURELY BEHIND
 A practical way to carry extra cargo, like bicycles and generators, Mount-n-Lock's bumper-mounted tray systems can cure storage woes.

Departments

- 4 DRIVER'S SEAT** Chris Dougherty's monthly commentary
- 6 LETTERS** Your opinions, stories and feedback
- 11 AROUND THE BEND** News, events, places and trends
- 73 TECH** Hands On: Power Watchdog EPO | **76 10-Minute Tech** 78 RV Makeover | **80 RV Gear** | **82 RV Resolutions** | **84 RV Clinic**
- 98 ROADS TO ADVENTURE** Utah's Goblin Valley State Park



HOME BASE
 Full-time RVers Emily and Mark Fagan take a break from RV house hunting near Hanksville, Utah. Page 43

COVER PHOTO: SETH DEBOIES. CONTENTS: EMILY FAGAN



Tow Right

Taking note of some trailering misdeeds witnessed on the road during the Independence Day weekend

In these pages we continually remind readers to properly match the tow vehicle with the trailer, and to inspect the RV before setting out on a trip, including weighing the rig and checking tire condition and inflation. This past Fourth of July weekend, my wife and I took a road trip from our home in Springfield, Massachusetts, to Bardstown, Kentucky, to visit bourbon country. During more than 14 hours of driving each way, we got to see a lot of RVs on the road and were amazed at the clearly evident problems. Here's a sampling.

Some RV manufacturers have been building fifth-wheels that are suitable for towing by half-ton trucks, which has been made easier by truck manufacturers increasing the towing

A loaded trailer should tow level with no drop of the rear of the tow vehicle when the weight-distributing hitch is properly adjusted.


capacity of light-duty pickups. The problem is the pin weight. We came across a Ford F-150 SuperCrew 4x4 towing a new Jayco Eagle HT fifth-wheel. The truck was almost dragging its rear bumper in what appeared to be a white-knuckle driving experience.

The maximum-weight fifth-wheel a 2019 F-150 SuperCrew 4x4 can tow is 10,700

pounds. Maximum payload is 2,710 pounds, which is reduced by the hitch, passengers, options and so on. The smallest 2019 Eagle HT has an unloaded (no options, water, LP-gas, cargo or battery) pin weight of 1,375 pounds. While the numbers are theoretically acceptable looking at vehicle maximums, it was clear that drivability was compromised, as was safety. Also, with all the cargo in the truck bed and at least two passengers, plus a loaded trailer, I would bet this combination was overweight. While there are suspension enhancements that can help level the rig, these additions do not circumvent overloading of the truck and/or the rear axle.

During a recent seminar at one of the Good Sam RV shows, I was asked how much extra capacity a tow vehicle should have above the gross vehicle weight of the trailer. While meeting the vehicle's limitations to the pound is technically OK, I would recommend a healthy excess of capacity — if possible, 10 to 20 percent.

The next violator was a Ford Super Duty towing a lightweight tandem-axle travel trailer. I doubt there were any weight issues, but the trailer was being towed so severely nose down that its rear axle was almost unloaded. This overloads the front axle and tires, increases hitch weight, and can lead to tire blowouts, brake issues, bent axles, and bearing, spring-shackle and bushing wear and failure, as well as potential loss of control. My advice is, don't go cheap on hitch equipment and make sure to set it up correctly. A loaded trailer should tow level with no drop of the rear of the tow vehicle when the weight-distributing hitch is properly adjusted.

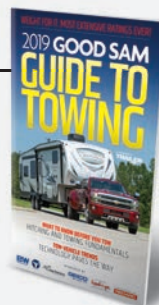
Always check your rig before setting out and keep an eye on it as you travel, and we'll see you down the road! 

— *Chris Dougherty, Technical Editor*







KNOW YOUR LIMITS

Since the publication of *Trailer Life's* first guide to tow ratings in 1984, each year we've collected manufacturer-assigned weight limits for new vehicles and consolidated them in a single resource. To help readers make informed decisions on matching tow vehicles and trailers, these annual guides are available on the *Trailer Life* website going back to 1999. The accompanying searchable database lists maximum trailer-weight ratings as far back as 1991. www.trailerlife.com/trailer-towing-guide



Connect with us at
TrailerLife.com

-  info@trailerlife.com
-  [youtube.com/TrailerLifeDIYTV](https://www.youtube.com/TrailerLifeDIYTV)
-  [facebook.com/TrailerLifeMagazine](https://www.facebook.com/TrailerLifeMagazine)
-  twitter.com/TrailerLifeMag
-  [instagram.com/Trailer_Life_Magazine](https://www.instagram.com/Trailer_Life_Magazine)

Publisher Ann Emerson
Editor Valerie Law
Managing Editor Donya Carlson
Technical Editor Chris Dougherty
Art Director Rick Damien
Production Director Bob Dawson
Production Manager Kath Cunningham
Prepress Specialist Rob Roy
Marketing Manager Lorisa Pierson
Digital Media Manager Erin Peters
Business Manager Katey Purgatorio
Publisher Emeritus Bob Livingston

Consulting Editors Chris Hemer, Jeff Johnston
Contributors Jack Ballard, Lisa Ballard, Madison Bartnik, Cate Battles, Kerri Cox, Sam and Alaina Elliott, Emily Fagan, Barb Riley, Jamie Schmidt, Bruce W. Smith, Jerry Smith, John L. Stein
Vice President National Sales Terry Thompson
 847-229-6759
RV Marketplace/Classifieds Katey Purgatorio
 847-229-6756, katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com
Advertising Sales/Southwest Sue Seidlitz
 847-229-6813, sue.seidlitz@goodsam.com
Advertising Sales/Southeast Kim Whitaker
 919-412-6325, kim.whitaker@goodsam.com
Advertising Sales/Northeast Lou Cicirelli
 954-297-9234, lou.cicirelli@goodsam.com
Advertising Sales/Northwest Scott Oakes
 847-229-6758, scott.oakes@goodsam.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Subscriptions (print and digital)
 800-825-6861, trailerlife@cdsfulfillment.com

Editorial
 info@trailerlife.com, www.trailerlife.com

GS MEDIA & EVENTS

Vice President/Publisher Ann Emerson
Vice President/Advertising Sales Terry Thompson



Trailer Life (ISSN 0041-0780) is published monthly by GS Media & Events (a division of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC), 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, CA 93036. Periodicals postage paid at Oxnard, CA 93036, and additional mailing offices. Annual subscription rate is \$18.97 per year in the U.S. For Canadian and International subscriptions, add \$12 per year. U.S. funds only.

U.S. Postmaster Send address changes to *Trailer Life*, P.O. Box 5860, Harlan, IA 51593-1360.

Canadian Return Address GS Media & Events, 4960-2 Walker Road, Windsor, ON N9A 6J3. Publication Sales Agreement 40012332.

Printed in the United States

© 2019 Good Sam Enterprises, LLC. *Trailer Life* is a registered trademark of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC. Unauthorized use of any of Good Sam's trademarks is expressly prohibited. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. All rights reserved.

Privacy Promise *Trailer Life* will never intentionally share subscribers' names, addresses or other personal information with other companies when requested not to do so. If you do want to opt out from receiving marketing offers in the mail from other reputable companies, or you opt out and subsequently desire to opt back in, contact *Trailer Life* by mail, phone or email:

Trailer Life Mail Preference Service
 P.O. Box 5860, Harlan, IA 51593-1360
 800-825-6861, trailerlife@cdsfulfillment.com
 This policy applies to postal mail; *Trailer Life* will not send commercial emails to subscribers unless authorized to do so.

A DIVISION OF GOOD SAM ENTERPRISES, LLC

Chairman & CEO Marcus Lemonis
EVP Corporate Development Tamara Ward

Air-ride for GM and Ford 5th-wheel Systems!

NEW!



BD5 5th Wheel Hitch

Eliminates 97% of road shock

1 1/8" thick jaws that completely encircle pin

Direct fits into OEM 5th wheel prep systems for Ford and GM

Rated for trailers up to 28K

No adaptors required



TrailerSaver models available for all sizes and applications

800.410.6580 www.TrailerSaver.com

enduro REMOTE CONTROL Trailer Positioning



'Lets me put it right where I want it!'

MOVE YOUR TRAILER AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON

- ✓ Eliminate blind spots
- ✓ Simplify hitching
- ✓ Move around the driveway
- ✓ Get into impossible spaces

FIND OUT MORE AT:
www.purplelineusa.com
925.215.7315



Hensley Manufacturing, Inc., Circle 121 on Reader Service Card

Purple Line LLC, Circle 137 on Reader Service Card

PRODUCT
PLACEMENT

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

I just finished watching *The Long, Long Trailer* with Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. In the scene where Desi is talking with a prospective buyer of the trailer, I noticed an issue of *Trailer Life* sitting on the table. This movie was made in 1954, the year my older brother was born. He's now 64. Was that a real copy of this magazine? If so, that's quite an endorsement. I've subscribed for only a year but plan to keep it up for many more.

Shell Pierce, Idaho Falls, Idaho

That's the real deal, Shell. Trailer Life has been around since 1941. — Editors



Hot Dog

In the July 2019 issue, there was a great article called "Two for the Road" by Emily Fagan about the Beartooth Highway and other Montana and Wyoming destinations. The photo of Beartooth Lake is breathtaking. This is a place my wife, Holly, and I hope to visit one day. Thank you for a wonderful article and the tips provided to make this trip more enjoyable.

Now for the big question. What breed is the author's dog, Buddy? He looks cuddly and adorable, but the view of him left us guessing!

Bob Cariola, Fayetteville, Georgia

Emily Fagan replies: *Buddy is a breed and personality unto himself. We're guessing mostly border collie with perhaps*

POLL RESULTS: CALL OR CLICK?

HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY MAKE CAMPSITE RESERVATIONS?

84% Online 16% Phone facebook.com/trailerlifemagazine

sheltie, Brittany, Papillon and possibly even basenji thrown in for good measure.

Philadelphia Freedom

This fall we are planning a half-cross-country RV trip — my third time, but it will be the first for my dad and husband. My dad put in his interest to see the Liberty Bell, and I've been going crazy on where we could stay. I almost was going to give up and suggest we do a weekend hotel trip to Philadelphia at a later time. Then our first issue of *Trailer Life* arrived, the July edition, and on page 11 was "Fun Times in Philly" by Terri Peterson Smith. *Perfect timing!*

I'm still in shock and so relieved. Now I can put plans to paper and start our journey. Of course, I'm going to finish reading — if I don't, my husband will take the magazine, and I'll never get it back!

Alicia Babcock-Raposo
North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Georgia's Mild Side

"New York's Wild Side" by Kenneth W. Dahse in the July *Trailer Life* was excellent. The Catskill State Park is a great place to camp and hike and

ski. Hunter is our hometown, and we have camped at North-South Lake Campground, skied at Hunter Mountain, hiked to the Hunter Mountain Fire Observation Tower and visited Woodstock, all mentioned in the article. Because of the severity of New York winters, however, we chose to live in Georgia in retirement.

Oscar and Patricia Wiltse
Flowery Branch, Georgia

Tread the Boardwalks

In my adolescence, we traveled a lot to North Carolina's Outer Banks, described by Lisa Ballard in July's "Surround Sound." Years later, my wife and I revisited the Outer Banks while we stayed on Roanoke Island. One thing I was rudely reminded of was the goat's head seeds. Our whimpering 50-pound dog had to be carried to the RV from the grassy area next to the parking lot at the Bodie Island Lighthouse so I could remove the dozen or so seeds from her paws. Poison ivy is also native to and prolific in the grassy soils of the Outer Banks. Keep to the boardwalks and maintained trails.

Clint Hotaling, DeForest, Wisconsin

HAVE A COMMENT?

Write to us at info@trailerlife.com or *Trailer Life*, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036. Please include your full name, city and state or province.



SHORTBED CONNECTION

In the July edition, you had a great article by Bob Livingston, "Pucker Up," about the PullRite fifth-wheel hitch systems, including the "puck" versions. We are the happy owners of a PullRite SuperGlide, installed in our 2018 Ford F-350. Regardless of the SuperGlide's higher price and weight over less-automated hitches, the convenience and obvious quality are worth it, especially since we have a shortbed truck. There is never a chance for the cap on our Keystone Montana to touch the cab!

Dion and Julie Petaros, Lakewood Village, Texas



Do More!



**FULL TIME
LUXURY
LIFETIME VALUE**

www.heartlandrvs.com



The Heart of Family Recreation

Heartland Recreational Vehicles, LLC, Circle 120 on Reader Service Card



Faster, Easier Sway Control

For faster and easier hitching and unhitching, you need an e2™ hitch. Weight distribution and sway control are built right into the hitch, getting you on the road quicker and providing permanent sway control.

FASTWAY
TRAILER PRODUCTS

Fastway e2 - Faster, Easier.™
fastwaytrailer.com • 877-523-9103

LETTERS

Route 66 Wanderlust

Finally, a Driver's Seat column from Chris Dougherty that isn't a review of technical content within the magazine ("Yo, Adrian!" July). I give him kudos for instilling in me an enthusiasm to travel Route 66 and other historic U.S. highways in our RV. My wife and I had committed to touring these highways in our classic 1965 Pontiac, but with its limitations I think it's time to transcend a muscle car and do it in our luxurious fifth-wheel RV and equally luxurious one-ton pickup.

Dean Smith, Henderson, Michigan



⊕ Squeaky Clean

I just read another great *Trailer Life* article, July's "Rub-A-Dub-Dub" by Jerry Smith. It's very important to me to maintain a clean RV and tow vehicle with not only a good washing but a coat of wax/polish as well. When it's time to check the brakes and bearings, I refresh the brake drums, axles, steps and general framework with a fresh coat of black spray paint. It is amazing what a bit of effort will do to keep your investment looking and performing great.

Pete Honer, Neenah, Wisconsin

Nitrogen or Not?

We are currently shopping for a travel trailer and have noticed some RV manufacturers are using nitrogen-filled radial tires. Is nitrogen better, and if so, why?

John and Barbara Heyden
Greensboro, North Carolina

Given that nitrogen-filled tires won't perform better, last longer or improve fuel economy, we'd have to say probably not. Read more about this and other frequently asked technical questions at www.trailerlife.com/tech/rv-clinic-faq.

— Editors **TL**



TRIPLE LIFETIME GUARANTEE

🛡️ PROTECTION 💰 VALUE ⚙️ NO-LEAK



**GUARANTEED NOT TO LEAK
FOR THE LIFETIME OF THE RV!**

- ✓ Sprayed On, Dry in 6 Seconds
- ✓ All Work Done Indoors
- ✓ 6 Times thicker - 187 mils thick!
- ✓ Nationwide network of authorized applicators

844-353-9276



RVRoof.com

OWNERS AND DEALERS AGREE!

We love our customers and they love us back. Dealers rate all Grand Design products at the top of the entire industry in reliability, quality, service, and warranty.



BEST FIFTH WHEELS



BEST TOY HAULERS



DEALER AWARD 5X



At Grand Design our goal is simple...

We strive for nothing less than customers for life and we would be honored to welcome you to the Grand Design RV Family.

GRAND DESIGN
RECREATIONAL  VEHICLES

GrandDesignRV.com/TrailerLife

Grand Design RV, Circle 118 on Reader Service Card

Progressive Casualty Ins. Co. & affiliates. Annual premium for a basic liability policy not available in all states. Total Loss Replacement is available for new vehicles. *Available with comprehensive and collision coverage.



IT'S WILD OUT THERE.

When it gets too wild, we have your RV covered. Basic plans start at \$125 a year with options to add total loss replacement*.

PROGRESSIVE

1.800.PROGRESSIVE | PROGRESSIVE.COM

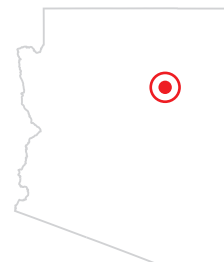
Progressive Insurance, Circle 136 on Reader Service Card



METEOR CRATER NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK

Sudden Impact

An up-close look at a surreal-looking Pleistocene-era meteor crater tempts travelers off the interstate in northern Arizona



— by Jamie Schmidt

“I’m not paying 18 bucks to look at a hole in the ground!” a frustrated mother in the admissions queue spat while shuffling her puzzled children away from the cashier. My left eyebrow arched with incredulity. We had just driven 75 miles out of our way to look at this hole in the ground.

We’re all familiar with impact craters, having seen these circular scars every time we gaze at the full moon. Aside from stars, craters are among our most recognized celestial features, yet few of us have seen one up close, let alone walked atop and peered into one.

You can do exactly that at Meteor Crater, a national natural landmark and tourist attraction in northern Arizona, about 40 miles east of Flagstaff. Billed as the world’s best-preserved meteorite-impact site, the crater offers a unique opportunity to step on and into an actual impact zone.

Measuring nearly a mile in diameter and more than 550 feet in depth, Meteor Crater, also known as Barringer Meteor Crater, formed when a nickel-iron asteroid smashed into the earth’s surface 50,000 years ago. Fragments from this impact are named Canyon Diablo meteorites, and the largest of these, the 1,409-pound Holsinger Meteorite, is on display in the visitor center.

Situated on the crater’s rim, the visitor center also houses several interactive and educational exhibits about asteroids and craters, including a movie re-creating the impact and a new Collision Experience ride. Souvenirs are available in the gift shop, and a Subway counter serves up sandwiches.

Outside, a walkway along the north rim provides fantastic lookouts, while guided tours enable closer exploration of the rim and a hike to the crater floor.

Used as a training facility for the U.S. space program, Meteor Crater pays tribute to NASA with an Astronaut Wall of Fame and displays an Apollo space suit and test capsule.

This hole in the ground will captivate both young and old, making Meteor Crater an ideal day trip for RVers visiting the Grand Canyon and other northern Arizona sites. The fee (\$18/adults, \$16/60 and older, \$9/6 to 17) covers a guided rim tour and admission to the movie and interactive displays.

STAY AND PLAY

Open year-round, Meteor Crater RV Park is located 5 miles from the crater and right off Interstate 40. The Good Sam Park has 26 full-hookup sites and 45 with electricity and water, along with Wi-Fi, restrooms, showers, a convenience store and a laundry. Pets are welcome. Discounted Meteor Crater tickets are available to guests, and the stunning night sky is served daily, free of charge. www.meteorcrater.com

➦ Three lookout points provide otherworldly views along the rim of Arizona’s Meteor Crater. Inside the visitor center, an air-conditioned viewing area lets ticket-holders observe the crater in comfort.



CALIFORNIA'S
EAST SIDE



Route 395 Road Trip

Running along the eastern Sierra Range, U.S. Route 395 is one of California's classic drives. With its otherworldly landscapes and unique volcanic geology, the mostly two-lane highway passes through jaw-dropping scenery, especially the stretch from Mono Lake south to Lone Pine.

Situated just north of the junction with State Route 120, the Tioga Pass Road, Mono Lake is known for its tufa formations. Created by calcium-rich springs, these unusual limestone

towers can grow to heights of 30 feet. Dry camping is allowed on the shore with a free permit from the visitor center at Mono Basin Scenic Area. A hike along the nearby Panum Crater Trail offers gorgeous views of the lake and its volcanic island, Paoha.

Hot Creek Geological Site, dubbed Little Yellowstone, sits just east of

Route 395 and contains colorful geothermal springs. Water temperatures are unpredictable and can change rapidly, so people are no longer allowed to swim in the pools. However, several rustic hot springs that are safe to soak in are right off Route 395. A couple of our favorites are Wild Willy's near Mammoth Lakes and Travertine near Bridgeport.

A few miles outside of Lone Pine are the Alabama Hills (pictured), a range of rounded rock formations in contrast to their ragged Sierra backdrop. Whitney Portal and Movie Road offer scenic drives, and the area has endless opportunities for hiking, rock climbing, fishing and biking. Just west of the Alabama Hills, BLM-managed Tuttle Creek Campground is open year-round. — *Cate Battles*

IF YOU GO 📍 For a less-rustic stay in the Lone Pine area, Boulder Creek RV Resort supplies full hookups and Wi-Fi. The pet-friendly Good Sam Park also has a swimming pool, showers, laundry facilities and a convenience store. www.bouldercreekrvresort.com

PHOTOS: CATE BATTLES, LANCE



Escape Trailer, Circle 111 on Reader Service Card

Escape Trailer

Special Promotion Available! Use code TRAILERLIFE Call 1-855-703-1650 or visit us at www.escapetrailer.com

SNOOZE FEST

With three bunks, a queen-size bed and a convertible dinette, the Lance 2185 sleeps the whole crew

Lance's only bunkhouse travel trailer, the 2185 makes it possible for a family of five to have dedicated beds in a fully enclosed RV and still comes in under 26 feet with a 6,000-pound gross vehicle weight rating.

Sleeping space starts at the front of the trailer with the walk-around queen bed under a gracefully arced picture window. An optional convertible sofa can replace the bed and provides seating, freeing



up floor space during the day. For larger families or guests, the roomy U-shaped dinette, housed in a mid-ship slideout, can sleep two more people, or even three little ones.

Beyond providing sleeping space, the triple bunks in the rear also supply adaptable storage, accessible from the interior and the exterior.

At the rear, the triple bunks are a standout feature. If only two are needed, the bottom mattress can be removed to utilize the space for storage. The middle bed flips up, creating a packing bay accessible from a rear exterior door.

The lightweight and stylish Lance 2185 has a base price of \$40,208 and a two-year structural limited warranty. — *Kerri Cox* www.lancecamper.com/travel-trailers/2185



Read Kerri Cox's full report on the Lance 2185 in her monthly Family-Friendly RV post on www.trailerlife.com.

SS SIMPLE SIGHT™

THE SIMPLESIGHT™ SERIES

THE BEST WIRELESS BACKUP CAMERAS. PERIOD.

100' Guaranteed wireless transmission up to 100FT

No interference even at highway speeds

Instant Pair no need to leave cab



RVS-155W Single Channel



RVS-255W Dual Channel (can attach additional camera)



RVS-355W Three Channel (can attach additional two cameras)

INCLUDES FURRIION ADAPTER FOR SELECT MODELS



Available at:



REAR VIEW SAFETY
1797 Atlantic Ave Brooklyn NY 11233
800.764.1028 sales@rearviewsafety.com

RVS
A Safe Fleet Brand
www.rearviewsafety.com

Rear View Safety, Circle 138 on Reader Service Card



OUT IN
THE COLD



Solar-Power Survival

Last fall our family embarked on a journey across the United States with our 30-foot Winnebago Minnie Plus travel trailer. We knew our Toyota Tundra and Winnie Minnie would keep us safe on the road and in the wild. But there's always room for improvement, and one modification we decided to make before departing

Follow along with the Elliotts at www.trailerlife.com/lifestyle/solar-power-survival-in-yosemite as they field-test their travel trailer's solar-power setup. For the past year the couple has been RVing full time with their twin daughters and posting about it on their website, www.homewhileweroam.com.

Snowy weather in Yosemite National Park put the Elliotts' solar system to the test last winter.

was a self-contained power system that included solar panels for charging a lithium-ion battery bank.

The project took about 50 labor hours and a healthy budget. When completed, we felt confident knowing we could generate our own power. This would allow us to journey into the most beautiful and untamed parts of the country while maintaining the safety and comforts of home. Little did we know, we'd soon be putting our hard work to the test. — *Sam and Alaina Elliott*

MORE ONLINE

For more RV news you can use, visit our website, www.trailerlife.com

VOTE NOW!

Polls in *Trailer Life's* eighth-annual RV survey close on September 3 ("Readers' Choice Awards").

DIESEL FORUM

Bruce W. Smith answers questions about DPF cleaning and fuel-filter replacements ("Diesel Tech Q&A").

PICTURE PERFECT

Don't miss Bob Dawson's travel-photo tutorials, "Through the Camera's Eye." www.youtube.com/trailerlifediarytv

PHOTO: ALAINA ELLIOTT

ARCTIC FOX



2020



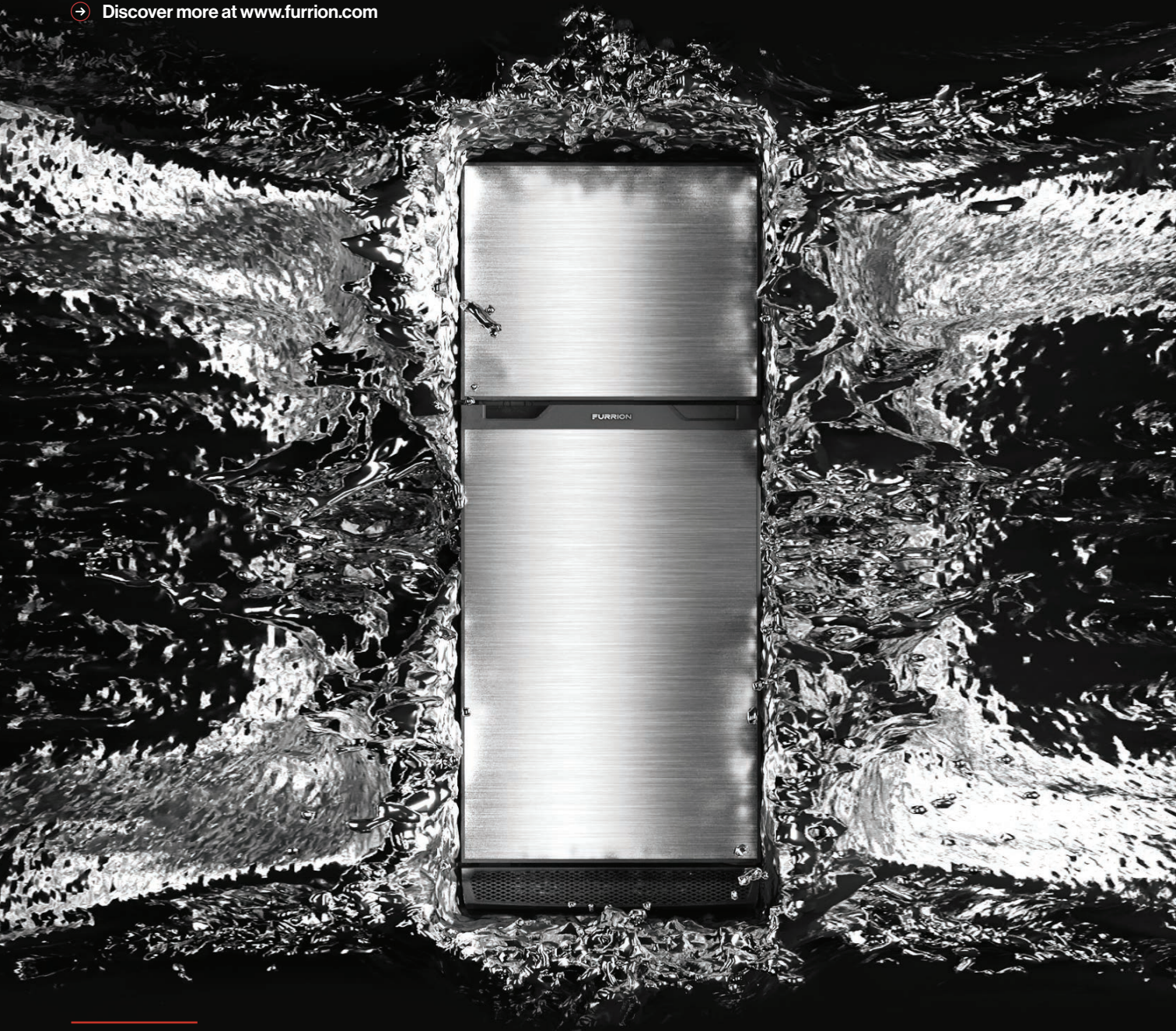
HERE ARE SOME OF THE MANY ARCTIC FOX NORTH FORK STANDARD FEATURES

Standard Features

- Northwood Built, Independently Certified, Off-Road Chassis
- Fully Welded, Thick-Wall Aluminum Frame Construction
- E-Z Lube Axles w/Nev-R Adjust Forward / Self Adjusting Brakes
- Aluminum Wheels / Tires & White Mod Spare / Shocks On All Four Wheels
- MORryde Step Above w/Strut Assist
- All-Conditions/Four Seasons Insulation With R-18 Ceiling
- Heated Holding Tanks / Cathedral Arched Ceiling
- Aerodynamic One Piece Front Cap w/BackRoad Armor
- Roof Rack & Ladder / TV Antenna / Entry Door Friction Hinge
- 10 Gal DSI Gas/Elect Quick Recovery Water Heater
- 13.5m BTU Air Conditioner w/Condensation-Resistant Ducting
- Carefree Travel'R 12V LED Awning w/Adjustable Pitch HW
- 20 Watt Solar Panel / Sidewall Solar Port / Thermal Pane Windows
- 12-Volt Power Tongue Jack / Outside Speakers / Battery Disconnect
- Generator Ready / Satellite Ready / Solar Ready
- 12v LED TV & AM/FM/CD/DVD Player w/Bluetooth
- Solid Surface Countertops / Charge Wizard / Digital Thermostat
- Large Fridge (10 Cu Ft) w/ Multiple Raised Panels
- Daylitter Kitchen Skylight w/ Shade
- FanTastic Vent in Bedroom & Bathroom
- Porcelain, Foot-Pedal Toilet / Bath Skylight
- FanTastic Vent - Bathroom (Exhaust Only)
- NW TruRest Queen Mattress w/ Bedspread

SEE ALL THAT'S NEW AT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.NORTHWOODMFG.COM



Large and in charge.

The spacious Furrion Arctic™ 10 cu.ft. 12V built-in refrigerator brings advanced cooling in a sleek and durable stainless steel package. The advanced, ultra-quiet, compressor motor and its location offers 20% more storage capacity than the industry standard, while easily fitting into a typical refrigerator slot. A stunning addition to any RV, the logic regulation system is engineered for low power consumption and longevity, making it the perfect companion for any off-grid experience.



COOLS 4X FASTER
THAN ABSORPTION
REFRIGERATORS



10 CU.FT. FRIDGE
REPLACES 8 CU.FT. MODELS
WITH SAME FITMENT



VIBRATIONSMART™
DESIGNED AND ENGINEERED
FOR VIBRATION RESISTANCE



TRUE BUILT-IN
DESIGN ALLOWS BETTER
AIR-FLOW AND COOLS
MORE EFFICIENTLY



PATENT PENDING*
DOOR LATCHING
SYSTEM



Furrion, Circle 114 on Reader Service Card

THE ONLY TUNER OF ITS KIND. BANKS DERRINGER®

2017-19 Chevy/GMC Duramax 6.6L
+**61** HP/+**112** LB-FT

2017-19 Ford Power Stroke 6.7L
+**59** HP/+**106** LB-FT

2015-16 Ford F150 EcoBoost 3.5L
+**90** HP/+**116** LB-FT

2011-14 Ford F-150 EcoBoost 3.5L
+**79** HP/+**138** LB-FT

2014-18 Ram 1500 EcoDiesel 3.0L
+**40** HP/+**63** LB-FT

The most powerful, smartest and safest tuner available!

Derringer is the only inline tuner available that communicates with your truck's ECU. Real-time data via OBD-II connectivity makes the following possible:

AutoRate® tunes dynamically, providing optimum power by monitoring boost, RPM, speed, gear, EGT, coolant temp and even adjusts for altitude.

ActiveSafety® protects the engine with its self-monitoring hardware, avoiding the dreaded "reduced engine power" condition caused by other tuners.

TransCommand® protects the transmission with intelligent power delivery for slippage prevention and smooth shifting.

Customer reviews: These guys are loving the extra power!

Brandon P. ★★★★★ *I wanted more power but didn't want to give up my warranty. Derringer was the answer.*

Joe N. ★★★★★ *Pulling my 24,000 lb fifth wheel up the grade just got a lot more fun.*

Kevin M. ★★★★★ *So much information at the touch of a few buttons. The Derringer gives you back the power that you deserve to have. Idash provides you so much information and the 6 power settings to choose from.*

Darik H. ★★★★★ *Whether towing or daily driving the idash and derringer are a great add on. The idash makes monitoring easy and the derringer adds that power you've been missing. Highly recommend!*



BANKS iDASH®

Add the Banks iDash DataMonster® to read exclusive engine data you never even knew you could. It's the most sophisticated monitor, tuner control, data logger, diagnostic device, and horsepower calculator of its kind. No one else can offer you this level of power and control—why, because it's patented.

U.S. Patent #7,593,808 & 7,254,477

banks 

© 2019 Gale Banks Engineering
Banks Power, Circle 115 on Reader Service Card

Just point
iPhone to
shop, no
phone app
needed!



bankspower.com
Call or text: (800) 601-8072



A GOOD GRIP

Jayco's Talon 403T fifth-wheel toy hauler blends a generous-size garage and large tanks with plentiful sleeping space and a home-style living area

QUICK INFO

Exterior Length.....	41' 5"
Exterior Width.....	8' 6"
Interior Height.....	8' 7"
Exterior Height.....	13' 5"
Freshwater Cap. (2).....	136 gal.
Black-Water Cap. (2).....	87 gal.
Gray-Water Cap. (2).....	87 gal.
LP-Gas Cap.....	14 gal.
UVW.....	12,180 lbs.
Hitch Weight.....	2,815 lbs.
GVWR.....	16,900 lbs.
MSRP, Base.....	\$69,995

Consider, my friends, the spork. What a handy invention that was. It's not as ideal as either a full-on spoon or fork, but the value of a single utensil that can manipulate both pudding and green beans is incontrovertible.

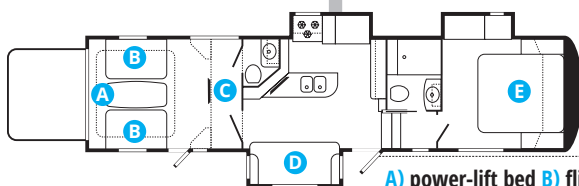
Similarly, the RV, grafting the tines of home-turf comfort and convenience onto the scooper of outdoor travel is, one might say, the spork of the recreation industry. To our benefit, the makers of these wondrous implements continually strive to increase both purposes' effectiveness.

In that vein, the 2020 Talon 403T is engineered to serve as a high-

performance toy hauler and luxury fifth-wheel with neither's presence watering down the other. In fact, Jayco's goals here are less spork (both instruments but technically neither) and more Swiss Army knife, with one unit containing several task-dedicated implements.

The Talon 403T handily covers fundamental RV needs, and then some. The outside is accented by exterior marine-grade speakers, an electric awning with integrated lights and blue-lit entrance steps. A rubberized suspension and six-point electric auto-leveling system assist travel and setup. Aluminum-framed, vacuum-bond laminated gel-coated fiberglass walls and a one-piece seamless roof frame the Talon's steel I-beam foundation, while solid weather-protection packages provide comfort in either hot or cold extremes.

The interior is peppered with storage space, starting with (very high) cabinets in the garage. Plenty of doors and



A) power-lift bed B) flip-up sofa beds C) loft bed D) heat-massage reclining sofa E) queen bed



Far left: Windows (not shown) grace both sides of the Talon's bedroom, providing light and air, while shared storage is supplemented by nightstands and extra power outlets. Left: Practical-use cabinets in the well-outfitted kitchen can house pots, pans and pantry items of various sizes. The wall with shorter-depth cabinets is useful as a central hub for keys and other miscellany.

With multiple entry points, sleeping and gathering space, and even its own WC, the 403T's garage may get more play than the traditional living area.

drawers are found in the main living area, and a dresser and mirrored wardrobe complement nightstands and overhead cabinets in the bedroom. There's even space for trash cans in every room they're needed, including a pullout one in the kitchen peninsula.

There's also supplemental sleeping space aplenty. Tucked above the living room's door to the garage is a ladder-accessible loft bunk with a fuzzy mattress cover, a light and an air vent. Through the door are double queen bunks formed by folding down the two convertible sofas and deploying the HappiJac drop-down power bunk.

The 13-foot-long garage itself is well outfitted for utility and activity-based escapades. Its 2,500-pound-capacity spring-assist, radius-cornered ramp covers a 7-foot, 9-inch opening that also includes a pull-down screen. The floor inside has 2-inch block-foam insulation and D-hooks anchored to the steel frame, with rubber diamond-pattern surfacing that's reportedly waterproof



and impervious to tire damage.

Post-escapade gatherings can commence at the large cargo table between the sofas with folding armrests and cupholders, and expand onto the ramp with the optional Party Deck package's folding rails, rear-entry steps and manual awning. If you need even more back there, the Talon 403T has prep for a washer and dryer, a TV, and a backup and rear-observation camera system.

When shooting for a Swiss Army-knife state of being, compartmentalization is the name of the game, so Jayco made the garage as self-contained as possible. To ensure any rough-and-tumble garage activities don't bleed into the

MAXXIS® TIRES



posh bits, a curbside entry door and a half bath allow tail-enders to come and “go” without tromping through the main living area. The aft half can be an open-air, project-dedicated zone while preserving the other end’s controlled climate and noise levels.

Once past that garage door, there’s a distinct ambience shift. Occupants can quietly recline on the three-seat heat-massage SuperSofa in the curbside slideout, power up the swivel-arm-mounted 40-inch LED HDTV and cozy up in front of the electric fireplace with its 5,000-Btu space heater — all are standard features.

A double-bowl stainless-steel kitchen sink with a pullout sprayer faucet is set into the peninsula’s solid-surface countertop. Under-sink storage faces the refrigerator (the standard 8-cubic-foot or optional 13½-cubic-foot model), microwave, stove and three-burner cooktop with a flush folding cover. An adjacent message-center wall offers more counterspace, outlets and cabinets.

A window in the hallway is a welcome source of extra light on the way to the bathroom. This bathroom is accessed through a pocket door, a new feature for 2020. The triple-pane shower has a skylight and seat, while the outlet and oval sink are surrounded by a generous-sized countertop and mirrored medicine cabinet. The not-as-generous lower cabinet is well-offset with the linen closet next to the porcelain foot-flush toilet.

In the bedroom, RVers will appreciate the spacious area housing the walk-around queen-size bed and the aforementioned storage. Civil unrest over power-access inequality won’t be a concern here, as both sides of the bed have their own outlets for whatever needs plugging in, plus nightstand space. One can’t underestimate this perk, as affirmed by anyone who’s engaged in a bedtime tug-of-war over who gets to use the lone outlet (and who wakes up with a dead cell phone). There are also reading lights and blue night-

lights on both sides, a 32-inch TV option and windows on both walls for cross-breeze ventilation.

Easy-to-sweep wood-plank-look vinyl flooring nicely matches other interior-design elements in all rooms, minus a few bedroom-furniture spots where carpeted edges stand vigilant against stubbed toes. The kitchen is dressed in 2020’s new rustic-look Vintage Wash Grey, and the living room and bedroom are draped in a deep, rich wood finish.

Jayco did a good job of pulling some of the best parts of several worlds together in this fifth-wheel toy hauler, whether your preferred activities involve rolling up your sleeves and hanging out in the garage or pulling out your paperback and relaxing up front. If your druthers differ from those of your travel companions, the Talon 403T may be the one to sink your claws into. **TV**

 Jayco

www.jayco.com

Circle 150 on Reader Service Card

TAKE A TRIP TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. LITERALLY.

ST RADIAL M8008 TRAILER TIRE

Tire Sizes - Ply Rating

ST175 / 80R13 - 6PR

ST185 / 80R13 - 6PR

ST205 / 75R14 - 4PR

ST205 / 75R14 - 6PR

ST215 / 75R14 - 6PR

ST205 / 75R15 - 6PR

ST205 / 75R15 - 8PR

ST225 / 75R15 - 8PR

ST225 / 75R15 - 10PR

ST235 / 80R16 - 10PR*

*3 ply sidewall construction

MAXXIS.COM

1-800-4-MAXXIS





Silver Dream Racer

Aluminum Trailer Company's 33-foot toy hauler proves the ideal solution for hauling some precious metal

— by John L. Stein

Why do we like shiny things, exactly? You know, the good stuff like diamond rings, chrome wheels and platinum wristwatches. Who knows what the evolutionists would say, but my own theory is that we're hardwired to notice food and threats. Why else would a merganser instinctively chase a shimmering minnow beneath the lake's surface, and why else would the James Bond villain Jaws' steel teeth feel so threatening, even on a movie screen?

And so (according to my theory, at least), shiny paint and trim are longstanding staples of the RV, auto, truck and motorcycle markets. But no one outdid Ducati, who brought seven audacious metal-flake silver and turquoise 750cc racers to Imola, Italy, for 1972's "Daytona of Europe" race, in which victory established the motorcycle manufacturer worldwide. With one of those special bikes in a California collection, we needed a tow vehicle and toy hauler with attitude and aptitude to match.

Ford and the Aluminum Trailer Company (ATC) had them. Ford provided a Silver Spruce 2019 F-250 4x4 Crew Cab Limited boasting a 15,000-pound towing capacity and a 10,000-pound gross vehicle weight

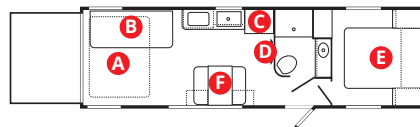


☞ Dry camping at a desert racetrack can be a rough-and-tumble experience, with wind, heat and dust nearly constant companions. Happily, the ATC 8528-FB toy hauler proved the right haven for our racing adventure.

adjustable tie-down tracks (which accept quick-release 5,000-pound tie-down rings) are riveted and bonded in place. Combined with the 7-inch aluminum frame rails (tongue tubes are 8 inches), welded 1-inch wall framing and 4-inch-tall ceiling trusses, this creates a permanent structure that we suspect is unrivaled by other toy haulers.

ATC towed the test trailer to Simi RV Sales in Simi Valley, California, and ATC cofounder Jeff Shenk flew in from the company's northern Indiana headquarters to introduce us to the 8528. A marathon runner, Shenk showed off the ruggedness of the build by opening a cabinet, grabbing the shelf edge and doing a vigorous pull-up.

Backing up momentarily to the frame construction, as a truck and power-sports guy who uses equipment hard, I was fascinated to learn that the aluminum frame rails are welded together upside-down on a jig, and the four plastic holding



- A) power-lift bed**
- B) flip-up sofa bed**
- C) refrigerator**
- D) control panel and bracket-mount TV**
- E) queen bed**
- F) flip-up dinette**

tanks are then installed. These include a 100-gallon freshwater tank, 45-gallon gray and black tanks, and a 36-gallon tank for the fuel station. Next, this assembly is righted, and prefabricated aluminum walls, likewise welded on jigs for accuracy, are positioned, rather like a tilt-up building. Finally, the roof structure is installed.

The 8528 is insulated for heat, cold and sound. Sandwiched between the square-section aluminum wall tubing is 1-inch-thick R-3 insulation, while the ceiling uses 3-inch-thick R-11 insulation. Sprayed-on closed-cell floor insulation is optional, as is R-6.5 closed-cell wall insulation. The outside skin is

At the Willow Springs racetrack, the pewter ATC 8528-FB toy hauler, silver Ford F-250 and glittery silver Ducati Imola race bike looked great together.

rating (GVWR), and ATC came through with a Light Pewter Metallic 8528-FB (front bedroom) toy hauler providing a generous 15 feet, 10 inches of garage length. This is just one of eight ATC toy-hauling trailers and fifth-wheels ranging from 25 feet to 41 feet, 3 inches.

UNIQUE ALUMINUM CONSTRUCTION

Two key assets stand out in this 7,300-pound (dry) trailer: the aluminum chassis is lightweight for towing ease and fuel economy, and the frame can never rust. The construction is also entirely wood-free, a welcome feature for RV owners who have witnessed, with pained dismay, rotted wood, delamination and screws pulling out of other building materials.

Speaking of which, instead of being screwed together, the ATC trailer's interior and exterior panels, door frames, cabinets and aircraft-style



Featuring a queen bed, twin end tables, handy 120-volt AC outlets and USB charging ports, along with HVAC controls, gloss-black cabinets and dual-pane windows with roller shades, the ATC's forward bedroom has all the right stuff.

MODERN GLOSS-BLACK CABINETS AND APPLIANCES TO MATCH



➔ Using a premium motorsports theme, the ATC 8528-FB offers a built-in kitchen counter with a two-burner cooktop, a microwave-convection oven and an 8-cubic-foot refrigerator.

painted .040-inch aluminum sheet. Impressively, to ward off leaks, the entire roof of the toy hauler is formed from a single sheet of aluminum, rolled down at the edges and seamed at the corners, bonded and riveted in place.

Interior walls and ceiling are polypropylene-and-fiber-glass composite, and the floor is aluminum, covered with nonslip removable floor mats in key areas. ATC likes to say that the interior is so durable and waterproof that, should it become dirty inside due to all the fun you've had, you can simply remove the floor mats and pressure-wash it. No wood construction means no rotting. *We like!* One caveat, though: Don't spray the appliances or electronic control panel.

BUILT TO WORK

ATC started building aluminum-frame motorsport and custom trailers 20 years ago, so the company is well versed in what is needed to haul toys. For instance, the 8528's 7-foot, 5-inch-long by 7½-foot-wide rear ramp door mounts on seven broad piano hinges and can support 4,000 pounds. That's more than enough for a two-door Jeep Wrangler or any of the popular side-by-side off-roaders like the Polaris RZR or Honda Pioneer.

Based on a proprietary ATC design, the wood-free rear

LIVING QUARTERS

Right, top to bottom: The dinette can be repurposed as bench seating or a kid-size sofa bed. When not in use, the entire setup stores flat against the trailer's curbside interior wall. The generously sized kitchen sink features a high-arc faucet with a single handle.



door is counter-sprung, making lowering and raising it reasonably easy for one person. We say "reasonably" here because the door does not have a power assist to open or close. It was also relatively high off the ground in the test unit, which featured an optional 5-inch taller deck height (22 inches versus 17 inches for the standard model) to allow modest off-pavement use, such as along dirt roads leading



➕ WHAT WE LIKED

Motorsports focus, aluminum frame and one-piece aluminum roof, wood-free construction, modern interior design, big 36-gallon fuel station, intuitive controls

➖ WHAT WE'D LIKE TO SEE

Power corner jacks, automatic leveling system, quick-detach entry stairs, one-touch awning functions, improved exterior lighting

Unforgettable Adventures.



Feel-Good Savings.

Heed the call of adventure with great insurance coverage.
15 minutes could save you 15% or more on RV insurance.

GEICO® *for your RV*

geico.com | 1-877-434-2678 | Local Office

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states, in all GEICO companies, or in all situations. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, DC 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2019 GEICO

Geico, Circle 116 on Reader Service Card



Operated by a toggle on the main control panel, the rear queen-bed platform raises and lowers in seconds. Clockwise from top left: Various configurations include a rear bedroom, a sofa bed, a low-back sofa and an open garage area. Both beds can be slept in when the queen bed is at half-mast.

to off-road areas. No biggie, but just know that the door requires "adult strength" to operate, especially in windy conditions.

We found the dual rear latches easy to use, and both are lockable for security, although one of the pressed-in plastic lock seals fell out on our trip. The ramp door has a nice nonskid working surface and four rubber bumpers that keep it from scratching when lowered. These, and the cross-section of the hollow, insulated door means there's a significant "bump up" of several inches that vehicles must

cover when being driven into the rig. This is no problem for off-road vehicles, but we worried about running the road-racing Ducati's more vulnerable pavement tires too hard into it. An easy workaround here would be a simple wedge-shaped chock, homemade or otherwise and sized to fit.

As well, the breakover angle (the point where the trailer door meets the interior floor) might cause some low-slung vehicles to high-center. Car racers know all about this and often carry unique workarounds such as extra ramps and pillars to lift the trailing edge

MANUFACTURER SPECIFICATIONS

2019 ATC 8528-FB TOY HAULER

Exterior Length	33'
Exterior Width	8' 6"
Exterior Height	11'
Interior Width	8' 2"
Interior Height	7' 6"
Construction	Welded aluminum ladder frame, wall and ceiling structures; bonded exterior aluminum skin, one-piece aluminum roof with riveted trim, polypropylene and fiberglass composite interior panels; R-11 ceiling and R-3 wall insulation
Freshwater Cap.	100 gal.
Black-Water Cap.	45 gal.
Gray-Water Cap.	45 gal.
LP-Gas Cap.	10 gal.
Water-Heater Cap.	6 gal.
Refrigerator	8 cu. ft.
Furnace	25,000 Btu
Air Conditioner	15,000 Btu
Converter	50 amp
Battery (2)	12-volt
Tires	ST235/80R16 LRE
Suspension	Torsion axle
Weight (Dry)	7,300 lbs.
Hitch Weight	1,135 lbs.
GVWR	11,440 lbs.
GAWR	(2) 5,200 lbs.
Cargo Carrying Cap.	4,140 lbs.
MSRP, Base	\$43,365
MSRP, As Tested	\$78,722
Basic Warranty	3 years

Aluminum Trailer Company (ATC)

www.aluminumtoyhauler.com

Circle 151 on Reader Service Card

of the rear door. There's always a way....

Inside, for storing a Jeep, side-by-side or ATVs, the three floor tracks are perfectly adequate because four-wheelers are inherently stable at rest. But motorcycles are not, and for the steadiest storage, additional tie-down tracks close to the walls would be in order.



SHOOT FOR
THE BEST



**POWER AND PERFORMANCE
FOR YOUR DIESEL PICKUP**



DieselSite®

WWW.DIESELSITE.COM

PHONE: 888-414-3457

DieselSite, Circle 108 on Reader Service Card

DOES YOUR INSURER ONLY **SEE HALF OF** **YOUR RV?**



Good Sam
Insurance Agency

RV • AUTO • HOME • BOAT • MOTORCYCLE



\$10

GET A
CAMPING WORLD | GANDER OUTDOORS | Overton's
MERCHANDISE CERTIFICATE
WHEN YOU GET A QUOTE

We represent the nation's top RV specialty carriers!



PROGRESSIVE

National General >>
Auto, Home & Health Insurance

Safeco Insurance
A Liberty Mutual Company

**FOR YOUR FREE QUOTE AND CAMPING WORLD
MERCHANDISE CERTIFICATE:**

Call: **1-833-358-4238** and mention savings code **TD-UV**
Visit: **GoodSamRVInsurance.com/code/UV**

Certificate will be mailed 4-6 weeks after quote is requested. Certificate not available in GA and NM. Availability, eligibility, benefits, discounts and coverage may vary by state and carrier. The content herein is for descriptive purposes only. The exact protection provided is subject to the terms, conditions and expectations of the policy contract issued. Average savings based on new policyholder reported data from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017. ©2019 Good Sam Insurance Agency. GOOD SAM and the GOOD SAM ICON are registered trademarks of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC. Unauthorized use of any of GSE, LLC's trademarks is expressly prohibited. All rights reserved. GSI57133 - 0619

An extra nice feature of the ramp door is that heavy-duty multi-strand wire cables can be clipped into place to hold the ramp level with the trailer floor. This extends the living area by more than 7 feet, when weather permits. An accessory vinyl-and-screen structure turns the ramp into a separate bedroom, ideal for accommodating more guests, so long as they bring sleeping mats or cots.

RUGGED, OVER AND UNDER

The 8528 is suspended by tandem 5,200-pound torsion axles, and braking is handled by electrically activated drums. The test trailer had the optional 16-inch aluminum-wheel upgrade and ST235/80R16 LRE tires. A full-size spare tire mounted on a steel wheel is stored under the trailer.

The 8528 model is too heavy for a half-ton truck, hence the F-250 Power Stroke diesel we selected for the test. The F-250 has a Class V 2½-inch receiver, so we used an adapter sleeve to allow using a smaller 2-inch draw bar. Easy enough. Simi RV kindly conducted the trailer hookup for us using a Blue Ox SwayPro weight-distributing hitch.

The trailer's built-in power jack can lift 3,500 pounds, allowing pretty easy and straightforward attachment and adjustment of the load-distributing bars to level the truck and trailer. This is a terrific add, allowing users to adjust weight distribution according to trailer load, from a heavy Jeep to a lightweight racing bike, in our case.

The SwayPro acts as both a weight-distributing system and a sway control, and is not only easy to set up but also easy to move from one trailer to another. It's also one of the few hitches that can be spec'd for a trailer that has a tongue weight of up to 2,000 pounds. In operation, the load-distributing feature worked nicely, although the windy conditions we found on the mountain and desert parts of our trip did start the trailer wagging subtly on occasion, which is normal for this part of the country; slowing down a bit took care of business.

TAKING THE HIGH ROAD

Generally, the ATC 8528 and Ford F-250 were a perfect match, and our daylong drive from the Southern California coast into the mountainous Transverse Range, during a rare "super bloom" of the state flower, the orange California poppy, and then on to the 24th-annual Corsa Motoclassica vintage-motorcycle racing event at Willow Springs International Raceway went smoothly.

Average fuel economy for the outbound trip, which included a net elevation gain of nearly 4,000 feet, was 10.1 MPG. The return trip netted a modestly better average, and minus the trailer later on, the fuel economy of the Power Stroke turbodiesel jumped to 15.2 MPG.

The F-250's six-speed automatic transmission features a "manual" mode. Nudging the gear selector to the M position allows manually shifting the

TRAILER & 5TH WHEEL HANDLING PROBLEMS

- ✓ **CHUCKING**
- ✓ **SWAY**
- ✓ **TRAILER WAG**
- ✓ **SIDE TO SIDE ROCKING**
- ✓ **TRAILER BOUNCE**
- ✓ **WHITE KNUCKLING**

**THE SOLUTION?
COMFORT RIDE
SHOCK ABSORBERS & SLIPPER SPRINGS**

Comfort Ride provides easy towability and longer trailer life. It also means less stuff falling off the walls and countertops.

- ✓ **STOPS THE UP & DOWN BOUNCING!**
- ✓ **STOPS THE "SEE-SAW" EFFECT!**
- ✓ **STOPS SIDE TO SIDE ROCKING & SWAY!**
- ✓ **ABSORBS ENERGY – STOPS THE 3.2 EARTHQUAKE!**



**QUESTIONS?
CALL THE EXPERTS
(800) 669-9690**



roadmasterinc.com | (800) 669-9690

Roadmaster, Inc., Circle 140 on Reader Service Card

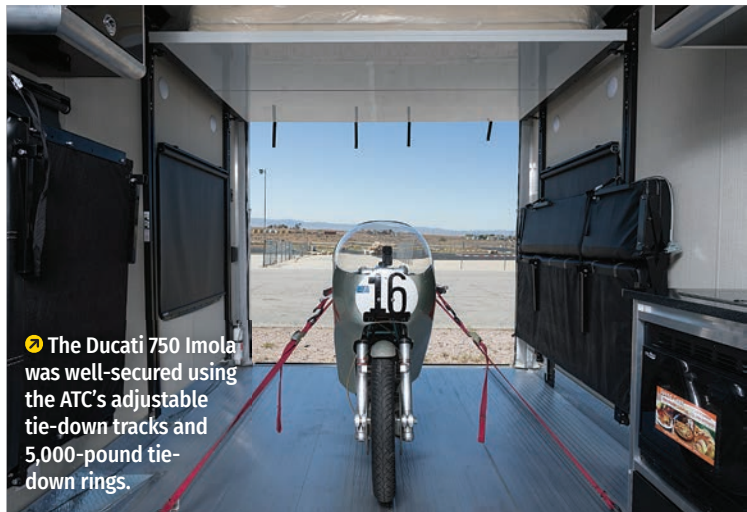
transmission via a toggle on the steering column's right-hand stalk. This toggle also allows nudging the transmission up or down a gear or two, even when the gear selector is in Drive, a handy feature.

It's well worth mentioning that, as a turbodiesel, the F-250's performance is essentially unaffected by altitude, and so with tow capacity to spare and turbocharged power under the hood, it hauled the ATC quite smartly indeed.

While I love trucks, driving and towing, I love racing more, and arriving at Willow Springs is when the real action began. And in more ways than one, because the winds that had been with us since we left the coast had kicked into high gear by the time we arrived at the track on Thursday afternoon before the race weekend. We prowled the asphalt and dirt pit area for a dry-camping spot that was both reasonably flat and out of the way. As a hedge against being blown completely out of our shoes, we parked the truck and toy hauler to expose their left flanks windward, thus creating an area of relative calm near the curbside door.

HEAT, WIND AND DRY CAMPING

The ATC 8528 is a combination of mostly great features and just a few that could stand upgrading, even as options. The 5,000-pound scissor jacks at each corner operate manually, requiring the user to stabilize all four corners with a basic hand crank, which doesn't even feature hand swivels. Plan



🔧 The Ducati 750 Imola was well-secured using the ATC's adjustable tie-down tracks and 5,000-pound tie-down rings.

on wearing gloves when you use it. Here, a power leveling system would be an epic add that we'd gladly order. Alternatively, a cordless drill with the proper driving tool does the job.

A similar scenario is the aluminum stairs for the side door. The three-step unit nests neatly inside the door frame and is permanently attached via piano hinges. Using it requires only unlatching and swinging the steps to the ground. Simple enough, except we found the side of the step frame can contact the door opening and the door, too, if the

patioEX

by MORryde

Revolutionary Airbeam® tent design, by Vango. The European leaders in Air Tent technology.



Extended Living Space for Your Outdoor Adventures

- Protection from wind, rain, sun and bugs
- Zippered privacy panels
- Quick, easy set up - no drilling required
- Easily stores in a convenient, lightweight, storage bag



More room. More comfort. More adventure.



Above. Beyond. Always.

574.293.1581 • MORryde.com • f t i y

MORryde, Circle 130 on Reader Service Card

door isn't fully open and latched snugly against the trailer's side. Also, if the trailer is parked curbside or near a hedge or wall, the steps can't be fully lowered, or even lowered at all in some scenarios, making climbing into the trailer difficult.

ATC provided a 25-foot-wide power awning system that's intuitive and effective. Simply pressing a toggle on the interior control panel gets the job done. It's not a one-touch affair; instead, the user must hold the switch until the awning is fully extended or retracted.

Twin compartments at the front of the trailer hold batteries and electronics, and offer general storage. In front, nested ahead of the trailer body, is a 5,500-watt Cummins Onan generator, while the fuel tank, fueling nozzle and controls are inside the unit. The fuel station and generator share the same fuel supply, and an onboard fuel gauge lets you keep track of supply easily. While we didn't use it for the Ducati (the bike requires special race gas), the

fuel station held more than enough for near constant air-conditioning use over the weekend, as the air temperature reached the mid-90s each day.

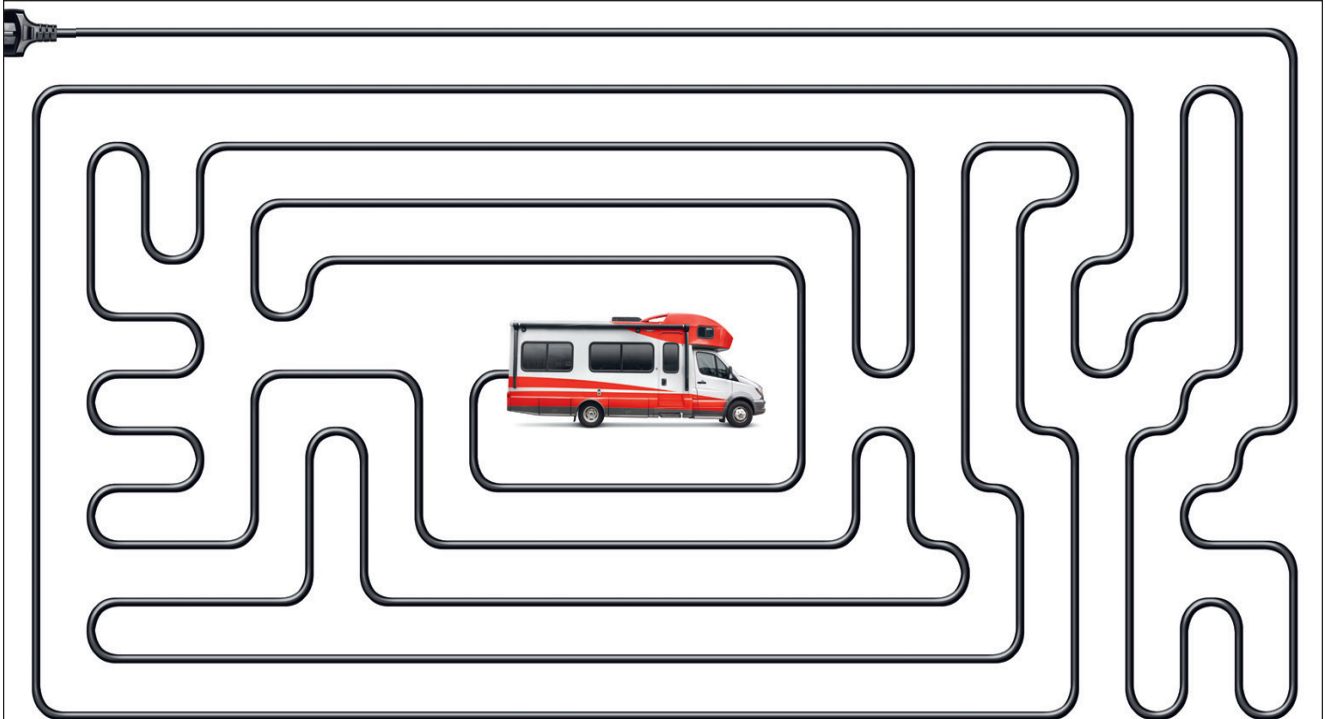
COMFORTABLE, LOGICAL INTERIOR

Design, componentry, fit and finish inside the ATC are inspired. Nine gloss-black cabinets and four drawers provide ample storage for food and supplies, and the appliances are designed to match, including a two-burner gas stove, an 8-cubic-foot Dometic refrigerator, a microwave-convection oven and a large stainless-steel sink. Nicely positioned, the main control panel is within reach of the sink and refrigerator, letting the cook (aka, the boss) control and monitor supplies. These include freshwater, holding tanks, battery power and fuel supplies.

Tracks and racing can be a hot, sweaty business, and we were mighty thankful for the ATC's 15,000-Btu air-conditioning system (complementing its



The bathroom is nicely configured, equipped and finished, and includes such features as a neo-angle shower-curtain rod, dedicated HVAC controls, an exhaust fan and ample storage.



Take Charge, pull the plug!

Time to pull the plug and instead keep your auxiliary battery fully charged while driving. The new, award winning REDARC, in-vehicle DC battery charger range charges your second battery while on the move. Take charge, see the range and all the features at redarcelectronics.com/bcdc



THE POWER OF
REDARC

RA4088

Redarc, Circle 139 on Reader Service Card



Good Sam

RV Loans

\$399

**processing fee waived
when you apply to refinance
by September 30, 2019!¹**



Now may be a great time to refinance your current RV loan to lower your monthly payments! You can also finance a 2008 model year or newer RV when you purchase from a dealer or a private party seller.

We offer a **zero down loan option** for loans up to **\$50,000!**²

RECREATIONAL USE APRs³ AS LOW AS

4.79%
APR

on loan amounts
of \$50k+

5.69%
APR

on loan amounts of
\$25k to \$49,999

6.29%
APR

on loan amounts of
\$15k to \$24,999

APR is fixed for the life of the loan. Other rates with different loan terms are available. Rates are accurate as of July 1, 2019. See our website for current rates and terms, as well as financing for Full-Timers and loan amounts below \$15,000.

CALL

1-800-444-1476

MENTION PRIORITY CODE 592

TTY: 1-800-659-5495

VISIT

GoodSamRVLoans.com/592

¹Processing fee of \$399 waived for refinance applications submitted by September 30, 2019. Official fees such as state title, state registration, FL doc stamp fee and/or UCC filing fees will apply.

²Minimum FICO Score of 740 required. FICO scores below 740 or for loan amounts more than \$50,000, a down payment will be required. See website for details.

³Estimated APR (Annual Percentage Rate) based on 7 year loan term; individual rate may vary by loan amount, loan term, vehicle use, model year and type of RV. Subject to consumer loan program requirements and credit approval. Certain fees, closing costs, and restrictions may apply. Rates and terms may vary with market conditions and are subject to change without notice. APR applied to the loan is the APR in effect on the date the application is received and is valid for 30 days. Full-Timers do not qualify for this offer; see website for Full-Timer rates and terms. RV must be 2008 model year or newer; for RV model year 2008 to 2009, add .25% to above rates. Maximum loan term is based on loan amount. Maximum loan amount is calculated using an advance percentage determined by FICO score. RV collateral value established using NADA wholesale value (without adds) including mileage adjustment (+/-); multiplied by 110%. Refinance example of a recreational use RV loan: A \$55,000 loan for 7 years with an APR of 4.79% has 84 monthly payments of \$771.95 each.

Good Sam Finance Center™ provided through Essex Credit, a division of Bank of the West. Doing business in South Dakota as Bank of the West California. NMLS ID # 19116.

GOOD SAM and the GOOD SAM ICON are registered trademarks of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC. Unauthorized use of any of GSE, LLC's trademarks is expressly prohibited. All rights reserved. GRL57116 - 0619

Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender. ©2019 Good Sam Finance Center.

25,000-Btu furnace, which we did not need or use). Due to the large size of the garage and living area, and because lowering the tailgate to unload the Ducati let in a considerable volume of hot air, cooling this main area took much longer than for the bedroom and bathroom, on the order of 20 minutes or so.

VERSATILE ACCOMMODATIONS

We were happy to find virtually all interior functions to be intuitive and easy to master. This extends from the control panel to the appliances and the numerous USB and 120-volt AC power outlets, as well as the convertible seating and bunks. On the curb side of the trailer, amidships, a four-seat dinette with a table nests against the wall and is held tight by webbing and clips. It's easy to fold down and put into use, and the dinette seating converts to a bunk within seconds. At the rear of the unit, adjacent to the main vehicle storage area on the street side, another bunk stores similarly against the wall and can likewise be lowered or raised in seconds.

Another control-panel function works the queen-bed loft above the storage area, which is raised and lowered via a toggle. When not in use, the bed nests against the ceiling. Altogether, in standard trim, the 8528 sleeps eight, with four adults and four kids probably the ideal.

In the master bedroom, the queen bed is comfortable enough, and we found the shelving and drawers at both sides of the bed highly useful, since they include USB ports and 120-volt AC outlets. *Win!* Storage is likewise good here, with five overhead cabinets, under-bed storage, and another four cabinets beside the foot of the bed. Floor space is minimal, however; you pay for all the storage by having to shuffle around the bed. It's a trade-off that we think is justified and is how most RVs are designed and built.

The ATC has six dual-pane windows: two in the master bedroom, and two on both the curb and street sides of the living area. The windows over the kitchen sink are abbreviated in size, and the curbside door has an additional

Located adjacent to the kitchen and near the side door, the main control panel is laid out logically, and operating it is intuitive, a welcome change from confusing old-school RV switch gear.



small inset window. All are openable and screened, and feature black roller shades. Naturally, black is hardly ideal for reflecting sunlight and resisting heat buildup, but they do look great. For us, even in the desert's heat and intense sunlight, they did a good job blocking sun-load inside the trailer — so good, in fact, that we wouldn't bother replacing them with another color.

We didn't find the exterior lighting particularly well executed. The only lighting on the curbside exterior (the logical recreational area next to the door) is associated with the awning, and the switch for the outside rear lighting (behind the unit) is located all the way at the rear of the interior, on the wall.

THE DREAM WORKS OUT

At the track, the pewter ATC 8528-FB toy hauler, silver Ford F-250 and glittery silver Ducati Imola race bike looked great together. Hundreds of miles of travel, four dry-camping days and nights, and numerous track sessions gave us strong exposure to all three vehicles, and with a few minor complaints, we enjoyed each one equally well. Best of all, each vehicle did its job beautifully.

The Kentucky-built Ford F-250 Power Stroke towed more than three tons of trailer and cargo energetically while coddling its occupants with such features as heated and cooled power seats. The Indiana-built ATC 8528-FB stored the precious motorcycle safely and securely, and offered a quiet, cool and comfortable sanctuary from the desert's heat and wind. And the Ducati racer provided a loud, fast ride of a lifetime, just as it was built to do in the Italian race shop 47 years ago. **TV**



JACK-IT[®]

TAKE YOUR BIKES ON A NEW ADVENTURE.

Take your bikes on a new adventure to the lake, the campsite or off the beaten path with the Jack-IT[®] Double Bike Carrier from Let's Go Aero and Lippert Components[®].

The Jack-IT's innovative frame design installs over the tongue jack on the trailer's A-Frame, the softest riding area on the frame. The BikeWing™ carrier holds two bikes safely and securely by the wheels. With the Jack-IT you can add instant cargo space to the back of your travel trailer and carry your bikes with peace of mind.



Find out more at store.lci1.com



Home Run

— by Chris Hemer



With class-leading tow capacity and thoughtful features designed for RVers, the new Chevy 2500 and 3500 heavy-

Confidence. This single word defines the overarching objective behind Chevy's new 2500 and 3500 HD pickups. In conducting consumer clinics, during which 1,000 RVers were interviewed, 57 percent said that towing a trailer was a stressful experience, and 12 percent admitted they had been in a fight with a significant other or family member while towing. Perhaps even more alarming (at least for this author), many of the people surveyed didn't know the tow rating of their truck or the weight of the trailer they were towing. Considering its research also revealed that 460,000 RVs were sold in 2018 (100,000 of them fifth-wheels), Chevy viewed the RV market as a substantial opportunity for both profit and problem-solving when engineering the 2020 Chevy Silverado HD.

Heavier Hauling

Certainly, a lot of towing uncertainties can be solved with capability. The combination of a powerful engine, a bulletproof transmission and a sturdy chassis makes for easy towing, so GM focused on optimizing the entire package to arrive at a segment-leading maximum tow rating of 35,500 pounds, a 52 percent improvement over the previous model. Surprisingly, the flagship Duramax diesel is essentially unchanged at 445 horsepower and 910 LB-FT of torque, but a larger, variable-speed 28-inch mechanical



...duty pickups make towing easier than ever

fan and a functional hood scoop keep the diesel cooler. In addition, a new engine after-run feature allows the Duramax to run for up to 15 minutes before shutting off.

Everything aft of the engine has been upgraded. A new 10L1000 10-speed Allison reportedly does a more efficient job at delivering the diesel's power through 30 percent larger prop shafts, larger front and rear axles, and a 12-inch ring gear on 3500 models (11.5-inch on 2500 models). The fully boxed ladder frame has also been "enhanced," according



TRANSPARENT TRAILER

One of the most interesting of the available 15 camera views is called "transparent trailer." It is created by stitching the rear-tailgate and rear-trailer camera views together so you can "see through" the top half of the trailer.



CAMERA SIDE VIEW

Larger and more functional door-mounted trailering mirrors are standard on all 2500HD and 3500HD models. Side-view cameras present a useful view of the trailer when cornering and automatically "bias" the view in the direction of the turn. The camera will also display the appropriate side view when the turn signal is activated.

to GM, but no details on added strength or torsional rigidity were specified. However, the manufacturer did point out that any diesel-powered dually in its 2020 lineup can be equipped to tow 30,000 pounds or more, not just one or two models.

A new standard 6.6-liter gas engine produces 401 horsepower and 464 LB-FT of torque, 11 and 22 percent improvements over the outgoing 6.0-liter powerplant, respectively. Using an iron small block with a steel crank, forged powder-metal connecting rods and aluminum cylinder heads, the engine leverages direct injection to elevate the compression ratio to 10.8:1. Built specifically for the HD-truck application, the engine has a longer stroke to deliver more low-speed torque and will be offered with dual alternators. It is backed by the 6L90 six-speed automatic transmission with tow/haul mode.

Built at the Flint Assembly plant

in Flint, Michigan, the new Silverado HD is longer, wider and taller than its predecessor with a wheelbase that has been stretched 5.2 inches on Crew Cab models. And unlike its competition from Ford and Ram, this new HD shares almost nothing with its half-ton brethren; the only common component is the roof. Five trim levels, available across 22 cab, bed chassis and driveline configurations, provide customers with a wide range of choices.

On Camera

You could say that reducing anxiety when towing also increases confidence, so in addition to a generous selection of standard towing features (see sidebar on page 34), the new Silverado HD also offers up to eight cameras and 15 camera views. In addition to tailgate- and bed-view cameras that assist with hitching a travel trailer or fifth-wheel, the Silverado also offers a front camera

that makes parking a lot easier, as well as a camera on each exterior mirror.

Camera views can also be “stitched” together in some cases to create a graphical representation of what is around the vehicle, such as the now-popular top-down bird’s-eye view. The Silverado leverages this technology further with a front top-down view, a rear top-down view and the “bowl view,” a 3-D surround image as viewed from the front of the truck, looking back.

In addition, Chevy offers

STANDARD TOWING FEATURES

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO HD

VIN-specific trailer label

Auto park brake: Energizes electronic parking brake when the truck is placed in Park to prevent truck movement when the hitch is aligned

Hill start assist and hill descent control: Prevent truck from rolling backward on steep inclines and control speed when going downhill

Tow/haul reminder: Tells the driver when tow/haul mode should be selected

Trailer sway control and rollover avoidance

Auto grade braking and diesel exhaust braking (Duramax only)

ASA iN-Command integration

Enhanced digital variable steering: Dynamically optimizes power steering according to driving conditions

Trailer profile storage: Stores up to five trailer profiles

Electronic trailer-brake memory: “Remembers” trailer-brake settings when trailer is plugged in

Towing mirrors

Trailer app

Trailer-light test

Trailer electrical diagnostics

Trailer tire pressure and temperature monitoring

Trailer theft deterrent: If the trailer is unplugged while the truck is locked and the security system is armed, a horn will honk and lights will flash.

an optional rear-trailer-view camera that obviously helps with backing but also makes a couple of other interesting views possible: a somewhat confusing picture-in-picture side view, which combines the side- and rear-trailer-camera views, and an innovative new creation called “transparent trailer.” By stitching the tailgate and rear-trailer-camera views together, the customer can virtually “see through” the top half of a conventional box or travel trailer. We’re told they haven’t worked out all the details with this view on a fifth-wheel yet.

Finally, Chevy offers another customer-added camera for the interior of the trailer to help keep tabs on valuable cargo during transit. When four or more camera systems are specified, the truck is equipped with two exterior ports (near the standard seven-way Bargman receptacle) to plug the cameras into, so the views are clear and free from any radio interference that could occur with a wireless system.

To demonstrate how helpful the camera systems can be, Chevy issued a unique challenge at its press introduction in Bend, Oregon: Pros versus Joes. Journalists were encouraged to bring a guest that had little or no towing experience, and then the



Ⓢ Clockwise from top left: The front camera is angled downward slightly to assist with parking or spotting obstacles when driving off-road. Two cameras mounted in the Center High Mounted Stop Lamp (CHMSL) provide a high rear view and bed view. A GM accessory camera can be mounted to the rear of the trailer to provide crystal-clear views of what’s directly behind you. A tailgate camera (left) and small light make backing and hitching a travel trailer a one-person job.

couples were pitted against each other on an obstacle course. The kicker is that the experienced RVers had to navigate the course with no camera help, while the novices could take full advantage of the 15 views the eight-camera system had to offer.

Naturally, your man at *Trailer Life* nailed the course with mirrors only (*sniff*), but it was interesting to ride through the course with complete beginners. Once they became familiar with the various views (which can be selected on the touch screen), the tasks of turning, parking and backing with a trailer in tow were totally stress-free. Particularly useful was the bias side view, which displays the entire side of the truck and trailer when turning. We can just imagine how many tires and wheels will be saved from curbs and how much body damage will be prevented by avoiding posts, trees and other obstacles.

Trailer-Friendly

Yet another way to reduce stress when towing is to make every aspect of it easier, from choosing the right tow



Ⓢ Larger steps, designed to accommodate up to a size 13 work boot, make bed access easy.

vehicle to setting up at camp. To this end, the 2020 Silverado HD includes a VIN-specific Trailing Information Label that lists the truck's specific trailering data including curb weight, gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), gross combined weight rating (GCWR), maximum payload, maximum hitch weight, gross axle weight rating (GAWR) and fifth-wheel/gooseneck ratings. We found that the label's position, located inside the driver's door, along with its small print and busy background, made it difficult to read. However, this is a small problem that could easily be rectified, and we hope the label will be fixed on production trucks because it is a great addition.

Setting up gets a little easier with a new feature called Smart Trailer Integration, developed in a partnership with ASA Electronics and its iN-Command control system. Designed to be integrated with and accessed through the myChevrolet mobile app, either on compatible Android/iOS smartphones or via the vehicle's infotainment system through Android Auto or Apple CarPlay, iN-Command allows owners to monitor and control a range of systems in the trailer, such as water-tank levels, HVAC controls, generator start/stop and even slideouts in recreational trailers equipped with the technology, according to GM. We did not have an opportunity to see how the system works, but it would be nice, for example, to start the generator and turn on the A/C in your toy hauler before parking in a desert site.

Other towing technologies include an in-vehicle Trailing App, complete with trailer-light test, trailer electrical diagnostics, trailer tire pressure and temperature monitoring, maintenance reminders and a handy predeparture checklist. Many of the in-vehicle Trailing App's functions, including trailer profile creation and trailer-light test, are also available with the myChevrolet mobile app.

With good looks, additional capability and an abundance of thoughtful features designed for RVers, Chevy's HD models have all the goods and may even steal some customers away from Ford and Ram. **TV**

MINI 'MAX

GM's 3.0-liter Duramax diesel inline six is powerfully different

Also making its debut at the 2020 Chevrolet Silverado HD event were the new 3.0-liter Duramax-equipped light-duty trucks. The new engine is unique in almost every aspect when compared to Ford's Power Stroke 3.0-liter engine and Ram's third-generation EcoDiesel 3.0-liter. First and foremost, the little 'max is an inline-six-cylinder, double-overhead-cam (DOHC) design instead of a V-6, and uses an aluminum block and heads. But what really raised eyebrows was the engine's drive system, which is located on the rear of the engine and uses chains to drive the camshafts and high-pressure fuel pump, along with a "wet belt" (partially submerged in engine oil) to turn the variable displacement oil pump.

This likely raises concerns for diesel enthusiasts who are accustomed to gear-driven reliability, but the reasoning behind the unusual layout, according to GM engineer John Barta and Global Chief Engineer Vincenzo Verino, comes down to efficiency and quiet operation. Driving the cams and fuel-injection pump from the rear of the engine, they claim, creates more accurate timing because there is less harmonic distortion at the rear of the crankshaft than there is at the front. This is important, because accurate cam timing and fuel injection results in reduced emissions and increased fuel economy.

Chains are also much quieter than gears, and half-ton customers are generally less tolerant of noise than heavy-duty customers. The chains are designed for the life of the engine, but the oil-pump belt has a useful service life of 150,000 miles, requiring the transmission to

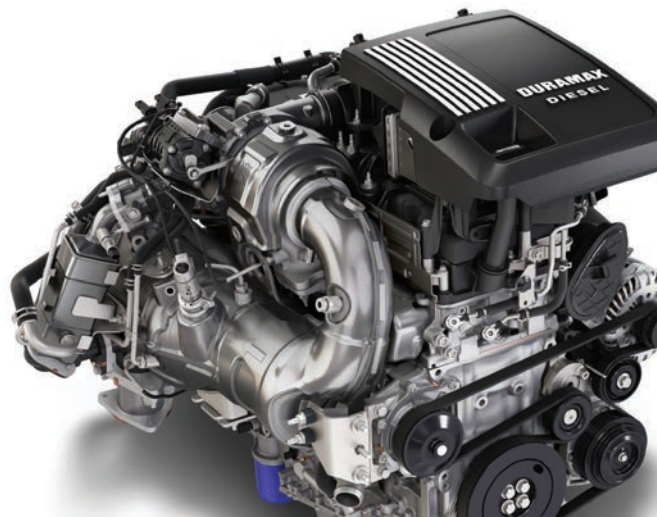
be dropped so the belt can be accessed. This sounds complex, but Barta maintains the job will not be a difficult one for a qualified service technician.

To meet ever-tightening diesel-emissions regulations and fuel-economy standards, the engine makes use of several interesting technologies. The fuel-injection system operates at a maximum of 36,250 PSI and employs Denso fuel injectors that can pulse up to 10 injections per cylinder event. Three top dead-center pulses shape the combustion charge for reduced noise, while post injections are used for regeneration purposes. A relatively low 15:1 compression ratio works with an electronically controlled Variable Geometry Turbo (VGT) that creates up to 29 PSI of boost pressure and spins up to 175,000 RPM, thanks to a new roller-bearing design. A liquid-to-air intercooler is located front and center on the engine, close to the turbocharger, as it results in a shorter column of air and reduced turbo lag.

Likewise, the emissions equipment is also located close to the engine. As Barta explained, "The Diesel Oxidation Catalyst, or DOC, is close to the turbocharger under the hood so it can

stay hot, avoiding the need to inject additional fuel to get it up to optimum temperature." Downstream of the DOC is the Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) injector, followed by the Diesel Particulate Filter (DPF) and Selective Catalytic Reduction (SCR) unit, which are now combined into a single component GM calls the SCRF. That's a lot of hot stuff going on in a small area, so GM uses an abundance of reflective tape and three electric fans under the hood to keep temperatures under control.

The engine produces 277 horsepower at 3,750 RPM and 460 LB-FT of torque at 1,500 RPM. Combined with the new 10-speed automatic transmission, 3.0-liter Duramax trucks have a maximum tow rating of 9,300 pounds. We didn't have an opportunity to tow with the new engine, but we were invited to take it on a driving loop through the mountains around Bend, Oregon. As expected, the engine was quiet, smooth and powerful, but also very fuel efficient. Observed fuel economy was around 21 MPG, but some journalists reported better results when competing for the highest MPG numbers. EPA figures had not been released at press time but should be available by the time you read this.



VAGABONDS IN THE ADIRONDACKS

Retracing the early Model T camping trips of Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone and John Burroughs in northeastern New York

— by *Lisa Ballard*

Imagine Bill Gates, Jeff Bezos, Warren Buffet and Tom Clancy RVing together on a regular basis, just to get away, talk around a campfire and enjoy the outdoors. President Trump joins them for a few days. Sometimes their wives and families come. Other times, it's just the guys. That's the modern-day equivalent of the camping trips that Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone and John Burroughs put together between 1914 and 1924.

Edison, Ford and Firestone were among the most influential businessmen of their day,

and Burroughs was a popular author and conservationist whose books sold millions of copies in an era when books were mass media. (Radios were not broadly available to consumers yet.) Instead of Donald Trump, Calvin Coolidge and Warren Harding sometimes joined their caravan for a few days.

They called themselves the Vagabonds, in the nomadic-traveler sense of the word. According to Burroughs, the reasons for their excursions were to "cheerfully endure wet, cold, smoke, mosquitoes, black flies and sleepless nights, just to touch naked reality once more."

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The Vagabonds' 1916 Adirondack Itinerary

August 29: From Edison's home in Orange, New Jersey, to Burroughs' home in the Catskill Mountains, just south of Albany, New York (82 miles).

August 31: From Albany north through Cohoes and Saratoga Springs, to Corinth (55 miles).

September 1: From Corinth, north into the Adirondack Park to Lake George and then northeast to Indian Lake (74 miles).

September 2: From Indian Lake through Blue Mountain Lake and Long Lake, east to the Schroon River, then north to Elizabethtown (93 miles).

September 3: From Elizabethtown through Westport to Essex on Lake Champlain, then to Keeseville, Ausable Chasm and Au Sable Forks (64 miles).

September 4: From Au Sable Forks west through Lake Placid, Saranac Lake and Paul Smiths, then north to Malone (73 miles).

September 5: Leaving the Adirondack Park through Malone, then to Mooers and Plattsburgh on Lake Champlain (82 miles).

September 6 to 9: Taking the ferry at Chazy Landing to Vermont. Heading across Vermont to New Hampshire, then south to Massachusetts and back to Orange, New Jersey (about 70 miles per day).



Above, from left: Million Dollar Beach on New York's Lake George is a sandy 1,700-foot strand that welcomes families every summer. A kayaker heads down a section of 14-mile Long Lake, a scenic water-sports playground centrally located in the Adirondack Park.

PAVING THE WAY

The Vagabonds were among the first to go camping by motor vehicle, traveling by Model T, which Ford had introduced six years earlier. Their small convoy of Tin Lizzies, including one trucklike vehicle containing their food, furniture and other supplies, covered about 70 miles per day, an impressive distance in those days as only a few roads were paved in larger towns. Most were gravel or dirt. Sometimes there were no roads at all.

And there were no campgrounds. When they were ready to stop for the night, the Vagabonds parked in a pleasant meadow, usually by a lake or river. They slept in their clothes, which were wool three-piece suits. (Nylon would not be available for another 25 years.) They looked more prepared for Wall Street than the wilderness, except for Edison, who refused to shave for the duration of a trip.

They roughed it, sort of. Their campsites had many creature comforts, including a mobile kitchen with an icebox (it really did contain a block of ice back then), a stove fueled by one of the Model T's gas tanks, and a dining tent with electric lights — after all, Edison was along!

Like RVers today, they sought solace from their busy lives among natural settings. Ford was a bird watcher. Firestone wrote poetry. Edison was chief navigator who shunned

population centers, and Burroughs was the group's resident naturalist.

After a memorable first camping trip in the Florida Everglades, instigated by Ford in 1914, the Vagabonds picked the Adirondacks in upstate New York for their next vehicular journey two years later. Ford missed that trip in the wake of the negative publicity surrounding the Peace Ship he organized to Europe to protest World War I, but he participated by invention, creating custom "camping cars" for the outing.

Feeling ill, Burroughs, age 79, almost opted out, too. However, the others eventually persuaded him to come. Afterward, he joked that the trip was so bouncy, thanks to Edison's creative route-finding skills, it shook his ailments out of him.

"The doctors think that as we grow old there is great remedial power in mechanical vibrations," wrote Burroughs after the trip.

IN THE LIGHT OF DAY

The view of Indian Lake and the surrounding pristine forest from the historic fire tower atop Snowy Mountain.



The author casts a line in the fabled Ausable River, between Lake Placid and Wilmington.



ADIRONDACK PLAYGROUND

The Adirondack Park is a 6-million-acre state park located in northeastern New York. It is a mecca for outdoor recreation with 3,000 lakes and ponds, 30,000 miles of rivers and streams, 2,000 miles of trails, and hundreds of hills and mountains of which 46 are more than 4,000 feet high. The heart of the Adirondack Park is the “forever wild” Forest Preserve, which the state legislature created in 1885 to protect the area as a water source for the Erie Canal. In fact, the park is a patchwork of public and private land of which about 43 percent is controlled by the state. The park has about 130,000 year-round residents dispersed throughout 101 towns and villages. It’s also home to a plethora of wildlife and flora, and a number of historic sites, some predating the American Revolution. www.visitadirondacks.com/about/adirondack-park

“I do not know which I owe the most to, the campfires or the car. I am only sure I took a most delightful shaking up such that I had not had for 40 years.”

An Adirondack native, I was curious to experience the Vagabonds’ route for myself to see what had changed since 1916. The roads were better, of course. I also found wonderful lakeside campgrounds and an infinite number of things to do and see throughout the park. Here are some of the things the Vagabonds would have experienced if they traveled to the Adirondacks today.

LAKE GEORGE

Their first stop within the Adirondack Park was Lake George, a lake and a village located in the southeastern corner of the park. Lake George is a bustling tourist destination. It has every amenity, including Million Dollar Beach, a 1,700-foot strand from one end to the other that cost \$1 million to build in 1951. Since then, the beach has received another \$10 million in improvements, a sum that would have impressed even the Vagabonds, and the group could now camp next to the

WHO WERE THE VAGABONDS?

Henry Ford (1863 to 1947)

Founder, Ford Motor Company

Ford invented the Model T, the first automobile affordable to the general population (\$360), which profoundly changed the way people traveled. He introduced the concepts of the 40-hour work week, believing more leisure time was good for the economy (workers would have more time to buy more goods), and he introduced high wages and profit sharing as a way to attract and keep productive employees. He was the chief organizer of the Vagabonds’ camping trips.

Harvey Firestone (1868 to 1938)

Founder, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company

Firestone patented a mechanism that applied rubber tires to carriage wheels, which led to his idea of mass-producing automobile tires in 1900. By 1906 he had developed a pneumatic tire that Henry Ford used on his Model T’s. Firestone also supported the early use of trucks for hauling freight and the building of road systems. Firestone used the Vagabonds’ expeditions as a way to test tire designs and treads. He also looked for plants that might be an alternative to rubber, which came exclusively from Southeast Asia and was monopolized by the British. He eventually started his own rubber plantations in Liberia.

Thomas Edison (1847 to 1931)

Inventor, Businessman

Edison is best known as the inventor of the electric lightbulb, though he also invented the phonograph, motion pictures, an early X-ray machine and a number of other household and industrial items. He founded the first electric utility company, a battery company and a mining company at various points in his life. Edison visited the Adirondacks on a number of occasions prior to the Vagabonds’ camping trips, which is why he became the self-appointed navigator for the group. In 1892, he installed a generator and lights in the Prospect House on the shore of Blue Mountain Lake, the first hotel in the country with electric lights.

John Burroughs (1837 to 1921)

Author, Naturalist, Conservationist

The senior member of the Vagabonds, Burroughs was the most familiar with the Adirondacks. He first visited the region in the 1860s and returned frequently during the next six decades. He also visited Yellowstone National Park with Theodore Roosevelt, traveled with railroad tycoon E. H. Harriman to Alaska and counted John Muir among his closest friends. In addition to a number of best-selling literary nature books, he contributed essays to *The Atlantic Monthly* about the natural world. Because his writings were based on his personal observations and philosophies rather than science, his work faded from the public eye shortly after he died.



Traveling in custom Model T “camping cars” on their 1916 excursion through New York’s Adirondacks, the self-described Vagabonds spent a night “roughing it” in suits and ties on the Ausable River.

PHOTO: THE HENRY FORD

Right: Meecham Lake, between Paul Smiths and Malone, is a lesser known but wonderful place for lakeside camping, with hiking trails, paddling and fishing outside your door. Far right: The Olympic bobsled run in Lake Placid is open year-round. The public can take a ride on the 1932 track.



beach at Lake George Battleground State Campground.

Prior to car travel, visitors to the Adirondacks came by horse, train and boat. One of those old-time paddle wheelers, the *Minne Ha Ha*, departs from the Lake George Steamship Company's pier near Million Dollar Beach. After an afternoon in the sun, I could imagine the Vagabonds taking a dinner cruise aboard the *Minne Ha Ha* to relax and see more of the lake.

INDIAN LAKE

From Lake George Village, they headed northwest to Indian Lake. One of my favorite hikes in the Adirondacks, Snowy Mountain, lies on the west side of this 12-mile-long lake. It's a substantial hike, 7.2 miles round trip with a gain of 2,000 vertical feet, but it's uncrowded and goes through a wildflower garden and along a brook.

The 50-foot historic fire tower on the summit offers sweeping views of the lake, the Siamese Ponds Wilderness (southeast), West Canada Lake Wilderness (southwest) and Blue Ridge



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

July and August are prime time for visiting the Adirondack Park, but it can be crowded. Mid-May through the end of June can have long stretches of pleasant weather, though it can be buggy. September is bug-free and crowd-free. Leaf peepers should go from late-September through mid-October.

In the alpine zone of the High Peaks Region, it can snow anytime throughout the year. At lower elevations, expect summer days to vary from the mid-60s to the high 80s. Most lakes warm into the 70s by mid-July. Rivers run high until mid-May for fishing. Lakes are fishable anytime, except when the ice is melting out. Wait until after Memorial Day to hike to allow the trails to dry out from the melting snow.

Pick up and drive where your dreams take you...

With the drivability of a van and all the luxury you desire,

the affordability of the Phoenix Cruiser will surprise you.

Astoundingly customizable, it is the #1 choice in downsizing.

Choose from our Heritage Collection of Factory Certified Late Model Cruisers

or a New Phoenix Cruiser that you can make your own.

Stop waiting for "someday" and live your life to the fullest today.

Proudly manufactured by

PHOENIXUSA

2601 Marina Dr, Elkhart, IN 46514 • www.phoenixusarv.com • 833-883-4374



Wilderness (northwest). Surrounded by acres of pristine forest, hikers get an idea of just how primitive the region was when the Vagabonds drove through it a century ago.

BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE

A hike up Snowy Mountain was probably too ambitious for the Vagabonds. More likely, they continued west past Lake Durant and through the village of Blue

Mountain Lake, then turned north. If they went for a hike, it was probably up Blue Mountain along this stretch of road (now State Route 30).

It's an easy mile to the top of Blue Mountain to another historic fire tower. The first time I did this hike, I also stopped at the Adirondack Experience, the Museum on Blue Mountain Lake, across the road from the trailhead. To my delight, I discovered one of

the Vagabonds' camping vehicles on display!

While they merely passed through Blue Mountain Lake, I spent the night at the state campground on Lake Durant. The Vagabonds were likely friends with William West Durant, the architect for whom the lake is named. His father, Thomas, was a well-known New York-based financier and railroad tycoon. William was credited with designing many of the famous Great Camps, grandiose compounds of cabins built in the latter half of the 19th century and scattered throughout the Adirondack Park.

The lake looked peaceful with regal blue herons wading in the shallows, but it was action-packed for anglers. Each year, the state of New York stocks the lake with 1,300 tiger muskies. I arrived too late in the evening to fish but eagerly accepted a taste of grilled musky from the folks in the RV next to mine.

LONG LAKE

Next, the Vagabonds would have certainly paused in Long Lake, probably to pick berries or go bird watching. It remains a worthy stop for those same reasons, and to go swimming (there's a lovely public beach) or paddle a canoe. Long Lake is well known as a launching point for paddle trips down the Raquette River

TAMRON A D V E R T O R I A L



With its 22.2x zoom, versatile focal-length range, and maximum magnification ratio of 1:2.9, the Tamron 18-400 all-in-one ultra-telephoto zoom allows you to shoot everything from landscapes to tele-macro photos of the tiniest critters. Key to the 18-400's performance is its built-in Vibration Compensation (VC) feature, an exclusive image-stabilization technology that helps to ensure your images stay sharp. Turn the VC on when you're taking pictures in low-light conditions and when you're shooting handheld: The VC will stabilize the image in your viewfinder and can provide up to a 4-stop advantage when shooting at slower shutter speeds. The VC in the 18-400 incorporates a gyro sensor so sensitive that it picks up even the slightest hand shake. Remember to switch off the VC when you're shooting on a tripod or monopod—the VC unit will still "hunt" for nonexistent movement, possibly causing a blurry photo—as well as when you're mounting and dismounting the lens to your camera.

SEE THIS LENS IN ACTION. [YouTube.com/tamronvids](https://www.youtube.com/tamronvids)



TAMRON

18-400mm F/3.5-6.3 Di II VC HLD (Model B028)
For Canon and Nikon mounts Di II: For APS-C format DSLR cameras

WHERE TO STAY

If you plan to stay in or around New York's Adirondack Park, make reservations early. Campgrounds are busy during most of the summer as well as the fall foliage season, but there's availability in the spring and late summer after schools are back in session.

To find commercial RV parks along the Vagabonds' 1916 travel route, including a number of Good Sam Parks, use the Find a Campground search tool on the Good Sam website.

www.goodsam.com/campgrounds-rv-parks

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation maintains 41 campgrounds within the Adirondack Park boundaries.
newyorkstateparks.reserveamerica.com

to Tupper Lake.

Had Edison, Firestone and Burroughs been canoe campers, their route from Long Lake would have been clear, but how they ended up in Elizabethtown the next night is not. Apparently, they followed the Schroom River, a tributary of the Hudson River, north. To get there from Long Lake, they would have turned east where State Route 28N is today, at least for part of the way. Route 28N bends south, whereas the Vagabonds continued farther east and then north, following the valley where Interstate 87 was later constructed.

Upon arriving in Elizabethtown, the sheriff organized inmates in the county jail to chop firewood for the famous travelers. They also camped in his field.

AUSABLE RIVER

From Elizabethtown, the Vagabonds drove along Lake Champlain, passing through Westport and Essex, and then through Keeseville, Ausable Chasm and Au Sable Forks. Their next campsite was beside the Ausable River.

Burroughs, who wrote several books about fishing, described the Ausable River as "plausible and sauciful." Knowing his penchant for casting a line, he probably tried to catch a trout, as the river already had a reputation as one of the best trout streams on the East Coast. I bet he chose the campsite that night, too.

LAKE PLACID

From there, the Vagabonds veered west again, back into the heart of the Adirondack Park. They passed through Lake Placid 16 years before it hosted its first of two Olympic winter games, then continued through Saranac Lake and Paul Smiths.

In Paul Smiths, they turned north once more, eventually exiting the Adirondack Park near Malone. Between Paul Smiths and Malone, they passed Meacham Lake, where yet another state campground now exists, another of my favorite lakeside spots for paddling and fishing. The trailhead for Debar Mountain is also at the campground.

RETURN TO THE ADIRONDACKS

The Vagabonds enjoyed their first camping trip in the Adirondacks so much, they went again in 1919. By then, the paparazzi had started following them on their outings. An entire town would greet them as they passed through.

The publicity they generated on these vacations certainly spawned RVing as we know it, and the places

they visited remain among the most popular camping destinations in the Adirondack Park.

Despite these intrusions from the press and the public, the Vagabonds still found respite from the pressures of their lives while camping. Burroughs aptly summed it up, "The thought of it, and the joy of it and the good of it stays with one for many a day." **TV**

TAMRON
One Moment, One Lens

400MM - ZOOM

THE TRAVEL ZOOM
www.tamron-usa.com

18-400mm Di II VC HLD

Powerful performance that exceeds your imagination.

World's first 22.2x ultra-telephoto high-power zoom lens. Capture thrilling close-up action in a snap.

18-400mm F/3.5-6.3 Di II VC HLD (Model B028)

For Canon and Nikon mounts
Di II: For APS-C format DSLR cameras

TAMRON www.tamron-usa.com



ONLY AVAILABLE AT YOUR
AUTHORIZED TAMRON USA RETAILER



IF YOU DON'T KNOW AIR LIFT,

YOU KNOW SQUAT.



You thought it would be the greatest camping trip of your lives in your brand-new, 30-foot glamer. In all the excitement for that wood-fired hot dog, it didn't occur to you that your suspension wouldn't cut the mustard. Now you're bouncing and bucking like a bull. You might be thinking you need a bigger truck. Nope. What you really need is Air Lift. With just the push of a button, you can literally raise or lower your truck's suspension — giving you the extra support you need to get you back on the level. And right now, you can get up to a **\$150 rebate!***



Find your kit at nosquat.com



Celebrating



1949-2019



For 70 years we've been committed to eliminating squat by providing high quality air helper springs and on-board compressor systems for trucks, RVs, SUVs, CUVs and vans.

*Visit the website for full details

Air Lift Company, Circle 101 on Reader Service Card

RV HOUSE HUNTERS

Follow along with a full-timing couple as they comparison shop for a new fifth-wheel to call home

After a dozen years of living full time in our 36-foot 2007 NuWa HitchHiker fifth-wheel, my husband, Mark, and I are looking for a new rolling home. Our 2016 Ram 3500 dually with a 4.10 rear-axle ratio can tow a heavy trailer, and our search has included both fifth-wheel toy haulers and conventional fifth-wheels. Since this is our home, we are considering all price points.

Among the most important features when shopping for a large fifth-wheel, especially for full-time living, are the braking system and the weight-carrying capacity. Although most fifth-wheels are equipped with electric drum brakes, on our current trailer we upgraded to electric-over-hydraulic disc brakes,

and the difference in stopping power and braking modulation was monumental.

Formerly called net carrying capacity (ncc), cargo carrying capacity (ccc) is defined as the weight equal to the GVWR minus the unloaded vehicle weight (UVW), full freshwater tanks, water heater and LP-gas cylinders, and optional factory and dealer-installed equipment and accessories. As full-timers who dry camp almost every night and fill the tanks with freshwater and propane as we travel, our ccc target is 3,000 pounds or more. We want the holding tanks in our new rig to be at least as big as what we have in our current fifth-wheel: 70 gallons fresh, 78 gallons gray and 50 gallons black.

RV JOIE DE VIVRE

For Emily and Mark Fagan, one of the joys of full-time RVing is morning coffee outdoors with a constantly changing view.





ON THE FACTORY FLOOR

Factory tours take shoppers behind the scenes to see how their prospective RV is made. Above and top left: During the Fagans' tour of the KZ-RV factory in Shipshewana, Indiana, a number of Durango Gold fifth-wheels were in the early stages of creation before the slideouts were installed, and other freshly minted models awaited the finishing touches. Left: The RV Factory in Elkhart, Indiana, builds high-end Luxe fifth-wheels. While touring the plant, the Fagans observed stacks of well-made drawers with dovetail joints.

In addition, our other must-haves are comfortable living room seating, a small dining table big enough for two and an RV refrigerator that can run on LP-gas or electric.

SIZING UP THE MARKET

Our search for a new full-time fifth-wheel took us to Missouri, Oklahoma and Elkhart, Indiana, the heart of the RV industry, for factory tours. The highest end fivers and toy haulers are custom models by Space Craft, semi-custom models by New Horizons and the RV Factory, and slightly modifiable designs by DRV Luxury Suites. Disc brakes, 17½-inch wheels and axles rated at 8,000 pounds are standard features or factory options on these trailers, and the fit and finish can include things like dovetail joints on drawers, automotive body paint and a fiberglass roof.

These brands are extremely solid and well built, but all that fine quality adds up to a lot of weight. Aluminum siding in place of gelcoat fiberglass lightens a trailer considerably. Both Sundowner and Aluminum Toyhauler Company (ATC) offer rugged aluminum-sided toy haulers. The ATC fifth-wheel has an extraordinary ccc that exceeds 9,000 pounds, but it is a three-season RV. Sundowner offers a beautiful customizable interior, but these trailers are designed for a gooseneck hitch rather than a fifth-wheel hitch, and the bedroom ceiling is not standing height unless a taller unit is custom ordered.

We toured several more RV plants and found that most

OUR SEARCH FOR A NEW FULL-TIME FIFTH-WHEEL TOOK US TO MISSOURI, OKLAHOMA AND ELKHART, INDIANA, THE HEART OF THE RV INDUSTRY, FOR FACTORY TOURS.

non-custom fifth-wheels are built in about three days, and the construction, appliances and systems are fairly similar across the brands at each price point. The relatively short list of options available to buyers is necessary to avoid slowdowns and complications in production.

While top-of-the-line trailers have thicker floor and roof decking, and some have 3-inch or thicker walls or a fiberglass underbelly, most larger non-custom fivers have thinner decking and 2- or 2.25-inch polystyrene-insulated walls. Spun fiberglass insulates the underbelly, front cap and roof, and the underbelly is usually enclosed with corrugated plastic. Many fifth-wheels have a furnace heat duct in the basement and/or 12-volt DC tank heaters to prevent the holding tanks from freezing. Some manufacturers place furnace ducts in baseboards under cabinets and the dresser and on stair risers because floor registers are prone to collecting debris and getting bent or broken louvers.

On the exterior, automotive body paint looks best, is easiest to maintain and costs the most. Gelcoat is common at higher price points, while harder-to-maintain fiberglass is the norm at lower price points. Sleek frameless windows appear on higher end trailers, but the framed windows on lower end units are equally functional and may offer better ventilation. A heavy fiberglass roof is easier to maintain, but a lower end TPO or EPDM membrane can be upgraded later with an aftermarket roof system, like those from FlexArmor or RV Armor, that includes a lifetime warranty.

The overall height and width of a fifth-wheel have a huge impact on how spacious or cozy it feels inside. Most fivers are 8 or 8½ feet wide and anywhere from 12½ to 13½ feet tall. The extra inches create high ceilings and an airy atmosphere but make the RV too tall to fit under some bridges and fuel-station awnings.

Today's Lesson: **PLASTIC IS FOR TOYS**

PLASTIC

Baby Dolls
Action Figures
Garbage Cans
Soda Bottles

STEEL

Premier Fuel Tanks
Armored Vehicles
Skyscrapers
Battleships

Transfer Flow + U.S. Steel = Premier Fuel Tanks

With more than 35 years of experience, Transfer Flow is the leader in American-made fuel tank systems. Unlike plastic aftermarket tanks, Transfer Flow fuel tanks are engineered for excellence and crafted from the highest quality American materials.

Plastic aftermarket tanks are made using rotational molding, which results in varied thickness and questionable reliability. Transfer Flow's premier fuel tanks are made with ReliaSteel®, high-yield U.S. aluminized steel. So when it comes to durability, there are no questions!

All Transfer Flow fuel tanks ship as complete systems and include every component needed for installation. You can rest easy knowing that your Transfer Flow fuel tank is safe, legal, reliable, and backed by our 6-year, unlimited mileage warranty to keep your adventure going mile after mile.



REPLACEMENT TANKS



REFUELING TANKS



(844) 873-3706 | TransferFlow.com

Transfer Flow Inc., Circle 144 on Reader Service Card



IN-BED TANKS



TOOL BOX COMBOS



GETTING THE FEEL FOR A RIG

When we walk through a prospective fifth-wheel, Mark studies the basement to make sure there is enough room for his tools and spare parts. Units with a drop frame are built with the main floor resting on one pair of steel I-beams from the rear end of the trailer to the door, and the midsection resting on a lower pair of smaller I-beams from the door to the riser on the fifth-wheel overhang. This allows for a big basement. However, this design introduces additional joints and welds along the length of the frame that do not exist with a straight frame. The highest end trailers have steel gussets and extra vertical supports to strengthen the critical joints in this area.

While Mark checks out the basement, I study the kitchen and try to imagine making a meal. We prefer at least two work areas so both of us can function in the kitchen at the same time. Additional counter space for drying dishes is a plus. I like to keep our dishware, glassware and coffee mugs on an upper-cabinet shelf, which some toy haulers don't have. Many RV kitchen drawers are smaller than standard-size silverware trays, and some pot-and-pan drawers cannot hold a large skillet. Finding a home for cooking utensils, spices, cereal boxes, cans and appliances is as important as finding wall outlets for the toaster, blender and coffeepot.

Together, we relax in the theater seats and sofa for a long time to determine if they will be as comfortable at the end of happy hour as they were at the beginning. Shallow slideouts in the living area of some models and floorplans require the front of the theater seats and/or sofa to rest on rollers that roll across the floor as the slide moves in and out. This makes it difficult to replace the furniture down the road, a concern for us as full-timers.

Traveling with a Polaris RZR has ramped up the Fagans' adventures but made their search for a new rolling home a bit more complex.

⬆️ LIVABILITY FEATURES

- 1) In the Fagans' current fifth-wheel, the use of an 8-cubic-foot refrigerator, in lieu of an 18-cubic-foot model, nets a foot of counter space, a drawer, a lower cabinet with two shelves and an upper cabinet with three shelves.
- 2) When sizing up a prospective fifth-wheel, pretend to make a meal in the kitchen. Is there a place for all the dishware, cooking utensils, pantry items and appliances? Are there sufficient wall outlets and lights? Can two people work in the space at the same time?
- 3) Many fifth-wheel trailers, even ones designed for extended living, neglect to include kitchen drawers large enough for standard size silverware and utensil trays.
- 4) The trade-off for the convenience of a stacked washer-dryer is additional closet space. In their 12-year-old HitchHiker, the Fagans opted for extra room for coats and shoes rather than laundry appliances.
- 5) Make sure to sample the seating for size and comfort. Does it recline if there's no shorepower? Can your feet touch the floor if your back is against the backrest? Could the furniture be replaced down the road?
- 6) A quick-release LP-gas fitting makes it easy to connect a standalone grill. If the fifth-wheel you're considering has an outdoor kitchen, make sure the chef is happy with the height of the counter and cooktop.





**IT MATTERS WHERE YOUR HITCH IS MADE.
LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR STORY.**

WWW.BWTRAILERHITCHES.COM/OUR-STORY



#TOWINGADVENTURE



B&W Trailer Hitches, Circle 104 on Reader Service Card

Similarly, queen beds in most fifth-wheels are the standard residential size of 60-by-80 inches, but king beds are either 70-by-80 or 72-by-80 inches, rather than the wider standard residential king size of 76-by-80 inches. This severely limits the choices for upgrading from the factory mattress to something more comfortable. If the bed is perpendicular to the direction of travel in a slideout (east/west), there is usually

a spacious wardrobe closet in the front cap. If the bed is parallel to the direction of travel (north/south), a smaller wardrobe is often in a slideout. Some fifth-wheels have a rear bedroom that has a high ceiling and sizable closets.

Since we favor dry camping, a washer-dryer is not practical in our rig, plus we enjoy meeting people at coin-operated laundries. Installing a washer-dryer also takes up valuable

Took a different route



Not delivered

Won't be stopping by



Not delivered



DRIVE X RV

Don't let them wonder as you wander.

Off the beaten path, adventure's not the only thing waiting for you. So is unreliable cell coverage.

With weBoost, you amplify the existing cell signal throughout your RV. Giving you the power to stay connected with family and loved ones back home—wherever you are, wherever you go.



SIDE-BY-SIDE IN TOW

We no longer call our rig the Buggy. We call it the Train



Our search for a new rolling home was complicated by the fact that we now own a Polaris RZR 900 trail-model side-by-side (SxS). We have been triple-towing the off-highway vehicle behind our fifth-wheel, and it hasn't been as much of a challenge as we anticipated, particularly since we typically boondock. The downside is that towing the RZR restricts our travel to places that allow this configuration, unless we store the SxS and its utility trailer when in states that don't allow triple-towing.

Since we like to travel with the RZR, our fifth-wheel search initially included toy haulers, but we are now leaning toward continuing to triple-tow the SxS and purchasing a conventional fifth-wheel because the living areas and storage are more generous and tend to feel homier.

An unexpected benefit of towing the RZR is that its trailer can double as an outdoor deck when we boondock. It isn't attached to the fifth-wheel the way a toy-hauler patio is, but it does get us up off the ground.

Below: Towing their RZR behind their fifth-wheel, known as triple-towing, rather than garaging it in a toy hauler, gives the Fagans the option of using the RZR's utility trailer as a raised patio when boondocking near OHV trails.



closet space and means clothing on hangers must go elsewhere. We take a tape measure to RV dealerships to verify that closets are deep enough for hanging clothes on standard-size hangers. Some fifth-wheels have clever shoe storage under the stairs.

Shower doors appear on higher end units in place of less expensive shower curtains. A few floorplans offer twin vanity sinks or even two bathrooms. Usually, a second bath or half-bath increases the

black-water holding-tank capacity. We look around to determine where damp bath towels, dirty laundry, clean linens and bedding will be stored, and to make sure the medicine cabinet will hold the necessities. Skylights brighten the interior but heat up the rig in warm weather.

KEEPING THINGS SIMPLE

For us, an 8- or 10-cubic-foot refrigerator (24 inches wide) is preferable to an 18-cubic-foot model (36 inches wide) because it allows an extra foot of space along the interior wall for additional countertop and storage. When dry camping, a smaller refrigerator requires less frequent propane fill-ups than a larger fridge.

Pricier trailers use hydraulics to drive both the leveling system and heavier slideouts, while less expensive trailers rely on electric mechanisms. We like to operate our slides independently to avoid mishaps as they move in and out. However, most manufacturers control two or more hydraulic slides with one switch. The slides can be operated independently by going outside to open and close the hydraulic valves in an exterior compartment. Electric slideouts usually have one dedicated wall switch per slide mechanism located inside, which we find more convenient.

While traveling, we often stop for a bite to eat or a nap on the road. On these occasions, as well as when grocery shopping, we like to access the whole kitchen, bathroom and bedroom without opening the slideouts. This is a tall order for RV designers. With some floorplans, opening only one slideout provides good access, which highlights the importance of independently switched slideout mechanisms.

Some manufacturers have abandoned mechanical, wall-mounted slideout switches and light switches in favor of an electronic touch pad and mobile app that operate everything. We prefer keeping it simple with independent wall switches, not only to avoid a single electronic failure affecting all operations but also to keep from having to walk back to a touch pad in the middle of the trailer to turn on a light at the far end.

Many fifth-wheels have multiple

TVs. One is enough for us, so we consider alternative uses of the wall spaces if we remove the extra TV(s).

Instead of an outdoor kitchen, we prefer having a quick-connect LP-gas fitting near the entry door to attach a standalone grill. Many outdoor kitchens stand so high off the ground that I'd have

to raise my hand to chin height to stir a pot or stand on a stool while cooking.

Our search has been a great learning experience, and we've seen many beautiful trailers. However, we have not yet found a fifth-wheel to become our new rolling home, and we are looking forward to the rollout of the new 2020 models. **TR**



MORE ONLINE: WONDERING IF FULL-TIME RVING IS RIGHT FOR YOU? CHECK OUT EMILY FAGAN'S "ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME" AT WWW.TRAILERLIFE.COM/LIFESTYLE/GUIDE-TO-FULL-TIME-RVING.

The World's Most Advanced Surge Protector

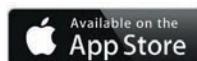
Introducing the "Power Watchdog" advanced wireless smart surge protector

Connect your smart phone to the Power Watchdog via Bluetooth

- Wirelessly monitor park power
- Get phone alerts of dangerous conditions
- Protects against costly RV repairs
- Replaceable surge protection module
- Industry leading 2,400 or 4,800 Joules protection
- LED face turns red if there is an error



www.hughesautoformers.com
888-540-1504 | info@autoformers.com



Hughes Autoformer, Circle 123 on Reader Service Card

WHEREVER YOU GO



1.

2.

1. DOMETIC PLB40
2. DOMETIC CFX 40W

EAT WELL

Specifically designed to fit all kinds of vehicles, the CFX Series is a range of compact powered coolers that keep food and drinks cold or even frozen while away from home. The range includes a variety of models, available in single and dual zones. Single zone models can refrigerate or deep freeze, while dual zone models are able to refrigerate and/or freeze simultaneously.

To find out more, visit dometic.com

Dometic Corporation, Circle 109 on Reader Service Card

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FISHING

Whether watching a bobber on a jewel-blue lake or backcasting a fly rod in a meandering river, you'll feel like you're fishing on the top of the world in the Rockies

— by Jack Ballard

Cruise through a campground in the Rocky Mountains and you'll encounter a variety of shelters, from humble pup tents to RVs costing more than the average home in Wyoming. But whether it's a 7-foot tent or a 37-foot camping trailer, there's a piece of recreational gear that's probably among the owner's kit. That would be a fishing rod.

Among the activities campers pursue while recreating in the big, wide world of the great outdoors, fishing is high on the list. According to a 2017 national survey, fishing ranked just behind hiking as the most popular recreational activity with campers, with more than four in 10 adults reporting that they fish while camping. Among teens, fishing is wildly popular, with eight out of 10 teens reporting that they love to wed camping with angling adventures.

From casual fishers watching a bobber to hardcore fly-casters, few anglers don't dream of catching a trout. Trout fin the rivers and prowl lakes and reservoirs in many destinations across the United States. But nowhere is the mystique of trout fishing in a magical setting more available than in the Rocky Mountains.

FISH ON!
Catching a trout on a pristine river is among the greatest thrills an angler can experience.

And why not? As a family of fish, trout need cold, clear water for reproduction and survival. Nowhere in North America is this commodity more prevalent than in the spine of the continent that spans the contiguous United States from Canada to the Mexico border.

It's little wonder that the Rocky Mountain states hold the most treasured trout destinations in the country, many of them within eyeshot of a public campground or RV park. Along with trout, lakes and rivers in the Rockies support a host of other fish species popular with anglers, including mountain whitefish, northern pike, walleye, arctic grayling, smallmouth bass and many others.

TRACKING TEMPERATURES

Making the most of fishing the Rocky Mountain states begins with understanding the scaled species you'd most like to tackle. Like other types of wildlife, different varieties of fish tend to occupy specific types of habitat.

Fish inhabiting the mountains and high plains are often characterized in relation to the water temperatures in which they're most comfortable. In my home state of Montana, for example, fish are frequently dubbed "warmwater" or "cold-water" species.



Trout fishing in the Rocky Mountains plops an angler into some of the most scenic places in the country.



Top: Many camping areas in the Western states are adjacent to water and excellent fishing. Above: An angler prepares to release a westslope cutthroat trout. The sale of fishing licenses helps pay for conservation efforts to sustain such native fish species.

Bass, bluegills, northern pike and walleye are among the first category, though pike, walleye and smallmouth bass can tolerate quite cool water. Among the cold-water clan, anglers find several species of trout, mountain whitefish and arctic grayling.

When it comes to trout, habitat selection in relation to water temperature is also variable. Brown trout, a species that originated in Europe but was translocated to the United States, can handle much warmer water than native cutthroat trout. Thus, brown trout are often the dominant species on lowland rivers and lakes on the plains. Brook trout (native to the upper Midwest and eastern states) and cutthroat (native to the Rocky Mountains) require very cold water and are most frequently found in high mountain lakes, upper-elevation rivers and shaded creeks. Rainbow trout (transplanted to the Rockies from the Pacific Northwest) are the intermediates. They're at home in cold, high-elevation waters, but also thrive in cool rivers and lakes on the plains and foothills.

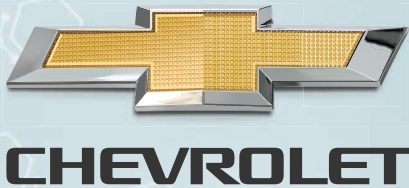
COLORADO CATCH

In the late 1880s, the state of Colorado began stocking fish in Rocky Mountain National Park. In the early 1900s, fish hatcheries were constructed near Estes Park and Grand Lake, producing hundreds of thousands of fish annually. Nowadays, there are plenty of fish, though the native greenback cutthroat trout is federally listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.

iN·Command[®]

CONTROL SYSTEMS

The only
SMART trailer system
used by



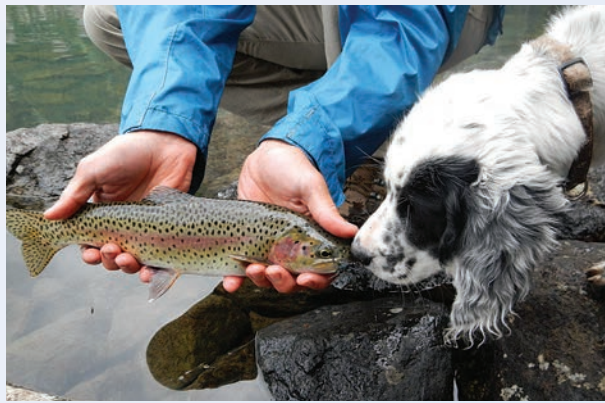
Your truck and trailer should be connected by more than just a hitch. iN·Command[®] Control Systems has been chosen as the first-ever RV control system compatible with 2020 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra Heavy Duty trucks. The myChevrolet and myGMC apps for Apple and Android smartphones work with iN·Command[®] with Global Connect to create a seamless experience, bringing smart trailer monitoring and control to the driver's seat.



Relax, you're
iN·Command[®]
www.in-command.net

ASA Electronics, Circle 103 on Reader Service Card

To understand how water temperature affects fishing opportunities, the Yellowstone River that flows through Wyoming and Montana to North Dakota is a perfect example. Where it exits Yellowstone Lake in Yellowstone National Park, the river is home to native Yellowstone



cutthroat trout. Cutthroats are also found through the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone below the famous Lower Falls. Some distance downstream, but before the river exits the national park at the Montana border, rainbow and brown trout mingle with the cutthroats.

Although he won't be sharing the fish supper, the author's English setter, Percy, seems happy to approve the menu. Trout, like this rainbow, are tasty when taken from cold, clean water.

cutthroat trout. Cutthroats are also found through the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone below the famous Lower Falls. Some distance downstream, but before the river exits the national park at the Montana border, rainbow and brown trout mingle with the cutthroats.

About 50 miles below the state line, cutthroats become scarce as the average water temperature rises, and rainbow and brown trout dominate. On the middle section of the river, smallmouth bass become present, and rainbows less prevalent. Brown trout maintain a foothold the farthest downstream of the trout species, but eventually the river becomes the territory of warmwater fish, including smallmouth bass, sauger and others.

Fish in the Rockies are highly influenced by water temperature. Their activities



STREAM ACCESS 101

Laws governing public access to streams in the Rocky Mountain states vary widely. In Montana, anglers can enter streams at designated fishing access sites, other public lands and from road right-of-ways at bridge crossings. Once on the stream, they can travel freely, so long as they stay within the high-water line of the streambed. Idaho's laws are similar. Colorado, by contrast, has much more restrictive access. Private landowners are deemed to own the streambed, making public access possible only on public lands or easements. Access rules are an important part of planning a fishing trip. Know before you go!

License to Fish

Fishing regulations and rules vary by state. In most cases, you'll need a fishing license, and not having one could carry a steep fine. Be sure to research in advance to make the best of your angling adventures.

www.fishandgamelicense.org

Rocky Mountain RVing

For information on RV campsites in the Rocky Mountains, visit the National Park Service's Camping page at www.nps.gov/subjects/camping and the Good Sam website at www.goodsam.com/campgrounds-rv-parks.



IT'S LITTLE WONDER THAT THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN STATES HOLD THE MOST TREASURED TROUT DESTINATIONS IN THE COUNTRY, MANY OF THEM WITHIN EYESHOT OF A PUBLIC CAMPGROUND OR RV PARK.

☞ Fly tackle is a little harder to master than spinning gear, but it is advantageous in some situations for trout fishing.



Small footprint is perfect for RV living!

Enjoy DISH® Pay As You Go Programming with the Wally® HD Receiver!

DISH Wally® HD Satellite Receiver #87758
Club SALE \$79.99 Reg. \$89.99

USER-FRIENDLY FEATURES!

- Works with any DISH® satellite antenna to bring you Pay As You Go Programming
- Radio frequency remote can be used inside or outside the RV and through a wall up to 200 ft. away
- Locate your missing remote with the remote finder
- Easy access to your favorite apps and streaming content like Netflix (requires streaming membership and Wi-Fi Adapter)
- Additional Wally® accessories available including: Bluetooth adapter, Wi-Fi adapter and additional remotes

With DISH® Pay As You Go Programming**:

- Pay only for the months you use
- Compatible with all DISH-specific antennas and most mobile satellite antennas
- Only DISH offers Pay As You Go Programming
- No charge to start or stop monthly service
- Programming for as little as \$37.99 per month!

Hurry, offer expires September 2, 2019. Call Camping World at 1.877.793.4801 to activate your DISH programming!

****Important Terms and Conditions:** All prices, fees, charges, packages, programming, features, functionality and offers subject to change without notice.

Installation/Equipment Requirements: Monthly fees and limits on number and type of receivers will apply. All charges, including monthly programming, pay-per-view and equipment upgrades, must be paid in advance; failure to pay by due date will lead to service disconnection within 24 hours. Miscellaneous: Offers available for new and qualified former customers. Offers subject to terms of applicable Promotional and Residential Customer agreements. Taxes or reimbursement charges for state gross earnings taxes may apply. Additional restrictions may apply.

CAMPING WORLD®

SuperCenters Nationwide | 1.877.793.4801 | CampingWorld.com/shop

dish
Authorized Retailer

Dish, Circle 102 on Reader Service Card

— and availability to anglers — are also subject to an annual water cycle. Spawning, feeding and their whereabouts in a stream or river generally occur in predictable patterns throughout the year. To find the greatest success, focus your efforts on the destinations most likely to have active, accessible fish at a particular time during the season.

HIGHS AND LOWS OF WATER

One of the biggest yearly factors on Rocky Mountain streams is the runoff. This term simply applies to the peak of melting snowpack that usually occurs in May or June, depending on the latitude. The runoff normally brings streams to high, often dangerous levels. It also dumps lots of sediment into the water, making it nearly impossible for fish to see an angler's fly or lure.

However, there are a couple of attractive alternative fisheries during the runoff. One is "tailwater" rivers, segments of streams occurring below major dams that catch sediment. For example, the Grey Reef segment of the North Platte River in central Wyoming (upstream from Casper) occurs below several major dams that catch runoff. Most years find excellent late-spring and early summer fishing here for plenteous, large rainbow trout. Lakes and reservoirs can also be fished during the runoff, and typically offer some of their best angling at this time, especially for trout.

One of the largest trout I've landed was a beautiful Snake River cutthroat (a subspecies common to Wyoming) taken in late spring from a float tube on a modest prairie reservoir near Cody. Popular tailwater sections and many prime reservoirs are also home to campgrounds, making them ideal destinations for RVers.

Once the runoff subsides, usually by the end of June, trout fishing enters some of the peak weeks of the year. Clear water means trout can see the bait. Just after the flush of water from melting snowpacks ebb, stream temperatures remain cool enough to keep trout active. This is also a good time to target warmwater species. Temperatures in lakes, ponds



Individual rivers offer their best fishing at certain times of the year and under various circumstances. Knowing such characteristics of water bodies — like Idaho's Buffalo River, pictured above, which flows at an elevation above 6,000 feet — ups the odds of a successful trout trip.

and slow-moving rivers where bass and the like are found rise during early to midsummer, making these warmwater-loving species more mobile and aggressive as well.

TACKLE TACTICS

Novice anglers are often confused about tackle. Both spinning gear and fly outfits are used by trout anglers in the Rockies. Which is best? Most warmwater fishers opt for spinning tackle. Is it possible to catch species such as northern pike and smallmouth bass on a fly rod?

For sheer simplicity, spinning gear offers a quicker and easier path to fishing than fly tackle. It's very effective in most situations, on both streams and flat water (lakes, ponds and reservoirs). Fly tackle is a bit more difficult to master but offers clear advantages in some situations. When insects are hatching from the surface of a river or lake, trout and other species will often feed voraciously on the bugs just as they attempt to fly from the water. In the parlance of fly-fishing, this is known as a "hatch."

Fly tackle allows the angler to cast "dry flies" that float on the surface. Fish rising to take such a fly represent one of the most exciting aspects of fly-fishing. Spin-casters can toss dry flies with a floating casting bubble, but the feel and finesse of such fishing with a fly rod is vastly superior.

No matter which gear you use, getting a fly or lure in front of a fish is perhaps the most important aspect of being a successful Rocky Mountain angler. Fish normally congregate at a particular depth in the water column for comfort (temperature) or in relation to forage. As a general rule, most species will be closer to

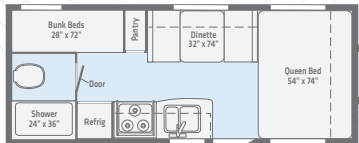
ONE OF THE LARGEST TROUT I'VE LANDED WAS A BEAUTIFUL SNAKE RIVER CUTTHROAT TAKEN IN LATE SPRING FROM A FLOAT TUBE ON A MODEST PRAIRIE RESERVOIR NEAR CODY, WYOMING.



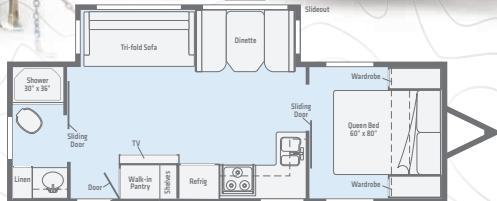
**MICRO
MINNIE**



MINNIE



1800BH



2701RBS

ORDINARY DOESN'T LIVE HERE

Our Micro Minnie is lightweight, affordable and easy to tow, and offers all the comforts of home in a convenient 7'-wide camper. Need a bit more room? With premium features and a spacious floorplan with slideout, the lightweight 8'-wide Minnie is as easy to live in as it is to tow.

**USE THE DEALER LOCATOR AT WINNEBAGOIND.COM
TO FIND YOURS TODAY!**



Winnebago Towables, Circle 147 on Reader Service Card

©2019 Winnebago Industries, Inc.

OPEN AND USE EITHER GOOD SAM REWARDS CREDIT CARD AND

EARN

5

POINTS PER \$1 SPENT

Today and every day at our family of brands¹



YOUR CREDIT CARD FOR EVERYTHING OUTDOORS



GOOD SAM REWARDS VISA® CREDIT CARD

When approved you'll rack up rewards faster on every dollar you spend!

5 POINTS

per \$1 at our family of brands¹



3 POINTS

per \$1 at private campgrounds & gas stations²



1 POINT

per \$1 everywhere else



2,000 BONUS POINTS the first time you use your card for a purchase³

DOUBLE POINTS on purchases outside our family of brands for the first 90 days (up to 2,000 points)⁴

REDEEM points for cash back as a statement credit, Good Sam memberships, restaurant, retail and gas gift cards and more.


Redemption start as low as 1,500 points!



GOOD SAM REWARDS CREDIT CARD

We have all your outdoor needs covered when approved for the Good Sam Rewards Credit Card.

5 POINTS per \$1 at our family of brands¹   

\$10 REWARDS CERTIFICATE for every 1,500 points you earn! 

VISIT A CAMPING WORLD OR GANDER OUTDOORS TO APPLY!

Not near a store? Call: **1-844-271-2591** Visit: **GoodSam.com/CreditCard**

TDD/TTY **1-888-819-1918**

¹ Offer subject to credit approval. Good Sam Rewards Cardholders will earn five (5) points for every one dollar (\$1.00) of Net Purchases spent on eligible products and services from Good Sam Enterprises, LLC and its affiliates and partners, including but not limited to the following: Camping World, Good Sam, Gander Outdoors, and Overton's. The Rewards program is provided by Comenity Capital Bank and its terms may be changed or discontinued at any time. For full Rewards Terms and Conditions, please see www.comenity.net/goodsamrewardsvisa or www.comenity.net/goodsamrewardscreditcard.

² Each merchant is assigned a code by a third party that indicates the merchant's area of business. 3 points per \$1 spent at gas stations and private campgrounds will only be awarded if the merchant code for the purchase matches a category eligible for the offer. Comenity Capital Bank does not have the ability to control assignment of merchant codes.

³ A one-time bonus award of (2,000) Rewards Points will be awarded to new Good Sam Rewards Visa® Cardholders after the first purchase is posted to the Account. Bonus Rewards Points will be posted approximately 30 days after the initial qualifying transaction.

⁴ Good Sam Rewards Visa® Cardholders will earn double points (up to 2,000 bonus points total) on all purchases made outside Gander Outdoors, Camping World, Good Sam, Overton's, The House, Coast to Coast, TL Enterprises and NGIC within the first 90 days of account opening.

The Good Sam Rewards Credit Card is issued by Comenity Capital Bank. The Good Sam Rewards Visa® and Visa Signature® cards are issued by Comenity Capital Bank, pursuant to license from Visa® U.S.A. Inc. Visa is a registered trademark of Visa U.S.A. Inc.

©2019 CWI, Inc. & Good Sam Enterprises, LLC. CAMPING WORLD and the CAMPING WORLD Logo are registered trademarks of CWI, Inc. GOOD SAM and the GOOD SAM ICON are registered trademarks of Good Sam Enterprises, LLC. Unauthorized use of any of the CWI, Inc. and GSE, LLC trademarks is expressly prohibited. All rights reserved. GCR56368 - 0219



Fishing is popular among teenagers who camp. It doesn't get much better than floating in an inflatable kayak on a high plains pond.

the surface when air temperatures are cooler in the spring or fall. They retreat into deeper water during the hot spells of summer.

On a recent summer outing in Colorado, my wife, Lisa, and I weren't having any luck fishing our flies toward the surface of a foothills reservoir. A change in depth was the ticket to action. As soon as I started fishing slightly deeper water, I hit pay dirt, in the form of a plucky smallmouth bass.

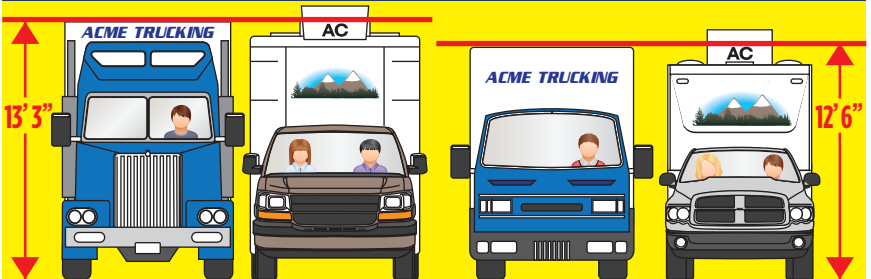
Plumbing the proper depth if fish aren't near the surface is as simple as weighting your offering, be it a fly or lure. In smartly moving streams, weighted baits sink deeper the further they're carried downstream. Achieving more depth in such situations requires a heavier weight or letting the lure drift farther downstream.

On lakes, methodically fishing various depths is easier. Simply cast your weighted fly or lure, then use the countdown method (counting one, two, three, etc.) before beginning the retrieve. If a trout strikes on a retrieve after a seven count, you now know the average depth at which the fish are hanging.

There's a reason all those teens are so enamored with fishing as a complementary activity to camping. It's challenging and fun. What's more, there's perhaps no more satisfying meal on the planet than the catch of the day, personally caught and prepared at a waterside campground. **TL**

MORE ONLINE: READ MORE FROM JACK BALLARD AT WWW.TRAILERLIFE.COM/TAG/JACK-BALLARD AND WWW.JACKBALLARD.COM. JACK HAS WRITTEN MORE THAN 100 ARTICLES ON FISHING.

ARE YOU DRIVING A TALL 5th WHEEL or TRAVEL TRAILER?



Then you're driving a "Big Rig"! Use what the pro's use to protect their equipment from "Low Clearance" Collisions.
GiraffeG4.com • 877-543-1087 **GiraffeG4**

Fender Skirts, AC Shrouds, Waste Tanks, Fresh Water Tanks, Skylights, Step Trims, Bathtubs, Shower Pans...

RV STOP OVERTS?

As a thank you to the RV industry that we serve, we've made full service stop over sites available for free! Stop by our production facility in Winkler, Manitoba and get a few good night's rest.

- Waste hook up
- Fresh Water hook up
- 50 or 30 Amp Electrical
- Guest Wifi
- Part pickup
- Located centrally in North America



Expert help to get the correct part the first time

ICONDirect.com 1-888-362-4266

Icon Technologies, Circle 124 on Reader Service Card

THE HEAT IS ON

WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR INSTANT WARMTH FROM AN LP-GAS SOURCE OR PREFER BUILDING A WOOD CAMPFIRE, PORTABLE HEATERS AND FIREPITS CAN KEEP YOU TOASTY OUTSIDE WHEN TEMPERATURES DROP

— by Jerry Smith

For all the technology and sophistication of today's RVs, much of the fun of camping is spending time outdoors. But nature isn't always as accommodating as we'd like, and sometimes cold weather drives us back inside when we'd rather be outside conversing with friends or enjoying a clear, starry night.

Portable firepits and patio heaters take the bite out of chilly temperatures, they're quick and easy to set up and break down, and they can be stowed away in a minimum of space. Available in a variety of materials and styles, designed to burn wood or propane, they add light and heat to otherwise cold and dark days and nights spent outdoors.

IT'S THE PITS

Firepits can be simple round bowls on legs, bucket-shaped designs or ornate globes, and some can hold a grill for cooking. Some fold up for easy packing, while others are larger and bulkier, and might be better suited to full-time RV living where you stay put in one place for a long time rather than a more nomadic life.

Before you pick a firepit, consider its size, weight, how easily it stows away in your RV and how much effort it takes to maintain it. Copper, stainless steel and aluminum are all popular materials and are lightweight, rust resistant and easy to clean. Cast iron is heavier and

more susceptible to corrosion. Some materials like copper need to be cleaned regularly to keep them from staining. Others develop a pleasing patina of rust that adds to their appearance.

Most people burn wood in their firepits for that campfire look and smell. Of course, you have to plan ahead and bring the wood you need or hit up the camp store to buy a supply. Check local laws in advance. Some states have restrictions on importing firewood, and regulations are in place for moving wood beyond a 50-mile-radius of an emerald ash borer zone.

Charcoal can substitute for wood, putting out a long-lasting, even heat but without the visible flame. For areas where

PHOTOS: BOB DAVISON, MANUFACTURERS



wood fires are prohibited, LP-gas-fueled firepits do the same job without the ash and sparks. You'll need to carry an additional propane cylinder or plumb into your RV's LP-gas supply.

Whatever firepit you choose, make sure you're allowed to have open fires at the campground. Wildfires devastated countless acres of forest and destroyed millions of dollars' worth of homes and property last year, so campground operators and national park rangers have no sense of humor about fudging the fire regulations.

Firepit safety begins by clearing the area around the pit of anything combustible; 10 feet in all directions is the minimum. Place the pit on a nonflammable surface away from overhanging branches, and stack the extra wood upwind of the pit. Use only dry kindling to start the fire, not combustible liquid that can flare up, and throw the match in the fire. Keep a shovel and a bucket of water nearby in case you have to douse the flame quickly.

If you put the firepit too close to your RV, a small shift in the breeze can blow smoke inside, and the heat of the pit can damage the exterior. Ask other campers if the wind tends to change direction throughout the day, and position the pit accordingly, because it might be too hot to move later on. Strong, gusty or unpredictable winds are reason enough not to burn anything that can throw off sparks.

When it comes to fuel, remember that a firepit is not for trash disposal. Don't burn garbage, paper or anything that can spark, or soft woods like pine and cedar, which are also prone to sparking. Most campgrounds that permit open fires sell firewood. It's tempting to save a few bucks

by bringing scrap wood from home, but construction-grade wood is sometimes treated with chemicals that put out poisonous gases when they burn.

When the coals burn low and it's time to hit the sack, don't just let the fire burn out. Pour water on it until it's thoroughly wet, and stir the ashes with a shovel to make sure. The pit itself can retain heat for a while, so leave it out overnight and load it up the next morning. Stir the cold ash to make sure the fire is out and dispose of it in a metal container. And be respectful of other campers — you don't want the smoke from your fire blowing into a neighbor's RV.

INSTANT HEAT

Firepits with open flames aren't always practical or desirable. LP-gas patio heaters range from portable models small enough to put on a picnic table to full-size units that are more or less permanent. With no open flame or sparks, they're often allowed in fire-ban areas, but always check with the campground or rangers first.

LP-gas heaters are generally easier to use, and set up and break down with less effort than firepits, though many of the same commonsense safety tips apply. Heat output is quickly adjustable, too, meaning less time fussing with a heat source to get comfortable. Just don't be fooled into thinking LP-gas heaters get cool as soon as you turn them off. Like firepits, they retain heat for some time, so make sure they're cold before you move them.

Whether wood or LP-gas lights your fire, there are way too many firepits and propane heaters to list here, so we've chosen some standouts to get you started looking for the right one for your next starry night.



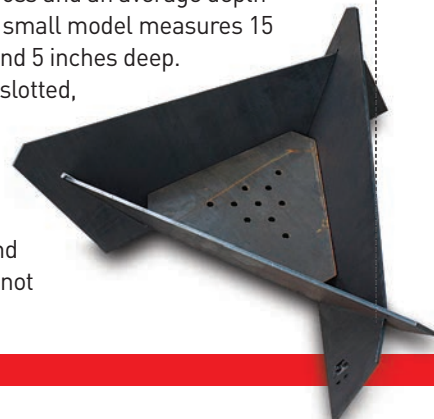
Set the Night on Fire

The **Bessemer Patio Fireplace** by Fire Sense (\$129.99) has a porcelain-enamel bowl and lid, an adjustable vent in the base of the bowl and a steel grate for wood fires. The powder-coated steel support frame has wheels and a handle grip, and there's a high-temperature painted spark screen above it. The mobile fireplace is about 28 inches in diameter and weighs 32 pounds.

The **Blowing Leaf Fire Sphere** from Esschert Design (\$383) is laser-cut from 3mm steel, making it sturdy and long lasting. Its two-piece design allows the base and sphere to be separated for easy cleanup and transport. It weighs 40 pounds and is available through Gander Outdoors and Amazon.



H.Bee Fire collapsible firepits (\$200 to \$450) come in four sizes and two types of steel: $\frac{3}{16}$ -inch Corten "weathering steel" and $\frac{1}{16}$ -inch hot-rolled structural steel. The large size has a burn area of 25 inches across and an average depth of 7 inches; the small model measures 15 inches across and 5 inches deep. All models use slotted, laser-cut panels that can be assembled without tools and store flat when not in use.



Shown here in the Wildlife design, the **Patina Products Fire Pit** (\$229.99) has a natural rust finish that ages beautifully over time. The safety ring surrounding the wood- or charcoal-burning pit functions as a footrest and handle, and sturdy welded legs prevent wobbling. Weighing 50 pounds and manufactured from cold-rolled steel, the firepit comes fully assembled for immediate use and is guaranteed not to burn or rust through for five years.



Available from Gander Outdoors and Amazon, the **Rust Fire Bowl** from Esschert Design (\$76.98) features a rusted-steel fire bowl on a solid square base. It weighs just over 47 pounds and measures 22 by 22 by 13 inches. The fire bowl is designed for a low flame to light up the night or roast marshmallows.

The **Fireside Outdoor Pop-Up Fire Pit** (\$119.95) sets up in a minute without tools and is said to be cool to the touch 90 seconds after the fire is extinguished. It packs smaller than a camping chair and weighs less than 8 pounds. The included heat shield allows fires on any surface without damage, reflecting 98 percent of the heat to keep the ground cool. Made of never-rust materials, it includes a fire mesh bottom for airflow and 80 percent less smoke.



TIPS

FOR FIREPITS

While the fire is going, don't leave it unattended, and save some wood for later instead of starting a roaring blaze right off. Firepits with wire-mesh covers keep embers inside and keep small children and pets from falling in. Don't use a firepit inside a screen room or under an awning made of flammable material — or better yet, under any awning. And remember that loose, flammable clothing can burn or melt from heat alone, not just direct flame. Keeping a bucket of water close by is always a good idea, no matter how large the flame or firepit.



The easy-to-assemble **Stone River Fire Pit/Grill Combo** (\$197) is made from cold-rolled steel with decorative cutouts in several styles. The Wildlife model shown here is about 28 inches in diameter and weighs less than 27 pounds. It comes with an inner mesh screen welded in place to keep coals and sparks contained, and can be converted into a grill for open-flame cooking.

The **Voyager Portable Fire Pit** (\$179.99) from Airxcel weighs less than 20 pounds and features folding legs and a locking lid for transport and storage. The 54,000-Btu firepit has a 15-inch-diameter burner opening with variable high to low settings. An 8-foot hose with an attached regulator is included (LP-gas only), and the Voyager can be used anywhere with LP-gas. It comes with large white pumice stones, and is available through Amazon and Camping World.



Hot Stuff

The **540 Degree Tank Top Heater** (\$106.84) from Mr. Heater mounts to a 5-gallon LP-gas cylinder and has an adjustable 360-degree burner head that swivels. Pumping out 30,000 to 45,000 Btu per hour, the heater is easy to light, is made of stainless-steel components and has a safety shutoff switch in case of tip-over.

The **Gunnison Hanging Patio Heater** from Fire Sense (\$159.99) runs on 120-volt AC and is claimed to be less expensive to use than LP-gas heaters. It draws 1,500 watts and reaches 100 percent of its heat output in seconds. Measuring 20 inches in diameter and weighing 7 pounds, the heater comes with a 7-foot nonretractable power cord and an on/off switch, and must be used on a dedicated circuit. Fire Sense claims it gives off no harmful emissions or residues and can be used indoors.



Camco offers several portable LP-gas campfires through Amazon, Camping World, Overton's and other retailers. The **Little Red Campfire** (\$151.33) and **Big Red Campfire** (\$163.84) can be set up within minutes and have realistic-looking log pieces and 9½-inch-diameter ring burners. A sturdy lid and security latches make transportation safe and easy. The Little Red has an 11¼-inch-diameter fire tray and includes an 8-foot propane hose for use with standard LP-gas cylinders. The Big Red has a 10-foot hose, a 13¼-inch-diameter fire tray and a maximum output of 65,000 Btu.



The propane **Sequoia Fire Pit** by Camp Chef (\$119.99) comes with a base, a high-pressure burner, lava rocks, two roasting sticks, a regulator and a 5-foot hose, plus a carrying bag. The pit diameter is almost 15 inches, and overall height is 12 inches.



The radiant 4,000- to 9,000-Btu **Portable Buddy Heater** from Mr. Heater (\$114.32) has a single-control start knob and fold-down handle. It features low and high heat settings and an accidental tip-over safety shutoff. The Portable Buddy connects directly to a 1-pound propane cylinder or can be connected to a larger cylinder with an optional hose and filter. With its small footprint and Oxygen Depletion Sensor, the heater is also designed for indoor use.



Lightweight and portable, the propane-powered **Outland Firebowl** (\$135.99) sets up in minutes with no tools. The company claims that the all-weather enamel-finished Firebowl is approved for use during many campfire bans. It comes with a cover and carrying kit, a pre-attached 10-foot hose to keep the 5-gallon LP-gas cylinder out of sight, an adjustable regulator for varying the flame height, and a natural lava rock set to enhance the flickering effect of the smokeless flame.

The **Table Top Patio Heater** from Fire Sense (\$139.99/hammered bronze, \$149.99/stainless steel) puts out 10,000 Btu and comes with a one-step piezo igniter. It features adjustable heat settings, stainless-steel burners and heating grid, an auto-shutoff tilt valve and a safety grill guard. It uses a standard 1-pound propane cylinder (not included), stands 35 inches tall and weighs 19 pounds. **TL**



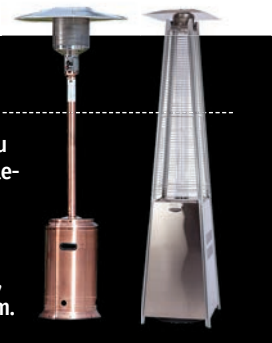
SAFETY ZONE

As with any heat source, use caution with children and pets. LP-gas-powered heaters, for instance, are very hot to the touch, so be careful. And never leave heaters and firepits unattended.

➔ IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT

For more permanent RV-park stays, large-size standing heaters, like the ones found at home-improvement stores, can keep a crowd toasty. Producing 40,000 Btu or more of heat, these operate off 5-gallon LP-gas cylinders at the base, which helps stabilize the heater. It is not recommended to run them off the RV's LP-gas system.

Right: The **Fire Sense Patio Heater** (\$349.99) puts out 46,000 Btu of heat and comes with two stainless-steel burners and a double-mantle heating grid. The heater is 89 inches tall and weighs 40 pounds. Far right: The 88-inch-tall, 65-pound **Pyramid Flame Heater** (\$329.99) pumps out 40,000 Btu of heat. Both have tip-over protection to help keep them upright, wheels for mobility, a safety auto-shutoff tilt valve and an electronic ignition system.



SOURCES

Airxcel, www.airxcel.com
 Camco, www.camco.net
 Camp Chef, www.campchef.com
 Camping World, www.campingworld.com
 Esschert Design, www.esschertdesignusa.com

Fire Sense, shop.firesense.com
 Fireside Outdoor, www.firesideoutdoor.com
 Gander Outdoors, www.ganderoutdoors.com
 H.Bee Fire, www.hbeefire.com
 Mr. Heater, www.mrheater.com

Outland Living, www.outlandliving.com
 Overton's, www.overtons.com
 Patina Products, www.patinaproducts.com
 Stone River Gear, www.stonerivergear.com



SECURELY BEHIND

MOUNT-N-LOCK BUMPER-MOUNTED TRAYS PROVIDE SPACE FOR CARRYING EXTRA CARGO — INCLUDING BICYCLES — BEHIND A TRAILER, FIFTH-WHEEL OR CLASS C MOTORHOME

Packing up for a long family vacation can be a daunting task, especially if there is a wide selection of toys and bicycles involved. Where does it all go? How about portable grills, coolers, chairs and other outdoor accoutrements that can be too large or bulky for exterior storage compartments? And how about a portable generator? Some of these take-alongs can be stored in the tow vehicle, but that can be problematic when using the car, truck or SUV for errands or daily excursions.

To help answer the call for more storage, Virginia-based

cargo-system supplier Mount-n-Lock has developed products that allow owners of trailers, fifth-wheels and some Class C motorhomes to affix trays to the 4-inch rear tubular bumper that can carry generators and other items. We tested two of its systems, one on a travel trailer in New England and one on a fifth-wheel in Southern California,

while experimenting with the flexibility of these products.

First, it's important to understand that RV tubular bumpers can hold very little weight, and over time may rust and weaken from the inside out because of the constant exposure of moisture from stored sewer hoses and environmental conditions while in storage and

CARGO-CARRYING TRAYS 1-10 1) Optional SafetyStruts are bolted to the frame of a Grand Design fifth-wheel to support the bumper. Drilling is required for the self-tapping bolts. 2) Measurements are taken to locate the arm brackets on the fifth-wheel's bumper to accommodate three trays. (Four trays were installed on the travel trailer, pictured above). 3) Assembly starts with the support arms. The pieces bolt together like a giant Erector Set. 4) Once the location is determined, the arm brackets are loosely bolted to the bumper. Tray pans can be set up using three configurations, depending on desired use.



PHOTOS: CHRIS DOUGHERTY AND BOB LIVINGSTON

5) The tilt washers are removed from the support arms by bending back and forth until free. These washers are used to adjust the level of the trays when attached to the support arms. 6) The process continues by assembling the components. A ratcheting wrench comes in handy when tightening nuts in snug spots. 7) Trays are configured so the front edges were flush with the top of the bumper and a contiguous surface was created between the sections. The fence was placed up for the perimeter of the combined trays. 8) There are many pieces to this puzzle, and the use of a screw gun shortens the process of tightening the retention locknuts. 9) Once you get in the “groove,” the process goes rather quickly. The pieces bolted together without too much prodding. 10) A center square is used to connect the four trays needed to form the 2-by-2-foot square loading surface.

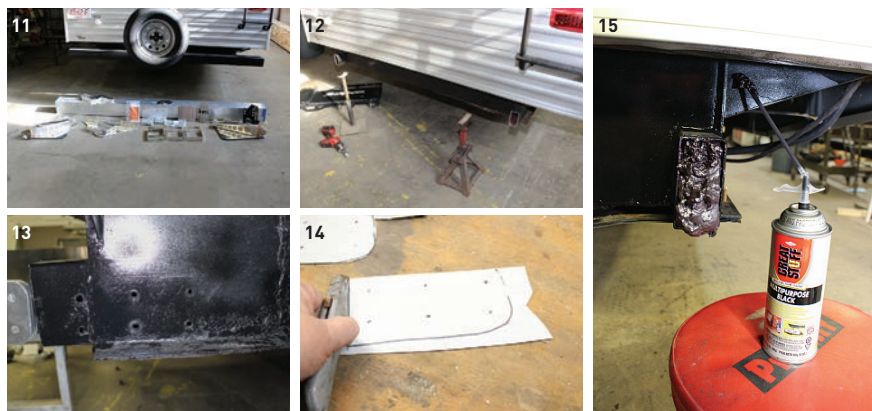


on the road. This weakness makes the bumper susceptible to detachment when a bouncing load, like bicycles, is hanging off the square tube.


The first Mount-n-Lock product, a company-fabricated bracket system, was designed to help support the bumper. The brackets fit around the bottom of the original-equipment bumper and bolt to the chassis frame, increasing the load support for each panel. Detailed installation instructions on the company’s website can guide the user in determining weight capacity.

If you’re looking to use nothing more than a bumper-mounted receiver and an approved bike rack, for example, you can stop right there. But the company also offers 24-inch steel and aluminum square trays (with brackets) that attach to the supported bumper and can handle heavier items like a portable generator, grill or other bulky items.

If the bumper is in poor shape or the owner suspects it’s not up to snuff, it can be replaced with the company’s 4-inch or 6-inch custom aluminum counterpart, to which the trays can be attached. The bumpers have specially




BUMPER REPLACEMENT 11-18 11) For this project, Mount-n-Lock’s 6-inch replacement bumper was installed on a Coleman travel trailer. The brackets and all the trays extend across the width of the trailer. Most of what is needed is included. 12) The 4-inch stock bumper was removed at the cross tube, leaving the original frame tubes in place. 13) The bumper brackets were used as a template to drill the holes into the frame and the old bumper tube. Assemble the brackets and bumper, and hold them up to the trailer to set the proper alignment before drilling. 14) Before permanently mounting the brackets to the frame, we elected to make a non-conductive barrier between the brackets and the frame using EPDM roofing material. This will help to minimize corrosion. 15) The open frame tubes were filled with black spray-foam insulation to keep critters out. This is an important step.



UPGRADE

CARGO TRAYS AND REPLACEMENT BUMPER

Product	Mount-n-Lock System
Difficulty	
Time to Install	12 hours
Cost	GennyGo Support Arms, \$69.95 GennyGo Tray Kit (4), \$179.95 each SafetyStruts RV Heavy-Haul'r Bumper Kit, \$474.95

www.mount-n-lock.com

RV Armor Lifetime Roof



leak and worry-free FOR LIFE.

- **Lightweight:** Seamless, and maintenance-free
- **Convenient:** Don't Move! We'll come to you and install your new roof. Two-day process with nationwide service.
- **Affordable:** Less expensive than a traditional roof replacement
- **Permanent:** Lifetime material and labor warranty. Tracked by the VIN #



www.RV-ARMOR.com

Call 855-RV-ARMOR (855-782-7667)



RV ARMOR is a Federally Registered Trademark of RV Armor, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

SECURELY BEHIND



designed brackets that bolt to the RV frame. The 6-inch bumper with slide-up aluminum end caps is suitable for storing hoses with larger fittings or other longer items.

Tray load capacity is determined by calculations based on the model of tray, the number of brackets,

the strength of the bumper, and the trailer's weight and balance requirements. The latter is important for trailer towing stability; off-load too much hitch weight, and the trailer will become unstable on the road. To handle correctly, a travel

BIKES ON THE BACK...SAFELY

Installing the Mount-n-Lock on the Grand Design fifth-wheel took on a unique approach for hauling bicycles. Rather than hanging bikes on a rack via bumper brackets or in a 2-inch receiver mounted to the frame, the trays were fitted with hardware to handle two bikes. The need for a better system to haul bikes was established after hauling expensive bikes over 11,000 miles and dealing with wet weather, dirty roads and a failure of the receiver-mounted bike rack because of horrible road conditions. Although the bike rack was a high-line model, we ignored the manufacturer's warning against using it on RVs, thinking the lawyers got involved with this recommendation to circumvent legal issues. Obviously, the rack manufacturer was right; using only racks specified for RV use is prudent.

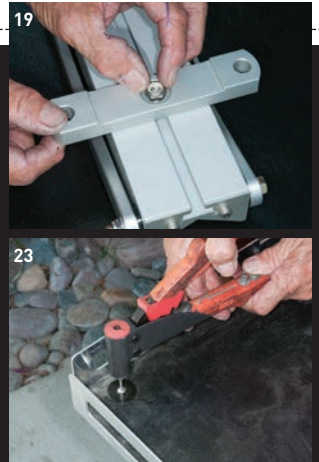
For this project, we selected bicycle-tray carriers from 1Up USA, a company that specializes in high-quality racks earmarked for discriminating bicycle enthusiasts. The chosen trays are actually designed for use on roof or truck-bed hardware, and we adapted them to the Mount-n-Lock system, using 1Up hardware and fasteners secured from a local hardware store. Three Mount-n-Lock trays afforded generous space for mounting two bikes, and the adaption was easier than anticipated. The 1Up bike rack components are made in the USA.

Specially designed brackets slide along tracks built into the 1Up trays and can be locked in place with set bolts, making it easy to configure mounting positions. After loading a road and mountain bike to establish clearances from the back wall of the fifth-wheel and between bikes, holes were drilled into the Mount-n-Lock trays for bolting the brackets in

place. Aluminum angle stock was used underneath the Mount-n-Lock trays to add support for the brackets holding the 1Up carriers, taking rough road conditions into consideration. Stainless-steel bolts, washers and lock nuts were used throughout. The installation of the 1Up trays was rock solid, and combined with the inherent strength of the Mount-n-Lock trays, the entire foundation was ready for just about all adverse road conditions.

Before mounting the 1Up trays in place permanently, a section of ½-inch rubber mat was cut to fit the Mount-n-Lock footprint. This was done to prevent road spray from reaching the underside of the bikes, and extending the mat under the fifth-wheel body added protection from the elements. The mat was secured with stainless-steel fender washers and aluminum rivets. Two ⅜-inch braided cables were threaded through the mat from the frame-mounted receiver for locking the bikes using a Kryptonite U-bolt security device.

Ratcheting rack arms hold the tires tightly to the tray, providing a very stable position for the bikes. It's a unique system that's fast to use and super convenient, and it provides the security needed to prevent bikes, especially expensive carbon-frame models, from becoming damaged during transporting. 1Up rates the rack to handle bikes up to 50 pounds, and it can accommodate just about any bike with



16-17) Once the holes were drilled, the brackets were assembled before attaching to the bumper. These are quite tight and require big clamps for proper alignment. One aligned, a bolt is inserted through one hole, and the set bolt is tightened. 18) The completed bumper is lifted into position, and the gaskets (which we made) are slid between the brackets and frame. The bolts are self-tapping, so precision drilling is needed to ensure a proper bite. The 6-inch bumper will easily permit storage of hoses with larger fittings, and is vented in the end caps.

trailer must maintain a minimum of 10 percent of the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) on the hitch, and a fifth-wheel a minimum of 17 percent. However, the weight gain in the rear for both of the test installations didn't come close to negatively affecting the

hitch weight.

Installation of the new bumper on a 2013 Coleman 33-foot trailer was pretty straightforward, but not for the faint of heart, as cutting off the old bumper, setting the new one in place and drilling the holes required



19) Flush mounting brackets are slid into the tracks on the backside of the 1Up carrier trays. These are designed for mounting on rooftop brackets but worked perfectly on the Mount-n-Lock trays. 20) Stainless-steel bolts and lock nuts were used to fasten the 1Up carriers to the Mount-n-Lock trays. 21) Aluminum angle stock was cut and fitted underneath the Mount-n-Lock trays to add support to the 1Up carriers. The trays were rock solid. 22) Heavy-duty (5/8-inch) coated cables were routed around the hitch receiver and onto the trays for locking the bikes. A Kryptonite U-bolt lock is used for security. 23) To prevent water and road debris from spraying on the bicycle drivetrains, a 1/8-inch rubber mat was cut and attached to the Mount-n-Lock trays with fender washers and rivets. 24) The two 1Up carrier trays fit nicely within the area provided by the three Mount-n-Lock trays. 25) There is plenty of space to carry a mountain bike and a road bike. Ratcheting arms lock the tires in place securely and are easy to release. 26) A custom cover was sewn by Southern California-based Shademaker Inc. using Sunbrella fabric that is durable and waterproof (taillights are visible when straps are secured).

a wheelbase up to 54 inches. Adapters can be purchased for tires wider than 3.1 inches.

To finish the project, a custom cover was fabricated by Southern California-based Shademaker Inc. The cover was made from Sunbrella fabric for superior protection on and off the road. Sunbrella fabric is used on convertible tops and good patio furniture, so it has an excellent reputation for being waterproof and resistant to wear, especially in sunny climates. The bottom is open to make it easy to remove and install, and the rubber

mat on the Mount-n-Lock trays does a great job of keeping the elements out. It's held in place with 1-inch nylon straps and buckles.

While the cover was \$300, the investment is well worth the protection afforded, and after 3,000 miles of testing (at press time), the racks and cover have proven their mettle. Figure on close to \$600 for two 1Up carrier trays and the necessary hardware.

1Up USA, www.1Up-USA.com
Shademaker Inc., www.shademakerinc.com

TIRED OF TRAILER TIRE PROBLEMS?

REPLACE FAILURE PRONE 235/16 WHEELS & TIRES WITH BOAR'S HEAVY-DUTY 19.5" CONVERSION

- NO EXCESSIVE SIDEWALL FLEX WHEN MANEUVERING (DETERS BLOWOUTS)
- WEIGHT RATINGS 3,970/LBS & UP
- UP TO 87/MPH SPEED RATING
- LOW ROLLING RESISTANCE (THINK + MPG!)
- IMPROVE SAFETY
- SAVE MONEY



JUST. MAKES. SENSE.
888-619-5622
BOARWHEEL.COM



TT-500 - The Most Innovative TPMS On The Market Today



- Pressure & Temperature Monitoring
- USB Rechargeable Monitor
- Monitors Up To 22 Tires (0-232psi)
- 0.5 oz. Sensors - Lightest on Market
- User Replaceable Sensor Batteries
- Visual & Audible Alarms
- Automatic Update Feature

4 Sensor System
With Lifetime Warranty
\$289.00
Additional Sensors - \$35.00 ea.

TireTraker
Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems



866-200-9773
info@tiretraker.com
www.tiretraker.com



SECURELY BEHIND

a precise touch. Once that was done, the tray system bolted together like a giant Erector Set, requiring a slight bit of fiddling and fabrication to get it perfect.

The standard aluminum Mount-n-Lock brackets that came with the company's aluminum trays work well. However, since the travel trailer has a roof ladder, the end tray needed to withstand the weight of a person and gear, so steel brackets were employed to increase capacity. The trays are designed to hold 125 pounds, distributed out 1 foot from the bumper. Since most adults exceed that weight, the above brackets were used to help handle the weight of a person gaining access to the ladder.

The Mount-n-Lock trays have tie-down points on each side, which can be assembled facing up or down, based on the needs of the owner. Also, the trays can be installed over the bumper, in some cases, to increase weight capacity, or cantilevered out from the bumper on the brackets.

The Mount-n-Lock hardware and components were precisely designed and cut from high-end stock using a CNC machine, and they are expertly packaged to prevent shipping damage. When installing the trays, anyone with even a modicum of mechanical ability and a good set of sockets can complete the task after spending some time with the instructions, which are clearly presented.

The aluminum trays have pluses and minuses. Aluminum trays are lighter than steel, and provide corrosion resistance, whereas painted steel versions can get scratched. While the latter is ideal for ultimate strength, the aluminum trays and brackets are a bit on the soft side. We found the tie-down points bend rather easily, so it's best to run ratchet straps under and around the trays to secure items.

Once installed, total and hitch weight should be noted (using a public scale) to determine the amount of weight that can be added to the trays, in adherence to the Mount-n-Lock limitations. Also, keep in mind that the trailer or motorhome will be 2 feet longer, requiring more room when backing into restricted space. **TL**

SolidStep®

STABLE. STURDY. SOLID.

The SolidStep's innovative design permits the step to operate through a wide range of ride heights without the need to adjust leg extensions. The design also ensures that the steps stay parallel to the ground, reducing the potential for slipping or falling during use. The SolidStep design permits the step to stow inside of the entry door, keeping road debris and corrosion away while simultaneously permitting continuous skirt metal on the RV, enhancing the aesthetics of the coach.



Find out more at store.lci1.com



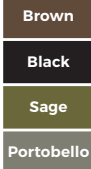
CLUB MEMBERS
BUY 1
GET 1 **50% OFF!**



CLUB SALE
\$16.49

Quik-Fold™ Table
Brown #69367
Black #118025
Charcoal #58707
Sage #118024
Portobello #96709

20"H x 17-1/2"W x 15-1/4"L.
2-1/4" folded. | Reg. \$18.49



CLUB MEMBERS
BUY 1
GET 1 **FREE**

7" Ball Style
Bungee
Cords,
4-pack
#19321
Keeps cords
and hoses
neat and tidy.
Reg. \$4.99



Reflective, double
thick insulation

CLUB MEMBERS
SAVE 20%
\$18.27

Sunshade, 100" x 36" #69161
Protects your interior and cools
your RV by blocking damaging
UV-A and UV-B rays. | Reg. \$22.99

CAMPING WORLD®

HOT DEALS OF THE WEEK

PRICES GOOD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2, 2019

MEMBERS-ONLY SPECIALS



CLUB MEMBERS
FREE
WITH PURCHASE
OF 95701-95704
AC Voltage Meter
#69127 | Reg. \$21.99



CLUB SALE
\$49.97

CLUB MEMBERS
SAVE
up to
40%

Heavy-Duty RV
Electrical Cord with Handles,
30-Amp, 25' #95701 | Reg. \$72.99

Heavy-Duty RV Electrical Cord with
Handles, 30-Amp, 50' (not shown) #95702
Club SALE **\$84.97** Reg. \$122.99

Heavy-Duty RV Electrical Cord with
Handles, 50-Amp, 15' (not shown) #95703
Club SALE **\$104.97** Reg. \$144.99

Heavy-Duty RV Electrical Cord with
Handles, 50-Amp, 30' (not shown) #95704
Club SALE **\$154.97** Reg. \$222.99



CLUB MEMBERS
FREE
With purchase of #103951
Recliner Bag
#111501 | Reg. \$24.49



250 lb.
capacity

68"L reclined

CLUB SALE
\$59.97

Barnwood
Recliner
#103951
Reg. \$72.99



21"W
seat

BUY 1
GET 1
50% OFF!

CLUB SALE
\$5.19

Aqua Soft Tissue, 4-Pack #9888
100% biodegradable. Two-ply. | Reg. \$6.29

Offer valid only in retail SuperCenters.
Limit 8 per customer.



CLUB MEMBERS
SAVE 30%

CLUB MEMBERS
SAVE 30%
Mega All-In-One Sewer Tank
Treatment, 10- and 30-Packs

10-pack
Coastal Breeze #117873
Lemon Zest #112505
Club SALE **\$6.97** Reg. \$9.99

30-pack
Coastal Breeze #117872
Lemon Zest #117871
Club SALE **\$14.97** Reg. \$21.99



CLUB SALE
\$5.97 ea.

6' Tablecloth, 82" x 54"
· Fits most 6' picnic tables;
felt backing
Reg. \$7.29 | #104517



CLUB SALE
\$8.27

CLUB MEMBERS
SAVE 30%

Porta-Pak® Tank Deodorizers,
10-pack
· Breaks down waste and paper
· Controls odors
Lavender #69990
Fresh N Clean #23913
Reg. \$11.99

TAILGATE INSTANT REBATE

Sponsored by



CLUB MEMBERS
RECEIVE A **\$100 INSTANT REBATE**
WITH PURCHASE OF QUALIFYING
SATELLITE, TRIPOD & WALLY™

SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.

SuperCenters Nationwide | 1.888.857.6625 | CampingWorld.com/Shop
To request a **FREE CATALOG**, go online or call & mention code **MZ TL**

CAMPING WORLD®

GET MORE FOR YOUR TRADE

PAY LESS FOR YOUR NEW RV**

OVER
\$200,000,000
DISCOUNTS ON
NEW RVS[^]

OVER 32,500
NEW & USED
TOWABLES
IN STOCK!

PICK YOUR DISCOUNT

\$500
TRADE-IN
DISCOUNT[†]

OFF ADVERTISED PRICE OF ANY NEW TOWABLE RV WITH RV TRADE-IN

†Trade-in discount applied as discount off advertised price of new towable RV. Must present this advertisement at time of purchase. Prior sales excluded. Not applicable on wholesale units. Cannot be combined with any other CWRV Sales promotion or used as a down payment. Valid only at participating Camping World RV Sales locations. See dealer for full details. Void where prohibited. Offer expires 8/29/19.

OR

\$250
BUYER
DISCOUNT^{††}

OFF ADVERTISED PRICE OF ANY NEW TOWABLE RV

††Buyer discount applied as discount off advertised price of new towable RV. Must present this advertisement prior to negotiation. Prior sales excluded. Not applicable on wholesale units. Cannot be combined with any other CWRV Sales promotion or used as a down payment. Valid only at participating Camping World RV Sales locations. See dealer for full details. Void where prohibited. Offer expires 8/29/19.

HOT DEALS ON TOWABLE RVs



NEW 2020 COLEMAN

COLEMAN LANTERN LT 18RB

ALBUQUERQUE, NM | STK. #1652300 | MSRP \$19,730 | **NOW \$11,995***

SAVE \$7,735 OFF MSRP*



NEW 2020 HEARTLAND

PIONEER BH175

KAYSVILLE, UT | STK. #1614968 | MSRP \$20,316 | **NOW \$13,995***

SAVE \$6,321 OFF MSRP*



NEW 2020 HEARTLAND

MALLARD M32

COLUMBIA, SC | STK. #1660743 | MSRP \$38,046 | **NOW \$27,995***

SAVE \$10,051 OFF MSRP*



NEW 2020 DUTCHMEN

ATLAS 2502REF

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA | STK. #1665746 | MSRP \$48,418 | **NOW \$36,995***

SAVE \$11,423 OFF MSRP*



NEW 2020 HEARTLAND

FUEL 335

BUFFALO, NY | STK. #1660429 | MSRP \$86,453 | **NOW \$51,995***

SAVE \$34,458 OFF MSRP*

CALL **866-9-RV-CENTER** CLICK **RV.com/TrailerLife**

*Exclusive of tax, title, license, finance and other fees required or allowed by applicable law; freight and prep, which vary by state, may also be added (except in AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, LA, MS, OH, OK, OR, TX, TN, WA, or UT). ^Savings based on MSRP and are not inclusive of applicable taxes and fees; Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) may not be the price at which vehicle is sold at in participating dealer markets.

**Applicable on exact unit only from same state as participating Camping World affiliated dealership; Customer must present valid buyers order signed by management of competing dealer and documentation detailing specs, options, and vehicle identification numbers comparable to advertised unit within 30 days; Outdated or expired advertisements or offers do not apply; Full disclosure of trade must be made. Applicable to all offers; Inventory and floorplans vary by location, not all advertised manufacturers available at participating dealers. New units will be delivered from the nearest authorized dealer. Contact your area dealer for availability. Vehicle identification numbers posted at dealership. Advertised inventory available at time of production. New unit photography for illustration purposes only. May not be combined with any other offer and not applicable to prior sales. Offer(s) valid at any Camping World affiliated dealerships. See dealer for details. © 2019 FreedomRoads, LLC. The CAMPING WORLD logo is a registered trademark of CWI, Inc. and used with permission. Unauthorized use of any of CWI, Inc.'s trademarks is expressly prohibited. All rights reserved. Offers expire 8/29/2019. FR070816-0619

You make the priceless memories, we'll pay for the pricey repairs.

We recognize that time spent traveling with your family is precious and unexpected repairs can jeopardize your travel and road trips. That's why we cover the needs of vehicles but more importantly the real people that make them part of their lives.

The open road is all about freedom.

At Good Sam, we care about your freedom to choose.

Choose your plan

Choose how you pay, monthly, quarterly or annually

Choose your repair center

No long term agreement, cancel when you choose.



An Extended Service Plan from
Good Sam is more than a warranty,
it's peace of mind.



1.877.273.9004 | GoodSamESP.com/TL

TO LEARN MORE WATCH A VIDEO GOODSAMINTRO.COM/TRAILERLIFE





POWER BROKER

HUGHES AUTOFORMERS' SMART SURGE PROTECTOR CIRCUMVENTS ELECTRICAL PROBLEMS AT THE RV PARK

— by Bob Dawson

SURGE PROTECTOR

Cost \$229

Difficulty

Setup 10 minutes

In a world where we often find ourselves traveling and camping to unplug and get away from our devices, it's a bit ironic that more and more of our RV peripherals are adding convenience to our adventures through apps on the very phones we're sometimes trying to escape.

We have apps for leveling, apps to control our entertainment centers, and apps to monitor and control the temperature inside our rigs. So, connected we remain, and one of the common denominators to all those gadgets is the juice that powers them.

That electricity is not to be taken for granted. There are many things that can go awry with the power supply — some of them even potentially fatal — and there are also many variants of surge protectors and power-management devices to help us stay safe.

In an industry first, keeping with the trend toward connecting our RVs to our smart devices, Hughes Autoformers has introduced its Power Watchdog



smart Bluetooth surge protector with an emergency power-off (EPO) feature. The device monitors for high and low voltage (more than 132 or less than 104 volts AC) and will shut down power if it gets outside that range. Once safe levels are back for 90 seconds, it restores power to the RV. The unit not only monitors just about everything that could conceivably go wrong with the power supply (open neutral, open ground, reverse polarity), it reports detailed information to the app on a smart device when it detects a problem.

The Power Watchdog EPO certainly checks all the boxes for the basic things you want a surge protector to do. The 30-amp portable model we tested provides 2,400 joules of surge protection; a 50-amp model is also available. Should there be a spike, from lightning, for example, the Watchdog's surge module can be replaced instead of ordering a whole new unit. The replacement is provided free for the first two years when the warranty registration is completed.

To get the benefits of the smartphone monitor, simply install the Power Watchdog EPO app on your phone or tablet. Two Power Watchdog apps are available on the Apple and Google Play stores: one for EPO units and one for non-EPO units. Once the EPO app is installed and launched, select Add Device. The app will direct

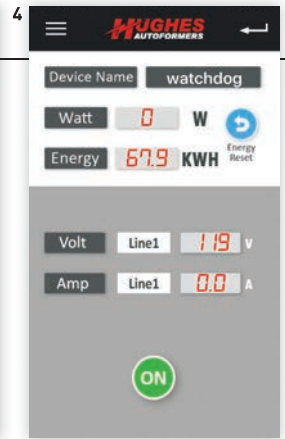
WHITE DOG, RED DOG

1) The bulldog face on the Power Watchdog EPO glows white when the power supply is safe. 2) The bulldog glows red when the power is unsafe or out of range, and the device generates an LED error message.



IT'S ALL ON THE APP

3) The home screen of the Power Watchdog EPO mobile app provides several choices for monitoring and controlling the Bluetooth-enabled surge protector. Tap the bulldog icon in the center of the home screen to go to the details screen on the app. 4-5) On the details screen, we were able to monitor our power supply and errors. We could also monitor current usage in the RV and even see what specific appliances were drawing amps by turning them off and on while the app was active. 6) The Watchdog sends a notification to the app when an error has occurred. 7) When we had a missing ground connection, the app generated a notification on our smart device, and a very detailed message appeared in the app. 8) When we had a wires-reversed error, the app generated a notification on our smart device and provided a similarly detailed message.



STYLISH, *useful* and FUN.
Show your love for the campsite wherever you go.
 A lifestyle brand designed and curated by Camco...



www.camco.net **CAMCO**

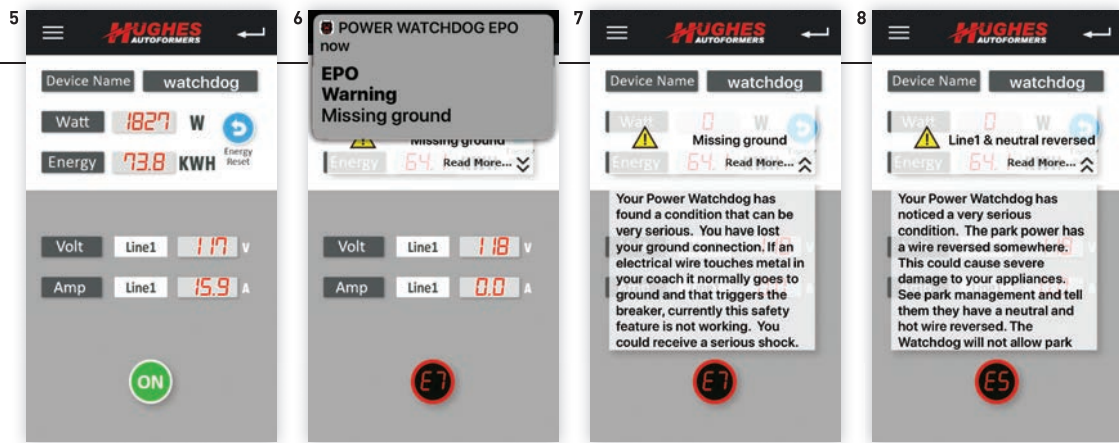
you to scan the QR code on the front of the unit, which will add the serial number to the app.

When you plug in the Watchdog to a good power source, the bulldog face on the unit lights up bright white, and after a few seconds, you hear a click that indicates it is ready to plug in the RV power cable. When in Bluetooth range, the app will scan for devices and show the details of the power source. If the power source is not safe, the bulldog face lights up red, giving a code on the front of the unit, and if the app is active on a smart device, it sends a notification with details of the problem.

Although we didn't encounter electrical problems when hooked up to RV-park pedestals, we were able to create some sketchy power scenarios in our garage that showed how the Power Watchdog's error messages work.

9) Outfitted with heavy-duty finger grips, the Power Watchdog EPO is easy to connect and disconnect from campsite power pedestals.





TECH TIP ✨
 One handy feature of the Power Watchdog EPO app is constant monitoring of the power the rig is drawing so you can see kilowatt-hour usage. Powering off individual appliances while monitoring the app readings lets you see how many amps specific appliances are using.

In one scenario, we daisy-chained power strips plugged into an old extension cord. Not surprisingly, when we plugged the unit in, the bulldog face lit up red, generated an E5 error (“Line and neutral reversed”) and sent a detailed warning to the app on our phone. When we bypassed that very old extension cord, the bulldog face was white, the app showed all conditions were safe, and we promptly heard the click indicating power on. (Note to self: Replace that 20-year-old extension cord.)

In another scenario, we had an outlet that was clearly in need of repair, and, sure enough, when we plugged into that outlet, the bulldog’s red face gave us an E7 error, which matched up to the “Missing ground” message on the side of the unit. Meanwhile, the app generated another very specific message.

One thing we noticed about the app that we thought could be improved is the message that reads “The Watchdog is disconnected” when we walked our phone out of Bluetooth range. After we walked back and checked it a couple of times, we learned to ignore it, but some sort of “Out of Bluetooth range” error would alleviate confusion.

The Power Watchdog EPO has handles with finger grips for easy disconnection from tight outlets, and an anti-theft ring for securing the unit to the power pedestal with a padlock. Hughes Autoformers surge protectors are warranted for two years. **TV**

➔ **Hughes Autoformers**
www.hughesautoformers.com/product/pwd30-epo



THERE'S REASONS WHY WE OFFER THE BEST WARRANTIES IN THE BUSINESS!



PHOENIX 4000
 4,000 LB LIFT CAPACITY ◦ THE FASTEST JACK ON EARTH! ◦ TRAVELS 10" IN 18 SECONDS ◦ 2 MEMORY SETTINGS: HITCH HEIGHT & WDH HEIGHT ◦ BALL SCREW TECHNOLOGY



PHOENIX 5500
 5,500 LB LIFT CAPACITY ◦ REMOTE INCLUDED ◦ TRAVELS 10" IN 47 SECONDS ◦ ELECTRONIC CONTROL PANEL - NO EXTERNAL SWITCHES ◦ ADJUSTABLE FOOTPAD PROVIDES AN EXTRA 5.5" OF TRAVEL

ULTRA 3502
 3,500 LB LIFT CAPACITY ◦ TRAVELS 10" IN 50 SECONDS ◦ HARDENED STEEL GEARS ◦ DURABLE POWDER COATED FINISH ◦ 6" DIAMETER FOOTPAD PREVENTS SINKING

ULTRA 4000
 4,000 LB LIFT CAPACITY ◦ TRAVELS 10" IN 40 SECONDS ◦ WATER RESISTANT MOTOR AND GEAR HOUSING ◦ 6" DIAMETER QUICK-DROP FOOTPAD ADDS 5.5"

ULTRA-FAB.COM • 800-860-7571

Quality Products For The Outdoor Lifestyle



Must Activate Warranty Online Within 90 Days Of Purchase

Ultra-Fab Products Inc., Circle 146 on Reader Service Card



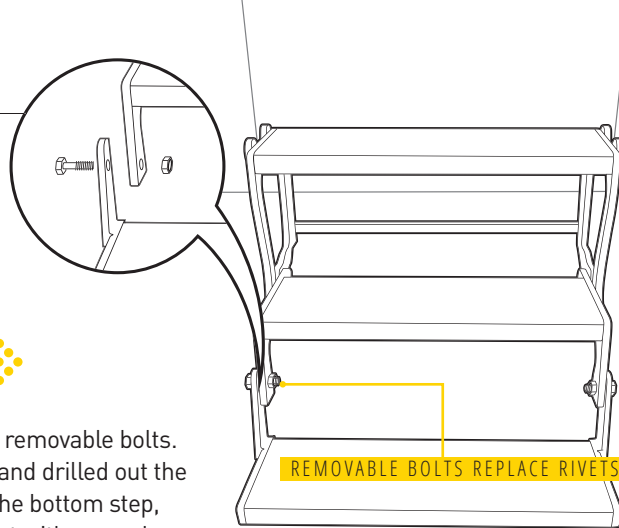
QUICK STEP MODIFICATION

Have you ever found that great camping site, gotten the rig parked and then discovered your RV's step either hits the ground or ends up positioned at an angle due to uneven ground? Our new Jayco White Hawk has three steps, which are great on level ground but not so good on rugged or uneven ground. On our last trip, we found after parking that the bottom step hit the concrete pad and wouldn't sit flat.

The fix? I replaced the rivets for

the bottom step with removable bolts. I used a $\frac{5}{16}$ -inch bit and drilled out the two rivets that hold the bottom step, and knocked them out with a punch. I then replaced them with a pair of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch stainless bolts, two flat washers on each side of the step, and a pair of stainless lock nuts that won't come loose during travel.

Now if I want to adjust the steps, I can do it in three minutes with a pair of $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wrenches, and we can park



REMOVABLE BOLTS REPLACE RIVETS

almost anywhere. Time involved was about 15 minutes at a cost of less than \$4.
Patrick Christian, Bisbee, Arizona

Editors' Note: Lock nuts work well but can become less effective if removed and replaced repeatedly, so check them and replace as needed.



Everything in Its Place

• I tow our Grand Design Imagine travel trailer with a 2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee. When we get to our destination, I don't like leaving the weight-distributing ball mount on the Jeep, and I don't like storing it in the Jeep because it rolls around when we're driving. Nor do I like leaving it on the ground in front of the trailer.

I bought a $\frac{1}{4}$ -to-2-inch receiver adapter from Harbor Freight (\$10) and drilled two $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch holes through the $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch section with my little drill press. I repurposed an old galvanized bracket with $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch-by-7-inch bolts and bolted the newly purchased receiver adapter to the A-frame. If you don't have the parts lying

around like I did, brackets, long bolts and nyloc nuts from any hardware store will work.

When we arrive at our campsite, I pull the ball mount off the Jeep and slide it into the "bolt-on receiver" on the A-frame. That keeps the ball mount out of the Jeep, out of the storage compartment and out of the mud. I can even use the pin hole to lock it to the trailer.

Mark Peterson, Tampa, Florida



Hitch Dolly

• As I have gotten older, the trailer hitch ball mount has gotten heavier. So I made a dolly to transport the ball mount to and from the truck. I started with a small dolly that has four swivel casters. I then made a support for the ball mount out of 2-by-6-inch lumber and plywood. The height is calculated so the ball-mount stinger lines up with the receiver. A minor amount of effort is required to slide the ball mount into the receiver or to remove it.

Bill Vanhook, York, South Carolina



TECH ED TIP

➔ An RV's absorption refrigerator is different from a household unit in many ways, but one critical element is that most do not have an internal fan in the fresh-food compartment. In hot weather, an overpacked fridge with no air circulation can mean spoiled food in the bottom section of the compartment. RV refrigerators should be packed to allow plenty of air space. Add a refrigerator fan, battery powered or built in, to help move air around.

—Chris Dougherty 



To submit a DIY tip, email 10minutetech@trailerlife.com or write to *Trailer Life*, 10-Minute Tech, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036. Provide a selection of good-quality high-resolution photos. *Trailer Life* will pay \$35 for original 10-Minute Tech ideas. All payments require an SSN or FEIN.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE
BEST DEALS OF THE **YEAR!**



SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2019

Norris Penrose Event Center

1045 Lower Gold Camp Rd. in Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Event Hours: Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10am-6pm

Admission: \$10 Per Carload *(cash only)*

Event Highlights: Free Pony Rides Saturday 10:30am-3:30pm

RV Safety & Education Foundation Driving Experience: \$85 *(first come, first serve)*

GreatAmericanRVShowCOSprings.com



SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2019

Arlington International Racecourse

2200 Euclid Ave. in Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Event Hours: Friday & Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

Admission: Adults \$10 *(includes parking)*, Kids 12 & Under FREE

Event Highlights: Seminars by Julie and Sean Chickery

Free Pony Rides Saturday 10:30-3:30, Sunday 10:30am-2:30pm

Cornhole Toss Competition • Off-Track Betting • Derby Best-Dressed Couple

BuyBuyDerbyRVSale.com



SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2019

Richmond Raceway

600 E. Laburnum Ave. in Richmond, VA 23222

Event Hours: Friday & Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm

Admission: Adults \$8, **Good Sam Club Members \$6**,

Kids 12 & Under Free • FREE Parking

Event Highlights: Motorhome Driving Clinic • Cornhole Toss Competition

Casting Area with Targets • RV & Boat Accessories

RichmondRacewayRVBoatMegaSale.com



TURQUOISE TWO-TONE

A TINY VINTAGE TRAILER TRANSFORMS FROM OLD YELLER TO NEW BLUE

INVESTMENT ⚙️ Cost: \$1,400 | Time: 5 months

I have always wanted a classic camper to renovate. I love the old Shasta trailers, but they are hard to come by. A friend offered to sell a small vintage trailer that had been in her yard for about 20 years. At \$300, the price was right.

The gold-and-white 1960 Avalon was full of mice nests and fleas, and the last time it was registered and on the road was before I was

born. After a few flea bombs, and lots of bleach, paint and replacing the entire front wall, I had a trailer. My boyfriend and I did most of the work in our garage with a little propane heater during one of the coldest winters we've ever had.

I bought new foam and turquoise fabric to replace the dinette's cushions, and sewed the covers myself. I found fabric with a design of small trailers on it and

used the material to make curtains. The countertop was replaced with a laminate tile that's actually used for flooring. And the icebox is the original one; I took it out and scrubbed it clean before putting it back in.

Every year, we go on a trip the first weekend of June, and I had only five months to finish this project while also working full time and going to nursing school. Now that it's done, I love to show off my Avalon to people I meet when we go camping. It is

CLASSIC CUTIE

Above, from left: With a fresh coat of paint and a lot of sweat equity, Madison Bartnik's tiny trailer now shines like new. Home-sewn curtains drape the window, and laminate tiles cover the kitchen counter, which houses a new sink, faucet and Flame King cooktop. The original icebox still keeps things cool.

custom made to exactly what I want.

After all the hard work we put into my Little Blue, I am so proud of it.

— **Madison Bartnik**
Glen Aubrey, New York TX

RV RENOVATIONS



Have you modified your RV or remodeled it completely? Tell us about it in 500 words or less, including the total cost and time spent, and email your description to info@trailerlife.com. Include an ample selection of photos illustrating the project, along with your full name and mailing address. We'll pay \$50 for every RV Makeover we publish.

Right and far right: The 1960 Avalon had gone unused for years, except by generations of mice, and the interior was in disarray. A deep cleaning and new paint, inside and out, were in order, but the vintage trailer had charm to spare.



GOOD SAM GUIDE SERIES

(formerly Good Sam RV Travel & Savings Guide)

PRICE
REDUCED!



CLUB SALE
ONLY
\$7.95

 **Good Sam Club**

MEMBERS
Save 73%

2019 Good Sam Guide Series
#116625, 116626, 116627, 116628
Reg. \$29.95

Sales tax will be added where applicable.

UPDATED!

12,000+ Campgrounds, RV Parks and Services

INCLUDES

2,400+ Good Sam Parks, Good Sam's Trusted 10/10★/10 Ratings

ALL NEW—OUTDOOR BUSTERS

OVER \$500 SAVINGS with Camping World, Gander Outdoors & Overton's Coupons

ORDER TODAY!

ON SALE NOW for Good Sam Club Members

CampingWorld.com/shop | 1.888.857.6625 | SuperCenters Nationwide | Gander Outdoors Locations

AEROPRESS COFFEE AND ESPRESSO MAKER **\$29.95**

My camp joe has always been percolator coffee, but I'm not a coffee connoisseur. I just like what I like. What doesn't bring me joy about my percolator brew is that it takes a while to make. Honestly, most times when we're out in the RV, I get up, turn on the burner under the coffeepot and crawl back in bed for another 20 minutes or so. It's just not worth getting up if the coffee's not ready.

If you're like me and patience isn't your thing, or if the trail



or trout beckon, the AeroPress is a great way to make coffee posthaste. Just add ground beans and boiling water, and the manually operated AeroPress brews 8 ounces per push, American or espresso style. With simple directions, few parts and 350 provided microfilters, the lightweight and compact AeroPress is pretty much foolproof.

www.aeropress.com



STAFF PICK 🍷 The dog needs to go for a walk. *Now.* And I need my coffee. *Now.* Before the AeroPress, that was a huge dilemma, but no longer. I can be quaffing a cup in a few minutes, and even our little chiweenie, with her tiny bladder, can wait that long. — *Bob Dawson, Production Director*

ZAMP SOLAR ROOF MOUNT KIT **\$2,913**

If you like to use power-hungry devices or run a residential refrigerator in your RV, the Zamp Solar 680-Watt Roof Mount Kit can help get you off the grid. Designed for 400-amp-hour-plus battery banks, the kit includes four 170-watt roof-mounted solar panels that measure 58.3 by 26.4 by 1.5 inches each. The panel array is said to produce from 150 to 260 amp-hours in a four- to seven-hour day, depending on conditions. With the included 60-amp solar charge controller, the system can expand to handle up to 1,020 watts. A digital remote LCD display, mounting hardware and wiring harness come with the kit, which is fulfilled by Specialized Products, a Zamp Certified Dealer.

www.zampsolar.com/680watt



LEND-A-HAND EXTENDED ASSIST RAIL **FROM \$16.95**

Stromberg Carlson's Lend-A-Hand extended hand rail has a 37-inch drop and descends from the trailer at an angle to help RVers keep their balance when using fold-down entry steps, including the LCI SolidStep, MORryde StepAbove and Torklift GlowStep Revolution. Made with the same footprint as standard rails for easy installation, the powder-coated aluminum rail locks to the side of the RV when in transit. The kit comes with the rail assembly and all necessary hardware.

www.strombergcarlson.com



TOY HAULER EXTENSION **\$3,084-\$4,639**

Toy Hauler Extensions' custom-made kits bolt to the rear of toy-hauling RVs and add 12, 18, 24 or 30 inches in length to the rear garage. Made from cold-rolled-steel sheets, each kit is structurally engineered for the individual application. Kits are available for flat and domed roofs, and parts are painted or powder-coated to match the trailer and give a factory appearance. The extensions can be installed in as little as one day and are removable, according to the manufacturer. Shipping adds \$800 or more to the cost.

www.toyhaulerextensions.com



CONTOURE WASHER-DRYER COMBO **\$1,099.99**

A space-saving combination washer-dryer, the ventless Contoure RV-WD800S features a hygienic stainless-steel tub, built-in water heater, adjustable-height legs, 16 wash cycles, five dry cycles, an LCD display and programmable settings. Measuring 33½ by 23½ by 23½ inches and weighing 174 pounds, the compact appliance has a 15½-pound load capacity, a 12-amp-hour rating and extra-quiet operating cycles, according to the company.

www.contoureusa.com 🇹🇼



Suburban

An AIRXCEL Brand

Club Members
ONLY \$59
INSTALL ANYTHING

NAUTILUS ON DEMAND RV WATER HEATER



Nautilus On Demand Water Heater.

Easily replaces any 6, 10, 12, or 16 gallon capacity porcelain lined steel tank or aluminum tank models. Showers, baths, dishes and even the laundry can be done with an infinite supply of hot water whenever and wherever, simultaneously from every fixture.

- 60,000 BTUs MAX
- Built-in freeze protection mechanism
- State-of-the-art 3-Try Direct Spark Ignition
- 36 lbs with the vent assembly

Must have inside Gas ON/OFF Switch or Nautilus On Demand Control Center for operation. A replacement panel and vent cap are required when replacing any tank model. Sold Separately.

SUBURBAN ADVANTAGE RV WATER HEATER

Replaces Aluminum Tank RV Water Heaters



6 Gallon porcelain lined Steel tank

Built just like longer lasting residential tank water heaters.

Anode Rod

Protects against tank corrosion and doubles as a drain.

10,000 BTU/h with Optional Electric Element

Take advantage of campsite or generator power to heat water.

Industry Exclusive Flue Tube Baffles

Slows combustion process to transfer more heat to water in tank.

For more information on these and other great AIRXCEL products, visit www.CampingWorld.com

ON SALE NOW For Good Sam Club Members

CampingWorld.com/shop | 1.888.857.6625 | SuperCenters Nationwide



FRONT-END FACELIFT

While the supplier of a peeling front cap agreed to provide a replacement at no charge, the owner of the travel trailer was still on the hook for labor costs. He asked RV Resolutions for help:

FF We have a 2016 Coachmen Catalina that we have owned since it was new. We bought it from Fraserway RV in Cookstown, Ontario, a dealer that we purchased our two previous RVs from, stepping up from a pop-up to a hybrid, and then to this travel trailer.

After two winters the paint and clear coat are peeling off the front of the trailer. I contacted Fraserway, who told us this had happened to one other trailer the dealer had sold, and the manufacturer sent replacement parts (the whole front end of the trailer) but did

not cover labor. We have been quoted \$1,500 for the job.

We like the work of our dealer's technicians and trust their judgment, but we think the manufacturer should cover the labor costs, not the owner.

David Brennan, Innisfil, Ontario

THE COMPANY RESPONDS

Forest River received RV Resolutions' letter regarding David Brennan's situation and sent the following reply:

We appreciate the opportunity to review the information and respond. The vendor of the front cap has acknowledged this issue and addresses each case individually. In this case, the vendor has agreed to replace the cap at no cost to the owner.

Even though this trailer is out of the limited one-year warranty, Forest River has agreed to assist by providing the decals and shipping all parts at no cost to Mr. Brennan or the dealer. We further agree to cover six hours of labor and work with the vendor on our side for our reimbursement, so Mr. Brennan will not have to deal with that aspect.

Six hours' labor is the maximum it should take to do this job, as quoted by both Forest River and the front-cap vendor. That is from the replacement of the cap to the application of the decals. We stand by this allotted time based on years of experience in handling similar situations. Any time the dealer has stated beyond that is a discussion between the dealer and Mr. Brennan.

xantrex™ SOLAR

SOLAR KITS SOLAR FLEX KITS PORTABLE KITS EXPANSION KITS

AVAILABLE AT:



☎ 800.359.3176



☎ 866.688.9397



☎ 1.800.755.4775



☎ 858.874.8064



☎ 801.262.2921



☎ 888.350.8832



☎ 888.355.7491

& other leading RV dealers



Copyright © 2019 Xantrex LLC. All Rights Reserved. All trademarks are owned by Xantrex LLC.

Forest River has gone above and beyond anything required of us to assist Mr. Brennan, and we consider the matter closed.

Michael Locke

Owner Relations Manager
Forest River, Elkhart, Indiana

David Brennan followed up, saying he was satisfied with the repairs:

“We have good news regarding the Catalina. The new end cap is installed, the decals are on it, and I have brought the trailer home. All parts and labor were provided at no charge to me, and I am happy with how the front end looks. Thank you for looking into this matter. It’s been a long time waiting for a six-hour repair, but I am happy with the outcome and look forward to going camping.
D.B.

Top Priority

After the roof membrane was replaced on their travel trailer, an Indiana couple felt entitled to a one-year warranty on it:

“My husband, Andrew, and I purchased a 2019 Puma travel trailer at an RV show. We liked what we saw, so we ordered one. After we had the trailer in for warranty repairs at Wana RV Center in Shipshewana, Indiana, we had problems with the roof and gutter rails. The technicians at Wana RV Center rolled back the roof membrane because it didn’t look right and found decking boards that weren’t attached to anything.

The trailer was taken to the Puma factory in nearby Goshen, Indiana, where they fixed the sagging roof, but water was still running over the doorway and living room window. After someone from Puma

went to Wana to install new gutter rails, we received a call from Wana’s service manager that the previous roof had not been put on correctly. So back to the factory the trailer went for a new roof membrane.

Considering the problems we’ve had, we would like a one-year warranty on the new roof from the date of installation. According to Forest River, the warranty on the roof is from the date of purchase of the trailer.

Terentia Sorg, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Puma’s parent company, Forest River, responded positively, and Terentia Sorg sent the following thank-you note:

“Forest River has given us a one-year warranty on the roof. Thank you for your assistance. We appreciate all your help.
T.S. 📷

NEED HELP RESOLVING AN RV ISSUE ?

RV Resolutions is *Trailer Life’s* forum for the settlement of conflicts between consumers and RV dealers and manufacturers, accessory suppliers and service providers. After exhausting all other resources without success, mail a typed letter to *Trailer Life* RV Resolutions, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036. Include copies of appropriate bills and correspondence along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Selected letters will be edited and published unless otherwise requested.

GLEAW PERSONAL NAVIGATION APPS

Adventurous travelers require innovative and integrated navigation tools at their finger tips. We at GLEAW embrace those goals.

GLEAW | Integrated Navigation Solution

Explore, Save, and Share destinations near and far. Our simple, but smart, GLEAW Code capabilities guide the adventurous wherever you choose. Off the web, that’s where we shine like no other.

For your mobile devices and the Web

LOCAL ~ NATIONAL ~ GLOBAL

REMOTE GROUP EVENTS

RV, ATV, CAR EMERGENCIES

HUNTING/HIKING AND MORE

BK2F5MP8
Actual precision location of this photo

Apple and Android Apps

GLEAW Mobile Mini

GLEAW Mobility Pro

SL8PDC88
Actual precision location of this photo

Apple and Android Apps

GLEAW Rescue DART™

Internet Rescue Web

GLEAW Technology | www.gleaw.com | Search for **GLEAW** Everywhere

Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play
Visit Us on The Web

GLEAW Personal Navigation Apps, Circle 117 on Reader Service Card

VINTAGE-TRAILER WELDING

Q I have an older classic-style trailer, almost canned-ham vintage. The hitch frame is made of heavy channel steel rather than the box steel tubing used today. I want to replace the stock hitch coupler with a new one with a better, more reliable latching mechanism. Is it safe to weld things to that old steel frame, or can that damage the metal's strength?

Mounte D'Anjoy, Oregon City, Oregon



A Sure, it's safe to weld on that new coupler. Adding safety is always a good idea! Be sure to work with a reliable and experienced fabrication shop because it knows how to perform welding without compromising the steel temper, which would likely be your only structural concern. A hitch shop can also help you choose a new coupler assembly that's rated to handle the trailer's weight. They come in all sizes, and you'll need one that's rated for your RV's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR), or somewhat more, as a safety factor. And finally, don't forget a new pair of safety chains while you're at it.

Tires and Axle Ratings

Q My fifth-wheel's axles are rated at 7,000 pounds each, and the fifth-wheel is rated at 14,500 pounds GVWR and cargo not to exceed 2,691 pounds. The tires are E-rated with a 3,520-pound max load rating each. The axles are not rated to carry the maximum allowable weight, and the tires are not rated to carry the maximum total weight either. The tires are rated to carry the axle weight.

Can I get G-rated tires and exceed the axle weight, or just keep the E-rated tires and not exceed 14,000 total pounds? How important is it not to exceed the maximum axle rating?

Don Meier, Alpine, Utah

A To clarify a few points on this, your tires can carry a maximum of 14,080 pounds. Your fifth-wheel's axles and tires are OK, even though they total up somewhat less than the

trailer's GVWR because the axles do not carry the entire trailer weight. About 15 percent or more of a fifth-wheel's weight is carried on the hitch, and the axles support the rest of the trailer's weight. It's important not to exceed the axle rating to avoid overload-related mechanical failures.

As for the higher-rated tires, sure, you can go with the new tires, but you'll also probably need to replace the wheels because the old wheels may not be rated high enough for the new tires. You need to consider a "system" approach when making mechanical changes such as this rather than just one component.

You need to take your trailer to a public scale when it's loaded and ready for a trip and weigh it to determine its overall weight, the weight on its axles and the weight on its hitch. Those manufacturer unloaded vehicle weight (UWV) figures are almost worthless when it's time to get down to brass tacks with figuring out where you stand on cargo-carrying capacity, tow-rating suitability and so on. People don't go RVing and travel with an unloaded trailer, and that UWV figure often doesn't include the weight of some dealer-installed or

even factory-installed options. After a trip to a certified scale, such as a CAT scale at a public truck stop, you'll know exactly where you stand on weights, and then you can make your calculations based on facts rather than factory estimates.

Residential Fridge on the Road

Q We have a 2017 Heartland 3870FB with a residential refrigerator. We tow our Heartland with a 2015 Ram 3500 6.7-liter Cummins. Can we run the fridge while driving down the road? I'd like to know if I can turn it on at the start of a monthlong trip and leave it on, powering it off only when switching to shorepower. I have read several online posts and read blogs. Some say yes, and some say no.

Bob Carter, Benson, North Carolina

A There's nothing wrong with running your RV's residential refrigerator while on the road, as long as your trailer's 12-volt DC system is up to snuff. The fridge operates off 120-volt AC power from an inverter, which in turn is powered by 12 volts DC from the battery bank in your trailer. When on the road, the truck's alternator should keep up with the

COMMENT: MORE GREASABLE SHACKLES

➔ I read the response to Claude Messier's question, "Greaseable Shackles," in the June issue about possible clogged zerk fittings on his trailer's suspension. Your advice was correct as far as it went.

Grease guns are old school, and I'm an old mechanic. The grease gun's head is similar to a drill chuck. It has jaws inside that are held by spring tension. Most often, this tension is enough to keep grease from "blowing by" the zerk. If blowby occurs (as it did for Messier), place the gun on the zerk, then twist the outside collar to tighten the gun's jaws. This will increase the pressure of the zerk-to-gun seal. The collar will have to be loosened to remove the gun and can then be readjusted to enable routine, push-on attachment.

A. Wright Ellis III, Richmond, Virginia

Thank you for that suggestion! I've used an older grease gun for many years and always wondered about the knurled handgrip part of the head. We can learn something new every day, and your information will be useful to other readers as well.

charging demands, but when in an RV park, the refrigerator will work on available 120-volt AC hookup power.

If you plan on spending time without hookups, you may want to consider adding a large solar-panel array and charge controller to the trailer, something, for example, in the 800-watt to 1-kilowatt range. A company specializing in mobile solar-charging equipment, such as AM Solar in Springfield, Oregon (www.amsolar.com), can help you determine exactly how much solar-panel capacity you'd need to do the job.

Solar panels work just fine traveling or parked, and would help take a chunk of the charging load from the truck's alternator as well as keeping the batteries up if you need to park somewhere without shorepower hookups now and then. Of course, in lieu of the solar panels, you can use a portable generator if you're in a location that allows generator use.

Three-Way Refrigerators

Q How come trailer manufacturers don't put three-way refrigerators in their trailers? I have been told many times that you shouldn't tow a trailer or fifth-wheel with the refrigerator operating on propane just in case you have an accident. If a propane line should break, it could be catastrophic. When going on a long trip, I can't keep the refrigerator cold if the propane is off.

John Sullivan, Vail, Arizona

A Some RV manufacturers do use three-way refrigerators, John. If they aren't standard equipment, they sometimes offer them as options, but they're fairly rare these days. As for using a propane-powered appliance when driving, that's a matter of widely disputed opinion. Many people keep the fridge going on propane; others don't. Propane systems have excess-flow prevention valves. If there were a major

line break and potential leak, the valve would shut down the flow right at the supply cylinders.

The cylinder would need to be severely damaged and ruptured to permit a significant gas leak. The most serious safety consideration is that the propane supply and the appliance (in this case, the refrigerator) are turned off before refueling the tow vehicle to avoid an explosion caused by gasoline fumes being ignited by the fridge burner. In the end, the choice is yours whether or not to use the fridge on propane while traveling.

Aftermarket Air-Intake System

Q I have a GMC 5.3-liter truck and pull a Forest River Surveyor 251RKS that weighs 5,700 pounds dry. It goes down the highway fairly well, but I'm wondering if one of the aftermarket cold-air-intake systems would help with power and mileage.

Gary Schumacher, Lindstrom, Minnesota

STOP ROCKEY WITH THE NEW

Ultra E PRO & Ultra M PRO

From The Global Pro Series

- New Keyless Entry
- Uses Same Cut Out As Standard Travel Trailer Locks
- New Design With Full Size Handle For Easy Grip
- Key Alike Ready

Visit your local RV Dealership or **RVLOCKS andmore.com**

Lighted LED Keypad

Manual Version Also Available

CPG Creative Products Group Global PRO Series

Scan me

Creative Products Group, Circle 107 on Reader Service Card

SWIVEL WHEEL.COM



Fast Master Products
866-794-8357

500-1200 LB. CAPACITY, TORSION SUSPENSION
CANNOT JACKKNIFE OR FISHTAIL

SwivelWheel



RV CLINIC

Q I have 2007 four-wheel-drive Chevrolet Suburban with a 6.0-liter gas engine. I'm wondering how to improve gas mileage electronically or mechanically.

Jay Stewart, Brunswick, Georgia

A Aftermarket cold-air-intake systems can help trucks run better and lead to improvements in power and mileage, Gary, but only by a small degree. And Jay, there are hundreds of online sources of reviews and user reports on the effectiveness of assorted engine-enhancement products. These reviews should give you an idea which direction to head with your project.

Something you both need to be aware of is that some performance-enhancement equipment manufacturers tend to be a bit generous when reporting potential gains. It's a good idea not to expect too much from any such bolt-on accessories. It also helps to look at such modifications with a total system



approach. For example, if you clean up the air-intake system, you should also consider a free-flowing exhaust enhancement to keep things in balance and maximize horsepower potential.

There are a wide variety of aftermarket performance tuners, or reprogramming software, available to alter the essential engine operating parameters. These can improve power, and some are designed for fuel-economy gains, but extra power can also come at the expense of some fuel mileage, depending on your driving habits. It's also important to be sure you aren't running afoul of local emissions-equipment laws when making such changes to a vehicle. If the accessory is 50-state CARB-approved, then it's OK to use anywhere in the country. If not, check with your air-resources authorities.

Another surefire way to improve fuel economy is to slow down. Pushing the bulk of an RV through the air takes a lot of energy, and driving at a lower speed can yield surprising improvements in mileage. Making sure the tires on the tow rig and trailer are properly inflated can help, too.

More Freshwater Flowmeters

In response to Leon Steele's June letter, "Water-Tank Capacity, Fantasy Versus Real World," you wrote that you had never seen a water hose with a flowmeter calibrated in gallons. As Denis Jenkins pointed out in the August issue, there are a few water-hose-attachable flowmeters available that do measure in gallons. One that I have used for the past five or six years is Water Saver from AbsolutelyNew, which is CR2032-battery powered with a digital readout in gallons and tenths.

I got it on Amazon, but a quick check shows that it is no longer listed. However, there are several others on Amazon, all battery-powered with digital readouts. I'd presume they have the

Trailer Sway Control
only DAMPENS trailer sway

Eliminate
trailer sway completely!



Hensley® Towing Systems are
Guaranteed to
Eliminate Trailer Sway.
Call one of our Towing Specialists today
and ask which Hensley® is right for you.

Keep your family safe.



Call or visit us online Free Video

800.410.6580 • www.HensleyMfg.com

Fast Master Products, Circle 112 on Reader Service Card

Hensley Manufacturing Inc., Circle 122 on Reader Service Card

DUAL FUEL

A portable generator that runs on

GASOLINE

or

PROPANE



GASOLINE



COMMON FUEL

used worldwide and readily available

MORE PORTABLE

no need to have a cylinder present

LONGER RUN TIME

up to 8 hours with a 6.1 gal. tank

patented

**FUEL
SELECTOR
SWITCH**



PROPANE



CHEAPER FUEL

costs less to run items on propane than gasoline

ECO FRIENDLY

propane is a cleaner burning fuel source

LONGER SHELF LIFE

remains stable in storage for longer periods



CW06997-0699



ON SALE NOW for Good Sam Club Members

CampingWorld.com/Shop | 1.888.857.6625 | SuperCenters Nationwide



Wireless Tire Pressure and Temperature Monitoring System

- 3 1/2" monitor—one of the largest on the market
- Sensors with replaceable batteries
- Available with anti-theft & flow-through sensors
- Monitors up to 26 tires • Handles up to 210 psi
- Both visual and audible alarms
- Fast and easy programming
- 3-year warranty



Prices Start
at \$259.00

www.eezrvproducts.com

928-317-8899
510-910-5397

PARKIT360°



SIMPLE PARKING FOR ANY TRAILER.

Have a tight parking situation? Parkit360's Electric Trailer Dollies are perfect for storing boats, RVs and more! They will move from 5,000 to 15,000 lbs on varied terrain and are compact enough to fit in the trunk of a small sedan. Take a load off this year - make maneuvering around obstacles and tight corners a breeze with one of our Trailer Dollies.



PARKIT360.COM

1-888-926-5517 x 1 • SALES@PARKIT360.COM

RV CLINIC

same accuracy as the one I have. The measurement accuracy on my unit, as I have physically measured, is within one quart at 50 gallons, measured in a portable water tank marked in half-gallon increments. These flowmeters are perfect for filling a freshwater tank to its rated max, or for partial fills, as we do on shorter trips.

I hope this helps. An RVing friend has one made by Orbit, of which Amazon has several models listed. He found his at Lowe's in the garden department last year.

Butch Chaffer, Sparks, Nevada

Thanks for the information and model data about those flowmeters, Butch. We may well have other readers interested in knowing more about specific tank capacities, and it's good to know options are available.

Tank-Level Indicators

Q We've had fifth-wheels for 40 years and recently purchased a 2019 Cardinal Luxury 3250RLX. This one is the first that measures fresh-, gray- and black-water tanks as 33, 66 or 100 percent full — nothing in between.

When traveling and parking, we noticed a bit of water coming out from underneath. In addition, even though we'd start with 66 percent freshwater, when we'd arrive somewhere, it would read 33 percent or less, and the water pump would go on air when turned on. We dropped the back end to look at the tank and discovered two overflow drain hoses.

There are no baffles inside the tank to prevent sloshing while traveling; therefore, water is constantly exiting the tank when the RV is in motion, as you pointed out in your reply to Leon Steele in the June issue. My hubby remedied the situation by putting a plug in one overflow drain hose and putting a plug valve on the other, while also bringing them outside the under-belly flap. When filling the tank, both are opened. When dry camping, the plug valve is opened to allow air into the tank.

We now fill the tank until it registers 100 percent and immediately stop filling it, since it may truly be 66 percent full.



Good Sam Club

MEMBERS SAVE MORE!



10% off at 2,400+ Good Sam Parks & Campgrounds



5¢ off gas & 8¢ off diesel at select Pilot Flying J locations



Up to 10% off every day at Camping World & Gander Outdoor retail locations



Free shipping on online orders over \$49 at Camping World, Gander Outdoors & Overton's (some exclusions apply)



Save on things you do every day - shopping, dining, entertainment, travel & more

AND MUCH MORE!

Not a Member? Join Today!

Call **1.800.234.3450**, visit any retail location or go online to **GoodSam.com/Club**

**CAMPING
WORLD**



**GANDER
OUTDOORS**

Overton's



Good Sam Club

EXCLUSIVE MEMBERS-ONLY OFFER

SimpliSafe

Fear less when you are far from home.

When you're travelling you shouldn't have to worry about burglars or break-ins. SimpliSafe Home Security is engineered for the unexpected. It blankets your home with award-winning 24/7 protection—that keeps working even if the power goes out or your WiFi goes down. As 3 million customers already know, fear has no place in a place like home.

Get your exclusive member savings at **SimpliSafe.com/trailer**



American-Made Quality and Performance



READERS' CHOICE GOLD AWARD WINNER
2012 - 2018



For over 70 years

The Original Equal-i-zer® Sway Control Hitch

has kept families safe on the road. Its American-made quality and exceptional sway control gives you peace of mind and a relaxed, enjoyable towing experience.

THE ORIGINAL
Equal-i-zer.
SWAY CONTROL HITCH

The best protection for your journey.™
equalizerhitch.com • 800-478-5578

Progress Manufacturing, Inc., Circle 135 on Reader Service Card

SYNCR0
CORPORATION

Hayes
Towing Electronics

Safety Recall of Hayes Sway Master®

Hayes Towing Electronics Sway Master Part Number 81775

Syncro and Hayes desire to provide their valued customers with safe, dependable, high-quality products and proudly stand behind their products. In keeping with these values, Syncro and Hayes have initiated a recall of their Sway Master® trailer stability control product to eliminate a potential safety issue at no cost to the customer. Syncro has found that the Sway Master® is incompatible with some make and model tow vehicles that use factory-installed integrated brake controllers. When the Sway Master® unit triggers and independently applies trailer brakes for stability control, some factory-installed, integrated brake controllers may detect a fault and turn off trailer detection by the tow vehicle. If the tow vehicle does not recognize a trailer, it will not apply trailer brakes. The absence of trailer brakes may contribute to loss of control and a resulting accident.

Syncro and Hayes want to eliminate this incompatibility issue in your Sway Master® free of charge. If you own or operate a Sway Master® model number 81775, please call Hayes Towing Electronics Customer Service at 1-800-882-1204 or email customerservice@hayesbc.com for instructions on how to return your unit for an upgrade that remedies the safety issue at no cost to you.

Syncro Corporation and Hayes Towing Electronics apologize for any inconvenience and ask that you help them protect you and your passengers' safety by returning your Sway Master® units for the free safety upgrade.



Hayes Brake Controller, Circle 119 on Reader Service Card

RV CLINIC

While we don't like the way the tank is gauged, at least now we won't be losing water when traveling!

Judy Bishop Jurek, Brownwood, Texas

A The holding-tank level indicators used on most RVs are notoriously inaccurate and unreliable once they've been used awhile. When brand new, they're sort of OK, but it doesn't take long for debris in the gray tank and, especially, the black tank to build up and affect the sensors' accuracy. There are aftermarket systems that can improve on that, and they may be worth looking into if you truly want to know the filled state of the freshwater tank.

Your solution to the sloshing loss of water seems like a good one. I've lost freshwater in RVs under the same circumstances, arriving at camp to learn my RV's once-full tank was down by one-third or one-half, and I've witnessed freshwater leaking from RVs on the road ahead of me. It would be good if the RV manufacturers could pay more attention to this and incorporate simple and effective plumbing solutions to the problem.

Torsion Axle Problems

Q I've read a lot about bent axles and misalignment on leaf-spring-type axles, but I don't recall ever reading about these problems on rubber torsion suspensions. Are they less prone to these types of issues?

Roy Richardson, Knoxville, Iowa

A There are far more leaf-spring axles on the road than there are torsion axles, so the law of averages, given a number of each axle type having problems, means there will be far fewer reports of torsion-axle problems. Torsion axles have an entirely different makeup than conventional leaf-spring axles, Roy, so they may not react the same way under stress or to damaging situations. However, any pothole, curb, cargo overload or other potentially damaging situation will affect both axle types. A bent spindle, for example, is a bent spindle and will affect the trailer's tire alignment regardless of the axle type.

Steele RUBBER PRODUCTS

KEEP THE GREAT
OUTDOORS . . . OUTDOORS.

- SLIDE-OUTS
- DOOR SEALS
- VENT HATCH
- COMPARTMENTS
- RAMP GATE
- DRIP RAILS
- ROOF MOUNTED AC/HEAT PUMP GASKET
- AND MORE!



ORDER TODAY!

800-230-6109

rv.steelerubber.com

J Wright Concepts Hose-Grip



8" assembly attaches to your current water hose

\$25.99
plus \$4.00 shipping

- * Machined nickel-plated fittings
- * Crimped with hydraulic hose crimper
- * Ergonomic Grip makes tightening easy
- * **Water Right™** Polyurethane "drinking-water-safe" hose
- * Lead-Free

J Wright Concepts RV Cable Grip

Do you struggle to connect your coax cable?



\$18.99 plus \$3.00 postage
\$29.99 plus \$7.00 postage

Kit with install tool



J WRIGHT CONCEPTS
RV DRAWER
CITECH
MANUFACTURING
ALUMINUM CARTS, CABINETS & DRAWERS
Custom Fit Aluminum Drawers

Single Drawer
24" Wide x 36" Deep \$429 (Plus Shipping)

All Items Available at
www.rvcablegrip.com

J Wright Concepts PO Box 292511 Sacramento CA 95829
(916) 955-0048 cablegripguy@gmail.com

DUAL WHEEL CONVERSIONS

The
DYNAMIC DUAL



Convert your Pick-up or Suburban to dual wheels the Arrowcraft way.

- No Axle Changes
- Easy Installation
- Steel or Aluminum Wheels
- Custom Styled Fenders

For More information:

Arrowcraft Products, Inc
5022 Leafdale Blvd.
Royal Oak, MI 48073
(248) 280-0210 Fax: (248) 280-1679

Web Site: www.arrowcraft.com

E-Mail: dualies@arrowcraft.com

TIRE TABLE

Durable Powder Coated Steel Travel Table



Uses your vehicle tire or RV tire for its main support

- Stable regardless of ground conditions
- Weighs 13 lbs. and folds down for easy storage
- 29" L X 23" W X 1.5"
- Easily holds up to 50 lbs.

www.TailGaterTireTable.com
TailGaterTireTable@gmail.com

Magne Shade by Hunckler Fabrication LLC

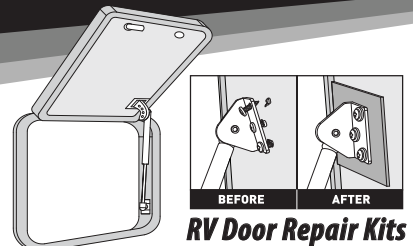
www.MagneShade.com
(336) 753-0905

- The Best Exterior Window Shading System For Your Travel Trailer or 5th Wheel!
- Easy to Install!

See more photos on our website, and feel free to call us for a quote!



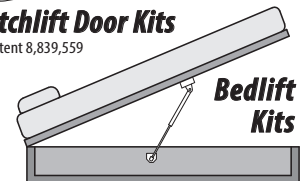
Hatchlift Products



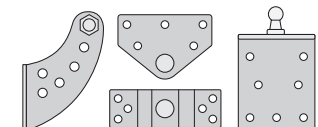
RV Door Repair Kits

Hatchlift Door Kits

US Patent 8,839,559



Bedlift Kits



Mounting Kits & Hardware



Replacement Springs

www.hatchlift.com

DESTINATIONS

IDAHO

RVers Love IDAHO!

ESCAPE the crowds & high prices.

ENJOY great camping, stunning scenery & amazing wildlife.

EXPERIENCE world-class outdoor recreation & friendly, helpful people.

FREE! Idaho RV Campground Directory



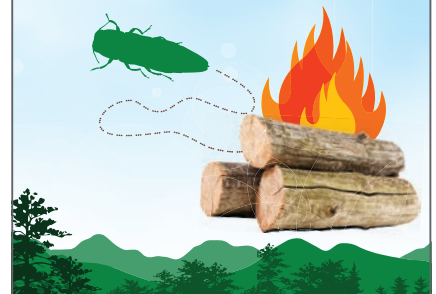
RVidaho.org

MONTANA

FIREWOOD ALERT!

BUY IT WHERE YOU BURN IT.

Transporting firewood can spread tree-killing insects and diseases. Protect your favorite forests by buying local firewood.



DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD.org



Major RV Innovation

New shade operates without opening the screen or entry door.



zarcor.com

972-380-8724 800-877-4797

HONDA GENERATORS

When Quiet Counts,
Count on Honda



SHIPPED SAME DAY EU2000i

LOWEST PRICES ANYWHERE!!

800-832-7365

MOTOSPORTS OF UKIAH

1850 N. State St. Ukiah, Ca. 95482

www.motosportsofukiah.com

Calif. residents add 7.25%. For optimum performance and safety, we recommend you read the Owner's Manual before operating your Honda Power Equipment. Connection of generators to house power requires transfer device to avoid possible injury to power company personnel. Consult a qualified electrician.



2X2



DUAL ELECTRIC DRIVE
UBCO 2X2

ubcobikes.com/us/

KEEP YOUR NOSE CLEAN!

Bug splatter WILL destroy your RV's decals and finish.



Now there is a simple & effective solution...



BUGG BANNER

www.buggbanner.com

(864) 381-1655

SULASTIC RUBBER SPRINGS

SMOOTHER RIDE
just replace the stock shackle

Not-affected



www.sulastic.com



Good Sam

Join today at

GoodSamClub.com

Or call 1.800.234.3450

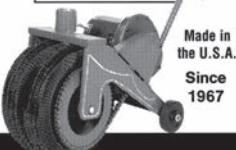
Park it with Power Caster!

Maneuver your trailer easily in limited space, around corners, forward or reverse with the flip of a switch!



SAFE to use:
 Chain guard
 Ground wire

The Original Trailer Mover!
Manufactured since 1967.



Made in the U.S.A.
Since 1967



(800) 773-3833

(626) 287-6117

www.powercaster.com

5001 Encinita Ave., Temple City, CA 91780



FREE INFORMATION

Mail the attached postage-paid card to find out more about these products and services

ADVERTISER INDEX

RS	ADVERTISER	PAGE
101	Air Lift Company	42
103	ASA Electronics	53
104	B&W Trailer Hitches	47
115	Banks Power	16
105	Boar Wheel Company	67
106	Camco, Inc.	74
	Camping World	69
	Camping World RV Sales	70-71
	Champion	87
	Classified	94-95
107	Creative Products Group	85
108	DieselSite	25
102	Dish	55
109	Dometic Corporation	50
110	EEZ RV Products	88
111	Escape Trailer	12
112	Fast Master Products	86
114	Furrion	15
116	Geico	23
	Giraffe G4 Systems	59
117	Gleaw Personal Navigation Apps	83
	Good Sam Club	89
	Good Sam Extended Service Plan	72
	Good Sam Insurance Agency	26
	Good Sam Media and Events	77
	Good Sam RV Loans	30
	Good Sam RV Travel Guide	79
	Good Sam Visa	58
118	Grand Design RV	9
	Harbor Freight Tools	96-97
119	Hayes Brake Controller	90
120	Heartland Recreational Vehicles, LLC	7
121	Hensley Manufacturing Inc.	5
122	Hensley Manufacturing Inc.	86
123	Hughes Autoformer	49

ADVERTISER INDEX

RS	ADVERTISER	PAGE
124	Icon Technologies	59
125	KZ Inc.	99
126	Lance Campers	2
127	Lippert Components	31
128	Lippert Components	68
129	Maxxis International	18-19
130	MORryde	28
131	Northwood Mfg.	14
132	Park It 360	88
133	Phoenix USA Inc.	39
134	Progress Manufacturing, Inc.	8
135	Progress Manufacturing, Inc.	90
136	Progressive Insurance	10
137	Purple Line LLC	5
138	Rear View Safety	13
139	Redarc	29
140	Roadmaster, Inc.	27
141	RV Armor, Inc.	66
	RV Marketplace	91-92
113	RVRoof.com	8
	Suburban	81
	Tamron USA, Inc.	40
143	Tamron USA, Inc.	41
142	TireTraker	67
144	Transfer Flow Inc.	45
145	Travel Lite RV	100
146	Ultra-Fab Products Inc.	75
	weBoost	48
147	Winnebago Towables	57
148	Xantrex	82

EDITORIAL PRODUCT INDEX

RS	PRODUCT	PAGE
151	Aluminum Trailer Company 8528-FB	20
150	Jayco Talon 403T	17

Still More Greasable Shackles

This is in response to June's "Greasable Shackles" and Claude Messier's difficulty in getting grease to penetrate inside the kit to lubricate the sleeve. In your reply, you were correct in noting that the greasable space is a tight fit.

When I upgraded the shackle-bolt kit on my 2016 Jayco Pinnacle using the MORryde Wet Bolt Kit Upgrade, the instructions specifically noted: "The grease exit-hole location on the [shackle] bolt should face sideways to allow for ease of grease flow. Grease should flow easily through the zerk fitting [and] bolt cavity, and exit into the spring-eye bushing area. If grease flow is restricted ... check the grease exit-hole position of the bolt. The hole position may need to be altered to better allow grease flow."

I also found it best when regreasing the bolts to have the weight off the spring to allow the grease to flow around the spring-eye bushing area completely.

Billy Ely, Birmingham, Alabama

It's funny, sometimes, how well things work when you read the instructions. Thank you, Billy, for passing that along, right from the horse's mouth, so to speak. We've had a lot of reader response to the greasable shackle matter, and we're delighted to learn that so many readers have installed these important suspension components.

Auto-Leveling Systems

Q I have asked people this question and have not received the same answer twice. I have a 2018 Keystone Sprinter 34-foot fifth-wheel with an automatic leveling system. I have camped in places where, when level, the tires on one side of the trailer are off the ground. Can this cause damage to the trailer? Should I be putting blocks under the tires on that side?

I have been told everything from "It is no problem" to "The frame will warp, and you may break the windows." Thanks for any information you can give me.

Don Milani, Citrus Heights, California

While every effort is made to maintain accuracy and completeness, last-minute changes may occasionally result in omissions or errors.

ACCESSORIES



12-Volt Cooling for RVs

TurboKool Evaporative "Swamp" Coolers
Powered by Battery and/or Solar.
Cools your RV (up to 30° reduction)
Please visit www.TurboKool.com

LEAKY ROOF? Liquid Roof® goes on like paint --
cures to a sealed EPDM rubber membrane. UV &
Ozone resistant--good to 300° F. 5-year warranty.
800-467-7135 www.AdvancedRubberCoatings.com

Lunatic's Hydration Spray Bottle has
mist, stream & shower patterns. Cool off,
clean off & drink. BPA free. Try it today
It's awesome. www.lunaticgear.com

AIR BEDS

Dual adjustable air bed sleep systems.
Sleep better than you do at home!
RV sizes. EZ installation. Guaranteed.
questions@bearbeds.com, www.bearbeds.com

CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIPS FOR SALE

CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIP OUTLET-SINCE 1991
Contact us to Buy a resale or Sell -- 800-272-0401
Any Membership-Nationwide - email for information:
kimberly@membershipoutlet.com

Holiday Trails Int'l 3 wk stay camping mbrshp.
1 cpagd in WA, USA. 2 in BC, Ca. 2 in ALB,
Ca. + 4 other Ca. host parks. 3 wk mbrshps
no longer avail to buy. Phone 360 393-0460

HELP WANTED

Earn While You Travel. Up to 65% Commission.
Complimentary RV Site While Working. Need
self-motivated people with computer
& sales experience. Adventure Awaits!!!
800-832-3292 • SoutheastPublications.com

Recycle your magazines!
Be a Mean Green



Recycling Machine!

TRAILER LIFE
[.com](http://www.TrailerLife.com)

HOMES FOR SALE



TOP RATED RESORT - S. Texas

Retama Village-Coach House Sites-\$59s
Deluxe Coach House Sites \$89s
RV Casitas \$130s - RV Port Homes \$190s.
956-380-6500 www.bentsenpalm.com



#1 RATED RV RESORTS - S. Texas

Bentsen Palm Village & Retama Village
Rentals available for Pull-throughs,
Back ins, Super sites, and Casitas
956-585-5568 www.bentsenpalm.com

MAIL/MESSAGE SERVICES



Good Sam
Mail Service

High Quality Mail & Package Forwarding

- View front image of Envelopes & Packages
 - Request env scans and the contents inside
 - Mail shipped on your schedule
 - Auto obvious junk mail shredding
 - Florida Homebase. No state income tax
 - Plans as low as \$9/mo
- 877-388-2753 www.goodsammailservice.com

AMERICAS MAILBOX Forwarding in SD/Low Rates

NO Wheel Tax/NO Sales/Income Tax/Save \$\$\$
NO Safety Insp/4-Season Campground & Hotel
We Scan Your Mail/Insurance/Ext Warranties
www.AmericasMailbox.com *Call Us First!!*
866-747-3700

RECREATION VEHICLES FOR SALE

RV ONLINE - visit us at RVONLINE.COM

Buying or selling an RV?
\$39.95, 4 month Nationwide Ad!
1000's have listed and SOLD -- 831-475-5533

RV APPRAISERS



TRAVEL TRAILER DEFECTS EXPERT

Breach of Warranty, TT Dealer Fraud,
Slide Outs, Mechanical, Electrical,
Chassis, Roof, Wall, Framing issues
Undisclosed Damages, Fires, Leaks,
TT Repair Shop Negligence, Bad Repairs,
Diminished Value & Total Loss Claims.
www.HoustonAutoAppraisers.com
Roy@HoustonAutoAppraisers.com
Roy Theophilus Bent, Jr. -- Expert Witness
1-877-845-2368

RV FINANCING

RV FINANCING, 20 YEARS ONLINE!

LOW RATES, GREAT SERVICE, NATIONWIDE
1998 AND NEWER RVs ALL TYPES
www.RVFINANCING.COM • [Facebook.com/rvloans](https://www.facebook.com/rvloans)
CALL NOW-toll free 888-929-4424

SERVICES

ALL DAY

\$49

MONTANA
REGISTERED
AGENT LLC

\$700 for a 1 day MT LLC and permanent
trailer registration. Includes DMV fees.
www.49dollarmontanaregisteredagent.com
Call for more info 406-552-0004.

ACTION SERVICES, LLC/WILSON LAW OFFICE

No Sales Tax in Montana. Consult a Licensed
Montana Attorney for an understanding of
LLC vehicle ownership. Call the Professionals
to get a comprehensive explanation.
800-481-0013 www.actionservices-mt.com

#1 IN SALES TAX SAVINGS

PAY NO SALES TAX! We have helped 1000's save
over the past 24+ yrs. Call & talk to a CPA for
professional, friendly service! www.rvtax.com
Mountain States Consulting 800-565-4504

SEE WHAT'S TRENDING ON

TRAILERLIFE.COM

TOURS



Guided RV Tours & Rallies
Lower 48 • Alaska • Canada • Overseas
Free RV Vacation Catalog 936-327-3428 or
www.adventurecaravans.com



RV CARAVANS and RALLIES
Pre-Planned Routes, Expert Guides and
Safe Travel-North America & Overseas.
FantasyRVtours.com or call 800-952-8496

TRAVEL TRAILERS & FIFTH-WHEELS



NEW True4Season 2019 DRV Mobile Suite 36RSSB3
(Loaded) SALE: \$97,900 MSRP: \$141,695 2020 models
coming. Call: 877-228-6975 Custom Order Available @
No Charge. View All New/Used Units @ www.rvsforless.net
Worldwide Shipping. #1 USA Dealer 2011-2018



NEW True4Season 2020 DRV Models (Loaded) on Lot
Best Service Before & After the Sale, & Best Pricing.
Call: 877-228-6975 Custom Order Available @ No Charge.
View All New/Used Units @ www.rvsforless.net
Worldwide Shipping. #1 USA Dealer 2011-2018

Subscribe to
TRAILER LIFE
FOLLOW THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE
Call 800-825-6861



NEW True4Season 2019 DRV Mobile Suite "44ft NASHVILLE"
(Loaded) SALE: \$122,900 MSRP: \$187,389 2020 models
coming. Call: 877-228-6975 Custom Order Available @
No Charge. View All New/Used Units @ www.rvsforless.net
Worldwide Shipping. #1 USA Dealer 2011-2018

TRAILER LIFE
FOLLOW THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE

CLASSIFIED RATES

Private Parties:

\$32 per line, four-line minimum.
Add \$65 for color photo. All red text add \$25.

Commercial:

\$74 per line, four-line minimum, 40 characters per line.
For photo ads (limited to RVs and real estate), add \$95
B/W or \$115 color.
For logo add \$95 B/W, \$115 color. No category limita-
tions for logos. All red text add \$50.

Display Advertising:

1" ad B/W \$475. 2" ad B/W \$800.
Add \$75 for color. Frequency discounts apply.

For information contact:

Katey Purgatorio
Phone: 847-229-6756
Fax: 270-495-6278
Email: katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com



A That's a seriously off-level campsite! Even with an auto-leveling system aboard, it's best to use some blocks of wood under the low-side tires to at least bring the trailer closer to a level stance before deploying the levelers. While that is somewhat counter to why you have an auto-leveling system in the first place, it would mean some of the trailer's weight is still supported by the suspension on that lower side, and that would save wear and tear on the levelers and the frame.

Replacement Plank Flooring

Q In June's RV Clinic, the "Linoleum or Plank Flooring?" letter from Joe Montoya asked about click-together plank flooring. It does come in an unclicked version, too, for homes where the floors are not perfectly level and solid. The great alternative is plank flooring called Allure. It sticks to itself, making it water-resistant, and it doesn't come apart. It can be purchased at Home Depot and is heavy duty, wears well and cuts with a razor knife. We used it in our home.
Jann Todd, Florence, Colorado

A Interlocking-style plank flooring is solid and reliable in residential and mobile applications. Each flooring style (among the many on the market) has specific instructions about how to properly install it. When something goes wrong, it's often because the installer failed to follow the directions, including the part about allowing clearance for expansion. When the flooring expands and has nowhere to go, it can buckle and cause breaks in the edge joinery that make it seem as if its interlocking has failed.

There are many varieties of such flooring; Allure seems like one of those viable options, and we're glad to hear it worked for you. If you've also used it in your RV, we'd love to hear your results after it's been in service awhile. **TL**

HAVE A TECH QUESTION ?

Email rvclinic@trailerlife.com or write to RV Clinic, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036. Include your full name and hometown. Selected letters will be answered in the magazine, but time does not permit individual replies. No phone calls, please.

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

SUPER COUPON
Customer Rating ★★★★★

PREDATOR BEATS HONDA

2000 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR

4.7 HOURS	RUN-TIME	3.4 HOURS
2000	MAX. STARTING WATTS	2000
1600	RUNNING WATTS	1600
61 dB	NOISE LEVEL	58 dB
40 LBS.	WEIGHT	45.0 LBS.
1.2 GAL.	TANK SIZE	.95 GAL.
3	OUTLETS	3
YES	OVERLOAD PROTECTION	YES
79.7cc	ENGINE SIZE	98.5cc
YES	LOW OIL ALERT	YES
YES	PARALLEL CAPABLE	YES
YES	POWER SAVER	YES




PREDATOR 2000 **NOW \$449.99** **SAVE \$59** **ITEM 62523** **PRICE \$1,009** **HONDA EU2000i**

COMPARE TO **PERFORMANCE TOOL** MODEL: W2364 **ITEM 63878/63991 64005/69597/60566 63601/67227 shown**

30097108

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

*HONDA EU2000i stated specs

SUPER COUPON

FREE

OVER 5,000 5 STAR REVIEWS
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
WITH ANY PURCHASE

SUPER BRIGHT LED / SMD WORK LIGHT / FLASHLIGHT

- Super-Strong, Ultra-Lightweight Composite Plastic
- Magnetic Base & 360° Swivel Hook for Hands-Free Operation
- 3 AAA Batteries (Included)
- 144 Lumens

ALL IN A SINGLE SUPER POWERFUL LIGHT



COMPARE TO **PERFORMANCE TOOL** MODEL: W2364 **ITEM 63878/63991 64005/69597/60566 63601/67227 shown**

30088385

Cannot be used with other discounts or prior purchases. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 12/20/19 while supplies last. Limit 1 FREE GIFT per customer per day.

SUPER COUPON

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM*



30095903

LIMIT 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discounts, coupons or any of the following items or brands: Inside Track Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Safe Room, merchandise from police, safety, storage, automotive, child car seats, ballers, welders, Admiral, Atlas, Bostech, Central Machinery, Corona, CoverPro, Daytona, Diamondback, Earthquake, Fischer, Hercules, Icon, Jupiter, Lynx, Pavilion, Predator, Trailgator, Viking, Vixion, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 12/20/19.

PREDATOR **SUPER COUPON**

25 FT. x 10 GAUGE GENERATOR DUTY TWIST LOCK EXTENSION CORD

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$319.99 **SAVE 24%** **ITEM 62308**

COMPARE TO **BLUE HAWK** MODEL: B8X18-Y **ITEM 69115/69121/69129/69137/69249/877 shown**

30104731

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

SUPER COUPON

7 FT. 4" x 9 FT. 6" ALL PURPOSE/WEATHER RESISTANT TARP

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$299 **SAVE 65%** **ITEM 69115/69121/69129/69137/69249/877 shown**

COMPARE TO **BLUE HAWK** MODEL: B8X18-Y **ITEM 69115/69121/69129/69137/69249/877 shown**

30116506

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

SUPER COUPON

HEAVY DUTY FOLDABLE ALUMINUM SPORTS CHAIR

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$199.99 **SAVE 50%** **ITEM 62314/63006/66383 shown**

COMPARE TO **COLEMAN** MODEL: 2000020293 **ITEM 62314/63006/66383 shown**

30120675

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

COVERPRO **SUPER COUPON**

10 FT. x 17 FT. PORTABLE GARAGE

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$169.99 **SAVE \$100** **ITEM 62859/63055 62860 shown**

COMPARE TO **SHELTER LOGIC** MODEL: 76377 **ITEM 62859/63055 62860 shown**

30130842

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

CENTECH **SUPER COUPON**

AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$49.99 **SAVE 83%** **ITEM 69955/64284/42292 shown**

COMPARE TO **SCHUMACHER ELECTRIC** MODEL: SC1 **ITEM 69955/64284/42292 shown**

30135038

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

PITTSBURGH JACKS **SUPER COUPON** Customer Rating ★★★★★

RAPID PUMP® 1.5 TON LIGHTWEIGHT ALUMINUM FLOOR JACK

• Weighs 34 lbs.

NOW \$59.99 **SAVE \$91** **ITEM 64545/64552/64832/64980 62160/62516/60569 shown**

COMPARE TO **K TOOL** MODEL: KT163094 **ITEM 64545/64552/64832/64980 62160/62516/60569 shown**

30135438

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

HaulMaster **SUPER COUPON**

18" WORKING PLATFORM STEP STOOL

Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 350 lb. capacity

NOW \$199.99 **SAVE 61%** **ITEM 62515/66911 shown**

COMPARE TO **GPL** MODEL: H-21 **ITEM 62515/66911 shown**

30138457

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

PREDATOR **SUPER COUPON**

6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$99.99 **SAVE \$230** **ITEM 60363/69730 66121/69727 shown CALIFORNIA ONLY**

COMPARE TO **HONDA** MODEL: GX200UT20X2 **ITEM 60363/69730 66121/69727 shown CALIFORNIA ONLY**

30142784

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC **SUPER COUPON**

3/8" x 50 FT. RETRACTABLE AIR HOSE REEL

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$59.99 **SAVE \$39** **ITEM 69265/62344/64685/93897 shown**

COMPARE TO **KOBALT** MODEL: SGY-AIR184 **ITEM 69265/62344/64685/93897 shown**

30149729

LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

HaulMaster **SUPER COUPON**

HEAVY DUTY HAND TRUCK

Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 600 lb. capacity
• 10" pneumatic tires

NOW \$299.99 **SAVE 50%** **ITEM 62775/3163/62776/62973/95061 shown**

COMPARE TO **MILWAUKEE** MODEL: 70019 **ITEM 62775/3163/62776/62973/95061 shown**

30149937

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

PREDATOR **SUPER COUPON**

2500 PSI, 2.4 GPM, 4 HP (160 CC) GAS PRESSURE WASHER

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$249.99 **SAVE \$91** **ITEM 62201**

COMPARE TO **CHAMPION POWER EQUIPMENT** MODEL: 100382 **ITEM 62201**

30154630

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

SUPER COUPON

SOLAR ROPE LIGHT

• 16 ft. of warm white LEDs

NOW \$8.99 **SAVE 72%** **ITEM 62553/63941/64625/68353 shown**

COMPARE TO **HAMPTON BAY** MODEL: 84130 **ITEM 62553/63941/64625/68353 shown**

30162636

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

HaulMaster **SUPER COUPON**

3/8" x 14 FT., GRADE 43 TOWING CHAIN

• 5400 lb. capacity

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$199.99 **SAVE \$39** **ITEM 40462/60658/97711 shown**

COMPARE TO **MIBRO** MODEL: 426920 **ITEM 40462/60658/97711 shown**

30164834

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

Apache **SUPER COUPON**

ULTRA-LIGHT, CRUSH PROOF WEATHER-RESISTANT LOCKABLE CASE

Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 8-1/8" L
• 5-5/8" W
• 3-3/4" H

NOW \$99.99 **SAVE 74%** **ITEM 64550 63518 shown**

COMPARE TO **PELICAN** MODEL: 1150 **ITEM 64550 63518 shown**

30169977

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

Case contents and locks not included.

WARRIOR **SUPER COUPON**

29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$10.99 **SAVE \$18** **ITEM 5889/62281 61637 shown**

COMPARE TO **DEWALT** MODEL: DW1399 **ITEM 5889/62281 61637 shown**

30173313

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

HaulMaster **SUPER COUPON**

TRIPLE BALL TRAILER HITCH

Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$199.99 **SAVE 66%** **ITEM 101179799**

COMPARE TO **REESE TOWPOWER** MODEL: 101179799 **ITEM 101179799**

30173314

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19*

NEW U.S. GENERAL SUPER COUPON
44" x 22" DOUBLE BANK EXTRA DEEP CABINETS
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE \$2,285
 COMPARE TO **\$2,735**
 SNAP-ON MODEL: KRAA813FPB0
 Item 64446, 64443, 64133, 64354, 64955, 64956

HOLDS 20% MORE
YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR
\$449.99
\$499.99

30173785
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

HARDY SUPER COUPON
POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES PACK OF 100
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 5 mil thickness
12¢ PER PAIR
NOW \$5.99
~~\$7.99~~

COMPARE TO VENOM \$14.97
 MODEL: VEM145
 ITEM 97581, 37050, 64417, 64418, 61363, 68497, 61360, 61359, 68498, 68496 shown

30187922
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

GOOD SUPER COUPON **BETTER**
CENTRAL PNEUMATIC **McGRAW**

21 GALLON OIL-LUBE AIR COMPRESSOR **20 GALLON OIL-LUBE AIR COMPRESSOR**

125 PSI	135 PSI
STANDARD LIFE	2X LIFE*
STANDARD NOISE LEVEL	25% QUIETER*
STANDARD RUN TIME	27% MORE RUN TIME*
STANDARD OIL-LUBE MOTOR	SUPERIOR CONSTRUCTION OIL-LUBE MOTOR

Customer Rating ★★★★★

ITEM 61454/69091 62803/63635 67847 shown
\$169.99 ~~\$189.99~~
SAVE \$69

ITEM 56241 64657 shown
\$174.99 ~~\$199.99~~
SAVE \$75

30188884 30191923
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

10" PNEUMATIC TIRE
NOW \$3.99
~~\$5.99~~
SAVE 50%

COMPARE TO FARM & RANCH \$8.09
 MODEL: FR1055
 ITEM 69385/62388/62409/62698/30900 shown

Customer Rating ★★★★★

30193698
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

THUNDERBOLT solar SUPER COUPON
100 WATT SOLAR PANEL KIT
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

2X MORE POWER
RENEWABLE ENERGY ANYWHERE
NOW \$149.99
~~\$189.99~~

ITEM 64335/63585 shown
COMPARE TO SUNFORCE \$292.44
 MODEL: SF0180 **SAVE \$142**

30197401
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

luminar OUTDOOR SUPER COUPON
24 FT., 18 BULB, 12 SOCKET OUTDOOR STRING LIGHTS
YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR
NOW \$19.99
~~\$27.99~~
SAVE 50%

Customer Rating ★★★★★

ITEM 64486 ITEM 64739 63483 shown
COMPARE TO PORTFOLIO \$39.98
 MODEL: SLC12BK

30200740
 LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

PORTLAND SUPER COUPON
7 AMP ELECTRIC POLE SAW 9.5" BAR
NOW \$59.99
~~\$79.99~~
SAVE \$39

Customer Rating ★★★★★

ITEM 68862/63190/62896 shown
COMPARE TO WORX \$99.98
 MODEL: W6309

30206106
 LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON
48" x 96" HEAVY DUTY FOLDING TRAILER
 • 1195 lb. capacity
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

COMPARE TO IRONTON \$449.99
 MODEL: 37551 **SAVE \$190**
NOW \$259.99
~~\$349.99~~

ITEM 62648/62666/64652/90154 shown
 30211685
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON
CLICK-TYPE TORQUE WRENCHES
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

LIFETIME WARRANTY
 • Reversible

DRIVE	ITEM	Item 239 shown
1/4"	61277/63881/2696/94735	
3/8"	61276/63880/807/94892	
1/2"	62431/63882/239/94850	

COMPARE TO HUSKY \$89.97
 MODEL: 120TWA **SAVE 88%**
YOUR CHOICE \$99
~~\$199~~

30211956
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

KRAUSE & BECKER SUPER COUPON
AIRLESS PAINT SPRAYER KIT
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$169.99
~~\$214.99~~
SAVE \$129
COMPARE TO GRACO \$299
 MODEL: 262800

ITEM 68001/62915/60600 shown
 30213236
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

Quantum SUPER COUPON
588 LUMENS TACTICAL FLASHLIGHT
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$9.99
~~\$14.99~~
SAVE 83%
COMPARE TO STREAMLIGHT \$59.99
 MODEL: PROTAC-1L

ITEM 64799/63934 shown
 30214848
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON
18" x 12" MOVER'S DOLLY
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 1000 lb. capacity

COMPARE TO BUFFALO TOOLS \$22.99
 MODEL: HFDOLLY **SAVE 65%**
NOW \$10.99
~~\$17.99~~

ITEM 60497/61899/63095/63096/63097/63098 shown
 30230910
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON
72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

COMPARE TO BLUE HAWK \$19.99
 MODEL: 77280 **SAVE 70%**
NOW \$5.99
~~\$8.99~~

ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shown
 30241536
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

Bauer SUPER COUPON
20 VOLT LITHIUM CORDLESS 1/2" COMPACT DRILL/DRIVER KIT
 • 450 in. lbs. of torque
 • 1.5 amp hour battery
 • Weighs 3.4 lbs.
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

SAVE \$39
NOW \$59.99
~~\$69.99~~
COMPARE TO RYOBI \$99
 MODEL: P1911

ITEM 64754/63531 shown
 30252608
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

COVER PRO SUPER COUPON
10 FT. x 10 FT. POPUP CANOPY
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 64 sq. ft. of shade
NOW \$54.99
~~\$64.99~~
COMPARE TO SHADE TECH \$99.98
 MODEL: 157467 **SAVE \$44**

ITEM 69456/62384/62898/62897/62899 shown
 30255765
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON
UNIVERSAL ROOF CROSS BARS SET OF 2
NEW
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

• 198 lb. capacity
SAVE \$10
NOW \$59.99
~~\$69.99~~

ITEM 64877
 30259845
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

PITTSBURGH Automotive SUPER COUPON
1 TON CAPACITY FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

• Boom extends from 36-1/4" to 50-1/4"
 • Crane height adjusts from 82" to 94"
NOW \$139.99
~~\$189.99~~
COMPARE TO IRONTON \$249.99
 MODEL: 46218 **SAVE \$110**

ITEM 61858/69512/69445 shown
 30263473
 LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON
40 PIECE, 1/4" AND 3/8" DRIVE SAE AND METRIC SOCKET SET
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

LIFETIME WARRANTY
NOW \$49.99
~~\$59.99~~
COMPARE TO CRAFTSMAN \$49.98
 MODEL: CMMT12018 **SAVE 90%**
~~\$59.99~~

ITEM 47902/975/61328/63015/62843 shown
 30272603
 LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON
.50 CAL METAL AMMO CAN
 Customer Rating ★★★★★

NOW \$12.99
~~\$15.99~~
COMPARE TO GAME WINNER \$24.99
 MODEL: F50WHE1030 **SAVE 48%**

ITEM 63750/63181 shown
 30281683
 LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 12/20/19

1,000+ Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 12/20/19.

At Harbor Freight Tools, the "Compare to" price means that the specified comparison, which is an item with the same or similar function, was advertised for sale at or above the "Compare to" price by another national retailer in the U.S. within the past 90 days. Prices advertised by others may vary by location. No other meaning of "Compare to" should be implied. For more information, go to HarborFreight.com or see store associate.

📍 **VALLEY OF THE GOBLINS**
Oddly shaped sandstone formations and otherworldly scenery capture the imagination.



Hoodoo Heaven

Utah's Goblin Valley State Park transports visitors to a red-rock paradise

— by *Emily Fagan*

The most important things to pack for an RV trip to Utah's Goblin Valley State Park are your sense of humor and imagination. Home to thousands of red-rock hoodoos that resemble everything from spaceships and toadstools to turtles and ducks, this gigantic natural playground was created by the forces of wind and water.

As we stood on the edge of the Valley of the Gobblins after a short hike from the pretty campground, a little

boy brushed past me and ran down the hill at top speed shouting, "This is *heaven!*" Below us kids of all sizes were climbing up the sides of the whimsical rock formations, claiming themselves "King of the castle!" while their slower siblings were destined to be the dirty rascals.

A hike around the outside of the massive hoodoo collection took us through a deep wash and up a short scramble to peer into Goblin's Lair. At nearby

Little Wild Horse Canyon, we wriggled through skinny slots that had been carved by water rushing between the curvy sandstone walls.

To visit this unique wonderland, head south on State Route 24 from Interstate 70, west of Green River, and follow the signs.

➔ **If You Go**
The campground at Goblin Valley State Park has 14 reservable RV spaces, along with showers, flush toilets and a communal water station. www.stateparks.utah.gov/parks/goblin-valley 📍

MADE FOR MOMENTS
LIKE THIS.



**RECREATIONAL
VEHICLES**

The quality we put into every KZ Recreational Vehicle means you can spend more time making memories in the great outdoors, and less being stressed. Whether you dream of crossing the country or the county line, it's time for an adventure. Are you ready? **Go. Camp. Live.**

KZ-RV.com

KZ Inc., Circle 25 on Reader Service Card

EVOKE

BY TRAVEL LITE RV



Starting at
\$37,195 MODEL A

MODEL L
Shown

24 Ft. Smart Power Awning
Curved European Cabinetry
True 80" x 76" King Size Bed
Stainless Steel Appliances Throughout
102" Wide Wheel Base with Michelin Tires
Breathtaking, Private Jet Inspired Interiors



TravelLiteRV.com

TRAVEL LITE RV

Travel Lite RV, Circle 145 on Reader Service Card