



TIFFIN MOTORHOMES

SIDE ROADS

The Award-Winning Allegro Club Newsletter For Leisure & Living

Special Report: Tiffin's 2007 Model Features

- Whisper Cool™ A/C
- New Roof Caps
- Side Cameras
- Flex Air Hide-A-Bed
- Front-engine Diesel Allegro
- 60-degree Wheel Cut

Volume 2 Issue No.4
September 2006





From the driver's seat by Jimmy Johnson

About 4,800 Allegro Club members missed a great time in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Just ask any of the 230 folks who attended the late-June rally.

Nary a drop of rain, 70-degree days with no humidity, great food, great entertainment and a boat ride on Lake Coeur d'Alene that will live in photo albums and memories for years and years.

If you missed that rally, we hope we saw you in Cherokee, NC; or will see you this fall in Essex Junction, VT, or San Antonio, TX. In 2007, rallies take us to Orlando; Atlanta; Paso Robles, CA; Warrens, MI, plus maybe a couple more locations.

Rallies are great opportunities to laugh, visit, toss washers and horseshoes, oogle new coaches and yes, eat well. We pick our caterers with care.

Rallies can also feed the treasuries of Allegro Club chapters. Each chapter represented by 4-6 coaches receives a check for 50% of a registration fee. Every chapter with at least seven rigs at a rally drives home with a check for a full registration fee.

Chapters are the heart and soul of the Allegro Club. Most offer monthly campouts or other activities at least spring through fall. Chapters provide wonderful opportunities to get to know others who share your love of RVing and Tiffin Motorhomes. Knowing someone nearby who knows how to tune a satellite receiver or walk you through the steps of winterization can be quite handy.

Allegro Club membership and chapter numbers continue to grow at a very healthy pace. We have added 14 chapters since August 2005, bringing the total to 48, with several more in the process of organizing. Our ambitious goal is to add 20 more chapters in the next two years.

Two years ago, we had 2,000 members. We now push the 5,000 mark, more than 10% of registered Tiffin owners.

A one-year complimentary Allegro Club membership is among all the documents you receive when buying a new Tiffin Motorhome. As an indicator of the perceived value of club membership, we currently retain 49% of those new members when dues are assessed.

These numbers provide a sketchy indication of our club's vitality, but your comments, suggestions and other input are so effective in helping us to make the Allegro Club what you want it to be – for you.

President
Allegro Club



SIDE ROADS

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The mission of the Allegro Club is:

- 1) To promote friendship, fellowship and camaraderie among all owners of Tiffin-built motorhomes;
- 2) To provide pertinent information and assistance regarding Tiffin-built products, their maintenance and related safety topics;
- 3) To promote brand loyalty to Tiffin-built motorhomes among current owners;
- 4) To encourage ownership of Tiffin-built motorhomes among non-owners.

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ON THE COVER

With its 350 HP Caterpillar C7 engine and Allison six-speed automatic transmission, even serious snow-capped mountains are no match for the 2007 Tiffin Motorhomes Phaeton. Learn more about the new models on Pages 8 and 9. You also can visit a Tiffin dealer or log on to www.tiffinmotorhomes.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Want to share an experience you had in your Tiffin Motorhome? Have a comment or suggestion about SideRoads, the Allegro Club newsletter? Write to:

Side Roads Editor, Allegro Club
P.O. Box 1429, Red Bay, AL 35582

Please include your name, address, email and phone number so we can contact you.

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Serving 2 loves: RVing and scholarship

Jan Norberg has converted her 2001 Allegro into a gift that keeps giving.

A retired university professor of communications and theater, Norberg has donated her prized Allegro to the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota. When the university's foundation sells Norberg's rig, the proceeds will provide scholarship funding.

During her several decades of RVing, Norberg owned five motorhomes and a 192-acre campground in Illinois. Parting with her Allegro, even at 80, was not easy.

"I liked my two Allegros and I hated to stop camping, but my camping friends lived in the South, and it was 800 miles to get to them," Norberg says.

She estimates she logged more than 100,000 miles in her motorhomes. Her travels ranged from mission work in Yuma, AZ,

with Campers on Mission, a faith-based national organization, to FMCA rallies in Perry, GA. She used her emergency road service insurance for a tow from a muddy rally in Hutchinson, KS, and narrowly avoided a similar fate at the Allegro Club rally in Amana, IA in 2004. She looks back on all her RVing adventures as "interesting and exciting."

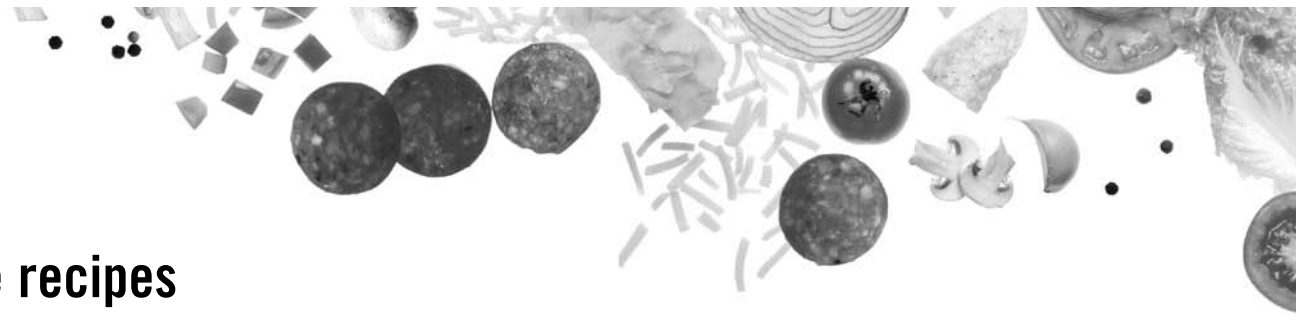
While she served on the faculty of Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL, she owned Hebron Hills Camping in Oakland, IL. Norberg also taught at Central Methodist University in Fayette, MO, and Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, TX. She was a visiting professor at Oregon State University.

Jon Hiatt, executive director of the University of Sioux Falls Foundation, says Norberg's gift is the first motorhome the foundation has received.

"There's certainly something noble about investing in students," Hiatt says. "Jan is demonstrating that she expects students to show a dividend -- make a contribution in the world, then eventually do the same as she did, providing scholarship assistance for future generations of students. She sees the impact she is having on our world."

Norberg's endowed scholarship will be offered to students above the freshman year. "I would hope to help students interested in church work, music or teaching but the scholarship will not specify any academic major," she said.

The University of Sioux Falls, founded in 1883, is a private university affiliated with the American Baptist Church. The 2005 undergraduate enrollment was 1,304. Ninety-six percent of the students receive some form of financial assistance.



Roadside recipes

by Gail Johnson

With the cooler days of fall fast approaching, thoughts turn to Allegro Club fall rallies, football games and tailgating, weekend jaunts to see fall color, and, at least in our household, school resuming for our teenager.

Anticipating a busier, more structured schedule, here are some easy, warming soups and stews — dishes that can be assembled in advance and simmered all day or frozen for a quick and hearty meal in a hurry. Whether you are rambling down the road in your Tiffin motorhome or holding down the fort this fall, try one or more of these recipes that have been taste-tested many times by the Johnson clan. ■

Chicken Stew

This recipe makes a large pot; modify it by using half as much of each ingredient for a smaller portion.

Ingredients:

Large whole chicken or chicken pieces	1 bay leaf	3-4 15-oz. cans diced tomatoes	1/2-1 lb. baby carrots
1 onion	3-4 chicken bouillon cubes	3 15-oz. cans whole kernel corn	3-4 lbs. potatoes, peeled and cubed
2 stalks celery	Salt and pepper	1 pound frozen baby limas	1/2-1 cup diced onion
			1/4 cup chopped bell pepper (optional)

Instructions:

Place chicken in large heavy pot; cover with cold water. Add next five ingredients to cooking pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until chicken is tender, at least one hour. After chicken is done, drain well and reserve chicken. Remove bones and skin after cooling and refrigerate chicken.

To the strained chicken stock add tomatoes, onion, pepper, carrots, beans and corn. Bring to a boil. If more liquid is needed, add water and 2-3 chicken bouillon cubes to desired consistency. Reduce heat and simmer for an hour or more, stirring to prevent scorching. After cooking for a while, add potatoes and chicken. (These are added late to keep potatoes from cooking to mush and to prevent chicken from becoming stringy.)

Serve hot with crackers or broccoli cornbread and hot sauce (if desired).

Pam's Quick Potato Soup

Serve with grated cheddar cheese and bacon bits sprinkled over a steaming bowl-full.

Ingredients:

1 can (64-oz.) chicken broth	1 stick butter or oleo	1 pint whipping cream
1 bag frozen cubed hash brown potatoes	1 small onion, chopped	3 tbsp. cornstarch
		Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions:

Bring broth to a boil; add frozen potatoes and cook until tender. Meanwhile, sauté onion in melted butter. Add to potatoes. Whisk cornstarch into whipping cream until smooth; add to potato mixture. Continue stirring and heat until thickened and hot.

Katie's Taco Soup

Our daughter Katie modified this recipe from one of the cooking divas on the food network; I'll let you guess which one.

Ingredients:

2 lbs. ground beef	2 15-oz cans diced tomatoes	1 tbsp. cumin	Salt and pepper to taste
1/2 onion, chopped	1 15-oz can whole kernel corn, drained	1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce	Grated cheddar cheese
1-2 cans chicken or beef broth	2 tbsp. chili powder	3-4 medium potatoes, chopped into large chunks	

Instructions:

Brown ground beef with onion; drain. Add all other ingredients except cheese. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and let simmer for 30 minutes to an hour. Top individual servings of soup with cheddar cheese.

Pineapple Casserole

A great side dish or dessert with a soup dinner.

Ingredients:

2 20-oz. cans pineapple tidbits,
(drain off the liquid in one can)

1 cup sugar
5 tbsp. flour

1 1/2 cups grated cheddar cheese
1 stick margarine, melted
3/4 cup Ritz cracker crumbs

Instructions:

Grease baking dish. Combine first three ingredients in dish. Sprinkle cheese and cracker crumbs on top. Pour margarine over topping. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. This dish can be baked in your Sharp convection microwave. Bake on convection at same temperature but reduce cooking time by about 10 minutes and check.

Broccoli Cornbread

An easy and delicious accompaniment to a steaming bowl of soup or stew!

Ingredients:

2 boxes cornbread mix
5 eggs
1 1/2 sticks butter or oleo

2 cups cottage cheese, or 1 cup cottage cheese and
1 cup buttermilk
10 oz. chopped, cooked broccoli

Instructions:

Melt butter or oleo and mix with all other ingredients. Stir well and pour into greased 9 1/2-in. by 13 1/2-in. pan. Bake in preheated 400-degree oven until done, about 25-30 minutes. Test for doneness; the bread will be moist but should be firm enough to remove from pan in squares.

(For convection microwave baking, reduce cooking time by about 5 to 10 minutes. You just have to play it by ear, since oven power varies.)

German Chocolate Caramel Brownies

This wickedly delicious dessert recipe comes from Esther Hoisington of Portland, OR. We are not counting calories here.

Brownies:

1 package Super-moist German Chocolate Cake mix
1/3 cup evaporated milk
3/4 cup melted butter
1 cup coarsely chopped pecans or walnuts

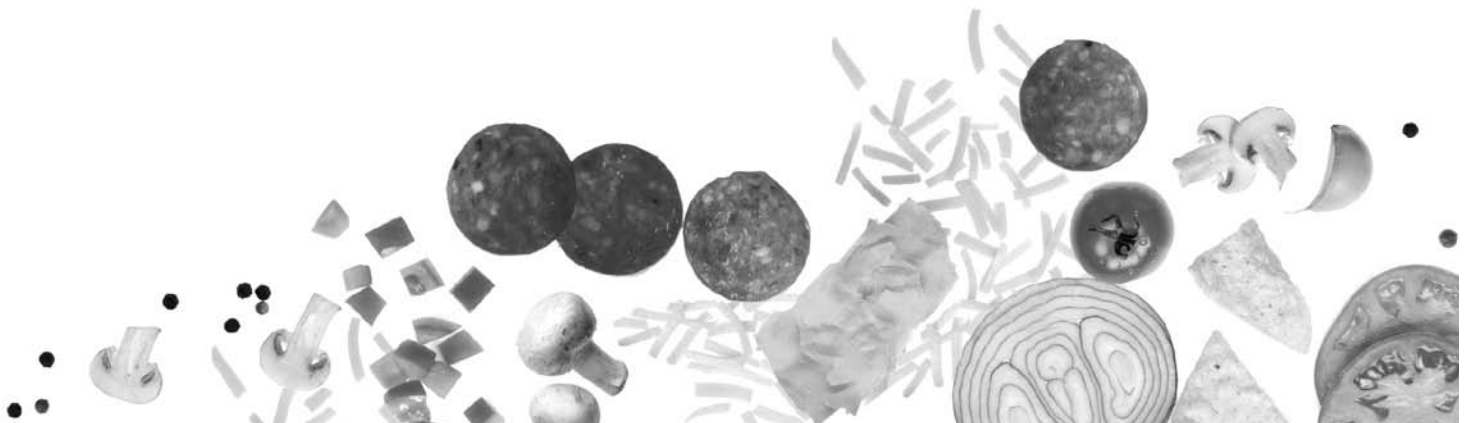
Filling:

1 cup semisweet chocolate morsels
1 package caramels (about 50)
1/3 cup evaporated milk

Instructions:

Melt the caramels in the evaporated milk over slow heat, stirring often.

Mix together brownie ingredients in large bowl. Press half of dough in bottom of greased and floured 13-in. by 9-in. baking pan or dish. Bake at 350 degrees (preheated) for 6 minutes. Remove from oven. Sprinkle with chocolate morsels; pour caramel mixture evenly over all. Pat remaining dough into cookie shapes and lay over caramel. (Don't worry if they don't fit perfectly; dough will expand during baking.) Bake for 15 minutes at 350 degrees. Remove from oven; cool on wire rack for 8 hours (overnight) before cutting into squares. Makes 3-4 dozen depending on size of squares.



The ride of her life: introducing Toni Hogan

Toni Hogan figures she's in for the ride of her life.

She and her husband, Mike, are just getting accustomed to full-timer status in their 2006 Allegro Bay 37 DB.

A native of Fredericksburg, TX, population 8,911, Toni earned a BS in nursing from the University of Texas at Austin and worked in Austin as a registered nurse in intensive care. The master's program in nurse anesthesia at Duke University drew her to North Carolina. Then, after a wedding at the Grand Canyon, she and Mike moved to Huntsville, AL, where she worked as a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Toni's excitement about writing for Side Roads is infectious: "I can't think of a better way to meet great people and at the same time learn fun and unusual bits of information, such as a new restaurant, a quirky flea

market, or some insider knowledge about a fun campground."

Tucked among the "to-do" lists for her transition from a stationary home to one on wheels, is a list of column ideas. Toni sees Tiffin Motorhome owners making a difference as her centerpiece. Other topics include modifications owners have made to make their coaches feel even more homey; and how Tiffin travelers stay in touch with friends, loved ones and the changing world.

"I see this column as a soup with many different ingredients," Toni says. "The main ingredient will be Tiffin Motorhome owners. The broth will be flavored with anecdotal experiences of longtime RVers mixed with the viewpoint of a couple of newcomers."

You can learn what's on her mind between columns by checking her blog at www.fulltimetraveler.com.



A Bay view is the best view of all by Toni Hogan

The first question asked by friends and family is, "Are you really going to live in a motorhome?" Our answer is a resounding, "Yes!"

At the end of June, we were officially homeless. Actually, houseless. Our new home is on wheels.

In September 2004, we had just returned from a trip to British Columbia and were discussing choices for our next vacation destination. My husband, Mike, and I have always loved to travel. The list of places we wanted to visit was a mile long. Regular vacation time wasn't really cutting it. We would travel all the time if we could.

The idea of living full-time in an RV was born. Did I mention we are relatively new to RVing? At the time we didn't even know what the inside of a Class A looked like. Until six months

ago, we were tent campers with the occasional outing in a pop-up camper.

As we mulled over the idea of living on the road, the questions started to surface.

- * Could we actually make this work?
- * What would we do with our stuff?
- * How do we manage our mail?
- * Can we really live in such a small space?
- * How much would it cost?
- * And the big question, could we support ourselves on the road?

Fortunately, Mike and I both have careers that allow for some mobility. He owns a website development company and has been telecommuting from home. As long as we have an internet connection, he can work from anywhere. Our small space will double as a home and office. I am a certified registered

nurse anesthetist and will be able to work in various locations along the way.

The first year included a lot of research and planning. We bought books, we searched the internet, we attended every RV show in our area to get an idea of what features and floor plans were available.

Tiffin's quality reputation was apparent. In November 2005 we found our 2006 Allegro Bay 37 DB with a Workhorse chassis. It was just what we were looking for so we bought it.

The winter months afforded time to make some modifications and personalize our coach. Mike removed the front TV, added some supports, and a wall mount so we could hang our plasma screen. (The TV is taken down and strapped to the bed while driving.) We read the instruction manuals . . . more than once.

(Continued on Page 15)

Blazing Star RV Resort / San Antonio, TX

Cost Includes: 5 nights camping fee, full hook-ups (50 amps), 4 breakfasts, 4 evening meals, a Hill Country tour (including LBJ Ranch, Fredericksburg & Luckenbach), prizes and surprises, supplier/partner exhibits, and entertainment. When on hand, Tiffin factory technicians will perform minor repairs at no cost. Dealers will display the latest in Tiffin-built motorhomes for your viewing. Plenty of food, fun and fellowship.

YES ☐ / NO ☐ We will bring our pet(s).

Tiffin Motorhomes 2007 model news

First 60-degree wheel cut in Class A motorhomes

If tight maneuvers in a motorhome scare you like turning an aircraft carrier around in a swimming pool, you'll appreciate an engineering advancement in Tiffin Motorhomes' 2007 Allegro Bus.

The 60-degree wheel cut for 2007 Allegro Buses on Freightliner chassis with independent front suspension is the tightest among Class A motorhomes. Tiffin also offers its Allegro Bus models on Spartan chassis, which offer 55-degree wheel cuts on the 2007 models.

For motorhome buyers, the sharper turning ability will make tight moves in fuel centers and in-town traffic easier for novice and veteran RVers.



In July 2005, *MotorHome Magazine* heralded "an industry-best 50-degree wheel cut" introduced by another chassis manufacturer. Within recent months, Spartan and Freightliner introduced 55-degree wheel cuts.

"To the driver of a 42-ft. motorhome, just a few additional degrees makes an incredible difference in drivability," says Van Tiffin, research and design manager for Tiffin Motorhomes. "Once again, Tiffin's commitment to quality, customer service and technical advancement scores with a No. 1 industry distinction."

Steve Savage agrees. Savage is the editor of *Motorhome Review Online*, contributing editor of *TrailBlazer Magazine* and a senior instructor at Life on Wheels, a series of educational RV conferences currently offered in five states.

"I think 55 degrees is the max right now as far as I know," Savage says. "A degree means little. You start to feel (a difference with) a couple of degrees and beyond that it is clearly noticeable in my opinion."

The 2007 Allegro Bus diesel pusher is available in four floor plans in 40- and 42-ft. lengths.

Quiet air conditioning with Whisper Cool

Tiffin Motorhomes is making a lot of noise about quiet in its 2007 models. Nobody likes to shout to be heard, crank up the TV volume or toss and turn all night just because the air conditioner makes more noise than a NASCAR race. Whisper Cool, a new AC delivery system developed by Tiffin engineers, makes a 2007 Tiffin Motorhome cool and as quiet as a library.

Available only on Tiffin's 2007 Allegro, Allegro Bay, Phaeton and Allegro Bus models, Whisper Cool combines the benefits of a specially sealed fan motor with an enlarged duct system to the cockpit and throughout the coach.

"Whisper Cool sets a whole new standard for quiet, cool comfort in our new models," says Tiffin Motorhomes General Manager Tim Tiffin. "We are guided by the feedback from our customers and dealers. They set this challenge and our engineers met it."

Tiffin introduces Flex Air Hide-A-Bed for 2007

In minutes, an extra bed can appear in a 2007 Tiffin Motorhome. The optional Flex Air Hide-A-Bed in 2007 Tiffin coaches provides additional sleeping capacity with a self-contained air bed, complete with 110v inflating motor. The bed is a 60x80-in. full queen size that inflates within three minutes.

"RVing is usually a family activity, which can mean 'the more the merrier,'" says Tiffin Sales Manager Jerry Williamson. "This air bed stores compactly under the sofa, inflates quickly and provides a very comfortable night's sleep."



The air bed is available on all 2007 Tiffin models.

Tiffin Motorhomes produces the front-engine gas- and diesel-powered Allegro and Allegro Bay plus Phaeton, Allegro Bus and Zephyr diesel pusher Class A motorhomes available through a network of 100 dealers in the U.S. and Canada.

In the Recreational Vehicle Dealers Association 2005 Dealer Satisfaction Index, Tiffin led all RV manufacturers in 17 of 24 criteria, including competitive product design and quality, innovative product design and promotion of customer support/loyalty through product support. For more information, visit www.tiffinmotorhomes.com.

Tiffin redesigns roof cap

Tiffin Motorhomes has redesigned the roof cap for four of its 2007 model lines to provide increased insulation and protection against leaks. The new roof cap on 2007 Tiffin Allegro, Allegro Bay, Phaeton and Allegro Bus coaches laps over side panels, eliminating a direct seal between roof cap and panel tops. Thicker fiberglass helps maintain a comfortable interior temperature without excessive dependence on heating and cooling systems. The 2007 Tiffin roof caps are twice the thickness of the 2006 models.

Tiffin expands its front-engine diesel offerings

Tiffin Motorhomes has introduced a front-engine diesel in the \$100,000 range for 2007. Building on the sellout success of its Allegro Bay front-engine diesel option in 2006, Tiffin will offer its popular, moderately priced Allegro models with gas or diesel. The front-engine diesel (FRED) 2006 Allegro Bay, which began

production early this year, was the first coach produced on a revolutionary Freightliner chassis. Customers cited the fuel economy, greater torque, high resale value and long-term dependability of diesel – advantages that previously had not been available in coaches under the \$200,000 range. The FRED chassis also eliminates the “doghouse” raised engine cover between the cockpit seats and offers a quiet ride with very low engine noise.

The FRED chassis will be available in many Allegro floor plans and lengths. In the Allegro Bay line, the FRED chassis is available on all four floor plans and lengths from 34 to 38 ft.

The Allegro and Allegro Bay front-engine diesels are 5.9-liter, 300HP Cummins engines with 600 lb-ft torque. The transmissions for both FRED models are Allison 5-speed with overdrive.

“Many of our customers – both new and repeat – are telling us they are interested in moving from high-end gas models to diesel,” says Tiffin Motorhomes General Manager Tim Tiffin. “A year ago, our production was 50-50 gas and diesel. Today, we are 80% diesel. Our Allegro and Allegro Bay are putting diesel within reach of an increasing number of family budgets.

“We were impressed by the initial fuel mileage tests on the FRED chassis,” Tiffin adds. “Since the Allegro weighs less than the Allegro Bay, we hope to see the Allegro FRED’s MPG reach the mid-teens.”

Tiffin expects to produce 300-400 front-engine diesel Allegros for 2007.

Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp. shares Tiffin’s high opinion of the front-engine diesel motorhomes.

“There’s no question diesel is the optimal power plant for the RV market,” says Dean Schaper, Freightliner Custom Chassis sales and marketing director. “The front-engine diesel has given RVers an attractively priced alternative to gas that dazzles comparison shoppers in so many ways.”

Side cameras enhance Tiffin’s safety package

Flip the left turn signal on 2007 Tiffin Motorhomes models and see what’s to the left of the coach on a dash monitor. Turn signal-activated side cameras are among the latest electronics, standard on the Allegro Bus and Zephyr; optional on the Allegro, Allegro Bay and Phaeton.

“Mirrors and side windows are helpful and rear-view cameras have helped avoid many collisions,” says Tiffin Motorhomes General Manager Tim Tiffin. “These side cameras add another level of safety and comfort for Tiffin owners.”

Since 1985, Tiffin’s safety package for all models has included

a “doggie window” for the driver to see vehicles, curbs and other objects on the passenger side. “Long before electronics, our engineers have put a premium on safety measures. That is a commitment we will certainly continue as more and more sophisticated devices are developed,” Tiffin says.

2007 Zephyr can handle appliance power load

How do you run three 32-inch LCD TVs, three low-profile air conditioners with heat pumps, hydronic heating system for continuous hot water, in-motion digital satellite system, side and rear cameras, 14 cu. ft. refrigerator, convection microwave, electric flush commode, an optional Bose Surround Sound System and power garden hose and electric cord reels?



It’s simple in a 2007 Tiffin Motorhomes top-of-the-line Zephyr. Even when you aren’t hooked up to campground power.

In addition to eight house batteries, the Zephyr sports a 3,000-watt inverter, a 12,500-watt generator and two 125-watt solar panels.

“Luxurious living does require a bit of power,” says Tiffin Sales Manager Jerry Williamson, with tongue in cheek. “The new Zephyr has 50 amp distribution with surge protection. For all its conveniences and gadgets, we engineered enough juice.”

The 2007 Zephyr also boasts lights that require power: docking, fog, spot, basement, porch, map, galley, cosmetic, valance and vanity, to name a few.

★ Tiffin Top Dealers for 2006 ★

La Mesa RV was Tiffin Motorhomes No. 1 dealer for 2006. The Top 10 Dealers were honored in July in Denver at the annual dealers meeting.

La Mesa, founded in 1972, has nine locations in California, Arizona, Florida and Georgia.

The other Top 10 Dealers for 2006 are Lazy Days RV Center, Seffner, FL; Bankston Motor Homes Inc., Huntsville, AL; Marlin Ingram’s RV Center Inc., Montgomery, AL; J.C.’s RVs Inc., Livermore, CA; Horizon Lussier LTEE, Quebec, Canada; Dandy RV Sales, Birmingham, AL; Shorewood RV Center, Anoka, MN; King’s Campers Inc., Wausau, WI; and Dickey-Stout Motor Ranch, Amarillo, TX.





Chapter Chatter: Next time you pass this way

Restaurants

The prize for restaurant finds this issue goes to the **Michigan Allegro Pathmakers** for **The Bib**. Yep, the servers tie bibs on guests, and the bibs assign charming names to the wearers, like Bird Brain, Pea Brain and Lame Brain. Must be relatives. But as Vivian Vos and John Sickelsteel report, the taunts top the bib names. Says Sickelsteel: “The atmosphere is hilarious and they pride themselves with the verbal abuse and good-natured insults that they dish out to their patrons. It makes you feel just like being at home. You don’t need to get their attention to be picked on either. Not making eye contact is no defense. If you try to appear bored or dull, they really zero in on you until you bust out laughing.” **The Bib** is in Yankee Springs, MI, on the shore of Gun Lake. The menu spans eight pages, but our reporters were so caught up in the entertainment they never mentioned the food. Imagine complaining and trying to send something back to the kitchen in a place like **The Bib**.

The **Michigan Allegro Pathmakers** also like **Papa Don’s** in Wayland, MI, even though nobody was insulted there. Observing that **Papa Don’s** is one of few restaurants open Sunday morning in Wayland. Sickelsteel adds, “It could be that they are so good that the others closed to avoid competing or there aren’t enough customers to go around. The service is so great that patrons tend to tip higher than normal when they take the buffet. We were not pressured to leave after we ate and they kept the coffee coming until we all had to go. Understand?”

Looking for a unique country dining experience in a great rustic setting? Try **Hickory Bridge Farm** in Orrtanna, PA. The **Chesapeake Allegros** in May enjoyed an all-you-can-eat dinner prepared on site and served family-style in a 150-year-old barn. “Medium-priced and worth every penny,” we’re told. The restaurant is nine miles west of Gettysburg between Hwys. 30 and 116.

The **Citrus Allegros** visited one of the

chapter’s favorite restaurants, **The Mason Jar**, during an April campout at Haines Creek RV Village in Leesburg, FL. Pat Tanguay says, “This is good old country cooking at its best. The service is prompt, prices low, menu is huge, all food is fresh. They even peel and cook their own potatoes. No frozen stuff here.”

The chapter also recommends **Crazy Gators** on Lake Eustis: very rustic, great lake view, great menu, great food, great prices. Now that’s a great review.

If it’s pie you like, try **Bush’s Restaurant** in Logan, Ohio. That’s the word from the **Ohio Allegros**. They say the food is excellent, but the desserts are “the most magnificent pies you have ever seen.”

The **Ohio Allegros** also like the **Old Dutch Restaurant** in Logan ... sometimes. In the course of a weekend campout, they raved about the menu, buffet and service, but the following night the service was poor and the orders jumbled.

(Continued on Page 14)

2006-2007 Allegro Club Rally Schedule

Allegro Club
New England Getaway
Champlain Valley
Exposition
Essex Junction, VT
October 9-13, 2006
(break camp October 14)

Allegro Club
Fall Fiesta
Blazing Star RV Resort
San Antonio, TX
November 6-10, 2006
(break camp November 11)

Allegro Club
Disney Days
Fort Wilderness
Campground
Orlando, FL
February 5-9, 2007
(break camp February 10)

Allegro Club
FMCA Pre-Rally
Stone Mountain Park
Campground
Atlanta, Georgia
March 15-17, 2007
(break camp March 18)

Allegro Club
Western Roundup
Wine Country RV Resort
Paso Robles, CA
May 7-9, 2007
(break camp May 10)

Allegro Club
Northwest Rally
Location TBA
Dates TBA
June 2007

Allegro Club
Jellystone Jubilee
Yogi Bear’s Jellystone
Park Camp Resort
Warrens, Wisconsin
August 20-24, 2007
(break camp August 25)

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Fort Wilderness RV Resort / Orlando, FL

Is a 'dirty' tire a happy tire?

by Ellis Johnson

Remember when you were a kid and your dad told you to wash his car?

The adventure of water, soap, and climbing around on a 1950 Ford was awfully appealing, so you gleefully accepted the assignment. Hours later as he pointed out the dirt streaks, smudged chrome or dirty tires, your joy faded fast. This was occurring as your friends were urging you to help rescue the galaxy and preserve human life as we know it against mechanical something-oids who just arrived in a futuristic craft that looked strangely like the city water tower.

How did those tires get so stained and so hard to clean?

The appearance of the tires and wheels on that fine Tiffin Motorhome makes a huge difference in the overall appearance of the coach and your feelings about it, just like your dad's car.

Most of that "stuff" on the sidewall actually comes from inside the tire construction. The brownish powder film is really a shielding layer designed to insulate and protect the rubber from the effects of the environment. Special chemical compounds are mixed with the tire sidewall rubber, so that the flexing and heating of the rubber during vehicle operation will cause them to "blossom" to the surface and create that protective film. The sidewall rubber is formulated to resist ozone, sun rays and other environmental contaminants, but those chemicals released during actual operation are much more effective.

The natural and synthetic rubbers used in tires are long-chain carbon-based polymers with chemicals added to create specific chain cross-linking. These bonds result in the desired properties of strength, flex, heat resistance, durability, and surface adhesion. When this cross-linking is altered by the presence of ozone (O₃) or excessive exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun, some of these performance parameters will be adversely affected.

Ozone is a molecule containing three oxygen atoms and is present in small amounts in all outside air. It is found in much higher concentrations near large cities, electrical generation or welding equipment. When it is impossible or impractical to avoid such "high ozone" areas, you should depend on this "designed-in" protective layer, in addition to shields or covers to protect tires against ozone and ultraviolet rays.

If that protective film is scrubbed away, as your dad dictated, the heat and tire flex of subsequent vehicle operation normally causes more protectorates to blossom out, creating another protective layer. Conceivably, one could continue the cycle until all the protection compounds are used

up, in which case the tires would suffer rather rapid and severe cracking of the sidewall rubber. Although using up the protective chemicals is unlikely, the infrequent use of most coaches can be inadequate to heat/flex drive the protective chemicals to the rubber surface.

Now back to cleaning those tires.

Thoroughly cleaning the tire sidewalls just prior to winter storage with no flex or heat to generate a protective layer leaves the sidewall rubber vulnerable to attack. Maybe it would be better to do some tire cleaning with mild

soap and water just prior to storage and leave the really serious tire/wheel cleaning for de-winterizing next spring. The mild soap cleaning will remove the oils, brake and transmission fluids, salt and other road chemicals which may also cause deterioration of the rubber.

Since your car tires rarely stay in service more than a few years, you can probably get away with approaches that simply will not work on an RV which spends so much time idle. The Michelin Truck Tire Databook cautions against the use of any cleaner or dressing containing petroleum or petroleum distillates.

So what can you use to clean those dingy looking tires? Many suitable products are on the market, but always read the label thoroughly or consult the product website for any reference to components of petroleum origin. Ask questions, and be skeptical.



Ellis Johnson has 24 years experience at Michelin in R&D and as technical liaison with the truck, trailer, and motorhome builders. He is licensed as an aircraft pilot, SCUBA diver, commercial truck driver and professional engineer. He earned masters degrees in mathematics and mechanical engineering from Auburn University. If you have questions or need assistance, call Michelin at 800-TIREHELP or e-mail Ellis at ellis.johnson@us.michelin.com

Stone Mountain Park Campground / Stone Mountain, GA

Cost Includes: 3 nights camping fee, full hook-ups (50 amps), 1 brunch, 3 dinners, selected Stone Mountain activities, games, prizes and surprises, entertainment, and supplier/partner exhibits (contingent upon vendor participation). When on hand, Tiffin factory technicians will perform minor repairs at no cost. Dealers will display the latest in Tiffin-built motorhomes for your viewing. Plenty of food, fun and fellowship.

Chapter chatter

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Las Casuelas Nuevas in Rancho Mirage, CA, is a festive Mexican eatery with a relaxed atmosphere, report the **Route 66 Allegros**.

Campgrounds

The **Chesapeake Allegros** tried a new campground in May and they recommend it. Gettysburg (PA) Campground is on Fairfield Road off Hwy. 116. The park is under new management, has 240 large, woodsy sites and a wide array of activities and amenities including wireless internet. Cable wasn't available, but is planned. Rates are reasonable and the campground is a stone's throw from downtown Gettysburg.

Hidden Ridge Campground in Hopkins, MI, gets the nod from the **Michigan Allegro Pathmakers**. **Hidden Ridge** has cement sites with water, 30-amp service, sewerage and cable. The pool is heated and the clubhouse is a three-story log house with a stone fireplace and a fully appointed kitchen that campers can reserve.

Far to the west, the **Columbia River Allegros** like the **Mount Hood RV Resort** in Welches, OR. The chapter enjoyed a Fathers' Day campout there in June. The

campground is described as very nice with pool, hot tub, exercise equipment and many trails to hike.

Looking for a peaceful, low-key campground? The **Ohio Allegros** recommend the **Nazarene Campground** in Logan, Ohio. Located along a river, it's very quiet. This is not a fancy resort campground – no pool, no full hookups, small dumping station – but the facilities seem to be improving with each visit.

Emerald Desert Golf and RV Resort in Palm Desert, CA, draws raves from the **Route 66 Allegros**, but you'll have to hurry to enjoy it. The beautiful resort, under towering palm trees, was reportedly closing in May, scheduled to reopen in October at half the current size, then close permanently after next year.

Quirky occurrences

The **Puget Sound** chapter is not an unruly bunch, but it does have a sheriff. **Trudy Price's** law enforcement responsibility is to ensure that all chapter members wear their name tags. She doesn't incarcerate transgressors. She just fines them. So far she has collected 25 cents. Perhaps her office receives supplemental

funding from a federal grant.

Generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant visited the **Chesapeake Allegros** during the chapter's May campout in Gettysburg, PA. We'll let the chapter report carry the rest of this story verbatim: "Chapter membership spans both sides of the Mason-Dixon Line so stakes were high for the Battle of Allegro Ridge. The Civil War Trivia Contest hosted by the generals was tense and bloody, but it soon became apparent that the South was quicker on the bell and stormed the ridge with an excellent knowledge of the facts forcing the North into retreat. But, as Gen. Grant peered over the scene, he was heard saying 'Lick 'em tomorrow, though.'"

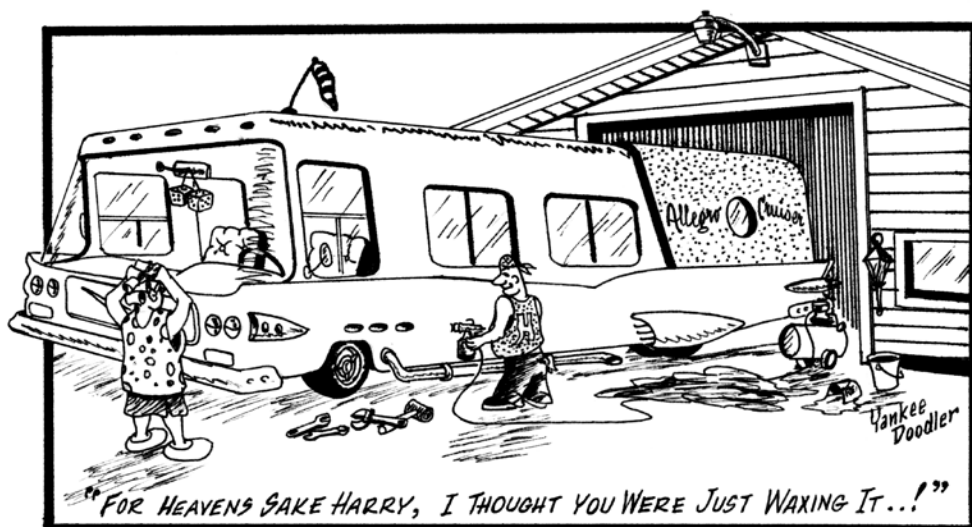
As the **Route 66 Allegros** note, "repair" and "treat" are seldom in the same RV-related sentence. At the chapter's April campout, a stubborn jack on a member's rig would not retract. When **Matt Beerer** of **Matt's RV Service** in Temecula, CA, arrived at the **Vail Lake RV Resort** to fix the problem, he made the repair, then gave an impromptu two-hour seminar on preventive maintenance. Kathy Beard reports, "Veteran RVers and newbies alike really enjoyed his informative talk and visual, hands-on demonstrations.... We all learned from his tips on routine maintenance for a rig's furnace, refrigerator, water heater and slides.... Four guys from our group headed for a local home supply store Saturday morning to get what they needed to do some of the preventative maintenance before we even left the park."

Destination attractions

A report on **Uncle Donald's Farm** in Lady Lake, FL, accounts for almost half of the **Citrus Allegros'** April report. This Central Florida attraction has animals from chickens to panthers to owls and a petting zoo. The chapter members

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The Yankee Doodler *Cartoonist Bob Poiry*



Toni Hogan

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Owning a motorhome was a completely new experience. We practiced driving so we could stay in our own lane. Then we went to Red Bay and took the manufacturing plant tour.

By spring, we were busy de-winterizing and having garage sales. As those of you who have down-sized know, and as those of you who are considering full-timing will find out, trimming your belongings is a tough job. We put our house on the market and sold our second vehicle. We installed towing equipment, figured out the satellite dishes (one for TV and one for internet), and tried to become better acquainted with our coach. Slowly, it all started to come together.

As we start our adventure, we have mixed feelings of excitement for our future and the anxiety of leaving a familiar environment.

Mike and I are originally from Texas and the majority of our family members still live there. They have graciously offered to manage our mail while we travel.

The official inaugural trip is to Texas to attend two family reunions and drop off our belongings at the storage facility. I thought it probably wouldn't be a bad idea to stay somewhat close to the storage facility while we work out the kinks of living in such an efficient space.

We are not going to plan our route too far in advance and have not decided on a destination after Texas. The last week's to-do list included packing the RV, changing our address of record, packing the rest of our house, loading a 26-ft. moving truck, attending a going-away party with our friends, and finishing up the last 40-hour work week for a while.

Eventually, we will stop for a few months to work and refill the piggy bank. For now, we have our National Parks Pass and we are ready to go. The last week was crazy, but the weeks to come will be worth it.

Idaho Rally memories

Dancing with the band on stage, keeping score in the washers tournament and sporting horseshoes tournament championship belts are just a few of the visual memories from the Allegro Club Northwest Rally in Coeur d'Alene, ID, June 20-23. The reigning horseshoes champs are Linda Bowles of Oakley, CA, and Arnold Ridings of Concord, CA.



Chapter chatter

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enjoyed the hay ride most, making hay bouquets for the cows following the tractor-pulled wagon. **Uncle Donald's Farm** has been around for 26 years.

Mount Dora was close to the **Citrus Allegros'** April campout in Leesburg, FL, so chapter members devoted an afternoon to exploring the town. They found tree-lined streets, antique shops, restaurants, ice cream shops and fresh

candy shops, all contributing to a very relaxing, casual atmosphere.

Tips

A caution from the **Puget Sound Allegros** for owners of coaches with keyless entry: You still need to hide a key or carry keys in pocket or purse. If the keyless entry won't operate, pulling out a key sure beats calling a locksmith.

Those folks from the Seattle area also caution that fuel filters in diesel pushers should be changed at least annually or after 12,000 miles. If your rig will be parked for 30 days or more, you should add a fuel conditioner that contains algacide. In a hot climate, algae can grow in your fuel tank and clog the filter.

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South Dakotan pumped up about tire pressure

CHARLES CARTER must have been the kid in class who always wrote the longest answers on the essay tests and never missed an extra-credit assignment. The 2004 Phaeton owner from **SIOUX FALLS, SD**, is the winner of our contest question posed in the June issue. He will receive a prize package from the Allegro Club office. We wanted to know how to determine optimal tire pressure, plus whether the pressure varies between hot and cold months.

Here's the tire pressure gospel according to Carter:

"Load the RV. Weigh each wheel independently. Check the tire maker's weight ratings based on inflation pressures.

Take the heaviest weighted wheel on each axle and find the corresponding minimum inflation pressure for that weight. Use that for all tires. Add 10psi so you don't have to add air every time you check tire pressure. Tire pressure will change when the temps go up or down as well as when sunlight is on them. Maintain the minimum pressure even in winter since tire load will not change."

Whew. Now we know.

Carter also clued us in on matching tire diameters and tire repairs, but we have already over-inflated the contest space allotment for this issue.

Our new quiz question: Explain the rules and procedures for Farkel, the campout game mentioned in many chapter reports. Brevity counts.

Mail or email your answer along with your name, address and phone number to Allegro Club, Box 1429, Red Bay, AL 35582 or allegroclub@tiffinmotorhomes.com. Please, only one entry per household. The Allegro Club is not responsible for lost entries. The judges will select the winner by November 1st, and announce that winner in the December issue of Side Roads.

New Tiffin Allegro Dealers

Suncoast RV
1774 Iris Drive
Conyers, GA 30094
678-210-7878

Suncoast RV
100 Suncoast Drive
Byron, GA 31008
478-956-5955

Carpenter's Camper
8450 Pensacola Blvd.
Pensacola, FL 32534
800-477-6630

McClain's RV
7110 Reno Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73127
405-789-4773

New Allegro Club Chapters

The **Black Warrior Allegros** have been chartered in the **Tuscaloosa, AL**, area with six families. The chapter meets the first weekend each month. The president is Jimmy Campbell, jimmyc@fayette.net, 205-932-4146.

The **Heart of Dixie Allegros** in the **Birmingham, AL**, area have been chartered with ten families. The chapter meets the first weekend of each month. The president is Walter Quick, 205-525-4093.

The **Wiregrass Allegros** have been chartered in the **Dothan, AL**, area with eight families. The chapter meets the third weekend each month. The president is Bill Miller, dezir639@aol.com, 334-794-7691.

The **Utah Allegro Eagles** have been chartered with eight families. The chapter meets the third weekend each month. The president is Mike Dowland, 801-661-4107.

Become an Allegro Club member or update your address info

If you're reading this newsletter, you're enjoying one of the benefits of Allegro Club membership. Other benefits include rallies, local chapters and discounts on insurance, campsite fees and car rental.

When you buy a new Tiffin Motorhome, the first year of Allegro Club membership is free. After that, a one-year

membership is \$25, a two-year membership is \$46, and a three-year membership is \$70, payable by check or credit card. For credit card payment, call (256) 356-8522. We want you to continue your membership and help us build our numbers by recruiting other owners of Tiffin Motorhomes.

Names: _____ Address: _____
Nickname for Allegro Club ID badge #1: _____
Nickname for Allegro Club ID badge #2: _____
Email: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: () - _____ Alternate Phone: () - _____
Serial No. of Your Tiffin Motorhome: _____ Chassis type: _____ VIN _____
Are you interested in joining or starting a local chapter of the Allegro Club? _____
Name of dealer where motorhome was purchased: _____ Date of Purchase: _____