

SUMOSPRINGS REBEL >> SMOOTHING OUT THE RIDE ON ROUGH ROADS

TRAILER LIFE

FOLLOW THE ROAD TO ADVENTURE

Instant Camping

Air OPUS Off-Road >>



Long Rangers

Extra-Capacity Fuel Tanks

Hitch Holsters

At-the-Ready A-Frame Storage

DESTINATION: WATER

Making Memories
in Myrtle Beach

Reeling in the
Colorado Rockies



PREMIUM FUEL
HEARTLAND'S HIGH-END TOY HAULER

KEYED ALIKE SYSTEM



The RV industry needed change...
This CH751 key could open more than 4.3 million RV
baggage doors produced in the past 4 years.
Welcome to a new system...

- Greater security
- One key to operate entrance and baggage doors
 - The greatest assortment of Keyed Alike applications in the RV industry

KEYLESS ENTRY

FEATURING ALSENTIS HHS TECHNOLOGY —
THE BEST TOUCH TECHNOLOGY IN THE WORLD



- Retrofittable in most RV entry doors - easy to install.
- Programmable with a 4-digit PIN number.
- Solutions available for motorized applications.

RV ACCESSORIES



AWARD-WINNING
RV VENT SHADE



SCI PADLOCK



7-WAY PLUG KEEPER



LP TANK LOCK



FEATURES

14 Air OPUS Off-Road

With its rugged suspension and unique self-inflating canvas, Purple Line's folding trailer is ready to tackle any backcountry adventure

19 Forest River NoBo

The hardy and adventurous No Boundaries NB19.5 travel trailer is surprisingly upscale inside

23 Heartland Fuel

The 335 fifth-wheel toy hauler comes loaded with high-end appointments, a rear patio deck and flexible garage space

26 Grand Strand Getaway

Sandy beaches, Atlantic breezes and miles of RV campsites are just the start of a family-friendly vacation in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

32 Tanks a Lot

Swapping out a stock truck fuel tank for one that could more than double the capacity has never been easier, as options for carrying extra fuel are plentiful

40 Colorado's Calm Waters

A Centennial State tour of five no-wake lakes with serene paddling, tranquil fishing and scenic backdrops only Mother Nature can provide

46 Bumpy Road Equalizer

Microcellular-urethane SumoSprings smooth out the ride, level the attitude and enhance the towing experience

.....
One of the country's tallest Ferris wheels twirls above the sandy shore and boardwalk amusements in Myrtle Beach. Page 26



DEPARTMENTS

4 Driver's Seat

The Changing Face of RVing

6 Letters

Readers respond loud and clear

9 Around the Bend

News, events, places and trends

13 RV Resolutions

Trailer Life is your referee

51 Hands On

Hitchport Weight-Distributing Hitch Storage

54 10-Minute Tech

Now why didn't I think of that?

56 New Products

Goodies to improve the RV lifestyle

57 RV Clinic

Answers from the *Trailer Life* tech expert

66 Roads to Adventure

Franconia Notch State Park, New Hampshire

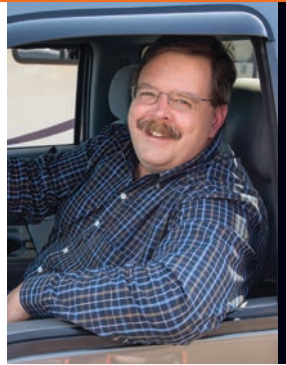


.....
➤ **Step inside Gulf Stream's Cabin Cruiser to pine cabinetry and wood-grain pattern floor. Page 10**

On the cover: The Air OPUS Off-Road pops up at Songdog Ranch in Southern California's Cuyama Badlands. Photo by Bob Dawson

The Changing Face of RVing

As advances in technology bring new RVers to the ranks, the industry moves to enhance the campground experience



The past few years have seen a remarkable shift in the makeup of the RVer. Historically, the majority of RVers were retirees who not only had the money to travel but also the time to do so. The recent paradigm shift of younger folks swelling the ranks of RVers, especially full-time RVers, is, I think, tied in large part to advances in technology and telecommuting. The internet has enabled more RVers to work remotely while looking out the window at, say, a national park. The RV and campground industries have taken notice and are gearing up for this continuing trend. At an Elkhart, Indiana, gathering in May, members of the RV Industry Association, the U.S. Department of the Interior and others outlined the Campground of the Future project, where the industry and government cooperate to develop public campgrounds and RV parks, and enhance internet access at them. Advanced technology, particularly communications technology, is also spreading to all levels of RVs. This includes app-controlled Bluetooth and Wi-Fi systems and components, cellular and Wi-Fi boosters, and USB charging ports. Even the smallest RVs are coming off the line these days with innovative technology, including the Purple Line Air OPUS Off-Road tested in this issue. There are many exciting lightweight trailers on the market, but this one is high on the list, with real dirt-road capability, a self-inflating canopy and a host of options. Donya Carlson took out the nimble little trailer and came back with stories and smiles (page 14). She also collaborated with Bob Dawson on a video review that can be screened on our YouTube channel, TrailerLifeDIY.

This issue showcases another rugged off-road trailer, the No Boundaries, or NoBo, from Forest River. Barb Riley sized up the NB19.5 model, an adventurer's delight with high ground clearance, all-terrain tires and a rack for kayaks, boards, bikes and other toys (page 19).

I had an opportunity to check out the Heartland Fuel 335 fifth-wheel toy hauler (page 23). It's easy to see why toy haulers continue to gain popularity, not just for their ability to transport toys but for their utility and flexibility with a multiuse room in the rear for storing gear, accommodating guests or even telecommuting.

You can elect your favorite toy hauler, fifth-wheel, folding trailer and more in *Trailer Life's* 2018 Readers' Choice Awards. Our seventh-annual survey has some great new categories and has been streamlined to speed up the voting process. The online polls are open through September 4 at www.trailerlife.com/readers-choice, and the winners will be announced in the January 2019 issue.

Enjoy summer's dog days, and I'll see you 'round the campfire! 🐕

— Chris Dougherty, Technical Editor

Connect with Us at 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
Senior Art Director Rick Damien
Production Director Bob Dawson
Production Manager Brenda Hutchinson
Prepress Specialist Rob Roy
Digital Special-Projects Manager Gabe Herrera
Marketing Manager Lorisa Pierson
Business Manager Katey Purgatorio
Publisher Emeritus Bob Livingston

Consulting Editors Chris Hemer, Jeff Johnston
Contributors Lisa Ballard, Jeff Crider, Stephanie and Jeremy Puglisi, Barb Riley, Bruce W. Smith, Shelley Tomlinson
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-ll@goodsam.com
www.trailerlife.com



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. The annual subscription rate is \$17.97 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, Ontario N9A 6J3. Publication Sales Agreement 40012332.

Printed in the United States

© 2018 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 **Executive VP** Tom Wolfe

THEY CAME, THEY SAW, THEY CAMPED!



WARRIORS of the Wild

EPIC CAMPING TRIPS ARE YOURS WITH PROGRESSIVE. BUNDLE YOUR
RV AND AUTO POLICIES TOGETHER FOR LEGENDARY SAVINGS

PROGRESSIVE

Progressive Insurance, Circle 124 on Reader Service Card

PROGRESSIVE CASUALTY INS. CO. & AFFILIATES.



Change for the Better

Chris Dougherty's June Driver's Seat column, "Better RV Service Coming to a Shop Near You," was a breath of fresh air, in fact the RV Industry Association (RVIA) is dedicated and motivated to solving the RV technician shortage. I have experienced the effects of this problem and know many others who have as well.

The rapid decline in RV sales in prior years caused RV technicians to seek other careers, thus leaving the industry. Now RV-service facilities are struggling to labor up to meet the demand. Many junior colleges that once offered RV-technician programs terminated the programs due to low demand.

The RVIA has a huge challenge, and I certainly hope they can obtain the cooperation and financial support of the RV manufacturers to help expedite a training solution to this issue.

Allan Lehman, San Jose, California

I could not agree more that improvements need to be made in the RV-service industry, and tech education would be a big part of that equation. The fact that the RVIA is getting proactive is a very good sign. The issue that was missed in Chris Dougherty's column was warranty service or the lack thereof.

When you take in your RV for warranty work, the dealer must document the parts failure and submit forms to the manufacturer, who will decide if the item will be covered. In the meantime, the RV sits in the back lot. Once they decide it is covered, they will ship the part, and then the dealership will put the RV in the lineup for repair. In my experience, this takes an average of six weeks from start to finish.

My daughter and her family have had their RV in the shop for 63 days now waiting for parts and authorization for warranty repairs. This is not a small repair shop, so it is not like they don't know what to do or how to do it.

I am taking my RV in to the same dealership for warranty work after a

Venerable Fleetside and Fleetwood

I have been RVing for many years using a 1968 GMC three-quarter-ton Fleetside Camper Special with two batteries, two fuel tanks and a movable spotlight on the driver's-side windshield. I'm pulling a 32-foot 1989 Fleetwood Terry fifth-wheel with no slides. Needless to say, the trailer brakes are very important on this setup, as the truck is 50 years old, and even though the brakes are in good condition, they are no way as good as modern braking systems.

I have also been a *Trailer Life* fan for many years and always read up on anything to do with brakes and how to make them work better. Ed Bolduc's December 2017 article, "More Whoa, Less Maintenance," has been a big help to me, as I was beginning to experience weak braking from the Terry. I decided to manually adjust the brakes, as the article described, and noticed that I needed to turn the adjusters out almost ¼ inch until the shoes began to rub. That seemed like quite a lot, so I guess the adjustment was way overdue.

When I got to the last wheel, I removed the dust cap and looked in to find no adjuster. I removed the wheel and brake drum, and found the parts to the adjuster assembly lying on the bottom between the brake shoes. The adjuster spring had broken, and the parts had just fallen off. Of course, that wheel had no braking at all.

Replacing the spring, filing the burrs off the adjuster parts, and checking the drum and shoes for damage were all that was needed to fix the problem. After reassembly and adjusting the last wheel, the trailer now stops as well as it did 20 years ago — the Terry now stops the truck!

Thanks for the great information. I look forward each month to the next issue and all the valuable info in it, even the ads — lots of cool stuff!

Danny Williams, Farmington, Delaware



four-week wait for an appointment. The parts needed for the refrigerator and hot-water tank are readily available and in stock. The issues could be repaired in an hour or two, but we will have to play the same old game, and they will have my RV for six weeks because they can't use the parts in stock but have to wait for replacements to be authorized and shipped.

Can you imagine a car company treating customers this way? They would be out of business in a year. The RV industry needs a wakeup call for customer service, and I hope this is the start of better things to come.

Paul Diezman, Ravenna, Ohio

Chris Dougherty hit the nail on the

head. I think the RVIA should sponsor a network of certified mobile technicians that could be stationed around the country.

A large percentage of the technical problems we experience arise when we are traveling the great USA. The few mobile techs that are out there are so busy, they often can't get to you for weeks. And good luck finding a dealer to help. The other issue is that, even with more trained techs, the dealers have to be willing to hire them, which is problematic in and of itself.

Of course, there are exceptions. I owned a Tiffin Phaeton 40-foot Class A and received excellent service from the techs at Tiffin. My brother owns an Itasca Ellipse and has received good

service from Winnebago. The other manufacturers should take lessons from Tiffin and Winnebago.

David Cicero, Benton, Arkansas



Keeping Up with the Classics

We really enjoyed reading "Living the Dream," Jane VanOsdol's June article about Pat Grumm and Robert Fouts' 1968 Cree Balboa. We have a 1952 Airstream Cruisette that we restored. It is pulled by a 1952 Willys pickup. We travel all over in our duo.

Keep featuring classic trailers. We love to see them.

Shirley Ree, Woodland, California

You're in luck, Shirley. In the September issue, we're introducing a regular feature that showcases modifications of classic and contemporary trailers. — Editors

Try Before You Buy

My husband and I are new subscribers. It took one final tent-camping trip in our early married years to confirm that tent life was not for us. The thought of spending another cold night on the hard ground was too much to handle.

Enter your magazine, followed by many trips to local RV shows. While we considered purchasing a trailer, the thought of making such a large purchase was daunting, not to mention the cost we would incur in buying a proper tow vehicle. Many of our friends told us stories of how they purchased the wrong trailer for their needs and faced the painful expense of upgrading in a few years.

This led us to discover RV rentals from Oregon-based RV's To Go and a private owner network, RVshare. With each trailer rented, we learn something new and make note of what we need.

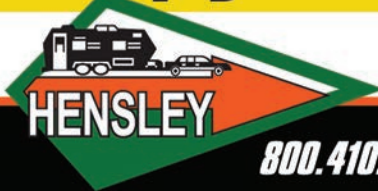
Trailer Sway Control only DAMPENS trailer sway

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

Hensley Manufacturing Inc., Circle 109 on Reader Service Card

LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

SumoSprings®

CAN YOUR AIRBAGS DO THIS?

SUMOSPRINGS ARE 100% MAINTENANCE-FREE
AIRBAGS ARE NOT MAINTENANCE-FREE
SUMOSPRINGS DO NOT REQUIRE AIR OR COMPRESSORS
AIRBAGS REQUIRE COMPRESSED AIR
SUMOSPRINGS DO NOT CRACK AND NEVER LEAK
UNCARED FOR AIRBAGS CRACK AND LEAK
SUMOSPRINGS ALLOW UNRESTRICTED VERTICAL TRAVEL
AIRBAGS PREVENT FULL AXLE ARTICULATION

TRAILER LIFE READER EXCLUSIVE
15% OFF
 with coupon code **TLIFE15**
 at SuperSprings.com

SuperSprings_{INTERNATIONAL, Inc.}

Innovative Suspension Solutions

www.supersprings.com

Super Springs, Circle 128 on Reader Service Card



GIVE YOUR SLIDE-OUTS EXTRA PROTECTION

SOLERA® SLIDE TOPPER FEATURES

- Attractive and economical protection for your slide-out
- Full coverage over the slide-out roof and the slide-out opening
- Blocks leaves, bird droppings, branches and debris
- Automatically retracts and extends with slide-out
- Fits slides ranging from 66" to 192" long and extending up to 48"
- Comes complete with awning rail and all mounting brackets
- Choose from multiple vinyl & acrylic fabric colors



EXPAND YOUR OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE

SOLERA® SHADES AND ROOMS

- Solera shades and rooms help keep you cool and dry
- Keep the bugs out with our Screen Room or Family Room®
- Fits most 10-21' manual and power awnings
- For more information on our shades and rooms products please visit lippertcomponents.com



LETTERS

Friends in their late 30s and 40s who never considered RV life are excited about this idea. They were surprised there was even an option like this and agreed with our sentiment that we should share this great idea as a way to contemplate RV life before making the large purchase.

The joy of trying out different RVs like Goldilocks is an exciting adventure that will no doubt lead us to our "just right" dream trailer!

A. White, Portland, Oregon

Happy Campers

After reading about poor customer service in the RV industry, I wanted to share my experience with Cedar Creek and its Owner Relations Adviser team. My wife and I purchased a new 2018 Cedar Creek 34RE over the phone from a dealer in Wyoming. We live in California and believed the purchase price was worth the drive miles.

Long story short, our post-delivery inspection was hastened by a late arrival. On our return to California, we took the fifth-wheel out for a shakedown weekend and found two major issues. The 50-inch TV that raises out of the rear cabinets had taken two strikes to the screen, and the on-demand water heater had a hole in the tubing from freeze damage.

After hearing from a local dealer that our warranty claims were being denied, I contacted the purchasing dealer about the water heater and TV. The dealer did offer to pay for repairs on the heater but claimed the TV worked when they checked it and I would have to cover that.

This is where Cedar Creek stepped up and hit a home run. Owner Relations Adviser Kelly Ware apologized for any inconvenience and offered to cover all charges for the TV and water heater. I applaud Cedar Creek and its adviser for great customer service.

Jim Leist, Cameron Park, California 📧

TALK TO US! Write to: *Trailer Life*, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036 or email info@trailerlife.com. Please include your full name and location.



The Vintages Trailer Resort

Sampling the retro-RV vibe in Oregon's wine country

article and photos by Karin Leperi

The lure of Oregon's Willamette Valley vineyards was too much for me to ignore anymore. After hearing about retro trailers available for rent by the night, I decided it was high time I tried one.

The Vintages Trailer Resort, a section within Willamette Wine Country RV Park, offers 31 classic trailers (all with heat and air conditioning) for overnight stays. Think "glamping," but with all the accessories included. There's even a bit of history on most of the rental trailers listed on the website. Located in Dayton, between Dundee and McMinnville, the resort is right off State Route 18.

Next door is a dog park to walk your pooch, while across the highway is Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum with a retired Boeing 747 perched on the roof and a water park inside. All around are 300-plus

wineries, many of them bottling Oregon's coveted pinot noir.

My rental trailer, a 27-foot, two-toned 1951 Special DeLuxe, built by M System Trailer Coaches and nicknamed Ideal, sported a "campy" themed kitchen with a fridge, microwave, cooking utensils, bathroom and shower, Wi-Fi, air conditioning and a queen-size bed. The outdoor patio was equipped with an LP-gas grill, chairs and cruiser bikes.

Hopping on a bike, it's a quick ride into Dayton where breakfast at the Block House, in a restored Baptist Church, is the talk of the town. Be sure to ask for cinnamon-roll pancakes, one of the specialties.

For guests traveling with their own home on wheels, campsite rentals at Willamette Wine Country RV Park are available by the month, not the night. Sites include full hookups, Wi-Fi and

(Top) Available for rental at the Vintages, this rare 1951 trailer has the original pine woodwork inside. **(Above)** Across the highway and surrounded by vineyards, a Boeing 747 looks poised for takeoff at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum.

use of the clubhouse, seasonal pool and hot tub. The park has a laundry room, hot showers and a general store that stocks food, cheese, wine and most last-minute items you may need.

For shorter stays, a top-rated Good Sam Park, Olde Stone Village, welcomes RVers for nightly stays in neighboring McMinnville.

The Vintages Trailer Resort and Willamette Wine Country RV Park
971-267-2130
www.willamettewinecountryrvpark.com

Olde Stone Village
877-472-4315, www.oldestonevillage.com

RV Cabin on Wheels

Looking to travel in an RV but miss the cabin in the woods? With the Cabin Cruiser travel trailer and its knotty-pine interior, you can have both.

Gulf Stream recently added a fourth floorplan, the 30-foot, 3-inch 28CRB, to its Cabin Cruiser line. Step inside to warm-toned pine cabinetry and paneling, vinyl flooring with a wood-grain pattern, and plaid valances and cushion backs that tie in with the cabin theme. Other appointments include a floor-to-ceiling entertainment center with an optional imitation-rock fireplace with a quiet electric heater, and a 60-by-74-inch queen walk-around bed with knotty-pine wardrobes on each side.

The Cabin Cruiser has a comfortable and inviting feel that's conducive to relaxing with friends. Housed in the one



slide is an 81-by-44-inch four-seat dinette that converts into a bed and a jackknife sofa with generous seating for two, which also converts into a bed. An optional trifold sofa bed is available. Near the entry door is a walk-in closet and pantry with hooks for clothing and shelves for food.

The refrigerator, microwave, two-basin sink and overhead cabinets are clustered on the curb side for easy reachability in the large L-shaped kitchen. The party can be moved outside with the cabin-decor outdoor kitchen and 17-foot electric awning.

The Cabin Cruiser 28CRB has two 5-gallon LP-gas cylinders, a 6-gallon water heater, a 35-gallon freshwater tank and a claimed dry weight of 6,120 pounds. Interior height is 6 feet, 8 inches.

Base MSRP is \$29,230.
Gulf Stream Coach, 800-289-8787, www.gulfstreamcoach.com



Surprise when you step inside: Warm knotty-pine cabinetry, wood-grain-pattern flooring and a cozy cabin-in-the-woods feel greet you in the 28CRB.



TV LIKE HOME WHEREVER YOU ROAM™

KING | OMNI GO®
Portable Omnidirectional HDTV Antenna



Shown with
magnetic mount
MFR# OA1501

Everything you need to watch free HDTV anywhere life takes you!



Kit Includes:
Tripod, magnetic vehicle mount, cables
AND carry bag for your active lifestyle.

KING kingconnect.com
Simply better, by design.™

Something for Everyone in Colorado's Grand Valley

With its towns of Grand Junction, Fruita and Palisade, Colorado's Grand Valley has it all: biking, hiking, birding, water sports, wineries, you-pick orchards and even a shooting-sports facility.

A new segment of the nearly 60-mile roundtrip One Riverfront Trail opened where the Colorado and Gunnison rivers meet. Mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians can start their journey in Palisade, travel through Grand Junction and connect in Fruita to the Kokopelli Trail, which extends all the way to Moab, Utah.

A 30-acre lake in Fruita hosts Colorado's first cable wakeboarding park, Imondi Wake Zone. The park's five-tower cable system pulls up to seven wakeboarders on a course with obstacles and ride rails.

Powderhorn Mountain ski resort welcomes summer visitors with a new 5-mile Mutton Buster downhill biking trail. The resort has an elevation of 8,200



feet at the bottom and 9,850 feet at the top, and scenic chairlift rides transport mountain bikes and riders up the hill.

Throughout the Grand Valley, museums and outdoor concerts take things at a more relaxed pace. The Museums of Western Colorado invites exploration with three museum facilities and four outdoor paleontology sites. Seasonal music series run through September at Two Rivers Winery, Garfield Estates Vineyard and Winery, and Las Colonias Amphitheater.

Junction West RV Park, Grand Junction
970-245-8531, www.junctionwestrvpark.com

Monument RV Resort, Fruita
970-858-4405, www.monumentrvresort.com



California RV Show

The California RV Show, the West Coast's largest consumer RV show, takes place at the Pomona Fairplex October 5 to 14. Browse through more than 1,300 RVs and attend educational seminars. Stroll through the exhibitor tent offering everything RV-related, and enjoy celebrity appearances, food booths and free Ferris wheel rides. The show is celebrating its 66th year and, appropriately, the theme is Route 66. For the 15th year running, Lance Camper Manufacturing is providing a new trailer for the raffle drawing. www.thebestrvshow.com

PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT GRAND JUNCTION

3D VIRTUAL TOURS
OF ALL OUR
FLOOR PLANS
ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.NORTHWOODMFG.COM



The 2019 
NASH
by Northwood
**LOADED
WITH
STANDARD
FEATURES!**



ARCTIC FOX - NASH - DESERT FOX - FOX MOUNTAIN - WOLF CREEK

STANDARD ON ALL 2019 NASH MODELS!

- Northwood Built, Independently Certified, Off-Road Chassis
- One-Piece, Corona Treated, Continuous Fiberglass
- Hot, Polyurethane Laminated, Multi-Layered Substrate Walls
- Cathedral Arched Ceiling / Aerodynamic Front Contour
- E-Z Lube Axles w/ Nev-R Adjust Forward, Self Adjusting Brakes
- Aluminum Wheels / Tires & White Mod Spare / Shocks On All Four Wheels
- 12-Volt Power Tongue Jack / Stabilizer Jacks
- Easy Access LP Cover / 4" Sewer Hose Carrier Bumper
- All-Conditions/Four Seasons Insulation With R-14 Ceiling
- R-15 Reflective Foil Insulation in Roof / Slide
- Heated and Enclosed Tanks / Diamond Plate Front Gravel Guard
- Roof Rack & Ladder / Exterior Marine Grade Speakers
- LPG Quick Connect & Black Water Flush System
- Entry Door Friction Hinge / Large Exterior Entry Grab Handle
- Porcelain, Foot-Pedal Toilet / Exterior Shower / Magnetic Catches
- Semi-Automatic Winterization/By-Pass System
- 10 Gal DSI Gas/Elect Quick Recovery Water Heater
- 13.5m BTU Air Conditioner w/Condensation-Resistant Ducting
- Digital Thermostat / Decorative Window Curtains w/Tiebacks
- Efficient Residential-Style Ducted Heating
- Carefree Travel'R 12V Awning w/Adjustable Pitch Hardware
- TV Antenna with Wi-Fi Extender Ready/Battery Disconnect
- 20 Watt Solar Panel / Sidewall Solar Port
- Generator Ready / Satellite Ready / Solar Ready
- Rear Receiver Hitch / LED Interior Decorative Lighting
- AM/FM/CD/DVD Player w/Bluetooth / Interior Command Center
- Knotty Alder Solid Wood Cabinetry / Roller Bearing Drawer Glides
- Custom Nash Signature Key Rack / Etched & Glazed Passage Door
- "Slate" Laminate Counters & Custom Glass Backsplashes
- Residential, Built-In Microwave / Stainless Steel Appliances
- High Output 3-Burner Range with Range Cover
- Large Fridge (7 Cu Ft) w/ Insert Panels
- Stainless Steel Sink/Sink Cover/Cutting Board
- NW TruRest Queen Mattress w/ Bedspread
- Camping Clothes Closet with Removable Shelves
- USB Charging Ports on Both Sides of Bed



Northwood Mfg., Circle 119 on Reader Service Card

PHOTOS BY JEFF CRIDER



Camp Jellystone Louisiana

Family-owned Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park in Robert, Louisiana, is back in full operation after an August 2016 flood that damaged six swimming pools and 85 cabins. The cabins and pools have been repaired, and a new shaded area by the main pool with misters has been installed.

Located in a forested area about an hour north of New Orleans, the campground has a 7-acre pond with canoe, kayak and pedal-boat rentals, a splash pad, a miniature-golf course, playgrounds, and basketball and baseball courts. Organized activities range from a Ms. Jellystone Contest with male contestants to Super Soaker Weekends when the entire park turns into a water war zone, and Halloween theme weekends with campsite decorating and costume contests. Live music, including Cajun, is frequently provided on weekends. — Jeff Crider

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park Camp-Resort, 985-542-1507, www.jellystonela.com



RV Hall of Fame Triumph

Elkhart, Indiana's RV/MH Hall of Fame is thriving. Seven years ago the Hall of Fame was in financial distress and in danger of closing. Thanks to generous donations and pledges from the RV and manufactured housing industries, the Hall of Fame is on target to pay off its debt by the end of 2018. The museum's Founders Hall, open to the public, displays RVs, memorabilia and photos going back to the 1920s and technological advancements in the RV industry from before World War I.

The Hall of Fame hosts two RV shows yearly to highlight the newest vehicles and achievements and has seen increased attendance year after year.

www.rvmhhalloffame.org

YOUR FUTURE ESCAPE

Save Money Buying Molded
Fiberglass Trailers Factory Direct
in Chilliwack, B.C. Canada



 **Escape Trailer Industries**
Proudly built in British Columbia, Canada

escapetrailer.com | 855-703-1650

Escape Trailer, Circle 105 on Reader Service Card

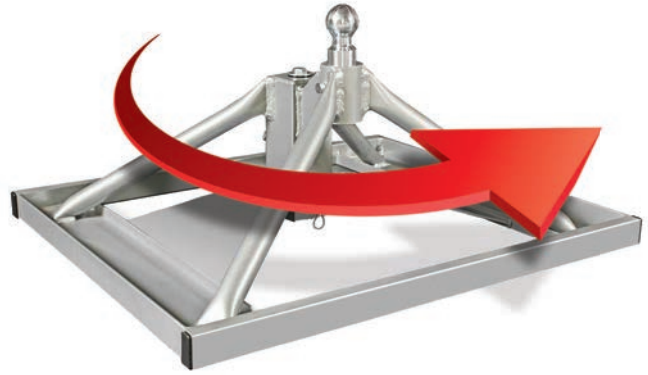
Turn the Pin Around

A reader in Oregon reached out to RV Resolutions after his new fifth-wheel hitch made a mess of his truck bed:

▶ We bought a 2018 Heartland Bighorn at Curtis Trailers in Portland, Oregon. After researching the many fifth-wheel-hitch varieties available at Curtis, we purchased an Andersen Ultimate 5th Wheel Connection to be installed in our 2016 GMC Denali 3500 with a standard 6½-foot bed. On our first outing, as we were backing into our campsite, the hitch damaged the bed rails of the truck.

After returning home, I called Andersen and spoke to someone named Steve. He had a few ideas for how this could have happened and suggested going back to the dealership, which we did. The technicians at Curtis took the truck and fifth-wheel for a test drive and reported that they could not replicate the problem. I reviewed Steve's ideas with them, but they seemed to have no interest in looking into it further.

Since then, we have made the adjustments suggested by Steve, and the hitch works great. It's clear that it was installed improperly and that the kingpin should have been turned the other way for our size bed. Replacing the two side rails and repairing the truck bed



are going to cost well over \$1,000, but the dealership is not helping with the damages. Can you step in to help?

Bob Helleman, Gladstone, Oregon

After we contacted Curtis Trailers on Bob Helleman's behalf, he sent the following thank-you note:

▶ The morning after we received a copy of your letter to Curtis Trailers, we received a call from Aaron Tangvald, Curtis' service manager. Aaron told us they had reviewed our complaint and would like to resolve our problem at their expense. Our truck is now repaired to our satisfaction. Thank you, *Trailer Life* and Aaron Tangvald.

B.H.

Drippy Little Teardrop

Another Oregon reader asked for help with a problem on her much smaller trailer:

▶ I purchased a Little Guy Rough Rider made by Pleasant Valley Teardrop Trailers, which is now nüCamp. After using the trailer a few times, it was obvious that the water tank would not hold the advertised 5 gallons unless I did not move the trailer. The water inlet was lower than where the hose goes into the tank, causing water to slop out through the fill hose. The cap on the inlet is not tight-fitting, so there is nothing to keep the water in.

I contacted Pleasant Valley, but the employees didn't seem to know what to do to solve the problem, and by then Pleasant Valley had broken off its partnership with Little Guy. So I contacted Little Guy, which was now part of Liberty Outdoors.

A rep at Liberty directed me to

a local dealership that suggested turning the fill opening upside down, which was not going to solve anything. Then he recommended a Portland dealership that told me they could drill another hole in the side of the trailer and put a big metal patch over the present inlet, which, of course, would look ridiculous and take up space in the galley.

With my warranty about to run out, I am getting a little desperate.

Lorelei Jossart, Walton, Oregon

We conveyed Lorelei Jossart's predicament to nüCamp RV and heard back from CEO Scott Hubble, who acknowledged that she had experienced

poor customer service. The company offered to cover the cost of repairs:

▶ After nüCamp stepped up to pay for this, I took the trailer to Cozy Cruiser in Eugene, which manufactures nice teardrops of its own and is located only 30 minutes from my home. I felt the Cozy Cruiser staff would have a better understanding of the problem since the company builds similar units. They did, and they could see immediately what needed to be done.

I greatly appreciate nüCamp's attitude and the \$637 check I received today for the repairs.

L.J. 📧

NEED HELP? » RV Resolutions is a 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, please send a typed letter to *Trailer Life* RV Resolutions, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036. Include copies of appropriate bills and correspondence as well as a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Instant Trailer

Just add water, load the refrigerator, and the Air OPUS Off-Road is ready to tackle any backcountry adventure

The silence was broken occasionally by the yips and howls of coyotes or the low hum of the refrigerator compressor kicking on. I was sitting in a camp chair, my dog by my side, watching the last of a sunset with a pink and orange sky from atop a mesa overlooking California's Sierra Madre range, the Air OPUS Off-Road folding trailer behind me. In less than five minutes, the OPUS had self-

inflated via an onboard air compressor, and within half an hour, I had set up the trailer, with its two double-size beds and seating for six, my belongings and bedding tucked inside, and had dinner on the stove.

The last time I camped at the semi-remote Songdog Ranch in the Cuyama Valley — where cattle outnumber people — was many years ago, and I was on a motorcycle



📺 Catch *Trailer Life's* video review of the Air OPUS Off-Road by Purple Line on our YouTube channel, TrailerLifeDIY.

with a tent and sleeping bag strapped to the back, and dinner made on a backpacker camp stove. This time was different. Traveling with the OPUS, I felt like I was cooking in a gourmet kitchen, with pasta boiling on one burner, marinara on another and a teakettle set on a third on the outdoor kitchen's huge four-burner range.

The OPUS Off-Road is built tough, clearly with the adventurous camper in mind. It doesn't just look rugged, it *is* rugged, featuring a galvanized-steel chassis supporting an aluminum frame, independent trailing-arm suspension with dual shock absorbers, 12.4 inches of ground clearance, a 700-pound-rated side-pivoting cargo rack for kayaks, bicycles and other

toys, *Mad-Max*-style all-terrain tires, and a rock guard with a netting barrier in front of metal racks holding jerricans bookending a 5-gallon LP-gas cylinder.

Completing the Off-Road package is a Lock 'N' Roll articulating trailer coupler with three-way, 360-degree rotation for up-and-down and side-to-side movement. The hitch worked so well that we almost forgot the trailer was being towed, and there was no stop-and-pull jerking when going over speed bumps. Getting to the top of the mesa required going over a large dip in the sand and climbing a dirt hill, all of which was a breeze towing the OPUS. The OPUS has a spare tire attached on the back and a hand brake on the A-frame to lock the wheels. This type of brake is not common on conventional trailers, so remembering to release it before taking off took some acclimation.

Packed down and ready for travel, the OPUS is less than 5 feet high and has a gross vehicle weight rating under 4,000 pounds, so it can be towed by many light trucks and SUVs. Open up the dual-fold lid, though, and like a Transformers action figure, it morphs into something completely different: a Conestoga-wagon-style trailer with a 7½-foot interior height, "bedrooms" with 50-by-68-inch mattresses at each end, a U-shaped dinette that can seat six or sleep two, a 30-amp/120-volt AC electric hookup, and two stainless-steel on-board 20-gallon freshwater tanks with on-demand 12-volt electric pumps for the outdoor shower and kitchen sink.

Then there's the outdoor kitchen with its precinct limited only by the next campsite. Besides unlimited space, the kitchen keeps cooking smells and splatters outside so you can go wild with the bacon and garlic. The drawer-style setup, with a stainless range, prep area/drain rack and sink, pulls out 4½ feet from the side of the trailer. A flexible LED light is to the left of the range, and a 14-by-19-inch counter extension with support legs is to the right. The four-burner range with metal grates is big enough to make chef Gordon Ramsay smile.

Behind the kitchen in its own compartment is a top-loading Dometic 50-liter (1.77-cubic-foot) refrigerator-



(Top) Expansive windows bring the outdoors in. The front bed is behind the six-seat dinette, while the back bed is a step up to the left of the entry door. **(Above)** The outdoor kitchen sports a four-burner range, stainless sink, a cutlery drawer and a flexible LED light.

freezer (an optional 63-liter model is available). The refrigerator drawer rolls out on heavy-duty glides; a 12-volt DC fan keeps the compartment cool. The Wi-Fi-enabled fridge is set up for a smartphone app to adjust and monitor the temperature, and it even has a lid-open alert.

The Air OPUS' self-inflating canopy has five air crossbeams and four lateral ones consisting of three layers: an internal plastic bladder and two outer protective layers. The compressor pumps air into the center beam, which then distributes air to the other beams via two-way valves. When it's time to pack up, the user opens five outside valves, and the canopy deflates in minutes. The air beams can be isolated with the two-way valves; if one tube fails, for



example, you can shut off the valve to that beam so the whole thing doesn't deflate.

We discovered this on our first night out when one of the valves in the air beam over the rear bed had been tampered with — our test unit had been set up at multiple RV shows, and somewhere along the way, a valve had been turned so it created a slow leak. OPUS is so confident about its product that, should there be a failure, the company will send out a new air beam overnight, which it claims can be replaced by the owner in less than 10 minutes. For us, fortunately, the issue was resolved over the phone, and we enjoyed several more camping adventures sans any problems.

When set up, the living area is covered by an arched heavy-duty poly-cotton canvas that resists mildew, and there's a zipped entry door and fold-out step. While the trailer is inflating, you can work on exterior setup — such as the stabilizing jacks and kitchen, and hooking up water and LP-gas. Once the OPUS is inflated, some light assembly is required inside to put up the folding table and place the back cushions for the dinette, which piece together like a simple puzzle, as well as readying a few other things (if opted for) like the 20-liter 120-volt AC portable microwave (\$149). We preferred to keep the table outside, where it was more useful for us, plus we liked having the extra floor space inside. The bedrooms at each end are ready to go, each with its own zipped inner tent to reduce condensation, add insulation in cold weather and for privacy.

Airflow and interior brightness can be customized via multiple windows in the living area, bed-ends and overhead. Each window has two layers — screen and heavy plastic — so

AIR OPUS OFF-ROAD

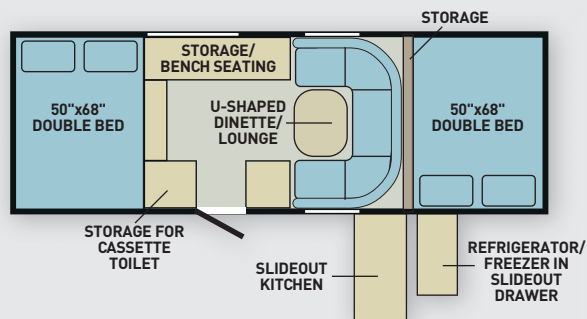


ILLUSTRATION BY DOUG PAJUN

you can let in sunlight, for instance, without letting in cold air. Additionally, the entire kitchen-side wall can be opened up — OPUS' version of a French door. An optional Inflating Tent Full Awning (\$1,995) with air beams can be attached, which is basically an add-on room with sides that can be zipped off.

The large windows overhead, or skylights, are topped with an exterior removable Tropical Roof that blocks direct sunlight. If you want to leave the Tropical Roof off, that's best decided before inflating the OPUS, or it would have to be semi-deflated to reach the buckled attachments or require the use of a ladder. With the Tropical Roof in place and the skylights open, air can pass through under it, creating airflow from the top (presuming there's a breeze), which I could feel while lying in bed. With the roof off, you're privy to spectacular stargazing with the four skylights, depending on where you're



The Air OPUS Off-Road is built for serious off-the-beaten-path camping with its independent trailing-arm suspension, 12.4 inches of ground clearance (far left) and Lock 'N' Roll articulating coupler (left) that provides three-way movement. (Below) Next stop: Southern California's Zuma Beach for kayaking. The side-pivoting cargo rack, rated for 700 pounds, lifts easily out of the way when setting up the OPUS.



camped. And the large windows at each end of the beds supply spectacular views of the night — and day — sky.

Inside, there's a simplicity to the living area, featuring vinyl flooring (with a metal base) and white plywood benches with plentiful storage that double as seating and places to set things. To the left of the entry door is storage where the optional cassette toilet (\$199) can be housed. Cream-colored leatherette cushions with red piping make up the spacious U-shaped dinette (called a club lounge by OPUS), which can seat six adults. Two of us could stretch out lounge-style on comfortable cushions that offer good back support. Several of the benches that make up the dinette can be accessed from the top or the side to get to the storage.

Side rails are built into two benches to brace the table during travel and to convert the dinette into a third bed. I found the dinette's cushions to be more supportive than the ones on the double beds, which were made of high-density foam; a memory-foam-mattress upgrade is an option (\$750). For convenience, mesh hanging pockets are provided that are large enough to keep water bottles, an iPad and magazines.

To access the front bed, you have to step onto and over those lovely cream-colored dinette cushions. Parallel to the front bed and running the entire length is a convenient storage bin with a cup-holder and a GFCI-protected 120-volt AC outlet. You can spring for an optional two-cushion extension to make the front double bed into a king (\$299).

Three LED lights are set at floor level (one by the entry) and have dimmer switches. Overhead, just outside the bedrooms, are LED light strips on the ceiling with free-hanging on/off switches by the beds. While lying in bed, we needed more light for nighttime reading, so we brought along a light-weight clamp-on light.

The OPUS has two 12-volt, 100-amp-hour-rated batteries that the company claims can last four or five days for off-grid power. There's also an onboard battery charger. During a three-day outing without hookups, we had enough power to run the accesso-

SPECIFICATIONS

AIR OPUS OFF-ROAD

Exterior Length (closed)	18' 4" with spare
Exterior Length (open)	21' 4"
Exterior Width (closed)	6' 4 1/4"
Exterior Height (closed)	4' 9"
Interior Width (main body)	6'
Interior Height	7' 6"
Construction	Steel chassis and aluminum frame; waterproof and mildew-resistant poly-cotton canvas; water-tight and dust-proof flanged seal when closed down; waterproof 10-ply floor
Freshwater Cap.	40 gal.
Black-/Gray-Water Cap.	Optional 6-gal. containers
LP-Gas Cap.	5 gal.
Water Heater	Portable tankless
Refrigerator	Dometic 2-way portable refrigerator-freezer
Furnace	16,000 Btu
Batteries (2)	12-volt
On-Board Battery Charger	Marine, 2-Bank 8A
Tires	LT235/75R15
Suspension	Independent torsion with dual shock absorbers
Weight (freshwater and LP-gas full, portable shower on board)	3,460 lbs.
Hitch Weight	310 lbs.
GVWR	3,970 lbs.
GAWR	3,500 lbs.
Cargo Carrying Cap.	510 lbs.
MSRP, Base	\$24,499
MSRP, As Tested	\$26,799
Basic Warranty	Two years

Purple Line Opus

415-802-3734, www.opuscamper.com
Circle 135 on Reader Service Card

ries and the 16,000-Btu Atwood LP-gas furnace for several hours, which kept us toasty when temps dipped into the 40s one night. Owners need to be sure the furnace is turned off before packing down; we set a reminder on a cell phone just to be on the safe side.

When it comes to entertainment options in pop-up trailers, you'd be hard-pressed to beat the OPUS' offerings. A Roadstar remote stereo with DVD/CD/MP3/MPEG4/USB/SD card and two Sony speakers is standard. An optional Cinema Package (\$1,149) combines with the Roadstar stereo system to play movies through a 2 1/2-hour-battery-powered AAXA Technologies P300 Neo Pico projector that's small enough to hold in your hand and attaches to a mini tripod. And — wait for it — a 60-by-70-inch screen pulls up from the base by



17TH-ANNUAL CHARITY RAFFLE
WIN

A New Winnebago Forza Motorhome or a Quarter of a Million Dollars in Cash

Tickets Only \$100.00 Each
No More Than 7,500 Tickets Will Be Sold
Drawing Will Be August 31st, 2018

All proceeds benefit Innovations Housing, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works on much-needed community projects around the world. Raffle monitored by Jessica Tegerstrand, CPA of Redding, CA. State of California, Department of Justice Raffle Registration Number R-173. Must be over 18 to enter. Void where prohibited. Winner need not be present to win. Winner will take home a new 38-foot Winnebago Forza motorhome or \$250,000.00. Winner responsible for taxes, title and license.

To purchase tickets with a Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express call **+1 (800) 764-8096** toll free or **+1 (530) 243-5693**. Or mail a check to Post Office Box 991846 Redding, CA 96099-1846, USA. For more information visit **www.innovationshousing.org**

HOOK UP YOUR TRAILER IN SECONDS!

TRAILER LIFE TEST



iBALL 
WIRELESS TRAILER HITCH CAMERA

Starting at
\$169.95
Pro Digital Model
\$229.99

- 100% Wireless & Portable
- Easy—Installs in Seconds!
- Magnetic & Submersible Camera
- Trailers (Boat, Camper, Horse, ATV, livestock and More!)
- Pro Model Now Available

Plus Get up to \$50 Off,
Use Promo Code TL818

Info/Buy Now: 1-877-298-2055 or visit our website at:
www.iballhitchcam.com

iBall Hitch Cam, 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.



e2 READERS' CHOICE SILVER AWARD WINNER 2017



Fastway e2 - Faster, Easier.
FastwayTrailer.com • Toll Free 877-523-9103

the OPUS' rear bed. Bring out the popcorn, kick back on the club lounge and watch a movie from your home theater.

An outdoor shower option (\$650) includes a portable tankless water heater with a handheld sprayer and a floorless pop-up shower tent. The water heater hangs on a swing-out rod by the spare tire, supplies 1.46 gallons of hot water per minute, runs via the pump at the back and is hooked up to LP-gas. Combine the shower option with the optional cassette toilet (\$199), and you have an outdoor bathroom. The shower tent is really lightweight, so it should be staked or tied down in case a breeze comes up; otherwise, you may find yourself naked and blushing in the great outdoors. The shower stores in the exterior 21-by-22-inch rollout storage bin with 18 inches of height. Also in here is a hand-powered air pump in case the compressor should fail, so the OPUS can still be set up.

The British-Australian developer of the OPUS is so confident of the rugged and waterproof design that it has put the folding trailer through some crazy tests, which makes for some entertaining viewing on the company's website. One test shows a helicopter hovering over the trailer to test how it stands up to high winds, and another puts the OPUS through a five-minute spray-down using a fire hose. After viewing a video where the trailer is pounded by a baseball bat, we jokingly asked our OPUS contact if we could do that, too, and the reply was, "Have at it!"

With some practice, the Air OPUS can be set up and packed down by one person with little effort. When it's closed, rubber-covered metal flanges seal it to keep dirt and water out. There's also a 1,000-pound-rated tow hitch in back. Most importantly, you'll want to check, double-check and check again to be sure you haven't left something inside that you'll need before your next trip.

With a starting price of less than \$25,000, the Air OPUS Off-Road offers the best of both camping worlds. Not only can you get to those remote campsites that you've been longing to reach — presuming your tow vehicle can handle it — but once you get there, you don't have to rough it. 🚐

Progress Manufacturing, Inc., Circle 122 on Reader Service Card

WALK-THROUGH: FOREST RIVER NO BOUNDARIES NB19.5



No Boundaries

Forest River's rugged and adventurous NoBo travel trailer is surprisingly upscale inside



It's apparent from first glance that the No Boundaries travel trailer from Forest River is intended for outdoorsy RVers and rugged terrain. Just look at its high ground clearance, enclosed underbelly and full walk-on PVC roof as proof of that design influence. Then there's the traction-covered 300-pound-rated wheel well made for RVers to stand on for side access to roof-stored kayaks, bikes, SUPs and other recreational gear held in place by Rhino-Rack tracks.

The No Boundaries lineup, or NoBo for short, introduced last fall with three floorplan series measuring 10, 16 and 19 feet, was created

for RVers looking for a lighter trailer that accommodates plenty of outdoor equipment. To that end, all NoBo trailers, even the largest ones, have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of less than 5,000 pounds.

Of the two 19 Series models, the NB19.5 is slightly smaller at 7 feet, 4 inches wide and 22 feet, 8 inches long from coupler to bumper. The lean weight and dimensions are part of a purposeful design intended to keep these trailers towable by many V-6 SUVs and other family-size vehicles.

The NB19.5 is a hardy-looking trailer that is clearly at home off-road. In addition to the previously mentioned

The "chaise lounge dinette" offers snug but comfortable seating with removable ottomans and converts into sleeping space.

features, it has a 4,400-pound rubber-on-rubber, torsion-axle independent suspension to allow each wheel to adjust to road conditions, as well as beefy 16-inch tires, enclosed dump valves and waterproof connections for all electrical wiring.

Step through the entrance, though, and the NoBo leaves the rough-and-tough stuff outdoors. Inside, the cool, light colors and plentiful windows lend themselves to an unexpectedly swank atmosphere. I liked the pale-gray wood-grain laminate floors, gray cabinets with hardwood doors and hidden hinges, stainless-steel appliances and



(Far left) Pass-through basement storage fits longer outdoor equipment like oars and fishing rods. (Left) The kitchen's roll-up stainless-steel sink cover doubles as a dish rack, food tray or trivet.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURER



(Above, from left) There's no sacrificing comfort and convenience in the bathroom, which sports a roomy radius shower and a sink with a mirrored medicine cabinet above it. Wood-grain laminate flooring, stainless-steel appliances and hardwood cabinet doors with satin-nickel hardware give the rugged NB19.5 an upscale ambience inside. Up front, the 60-by-80-inch queen bed lifts to provide access to basement storage.

satin-nickel cabinet hardware.

The thing that really stood out was the soft lighting coming from the LED strips inside the frosted-glass overhead bedroom cabinets and an open spice-rack area along the kitchen counter. Bright LED ceiling dome lights have independent and door-side switches, but the light strips provide a more pleasant ambience when the extra illumination isn't needed.

The kitchen has a recessed two-burner cooktop under a flush cover, always a welcome element that adds counter space, as well as a wonderfully roomy 6-cubic-foot refrigerator and a stainless-steel sink with an arched faucet. A convection microwave is available as an option. The adjacent pantry cabinet provides extra storage space.

Once dinner is prepared, Forest River has created what it calls a "chaise lounge dinette" in place of a standard booth setup, with seats that curve at the far ends, and removable ottomans with storage inside. The freestanding table is narrow, and people sitting at the curves will undoubtedly bang knees. There's also a shelf behind the seats, which I appreciated, and more overhead cabinets. The seats themselves are cushy and comfortable without being easily crushed. These seem like they'll stand up to use and weight.

The dinette converts into a bed that

TRANSFER FLOW FUEL TANKS



MORE FUEL. MORE FREEDOM.

Long distances, harsh elements, and fluctuating fuel prices are just some of the challenges you and your truck face. Be ready with a range-maximizing fuel tank system from Transfer Flow.

When your truck can tow a 22,000 lb. trailer across the country without breaking a sweat, don't compromise the performance or quality of your fuel system with a lightweight plastic container. Transfer Flow fuel tanks are made from high quality American-made aluminized steel and aluminum diamond plate.

To find the fuel tank that best fits your needs, call or visit our website at transferflow.com. Spend less time at the fuel pump, and more time on the road!



IN-BED AUXILIARY FUEL TANKS



TOOLBOX AND REFUELING TANK COMBOS



LARGER REPLACEMENT FUEL TANKS



TRANSFER FLOW, INC.
The Leader in Aftermarket Fuel Tank Systems™

We Fuel Your Adventures.™

MADE IN USA

1-800-826-5776
www.TransferFlow.com






reportedly sleeps two, but it's a tight fit for most adults, so extra-small people or children would be appropriate for that bed; the queen bed at the front is right-sized for adults. Great news for picky sleepers: This is a full 60-by-80-inch queen bed, which makes it easier to swap out mattresses, if you desire, plus each side has its own nightstand and storage cabinet with an outlet. Under the bed is access to the pass-through basement storage.

The other 19 Series floorplan, the NB19.7, has two rear bunks, each with its own window, overhead light and set of outlets, with shelves at the head. Both bunks are rated for 300 pounds, which is a nice offering for folks who want to bring grown-up friends and not just kids.

Another bonus in the 19 Series NoBo trailers is the full dry bath. Here, there is a toilet with a sink, storage, a mirrored medicine cabinet and a real radius-corner shower. A waterproof LED fixture is close enough to the shower enclosure to cast some light in

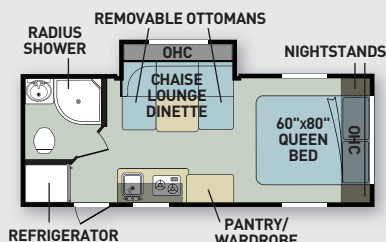
at night when there's no sunshine to help illuminate it through the skylight.

The previously mentioned Rhino-Rack tracks, standard on 19 Series trailers, allow owners to mix and match optional components like a kayak carrier, depending on the type of gear they want to haul on the roof. One more fun thing: All NoBo trailers come with a portable waterproof JBL Bluetooth speaker, which users can charge overnight (both 19 Series trailers have a

USB charging station) and take with them to create a personalized adventure-soundtrack listening experience.

These kinds of thoughtful appointments make the No Boundaries 19 Series worth a hard look for folks wanting to explore a little farther off road without towing too much weight or giving up a little luxury in their downtime. It looks like Forest River was listening to what people wanted to see in a lightweight adventure trailer. 📻

QUICK INFO



Exterior Length	22' 8"
Exterior Width	7' 4"
Interior Height	6' 6"
Exterior Height	9' 7"
Freshwater Cap.	30 gal.
Black-Water Cap.	30 gal.
Gray-Water Cap.	30 gal.
LP-Gas Cap.	5 gal.
UVW	3,456 lbs.
Hitch Weight	365 lbs.
GVWR	4,400 lbs.
MSRP, Base	\$25,738

Forest River/No Boundaries

574-535-2704, www.forestriverinc.com/travel-trailers/no-boundaries
Circle 136 on Reader Service Card

NEW **Comfort Ride Suspension for Trailers & 5th Wheels**

Have you ever opened the door to your trailer and looked into your own personal earthquake zone? Cabinet drawers wide open with their contents scattered over the floor? Furniture that's 'walked'? The solution is Comfort Ride Shock Absorber and Slipper Spring Systems.

Comfort Ride floats your trailer over the roughest roads!

Not an exaggeration! Actual testing over a rough road course reduced energy transmission to the RV by over 80%. Full suspension upgrade is a Comfort Ride Shock System AND Comfort Ride Slipper Spring System.

Superior safety and ride control features:

- **Independent axle operation** - improves handling, braking performance and safety by keeping all tires solidly on the pavement even during panic stops.
- **Patented high-performance shock absorber placement** - controls bounce while restricting sway and body roll especially in high winds.
- **Less energy transfer** - keeps trailer contents in place, reduces structural stresses that could cause water leaks, is gentler on electronics and reduces maintenance for less downtime.



Comfort Ride Shock Absorber and Slipper Spring kits are available separately but when installed together, offer a more significant improvement in ride quality.



800-669-9690
roadmasterinc.com



Time Tested
Time Proven

DO YOU INSURE YOUR TOW VEHICLE SEPARATE FROM YOUR TRAILER?

**DON'T GET STUCK PAYING
TWO SEPARATE DEDUCTIBLES**

GET A FAST, FREE QUOTE!

Call: **1-866-280-0628** and mention savings code **TD-6Q**

Click: **GoodSamRVInsurance.com/code/6Q**

***GET A \$10 CAMPING WORLD MERCHANDISE
CERTIFICATE WHEN YOU GET A FREE QUOTE!***

Certificate will be mailed 4-6 weeks after quote is requested. Certificate not available in GA and NM. Availability, eligibility, coverages, features and benefits 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. The Good Sam Vehicle Insurance Plan (VIP) is provided by a member company of the National General Insurance Group. Average savings based on new policyholder reported data from April 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016. © 2018 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. GSI54961 - 0518

WALK-THROUGH: HEARTLAND FUEL 335

Fueled Up

Heartland's fifth-wheel toy hauler comes loaded with high-end appointments, a rear patio deck and flexible garage space

When the first toy haulers were introduced, they were aimed straight at the motorsports crowd. A mix of an RV and a garage seemed a natural combination, like chocolate and peanut butter. And, indeed it was. But it didn't take long for folks to see that the ample space in the rear was usable for more than ATVs.

For 2018, Heartland RV introduced the Fuel 335 fifth-wheel toy

hauler. While the graphics and bold Fuel badge on the outside denote a sense of speed and action, the interior contrasts that with dark wood, vinyl seating and luxurious appointments suited for long-term living on the road.

The 335 featured here is fully equipped, as are the other toy haulers in the Fuel line. The build sheet notes three optional packages, but the only one that is not mandatory (which

With the bed and benches elevated, the utility space makes a great garage, living room, dining room or den with a porch.

makes those "optional" packages standard equipment) is the Diesel Package, which consists of the LCI Level-Up six-point leveling system, a 5.5-kilowatt gas-powered Cummins Onan generator, an LED TV and a side ladder leading to the roof.

The aforementioned exterior graphics are angular and two-tone, and relatively minimal. The black and gray appliques are set upon the white

(Far left) The living room and kitchen are nicely appointed, and pedestal tables can be inserted for dining or additional prep space. (Left) The master bedroom has under-bed storage and a good size closet. (Below) The power awning provides ample shade.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MANUFACTURER

WALK-THROUGH: HEARTLAND FUEL 335

Lamilux fiberglass siding, fiberglass cap and rear loading door with black trim. The black and gray theme carries through the interior and is sharp and modern looking.

Exterior storage is tight for a fifth-wheel this size, with a narrow front transverse compartment that is partially transected by a vertical soil stack. The Fuel 335 has the genset and batteries in the forward compartment, and they take up just about all the available space. Packing of outside items will have to be done carefully, and larger items will need to be stored in the back of the tow vehicle or the garage.

The loading ramp for the garage can be lowered partway into a patio deck, which is a great feature when camping at a location that permits its use, such as by a lake or out in a primitive or desert setting. A screened safety railing rolls out and locks so pets and kids stay put. With the deck's 2,500-pound load rating, everyone can



(Above, from left) A large LED TV is joined by a Furrion DV7100 streaming stereo with soundbar speakers. The bathroom has a sizable vanity and huge rectangular shower with a low step.

hang out and enjoy the setting.

The 13-foot garage is a nice mix of toy box and living space, with rubber diamond-style flooring. An elevating bunk system features a top bed that sleeps two and a pair of vinyl opposing benches that fold down to make

another bed for two. Both raise up to the ceiling out of the way to open the space for toys. A folding table can be used here, out on the deck or under the awning.

The interior walls and ceiling are clad in an attractive, sleek paneling

MAXXIS[®]
TIRES



with silver accents and coordinate well with the black upholstery and dark cabinetry. The galley and living area are in an open space; an overhead bunk is toward the rear over the forward part of the garage. This bunk is a traditionally tight space and a challenge to get into, but it's perfect for the smallest members of the family. Adding the queen bed up front, the 335 can sleep up to eight.

The galley's counter space is at a premium, with a solid-surface counter around the large stainless-steel, farmer's-style single-bowl sink. The range cover doubles as prep space when the stove isn't in use. Two pedestal tables in front of the slideout-mounted recliners can be used if more prep space is needed. For reclining and relaxing, the tables can be removed easily and stowed in the garage. All appliances in the galley are stainless, including the Dometic range, High Pointe microwave and refrigerator-freezer. Cabinet storage is generous throughout the space.

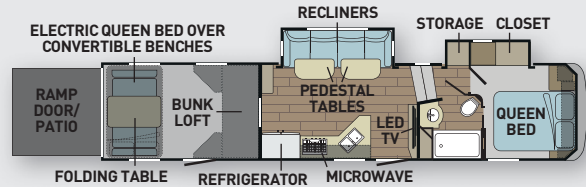
The upstairs side-aisle bathroom is accessible from the master bedroom and hallway, and features a large rectangular shower with a seat and curtain. A standard Thetford toilet, vanity with sink and cabinet storage round out the area nicely.

The hallway and bedroom share a sizable slideout for storage and a closet for clothes, towels and other necessities; the slide must be extended to access either room. The

queen bed has a shirt wardrobe and a large bedside stand on one side and a smaller nightstand on the other. There is additional storage under the bed for items not used every day.

The Heartland Fuel 335 is targeted at folks looking for a fifth-wheel to take along toys or who want to use the garage for cargo, crafts, an extra bedroom or a mobile office. 🚐

QUICK INFO



Exterior Length	40' 7"	LP-Gas Cap.	14 gal.
Exterior Width	8' 6"	UVW	13,196 lbs.
Exterior Height	13' 3"	Hitch Weight	3,420 lbs.
Freshwater Cap.	100 gal.	GVWR	17,000 lbs.
Black-Water Cap.	80 gal.	MSRP, Base	\$42,295
Gray-Water Cap.	70 gal.	MSRP, As Shown	\$64,544

Heartland RV

877-262-8032, www.heartlandrvs.com/brands/toyhaulers/fuel

Circle 134 on Reader Service Card

ILLUSTRATION BY DOUG PAULIN

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



article by Stephanie and Jeremy Puglisi

GRAND STRAND GETAWAY



SANDY BEACHES, ATLANTIC BREEZES AND MILES OF RV CAMPSITES ARE JUST THE START OF A FAMILY-FRIENDLY VACATION IN MYRTLE BEACH

We hold our breath as the 6-foot alligator glides smoothly through the water just a stone's throw away from our small fleet of kayaks. Our guide, Richard, assures us that there is nothing to worry about, and though we trust him completely, we still feel a small sense of relief when the big-toothed gator loses interest and swims slowly away.

It is 10:30 on a warm October morning, and we are exploring the remote nooks and crannies of the salt marshes of Murrells Inlet, just 15 miles south of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We are less than 30 minutes away from roller coasters, mini golf and endless seafood buffets, but it feels like we are in the middle of nowhere with only the laughing

gulls and snowy egrets for company. As we turn our kayaks around and paddle back to the north, Richard points to a bald eagle soaring above with breakfast clasped tightly in his talons. Our three sons *ooh* and *aah* in unison.

This is our third kayak tour with Black River Outdoors Center, and we never visit the area without asking Richard or his son, Paul, to take us off the beaten path and teach us more about the wild side of the coastal Carolinas. Whether we are paddling through the cypress swamp or watching the sunset over the salt marsh, this is where we find the Myrtle Beach that brings us back again and again, far from the glitz and glamour of the Grand Strand.

With dozens of campgrounds and a four-season tourism

A classic vacation destination, the Grand Strand has 60 miles of beaches, an oceanfront boardwalk and one of the country's tallest Ferris wheels.





Visitors can choose their own adventures in Myrtle Beach. Thrill-seekers can whiz down ziplines with a view of the Atlantic (top left), nature lovers can dip their paddles in tranquil salt marshes and cypress swamps (top right), and young and old alike can find piers for sightseeing or fishing from the rails (below).



industry, Myrtle Beach is one of the top RV destinations in America. Families arrive in the summer to relax on the beautiful beaches, and snowbirds touch down in the fall to enjoy the temperate winter weather. Yet it took our family years to finally visit this iconic location. Why? Mostly because we thought Myrtle Beach was all about boardwalk amusements and tourist traps. Our first trip showed us the stunning variety in this region, and we have been returning ever since.

Not that the boardwalk should be avoided entirely. In fact, we start our vacation with a quick visit just to get it out of our system. Riding on the SkyWheel is the perfect way to greet the Grand Strand and enjoy a bird's eye view of the coastline. The ride is long enough to enjoy the experience, and the private gondolas are spacious and comfortable.

Our next stop is Myrtle Beach Zipline Adventures, right next to the beach. It's not the highest or fastest zip we've ever experienced, but it is perfect for families with a variety of ages and sizes. Whizzing toward the sparkling waters of the Atlantic Ocean is a special kind of experience, and we

are all able to ride in unison from one platform to the other.

Then we must make a decision about which of the museum attractions we will enjoy on this particular trip. Just a couple of miles away is the famous Broadway at the Beach with more shops, restaurants and entertainment than we could possibly experience in one trip. Our twins beg to return to WonderWorks, a quirky hands-on science museum with more than a hundred exhibits including virtual roller coasters, laser tag and a bubble factory, but we want to try something different. So on this trip we head to the Hollywood Wax Museum, which quickly becomes their new favorite thing in all of Myrtle Beach. We pose for pictures next to Elvis Presley, Lucille Ball and James Dean before entering Hannah's Maze of Mirrors. The boys beg to go through the maze one more time. And we do... again and again and again.

But the real highlight of this particular visit to Boardwalk at the Beach is Legends in Concert, where we watch amazing performers impersonate Little Richard, Frank Sinatra, Whitney Houston, Johnny Cash and



CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS

(Left) At the Legends in Concert show, award-winning impersonators pay tribute to stars like Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton and Michael Jackson. (Far left) Coauthor Stephanie Puglisi poses for a photo with the immortal Audrey Hepburn at the Hollywood Wax Museum.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE AND JEREMY PUGLISI

WHETHER WE ARE PADDLING THROUGH THE CYPRESS SWAMP OR WATCHING THE SUNSET OVER THE SALT MARSH, MURRELLS INLET IS WHERE WE FIND THE MYRTLE BEACH THAT BRINGS US BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN.



REACH THE BEACH

The Myrtle Beach area has more than a dozen RV resorts and public campgrounds.

Apache Family Campground and Pier

800-553-1749

www.apachefamilycampground.com

📍 Briarcliffe RV Resort

843-272-2730, www.briarcliffervresort.com

📍 Brunswick Beaches Camping Resort

855-579-2267

www.brunswickbeachescamping.com

📍 Cypress Camping Resort

843-293-0300

www.cypresscampingresort.com

Huntington Beach State Park

866-345-7275, www.southcarolinaparks.com/huntington-beach

Lakewood Camping Resort

877-525-3966

www.lakewoodcampground.com

Myrtle Beach KOA

843-448-3421

www.koa.com/campgrounds/myrtle-beach

Myrtle Beach State Park

866-345-7275

www.southcarolinaparks.com/myrtle-beach

Myrtle Beach Travel Park

800-255-3568

www.myrtlebeachtravelpark.com

North Myrtle Beach RV Resort

844-777-5727, www.northmyrtlebeachrvresortanddrydock.com

Ocean Lakes Family Campground

877-510-1413, www.oceanlakes.com

PirateLand Family Camping Resort

800-443-2267, www.pirateland.com

Willow Tree RV Resort and Campground

866-207-2267, www.willowtreervr.com

For More Information

Myrtle Beach Area

Convention and Visitors Bureau

800-356-3016, www.visitmyrtlebeach.com

Elvis. Myrtle Beach has a long tradition of live entertainment, and we have to pick between dozens of great options including Pirates Voyage Dinner and Show, a Dolly Parton Company production, and the weekly Gospel Brunch on Sundays at the House of Blues. It is never easy for us to choose just one show, but thankfully, we have never been disappointed.

Previous vacations in Myrtle Beach have found us enjoying a Pelicans minor-league baseball game, Ripley's Aquarium and the rides in Pavilion Park East. We have also spent a delightful afternoon on the *Barefoot Princess Riverboat*, cruising down the Intracoastal Waterway, spotting the homes of celebrities and dancing on the deck to Jimmy Buffett tunes. Our sons, along with the rest of the kids on the boat, were invited to help the captain steer for a bit. And that's how they make experiences a little extra special in Myrtle Beach.

LOCAL TREASURES

Although we are a bit surprised by how much we enjoy the touristy entertainment and spectacle of the Grand Strand, the real revelation is

the natural beauty and outdoor experiences available here. Black River Outdoors helped introduce us to the wild side of Myrtle Beach, and we were completely smitten.

The South Carolina State Parks system is an active and vibrant agency that runs two wonderful parks in this region: Myrtle Beach State Park, just a couple of miles south of the boardwalk amusements, and Huntington Beach State Park, about 15 miles south in Murrells Inlet. Both have beautiful campgrounds that fill up months in advance and offer direct access to gorgeous beaches.

Myrtle Beach State Park is the smaller of the two, and the nature center has a cozy atmosphere, with scheduled story hours and craft time. This is our favorite place in the area to spend the entire day at the beach, offering clean bathhouses and a shady picnic area.

Huntington Beach State Park is much larger, and we love visiting Atalaya, the home built in the early 20th century by Archer Huntington for his wife who had been diagnosed with tuberculosis. We always try to catch a guided tour by one of the docents,

Just a short drive south of "the Strip," Myrtle Beach State Park offers a beautiful mile-long white-sand beach along with hiking trails, nature programs and hundreds of RV campsites.



since this brings the empty rooms and abandoned corridors to life.

We also check the schedule of ranger-led programs in advance of our visit, and look forward to the guided alligator and bird viewing, and the amazing South Carolina Lowcountry ecological education. These state parks would certainly delight us even if we just popped in for a few hours and wandered around on our own. After many visits, though, we have developed

a deep appreciation for the natural and historical insights that the guides and rangers offer their visitors.

Just across the street from Huntington Beach State Park is another regional treasure, Brookgreen Gardens. We schedule a visit early in our stay, since a pass is good for up to seven days from the date of purchase. Brookgreen is a sprawling 9,000-acre property, and it is impossible to take it all in during one visit. First-time



(Top and above) Whether you want to stay in the heart of the action or are seeking a rustic retreat, RV parks and public campgrounds are in ample supply in the Myrtle Beach area. Bird-watching is a bonus.

visitors will want to meander through the gardens and view the largest collection of figurative American sculpture in the country. The zoo should also be at the top of the agenda, as it houses wildlife native to the woods and swamps of the Carolina Lowcountry.

We spend a good chunk of time here at the Enchanted Storybook Forest, a children's area that emphasizes imaginative play and natural exploration. Another favorite? The pontoon boat rides that meander through the creeks on the wildlife preserve and the overland excursions that take visitors to historic sites on the property.

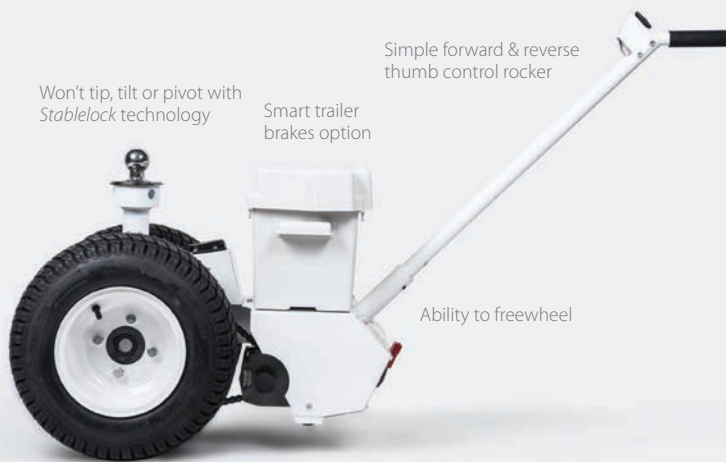
BEACH BITES AND BREW

We stay very physically active while visiting Myrtle Beach, and that's a good thing since we eat our fair share of Lowcountry cuisine. Dining out can be tricky — there are so many options that it is hard to unearth the truly great restaurants. But they exist, and we never settle



Parkit360°

Move any trailer with our compact, powerful, battery-powered trailer dolly.



Won't tip, tilt or pivot with *Stablelock* technology

Smart trailer brakes option

Simple forward & reverse thumb control rocker

Ability to freewheel



Model shown (Force) supports: Tag-Along and Pintle
Transformer supports: Gooseneck, 5th Wheel, Tag-Along and Pintle

www.parkit360.com

1-888-926-5517

Park It 360, Circle 121 on Reader Service Card

for a run-of-the-mill pancake house or overpriced calabash seafood buffet.

Every morning in Myrtle Beach should start at Johnny D's Waffles and Bakery, where Chef Jamie combines her love of the Northeast diner tradition with the best of Southern cuisine and produces food that we dream about long after our return home. The red-velvet waffle glazed with a cream-cheese frosting knocks our socks off, and the pork-belly Benedict offers the perfect savory foil. The menu is elevated, but the prices are not. As far as we are concerned, eating breakfast anywhere else in town is a wasted opportunity.

When we are worn out after a long day at the beach, the Noisy Oyster is our favorite casual dinner spot, offering a raw bar, fun cocktails and plenty of beer on tap. It's just a few blocks away from the Myrtle Beach KOA, our favorite campground when we want to be right near the action yet feel miles away from the hustle and bustle of the Grand Strand. The Noisy Oyster gives us our fix of large fried platters of seafood along with baskets of the boys' favorite side dish, hush puppies. The food is fresh, the prices are fair, and we enjoy ourselves so much more than we would at one of the buffets.

And then there is the challenge of choosing a spot along the Murrells Inlet MarshWalk where we always splurge for one amazing waterfront dining experience. The locals point us to Graham's Landing for lunch, which is perfect after we have been kayaking or hiking at nearby Huntington Beach State Park. We follow directions and order the Parmesan-crusted scallops and the shrimp and grits, both house specialties, according to our server.

But we still want a nice night out before we hitch up and leave the next day, so the Wicked Tuna is the pick for our last dinner in Myrtle Beach. This restaurant is huge but fills up quickly, and we get there early to snag a prime spot on the outdoor deck where we watch the sunset over trees lining the salt marsh. The Wicked Tuna serves fish caught by its own fleet of boats, so the snapper that we enjoy that evening

was brought in earlier that day.

The sushi is creative without being pretentious, and we can't even manage to finish the Dragon Egg, half an avocado stuffed full of king crab and smoked salmon. We piece together our own version of a surf and turf with strip steak, grouper and crab cakes. The dessert tray sends our boys into a total state of bliss, and we head back to the campground in the dark with full bellies and happy hearts.

We laugh now that a place we avoided visiting for so long has become one of our favorite RV destinations, especially during the early spring and late fall months. Each visit to Myrtle Beach is unique yet offers us the opportunity to enjoy relaxing beach days, natural beauty and exciting attractions. We don't believe we could ever tire of our Myrtle Beach vacations, but we will keep returning again and again just to test out that theory. 🐼

BEST PORTABLE CLOTHES WASHER IN THE WORLD!

HAND-POWERED • NON-ELECTRIC • ECO-FRIENDLY



1. Add water & detergent



2. Place clothes in basket



3. Easy up & down motion



4. Amazing cleaning power



 MADE IN THE USA

Watch our brief video at
lavariowasher.com
or call 860-599-1300

LAVARIO
PORTABLE CLOTHES WASHER

NOW AVAILABLE FOR
IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT!

TANKS A LOT

SWAPPING OUT A STOCK TRUCK FUEL TANK FOR ONE THAT COULD MORE THAN DOUBLE THE CAPACITY HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER, AS OPTIONS FOR CARRYING EXTRA FUEL ARE PLENTIFUL

A 500-mile-plus driving range in today's full-size pickups means stops for fill-ups during day-to-day use are comfortably spaced out. But when a heavy trailer or slide-in camper is added to the equation, fuel economy can quickly drop into the low double-digits, slicing driving range in half. For those RVers who prefer putting miles under the wheels instead of thinking about where the next fuel stop is located, having a tow vehicle with a standard fuel tank can be an annoyance.

That's especially true if the roads you're driving are in unfamiliar territory or remote places when the Low Fuel warning on the instrument panel lights up and you're one of those drivers who prefers to wait until the last minute to seek fuel. Finding fuel in less-populated areas can be a challenge, and more so if you happen to be traveling late at night.

Let's face it, big trailers and standard OEM fuel tanks aren't a good combination for RVers who like or need to go long distances between fill-ups. The good news is, a number of manufacturers offer high-capacity fuel tanks that mount in the truck bed or replace the factory

tank under the body of the truck. An aftermarket midship fuel-tank replacement can often more than double driving range, while bed-mounted tanks can double or even triple fuel-carrying capacity.

Be aware that adding a considerable amount of fuel capacity also adds weight. Diesel is about 7 pounds per gallon, and gasoline is about 6 pounds. Do the math in advance to ensure you have adequate payload capacity to handle the extra weight.

Prices for extra-capacity fuel tanks typically range from \$500 to \$2,800, depending on the fuel capacity, style and options. Installation time varies with the type of tank.

Some bed-mounted systems can be installed in less than an hour, while more complicated midship replacements can take a half day.

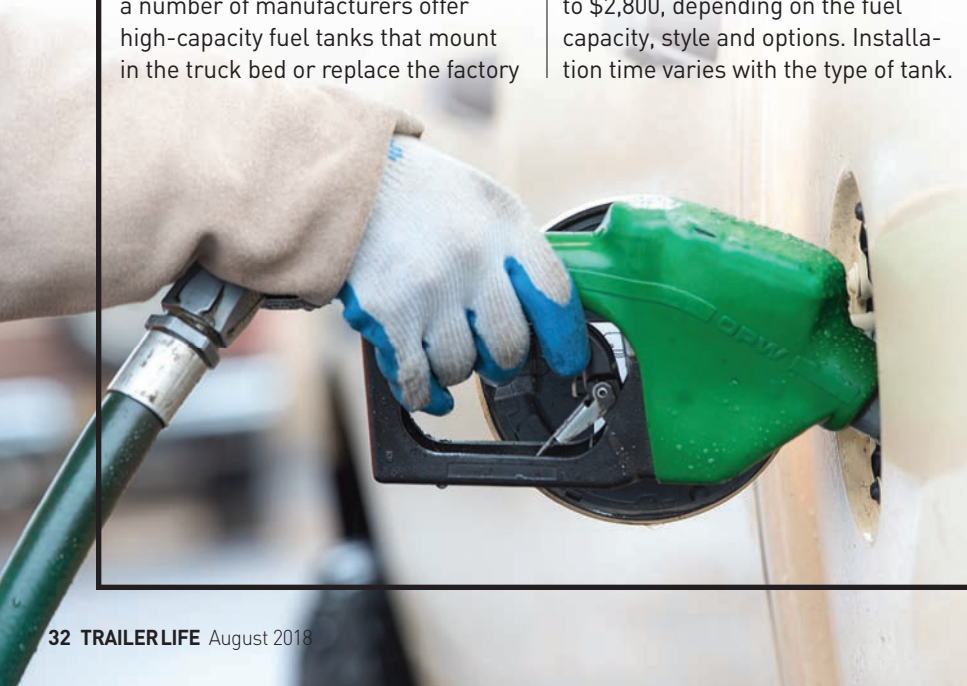
Not for Gas

Extra-capacity replacement and auxiliary fuel tanks are available for a wide range of diesel pickups. Those running gasoline-powered pickups aren't quite as lucky. That's because manufacturers have thus far shied away from the expense required for OEM replacement midship fuel tanks to meet the stringent emissions requirements related to gasoline-powered pickups and SUVs.

Chris Eheler, the install and technical support supervisor at Transfer Flow, one of the leading manufacturers of aftermarket fuel tanks, says his company offers a 50-state-legal 46-gallon replacement tank for 2007 to 2017 Toyota Tundras. But the EPA mandates and engineering hurdles involved in making midship fuel tanks for other gas-powered vehicles has held them back.

"The reason we don't offer more is because of the emissions systems on gasoline engines," Eheler explained. "Diesels vent the fumes of the fuel tanks to the atmosphere. Gasoline engines capture those fumes and store them in an activated charcoal canister and use a series of valves and computer-controlled equipment to recirculate those fumes into the engine to be burned. The vapor production is a direct correlation of the surface area of fuel exposed to air in the tank."

Eheler went on to say the larger surface area of an extra-capacity gas fuel tank creates more fumes, which leads to spending additional engineering time in developing and testing replacement parts to retrofit the original smog system to handle the increase in vapors and pass EPA certification. In addition, more parts add another level of complexity to the installation, a cost incurred by the end user.



How It's Done

As for the installation, midship replacement tanks typically require removing the OEM fuel tank, then transferring the factory fuel-pump/sending-unit assembly to the higher-capacity aftermarket replacement tank. Then the OEM sending unit has to be adjusted, following the instructions that come with the new tank, to compensate for the higher fuel capacity so the vehicle's fuel gauge reads correctly.

The replacement tank is installed with the anchor straps or mounting hardware that come with it, and it's connected to the factory filler neck or hose. A typical installation takes four to six hours. Swapping in a larger aftermarket fuel tank has no effect on a new vehicle's warranty.

The only item that will probably need to be done is getting the trip odometer's miles-to-empty indicator on the instrument-display center to be accurate. With some newer trucks, that is done at the vehicle dealer by having the onboard computer system "flashed" with the new tank capacity. Otherwise, the computer will act as though the stock tank is still in place.

Bed-mounted fuel tanks bolt into the bed using the mounting hardware that comes with the system. Such tanks are usually less expensive than a replacement midship tank, and the installs are much simpler than doing a midship, with most installs taking less than two hours.

Bed-mounted fuel tanks come in two basic types: auxiliary and refuel/transfer tanks. There are also bed-mounted fuel tanks, called "combo" tanks, that have a toolbox, and some tanks that can be plumbed in to be used as an auxiliary tank and a refuel tank at the same time.

Auxiliary tanks usually "T" into the midship tank's factory filler hose

so the installation doesn't interfere with anything related to emission control or other functions of the original midship tank. There's usually a manual or electrically operated valve on the auxiliary tank that controls the fuel flowing (pumped or gravity-fed) into the main tank, so the main tank can be filled on the go. Most electrically operated valves are controlled by a switch on the dash, and some systems provide electronic fuel monitoring of both the auxiliary tank and main tank.

Refuel/transfer tanks, which may be certified for transporting gas or diesel, typically use a gas-station-style filler hose and nozzle connected to an internal or external pump in the tank that pushes fuel through the filler hose. The setup is used just like a filling station where fuel is "transferred" from the auxiliary tank into a vehicle or container. These are popular with diesel owners who work around farm and construction equipment, but the top-mounted pump/nozzle arrangement isn't suitable for use with fifth-wheels.

Other Considerations

Some refuel/transfer tanks come with built-in fuel gauges, while others offer them as an option, along with options for polished, painted or powder-coated exteriors. A fuel gauge is a nice item to have on any bed-mounted tank; otherwise, it's tough to monitor fuel availability. Having a bed-mounted tank that can do double duty as a transfer/refuel tank and an auxiliary tank feeding the main tank can be useful in some situations.

Tank cleanliness is paramount. You don't want any manufacturing "debris" to get into the fuel system. Most of the bigger-name tanks are flushed and pressure-tested before shipping. When you get a tank, take



(Top) Bed-mounted fuel tanks can double or triple the capacity of the factory tank, and some are designed to accommodate a fifth-wheel trailer. This 50-gallon tank from ATTA is also a toolbox, providing multiple benefits to RVers. **(Above)** Midship replacements like the one on the right from Titan Fuel Tanks for the factory Nissan Titan XD tank on the left take advantage of voids underneath the truck bed to mold a larger version.



Driving long distances through unfamiliar country with a big trailer in tow can be cause for concern when the factory fuel tank is small and the fuel gauge is nearing the empty mark.

AN AFTERMARKET MIDSHIP FUEL TANK CAN OFTEN MORE THAN DOUBLE DRIVING RANGE, WHILE BED-MOUNTED TANKS CAN DOUBLE OR EVEN TRIPLE FUEL-CARRYING CAPACITY.

a close look inside before installation.

Potential drawbacks for RVers contemplating installing a bed-mounted fuel-tank are that they take up a couple feet of precious bed space behind the cab and, depending on the design of the tank, could potentially interfere with a fifth-wheel trailer's arc of operation or that of a truck-bed cover. That's why it's prudent to look for bed-mounted tanks that sit level, or slightly below, the bed rails, or tanks that are tapered front-to-rear to maximize clearance for just such uses.

Another consideration is theft prevention. Fuel is expensive, which makes it a natural target of thieves. Fuel-tank and toolbox combos have locking lids, but having a lockable filler cap for the fuel tank, located under the lid, also helps deter thieves. Refuel/transfer tanks need to have robust locks to prevent fuel theft because they are out in the open.

Dozens of local, regional and national manufacturers of bed-mounted fuel tanks can be found across the country, from small custom shops to mass-production plants. They offer auxiliary and refuel/transfer tanks in a wide-variety of capacities and configurations from aluminum to steel to ultra-strong plastic, with polished or painted skins, or diamond-plating. Some come with mounting kits as part of the purchase price; others have them as an option.

When it comes to extra-capacity replacements for the factory fuel tank, there are only a couple sources, most notably Transfer Flow and Titan Fuel Tanks. Both companies have been around for decades, and both have stellar reputations for the quality of their USA-made products.

To help you get an idea of what extra-capacity fuel tanks are available, we've highlighted just a few of the newest offerings in both midship and auxiliary tanks for some of the most popular RV tow vehicles and truck-camper haulers. Any one of these tank upgrades will easily extend driving range so you can spend more time on the road.



EXTRA-CAPACITY FUEL TANKS: LONG RANGERS

Transfer Flow

The **Super Duty 60-Gallon Midship Tank** replacement fuel tank for 2017 and 2018 Ford F-250/350 shortbed Crew Cab and longbed Super Cab diesels nearly doubles the original usable fuel capacity. The 12-gauge aluminized steel tank is engineered and manufactured in the USA and carries a six-year, unlimited-mile warranty. The unique design features exterior fuel lines and a relocated water separator to make the most of the available chassis space. As with all Transfer Flow replacement fuel tanks, this system comes with a full installation kit to get the heavy-duty tank mounted and ready for the road.



Transfer Flow's **Nissan Titan XD 50-Gallon OE Replacement** nearly doubles capacity and driving range of the stock 26-gallon tank. The 12-gauge aluminized-steel and powder-coated midship replacement fuel tank comes with everything needed for installation and use, including straps, mounting hardware and easy-to-follow illustrated instructions. Installation can be done in a couple of hours by a seasoned do-it-yourselfer, a qualified mechanic or one of Transfer Flow's 300-plus authorized installers listed at www.transferflow.com/installation.



The new **70-Gallon Fuel Tank/Toolbox** from Transfer Flow fits in the bed of 1999 to 2018 Ford, GM and Dodge/Ram full-size diesel trucks. The auxiliary combo sits on the bed rails, and the tool-box storage space adjusts to the depth of a shortbed or longbed pickup for a perfect custom fit. The adjustable toolbox storage area ranges from 5½ to 9 cubic feet. The tank is baffled, and the fuel-fill neck is located inside the locking storage compartment. Transfer Flow's TRAX 3 Fuel Monitoring System transfers fuel automatically to the OEM fuel tank at predetermined levels. It includes a dash-mounted LCD display that shows fuel-level percentage in each tank and the operational status of the fuel system. With the addition of Transfer Flow's Refueling Tank Upgrade Kit, non-fifth-wheel owners can use the 70-gallon auxiliary tank as a refueling tank. The upgrade kit includes a 12-volt DC refueling pump, a 12-foot hose and nozzle, and a wire harness with a dash-mounted power switch.



The small footprint of Transfer Flow's **40-Gallon Universal Auxiliary Tank** is compatible with almost any full-size diesel truck, including those with utility beds and factory-installed fifth-wheel prep packages. Because of its low height, the in-bed system



also fits under most standard tonneau covers. It's available for 1999 to 2018 Ford, GM and Dodge/Ram full-size diesel trucks. The tank operates with Transfer Flow's automatic-fuel-transfer TRAX 3 technology. The system comes with a dash-mounted LCD display that conveniently shows the percentage of fuel in each tank while also notifying the driver when a fuel transfer is in progress. The 40-gallon fuel tank is manufactured from American-made 14-gauge aluminized steel, and it comes with a cover box where the preassembled sending unit, rollover valve and fuel filter are located. All Transfer Flow tanks are covered by a six-year, unlimited-mile warranty.

Titan Fuel Tanks

Titan's new **Travel Trekker 40-Gallon Universal Auxiliary Tank** is a fine addition to most full-size diesel pickups from half-tons to one-tons,



shortbed or long, including those with utility beds and Rams equipped with a RamBox. The baffled, cross-linked polymer tank also works well with factory fifth-wheel packages and many midsize diesels such as the Chevy Colorado and GMC Canyon. Titan's electronic controller pumps fuel from the Travel Trekker 40 to the vehicle's primary tank until it is automatically stopped by the controller or the dash-mounted button is touched again. The controller monitors and reports the fuel level in the auxiliary system at all times. The tank is easy to install, and comes with all the necessary components and detailed instructions.



The **Nissan XD 50-Gallon Replacement Fuel Tank** from Titan is a direct-replacement tank that takes advantage of a number of voids under the bed. Titan manufactures all of its tanks in the USA using cross-linked, military-grade polymer, which is lighter than aluminum or steel. That light weight translates to an installation that requires only one person and two and a half hours of time, making it easy for Nissan Titan XD owners to relax knowing they have extra fuel on board. Titan also offers extra-capacity midship replacement fuel tanks for Ford, GM and Dodge/Ram trucks including Colorado and Canyon diesels and Ram 1500 EcoDiesels. Titan covers its tanks with a lifetime warranty.

Aluminum Tank Industries

ATI's Auxiliary 43-Gallon Diesel Tank

ATI's **Auxiliary 43-Gallon Diesel Tank** is a 16½-inch-tall, DOT-certified auxiliary fuel tank that can be installed in the bed of 2016 to 2018 Ford, GM and Ram full-size diesel pickups in less than an hour when using the companion Fuel Shotz installation kit. The unique system connects the baffled auxiliary tank to the factory tank via the factory filler. The 43-gallon tank keeps the factory tank full, and when the auxiliary tank is empty, the pickup's factory fuel gauge moves off the full mark. The tank installs quickly and easily with no wires or switches. The system has rollover protection on the tank and the factory fill-neck adapter. Detailed instructions are supplied with the Fuel Shotz installation kit. The tank has a one-year limited warranty. Note: This tank may not work with all fifth-wheel applications.



DeeZee

DeeZee's 80-Gallon Combo Auxiliary Fuel Transfer Tank

DeeZee's **80-Gallon Combo Auxiliary Fuel Transfer Tank** not only holds plenty of fuel for the long haul, it also includes a locking utility chest to carry a full complement of tools. The USA-built L-shaped tank, built from .125-gauge aluminum, is DOT-certified to carry diesel fuel for refueling equipment at the jobsite or as an auxiliary tank to feed fuel directly into the truck's original fuel tank using DeeZee's optional connector kit. The black powder-coated DZ91741XB measures 48 by 30 by 24 inches and is designed to fit full-size pickups. DeeZee's filler connector kits fit most 1998 to present Ford, GM, Dodge/Ram and Nissan Titan XD diesel pickups. The tank carries a limited lifetime warranty. Note: This tank may not work with all fifth-wheel applications.



KSH Fuel Products

The 98-Gallon Fuel/Tool Combo

The **98-Gallon Fuel/Tool Combo** from KSH keeps domestic longbed pickups on the road nearly three times longer than the factory fuel tank, and secures tools and gear inside the locking top. The tank's filler neck is located under the lid, and the combo can be configured as either a transfer/refuel tank or a gravity-fed auxiliary tank, depending on need. Each KSH product is fabricated in the USA of .125-inch diamond-plate aluminum and designed to accommodate fifth-wheel trailers. The face is one sheet of aluminum, which hides the division between tank and toolbox. Installation kits are available for gas and diesel applications. Many options are available.






TST
TRUCK SYSTEM
TECHNOLOGIES

A Pressure Systems
International Company



**Wireless Tire
Pressure
Monitoring
Systems**

- Improves Safety, Tire Life, and Fuel Economy
- Installs in minutes
- External theft resistant sensors that relay real time tire pressure and temperature to our **FULL COLOR WIDE-SCREEN DISPLAY**



**Use TL10 at
checkout in the
discount code
for an additional
10% off**



Flow Thru
Sensor



Cap
Sensor



SYSTEM FEATURES

- Flow through or low profile sensors
- User-replaceable battery
- Visual and audible alerts
- Ability to monitor up to 110 tires (0-218psi)
- Repeater included in every system
- Easily switch between towing or towed vehicle
- Monitor up to 4 different trailers

www.tsstruck.com

4250 Keith Bridge Rd., Suite 200, Cumming, GA 30041
Ph: (770) 889-9102 Fax: (770) 889-9054

TIRED OF TRAILER TIRE PROBLEMS?

BOAR'S WHEEL/TIRE UPGRADE SOLUTIONS FOR TRAILERS ENABLE YOU TO:

- Carry more weight (up to 6,008/lbs.)
- At highway speeds (up to 87/mph)
- Increase tire life (x3-x7 longer)
- Improve handling
- Lower rolling resistance (+mpg!)
- Improve safety




HEAVY-DUTY TRAILER SOLUTIONS

888-619-5622

BOARWHEEL.COM

TANKS A LOT



The **100-Gallon Auxiliary Fuel Tank**, the largest of KSH's standard sizes, is designed to take up the least amount of bed space while providing the maximum allowable fuel capacity without requiring placards and special licensing. The tank can be used for gas and diesel applications, feeding the fuel via gravity into the factory tank. It's available in standard and low-profile models. The standard version will not interfere with fifth-wheel trailers, and the latter fits beds with tonneau covers and roll-tops. KSH auxiliary tanks are made with two baffles to control fuel sloshing and provide added stability. The tanks are designed to work in various models of Ford, GM and Dodge/Ram trucks. Options abound, including special coatings and transfer-pump installation kits for refueling.



Aluminum Tank and Tank Accessories

ATTA's **50-Gallon Fuel/Tool Combo (AT50TT)** is the company's most popular aluminum auxiliary fuel tank. The 9-by-20-by-60-inch toolbox section is a single-lid design with dual paddle latches and is bolted to the top of the tank. Constructed from .125-gauge aluminum, the tank is fully baffled to prevent fuel slosh and comes with a locking fuel cap. ATTA's Freedom Fill Auxiliary System automatically transfers fuel from the auxiliary tank to the main tank when the factory tank approaches half full and automatically shuts off when the factory tank reaches approximately three-quarters full. The tank fits Ford, GM and Dodge/Ram

longbed diesel pickups, and Ford and GM full-size diesel shortbeds. It will not fit Dodge/Ram diesel shortbeds. All of ATTA's fuel tanks and fuel systems meet or exceed DOT, EPA and VESC-22 regulations, and come with a warranty for seven years and unlimited miles. Note: This tank may not work with all fifth-wheel applications.



The Fuelbox

The fully baffled auxiliary **57-Gallon Fuel Tank System** extends diesel driving range while providing weather-tight, secure tool storage. The FTC60 is constructed of .125-inch marine-grade aluminum, and has an integrated lockable and sealed toolbox. It fits Ford, GM and Dodge/Ram full-size pickups, and sits flush with the bedrails to work with most fifth-wheel applications. The optional fuel controller automatically turns on a pump in the auxiliary tank to fill the stock tank and shuts off when the main tank gets full. The controller can be set for automatic operation, or it can be manually turned off from inside the cab. The USA-made Fuelbox combo meets EPA and DOT regulations and comes with a three-year warranty. 🚚

SOURCES

- Aero Tank Enterprises**, www.aerotanks.com
- Aluminum Tank and Tank Accessories (ATTA)**, www.attatank.com
- Aluminum Tank Industries (ATI)**, www.atitank.com
- Boyd Welding**, www.fueltankparts.com
- Daws Manufacturing/Better Built**, www.dawsbetterbuilt.com
- DeeZee**, www.deezee.com
- The Fuelbox**, www.thefuelbox.com
- Highway Products**, www.highwayproducts.com
- KSH Fuel Products**, www.kshfuelproducts.com
- RDS Manufacturing**, www.rdsaluminum.com
- Taylor Wing**, www.taylorwings.com
- Titan Fuel Tanks**, www.titanfueltanks.com
- TrailFX**, www.trailfx.com
- Transfer Flow**, www.transferflow.com



2019 MODELS
HAVE ARRIVED!



New 2019 STARCRAFT
SATELLITE 17RB
STARTING AT **\$16,989***

\$157 PER MONTH**

Madison, WI - Stk. #1544017 | MSRP \$18,842 | Save \$1,853
Based on 10% down @ 6.99% APR for 144 mos.



New 2019 HEARTLAND
PIONEER 322
STARTING AT **\$35,989***

\$273 PER MONTH**

Kingston, NY - Stk. #1543046 | MSRP \$51,802 | Save \$15,813
Based on 10% down @ 5.99% APR for 180 mos.

ASK US HOW TO BECOME A **Good Sam Club ELITE** MEMBER!



CAMPING WORLD®

Official RV Dealer of Major League Baseball



866-9-RV-CENTER | RV.com/TrailerLife

*Government fees, state taxes, dealer fees and emissions testing charges as applicable will be added to comply with state vehicle codes. Freight and prep costs vary by state (Not applicable in CA, OH, TX, TN, GA, LA, WA, OR or UT). 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. VIN numbers posted at dealership. **Based on Statistical Surveys 2017. ^All payments to qualified buyers with approved credit. Subject to lender terms. Offer is not retroactive on previous RV purchases. Benefits are subject to certain limitations and restrictions, and are subject to change. Discounts and benefits offered through your Good Sam Elite membership for 3 years from date of RV purchase. See dealer for full program details. 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. Offers valid at any Camping World RV Sales or FreedomRoads dealer only. See dealer for details. © 2018 FreedomRoads, LLC. CAMPING WORLD 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 8/5/18. FR010304-0418

Major League Baseball trademarks and copyrights used with permission of Major League Baseball Properties, Inc. Visit MLB.com

CLUB MEMBERS Save \$35

Operates from 175°F to 650°F

16,000 BTUs

367 sq. in. cooking surface

CLUB SALE \$179⁹⁷

Smoke Tray

Fold-down side tables

16"H x 45¹/₄"W x 19¹/₄"D with side tables up

Vector Gas Tabletop Grill with Smoke Tray #86915
Features two independently controlled 6500 BTU burners plus a 3500 BTU smoke tray burner. 20 lb. propane tank (sold separately). | Reg. \$214.99 | 🚚 | ❤️

19"L x 14"W platform

Supports up to 1000 lbs.

CLUB MEMBERS Save 25%

CLUB SALE \$91⁹⁷

Adjustable Leg Platform Step #54911
Legs adjust from 6³/₄"H to 8¹/₄"H. Reg. \$127.99

64"L reclined

300 lb. capacity

18"W seat

CLUB MEMBERS Save 30%

CLUB SALE \$54⁹⁷

Teal Mesh Recliner #110115

- Heavy-duty center mesh panel keeps you cool
- Full length double bungee for extra support
- Contoured arm supports for comfort
- Adjustable padded headrest
- Non-skid leg protectors and padded footrest

Reg. \$79.99 | ❤️

CLUB MEMBERS Save up to 30%

STARTING AT CLUB SALE \$29⁹⁷ Reg. \$44.99

Patio Mats
Weather-resistant polypropylene mats with decorative designs are UV-stabilized to prevent fading and resist mold and mildew. | 🚚

6' x 9' **CLUB SALE \$29.97** Reg. \$44.99
9' x 12' **CLUB SALE \$49.97** Reg. \$74.99
8' x 16' **CLUB SALE \$74.97** Reg. \$99.99

Navy/Cream
Green/Cream
Black/Gray

Swirl Design, Brown/Cream

Wave Design, Brown

Navy Bordeaux Black

100 lb. capacity table

35¹/₂"L x 26¹/₂"W x 27¹/₂"H

300 lb. capacity each seat

CLUB MEMBERS Save 25%

CLUB SALE \$67⁴⁷

Portable Picnic Table with Benches #89647
Lightweight, strong aluminum folding table has two independent benches and leg extensions that store inside the table. | Reg. \$89.99 | 🚚

SAVINGS!

PRICES GOOD THROUGH 8/5/18



CLUB MEMBERS
Save up to **\$70**

STARTING AT CLUB SALE
\$194⁹⁷

Reg. \$249.99

SMARTTOTE²

Smarttote2 Deluxe 4-Wheel Waste Tanks

Drip cap, 40" sewer hose and 90° sewer elbow included. Improved maneuverability. Rugged design and rubber wheels.

18 Gallon #82131

Club SALE \$194.97

Reg. \$249.99

27 Gallon #82132

Club SALE \$209.97

Reg. \$269.99

35 Gallon #82133

Club SALE \$227.97

Reg. \$299.99



CLUB MEMBERS
Save up to **35%**

Maximum puncture and abrasion resistance

CLUB SALE
\$31⁹⁷

Thetford® 15' Titan™ Premium RV Sewer Kit #90116

Includes 15' hose, 5-in-1 adapter with handle and two end caps. | Reg. \$48.99

Thetford® Titan™ 20' Multi-Length Premium Sewer Kit #96156

Includes two 10' hoses, 5-in-1 adapter with handle and four end caps. **Club SALE \$46.97** Reg. \$67.99



CLUB MEMBERS
Save up to **40%**

STARTING AT CLUB SALE
\$6⁹⁷

Reg. \$10.99

Thetford All-Season Aqua-Kem®

Aqua-Kem's strong cleaning agents break down waste and tissue in any temperature. Cleans holding tank to prevent clogs. Non-staining and biodegradable. Use 8 oz. liquid per 40 gal. tank.



CLUB MEMBERS
Save up to **\$140**

STARTING AT CLUB SALE

\$317

Reg. \$389

Comfort Zone® 10" Elite Mattress

Reduces motion transfer and pressure on hips and shoulders. Hypoallergenic. Sleeps cool; heat dissipates quickly. Double knit cover wicks moisture away. Made of CertiPUR-US® eco-friendly polyurethane foam. Mfr. 10 year warranty. Made in USA.

Bunk #111882 ♦ Club SALE \$317 Reg. \$389

Full #111883 ♦ Club SALE \$397 Reg. \$499

Short Queen #111858 Club SALE \$527 Reg. \$659

Queen #111859 ♦ Club SALE \$527 Reg. \$659

RV King #111860 Club SALE \$557 Reg. \$699

King #111895 ♦ Club SALE \$577 Reg. \$719



CLUB SALE
\$17⁴⁹

Thermacell® Patio Shield®

Green #109980 Red #109981 Blue #109982

Compact, stylish device looks great on any patio or deck while it works to repel pesky mosquitoes. Thermacell protects against mosquitoes with no messy sprays or lotions, no odors, no noise, no DEET and no open flames. | Reg. \$27.99



NEW!

BEAT the HEAT WEEKENDS!

Weekend-Only
SPECIALS! SAVE up to 50%

FREE ICE CREAM
from 1-3 pm

SUPERCENTERS ONLY!

JULY 13-14
and
JULY 20-21

Club Members Only
FREE COOLING TOWEL
with any purchase!

CW046984

Product Protection Plan available

To request a **FREE CATALOG**, go online or call & mention code **MZ TL**

COLORADO'S

A CENTENNIAL STATE TOUR OF FIVE NO-WAKE LAKES WITH SERENE PADDLING,

One of my family's great pleasures is a waterfront campsite where we can swim, paddle, fish, and watch birds and other wildlife attracted to the water. Paddling and fishing are particularly appealing. There's something supremely relaxing yet stimulating about being on the water in a human-powered craft. Maybe we love it because it's truly "vacation" to us. We live in the northern Rocky Mountains where rushing streams and rivers rather than quiet lakes and ponds are the common water sources. As a result, when we find a place where the water is paddler-friendly, we look for a put-in.

While visiting Colorado in June last year, we found not one but five spots that fit our canoeing criteria. We dubbed our trip the Colorado Calm Waters Tour. Each of these lakes is a perfect place to park and paddle for a week. String all five together, and you'll also see some of the most beautiful parts of the Centennial State.

HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR

The first stop on our aquatic journey was Horsetooth Reservoir in the foothills just west of Fort Collins. Named



Scenic and serene Sylvan Lake, located south of Eagle, Colorado, is a perfect place to paddle and fish, though napping in the warm sun works fine, too.

CALM WATERS

TRANQUIL FISHING AND SCENIC BACKDROPS ONLY MOTHER NATURE CAN PROVIDE

after Horsetooth Mountain on the southwestern side of the reservoir, this 6½-mile-long, 1,900-acre body of water sits at an elevation of 5,430 feet. It's a long, skinny reservoir with a 200-foot depth at its deepest point but with a number of quiet, shallow bays and backwaters.

The reservoir was built in 1949 by the Bureau of Reclamation to divert water for drinking, irrigation and hydropower. It inundated the town of Stout. Although the community relocated to the south bay, the foundations of the schoolhouse and several other buildings of the original settlement lie at

the bottom of the reservoir, attracting scuba divers.

Horsetooth Reservoir is also a super spot if you like to keep your head above water. It's surrounded by 2,000 acres of public land. In addition to fishing and boating, people come to road and mountain bike, rock climb and camp. More than half a million visitors flock to Horsetooth each year, but it did not feel crowded in early June when we were there.

While powerboats are allowed on the lake, there are sizable no-wake zones at North Eltuck Bay, which is where we launched our kayaks. The water was high, which made





Fishing for Arctic grayling from the alpine shoreline of 150-acre Joe Wright Reservoir near the top of 10,276-foot Cameron Pass.

the fishing more challenging. While my husband, Jack, cast to every nook and cranny of the shoreline, I poked around by a red sandstone cliff and soon discovered the hard-mud nests of a flock of swallows. The little birds bolted in and out of their conelike homes, catching bugs and then bringing them back to their hidden hatchlings.

When I tired of the birds, I spent the rest of the afternoon reclining on my kayak, soaking up the sun. At Horsetooth Reservoir, you can be as active or as lazy as you like.

JOE WRIGHT RESERVOIR

From Horsetooth Reservoir, we headed west on scenic Colorado Highway 14 along the Cache la Poudre River toward Walden. The river and this well-maintained two-lane highway cut through the heart of Roosevelt National Forest before heading over 10,276-foot Cameron Pass atop the Medicine Bow Mountains.

Just before we crested the pass, Jack pulled over by a small dam. The sign at the pullout read "Joe Wright Reservoir."

"Why are we stopping here?" I asked.

An angler casts from an inflatable kayak in a no-wake zone on Horsetooth Reservoir.



KIDS GIGGLED AS THEY PLAYED TAG OR WATCHED THEIR BOBBERS SINK UNDER THE WEIGHT OF A TROUT. THE SCENE WARMED OUR HEARTS AND MADE US FEEL WELCOME.



CALM-WATER CAMPING

Campsites at Horsetooth Reservoir and Eleven Mile, Pearl Lake and Sylvan Lake state parks can be booked on the Reserve America website. Be sure to make reservations early. Most campgrounds in these areas are small, and all are busy when the weather is warm.

www.reserveamerica.com

To search for RV parks and public campgrounds in Colorado and throughout North America, use the Find a Campground tool on the Good Sam Club website.

www.goodsam.com/campgrounds-rv-parks

Know Before You Go

- Bring hiking shoes, mountain bikes and binoculars. In addition to paddling, the state parks around these reservoirs offers exceptional hiking, biking and wildlife watching.
- Slather on the sunscreen. These lakes are at high elevations above 5,000 feet. The sun is strong even on a cloudy day, and its rays intensify when reflected off the water.
- Respect leash laws. Pets are usually allowed in Colorado state parks but must be leashed.
- Stay on the roads even though the land looks OHV-friendly. Off-road driving damages fragile flora.
- Keep a clean campsite. Black bears and other animals are attracted to food odors.
- Check swimming regulations. Taking a dip might not be allowed, depending on the lake.
- Wear a personal floatation device. Winds can kick up at any time, swamping a small watercraft, and the water is cold, even during the summer.
- Clean your boat, fishing gear, anchor lines and anything else that touches the water to prevent invasive hitchhikers from moving from lake to lake.

Spring barely had a toehold at this elevation. There were small patches of exposed earth here and there, but most of the ground was covered with old, crusty snow. Compared to Horsetooth Reservoir, the 150-acre Joe Wright Reservoir was a pond, and a cold one, still half-covered with ice. The temperature on the dashboard read 38 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Grayling," replied Jack.

While common in Arctic freshwater habitats and northern Pacific drainages, Arctic grayling are a rarity in most of the Lower 48. Originally native to Michigan and Montana, the fish died out in Michigan in the 1930s. The Montana population barely hung on, as other fish were unwittingly introduced to their chilly waters. However, beginning in the 1970s, roe from the surviving Montana grayling were used to stock other high-elevation lakes like Joe Wright Reservoir, where they now naturally reproduce.

"Are you thinking of paddling here?" I asked, already planning to stay in our comfy Ford Expedition.

"No," replied Jack, "But I am planning to go fishing."

Joe Wright Reservoir may be small, but it has a huge reputation among anglers as the place to catch Arctic

The author releases a rainbow trout she caught on glassy Sylvan Lake in the White River National Forest.



THE ORIGINAL
Equal-i-zer
SWAY CONTROL HITCH



**The best performing
sway control hitch
on the market.**



**READERS' CHOICE
GOLD
AWARD
WINNER
2012 - 2017**

The best protection for your journey.™



**EqualizerHitch.com
800-478-5578**

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



Progress Manufacturing, Inc., Circle 123 on Reader Service Card

Purple Line LLC, Circle 125 on Reader Service Card

grayling in Colorado. It was a fish I didn't want to miss.

We bundled up, strung our fly rods and headed through some scrappy fir trees toward the edge of the lake. From there we tromped across frozen mud toward the inlet, which gushed with spring runoff. Three other anglers were already casting into the dark, cold water.

"Got one!" shouted the one closest to me, as I was about to pass above him.

The tussle was quick. Within

minutes, a 10-inch silver fish with dark spots on its sides flopped in his net. The fish shimmered with hints of blue and green in the sun. The angler wetted his hand, then gently picked up the fish to release it. As he did, the impressive sail-like dorsal fin stood up against the palm of his hand.

"It looks like a tropical fish," I observed, now even more eager to catch one myself.

Luckily, the grayling were hungry.

After Jack and I caught a dozen between us, we needed to warm up. We headed back to the Expedition, then continued to our next destination.

PEARL LAKE

We followed Highway 14 through Walden, then crested the Continental Divide at 9,426-foot Rabbit Ears Pass on U.S. Route 40. Pearl Lake is about 25 miles north of Steamboat Springs in Pearl Lake State Park. The entire lake is a no-wake zone. Though it's an easy drive from Steamboat, it feels a million miles away. A sense of peace pervades the area.

We pulled into the campsite, paused a moment to ogle the view of Farwell Mountain, then wandered down to the water's edge. A handful of kayakers and SUPers made their way here and there across the glassy water, some with dogs on their bows. I was eager to join them, then something caught my eye on the opposite shoreline.

Pearl Lake is well-known among wildlife watchers. More than 200 species of migratory and resident birds can be seen here, including northern harriers, western screech owls and downy woodpeckers. Greater sandhill cranes nest in the marshy areas by the lake in the spring. I watched a mule deer buck emerge from the lodgepoles on the opposite side of the lake. It looked around, then bowed its head to the water to drink. Pearl Lake was indeed a pearl of a state park.

SYLVAN LAKE

It was tough to leave the serenity of Pearl Lake, but our next stop, Sylvan Lake State Park, 10 miles south of Eagle, turned out to be equally enjoyable. Merriam Webster's dictionary defines "sylvan" as "located in peaceful woods." Sylvan Lake, a 42-acre lake in the White River National Forest, was indeed sylvan.

Stands of aspens spilled down the surrounding hillsides to the water's edge below snowcapped peaks. From the ridge in the campground, the lake looked hemmed in by endless acres of dense green forest, but numerous grassy spots along the shoreline gave

CLEARSOURCE
EXTERNAL RV WATER FILTERS

Stainless steel fittings
5 micron sediment filter
Oversize canisters
Integrated stand

Heavy duty components
0.5 micron carbon block filter

BETTER BUILT.

BETTER WATER.

BETTER WATER FLOW.

BETTER REVIEWS.

★★★★★
"Very nice setup. Was looking for something like this. Much much much better water flow..."
- 12/10/17 Amazon Customer Review

SEE US IN THE 2018 TRAILERLIFE.COM GEAR GUIDE!

(949) 860-1561
www.clearsourcecv.com

(Right) Beachfront camping at Eleven Mile Reservoir comes with a delightful Rocky Mountain view. (Far right) Kayakers and SUPers enjoy a sunny day paddling on Pearl Lake near Steamboat Springs.

it a more open feel from the water. Several families picnicked in these open areas. Kids giggled as they played tag or watched their bobbers sink under the weight of a trout. The scene warmed our hearts and made us feel welcome.

The lake was perfect glass at sunset when Jack and I cast off from shore in our kayaks. The surface was speckled with pollen that sparkled like diamond dust in the golden light. We paddled to the far corner of the lake into a quiet cove. The fishing was easy, but after a few bites I stowed my rod and paddle, put my feet up and closed my eyes. Now this was a vacation!

ELEVEN MILE RESERVOIR

The last stop on our Colorado Calm Waters Tour was Eleven Mile Canyon Reservoir, just west of Colorado Springs. Eleven Mile Reservoir, which is actually 5½ miles long, was a sharp contrast to the small mountain lakes we had just visited. The water is bigger — 3,400 acres — and busier, but we still found a number of sheltered pockets along the shore where we could duck in away from motorboats.

We parked at a campsite on the northwest side of the lake and immediately discovered a sandy beach below a low bluff, the perfect place to set up a lawn chair and relax with a book. That said, it's hard to keep one's nose in a book with such a superb panorama. An expansive alpine meadow surrounds Eleven Mile Reservoir. Without trees, the snowcapped Tarryall Mountains mesmerized me until, no surprise, Jack suggested fishing.

The reservoir has a reputation for large rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout, kokanee salmon, carp and pike. We launched our kayaks at the beach, then paddled a short way off shore. No luck, but no worries. We had already caught lots of fish on our tour, and we knew we would be back. After all, we had found five perfect paddling spots. 🐟



Is Your Fender Skirt Flapping In The Wind?

Replace It !



Expert help to get the correct part the first time

[1-888-362-4266](tel:1-888-362-4266)

www.lcondirect.com

BUMPY ROAD

MICROCELLULAR-URETHANE SUMOSPRINGS SMOOTH OUT THE RIDE

Towing with a heavy-duty pickup can be a beautiful thing, especially if trailer weight and size are at the top end of the scale. But the ride solo can rattle teeth and shake that beer belly to pieces. The harsh ride is courtesy of stiff, heavy spring packs that are needed to carry the weight and keep the truck on an even keel when hitched to the trailer. Even with the hefty springs, weight carried over the rear axle can sometimes create a racked attitude with the nose high enough to impact handling and headlight aiming.

Air springs (bags) are often called in to level the rear of the truck and provide a dose of stability. In too many cases, owners rely on the air springs to boost capacity, which is not an acceptable practice. Gross axle weight rating cannot be increased by adding auxiliary equipment. SuperSprings specializes in aftermarket suspension enhancements, and its SumoSprings Rebel product is a fresh paradigm when it comes to improving ride quality and providing additional support to control

the load, especially when towing heavy fifth-wheels.

While traditional air springs do a credible job of lifting a sagging rear end, they require a source of compressed air and are far from maintenance-free. SumoSprings also use air but captured in a proprietary, patented microcellular urethane that can compress up to 80 percent of its original height and rebound fully. Once they are in place, the owner has no service requirements, and failure is

just about impossible since the springs cannot leak or rupture.

The SumoSprings provide a progressive rate of damping. They are manufactured in various heights, diameters and densities for applicability for most trucks, front and rear. The urethane cells simply replace the factory bump stops, used to prevent the stock springs from slamming against the frame when traveling over rough roads.

Two color-coded spring kits under the Rebel banner are appropriate for trailer and camper owners: blue and black (-40 and -47 designations, respectively). Determining which kit will work best is based on weight and constant or variable load. The blue kit works best for owners pulling a fifth-wheel or trailer with a heavy hitch weight on a normal trip basis; this is



Front SumoSprings have a one-piece design. Springs are made of proprietary (and patented) microcellular urethane and are maintenance-free. The springs can compress up to 80 percent of the original height and will rebound fully.

D EQUALIZER

DE, LEVEL THE ATTITUDE AND ENHANCE THE TOWING EXPERIENCE

considered a variable load. Carrying a lightweight camper will qualify for the blue kit. The black kit is reserved for those pulling heavy fifth-wheels or carrying a camper constantly (i.e., full time). According to SuperSprings, the majority of trucks pulling trailers are best suited for the blue kit. SumoSprings kits are also available for vans, SUVs and motorhomes.

That gave us food for thought when we decided to test the SumoSprings. Two Ram 4x4 duallies, 2016 and 2017 model years, used to tow fifth-wheels full time were earmarked for installations. Under the parameters provided by the company, it made the most sense to opt for the black kit. But, the trucks



Two-piece configuration of the rear SumoSprings allows for unlimited travel, a more progressive spring rate and better damping abilities. The blue kit used for the Ram test trucks is the most popular for towing trailers.

BUMPY ROAD EQUALIZER

exhibited a harsh ride when driven solo, again, a product of heavy springs, and we wanted to reach a happy medium when it comes to towing comfort and driving unhitched. We decided to go with the blue kit for both trucks.

The installation is about as simple as a project can get. In the back, the SSF-301-40-2 Rebel kit has a two-piece configuration. Separate male and female sections are mounted to the axle and frame using simple hardware that's relatively easy to install. The two-piece design allows for unlimited travel, since spring movement in the rear can be quite dramatic on rougher roads.

Once the truck is parked on a level surface and the wheels chocked, the rear is jacked up to allow the axle to hang freely. After stabilizing with properly rated jack stands, the factory jounce bumpers are removed from the underside of the frame; the rear wheels can be removed for better access, but we didn't find that necessary. From here it was just a matter of bolting the brackets in place, a process that took about 30 minutes for both sides.



1, 2) Once the truck is stabilized on a level surface and blocked safely, the rear is lifted to allow the axle to hang. The factory jounce bumpers are then unbolted and removed. Rear wheels can be removed, but we found that unnecessary. **3)** Upper bracket in the rear is bolted to the frame on each side using the existing threaded holes for the factory jounce bumpers. **4)** The top portion of the urethane spring is easily bolted to the upper bracket using simple hand tools.



5) Once the lower bracket orientation is established (different between diesel- and gasoline-powered trucks), the bracket is positioned over the axle. It is secured with a large U-bolt, and the lower spring section is bolted in place. **6)** After the rear of the truck is lowered, the two urethane spring sections will index themselves for a perfect fit. The rear-spring install is relatively simple and takes about 30 minutes. **7)** Lifting the front and allowing the axle to hang will provide good access to the factory jounce bumper (arrow). It can be removed by hand using a firm grip and a twisting, pulling motion. If the bumper is too tight, it can be encouraged with a large flat-blade screwdriver.



8) One-piece front spring (left) is positioned into the factory jounce bumper retaining cup. **9)** Lowering the front will usually allow the spring to seat. It may be necessary to use a piece of wood to fill in the gap temporarily while seating, as was the case in the test installation (not shown). **10)** The right-front factory jounce bumper (arrow) was a little more difficult to access, but it can still be done without removing the front wheels.

The procedure is similar for the front, but removing the jounce bumpers might take a little more convincing using a large flat-blade screwdriver and a twisting motion by hand. It might require lowering the axle to seat the SumoSprings (part number SSF-302-40-2), which have a one-piece configuration for the front. Timing for the front install was about the same as the rear.

Both trucks were tested extensively pulling the fifth-wheels and while running solo. The 2017 Ram pulling a 17,000-pound fifth-wheel had a 3,800-pound hitch weight, which sacked the factory rear springs. With the SumoSprings in place, the front-high attitude was mitigated enough to almost level the truck; load capacity was not an issue, so the SumoSprings had no impact on the weight rating of the axle. Handling with the fifth-wheel attached improved by at least 50 percent, with a noticeable curtailment of wallowing on some roads.

The other truck was not as heavily encumbered, towing a lighter fifth-wheel with a 2,400-pound hitch weight. Traveling rough roads made it uncomfortable for the passengers in the

truck; the influence on the fifth-wheel was a separate story. The truck's stiff stock springs caused a hammering effect inside the cab that kept the passengers in constant motion. Back-to-back tests on terribly maintained roadways were very telling. With the SumoSprings in place, the bumpiness was squelched enough to take the edge off the harshness of the ride, making it more comfortable for the passengers. Chucking was not a major issue for either truck, except on certain roads where the SumoSprings reduced the intensity of the pushing and pulling movement.

Solo, the SumoSprings really shined. The trucks became much more civilized, especially when negotiating dips in the road. On one test turn, the undulating road rocked the truck violently, throwing the passengers to the side. With the SumoSprings in place, the improvement was so dramatic, it was hard to believe we were traveling in a one-ton dually. Overall comfort on the roadways was improved to the point where it actually made it fun to run

11) Once seated, the SumoSprings look like they were made for the suspension.

around in a dually truck.

While we were hoping that the new springs would take the edge off travel on concrete highways with expansion joints, there was no improvement in the ride. It's a phenomenon that seems to have no fix among the towing community.

What makes the improvement in ride quality so intriguing is that it can be done for \$616 in parts (\$442.50 and \$173.75 for the rear and front, respectively) and about an hour's labor for most well-established do-it-yourselfers. 🛠️

SuperSprings International, Inc.
800-898-0705, www.supersprings.com



Great TV on the Road— *Whenever & Wherever* You Want!



*Small footprint is perfect
for RV living!*



Enjoy DISH® Pay As You Go Programming with the Wally 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, through the 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 and headphones, 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 lets you watch your favorite shows in HD
- No charge to start or stop monthly service
- Programming for as little as \$34.99 per month!



DISH is ranked **#1 in Customer Service** nationally by J.D. Power and our customers.

Hurry, offer expires August 5, 2018. 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 Network received the highest numerical score for customer service and second highest score for overall customer satisfaction among national TV providers in the J.D. Power 2017 U.S. Television Service Provider Satisfaction Study, based on 18,685 total responses, measuring the experiences and perceptions of customers with their TV service provider, surveyed November 2016-July 2017. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com.
Dish Network, Circle 104 on Reader Service Card

Un-Grounded

Hitch component storage is simple, secure and out of the way with the easy-to-install Hitchport system

A minor annoyance of owning a travel trailer is what to do with the weight-distributing (WD) hitch components when they are not in use. Especially at a campground, these bulky pieces can take up a bunch of your prized storage space, not to mention beating the heck out of the storage compartment and door. In many cases the hitch hardware ends up on the ground under the trailer, ripe for theft, or as a shin breaker, if left attached to the tow vehicle. Then there's the issue of hauling the hitch bars around without getting messy grease all over your hands and clothing.

Enter Gary Bussell. Bussell's Hitchport storage mounts and Hitchgrip handle are among those inventions that make you ponder, "Why didn't I think of that?" Bussell, a retired RV technician, decided to tackle the problem of WD-hitch storage, and the result is a well-engineered solution. For full disclosure, there are other solutions on the market and even homemade fixes that do the job, but they tend to be clunky, taking up a lot of space on the A-frame, and are not very secure.

The Hitchport system is made up of two primary products, the Hitch Bar Storage Mount (MSRP: \$14.99), designed for up to 2-inch ball mounts, and



The Hitchport system secures WD hitch equipment neatly off the ground and out of the way.

1) Each Hitchport kit comes with a laser-cut stainless-steel mounting bracket, screws and instructions. **2)** The brackets can be mounted above or below the A-frame, depending on space and preference. If mounted above, the bracket is attached inside the frame. If mounted below, it's positioned on the outside. Use a combination square or folding rule to mark the measurement.

the Spring Bar Storage Mount (\$15.69) for square, round and trunnion-style spring bars. Additional Hitchport products include the previously mentioned Hitchgrip lifting handle (\$27.94), which works remarkably well, and a Hitch Ball Cover (\$15.89). The cover didn't fit the ball mount on our Blue Ox SwayPro, but it should fit most of the popular WD hitches. Hitchport also markets the DeadBolt HitchLock $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch locking hitch pin (\$16.89) and the Master Lock Python

DIFFICULTY 1 2 3 4 5

TIME TO COMPLETE 20 MINUTES

TOOLS NEEDED POWER DRILL/DRIVER, DRILL AND NUT DRIVER BITS, PENCIL, COMBINATION SQUARE/FOLDING RULE, HAMMER, CENTER PUNCH, NICKEL ANTI-SEIZE LUBRICANT



Adjustable Locking Cable (\$14.98).

Hitchport storage-mount brackets can be installed above the box frame, on the inner surface, or below it, attached to the outer surface. The kits include a simple chart to show where to drill the

« **HITCHHOLDERS** The Hitchport system consists of the Hitch Bar Storage Mount, the Spring Bar Storage Mount, the Hitchgrip lifting handle, the Hitch Ball Cover and the optional Master Lock Python Adjustable Locking Cable.

CUT DOWNHILL SPEED UP TO 52%



WITHOUT TOUCHING THE BRAKES!

An exhaust brake can prevent the nightmare of overheated service brakes and uncontrollable speeds. And folks who want the *strongest* (and *smartest*) exhaust brake go with the **Banks Brake**. How strong is it? Down a 5-mile, 6% grade, the Banks Brake slowed an 18,000-lb pickup/trailer from **60 to 25 mph** without using the service brakes.



**GET SAFER BRAKING
BEFORE YOU NEED IT!**

(800) 601-8072

bankspower.com

banks



3) Hold the ball mount and spring bars in different spots on the A-frame to make sure you will have room to slide them through the brackets before attaching them, and that the installed spring bars won't hit and bend the brackets when towing. **4)** Hold the bracket to the frame and mark the location for the screws. **5)** It is best to use a hammer and center punch for each location before drilling into the frame. **6)** After the locations are punched, drill the holes.

screw holes. As a shortcut for technicians, the brackets have openings that, when properly aligned, make drilling the two screw holes quite simple.

Made from 11-gauge, 304-grade stainless steel on a laser-cutting CNC machine, the Hitch Bar Storage Mount is strong enough to hold any 2-inch ball mount. Simply remove the locking hitch pin on your tow vehicle, pick up the ball mount and slide it out of the receiver using the Hitchgrip handle, then walk it over to the trailer and slide it into the Hitchport. Replace the hitch pin, and the ball mount is now locked to the trailer. Only one bracket is needed, as the weight of the ball mount and the leverage of the head shank against the trailer

frame underside keep it in place.

The Spring Bar Storage Mount is made from the same laser-cut stainless steel and is similarly simple and effective. The provided instructions detail the best way to measure and install the bracket, based on the size and style of the spring bars. The bracket should hold any type of bars, and if yours have chains attached, which most do, you can use the optional Python lock to secure them to the trailer's A-frame by wrapping the 6-foot cable around the frame. Or you can do as Bussell suggests and drill a hole in the front crossmember wing and lock the chains to that.

The Hitchport system is well designed and durable. We'd love to see

7) Before attaching the screws, apply nickel anti-seize lubricant to prevent the screws from corroding into the steel.

8) Screw the bracket to the frame. **9)** Picking up the ball mount with the Hitchgrip is easy and clean, and the hitch bar is balanced nicely to slide into the bracket. **10)** The ball mount can then be secured to the trailer using a locking hitch pin.





11



12



13

11) The spring bars slide through the bracket and can be locked to the frame using the optional Master Python Adjustable Cable Lock or (12) a long-hasped padlock. How they are inserted into the bracket depends on the spring-bar type. 13) The spring bars can also be locked to the crossmember by drilling a hole in the wing and threading the cable through the hole.

a 2½-inch version of the ball mount bracket for Class 5 bars, but the more popular 2-inch and smaller 1.5-inch bars are well handled. The Hitchgrip handle is designed to fit 2⅞-inch trailer balls. 🚚

Hitchport

772-214-0951, www.hitchport.com

**A Smooth Air-Ride 5th Wheel Hitch
in an easy to remove package**



Introducing!



BD3 5th Wheel Hitch



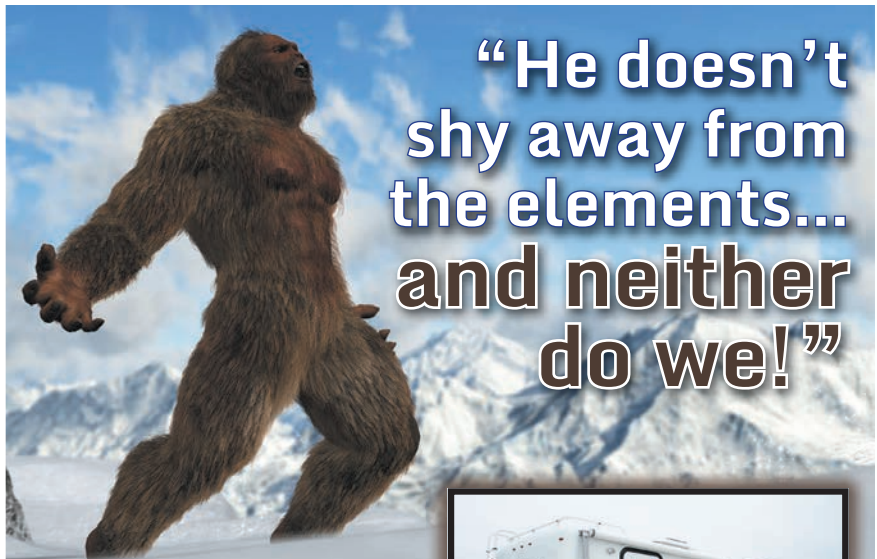
- Eliminates 97% of road shock
- Solid Holland-Binkley style head
- 1 1/8" thick jaws that completely encircle the kingpin
- Assembles in two pieces for easy installation and removal
- Fits standard rails

Call 1-800-410-6580 for more information



800.410.6580 • www.TrailerSaver.com

Hensley Manufacturing Inc., Circle 110 on Reader Service Card

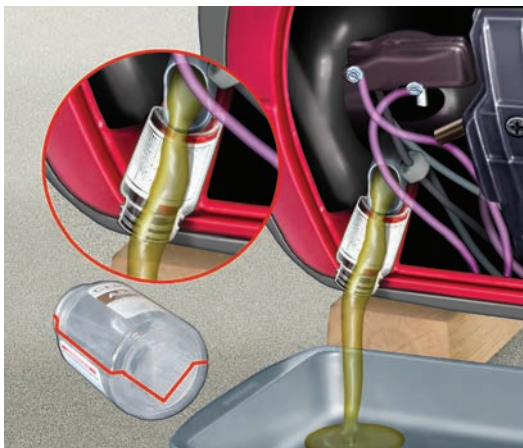


“He doesn’t shy away from the elements... and neither do we!”



(250) 546-2155 • www.bigfootrv.com

Bigfoot Industries, Circle 102 on Reader Service Card



Generating a Mini Funnel

I have a Honda portable inverter generator that I believe is one of the best out there, except when it comes to oil changes. Even though it has a spout and tray for draining oil, the oil still drips down the side of the generator and makes a mess.

I took a small plastic aspirin bottle and cut it in half vertically. The bottle is about 3 inches tall and 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter. Then I cut a small "V" in the bottom of the bottle with a razor knife. When changing the oil, I place the half bottle on the drain tray and push the "V" part under the fill plug. When draining oil, this little funnel clears the side of the unit, and there is no mess.

After Hurricane Irma, our generator ran for six days, 24 hours a day, so several oil changes were needed.

Gary Zielicke, Clewiston, Florida



Outdoor Clothes Hanger

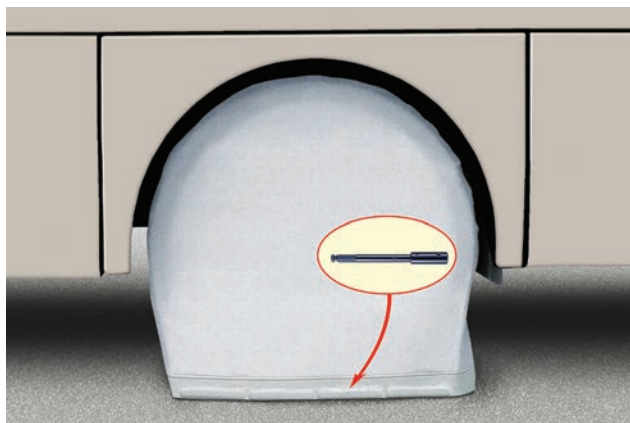
I made an exterior clothes hanger that attaches to the mounting tubes on my RV's ladder. Most ladders on RVs have the mounting tubes spaced at 11 inches with a thickness of usually 1 inch.

I took a piece of birchwood, measured the space between the ladder's tubes, and drilled two 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch holes to create slots, one facing up and one facing down. I cut out the slots with a jigsaw. This is now the support piece that goes onto the ladder. I drilled holes in the end for hangers to hook into, making sure there was enough space between the RV's side wall and where the holes start.

The clothes hanger is easy to make, even easier to install and stores flat in any compartment. As a safety precaution, to keep from getting hurt if we accidentally run into it, we cut a slot in a tennis ball and put it on the end.

Peter Riehl, Portland, Oregon

Editors' note: This is a good idea; just be sure that hanging clothes outside is in compliance with the RV park's rules.



Give Weight to Tire Covers

I found a solution to fitting the covers on our trailer's tires — and keeping them there — by sewing weights into the bottom of the covers.

I bought some used power-drill bit extensions, but any slim weights such as steel rebar will do. The extensions work well because they're about 6 inches long, and the covers needed four in each. Simply hem one layer into the bottom of the cover and insert the extensions or rebar inside.

Now, all I need to do is position the top of the covers on the tires, and the bottom hangs naturally — and the covers stay put in all kinds of weather. To take them off, just lift.

Helen Phillips, Tavares, Florida

Editor's note: Be sure to rust-proof any steel that is sewn into the hem of the tire covers to prevent rusty water from staining them. Rust-proofing products and short lengths of steel rebar (12 inch) are available at home-improvement centers such as Lowe's and Home Depot. Most of these stores will cut rebar to a shorter size, if needed. 🛠️

To send your submission, write to 10-Minute Tech, 2750 Park View Court, Suite 240, Oxnard, California 93036 or email 10minutetech@trailerlife.com. Please include an illustration or photo, if applicable. *Trailer Life* will pay \$35 for original 10-Minute Tech ideas. All payments require an SSN or FEIN.

HARBOR FREIGHT

QUALITY TOOLS AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW PRICES

900 Stores Nationwide • HarborFreight.com

PITTSBURGH Automotive **1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA** **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

RAPID PUMP® 3 TON STEEL HEAVY DUTY FLOOR JACK

- Lifts from 5" to 18-1/4"
- Weights 74 lbs.

NOW \$74.99

~~\$87.99~~ **SAVE \$60**

COMPARE TO **\$135.27** **POWERBUILT** MODEL: 647593

ITEM 69227/62116 62584/68048 shown

55761011

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

PREDATOR **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

3500 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR

NOW \$699.99

~~\$749.99~~ **SAVE \$1,299**

COMPARE TO **\$1,999** **HONDA** MODEL: EU3000ISA

ITEM 63584

55774701

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

SCISSOR JACK **SUPER COUPON**

FREE WITH ANY PURCHASE

PITTSBURGH

6 PIECE SCREWDRIVER SET

- Magnetic Tips
- Ergonomic Handles

COMPARE TO **\$7.97** **HUSKY** MODEL: 20210093

ITEM 62728/62583 47770/62570 shown

55758847

LIFETIME WARRANTY

Cannot be used with other discounts or prior purchases. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/12/18 while supplies last. Limit 1 FREE GIFT per customer per day.

SCISSOR JACK **SUPER COUPON**

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM

55768454

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discounts. Coupon is one of the following items of brands: Invisi-Track, Track-Clamp membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, compressors, blow bulbs, cables, drive belts, storage cabinets, stands or cradles, trailers, tractors, lawnmowers, welders, Admiral, Atlas, Bauer, Cobra, CoverPro, Daytona, Earthquake, Fischer, Hercules, Iron, Jockey, Kymor, Predator, Prodigy, Viking, Volcom, Zwick. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 11/12/18.

CHICAGO **ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS** **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

12" DOUBLE-BEVEL SLIDING COMPOUND MITER SAW

NOW \$129.99

~~\$179.99~~ **SAVE \$119**

COMPARE TO **\$249** **RYOBI** MODEL: TSS120L

ITEM 61970/69684/61969 shown

55779825

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

CENTRAL PNEUMATIC **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

3 GALLON, 100 PSI OIL-FREE AIR COMPRESSORS

A. HOT DOG ITEM 69269/97080 shown

B. PANCAKE ITEM 60637/61615 95275 shown

YOUR CHOICE \$399.99

~~\$579.99~~ **SAVE 59%**

Air delivery: 0.6 CFM @ 90 PSI 1 CFM @ 40 PSI

COMPARE TO **\$98.62** **PORTER-CABLE** MODEL: PCFP2003

ITEM 61970/69684/61969 shown

55783611

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

U.S. GENERAL **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

30", 4 DRAWER TECH CART

- 12,600 cu. in. of storage
- 580 lb. capacity
- Heavy duty gas struts hold lid open at 90 degrees

NOW \$99.99

~~\$149.99~~ **SAVE \$69.99**

COMPARE TO **\$799.95** **SNAP-ON** MODEL: XRB1C10TBP

ITEM 64096

55792991

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

BADLAND **Battle Tested** **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

2500 LB. ELECTRIC WINCH WITH WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL

- Weights 14.3 lbs.
- 11-1/8" L x 4-1/2" H

NOW \$49.99

~~\$69.99~~ **SAVE \$20**

COMPARE TO **\$189.99** **SUPERWINCH** MODEL: 1125220

ITEM 61840/61297/63476/61258 shown

55793181

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

WARRIOR **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET

NOW \$9.99

~~\$17.99~~ **SAVE \$8.00**

COMPARE TO **\$64.99** **DEWALT** MODEL: DW1369

ITEM 62281 61637 shown

55794620

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

EARTHQUAKE **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

1/2" HEAVY DUTY COMPOSITE PRO AIR IMPACT WRENCH

- Weights 5 lbs.

NOW \$89.99

~~\$114.99~~ **SAVE \$25**

COMPARE TO **\$249.99** **CHICAGO PNEUMATIC** MODEL: CP7749

ITEM 62835

55798639

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

COVER PRO **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

10 FT. x 10 FT. PORTABLE SHED

NOW \$139.99

~~\$159.99~~ **SAVE \$20**

COMPARE TO **\$236.89** **SHELTER LOGIC** MODEL: 70333

ITEM 63297

55799050

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

HaulMaster **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

18" x 12" MOVER'S DOLLY

- 1000 lb. capacity

NOW \$7.99

~~\$10.99~~ **SAVE \$3**

COMPARE TO **\$16.43** **BUFFALO TOOLS** MODEL: HDPDOLLY

ITEM 61899/63095/63096 63098/63097/93888 shown

55800138

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

SCISSOR JACK **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

7 FT. 4" x 9 FT. 6" ALL PURPOSE/WEATHER RESISTANT TARP

NOW \$2.99

~~\$4.99~~ **SAVE 70%**

COMPARE TO **\$9.98** **BLUE HAWK** MODEL: BBSX10-Y

ITEM 69249/69115/69137/69129/69121/877 shown

55808651

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

CENTECH **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

2/10/50 AMP, 12 VOLT BATTERY CHARGER/ENGINE STARTER

NOW \$29.99

~~\$49.99~~ **SAVE 50%**

COMPARE TO **\$59.99** **SCHUMACHER ELECTRIC** MODEL: SE-1250

ITEM 60581 60653 shown

55809277

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

SCISSOR JACK **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

.50 CAL METAL AMMO CAN

NOW \$12.99

~~\$15.99~~ **SAVE \$3**

COMPARE TO **\$24.99** **GAME WINNER** MODEL: FSGWWE1030

ITEM 63750/63181 shown

55810082

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

PITTSBURGH **Automotive** **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

ATV/LAWN MOWER LIFT

- 300 lb. capacity
- Weights 72.5 lbs.

NOW \$74.99

~~\$89.99~~ **SAVE \$15**

COMPARE TO **\$142.08** **MAX LOAD** MODEL: 30028

ITEM 60395/62325 62493/61523 shown

55834838

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

PITTSBURGH **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

40 PIECE, 3/8" DRIVE SAE AND METRIC SOCKET SET

NOW \$3.99

~~\$4.99~~ **SAVE 80%**

COMPARE TO **\$19.97** **KOBALT** MODEL: 98989

ITEM 63015/61328/47902/62843 shown

55837283

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

drill master **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

80 PIECE ROTARY TOOL KIT

NOW \$6.99

~~\$9.99~~ **SAVE \$3**

COMPARE TO **\$26.35** **PROFESSIONAL WOODWORKER** MODEL: 51832

ITEM 63292/63235/68986/97626 shown

55838134

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

CHICAGO **ELECTRIC** **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

125 AMP FLUX-CORE WELDER

NOW \$99.99

~~\$109.99~~ **SAVE \$10**

COMPARE TO **\$129.99** **IRON TON** MODEL: 45433

ITEM 63583/63582 shown

55839922

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

GREENWOOD **SCISSOR JACK** **SUPER COUPON**

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

1-1/4 GALLON HOME AND GARDEN SPRAYER

NOW \$8.99

~~\$12.99~~ **SAVE 51%**

COMPARE TO **\$18.71** **ROUNDUP** MODEL: 190315

ITEM 63124/63145/95692 shown

55841226

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 11/12/18*

*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 11/12/18.

All 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.



Just Tap the App

RVers looking to keep a close eye on the electrical goings-on within their trailer can simply tap on the PowerMon app from Thornwave Labs. The mobile app works on Apple or Android devices to monitor Thornwave's Bluetooth Smart DC Power Meter (BT-DCPM), a multi-functional wireless device that controls mechanical and solid-state power relays. Beyond acting as a state-of-charge battery monitor and a real-time 12-volt DC power meter, the BT-DCPM does everything from remotely controlling the generator and operating the solar system to displaying alerts when measurements are out of range, monitoring other important DC-circuit parameters, and powering on and off.

MSRP: \$89.99

888-399-9283

www.thornwave.com/products-btdcpm

Circle 137 on Reader Service Card



Squeaky-Clean Diesel

Clean fuel makes for a happy engine, and the Sinister Diesel Cat Fuel Filter Adapter can make 2001 to 2015 Duramax-powered GM 2500 and 3500 pickups very happy indeed. The CNC-routed billet-aluminum adapter allows the use of an ultrafine 2-micron Caterpillar fuel filter that is claimed to increase diesel-fuel filtration efficiency and capacity, and help prolong the life of the 6.6-liter Duramax fuel system and injectors. The kit includes the Cat fuel filter, the fuel-filter adapter and all mounting hardware, and comes with a lifetime warranty. A blue anodized finish adds protection and style. Following the provided instructions, installation is said to be straightforward without major modifications.

MSRP: \$173.32

888-966-6543, www.sinisterdiesel.com

Circle 138 on Reader Service Card



Drinks on the Draw

The Holstrit is a fun, efficient carry bag for those who travel with a bottled drink. Hidden pockets keep a mobile phone, cash, credit cards, passport and other important items within easy reach. The Holstrit can be worn as a cross-body bag or around the waist, and the strap easily adjusts to fit a wide range of users. It comes in an array of colors and patterns, and has a sleeve that holds up to a 16-ounce bottle. The company's founder created the bag after her daughter underwent a kidney transplant and needed to drink 3 liters of fluid a day. A portion of each purchase is donated to the National Kidney Foundation.

MSRP: \$26.99

www.holstrit.com

Circle 139 on Reader Service Card

On-the-Spot Shade

Mounted on your tow vehicle's roof rack, the new Batwing awning from Rhino-Rack spreads out in a 270-degree arc to provide protection from the elements without additional support. If conditions are windy and support is needed, the ripstop-fabric canopy has aluminum legs that unclip and drop down into place (as shown). Stowed in a water- and mold-resistant bag, the awning assembly weighs less than 50 pounds and attaches to most roof-top cargo racks that have an open outside crossbar. Rhino-Racks



claims the Batwing can be deployed by one person in less than a minute. Compatible accessories include side walls, extension pieces and tents.

MSRP: \$699. 303-706-9700, www.rhinorack.com

Circle 140 on Reader Service Card

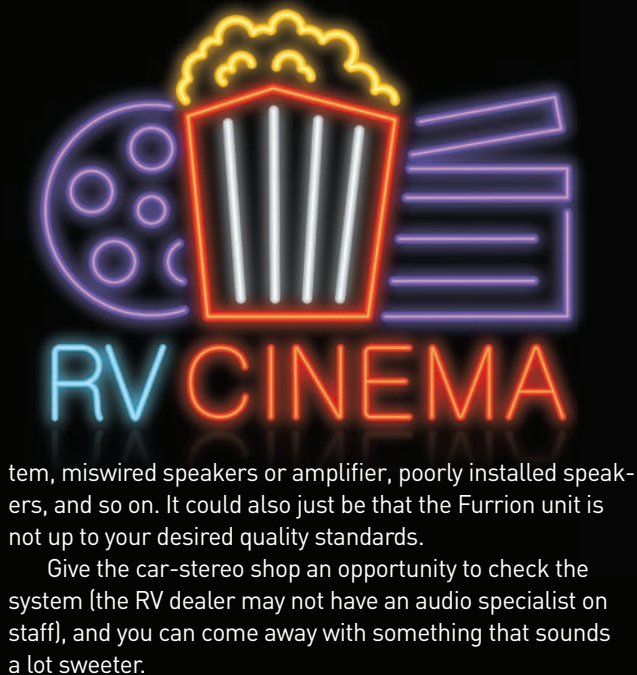
AUDIO-VIDEO UPGRADE

Q We have a 2016 31-foot Cruiser RV MPG travel trailer. Although we love our trailer and camping, we also like listening to music and watching movies. The problem is, the audio and video unit leave a lot to be desired, as does the remote. We have had trouble playing DVDs, and the audio sounds like an old eight-track.

The current unit is made by Furrion. Do you know of a better unit that has multiple zones, good sound quality and plays Blu-ray discs? Oh, and won't break the bank either.

Greg Dearth, Herald, California

A Furrion sells some pretty nice products, Greg, and I would suspect it's more than just the head unit that's a problem. As for your question about replacements, an internet search or a visit to your local car-stereo shop will reveal many different options available, particularly in the auto-stereo arena. It can perform a system analysis to determine where the problem originates, looking for a miswired sys-



tem, miswired speakers or amplifier, poorly installed speakers, and so on. It could also just be that the Furrion unit is not up to your desired quality standards.

Give the car-stereo shop an opportunity to check the system (the RV dealer may not have an audio specialist on staff), and you can come away with something that sounds a lot sweeter.

SLIDEOUT ADJUSTMENTS

Q In April of 2015, I bought a new 2015 39-foot Keystone Montana with four slideouts. The bedroom slide is operated by a cable system, and there have been no problems with it. But there is a problem with the other three slides that use hydraulic mechanisms.

After the trailer is closed up and in storage for three to four weeks, the three slides that use the hydraulic ram system work their way out about 3 inches at the bottom. There's also about a 1/2-inch gap at the top of the slides. I don't keep the battery in the trailer while it is in storage. When I put the battery in and close the slides, they appear to close completely.

This has been a problem since I bought the trailer, and we have not made any attempts to get it fixed yet. The trailer has a new battery, and I keep it on a maintenance charger when it is out of the trailer.

Rick Fauser, St. Charles, Missouri

A We inquired a couple of times with Keystone's tech personnel, and they didn't respond with any suggestions, so we'll take a shot at this, Rick.

First, don't let your dealer tell you this is normal, because it's not. Your RV slideout mechanisms use an LCI-brand-manufactured system with hydraulic rams plumbed into a central valve and pump setup. It's probable that the bypass valve is stuck slightly open, which would allow for a gradual leak-down of the hydraulic pressure that keeps the slideouts in place.

The weight balance and the leverage applied by the slideout room in a stowed position can also cause some movement over time due to the leaking valve. When stowed, the slideout room is supported by the underfloor mechanism and the outer flange that abuts the exterior wall. The inside of the slideout more or less hangs there, unless there are rollers for support, and that weight can cause the lower part of the room to leverage outward

because the upper edge is against the wall while the room weight is "prying down," so to speak.

Until your local Keystone dealer with a qualified slideout-system mechanic can take a run at it, a temporary fix might be to use some sort of support such as wooden wedges under the front edges of the slideouts. Place them near the ends where the slideout floor is strongest near the vertical walls.

SAGGY FIFTH-WHEEL ROOF

Q We have a 2017 Montana High Country 310RE that is still under the first-year warranty. We recently took the fifth-wheel to our dealer with multiple things to fix, including air-conditioner problems. When they checked, they found a 1 1/2-inch sag in the roof surrounding the air conditioner. They say they have never seen this before and that it is a defect. The manufacturer, however, states this is an acceptable "industry standard."

We are very concerned that this could worsen and lead to leaking or more significant roof problems. What is your opinion of this issue?

Peggy L. Soneson, Orrington, Maine

TECH EXPERT



JEFF JOHNSTON: Jeff served as technical director of *Trailer Life* for 20 years and has been an RV enthusiast, mechanic and writer since he could hold a wrench.

A If you have a section of roof on your trailer that's a full inch and a half lower than the surrounding area, no, it's not supposed to be that way, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. The fact that it's in the area of the air conditioner, with its extra weight on the roof, is telling.

If your trailer has a ceiling that's flat side to side, as opposed to arched, you can also use a string line or straightedge to easily check the roof sag inside the trailer in the area in question. The string

line or straightedge provides a definite illustration that something is sagging.

Your trailer uses what Keystone calls "residential roof rafters," which usually means they're wood framed to provide an arch to the rooftop and for overall strength. Any such structure can fail, however, and this needs to be addressed by the dealer while the trailer is under warranty. It's also possible that a big bruiser of a service guy climbed on the roof, and it simply was damaged




by the weight.

To gain access to the roof opening, the dealer can remove the air-conditioner shroud and bolts inside the trailer, or the externally mounted unit. That will allow some inspection of the roof rafters or trusses in that area. With a failed rafter or two, a proper repair is going to be expensive and fairly involved because it requires disassembly of the roof and possibly some ceiling structure to access and repair the rafters. It's a big job best left to the professionals.



eZV3200RV **\$1,099**
(\$1,549 CAD)

3,200W STARTING **2,800W RUNNING**

-  Bigger means better - our 208cc engine powers your air conditioner.
-  Snuggle up - start your generator from the comfort of your RV with the wireless remote.
-  No adapters needed - connect to your RV directly with the integrated TT-30 RV outlet.

Available now with **Free Shipping**
www.energizergenerators.com | 1.877.528.3772

© 2018 Energizer. Energizer and certain graphic designs are trademarks of Energizer Brands, LLC and related subsidiaries and are used under license by Midland Power, Inc. All other brand names are trademarks of their respective owners. Neither Midland Power, Inc. nor Energizer Brands, LLC is affiliated with the respective owners of their trademarks.

BREAKAWAY-SWITCH BRAKE FAILURE

Q We purchased a Grand Design Reflection in October 2016 and tow it with a 2011 Chevy Silverado Duramax. In 2017 we were towing the fifth-wheel, which had less than 500 miles on it, and I got a message on the display to check the truck's brake. Traffic was heavy, but I noticed a sign for a parking area a mile away. We pulled in and saw that the cable to the fifth-wheel's emergency brake had wrapped around the hitch and pulled the plunger. I cut the wires to release the brakes and checked the wheels, which were very hot.

After stopping at an RV dealership for a new breakaway switch, we made it home. We took the fifth-wheel to the dealer, who informed us that the brakes and drums had to be replaced and that the bearings had to be repacked. We were also informed that the warranty did not cover the issue.

I understand that the cable getting tangled was not part of the warranty, but the fifth-wheel never pulled back on the tow vehicle when the brakes were applied, and the only indication of trouble was the dash indicator.

When I called Grand Design and asked why my claim was denied, I was told that the fifth-wheel was acting as intended. I asked if the brakes should have locked or at least slowed down my vehicle, and they said no. Locking the brakes down could have caused a rollover.

Most people I know who have had this happen said the brakes locked. If this had happened to me, I would have stopped immediately. I am interested to

hear your opinion on the matter.
Vernon Wesley, Ontario, New York

A The breakaway switch is nothing more than an on-off switch that routes the trailer's full battery voltage directly to the trailer brakes. Normally, with well-adjusted brakes in good working order, this would indeed cause the brakes to grab solid or at least provide strong resistance that you would have felt in the truck. If the brakes grab and lock the wheels, it does not mean there will automatically be a trailer rollover, but it's a situation where you need to pull over and stop as soon as possible so you don't grind down flat spots on all your tires, among other trailer reactions.

Two things could be at play here. One, the manufacturer may not have properly wired the breakaway switch to the trailer brakes, and, two the brakes weren't adjusted properly during the pre-delivery inspection at the dealership. In theory, the 12-volt DC charge line from your tow rig would provide enough power to apply the brakes, even if the trailer batteries were low.

To test the system, park your truck and trailer in a safe and wide-open spot such as the far side of a large parking lot. Roll the combo ahead and fully apply the trailer brakes using the manual emergency lever on the brake controller, and this will verify that the trailer brakes are working. Now, pull the breakaway switch pin and try moving the rig again. If you don't feel a similar level of braking resistance or the tires don't lock up completely, there's something amiss. The brakes should be checked and adjusted.

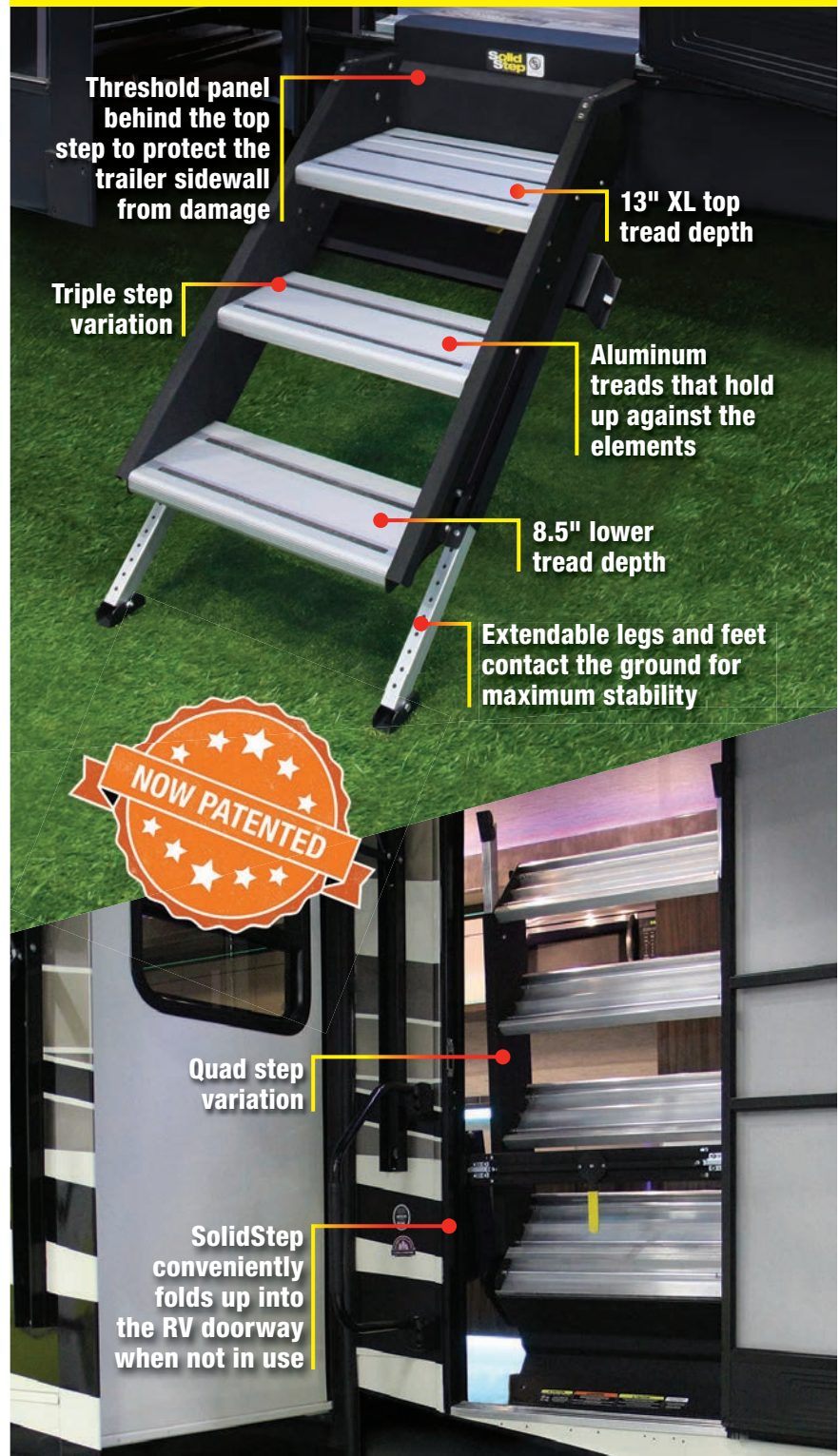
If you are uncomfortable with these steps, have your dealer perform the inspection to get the breakaway-switch setup operating properly and safely.

TRAILER PUSH-PULL

Regarding February's "Truck Push-Pull" letter, I think the answer you gave Glenn Lygrisse is not correct because there is help for the problem, and it is called Airtabs (www.airtab.com). I put them on our fifth-wheel, and they took

Solid Step™

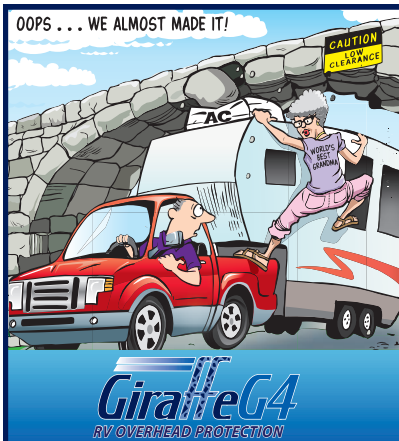
Freedom on the road.
Freedom in design.
The most stable RV step on the market today!



LIPPERT
COMPONENTS



lippertcomponents.com



Protect Your AC Unit and Satellite Dish!

The GiraffeG4 System will tell you the exact height of the Bridge, Trestle, Campground Tree and Gas Station Canopy you've encountered, so you don't hit it.

www.GiraffeG4.com
1-877-543-1087



THE BEST CAMPING STORY CONTEST

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Minneapolis/St. Paul RV, Vacation & Camping Show, GS Events is excited to present "The Best Camping Story" Contest. Each short story must be typed and between 250 and 500 words in length.

Categories (Entrants may submit an Entry in one of the following three Categories)

- Humorous
- Nostalgic
- Childrens (Entrants must be age twelve (12) years-old or under)

Prizes

- One (1) Grand Prize for each Category, for a total of three (3) Grand Prizes: \$500 Gander Outdoors gift card.
- Two (2) tickets to the Minneapolis/St. Paul RV, Vacation & Camping Show, February 7-10, 2019, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55403. Approximate retail value of the two (2) tickets is \$24.

To enter please visit:

www.msprvshow.com/contest



*NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED AND IN PUERTO RICO AND CANADA. For full Official Rules, by which this promotion is governed, go to: www.MSPRVShow.com/rules. Must be a legal resident of the U.S. Promotion begins 5/15/18 at 12:01 a.m. CDT and ends 10/15/18 at 11:59:59 p.m. CDT. Enter by 11:59:59 p.m. CDT on 10/15/18. This contest is in no way affiliated with, sponsored, endorsed, or administered by Facebook and therefore Facebook assumes no responsibility or liability for its conduct or administration. Sponsored by CWI, Inc. and Good Sam Enterprises, LLC, Lincolnshire, IL. GS008079-0518

the sway out and help keep the rear of the trailer clean.

Frank Terry, Baker City, Oregon

Our answer to the question about the push-pull effect of passing commercial traffic was complete and accurate, Frank. A fifth-wheel trailer experiences significantly less effect of the passing commercial truck traffic than does a travel trailer.

We've heard about Airtabs from a number of readers, but they are an add-on device designed for airflow management and not a mechanical cure for the push-pull condition. We would be remiss in suggesting those devices are a solution that reduces the push-pull effect on a trailer, but we would certainly be happy to hear from more of our readers with experience with that product.

DOUBLE TOWING

Q In our travels in Colorado and other western states, it is not uncommon to see people double towing a fifth-wheel and another trailer with anything from a boat to an off-highway vehicle. We tow a Heartland Oakmont with a 2016 F-350 diesel and would like to bring our ATVs with us. What would the ramifications of towing a small 1,500-pound trailer be on the fifth-wheel?

Jeff Bell, Berthoud, Colorado

A The highway rules for double towing vary from state to state and are not covered nationwide by any one federal DOT law, Jeff, so you'd need to check the laws in each state in which you plan to travel. Other than that (and the fact that you won't be able to back the combo unless you're extremely skilled), adding a smaller trailer will produce pretty much the effects that you may expect, such as slightly slower acceleration and hill climbs due to the extra weight, a bit less fuel economy and perhaps longer braking distances.

On that last count, it would be prudent to have some type of brakes on the second trailer, even if that trailer's weight does not require brakes in your state. Otherwise, it's going to be quite a payload to be stopping with just the truck and trailer brakes when every-

thing is loaded. Surge brakes would be the easiest setup, but electric would work better. You'll also need to have a qualified shop install a hitch receiver on the trailer frame (if it is not so equipped already) and a wiring receptacle, to safely attach the extra trailer to your fifth-wheel. Also, verify that the trailer's frame is designed to handle the additional weight, and that adding a hitch receiver and towing tandem will not void the warranty, if applicable.

Last, but certainly not least, make sure the tow vehicle's tow rating or gross combined weight rating (GCWR) will not be exceeded by the addition of the second trailer.

FIFTH-WHEEL HITCH SELECTION

Q My three-part question deals with fifth-wheel hitches and kingpin weight. I'm looking to purchase a toy hauler, and that will require me to purchase a bigger fifth-wheel hitch. I currently have the Husky 16K S and love the simplicity of it, but it's not going to handle the new fiver. Husky's next model in the lineup has a whopping 26,000-pound rating. This seems to be overkill, adding weight to my truck's overall cargo-carrying capacity and spending excess money for a new hitch.

First, if the fiver I'm looking at has a GCWR of 16,800 pounds and a dry hitch weight of 3,052 pounds, what is the appropriate size hitch I should look at? While discussing this with the dealer, I asked if a hitch rated for 18,000 pounds is good enough. The dealer said no and suggested a minimum of 22,000 pounds.

Second, what is the simplest way to understand load transfers across all axles and estimate hitch weight? I have four passengers plus 1,500 pounds of cargo in the fiver. Is that an exponential increase to hitch weight or more of a gradual increase? Passenger weight would be axle-weight loads, correct?

Unfortunately, hooking up the fiver, taking it off the lot and going to the nearest CAT scale is not an option. I hate not knowing before buying, pulling up to the CAT scale after purchasing and crossing my fingers.

Finally, will I have **(continued on page 65)**



Good Sam

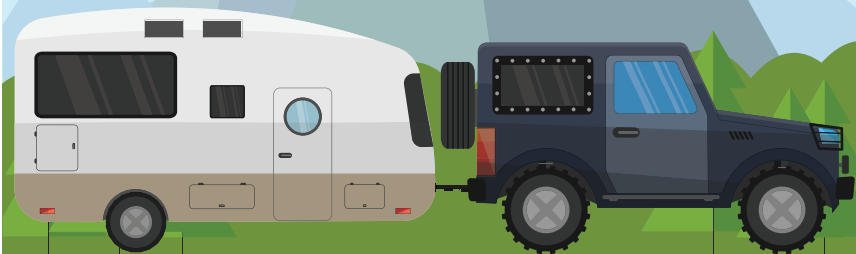
RV Loans

LIMITED TIME

Offer

\$399

PROCESSING FEE WAIVED WHEN YOU REFINANCE BY AUGUST 31, 2018!†



Now is a great time to refinance your current RV loan to lower your monthly payments! You can also finance a 2007 model year or newer RV when you purchase from a dealer or a private party seller. We offer a zero down loan program for up to \$50,000**!

APPLY TODAY TO LOCK IN YOUR RATE!

RECREATIONAL USE APRs* AS LOW AS

5.09%

on loan amounts of \$50k+

5.69%

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

5.89%

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 May 17, 2018. 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 579

VISIT

GoodSamRVLoans.com/579

*Estimated 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 until 30 days after the loan is approved. Full-Timers do not qualify for this offer; see website for Full-Timer rates and terms. RV must be 2007 model year or newer; for RV model year 2007 to 2008, 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. For RV, collateral value established using NADA wholesale value (without adds) including mileage adjustment (+/-); multiplied by 110%. Example of a recreational use RV loan: A \$55,000 loan for 7 years with an APR of 5.09% has 84 monthly payments of \$779.69 each.

**Minimum FICO Score of 740.

†Processing fee of \$399 waived for refinance applications submitted by August 31, 2018. Official fees such as state title, state registration, FL doc stamp fee and/or UCC filing fees will apply.

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. GRL54964 - 0518

Member FDIC.  EQUAL HOUSING LENDER ©2018 Good Sam Finance Center.

LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY

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

KSH Fuel Products
www.kshmarine.com
 We Don't Dabble...We Specialize!



Auxiliary Fuel Tanks in Standard Sizes from 30-100 Gallons
 Toolbox/Tank Combos in Standard Sizes from 40-98 Gallons
 Custom Fuel Tanks Fabricated to Your Specifications
 Installation Kits for Various Makes & Models of Vehicle
 Standard and Custom Generator Boxes & Trailer Tongue Boxes

E-Mail info@kshfuelproducts.com
928-680-6610
 1675-103 Kiowa Ave. Lake Havasu City AZ 86403

TAILGATER 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
info@tailgatertiretable.com

60 Years Steele RUBBER PRODUCTS

CALL FOR YOUR FREE RV CATALOG


- SLIDE-OUTS
- DOOR SEALS
- VENT HATCH
- COMPARTMENTS
- RAMP GATE
- DRIP RAILS
- VINTAGE



800-230-6109
rv.steelerubber.com

Major RV Innovation CloZures® Shade

Operate without opening the screen or entry door.



Enjoy the outside view or control privacy, temp, and light with just a finger slide.

zarcor.com
 (972) 380-8724 | (800) 877-4797

Is your ICE CREAM soft?
It doesn't have to be

Replace your old Refrigerator Cooling Unit with an ALL-NEW Replacement Cooling Unit

EASY-TO-INSTALL
 See our 15 min. video

Did you know your existing fridge can be converted to a low energy 110V or 12V compressor HVAC system?

Or check out our new Gas/electric units

FREE UPS shipping to your door



Made in the USA
 Phone: (260) 768-4067
www.jc-refrigeration.com
jcref@centurylink.net

TRAILER LIFE.com

The online resource for the RV enthusiast



READER SERVICE

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.

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

POWER CASTER INC.
(800) 773-3833
(626) 287-6117
 www.powercaster.com
 5001 Encinita Ave., Temple City, CA 91780

KEEP YOUR NOSE CLEAN!

Bug splatter WILL destroy your RV's decals and finish. Now there is a simple & effective solution.



MANY CHOICES AVAILABLE!

BUG BANNER
 www.bugbanner.com
 (864) 381-1655

Call or click today to get *Trailer Life* delivered right to your mailbox!

Trailerlife.com/Subscribe
 or call 866-799-4038



SULASTIC RUBBER SPRINGS

SMOOTHER RIDE

just replace the stock shackle

Not-affected
 Load Tow



OEM Shackle Leaf Spring

www.sulastic.com

HITCHPORT HITCH BAR STORAGE

Pat. Pend. ORDER NOW



Store your hitch & spring bars on the trailer tongue

www.hitchport.com
 772-214-0951

Get the Sheen Back

As seen in **Trailer Life Oct. 2016**



Poli Glow Restores Faded Surfaces

Lasts over 12 Months
poliglowproducts.com
 Watch instructional video • 800-922-5013
 FREE SHIPPING COUPON CODE: TL18

TO ADVERTISE IN THE RV Marketplace or Dealers & Destinations

CONTACT:
 Terry Thompson
 206-310-6234
 terry.thompson@goodsam.com

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

RS#	ADVERTISER	PAGE#
106	Banks Power	52
101	Bauer Products	2
102	Bigfoot Industries	53
103	Boar Wheel Company	36
	Camping World	38-39
	Camping World RV Sales	37
	Classifieds	64-65
	Clearsource	44
126	Comfort Ride by Roadmaster	21
104	Dish Network	50
118	Energizer	58
105	Escape Trailer	12
107	Geico	67
108	Giraffe G4 Systems	60
	Good Sam Media	60
	Good Sam RV Loans	61
	Good Sam VIP Provided by	
	GMAC Insurance	22
	Harbor Freight Tools	55
109	Hensley Manufacturing Inc.	7
110	Hensley Manufacturing Inc.	53
120	iBall Hitch Cam	18
111	Icon Technologies	45
112	Innovations Housing	17
113	King	10
114	Lavario Washer Corporation	31
115	Lippert Components	8
116	Lippert Components	59
117	Maxxis International	24-25
119	Northwood Mfg.	11
121	Park It 360	30
122	Progress Manufacturing, Inc.	18
123	Progress Manufacturing, Inc.	43
124	Progressive Insurance	5
125	Purple Line LLC	43
127	RV Armor, Inc.	65
	RV Marketplace	62-63
128	Super Springs	7
129	Transfer Flow Inc.	20
130	Travel Lite RV	68
131	Truck System Technologies	36

EDITORIAL PRODUCT INDEX

RS#	ADVERTISER	PAGE#
135	Air Opus by Purple Line	14
136	Forest River	19
134	Heartland RV	23
139	HOLSTRit	56
140	Rhino-Rack	56
138	Sinister Diesel	56
137	Thornwave Labs	56

While every effort is made to maintain accuracy and completeness, last-minute changes may occasionally result in omissions or errors.

ACCESSORIES



Luxury RV Mattresses

FREE SHIPPING & 100 Night Trial
USA Made! 5% OFF use code: trailerlife18
www.WildernessRVmattress.com



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

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

Established RV Parts & Service facility that
has been in business 30 yrs. Bldg with 3 ac.
lot, 5 bays with 90 x 30 covered overhang.
Lrg paved parking lot that goes around bldg.
for easy maneuvering. Sale includes Bs.,
inventory, equipment, & real estate located
metro area Atl., GA 770-271-7502

CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIPS FOR SALE

CAMPGROUND MEMBERSHIP OUTLET-SINCE 1991
To buy 800-272-0401
To sell 800-952-0401
Any Membership-Nationwide. Best prices ever.

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



For Classifieds Rates:

Contact: **Katey Purgatorio**

Phone: **847-229-6756**

Fax: **270-495-6278**

Email: katey.purgatorio@goodsam.com

HOMES FOR SALE



TOP RATED RESORT - S. Texas

Retama Village - Supersites \$50s.
RV Casitas \$120s RV Port Homes \$170s.
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



Saddlebrooke MO \$499,500.00. RV Garage is
48' deep, 24' wide, 18'1" high. 417-699-0108
417-336-4999 www.behomeinsaddlebrooke.com
Realtor-Keller Williams-Tammy Rodman

MAIL/MESSAGE SERVICES

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



125,000+ New & Used RVs for Sale on RVT.COM®
Search *By Owner and Dealer* Listings.
Sell an RV with a Free or Until Sold ad!
www.RVT.com or 1-877-705-0025

RV FINANCING

THE ORIGINAL RV FINANCING ONLINE

LOW RATES, GREAT SERVICE, NATIONWIDE
1998 AND NEWER RVs ALL TYPES
www.RVFINANCING.COM • [Facebook.com/loans](https://www.facebook.com/loans)
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.

Let us help you BUY YOUR RV ... TAX FREE!
Setup a Montana LLC today with the most
experienced company in the industry!
Call 888.430.3388 www.MontanaRV.net

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.actionsservices-mt.com

#1 IN SALES TAX SAVINGS

PAY NO SALES TAX! We have helped 1000's save
over the past 23 yrs. Call & talk to a CPA for
professional, friendly service! www.rvtax.com
Mountain States Consulting 800-565-4504

TOURS



Guided RV Tours & Rallies

Lower 48 • Alaska • Canada • Overseas
Free RV Vacation Catalog **844-872-7897** or
www.adventurecaravans.com



The online
resource
for the RV
enthusiast



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 2019 DRV Mobile Suite 36RSSB3 (Loaded)
True 4 Season. Ave 30% off MSRP of \$138,091 877-228-6975. CustomOrderAvailable@NoCharge View All New/Used@ www.rvsforless.net Worldwide Shipping. #1 USA Dealer 2011-2017



NEW 2019 Mobile Suite AIRE
True4Season. Avg 30% off MSRP. Start @ \$122,118 877-228-6975. CustomOrderAvailable@NoCharge View All New/Used Units @ www.rvsforless.net Worldwide Shipping. #1 USA Dealer 2011-2017



NATION'S LOW PRICED 5th WHEEL EXPERTS

Huge inventory of new/used high end 5th Mobile Suites, Landmark, Riverstone, Vilano, View units at www.kansasrvcenter.com 800-835-0676 or sales@nuwa.com for info



NEW 2019 Heartland Landmark 365 (Loaded)
True 4 Season. Avg 30% off MSRP of \$128,489 877-228-6975 CustomOrderAvailable@NoCharge View All New/Used Units @ www.rvsforless.net Worldwide Shipping. One of the Top 5 Dealers 2005-2017

RV CLINIC

(continued from page 61)

to change out the base rails, bolts and plate attachments underneath the bed that support my current hitch when I upgrade to a larger-capacity model?
John, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

A To answer your first question, John, if your trailer has a 16,800-pound GWR and you do not plan to overload it and exceed that figure, an 18,000-pound-rated hitch would be fine.

To answer your second question, the hitch in the truck bed is concerned only with the weight of the trailer it's carrying. The weight of passengers, cargo and so forth in the truck, as well as the pin weight of the trailer, affects the truck's GWR, gross combined weight rating (GCWR) and gross axle weight rating (GAWR), in that weight added to the tow rig is deducted from its payload capacity, and you'll need to be sure you don't overload the truck's rear axle. An internet search will reveal many sources of detailed explanations about what GWR, GCWR and GAWR mean and how they relate to each other.

Regarding your last question, you may not need to change the baseplate and rails. Have your dealership compare the parts it has on hand to see if they're the same pieces. Or, and this is the easiest solution that falls into the try-this-first category, contact the hitch manufacturer and ask directly.

If the dealer or private individual is motivated to make a sale, hauling the trailer to a certified scale before signing any contracts should not be a problem. If the salesperson digs in his or her heels, ask for a signed agreement that, if the trailer exceeds the manufacturer's claimed and published weight figures to the extent that it affects your ability to use the trailer, you have the option of canceling the sale with a full refund. That may light a fire under the salesperson or sales manager. 🚚

HAVE A 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.

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.

Granite State Symbol

The stone face may be gone, but New Hampshire's Old Man of the Mountain lives on in many hearts

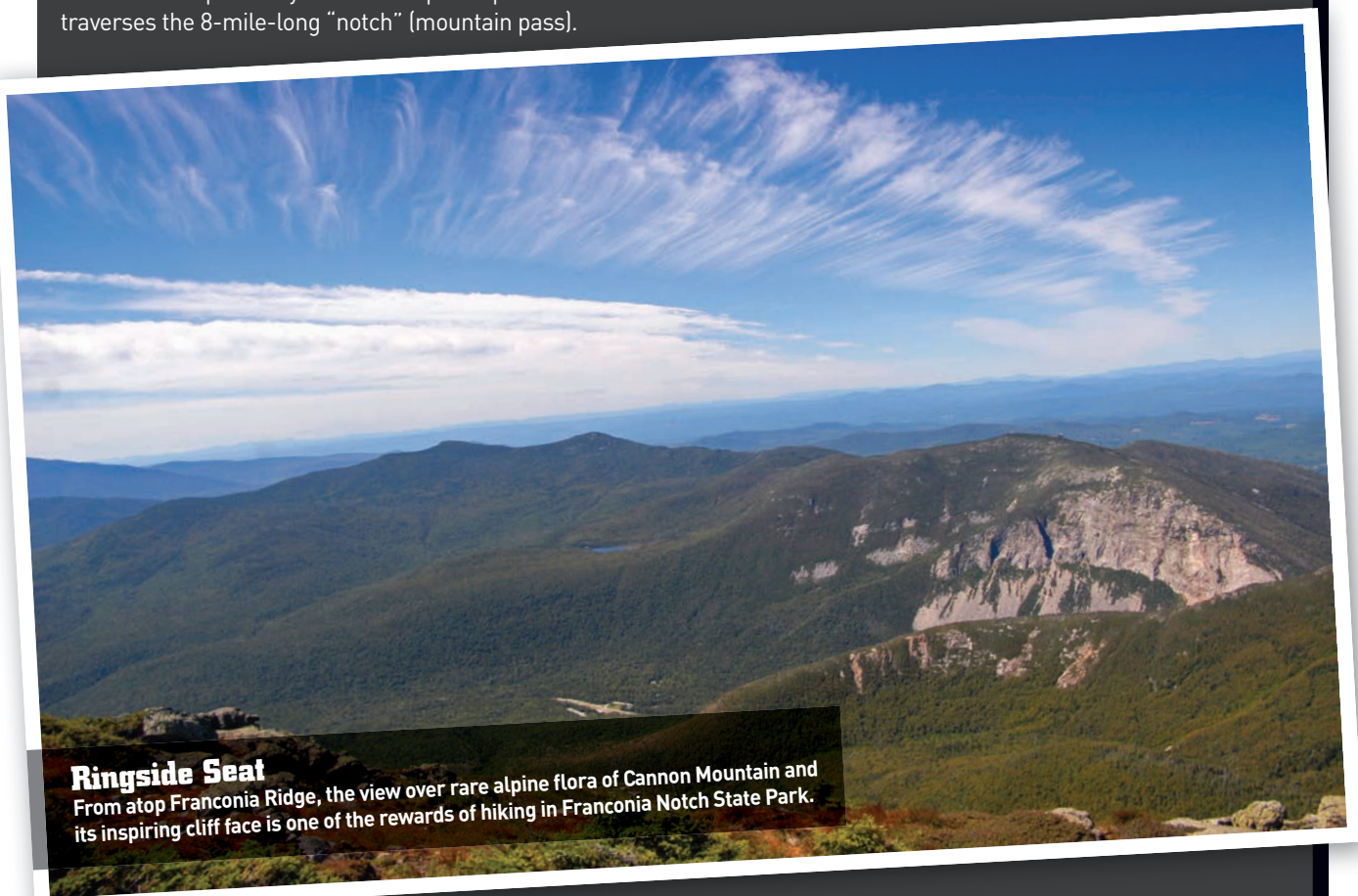
Some places I visit once, and others, like Franconia Notch State Park in New Hampshire's White Mountains, I return to again and again. I've spent so much time in Franconia Notch State Park that I consider it one of my old stomping grounds or, more accurately, camping grounds. I could park there for the summer.

I'm a hiker. My favorite mountaintops are in the Franconia area, as well as one of my favorite lakeside campgrounds, Cannon Mountain RV Park. There's nothing more relaxing than a nap on the sandy Echo Lake beach after the short hike to Artists Bluff at the north end of the lake, or a more ambitious day hike to the top of 5,249-foot Mount Lafayette or 4,080-foot Cannon Mountain, which frame its east and west shorelines. When I wake up, I might cast for trout from my canoe in the lake's dark-blue water or pedal my bike on the paved path that traverses the 8-mile-long "notch" (mountain pass).

Passing Profile Lake just moments into my ride, I feel a touch of sadness when I peer up at the cliffy side of Cannon Mountain, where the massive stone face of the Old Man of the Mountain used to look across the valley. Though it crumbled to the ground in 2003, it remains an enduring symbol of the Granite State.

Carved by the last Ice Age, the Old Man finally succumbed to thousands of years of freezing and thawing. In 2003, the great stone face avalanched to the valley floor by Profile Lake. Fifteen years later, I still miss the Old Man but find strength in the mountains that surround his former perch. I can't wait to return to hike, fish and bike there again.

Perhaps the demise of the Old Man is not about losing a symbolic landmark but about embracing change. I sure feel changed for the better after each visit to Franconia Notch State Park. 🚗



Ringside Seat

From atop Franconia Ridge, the view over rare alpine flora of Cannon Mountain and its inspiring cliff face is one of the rewards of hiking in Franconia Notch State Park.

“

NO ONE EVER SAYS,

I'D RATHER BE
AT THE OFFICE

BUT EVERYONE LOVES TO SAVE MONEY.

”



GEICO® *for your RV*

geico.com

800-442-9253

Local Office

Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. © 2018 GEICO

Geico, Circle 107 on Reader Service Card

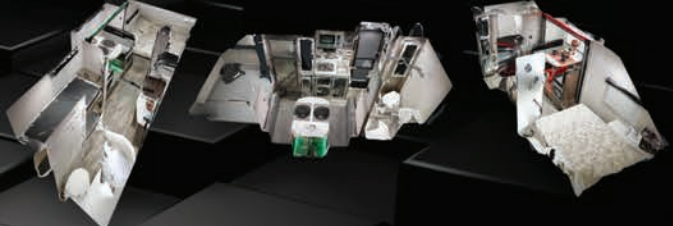
THE REIMAGINED 2019

FALCON

MODERN ULTRALITES



METICULOUSLY ENGINEERED



INSPIRED DESIGN

Celebrating
20Years
1998 - 2018

TRAVEL LITE RV

phone: 574-831-3000