

# TEARDROP TIPS

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August 2018

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*and tiny campers*

## *Roadtripping* across Eastern Canada



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# COOL Tears™ and tiny campers

Magazine

Vol. 6 No. 8

August 2018

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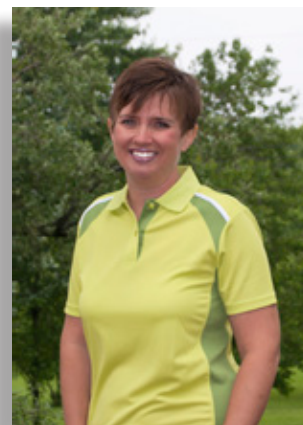




# Letter from the Editor:

## Beat the Heat

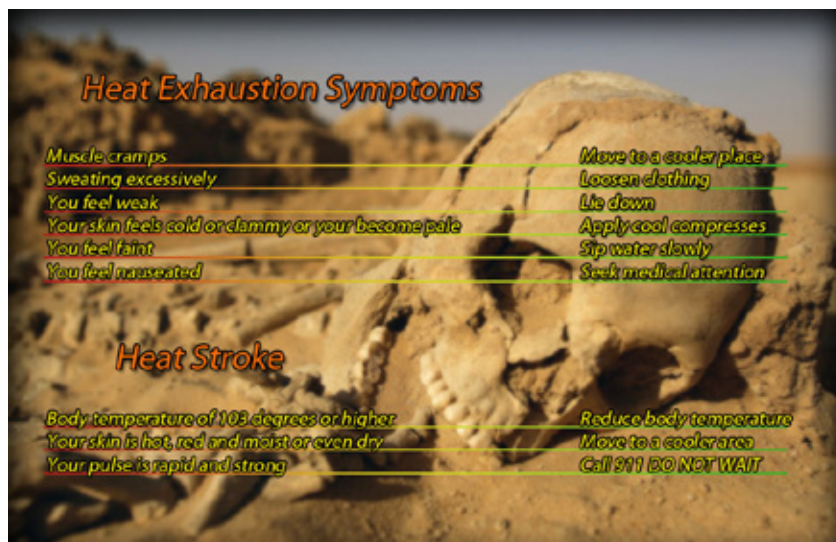
When the mercury climbs, so does the danger level as excessive heat becomes unsafe and in some instances deadly. Blistering temperatures can make life miserable and sometimes dangerous when camping in a tent or teardrop. Sure, an air conditioner helps, but let's face it, we won't be staying inside the teardrop or tent all day long.



### **HERE ARE A FEW HELPFUL TIPS:**

- Carry lots of drinking water.
- Bring along packets of electrolyte-rich drink mixes.
- Set your teardrop up in shady areas and try to avoid the afternoon sun.
- Bring extra bungee cords and tarps to erect sunshades for your tent and campsite.
- Spray the outside of your tent with bug spray. Then, open the windows to allow air to circulate.
- Pack light-colored, lightweight, natural fiber sheets to use, instead of fluffy sleeping bags.
- Bring a solar or battery-powered fan.

It is also recommended you wear a wide-brimmed hat, light, loose-fitting clothing and sunscreen. You can soak your feet in cool water to keep cool. Avoid alcohol and carbohydrates drinks and eat plenty of water rich foods such as watermelons, strawberries, peaches and oranges as they help with hydration. One word should be replaying again and again in your mind when dealing with the long dog days of summer and that word is COMMONSENSE.



*Until next time...enjoy every sunrise!*

**SARAH TUCKER**

Editor

Cool Tears Magazine™

[sarah@cooltears.com](mailto:sarah@cooltears.com)



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# ON THE TEARDROP TRAIL WITH MARILYN

Marilyn McCray is a published author of a cookbook titled *Canning, Pickling and Freezing with Irma Harding*, the International Harvester's fictional spokesperson. Marilyn and her partner, Jim Kerkhoff, travel in a beautiful teardrop to promote the book and she has graciously agreed to share some recipes with us in a regular column. Be sure to check out her book at [teardroptrail.com/equipment-and-supplies/](http://teardroptrail.com/equipment-and-supplies/)

## CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

*These are America's favorite cookies. Wikipedia traces the origins to chef Ruth Graves Wakefield and Sue Brides at the Toll House Inn in Whitman, Massachusetts. In 1938, they added chopped bits of a Nestlé semi-sweet chocolate bar to cookie dough. The state of Massachusetts has designated the Chocolate Chip cookie as the official state cookie. Make a batch or two for treats to be enjoyed on the road or in camp. They make very popular contributions to pot luck dinner celebrations.*

**Makes about 40 cookies**

**Preheat oven to 375°**

### Filling

- ½ cup butter
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ white sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sifted all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon soda
- ½ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ½ cup chopped nuts (optional)



Cream the butter and add sugar gradually, beating after each addition. Stir in the egg and vanilla. Sift and stir in the flour, salt and soda. Add and stir in chocolate chips and chopped nuts.

With a teaspoon, drop the batter on a greased cook sheet, leaving space for each cookie. Bake about 10 minutes, cool on rack.

**Watch them disappear. Enjoy!**



# Roadripping



**across Eastern Canada**



By **Babs Zehren**

**E**ach summer, since 2012, we have taken a long trip in our TC Teardrop camper. It is so small and compact and we love traveling across the country in it. This summer our travels will take us to Eastern Canada. We are planning to go to Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and hopefully Newfoundland. We will then travel back into the United States heading home.

The past couple months have been focused on planning and packing for our trip. We find the planning process is half the fun as it lets us travel on our trip twice. Roadtripping has been a fun process to plot our journey and while we are gone we can follow along or even change our route if we need to.

We decided to take a friend along this year on vacation his name is Gaspard. Along the way will be taking pictures of him and all the fun that we are going to have while we're gone.

Passports and Canadian money were ready but we're a little worried about our lack of the



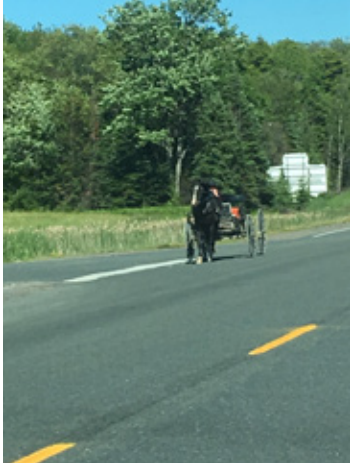
French language. Luckily, we have a French dictionary along and I have downloaded Google Translator on my phone.

We camped the first night at Indian Lake Campground outside of Manistique, Michigan. We hiked along the shoreline of Indian Lake to the boat landing and then around the entire campground. We were the only teardrop in the 132 sites.

We headed to Sault Ste. Marie in search of a new phone and cellular data package. We stopped before the bridge in Michigan to get gas as we thought it was probably cheaper than



getting it in Canada. And then tackled customs, we were pleasantly surprised how easy it was;



they asked a few questions, looked at our passports and away we went – super easy.

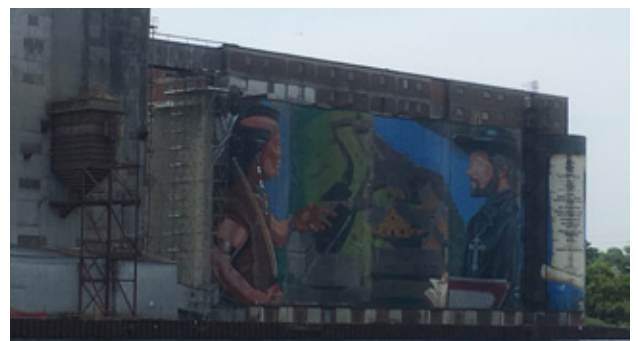
We headed out of town on Highway 17. Scenery included lots of trees but also many farms and we saw two different Amish horse and buggies as well as

a pair of horses moving hay out in the field.

We stopped at a cute little private campground called the Yellow Butterfly that had a gift shop as well as an ice cream shop. It is a peaceful little spot surrounded by trees and a reasonable price to boot!



When we got up on Friday morning it was pouring rain so we each took a shower, made coffee in the bathroom while we got dressed and headed out. We drove in the rain most of the way to Six Mile Lake Provincial Park, Midland ON. We took a short walk around town and meandered through the Ribfest festival. The town is scattered with cool painted murals on old historic buildings, each depicting a different era or event. This one depicted below is of the relationship between the native tribe and the Jesuits.





Canada Day is July 1 and seems to be even bigger than Forth of July in the US. We went to Little Lake Park for a parade, venders and music. After we toured the Museum of the Huronias, a First



Nations Tribe who left the area because of disease and death and were replaced by the Algonquin Tribe. The family/friends group next to us invited us to join them for potluck dinner. They have been doing this over 30 years.



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Our first stop in Peterborough was the Canadian Canoe museum. This has been on Tom's bucket list

for a long time. He first canoed as a YMCA camper and has been in love with canoes since.

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The Lift Locks are a National Historic Site and were started in 1896 and not finished until 1904. The locks is 90 ft tall structure making it the tallest in world. It is located on the Trent-Severn Waterway that goes from the Great Lakes to Trent taking you though 42 locks in all travel about 388 km. Steamboats used to travel these waters







but now boats of many styles can travel all the way to the Gulf of Mexico if they choose.

We rented a spot to camp at the Bettermead campground but as we were checking in the attendant told Tom that a large storm system was headed to town so we opted for a dinner out instead of cooking in the rain.

Before leaving Peterborough Tuesday morning we went down to the canal and ate breakfast, Garspard thought it would be a much better view than the park we were in.



After leaving Peterborough we drove along Lake Ontario and stopped for lunch and a quick dip in the COLD water to cool off from the 100 degree temps we were experiencing this week.

Tuesday night we camped at Presque Isle Provincial Park. It was right on the banks of the Ontario Great Lake and our campsite overlooked the lake as well as being able to see the island out from the mainland. In the morning we got up and while enjoying a French toast breakfast we were treated to 18 swans swimming past, what a beautiful site.

On the way to the Rideau River campground we stopped in Bloomfield, Ontario. It was founded in 1799, now that is old!

Thursday morning we headed to Ottawa. When we got there we went downtown toward the Parliament building.





July 6th we visited Ottawa and spent most of the morning at Parliament, the Canadian equivalent to our Washington DC. The most spectacular room though was the Senate library. It is the only original room or wing of the Parliament as there was a fire in 1916 that burned the entire building down.



Gaspard really liked seeing the Parliament building but wanted to know if Queen Elizabeth was going to be around to visit with. There are two chairs at the front of the senate where she and Prince Phillip would sit to preside over the Senate. Apparently she used to come to Parliament but at 90+ years of age she no longer travels there any more.

On the way back to the park we stopped and looked at a covered bridge, there are several in the area. The Gatineau park only 28 miles outside of Ottawa had lots of animals to entertain us, we saw deer, groundhog, turkey, raccoon and a squirrel that was a very big pest.



**Editor's Note:** Tom and Babs Zehrin are still on their three month trip. They are updating their blog frequently and you can follow along with them at <https://teardroppingwithbabsandtom.wordpress.com/>





# Roadtrippers

*Roadtrippers is the nation's fastest-growing web and mobile travel planning platform, with over 5.5 million trips booked to-date.*



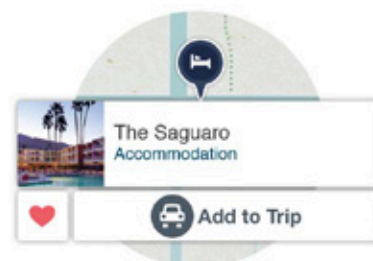
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# TEARDROP TIPS



## DRIVING TIPS

1. Driving in mountains or unknown winding roads with your teardrop camper? Obey the speed signs for upcoming corners! If it says it is going to be a 20mph curve – go 20mph (or slower).
2. Changing lanes in heavy traffic can be difficult. Plan your route in advance. The best method is to turn on your turn signal and ease over to crowd the next lane. Drive only slightly slower than the traffic and keep easing over. You may need to cross the line slightly. Eventually someone will give you space to pull in. If you can't change lanes safely, it is better to miss your turn and come back or find an alternate route.'
3. Driving on ice and snow. Slow down! It may take you longer, but not as long as it will if you slide off the road.
4. If it is windy or passing vehicles are affecting the trailer, slow down until control can be maintained. Crosswinds and the wind from passing vehicles, especially trucks and busses passing from the rear, can initiate trailer sway. Reduced speed improves trailer stability and handling.
5. If you get stuck in mud or snow, unhitch the trailer and get your car unstuck first. Then look at pulling your trailer out using ropes or chains to extend your reach. Prolonged efforts to free a stuck vehicle may result in damage to your engine, transmission, or rear axle. If the trailer is stuck deep, get a towing company or someone with a winch to help.
6. Making sharp corners with a teardrop camper (like at a drive through). Swing wide at the corner; the camper will turn a tighter radius than the tow vehicle.
7. Remote narrow roads (because we know you want to go down there), unhook the camper and "scout" out the road with just the tow vehicle first. Make sure the camper will make it and there is somewhere to turn around at the far end.
8. When driving on gravel roads, go slower. Loose gravel can decrease traction almost as much as snow. When meeting someone, slow down, pull over or even stop. Piles of loose gravel along shoulders can "pull" you toward the ditch.

*A special thank you to Craig Edevold  
with Camp Inn Trailers for these tips.*

*Watch monthly for more great camping helps!  
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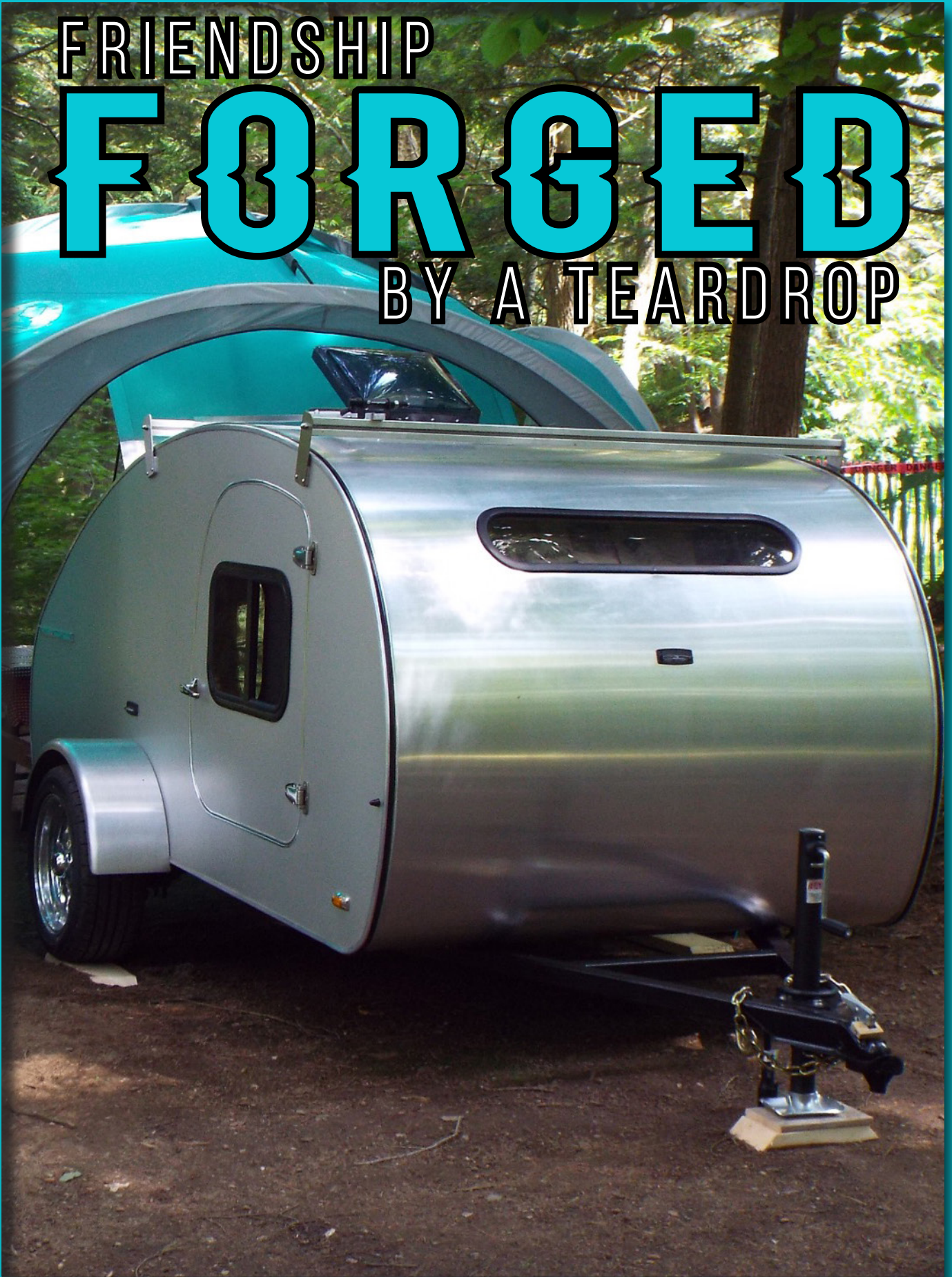
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FRIENDSHIP

**FORGED**

BY A TEARDROP





by **Stephane Caissy**

**T**he idea of building a teardrop trailer was to make camping weekends easier for my best friend, Tony. As an avid camper, he was looking for something that he could leave packed all summer and just grab his food and hit the road.



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Another deciding factor in building a teardrop was to be able to sleep comfortably above the ground. His teardrop has a kitchen galley which makes it easier when it's time to cook. The price for gasoline here in Québec is \$1.45/liter and he was looking for an economical way to camp without having to replace his car with a larger vehicle.

The design was inspired by a lot of research on the internet. I gathered what I considered to be the best of each teardrop manufacturer and put it together in my own design. I have 25 years of experience in mechanical design, so it was easy for me to do a precise 3D drawing and be able to see the final result before the beginning of the construction. It took me one year working part time to get a final drawing. With that, I was able to estimate the price and also the weight of the teardrop. Theoretically, it was 1,100 pounds and at the end of the construction, it scaled at 1,168 pounds.

The project began in October 2017 and ended in June 2018. I estimated about 300 hours for

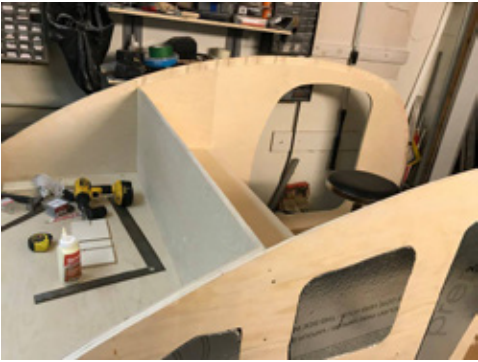


building and 100 hours for the design and parts research.

For sure the biggest challenge was building inside a small home garage full of tools. The solution we found was to put the teardrop box on caster wheels to be able to move according to the side we were working on. I also moved a lot of tools into my basement for that period.

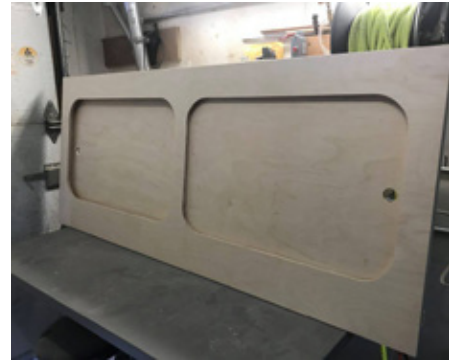






The building process began in October 2017, during that time the weather was nice and we were able to work outside cutting the walls. I found a place where they printed my wall drawing at 1:1 scale. I glued that print on a 1/4" baltic birch to make the template. That template was used in conjunction with my router to cut the final walls in 3/4" marine grade plywood.

We created ventilated walls that we filled with polystyrene 3/4" for insulation and also to save on weight. The inside roof is made of 1/8" baltic birch and is insulated with two layers of 3/4" polystyrene. The floor is made with plywood panel and we used Rubberized Gravel Guard as a sealant underneath. The cabinetry is made with shaker style doors created with black walnut and again baltic birch.



The aluminum outside skin is .040 mill finish for the roof and .032 clear anodized for the side. The frame is made of 2" x 2" x



# THE STEEL

HIGH CLEARANCE





By Bob Phillips

**F**or the teardrop camper who wants to get off the beaten path, Aero Teardrops, located in the Portland, Oregon area, has a custom-built trailer for you. It's a high clearance version of Aero's flagship model The Steel, dubbed simply The Steel H/C; a bit taller (72 inches) and heavier than the standard version.

The H/C is 5 X 10 feet in size, built on a higher platform for more road clearance and with the option of all-terrain tires it can handle the rough backroads. Its Jeep-like fenders, oversized tires and wheels add to its toughness. With solar wiring and solar panel you can still enjoy its modern conveniences even when you're camping back in the boonies.

The cabin comes equipped with upper and lower galley cabinets with an option of a child's bunk bed replacing the upper cabinets. Also standard are two LED ceiling down lights and two LED reading lights; a 120v GFCI protected outlet as well as two 12v combination USB/power ports, bed-side cup



holders and phone shelves above the outlets. A Bluetooth stereo is also a standard option and includes two cabin speakers and two galley speakers. An under floor storage compartment is standard equipment. With an interior table option, the lid of the storage area raises to serve as a table. The galley can be configured many ways to the wishes of the buyer – to include a cooler slide out, stove slide out, water storage, and more.

"We pack as many options as we can into our base trailers so our customers, even if they don't add any options, will have a well equipped trailer," said Aero Teardrops owner Brian Seeley. "Our trailers



are built to order and every trailer that we build is unique. We take great care to make sure that the fit and finish of every trailer is high quality. We are very detail oriented and it's all about quality, not quantity.

"We are cooler than the rest," he added, a play on our name.

Aero's latest build, named Gunnar (the company gives each build a unique name), has all the bells

and whistles, as the saying goes; equipped with about every option available, including a Freespirit High Country rooftop tent that can accommodate up to five campers. It attracted a lot of attention when on display in May at Overland Expo West in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Setting Gunnar apart is a unique custom vinyl wrap and a Timbren axle-less suspension (now standard in all Aero trailers). Brian explained that it is an independent suspension system that has superior ride quality over the torsion-bar axles that the company used in the past.

Gunnar's owners, Zach and Linzie Duhon, wasted no time in giving the camper a workout with a trip to a primitive camping area. When they were contacted for comments on Tuesday, July 24, they were camping at Oregon's Detroit Lake.

"We have had Gunnar for about a month now and the day after we made the purchase we took him up to the Diamond Mill area in the Tillamook State Forest," Zack said. "It's an old logging road full of beautiful primitive campsites, some harder to get to than others. We were able to get a spot towards the top, right next to the river. Gunnar was full of mud and had no issues with getting to our destination."





"Since then we have only gone to state parks but we're enjoying every weekend with him. We can't wait for the off season to hit up more primitive roads and campsites."

Gunnar's other options include an interior table, an exterior side table, a cooler slide out, a Dometic CFX-35W plug-in cooler, side mounted propane tank, diamond plate rock guard, tongue basket, solar wiring, a roof rack, premium wheels, BF Goodrich all-terrain tires, a spare tire and mount, knotty hickory cabinets, trailer brakes, 19" flat screen HDTV with DVD, and a road shower.



Aero also has a 5 X 8 foot model, The Broadway. Although more compact than The Steel, it includes many of the same features. The spacious cabin features a 58"x75" sleeping area.

Aero Teardrops is a family-owned manufacturer, founded in 2015.

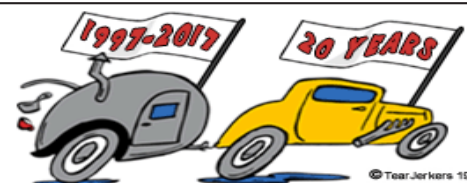
Prospective buyers can also use Aero's trailer builder tool to design the teardrop of their dreams. Check out Aero Teardrops Facebook Group to see what people are doing with their Aero teardrops, where they're going, and their tips and hacks.



# TEAR JERKERS

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