

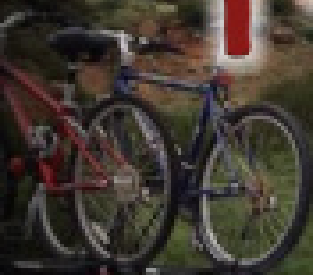
2016 Teardrop Gathering

www.cooltears.com

COOL Tears™
and tiny campers

May/June
2016

TEARDROP <<< >>> TRAIL



**Colorado
Teardrop Co.**

A family business and more

Idaho Bedroll

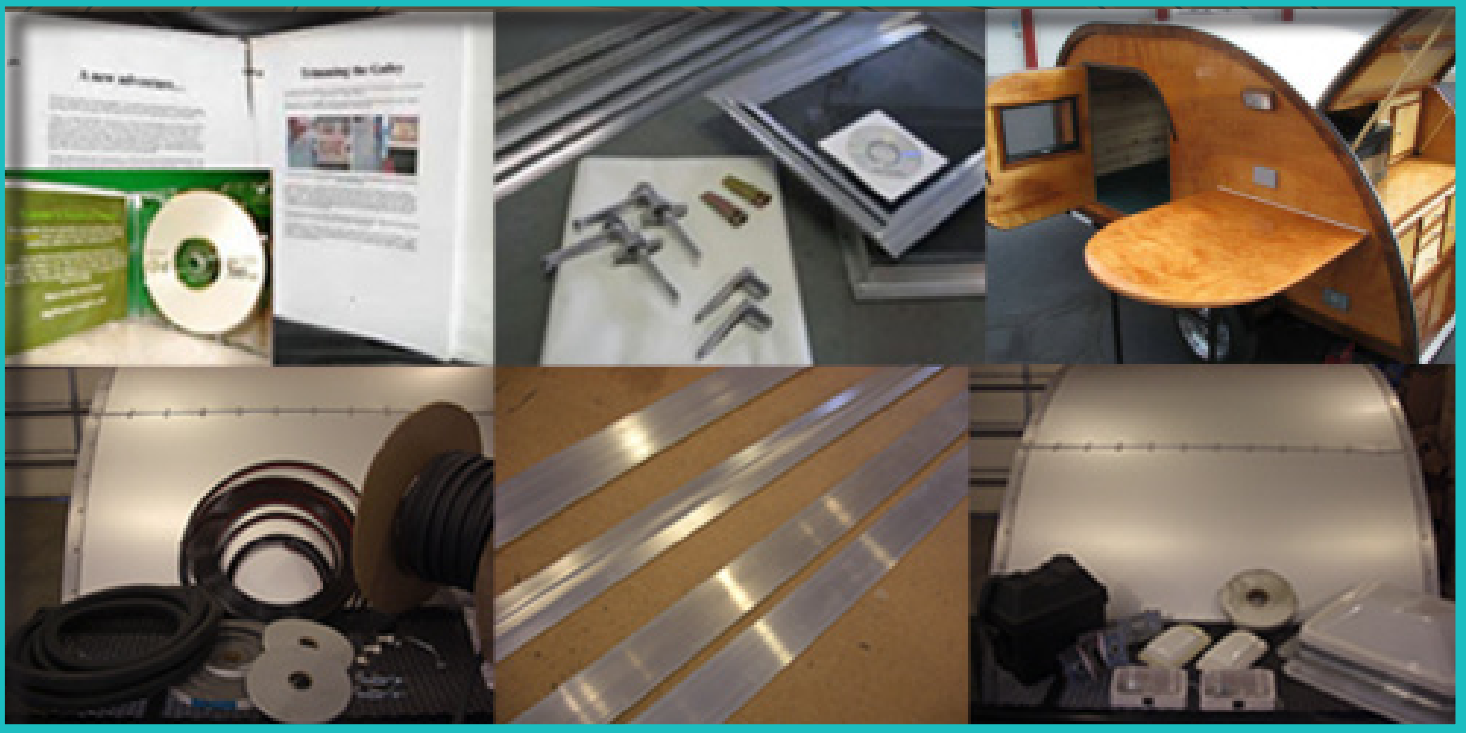
**BIG
WOODY**

Teardrop Campers

*Serious about building
a teardrop camper?*

Big Woody Camper
ULTIMATE KIT

\$899⁰⁰ plus shipping



BIG WOODY CAMPERS

www.bigwoodycampers.com

Handcrafted Custom Campers
Plans, kits, parts and accessories
for the home builder

Based on the designs of the 40's
and 50's, Big Woody Campers have
a look that will turn heads.

call: 715-271-0465





The Best Buying Experience and the Best Accessories for your Teardrop!

Plus new arrivals, daily deals and live chat with our accessory experts!



10x10 Cottonwood Shelter



10x10 Cottonwood XLT



All Weather Cover



Side Mount Tent



Teardrop Lock



Teardrop Shade



Visit www.teardropshop.com or call Toll Free: 1-877-545-4897



TearDrops NW
Salem Oregon
503.385.1227
www.teardropsnw.com



Our Teardrops are made with the highest-quality materials, using the latest manufacturing techniques, to withstand the Northwest climate.

At Teardrops NW we're redefining the recreational vehicle. Your Teardrop will be custom built to your exact specifications.

You choose the color.

You choose the accessories.

Indeed, the whole teardrop will be designed around your ideal camping experience.



COOL Tears™ and tiny campers

M A G A Z I N E

Vol. 4 No. 3

May/June 2016

12 COVER STORY

Teardrop Trail

By Jim Kerkhoff and Marilyn McCray

5 *Letter from the Editor* - Colorado Vacationing
By Sarah Tucker

6 *Manufacture Feature* - Colorado Teardrop Co
By Dean Wiltshire

18 Idaho Bedroll
By Tim Mazac

22 Teardrop Gatherings
2016 Calendar of Events



Editor

Sarah Tucker

Contributing Authors

Jim Kerkhoff

Marilyn McCray

Dean Wiltshirt

Tim Mazac

© Copyright 2016 Cool Tears Magazine™ All Rights Reserved
Cool Tears Magazine™ is a trademark. Written materials submitted to Cool Tears Magazine™ become the property of Cool Tears Magazine™ upon receipt and may not necessarily be returned. Cool Tears Magazine™ reserves the right to make any changes to materials submitted for publication that are deemed necessary for editorial purposes. The content of this publication may not be copied in any way, shape or form without the express permission of Cool Tears Magazine.™ Views expressed in the articles and reviews printed within are not necessarily the views of the editor, publisher, or employees of Cool Tears Magazine™.

Mailing Address:

Cool Tears Magazine
2600 NE Douglas St
Lee's Summit, MO 64064

Colorado Vacationing

Happy Summer, teardrop world! With the heat wave sweeping the country, it would be hard to miss the fact we are having a fantastic camping season. Send me some of your best pictures from this camping season and I will publish them in the next issue of Cool Tears.



Over Memorial Day weekend we vacationed in Colorado Springs and Estes Park. The mountain life is a great way to relax and let the stress of life wash away. While in Colorado, I had the privilege of visiting Colorado Teardrop Co. Dean and his family have built a successful small business in a city that is teeming with folks who enjoy camping and the outdoor lifestyle. I enjoyed hearing about their rental program and would encourage anyone curious about owning a teardrop to rent one first and try it out. Dean also had on the premises two beautiful new models. Large, durable and unique, these campers will wow you with the impressive details. Check out Colorado Teardrops if you are near the Boulder area!

This month Jim and Marilyn rolled through Kansas City on the teardrop trail headed north to a round up. I was able to swing by their campsite and had a wonderful, albeit humid, visit with them. What wonderful stories they weaved of both childhood memories and amazing experiences recently with their trailer. Marilyn has penned a cookbook that is chuck full of great canning and freezing recipes that will step you back in time. I could have sat and chatted with them all day! Be sure to follow them along the teardrop trail on their blog.



Until next time...enjoy every sunrise!

SARAH TUCKER

Editor

Cool Tears and Tiny Campers Magazine™
sarah@cooltears.com



A Family Business...





by **Dean Wiltshire**

We are a family business at the foot of the Rocky Mountains that employs local, skilled craftsmen and craftswomen. Motivated by the natural beauty of Colorado, yet wanting to protect ourselves from the weather in a minimalist manor, we found teardrop trailers. After discovering we couldn't rent a teardrop in Colorado and to purchase one it would be a 6 month wait, we built one for ourselves. Based on the interest and appreciation for our personal teardrop, we launched Colorado Teardrop Trailers in 2014.



Founded by the son of a British carpenter, Dean Wiltshire started building boats at a young age. With experience in designing and building furniture, cabinetry, and custom homes; the

business focuses on building quality teardrop trailers. With all his woodworking and building skills, Dean also has Computer Aided Design (CAD) and CNC Routing experience to provide quality at the most cost affordable approach.



BahaQue HAS YOU COVERED!

Trailer Cover, Shade and Tent Solutions for:

- Little Guy Teardrops
- R-Pod Trailers
- T@B Trailers
- Safari Condo
- Aliner/Chalet/...
- And more!

Custom Shop Services
We'll take your concept from napkin-drawing to finished product!
Call us toll-free at 888.700.TENT (8368)

**All items are available at*  TeardropShop.com

BahaQue
www.bahaque.com
www.bahaquecustom.com

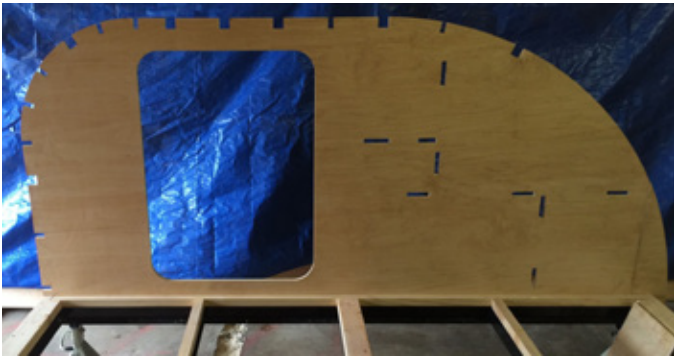


Trailer Visors

Trailer Cover

Manufactured in Boulder, Colorado, our teardrops are designed in widths and lengths for queen size mattresses. Trailers come with a standard or fully customizable galley, and in-cabinet storage. With design options for conveniences such as interior lighting, A/C, TV, and/or stereo speakers, the possibilities are unlimited for crafting a trailer to fit your personal lifestyle. Material choices include trim and wood finishes, and anodized aluminum or galvanized steel.

We use only premium materials in the construction of our trailers. RV-grade materials don't come close to meeting our idea of quality and we wouldn't think of putting particle board, melamine, or linoleum in our trailers. Applying CAD design and





Owner, Dean, interviewing a young couple just back from renting a Colorado teardrop.

CNC routers with craftsmanship to make the best possible teardrop trailers. Colorado Teardrop Trailers takes pride in each teardrop trailer built, providing a 2 year warranty for all new teardrop trailers.

Made from the finest materials in Boulder, Colorado by experienced craftsmen, our custom trailers are built to last. With polished stainless steel hinges, stainless steel countertops and backsplashes, solid birch plywood cabinetry and body interior.

Our design experts discuss with each potential customer the bare essentials including interior and exterior design finishes, to galley options, electric requirements for features such as interior lighting, stereo and/or TV, A/C, awnings, and other possibilities. We also discuss specific storage configurations for your camping essentials.

Colorado Teardrop announced the introduction of its fourth model, the Summit. The company's

top-line model, is designed for extreme off-road use and can be towed by a jeep, crew cab truck, and four-wheel drive vehicle. The Summit also offers ample living space with a full cabin and bunk beds that convert into a sofa along with a full queen-size bed.

The Summit sports the classic aerodynamic teardrop profile and fits into most home garages. The trailer is fully insulated, offering RVers comfort in hot or cold climates.

Weighing just 1,800 pounds, the Summit also includes brakes and either a pintle ring or two-inch ball coupler, 35-inch BF Goodrich Radial TA off-road tires, full skid plate, nerf bars, corner hardeners, 3,200-pound torsion axle and ample clearance.

Check out www.coloradoteardropcamper.com for more information.



TEARDROP <<< >>> TRAIL



by Jim Kerkhoff and Marilyn McCray

Camping is fun, but the days of tent camping are probably over for us. Setting up, coupled with sleeping on hard ground and dealing with weather argue for something more substantial and convenient. An RV would be nice, but who wants to invest a small fortune? With the recent purchase of a fuel efficient crossover vehicle, a Mazda CX-5, a lightweight camping trailer seemed perfect. We started the search online and prowled the RV lots. As we looked around we were convinced we really wanted our very own teardrop. With retirement

Marylin had started work on a cookbook titled Canning, Pickling and Freezing with Irma Harding a few years earlier. An interesting project featuring Irma Harding, International Harvester's fictional spokesperson. The book combined original recipes, advertising and photos with new recipes. The publisher, Octane Press was going to promote it at the Red Power Roundup in Huron, South Dakota. The 25th annual celebration is where people from all around the world gather to share the history, products, literature and memorabilia of the International Harvester Company. We discussed how much fun it would be to go to the Red Power Roundup in June in our very own teardrop trailer. There were a couple of problems however. Jim certainly wasn't going to have time to build one in the available time and commercial models are quite expensive. We looked all over the internet, but it was the same story everywhere — teardrop trailers are a boutique item and command premium prices. The internet was the next stop. It's easy to search a town or geographic region — perfect since shipping a trailer across country isn't easy. There were always a few teardrops listed, but nothing that really spoke to us. Then we noticed a listing from a local small builder.



VTW INC
Vintage Trailer Works INC

INTRODUCING THE

Cub Classic

A GRANT WHIPP DESIGNED TEARDROP

More info coming soon!
Follow us at facebook.com/VintageTrailerWorksInc1
(334) 798-3462



...life by the 'Drop



Office 715.573.7247 • Cell 715.573.7242
info@tcteardrops.com

www.tcteardrops.com

We found a builder who had been building a variety of teardrops, one at a time. There was one available, in the right price range. A phone call confirmed he could have a teardrop with a galley ready in time.

We never expected so much curiosity and interest. As we pulled into the gas station in our hometown of Dripping Springs, Texas to fill up on that very first trip, we were approached by our first curious fan. Strangers continue to approach us to ask questions about our teardrop and want to look inside our tiny, streamlined, aluminum-clad home. Our first night in the teardrop, we slept soundly. The birds began to sing as our sleepy eyes opened. We had arrived on a black, star-less night but looking out the tiny window, we caught a glimpse of the breath-taking colors illuminating the canyon walls. What a glorious sunrise. We were IN the canyon looking up at the picturesque formations.

While tooling along in Kansas, travel was filled with the joys of using the old atlas and The Girl for navigation. Paper meets high tech. Hot, Sunny and miles of flat, straight road ahead. The only thing to break up the monotony was a construction zone with very aggressive rumble strips to slow down the traffic. Normally we wouldn't have noticed.



But then, passing cars and trucks began waving and gesturing to us. “Oh, look, more teardrop fans!”, “Isn’t it fun that we seem to be attracting attention with our cool trailer!?” Then Marilyn looked into her rear view mirror and noticed that the galley hatch was up. Hmmmm. Perhaps we’re not as cool as we thought. Everyone was trying to tell us about the lid. *quiet chagrin*. We stopped and corrected the problem, and it became her job to periodically check on the galley hatch.

On our epic trip to Big Bend National Park in Texas we stayed the night in the Seminole Canyon State Park. By now we’ve come to expect a visitor or two inquiring how we like it, how much did it cost, can we see inside, etc, and have learned our teardrop is the best way to meet our campground neighbors. We stopped in Langtry — the home of Judge Roy Bean, the Law West of the Pecos. Interesting place, but while we were touring the adjoining cactus garden (amazing!), I had a conversation with guest who was interested in our teardrop. He was from Minnesota, and had noticed my Case/IH hat. A pleasant encounter with a total stranger.

While driving away, Marilyn commented on what a good ambassador our teardrop was — and we realized he’d been named. Shortly after, I realized that the Mazda has been such a good and



Don't You Wanna Runaway?
America's Most Affordable Mini-Camper!

www.RunawayCampers.com
1338 N. Magnolia Ave. Ocala, FL 34475
352-299-6799 or 352-454-6522

Easily customize your own interior | **Priced from \$2,395**

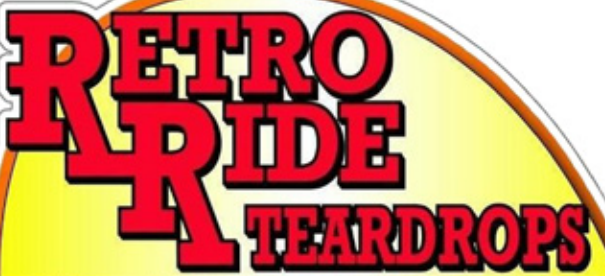

reliably comfortable car on our trips — and not without her own bit of flash — that she was a real lady. So now we have names for them both: The Lady and the Ambassador.

We were recently invited to the Southwest Teardrop & Vintage Trailer meet-up at Krause Springs and I knew that our solar panel would be unique since solar power is not that common on teardrops yet. A couple of years ago, we purchased a little solid-state cooler from The Home Depot. It cost less than \$30, and was shaped like an old Coca-Cola Machine. Best of all, it could run on 120-volt or 12-volt power. Would our solar panel power it for a day?

We've traveled with the little cooler several times, and I routinely use it in my shop. It will hold a 6-pack in cans, or 4 short glass bottles. I've always got it filled with "cool ones". I had never tried it on 12-volt power though. We also have a solid-state ice chest from Igloo, and it's always

in the car — perfect for keeping groceries cool during the hour-long trip out to the ranch. It draws about 6 amps at 13 to 14 volts (car running), so it's not super power efficient. We once drained the car battery by forgetting to unplug it while the car sat in a parking lot for several hours. I guess that's why I hadn't ever tried the beer cooler on solar. Didn't want to drain the battery. This was a different situation. Although the rig would be sitting idle for several hours during the meet-up, we would have sun available, and that might make it practical. I designed the solar panel to be removable, so it can be located in full sun while connected to the trailer electrical system (sitting in the shade) via a 20-foot cable. That should be sufficient to power the cooler and a few other accessories during the day. Well, long story short, it worked. Since we weren't staying for the night, the Lady and the Ambassador stayed hitched and I located the solar panel on her windshield. The extension cable just made it to the normal panel connection on the trailer, and the cooler was plugged into the galley. By the afternoon, I had cold beer. The solar panel kept up just fine in spite of the partially cloudy day and occasional rain.



**Quality Built Teardrops
Complete And Ready To Camp**

www.Retrorideteardrops.com
Sales@Retrorideteardrops.com

Made in Central Wisconsin

We invite you to follow us down the Teardrop Trail, make new friends, explore and discover life on the road. We'll share our suggestions for off-the-beaten path discoveries, roadside attractions, places to not to miss, hidden treasures,

undiscovered restaurants, gatherings and more.

Read all our posts and follow along at <http://www.teardroptrail.com>.



**new
Wave
teardrops**

Your source for
affordable
teardrop trailers.

newwaveteardrop.com · cal5602@gmail.com · 229-220-5602

IDAHO BEDROLL



**Motorcyclist
creates
innovative
tiny trailer**



by **Tim Mazac**


After two hitches in the Army, I became a blue-collar American citizen. My wrists are now shot and every time I would ride down to see my sister who lives in Death Valley, it required a musty hotel stay at the half-way point. A mountain lake at a nearby forest service road would make the perfect camping spot but age has made bedroll camping impossible. I found all small motorcycle campers require scooting in and out supporting your body on your wrists. I needed a bed, a place to sit and simply lie down.





roll is the ability to just ride and stop whenever the fancy strikes and have a bed to stow one's boots under.





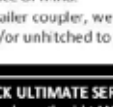

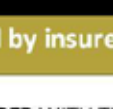
THE ULTIMATE PROTECTION FOR YOUR TEAR DROP

Recommended by insurers in Canada

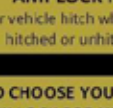
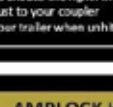
PROTECT YOUR **TINY CAMPER** WITH THE BEST
TRAILER LOCK ON MARKET TODAY
THE AMPLOCK ULTIMATE SERIES


Made with high quality materials providing durability and reliability, your
AMPLOCK is your peace of mind.

Moulded to fit the specific shape of your trailer coupler, we offer a protection
when your tiny camper is hitched and/or unhitched to your vehicle.



AMPLOCK ULTIMATE SERIES
Make sure to choose the right AMPLOCK
adjust to your coupler
to protect your trailer when unhitched.





AMPLOCK HLP
Secure your vehicle hitch when your trailer is
hitched or unhitched

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO CHOOSE YOUR COUPLER
AND GET THE RIGHT AMPLOCK LOCK FOR YOUR TINY CAMPER

WWW.AMPLOCK.US

Light-weight with a center of gravity lower than a set of truck nuts. The deep-cell is slung down between the half-axles and the gun locker is right over the running gear. The cargo bed is only 24x34. The nose is just a light bedding and coat storage shell putting all the weight is over the galley/cargo-box. It pulls like a small, low trunk on a long neck and opens with one hand. The bed has support legs that drops down.

My prototype, with off-the-shelf running gear, steel frame, plywood shell, and recycled milk jug skin, is 127 lb. With shore power units 161 lb. gear 28lb., and air compressor 4 lb. makes 193 lbs. The production unit with foam composite shell and aluminum frame will be around 99 lb. with galley and a 6'3' bunk.



It has been a long five year road trying to bring this rig into production. The unique, patented trailer is the lightest teardrop camper in the world. It's rough around the edges, not unlike the bent old hands that made it, but Spud, the prototype of my Idaho Bedroll (patent pen.), is done.

More information can be found at www.idahobedroll.com.



Custom Teardrop Campers, Designed For You, With You!



Hampstead, NH
www.ecodeignsnh.com
(603)489-2446



www.oregontrailer.net



541-357-8895
info@oregontrailer.net



**Un-Matched
Quality**



High-End Teardrops
Online Accessory Store
D.I.Y Kit Packages
Exceptional Service



Custom Built Teardrop Campers

TEARDROP

Garden State Chapter "July 4th Campout"

Thu, July 7, 2016 – Sun, July 10, 2016
Dingmans Campground, 1006 US-209, Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

Hoosier Chapter Summer Gathering

Jul 14 – 17, 2016
Versailles State Park, 1387 US-50, Versailles, IN 47042, United States

Phuddy Duddy Cruisers "Vintage Trailer Rally"

Jul 15 – 17, 2016
3263 E 12th Ave, Post Falls, ID 83854, USA (map)
For more information, visit <http://www.phudduddyduddies.org>

Teardrop City Multi-Chapter Gathering

Wed, July 20, 2016 – Sun, July 24, 2016
Fort Chiswell RV Park, 312 Fort Chiswell Rd, Max Meadows, VA 24360

Jefferson State Chapter's "Panther Flat Gathering"

Jul 29 – 31, 2016
PANTHER FLAT CAMPGROUND, Gasquet, CA 95543

Comal River Gathering of Southwest Teardrops & Vintage Trailers

Fri, August 5, 2016 – Sun, August 7, 2016
Landa RV Park & Campgrounds 565 N Market St, New Braunfels, Texas 78130

Land of Lincoln Chapter @ Livingston County 4-H

Thu, August 11, 2016 – Sun, August 14, 2016
Livingston County 4-H Park, 18142 4h Park Rd, Pontiac, IL 61764

Liberty Bell Chapter "Raccoon Creek State Park"

Fri, August 12, 2016 – Sun, August 14, 2016
Raccoon Creek State Park, 3000 PA-18, Hookstown, PA 15050

New England Chapter's "Annual Ross Hill Gathering"

Aug 12 – 14, 2016
Ross Hill Campgrounds, 170 Ross Hill Rd, Lisbon, CT 06351

New Mexico Chapter's "First Annual Road Runner Rally"

Aug 26 – 28, 2016
Alamogordo / White Sands KOA, 412 24th St, Alamogordo, NM 88310

Garden State Chapter at Hickory Run

Sep 8 – 11, 2016
Hickory Run State Park Camping, PA-534, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229

Tennessee Volunteers' "Tears on Whiskey River"

Sep 8 – 11, 2016
Fairview Devil Step Campground, 263 Fairview Campground Rd,
Winchester, TN 37398

Bluegrass Chapter's "Tears on the Point 2"

Sep 22 – 25, 2016
Bailey's Point Campground, 11088 Finney Road, Glasgow, KY 42141

Southwest Teardrop & Vintage Trailer

Fri, September 23, 2016 – Sun, September 25, 2016
341 State Park Road 2117, Hwy. 21 S. Pittsburg, TX 75686

Rocky Mountain Chapter's "Last Gasp of Summer"

Sep 22 – 25, 2016
Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, 4218 Co Rd 3A, Cañon City, CO 81212,
Eastridge Campground, Royal Gorge, Canon City, CO

13th Annual "Camp-Inn Camp-outt"

Sep 23 – 25, 2016
Castle Rock County Park, N6700 22nd Ave, Mauston, WI 53948,
<http://tinycamper.com/camp-inn-camp-outt.htm>

GATHERINGS

Chesapeake Bay Chapter "Janes Island State Park"

Sep 23 – 25, 2016
Janes Island State Park, 26280 Alfred J Lawson Dr, Crisfield,
MD 21817

Smoky Mountain Runaway Rally

Fri, September 30, 2016 – Mon, October 3, 2016
Smoky Mountain Runaway Rally

Southern Ontario Chapter

"Almost Oktoberfest Fall Gathering"
Sep 23 – 25, 2016
Killbear Provincial Park, Nobel, ON P0G 1G0, Canada

Dixie Chapter's "Fall in the Canyon"

Oct 13 – 16, 2016
Cloudland Canyon State Park
122 Cloudland Canyon Park Rd, Rising Fawn, GA 30738

Land of Lincoln Chapter @ Johnson-Sauk Trail S.P.

Oct 13 – 16, 2016
Johnson Sauk Trail State Park,
28616 Sauk Trail Rd, Kewanee, IL 61443

Chesapeake Bay Chapter

"Pocomoke State Park, Milburn Landing"
Oct 14 – 16, 2016
River Rd, Pocomoke City, MD 21851
Milburn Landing area of Pocomoke River State Park"

Liberty Bell Chapter "Clear Creek State Park"

Oct 21 – 23, 2016
Clear Creek State Park, Sigel, PA 15860

"Mighty Southern Chapters X3 Gathering"

Nov 3 – 6, 2016
Myrtle Beach State Park,
4401 S Kings Hwy, Myrtle Beach, SC 29575

Chesapeake Bay Chapter "Killen's Pond"

Nov 4 – 6, 2016
Killens Pond State Park,
5025 Killens Pond Rd, Felton, DE 19943

New Enland Chapter's "Original Romp in the Swamp"

Nov 4 – 6, 2016
Acushnet, MA

**Organizing an event in your
area? Send event info to
sarah@cooltears.com to be
included in our listings!**



PeeWee
CAMPERS

Teardrop Campers
from **\$5,499.00**

931-675-8494

PeeWeeCampers.com

Nashville, TN

Official **COOL**Tears™ and tiny campers **merchandise**



This 3/4 raglan t-shirt will become your favorite shirt!

It's a tri-blend, uni-sex sized shirt and it will show off your love for all things "teardrop" in a unique way.

\$20⁰⁰



Proud of your home build? Let us help you show it off.

It's a tri-blend, uni-sex sized shirt and it will show off your love for all things "teardrop" in a unique way.

\$15⁰⁰



Great in a variety of weather conditions, this shirt says it all...just go camping!

Available in dark heather grey tshirt or white tshirt.

\$15⁰⁰



Perfect coffee mug for your campsite!

\$10⁰⁰

This 220ml double walled stainless steel coffee mug has a comfortable carabiner handle suitable for traveling and camping.

Large SIC cup with logo and lid!

This 30oz double walled stainless steel tumbler will keep drinks cold for 24 hours and hot for 6 hours! Logo is professionally etched into the steel.

\$30⁰⁰

Order at www.cooltears.com

