

TRIPLE-AMPUTEE NOMAD HEADS SOUTH WITH HIS HAND-BUILT CAMPER

www.cooltears.com

October 2018

COOLtears™

and tiny campers

COPPER-CLAD TEARDROP

a thing of beauty



AFTER YOU BUY:
The Rebuilding of Sputnik



**BIG
WOODY**

Teardrop Campers

***Serious about building a
teardrop camper?***

Big Woody Camper
ULTIMATE KIT

\$899⁰⁰ plus shipping



Handcrafted Custom Campers.

Plans, kits, parts and accessories for the home builder!



BIG WOODY CAMPERS

715-271-0465 | www.bigwoodycampers.com

30 Seconds is all it takes to get started!!!



FAMILY TENT

Camping
www.familytentcamping.com
 or call 866-917-4083

...life by the 'Drop



CUSTOM BUILT CAMPING TRAILERS
 Office 715.842.0920 • Cell 715.573.7247
 Wausau, WI
www.tcteardrops.com

VINTAGE TECHNOLOGIES
America's largest supplier of Teardrop Trailer Parts





Parts, Trailers, Kits & Custom Builds
www.TeardropTrailerParts.com
 Contact us at (517) 741-5000
frankbear007@gmail.com

COOL Tears™ and tiny campers

Magazine

Vol. 6 No. 10

October 2018

26 COVER STORY

Copper-clad Teardrop: A Thing of Beauty

By Bob Phillips

5 LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

By Sarah Tucker

8 GREAT CAMPING! A LONG AWAITED TRIP TO JOHNSON'S SHUT INS

By Debra Gray

12 AFTER YOU BUY: THE REBUILDING OF SPUTNIK

By Elaine Andree

20 TRIPLE-AMPUTEE NOMAD HEADS SOUTH WITH HIS HAND-BUILT CAMPER

By Bob Phillips



Editor

Sarah Tucker

Contributing Authors

Marilyn McCray

Pat Marsh

Nicholas Tilleman

© Copyright 2018 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

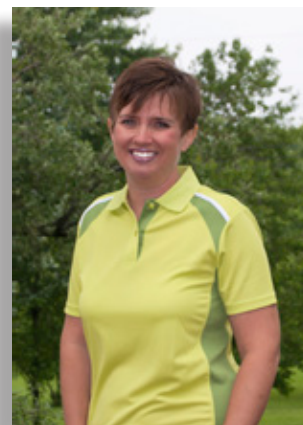
Connect with us!



Letter from the Editor:

Fall Camping Has Arrived

Pumpkins. Sweaters. Cool nights. Crackling fires. Changing leaves. Festivals. Apple cider. Fleece blankets. Camping.



All these things add up to make for one of my very favorite things: fall camping. But to enjoy this wonderful event to it's fullest, you will need to keep these few tips in mind.

1. WEATHER: When fall sets in, the weather generally fluctuates from great to rainy or cold. Always check the forecasts for your camp grounds ahead of time so that you will know what provisions to bring for your trip. Remember that warm weather can quickly turn quickly during this season. Depending on where you're going you should be prepared for the chance of snow, rain and other severe weather.

2. PICK YOUR CAMPSITE CAREFULLY: Choose a sheltered spot in which you can set up your campsite, with the aim to create as much warmth as possible. Find a spot where you're likely to get some morning sun. You can create a 'wall' by hanging a tarp between trees to create shelter from the wind. Hang another tarp over your eating area in case of rain.

3. LAYERS: As for clothing, pack clothes that can be layered. Opt for water-resistant, breathable clothing in synthetic, fleece or wool, but avoid cotton. Remember to bring enough changes of clothing to keep you dry, as well as: rain pants and a poncho, sturdy, waterproof boots and extra shoes, sufficient dry socks, water and wind resistant jacket, wool or fleece sweaters for warmth, thermal underwear, at least two pairs of mittens or gloves and a winter cap for both daytime and sleeping.

4. FOOD: More than a pleasant way to start a chilly day, a steaming cup of coffee, tea, or hot chocolate is a quick way to warm your core. We highly recommend plenty of tea bags and cocoa packets, but if java is your thing, forget the instant stuff. Presses and other accessories allow you to brew your favorite bean. After all, "roughing it" should be taken only so far.

Do you have a great story you'd like to see featured in Cool Tears? We are constantly seeking great material so be sure to email sarah@cooltears.com with your story idea!

Until next time...enjoy every sunrise!

SARAH TUCKER

Editor

Cool Tears Magazine™

sarah@cooltears.com



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



T@B Tent



Visit www.teardropshop.com or call Toll Free: 1-844-834-5701



**THE APP FOR
TEARDROPPERS!**

Connect with the Teardrop Community!

- ✓ Status Updates
- ✓ Share Photos
- ✓ Likes & Comments
- ✓ Campsite Check-Ins
- ✓ Review Campgrounds
- ✓ Connect With Campers



Now available on iOS and Android!
<http://teardropnation.com>



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/

TEARDROP CAMP MEATLOAF

Meatloaf can be a simple but tasty, Autumn camping meal, hearty and delicious. Who doesn't love a serving of your favorite, yummy potatoes to go with the meatloaf? This recipe can be made in a cast iron loaf pan over a camp fire or standard loaf pan in the oven.

Serves 4 – 6

- 1 onion – diced
- 2 cloves of garlic, chopped
- ¼ c extra virgin oil or butter
- 1 cup bread or cracker crumbs
- 1 pound each ground beef and pork*
- ½ cup broth
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, minced
- ½ teaspoon thyme
- Salt and ground pepper to taste

Variations:

- Add bell peppers, red or green
- Substitute pork sausage for more flavor
- 1 tablespoon yellow or Dijon mustard
- Chili powder or smoked paprika

Glaze:

- ½ c ketchup
- 2 tablespoon cider vinegar
- 1 tablespoon honey or brown sugar
- Optional: 1 tsp hot sauce

Prepare before leaving home:

- Measure dry ingredients, crumbs mix and seasonings, place in plastic zip lock bag – label
- Combine ground meats, place in plastic zip lock bags – label
- Chop vegetables, place in plastic zip lock bags – label
- Place broth in jar
- Mix ingredients for glaze, place in jar
- Refrigerate in ice chest or cooler
- Pack heavy-duty aluminum foil

In camp

Coat the bottom of the loaf pan with either olive oil or melted butter. Add the onion and garlic or peppers, stir and cook for about 5 minutes over low heat on the campfire or stove top. Add mushrooms if included and cook until their liquid evaporates turning



frequently with spatula to prevent burning, cooking 10 minutes. Cool. Mix meat mixture, crumbs seasoning and combine with eggs and broth in a bowl or large plastic bag. Mix meatloaf together to thoroughly combine. Transfer mixture into the loaf pan. Combine ingredients for glaze in sauce pan and simmer until glaze begins to bubble.

COOKING METHODS

On the campfire –

Prepare the fire in time to provide coals for cooking the meatloaf. Cover the cast iron loaf pan with heavy-duty foil. Place the loaf pan on a grate over indirect heat from the coals of the campfire, keep the heat low – adding coals or wood if needed. Cook for 15 minutes – 20 minutes over indirect heat, no flame. Remove aluminum foil, apply single layer of glaze, replace foil and return to indirect heat. Cook for another 45 or 55 minutes until the internal temperature is 160°. Remove the loaf pan from heat and let rest with foil on for 10 – 12 additional minutes.

In the oven –

Preheat oven to 350°. Place the standard loaf covered with heavy-duty foil in the preheated oven for 15 minutes – 20 minutes. Apply single layer of glaze. Bake uncovered in the oven for 1 hour until the internal temperature is 160°. Place pan under broiler if additional time is needed for the glaze to bubble. Remove the loaf pan from heat and let rest with foil on for 10 – 12 additional minutes.

Slice and serve remaining glaze on the side. Corn on the cob or potatoes make a great side for lunch or dinner. the burner low. Follow instructions.

Serve with breakfast or as a side to lunch or dinner.



Great Camping!

A long-awaited return to Johnson's Shut-Ins

By **Debra Gray**

Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park, tucked away in a national forest in Southeast Missouri, offers camping facilities that exceed many state parks. The park's wilderness qualities and ancient geology make it a special place to visit. I visited the shut-ins for the first time in the 1980's. We were unable to spend much time there, but I knew I wanted to go back and camp. Life got busy with raising a family and living overseas for several years, so the return came many years later. What we found was one of the best state park campgrounds that you'll find anywhere.

In December 2005 the dam failed at Taum Sauk Reservoir, a hydroelectric power facility, releasing 1.3 billion gallons shing down the mountainside. The avalanche of water destroyed everything in its path, including the campgrounds.

Specialists were brought into restore the state park and surrounding area. The new campgrounds opened in 2010, relocated to a higher elevation so flooding won't be a problem in the future.

The new campground is great! There are five loops offering different types of camping. One of the more interesting loops is for truly primitive camping. It is a walk-in site with wooden platforms on which to pitch a tent.





There are loops for basic campsites, campsites that offer only electricity, and pull-through sites with sewer, electric and water services. There is even a special loop for equestrian campers. Every campsite has a cement pad for campers and cars. Campsites have lantern stands, as well as a picnic table and fire rings.

There are many hiking trails in or near the park, but the biggest attraction is the shut-ins. We waded and climbed the boulders. Many families, even with small children, were enjoying the shut-ins. The park limits the number of days that visitors may stay, unless you have a camping pass that gets you priority.



History OF JOHNSON'S SHUT-INS

The rugged terrain and rushing rivers of the St. Francois Mountains once attracted Osage hunters, but did not appeal to most settlers from the East. They often preferred to settle first in the flatter, more fertile Mississippi and Missouri River valleys.

The Johnston family was among the early Scots-Irish settlers in this area that came west from the hilly countryside of Appalachia in search of better land. Here they found fertile valleys, vast uncut forests and plenty of room for homesteading. By 1829, they had established a farm. Three generations of Johnston (the "t" was later dropped) families once worked this land and 36 members of the family are buried in the small cemetery in the park. By 1900, many of the families that formed the self-sufficient community of Monterey moved away. Eventually, St. Louis resident Joseph Desloge bought much of the land, donating it for a state park in 1955.

In December 2005, the main use area in the East Fork of the Black River valley was changed dramatically. The nearby Taum Sauk Reservoir, a hydroelectric power station, breached, sending 1.3 billion gallons of water down Proffit Mountain. The water, carrying tons of trees, debris and boulders, scoured the mountainside and destroyed or extensively

damaged facilities in the park, including the campground. It also altered the landscape of the valley and the East Fork of the Black River in the park. This event changed the park forever and has become part of the history of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. This area of the park has been redeveloped and many of the features and facilities in the main day-use area are the result of this redevelopment.

Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park

BY THE NUMBERS

LOCATION: Reynolds County
NUMBER OF ACRES: 8,780.51
ACRES IN ACTIVE STEWARDSHIP: 889
NUMBER OF FULL-TIME STAFF: 9
NUMBER OF PART-TIME STAFF: 36
VOLUNTEER HOURS:* 1,864.5
2017 ATTENDANCE:* 373,204
MILES OF TRAIL: 36.8

NUMBER OF STRUCTURES: 54
MILES OF ROADWAYS: 4.84
NUMBER OF PROGRAMS PRESENTED:** 72
STATE SALES TAX PAID:** \$20,740.86
LOCAL SALES TAX PAID:** \$6,684.98

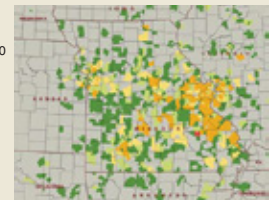
BUDGET

SMALL MAINTENANCE & REPAIR BUDGET: \$10,400.00
ANNUAL BUDGET: \$646,315.00

CAMPING & LODGING

NUMBER OF CAMPING NIGHTS SOLD:* 9,740
NUMBER OF LODGING NIGHTS SOLD:* 1,119
NUMBER OF CAMPSITES: 79
NUMBER OF LODGING UNITS: 6
NUMBER OF OVERNIGHT GUESTS:* 37,064
CAMPING NIGHTS SOLD BY ZIP CODE: >>>>>>

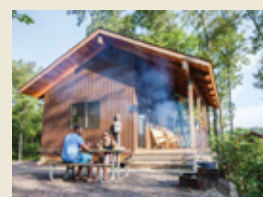
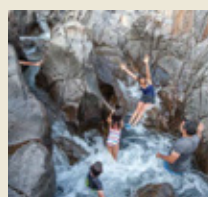
Total Nights by ZIP Code
more than 20
11 to 20
6 to 10
1 to 5
State Park or State Historic Site



SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual Public Meeting, Ultimate S'mores Cook-off, Halloween Happenings

PHOTO ALBUM



Making Memories

* All numbers through November 2017 ** Information includes park and concession-run operations. ** Estimated park and concession sales tax paid

04/18

AFTER YOU BUY



THE REBUILDING OF SPUTNIK

by Elaine Andree

From the moment we laid eyes on an antique teardrop at a Route 66 festival, we were smitten. We began researching teardrops online and when we found the T@B trailers, we knew we'd found the perfect camper for us. One important reason we chose the T@B was the fact that we didn't want to build our own, knowing we'd probably never finish it if we started such a big project. Finally, in 2006, after several years of waiting and watching for one, our dream became a reality. We brought home our very own Jolt Grey & silver T@B, christened it Sputnik and immediately began camping.



SIDE ENTRANCE TENT
for Teardrop Travel Trailers

**Fits most brands
& home-builts**

**Dressing Room
Porta potty
Mud Room
Pet Area
Privacy**

CAMP-INN

www.tinycamper.com/tent

We traveled on short weekend trips, holiday weekends and long vacations, loving every minute of our travels with Sputnik. We had gone from camping anonymously in our tent to giving tours and answering questions about our teardrop wherever we went. Fast forward to 2013, and it was very evident that there were some major issues with Sputnik. What had begun as a barely noticeable “soft spot” in the walkway in front of the fridge became more and more pronounced and was now a major source of concern. The





curb side wheel fender was actually rubbing on the tire because the entire side had started to slip down. We attended a factory sponsored rally and had the technicians do an underbody inspection, which revealed that the floor was badly deteriorated. They installed a couple of I-beams to help support the floor and we began to look at our options.

Without a floor replacement, our T@B would be worth little to nothing as a trade in and we couldn't afford a new trailer without getting something for it. Having the factory fix the floor was a possibility, but without knowing the full extent of the damage,

we did not have a good estimate for the total cost of the repair.

That brought us to our last option, replacing the floor ourselves. Remember that we didn't want to build a teardrop from scratch because we were afraid we'd never finish the project? Evidently, we were about to find out if we could take on the project of completely deconstructing and





and rebuilding Sputnik. With some wonderful advice from a fellow owner who had built his own replacement floor, an unexpected opportunity to help another couple replace their floor and a LOT of prayers, we began the process.

Dane removed absolutely everything from the T@B except the upper front and rear cabinets, carefully bagging and labeling all the parts and hardware. The factory shipped us a new floor and on a cool November day, we pried the body off of the old floor, rolled out the old floor and left Sputnik suspended in mid-air on a collection of bottle jacks, concrete blocks and lumber. After removing the trailer

chassis from the old floor and installing it on the new one, we reversed the process and began to put Sputnik together again.

While the floor swap was completed in one day, the rebuilding of the inside was a much longer process. With no garage, weather dictated the rebuild schedule, but by April, the work was completed. We finished Sputnik one weekend and left the next to attend a T@B rally in





the Smokey Mountains. Our first night back in the T@B felt just like home, sweet home.

One of the questions we are asked about our damaged floor is "How did this happen"? In our case, there were several contributing factors,



Quality, dependable, fully-customizable
teardrop trailers

Starting at **\$4,999**



www.turtleuptrailers.com
(217) 898-8404



including broken welds on the frame of the old floor, a likely front window leak and a front seam leak where the roof wraps around and meets the floor. With the rebuild, the floor framing is made using tubing that is twice the thickness of the original tubing and better welds. The front window has been caulked and sealed as has the front seam. Also, we added some shiny aluminum rock guard on the front to cover and seal the seam. With all of the improvements, we have not seen any new issues and are happily celebrating our fourth season of post rebuild camping. Hopefully, Sputnik will provide us with many more seasons of happy camping!



HIT THE OPEN ROAD

*With Autowbrake on your trailer,
just plug and tow.*



The only electric brake control with nothing installed in the tow vehicle, 100% trailer contained. Period.



www.getautowbrake.com • getautowbrake.com

*Triple amputee
nomad heads south
with hand-built
teardrop*



by Bob Phillips

B Neil Brown is a wintertime nomad. With his tiny, hand-built camper in tow, he travels throughout the Southwest United States during fall and winter months to avoid the harsh and dreary winters of Western Kentucky.



Neil is not just a happy-go-lucky guy in search of adventure. He is an interesting fellow who pursues life to the fullest, always with a plan, a goal, an objective in mind. He doesn't let obstacles deter him. I'll let him describe himself: "I am a retired fire/EMS operator, a triple amputee, a

Gracie Jiu-Jitsu 3rd degree blue belt under Master Pedro Sauer, a bestselling author, and all around general raconteur."

A sore throat in 2010 led to amputations of both legs below the knees and most of one hand. He



developed a serious infection that spread into his lungs, then his blood. He was in a coma three weeks and when he awoke his feet and fingers were dead. "The medication they used to save my life starved my extremities of blood pressure," he explained.

Despite his handicap, Neil set out to build his own camper in 2014. He describes it as a "grasshopper style teardrop" built on a 4x8 Harbor Freight trailer frame. The height from floor to roof is four feet. This past summer he completely revamped the exterior. You can get details on his YouTube channel, [YouTube.com/teardroprvtravels](https://www.youtube.com/teardroprvtravels).

"I originally built the camper so I could save money while traveling and training Jiu-Jitsu, choosing to stay for \$20 a night in a campground instead of \$120 a night in hotels. The camper paid for itself in the first three training trips.

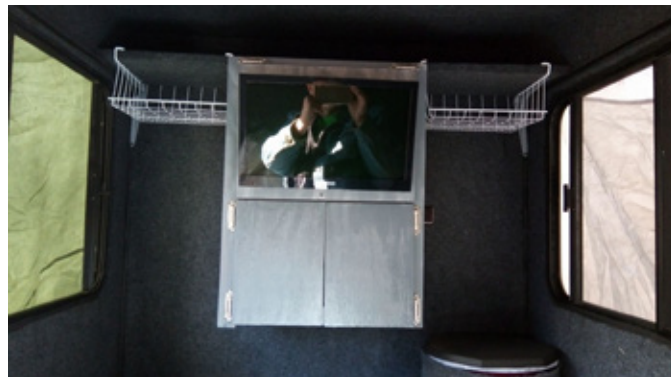


"Along the way I discovered that I enjoyed the traveling as much as the Jiu-Jitsu, and began taking trips just for the sake of travel and then just looked for places to train wherever I ended up with the camper."

This will be the third winter for him to snowbird with the camper and the second in the desert Southwest.

"I designed it in my head and built it without even drawing up plans. I just had a few notes on measurements. I had to cash flow the build, and I work a bit slow with prosthetics and only five fingers, so it took me about three months to get it built."

On the inside is a roof fan, full-sized bed, TV, compost toilet, both AC and DC wiring, and propane heat. The galley on the back has a sink with running water and storage space. He uses a Coleman stove for cooking and has nine gallons of



on-board water storage with a built in pump.

"I have an ARB awning with tent room attachment for when I need more space," Neil said. "I have 100 watts of solar on top and 103ah of batteries. I am completely boon-dock self-sufficient. Fully stocked with spare water, food, etc., I could spend nearly three weeks in the woods or desert without needing to visit civilization."

He prefers to camp in back-country national forests or BLM (Bureau of Land Management) land. While camping he does day-trip exploring, visiting historic sites, old cemeteries and local attractions. And he does a lot of writing, too. His first stop will be New Mexico.

"I will be in New Mexico for about a week for the Enigmatic Nomadics Van Build Party, where I will be doing solar installs," he said. "I plan on checking out all of the Billy the Kid sites around Sumner as well as visiting Roswell. I love history and I love the controversy of UFOs so I get to see both while

Trailer Cover, Shade and Tent Solutions for:

- Liberty Outdoors
- 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
(888-700-8368)

All are available at

Poway, California
pahaque.com
pahaquecustom.com



there. And of course, I always try to find good Jiu-Jitsu schools to drop in at.

"If I do hit a campground I try to stay at primitive ones as they are less expensive and normally less crowded," Neil said. "Generally, if it costs more than \$5 a night, I won't camp there. I try to plant myself for at least a week at a stretch, and if on BLM or national forests two weeks. When I am traveling I will overnight in truck-stop parking lots if it takes me a few days to reach my final destination."

He pulls the camper with a 2007 Chevy Silverado V6. He loves riding his motorcycle and last winter took it along. He said the loading and unloading was more trouble than it was worth, so this winter he will take a small electric scooter. He plans to leave around the 3rd of October and will return in mid-March 2019.

Neil, who is 45 with a grown son, has written and published three books, the first an autobiographical titled *Stand Tough: The Courageous Story of One Man's Fight Against Rare Illness and Multiple Limb Loss*. The other two he describes as "urban fantasy fiction" -- *Personal Security Detail: A Short Story* and *The Souls in Between: A Novella*. More information is available on his author website, www.bneilbrown.com.



"I have one fiction novel I am currently writing and a slew of outlines for more," he said. "I plan on doing a coffee-table book for this winter snowbird season, with pictures of my travels and my thoughts along the way."

His life at home is a bit slower paced, he said.

"I do a lot of DIY builds, ride my motorcycle, and hit the dojo to train as often as possible. I sometimes do motivational speaking on the road, but when I am home I give a lot talks to groups. I also squeeze in camping and travel trips closer to home.

"I don't let amputations get in my way. I find a way to do what I want, how I want, when I want.

"I have always been driven. I am always setting goals, making plans, and doing what I need to do to keep myself going. I am productive and I enjoy the hell out of life. My personal motto is 'No Legs. No Problem.' And that is how I live my life."



TEARDROP TIPS



UNHITCHING TIPS

Chock the wheels on the teardrop camper before uncoupling the hitch from the tow vehicle. This prevents some rude surprises when the camper starts to roll away unexpectedly. Sometimes the ground is sloped more than it appears.

If you teardrop camper has a "swing away" style of tongue jack, make sure the jack is fully locked in the vertical position before unhitching from the tow vehicle. Shake jack roughly to ensure it is locked in the vertical position.

Padlock the hitch latch in the closed position. This makes it harder for would-be thieves to just drop it on a ball and go.

Don't let your electrical connector lay on the ground. Water and dirt can get into it and cause connection problems later. Keep safety chains off the ground to prevent corrosion.

'Towing Tip: After un-hitching your trailer, pull ahead SLOWLY the first few feet. That way, if you forgot to unhook anything, like safety chains, it won't be such a shock when you are reminded.'

ACCIDENTAL UNHITCHING

If your trailer comes un-hitched while driving – pull over safely and coast to a stop. Do not slam on your brakes - the trailer will crash into you, damaging car and trailer.

The most common causes of accidental unhitching are:

Coupler not properly latched on to the ball.

Wrong size of ball for the coupler.

Coupler didn't have "safety pin" or padlock to lock latch mechanism.

Receiver hitch pin sliding out due to missing lock or safety pin.

Ball not tightened properly.

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

Watch monthly for more great camping helps!

www.tinycamper.com

COPPER-CLAD TEARDROP

a thing of beauty



by Bob Phillips

You've seen many, many pictures of beautiful campers in these pages, but the copper-clad teardrop built by Ronald Sponselee is one of the most eye-catching beautiful teardrop that have appeared here. Ronald and his family, wife Nancy and daughter Amber, are residents of the Netherlands. They loved camping with their old Bedford camper named Betty, often spending weekends at a campground called The Lievelinge, which Ronald described as "a big campsite for modern hippies."





The owners have built “magical and strange buildings” there, he said, as well as people who own their own sites.

On one of those weekends at Lieveeling, two girls set up camp next to them with a modern wooden teardrop that had been built by the father of one of the girls. Their camper intrigued Ronald and started him thinking about building his own.

“I loved it right away,” he said. “I started dreaming of building my own teardrop. I promised my daughter that I would build a teardrop so we could go to festivals.”

He purchased the frame of a fold-out camper and started with simple drawings. He wanted a real teardrop-shaped teardrop, one without straight lines.

“I asked Frenk, my building partner, to draw a perfect line together. It took us some hours but we succeeded,” he said. “On the internet I found a picture of a wooden steam-punk teardrop with a dragon back. I knew that’s what I wanted.”

“I’m more of a practical kind of guy, so rather than making a lot of drawings I just started to build. Step by step. The two sides were very easy. I used plank wood for the kitchen and the bed also. The dragon back was shaped and things started coming alive.”

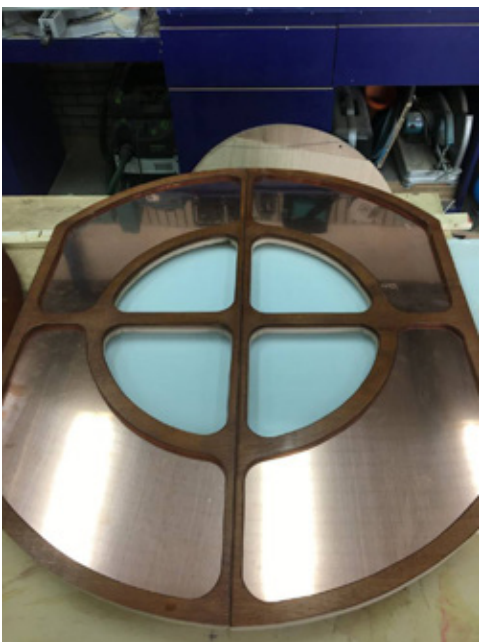


When they started building the kitchen drawers, he decided he wanted the drawer fronts to have the same curved lines as the teardrop. So, all the door fronts are shaped like teardrops.

"I wanted to build a steam-punk teardrop, so the sides must be real copper. I like to use real materials, not something that looks real. I could have painted the sides

with a copper color, but I wanted real copper. I ordered 0.5 mm thick plates of copper and I glued them onto the wooden side panels.

"The next problem was the fenders. I wanted them also in the shape like a curve, so I ordered a couple of



Uncompromising quality.



CLASSIC TEARDROP STYLE

MODERN AMENITIES

QUALITY DESIGN & CRAFTSMANSHIP

PIKA STARTS AT \$11750

CLASSIC STARTS AT \$19850



www.timberleaftrailers.com



His wife Nancy collected all the decorative pieces for the kitchen, like golden cutlery, copper pans and kettle.

It took 18 months to complete the camper, working in spare time. Ronald, 41, has owned his own business for the last 20 years, the first 10 years building scenery for theatrical productions and the last 10 building exhibition booths.

"After one and a half years of building, the copper teardrop was ready for a trip," he said.

"In Holland there is a festival called Where the Sheep Sleep, an official Burning Man festival, and my daughter and I took the teardrop. It attracted plenty of attention. A lot of people came to see this extraordinary trailer. They all loved it. And we had the first rain."

Ronald, who has an eye for art, said one of the best things about the copper is it changing color. It started getting dark brown and green.

"Last week we polished the teardrop again, so now it has the real copper color again," he noted. "In a few weeks the copper teardrop will be part of Design Week



fenders for a Volkswagen Beetle. I turned them and ground them, trying to get them right, but in the end just threw them away. I wanted them to be part of the teardrop design and not something just put on because you need them. I wanted them to be part of the wooden ornamental frame."

Picking out a color for the wooden frame was difficult, he said. He went to a painting shop that mixed a very special new color, adding extra drops of red to the normal colors.

"The dragon back was also very difficult, because I wanted the look of an iron fence on top of the Lexan roof. Finally I found a solution -- rubber doormats. When sprayed with the right colors, they really look like ironwork."



in the southern city of Eindhoven, so we had to shine it one more time.

"After Design Week I'm not going to polish it anymore. I want to see all these amazing colors on it!"

