

Home Builder's Corner



Trailer Number One



Trailer Number Two



Trailer Number Three

Glenn Wallin, Sr has built and sold several teardrops in a fairly short time. His trailers feature stunning wood work, as Glenn is a skilled finish carpenter, among other things. He has an appreciation for using unusual woods in his trailers as design elements. A lifelong Navy SeaBee and Vietnam Veteran, he and Opal, his wife of 46 years, really enjoy camping in their teardrop. *Tales and Trails* spoke with Glenn about how he got into teardrops and some of the trailers he's built.

So Glenn, in just a few years you've built four teardrops, you've got another one in the shop, and you've sold three already. How did you get into this?

Several years ago my wife Opal and I were planning to go to a Navy reunion in Nevada. I had already found out about teardrops, and I was planning to buy one. I wound up finding a builder not too far away. We worked out a deal where he would do the shell mounted on the chassis, and I'd take it back and finish it. It worked out great. We took it to the Navy reunion. We were on the road for two weeks.

That's a pretty long trip for a first time out. What happened after that?

We got back from the trip, and a short time later, I was showing it to a friend. I had posted some pictures of it. Another guy found out about it, and called me and asked if I'd sell it. I gave him a price, and he drove down the next day and picked it up.

Time to build another?

Yes, definitely. My next one was also aluminum skinned, and I called that the Beehive. That sold shortly after. I did another aluminum tear next, and this had my first round front. Turned out really well. We camped a lot in that one. I sold that one through word of mouth as well.

What was the next one?

My next trailer, which I completed a few months ago, has a wood exterior and interior, as well as a round front. I have a lot of rare and beautiful woods throughout the trailer, and fixed porthole



The Honey Lodge, Trailer Number Four

windows in the front. I get a little obsessive with having everything fit perfectly. I really put a lot of time and effort into it, but the result for me is very satisfying. We call this trailer the Honey Lodge. It's currently up for sale, since I'm building another tear, but with an aluminum skin and a design that was inspired by the Bowlus trailers. It has a drop floor in one section and a queen size bed. Going to be very comfortable camping. With the drop floor, like in a Scotty trailer, you'll be able to get dressed standing up.

Where did you get your wood working skills?

I had a shop teacher in grade school that really inspired me and took me under his

wing. I really loved working with wood after that. In high school another teacher really encouraged me as well. Even the time I spent in the Navy I spent a lot of time in the shop, building things we needed at the base, instead of buying them.

How long does it take you to draw your plans?

I've never built from plans. Someday I'll build a trailer that way. I usually do a rough sketch, get some dimensions down, and build a model. Once the shell



Honey Lodge galley

is done, I plan the wiring, etc., and then build the cabinets as I go.

Well, all your trailers look great. Hope you'll send us some pics of the new one.

You bet I will. I love doing these, and whenever we stop for gas on a camping trip we always have to spend some extra time answering questions, and letting people look inside. They're always amazed at how much you can fit in one of these. It's definitely part of the fun of camping in a teardrop.

Glenn has a website where you can see more on the Honey Lodge:
www.beehiveteardrops.com/