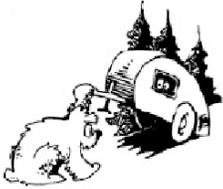




Issue 2, Vol 2: News, views, and all sorts of how-to's for lovers of teardrops and other 'lil trailers

El Source-O Magnifico
A conversation with
Steve Hingtgen from
Vintage Trailer Supply



Home Builders
A conversation with
Glenn Wallin, from
Dixon, IL with pics of
some of his trardrops

Club Calendars
Camping schedules
from all over, to help
you see what's in
store for your
camping this season

Feedback
Correspondence and
comments from campers
around the country



Editors:
Geoff Kooris
Doug Wingate

East Coast Correspondent:
Todd Brunengraber

West Coast Correspondents:
Dean Locke & Marty Boehme

Special Correspondents:
Amanda B. Reckonwith & Phil McCracken

T A L E S & T R A I L S

This is the **SECOND** and **LAST FREE ISSUE** of *Tales and Trails*!

We hope you've enjoyed both of the issues... From here on in, *Tales and Trails* will be sent to subscribers only. To receive 4 more issues, and the printed *Tales and Trails Directory*, please do the following:

SELECT A PAYMENT OPTION:

For both *Tales and Trails* AND the Directory:

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- Name • Street address, city, state, zip • Email • Phone • Do you currently own a camp trailer, yes or no? • Make and type of trailer (if homebuilt, then homebuilt) • Length • Club affiliation (if any)

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR DIRECTORY INFORMATION TO: DOUG@TEARDROP-TIMES.COM

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What's Going On and Where - February - April Events

Date and Club	Event	Information	Host Contact
Tearjerkers, MI Feb 11 - 13, 2011	1st Annual <i>Tears in Hell</i>	Hell, Michigan behind Scream's Ice Cream Parlor. 4045 Patterson Lake Road - Hell, MI 48169.	Karl Nordstrom TearJerkers@KarlNordstrom.com
Tearjerkers FL Feb 11 - 13, 2011	Little Talbot Gathering (Jacksonville, FL)	Little Talbot State Park	Bill Wellington tearjerkersfla@bellsouth.net
TOW February 12, 2011	Mid-winter Potluck (Seattle, WA)	Our traditional potluck; this year at the Kelson Shop Museum	Ed Kelson 206-948-7840 vintageracer@q.com
TOW February 19, 2011	Mid-winter Potluck (Albany, WA)	Potluck held at the Anderson cast iron collection barn	Glenn & Laurie Anderson 541-967-8716 glennanderson1@msn.com
TCT Feb 19 - 20, 2011	Dade Battlefield	Rally in the Park Bushnell, Florida	Forrest Bone at f23bone@earthlink.net or 941-302-2415
Tearjerkers AZ March 3- 6, 2011	5th Annual Spring Clean Event	Usery Mountain Regional Park Mesa, AZ	Steve js.mason@live.com or call 480-202-1319
SCTT March 24 - 27, 2011	15th Annual Southern California Touring Tears Gathering	Lake Perris SRA, Perris, CA	Deane & Dave Locke SCTTinfo@teardroptours.com
SCT March 25 - 27, 2011	6th Beavers Bend Gathering	Broken Bow, OK	Send deposit to: Charles Modisette 4022 State Hwy 7 West Pollok, TX 75969
Tearjerkers PA April 15 - 17, 2011	Tri Spring Fling Thing Chesapeake, NJ, PA Chapters	French Creek State Park Elverson, PA	Contact Orville Mooney at Captorville@hotmail.com
Tearjerkers GA April 7 - 10, 2011	Spring Gathering	Skidaway Island S.P Savannah , GA 31411	Marvin Von Almen marvin@ellijay.com
TOW April 22 - 24, 2011	Oregon Coast Vintage Trailer Gathering (Newport, OR)	Held at South Beach State Park	Diana & Terry Lindsley tediana@comcast.net
Teardrops.net April 28 - May 1, 2011	18th Shasta Dam Gathering	Lakehead, CA	Grant Whipp 530-275-6728 info@teardrops.net
SCT April 29 - May2, 2011	Relay for Life Gathering (charity event)	Waxahacie Creek Park Bardwell Lake at Ennis, Texas	Cindy yindy@swbell.net

Your event can appear here! Please send your event information to doug@teardrop-times.com

El Source-O Magnifico



Steve and his daughter Sadie

A conversation with Steve Hingtgen from Vintage Trailer Supply in Montpelier, VT

Have you always been involved in trailer camping?

Actually, I've always been involved in the outdoors. I did a lot of camping growing up in Iowa. I was involved in Boy Scouts, made Eagle Scout, and went camping all the time. I still do a lot of camping, and a lot of hiking. As I got older, I was still tent camping, and taking my dog with me. I eventually went to a small trailer simply because it was easier, and it still felt like camping. Now I camp with my family, which includes two small children. Trailer camping works out great.

What trailers do you currently own?

Well, I have a '61 Scotty which is in the process of a total rebuild, and a 1956 Airstream Caravanner.

I have a 67 Serro Scotty Sportsman that I'm still re-doing, so I'm with you there. Tell me about the Caravanner.

I love the 1956 Airstream Caravanner because it has that big strip of windows that no other Airstreams have. This one is actually put together from two that I found. One I found in Connecticut. A friend called and told me about the other one in Pennsylvania. Between the two of them, I had everything I needed to reconstruct the whole trailer. It has been a lot of work, but I love it - it's a great trailer.

What's your working background? Have you always been involved in the RV industry?

No, I actually come from a background of working for several non profits. I got into parts for vintage trailers as a hobby with a friend of mine. At the same time, I served three terms in the Vermont legislature, which was full time for part of the year, then part time for the remainder. This business was perfect for me, and I really enjoyed it, and especially the people I meet. The business grew, due in no small part to our commitment to customer service, and the way we view our customers as clients, not just a sale. We'll typically work with someone to see them through a whole project, so we have to be able to service and support our clients. In the eleven years I've been doing this, we've grown from being a part time business in one room of my house to a full time business with several employees in a 3,600 square foot facility.

What sets you guys apart from your usual RV supply company?

We're not a web site with a disconnected voice that answers you and takes your parts order. As I said, we work hard to form a relationship with our clients to help them with their projects big and small. Actually, my true passion is vintage parts reproduction. With NOS stocks growing smaller and more expensive every day, there's a real need for this. We now make over 60 different reproduction parts for vintage trailers,

and we have more on the drawing board. We've worked with a lot of people to make sure we offer quality parts that function perfectly and really look like they belong on a vintage trailer. That's very, very important to me. In addition to that part of our business, we understand we have to be a full service shop. To that end, almost anything you need for your trailer, we have here, and then some.

To what do you attribute the growth of your business?

We have a real commitment to serve the vintage trailer community. People notice this. Word of mouth, more than anything else, has helped our growth. Most of our Vermont based business comes from west of the Mississippi. A large part of that is from the west coast - Washington, Oregon, and California. This is truly not just a business for me, this is a life I've built here. I love dealing with my clients, and I value the sense of community that this business is built on.

I've noticed the growth of your website, and the variety of products you offer. You guys are a real source for the Vintage Trailer Community, and the Trailer Community as a whole. You certainly have a lot to offer the Teardrop folks as well! Thanks for taking the time to speak with us.

My pleasure.

Steve Hingtgen and his trusty and knowledgeable staff at Vintage Trailer Supply can be found at vintagetrailersupply.com 24/7, or at 800 644 4620, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5pm Eastern time. If you're ever in Montpelier, VT, stop by and visit them at 34 Barre Street.

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 42 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/

Keeping it in the Family

As a kid, my family would go tent camping with my uncle and his family. We always wanted to trade up to a camp trailer. Scotties were the happening thing, and we always admired them.

It didn't take my aunt and uncle long to graduate to a trailer — and a Scotty at that! A 1966 Serro Scotty Sportsman, the Gaucho version. My uncle towed the Scotty behind his Plymouth with a big V8 engine, equalizer bars, extended mirrors, and never towed the trailer over 45 MPH, as recommended by the Serro Scotty Company. After a few years, they traded that Scotty in to somebody and bought a 69 HiLander. They has a series of different trailers until my uncle's death in the late 70's. The Scotty became nothing more than a pleasant memory for all of us.

In the late 80's or early 90's, I met a guy that I'm still friends with today, who had an old Scotty Sportsman. He only used it once a year, for the Philadelphia Folk Music Festival. He never really took care of the trailer. When something would break, he would duct tape it back together. It was always dirty and always in disrepair.

In the late 90's, I tried to buy it from him. He wouldn't sell. In fact, several times I tried to buy it from him but he wouldn't sell. It was sad watching that Scotty Sportsman literally melt over the years.

Finally, in the fall of 2008, I ran into him and he told me that a tree had fallen on the trailer and totaled it. He had stripped it down to the frame and wondered if I



was interested in the remains.

I said yes and a deal was struck for a case of beer, and I got what was left of the Scotty — which wasn't much.

Shortly thereafter, I began, and completed, a total restoration. It didn't come with a title and I wanted to register it properly. One of the first things I wanted to do was a history check of the registration. But quietly. I had a friend on the police force do a check on the VIN. He traced it all the way back to its original owner: *My Uncle!*



Absolutely amazing, I thought. I immediately contacted my two cousins. Here they are with me, reunited with their Father's Scotty!

Happy Trails,
Len Dadonna

Len Dadonna, of Morton, PA, is an RV technician and an administrator and NJ chapter director for Tearjerkers

Founded 1997 by Todd Brunengraber

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Geoff Koonis and Doug Wingate
Tearjerkers wishes you the
best!

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• T h i s n' T h a t •

Our Readers Speak...

Pictured at the top of the page is Mike Katz's spectacular 1955 Airlight. Mike was kind enough to send in the picture you see. Mike tells us:

Congratulations on publishing Volume 1, Issue 1 from a vintage trailerist out west. Our 1955 Airlight riveted aluminum airframe trailer is the one Airstream wishes they had made. She's 15' from ball coupler to rear bumper, 12' interior --



Airlight Interior

any smaller and she'd be too small for us. A tall person can stand up inside, but most impressively for a small trailer, she's equipped with a commode (and holding tank.) Our Airlight is distinguished from the endless herd of Airstreams by having her door in the highly desirable rear entry position. This not only provides for an improved floor plan with an open, spacious feel to the interior, but also allows the expression "rear entry position" to be used innocently in polite conversation.

**Yours,
Michael Katz
Santa Monica, CA**

Amen to that, Mike...T&T

New Trailer in Town...

Recently a friend clued us in to a trailer company we'd never heard of.



Campfire



Campfire Interior

Sierra Motor Corp started in 1987 as a company producing high end van conversions. From there, they went to horse trailers and cargo conversion trailers. Today Mike Greene at Sierra has taken old school looks and partnered it with the latest in technology and building techniques to produce a quality small trailer in two models: the Campfire, and the Bak-Pak. Sierra Motor Corp. can be reached at: Campfire@sierrainteriors.com, or by phone at 800 727 0638

A Family Affair:

How a 1947 Kenskill helped strengthen the bond between father and sons

Dino Iacovino from Oceanside, CA decided to take Dewy, his '47 Kenskill and his two sons, Mario and Dominick on separate trips of their choice. For one of the trips, Dino and his son Dom, age 11,



decided a surf trip to Rincon Point was in order. They cruised up the coast where their first stop was Malibu

beach. From there. they headed to Carpinteria State Beach, where Rincon point is located. They stopped there to set up camp. From there down to Surfer's Point in Ventura. End of story: father and son spent three days together in Dewy, their Kenskill. Son had the pleasure of surfing some of the finest waves in the world, and Father had the pleasure of watching him. Priceless...

Classifieds

Please mention that you saw it in Tales and Trails!



**For Sale: 2004
Cassette,**

modified teardrop; 12'6" long, 6'3" high, 1340 lbs; dinette



converts to bed; sink, 2 burner range, 20lb propane tank; awning; spare tire, & more. \$4995.00 Contact www.grandamrv.com or 631-395-3377 for more info. Located in Mastic Beach, NY



For Sale: replica of a 1939 Runlite Teardrop from plans in Modern Mechanics magazine;

custom built in 2007 and used two to four times a year since; Exterior features

include insulated marine grade plywood exterior, roof mounted power vent fan, and changing room that sets up on either side of the trailer; battery or electric system for lights and power vent fan; AC to DC



current converter mounted in a tongue box; interior features include maple color bead board walls & ceiling, custom wood cabinets, two 12- volt high intensity reading lights, and queen-size bed; Galley includes two high intensity lights, electrical wall socket for toaster oven, two Coleman coolers, a Coleman propane stove, sink & 3.5 gallon water storage tank, and a granite counter top. \$6,800.00 US. If you need more info or pics call 404-377-4915. Located in Georgia.



Worthington aluminum propane tank. No dents. 10lb tank, with new OPD valve. Certified and pressure tested. Just filled with propane. Located on Long Island, NY. Local pick up only. One spot was test polished (see

pic). Call Chuck at 631 587 7606 . No calls past 10pm. All calls will be returned. This will polish to a mirror finish. \$100 firm.

Want to put your classified ad in Tales and Trails? Send \$5 via PayPal to gkurz128@optonline.net. Send your ad, along with one or two pics, to the same address. Your ad will appear in the next issue.

Notice of Special Gathering:

This one is not on the Feb/ April Calendar, but it's something you might want to plan ahead for... over 76 spots already taken!

Don't miss out!

July 14-17, 2011 - Spencer, IN

Crossroads of America 2011 at McCormick's Creek State Park will be a Multi-Chapter gathering sponsored by Tearjerker chapters from Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

The website has information for location, agenda, and registration forms.

Reservations for the gathering dates (July 14-17) will be done as a "Group" reservation (2 night minimum stay). Reservations prior to July 14 must be made through the DNR web site:

<http://www.indiana.reserveworld.com/index.cfm>

Your chapter director should be your "go to guy" for any immediate questions. For other questions and details please refer to the web site of email at mustang@indy.rr.com

Coming in the Next Issue...

Home Grown Ideas:

How to make your own roof rack...

Great sources for hot rod fenders and skirts for that vintage look...

Polishing Pros and Cons...

More Schedules and News from clubs across the country

Articles and stories from your fellow campers

ANOTHER FEATURED

SOURCE OF

THE MONTH

Don't forget to subscribe!

See Page One!



WE JOINED A NEW GROUP THAT'S INVOLVED IN TEAR DROP TRAILERS AND WE'RE GOING ON A CAMP-OUT!