

www.cooltears.com

September/October 2021

COOLtears™

and tiny campers
MAGAZINE



**Here We
Come!**

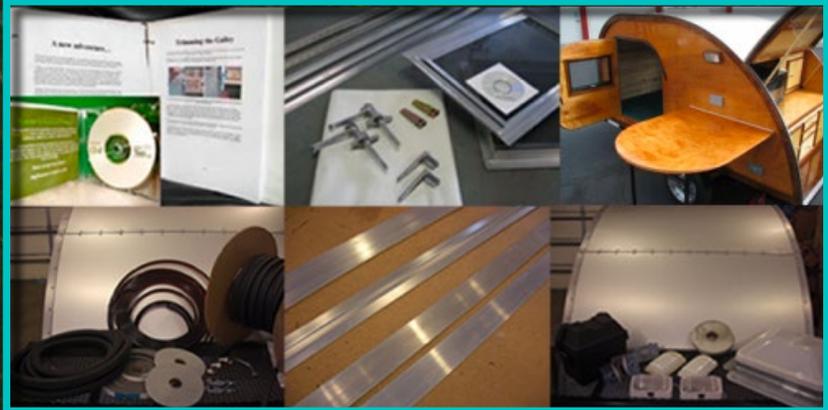
PLUS: 2021 Sierra Nevada Teardrop Crawl
Finding your Community ... And more

**BIG
WOODY**

**Serious about building
a teardrop camper?**

Big Woody Camper
ULTIMATE KIT
\$899⁰⁰ plus shipping

Teardrop Campers



Handcrafted Custom Campers.

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

BIG WOODY CAMPERS

715-271-0465 | www.bigwoodycampers.com



**DESIGNED
FOR THE UNPREDICTABLE
BUILT TO WEATHER IT**

Built in the USA



Covers, Shades and Tent Solutions for :

- Little Guy Trailers
- R-Pod Trailers
- T@B Trailers
- T@G Trailers
- A-Frame Trailers
- inTech Trailers
- Hiker Trailers
- and many more

BahaQue
www.pahaque.com

Poway, California
Call us toll-free at
888-700-TENT
(888-700-8368)

Also available at:  **TearDropShop.com**



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

COOL Tears™ and tiny campers MAGAZINE

Vol. 9 No. 5 September/October 2021

9 COVER STORY YELLOWSTONE HERE WE COME

Brad Bottoms

5 LETTER FROM THE EDITOR Lisa Adams

7 KITCHEN ON WHEELS: MUSHROOM GALETTE Anne Cox

22 ROOF TOP TENT ALTERNATIVE Ayesha Holloman

28 2ND ANNUAL PHOTO CONTENT - DEADLINE Anne Cox

31 FIND YOUR COMMUNITY Lisa Adams

35 PRESS RELEASES - TINY CAMPER NEWS Cool Tears Staff

36 2021 SIERRA NEVADA TEARDROP CRAWL Darrell Sorensen

45 CANADIAN CAMPING SPOTLIGHT Cool Tears Staff



Editor
Lisa Adams

Contributing Authors
Brad Bottoms
Anne Cox
Ayesha Holloman
Darrell Sorensen

© Copyright 2021 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
51956 CR 215
Lawrence, MI 49064

Connect with us!



Letter from the Editor:



Tiny Camper Enthusiasts,

Community, a sense of belonging.

After months of isolation due to the pandemic, we all need a sense of belonging.

We have returned from a 9 night, 10 day, 2878 mile trip across 6 states to hang out with people we had never met before. Why? Because we all have something in common, our love of our Timberleaf teardrop trailers. Each year they host an owners camping weekend. We traveled from Michigan to the Rocky Mountains to meet up with people we had only met a few times on Facebook.

Within the first hour of arriving on a drizzly Friday afternoon, we felt that sense of belonging. A fellow Timberleaf owner hopped out of his Toyota, face beaming, and said, "Lisa? It's me, K.C. Mind if we set up camp over here"? pointing to the area near his tow vehicle. A few hours later, we were all under his family's awning, eating pizza together, talking about the upcoming school year (he has two high school children), and getting to know K.C. and his wife. They were complete strangers that we now count as friends. While I was already feeling a sense of community amongst the 40 people that met that weekend, I overheard K.C. tell his daughter, "this is what it's all about, people coming together over a shared interest."

The rest of the weekend, we played games, showed off our trailers, modifications, and camp set ups. Some people went mountain biking, others went fly fishing, and hiking. Everyone's dogs became fast friends as they raced around tails wagging and tongues hanging out, chasing balls, frisbees, and each other. The group showed off their cooking skills for the Saturday evening potluck as we gathered to share a meal.

We had never attended a teardrop specific event before that trip and we're already prepping for our next. In a few weeks, we'll be attending the Crossroads of America event sponsored by the Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Southern Appalachian TearJerker's chapters. We camp alone in National Forests, but we are looking forward to sharing the weekend with other tiny campers.

If you have never attended a teardrop, squaredrop, or other tiny camper event, I urge you to do so. The [TearJerkers](#) have events all over the country. Find your community and share your love of camping tiny.

As always, thank you to the new Top Fans of Cool Tears on Patreon or to those who have so generously donated to our magazine. Any funds received go directly to paying the bills of the magazine/website or purchasing products for reviews and giveaways! ■

Safe travels and stay safe

Live Tiny. Live Free.

Lisa Adams

Editor

Cool Tears Magazine™

Lisa@cooltears.com

Photo by Don Simpson





KITCHEN ON WHEELS

MUSHROOM GALETTE

A tart and galette are similar types of sweet or savory pastry; however, the pastry on the tart is shallow and straight sided. The term galette is primarily used to refer to a rustic, free form tart. The sides of the galette are often folded up and over to contain the ingredients. This mushroom galette is easy to make and is a great dish to bring to potlucks! At the end of the article, we'll share a tip for another tasty galette.

You'll need a skillet, a sharp knife, and an [Omnia Stove Top Oven](#) is recommended.

Ingredients:

1 package (8 oz) refrigerated crescent rolls
½ c onion, optional
2 cups (8 oz) mushrooms, sliced
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tablespoons olive oil or melted butter
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
1 teaspoon dried oregano or ½ TBL fresh
salt and pepper

To make the galette filling, heat the oil or melt the butter and add the onions and mushrooms, sauté until soft. Add the garlic and sauté until fragrant, about two minutes. Season with salt and pepper and add parsley and oregano, let cool slightly and add Parmesan cheese. This can be done at home or at the campsite. I like to prepare at home and freeze for a future easy and satisfying campsite meal.

Using the Omnia oven: Unwrap the crescent rolls and unroll the dough, you'll have eight triangles. Arrange the triangles in the silicone



ring with the flat edge toward the center and the point to the outside. (If you don't have the silicone insert, line with foil or parchment paper for easy clean up.) Press the dough together along the bottom and up the inside. Place the mushroom mix on top of the dough and pull the tips of the dough over the mushrooms, there will be gaps between the triangles, press down slightly. Secure the lid and place the [Omnia Stove Top Oven](#) on

your camp stove, be sure to center it to cook evenly. Turn the burner to medium-low and bake for approximately 30 minutes, checking periodically to adjust the heat if too low or too high. You want it to bake and not burn.



Preheat the oven to 375°F. Using a pizza stone or sheet tray, arrange the triangles so they form an eight pointed star, the pointed tips should face away from the center of the star. The edges should overlap slightly but there will be a hole in the center. Using your fingertips press down on the dough to seal the edges where they overlap and press the base of each triangle toward the center to fill in the hole, making sure there are no gaps. Spoon the mushroom mix into the middle and fold the tips toward the center, flatten slightly and bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Slice and serve.

Variation:

Instead of the mushroom mixture, use sliced tomatoes, a handful of fresh basil (torn), and either Parmesan or mozzarella cheese. Bake the same as above. ■



Remove from heat when completely cooked and browned.

If you'd like to make this at home on a cookie sheet or pizza stone, follow these steps.

COOLTears™
and tiny campers
MAGAZINE

Merchandise available

from Bonfire



Yellowstone Here We Come! A Two Week Journey to our Nation's First National Park

By **BRAD BOTTOMS**

It's Friday afternoon, everything is loaded and we're finally pulling out of our driveway for this two week adventure that we've been waiting on since we purchased our teardrop in May 2020. Our bucket list trip is under way! As our excitement settles down we come to realize that it's a really long drive from Kentucky. But we're prepared, we have snacks and podcasts to listen to. As we drive down the road I love all the looks we get as people pass us, especially in the Midwest because teardrops aren't that common. Always a lot of smiles, some laughs, and the occasional "thumbs up!" As a teardrop owner, we've come accustomed to answering all the same questions... Yes we sleep in there, yes there is a kitchen in the back, yes it has air conditioning, etc. Every time people are fascinated and walk away with big smiles. We get more questions at gas stations than anywhere else. I've given numerous tours of it while pumping gas. But my absolute favorite is when we pull into a campground and our site is beside a humongous bus or fifth wheel camper. Our T@G that we named "Little Bad@ss" always looks so small and perfect. Perfect for us. A bed in box. It gets a lot of stares and grins. They have to be envious when they see how easy and quick it is to back in and set up. Tabbi and I are a great team. We can be completely set up in 10 to 15 minutes. Even less if the site is level. Shortly after we're set up there's always a few passer-byes that are curious and have even more questions. You see, as a teardrop owner, you're a travelling advertisement for the brand you own. I've always joked that NuCamp should pay me for all the good publicity I've given them at gas stations and campgrounds. Moving on down the road, our first two days of driving were rather boring as we decided to drive about 9-10 hours each day before we arrived at our first national park, The Badlands.

The Badlands National Park

Before we entered the Badlands we made a quick stop at the Minuteman Missile National Historic Site. It's on the same exit as the east entrance to the Badlands. It's worth the stop to see the history of the US missile program during the arms race of the Cold



War. Finally, our first national park on this trip. Pulling up to the entrance we were so excited to use our National Park Pass for the first time (best purchase made for this trip!). I showed the Ranger and she gave us a map and information sheet and sent us on our way. Entering from the east you're immediately greeted with the Big Badlands Overlook and



it was simply stunning. How can land so eroded be so beautiful? We hopped back in the car and continued to the next spot, the Door Trailhead. It was time to take the sandals off and put our hiking shoes on. Walking the wooden pathway we see a sign, "Beware Rattlesnakes!" Wait.. What?!?! Rattlesnakes? Tabbi hates snakes with a passion. She's now staring at the ground with every step. Luckily we didn't see a single snake..... here. As the path flowed through a bend, it opened up for exploration. We roamed around the area and hung out for a while and took it all in. We've only been in the park for a little over an hour and it's amazing! As we continued through the park, the landscape constantly changed. The winding road takes you through canyons with Big Horn Sheep, up hills with views for miles, to the top ridgelines where we saw our first of many buffalo on this trip. As we exited the park towards Wall, the dispersed camping spot on the north rim is a mile or so up the road. We pulled in and found a perfect spot overlooking miles of pasture and eroded rock formations and set up for

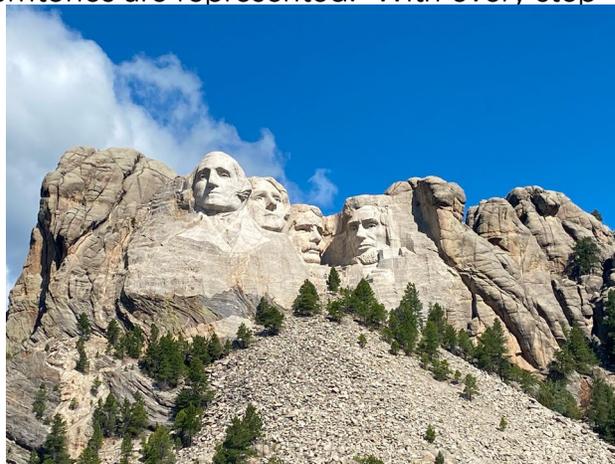


the night. This is the first day we actually got to cook a proper dinner. We opened the galley hatch and got to work. I'd have to say, cooking while overlooking the badlands is the nicest kitchen I've ever been in! As we were eating a couple passed by and yes, questions

about the teardrop. Luckily I was finished eating and answered all their questions. "That thing is awesome..." I heard as they walked away. After we ate, we had to go visit Wall Drug. This place is the most eclectic store I've ever been to, and it was awesome. It has everything from souvenirs to ice cream, and yes it is also an over the counter drugstore! Once back to the camper, there were noticeably a lot more people that had set-up, and continued to do so through the day and night. I think the secret is out about this location, it was packed. Nonetheless, the views were fantastic, which makes this spot so popular. The next morning we loaded up and hit the road to Hill City, SD.

Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Monument

As we left Wall SD it was a short drive to get to Mount Rushmore. Walking into Mt. Rushmore, it's impossible not to look up at the monument. As you enter the gates you're greeted with an unobstructed view down the Avenue of Flags where all 50 states and 6 US territories are represented. With every step



closer to the end of the avenue you can't help but feel patriotic.] It was surprisingly emotional as I found myself wiping a tear off



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



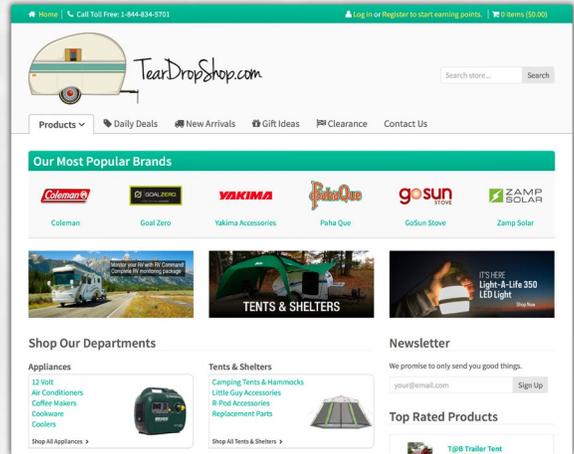
Side Mount Tent



Teardrop Lock



T@B Tent



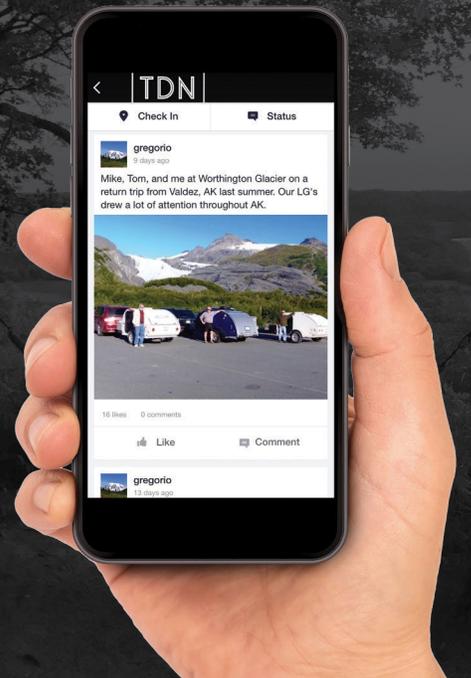
Visit www.teardropshop.com or call Toll Free: 1-844-834-5701



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>

my cheek. We found the Kentucky flag and plaque and took our picture with it! Not only do you have National Pride, but also state pride. While we were there we witnessed a Naturalization Ceremony where 55 people from all over the world became US citizens. Seeing every single one of them be that excited and also that proud to become an American citizen was truly a special moment that I'll never forget. I couldn't imagine a better place to be sworn in with the faces of four of our greatest presidents overlooking.

After leaving Mt. Rushmore we drove



through the Black Hills to the Crazy Horse Memorial. What we didn't know is how old this monument is. Construction began 1948 and is completely funded by donations. Once

completed it will be the first or second largest monument in the world. Quite impressive. It was interesting that there is no known photograph of Crazy Horse. The design is purely based on descriptions and sketches of him. There is also a Native American / Lakota museum to visit. The museum displays many artifacts and history of the Lakota tribe from that region. While there, we also witnessed traditional Lakota demonstrations of song, dance, and language.

Deadwood, South Dakota

On a whim we decided to deviate from our plan and spend a night in Deadwood SD. We found a campground that had 1 spot remaining so we booked it! Deadwood is a cool little town that deserved more than one night stay. We soaked in as much as possible in our short time there. The reenactments



of the shoot-outs that happened there were very entertaining. Visited the location where Wild Bill Hickok was murdered while playing poker. Later in the evening visited his grave and Calamity Jane's grave in Mount Moriah Cemetery. We stopped in a "saloon" while there and had a late lunch. While in there we

had 2 shots of whiskey. You can't visit an old west town like Deadwood and not drink a little whiskey. As we were walking off the whiskey we saw a plaque hanging that showed where the FBI closed the last brothel in Deadwood in 1980! I wanted to go in and see the place as it's now open to the public but we (Tabbi) decided against it. Deadwood also is full of casinos so if you want to try your hand, you'll have plenty of opportunity. After a while of wandering the streets of Deadwood, we headed back to the campground to cool off in the pool as it was the first day of our trip that actually got hot. The pool was refreshing and relaxing. The following morning we left for Wyoming.

Devils Tower

Driving into Wyoming and to Devils tower from Deadwood was a short and easy drive. Once you see the tower from a distance, it dominates the landscape. The closer you get, the bigger it gets. I had no idea how big it was until we arrived at the campground. It's absolutely humongous. While we were checking in at the campground, the lady told us that at 8:00pm every night they play a movie. And as the words "What movie?" came out of my mouth I thought to myself "Duh" as she looked at me and said "Do I really need to tell you?" I laughed. I had a brain fart moment. As a kid, Close Encounters of the Third Kind ranked with the likes of Star Wars and Indiana Jones. She also told us that Close Encounters is played

there more than any other place in the world. Impressive. After we checked-in, we got to our campsite and it had a front row view of the tower. My opinion, the best site in the park. The next morning we got up early to beat the crowds. Our first stop was Joyner Ridge Trail on the north side of the park. In our opinion, this location has the best views of the tower. The trail has unlimited views and is worth the hike. On the way back to the car, we encountered a Yellow-bellied racer. This



nope rope was big. We stayed back until it got off the trail and circled around a small hole and went into it. As we passed, we noticed many of these holes all the way back to the parking area. I think this is the fastest I've ever seen Tabbi walk! To the car and back to the visitor center we went. By this time, the visitor center parking was pretty much full. We happened to be pulling in as someone was pulling out





**YOUR NEW
FAVORITE SHOWER
IS WAITING**

**HOT.
CLEAN.
OFF THE
GRID.**

**CLICK HERE
TO LEARN MORE**

and grabbed the spot. We got out and started walking the trail around the base of Devils Tower. Unfortunately at this time, the pathway was being resurfaced so we could only go halfway and turn back. While on the trail we came to a viewing spot and noticed 3 rock climbers on the way up. It was impressive to

watch them work together eventually reach the top. What amazed me is that you could actually hear them talking to each other. Their voices were reflecting off the rock like they were only 20 feet away. Eventually we made it back to the car and headed back to the campground. On the way (to and from) back to the campground we stopped and watched all the prairie dogs play. They will come pretty close but don't move too quickly or they'll run off. Fun little animals to watch. We stopped at the restaurant for lunch and had my first ever Bison burger and I have to say, it was better than beef. I wish it were readily available in Kentucky. After a dip in the ice cold campground pool, 8:00PM slowly crept up on us and we headed to the outdoor viewing of Close Encounters. It was like I was a kid all over again. Seeing the Tower in the background behind the screen was the best part. I was waiting to see an alien ship fly over as a lightning storm started to roll in. It was a great experience. Devils Tower to that point was my favorite.

Buffalo Bill State Park (Cody, Wyoming) / Yellowstone National Park

Leaving Devils Tower we drove through Big Horn National Forest. This was the first view of the mountains in the western US. They were massive and beautiful. Definitely the adventurer's dream. Rock climbing, Mountain Biking, and lots of White Water. Too bad we were only passing through because this would've been a nice place to camp. Once we got out of Big Horn, I missed a turn and the directions rerouted us a different direction to Cody, Wyoming. On this route were the Gooseberry Badlands. "There



custom adventure trips & itineraries / outdoor events / content creation / adventure magazine

are more than one Badlands?" Although not as big as The Badlands National Park, Gooseberry still has some spectacular views. After a couple more hours, we made it through Cody to Buffalo Bill State Park. If you've never stayed here, you're missing out. The park offers limited hook-ups but it's right on the Buffalo Bill reservoir. A big blue lake surrounded by mountains. We set-up, cooked supper, ate, and went to bed in anticipation for an early trip into Yellowstone. We used Buffalo Bill State Park as a basecamp for the eastside of Yellowstone.

The next morning we were up early and on our way. 40 min later we were at the east entrance. We finally made it to Yellowstone! I wonder if the rangers and the entrances can tell if it's a visitor's first time or not. I'm sure they could tell with us, we were both smiling from ear to ear. Once you enter the east side you immediately start driving up a

mountain until you hit Sylvan pass. After the pass the views get better by the mile. Then you see where a forest fire ripped through this section of the park. The trees are no longer completely black but they're all dead. But with death comes life. The green is returning. New trees are growing and wildflowers are



everywhere. The cycle of life right in front of your eyes. Coming around a bend we see Yellowstone Lake for the first time. It is massive and freezing cold. It's June 26th and the water was 51°F. But it's amazing how calm and crystal clear the water was. I wish our lakes were that clean. The more we ventured into the park the more the smell of sulfur grabbed our noses. It stunk. We knew about the smell before we came, but didn't realize how strong it would be. Our next stop was the Mud Volcano. It's one of the many places in Yellowstone that's overlooked but fun to see. Lots of boiling mud pots and pools. Dragon's Mouth Spring was my favorite at this stop. The noises it made were powerful and earned its name honestly. Moving on up the road, we got stuck in our first traffic jam. A herd of Buffalo was crossing the road. We had several pass right in front of us. A Park Ranger was busy keeping them off the road so traffic could move. We decided to stop at a pull off



beside the Yellowstone River for lunch. After eating we made our way to The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and the Lower Falls. This in my opinion was the highlight of the park. The Canyon and waterfall looked unreal. I didn't take a single picture that captured the beauty of it all. We went to both sides of the canyon. The perspective for all sides is worth a visit. Grand View and Inspiration Point offer the best views. We were amazed at how much we saw and this was just our first day in the park.

Day 2 offered some great views as well. We entered the park early again to avoid the crowds and made our way to the West Thumb

changing campgrounds this day. Today is the day we see the crown jewel of Yellowstone, Old Faithful geyser. As we made our way we



Geyser Basin. There we saw the first pools with crystal clear blue water. Black Pool and Abyss Pool for us were the highlights. They were deep pools and you can see all the way down. West Thumb has 10 pools and geysers to view, all are equally impressive. Once we left West Thumb we headed back to the campsite to get ready for the Rodeo in Cody. Our first Rodeo and it was a blast! The entertainment from the clowns to the bravery with a touch of crazy of the cowboys riding the bulls and broncs was worth every dime. The Cody Rodeo is a must if you ever come here.

On the third day we loaded everything and pulled our teardrop with us as we were



crossed the Continental Divide and a nice cascading waterfall. Pulling into the parking area of Old Faithful we soon found out that it was definitely the most popular destination in the park. We had an estimated 30 minutes +/- 10 minutes before the geyser erupted so we worked our way to a spot and hung out. One thing we weren't prepared for was the sheer number of people. There had to be at least 3500-4000 people waiting with us. It's funny listening to the people around us giving their guesses on the time the eruption will occur. They were all wrong! Old Faithful was a few minutes longer than the latest prediction. The



geyser likes to tease a few small eruptions before the main blast. Then for almost 4 minutes water shot 50'-75' in the air. It was quite mesmerizing. After the eruption, we walked around the basin to check out some of the other pools before heading to Grand Prismatic Spring. As we got closer we noticed cars parked on the side of the road for a long distance. Surely this isn't people parking to get into the spring. It was. We decided to come back in the morning when the crowds

were much smaller. On to the next campsite we went, a campground south of West Yellowstone that was in Idaho.

On our fourth and last day in Yellowstone, we made our way into the park early to beat the crowds. I guess many others had the same idea as the west entrance was already backed up at 7:00am. It is the busiest entrance in the park. We made our way back to the Grand Prismatic Spring and parking was already filling up but we got a spot. Being it was so early, the temperature was still in the low 50's and that meant a lot more steam. At points we could only see about 20 feet ahead on the trail. The spring was producing so much steam in the cool temperatures that you could barely see the colors on the rim. At this point I was wondering if we would get to see it at all. We went back to the car and drove towards Old Faithful to see the Black Sand Basin then headed back. This time we parked and hiked to the overlook of the Grand Prismatic Spring. By this time the air temperatures were

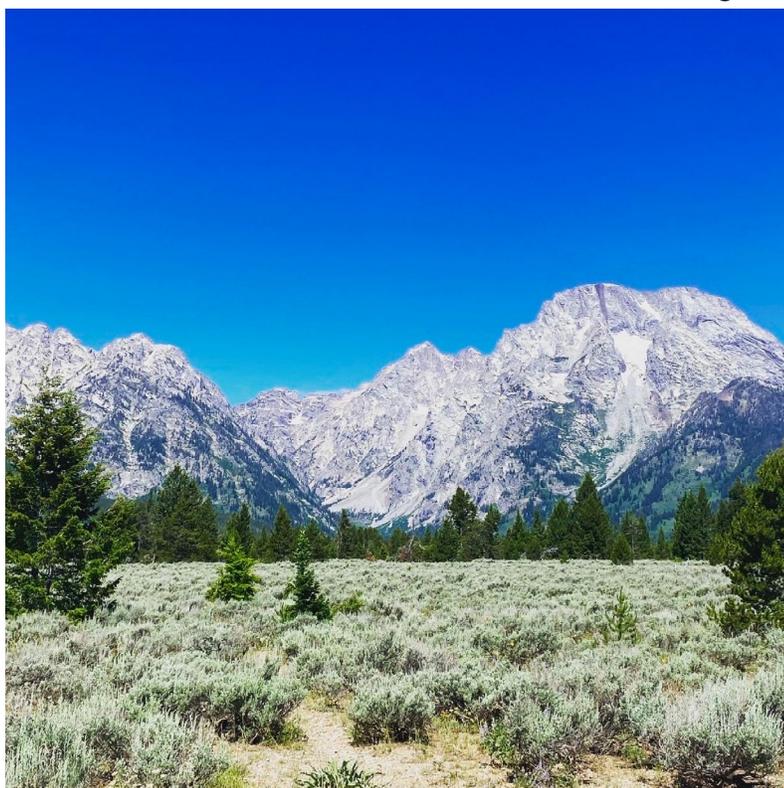


up and the steam was down. The spring was gorgeous! So many different shades of blues and oranges. Well worth the wait to view.

The overlook is definitely the best spot to see it. From there we drove to the Fountain Paint Pot to enjoy a few more pools and geysers then just drove north to enjoy our last day in the park. 4 days in the park and we barely scratched the surface. No matter where you are in Yellowstone, the beauty is unparalleled. It's one of those places that will stick with you for life and will always yearn for another visit. We took a week to get there and now it was over.

The Grand Tetons / Colorado / Home

Leaving Idaho, we decided to drive through Yellowstone from the West entrance to the South entrance to get one last look. The weather was perfect. Windows were down and a great mix of music pushed us down the road into the Grand Tetons National Park. As



we got our first views of this mountain range, we were blown away. The Tetons have got to be the most beautiful mountain range I've ever seen. The further south we drove, the views kept getting better and better. This place is amazing! It's unfortunate that we only had the day to spend there.

Leaving the Tetons we worked our way through Utah and Colorado to visit my family. It was a reunion that hasn't happened in 12 years. It was nice to catch up and share our travel stories. Leaving Colorado we decided to drive straight home. Shortly after midnight we pulled into a rest stop in the middle of Kansas. This is where having a teardrop is an added benefit. We parked and crawled in and got several hours of heavy sleep. No campground, no hook-ups, no worries. We woke at sunrise, freshened up and got back on the road. After about an hour, hunger was getting the better of us so we took the first exit and hit a drive through. This is another benefit of pulling a teardrop, you don't have to park to go in and order. Teardrops are small enough to pull in a drive through. Breakfast is served and we're back on the road in no time at all. We passed Kansas City, then St. Louis, then Louisville! Finally back to the Bluegrass State, Kentucky. 17 hours of drive time and multiple breaks in rest stops we were finally pulling into our driveway. That same driveway where 2 weeks ago we embarked on the biggest road trip of our lives. 4900+ miles and 12 states later, we are home. Those 2 weeks felt like it was over in just days. As I'm sitting here typing this, I'm wondering where our next adventure takes us. The Outer Banks or maybe the Southwest, who knows.... One thing is for sure, our adventures have changed

forever owning a teardrop. I'll never stay in a hotel on a vacation again, and we haven't since we purchased our teardrop. I'm not sure if we'll ever take another vacation without it (Unless we go to Hawaii!). Little Bad@ss performed flawlessly.

On to the next adventure! ■

Brad and Tabbi.

Follow us on Instagram:
@bradandtabbionthego

Equipment:
Tow Vehicle – 2014 Lexus GX460
Teardrop – 2020 NuCamp T@G "Little Bad@ss"





Roof Top Tent Alternative

By **AYESHA HOLLOMAN**

Intro by Cool Tears: Teardrop campers are no longer for one or two people. More families are using teardrop campers to explore. After all, no teardrop owner has their camper so they can sit around inside all day. They own a teardrop or squaredrop camper so they can be outside!

Rooftop tents are a great way to add space when using a small camping trailer but most are expensive. Some families default to a rooftop tent to house the extra family members, but Ayesha Holloman of [outdoorish.com](https://www.outdoorish.com) is highlighting a great method if you own a pickup truck. Many of her tips would also be helpful if your tow vehicle is a SUV with seats that fold flat.

So don't hesitate to look at teardrop or squaredrop campers if you have more than two people in your family. There are other alternatives to put a roof over everyone's heads each night and this article will help give you ideas on how to make the space comfortable for your trips.

Article by Ayesha Holloman:

Camping is a wonderful way to relax, unwind, and connect with nature. Whether you're heading to a local campground or taking a cross-country trip, truck bed camping is an affordable alternative to more expensive motorhomes and hotel stays.

If you're looking for a different type of travel experience that you can enjoy on a budget, read on to learn everything you need to know about truck bed camping. From what it is to how you can make it happen, we've got the answer you need.

What is Truck Bed Camping

Truck bed camping is an affordable, convenient option for many people. Sleeping in a pickup truck may sound strange, but it can be a comfortable and functional way to vacation.

There are many benefits to truck camping, including convenience and security. It also provides more flexibility because you have everything with you at all times.

Today's trucks are comfortable to drive and roomy with loads of accessory options, especially for camping. They have plenty of storage for clothes, bedding, and cooking supplies. You even have a few options for your truck bed camping setup.

- Camper shells or canopies that fit onto your truck bed can protect you from the elements overnight and keep your belongings safe while you travel.
- Truck bed tents are inexpensive and easy to set up before you turn in for the evening. Tear them down and store them when you want to travel again.
- You can always carry a ground tent to set up when you make camp for the night.

- Tow a teardrop camper with your pickup truck.

Truck Bed Canopy

You may already have a canopy or shell on your truck bed, which gives you an excellent starting point. If not, the canopies are affordable attachments you can purchase to match your truck.

Canopies provide security, protection from the elements, and plenty of headroom for sleeping when you're truck camping. You may want to choose a cap with fewer windows to provide privacy.

Truck Bed Camping Tents

If you prefer a little more space for sleeping and an easier truck bed camping setup, you may want to choose a truck bed camping tent. These lightweight tents attach to your truck bed and provide the feel of tent camping.

Truck bed camping tents are cost-effective, but they're also less weather-resistant than canopies. You also have to set up and take down the tents whenever you need to drive. Plus, you need to make sure you choose a truck bed tent that fits your bed size.

DIY Truck Bed Camping Setups

For campers torn between using a cap and buying a tent, there is an option that gives you the best of both worlds. DIYers can craft a custom combination that provides security, comfort, and privacy.

From adjusting a ground tent to creating and covering a frame for your truck bed, the skies are the limit for handy campers. There are hundreds of ideas and tutorials to help deal with the elements and create storage

solutions for a DIY truck bed camping setup.

Truck Campers

Some people just can't get on board with tents or canopies, and that's okay. You can select a camper that attaches to your truck bed, and still enjoy truck camping. There are hundreds of options to choose from based on the size and capacity of your truck.

One of the biggest advantages of choosing a truck camper is the ability to go anywhere while camping in luxury. Many of the truck camper models have full-size amenities like those on a fifth wheel or motorhome.

Preparing Your Truck Bed

As you can see, truck bed camping isn't a one-size-fits-all situation. There are many creative ways to prep a truck bed for camping, so you can customize it to fit your preferences. Remember, more preparation before you leave makes for a better experience on your trip.

Set Up Your Sleep Space

Comfort is important for a good night's sleep, and that means having the right gear. You don't want to add unnecessary weight, but you want comfort.

- Choose camping mattresses or camping sleeping pads for comfort and support.
- Sleeping bags add padding while providing warmth.
- Don't forget pillows, sheets, and blankets depending on the weather and your personal preferences for a good night of sleep.

If you choose to roll with camp using your

existing canopy or cap, you probably want to make some adjustments to make the most of your space. Creating a platform is a great option for adding storage space beneath your bed without sacrificing headroom. It also means you can drive without tearing down your bed.

Meeting Your Power Needs

You will need power at some point during your camping excursion. Power inverters are helpful devices that convert DC currents to AC currents so that you can charge electronics.

If you're not comfortable relying on your car battery for all of your power needs, you have options. Look into additional batteries with portable emergency jumpers, or you can use portable power banks.

Additional Considerations for Truck Bed Camping

Camping comes with additional challenges regardless of how you do it. From creating privacy to combating condensation, we compiled some DIY truck bed camping suggestions to help you make the most of your trip.

Combating Condensation

Condensation is a challenge for all campers, and it's impossible to prevent it completely. However, reducing the conditions that trigger intense condensation helps.

- Pay attention to your campsite selection. Avoid camping near water, where humidity is higher.
- Ventilate your camping area appropriately so humid air and moisture can escape. If possible, consider adding vent fans or

Solar.
Waterproof.
Lightweight.
Luci.



dehumidifiers.

- Remove wet items from your sleeping area overnight.
- Cook outside the tent or camper to limit the humidity inside.

Insulating Your Truck Bed

Unless you're planning on evening lows of 70° during your camping trip, you probably want to insulate your sleeping space. Getting off the ground into a truck bed camper is helpful, but that doesn't mean you won't wake up shivering.

- Test your camper or tent for cold spots and leaks. You can add insulating materials, extra fabric, or seal the leaks.
- Place fabric on the floor of your truck bed before installing your tent or camper.
- Create a platform to lift you off the ground or floor.

Create Sufficient Storage

It sounds strange to consider storage when you're driving a pickup truck, but it's a critical

aspect of truck bed camping. Think about all of the truck bed camping accessories you need to take with you, including clothing, bedding, and cooking supplies.

- Plastic storage totes keep your belongings dry, can be labeled for efficiency, and provide structure.
- Dry food storage covers your non-perishable goods. Just make sure wildlife can't get into any of your dry food stores, especially if you leave it outside overnight.
- If you don't have a refrigeration unit in your camping system, you can choose a cooler or camping fridge. Consider one cooler for drinks and the another for food.

Truck Bed Camping Accessories You Don't Want to Forget

We covered a lot of ground here, but just because you created the perfect truck bed camping system doesn't mean you're ready to hit the road. There are a few truck bed camping accessories you don't want to forget before you take off.

- Bathing and toileting may not be an issue for some camping systems, but what if your setup doesn't come with a toilet and shower? Consider a pee bottle or personal toilet and a portable shower, so you don't have to sacrifice personal care.
- First aid kits are necessary for safety. Don't worry about overdoing it, buy a good kit.
- Put together a repair kit with tools, scissors or utility knife, duct tape, and Velcro. Trust us, you will use them at some point!
- Don't forget a fire extinguisher!

The Joys of Truck Bed Camping

Whatever truck bed camping setup you choose, camping in your pickup truck puts you closer to nature without compromising your comfort or budget. Take some time to plan your ultimate truck bed camper with the details you love. You're sure to have an unforgettable experience!

About The Author:

[Ayesha Holloman](#) is an outdoor adventurer and lover of all things nature. In 2019, Ayesha left her full-time job as a digital account manager and has become a full-fledged digital nomad alongside her husband traveling the world.



<p>WE GO TO THE EXTREMES... <i>SO YOU CAN TOO!</i></p> <p><i>Camp-Inn Travel Trailers</i></p> <p><i>Extreme Luxury Teardropping</i></p> <p><i>Over 30 Options Over 100 Features</i></p> <p><i>Highest Quality Materials & Finishes</i></p> <p><i>Building Luxury Teardrops for 20 Years</i></p>	<p>Road Toad Campers</p> <p>Extreme Light Weight</p> <p>Under \$6,000 - FREE SHIPPING</p> <p>All Composite Construction</p> <p>Pull with ^{almost} Any Vehicle</p> <p>600 lbs Cargo Capacity</p> <p>400 lbs Dry Weight</p> <p>Extremely New - 2019</p>
	
 <p>www.TinyCamper.com</p>	 <p>www.RoadToadCampers.com</p>
<p>Camp-Inn Travel Trailers and Road Toad Campers are built by Petenwell Ind. LLC</p>	

**OKLAHOMA'S BEST
CUSTOM BUILT TEARDROP TRAILERS**

**OK
SCHOONERS**



918.629.8311

**VETERAN
OWNED**

QUALITY CONSTRUCTION

— FROM THE FRAME UP —



FULL KITCHEN



THREE MODELS

Square Back, Wood Panel
or Aluminum Panel

OK SCHOONERS TEARDROP TRAILERS ARE INDIVIDUALLY HAND-CRAFTED, QUALITY CAMPERS. EACH IS BUILT WITH YOUR SPECIFIC OPTIONS IN AVAILABLE COLORS AND ACCESSORIES AT OUR SHOP LOCATED IN BROKEN ARROW, OK. WE DO NOT MASS PRODUCE OR USE ASSEMBLY LINES. OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE OUR CUSTOMERS WITH A QUALITY CUSTOM-BUILT TEARDROP AT A REASONABLE PRICE. COMPARE US TO THE COMPETITORS AND YOU WILL FIND THAT OUR VALUE, QUALITY, AND WORKMANSHIP ARE FAR SUPERIOR.

COLOR OPTIONS



Okschooners.com



2nd Annual Calendar Photo Contest

September 19th Deadline

You helped to make our first annual calendar contest a success! Let's keep that rolling this year. Help us fill a Cool Tears and Tiny Campers 2022 calendar with amazing outdoor shots of YOUR campers, whether it's a teardrop, squaredrop, or other tiny camper.

We are looking for creative photos that celebrate tiny campers in beautiful locations around the world. The best 13 photos will be selected to be in the Cool Tears and Tiny Campers 2022 calendar. The top three winners will receive a free calendar and some Cool Tears swag. The ten other winning entries will receive a free calendar. Your photo entry may also appear in the Cool Tears and Tiny Campers Magazine or across the Cool Tears social media channels.

Please note that the dates are earlier than last year. While we were quick in shipping out the calendars once we received them, we didn't anticipate some of the issues that cropped up. We definitely didn't expect the issues with getting the correct envelopes from the USPS or the delays in shipping times. We've learned from our mistakes and will do better this year.

The Rules:

- Photos must be taken in an outdoor setting
- Photos must be high-resolution digital images
- The preference is at least a 1MB picture, higher is fine. Most mobile phones meet this criteria
- Touching up or adding filters to photos prior to submitting is allowed
- No negatives, printed photos or links to web libraries.
- Photos must be horizontal orientation - if you're taking a picture with a phone, turn it sideways
- Entries must include the following information: Name of photographer, location, indicate if the camper is home built or manufactured, and title of photo (if you have one)
- Images become the property of Cool Tears and Tiny Campers. No images will be returned. You will be given credit for the photo, if used
- Parties submitting photos certify that they have permission of all individuals shown in each photo and all individuals owning property shown in each photo.
- We will blur out any visible license plate
- Submit your entries to: Anne@cooltears.com

Timeline:

The deadline to submit photos to the 2022 Cool Tears and Tlny Campers calendar is September 19, 2021.

Winners will be contacted by October 3, 2021.

We will open the website for orders on October 1, 2021 and the calendars will be ready to start shipping in early November. ■

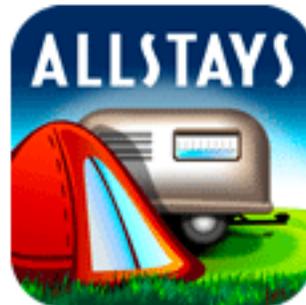
Harvest Hosts is a membership program that provides access to a network of wineries, farms, breweries, museums and other unique attractions that invite RVers to visit and stay overnight. Harvest Hosts now allows clamshell and teardrop trailers, but you may NOT use your outdoor cooking facility. Click the logo below to get 15% off the regular yearly price.



NOTE: One of the great things about having a digital magazine is the ability to link you directly to the products or services that you want to hear more about. Some of the links on our website or in the magazine are affiliate links where we earn a small commission on goods that you purchase, this does NOT raise the price of what you're purchasing in any way. These commissions help us to continue to defray the costs of publishing this magazine. You may notice as you read through the magazine that if you put your mouse over any ad, the screen may flash briefly. You can click on that picture of our advertisers and it will take you directly to their website.

Cool Tears also participates in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate program designed to help small businesses like this to earn a small fee by linking products to Amazon that you may be interested in. Again, this does NOT raise the price of what you're purchasing in any way.

We appreciate your support. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact either of us at Lisa@cooltears.com or Anne@cooltears.com



ENJOY THE JOURNEY

**CAMPGROUNDS
FREE PARKING
TRUCK STOPS
REST AREAS
PROPANE
SERVICES
RV DUMPS
WASHES
ROAD HAZARDS**



Find Your



By LISA ADAMS



In the Letter from the Editor, I talked about finding your community.

If you're new to the teardrop camper or tiny camper world, follow these simple tips to help find some like minded campers.

Sign up for a membership (it's free) on www.Tearjerkers.net. Once you are a member, click on the Chapters tab and click on your state/province/country and surrounding areas, if you're willing to travel a bit. I am a member of eight different chapters because I'm not too far away from several of them. I'm in Michigan, but live within 30 minutes from Indiana, 90 minutes from Illinois, 2 hours from Ohio, and about 3 hours to Ontario, Canada. A few of the other chapters are areas I frequently drive through on my travels. So if I can meet up with any other teardrop campers along the way, I will. Once you have a www.Tearjerkers.net log in, check out the Gatherings tab. This will take you to a calendar that shows all the organized camp outs by chapter.

If you purchased your teardrop camper from a manufacturer, ask them if they have any owner's camp outs or meet ups. We're back from spending a long weekend with other Timberleaf Trailer owners near beautiful Leadville, Colorado. While we didn't have time to talk to everyone that attended at any great length, these people are now part of our community. I expect that we will stay in close contact with many of them. These teardrop owners are top notch! NuCamp hosts an annual camp outing each year near where the T@Gs and T@Bs are manufactured in Ohio. They have a huge turnout! They already have the dates published for their uCamp 22 rally on their website.

If you purchased your teardrop camper from a dealership, ask the dealership if they have any organized camp outings or meet ups. For example, we recently highlighted a rally put on by [Princess Craft RV](#). They host two rallies each year.

Don't fret if you made your teardrop camper or squaredrop camper. There are still ways for you to find like minded people who you can share your love of tiny campers with! If you're on Facebook, check out the DIY TearDrop Camper group. There are also groups named "Squaredrop Camper Group," or "Squaredrops, homemade and others." Instagram is filled with teardrop campers too and you may find that someone is nearby.

If you're a woman, I recommend joining the Girl Camper Facebook group. While not teardrop camper specific, this group talks about all things camping. Women can also join [Sisters on the Fly \(paid membership\)](#). This is not teardrop camper specific, but this group of women is the largest outdoor group in the country. Their community supports women in their journey to become more adventurous. We will highlight Sisters on the Fly in a future issue.

Lastly, walk around the campground and strike up a conversation with any other teardrop campers that you meet. On our way home from Colorado, we met a lovely couple in Iowa (they are now living in Wisconsin). We chatted for about 20 minutes before we all continued on our walks.

Why are we suggesting for people to reach out and find their own teardrop camper community? You may find some packing tips and tricks. You'll share a laugh about the latest tour you gave at a gas station. You'll be able to ask about their awning/galley/cabinets, etc and know that you'll get meaningful feedback. And lastly, because as people, we all strive to belong to something.

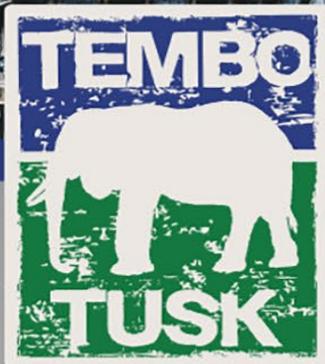
Get out there and find your teardrop or squaredrop camper community! ■

TEMBO

TUSK

EXTREME DUTY GEAR

MADE IN USA



Skottle Grills
Camp Tables
Fridge Slides

TemboTusk.com
Info@TemboTusk.com

Made in America
Use Coupon Code: **CoolTears**



www.TemboTusk.com



Timberleaf Trailers

Colorado has an annual "Companies to Watch" awards program, and Timberleaf Trailers is one of the finalists. Timberleaf has continued to see a 50% increase in sales each year since the start of their business in 2015. Due to that growth, they relocated from Denver to Grand Junction, Colorado in 2017 and in doing so, doubled the size of their shop.

The pandemic and their exceptional build quality fueled explosive growth. Timberleaf will again double the size of their facility in the coming months. Their new facility will be 9500 square feet and was designed by Kevin Molick, the founder of Timberleaf Trailers.

Congrats to Timberleaf Trailers on their continued success and good luck in the Companies to Watch awards program!

[To see a video about the Companies to Watch, click here.](#)

[To read more about the upcoming expansion, click here.](#)

Colorado Teardrops

Colorado Teardrops has a new patent pending teardrop designed for owners of electric vehicles. The Boulder™ "will increase an EV's range and make the adventure of camping even more accessible to owners of EVs. We estimate The Boulder™ will restore EV ranges to their pre-towing range, or better," according to a Colorado Teardrops press release.

Underneath the floor of the teardrop is a battery bank. Using a fast charging DC connection, the EV can be recharged from the teardrop on the road or in the backcountry maximizing the range of the EV. The insulated cabin comes equipped with beds for up to four people including a queen-size mattress and two individual bunk beds.

The list price for The Boulder™ is \$55,000USD, but if you reserve yours now, you can get a \$10,000USD discount on the base model.

[To read more about The Boulder™, click here.](#)

2021 Sierra Nevada Teardrop Crawl



By **DARRELL SORENSEN**

What is a teardrop crawl you may ask? A crawl is where you travel from camp site to camp site, usually no more than 100 miles apart. This give you plenty of time to explore between sites. They usually last for a couple weeks. When possible they are book ended by other teardrop gatherings.

Crawls were started by Brian Woods from Canada. Unfortunately, he is battling cancer, also the border is closed. We miss him and his wife Sandi so much. Crawls have happy hours, potlucks, nightly drawings and this year we added gawking, where we check out features & custom add-ons to each other's trailers. This year we also had a sing along.

Teardrops from California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, Nevada and Idaho began the 2021 Sierra Nevada Spring Crawl at Sly Park recreation park off highway 50 in northern California. It was wonderful greeting old friends and welcoming new friends as we started our 14 day journey through the Sierra Nevada Mountains and their foothills. We had our first happy hour at 4:00 and group meeting at 8:00.

At 3500 ft, Sly Park is forested and had pleasant temperatures for early June. The reservoir was low, but kayakers and motor boats were able to access it easily. It is definitely a recreation spot for families and young adults on weekends. Darrell, our organizer, scheduled us to arrive on Sunday and Monday was quiet and delightful as we had the campground practically to ourselves.



Several of us took a nice hike to a waterfall from our campground. We also had a beach adjacent to our campground. There are many wineries in the area for those that

enjoy wine tasting. Sly Park is a good stop for those heading to Lake Tahoe or the Sierras for a camping adventure.

Our second stop on the crawl was Sugar Pine Point State Park on the shore of Lake Tahoe. As we checked in there was a white board showing the many recent bear sightings. Then a talk by the ranger telling us all the bear safety procedures, we had the sign



a paper indicating we heard the speech. I think this bear thing is serious and yes we encountered bears. They seemed to raid the campsites just before people woke up. Ed opened his teardrop door with a bear looking him in the face. Marna chased off a bear taking her ice box. Her ice box was bear proof, just make sure you have it padlocked.



Damage was done when Jimmy's side window on the pickup truck was broken out by a bear. Necessitating a trip to Carson City to get it fixed. On the plus side we had our first potluck, what a feast! Marna baked enough meatloaf in her new oven to feed an army. Other than the bears, Sugar Pine Point was a great stop. Some of us enjoyed hikes and even kayaking in Emerald Bay.



Like most campgrounds, Donner Memorial State Park had good and not-so-good points. The good is that the loop we stayed in (Splitrock sites 115-135) was close to a short ADA path that led directly to the lake. Donner Lake is beautiful. It's clean and good for swimming (dogs allowed), paddle boarding and kayaking. The not-so-good is that it was very hot and the pines at Donner were slender and offered little shade, so most sites were in full sun and quite dusty. Fortunately, some cooled off in the lake and some went to the old railroad pass and snow tunnels that were very interesting. Overall, fun was had by all. A different time of year would be

an entirely different experience and worth a repeat visit.



We left the mountains to settle in at the Davis Creek Regional Park, which is located at the base of the eastern side of Mt Rose in Nevada. The campground has nice big pine trees, many squirrels and looks out over Washoe Valley. It was a perfect place to relax and visit with our travel companions or family and old friends that live nearby. Some campers checked out the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City and others the nearby Bowers Mansion, built in 1863.

My favorite were the herds of wild



mustangs and their foals that live free in the valley and are easily observed from the Washoe Lake State Park. And there were no

bears!



Indian Grinding Rock State Park Campground is truly a lovely little spot to camp, away from most road noise. The sites are on a forested hill slope and most have ample shade to beat the summer heat. There are two ADA sites. The one at the bottom of the hill would be fine if you're self-contained as it's a steep walk (or roll) up to the restrooms otherwise. The restrooms are fairly new and very clean. I had trouble getting two of the showers to work, but the third one was perfect! The camp

host reimbursed us for lost tokens. I'd like to give a shout-out to all the staff I encountered as they were all very cheerful and helpful. The old-school bear boxes are made of wood and will keep out squirrels but not bears. There were no "problem bears." So please don't keep food out to lead them into a life of crime. The two drawbacks to the campground are that many of the sites don't have a lot of level picnic areas and half the sites are angled weirdly so if you have a trailer you need to go the wrong way on the road to park. A service road extends from the bottom of the campground to the historic village site, grinding rocks, museum/visitor center, picnic grounds and trails. Dogs are allowed on the service road, campground, and picnic area but not on the actual trails. Leave a small donation and pick up the interpretative guide on medicinal and edible plants, but remember that it is illegal to pick plants in the state parks. Wait until you get home to try these remedies!



Our family of four joined the 2021 Tear Jerkers Sierra Nevada Crawl for two nights at Calaveras Big Trees State Park in the Stanislaus Forest. The state park is easily accessible from Highway 4, just a few miles beyond the town of Arnold. We stopped off

for some wine tasting on our way through Murphys, at Chatom and School Street Winery to get us into the vacation mood.

The North Grove campsite is a beautiful campsite, set around a meadow surrounded by trees. The meadow is traversed via a wooden walkway, which also made a great location for stargazing at night. The sites were generally flat and large enough for many of the teardrops to set up awnings and side tents.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park gets its name from the two groves of giant sequoias, the world's largest trees. The North Grove contains a 1.5 mile loop through the grove with a very informative trail guide to help you appreciate these mighty trees which are 100's of feet high and tens of feet in diameter.

There was some bear activity in the park, luckily no damage was sustained by any teardroppers at this camp. But many of us saw the mother and cub who had wandered into camp, and we could hear other campers making a lot of noise to persuade this furry family to move along.

While we were only able to join the crawl for two nights, all the other teardroppers on the tour were incredibly welcoming and we had fun getting to know each other at the happy hour that first evening and later as we sat around a group campfire.

The highlight of the trip for us was "gawking hour" which became "gawking 3 hours" - during which we went to visit each of the teardrops on the tour to hear the stories of how each person chose their teardrop. Some were home-built, some found by happenstance by the owners, and all with



Clockwise from top:

"Gawking hour" cabin.

Marna Powell's new oven.

Alice Tidwell travels all over the US & Canada with her teardrop.

Linda Sorensen's galley.

Another cabin.



unique twists and personal touches. Since this was our first time ever meeting other teardrop owners, we peppered everyone with lots of questions and got lots of great advice.

A potluck on the second evening was quite the feast, with many delicious camp-made desserts.



After dinner we assembled on the "The Big Stump". The story goes that a certain Augustus T. Dowd was chasing a wounded grizzly bear into an unfamiliar forest in 1852, and was suddenly

stopped in his tracks by an unbelievable sight – a tree of monstrous proportions that was easily three times larger than any he had even seen. Tragically, it was cut down in 1853 so parts of the tree could be toured around the country as a tourist attraction. It was determined by ring count to be 1,244 years old when felled. The size of the remaining stump was plenty large enough for all the teardroppers to assemble for a group photograph, with lots of room to spare.

The South Grove of giant sequoias is located on the other side of the park along a well maintained road. The road takes you past the Oak Hollow Campsite, which we toured and noted also had lots of great spots for teardrops in a shady forest. The road continues to the Stanislaus River. We stopped to cool off in the river, then climbed back out of the river valley to an overlook with magnificent views of the Stanislaus Forest. The road ends at the South Grove. We ran out of time to hike the South Grove, but we will certainly be back for another visit to Calaveras Big Trees. We look forward to meeting up with our new teardrop friends again at another Tear Jerkers event.

Lake McSwain campground was our final campground of the crawl. We were all a little tired and road weary by this time and the temps were around 97°F. Thank goodness for the lake, which is wonderful (and cold) to swim in. Many of the campsites are lakeside, which made for easy access. A few of us went swimming, or just sat in the lake with our lounge chairs. Some kayaked and others fished, while a few of us took a day trip into Yosemite National Park. As usual, we had an evening gathering where we were blessed with a beautiful full moon rising over the hills

and reflecting off the lake. A lovely way to end a fabulous crawl.



There was also a sing along as part of the crawl. Organized by three teachers in attendance. Much of it was the normal sing-along you would expect, but after a few days of working on it, they came up with "The Twelve Days of Sierra Nevada Crawl" sung to the tune of "Twelve Days of Christmas"

*On the 1st. Day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?
A Teardrop under a tree.*

*On the 2nd day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?
2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.*

*On the 3rd day of the Sierra crawl what did we see?
3 black bears, 2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.*

On the 4th day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?

4 meat loaves, 3 black bears, 2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.

On the 5th day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?

5 golden tokens (for showers), 4 meat loaves, 3 black bears, 2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.

On the 6th day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?

6 Donner lakes, 5 golden tokens (for showers), 4 meat loaves, 3 black bears, 2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.

On the 7th day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?

7 broncos grazing, 6 Donner lakes, 5 golden tokens (for showers), 4 meat loaves, 3 black bears, 2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.

On the 8th day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?

8 grinding rocks, 7 broncos grazing, 6 Donner lakes, 5 golden tokens (for showers), 4 meat loaves, 3 black bears, 2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.

On the 9th day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?

9 Calaveras big trees, 8 grinding rocks, 7 broncos grazing, 6 Donner lakes, 5 golden tokens (for showers), 4 meat loaves, 3 black bears, 2 water falls, and a Teardrop under a tree.

On the 10th day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?

10 eggs a frying, 9 Calaveras big trees, 8 grinding rocks, 7 broncos grazing, 6 Donner

lakes, 5 golden tokens (for showers), 4 meat loaves, 3 black bears, 2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.

On the 11th day of the Sierra crawl, what did we see?

11 new friends, 10 eggs a frying, 9 Calaveras big trees, 8 grinding rocks, 7 Broncos grazing, 6 Donner lakes, 5 golden tokens (for showers), 4 meat loaves, 3 black bears, 2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.

On the 12th day of the Sierra crawl, what did we say?

12's not enough days... 11 new friends, 10 eggs a frying, 9 Calaveras big trees, 8 grinding rocks, 7 Broncos grazing, 6 Donner lakes, 5 golden tokens (for showers), 4 meat loaves, 3 black bears, 2 waterfalls, and a Teardrop under a tree.

Lyrics by: Tina & Ross Riggs, Linda Clements & Beth Dhuse

The sing along took place at Indian Grinding Rock.

This fall there is the Fall Crawl covering the Washington Olympic Peninsula in September. Also next spring there is a California Highway 1 crawl in the planning stage.

I would like to thank Pat Callahan, Bev Showency, Carol Hoffmeier, Babby Inman, Marna Powell, Sharron Penn and Vanessa Roach for contributing text and pictures to the article.



CANADIAN CAMPING SPOTLIGHT



"Patience is a tree whose root is bitter, but its fruit is very sweet." ~ Canadian Proverb

Cool Tears and Tiny Campers has historically focused on providing content for our U.S. readers. Yet, as our teardrop and squaredrop camping community grows, we are gaining traction in other countries such as Canada, the UK, Australia, and other parts of the EU.

Starting with this issue, we will include more content this is inclusive of Canada as we highlight regional camping locations. Our next issue will feature an article written by Elizabeth Vezina, a Canadian woman who has shared her epic travels with us in the past. [You can read an article from her in the July/August 2020 issue.](#)

The border between the US and Canada is somewhat open for vaccinated US citizens and residents. As of the writing of this, Canadians are still not able to travel to the US via land. In time, our borders will be open for us to explore again. ■

Location: George Lake Campground, Killarney Provincial Park
960 ON-637
Killarney, ON P0M 2A0, Canada

Getting There:

GPS Info (Latitude, Longitude):

45.977690, -81.512100

45°58'39.684"N, 81°30'43.56"W

George Lake Campground is located in Killarney Provincial Park, in central Ontario, Canada. The George Lake Campground offers camping near the beach, private wooded areas, or even sites on the pink granite and quartzite ridges. The campsites are on the smaller side, but even the waterfront sites should be suitable for a teardrop camper or other tiny camper.

Killarney Provincial Park is located on the north shore of the Georgian Bay (for those unfamiliar with Georgian Bay, it's the upper portion of Lake Huron) and it straddles the La Cloche Mountains, which are large rounded hills made of white quartzite. The area contains the highest point in Ontario at nearly 540 meters (or just under 1800 feet) above sea level.

This Provincial Park is known for its remoteness as it is primarily a wilderness park that features 645 (km) of the wild Georgian Bay Coast of pink granite, the white quartzite La Cloche Mountains, and more than fifty clear, sapphire colored lakes throughout it's . There are numerous hiking trails and canoe routes, which include well maintained portages between lakes. Canoes are available to rent just outside the park. The La Cloche Silhouette Trail is a 78 kilometer (48mile) backpacking loop that could be explored from either direction for some out and back day hikes. The Cranberry Bog trail is a 4 kilometer (x miles) moderate trail where hikers pass along some of the park's most beautiful scenery. The bogs, marshes, and swamps are home to unique plants such as the pitcher plant and of course, cranberries. You may even be able to locate evidence of the glaciers that covered the area by finding the areas of smooth rock surfaces, striations or grooves, and chatter marks on the rock.

This park is home to a wide range of animals, including moose, deer, black bears, wolves, lynx, bobcats, martens, and beavers. Over 100 species of birds breed, nest or stop over along their migratory routes within the park boundaries, making this park a bird watcher's paradise.



Other Nearby Attractions

The Historic Village of Killarney, founded in 1820 as a fur trading post on Georgian Bay is only 10 km from the park and is home of the famous Herbert Fisheries fish and chips.

Number of Sites: 142 tent/trailer

Pets: yes

Water: yes, but not at each site

Electric: yes (some)

Price per night: \$\$\$ (\$38-\$60 depending on site popularity)

Fire Rings: yes

Picnic Tables: yes

Restrooms/Showers: yes

Campground has ADA accessible sites.

Primary activities within the park:

Hiking, biking, fishing (allowed in only a few areas), swimming, bird watching, and paddling. Kayaks and canoes are available to rent nearby.

Pro Tip:

Each year, the park hosts a Christmas bird count, as well as spring and summer Loon counts. Park Naturalists can direct bird watchers to good locations and will even help you identify birds that you have seen.



*Photo submitted
by Canadian Barry
Klassen.*

Uncompromising quality.



CLASSIC TEARDROP STYLE, MODERN AMENITIES

QUALITY DESIGN & CRAFTSMANSHIP
KESTREL STARTS AT \$8,500

PIKA STARTS AT \$14,500

CLASSIC STARTS AT \$23,400



www.timberleaftrailers.com



Cool Tears
wants to hear
from YOU!

Shoot an email with
your story idea and if
we use your idea we
will send a FREE GIFT
your way!



Anne@cooltears.com

#cooltearsmag



<https://www.facebook.com/CoolTearsMagazine/>



@cooltearsmag

Tag your 'grams with #cooltearsmag for a chance to be featured on our Instagram feed and in the magazine.



Time for a new adventure. Videos of our adventures, reader builds, tips and tricks. Live tiny - Live free.