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MAGAZINE

THE MOORE EXPO

Top 5 Takeaways



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Letter from the Editor:



Tiny Camper Enthusiasts,

We're just back from our first official camping trip of the season where we met other family members and friends in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula. Instead of our usual driving straight through for 6+ hours to get to our camping location on Friday night, we opted to take our time and we left on Thursday afternoon. We had an easy, pleasant drive, with little traffic and we spent the night about an hour south of "The Bridge." Since we were stopping south of the Mackinac Bridge, we traveled a different route than normal that took me through Gaylord, Michigan. I've lived in Michigan since 1998 and have never been to this town, even though it is considered one of the best places to go in the Lower Peninsula if you want to explore the wilderness. It offers four seasons of fun, with their forest trails, winding rivers, and nearly 100 lakes that transform into a winter paradise for snowmobilers, cross country skiers, etc.

As I write this on May 21, 2022 I am shocked to hear that this small town of 3600 people was ravaged by a tornado yesterday afternoon, killing two people and injuring over 40 more. There are still missing people as I write this. Northern Michigan typically does not experience severe weather and the area doesn't have tornado sirens. Some people also reported egg sized hail in the area. The last major severe weather event was in 1998 when straight line winds produced 100 mph winds in the town, according to The Weather Channel. My thoughts are with those affected by this horrible event.

As campers, it's important to be weather aware and to have an escape plan. Even if you're outside of cell service, know what the weather conditions are forecasted for your area and stay alert. When we stayed in this area last week, we were camped at a Harvest Host nestled under a small grove of majestic white pine trees that towered over us. Beautiful, absolutely! But it wouldn't have been with a severe weather outbreak.

Stay alert, have an escape plan or a safe place to go if there is a severe weather outbreak in your area.

My thoughts are with my fellow Michiganders in Gaylord. ■

Happy travels and stay safe

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Lisa Adams

Editor

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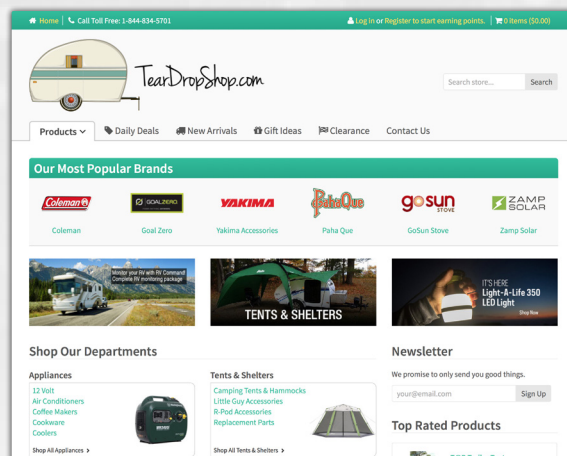
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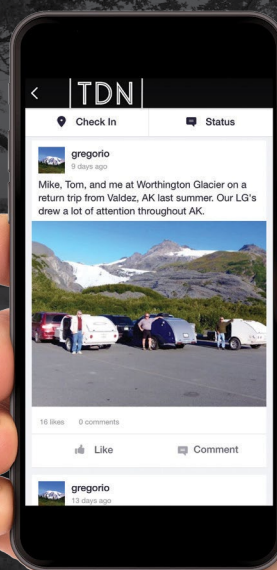
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KITCHEN ON WHEELS

FRIED RICE WITH LETTUCE

Food costs are soaring. Fried rice is an easy and versatile camping meal that is a great way to stretch your food dollar. With a few simple, normally inexpensive, ingredients it's easy to make a fried rice meal that is satisfying and filling. The Tembo Tusk skottle is the perfect cooking tool for this recipe but a large pan, skillet or Dutch oven will work as well. Be sure to prep all ingredients before you start cooking because this meal cooks quickly. Did you know that the key to great tasting fried rice is using day old rice?!

This recipe will serve 4 - 6 people.

Ingredients for chicken marinade

- 4 cups cooked, day old rice
- Meat of your choice - 1 pound of ground beef, 1 small ribeye steak sliced thin, 1 pound diced chicken, ham, shrimp etc.
- 2 - 4 eggs
- ½ onion
- 2 green onions
- ½ cup frozen peas, optional
- Soy sauce
- Hoisin sauce
- Iceberg lettuce
- Ground white pepper
- Cooking oil

For this article, we'll give several tips (in italics) on what to do at home versus at the campground to help save time and space.

Instructions

Cook 2 cups of rice at home per the instructions. This will yield four to six cups of

cooked rice, depending what type of rice is used.

In a bowl, place your meat of choice and season to taste with the ground white pepper. (We typically use ground beef.) Add 1 teaspoon of soy sauce and Hoisin sauce. Mix well and let it sit while the other ingredients are prepped and cooked.

Thinly slice the onion and the white part of the green onion. These will be combined and sauteed together. Slice the green part of the onion and set aside to garnish the dish when serving. Slice about a quarter of the iceberg lettuce head and set aside.

Turn on the skottle to high heat to warm up, then dial it back to a medium/medium high heat. Drizzle the cooking oil around the outer rim of the skottle so it coats it and flows to the center. Crack your eggs in a bowl and quickly beat them together. Place in the center of the skottle and cook the eggs, while gently stirring until they are mostly cooked.



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Move the eggs to the outer rim of the skottle.

Add another ring of cooking oil to the skottle and begin to saute the onions. After cooking for about one minute, add the meat to the skottle and continue cooking until the meat is cooked to your liking. (If you use ground beef, cook until there is no more pink.)

Add the cold, cooked rice to the skottle and mix all ingredients thoroughly. It may be necessary to break up the larger clumps of rice while stirring. Add two teaspoons of soy sauce and two teaspoons of Hoisin sauce to the skottle and continue to stir. Once this is mixed well, add the eggs from the outer rim of the skottle into the mixture and chop with your spatula to break up the egg into the mixture. If you're using frozen peas, now is the time to add them. They will cook quickly.

Turn off the heat to the skottle and stir in the sliced iceberg lettuce. It will start to wilt, but will still retain a slight crunch. This is the texture you're looking for. (On occasion, we have used sliced romaine lettuce instead of the iceberg.) Add the sliced green onions to the top of the rice and serve immediately. ■

Opposite page: Bella, the granddaughter of friends dishes herself some fried rice on a recent camping trip. (Note: We only had romaine lettuce with us on this trip.)





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The MOORE Expo

By **LISA ADAMS**

In early April, I visited the third Midwest Overlanding and Off-Road Expo (known as the MOORE Expo) in Springfield, Missouri. This is not an overlanding magazine, but teardrops and squaredrops can be used overlanding, so we will cover overlanding topics if they are relevant.

The expo was huge! There were over 177,000 square feet (16443 square meters) of indoor and outdoor space filled with vendors with gear and accessories for off-road vehicles. There were at least ten times more Jeep Gladiators and Wranglers in the parking lot than I've seen at our local Jeep car dealership. It appears that the Midwest is more Jeep country than Toyota country. And there were enough roof top tents in the parking lot and inside the Expo to sleep a few thousand people.

Like many expos, the MOORE featured live demonstrations and educational seminars related to navigation, camp cooking, vehicle recovery, and safety.

Top 5 takeaways from the MOORE Expo

Rooftop Tents are Cool, but Trailers are In!

While rooftop tents (RTTs) are very popular, teardrops and squaredrops that are overlanding capable are coming into their own. There were definitely some barebones, but expensive, metal trailers with every possible gadget attached to the outside that had a RTT on top. They're lightweight and can be pulled by about anything. But the teardrop and squaredrop trailers are gaining momentum in the overlanding industry. I don't blame them! I'd much rather sleep in a comfortable bed with extra creature comforts than in a tent.

One reason why teardrop and squaredrop trailers are gaining in popularity in the overlanding

community is because of their ability to be towed to a location and then unhitched. This allows an overlander to be able to have a "home base" while on a trip so they are free to explore anytime without having to break down camp (i.e., repack their RTT) every time they want to hit the trails.

There were several manufacturers or dealers at the Expo showing off their trailers. Not every trailer at the Expo qualifies as a tiny camper that Cool Tears would cover, but here are some of those that we do. XGrid Campers, Expedition Trailers, and Outback RV of Texas are dealerships that sell or rent several different models. Here are some of the teardrops or squaredrops they offer: AOR - Australian Off Road, Boreas Campers, Mission Overland, TAXA Outdoors, Vorsheer XOC, and Xpedition Trailers. These teardrop or squaredrop manufacturers were also at the show with some of their best products: TC Teardrops with a double axle teardrop that will haul a motorcycle on the front; CAMPINAWA which is a relative newcomer to the trailer industry has been designing



Learjet interiors for decades, so they know how to be creative in small spaces; instead of being inspired by air travel, Roc Trailers is a Georgia based company inspired by fine yacht building; SniperX Expedition Campers has a 9 foot long squaredrop with a pullout kitchen on the side instead of a rear galley, since the entrance is through the back; Off Grid Trailers has several models to choose from and they offer military and first responder discounts; Cedar Ridge Campers, based in Kentucky, manufacture an off road teardrop that weighs less than 1000 pounds (picture opposite, left); Rustic Mountain Overlanding makes a squaredrop that is ready for anything you can throw at it; Open Range Overland, based in Texas, makes a squaredrop off-road kit for the DIYer; BADAC Adventure Company makes a squaredrop with a more traditional teardrop style galley; and lastly, popular manufacturer Hiker Trailers showcased a few models at the Expo. The front cover of the magazine is a BADAC Adventure Company trailer. It was not at the Expo. Jeff (from BADAC) told me that this trailer was custom made for a storm chaser and the wrap is from the doppler radar of a tornado that hit their area in 1999.

Refrigeration, Refrigeration, Refrigeration!

Did you get that? Twelve volt refrigeration is quickly overtaking having the best cooler that you can make or buy. Some of the most popular names in 12-volt refrigeration are Truma, Dometic, ARB, ICECO, and Alpicool. They come in various sizes and some even offer dual zone cooling so one side can be used as a refrigerator while the other side is a freezer. Yes, it's possible to have that evening cocktail without sticking your hand in a bag of half thawed ice for the duration of your

trip. The ICECO GO20 is a small dual zone refrigerator/freezer with a 20 liter capacity. It is roughly the size of a 35 liter Yeti cooler and because there is no need to carry ice to



keep the food cold, this 20 liter fridge can hold as much food as the 35 liter Yeti cooler. Note that any of these refrigerators will need to be strapped down to prevent them from bouncing around.

These 12-volt refrigerators work with a compressor, just like the fridge in your house.



They keep your food and drinks at the right temperature on the hottest of days and are rugged enough to keep in either your tow vehicle or trailer. Many companies make custom, heavy duty drawer slides specifically made for carrying these or other items. They often have straps to attach the refrigerator to the drawer slides too. These refrigerators have a low amp draw and you should be able to last all weekend with no issues with a 100 Ah deep cycle battery. If you have the ability to top up your battery via solar panel, then you can likely stay off grid with no issues as long as you'd like.

Stay tuned to our July/August issue when we compare two popular brands: ICECO and Dometic.

Off-grid Battery Powered Air Conditioning

Is that really possible? It depends, seems to be the consensus. Air conditioning can improve the camping experience on those hot, muggy nights when the exhaust fan isn't enough, but most compressor style air conditioners need to be used when you have shore power. And a lot of teardrop and squaredrop owners don't want a house, window air conditioner sticking out of their trailer which ruins the look and feel of the tiny camper.

The company Zero Breeze seems to have cornered the market on portable, battery powered air conditioners that fit into small spaces. The jury is still out, but many of the teardrop and squaredrop trailers on display at The MOORE had these as an option. A few manufacturers would prepare the trailer for this A/C, but it was up to the customer

to purchase on their own. Some of the manufacturers said that they worked well and a few said they helped, but it wasn't enough. It's important to note that we all have a different definition of what's comfortable and what's not and there are different air conditioning needs. If you only need to cool off the cabin before hopping in bed, then it may do the trick if the night temperatures eventually cool off. But if you need to keep something running all night long, then this likely isn't going to work unless you have the



option of plugging into shore power. We will try to get our hands on a unit to do some testing in the future. If you'd like to try your own Zero Breeze Battery Operated Portable Air Conditioner, [click this link](#). Use discount code "wandertears" for \$80 off.

Safety First

Just a few quick words on this topic. While some of the overlanding videos you see on YouTube may look like a lot of fun, it's important to be safe, know what you're

doing, and be prepared. This can take many forms depending on your camping style. If you'll be out of cellular range for any length of time, then maybe a satellite communicator, like this Garmin, or walkie talkies (if you're out with friends) are best.

This Expo was filled with self recovery gear everywhere you turned. From shovels, to winches, recovery boards, and communication gear there was something for everyone. GoTreads are an easily packable form of recovery boards to help if you've gotten your vehicle stuck. It was great seeing the owner and inventor live at the Expo. He stood out because "Inventor" was printed on the back of his shirt. GoTreads are definitely a unique piece of gear and I learned while at the Expo, that they are multi purpose as well. In their folded up state, they can be used as trailer levelers! We are big fans of their size and love that we don't need to strap or secure anything to our roof racks. While we have yet needed them to get our tow vehicle unstuck, we have used them to get a Bobcat® Skid-Steer Loader out of muck when we buried the wheels halfway and had no traction.

Food!

Campers love to eat! But not all campers love to cook. Two companies stood out with great tools for making camp cooking not only easier, but also more enjoyable. Omnia and Tembo Tusk make it easier to make about anything that you normally would at home out camping. Check out more about the Omnia Stove Top Oven in this article. Stay tuned to later issues this year. Cool Tears is teaming up with Omnia again for a free giveaway! Details to be announced at a later date.

There were also camp cooking classes intended to help you find your inner chef! They included food packing tips and tricks; how to modify meals for dietary restrictions; and demonstrated fast, easy, and tasty meal options.

Summary

There are RV shows, camping expos, and overlanding expos throughout most countries during their camping seasons. These shows or expos are the perfect place to see products that you may be interested in first hand. You can touch them, pick them up and see if that's really what you're looking for. You have the ability to meet like minded people who share your interests and it's also a chance to learn new skills through the educational seminars.

In North America, Overland Expo holds four different events around the country. Overland West is in Flagstaff, Arizona May 20 - 22; Overland PNW is in Bend, Oregon July 8 - 10; Overland Mountain West is in Loveland, Colorado August 26 28; and Overland East is in Arrington, Virginia October 7 - 9. All dates in 2022.

While the above are four of the most popular Expos, be sure to do a google search for overlanding or camping expos and find something that is in your area. Attending an expo is a great way to see and try out new products and to meet people that share your love for the outdoors and tiny camping! ■



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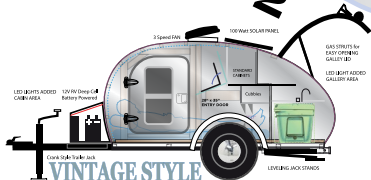
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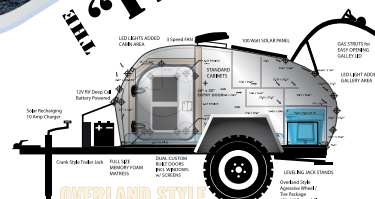
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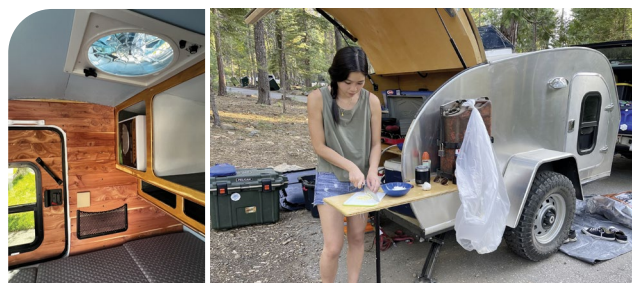


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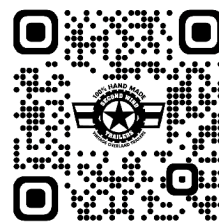


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Product REVIEW

Tembo Tusk Skottle

By **COOL TEARS STAFF**

Last summer, we acquired a skottle, made by Tembo Tusk, a California company. While we still have a lot to learn about cooking with the propane cooktop, we've made some incredible meals using it. You may be wondering, what is a skottle? It's a concave, seasoned cooking vessel that is usually mounted on three legs for stability. Skottles originated in South Africa when farmers turned old harrow discs into cooking vessels that could be used while out in the fields.

What can you cook on a skottle? Anything that can be cooked in a pan, skillet, oven, smoker, or grill can be cooked on the Tembo Tusk skottle.

I want to note that this is not a paid review or endorsement of the Tembo Tusk skottle nor will we be paid if you choose to purchase your own. This is our honest review of the skottle. If you would like to purchase your own, go to www.tembotusk.com and use coupon code "CoolTears" to get 5% off your first purchase.

What's Included

All 18" skottle grills come with the adjustable legs now which is a recent improvement. They are essential to make the cooking surface level on uneven ground. Another recent improvement is that the skottle grill comes with the Kovea Scout stove. This stove clamps to the bottom of the skottle and has excellent flame control. Each stove also comes with a propane gas adapter. The Kovea burner can run on either a butane gas bottle or a propane bottle with that adapter. The entire unit packs up neatly in the heavy duty bags that not only protect your gear, but they also make transporting the entire set up a breeze. The skottle, Kovea stove, and a few propane bottles fit easily into the large bag, while the legs have a separate bag. We also have the lid, wind guard, steam tray, and leg table. These are extras that you should consider if you purchase a skottle.

How it Works

The lightweight, titanium Kovea burner attaches to the bottom of the skottle with a bracket and two eye bolts, which are

included. No tools are required because the eye bolts just need to be hand tightened. Insert the legs into the bottom of the skottle and hand tighten the eye bolts. At this point, flip it over and level the unit as needed with the adjustable legs. Attach a butane or propane bottle and it's ready to cook. The included propane adapter allows for a one pound propane bottle to be used instead of butane. Alternatively, a Coleman hose adapter can be used to connect to larger propane tanks that are often carried on teardrop and squaredrop trailers. This hose adapter is not included with the skottle. The Kovea scout stove is easily turned on with a convenient push button piezo ignitor which is built into the valve. Turn the knob to adjust the flame.

Lightly coat the skottle with cooking oil and wipe off any excess oil. Light the burner and start cooking! Adjust the flame as needed.

Although the skottle is 18 inches across, the actual cooking area is the center eight or nine inches of the pan. The outer rim is used to keep food warm. When cooking several



items, push the cooked food to the outer rim of the pan and move the uncooked food to the center. Keep repeating until all of the food is ready. Now you can plate the food and serve while everything is still hot.

The skottle should be cared for in the same manner as a cast iron skillet. To clean, pour a little oil into the skottle with a generous amount of coarse salt and vigorously rub with a cloth or paper towel. Note: A lint free cloth is best. If a deeper clean is needed, boil some water in the skottle to help loosen any food particles then scrape off the surface with a wood or silicone spatula. Lightly coat the top and bottom of the skottle with cooking oil after cleaning.

Product Review

We have cooked with our Tembo Tusk skottle about fifteen to twenty times so far and by the time this issue is published, it will be packed for our first camping trip of the season to Michigan's Upper Peninsula for a camping trip with friends and family. One of the evening meals will be the recipe included in this issue.

Our first meal using the skottle did not go as planned. Of course, I had stopped reading the instructions once it was put together and fired it up for cooking. I made the wrong assumption that it would be best to mimic how we cook in a wok: super high heat! By doing this, we actually burned off some of the seasoning in the center of the skottle. It is recommended to use medium to medium-low heat for skottle cooking. Don't make the same mistake we did! Fortunately, this didn't

mean we ruined the skottle, it just meant that we had to take some extra steps to re-season our skottle.

This is an all-in-one camp cooker, meaning there are no extra pots or pans to clean if we're making something other than a one pot meal, which we rarely do. Normally, we use at least two pans for each meal which means two pans to wash, dry, and put away two or three times per day. The skottle is so easy to clean and everything can be made at once on different sections of the skottle. I'd rather clean one thing instead of two every meal. This is important to us for a few reasons. First, we try to use as little water as possible



Anne making Brussels sprouts with bacon

for non consumption because we don't typically camp where it is convenient to get more water. So if it's possible to clean the skottle without any water at all, that's a bonus! Even if we do need to use some water to help loosen stuck on food, we don't need more than a cup of water to do the trick. That is still much less water than if we needed to wash dishes. It's another bonus to not have my hands in water and then pull them out in really cold temperatures.

We recently cooked for a group of over forty people on a cold, spring day with 30 mph (48 km/hour) wind gusts and our Kovea Scout stove never blew out. That little burner is amazing! I probably didn't need the wind guard even in those winds, but the lid was a necessity due to the cold temperatures and strong winds. The burner is versatile and can also be used without the skottle if you want to boil a pot of water or if you want to take it hiking or backpacking. Just be sure to have the portable propane tank on stable ground or better yet, [use a propane cylinder base like this one](#), which will help keep your bottle upright. The stove also comes in a small plastic storage box which securely holds it in place. Because of this, I

have had no problems with storing it in the bag with the skottle and the accessories. I don't have to worry about it getting knocked around or damaged.

I love the versatility of the skottle. Want to cook pasta? Check. Want to cook rice? Check. Want to fry that fish you caught?



Lisa, Editor, using the skottle in early May 2022 in Michigan's UP.

Check. What about ramen? Check. Want to smoke some ribs? Check. Honestly, this skottle can cook just about anything. As I write this, I can't think of anything that we normally eat that couldn't be made on the skottle.

Above are some of the things that I love about the Tembo Tusk skottle. But there are a few downsides too. First, it's extra gear that we take with us now. We're not to the point of getting rid of our stove and cookware and

Still honestly don't know if we ever would. So while the Tembo Tusk skottle packs away nicely in the included high quality carry bags it still takes up extra space in our tow vehicle or tongue box of our teardrop. Secondly, I'm nervous about leaving it set up at camp if we're not around. This is not a cheap piece of gear and it would be relatively easy to walk away with. So if we're leaving our campsite, we pack it up and put it away. It only takes a few minutes, but our campstove slides in and out of the galley, so that takes only about



Skottle attached to 5 pound propane tank with [Coleman hose adapter](#)

two seconds versus the few minutes for the skottle. This is not a deal breaker for me, it's just a consideration.

Summary

The skottle by Tembo Tusk is the most versatile and compact cooking setup that I've seen and it's built to last a lifetime. I can't think of any other piece of cooking gear that is as simple and easy to use as this. It could easily replace all of your cooking equipment that you might use at home or while cooking outside at home: cookstove, pots/pans, grill, skillets, and smoker. The skottle isn't cheap, but it can be less expensive than buying a quality cookstove and cookware, plus it's one piece of gear to find room for, instead of

several.

I highly recommend the skottle for use at home or at camp. If you need some more inspiration before purchasing your own Tembo Tusk skottle, check out Marco from OverlandX. Marco is the guy in the Tembo Tusk ad. [In this video, he makes chimichurri salmon with potatoes at camp.](#) You can also check out this review from [Drew with Playing with Sticks, a popular YouTube Channel devoted to tiny campers.](#) Note that throughout Drew's video, they use a lighter to light the stove. This is not necessary with the Kovea burner.

In the next issue of Cool Tears, we will highlight the Tembo Tusk company. They also make other gear to help improve life in our tiny campers. ■





ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND TEARDROPS

PART I

By **LISA ADAMS**

The summer camping season is fast approaching in the Northern Hemisphere and it looks like the biggest threat to the season is fuel prices. Unfortunately, there is no relief in sight.

Gas and diesel prices continue surging around the world as demand jumps ahead of the summer driving season. Prices were already high due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine as governments turned away energy supplies from Russia. Prior to this, three key North American refineries closed between 2019 and 2021 further reducing the continent's ability to produce gas and diesel, according to Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at gas price app GasBuddy.

In May 2022, the average price of gasoline in the United States was over \$4 per gallon in all fifty states and over \$5 for diesel. Canada's gas prices have topped \$2 per liter for the first time. That translates to about \$7.60 per gallon. European gas prices are double what they are in the United States.

Is now the right time to think about owning an electric vehicle (EV) for towing? There are more electrified cars, trucks, and SUVs being manufactured now than ever before, and many are designed to tow up to 4,000 pounds or more which is significantly higher than most teardrop or squaredrop trailer owners require. There are even some electric SUVs that are approved for towing (per the manufacturer): Volkswagen ID.4, Tesla Models Y, X, and 3; and Audi e-tron. Each of the above has a towing capacity of at least 2000 pounds. EV towing is possible, but is it realistic? Cool Tears and Tiny Campers will publish more on this topic during the year.

The ABCs of EVs

There are three main types of vehicle propulsion systems, but they work in different ways. There are hybrid electric vehicles

(HEV), plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEV), and battery electric vehicles (BEV). We will focus solely on the BEVs. A BEV is all electric with the power supplied by a set of rechargeable batteries. BEVs convert over 75% of the electrical energy from the power grid to the wheels of the vehicle, while a gasoline engine converts only 12%-30% of the energy from the gas, according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). BEVs are environmentally friendly in that there are no tailpipe emissions, although the power plant that produces the energy to charge the vehicle may. An added benefit in today's environment is that electricity is a domestic energy source.

What is MPGe?

The United States' EPA publishes certified fuel mileage data for all vehicles sold in the United States, including EVs. The EPA's Miles Per Gallon equivalent (MPGe) helps you compare the fuel economy of vehicles that don't use gasoline. It represents the number of miles that can be traveled using a quantity of fuel with the same energy content as one gallon of gasoline. In the United States, we assume that 33.7 kWh of electricity is equal to one gallon of gasoline. It should be noted that many BEVs have a MPGe rating over 100 miles, which puts the average fuel (electric) cost per year around \$650. I drive a diesel truck that gets about 25 MPG, which is great for a full size truck. With current diesel prices, I would exceed \$650 in about six to eight weeks! You can find the data at www.fueleconomy.gov then click on All-Electric Vehicles.



Range and Charging

Driving range varies from EV to EV, but many new models fall in the 200 - 300 mile range (321 - 482 km). Most EV manufacturers offer an option to upgrade the size of the battery packs which provides additional range. The larger, longer range battery pack may be a good investment if you intend to pull your teardrop or squaredrop regularly. It's important to note that BEVs typically get worse MPGe when driving long distances on the highway as opposed to stop and go city

traffic because they use regenerative braking systems that feed kinetic energy back to the batteries when the car slows or stops. This is opposite to a gasoline powered vehicle.

[The U.S. Department of Energy has a map of the EV charging stations across the US and Canada at this website.](#) To date, they list over 54,000 charging stations. This website even allows you to map your route so you will know where to charge the EV batteries. A major drawback of charging the batteries versus filling up with gasoline is time. EVs take longer to charge than simply filling a gas tank; although, the majority of new EVs can recharge their batteries to 80% in a relatively short amount of time. Right now, you would have time for a bathroom break and take a nap or grab a quick bite to eat while your EV charges. The good news though is that the auto manufacturers are continuously working to improve the battery range and charging speeds.

MGEe and Towing

As a general rule of thumb, all data compiled says to cut the expected driving range in half if you're planning to tow a trailer near the maximum rated trailer weight rating. So that means that if you have an EV like the Audi e-tron that can tow 4000 pounds or the Tesla Model X that can tow 5000 pounds and you tow an RV or boat that is 3500+ pounds, then assume the MPGe will be cut in half. But let's say you have one of the two BEVs mentioned above and you have a teardrop or squaredrop trailer that weighs only 1500 pounds fully loaded. The expected drop in MPGe with a smaller load should be nearly equivalent to their gas guzzling siblings. So a 25% - 40% drop in efficiency would be expected, instead of the 50% drop for a heavier trailer. So is EV towing possible? Absolutely. Is it realistic? For a teardrop or squaredrop trailer owner, it does look realistic.

If your camping typically involves a campground with electric hook-ups, then this could be the best of both worlds. Many campgrounds will allow EV charging at the campsite (some may ask for an additional fee). Keep in mind that charging at a campground is best for overnight or multi-day stays because these are not the quick chargers that can get you on the road in 20 - 40 minutes. You may need an adapter in order to plug in your EV to the campground electric. It's best to call the campground before making a reservation to confirm if they allow EV charging.

EVs and Teardrop Campers

With current gas and diesel prices at global all time highs coupled with lower priced EVs in the market, it may be time to seriously consider an EV as your tow vehicle for a teardrop or squaredrop camper.

Cool Tears will be interviewing EV owners in the coming months, so stay tuned to get more information from people using their EVs to tow their teardrops and squaredrops this camping season. If you would like to provide information for the upcoming article, please contact us at Lisa@cooltears.com ■



A Rivian, an all electric pickup truck, capable of towing 11,000 pounds

MANUFACTURER SPOTLIGHT **SECOND WIND TRAILERS**

100% HAND MADE



VINTAGE TEARDROP TRAILERS

By **COOL TEARS STAFF**

S econd Wind Trailers builds vintage teardrop and overland capable trailers. Nathan Pizzo, the owner of Second Wind Trailers has one goal - to build a trailer that will enable you to enjoy the outdoors with the convenience and comforts of home.

The name Second Wind Trailers comes from what Nathan thought about when the financial crisis of 2007 - 2008 affected his family. He wanted to find a new breath of fresh air, or his Second Wind.

Nathan started working in the teardrop industry in 2014 when he sold his 1974 911 RS Porsche and set off on building something that he could enjoy with his wife and family. Just like many other teardrop builders, he sold that first trailer instead of keeping it for himself. What started as a hobby has turned into a successful business.

Second Wind Trailers offers two base models to choose from, the Whisper 2 and the Freedom. Both trailers are the standard 5 foot by 8 foot size teardrops. The Whisper 2 is more of a traditional, vintage style



teardrop, while the Freedom is more off-road capable. Both models feature that classic Airstream finish on the outside. With each teardrop built, Nathan continues to improve the designs and becomes more efficient with

the building process.

Currently, Second Wind Trailers is mostly a one person operation although he uses a professional welder on the trailers. The welded trailer base is their own design. The walls and ceilings of both trailers are wood based and all external walls and the ceiling



are fully insulated with solid foam insulation. This helps make the trailer comfortable to use in hot or cold weather. Air conditioning is an option to choose from, but all teardrops come with full screens so you can leave the doors wide open to catch the breeze.

Second Wind Trailers is strictly a make to order manufacturer, there are no stock trailers for sale and the current (as of this writing) lead time for a new, custom teardrop is between two and three months. This is currently among the shortest lead times for a custom teardrop.

One of Second Wind Trailers recent builds was just delivered to its new owner near Grand Haven, Michigan and is a US Coast Guard themed teardrop. As a side note, Grand Haven, Michigan earned its designation as "Coast Guard City, USA" by an act of



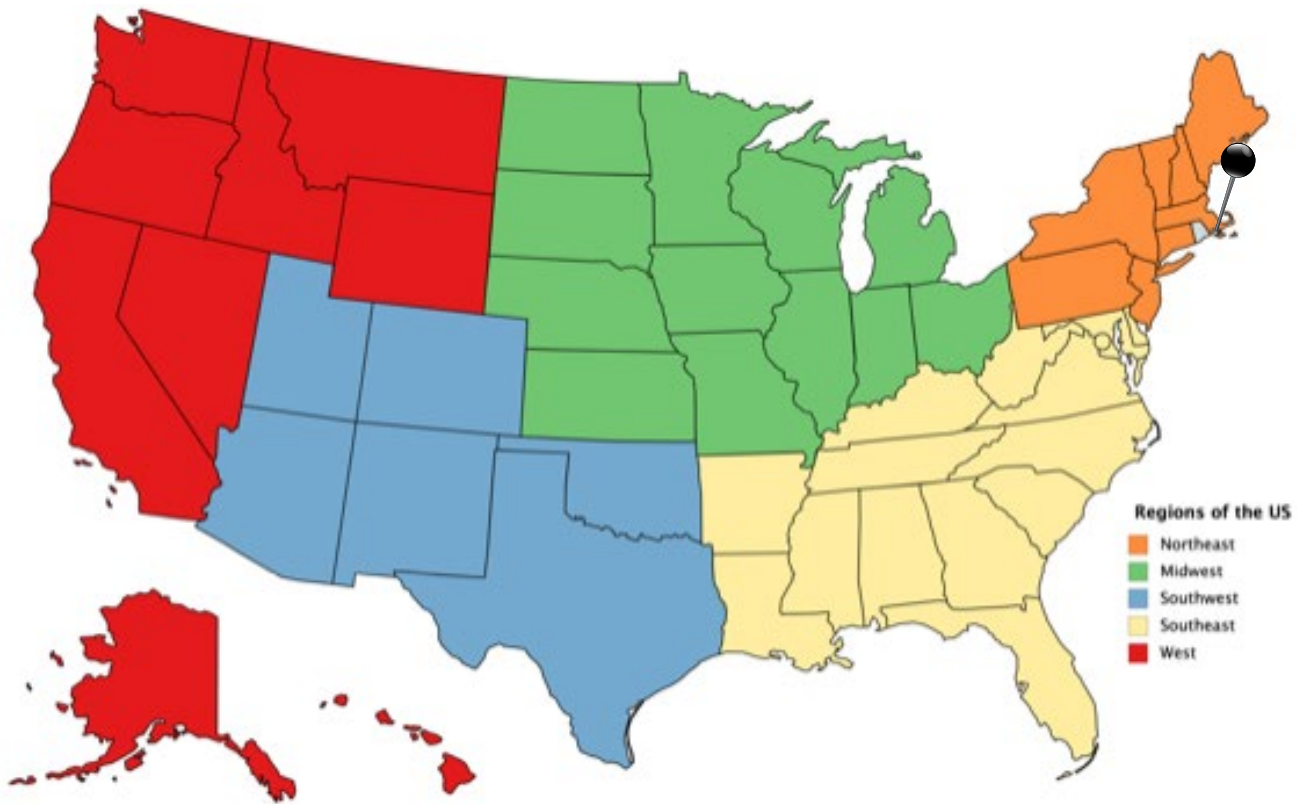
Congress and was signed by the President in 1998. Since its first picnic in 1924 and then first full festival in 1937, the city has hosted the US Coast Guard Festival honoring the men and women of the US Coast Guard. This summer's festival runs from July 29th through August 7th. The Parade of Ships is August 1st and is usually a crowd favorite. People line both sides of the channel and harbor and keep their eyes on the western horizon, waiting for a glimpse of the US and Canadian Coast Guard vessels to come into view, growing larger as they near their intended port for the rest of the festival. The festival also has a car show and parade. I'm hopeful that this new teardrop will be on display at the festival this summer so I can see it first hand. To see the great side table for this trailer, [click this link for a short video on how it works.](#)

Second Wind Trailers has their tenth trailer in process with a large order pending for

another five teardrop trailers. Nathan is busy, but he loves every minute. He says that it's all worth it when his customers can enjoy their cup of coffee deep in the backcountry with their custom off-grid trailer. Nathan said, "God has truly blessed me with many talents and I will use them to enhance other people's lives to the best of my ability." This is what keeps Nathan moving each day. Each trailer is different and he carefully crafts them for the new owners. His goal is to "build something that gives its owner something money can't buy: The freedom to spend time with loved ones in spectacular venues and to create lifelong memories."

Be sure to check out [Second Wind Trailers](#) and see what they can customize for you! ■

REGIONAL CAMPING SPOTLIGHT



"We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one."
~ Jacques Yves Cousteau

Both parks highlighted in this issue offer sweeping waterfronts, one salted, the other unsalted. While they have different features within their boundaries, such as historical World War II observation towers and a rare oak savanna, the ecosystems of both flourish and provide key habitats for wildlife.

Pinery Provincial Park and Horseneck Beach State Reservation are within an hour or two drive of major metropolitan areas with populations over four million people, but they allow their visitors to immerse themselves in nature. ■

Location: Horseneck Beach State Reservation
5 John Reed Road
Westport, Massachusetts 02790

Getting There:

GPS Info (Latitude, Longitude):
41.508654, -71.054702
41°30'19.152"N, 71°2'57.84"W

Located at the western end of Buzzards Bay, lies a two mile long sandy beach and secluded campground at Horseneck Beach State Reservation. This park lies about 60 miles (97 km) south of Boston and by air the western tip of the park is less than two miles (3.22 km) from the Rhode Island border. The park is a barrier beach which is a narrow strip of small dunes that are slightly elevated from sea level and it provides protection to the inland marshes and habitat for wildlife.

Don't be deceived by what this park has to offer based solely on the campground. The campground has a lot of asphalt and there is not much green space. This small park still packs a punch. Not only does Horseneck Beach include the sandy beach, but it also offers rolling dunes, salt marshes, and miles of tidal marshes to be explored on foot or by kayak. From the campground, you can walk, ride your bike, or drive over the narrow causeway to Gooseberry Island, which has walking trails, boat ramp, beach and remnants of two World War II observation towers. There is a trail through the middle of this island that leads you to the observation towers. One of the towers still stands at 48 feet and it was part of the military's coastal defense network during the Second World War. The Coastal Defense Artillery Network had a group of similar observation towers that would report on potential enemy targets at sea.



Other Nearby Attractions

Westport, MA is a small town which features a few area wineries, breweries, and art galleries. Woods Hole Science Aquarium is roughly a one hour drive away and is the nation's oldest public aquarium. The aquarium is designed for self guided tours and includes touch tanks where you can find small fish, crabs, sea stars, shells, etc.

No generators are allowed and no walk-in camping allowed - same day reservations are accepted up to 2 PM EST.

Number of Sites: 100

Pets: yes, but not allowed on the beach from April 1 - September 15

Water: yes

Electric: yes

Price per night: \$\$ - \$\$\$\$\$\$ (\$22/night for MA residents and \$70/night for non residents)

Fire Rings: yes

Picnic Tables: yes

Restrooms/showers: yes

Campground has ADA accessible sites.

Primary activities within the park: Boating, kayaking, fishing, water sports, and swimming in the Atlantic Ocean. Note that there are no lifeguards. This location consistently is breezy, which makes it an excellent windsurfing or kiteboarding location. There is a paved, ADA accessible walking path that runs along the 2 mile (3.2 km) stretch of beach.

Pro Tip:

The landscape of this area with the ocean beaches and protected salt marshes makes this one of the best birding locations in New England.





Location: Pinery Provincial Park
9526 Lakeshore Road RR2
Grand Bend, N0M 1T0

Getting There:

GPS Info (Latitude, Longitude):

43.24841, -81.82342

43°14'54.312"N, 81°49'25.248"W

Pinery Provincial Park is located about 100 miles (161 km) northeast of Detroit, Michigan, USA and 142 miles (229 km) west of Toronto, Ontario, Canada on the southern shore of Lake Huron. This park has over 6 miles (10km) of sandy beach and the surrounding area includes a rare oak savanna and rolling coastal dune ecosystem. This is one of the most impressive parks in Ontario.

This park is open year round and it has something for everyone in all seasons. We will focus primarily on non winter activities for this article. The sand dunes and the oak savanna are the primary features of this park, but the Old Ausable Channel (no motors allowed on the channel) and Lake Huron are equally impressive if you'd rather explore the area in or near the water. An oak savanna is a forested grassland that is dominated by oak trees and was once the most common ecosystem in the midwest of the US and pockets around the Great Lakes, but today it is a highly endangered ecosystem. This ecosystem supports over thirty species of mammals

and over 300 different species of birds pass through the area, 100+ of which nest inside the park.

There are three primary campgrounds in the park: Riverside, Dunes, and Burley. The Old Ausable Channel cuts through the park and runs parallel to the beach. The Riverside campground has 476 sites and most of these sites offer electricity. Part of Riverside is open year-round. This area of the park is more open, so you may have more sun at your campsite. The Dunes campground has 299 sites and this area is closest to Lake Huron. Despite the name, this is camping in the woods, not on the fragile dunes. This area is typically open from May through October. The Burley campground area is the farthest south and west in the park and it also allows easy access to the beaches on Lake Huron. This campground has 304 sites. The landscape here is similar to the Dunes section, so each campsite enjoys partial shade throughout the day. This area is only open seasonally.

The best way to explore the park is through their extensive interpretive programs. They have evening programs in their outdoor theater; bike rides or hikes with Park Naturalists to help you discover the unique features of the area; kids programs during the summers where they will discover nature through stories, games, and animals. During the summer, Park Naturalists host the "Ooze n' Gooze," where participants wade through the Old Ausable Channel and learn about the aquatic life that thrives in this channel.

Number of Sites: 1000+

Pets: yes, but not all locations

Water: yes

Electric: yes, not all sites

Price per night: \$\$\$\$ (\$42 for non-electric, \$47.50 for electric)

Fire Rings: yes

Picnic Tables: yes

Restrooms/Shower: yes

Campground has ADA accessible sites and the visitor center, outdoor theater, park store, rental building, and canoe dock are all barrier-free. Several trails are accessible and a three-wheeled chair is available for accessing rugged or sandy terrain.

The park store is open daily and has everything from camping gear, toiletries, dry food, drinks, etc.

Primary activities within the park: Hiking, biking, paddling (canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards), fishing, swimming, and birdwatching. Bikes for all ages, canoes, kayaks, etc are all available for rent. See the Visitors Center for programs. This is open daily until 5PM.

Pro Tip: Be sure to take along your cell phone or camera around the park. Throughout Pinery,

there are “Photomons.” These are posts that allow park ecologists to collect a library of photos to monitor changes in the area. This is done by reviewing photos submitted by visitors that are taken at the same location throughout the year. ■



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