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September/October 2022

COOLtearsTM

and tiny campers
MAGAZINE

The Chesapeake Light Craft Teardrop Camper Home Build Feature



Top 7 Methods to Staying Clean

PLUS: How To: Awning Care

Towing with an EV: Follow UP

SAILING DIRECTIONS
To enter Chesapeake Bay by Cape Henry Channel, bring Cape Henry Lt. In. When some W by S to
W by S and stand in. Behind the Lt. In. stand in. Behind the Lt. In. stand in. Behind the Lt. In. stand in.
Henry and the Middle Ground. The Middle Ground is a shoal of 10 fathoms. The shoal is 1/2
mile wide of the 30 fms shoal. Bring the boat in. Behind the Lt. In. stand in. Behind the Lt. In. stand in.
after standing in. The shoal is 1/2 mile wide of the 30 fms shoal. Bring the boat in. Behind the Lt. In. stand in.
mile. When inshore to the Southward & Eastward, standing in the shoal, till Wilmington Pt. would
reigns with an open to the Northward, or Cape Henry, dispose the water into Cape Henry Channel, and
the bottom changes from hard to soft and soft. Approaching from the Northward & Eastward, inshore
after passing South Id. Lt. In. To keep it well open with the shoals to the Southward, keep in the
22 fms shoal. Stand in. Behind the Lt. In. stand in. Behind the Lt. In. stand in. Behind the Lt. In. stand in.
North Water, should not approach, it more than 1/2 mile as the 10 fms shoal along to the Southward.
along the shore. Stretch well out on the Port tack and bring Cape Henry to bear West, to the Southward.
It appears broken and uneven from a distance seaward, when bearing from W by N to W by S, with other bear-
ings they appear even and solid.

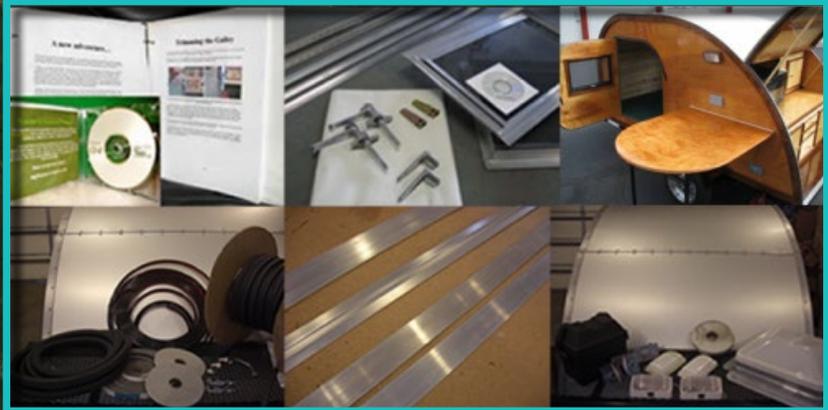
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COOL Tears™ and tiny campers MAGAZINE

Vol. 10 No. 5 September/October 2022

10 COVER STORY

The Chesapeake Light Craft Teardrop Camper - Home Build Feature

Kevin Lewis

5 LETTER FROM THE EDITOR
Lisa Adams

7 KITCHEN ON WHEELS: COCONUT COLLARDS
Anne Cox

14 THIRD ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST
Anne Cox

17 TOWING WITH AN EV: FOLLOW UP
Lisa Adams

20 HOW TO: AWNING CARE
Tom Raidna

27 PRESS RELEASES
Cool Tears Staff

30 TOP 7 METHODS TO STAY CLEAN WHILE
BOONDOCKING
Cool Tears Staff

34 REGIONAL CAMPING SPOTLIGHT
Cool Tears Staff



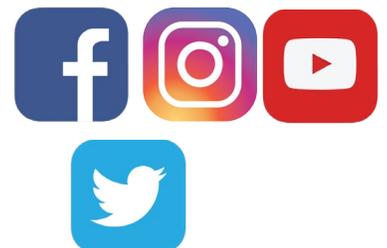
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Letter from the Editor:



Tiny Camper Enthusiasts,

It's Labor Day weekend in the United States and Canada. Most children have gone back to school, the days are noticeably shorter, and the nights are finally turning cooler.

What may seem like the end of summer for some people is the beginning of some of the best camping for the Cool Tears Staff.. Just after Labor Day, we're packing the teardrop and heading out on an adventure to visit family and friends, new and old that will span ten different states. Our first night, we'll stay just about 100 miles (62 km) outside of Chicago, in Starved Rock State Park, in north central Illinois. Be sure to check out the article on Starved Rock State Park in the Regional Camping Spotlight.

We'll camp in various places, ranging from a state park, a farm booked through Harvest Hosts, a friend's driveway, a national forest and other free or super cheap places that are yet to be determined.

Anne and I both have full-time careers outside of Cool Tears and our vacation time is precious. Because our time is usually so short, we pre-plan most of our days while on vacation, trying to cram as much in as possible. This trip is a little different for both of us. First, we're taking a longer trip, twelve days instead of our normal seven to nine. Secondly, no drive day is planned for more than seven hours to allow us plenty of time to stop if something looks interesting. Other than our first two days, most of our driving days will be five hours or less. Considering our total trip is nearly 3300 miles (5310 km), that's not an easy feat. We're leaving ourselves as much time as possible to get out of the truck and do some hiking.

What's on tap for our trip? Outside of visiting with family and friends along the way, we'll be looking for more locations to highlight in our "Regional Camping Spotlight" section of the magazine. We'll be getting more reps in with some old and new gear so we can give you our pros and cons in upcoming issues or articles. And lastly, we'll be doing some research on Route 66 on our return trip from the Albuquerque and Santa Fe, New Mexico area as we make plans for hosting a teardrop crawl along parts of the iconic Mother Road.

Wherever your next adventure takes you, travel slowly enough to enjoy the area and be safe. ■

Happy travels and stay safe

Live Tiny. Live Free.

Lisa Adams

Editor

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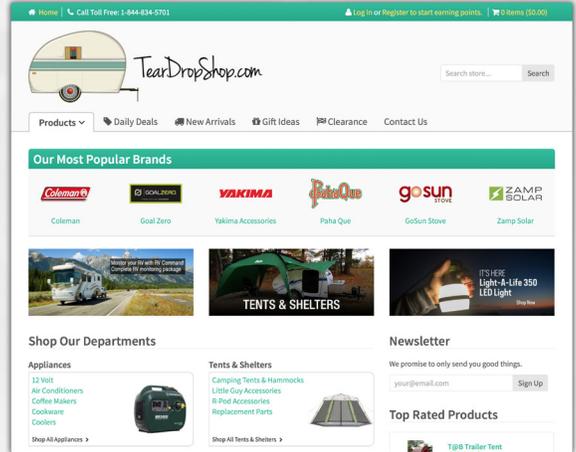
Side Mount Tent



Teardrop Lock



T@B Tent



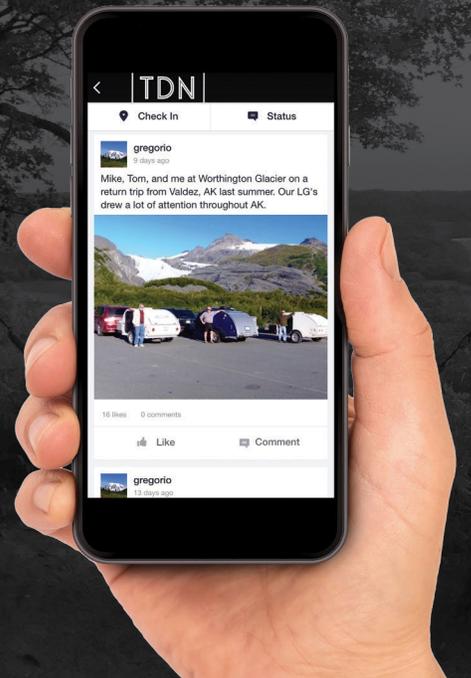
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KITCHEN ON WHEELS

COCONUT COLLARDS

Let's face it. A lot of camping meals are not very healthy. Hamburgers, hotdogs, bratwurst, and steaks are camping staples. What about a vegetable? Sure, there's corn on the cob this time of year and there's always potatoes. Do potatoes even count as a veg? What if you could have a cooked leafy green vegetable that actually tastes good, is quick, and only has a few ingredients? As a kid, I had to at least try everything. My parents called that a "no thank you" serving. Before you turn up your nose to these coconut collard greens, give them a try.

This recipe will serve 4 people as a side dish.

Ingredients:

- 1 large bunch of collard greens
- 1 tablespoon coconut oil or other vegetable oil
- 1 medium yellow onion
- 1 - 14 oz can unsweetened coconut milk
- Salt and Pepper to taste
-

Coconut Collard Green Instructions:

Dice the onion. In a large pan or skottle, heat your oil on medium heat and add the onion and a dash of salt. Cook, until softened.

While the onion is cooking, wash the collard greens in cold water to remove any dirt. Grab the bunch by the stems and shake gently to remove the excess water. We prefer not to use the thickest part of the stems, but the choice is yours. To easily remove the first few inches of the stem, stack a few collard leaves,

with the stems on top of each other. Make a quick cut with your knife a few inches up from the base of the leaf to remove that part of the stem. Repeat for the entire bunch. Then stack all of the leaves on top of each other and chop into about 1 inch square pieces.

Toss the chopped collard leaves into the pan or skottle and stir until just wilted. You may need to add a touch of water during this step and then cover with a lid for a few minutes until all



of the leaves are wilted and a bright green color.

Add the can of coconut milk to the collards and simmer with the lid on for seven to ten minutes. Remove the lid and continue to simmer until the coconut milk is reduced.

Sprinkle with salt and serve immediately. ■



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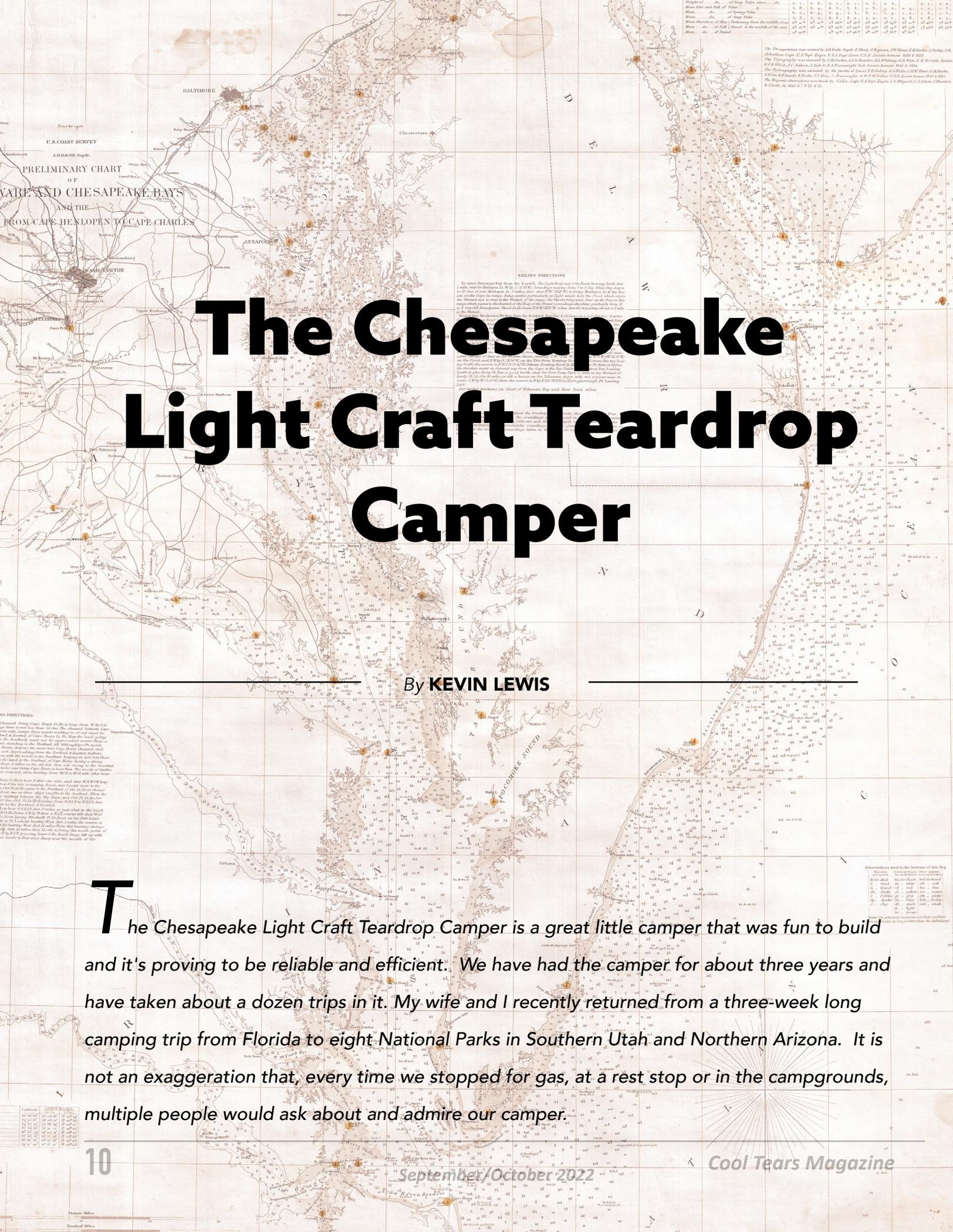


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The Chesapeake Light Craft Teardrop Camper

By KEVIN LEWIS

The Chesapeake Light Craft Teardrop Camper is a great little camper that was fun to build and it's proving to be reliable and efficient. We have had the camper for about three years and have taken about a dozen trips in it. My wife and I recently returned from a three-week long camping trip from Florida to eight National Parks in Southern Utah and Northern Arizona. It is not an exaggeration that, every time we stopped for gas, at a rest stop or in the campgrounds, multiple people would ask about and admire our camper.

I first learned about the Chesapeake Light Craft Company from some cousins who went to a class in Annapolis, Maryland, to build a boat. It turned out beautifully and they told me of the company's design of a teardrop camper. The company offers one- and two-week classes to build a boat or camper at their facility. Or you can have all the parts sent to your home and complete the kit on your own. I chose to build my camper in my double-car garage. It took about six months, working evenings and weekends; the company estimates 250 hours for basic construction. I have some woodworking experience building furniture and other household projects, but this was my first build of this type and first time working with fiberglass and epoxy.

All the parts came shipped in six boxes, with three of them about the size of a door. The wooded parts of the camper are CNC cut and made from marine grade 3/16 plywood. Everything came expertly packed with an incredible step-by-step instruction manual. The kit includes all the wooden parts, hardware, fiberglass cloth, epoxy, and fillers necessary for the build. The builder needs to supply an assortment of hand tools and basic hand-powered tools; the most important is a good orbital sander. The basic Teardrop Kit, without a trailer, costs \$2800USD plus shipping. By the time I added the trailer, all the accessories and the finish, the completed camper cost me around \$7500USD. The total weight of the fully outfitted camper is about



Kevin's teardrop in Capital Reef National Park



The galley

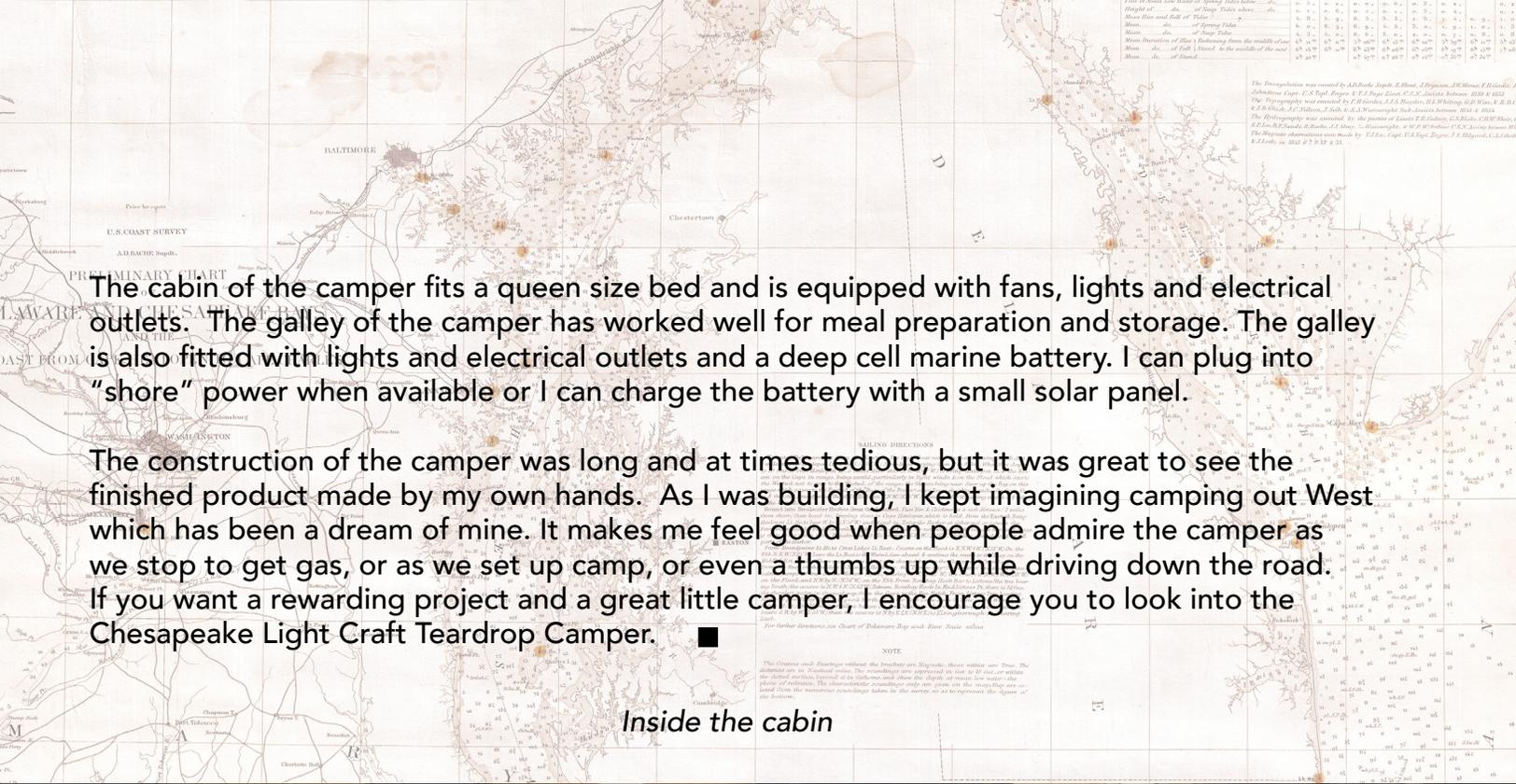


600 pounds (272 kg), and is designed to be pulled by a small car.

There are construction video instructions, photos and tips on CLC's website (www.clcboats.com) and YouTube. The company has very good customer service phone and email support. They have been in business for 30 years and have shipped over 40,000 boat kits worldwide. They have shipped over 600 teardrop camper kits since 2016.

Kit construction starts by building a plywood form that holds the camper shell in shape during initial construction. The camper construction is a "stitch and glue" method.

Small copper wires are threaded through predrilled holes to "stitch" the plywood pieces; then fiberglass cloth and epoxy fillets are used to glue them together. The process was straightforward and the shell of the camper took shape very quickly. Then the entire shell is covered with fiberglass cloth and epoxy. This process is time consuming and a bit tedious. Then there is the sanding and sanding and sanding. Did I mention there is a lot of sanding? After the construction was complete, I took my camper to a local auto paint shop and had it "clear coated". The finish is holding up very well and it makes people ask if it is really made of wood?



The cabin of the camper fits a queen size bed and is equipped with fans, lights and electrical outlets. The galley of the camper has worked well for meal preparation and storage. The galley is also fitted with lights and electrical outlets and a deep cell marine battery. I can plug into "shore" power when available or I can charge the battery with a small solar panel.

The construction of the camper was long and at times tedious, but it was great to see the finished product made by my own hands. As I was building, I kept imagining camping out West which has been a dream of mine. It makes me feel good when people admire the camper as we stop to get gas, or as we set up camp, or even a thumbs up while driving down the road. If you want a rewarding project and a great little camper, I encourage you to look into the Chesapeake Light Craft Teardrop Camper. ■

Inside the cabin





3rd Annual Photo Contest

By ANNE COX

The deadline to submit your photos is fast approaching! Submit your photos to Anne@cooltears.com by the end of September to be considered in this year's photo contest.

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 2023 calendar. All people that provide a photo used in the calendar will receive a free calendar. Also, any Patron on Patreon will also receive a free calendar, the same as last year. Your photo entry may also appear in the Cool Tears and Tiny Campers Magazine or across the Cool Tears social media channels.

Please note the timing of the contest. Submit photos by the end of September 2022.

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)
- By submitting any photos for the contest, you agree to a royalty free perpetual license to use your photos across the Cool Tears media platforms. You will be given credit for any photos, 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 2023 Cool Tears and Tiny Campers calendar is September 30, 2022.

Winners will be contacted by October 4, 2022.

We will open the website for orders on October 5, 2022 and the calendars will be ready to start shipping in early/mid November. ■





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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.





TOWING WITH AN EV: Follow Up

By **LISA ADAMS**

In the May/June 2022 issue of Cool Tears, we had Part 1 about electric vehicles (EVs) and towing teardrops. It was an introductory article focused on learning the basics of EVs, such as how MPGe (similar to MPG) is determined, what to expect while towing, and the realities of range and charging. The first article was theory, as provided by the EV manufactures and the United States Department of Energy data. This follow up article, is putting that theory into practice and highlights real life examples of what it's like towing with an EV.

One of the most popular EVs available is the Tesla Model Y and it is fully capable of towing a teardrop trailer or other tiny camper. A few people graciously provided useful information and data for this article. Thank you to Emery, Jean-Pierre, and MWD Adventures!

Emery's Experience

At the beginning of the summer, Emery and his wife were planning a trip from Missouri to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (the UP) with their Tab 320 Boondock teardrop and their Tesla. The teardrop is nearly 2000 lbs without any gear, water, or propane, so it's one of the heavier teardrop trailers. On this trip, Emery and his wife both drove their Teslas since they had to be in different places at the same time. So they were able to provide an apples to apples comparison of driving a Tesla with and without a trailer, driving the same miles and at the same speed.

As a baseline, Emery had previously driven his Tesla about 25,000 miles (40,233 km) and averaged 360 wh/mile for driving his vehicle in conditions ranging from -20°F (-28.9°C) to over 100°F (37.8°C). It's important to note that on hot and cold days with either the air conditioner or heat working to maintain a comfortable temperature, the energy consumption can jump to 700 - 800 wh/mile. These averages were inclusive of city and highway driving. To convert WH/mile to a MPG equivalent, divide the amount of energy in a gallon of gasoline (36,650Wh) by your Wh/mile. So in Emery's 25,000 miles before towing, his MPGe was about 102 MPG.

On the trip from Missouri to Michigan, they traveled mostly at 60 mph (96 km/h) and they averaged about 620 wh/mile, or 59 MPGe

which is similar to what the data showed in the previous article. The energy consumption was nearly double while towing. He also noted that had he pulled to teardrop with his F-150, he would have spent significantly more money in gas. On the first 680 miles (1094 km), with gas at \$4.99USD/gallon, it would have cost \$286USD in his truck, while the Tesla came in at \$183USD.

Emery's Charging Experience

Most charging stops were about forty minutes in length with a few that took an hour. On the longer charging stops, they kept busy by either taking a nap or by cooking a meal in the teardrop. In the UP of Michigan, which is sparsely populated, there aren't many superchargers so they had to be flexible with their charging routine. At one campground, they had no issues charging the car overnight, but at another campground they weren't able to charge even while using the 50 amp circuit. So they altered their plans and had to drive to a town 40 miles (64 km) away to get a charge. The last campground that they stayed at charged them an extra \$25 to plug in their car.

For those that like data, Emery kept a great data set for the beginning of their trip. Overall, it was a good test of towing their 320 Boondock with their Tesla and it saved them quite a bit of money compared to towing with their pick up truck. The data will be at the end of the article.

Jean-Pierre's Experience

Jean-Pierre has experience towing two different teardrops that they rented while trying to find the perfect teardrop

to suit their needs. He suggests using [aBetterRoutePlanner.com](https://www.abetterrouteplanner.com) to plan trips with your EV, stating “the site allows you to provide additional information about how you plan to drive (e.g.: max speed, weight in vehicle) and will automatically adjust expected consumption based on those inputs. It can also be used to collect stats with different configurations (e.g.: trailer, racks, bicycle on roof) and later use those stats to plan trips.”

Jean-Pierre was able to charge at his campsites with no issues, unlike Emery who ran into a few issues.

Other tips from Jean-Pierre

Most charging stations are designed so that the vehicle needs to be backed in. Depending on how busy the charging station is, it may be possible to park sideways, like the photo provided from Emery. If it's busy, it requires that you either wait or unhitch the trailer, which will add time to your trip. Some Tesla charging stations are designed to allow charging without backing in, which is to be used by people towing a trailer. However, in his experience, most other drivers don't know that it's designed for people that have trailers and they often take this space.

EV's regenerate power through braking, which we covered in our previous article. If your teardrop has trailer brakes, this reduces the EV's ability to generate electricity when slowing down. Jean-Pierre recommends adjusting the trailer brake controller so that they are only needed in more extreme braking situations so you can still generate the maximum amount of electricity while towing.

MWD Adventures

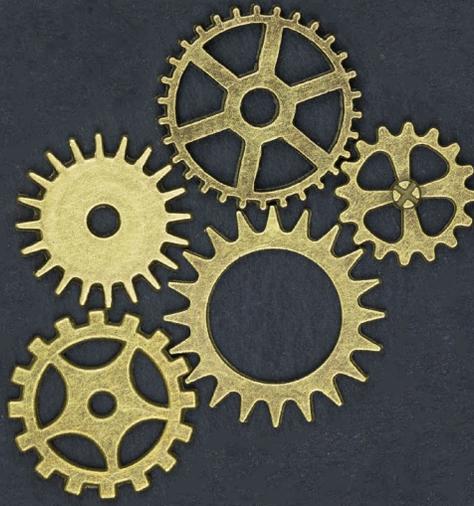
A big thank you to Matt and Wendy DeWitt for a video they recently published. They rented their trailer to a coworker of mine, who is an engineer, and he took along a video camera on the trip. [Here's a link to that video.](#) Thanks João!

Summary

EVs are gaining in popularity and the charging network continues to expand as thousands of new chargers come online each year. Unlike those with larger RVs, teardrop and squaredrop owners can more easily use an EV as their tow vehicle. ■



	Battery Miles Out	Battery Miles In	Battert Miles Consumed	Miles Driven	Speed (MPH)	Average Energy (Wh/M)	Total Energy Consumed (KW/H)	Weather	Charge Time (minutes)	Cost/KWH (USD)	Cost per leg (USD)
Leg 1	271	32	239	117.8	57	616	72.7	70°F WNW winds	40	\$0.40	\$29.08
Leg 2	240	35	25	100.4	60	638	64.2	67°F calm	60	\$0.47	\$30.17
Leg 3	249	92	157	76.3	60	636	48.5	63°F light breeze	60	\$0.45	\$21.83
Leg 4	250	19	231	114.7	55	619	71	73°F with AC moderate cross wind	60	\$0.41	\$29.11
Leg 5	250	78	172	89.3	60	580	51.9	70°F light wind	43	\$0.43	\$22.32
Leg 6	226	56	170	88.2	60	600	52.9	72°F light cross wind	75	\$0.43	\$22.75
Leg 7	240	26	204	99.9	60	659	65.8	72°F headwind	60	\$0.43	\$28.30



HOW TO...

AWNING CARE

By **TOM RAIDNA**

Being comfortable when teardrop camping can be the difference between a great experience and a miserable one. Awnings and other shelters can give us some relief by staying out of the sun when it's hot. Side walls or room tents can protect us from the wind when it's cold, hide us from bugs, keep us dry when raining or snowing, and provide the required privacy for changing clothes. Having one mounted to a camper is very convenient, but not all campers are good candidates, and good quality awnings can be pricey. Some teardrops come equipped with awnings from the manufacturer. They may be mounted to roof racks, sidewalls, and some visor types fit in a slotted molding. Other, attached to the camper, options include aftermarket vehicle awnings like ARB, Napa MaxiTrac, PahaQue side shelters.

When it's not possible or not preferred to attach the awning to the teardrop there are a few standalone shelter types that are popular with teardrop campers. Clam shell type screen rooms, dome canopies, pop up canopies, larger size privacy tents and DIY alternatives exist. Some owners also extend the functionality of the awning by adding side walls, screen rooms or full-blown room tents. Regardless of your awning or shelter choice, keeping them in good repair and using them safely does take some conscious effort and perhaps some common sense. Below are several points to consider when using and caring for these items. The list considers safe usage and best practices for general maintenance.

Wind

Let's first consider windy conditions. Awnings can easily get ruined when trying to deploy them in windy conditions. Awnings make great sails and in wind not only is the awning at risk but the camper is too. Mounting points can get ripped out and wayward awning poles or support bars when blown into the camper can cause more than superficial damage. The best approach is to be prudent in deciding to set up in windy conditions, perhaps waiting for quieter weather is the better part of valor. Your personal and safety of others should always be top priority. When setting up the awning make sure to properly stake out the guy lines and if your awning allows stake the poles. Sometimes we hesitate to use them because they can be a trip hazard, so having a high visibility line or tying little flags to the line can make it easily seen. One trick I picked up is to cross the guy lines across the front of the awning such that the line runs from one top corner to the

foot of the opposite pole. This significantly reduces tripping a hazard and will work if you are willing to give up access under the awning from the front. If the winds really pick up after the awning is up the only safe option may be to put the awning away until it's safe. If the awning is free standing you may have to act sooner than staked out types. If camping in a known windy area a clam shell type shelter might be a good option as when well staked out do well in the wind, can be erected a reasonable distance from the camper but always be careful.

Precipitation

Precipitation is another concern for awnings as rain and snow are heavy and if not allowed to runoff or it is not removed can cause damage to the awning material or other support components. Prevention can be taken when rain is expected by altering the awning setup to allow the rain a path to run off the awning. Lowering one of the poles on rectangular awnings typically works well, if on a slope choose the downhill side so you are not directing the runoff under your awning and camper. Some 270° awnings have loops for additional lines to create a valley in the cloth to allow a route for the water to drain. Standalone shelters like pop-ups or domes will shed water readily, so keep that in mind if you have them over your rear hatch and note that they may drain directly on your teardrop.

Awning Care

Keeping the awning clean is important as well. It's amazing what collects on the top surface. I have seen pollen, bird guano, live and dead bugs, tree sap, pinecones and needles, leaves, tree branches and other

unidentifiable substances on my awning. These elements can cause premature aging of the awning fabric. A folding extension brush is helpful to sweep off items off the awning top when at camp. Wiping the awning off when packing up is advisable and regular cleaning is a good idea. Cleaning guidance is provided by awning makers and varies based on the construction materials. For cleaning the canvas ARB suggests using dish soap and water for a gentle cleaning. They add if something a bit stronger is needed, then Simple Green cleaner can be utilized,

provided it is well rinsed and allowed to dry. Additionally, wiping down the legs and support arms before collapsing into the closed position will keep them operating smoothly. Rhino Rack offers both 270° degree awnings, with ultra-durable lightweight water resistant material and rectangular awnings constructed of water and UV resistant canvas. The engineers there also suggest that a mild dish soap or Simple Green

diluted in lukewarm water be used with a soft bristle brush to gently clean their products. Alternatively, a commercial RV awning cleaner can be used if one checks the directions to ensure it's appropriate for the material being cleaned. Popular brands like Thetford and Camco can be found in your local home improvement store or online. MoonShade

awnings are a different breed of awnings and require a little different care. These are portable and versatile awnings with a variety of mounting systems. They are made of ripstop nylon allowing the 9'x7' version to be stored in a 28"x6" package. The MoonShade website makes it clear to never pack the awning wet and hang to dry either inside or outside in a shaded area. A wipe down with a damp cloth is recommended after each trip and if a deeper clean is needed only hand wash with a mild non-detergent dish soap used with a sponge or soft bristled non-



abrasive brush. Because the poles and guy lines are packed together with the awning, give them a cleaning as well before packing.

For those using a side room, privacy, or other tents beware of the beating the floors take. There are all kinds of hazards underfoot. Campsites have rocks, twigs, and

other objects capable of roughing up a floor. Sometimes the room tents are deployed on asphalt or concrete as well. Plastic straw rugs advertised as camping mats are inexpensive and make a very good barrier between the ground and floor of the camper. While they do not keep the floors completely dry they do help minimize moisture. An indoor/outdoor rug or a second camping mat on top of the floor makes for a comfortable place to step and protects the other side of the tent floor. As with the awning, sweeping and cleaning the floor is advisable.

The most important precaution is to not put the awning away wet. When possible, make sure the awning is not packed wet at the campground. When conditions force you to store a wet awning, make a note, stick it to your forehead and don't take it off until you air it out when you get home. A wet awning left to sit is likely to get mildew and mold which will at worst quickly ruin it and best-case cause hours of cleaning, rinsing and drying. If allowed to get moldy, be very careful on which products you use to clean as some are really nasty. Your best bet is to contact the manufacturer to find out the best way to address the issue.

If your awning does sustain some harm, it is important to assess the damage and determine if continued use can be done safely. You may be able to save your awning if you take prompt action and stop or at least slow addition deterioration. If your awning has small holes or tears there are various kinds of RV, marine and canvas repair tape that can stop the spread of the damage. You may be able to sew in a patch or it may make sense to have a professional repair based on your awning. Again, consulting the

manufacturer is always a good plan. Your awning storage bag is an easily overlooked bit of kit in keeping the awning in good nick. Camper mounted awning bags are exposed to the same outside elements as the camper. Take time to clean it inside and out. Give some love and attention to any zippers, buckles, or other fasteners. Keep them clean and lubricated as needed.

Summary

In closing, think about some procedural and mistake proofing activities you can take. Practice setting up and putting away your awning, side tents etc. It's really important to be confident in setting up and taking down, especially in adverse conditions. Being able to do these activities in an efficient manner will improve your experience, because no camper ever said "I want to take a long time packing up." Have a checklist of materials like guy lines, stakes and the like to make sure you don't leave any behind, especially as tripping or other safety hazards. If you cook under your awning, be cognizant of rising heat and be extra careful with open flames because most awnings are not flame resistant. Have extra light available if a nighttime deployment or retraction of the awning is required.

As Benjamin Franklin is attributed to saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Taking some time to properly use and maintain your awning or other shelter will allow you to use it safely for a long time. ■

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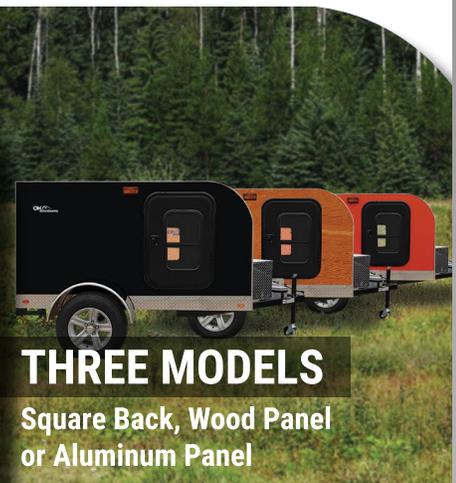
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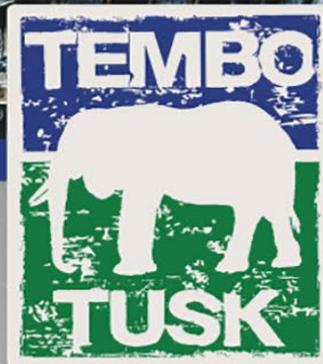
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Sugarcreek, Ohio. August 4, 2022 – Over 300 teardrop trailers descended on Sugarcreek, Ohio, for the sixth annual uCamp Teardrop rally. nuCamp, a major manufacturer of campers and teardrop trailers based in Sugarcreek, Ohio, hosts the yearly event for their community of campers.

uCamp22 was held at Winklepleck Grove Campground in Sugarcreek, less than a mile from the nuCamp manufacturing facility and service center. The event featured a full entertainment schedule, group meals, and opportunities to socialize with other nuCamp teardrop enthusiasts.

David MacDougall, a TAB 320 owner, traveled from Canada to attend the rally. "I can't find enough superlatives to describe how much I enjoy uCamp! The people, the nuCamp staff, the location, and the surrounding area are simply fantastic!"

Highlights included a wine & cheese welcoming event, Q&A sessions with nuCamp technicians, camper-led information sessions, manufacturing and service center tours, food trucks, and a wedding feast for one of nuCamp's brand ambassadors.

Campers were also encouraged to explore the local community with several attendees planning off-site gatherings. A camper favorite was visiting the world's largest cuckoo clock in the heart of the village. More than 100 attendees gathered at the clock to listen and dance to the Swiss-themed music.

The annual swap meet is another key uCamp event with campers bringing homemade goods or gently used accessories to sell. This year's swap meet was notable as nuCamp provided a peek into a mobile app in the final stages of development with the release coming in early August. The attendees were able to check out all the features of the app.

New to uCamp were two seminars conducted by Battle Born and an Amish panel. Battle Born, a new vendor partner for nuCamp, presented on camping with Lithium batteries. This year's favorite camper session was the Amish panel, which consisted of nuCamp team members who provided insight into the Amish way of life.

Joellen Schromen has attended two uCamp events. When asked what she liked most about uCamp, she responded, "Too many to choose from, but I must say that I'm once again so happy to see the interactions between the nuCamp staff, their families, and the campers. Everyone has a great time, and we all leave with new friends and a sense of belonging to a beautiful family! Till next year!"

Joellen was not alone in her sentiment. Stephanie Stephenson agreed, "It's hard to pick one thing (that I like most about uCamp), but first and foremost, I loved the people we met! I love the nuCamp community/family, the information we learned, the staff, the food, the games, everything!"

Scott Hubble nuCamp CEO stated, "This year's event was the largest to date, with over 450 attendees from 35 states and two provinces. We have an amazing community that we are proud to call family. We are blessed to facilitate an event where owners can connect with each other, as well as nuCamp team members. uCamp also allows our team to see firsthand how our products are being used. This event strengthens and reinvigorates the greater nuCamp community – both the customer, as well as the team. We look forward to this event as much as our campers."

The planning has already begun for uCamp23. Next year's event is scheduled for June 12-16, 2023

About nuCamp

nuCamp manufactures the highest quality teardrop trailers, teardrop campers and truck campers available on the American market. Our recreational vehicle and trailer products are the result of extensive research and development, customer feedback, and the fusion of technology and old-world craftsmanship. The dedicated craftsmen and women who work at the nuCamp facility in Sugarcreek, Ohio, are committed to the principles of simplistic design, high-quality fabrication, and fanatical customer support. nuCamp is the world's largest manufacturer of teardrop trailers.



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THE TOP 7 METHODS TO STAY CLEAN WHILE BOONDOCKING

By **COOL TEARS STAFF**

How do you stay clean while on an extended camping trip in a teardrop or squaredrop that doesn't have a bathroom, let alone a shower? If you camp at state parks or private campgrounds that have bathhouses, then it's super simple. But staying clean while camping in the middle of nowhere can be tricky. Here are our top seven proven methods for staying clean.

We'll cover some items that are definitely more roughing it (Methods 0 - 3) versus what seems more luxurious (Methods 4 - 7), which can help make your camping experience better.

Method 0

Our first way to stay clean is really intended to avoid body odor in the first place, so we'll call it Method 0. It all starts with packing well to begin with. Wearing either synthetic or merino wool clothes instead of cotton is a great first step to avoid body odor. The synthetic or merino wool fabrics won't soak up your sweat like cotton does and instead it wicks the moisture away. Bacteria thrives in moist conditions, so avoid cotton as much as possible.

Method 1

If your water access is limited and you feel the need to "wash" your hair, then try a dry shampoo. We recommend an unscented shampoo, [such as this one available on Amazon](#), since fragrances can attract bugs and bears.

Method 2

Take a dip, but leave the soap on shore. If there is a lake or stream nearby, hop in and wash off the excess dirt and oils. We don't advocate using soap, even biodegradable soap, directly in any water source because it can negatively affect the water chemistry, impacting

fish and other aquatic organisms. Instead use a washcloth and wipe yourself clean. It's important to remember that the lakes and streams are a source of drinking water, so it's imperative that they be kept chemical free.

This method can come with a risk of getting swimmer's itch (cercarial dermatitis), which is caused by a parasite that lives in waterfowl and snails. To limit your chances of contracting swimmer's itch, don't take your dip near waterfowl, weeds, and scummy or cloudy areas of water. A gentle flowing stream is usually the best choice. Most local health departments are happy to share what the water conditions are like in the area that you're camping in.

Method 3

We've written about Venture Wipes in the past and we still use them while we camp as a way to freshen up before climbing into bed. Body wipes are a great way to stay clean while camping. A quick google search for



body wipes pulls up many to choose from: Venture Wipes, Dude Wipes, Combat Wipes, etc. Here are some things to look for when buying your own body wipes. Size matters so choose a large wipe. Many on the market are 12" x 12" which is usually enough for a quick body wash. Try to avoid wipes that contain fragrances as these can irritate people with sensitive skin and they can attract unwanted critters at camp. Other key things to consider when choosing a wipe: alcohol free, pH balanced, hypoallergenic, natural moisturizing ingredients, biodegradable, and packaging. Keep in mind that even though the wipe you choose may be biodegradable, it's still best to pack them out in your trash. If you find a wipe that you absolutely love, let us know at Anne@cooltears.com and we'll put them head to head in a contest with other popular brands so we can find out which is more durable, pleasant to use, etc.

Method 4

You can use this method with cold water or warm up a pan of water on your cookstove for a more enjoyable bath. Grab that biodegradable soap and your warm water and move at least 200 feet away from any water source AND 200 feet away from your campsite (per the National Park Service) and strip down and bathe. See Method 2 for why it's important to stay away from a water source. Bathing 200 feet away from your campsite is recommended because any odor can attract wildlife to your campsite.

An alternative to using soap is to squeeze a lemon into your pan of water. Lemon juice is an astringent that can help clean your body, tighten pores, and remove oil. It also has some antimicrobial and antifungal properties. Plus, it just smells refreshing!

Method 5

If cleaning up in the afternoon or early evening works for your camping trip, then you could harness the power of the sun for a warm shower. There are so many options of solar showers on that market that it's not possible to cover them all in this article, but we'll go over the basic concept and give a few recommendations for features to look for. The basic concept of a shower bag is simple, most are a type of dark plastic (PVC), with a hanging strap or hole, and a plastic tube with shower head attached. The most common sizes are 5 gallons (20L), 6.6 gallons (25L), and 10 gallons (40L). Most of the solar showers range from \$15USD up to \$40USD depending on the features. Here are some key things to consider when purchasing a solar shower. Think about how many people are likely to use the solar shower each day. A few people can get by with a 5 gallon (20L) solar shower, but the 10 gallon (40L) may be needed for three or more people. Size equals weight. A 5 gallon (20L) solar shower will weigh at least 40 pounds (18.1 kg) when filled with water. If it's difficult for you to lift that amount of weight, then a smaller solar shower may be a better option. Or consider tossing a rope over a sturdy tree branch and raising the solar shower by pulling on the rope and then securing it safely with a knot on the tree. A 10 gallon (40L) solar shower will weigh at least 80 pounds (36.2 kg) when filled with water. Another nice feature that most brands include is a thermometer on the outside of the bag. It's a nice guide to let you know when the water is warm enough to be comfortable. Be sure to also use one that has an easy to use on/off valve so you don't waste your precious warm water. Each of the solar showers

mentioned above work by gravity.

If the thought of raising something over your head to hang in a tree sounds challenging, there are other (more expensive) solar showers available. The Helio™ by Nemo is a popular option that comes in 2.91 gallons (11L) or 5.81 gallons (22L) sizes. [At the time this article was written, the Helio™ is \\$129.95USD on Amazon.](#) This portable, pressurized bag rests on the ground and pumps up easily with the included foot pump. With the occasional foot pump, you can keep it pressurized for over five minutes of continuous spray.

The last major type of solar shower mounts to your trailer or tow vehicle on the roof rack. [The Yakima Road Shower](#) comes in three sizes and it is an aluminum tank that is painted black to soak up the sun's rays. You can pressurize the tank with a hand or electric pump or even a garden hose. Once pressurized to 55 psi (max), the Road Shower will spray twenty plus feet like a hose. [WaterPORT makes a similar product, but it's made from plastic.](#) The 3.8 gallon (4L) option can even fit on a 2 inch tow mount on the back of your trailer. While very popular, some people say that the water does not get as warm.

Keep in mind that none of the above work if they are in the shade and if you prefer to wash up in the morning, the water will be cold.

Method 6

One of our favorite methods for staying clean at camp is the [Geyser Shower System](#). While the product isn't perfect, it works well for us.

We like that we can warm water up and use it whenever we want (i.e., morning shower); it uses less than one gallon of water per shower (yes, it's possible); and it doesn't take up much room. We've written about this item before and we do love it. [Click here to go to our product review.](#)

Method 7

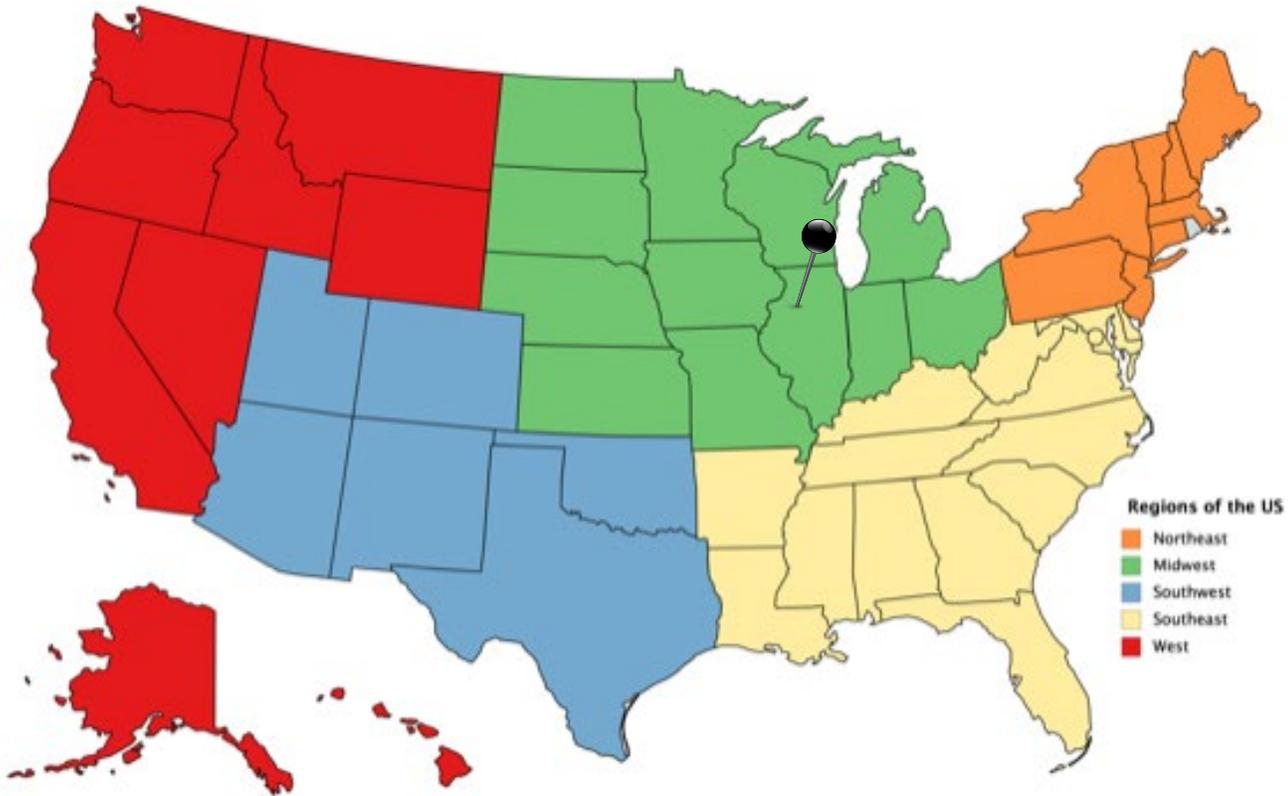
Tankless, portable, propane water heaters are gaining popularity within the tiny camper community. Many can be mounted in a waterproof case on the side of a tiny camper, though there are advantages to not mounting it. [The Joolca HotTap](#) with the additional Outing Kit is a great product for staying clean in the backcountry because it's possible to use by tossing the two-staged water filter into a stream or lake and pumping the water 100 feet to the on demand heater. As long as you still have propane in your tank, you'll never run out of hot water!

Summary

Staying clean on a camping trip can make for a more enjoyable experience. If your camping buddy (husband or wife or kids) doesn't want to camp anywhere except a place where they can shower each day, give one of the above seven methods of staying clean while camping a try. A clean camper might be a happier camper. And a happier camper might mean more camping trips! A win-win!

If you have other methods for staying clean while camping, let us know by emailing Anne@cooltears.com. We'd love to hear from you! ■

REGIONAL CAMPING SPOTLIGHT



"We still do not know one thousandth of one percent of what nature has revealed to us." ~ Albert Einstein

The best way to demystify the world we live in, is to get outside and be totally immersed in nature. We don't need to be a genius like Einstein to understand the passing of the seasons, the movement of wind and water, or how we impact our surroundings.

This is a beautiful time of year to explore. Take a walk, paddle a local stream or lake, hop on your bike and go for a ride and be present in nature. Notice the little things.

Happy camping! ■

Location: Starved Rock State Park
2678 E. 875th Road
Oglesby, IL 61348

Getting There:

GPS Info (Latitude, Longitude):
41.317060, -88.995180
41°19'1.416"N, 88°59'42.648"W

Starved Rock State Park lies under 100 miles (62 km) WSW of Chicago, Illinois along the Illinois River. This park is characterized by the 18 deep canyons and 13 miles (21 km) of hiking trails within its 2630 acres (1064 ha). The terrain in this part of the state is unique. The vertical sandstone canyon walls were formed by glacial meltwater and the park is host to several waterfalls, sandstone overhangs, and overlooks.

During the spring and early summer season, many of the canyons have waterfalls that lead to the Illinois River. The best trail to hike to view the waterfalls is the Green Interior Canyon Trail which will lead you to the French, Wildcat, LaSalle, Ottawa, Kaskaskia, Aurora, and St Louis canyons.

Bald eagles are commonly seen in the park near Starved Rock, along the seawall, near the boat ramps, or from the Illinois Waterway Visitors Center. Morning or late afternoon are usually the best time to look for the eagles. On cold and windy days, the bald eagles are known to perch in the trees below Starved Rock and Lover's Leap, which allows for great viewing.

According to the state park website, the park derives its name from a Native American legend.



Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa tribe was slain by a Peoria brave while attending a tribal council in southern Illinois. According to the legend, during one of the battles that occurred to avenge his killing, a band of Illinois, under attack by a band of Potawatomi (allies of the Ottawa), sought refuge atop a 125-foot sandstone butte (today's Starved Rock). The Ottawa and Potawatomi surrounded the butte and held their ground until the band of Illinois died of starvation - giving rise to the name "Starved Rock."

Other Nearby Attractions

During the summer months, nearby downtown Utica hosts a street fair each Saturday that is filled with handmade items and collectables. This area also has several restaurants, a brewery, and a winery to try.

Alcohol is prohibited in the campground. Drones are prohibited.

Number of Sites: 129

Pets: yes, but dogs should not weigh more than 50lbs (22.7 kg) or two dogs with a combined weight of 50 lbs (22.7 kg)

Water: yes

Electric: yes

Price per night: \$\$\$ - (\$25/night - holidays are \$35/night)

Fire Rings: yes

Picnic Tables: yes

Restrooms/Showers: yes

Campground has ADA accessible sites

Primary activities within the park: Boating, kayaking, fishing, and hiking. In the winter, ice



climbing is allowed in the park. There is no swimming inside the park.

Pro Tip: This is the most popular state park in Illinois and attracts over 2 million visitors annually. The campground can fill up quickly, but can be reserved months in advance. ■



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