CAMP SECURITY - PRODUCT REVIEWS





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to us, along with a brief description of your adventure, and we will publish the most inspiring collections.

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Magazine July 2017

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Letter from the Editor:

CRA plans

Well the 4th of July has come and gone...did you have a camping holiday? For the first time in year and years, we were not camping but enjoyed a great time with friends in Dallas.

I am so stoked because in just a few short weeks, we will be attending the Crossroads of America gathering with the Tearjerkers! Initially, it didn't look like we could make it, but thanks to Dana Parsons at **Missouri Teardrop**, we are taking an awesome Silver Shadow. Unfortunately, I will only be at the gathering Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. So if you are attending, be sure to swing by **site 170** (I plan to bring some Cool Tears swag with me!!!)

Until next time...enjoy every sunrise!



Cool Tears Magazine TM sarah@cooltears.com

Notes from folks:

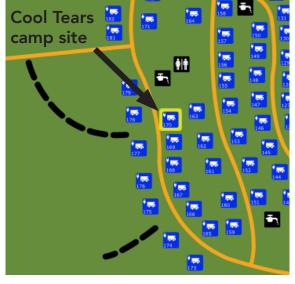
I love your magazine and wish I had more time to camp. BTW, I am a retired U.S.Navy Chief and we used to call Boon-dockers old high-top shoes we wore in boot camp and on work details. Just a little trivia for your enjoyment.

Joe Besse

I love this magazine! Thanks so much for keeping the TD community informed. As I'm half way through my first build, it's a great resource and source of inspiration. Hopefully, I'll see my own drop in there someday!

Michael Foster













CEN THE EARDROP WITH MARILYN

Marilyn McCray is a published author of a cookbook titled Canning, Pickling and Freezing with Irma + Harding, the International Harvester's fictional spokesperson. Marilyn and her partner, Jim Kerkhoff, travel in a beautiful teardrop to promote the book and she has graciously agreed to share some recipes with us in a regular column. Be sure to check out her book at teardroptrail.com/equipment-and-supplies/

FRESH PACK OR REFRIGERATOR PICKLES

Make at home, keep cool in an ice chest or refrigerator in your teardrop. These pickles make great condiments and nice contributions to camp ground pot lucks.

3 pounds of cucumbers, cut in lengthwise strips sliced $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick - straight across or diagonal

4 cups medium onion, sliced

1/4 cup canning or pickling salt

2 cups 5% white or cider vinegar

1 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric (optional)

For sweet pickles:

2 cups sugar

For dill pickles:

Use a pickling mix or create your own with dill, garlic, 1 tablespoons mustard seed,

³/₄ tablespoons celery seed

Sterilize jars and lids in boiling water or in the dishwasher. Pretreat lids according to manufactures recommendations.

Prepare food in uniformly sized pieces.

Prepare brine with vinegar, and salt. Add sugar for sweet pickles or pickling mix for dill pickles.

Heat to boiling.

Pack uniformly-sized cucumbers into jars leaving ½ inch of headspace or room at the top of the jar. Pour the hot liquid over the cucumbers. Apply lids. Let sit at room temperature for 24 hours. Then store jars in the refrigerator. Age 2 to 10 weeks to let flavors develop. Jars must be stored in the refrigerator or cooler. Mark each container with contents and date.





Yields about 4 pints





by Rieley Purdy -

What spurred us into building Teardrop Trailers was that good old American dream of being your own boss and the aspiration of creating a product you can be proud of and other people can enjoy. We had previously spent around 10 years repairing and restoring some vintage trailers as a hobby. When we learned of a teardrop trailer company that was for sale in the area we gave it a good hard look. We determined it would be a sound investment with a great product and a perfect fit for our outdoorsy

way of life.

My father runs most of the day to day operations while I find my self handing a lot of the customer inquiries and sourcing our materials. We manage to come together everyday and build trailers somewhere in the the shuffle. The only thing more satisfying than building one is seeing the joy our trailers bring to the faces of our customers.

Our most popular models are our 5x8 and our 5x10 trailers. Our trailers are incredibly affordable

and very durable. Our frames are engineered to be very strong made out of tubular steel not angle iron. They are powder fully powder coated so they will resistant to rust and moisture. The cabinetry is hand picked by us to ensure a beautiful and flawless looking interior. Our built trailers are meticulously put together by either Rieley and Kevin Purdy. We hold our selves to the highest of standards and are not happy with OK it's got to be great. Our kits are from what we hear the most

complete kit on the market. We pride ourselves on our customer service helping you along the way. The Adventure for our customers stars either on our web site https://www.purdyteardrops.com/ or our Facebook https://m.facebook.com/purdyadventureteardroptrailers/

You can also contact us by phone at Rieley Purdy 503-509-1531 Kevin Purdy 503-509-9519



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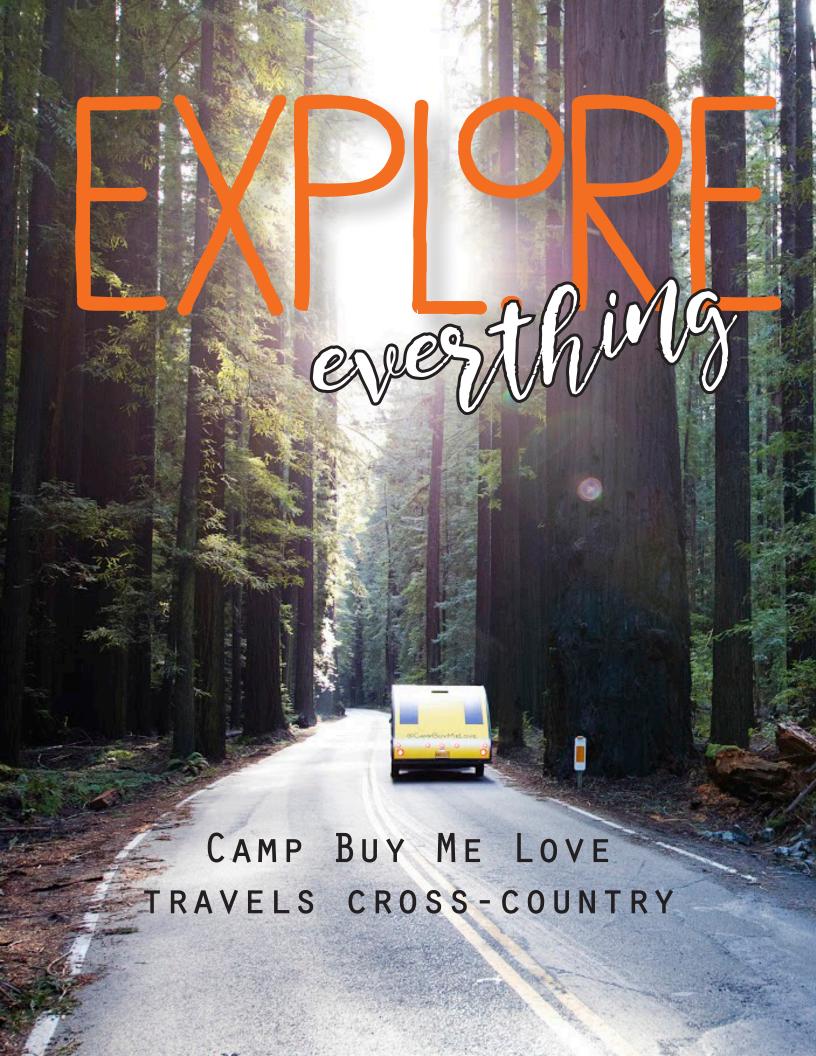
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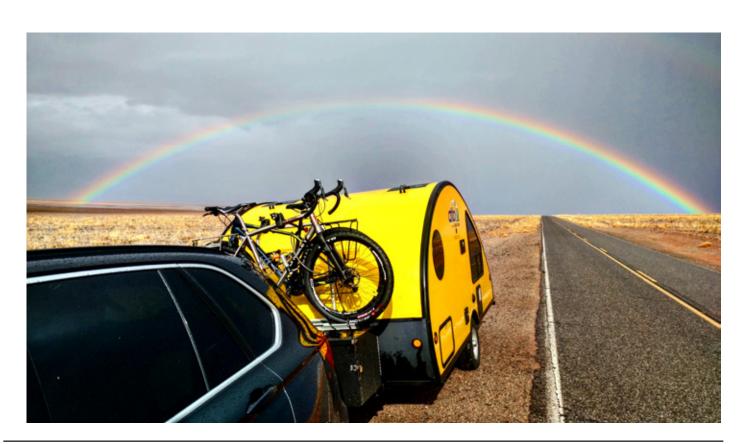
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- Available in kits and completed trailers. Come pick the one that is right for you.
- Available in sizes 4'X8'
 5'X8' and 5'X10' in kits as well as completed trailers.



by Gerrad & Krista Archibald -

n January 2016, my husband and I were visiting a cousin in Odessa, Texas. When asked what he wanted to do while we were there, my cousin said emphatically, "I want to get the hell outta here." He suggested we drive 3 hours to Carlsbad Caverns National Park. This drive is flat, dusty, and barren, save for the hundreds of oil derricks dotting the brown landscape. For lack of a better word, it's ugly, unless you're into that kind of thing. The last few miles leading up to Carlsbad Cavern are a contrast offering colorful, dramatic, and...well...quite pretty scenery.



My husband and I thought that if this beautiful jewel box existed surrounded by all this ugliness, there must be other areas of our country that we were missing out on. This is the precise moment we asked ourselves, "wouldn't it be cool if we explored ALL the national parks in a travel trailer?"

Well, maybe it didn't go exactly like this! The truth is we didn't come to this conclusion immediately. We debated and researched until we ultimately decided that a travel trailer would be the best and most affordable option to see the nation's parks. We looked at every imaginable RV configuration, but we kept going back to a little teardrop trailer with a retractable roof that my husband had heard about years ago. The Safari

Alto teardrop is manufactured in Quebec, Canada, and that is where new owners must travel for pick up after an 18 month wait. There are other pick-up options, but they are more costly. If you can't or don't want to wait for a new one (like us) you are forced into the cutthroat used market. With a little patience and a lot of diligence, we ended up purchasing a used 2014 Safari Alto R1713 in May 2016.

We pulled away from the old owners in Victoria, Canada with huge smiles on our faces, which thankfully covered up the terror we felt on the inside. Now that we were armed with the right trailer, we just had to learn how to use it. We took 2 short trips to help us get acquainted with our new baby "Woodstock", named for its bright



EXPLORE EVERYTHING

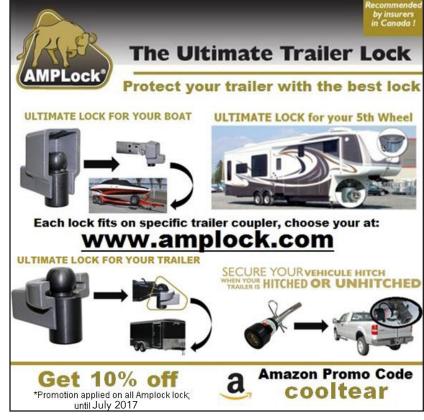
yellow armor, and help us prepare for being on the road for an extended period of time. Despite some non-trailer related delays, we eventually hit the road on January 28, 2017.

There was still snow on the ground when we left Portland, Oregon, where we have lived since 2013. We hightailed it south in an effort to avoid the parks threatened and/or inundated by winter weather. We had terrible weather at the beginning, bringing rain to nearly every spot we went. California was experiencing the wettest winter since the late 90s, which made

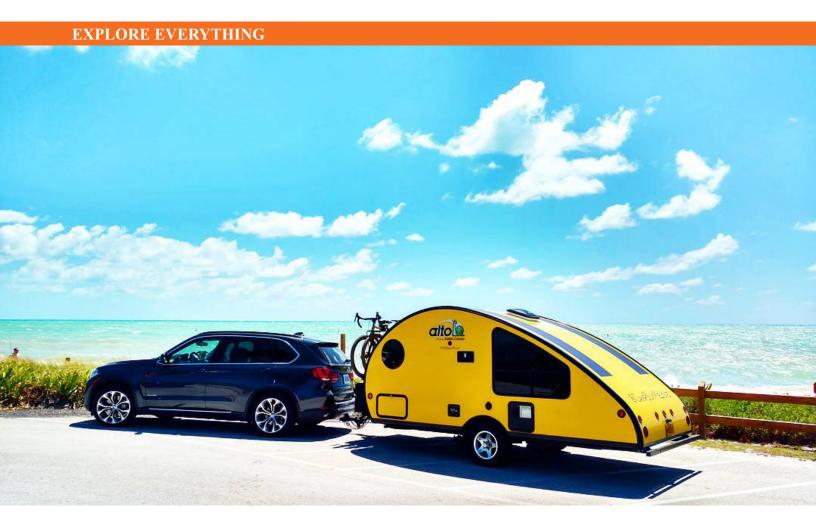
for bright green rolling hills and vibrant landscapes, but terrible road conditions.







July 2017





Eventually, the weather calmed down and we had a pleasant journey south to San Diego, then venturing east. We've since covered the entire southern U.S., eastern seaboard, parts of Canada, and have started our meandering route west back home. At one point, we even flew from Fort Lauderdale to St. John to check Virgin Islands National Park off our list while our trailer

hibernated at the Flamingo Campground in Everglades National Park.

We've seen some absolutely amazing sights in our short 4.5 months on the road. A few experiences come to mind if pressed for highlights: feeling so small next to the huge trees of the Redwoods, hiking Santa Elena Canyon in Big Bend, flying a seaplane to Dry Tortugas, snorkeling in the mangroves in the Virgin Islands, biking the Cades Cove Loop in the Great Smokies, taking a dip in pristine Lake McDonald in Glacier, experiencing the first place to see the rising sun in the U.S. in Acadia, seeing another Safari Alto in the wild in Theodore Roosevelt. I could easily list off a hundred once in a lifetime experiences just off the top of my head. To see the country from the road, in a trailer that can go almost anywhere and fit in almost any campsite, has been one of the most special and unique experiences of our lives.

WWW.CAMPBUYMELOVE.COM

THINGS WE'VE LEARNED:



Be prepared with tools and minor electrical and plumbing knowledge for some do-it-yourself repairs.



For more in-depth fixes, good RV repair folks are hard to come by. We've had some crazy situations of repairs gone wrong performed by so-called experts. I

am so thankful, not only for my handy husband, but also for the dedicated group of Altoistes (a Facebook group made up mostly of Alto owners) who respond to owner's questions with pictures, how-to's, and well thought out problem solving advice. Without their treasure trove search function, we would have taken far more time to research even the most mundane situation.

03

Everyone wants to see our trailer. Everyone. No matter if we are in the grocery store, the gas station, getting ready to pull out of our campsite.

Thank goodness my husband is a social butterfly, but I've also had to come out of my shell a little bit to show off the inside.

04

Plan extra days for travel. Don't expect to operate like you do on normal vacations. Add extra time for set up and break down. We found that it's ic to get to a campsite and explore all in

unrealistic to get to a campsite and explore all in the same day, especially in the high season.



The tiny life is an awesome life, but one that requires patience. You can't sweat the small stuff, you just have to sit back and enjoy the ride.



Organization is the key to my happiness.



Build in free time to enjoy your trailer and your campsite. It took us both a few weeks to realize that we did not have as much free time as we thought

we were going to have. We thought we'd be chilling at campsites for hours, but when you want to see and explore and DO, this just isn't possible all the time. We make sure to enjoy our campsite by cooking, and I'm not talking hotdogs and hamburgers. We've made everything from scratch Mushroom Risotto to Vegetarian Lasagna.

08

Everyone needs a job. We split up duties by what is inside and what is outside. This works for us, but might not for everyone. Do what works best

for you and your travel partner. And if you're alone, kudos to you!

09

There are some terrible drivers out there. Be safe and be alert. We come from the land of courteous drivers who, for the most part, obey the rules and

limits of the road. This, is an anomaly. Trust me.

Carve out some time just for yourself, even if it's for 5 minutes. My personal favorite "alone time" activities are breathing exercises and reading a book.



CAMP SECURITY

Many rewards come with risks. A memorable camping trip can be a rewarding experience, but these outdoor adventures are rarely free of danger. For teardrop campers, PREPARATION is key.



1. LARRY ALERT



Larry is an 'on-the-go' electronic alert device connected to your smartphone that will sound an alarm and show you

what is happening so you can respond.

It creates a protective shield using special ranged radar technology. The device is paired with your smartphone using long range wireless technology and can be set for small, medium or large size areas.

The app works as your remote control for easy set-up and one button alarm activation and also can be used as microphone for one way communication.

Larry also features a wide-angle camera and flash to capture photos and a shrieking siren in alarm deterrence mode. The wireless connection is continually seeking Larry so your app tells you when you leave the range. If you must leave wireless range, then Larry will save a triggered alarm with date/time stamped photos and automatically alert you when you re-enter range.

OUR TAKE AWAY: Seems like a no-nonsence, easy to use way of knowing what is happening at your teardrop when you walk away. The photo feature would be great as proof if, unfortunatly, you ever need it. Great price point for initial safety.

\$149 www.larryalert.com



2. GRAYL WATER PURIFIER

A fast, powerful, one-press mechanism on the Grayl Ultralight Water Purifier bottle makes safe, clean drinking water from nearly any freshwater source in 15 sec., so you don't need to worry about

contaminated water.

The Grayl is fast and easy-to-use: simply fill at any stream, lake, sketchy tap or hotel sink, then press on the ground or at knee level and drink safe

water anywhere. It removes 99.9999% of viruses and disease-causing bacteria. An ultra-powdered activated carbon effectively filters particulates, many chemicals and heavy metals, eliminating bad flavors and odors. The replaceable purifier cartridge is rated for 300 uses before needing replacement, while the bottle can be used indefinitely. It's engineered to stand up to the harsh demands of teardrop camping.

OUR TAKE AWAY: Using the Grayl to treat local water (instead of buying bottled water when traveling) saves money but more important than that, is a fantastic way to ensure you are drinking clean, safe water. \$59.50 www.thegrayl.com

冬

3. SAFE CAMPING HAT

This hat is both literally and figuratively the coolest.

Figuratively speaking the 3D puff

embroidery on the safe camping glyph will let people know your business, but the flexfit comfort and the patent Cool & Dry fabric technology will keep you from carrying a dome full of sweat



around.

FEATURES: Embroidered front/back • Flexible fit headband (super comfy!) • 100% polyester Ultra-cooling honeycomb weave • Structured, six-panel, mid-profile • 3 1/2" crown • Moisture-wicking properties • Permacury visor

OUR TAKE AWAY: Staying safe while camping includes keeping your body safe. Heat can cause real issues and quickly escalate to larger heal problems. Keeping your head cool can be the best way to lower your body temp and stay healthy. \$25.00 http://foreveroutside.com/shop/safe-camping-hat

4. NO-FED-BEAR'
BEAR RESISTANT
FOOD CONTAINER

Bears rarely enter occupied tents or wreck entire campsites, but, when they do, it is most often because the people camping in that camp site or at a nearby site, have not taken appropriate cautions to ensure that they have a proper clean camp.

The NO-FED-BEAR' bear resistant container is the perfect size for your backcountry travels. Sometimes bigger is not always better. The canisters convenient size stores up to 4 days of food for one person without becoming cumbersome. The NO-FED-BEAR' container stores perfectly in you backpack or by attaching it to the outside with the available storage case. Each canister is made of a bear proof polymer blend.

OUR TAKE AWAY: This is a no-brainer if you camp in any place that bears might be living.

\$69.99 http://www.udap.com/mm5/product/BRC



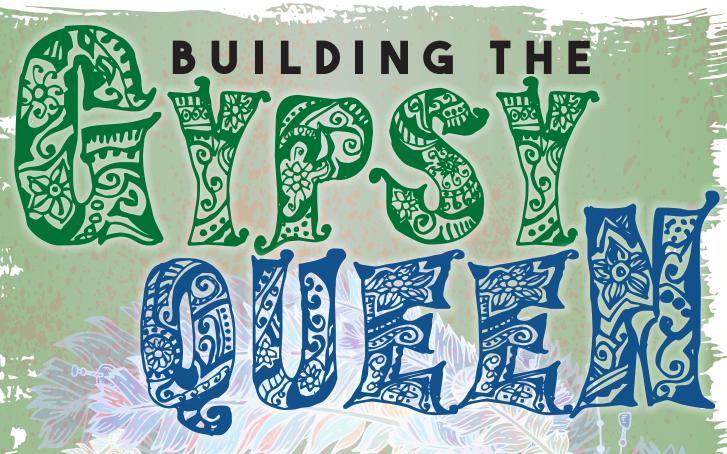
5. NORTHBOUND FIRST AID KIT

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OUR TAKE AWAY: Great price for a kit every camper needs. \$19.97 https://getnorthbound.com/products/first-aid-kit







by Scott Luce

First, let me say that I live for making fun projects. The list of things I have learned to make is long and varied. Now, why I did I specifically chose a camper? A few years ago, I joined a kayaking club that often camps in northern Michigan. We have beautiful rivers up there. All this camping inspired me to upgrade my equipment and my comfort level. I couldn't afford to buy a camper, but I figured I could build one and stay in my budget.

The Bowtop is actually my second camper project. winters ago (2015/2016), I built a teardrop camper. It was very loosely based on the "Big Woody" plans that I purchased online. I built her for \$2700, and used it most of that Summer. Near the end of the season, I chose to seller it on Ebay. I Sold her for \$5000 in less than 6 hours (I guess I should have ask for more). One of the fun design ideas in this camper mv tented "front

porch". Really opened up the living space. Anyway, I figured that if I could nearly double my money, I would build a bigger unit. I like unique and different things. I had seen many images of bow tops and found them very appealing. My only



concern was the canvas top at highway speeds. When I thought of the folding topper idea, I knew I had to give it a try.

When I saw the Bowtop design, I had to do it. I just had to solve a few problems. It is my typical method to search through internet images (Bing, Google, Pinterest) to find ideas that I like for the floor plans, design ideas, etc. Drawing from this vast resource, I then

"Frankenstein" my own unique design together.

When I was designing "Gypsy Queen" I looked long and hard to see if anyone had already come up with a method to collapse a bow top camper. I found one very primitive camper that did







this, but it did not look very weather proof and it looked like a lot of work to raise and lower. I realized that I would have to solve the "road worthiness" issue myself.

Also, I had never steam bent wood. I had to design and make a simple steamer box that could handle 14 foot long boards. I then had to make the form to bend the steamed boards. In other words, I had two projects before I ever started the main project. I have included pictures of my steamer "tube" and the bending form.

The engineering ideas were original thoughts from my head.

As I was trying to cut costs on my project, I had to get creative with materials. I seldom went to the RV store to get my materials. The trailer was a used snowmobile trailer from Craig's List. The top was sewn at an awning shop. Those were the two most expensive items in the project. I had to get the ash at a lumber yard (pretty long boards), but the pine came mostly from Menards. The window was modified from a barn replacement window sash. Menards was the only store that offered a wooden window option. Because of its unique



size and shape, I made the door, but you could choose a more standard sized door and buy it at a big box store. Since the wainscot and careside boards are pine, I wanted to protect them from the elements. coated all the pine and plywood members with **Penetrating** Epoxy. This a low viscosity marine epoxy at soaks deep into the wood to help seal it against moisture and rotting. I found that "Total Boat " brand was affordable. "Jamestown Distributor's" online store was a good place to get it.

I did have a few really unique material ideas such as the



sink which is simply a 5 qt SS mixing bowl with a hole cut in the bottom. The ceiling is made from two printed tapestries that were sewn together. I got those at a local head shop. Really, any colorful blanket or fabric would work though. All in all, I made the camper for less than \$6000

My first trip this Spring was with my kayaking club. They knew I was building another camper, but I would not share much about it. This was going to be the "big reveal." Who



















says that a craftsman can't be a showman too? The campground is called Interlochen. It is Michigan's oldest state campground, and is located about 15 miles south of Traverse City. There are many beautiful lakes and rivers in that area...the Boardman, Platte, and Manistee rivers, to name a few. Between the roughly 70 kayakers in our group, and the neighboring campers at the park, I gave many tours of my little camper. If I had put out a mason jar for tips, I might have paid for the weekend.



I have at least five other trips planned this Summer. Most of them are with the kayaking group. The biggest trip will be a 1.5 week long trip to the U.P. Marquette, pictured Rocks and Tahquomenon River.

Lastly, my camper and I were invited down to the Tiny House Festival this September In Tennessee. I told them I would come, and look forward to experiencing something new.



GERALD, CENTRAL CANADA

Here's a shot of my first teardrop build circa 2003, a compact 275lb (empty) unit for touring behind my Goldwing. It was totally self contained with a sealed gel battery/solar panel charging system, ventilation fans for comfort and an LCD TV and DVD with Stereo sound for entertainment. You could sit up inside and watch TV or snuggle down comfy into a 39" wide single sleeping space. I would often overnight on Truck Stop lots in amongst the semis and RVs as I didn't even need to unhook from the bike. Just drop the front jack and crawl inside. In this picture I went all out and stayed in this great little campground in New Brunswick with a beautiful spot by a stream! This was on the return leg of a 12,000km, 15 day round trip from Central Canada thru the Maritimes and back.



Take your teardrop to the wild and send us a photo of your adventure! Email your best shot to us, along with a brief description of your adventure, and we will publish the most inspiring collections.

Put TEARS IN THE WILD in the subject line and send to sarah@cooltears.com today!



