



**T**eedroppers of **O**regon and **W**ashington  
*Serving those who **are** or **wannabe** teardroppers*

## **TOW Line**

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### **OCTOBER TEARDROP CAMPOUT (THE FALL BRIGADE)**

Let's not put away our teardrop trailers yet!! We have a campout on October 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> (second weekend of October). It will be at Elk's Park, just south of the Portland area. We have rented the park's mini-lodge that's heated by a stone fireplace. So even if we have some rain, we have a great place to breakfast, potluck and visit. We're planning on spending evenings in the hall playing all sorts of games. Dutch Oven cooking will happen in a covered area. There's a kid's playground.

Attached is the registration form. In addition to the registration fee of \$10, you will be paying \$15 per night for your camp outfit. Several sites have power, so bring your themed light strings. All sites are under large, tree-shaded areas or on a large lawn next to the lodge.

This is the same weekend as the swap meet and car show at the Portland Expo Center. That's about 25 miles away. If you fish, bring a pole (we're on the banks of the Molalla River). A golf driving range is just down the road. Silver Creek State Park with its 10 waterfalls is south about 25 miles. The Oregon Botanical Gardens in Silverton is about 15 miles away. Both Oregon City with its End of the Oregon Trail Center and Frey's Electronics at Wilsonville are an easy 10-mile drive from the park.

So, bring food for lunches and snacks. The coffee pot will be going all day. For Saturday supper, plan on helping out with your favorite potluck dish. Friday supper is on your own.

We have a special guest who will perform for us on Saturday evening. He's a local teardrop trailer friend, who with a banjo recalls the historic days of old.

Call or register before October 1<sup>st</sup>. RVs and travel trailers are invited too. See the attached Registration Form. **Marty and Katie** will be hosts. Phone 503-632-6563. Thanks.

## A GOOD WAY TO FIND THE VALUE OF YOUR TEARDROP TRAILER

By **Grant Whipp**

(Editor's note: Grant kindly sent me the following after I was asked to make an assessment of a homebuilt trailer. Since I had never done this before, it was a GREAT help). Grant starts out:

I guess you know that I do a few teardrop appraisals every year. There is a lot of subjectivity involved, but a good knowledge of current market values for teardrops is a big part of it. Homebuilt trailers are pretty straightforward. You take the cost of materials and add it to the cost of labor that's figured at something between \$12.50 and \$15.00 per hour. We're talking about time spent actually **working** on the trailer, and not the time spent planning, thinking, or re-building something that wasn't right the first time. This will establish the **base value**.

The subjectivity comes in when assessing the quality of workmanship, fit, and finish (the same as you would for an amateur car restoration vs. an expert restoration vs. a commercial/professional restoration). If the trailer is obviously a rank amateur creation, the overall value isn't much different from the base value. If it is a well-done unit that could hold its own against the average commercially produced teardrop, then you take 50% of the base value and add it on to the base value (that's 1.5 times base value). If the trailer is a jaw-dropping work-of-art, then you at least double the base value. **Then**, you take a look at what similar teardrops are **selling** for in your local market, and adjust the final value accordingly.

## OUR CANADIAN GATHERING AT LANGLEY

By **Pat Svard**

The Not-So-Big Fourth Canadian Teardrop Meet was still lots of fun. The intimate gathering of two trailers was almost overshadowed by a near capacity campsite at Fort Langley. The **Gracious Glassetts** and **Ingvar and I** had two potlucks and caught up on family news (teardrop and other).

The caravan to the Car Show was quite short so we managed to stay together, but we were pleasantly surprised to be joined by three teardrops from B.C. **Joe Decoffe** from Surrey has a home built that perfectly matches his mid 1940's Desoto. **Alain and Cristine Beaulieu**, also from Surrey had their second home built 'Night Owl' that has very interesting storage ideas. **Ron and Janet Cobb** of Coldstream (yes, our own neighborhood!) have a wood 'work in progress' to match their 1929 Essex, that has no trunk space at all. We talked to the lookers from 8 AM until 5 PM and had lots of laughs over Rod's 'adorable' sign. (Editor Note: Rod has a round sign with the word "Cute" on it that is crossed out with a diagonal slash.)

**Brian Ireland** joined us after dinner and told of his travels and showed pictures of his grandchildren. He has two, 4X8 teardrop trailers for sale.

**Rod and Trudy** have assured us that if Ingvar and I organize a gathering 'They will come'. So we're planning for the second or third weekend in June 2009, on our acre in Coldstream, B.C. - just eight miles east of Vernon. The exact date to follow soon.

## TEARDROPS ARE NOT "CUTE"

By **Trudy Glassett**

How many of you have heard people refer to your teardrop as "cute"? After building and using teardrops for the past 15 years, **Rod** has gotten tired of hearing the "cute" adjective used to describe the small trailers that we enjoy using. This August, he decided to try to solve that problem. Before the LeMay Open House in Tacoma, Washington he built a special sign. It was a circle, outlined in red, with the word CUTE written across it. That word had a diagonal red line through it, meaning NOT CUTE.

At the LeMay show, he received a few comments. CUTE sign, CUTE trailer. But other comments were creative adjectives to describe the teardrop. Then we went to the huge car

show in Langley, BC. People there started to use the "c" word, but saw the sign and came up with many other words to give their impression of a type of trailer many of them had never seen. Below are some of the adjectives we heard:

Beautiful tiny elegant unusual fantastic cool clever cozy comfy  
awesome unique quaint smokin' streamlined trickin' practical super sweet grown  
up spectacular fabulous modern fun adorable sexy(?) handy nice neat well-  
built amazing unbelievable wonderful great well-designed spacious efficient use of  
space charming

Maybe you'd like to add more to our list. If so, e-mail us at [glassettgang@juno.com](mailto:glassettgang@juno.com).  
(Editor's note: How about "Cute doesn't work?")

## **GREAT TURNOUT AT LeMAY THIS YEAR**

Congratulations to **Jan and Pat Estis**, our hosts. They did a topnotch job from greeting each tear on arrival to running a well-organized meeting on Friday. The LeMay staff joined the Estes in expressing their appreciation of our teardrop display and the many volunteer hours we give. They value our participation in the LeMay Open House. On Saturday and Sunday mornings, we were provided with a great continental breakfast featuring coffee from Starbucks. Special thanks go out to **Steve and Peggy Birley** for helping organize our breakfasts.

As usual, we took care of the Green Building, working it all day. All those who have camped many times in the past were asked to fill additional duty slots. First-time campers were encouraged to volunteer for one two-hour timeslot so they could take time to view the entire collection. And also as usual, we all enjoyed displaying our teardrop trailers and visiting with the hundreds of spectators that came to look, question and comment.

At the end of the day, we all got together for the famous LeMay-sponsored dinner. Nancy LeMay herself is a great lady and does not stand on ceremony - she was seen serving tables too.

The results: TOW filled dozens of duty slots and contributed over 125 hours of volunteer time. We had 29 trailers on display with approximately 55 campers, some attending for their first time. If we had a long-haul award, it would go to first-timer **Carol Andrews** from Sacramento.

Our dash plaques celebrating our campout featured **Jim Smith's** fantastic woody teardrop - a wonderful work-of-art. What an honor for Jim. Next year campers selected the Estes teardrop to be featured on the plaque.

## **YOU MEAN WE CAN'T DRIVE PAST THE WHITE HOUSE?**

We've got word that teardroppers **Leonard and Sharon Waugh** from Boring, Oregon took a national tour of our country. In true teardropper style, they towed their homebuilt all the way, driving over 6000 miles.

While in our nation's capital city, they blundered onto a one-way street named Pennsylvania Avenue. All of a sudden a White House Security Police car stopped them. Then another drove up. Then another and yet another!

Leonard explained that they were just innocent tourists from Oregon towing a teardrop trailer on Pennsylvania Avenue. But they were told in no uncertain terms, "Trailers are not allowed on Pennsylvanian Avenue."

Almost immediately, another car drove up. A bomb-sniffing dog got out. If it had found even a hint of a bomb, this would have been an international incident and worthy of a CNN special bulletin!

But, fortunately, nothing was found. Security being what it must be in Washington, D.C., and the White House Security Police in control, the Waughs were made to turn their rig around on the one-way street and were unceremoniously escorted from the area.

## **2009 GREAT BEAVER STATE CAMPOUT**

There are rumors afloat that the first weekend of June next year will see the kickoff of the new Great Beaver State Campout. It will be hosted by Northwest TTT (Teardrop Trailer Trash) on the two-acre field behind **Larry and Della Boehme's** barn. That would be north-east of Creswell, Oregon (in the Eugene area). So stay tuned for more information in the January issue of the TOW Line.

## **JEFFERSON STATE CAMPOUT NEAR MEDFORD, OREGON**

By Eunice Hill

It turned out to be a really nice gathering, relaxed and kicked back. Some teardroppers were able to visit family that lived close by. Others went to the music festival in Jacksonville. Some went shopping and others sat and visited all weekend. A bonus was a week-long hang gliding competition in the area. One day we saw over twenty hang gliders in the sky at the same time.

I was very disappointed when we pulled in. On our visit to check out the park, Kenny and I had seen a pretty grassy field but when we got there, it had been bulldozed and covered with dirt! The park is doing a major renovation but did not tell me in advance. It worked out fine, but what a shock! It is a nice park. The day-use area is beautiful with green grass. It is a very pretty river and it is my understanding there are fish in it. Our group area had pit toilets but there weren't bad. The men's showers were not the best and the woman's were OK. They are putting in electricity to the campground and a new restroom and shower building.

I really don't know who went to the annual car show in Medford. There was a potluck Saturday night and we had some GREAT food. One couple did their very first Dutch Oven cooking. One thing we did was to have everyone sign a TearJerkers Jefferson State Chapter apron and it was given away in a drawing.

There was a promise of waffles Saturday morning but someone (me) forgot the second waffle iron. Kenny saved me and bought sweet rolls for everyone.

I think next year the June gathering will be held at Lake Selmac on Hwy 199 near Selma, Oregon. Kenny and I were shown the site and it is perfect with room for lots of teardrops. It will probably be the same "Father's Day" weekend.

Our September gathering is still up in the air. We are looking at the eastern part of the Oregon/California border.

There were 19 trailers, one of them being a "man-cave" rig. Most of the 10 Oregonians that showed up were from the southern part of the state. All the rest were from California.

## **THOUGHTS ON BUILDING A TEARDROP TRAILER**

A new TD with an aluminum top should be as light as possible if the cabin is built first before fabricating the frame. By putting a wall between the cabin and galley, the structure is like a six-sided wooden box. It will be strong as heck and not flex or warp.

To make the teardrop assembly fit up to a frame, think of making the frame of 1 X 2 inch steel channel with 1/8-inch wall thickness. Since a teardrop's strength is in the box-like cabin, this is the lightest of frames and will flex enough to bolt directly to the bottom of the teardrop. Sometimes, if the frame is made of rectangular tubing, it's so stiff that spacers have to be used at the bolt locations.

But, in making the cabin, make sure that the bottom is flat as possible. When you wrap the aluminum from the front to the top it does not move off too much to one side or the other.

Of course, both sides must have the exact same profile; they have to be exactly parallel to one another and also must be directly opposite one another (for instance, one side can not be ahead of the other towards the front by any distance at all). Then, the aluminum sheet will bend around with very little movement to one side or the other resulting in a small overhang.

Because the sheet is exactly 48 inches wide and has to fit onto a 48-inch wide structure, you have to be a magician to get an exact fit. Thank your lucky stars that the corner trim is wide enough to cover any bare wood after the overhang is trimmed off. Hopefully, the aluminum has some alloy in it. Dead soft aluminum will gum up a trimming carbide router-bit very fast while an alloy aluminum will chip easier (because it's harder and not soft).

Now, all that's left are the details. Dozens and dozens more helpful hints will result in a great looking and very functional teardrop camp trailer. The only way to get these suggestions is to look at ones that have been built and talking to those who have built before you. An oddball, unusual trailer that's not the status quo will be very hard to sell.

## **DEMING WAS GREAT FOR US THIS YEAR**

By **Ken Masden**

This was our first vintage rally where we actually showed a vintage trailer. It was the 1935 Masterbilt being towed by our 1936 Oldsmobile convertible sedan. Of course **Marty** and I were just glad to be there basking in the glow of our trailer being shown (having just completed the trailer the day before leaving for Deming and having a few car problems on the way up).

There was a steady stream of folks through the trailer with lots of favorable comments. Everyone was amazed by the bathtub. Most everyone took a look through the scrap book **Trudy Glassett** so kindly made for us and were amazed as to how bad the trailer looked when we drug it home, then when **Rod Glassett** tore it completely apart and then how nice it came back together. Rod really did most of the "back together" part. Then my friend and neighbor **Alan Whitney** and I did a lot of work on windows and other details. **Ed Kelson** did the beautiful exterior paint job and **Doug Cronn** did the interior paint (which also turned out great). **Marty's** friend **Carol** made our curtains for the final touch. **Doug Keister** sent us eight great photos he took of the car and trailer at the rally that will be added to the scrap book.

The weather was hot and muggy, but everyone was having fun. The speakers did great. **Doug Keister's** presentation was superb. Doug autographed his new book *Teardrops and Tiny Trailers* for everyone. **Forrest Bone** with TCT did a fine presentation also. The potluck went well with plenty for everyone. The desert potluck went fine also. **Pat Ewing**, our host, said he was more relaxed than ever before and thus able to enjoy the rally this year.

The car died (or almost died) about five times on way to the rally. I think the fuel pump may be weak. After the first time, I figured out that I could hit the electric fuel pump switch and hold it long enough to climb hills and/or accelerate. I also learned how much gas I could give it before it conked out.

During the rally, I took a couple of guys into town. The car died, but **Bob Johnson** was with me. He had us going again after (hopefully) fixing it for good. **Del Little** was along also and helped diagnose the electrical problem that we had (not just the weak fuel pump issue this time).

We had no car problems on the way home. This time the **Birleys** and **Jacobsons** followed us down the highway. Just to be safe!

I thought this was the best meet that **Pat and Joanne** have ever hosted. We spent most of the time showing our Masterbilt. **Gary and Sally Lodholm's** trailer was beautiful and big crowd draw also. There may have been more trailers than ever before and such a variety too.. So many beautiful ones, we didn't know where to start looking. We loved the beautiful wood interiors on a lot of trailers. Many were as beautiful as one would see in a fine yacht. It was a great rally - fun to get together with old friends and make new friends. Thanks to **Pat and Joanne Ewing** (and the many volunteers who helped them make the rally a great success)!

A good time was had by all!

## **A CITY GIRL AT CAMP IN THE COUNTRY**

By Hiram Stumpjumper

A friend of mine was telling me of his wife's wonderment when on a teardrop camping trip in the country. It seems while walking across an open field she saw some black berries laying on the ground. Wondering what they were, she brought a handful back to camp.

When she showed them to her husband, he burst out laughing. You see, his wife had just walked across a sheep pasture!

## **TRAVELING WITH GORDY**

By Hiram Stumpjumper

Gordy and I grew up together. He was a year ahead of me in high school and somehow we ended up in the Army together in Germany. We did some crazy things together during our duty time over there.

Once when we were traveling, we stopped overnight at a YMCA. We went to the pool and found that, as is common in the USA back home, you swim nude. Anyway, one of the things we loved to do was to get into the shower and run the hot water on us as hot as heck. When you couldn't stand it longer, one of us would fling open the door and you would run and jump into the pool. What a rush that was!!

This time, it was Gordie's turn. I was at the door. But unknown to us, the swim had changed to all women! I opened the door; Gordie ran through, saw the women, but being so big, couldn't stop. He landed right in the middle of a group of girls. I laughed so hard that I didn't think to shut the door. You never saw anybody leap out of a swimming pool so fast in your life!

## **TOW NAMETAGS, PATCHES AND JACKETS ARE AVAILABLE**

At this year's Midwinter Luncheon the new TOW patch went on sale. It was designed by **Herb and Elaine Kipp** and featuring the cartoon-like TOW logo. It can be seen on the TOW website [www.teardroptrailers.org](http://www.teardroptrailers.org). The new nametag is shown on the site also. Several orders were made at the Luncheon and Spring Fling. A couple of the patches are still available.

Along with these two items, a jacket for both sexes can be purchased with the patch sewn on the back. But, many prefer to sew the patch on a favorite jacket. Look for the order form on the website. The order form has pricing information.

If orders are received by August 10<sup>th</sup>, free delivery will be made at the LeMay 2008. These are sold with **NO** markup. What you pay is what TOW pays. We also have a source for small patches used for hats and shirts at a cost of \$6.00.

## **CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS**

SEPTEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> – 21<sup>ST</sup> – *Festival of Wheels – Goldendale, WA*

Third gathering for all vintage trailers and teardrops. Stay at the county fairgrounds. Contact **Lorraine** at **509-773-0567** or web site [www.cityofgoldendale.com](http://www.cityofgoldendale.com).

OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> – *Fall Brigade – Mulino, Oregon*

First annual gathering of tears, vintage travel trailers and wannabes in tents or RVs at the Oregon City Elks Park near Mulino, Oregon. Contact **TOW** at **503-632-6563** or [teardrops@bctonline.com](mailto:teardrops@bctonline.com).