

# T.O.W. Line

TEARDROPPERS OF OREGON AND WASHINGTON

Serving those who are or wannabe teardroppers.



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When I bought my first teardrop two years ago, I had no idea that it came with a community of such great people.

I wanted some things changed on the trailer, and I happened to know her history so I contacted Larry Boehme. Larry told me a lot about the trailer, but more than that he let me know about the Gorge Gathering and invited me to a gathering at his house in Creswell. Marty put me on the list for the TOWLine. I had no idea that there were enough gatherings to keep me on the road so often that my husband would miss me (yes I have one, really, Kirsten and Maureen have actually seen him).

The TOWLine is for all of us, a place to see what is coming up, read about the adventures of others (or in some cases mis-adventures), and stay in touch even in the fall and winter months. Since it is a volunteer product written by our peers and edited by a non-professional, please overlook our warts.

This edition is a little thin on confirmed events, a lot has changed in the teardrop world in the last couple of years, and I admit that I don't know some of the people to confirm the pot luck(s) or other events will happen as they have in the past so I added them to Rumors and unconfirmed, hopefully some of the Rumored or hoped-for will have firm dates for the winter edition.

A special thanks to Gretchen for all the work that she has done in the past, until you have tried this you have NO idea how much work it takes.

-mb

Amy and I can be reached via [towlinenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:towlinenewsletter@gmail.com)





## SUMMER DAZE #2 (AND LAST)

Rod & Trudy Glassett

Yes, after 14 years of hosting Spring Fling and Summer Daze, we have decided to be participants! Steve and Peggy Birley, who have allowed us to use their property for the last 4 years, agreed. Hosting an event is a lot of fun, but it's a lot of work. We've had our turn, so would like to attend YOUR meets!

It was a great way to end the tradition-beautiful weather and great people. Registration and door prizes were in Birleys' fantastic park-model Spartan, which everyone enjoys touring. We had the usual Friday night Bingo, Saturday and Sunday continental breakfasts, Saturday night potluck (with many and varied Dutch oven dishes), recognition of our Veterans, thank yous to Birleys, big bonfires (with s'mores), lots of laughter and visiting. The "Cowchips" made their appearance with an appreciative audience under the pavilion or sitting in their own campsite. Several campers ventured along the bike trail, some traveled on the Steam Train (running right past our campground), some checked out the antique and outlet malls, some found unique eating establishments to enjoy.

We had 24 teardrop trailers, 10 vintage trailers, 10 fiberglass trailers, and 3 "other" types of trailers, including a HUGE one from Georgia (our long distance winners)! We had a couple of tent campers and several who planned to camp, but just ended up spending the day with us. Some "wanna-be" visitors came to check out the teardrop trailers with cameras, questions, and notepads handy. We've come a long way since our first Spring Fling in 1999 with 6 teardrop trailers!

As sad as it was to bring our event to an end, one camper reminded us of all the friendships that have been formed because of our meets. Very true. We, as well as many of you readers, have made life-long friends because of the various teardrop/vintage trailer events we have attended. Thank you to all who have attended Spring Fling and Summer Daze and become an important part of our life. We look forward to many more years of camping with you and to meeting more new friends.

PS We have some tables and many folding chairs, as well as some other equipment for a "group" event. Please contact us if you're interested. [glassettgang@juno.com](mailto:glassettgang@juno.com)



Arial Photo

By Jeff Richardson

Randy Moore's long time friend Chaz Verrall flew down from Arlington in his 1979 Maule M-5 airplane. Kelly Melton sat in the back seat with the door removed. I sat in the right front seat with the door window propped open. It was an exciting ride as we made three passes around the Birley's farm and then one low fly-over before returning to the private airstrip a few miles to the south.

Summer Daze



Kelly Melton standing next to the plane



## Our 2012 Vacation Trip: "Making Lemonade!"

By Mary Church

We set off from Lakewood, WA on Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>, headed for Tule Lake, CA and points of interest beyond. Our first destination was to be the Lava Beds National Monument and Captain Jack's Stronghold just south of the Oregon-California border. We made it nicely over Willamette Pass, although we did notice some smoke burning off from under the hood of our car while we were waiting to clear road construction near the top of the pass. The car appeared to be running fine, and we attributed it to some oil or other fluid burning off the engine. After all, we had just climbed the pass! We stopped at Collier State Park north of Klamath Falls, and quickly found a nice camp site for the night. Bright and early Sunday morning, we hooked up and headed south, planning to be at the Lava Beds by lunch time. We were just a few miles north of Klamath Falls when the check engine light came on, so we stopped in Klamath Falls at the Fred Meyer Store parking lot to see what might be the problem. Roger started by checking fluids, and soon discovered that there was no transmission fluid on the dip-stick. BOTHER! He looked under the car, and saw that the whole undercarriage was coated with transmission fluid. BIG bother! I went to the phone book and looked up a couple of my cousins whom I had not seen in 40 years, hoping that they were 1) in town and 2) they would recognize my name! After a bit of explaining who I was and what we needed, my cousin David told us where to find a KOA camp (about ½ mile away) and a really good dealership (just a mile away) where we could get the car looked at. But remember, this is SUNDAY morning, so we knew we would have to spend the night there. Roger added a couple of quarts of transmission fluid, and we drove up the road to the KOA.

At the KOA, we explained that we were experiencing some car troubles, and would need a campsite at least for the night. They were happy to set us up in a nice grassy site, and we settled in. My cousin called us back and offered to take us to dinner later in the evening, and further said that he was thinking about getting a teardrop, and would love to see ours! We spent a very pleasant evening with David and his brother Frank and their wives, talking about teardrops, camping, and just catching up on the 40 year gap! It was really fun to discover that Frank was married to one of my elementary school classmates! Talk about small world.

The next morning we drove the car over to the service department at Cascade Auto Group and were greeted by Chris, who just happened to be the Service Manager. Chris took our keys and showed us to the waiting room....and then the wait began. About 2 hours later, Chris came in and the look on his face told us it wasn't good news: the transmission had a crack in the case, and it would have to be replaced. I knew what that meant: goodbye vacation plans, hello a week or more in Klamath Falls at the KOA. Fortunately, the transmission was under warranty, and Chris assured us that he would do everything in his power to get us a rental car so we could continue on our vacation. He had the courtesy car driver take us back to the KOA, and we spent the rest of the day waiting to hear how long it would take to get a new transmission, and whether the warranty company would pay for a rental car. We also began to formulate "Plan B" to save our vacation. We were pretty sure the rental company would not have a vehicle capable of towing, so if we were to have any vacation at all, it would have to be in a tent. Early the next morning Chris called us and said, "I'm sending the courtesy car to pick you up...got you a rental car and you can get on with your trip while we fix your car. It will be at least a week. Let me know when you're ready and I will come over and pick up your trailer and bring it over to the dealership." With that news, we began to implement "Plan B". Picked up the car, headed for the Bi-Mart store, and bought a small tent, air mattress, air pump, and plastic totes for our gear. Back to the KOA to get everything we would need for the next week or so and load it into the rental car:

Continued ....



### Our 2012 Vacation Trip: "Making Lemonade!" Continued

.....a nice little Chevy Impala. Quite a come-down from our Buick Rainier, but hey, it was transportation. When we had the Impala stuffed with everything we thought we would need, we called Chris and told him we were ready for him to pick up the teardrop. The KOA owners had graciously offered to let us leave the trailer in one of the campsites, but we really wanted to have the trailer at the dealership along with the car. About an hour later we waved goodbye to the teardrop, and headed off for the Lava Beds. Thus began the most interesting week of vacation we have spent since building the teardrop! We stayed at the Lava Beds for three days and really enjoyed our time there. You can explore some 30 or more lava tube caves, and visit the site where a small band of Modoc warriors held off the US Cavalry for more than 6 months during the Modoc Indian War in the late 1800's. After our time in the Lava Beds, we headed southwest to Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Everything had to be placed "just so" in the car so it would all fit, rather like a game of Tetris! We had intended to stop at Mt. Lassen and spend a couple of days there, but had to forego that stop since we used up the two days in Klamath Falls. We spent the next several days in the Redwoods, hiking and marveling at the beauty of those great trees. It was something of a paradox: at the Lava Beds we could see for 25 miles or more in any direction, and not much to block the view. In the Redwoods, the trees were so close you could hardly see more than 100 feet!

Late on Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, we got a call from Chris, letting us know that the car was fixed and ready to go. We had to have the rental car back in Klamath Falls by 10:00 Wednesday morning, or we would have to pay an extra day's rental. SO, we loaded all our stuff back into that little rental car Tuesday night, everything except the tent, air mattress, and our blanket, went to bed early, and got up at 4 AM to make the run from Crescent City, CA back to Klamath Falls. We made it with time to spare, and were very happy to see our car sitting next to our beautiful little woody teardrop. We had a great time putting all the stuff back into the teardrop and talking with the dealership employees who all wanted to see the trailer. After a quick stop for groceries we were on our way...back up the road to Collier State Park! Our itinerary had called for a leisurely trip north on the Oregon Coast, but since we were so far inland, we decided to go back and find a campground up in the Cascades on the Willamette Pass, and stay there for a couple of days to relax. When we pulled in to Collier, the campground hosts were very surprised that we had come back so soon, so we had to tell them about our adventure. They were glad to see us, but sorry that we had such a misfortune with the car. I can't tell you how happy we were to be back in our teardrop trailer!

We stayed in Collier that night, and the next day we drove up to Willamette Pass and stopped at Blue Pool Campground. This is a very nice forest campground, with large campsites and not a lot of people there. The campground is just 10 miles from Oakridge, and a few miles from a beautiful scenic waterfall, Salt Creek Falls. Salt Creek Falls is the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest waterfall in Oregon, and well worth seeing. We spent two nights at Blue Pool, and then made the run into Corvallis to see Roger's brother and their mother on Saturday. Sunday morning we got up and headed home to Lakewood. We had been on the road for 2 weeks, most of it without our teardrop. Yet when I look back, it was really a good time. We met lots of people along the way who were very helpful when we needed the help, and we learned that we really can still have a fun time camping in a tent. We remembered the old adage: "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade!" That is exactly what we did. But you can rest assured that on future vacation trips, we will be including a small tent and air mattress in our gear....as an insurance policy!



## FALL BRIGADE TOUR OF PT BOAT 658

By Marsha McPheeters

Saturday morning, at 9 sharp, we headed to the Navy/Coast Guard base at Swan Island in Portland where the WWII PT Boat 658 has been restored. We were given tours by veterans and men who helped restore one of the last remaining PT boats. The boats were used in many locations during the war – in Europe and in the Pacific. They were used on risky missions to break up enemy supply lines by torpedoing barges and ships, to land and pick up scouts, to shoot down planes, to rescue pilots, and to draw fire to show our boats where the enemy was.

PT658 was built in New Orleans and delivered to the Navy in July, 1945. It was being shipped to Russia in the Lend Lease Program when almost all the remaining PT boats were burned on a beach in the Philippines after the war ended.

700 PT (Patrol Torpedo) boats were built. This is the only WWII PT boat running with its original engines in the world. It is 79' long, 20' wide, and has a 6' draft. It weighs 50 tons and carries 3,000 gallons of 100 octane aviation fuel. It runs 45+ knots (51mph) and was built from mahogany planks with waterproof canvas inside and a another inner layer of diagonal wood boards. It carried 2 officers and 14 crew. Weapons included four 13.5ft. torpedos (which were dumped over the sides where their props started and pushed them forward), 2 depth charges which could be set to explode 50, 100, 200, or 300 feet down, a smoke generator to create a smoke bank to hide behind during an escape, and Anti-aircraft guns of 20, 37, and 40 calibers. There were also rocket launchers and rifles. The boat had radar and radio.

Officers had bunks up in the forward bottom with curved boat hull as the outside wall. Crew bunked in back, also under the deck, with bunks seemingly smaller than a tear drop trailer's space. There were only a few bunks, with curved outside walls, and the crew slept in shifts. There were 2 'heads'.

Power came from 3 Packard V-12 1850hp engines which ran their exhaust under the water to keep the noise down. PT 658 is now a handsome camouflage dark green and gray. Many days it is visited by veterans of all services who pay homage to the brave young men who rode the PT boats 'in harm's way'.



## MY TEAR DROP ADVENTURES OF SUMMER 2012

By Katherine Bell

Every year since I acquired my Cozy Cruiser I have traveled to North Dakota, the birth home of my mother, Washington State, Wyoming or South Dakota to attend Germans From Russia Heritage Society Annual conventions. My maternal grandparents were German colonists in Moldavia-Ukraine, known as the Black Sea Germans, who came to North Dakota in 1900 . I have visited their homesteads several times.

This year I wanted to see some places related to my paternal grandmother's Norwegian heritage. I found out this year that In 1884 the ship records show that she was headed for Pelican Rapids, Minnesota so I wanted to see that place.

I decided not to take my dog, Quiggly, with me this year so my granddaughter Robin of Bend took care of him. I stayed at my son's place for a couple of days before heading north on hwy 97 with a short stop in Madras to chat with my brother Jon.

I stayed one night at the KOA in east Spokane and then took hwy 3 across northern Montana and one night at a forest campground. At an RV place in Hungry Horse area I called Gayle in Kalispell. She had researched my grandmother's ancestors of Grue, Headmark, Norway and I wanted to meet her in person. She and her husband drove out to visit with me. The next day, leaving the teardrop, I drove through Glacier Park and was treated to great views of snow capped rugged mountains with water racing down the sheer cliffs. While in a long line of vehicles waiting to pass by the roadwork high up the mountains, a Marmot jumped over a low wall, ran across the road directly in front of my car and up the steep slope on the other side. Then it was time for our line of cars to move on up the road, a sheer drop on our right and a wall of rock on the left with water from melting snow crashing and then splashing up from the road. No stopping to take a picture here.

It was a long drive across Montana. The beautiful mountains gave way to the hot prairie. I was cautioned about trying to find camping in Williston, ND which is under pressure of an influx of population related to the oil industry and pushed on to the very small town of Ray. Many North Dakota towns have small campgrounds, even many with electrical and water hookups for about \$20. Ray had a campground near a small lake and ball field. Here I huddled in my little teardrop that evening during an frightful electric storm. The next morning I was up too early to get gas and headed toward Minot. Just before I was about to run out of gas, finally, a gas station just off the highway and I could breathe a sigh of relief. In Minot I stopped at the Scandinavian visitor center. It was already becoming quite hot so I took a leisurely walk about the grounds after chatting with a Mountain Troll in the visitor center. There was a working windmill from a farm, bronze statues, waterfalls, Norwegian farm house, a giant Norwegian horse and a full size replica of a Norwegian Stave church. The smell of the wood in the church was wonderful. The tour guide explained about the architecture and carvings. The folks are so friendly.

From Minot I drove hwy 52 which crosses ND diagonally and then southward to Jamestown where I stayed in a campground I have stayed in before. Since it was a weekday I didn't have any problem getting a site. The next day it was on to Minnesota on I-94. I drove past Fargo and Moorhead until I saw the exit for Pelican Rapids, MN. In PR I saw a sign for a state campground a few miles out of town so I took a chance that I might find a site since it was still early in the day.

Continued.....



MY TEAR DROP ADVENTURES OF SUMMER 2012 (continued)

...Maple Wood State Park is very large. One could get lost walking through the woods and around the lakes. At the headquarters I paid for several days stay, found my site near a small lake, unhooked the trailer and drove back to Moorhead to visit their Scandinavian center touring another full size replica Stave church. After looking at the replica Viking boat a movie was shown about the building of the ship and sailing it to Norway.

On Saturday there was a special event- Pelican Rapids Days. For a town of about 2000 they really do it up large. I wandered through the small flea market, the large old car show, across the foot bridge to the turkey BBQ troughs, down past the Pelican Rapids dam and giant Pelican, to the old City Hall to view old photos and then up the street. Under the shade of bushy trees I sat on the curb talking with old timers while waiting for the parade to start. Across the street was a nursing home where there had been an outdoor pancake breakfast and people were waiting for the parade to start too. Families arrived for the parade. Red hair siblings with sand buckets to fill up with candy that would be tossed during the parade.

After the lengthy parade it was time for the BBQ meal, tender turkey piled high on buns with sauce available. They were also selling large bags filled with turkey meat. After the parade, over by the fire house, was a fire hose contest. A bucket was suspended from high wire over the street and teams would hold onto the nozzle and hose as a force of water would push the bucket towards either end. It was most fun to watch the younger kids work the powerful hoses.

On Sunday I drove to Phelps Mill State Park to the festival there. I checked out the booths and bought a book by the author about a journey he and 3 other college age males made on canoes in 1979 on the Red River to Hudson's Bay in Canada. The old mill no longer is in use to mill flour but is interesting to tour.

On Monday it was time to head west on I-94 to Bismarck. In March I had reserved a camp site at General Sibley campground for a week, enough time to visit the state museum and visit my Schatz relatives who were celebrating a birthday before convention. During convention I took time out on Saturday to visit my Schlichenmayer relatives who had gathered together.

The Monday after convention I headed back west staying one night in Montana in a RV park then one night at Arlington, OR at their city campground across the railroad tracks. In the morning I headed to Madras on 97. I stopped to visit my brother who drove us to the fairgrounds for a breakfast for the veterans and a look about the county fair. Then I continued to Bend to my sons to stay a couple of nights, still in my teardrop. I had one happy dog when he saw me.

On the road in Montana I stopped to talk with another tear dropper, two young fellows with a new, shiny tear drop, eventually heading for the redwoods of California. I gave them a BLM handout of Oregon for possible camping.

Another smaller tear drop was at the High and Dry Blue Grass Festival near Bend, OR. The land owner lets the big rigs park in a green field. He also has a dry campground for tents and smaller trailers. No showers but plenty of port-a-potties. This year the camping site was cleared of a lot of brush and there was a faucet for potable water.

Continued...





MY TEAR DROP ADVENTURES OF SUMMER 2012 (continued)

This was the second year for me to attend H&DBGF. There is music going all the time although the stage is separate from the camping space. On Saturday morning there are workshops for all the different instruments. Everyone participating learns the same song and that evening it is performed, quite fun to watch. My son Ron and his daughter Robin play fiddle but they gave a clogging performance on Sunday afternoon. Ron also calls contra dances. My brother Jon is in a Irish Band ( Truir Amadan ) which performed Sunday, a nice change from the Blue Grass.

So that's how I spent about 30 days in my tear drop trailer this summer.

<http://highanddrybluegrassfestival.com/>  
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## **Something Not Seen Before - Smart Car Pulls a Trailer**

**By Wally & Marsha McPheeters**



Wally and Marsha McPheeters arrived at the Fall Brigade campout with a surprising rig. Wally had always liked teardrops; and when his friend, Norm Brown of the 5 Wide teardrop club in Cloverdale, CA, wanted to trade for a Willys car, Wally said, 'I want a teardrop.' But Wally had some additional requirements: 'I want it 4 ft. tall, 4 ft. wide, and 8 ft. long. I want to be able to stand up in it and sleep crossways without cutting off my legs.' Norm and Wally sat down and designed a trailer that could do all that. Norm built it, and Wally helped. It still needs some insulation and paint, but it is 'campable'. Wally is a triker (3 wheel motorcyclist), so he can pull the new trailer with his nice black trike; but he wanted more. He bought a Smart car (for the Oregon weather) and got a hitch. The Smart car tows the trailer just fine though the mileage dropped from about 40 mpg to under 30 mpg. The trailer has electric brakes. Marsha and Wally are new TOW members and live at Capital Manor in Salem, OR.

## Great Gas Mileage!

I am proud to report that my 2012 Chevy Cruze, 4 cylinder, 6 speed automatic, pulls my little 245 lb, 6ft Stacker TD or my 450 lb woody teardrop with no problems at all. My normal 38 mpg is only reduced to 36 with trailer in tow. This car has more power and better gas mileage than my Camry had. As a matter of fact, I went to the Shasta Gathering with my even lighter, "levitating" 3ft by 3ft, wheel-less teardrop trailer, which is supported by the hitch receiver, kind of like a luggage rack. (It has a tip-out, slide-out and expanding front panel, allowing Roxy, the dog and I, to sleep in a 6 ft bed). I plan to attend the up-coming Lake Skinner gathering on 10/19/12. Perhaps I'll see ya there. Hopefully, the 100 plus degree heat will be thing of the past by then.

Roly Nelson, the So Calif woody TD guy.

## 2013 Event Information

**May 1-5, 2013** Lakehead, CALIFORNIA

**The 20th Dam Gathering of the Tears at Antlers Campground & RV Resort** on the banks of beautiful Lake Shasta in FarNorthernCalifornia.

The Dam Gathering is the worlds longest-running Teardrop Gathering! It is held in a beautifully wooded campground, and is attended by the nicest people you'll ever come across! The first three Dam Gatherings were held at a campground on the banks of the Sacramento River just below Shasta Dam (hence the name Dam Gathering), but we quickly outgrew that facility, and in 1997 we moved it to our "home" at Antlers. We typically have 70-80 teardrops and their owners attend, but last year we had 100! We're planing for considerably more for this special event, and so should you!

We welcome all Teardrop enthusiasts. If you do not have a Teardrop, by all means come anyway and camp in a tent or whatever you have... we'll have a space for you. If you're new to Teardropping or intend to build one of your own, bring a camera or videocam and feast on all the ideas and innovations. "Other" tiny travel/camping trailers are always welcome, as well, but please understand & expect to be parked separately (and there's a whole other loop for full-size RVs).

Please come join us as we celebrate **20** Dam Good Years of Dam Good Times with Dam Good Friends! Along with our usual Friday Night Dutch Oven Sampler, Cast Iron Chef competition, Saturday's World-Famous Chili Feed & Pot Luck, and Dutch Raffle, we have many more activities and several surprises planned ... including Pinewood Teardrop Gravity Races (see the topic on it at the T&TTT Discussion Forum for all the details: <http://www.tnttt.com/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=52490> ), hay rides through the campground Friday afternoon & Saturday, live music, and the 5 Wide Club from the Cloverdale, CA, area will be **building a teardrop, start to finish, in four days** in their campsite! So, mark your calendars and put in for time off, 'cause this will be one Dam Big Celebration! General info is at [www.teardrops.net/damgathering.html](http://www.teardrops.net/damgathering.html) and registration forms are at [www.teardrops.net/20thDGRegistration.html](http://www.teardrops.net/20thDGRegistration.html) You can also e-mail [info@teardrops.net](mailto:info@teardrops.net) or call [530-242-6452](tel:530-242-6452) for more info.

e'll look forward to seeing you there!

BTW - rumors still persist that this will be the **last** Dam Gathering! This is simply **NOT TRUE!** It's just that, starting with #21 in 2014, we're going to scale back the "production" side of things and we'll all just show up and have fun, without the whole registration process, T-shirts, and raffle. Our Dam Good Times with Dam Good People are going to keep rolling along as long as you want them to!

**June 21-23, 2013 Chiloquin, OREGON**

**TearJerkers' Jefferson State Chapter's Summer Solstice Gathering** at Collier Memorial State Park Campgrounds, 30 mi. north of Klamath Falls, OR, on Hwy 97, we will be centering in the tent sites in the middle of Loop A (non-reservable, first-come, first-claimed). Tour the Park's Logging Museum, walk the many trails, fish the Williamson River or Spring Creek, and/or take a ride on the Klamath & Western Scale Model Railroad just south of the Park on Saturday ( <http://www.knwrr.org/index.html> ). Crater Lake and Fort Klamath are nearby, as well as many other scenic opportunities. Or, you can just kick back and hang out in the campgrounds! E-mail [kayperkay@msn.com](mailto:kayperkay@msn.com) for more info about the gathering. Park info at [http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park\\_228.php](http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_228.php)

**June 1-3, 2013 Buxton, OREGON**

**Glamping** at LL Stub Stewart State Park Campground west of Portland. This is not a teardrop event, but some familiar faces will be there. What is Glamping? It is gals camping. Last year there was bunko, a pot luck and a trailer tour. So far there are two tears and two tiny trailers signed up, if you want to join us contact Marriane.

Want more information on teardrops and tiny trailers? Thinking about starting a gathering but want to talk about it with others? Want to complain about your canopy (and who doesn't, oh wait, there are at least three people out there that don't, look for an article on that in the winter edition). Try [tntt.com](http://tntt.com) a great resource for those building, looking or just wanting to chat about both teardrops and tiny trailers. There is a [Northwest](#) as well as a [Jefferson State](#) section in addition to all the other great resources. TOW also has a Facebook page (thank you again Gretchen), and Kay manages a Facebook page that both TOW and Jefferson State folks post to.



# Camp crafts!

## How to make awesome, cheap fire starters

By Maureen McGuinness

These are a perfect for lighting those Dutch oven briquettes in a charcoal chimney or to get that fireplace or campfire started with ease

### Materials:

Cardboard Egg Carton **DO NOT USE** Styrofoam

Dryer lint, a generous handful for a dozen starters

Lint from cotton clothing works better than synthetics

Old candles of any kind- you can use paraffin or craft candle wax, but its way more expensive

### Directions:

You don't need to separate the egg cups, but you can take the lid off

\*Keeping them together makes it steadier for pouring the wax

Put a small portion of dryer lint in each egg cup (eyeball a heaping tablespoon)

Melt the candle chunks in a metal can placed inside of a larger saucepan or pot- double boiler method, do not place directly on burner.

Melt on medium heat until fully melted. It has a low burn temperature, so don't try to speed it up by putting it on high.

I use a large can from a school cafeteria, but something like a tomato juice can would work. If your can is nice and big, squish one side together to make a spout and you will be able to pick it up to pour easily with one hand and your potholder. Use two hands until you get the feel of it, though, hot wax can cause the nastiest of burns!

When completely melted, slowly pour some wax into each egg cup to the level just under where it would start to flow into the next cup.

Leave it where you poured it until it is completely cooled. Tear into single starters if you so desire. One starter will burn for about 10 minutes!

*Please note- this not an activity to do with children!!!*





# Cool Idea



## Free Business cards for Tear-droppers

When we are at Teardrop gatherings people we meet always want to share an email address or phone number and no one ever has a pen or paper. The site listed below, Vista Print, will give you 250 free cards. Just go to their site and fill out the info. One suggestion: Don't put your home address or mailing address on the cards. If you're handing the card to someone two States away from home, it's obvious no one is there and you might get robbed. I just give my State.



# GREAT GADGET

The Quad Lantern consists of four panels with six 5mm white LEDs per panel. The Quad uses 8 D-cell batteries; you can expect about 75 hours of life from a set. The panels are charged by the base, and each panel can detach from the base to be used as a personal light. Or attach all four to the base and use the master switch to turn them all on for 190 lumens of lighting power – enough to light up about 26 feet. You can get the [Quad Lantern](#) directly from Coleman for \$69.99. Or less at many retail stores  
Read more at <http://the-gadgeteer.com/2010/10/14/coleman-quad->





## 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	INFO	HOST
<b>May 1-5, 2013</b> LakeHead, <b>CALIFORNIA</b>	<u>The 20th Dam Gathering of the Tears</u> at Antlers Campground & RV Resort	A Perennial Favorite	<a href="http://www.teardrops.net/damgathering.html">www.teardrops.net/damgathering.html</a> and registration forms are at <a href="http://www.teardrops.net/20thDGRegistration.html">www.teardrops.net/20thDGRegistration.html</a>
<b>May 24-27, 2013</b> Stevenson, <b>Washington</b>	Gorge Gathering	A Great Way to kick off the Summer!	Jim & Joyce Bailey 509-427-5835 <a href="mailto:jcbailey@gorge.net">jcbailey@gorge.net</a>
<b>June 1-3, 2013</b> Buxton, <b>Oregon</b>	Glamping	Gals Camping—Not a teardrop event, but teardrop gals glamp. Contact Marianne Byrd for more information <a href="mailto:byrdz1@hotmail.com">byrdz1@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_255.php">http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_255.php</a> Reservations for the park @ <a href="http://ReserveAmerica.com">ReserveAmerica.com</a>
<b>June 21-23, 2013</b> Chiloquin, <b>OREGON</b>	<u>Summer Solstice Gathering</u>	The Jefferson State TearJerker's June event	E-mail <a href="mailto:kayperkay@msn.com">kayperkay@msn.com</a> for more info about the gathering. Park info at <a href="http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_228.php">http://www.oregonstateparks.org/park_228.php</a>

If you hear of any other events, or we have missed one please let us know! Click [here](#) to send an email to the editor(s)



*These are guesses based on events that have happened in the past and/or rumors that I have overheard along the way.*

*Do **NOT** trust this information, but mostly do **NOT** try to hold me accountable for it as it is complete trash..... Or as I prefer to think of it—wishful thinking. Updates are appreciated, and if I missed one, yippee! Straighten me out and let's go teardropping.*

*-mb*

## 2013 CALENDAR OF RUMORS/WISHES/GUESSES

STATUS	EVENT	TIME FRAME	NOTES
Hope	<b>Winter Pot Luck (Seattle)</b>	February	
Hope	<b>Winter Pot Luck (Albany)</b>	February	
Unconfirmed	<b>The Creswell Campout</b>	June	
Possible/June	<b>Event in Tillamook</b>	June	
Unconfirmed	<b>Roslyn Teardrop Gathering</b>	June	
Rumor	<b>4th of July at Lake Roosevelt</b>	July	
Gee I hope so...	<b>Moon over Applegate</b>	July	
Unconfirmed	<b>Le May</b>	August	
Unconfirmed	<b>Antique Powerland</b>	August	
Unconfirmed	<b>Lynden</b>	September	
Unconfirmed	<b>Fall Brigade</b>	End of September/ Early October	

### Did You Know?

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