Fall 2016



TEARDROPPERS OF OREGON & WASHINGTON

Serving those who are or wannabe teardroppers.

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From the editor

Labor Day weekend is raging out there. From bad traffic to rain, it is the Labor Day that we all expect, even while hoping for better. The kids and teachers are back to school, the nights are getting colder, we wake up to the symphony of leaf blowers, and spend time wondering where and how to keep the teardrop dry and safe for the winter.

Fall Brigade is in a few weeks, so get signed up! Registration

If you do not use PayPal you can email us and we will work with you on sign up. If you pay before 9/15 there is a \$5.00 discount. We have the new lodge this year. Registration letters will be coming out this week for those that have already signed up. Early arrival is Thursday (\$15.00 for camping), and there is a "after event" this year, Marty will be taking people to the Evergreen Aviation Museum on Sunday for those that would like to stay over (\$15.00 for camping).

Two week, 3300-mile - Teardrop Camping Road Trip By Ken Masden

On August 8th, Gunner, Trooper and I set out in the 1936 Ford 3 window coupe street rod towing the matching Glassettbuilt #1 teardrop camper... Gunner and Trooper are my fantastic Shih Tzu dogs. They are great travelers and love investigating each campground we stop at. It was 109 when we left AZ... Hard to pack warm clothes, make teardrop bed, when you are a "bucket of sweat", but I managed to "getter done". See We drove first from Casa Grande, AZ up to the Fool Hollow Lake Recreation Area near Show Low, AZ. It is a fantastic state park and campground with complete cement pad full hook up sites (unusual for a state park)..

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The drive up route 60 from Globe to Show Low is very scenic and beautiful with many up and down grades and sharp curves... Of course the car overheated some (did not boil over), pulling up the grades with high air temp, 1400 lb. trailer and A/C running... Show Low is not that far from Casa Grande and will be one of my "get away from the heat for a few days" summer destinations.

From there we headed north and east for my family reunion (Wood Reunion in Page, NE)... Several of our family members owned a farm that was homesteaded by my great grandparents on my Mother's side Charles and Mellissa Wood in 1882. They created a family trust and now our entire family share ownership. We have had family reunions every year since before my time. Now they are held at our beautiful family farm.

When I am traveling trying to make miles, I like to get up early 5:00 AM or so... Walk the dogs, feed the dogs (drain and empty the dogs, then fill them back up), make coffee, get myself cleaned up for the day and be on the road by at least 7:00 AM... At the first gas stop then (likely just an hour or two), I grab a sausage, egg and cheese Mc-Muffin (or whatever is available), cram it down and keep going... Next gas stop, then I get a Coke and Beef Jerky and the dogs and I share the Jerky as we go on down the road as our lunch... Dogs are great travelers and I need a rest stop before they do, so we do not waste too much time that way... about 5:00 PM then I start looking for a campground... Once we have a spot, if time after walking and feeding the dogs and showing everyone in camp the car and teardrop, I like a brew or two, then make some dinner... Once dinner is over it is usually dark and we are all tired so to bed we go... The Glassettbuilt teardrop #1 is very comfortable for the dogs and I... We usually sleep very soundly. We hit some fairly hot temperatures along the way and I had trouble keeping the engine from overheating... Had to slow down into the 50s and turn the A/C off sometimes especially near Denver where we headed mainly east... Hate to be going only 50 or so on the freeway when the speed limit is 75 and most everyone is flying along at 85 or so... Other drivers just do not expect you to be going that slow... The car has Air Bag rear suspension and I knew it had a slow leak... Well the leak did not stay slow so we would go bumpity bump down the road until I could find a place to pull over and pump the bags up with the bicycle pump I brought along. As I neared Page, the frequency of needing to pump increased to about every 30 minutes or so...

In addition, Gunner had developed a strange mass on his neck... This had me concerned...

We made it to the family farm okay by Thursday... Before I could get set up, the sky opened up in a downpour... We moved the picnic tables and just pulled both the car and the teardrop under the shelter where we spent the night... Chris pulled his Harley under the shelter as well... Moved to a beautiful spot on the farm then the next morning...

Had a wonderful time at the reunion as always... Cousin Lyle (and wife Vicki) made everything great for all the relatives who attended... Chris and others helped also of course... Darrel had a great time driving Dad, Homer and Grandad's 1938 John Deere Model A Tractor once we managed to get it started (we found out it runs better if it has gas)... Lyle's mother Fontelle made it out to the reunion and it was great to see her... Cameron (Lyle and Vicki's son) purchased back his grandparents Edgar and Irene's 1963, two door hard top Chevy Impala and brought it back to the farm for the 1st time since it was sold years ago... Great to have it back on the farm. See CIMG7183 – The Chevy is back home!

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Meanwhile, Chris told me about a high flow thermostat and Lyle called Jason (another of Lyle and Vicki's sons) who picked one up on his way to the reunion for me. After the reunion was over then, we were going to put the new thermostat in the car but discovered that I already had the same high flow thermostat installed... So, we decided to remove the thermostat... More on how that went later...

I mentioned to cousin Trudy that I would be going to Wakonda State Park near La Grange, Missouri to visit my sister and brother-in-law who were "camp-hosting" there... She informed me that cousin Aletha (Trudy's sister) and her husband Wayne live quite close to the park and that another cousin Lula was also nearby in Columbia, MO... So, I added them to my "must visit" list... On the trip then from Page to Wakonda State Park, without any thermostat in the system, the temperature gauge went sort of crazy... Pegged hot for a tick or two, then back down to below 180 for a while, then back pegged... Not boiling over and wanted to get there, so kept going... Unrelated to temp (I think), the speedometer quit working somewhere between Sioux City, Iowa and Omaha, NE... Had the speed display on the GPS, so just kept going... Made it into the park about 7:00 PM that evening and surprised Pam and Don (who thought I was still in AZ)...

I spent a couple of days there at Wakonda state park visiting Pam and Don and Don and I put the new "high flow" thermostat in the car (remember same model as old one I took out)... We also put on a 16 pound radiator cap (old one was 13 pound)...

Had a great visit (except for the jiggers) and Aletha and Wayne dropped by the park and the 5 of us had a very nice visit and lunch.

So then on Friday, I hit the road again heading south to Colombia Missouri to visit Lula... Found her finishing her lunch when I arrived and we had a nice visit. She was in good spirits and asked me to tell everyone "Hi" for her.

Headed on down the road and as it was approaching dark I found a very nice campground somewhere in Kansas I think. Got set up and cooked myself a kabasi and cabbage (along with potatoes, peppers and other veggies I needed to use up)... I was just starting to scarf it down, when the sky opened up! Rain coming down in buckets and sideways also... I threw the dogs in to the teardrop as of course Gunner was panicked by the thunder and lightning... Tried to finish scarfing down my food... Water was pouring through the galley lid hinge and on down into the galley. As rain was coming sideways, I was getting wet under the canopy, so I jumped into the teardrop with the dogs... Well, I knew the moon roof had a leak, but this leak was like someone pouring water out of a pitcher and of course going right down onto the bed (and me)... So, I jumped back out and grabbed the dish pan and jumped back in and held it under the moon roof downpour... As it would fill, I flung it out the door and back to catch more... So, now I am sitting in a pool of wet foam and bedding with a dish pan on my Iap... Pretty much soaked everywhere... Dogs found dry areas of the teardrop bed though... Well, it was fairly warm so pretty soon I nodded on off to sleep (still holding the pan)... When I awoke at dawn, the storm had stopped, so I emptied the dish pan, threw in the tarp and put all the wet canopy, chairs, etc. on top the tarp and we piled into the car and headed on down the road... I was nearly dry a few states later...

So, that evening I found a nice RV campsite just into New Mexico I think... Took everything out of the TD including the foam to try to get everything dry... Tried to walk the dogs, but discovered place was covered

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with sandburs (nasty star like stickers that get into dogs feet and fur)... Tried to stay on gravel roads to get their business done.. So, by then it was getting time for me to do my business... Went searching for the bathroom... oops... no bathrooms at this RV camp... Okay, so I am a guy and it is nearly dark and there is a nice bush... I remember it was only 30 miles or so on down the road to a rest stop, so figured I would be okay if I just headed there early in the morning...

So, morning comes and we head on down the road as quickly as possible... Get to the rest

area... Closed!!! Oh well, I think there is a gas station a few more miles on down the road... Ah hah there it is... Okay get gas first and take care of dogs.... Go inside... no bathrooms!!!! Sheesh... I cannot catch a break this morning... back into to the car for some 40 more miles when hallelujah there is an open rest stop... Sweet relief!!!

Since putting in the new "high flow" thermostat and the higher pressure radiator cap the car stayed very nicely at 160 degrees even when going down the road at 65 MPH... but of course the air temperature was way down due to the storms.. Anyway, went fine for two more days and several states, able to run air, pull inclines etc. w/o overheating... Still got a bit warm when idling in traffic or slow speeds in towns...

When we got to the warmer weather however, the temperature gauge started to climb, still able to go 65 with AC however, just at 180-215 degrees... Towns and slow traffic higher temps though, but did not boil over.... So, I think the higher pressure radiator cap and new high flow thermostat helped... Not sure if it would help to go to an even higher pressure thermostat... Not sure how big an issue it is as it is not boiling over and overflowing.

Jack, we must have gotten a good "due" putting the 36 Ford hub caps on as I did not lose any and we were on some bone shaking, teeth rattling, filling loosing roads...

Anyway, I learned a few things...

1. Always ask if there are bathrooms available at an RV campground (they may expect only the big rigs who have their own)...

2. Move canopy over the teardrop if it looks like rain (anchor to TD with bungee cords), don't cook - eat a can of sardines in mustard sauce with some raw cabbage (one of my favorite meals), or a peanut butter and tomato sandwich (another favorite), so you don't have to move the canopy to cover the galley area.

3. Bring extra towels to combat "wet dogs in TD" syndrome.

4. If you expect to be in high temperatures with long pulls, try to get a very early start so air temp is lower and thus risk of overheating lessened.

5. Take time to visit with friends and relatives... Who knows if you will get time again...

6. Fix little issues (like slow airbag leakage) before the trip as they become bigger issues when on the road.

7. There are great mechanics everywhere (Lyle thank Steve of Quality Alignment again for me... Air bags are still holding air)...

8. There are great Vets everywhere (Lyle thank Dr. Kelly Darner-Rasmussen of O'Neill Veterinary Clinic again for me... Gunner's infection is entirely cleared up now).

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9. There are good "strangers" everywhere... Lots of friendly folks to meet who will help with most any issue you might be having... (Okay I did not find anyone to help me with my mental issues – perhaps next trip).

Anyway, a great fun trip.... If you actually read this far, you may also need some of that "mental issue" help...

Visiting the Petrified Forest National Park

By Marty Boehme

Visiting this national park was a bonus for Katie and I on our way home from a week-long vacation in Northern Arizona. It's located on the I-40 freeway that replaced the old US Route 66.

The visitor center was interesting and helpful in showing the closed route starting from the northern portion of the park. Here, we found out that every one of our 50 states has some form of petrified wood. Of interest was the first stop that used to be on the old "Mother Road" US Route 66. It was a

preserved Harvey House for travelers where food and lodging were provided 80 and more years ago. Great ambiance and patina in this old preserved building was great to see during our self-guided tour that started in the kitchen.

From the building's back porch, we could see many square miles of badland features in the terrain that resembled petrified sand dunes. These geological features were absolutely bare of any plant-life on their smooth slopes. You could easily see the many layers of different colors that were formed when this part of Arizona was submerged in the sea many, many millenniums ago.

Our next stop was also along the old Route 66 where a rusted-out windowless 1936 Studebaker was left on its bare chassis sitting on the ground. Some car parts had been salvaged years ago for someone's restoration project. Missing was the passenger door outer skin panel as well as several other items from the car's interior. With the exceptional dry climate in that part of Arizona, I'm sure that old-car hulk will last many, many years.

We continued on this nine-mile route through the park with some side roads leading to petrified log specimens. One place showed a log protruding from a steep slope. You could see that the rest of the exposed log had broken off and lying below.

At one location, there was an overlook where you could see many petrified logs laying helter-skelter in a big jumbled pile. The information plaque indicated it was the world's largest collection of petrified logs. Our last stop was at the end of the road. There was the usual gift shop. This one had the very best Route 66 memorabilia I have ever seen. Its collection was harvested with many different items added to my collection. I found my fourth coffee mug reflecting this icon road from the past

Hopefully we will be able to visit other National Parks during this centennial year of our country's creation of the National Park Service. We would encourage teardroppers everywhere to do the same.





TCT Bend Classic Vintage Trailer Rally

By Dal Smilie

Over 55 vintage trailers attended the second Bend Classic Vintage Trailer Rally at the J Bar J Youth Ranch on the edge of Bend, OR. August 10-14. Proceeds went to support the good work of the ranch.

The various public reports of open house hours were in disagreement so visitation spread over two days but it was huge. Lots of area folks promised to attend the 2017 Bend Classic.

Evenings in Bend cool down which was welcome in this warmer than normal year. The Perseid Meteor Shower entertained as did Coyotes singing and yapping nearby.

Bend, with its 36 microbrews, 140 restaurants, the Flashback Cruz Car Show and its zillion amenities entertained and served attendees.

Flyte Camp attended and showcased its new Neutron retro trailer. They verified rumors that the Travel Channel has picked up the popular FlippinRVs and will reformat and rename it. Stay tuned, we expect that to be great. FlippinRVs featured the Bend Classic in one segment.

A new rally host will take over for 2017 as Dal Smilie has returned to Montana where he will continue to host the TCT Fiddlers Picnic Rally in Livingston MT.

Sunsets and Crabs

By Mike Burch

After two weeks on the road with Roger and Mary Church and Pat and Jan Estes to the California redwoods and several sites along the way we arrived at Garibaldi to complete our teardrop road trip. Bob and Julie warmly welcomed us as we drove in and assisted with camp set up. Unlike the previous year's gathering with a blistering 102 degree heat this year greeted us with mild temperatures and even some heavy dew/light rain. We bundled up around our fire pits and exchanged tales of being on the road as youngsters. Of the 10 trailers gathered, two were authentic vintage rigs from the 40's, one complete with a smokestack! Some of our female teardroppers visited the local quilt shop and myrtle wood factory in town. Of course, the highlight was the crustaceans we all came for, as Bob fired up the pot and served up delicious crab that was quickly devoured. In addition, fresh shrimp, corn on the cob and potato salad rounded out our feast. Bob and Julie served a sumptuous breakfast each morning along with steaming hot coffee. Campfire on Saturday night was delightful as many funny stories were shared by everyone, especially Denise's "Are you going to the Gorge" tale. Memories will linger as new friends were made and old ones rekindled. It was bittersweet to bid everyone adieu, but we had one more traditional stop to make in Astoria before heading home, that being the Rogue Brewpub for lunch with Roger and Mary. Can you say unlimited micro brews?!

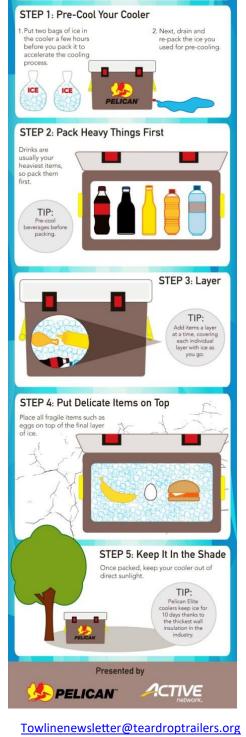
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HOW TO PACK A COOLER



Largest Attendance Ever at PowerLand 2016

By Marty Boehme

We had a wonderful time at the Antique Powerland gathering this year with reasonable temperatures for both days. Compared to last year's 98+ we saw no reason to soak our feet in a cold-water wading pool. Our "family of friends" was fed for Saturday's burger supper. Complements and a whole lot of thanks to our two grill-masters, Dan Fuger and David Abbott. They did a superb job with a change in mind for next year – they will eat FIRST!!

We actually ran out of some food as we fed a record number of people this year. It was 40 that lined up for hot-off-the-grill cheeseburgers with all the trimmings. We also had left-over burgers that were fed to our host museum's staff the next day. This year, we prepared some half-pound burgers and found they were almost too much to eat. Plans are to stick with the one-third pound burgers next year. Of note, we had Mike Perini show up with a beautifully restored 1941 Vagabond vintage walk-in trailer. Mike is always hunting for the unusual and takes pride in the restorations he does in his retirement. It was wonderful to see and tour. Larry Boehme also had his reproduction of a 1930's Airflo on display for all to tour and admire.

At the Friday evening's "get-acquainted" meeting it was announced that we are thinking of offering a communicative 20th anniversary coffee cup to all campers. It will have our TOW cartoon logo on one side with text that announces "Having Fun for 20 Years". The other side will have a list of all the TOW events during those 20 years. It starts with LeMay 1997 and ends with Sunsets and Crabs 2015. The list includes our Mid-Winter Potlucks and even our Car Collectors show started in 2002.

TOW Camp Site Banners

Hollywood Banners 539 Oak St - Copiague, New York 11726 Phone: <u>631-842-3000</u> - Web <u>www.hollywoodbanners.com</u>



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Beware of trailers that use Dexter Axles

By Marty Boehme

It has recently come to our attention that some of the Dexter axles used for custom built teardrop trailers do not have bearing assemblies that have been properly installed at the factory. All axles should have inner and outer bearings that are "packed" with axle grease. Those bearings that have no grease will wear out within 20,000 or less miles depending on how heavy the trailer is.

The "5-wide" California group have custom-built trailers all using the same Dexter axle. On one of their caravans, one trailer's bearings failed. When examined, it was found that the factory had not packed the bearings. The group decided to have all the other trailers checked. They found more axles with wheel bearings not packed with grease.

It is quite simple to check for greased bearings. Remove the wheel's hubcap and there should be a grease cup (made of steel) centered on the wheel's spindle. The cup is a press fit, so pry off the cup using a "bladed" screwdriver. The outer bearing will be seen and should have grease on it. Also, the cup should also have grease in it - that's why it's there. Carefully reinstall the cup using a soft hammer being careful not to damage it.



- 5. Cleans up easy
- 6. It's inexpensive
- 11. Can cook multiple items at once
- 12. Boosts your iron intake

13. And in a pinch, it can even be used as a weapon :-)

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have heard of Reubens (though no one shared), tuna melts (again I was taunted, but alas I was not rewarded), crunchy taco wraps, and all kinds of other ideas. Here is a link for other recipes:

Pie Iron Recipes

Recipe

Some of my

friends have been on a tear about Pie Irons. I

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Crock Pot Liners



If you have not used a Crock Pot liner, you should try it. Save yourself all of the clean-up and scrubbing. Put in the liner, put in your food, eat, then pull out and throw away the liner, no fuss, and you can use the Crock Pot to wash the rest of your dishes in. Great for those Pot Lucks where you have power. I "made" chili (read opened cans of Stagg) for an event earlier this

year, and the liners made cleanup so easy! In a pinch you can use an oven bag to perform the same task.

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2016 Event Details

September 6–11 Lynden, Washington

<u>Mt Baker Vintage RV Rally</u> We had 207 trailers at the 2015 event let's see if we have room for a few more. The official rally is the 9-11th but you can arrive as early as the 6th. Power and water are available for most everyone. This is field camping no assigned spots. You pay and register upon arrival. Showers, restrooms and a RV dump station are on site. We will again have our Saturday swap meet and open house. Both are open to the public at no charge. Cost for attending is \$20 per night and one-time rally fee of \$15. More details to follow later. <u>Facebook Page</u>



September 16-18 Union Gap, Washington

The Trailers N Tractors Gathering (TNT) will be held in Union Gap WA (Yakima)Sept. 16-18th at the Agricultural Museum grounds. This event is organized and hosted by Doug & Betsy Clark as a Tear Jerkers PNW Chapter event.

Event itinerary is very laid back and relaxing, surrounded by America's Agricultural History and Machinery.

It will also be the "Final Stop" on the 2016 Fall Crawl (sponsored by the

British Columbia Chapter).

Although the event is primarily aimed a Teardrops, other tiny trailers are invited to join in. For further information or to register Contact <u>Doug Clark</u> <u>TNT (Trailers and Tractors)</u> a gathering of all small and vintage trailers. Central Washington Agricultural Museum in Union Gap (next to Yakima), Washington. WHY: Winding down from a great summer of fun in a place that still thinks its summer. WHO: Contact Doug Clark at sealark2@juno.com or 509-972-8771. HOW MUCH: FREE!!!! (We will be passing the hat for donations to the museum)

The Ag Museum is located on 17 acres of park, most is lawn type with shade trees, excellent for our type of camping. Although you should think of this as 'dry' camping, water is available at several locations. Port-a-Potties will be present and there is a flush toilet in the visitor's center.

DIRECTIONS: Go to <u>centralwaagmuseum.org</u> and download the directions there. Otherwise, go to Union Gap and follow the signs as you head south out of town.

Fall 2016





September 23-25 Mulino, Oregon

Fall Brigade This gathering of our family of TOW friends wraps up the TOW camping schedule for the year. For the first time we will be in the new building. This site is located about 15 miles South of Oregon City (part of the greater Portland Metropolitan area). The Oregon City Elks Lodge owns this campground. It's a "dry" camp with some power available. Remember to bring your outdoor extension cord if you need power.



Friday night there will be 8 can Taco Soup and an Appetizer Pot Luck, followed by good times in the new lodge. Saturday will likely have some sort of tour or group event for those that like that kind of thing, there is antiquing in the city of Aurora. Dinner will be a Pot Luck followed by a Dutch Raffle. Breakfast will be served on Sunday.

What is a Dutch Raffle you ask? Aside from it being a great way to get rid of decent stuff you don't want anymore (remember if no one wins it YOU have to take it home) it is a fun way to "bid" for things with your raffle tickets. You get raffle tickets for:

- > Showing up
- > Paying early
- Telling a good joke

- Making your bed if the raffle team notices
- Walking around
- Telling a bad joke

Everyone brings at least one thing that someone might want (again someone has to take it or YOU take it home) in front of each item is a bag. The raffle tickets go in the bag, want something badly? More tickets. Don't want something don't put any tickets in that items' bag. On Saturday night we will go through the bags and pull out a ticket for each item. It is fast and fun. <u>Registration</u>

September 25-26 Mulino, Oregon

Fall Brigade-The Caboose On Sunday there is an optional stay over with a trip planned to the Evergreen Aviation Museum. TOW is hosting a group tour of the Evergreen Aviation Museum (home of the Spruce Goose) on this date. This invitation goes out to all your local friends, relatives, in-laws, outlaws, neighbors, co-workers. The cost is \$10 per person.

We will tour only the museum containing the Spruce Goose. For campers at the Fall Brigade we will be leaving Elks Park at 9:00 AM for the 75-minute drive to the site near McMinnville. So, plan on arriving by 10:30 AM. The complete tour lasts about three hours.

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An IMAX theater on the site usually shows an interesting film. The Space Museum at the site offers individual tours. A café is available on-site also. Check the internet for more information.

For Fall Brigade campers, TOW has the option of renting the big dining hall on Sunday evening. Plans are to gather for a no-host supper and breakfast in the hall. This offers a GREAT place to fellowship out of any inclement weather around the hall's fireplace. Campers will be responsible for paying a fee of \$15 to our on-site campground hosts for Sunday night's stay.

Contact: teardrops@bctonline.com

October 20 – 23 Catalina State Park, Arizona

<u>Spooktacular 2016</u> Where: Catalina State Park just north of Tucson on Highway 77: Warm to hot days, cold nights (bring a heater, bring a jacket).

When: Thursday October 20 at 5 am to -Sunday October 23 at 10 pm. Currently park reservation fees are based on half days. We took full days on Thursday through Sunday at the Gila Monster site and Friday through Sunday at the adjacent Flycatcher site to handle overflow camping and guest parking.

Dry Camping- Park and camp where you want and with whom you want. Water is available near the group ramadas. The bathrooms have electric outlets and the park is letting us set up a group table with electricity for morning coffee and a power strip to recharge your phones.

Fees: \$15 camping per night, pay at the gate. Sign in and pay the \$10 event when you arrive at the group area. The event fee goes towards the reservation cost and event expenses.

Park Description: Mountain views, numerous mesquite trees, spacious modern bathrooms, hiking and biking trails. Horses are available to rent just outside the park. A Super Walmart grocery store is directly across the highway along with camping stores and more.

Special Events:

Please decorate for Halloween and feel free to bring things to sell to fellow campers.

Thursday: Unstructured. Early birds may choose bonfire or watch outdoor movies.

Friday: PM: Meet and greet after dinner with hot mulled cider and a fire. Outdoor movies after dark. Saturday: Trailer tours after breakfast. Swap meet, craft sale OK at your trailer. Potluck dinner and awards in group area at 4 pm. Bonfire.

Sunday: Relax or go explore local attractions, thrift stores, quilt shops- we have both sites until 10 pm. If you want to stay extra, please arrange that with the park officials

Specific Contact Information: Email

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Arizona

Towlinenewsletter@teardroptrailers.org

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