



Teardrop Trailer

The adventures of Lee & Kathy continue!

Monday, September 18 - Woodland Park to Steamboat Springs

This story began a few months ago when I noted a very small trailer design on eBay. We were previously fascinated by trailers such as the T@b, Casita, Burro, and Scamp. Of course, my trailer fantasies began with the Airstream. Dreaming of our 1988 Grand Wagoneer towing an Airstream across the country helped me through many boring situations.

The teardrop trailer form dates back to the WW II era. Some of those vintage trailers are still available for purchase. The better option is to buy a teardrop inspired by the past, but built using current materials. There's a talented carpenter in Logan, UT who offers his custom built teardrop at auction on eBay from time to time. Early in September, 2006 our bid was the winner. We planned to take delivery on September 20th.

Today is the beginning of our trip to Utah. We've never found the scenery in Colorado anything other than beautiful or very interesting. The 288 mile drive to Steamboat Springs was no exception. Our route took us over Wilkerson Pass, through Fairplay, Breckenridge, and less developed areas north of I-70.

The photo to the right was taken from a bridge over the Yampa River and shows the multitude of ski trails at the resort. Dinner at the Steamboat Smokehouse was delicious and reasonably priced.



Tuesday, September 19 - Steamboat Springs to Layton, UT

Morning:

Our stay at the Comfort Inn was comfortable and the room offered a view of the mountains. Breakfast at Winona's Cafe was delicious. Kathy ordered granola pancakes and I ordered scrambled eggs with green chile cheese grits. Yummy! The main street of Steamboat Springs has maintained its western heritage and has many restaurants, several bookstores, and quite a few opportunities for buying expensive items; however, there are so many large homes and condos dotting the landscape that the natural beauty of the area is obscured to a large extent.



The drive west out of Steamboat was beautiful along the Yampa River. There were several campgrounds along the river which looked very inviting. As we neared Craig, the landscape changed from green river valley to a more arid terrain. We saw many pronghorns grazing in solitude, small groups, and bands of 20-50. The most amusing sight was the two dozen pronghorns grazing on the grounds of the Craig Trap Shooting Club.

Afternoon:

Northwest Colorado and eastern Utah are sparsely populated. Which means there aren't a whole lot of opportunities to stop for lunch. The best bet in Duchesne (doo-SHANE, not du-chez-nee) was Cowan's Cafe with the local AARP contingent bantering with the friendly waitress. Visit Heather B. Armstrong's blog at www.dooce.com and search for "Duchesne" for an interesting commentary on the pronunciation of the town's name.

As we drove westward toward Dinosaur, CO the terrain continued changing until it became stark and then almost devoid of color in eastern Utah. The Colorado visitor center in Dinosaur was a credit to the taxpayers of Colorado. It was really well designed and stocked with very helpful informational brochures and staffed by a very knowledgeable woman.

The afternoon concluded with a very scary drive from Heber City, UT through Salt Lake City to our Comfort Inn room in Layton, UT. The scenery out of Heber City was beautiful; however, the driving conditions did not permit me to enjoy the scenery. SUV's and semi's were racing along recklessly about 20 mph above the speed limit. We noted this trend throughout our three days in Utah. During the three day visit, we saw ONE Utah state trooper!

Evening:

We were very relieved to see that there were several restaurants within walking distance of the motel so that we'd not have to do any more driving today. And, yes, the room had a view of the snow-capped mountains as the photo on the web had promised. We retired early... with visions of teardrop trailers dancing in our heads.

Wednesday, September 20 - Logan to Green River

Morning

Happy owners of the new teardrop trailer pose with the talented builder, Preston Broadhurst. He and his family are wonderful. We immediately took a liking to them. We were very impressed that the trailer lived up to our fantasy and even looked better than we had imagined. A visit to Cafe Ibis provided great fair-trade coffee with the caffeine needed for our travel ahead.

Afternoon:

After deciding that there was not enough time left in the day to reach Moab, we set our sights for the Comfort Inn in Green River, UT.

Traveling along Highway 6, we realized that this was the route we had followed on our AMTRAK trip to California earlier in the Summer. Outside of Price we saw the Book Cliffs which we had viewed from the train. Fortunately, the traffic was light and I could drive and sneak a peak at the marvelous scenery.

Evening:

We pulled into our Comfort Inn at Green River (we're building up points at a rapid pace!) about dusk. Our room gave us a view of Book Cliffs and was comfortable as the name "Comfort Inn" suggests.

There are more businesses closed in Green River than ones that are still in operation. That translates to few options for dinner. We lucked out by being within walking distance of the Tamarisk Restaurant on the bank of the Green River (actually the Green River is brown).



Thursday, September 21 - Green River to Moab

Morning:

Few Comfort Inns offer the quality of free breakfast as that provided at the inn in Colby, KS. As usual, we passed on the free breakfast and opted for a local alternative. Today it was quiche, coffee, and freshly squeezed organic orange juice at the Green River Coffee Company. Don't be put off by the company mascot, the vulture! The food and coffee are great and the ambience is... well... you just have to see it!

Afternoon:

The drive to Moab was incredibly beautiful. Our intent was to camp in Arches National Park. Much to our surprise, there were many other people with the same goal. The alternative, camping along U-128 proved to be no letdown. Our campsite was about 200 feet from the Colorado River and surrounded by the red cliffs so prevalent here. We were on BLM land and the Arches National Park was on the other side of the river.

Evening:

Kathy and I enjoyed one another's company, the scenery, the sound of the river, the tea, the wine, the brandy, and the chocolate... yes, I think there was some food also!

Night time:

Initially the rain wasn't intimidating... but then it kept on raining for hours. Well, all night to be exact. Our first night in our teardrop trailer was cozy, but you have to imagine the effect of sounds of the river and



pounding raindrops on the trailer interacting with increased bladder pressure to know our experience!

Friday, September 22 - Moab to Woodland Park

Morning:

The photo to the left shows the sun making an unsuccessful attempt at chasing the clouds away. The small photo to the right illustrates the difference sunshine makes in the scenery. After a full night of rain, the forecast called for light showers

followed by another night of rain. We decided to head east in search of sunshine after coffee in Moab. The route along U-128 toward I-70 took us beside the Colorado River for about 20 miles.

Afternoon:

We didn't find sunshine! East of Montrose visibility on Cerro Summit was very limited due to the combination of snow and clouds. Once over the pass, we were able to see the wonders that collectively are called the canyons of the Gunnison River. Those wonders include Black Canyon, huge mountain ranges, and a monster reservoir. Although magnificent, there was still the weather issue that prompted us to forge ahead until we reached home.

Evening:

In Woodland Park, Mother Nature was putting final touches to her beautiful 4-inch snowfall. We've unpacked much of our stuff and showered. There's a fire blazing and Kathy is warming up food we took for the camping trip. life is good!

If you are lucky enough to live in Colorado, then you are lucky enough!

