



# HORIZON HERALD

Volume 4 Number 1

New Horizons Owners Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2002

## New Horizons Owners Spending Winter Snug as Bugs in Rugs

Here's a photo from last winter, my first as an RVer, a fulltimer, and a New Horizons owner. Bess & Bertha (my truck and trailer, named for twin great-aunts) and I spent our first winter together on cousin Jerry's farmland in northeastern Oklahoma, during a record cold spell: three weeks of zero-degree temperatures. We loved it.

Inside my well-insulated rig, I was warm and cozy. Outside, the icicles festooning Bertha were prettier than any Christmas lights could ever be.

The winter afforded me many learning opportunities, some more challenging than others. Denial allowed me to ignore the frozen state of my grey and black tanks until they were completely full, and hard as glaciers. Finding the solution to this problem gave me my first technical victory, and



confirmed that my hasty leap into the full-time RVing life was the right one for me. (The solution involved duct tape, foil-backed styrofoam insulation, a rented kerosene heat blower, physical dexterity, vigilance, and patience.)

This winter, in sunny Alabama, I'm still happy and still learning in my new life as an RVer, a fulltimer, and especially a New Horizons owner.

### Website Warning

"One issue that needs to be raised is the New Horizon owner's web site which I have been maintaining for the past year (as a section of my personal Earthlink web site): <http://home.earthlink.net/~wsadd/Horizons/>


"It is not clear to me that the site serves much value to NH owners. I get no input or response from them. I do get occasional inquiries from NH wannabees that are fun to deal with. I'm considering dropping the site unless there is some demonstrated value to it."  
—Bill Sadd

### What's Happenin' at Horizons, Inc.

I spoke to Harold Johnson recently and asked him if anything exciting was going on. Here's what he had to share:

- The crew at the plant were finishing up on Unit #553 or so, and working on various special projects.
- Due to customer requests, they've now begun building triple-slide units. So far they've completed 2 or 3 units with triple slides.
- The repair facility at the plant is going strong. Though they don't advertise, they will work on any brand of RV, not just New Horizons. (*Pass that on to all your campground pals not fortunate enough to own New Horizons!*)
- Horizons, Inc. now offers Mor-Ryde suspension as a standard feature, and Air Ride suspension as an option.


## Pot of Gold

 We purchased a used 1997 New Horizons 36' fifth-wheel a while back. It sat in our back yard for several months until we were ready to sell the house. When life would get stressful, we would go into the NH, sit on the couch and dream about retirement. The house sold and we moved into the fifth wheel in 4/00 and lived in it during our last year of work. It was a great way to shake down any problems (few) and try to pare down our possessions. We finally realized our dream of retirement at the end of March 2001 and have been on the road ever since.


—Fran and John Razmus

Pat and I will be segueing from  full-timers to part-timers next month as we move into our new "retirement" home in Fredericksburg, TX. We will be keeping our NH33' 5W and plan to travel extensively; just not full-time. This town has a lot to offer to RVers--a number of good campgrounds (we love the KOA, Don and Helen are staying downtown), lots of area tourist attractions and shopping, scenic drives, etc.

—Bill and Patricia Sadd

 Since I am a new owner, I have not met other owners yet so I don't have a good idea of their interests. I am very interested in the natural world, wildlife, the various Native American cultures and interesting places to explore. I am a biologist and have researched coyotes and Trumpeter swans.

—Maureen Gross

The Real Voyage of Discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes, but in having  new eyes. (Marcel Proust)

—Bob & Jeanne Hawk

# Sage Advice!

(reprinted from *St. Joseph Voice, Lake Orion*)

- Never trust a dog to watch your food. (Patrick, age 10)
- When your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer him. (Paul, age 13)
- Don't pull Dad's finger when he tells you to. (Emily, age 10)
- Stay away from prunes. (Norona, 13)

- When your mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair. (Taylia, age 11)
- Don't sneeze in front of Mom when you're eating crackers. (Mitchell, 12)
- Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a tic tac. (Andrew, age 9)
- You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk. (Armir, age 9)

—*Roberta & Gerald Marcinkowski*



## Helpful Hints

*From Me To You*

*From You To Me*

Here are some of my personally developed techniques for RVing in my fabulous 32' New Horizons 5th-wheel:

**1. When towing, the most dangerous time** is right after you exit the highway looking for a clean restroom, cup of coffee, or accessible gas station. Ask your navigator to gently remind you of this scientific fact, whenever you're coming in for a landing.

**2. When driving down a bumpy road** or through a confusing series of parking lots and intersections, I find it helpful to repeat the following mantra:

*"Don't Pop The Bubbles.  
Don't Pop The Bubbles."*

Saying this over and over helps me to remain calm and drive gently while negotiating unfamiliar areas. (You may be more comfortable choosing your own mantra.) When I remember to repeat my Towing Mantra, fewer things fall out of my cabinets and break.

**3. Should your Towing Mantra fail, Look on the b(right) side:** dents and dings are far more likely to happen on the curbside of the rig. If you are lucky (like me), you can keep the street-side intact, thus impressing the people on that side of the road as you drive past.

Please write if you can help me solve the following vexing problems:

**1. What is your procedure for airing up your tires?** This is the one thing I consistently have trouble doing. So many air compressors are just not strong enough – I usually end up letting more air out of my tires than goes in, causing unfortunate temper tantrums. (I have spent too much time rolling around cussing in gas station parking lots.) DOES ANYONE ELSE HAVE THIS PROBLEM?

**2. What is your procedure for washing your rig?** This rig hygiene question is a two-parter:

**A)** As a full-timer, I have no driveway of my own in which to shampoo my rig. Most campgrounds have rules against washing rigs on site. So **WHERE** do you do it?

**B)** **HOW** do you personally do it? i.e. what products and equipment do you like, what time of day do you start, how long does it take you, how often do you feel it should be done, etc.

**3. Have you any other Helpful Hints** (or questions) to share with your fellow New Horizons owners? Send'em in!



# Horizons Rally

Planning is underway for the 4<sup>th</sup> New Horizons Rally, to be held at Tuttle Creek State Park (site of the last two rallies). Registration information will be mailed in the spring.

Tentative dates are October 3–6. These dates were selected to avoid Kansas State home football games, and to allow travel time for those attending the Fall Escapees Escapade.

The Rally Committee includes Sue and Roger Bell (chairpeople), Ralph Schinnerer, Kevin and Pat Murphy and Joe Thompson and Mary K. O'Neill (serving again as Rally CFO.)

We are planning similar activities to last year, with a potluck dinner, owner sharing experiences, informational discussions and rig tours.

The rally committee is seeking topics for rally sessions. We would especially like to hear owners' ideas for group discussions, where we can share information and things we have learned while traveling.

If you are willing to help at the Rally, please contact Roger Bell (rogbell@earthlink.net).

Continue to look in the *Horizon Herald* and check the Horizon Owners website (see address on page 1) for updates on the rally plans. Thanks.

—*Roger Bell*



## Favorite Potluck Recipe

### Fresh Broccoli-Onion Salad

*Salad Ingredients:*

- 1 large head of Broccoli, chopped
- 1/2 cup finely chopped Red Onion
- 1 cup toasted Sunflower Seeds
- 1 cup Raisins
- 1/2 cup canned Real Bacon Bits

*Dressing Ingredients:*

- 1/2 cup Mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp. Red Wine Vinegar
- 3 Tbsp. granulated White Sugar

In a large bowl, combine and toss all salad ingredients. Mix dressing ingredients until well-blended, pour over salad, toss; serve immediately. Recipe makes four side-salad servings.

—*Marty & Toni Sanders*

## Horizons, Inc. Flushes Out Macerator Problem

The Nov/Dec 2001 issue of *Horizon Herald* contained a comment from Don and Leanne Bell concerning their macerator pump. They described two problems which inspired them to have it removed: (1) the motor overheating and taking too long to pump out the tanks, and (2) the original installation making it the primary dump method for both tanks.

Prompted for a response, Horizons, Inc. founder Harold Johnson demonstrated once again the integrity and customer support that earned the company its fine reputation. Also, several New Horizons owners sent in comments about their own experiences with their macerators. First, Harold's statement:

"Horizons, Inc. actually did install a few earlier macerator systems as the Bells described. That is: with the macerator being the prime dump means and with the gray water not being able to be dumped continuously. I thought most of the systems that way had been changed here at the factory.

**"Anyone who passes within range of our plant and has the earlier system may drop in and have Horizons change to the current way of plumbing the macerator systems.**

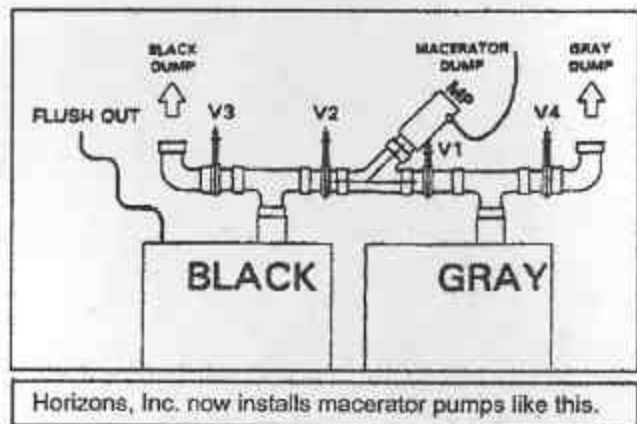
"...Also, we can't understand why the Bell's pump would overheat or take so long to pump out the tank. Maybe the ID of the hose was too small (it should have a minimum of 3/4" ID) or a kink not noticed."

"...We have had many reports from customers who have and use the [current] system telling how much they like it."

—Harold Johnson

Following are some statements sent in by New Horizons owners:

"Our unit did not come with a macerator but we had one added this year at the plant. It was so handy this summer when we did volunteer work at a state park in Alaska. The closest sewage dump was about 150' from us. We purchased that much cheap hose from Wal-Mart and with the macerator we were able to empty our tanks without moving the rig. It would have been a major hassle to move the rig every few days when we had to dump.



"We didn't have any problems with the pump overheating nor did it take 15 minutes to pump out both tanks, which are the same size as the Bell's. Perhaps there might be a problem with their pump. The main objection we have faced by other campers in regards to the pump is the noise that it makes, but it is far less noisy than a generator or the noise created by a diesel engine starting up."

—Fran and John Razmus

"We have grey and black tanks about the same size as Don's, maybe larger. We use our macerator all the time and it never heats up. The grey tank empties in less than 5 minutes; the black in less than 3. Sounds as if [their] pump was either defective or improperly connected and was working way too hard."

—Allan and Mary Strong

"When the holding tanks get full [at campgrounds with no hookups,] it is either necessary to hook up the rig and find a dump or drain the tanks into a "blue boy" tote tank and haul it to the dump. With the macerator pump it is easy to simply leave the transfer tank in the bed of the truck, fill it with the macerator and then haul it to the dump where it can be drained by simply lifting it upright in the truck bed with hose in the dump drain. I have also used the macerator to drain both tanks routinely at the trailer dump without any problems and it seems to me like a good option to have.

—Neil Hoitink

"The macerator pump has benefits. The pump and two lengths of the 1" discharge hose (40 feet) have made connections to some difficult CG sewer stand pipes possible. I was able to stay all summer in my aging mother's driveway by running the 1" discharge hose up an incline and into the basement for connection to the home's sewer system. It has enabled extended stays in remote locations by rigging a 55-gallon drum in the back of the truck to haul the black water to an appropriate disposal station.

—Frank Tucker

NOTE: Frank Tucker has one of the earlier installations, and he agreed with Don Bell that this was not the best location. "I have installed a 1" pipe with a shutoff ball valve to bypass the macerator pump," he wrote. "This enables dumping the gray water without running the pump." Frank also described a more complete modification he was planning to make [before he knew about the factory's pledge to fix any remaining original installations—hopefully he will see this in time to have the option of letting them do it for him.] Others who are too far away to visit the factory can ask Frank about his planned modifications by emailing him at [fmt@escapees.com](mailto:fmt@escapees.com).

# Sounding Off On "Noise Pollution"

I cracked up laughing when I read the "Noise Pollution" statement by Violet and Richard Bushmann (Nov/Dec. 2001). As though I needed more proof to verify the saying, "One man's meat is another man's poison." Also, I enjoy the diversity of the human race and would find life boring if we were all the same.

I have a very high tolerance to the noise of people having fun and working. I do draw the line: I have no tolerance to neighbors arguing or committing violence (and I recognize that for them, domestic violence is fun), autos with power amplifiers that deliberately force me to listen to their music, and modified mufflers. But the sounds of children at play, babies crying, power tools being used, doors being opened and closed, and radios and TVs from the next apartment/RV are all well within my range of acceptable behavior.

I recently stayed the month of November at the Alabama-Coushatta Tribal Reservation's Lake Big Tom Bee campground in the Big

Thicket Preserve of east Texas. This is about halfway between Woodville and Livingston (home of Escapees RV Club). For most of the month I essentially had the campground to myself. The only sounds were the rustle of the trees, the cawing of the crows, and my ATV, which I was allowed to use on the hiking trails.

*There is another pollution that neither [of these] campgrounds has: light pollution.*  
--Mike Seltzer

Then came Thanksgiving weekend and the campground filled up with family groups. The air filled with the sounds of the playground. I did not use my ATV, not because I didn't want to intrude with its sound, but because there were so

many children on foot and bikes that I feared for their safety. Both versions of the campground were enjoyable to me. For Violet and Richard, I highly recommend this campground during the off season.

Right now I'm staying at a members-only campground that would make Violet and Richard very unhappy. This is a goldminers' campground, about 15 miles from the Escapee's North Ranch in the center of

Arizona. Almost every one of us has an ATV to get to the club's claims that are about four miles from here on rough trails. We use small gas-powered engines to pump water and operate dry-washers. I have no problem with the noise. We are all into the hobby of gold prospecting and the noise means that we are enjoying ourselves.

There is another pollution that neither the Lake Big Tom Bee nor the goldmining club's campground has: light pollution. I've been in too many campgrounds that have street lights like the big cities have. Because of the lights, one cannot see the stars at night nor the beauty of dawn. I prefer the campground where I have to use a flashlight after dark to walk the dogs but have the starlight and the dawn to enjoy.

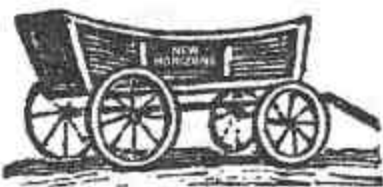
I respect the Bushmann's desire for quiet campgrounds. I'll try to stay away from those campgrounds. I hope that they, in turn, respect my enjoyment of my club's industrial environment and that they are willing to allow these campgrounds to continue to exist.

--Mike Seltzer

*Editor's note: thanks to all who sent in comments on this topic. Sorry there wasn't room for them all.*

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## **HORIZON HERALD**

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