

The Owners Forum Bulletin

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The NuWa Owners Forum Turns Two!

*Happy 2nd Year Birthday
to all of our NuWa
Owners Forum members!*

As you already know, this Forum continues to grow and expand almost daily, and now that we've found a better "Host Server", we've finally found our "Home" and we're here to stay!

It was originally placed into service on November 17th, 2006 (replacing the older Yahoo NuWa_RV Forum), and is managed completely by volunteers, thus bringing great capabilities to its users (members and non-members) at a very low cost, so no fees are charged.

The "Three Amigos" administer the site... but they are helped by several Moderators on the Forum.

A very special "Thank You" goes out to those



moderators (see page 7), who work in the background making sure posts and topics are placed in the right board areas, keeping the forum neat and tidy.

The Moderators are members just like all of you, but they also take the time to make sure things run better for all of us, all the while, getting nothing in return but empty "peanut shells".

As you've seen for

yourselves, the available information, links, and helpful files are just too much for one or two people to maintain.

With well over 2100 registered members now, we have far exceeded our wildest expectations behind the dream that Wayne originally had well over 4 years ago. Here's what Wayne had to say in a post about this on the Forum recently:

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Something New, Bold, and Fun

While working on an article for the "Thumbs-Up" magazine (a publication of the HitchHikers of America International Club), I had both Wayne and Keith

look over what I'd written, and asked them for any input and suggestions.

That's when Keith had this to say: "*Man, we're gonna have so much info for Gary that he'll*

have to start our own magazine!!!!!"

Well... here it is!

This is just a test pilot to see how it turns out, and

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Forum Turns Two

Continued from front page.

"It is amazing just how far we have gone. When I started the Yahoo! Group Forum, there wasn't much out on the Internet for HitchHiker 5th wheels. So I wanted to create a place where owners and prospective owners could share their experenice and knowledge. WOW! Man this really has been just a wonderful part of

my life. I wished I had more time to get out in the HH and meet more of the Forum members. For those members that I actually got to shake their hand, it has been a treat for me. The smile on my face just shows how much you all mean to me. Thanks for making this a GREAT Forum and making my dream come true."

Happy Birthday Wayne...

and thanks for sharing your dream with all of us.

A lot of new friendships have been made because of your idea, and many more will be made in the future.

Thank's as well go out to "amigo" Keith. Without his "webmastering" skills, we never would have taken flight and gotten off the ground.

-Gary Thurman-

"With well over 2100 registered members now, we have far exceeded our wildest expectations behind the dream that Wayne originally had well over 4 years ago."

Something New

Continued from front page.

whether our Forum members might even be interested in something like this.

Of course, I expect YOU to get involved as well! If you have any ideas, topics, or articles you think will enhance this bulletin, then by all means please feel free to send an email

with your suggestions or articles to:

gary@nuwaowners.org.

Lets see where this goes. I'm starting out with the idea of just 4 publications a year (Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring), and will notify members by email when a new bulletin is available. All the bulletins will be in .PDF

format so make sure you have "Adobe Reader" installed on your computer.

If this becomes a hit, then I may need help with content for different sections (say a "Camping Tips" section). If this sounds like something you can contribute time for, let me know as well.

-Gary Thurman-

A Word From NuWa's CEO Mike Mitchell

In October 2004, a fellow named Wayne Naves ordered a new HitchHiker II LS. He went on to create the NuWa Owners Forum, with the idea of providing a place for owners of NuWa 5th wheels to exchange helpful tips and information, as well as create friendships. A place where questions would be answered by

folks who had opinions based on experience.

I realized how valuable this group is to both current and prospective HitchHiker owners, and asked if I and other NuWa staff could contribute information and occasional responses to questions. With the group members' permission, NuWa became actively

involved in communication with members for the purpose of sharing knowledge of issues that could best be answered by the factory.

The Forum has grown to the point where Wayne enlisted the assistance of two other members, Gary Thurman and Keith Williams, to help with

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Where's "Chicken Debbie" & "Surfer Dude"?

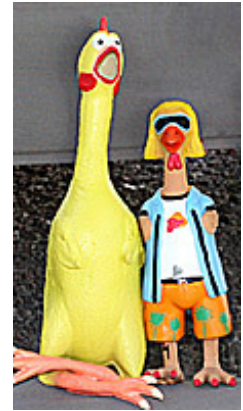
One of the greatest world mysteries, is the current location of "Chicken Debbie" (CD) and her side-kick "Surfer Dude" (SD).

The first owners Stacy and Sharon Wise, were only kind enough to adopt these lost and scared souls, and took them (dare I say), under their wings.

As the "Exploring Wises" traveled across the

country, CD & SD were right there beside them traveling and enjoying life... up until a tragic accident. CD was carried off into the sunset by a band of "dirty birds", and

SD went missing after a jet-skiing excursion. But rumor has it that they were both spotted alive and well once again, making conversation with a very young grasshopper.



"Chicken Debbie" and "Surfer Dude"

A Word From Mike

Continued from page 2.

moderating and technical issues. I want to thank Wayne, Gary, and Keith for owning NuWa fifth wheels, and for creating this exciting forum where all NuWa owners can share information with each other. Please consider joining the group, and sharing your knowledge, questions, and experiences with other members. Prospective NuWa buyers will find this forum an especially valuable place to obtain assistance in making your buying decision. It is a great place to communicate with other NuWa owners and ask questions of those with true experience using their NuWa Fifth Wheel.

The NuWa Owners Forum is independent and is not affiliated with NuWa in any way, however we do participate in some of the discussions as any member can do.

Please also remember that NuWa customers can contact NuWa directly and individually with service and product questions. (<http://www.nuwa.com>)

If you are having a specific issue that is best dealt with on a one on one basis, or is time sensitive, please contact NuWa directly.

Thank you,

Mike Mitchell - CEO

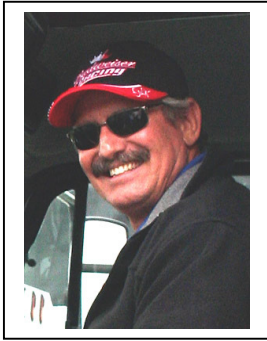


Mike Mitchell

"Prospective NuWa buyers will find this forum an especially valuable place to obtain assistance in making your buying decision. It is a great place to communicate with other NuWa owners and ask questions of those with true experience using their NuWa Fifth Wheel."

-- Mike Mitchell, NuWa CEO"

A Word From Wayne Naves



Wayne Naves

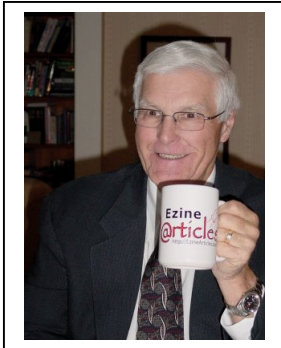
Here we are getting ready to celebrate the Forum's second anniversary. Who would have believed just how far we have gone. Back in October 2004, there wasn't much on the Internet for someone who was searching for a NuWa product. RV.net was a Website for all sorts of RVs, but nothing was dedicated to HitchHikers. Back in 2003, Debbie and I decided that we wanted to see more of our great country but our 1989 26ft Aljo (no slide outs) was just too small for us to be comfortable for any length of time. So I started doing research, going to local RV dealers and spending hundreds of hours on the Internet.

Anytime we were going to be in an area where there were RV dealers, we took time to look. Our goal was to have a 5th wheel that was less than 30 feet long, have a bedroom and living area slide out, no dinette and private bathroom. There were plenty of 5th wheels out there, but which one was the "Right" one. Which one could we put a hitch on the back of the trailer in order to pull either our boat or jet-skis? Which one would last us for the rest of our traveling days?

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A Word From Keith Williams

*** Who does what to make the nuwaowners.org website run, anyway? ***



Keith Williams

First of all, as long as things work fine no one needs to know! It can run like the proverbial Swiss watch and appear to be a perfect system running hands-off to our users. That's exactly what we want, no matter how much or how little work is done behind the scenes to make it that way. But since there are now over 2,000 participants, someone might be interested in what makes this thing work so I'll try to explain it.

As you know, Wayne is the father of this group---founded because he had a desire and a dream. As the group grew, the technical limitations of Yahoo Groups caused frustration to him and users. There were also some significant "people problems." To help with these issues and probably save the group from disintegration, Gary volunteered to help Wayne. These two had never met, as Wayne lives in California and Gary in Oregon.

While this was going on, I was sitting out here amongst the cornfields of Iowa with some website knowledge and available server space. I felt that a forum format would serve the needs better than a Yahoo Group so suggested that we set up a sample forum for a few folks to play around with to see if it might meet the group's needs and to select one of many available forum programs. This simple suggestion resulted in my becoming the Webmaster and part of the administration team---and soon the Third Amigo.

I consider Wayne to be the CEO; after all, he is the Founding Father! He also has a real job, which gets first priority on his time. He makes suggestions, participates in all administrative discussions and decisions, and has a strong vote.

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A Word From Keith

Continued from page 4.

Gary is retired and therefore has more time available to devote to nuwaowners.org business and certainly does contribute freely of his time. He's always there to help folks with operational issues and to monitor forum goings-on. His geek side is slowly becoming visible; in recent months he's done a lot of the technical work which has resulted in the forum running smoothly and with more features. I've even suggested that he become the Webmaster and I become Webmaster Emeritus!

Gary and Wayne serve as Chief Moderators. And they have actually gotten together a couple of times! I look forward to meeting Gary next Spring, in the Black Hills. He's promised to bake a chocolate/cherry Dutch-Oven cake, so you can bet that I won't miss it!

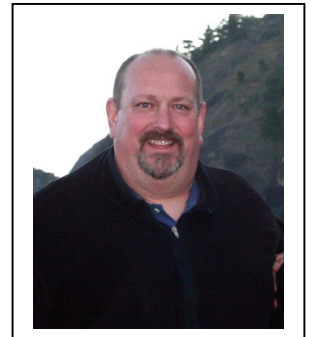
Even though I view my role as pertaining only to technical issues, they include me in site administrative discussions. Perhaps they, like the Chinese, equate my gray hair with wisdom. I am clearly the senior Amigo based on age. I'm also retired, but have so many interests that I feel squeezed for time.

***With the three of us scattered over half the country, how do we keep things running?
The one-word answer: [Communicate!](#)***

We send lots of emails back and forth. We have talked using Skype. And with the low-cost long distance phone service available these days, Gary and I often talk via phone. This is especially helpful while we're trying to resolve a technical issue. We can be talking to each other and guiding each other as we're on the internet working on the problem. Right now, at the two-year anniversary of the nuwaowners.org website, things are working better than they ever have. This is due to a host which provides a nearly trouble free server and excellent support, a forum with features which meet the needs of our members, untold hours of technical help from Gary, and encouragement from the members.

We are glad to be making a service available, which over two thousand members find useful, valuable, and have made a part of their RVing experience!

Keith Williams



Gary Thurman

A Word From Gary Thurman

It's actually an incredible story when you stop and think about it, that three individuals who had never met before, who live in three different states, would one day form a "partnership" among themselves, and would end up working together to make Wayne's dream become a reality. Even though the three of us have worked diligently to create this great Forum, it's actually the friendship between Wayne, Keith, and myself, which I treasure the most from all this experience.

Wayne and I have actually met each other over the last 3 years, but neither Wayne nor I have yet met Keith in person. In the coming year however (June 2009), Keith and I will finally be meeting for the first time. I know it will be just as exciting and comfortable, as when I've met up with those members that pass through Oregon on their travels.

I'd like to say "Thank You" to all of you... our Forum members. Without your participation, this site never would have grown into the success that it is today. Happy Birthday "NuWa Owners Forum", and wishes for many more to come.

-Gary Thurman-

A Word From Wayne

Continued from page 4.

Then in October 2004, we went to the Pomona RV Show. We went three times in that week looking and asking questions. We looked at the Everest, but if we put a hitch on the back it would void the warranty. We also didn't like the fact that we couldn't get to the refrigerator with the slide-outs in. So we crossed that one off. The Cardinal was also crossed off because of the rear hitch, and on the Forest-River website Forum, their trailers were having lots of problems. Alfa was high on our list as well, but they also had problems with the basement air-condition system, and didn't have any model less than 30 feet. It had become obvious that we were not going to find the 5th wheel that had everything we wanted. The closest one was the Cameo. They didn't have a bedroom slide-out floor plan that was less than 30 feet, but had a good reputation and putting a hitch on was no problem. As we were walking to the Carriage display to order our trailer, we saw the HitchHiker display. Debbie said, "Do they have anything that would fit our needs?" According to their website, they didn't. They had a 26ft and 28ft model but no bedroom slide. As we were walking through the displays, we came upon the HIII 29.5 LKTG model. I told Debbie that this model must be new, and that we should take a look at it. Once inside the trailer, we immediately felt like we were at home, and it was everything we ever wanted.

We could easily live in there for weeks if not months, enough time to travel across the country and back without getting in each other's way. After we got back home that night, I got to thinking... what if we hadn't stumbled into the NuWa display. We would have missed out on our dream 5th wheel. So I decided to create the Yahoo! Group - NuWa RV Forum, so other people could find information about HitchHiker trailers, and wouldn't miss out like Debbie and I almost did.

In May 2006, I received an email from someone by the name of Mike Mitchell wanting to know if it was ok for him to join the Group. It took me a little while to realize just who this person was. Then it hit me... I have the Head CEO of NuWa wanting to be a member of the Forum Group! I had a smile on my face from ear to ear. The "CEO of NuWa", actually wanted to be part of my little forum. When the word got out about Mike Mitchell's participation, our membership grew, and after two years we had over 600 members.

One morning I was on the RV.net Website, and saw a post from a member named "Ash-Kicker". I saw that he had the same model HitchHiker that I had, plus he also owned a one-ton Dodge Ram. Can't be too bad of a guy. He had written a story of an adventure that his family and friends experienced while staying at the Moran Junction KOA in their Camping Cabins. I was laughing so hard; I couldn't believe how anyone could have such bad-luck. I told Debbie that I needed to get "Ash-Kicker" over to the Yahoo NuWa Site, because I could tell he was a very proud HitchHiker owner like us. Well it didn't take long... and he registered on the Yahoo! Forum. In June 2006, there was a large issue that I was having problems trying to control on the Forum, plus the fact that I worked full time, and couldn't access the Forum from work. I'd remembered reading that Gary (Ash-Kicker), was getting ready to retire soon. Man... wouldn't that be great if Gary would be able to help me run the Yahoo! NuWa Forum. So I emailed him and asked that very question. Now you have to know that Gary (during this time), was a firefighter, and he came to my rescue and helped put out the fire we were having on the Forum. About two months later, we were having issues with the Yahoo! Site software. It was very lacking in the basic functions (like Spell-Checking or Post Editing). Lots of the members were complaining, and Mike Mitchell (NuWa CEO), offered to pay for new software to start a new Forum.

I think Gary and I read Mike's post at the same time, and we emailed each other asking the same questions. Lets start looking at other forum software that's available. It wasn't long when one of the Yahoo Forum members, emailed both Gary and me, saying that he had some space on the server he was using, and offered his expertise and knowledge so we could tryout new Forum software. That member was Keith Williams. With many emails back and forth... plus trying out the different software packages, we finally came up with the "SMF" Software, and Keith did the research for finding us a server host. So on November 17, 2006, we finally launched the updated "NuWa Owners Forum".

As each new member signed up for the new Forum, an email would be sent out to Gary, Keith, and me, telling us about the new registration. Gary had a sound file on his home computer, which would play each time he received an incoming email from someone new signing up. It was the sound of a "Turkey Gobbling" (for the Thanksgiving Holiday). Abby (his Yellow Lab), was sure busy trying to figure out what that noise was, and where that scary sound was coming from. We had well over 200 members sign up that first day, and for Gary and Abby... that ended up being a LOT of gobbling!

It looks like our dream of not only owning a great trailer came true, but also meeting and making lots of new friends as well. Happy Second Anniversary NuWa Owners Forum!

Wayne

Got a Question, Comment, or Concern? E-mail us at:

administrators@nuwaowners.org

Use! Learn! Enjoy!

We're on the Web!

<http://nuwaowners.org>

In Closing...

The Fall Season is upon us, "Ghosts & Goblins" have already made their rounds, and Turkey, Gravy, and Pumpkin Pie are just around the corner. Depending on where you live, the colder weather may already be in your area, or will soon be arriving. This would be a good time to start thinking about "winterizing" your HitchHiker trailer if you haven't done so already.

A few simple precautions on your end now, can prevent disasterous and costly repairs in the future. This subject has been talked about on the Forum, and a lot of great information is available at this "[*Winterization*](#)" topic right here:

<http://nuwaowners.org/forum/index.php?topic=6261.0>

In closing... we would like to take this time to wish you and your families a *Happy Thanksgiving*, and safe journeys while traveling down the road. Our thoughts are also with the employees of NuWa Industries.

The 3-Amigos

Our Wonderful Moderators

Greg Bahnmilller – (Big Greg)

Don Christiansen – (F4RIO)

Jeff Collingwood – (Jeff Collingwood)

Debbie Granger – (LoneGranger)

Bryan Richardson – (CampingCaptain)

Greg Surratt – (Greg Surratt)

Bill Teetz – (Bill Teetz)

Al Wagner – (Trap)

Wes Williams – (HHDreamer)

Shirley Williamson – (Countrygirl)

Stacy Wise – (Exploring Wises)

Dave Wood – (Woodtnd)