



# Ox Tales

About Blue Ox & Its Travels

April 2007

## Bring It Along! Blue Ox Sport Carriers let you carry your toys with you when you hit the road

Bicycles, golf carts and scooters are wonderful for getting around the campground; motorcycles and ATVs are unbeatable for excursions further off the beaten path.

Hitch receiver-mounted bike racks are very popular among RVers. They're versatile – the same rack can be mounted on either the motorhome while traveling or the dinghy vehicle while transporting the bike to the riding area - they're easy to install and compact.

For hauling motorcycles, ATVs and other heavy equipment, a carrier mounted on the back of the motorhome has several advantages over a trailer. First, it allows you to also tow a dinghy vehicle, avoiding the need to choose between one or the other. Second, it eliminates many of the maintenance, licensing and storage hassles of a trailer. The carrier becomes an extension of your motorcoach, imposing no additional demands on its use or upkeep.

Of course, RVers who use a pickup as either the tow or dinghy vehicle already have an excellent motorcycle carrier. Most pickup beds have tiedown hardpoints, so the only missing puzzle piece involves finding an easy way of getting the cycle in and out of the truck bed. A powered loading ramp like the SportLoader could be your missing piece. An electric motor and reduction gear are used to pull the motorcycle up a single-track ramp. The cradle with motor attaches to your bike's front wheel, traveling up the ramp as it pulls the bike into

the back of your pickup bed. As the bike is pulled up, the ramp pivots to a horizontal position, allowing the bike to be secured for transport. The sections of the ramp that extend beyond the back of the truck can then be removed for storage inside the truck bed. The motor is controlled with a remote, making loading or unloading an easy, one-person task.

For more information on Blue Ox Sport Carriers, visit our website at [www.blueox.com](http://www.blueox.com) or call our Customer Care team at 800.228.9289. ☎

Got a technical question. Call Blue Ox at (888) 425-5382.

*(Dick and Laurie Lundy's Travelin' Tales - continued from page 2)*

### Medical concerns

We both have medical problems that many would consider serious. We decided some time ago, however, that we could take them RVing with us instead of staying at home. Along the way, we've met many others who have made the same decision. The most memorable was a couple we met in New Mexico several years ago. Actually, we never met her, but did talk to him. He was in a wheel chair and could stand only to maneuver his wheel chair onto the lift that would raise it into his motorhome. His wife, believe it or not, was a bedridden paraplegic who could only move within the motorhome by way of a set of rails in the ceiling.

While the risks may be a little greater than if you stayed at home, the rewards of RVing, in our opinion, far outweigh them.

As we see it, the risks are minimized by preparation. In addition to a good first-aid kit, the following are the things we carry:

- A list of all medications we take: 1) Drug name, 2) Dosage (amount and number of times taken per day) 3) Illness for which it is being taken.
- A history of all significant illnesses and surgeries
- A list of genetic factors
- A baseline EKG
- Results of recent blood tests
- Results of recent x-rays, cat-scans, MRIs, and the like.
- Our physicians' most recent notes from our physical examinations.
- A list of all inoculations (tetanus, flu, pneumonia, etc.)
- The names, addresses, and phone numbers of our physicians.
- Our health care directives (living wills)
- Names of those to contact in the event of an emergency

You should discuss with your physicians the other things a physician not familiar with you and your medical history would like to know if and when they treat you.

While RVing, we have been treated at urgent care facilities, hospital emergency rooms, hospitals, and physician offices. Urgent care facilities would be our first choice for entry into the medical care system. From there, you can be referred to wherever the physician thinks is necessary.

The quality of care has varied, but, for the most part, it has been good. We are still alive.

Deciding the degree of risk we are willing to assume for on-the-road medical care is a very personal matter. Your decision may legitimately be very different from ours. However, after living with our decision for five+ years, we have no regrets ☎

© 2007 Travelbug Enterprises, LLC

Contact Susan for subscriptions for friends, reprints, answers, etc. Phone (888) 425-5382, Fax (402) 385-3360, e-mail [oxtales@blueox.us](mailto:oxtales@blueox.us) Subscriptions are also available at [www.blueox.com](http://www.blueox.com).



# Dick and Laurie Lundy's Travelin' Tales

Dick and Laurie Lundy are Blue Ox's roving correspondents. They are full-time RVers who travel everywhere Blue Ox products are used. They write on things of interest to RVers and anyone interested in travel

## Canyon de Chelly National Monument

Recently, our travels took us into northeastern Arizona. Looking at the map, we decided to stop at Canyon de Chelly (de shay). It turned into a two day stay in a fascinating part of the high lonesome.

If you happen to be riding your camel - instead of driving your RV - across this high desert of the Navaho Nation, be careful. You just might ride right off an unseen sheer 1,000' cliff into Canyon de Chelly (de shay) or Canyon del Muerto. These beautiful red-rock canyons are the featured attractions of Canyon de Chelly National Monument, operated by the U.S. National Park Service on land owned and held sacred by the Navaho Nation.

The visitor center is located a mile or so east of the tiny Navaho village of Chinle, Arizona. It's a good place to start your visit and get the lay of the land. There is a small gift shop and an interesting small historical, geological and archaeological museum. Visitor center personnel can direct you to the always free campground as well as Navaho trail guides (not free) who must accompany you if you intend to see the canyons from the floor instead of the rim.

From their junction just a fraction of a mile past the visitor center the two canyons each extend outward about 20 miles, Canyon de Chelly to the east and Canyon del Muerto to the northeast. A roadway runs roughly parallel to the rim of each canyon. From the roadways, overlook viewing points provide excellent views of the canyon walls and floors. The Canyon de Chelly roadway is known as the South Rim Drive, while the Canyon del Muerto roadway is the North Rim Drive.

Way back in time (about 200 million years ago) this area was like the Sahara Desert, with sand pushed by blowing winds into dunes hundreds and thousands of feet high. Over time, the sand hardened into stone. Since then, flowing water from melting mountain snows and the area's infrequent rains have combined with wind and freezing temperatures to carve the canyons and sculpt the stone into spectacular formations, all in varying shades of red and brown. Canyon walls range from about 30' near the Visitor Center to over 1,000' deep elsewhere, laying bare a colorful display of over 200 million years of geological history. Nature's stone sculptures, some as high as the canyons are deep, rise from the canyon floors in astounding and beautiful shapes.

Small Navaho farms are visible in places from viewpoints on the rim. The



Looking down onto 60 story tall Spider Rock from the 1,000 foot high canyon rim.



Canyon floor Navaho farm, seen through telephoto lens from 1,000 feet up.

farms are worked during the summer and, in modern times, are usually abandoned during the winter cold. They have a few cows, sheep, and goats and raise a little corn and other grains. There are also a few fruit trees. Although no longer a canyon crop, cotton was grown and woven by canyon residents between A.D. 900-1200. The farms barely produce a subsistence for their occupants. Seen from the rims, the farms appear about the size of a postage stamp.

Some of the remains of the homes of the ancients, pueblo ruins, also are visible in postage stamp sized renditions from the rim viewpoints. Ar-

**Need to find a Blue Ox dealer.  
Call us at (888) 425-5382**

chaeological exploration and analysis indicates the canyons have been occupied for nearly 2,000 years.

The South and North Rim drives are through rolling hills of hardened, red-hued, wind-swirled, desert sand dunes, slowly disintegrating and reverting to the sand of their childhood. From the sandy areas grow grassy clumps and the shrubs and trees of the high chaparral. Rural Navaho dwellings dot the landscape among the chaparral.

Canyon de Chelly is a stop well worth making. 📍

*(Travlin' Tales continued in column 2 on page 1.)*



## Ox Tales

About Blue Ox and Its Travels April 2007

**Ox Tales is published by Blue Ox Products, One Mill Road, Industrial Park, Pender, NE 68074.**

**Free subscriptions are available by calling or e-mailing Susan at (888) 425-5382 or oxtales@blueox.us, or on our website at www.blueox.com.**

**Articles indicated to be separately copyrighted have been used with permission. All other content is copyrighted by the publisher.**

**© 2007 Blue Ox Products**