



Ox Tales

About Blue Ox & Its Travels

January 2007

A Blue Ox Get Acquainted Tour

History

For over 25 years, Automatic Equipment Manufacturing Company (AEMFG) has led the industry with innovative and high quality RV towing products. Now the company is focusing its engineering, design and marketing efforts on the total RV experience. The company has been manufacturing since 1925, starting with agricultural products and has evolved into the RV accessory market. Jay Hesse, president and grandson of AEMFG's founder, has made the company the RV industry's standard of excellence in towing. Since the purchase of the Blue Ox Company in 1990, AEMFG has incorporated the Blue Ox logo into its line of towing products. It also acquired Duncan Manufacturing Company and has adapted many of its mechanical designs into its own production models.

Commitment to RVers

The commitment to the RV industry is demonstrated by Blue Ox's participation at the highest levels in RV related associations. Hesse and Ellen Kietzmann, vice president of sales and marketing, are involved in many industry associations including RVIA, RVDA, RVAA, the RVMH Heritage Foundation and RVSEF. A commitment at Blue Ox is to give back to the industry that has helped in their success.

Our NASCAR Connection

Blue Ox is proud that 95% of NASCAR drivers are equipped with Blue Ox products. Since 2004, Blue Ox has been marketing their products to its huge fan base. Blue Ox is

involved with the Busch and Nextel Cup series and the Craftsmen Truck races.

Products

Hesse says, "RVers want to take everything with them, but how do they get all of their 'stuff' to their destination? That's where Blue Ox comes in with our new line of carriers, lifts and bike racks. Whether it's racing, fishing, hunting, biking or camping - we provide products for the pursuit of the RVer's passions."

“. . . Whether it's racing, fishing, hunting, biking or camping - we provide products for the pursuit of the RVer's passions."

Through the years, Blue Ox has offered a wide selection of tow bars, baseplates, supplemental braking systems and other accessories with superior quality and feature functionality. Blue Ox has added the SwayPro, a weight distribution hitch for travel trailers, the BedSaver, for fifth-wheels, and several carriers to their product line.

Blue Ox has introduced the most user-friendly weight distributing hitch on the market. The SwayPro eliminates trailer sway under heavy loads, high winds and rutted roads. The hitch uses two sway control loops and two points of friction which are adjustable.

The BedSaver is a "must have" for every fifth-wheel puller. It is easy to install and requires no drilling or hitch modification. The BedSaver catches the pin, should it slip out of the hitch, and holds it securely until the trailer can be reattached.

Engineered for strength and durability, all Blue Ox Carriers are designed to take your toys on the road, they are strong enough to take the toughest of off-road conditions and they are easy to install and remove. The SportLoader provides a simple and effective method of loading, hauling and unloading a motorcycle while retaining the ability to tow a trailer. There is a carrier able to accommodate your needs in hauling your motorcycle, an ATV, a golf cart or whatever you want to take along behind your motorhome, pickup or SUV.

Commitment to Customer Service


Blue Ox maintains a 24-7 toll-free hot line with trained technicians, to answer questions about towing-related issues. Blue Ox has built a solid reputation within the RV industry and its own broad base of customers by providing superior customer care. Blue Ox also seeks out the RVing public by attending over 150 RV and motorcycle shows and rallies annually.

"The key to customer service is being accessible,"

Call (402) 385-3051

E-mail: info@blueox.us

"The key to customer service is being accessible," Hesse said. "So whether it's on the phone or in person, we want customers to know we're close and ready to respond."

For more information about Blue Ox, its products, rallies and races; go to: www.blueox.com. To read this article in its entirety, click on Tech Tips/Articles. 

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

We just left the very end of the road, camped on the banks of the Colorado River in south Texas, about 300 yards from where it empties into the Gulf of Mexico, about six miles south of Matagorda.

It's fairly secluded and remote; mostly fisherpeople go there. Birdwatching is terrific. Looking out over the sea of salt-grass and tidal waterways west and north of us, the great white egrets contrast vividly with the green grass, and looking through binoculars, you see a vast population of other birds. Striking among them are the great blue heron. While as large as the great white egret, their coloring blends into the background, making them harder to see without binoculars.



A hard day fishing at the beach!

On the river, flocks of both white and brown pelicans fish. The white pelicans form flotillas that move with military precision in formation up and down the river, herding and feeding on the fish. Everything is done in unison. Moving in formation, they execute oblique and right angle turns and about-faces. They all dive for fish at the same time, so that all you see is pelican bottoms sticking into the air.

We walked on the beach every evening. It's quite therapeutic. All the burdens of the day are lifted and carried away with the receding waves. This stretch of beach is 23 miles long - all white sand.

We'll have more to tell you about this remote section of south Texas.

© 2007 Travelbug Enterprises, LLC

Copy or print-out interesting articles and pass them along to friends. Or, call or e-mail and ask us to send a copy of the newsletter to your friends. Have your friends call for a free subscription.

Call Susan at (888) 425-5382 or e-mail her at oxtales@blueox.us

Winter driving for RVers

Many RVers are concerned about driving their RVs in cold weather conditions. This article may help you think it through.

Some Winter Driving Tips

- **Slow down.** Speed is likely to result in tragedy. The vehicle you are driving demands a slower speed on ice and snow.
- Know your brakes. Read the instructions. Practice stopping where there is little traffic. You'll find that brakes are not very effective on snow packed or icy roads.
- Use the same practice area to learn how to steer your RV out of a skid.
- Watch for black ice. It looks just like the road surface, so it's hard to detect and very dangerous. If you suspect you are on black ice, **DON'T** jam on your brakes to find out. If you do, you'll likely lose control of your RV. Coast to a very slow speed, then gently apply the brakes to test the surface.
- Keep your fuel tanks full enough to see you through if you are forced to stop.
- Make sure your generator (if you have one) works and has full fuel tanks.
- Keep your propane tanks as full as possible.
- Carry winter clothing and other cold weather gear.
- Leave yourself lots of space around you. Don't get too close to the vehicle in front. You should be going slow enough so most vehicles coming up behind you will want to pass.
- Consider carrying a set of chains. Even if you have 4-wheel drive, with the RV's weight holding you back, you may find yourself unable to move without chains.

Most winter drives in the northern U.S. are safe and uneventful. Some winter drives are extraordinarily beautiful, especially after a fresh snow, when the sun is shining brightly and the roads are again dry and free of ice or snow.

Beware, however, snow-packed or icy roads, sometimes made worse by the limited visibility of a blizzard, can be a nightmare in a moving RV. Imagine seeing the rear-end of your fifth-wheel from your side window as it tries to pass your tow vehicle - or

your motorhome careening broadside down the centerline.

Even in a car, driving in a blizzard or on ice or snow can be dangerous. In an RV, the danger is compounded by two facts: 1) an RV is several times the weight of a car, meaning you've got a lot more inertia to overcome in order to stop or change direction, and 2) most of us are not trained to drive RVs under such conditions.

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

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

So, the first rule - Unless absolutely essential, do **not** drive in a blizzard and/or on snow and ice. Find an RV park or some other friendly place and hole up until the roads are again visible and free of ice and snow. You will be much, much safer and far less stressed. We once found ourselves parked in front of a motel in Miles City, Montana, for four days waiting for a storm to pass. They even let us plug into their headbolt heater outlet, gave us breakfast each morning, and let us swim in their pool, all for \$20 per day. When planning your trip, leave yourself several extra days - at both ends, if the return trip is planned during winter.

© 2007 Travelbug Enterprises, LLC



Ox Tales

About Blue Ox and Its Travels January 2007

Ox Tales is published monthly 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