

## 2020 National HDT Rally Seminars

**Beginners Guide to HDTs and the HDT Lifestyle** – Jack Mayer... This presentation is oriented towards those that are considering the use of an HDT in recreational service. It provides basic information on HDTs, the pros, the cons, things to look for, things to avoid. Information on how HDTs fit into the camping lifestyle, service on the road and other lifestyle issues are considered. It is stressed this is basic information. This is not a “pitch” to convince you to use an HDT - it is information that can help you to form your own conclusions.

At the end of the presentation the attendee should have a better understanding of how an HDT might work for them, and understand the available features and functions of an HDT.

**Converting a Budget Heavy Duty Truck for Recreational Use** - Jack Mayer  
Not everyone needs or wants a new truck or a later model vehicle. If your budget and/or needs lead you to the “well used” market, what is involved in finding and converting an HDT with 600,000+ miles on it? Some of the items covered will be: what conversion items are required, vs. “nice to have”; should I single; how do I find the truck; truck inspection - what are typical issues with higher mileage trucks; what items can I reasonably DIY; what can I expect in ongoing maintenance; what is a reasonable budget; what transmissions will be most available; are warranties available. After acquiring and converting the higher mileage truck, can you expect to have a reliable vehicle? How handy do I have to be to live with a DIY higher mileage truck?

**Lighting and Trailer Connections when Converting a Truck to an RV Hauler** – David Dixon... Discussion of how computer-controlled lighting systems work, how to properly interface with them, and handouts with resources for parts and information. Overview of legal requirements, with (hopefully) the addition of formal official interpretations of recurring questions pertaining to HDTs.

**Extended warranty for Class 8 trucks** Everyone has large engines, DPF, the sensors etc., axles turbos and the like. I've noticed some don't transition to HDT because of the cost of a break. Home or on the road-no difference. A turbo on the road can cost 8K, add towing and that's around 2K and up, things can get messy quick. The DPF system is covered and that's truly the biggest pain of heavy duty truck maintenance. They break often and when they do, it's not cheap.

This is why having an extended warranty available in the RV world with those that have HDTs would be a something to consider. Its Cost to get you back on the road may either put you in the poor house or end your retirement not to mention your trip!

**RV Weight & Tire Safety** – Trey & Susan Selman... RVs and RV Haulers are unique heavy vehicles. As safe operators of these vehicles, we need to be aware and understand the weight and balance issues related to them. By covering weight labels we can know the safety ratings for our individual vehicles and better plan what stuff we need and how we load it. During the tire portion of the seminar the emphasis will given to understanding the importance of load on tires and the maintenance of tires for optimum safety and durability. Determining proper inflation for our tires will also be an important area discussed. Our desire is to increase our understanding so that we may safely *enjoy* RVing.

**Truck Air & Airbrake Systems** – Mike Parker, Diesel Technology Instructor, Salina Tech... A discussion of HDT air systems with a working mockup of an actual truck airbrake system with all working components.

**Open Q&A Session About Your Truck** - Mike Parker... An open discussion about your truck, systems, safety, spare parts or anything you can think of.

**Air Ride Hitches and Suspension Hitch Technology** - Presented by Pop-Up Towing Products which is the manufacturer of ET Hitches, the premiere suspension hitch on the market... Air ride hitches have been on the market for 25+ years. They have evolved quite a bit over that timeframe. There is also competing suspension hitch technology incorporating "cellular technology" sometimes called "air cells". How do these suspension types work, and what are the benefits of suspension hitches when using an HDT as a tow vehicle. Why do we always hear that you don't want to use the commercial hitch, but need to switch to a suspension hitch?

**HDT Bed Building** – Marc Jones & Jack Mayer... This presentation focuses on the pragmatics of building a bed for your HDT. It covers framing methods, DIY building, materials, and function. The focus is on feature identification and how to implement those features. Discussion of bed attachment methods, hitch placement, tie-downs, smart car beds and painting/coating will be covered.

**Socially-Distanced RVing (and working) - Videoconferencing and Other Contactless Interactions** – David Dixon... Tips and equipment for quality videoconferencing in an RV, hosting your own *secure* videoconference, single-use e-mail forwarders and phone numbers for participating more public online events, contactless payments, and discussion of modernization of the RV park reservation process. Hands-on demonstrations with a focus on safety and security.

**Fire Safety** - Jack Mayer... This presentation covers fire safety specifically oriented to the RV environment. Fire safety equipment, evacuation procedures, specific extinguishers, RV refrigerator issues, and use of extinguishers will be covered. An actual extinguisher demonstration will be done at the end of the presentation (time and weather conditions permitting).

**Weight & Balance** – Robert Springfield... Weight and Balance considerations when designing a bed for your HDT and the dynamics of weight distribution in your trailer.

**Things to Consider when Building a Custom Trailer** - Greg Wallman... What you should consider if you plan to custom build a new trailer.

**Modern Cooking Techniques in your Camper** – David Dixon... Demonstration of techniques and strategies for cooking easy and interesting meals in your RV. Informal and interactive, we'll make a mess and snack along the way.

**Ham Radio for Safer Traveling** – Steve Dixon, KJ4YGY... Why Ham Radio can make your travels safer.

**For Women Only, Open Questions and Discussions about your Truck and RV.** – Danielle & Jack Mayer... This session, started by Jack and Danielle Mayer at the 2013 Rally, allows women to ask any question in an inviting and non-judgmental format/forum. Only women may attend. Ask all your questions about Full-time RVing, workamping, use of HDTs, driving questions, camping questions, or anything about the HDT “Lifestyle”. Without your “significant other” present.

**Can I Afford to Be an RV'er? Developing a Budget...** Sondra Kahanamoku  
& David Dixon

Part 1: What kind of RV'er are you?

Part 2: Putting together a budget based on your mission profile