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ANNUAL

Complete Trail-Riding & Equestrian-Travel Guide

APRIL 2016

# THE TRAIL RIDER

America's Top Trail-Riding and Equestrian-Travel Magazine

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# Top Trailer Innovations

With so many choices, shopping for a new trailer can be an adventure in itself. Here, we'll show you the latest innovative highlights of several top 2016 trailer lines in the areas of safety, comfort, and ease of use (towing and storage). Plus, don't miss our exclusive trailer showroom on page 26. For shopping help, turn to the resource guides on page 28.

## Safety Innovations

Safety advancements and practical perennials in today's trailers are designed to help keep you and your equine friend more secure than ever on the road. Noteworthy features include those from EquiSpirit Trailer Company, Featherlite Trailers, and Sundowner Trailer Corp.

One of EquiSpirit's standard safety components is the full-height, rear-doors-over-ramp feature. After you close the doors behind your horse, you can raise and lower the ramp without worrying about getting kicked. This design eliminates the risk of your horse kicking down the ramp while the trailer is in motion. In case of a rear-end collision, the ramp also gives your horse more solid protection than a light-weight alternative.

Featherlite's trailers now include a full-length, one-piece running board with a wide platform across the length of the trailer, allowing you to safely move from the front to the back of the trailer. The trailers' all-aluminum butt and breast bars feature a one-handed latching system for quick-and-easy loading. These enhanced bars are also more resistant to corrosion. Light-emitting diode (LED) light sources draw less power for a longer lifespan, and offer a brighter interior for increased visibility.

Sundowner has made several safety features standard in all of its models. Each trailer now has 19 LED clearance lights



Are you in the market for a new horse trailer? Here, we highlight safety, comfort, and ease-of-use features for 2016. Plus: Tour our exclusive trailer showroom.

BY LAUREN BACK

and four tail lights. Nitrogen-filled tires stay cooler throughout your trip's duration. Rubber torsion axles offer an even wheel-suspension system for a smoother ride. In case of an emergency, Sundowner trailers have four-wheel electric brakes with a safety-breakaway system.

## Comfort Features

You'll enjoy all the comforts of home in your new living-quarters trailer, due to impressive updates to interior spaces. Because trailer manufacturing is no stranger to today's customizable world of consumer goods, the options for your dream trailer

With the Equine Carriage from Equine Motorcoach, you, your horses, and your passenger vehicle can drive off into the sunset together.

are endless. Brands have made great strides in comfort for both humans and horses.

Featherlite has reintroduced its comprehensive manufacturing strategy, building and designing its own living quarters for the first time in eight years.

The first incorporated creation is the Liberty, the living quarters for the new Featherlite Model 9821. The Liberty series offers upgraded standard features and stylish selections, with multiple floor plans from lengths of 11 to 17 feet available.

Solid-wood cabinetry and LED lighting comes standard, along with soft-touch walls and ceilings. The bathroom boasts a radius shower, sky dome, and a porcelain toilet. Upgrades include Bluetooth connectivity and a recessed cook top stove. You can choose from a variety of carefully designed décor packages.

The new Competitor line from Shadow

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# Trailer Showroom



Known for its trailers' value and innovation, Sundowner has made several safety features standard in all of its models this year, including nitrogen-filled tires and rubber torsion axles.



Equine Motorcoach's Carriage is the brand's newest addition, complete with three stalls, storage space, and a tack room.



Featherlite's new Model 9821 includes a brand-new living-quarters design, along with the brand's latest standardized safety features.



The cozy Liberty living quarters in Featherlite's new Model 9821 come standard with solid-wood cabinetry and light-emitting diode (LED) light sources, and offers upgrades, such as Bluetooth and a recessed cook-top stove.



If you'll only be hauling a single equine friend, EquiSpirit's SoleMate provides just the right amount of space for the two of you.



The 2016 Bighorn, (above) along with other Lakota models, features impressive safety and comfort updates. Lakota Trailers' living rooms, shown at left in the Bighorn model, provide all the comforts and amenities you'll need in your home away from home.



The rear tack area of the Shadow Competitor (above) offers plenty of bridle hooks, saddle racks, and storage space. The Shadow Competitor features updates for horse and driver, plus a bonus for your truck – the lightest living-quarters design available (below).



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## Top Trailer Innovations

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Trailer, Inc., has a wide range of upscale features in its state-of-the-art living quarters. A 72-inch-by-80-inch bed provides a sleeping space with ample room for a great night's sleep. The Easy-Glide room slide adds extra space to stretch out. Shadow's water heater has a remarkably fast recovery and can be powered by either electricity or gas. The unit also has a large closet for storage.

One intriguing update this year is the Smart Trailer, an all-new design available in Shadow's Pro-Series Conestoga. The living quarters are fully controlled by a touchscreen smart tablet. You can adjust your lighting, thermostat control, electric awning, and slide-outs all in the same place. The Conestoga also has built-in Wi-Fi capability.

Shadow has also made equine-comfort advancements. The trailers' spacious stalls have fully lined and insulated ceilings and side walls for a cool ride in the summer and a cozy ride in the winter. Large windows offer plenty of ventilation.

Lakota Trailers has continued its efforts to introduce new interior designs, ensuring that you'll have many customizable choices.



With a tack room and bathroom that run alongside a single stall, EquiSpirit's SoleMate makes the most of every inch of space.

New options, such as Entertainment Recliners, a U-Shaped Dinette, and a sofa at the riser wall make its living quarters among the most comfortable and homey.

What's more, you'll never run out of places to sleep in a Lakota. The U-Shaped Dinette folds down into a bed, doubling as

a sleeping area after hours. The recliners also fully unfold into a sleeping position. And finally, a new bunk bed, disguised with a cabinet-front appearance, folds down to offer even more sleeping space.

Horses traveling in new Lakota trailers with living quarters will enjoy fully insulated stalls, complete with ceiling vents and interior lighting.

## Ease of Use

Manufacturers continue to discover ways to make trailer travel easier, with new and creative ways of improving towing ease and providing more storage.

If you need a trailer that will fit it all, the new Equine Carriage is a sizable addition to Equine Motorcoach's top-of-the-line products. Rather than having two drivers and multiple trailers, the Carriage combines horse stalls and room for a small sport utility vehicle. There's a large amount of storage and hay space, and a large tack room fills the front. For the complete package, you can hitch it up to the Equine Carriage ST, a fast-growing tow-vehicle and transport line with impressive living quarters.

If a compact trailer is a priority for you, the smart design of EquiSpirit's one-horse model line may be the hauling machine you're looking for. Instead of a second stall, this copyrighted design makes the most of less space by extending the living quarters farther back on the passenger side, and placing the shower and toilet alongside the single stall. The tack room brings up the rear on that side.

The latest Lakota models have added features to their first stalls that add more storage capabilities when hauling fewer horses. These updates include additional bridle hooks in the first stall, as well as a stud-wall divider between the first and second stall. Bridle hooks in the storage area under the mangers also provide more places to hang gear. The divider slam latches have been updated in all Lakota models for accuracy and ease of use.

Shadow's Competitor line sports a starting weight of 5,600 pounds, with the lightest living quarters available; it can be pulled by most half-ton trucks. The rear tack area features ample storage space and several blanket bars and bridle hooks. 

*Lauren Back is a freelance writer and television producer based in Denver, Colorado. A former hunter/jumper and guest-ranch wrangler, she enjoys trail riding in the Rocky Mountains.*

## NEW-TRAILER RESOURCE GUIDE

### 4-Star Trailers

(800) 848-3095  
www.4startrailers.com

### Equine Motorcoach

(502) 612-1113  
www.equinemotorcoach.com

### Equine.com

www.equine.com

### EquiSpirit Trailer Company

(877) 575-1771  
www.equispirit.com

### Exiss Aluminum Trailers, Inc.

(877) 553-9477  
www.exiss.com

### Featherlite Trailers

(800) 800-1230  
www.fthtr.com

### Kiefer Mfg., LLC

(888) 254-3337  
www.kiefermfg.com

### Lakota Trailers

(740) 426-6737  
www.lakotatrailers.com

### Shadow Trailer, Inc.

(352) 529-2190  
www.shadowtrailer.com

### Sundowner Trailer Corp.

(800) 438-4294  
www.sundownertrailer.com

### Triple C Trailer Sales, Inc.

(877) 324-5516  
www.tripletrailersales.com

### Twister Trailer

(800) 974-3944  
www.twistertrailer.com

## TRAILERING AND TRAVEL ACCESSORIES

### Advantage PressurePro, LLC

(816) 887-3505  
www.advantagepressurepro.com

### Beverly Bay, Inc.

(800) 366-1898  
www.beverlybay.com

### Carri-Lite Corrals

(888) 337-7787  
www.carrilitecorrals.com

### Cashel Company

(800) 333-2202  
www.cashelcompany.com

### CAUTION HORSES Safety Products

(561) 313-0384  
www.cautionhorses.com

### DuraSafe, Inc.

(866) 544-5615  
www.durasafelocks.com

### EasyCare Inc.

(800) 447-8836  
www.easycareinc.com

### Equ-i-lizer® Hitch

(800) 478-5578  
www.equalizerhitch.com

### EquiMedic USA, Inc.

(866) 211-1269  
www.equimediacom.com

### EZ Connector, Inc.

(559) 686-5889  
www.ezconnector.com

### Fastaway Trailer Products

(877) 523-9103  
www.fastawaytrailer.com

### Hitch Safe

(800) 654-1786; www.hitchsafe.com

### HorseTrailerMonitor.com

(877) 875-7226  
www.horsetrailermonitor.com

### The Organized Barn and Trailer

(888) 298-8628  
www.organizedbarn.com

### Professional's Choice

(800) 331-9421  
www.profchoice.com

### Purina Animal Nutrition LLC

(800) 227-8941  
www.purinamills.com

### Rostech Electronics, Inc.

(800) 361-8080  
www.rostech.co

### SmartPak Equine

(888) 752-5171  
www.smartpakequine.com

### Spirit Industries, Inc./

HayRak.com  
(866) 926-1117

### www.hayrak.com

Swift Hitch  
(617) 600-8282

### www.swift hitch.com

### Toklat Originals

(888) 486-5528  
www.toklat.com

### Weaver Leather

(330) 674-1782  
www.ridethebrand.com