

Bob Henry

Basic Stats:

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Bob Henry**
- What do you do for a living? **Construction estimator**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **Myself and 2 small dogs !**
- What part of the country do you live in? **West central Indiana**
- How many square feet is your house? **125-140 on ground floor NO loft**
- When did you start your build? **6/1/ 12**
- Is your house complete? **Almost livable, but not complete**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information?

<http://www.tnttt.com/viewtopic.php?f=48&t=47804>

Background:

- Why did you decide to build? **Down sizing after divorce**
- What was your life like before your tiny house? **Were you fairly active, Week end puttser building teardrop trailers since 06**
- have you always had 'projects' going on? **Always**
- Were you fairly sedentary and looking for a change? **No always building**
- Did you tend to work too much? (This question is an effort at trying to figure out WHO gravitates to the tiny house lifestyle) **No I simply wanted a free unencumbered life and wanted free of \$1000 payments for the next 14 years (I'm 62)**

- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and and get started? **The website Teardrops and tiny travel trailers**
- What is/was your design inspiration? **The caboose !**

Technical:

- How do/did you find the time to work on your house with a job, kid(s), relationships, AND building a house? Did you do anything special to keep the balance? **Sat and Sun 8 AM to dark generally 14 to 17 hours a weekend with a few goof off weekends**
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **Zoning exceptions to make my chosen parcel into a single unit RV park is the road the county wants me to travel.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **Have been building mini barns since early 1980's so most are long ago mine.**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **15 months I am at 10 now. Some has to wait until I am on site.**
- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **I was hoping for 12 months and probably will be able to meet that but with limited square footage some "adjustments" had to be made on the fly.**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **I chose to furnish my build without the interior walls fully finished making change to the plumbing HVAC and electrical easier. I will have to remove and reinstall these fixtures but would never attempt to out guess myself as several change have been made that would have been a total pain if interior was finished.**
- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **Time and available funds.**

- Is your house on a trailer? If yes, how do you attach to the trailer? How do you move your tiny house? (Do you have a truck, do you hire it done?) **Yes a badly damaged 20" RV. Have a ½ ton pickup but will probably have a good friend with a dually diesel pickup move it for me when ready.**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **I fully intend to have an additional 8 x 20 "shop" it will have a depot theme to go with the caboose.**
- Where did you get your plans? **My own designs**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **NO!**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **It will be very shortly as an RV company is yet to be determined**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **No all expense has been out of pocket. A great deal of scrounging has made this unit a rather frugal build.**

Specifics:

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **3 burner gas RV stove with oven. Microwave and toaster oven if I get on grid..**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **I have photo voltaics for off grid and a great deal of 12 volt or inverter powered lighting and appliances**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **Wash clothes by hand in the tub and a solar powered clothes dryer (clothesline and clothes pins)**
- Where does your water come from? **Depends on site but may be carried in at the onstart**

- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **RV stool and blackwater tank I will divert a portion of the urine to a solar distillation unit powered by a solar fresnel lens.**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **Propane zero clearance vent less wall heater**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **Using a larger bathroom sink to do double duty as the kitchen and bath sink.**
- What do you have for insulation? **5" of blue foam in the sidewalls and about 8" in the roof.**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **I am attempting to buy an abandoned lot from the state that was purchased for the rerouting of a state highway. Yes, it has proven to be a pain.**

Personal:

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **I am dried in with all appliances in place and have not quite reached \$2,000 dollars**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **Solar array**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **None to report Oh wait I stepped on a nail during demolition.**
- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house? **A plywood truss design for the roof.**
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **The loss of a house payment.**
- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? **No room for my junk. What will you miss the most? No room for my junk.**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house? **Not getting done in before the house sells**

- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be? **I think I would have gone 10' wide and simply asked for a moving permit as it will not be a tow along RV it will be set and simply lived in.**
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **Pay as I went.**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas?
Surprisingly my mother 83 is my biggest fan and my friends know I am a bit crazy but are on board with the concept.

Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? **I really is not as daunting a task as you might think if you keep the design simple.**