



Dennis Andreas

# RAILROAD REPORT



## WOODLAND'S BUILT-&-READY TRAILERS

I was very excited to hear about Woodland's new Built-&-Ready Landmark Structure Trailers. This subject line is close to me as I own a 1986 Scotty 18-foot trailer. Scotty's were one of the last camping trailers built in the older style with interlocked aluminum siding and thin plywood interiors with laminated Formica countertops. Enjoying camping tremendously it wasn't long before we added a roll-out awning that is very similar to the Grillin' & Chillin' model featured in the review [*Camping is unquestionably an American pastime. We also camped for years. My wife, Cindy, and I frequently talk about the many good times we had during our motor home adventures, and Megan, HM's Showcase editor (and my proofreader), gets away as often as she can for a weekend with her fiance, spent surrounded by nature*-Ed].

If you ever happen to be on Rt-28 in the Catskills Mountains of New York you will pass a Trailer park icon. It's a little place called Kate's Lazy Meadow, a trailer park that is populated with retro-style trailers that are for rent to anyone interested. The 'Kate' is none other than Kate Pierson of the late 70's and 80's punk rock/jazz musical group the B52's—everyone remembers the song *Love Shack*. And it does bring back a flood of memories, as I too owned a car as long as a whale. It was a 1968 Newport Custom.

Let's get to the Woodland Trailers. The three models are available in HO, N-scale, and O-scale, and each of the models is equipped with the Just-Plug Lighting system, with different lighting effects depending upon the scale of the model chosen. To show-off these fine looking trailers we will repurpose the meadow area of the N-scale railroad layout and turn it into Woodland Acres Trailer Park.

The first trailer is the Grillin' & Chillin' Trailer (#BR5060). This one, as are the other the three, is painted in the beloved colors of the era it is meant to represent, in this case all light pastel colors. Also

evident is the horizontal siding prevalent during the late 50s and early 60s. As these are modeled after trailers found at seasonal camp sites, but are semi-permanent in their location, two of the three have lattice covering the wheels and around the perimeter of the trailer. The Grillin' & Chillin' is equipped with a propane tank, deck with awning, trashcan, window treatments include a window air conditioner unit and a hook-up post for water and power.

The second unit is The Sunny Days Trailer (#BR5062). The Sunny Days Trailer is equipped with what would have been permanently attached aluminum awnings opposed to the Grillin' & Chillin' which has a simulated rollout awning. Two of the awnings cover the doorways and the simulated wood steps. It has a quaint patio set for two, trashcan, and propane tank and hook-up post. There's no air conditioner with this model [*Not everyone chooses to live in luxury*-Ed] but it has some other great window treatments.

The third unit is the Double Decker Trailer (#BR5061). I gather the thought for this unit is more utilitarian than style. Something perhaps reminiscent of a more back-woods lifestyle, there's no fancy lattice work for a skirt, but rather cinder blocks are used at the corners to keep the trailer level and spare tires are placed on the roof for either safe keeping or perhaps the campground manager told the owners to clean up their site.

As previously mentioned, all three models are illuminated with the Just-Plug lighting system and the Double Decker Trailer adds a simulated flickering TV inside. The residents of this trailer have two not so neat trash pails, a window air conditioner unit [*It needs a 2x4 propping it up for even more scale appearance*-Ed], propane tank, hook-up post and a basic picnic bench to enjoy the outdoors.

The roofs on all three units look exactly like the aluminized sealer still used on full-size camping trailers of the era. It's the little details like this that show how much research must be done by

### Shades of Kate's Lazy Meadow.



*The Sunny Days trailer includes permanently attached aluminum awnings and a skirt around the base of the trailer. Dining for two is included, but the unit lacks an air conditioner as not everyone likes to live in luxury when taking part in the great outdoors.*



Like all of the trailers, the Grillin' and Chillin' is painted in the light pastel colors of the era it is meant to represent. Of note is how the details extend to all four sides. In this photo the back side of the trailer is shown and it includes many details such as the window air conditioner.



The Double Decker is rather utilitarian in style. There is no skirt around the base of the trailer, just a few cinder blocks propping up the corners.. The campground must have told the owner to clean up his site, so he tossed the tires that were laying around onto the roof of the trailer.

Woodland to give the consumer the best possible representation of a structure.

Each of the trailers has a full-length floor and the Just-Plug cable exits at the lower rear of the trailer. Each of the trailers are equipped with set of dual axle wheels for added realism. Details extend to all four sides of the trailers so they can be placed anywhere on a layout that allows for full 360-degree viewing.

As in all of the Just-Plug products, the power requirements are plainly printed on the packaging. Each of the trailers requires 30ma of power in the HO and N-scales. The O-scale models being larger have additional LEDs to light properly and they require 50ma of power per trailer.

Personally, I love the way these trailers look. It's probably because I own a retro style trailer and have spent time in units similar to the Woodland models when I was younger. They are simple and

to the point, a major step above no frill tent camping fun. Unless, that is, if you add some pink flamingos to the patio [Don't be making fun of my pink flamingos-Ed].

Placed in an arrangement similar to what a person would see at a campground, these trailers have added another dimension to the N-scale layout. Although for the review it was named Woodland Trailer Park, there is reason to believe during our next trip into the Catskill's I'll be taking a few photographs of Kate's Lazy Meadow.

If camping is part of the family experience get your trailers soon so you can also setup your own Woodland Acres Trailer Park. Their uniqueness will make any layout more interesting, especially if you have a customer who has an empty meadow area on his layout he wants to fill. All three scales are currently available direct from Woodland or your favorite distributor. **HM**



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