

## READERS' FORUM

are in the area and need work, I highly recommend Gold Rush Chevrolet (570 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn, CA 95603; 530-392-4572; www.goldrushchevy.com).

**DONALD R. HUBNER, F243708**  
*Oak Harbor, Washington*

### SERVICE AT THE CAMPSITE

DEAR EDITOR:

Recently we were parked for the night at the Rolling Hills Casino near Corning, California, when we discovered that we could not continue our trip without help from a professional RV technician. The RV park maintenance person suggested Kampfire RV (1515 U.S. 99 W., Box C, Corning, CA 96021; 530-262-5504). It was about 7:30 in the evening and Chris Whitlock, the owner, said he was swamped but would come as soon as he could. He showed up around 9:30 p.m., made the repairs quickly, and we were in business. I could not thank him enough. He even took the time to make some other recommendations for the future that had nothing to do with the immediate problem.

**DENNIS WHEELER, F188967**  
*Avila Beach, California*

### A BORN FREE COACH OWNER REMINISCES

DEAR EDITOR:

My wife and I, plus my father-in-law, were browsing through motorhome

material when we came across a Born Free ad. Nice, we all thought; this would make a good RV for the German market, which typically has smaller RVs. We liked the aircraft-style, aerodynamic shape of it and the beautifully designed interior, plus the fact that Born Free seemed to be a small, niche manufacturer.

We made a quick call to the factory and arranged for a personal tour. We also expressed interest in not only us buying one of their products but also introducing Born Free to the German marketplace. Off we went to Humboldt, Iowa, in the middle of a cold winter. That was awhile back. The nice folks at Born Free picked us up at the airport — in a 21-foot Born Free Rear Door model, of course.

All of the next day we spent touring the factory, where teams of four or five workers were responsible for assembling an entire unit end-to-end. No moving assembly lines; just people doing it all. What a concept. Their attention to detail and overall quality is what impressed us most. The beautiful woodwork was all done in-house.

After meeting with the late John Dodgen and his late son, C.T., we decided to purchase a 21-foot Rear Door model with a 7.3-liter diesel engine for our own personal use in Germany. We consequently purchased a couple more units, which we

sold in Europe. We really enjoyed our BF21 on trips to Scandinavia, France, Ireland, and of course, in Germany. Eventually, we drifted apart while Born Free refocused more on the domestic market.

We're still loyal owners of a 2007 Born Free 26RSB (Rear Side Bed) with beautiful full-body paint. We're towing a 4x4 behind it, pursuing our passion for off-roading/overlanding. Unfortunately for us and many other Born Free fans, the company closed its doors in the summer of 2017. No more factory tours. We're not happy about this, but life goes on and we'll be keeping our BF26RSB as long as it holds up. We hope it will be a long time to come.

**DETLEF & URSULA MEWS, F185548**  
*Pleasanton, California*

### NEW AIR CONDITIONING IN JULY

DEAR EDITOR:

We were on our way to Wichita, Kansas, in the middle of July this year (something I swore I would never do again), when our roof air conditioning quit. It was 105 degrees and truly miserable. I called the coach manufacturer, Renegade RV, and they found a dealer in Wichita that might be able to look at it. I didn't hold out much hope, as most dealers are swamped in the summer months. The dealer agreed to take a look and to my surprise said they would work it into their schedule as we needed to be in Colorado in a few days.

The A/C unit was a Coleman, and I figured that was fortunate, as they are made in Wichita. The RV dealer, Wichita RV, was great to work with. They really went to bat and eventual-

