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Lance Owners of America Newsletter

## Presidents Report

2010 has been a great year so far for the Lance Owners of America. In the early part of 2010 we launched an "all new" website. The new site has more areas to explore and more capability than in years past. The first major thing everyone will notice is that our branding changed from the blue color scheme to the

Lance green color scheme. We changed the price structure to allow a more affordable way to participate in the LOA and get everyone involved at any level of support. In doing so, the response was overwhelming with hundreds of new owners signing up to

become members of the LOA. We launched an all new product line featuring jackets, hats, shirts and more all branded with the LOA logo. To say the least, 2010 has been one of the best years for the LOA. I want to personally thank all the members for making this possible. ED

## Members Rig Spotlight



Robert K, or some of you may know him as Narcodog, has a 2006 8scs (845) on a 2003 Chevy 2500hd. Narcodog has been a member since April of 2006. Narcodog is being spotlighted in this issue because he spends a great amount of time adding his own custom touches to make his truck camper meet his needs when out adventuring. In this spotlight we will be taking a look at some of those custom modifications added by Narcodog. If you would like to see your rig in the next Member Rig Spotlight please drop us an email at [info@lanceowners.org](mailto:info@lanceowners.org) Thanks for the submission Narcodog.

# The Lance Glance

## Members Rig Spotlight (continued)

Here is what Narcodog had to say about his rig:

*“As most of you know whenever you buy a house you want to make it yours with a few additions. Here is what I have done to this point. The rig is a 2006 8scs (845) on a 2003 Chevy 2500hd swb. The first thing I did was remove all of the hardware for the dinette bed, there are just two of us so they were not needed. This included removing the back cushion. I then added two new twin size mattresses and mattress heaters. The following are photo's of other mods that I have made.”*



Having limited counter space I removed the shelf that would go between the sink and fridge and installed a drop down shelf.



I removed the faucet and installed this one from Camping World along a pressure tank.



I removed the vent fan as it did not vent to the outside and installed a six light led.



A drop down spice shelf was added above the sink.



Knife rack next to the stove. I like to cook.



The SCS has one long cabinet above the dinette which had both a gun rack and rod rack. I removed those two and added the wire rack for food storage.



A digital thermostat was added.



I added two fluorescent lights and then later, I added the LEDs, I have added another since this photo was taken.



A Tri Metric 2020 battery monitor system.



Over all of the windows I installed Vent covers. This one was designed for a Chev truck.



An air dam was added under the cabover.



Carrier for the generator.



A window screen over the pass thru window, I have no A/C.



Wave 3 heater which is plumbed off the main tanks. The hanger is movable from different shelves and gets the heat off the floor.

I also changed the shower head to a more efficient model. The house CO detector was disconnected and a combo unit was installed, eliminates battery drain. There was also a wooden vanity between the beds which I removed and added a plastic drawer. Three 12v receptacles were added for the mattress warmers and my 12v fly tying lamp. Narcodog.





## Shadetree Mechanic

### Replacing your Anode Rod in your water heater

The anode rod, when used in a water heater, attracts corrosion causing elements in the water. These products attack the anode rod instead of the steel tank itself. The anode rod should be inspected yearly and changed when it is reduced to about 1/4 of its original size. The rods are only used in steel water heater tanks - an aluminum tank has an inner layer of anode metal to accomplish the same thing. Anode rods are not needed in aluminum tanks and should not be installed in an aluminum tank!

**The steps are easy for this DIY maintenance job.**

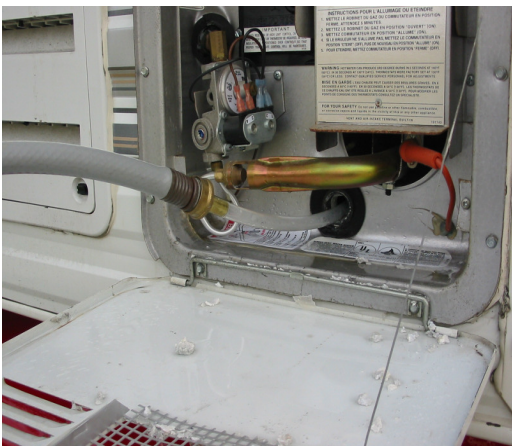
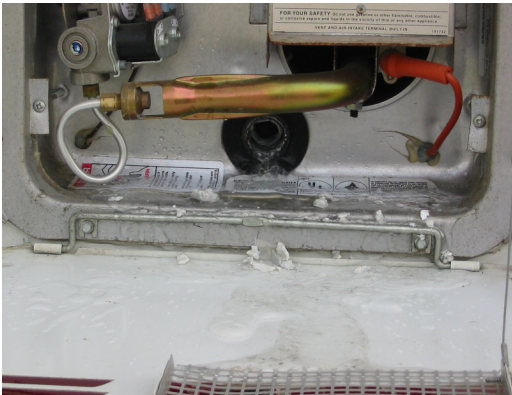
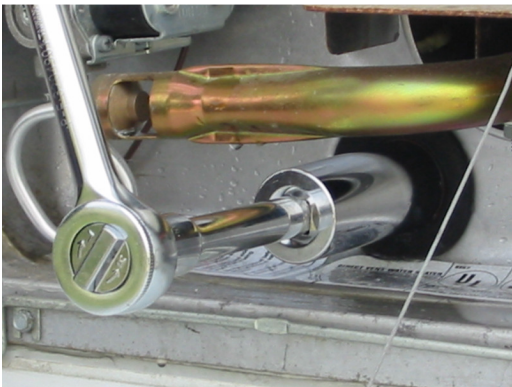
Make sure the water heater is off and gas supply is shut off.

Remove the anode rod with a ratchet and deep socket.

Allow the tank to drain and then flush with a garden hose.

Allow all the chunks to flush out from the tank.

Prepare the new anode rod with Teflon tape and re-install.



# Tips and Tricks

## For you and your Lance Camper

### **Leveling your camper at a campsite**

There have been several discussions on the forum lately about leveling your camper at your campsite. Should we use our jacks to level, should I unhook my tiedowns, can I camp in my camper when it is off the truck...? We are attempting to consolidate all of the good information from those discussions and answer some of those questions into one concise article.

First, why do we want to be level anyway? We want to level our camper for several different reasons. Here they are

1. Comfort – Most folks find it more comfortable when the camper is level. Eating at the table, cooking at the stove and sleeping in the bed are all much better and more comfortable when the camper is level. I find when my personal effects are rolling off the counters or my dinner fixins' are sliding around on the dinette table it can be very annoying.
2. Draining – Your camper's plumbing is designed to properly drain when it is level. When your camper is not level, water can stand in the sinks and shower. In some models your toilet may not work properly by not allowing the waste to find its way to the tanks. Your tanks may also not completely drain if the camper is not level when you are hooked up to city sewer. Also, your fresh water tank may not properly pump when the fresh tank gets low on water.
3. Refrigerator – This is probably the most important of all reasons to have your camper level. The absorption refrigerator needs to be very close to level to operate properly. Even if you are plugged in it still needs to be level. You can damage your fridge if it is allowed to run for too long out of level. Mostly what happens is the fridge will not cool properly and your food will spoil.

You can level your camper using several methods. I would suggest following these guidelines. Get 2 bubble levels from camping world and keep one in your camper and one in your truck. If you have an iPhone there is a "level app" you can download and use your phone as a level. Put one level on the counter inside the camper. Next, find a spot in the cab of the truck that you can put a level so it reads identical to the one in the camper. Now when you pull into camp you can get it close to level without leaving your cab. Always try to park your truck as level as possible to begin with, this saves time and effort for the final steps. You should also have something to drive your tires onto like the orange leveling blocks or homemade 2x6 blocks. Either will work fine. Drive your truck up onto the blocks however you need to to get your truck even closer to level. Some fine tuning from side to side can be done with your airbags by inflating/deflating either side to get that last inch or two. Lastly you can use your jacks for the final leveling. We recommend you loosen your turnbuckles slightly but it is not necessary if you are only using your jacks for stabilization. Extend all your jacks to the ground. Adjust your jacks to get the final leveling perfect. If you are not going to loosen your turnbuckles DO NOT lift your truck up by using the jacks. This will damage your jacks, your truck, your support equipment and possibly your camper. Now that you are level... enjoy the rest of your stay.



# Members Alley

The member's alley is designed for our members all over the country to send in photos and stories they would like to share. If you have something to send in the mail to LOA please send to: PO Box 10172 Santa Ana, CA 92711-0172 or email to [info@lanceowners.org](mailto:info@lanceowners.org)

Dear LOA, I have a story to tell... my 2000 Lance 1030 was blown over upside down Xmas morning 2008. Please find some of the pictures I took during recovery. The only damage was broken right front strut crushed roof storage pod took camper to my dealer re check for structure damage, water and gas leaks and the generator. No issues found. Used the camper in 2009 on two long trips with no problems this is a good test to the quality of Lance Campers. *Major Lance.*



*Thanks for the great story Major Lance. I hope I never see my camper dangling from a crane like a pinata, but it is nice to know that our campers are built tough enough to survive something like this. If any of you have a story to share send in your submissions and we will put it in the Glance.*  
LOA

## Product Showcase



**Product:** Hellwig sway bar  
**Difficulty to install:** (1 to 10) 4  
**MSRP:** \$424.00  
**Install Time:** 2-4 hours  
**Met Expectations:** Exceeded  
**Would we recommend:** Yes

As most of you may know, the LOA has entered into a strategic affiliation with Hellwig products who is the industry leader in heavy duty sway bar manufacturing. The Hellwig facility is located in central California and all of their products are made in the good ole USA. Hellwig sent us a heavy duty rear sway bar for our Chevrolet 3500 DRW pickup for us to use and field test. Hellwig claimed that this sway bar would dramatically reduce body roll and sway, and would be easy for the average do it yourselfer to install. At the time of writing this article, Hellwig has informed us of an even heavier duty sway bar being designed specifically for camper hauling trucks. Stay tuned for that new "Big Wig" sway bar in summer 2010. Here is our experience with the Hellwig sway bar.

The box arrived and from Hellwig and it felt just like Christmas morning. The new camper that was on my truck was significantly heavier and taller than the previous camper I was used to hauling. I opened the packaged and made sure all the parts were there, and it appeared that everything was ready to go. I used air tools (because I was feeling lazy) for this install but it would have been ok to use only hand tools. The first thing I noticed was, all the brackets and other parts were very beefy and I felt confident that this product would hold up under the extreme loads I would be

putting on it. My total install time was 4 hours, but I was taking photos, drinking beer and I am no expert. I found that everything fit the way it said it should in the instructions. After the install I took my truck for a quick spin around the block and I noticed a huge reduction in the back and forth movement around corners and over bumps. The real benefit came on the freeway. My drive used to require both hands on the wheel and continuous correction as the high profile of my camper caused the back forth sway. That sway was almost completely eliminated with the addition of the Hellwig sway-bar. In closing I would say this was a huge improvement to the handling of my truck.



Hellwig Products can be reached at 1-800-HELLWIG (435-5944) or at <http://www.hellwigproducts.com>





## ***Camp Cookin' With Steve***



**Barbecuing is not always an option when camping. The recipe below is a great way to cook Steaks in the oven and tastes FANTASTIC. I always like to pair this with a salad and broccoli just for the ease of the meal. Baked potatoes in the microwave are always another tasty treat with a good steak. I hope you enjoy this meal as much as we do!**

### Cooking Filet Mignon in an Oven

You will need one 1&1/2-inch thick filet mignon per person. This recipe serves two.

#### Ingredients

- 2 1&1/2-inch thick filet mignons at room temperature
- 2 strips of bacon
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1 pound of button mushrooms, washed and sliced
- 1 tablespoon of minced garlic
- 2 cups of red wine
- 2 tablespoons of butter
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper

#### Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 375 degrees.
2. Season both sides of the steaks with salt and pepper.
3. Wrap one strip of bacon around each filet mignon securing it with a toothpick.
4. Place a steel pan that is not a non-stick pan over a medium high flame.
5. Add the oil to the pan.
6. Once the pan is very hot, add the steaks to the pan and do not move them for 3 minutes.
7. Flip the steaks over and continue to cook them for three minutes.
8. Place the pan in the oven and let the steaks finish cooking for 4-6 minutes for a rare steak or 6-8 minutes for medium rare steaks.
9. Carefully remove the pan from the oven and place over a medium flame.
10. Remove the steaks from the pan and place them on a plate, loosely cover with foil.
11. Add wine to the pan and scrape the bottom of the pan with a rubber spatula to remove the fond from the bottom of the pan.
12. Add the mushrooms and cook until they give up their liquid.
13. Add the butter and reduce the liquid to half.
14. Add the butter and stir until the butter has melted and fully mixed in with the sauce.
15. Place the steaks on a plate each and pour the sauce over the steaks.
16. Once you become comfortable with making this sauce, you can experiment with adding cream, using brandy, or any other ingredient you think will work well with steak.

## Lance Owners of America Website Tips

In this article we will attempt to provide valuable information about using the website and improving your experience on the LOA forum. If you have any questions or comments on this article or you would like to see us cover something please send an email to [admin@lanceowners.org](mailto:admin@lanceowners.org)

### To quickly get to the last or first post in a thread:

When you are reading a thread that has many responses you can use your mouse to scroll down to the last response, which will be the most recent, or you can use the "END" key to jump down to the most recent response. Alternately, you can use the "HOME" key to quickly return to the top of a thread you are reading in the forum. I find that this technique saves me a lot of time when I am reading a topic that has many responses.

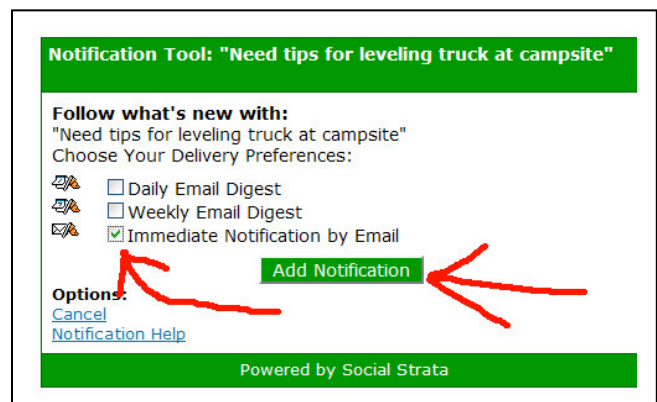
### To get notified of responses to a particular topic in the forum:

If there is a topic in forum that you are interested in knowing immediately if there have been any responses, you can follow these simple steps to setup a notification.

First click on the topic you want to be notified about just as if you wanted to read the topic. Next click on the "Notify Tab" pictured below.



Now you will get a "pop up" box that will have a check box that will allow you to select the type of notification you would like to receive. Click on the box titled "Immediate Notification by email" and click "Add Notification." Now you will receive an email every time there is a response to that specific topic.





## Lance Owners of America Factory Tour and BBQ Aug 26-29

This year's Factory Tour and BBQ was a really great time. The weather was a little on the hot side but that is much better than the rain that has poured on us in years past. Most everyone rolled in on Thursday night and got camp set up. On Friday morning we had several of our favorite vendors come out and show us their latest products. Hellwig, Galaxy Campers, Supersprings and Lifeline Batteries set up booths and talked to us about what they had to offer. I really want to thank all of them for coming out and taking the time to show us their products. On Friday afternoon we caravanned over to the factory in a single file fashion that looked to be 1/4 mile long. We were treated like royalty at the factory. They gave us a tour of the plant, showed us new and upcoming innovations on the campers and trailers and fed us a huge BBQ dinner. Lance also gave away some really great prizes to our LOA members in a raffle. Lance once again reinforced what a great company they are when I witnessed Jack Cole (President of Lance Camper Mfg.) crawling inside one of our members campers to help him fix a window issue. I want to thank Jack, Gary and the whole crew at Lance for taking such good care of us.





## The Lance Glance

Here is the Trailmaster report from the 2010 Southern Hills Rally at Conley Bottoms in KY:

### Southern Hills Rally 2010 September 17-19

It was an absolute blast! We had a great time, everyone enjoyed meeting each other and checking out each other's rig. Awesome lookin' rigs by the way! There were many stories, jokes, and laughs! Saturday morning everyone had doughnuts and juice thanks to A&L RV Sales. After breakfast we had giveaways thanks to LOA, Torklift, Hellwig, and A&L RV Sales. Everyone got a Torklift hat, an LOA can koozie, Hellwig and Torklift brochure, some Hellwig stickers, and some other little misc. things. There were also a couple of Hellwig T-shirts given out. There were two big giveaways, one was a set of Torklift Stableloads that were won by Carl & Mary Wrubel, congratulations guys! The other was a set of Lynx Levelers won by Jack & Lynne, congratulations guys!

That evening we all went to the Lighthouse Cafe at the Conley Bottoms marina where we had dinner, they had a deck out on the water where we all sat to eat, it was great! The food was also great! We absolutely had a great time! I want to thank everyone that attended and helped make this happen! You guys are awesome! I can't wait to do this again!!!

