

Truckers' Gear Guide



▶ **In the Heat of the Summer**

▶ **Hey There Gorgeous!**
Truck Shows Going Virtual and Beyond

▶ **Are You Road Ready?**

A special THANK YOU to Sunrise Transport for our cover photo

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Be a Trucker and a Tourist

By Sierra Sugar

Trucking is one of the few careers that pay you to be a tourist. Wait! What? Yes, you heard me right; you can do your job, you know, being a trucker and be a tourist at the same time.

Being a trucker and a tourist is easy with a little thinking ahead. While route planning, all truckers consider things like where to take a 30-minute break? What about a 10? Or a 34? Where to park before picking up or after delivering? These questions are usually asked with concerns such as, where is it safe to park? What is closest to the delivery? What is there to eat nearby? Do they have showers or laundry?

What happens when "What else is nearby?" is included with route planning?

Smartphones give us the world at our fingertips. Use them to plan for fun along your route.

Maybe there is something scenic on the way, or if you take a state road part of the way, instead of the interstate? What about a museum or theme park? What historical places will you be traveling near, through, or to? Is it a holiday season? If you consider all these things when thinking about your route, your time, and where you want to eat and sleep you have now set yourself up to be both a trucker and a tourist!



MOAB, UTAH



CONEY ISLAND, NEW YORK

By following the "What else is nearby" system, we've been able to go rock climbing in Moab on our 30. Walked down Coney Island boardwalk all the way to Brighton Beach and back. Hiked along the Columbia River Gorge while walking the dogs. We even explored the hot springs in a small mountain town in Idaho.

We were able to tour a historical haunted Asylum during a 34 in St. Joe. We have visited countless museums, aquariums, and natural wonders all across the country. We've dined at some of the best food carts, food trucks, local hole-in-the-wall type places, and even a few world-renowned restaurants simply by getting out of the truck, using google, and exploring our location.

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TRUCK NAVIGATION
FOR THE LONG HAUL

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Offering custom truck routing for the size and weight of your rig, **dēzl™ OTR700** is the easy-to-read 7" navigator that gives professional truckers a clear view of the road ahead.

A YouTube video player interface. The title is "Dezl OTR GPS". There are "Watch later" and "Share" buttons. The video content shows three Dezl OTR GPS devices. The largest device in the foreground shows a route on "95th Street" with a speed limit of 65 and an arrival time of 12:38. Another device shows a route on "South Kansas Tpke" with a speed limit of 85 and an arrival time of 1:09. A red play button is overlaid on the video. At the bottom, there is a "Watch on YouTube" button and the text "Dēzl™ TRUCK NAVIGATORS".

In the Heat of the Summer

By Al and Jenn Kohl

Summer is now in full swing and it is time to make sure that you keep not only your truck running at peak performance but also implementing other routine procedures to keep yourself safe and healthy as well.

Air conditioners will be taking more of the work keeping us cool. Inspecting your belts and hoses should already be part of any pretrip. If not, you could end up sitting in an area in temperatures that can easily reach triple digits. If you are an owner/operator, it is a good time of year to have your radiator flushed and check your differentials if you do your own maintenance on your truck. Replace air filters in your cab or if you have the reusable kind make sure you rinse them off and blow them out.

Remember, sitting on the side of the road with a tire issue is not your friend.



Tires will also be a problem if they are not properly maintained. Most companies like using retreads for cost savings, so all the more reason to regularly inspect your tires. During your pretrip, take a few minutes to see if there are missing chunks, dry rot, unusual bulges or even tread separation. Are they properly aired up? Proper inflation keeps heat build-up down. Check your tires on the sidewall for the manufacturer's maximum inflation psi recommendations. Remember, sitting on the

side of the road with a tire issue is not your friend. The loss of time on the clock as well as missing a delivery time is not going to make your day a good one. It is also a very good time of year to verify that each tire still has a valve stem cap. Believe it or not, that little cap can help your tire maintain air pressure, plus the DOT can write you up for a violation if one of those caps is missing. While it's not always possible to catch every tire issue you may have but doing a thorough inspection will help to minimize the possibility of a bigger problem.

With summer comes bugs, and the last thing you need is for the sun to be rising and setting trying to look through a windshield full of bugs and dirt. Keeping your truck not only well maintained but also clean and washed will go a long way in the performance of your truck, not only in the summer months but all year long. It also conveys a level of professionalism and could make you fair better at the next DOT inspection if it looks like you take good care of your truck.

While it is always important to carry plenty of water to keep yourself hydrated in the summer months it becomes critical. You may also want to consider drinks that contain electrolytes that will help you to avoid dehydration. Don't forget that your truck could also need 'hydration'. Carry an extra bottle or two of antifreeze for your engine. This could be a lifesaver in case there is a leaking hose or clamp.

For those of you with pets, remember you have shoes on when standing on the pavement. Your fur baby doesn't. That asphalt can burn their pads. Keep that in mind when walking them in the heat of the day. Carry extra water for them too. Longer haired animals might need a haircut or a shave like I give my schnauzer. If your pet has darker fur that sun will be extra hot for them. Try not to walk them during the hottest part of the day which is typically between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and if you have to get them out of the truck during that time try to stick with shaded areas. It is also that time of year to keep an eye on your fur baby and make sure they did not pick up any hitchhikers, like ticks, fleas, or painful seed pods.

What are some other tips, tricks, and old hand secrets you may have for summer driving? Do you have something to share that could help a new driver or jog the memory of an old-timer? Join the discussion and share them with us at www.braketime.com.

Till we meet next, be safe, take care of yourself. ■



Al and Jenn Kohl have been driving together for 10 years but have 50 years of combined experience. They currently run team for a small mid-west company and travel with their three fur babies as well as manage a Facebook group called Cooking on the Truck.



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Pro Driver Tip



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Al and Jenn Kohl have been driving together for 10 years but have 50 years of combined experience. They currently run team for an air freight company and travel with their four fur babies as well as manage a Facebook group called Cooking on the Truck.

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Power It Up

Now more than ever the over-the-road life of the trucker is about being safe, self-reliant, and self-contained. With the outbreak of COVID 19 many drivers found their favorite restaurants closed and food options and other amenities limited. Truckers needed to provide for themselves and that meant making that hot meal or brewing that morning cup of coffee in their truck. It also became very important to keep devices charged and powered in order to have a safe and secure trip.

While being able to recharge your smartphone at the end of your day was a must, having enough power for your laptop, tablet, and other devices while also being able to cook a meal became a necessity.

Many who may not have had a power inverter in their truck in the past because they were able to find a hot meal, a cool beverage or a charging station at any of their stops, decided now was the time to purchase a power inverter to keep everything they needed to be powered up and ready to go.

Power inverters became a lifesaver and if you have one you already know it and if you don't and are considering purchasing one soon here are a few frequently asked questions that we thought we would share:



Why is there a spark when cables are connected?

A: When connecting your inverter's cables, a slight spark will occur. This is normal. The spark indicates that the capacitors on the circuit board are charging.



Why is the voltage measured with a voltmeter only 95 volts?

A: A standard voltmeter measures the peaks and valleys of the sine wave output. On a modified sine wave inverter, the peaks and valleys are flatter, resulting in a lower voltage. We suggest using an RMS voltmeter, this will show the actual voltage.



Why is there a voltage drop using high watt devices?

A: When powering high watt devices on your inverter, you may experience a voltage drop. This drop can occur if the engine is not running and under a heavy load or when the cable is too small for the power draw.



Can an inverter be wired into a transfer switch for house or RV use?

A: Wiring an inverter into a transfer switch is not recommended as it will short the circuit breaker and damage the inverter.



Can an inverter be used on a solar cell charger/battery system?

A: PowerDrive power inverters can be powered on any 12-volt battery system. They are also perfect for off the grid renewable power sources if they are not being tied into the power grid or house wiring. Keep in mind, some solar panel systems charge on a higher voltage.



Inverter flashes red and green, what's wrong?

A: Power inverters have three LEDs: red, yellow, and green. The inverter will constantly rotate the display between voltage and power usage, this is normal.



Why is there no power from the plugs?

A: If your inverter has no power from the outlets, this could mean there is a fault in the inverter or damage on the circuit board. We suggest resetting the inverter by disconnecting the positive cable and pressing down on the power button for 20 seconds. Wait another 2 minutes, then reconnect the cable and test.



Why is there a buzzing sound coming from the inverter?

A: The buzzing sound given off by the inverter is an alarm, this goes off if the voltage has dropped below 12 volts. If this happens, you should adjust your cables and fuse accordingly.



How do I reset my inverter?

A: To reset your inverter, start by disconnecting the positive cable. Then, press and hold the ON button for 20 seconds. Wait two minutes, then reconnect to power.



Why doesn't the Bluetooth connect?

A: When using the PowerDrive app, your inverter will not automatically connect. To pair your inverter for the first time, you will need to disconnect all other Bluetooth items from your phone. These can be reconnected after pairing.

Remember, it is always recommended that you have a power inverter professionally installed but if you chose to install it on your own please make sure to thoroughly review the owner's manual and instructions. Also, make sure to check out our How-To series on power inverters found on our website under the Video Library tab.

<http://videos.roadprobrands.com/category/videos/power-inverters> ■

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Entertainment on the Open Road

By Kim McDonnell, Manager, Customer Experience, RoadPro Family of Brands

When your job requires you to be fairly isolated most of the time and you live inside a 10' x 10' box on wheels you tend to get creative in finding ways to entertain yourself while out on the open road. Sure many say get out of the truck and explore – as a matter of fact, another article in this publication will cover some great tips on how to **Be a Trucker and a Tourist**. But what about when you are driving or maybe when it is time to just get some rest and rejuvenate for the next day? We ask members of our trucking community what they do to keep themselves entertained and thought we would share their insight.



Gary Johnson, who has been an owner-operator for over 18 years, finds that many avenues of entertainment can be soothing to the soul in one fashion or another. As a kid and or teen riding in the rigs of the past with his Grandfather and uncles he would always play license plate poker. This was a great way to pass the time and have a great conversation along the way by choosing random vehicles at a far enough distance so that you could not make out that vehicle's plates until you were close enough. "That plate was your hand, cards if you will, in that round," said Johnson. "Growing up in an era absent of the internet and tablets this was one of the greatest forms of fun on the road!" Now as an adult and driver he has found many ways to pass the time behind the wheel. Johnson also commented, "I have several conversations throughout the day with members of my family, fellow brothers, and sisters of the interstate, or a vast list of some of the best friends a fella could ask for." He went on to say that in between phone calls his life revolves around music and his playlist is extremely eclectic and will vary from blues to classic rock. But his heart resides with country music and he will spend the day singing in my cab. "Music is so powerful in my life that if for any reason I am having a bad day, music is my mood change," Johnson shared. "I will unplug from my phone and throw it in my bunk and get lost in an array of tunes."

Many drivers are also musicians and will spend their downtime playing music or writing their own songs to play for others along the way or on their social sites. Some have taken up learning to play music on their off-hours.

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ROADPRO® BREAD PUDDING

INGREDIENTS

- 3 Slices of Cinnamon-Raisin Bread
- 1/3 Cup Raisins
- 2 Eggs
- 1 1/3 Cup Milk
- 6 Tbsp Brown Sugar
- 2 Tbsp Butter, Melted
- 1 Tsp Cinnamon
- 1/2 Tsp Nutmeg
- Dash of Salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Cube the bread.
2. Grease a disposable [RoadPro Portable Stove](#) pan and add the cubed bread and raisins.
3. Place pan into stove.
4. In a bowl, add eggs, milk, brown sugar, butter, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt.
5. Whisk to combine.
6. Pour egg mixture over the bread and let stand for 15 minutes, soaking bread into the mixture.
7. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Remove from oven and enjoy!



BAKED POTATO

SUBMITTED BY: KARI FISHER, PROFESSIONAL TRUCK DRIVER & BRAKE TIME MEMBER
MADE FOR THE ROADPRO PORTABLE STOVE

DIRECTIONS

1. Time varies depending on the size of your potato.
2. Add water to your [RoadPro Portable Stove](#).
3. Place potato in a foil pan, pierce with a fork and place in the oven.
4. Close and bake, checking every half hour by inserting a fork into the middle.
5. Add more water if needed, steam accelerates the cooking process.





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Years in the making, Rand Navigation 2.0 is an all-new, upgraded navigation platform with a proprietary router and revamped user experience. Rand McNally has engineered a new, modern platform making sure it retains the time-tested user experience that drivers know and depend upon.



Watch on YouTube

ID™ 750

NAVIGATION DEVICES

A BUYERS' GUIDE FROM **TRUCKER GEAR** PRESENTED BY **ROADPRO**
FAMILY OF BRANDS



You may not wish to hear it, but the trusty maps app on your smartphone most likely isn't trusty enough for safely navigating your truck anymore.

And, that's not just us saying so.

Senators from several major states have demanded that app developers add more truck-specific details to their programs. Seems as though officials -- especially ones in several Northeast states -- have grown tired of out-of-state truckers getting on restricted highways and slamming into low bridges and overpasses. In fact, in January senators from New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut called on tech giants Google, Apple, and Waze to include information that would keep trucks off restricted parkways and reduce collisions with low-bridges.

At least one state is getting tougher on truckers who ignore the signs and get on parkways where they don't belong. New York, for example, has increased fines from between \$250 to \$7,500 and jail time for repeat offenders. So now may be the time to invest in the sort of navigational device a pro trucker requires, and use Google Maps as a backup or when you're in the family car.

And, here's the good news: major makers of GPS units have new, more robust units built specifically for use by professional truck drivers. Garmin and Rand McNally have new truck navigation devices meant to withstand the rigors of daily over the road trucking and provide the detailed mapping pro truckers not just like but require. They also are loaded with truck-specific features to ensure your trips are as trouble-free as possible.



Three New Trucker GPS Units From Garmin

Garmin recently rolled out a series of three big-screen GPS devices created for truckers: the dēzl OTR1000, OTR800, and OTR700.

The new entries in Garmin's popular dēzl series feature 10-, 8- or 7-inch display options that can be easily switched from traditional landscape to portrait modes. In addition to large, easy-to-read HD touchscreens, the new dēzl series offers load-to-dock guidance, truck-specific routing, and custom routing tailored to the details of a driver's rig.

Drivers can input the size and weight of their truck on their dēzl navigator to receive custom truck routing and take advantage of road warnings to see alerts for upcoming bridge heights, weight limits, sharp curves, steep grades and more. Thanks to a preloaded directory of truck and trailer services, drivers can find preferred truck stops by brand or amenities. Truck-friendly parking information and timely break planning notifications help truckers make the most of each stop.

With built-in Bluetooth for hands-free calling and a revamped voice assistant option that simplifies startup commands to "OK Garmin", truckers can talk to their dēzl navigators and keep their hands on the wheel. The dēzl series includes map updates and the built-in Wi-Fi connectivity makes it simple to keep maps and software up-to-date.

This new trio of dēzl navigators can be paired with the Garmin Drive mobile app. This allows truckers access to live fuel prices, traffic, and weather, as well as phone notifications and photoLive traffic camera updates. Additionally, the GPS navigators can be paired with Garmin's wireless backup cameras, or third party backup cameras to easily see behind your truck when reversing. The dēzl series also works with the Garmin eLog compliant ELD for subscription-free hours of service logging.



Rand McNally Delivers New Trucker Tablet

Likewise, Rand McNally recently delivered a new navigation device aimed at the pro trucker. The TND Tablet 85 has an 8-inch screen and operates on the Android platform. The beauty of the new device is that it is a robust tablet computer and an outstanding GPS unit.

At the heart of the TND Tablet 85 is Rand McNally's new Rand 2.0 routing software that provides optimal directions and a variety of information to make any trip easier and safer. With a wifi connection, Rand 2.0 software, the TND Tablet 85 delivers:

- Enhanced, easy to read map displays with turn-by-turn directions on a high-resolution display
- 3-D structure, landmark and junction views
- Real-time traffic information
- Detailed, up-to-date weather conditions and forecasts
- Fuel locations with current prices
- Mileage and fuel logs
- On-screen alerts for speed limit changes, sharp curves and other changes in driving conditions

The TND Tablet 85 doesn't stop there. Its built-in dashcam uses an automatic G-sensor and loop recording to capture whatever goes on in front of your truck as you drive.

And, when you're done driving and parked for the day, you can remove the TND Tablet 85 from its magnetic mount and go to work or relax and catch up on your email or use any of the apps you rely on while on the road and away from home.



TomTom Truck 620 Is Loaded With Features

Rounding out the top trucker GPS devices is TomTom's Trucker 620 GPS, which is loaded with the features needed by the pro driver. With a 6-inch screen and built-in WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity, the Trucker 620 delivers its list of services by voice control, meaning you keep your hands on the wheel but still get your smartphone's messages and make outgoing calls.

The Trucker 620's features include:

- Customized routes for your truck's specific dimensions, weight, cargo, and maximum speed
- Alerts for congestion ahead
- Smartphone messages read to you from your SMS and iMessage
- Locations for parking, truck stops, travel centers, fuel stations, restaurants and service centers
- Voice access to Siri or Google Now using the device's built-in microphone
- Lifetime truck maps delivered at no extra cost by WiFi
- Lifetime TomTom Traffic, which tells you how to avoid traffic, both on highways and secondary roads

The Trucker 620's speaker and microphone deliver quality, hands-free calls. Just connect your smartphone via Bluetooth, and you'll see who's calling on your Trucker 620's screen.

What To Look For When Buying a GPS

No matter what you buy, be sure to invest in a GPS device that delivers:

- Specific highway information based on the size of your truck
- Information you can use when you do your trip planning; rest areas, parking, truck stops, weigh stations, restricted highways
- Real-time traffic and weather
- A bright, easy to read screen
- Hands-free operation

But, no matter how good any GPS device is, the smart pro driver also carries an up-to-date, comprehensive trucker atlas too. Rand McNally's is the bible for truckers and the

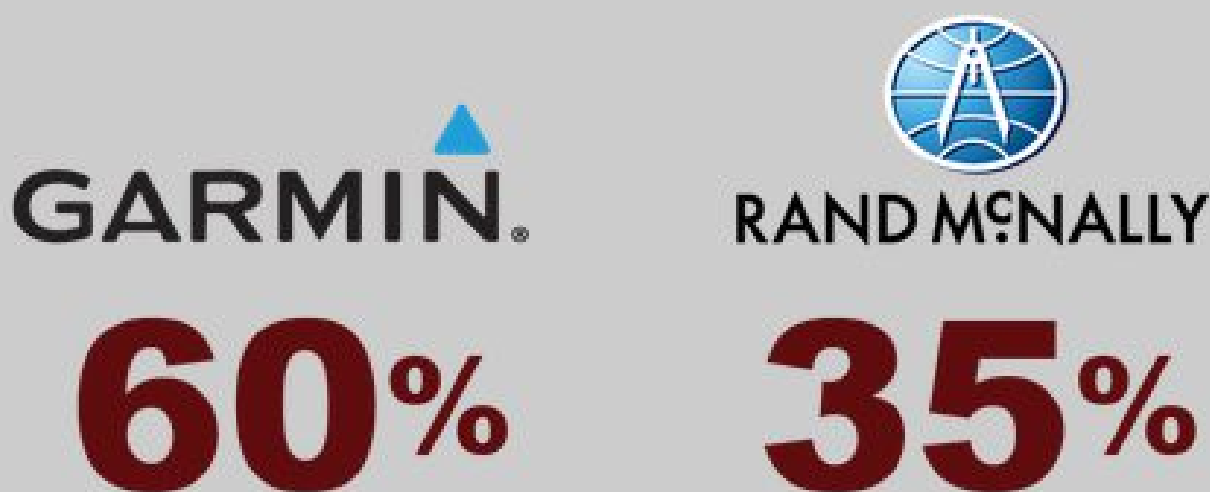
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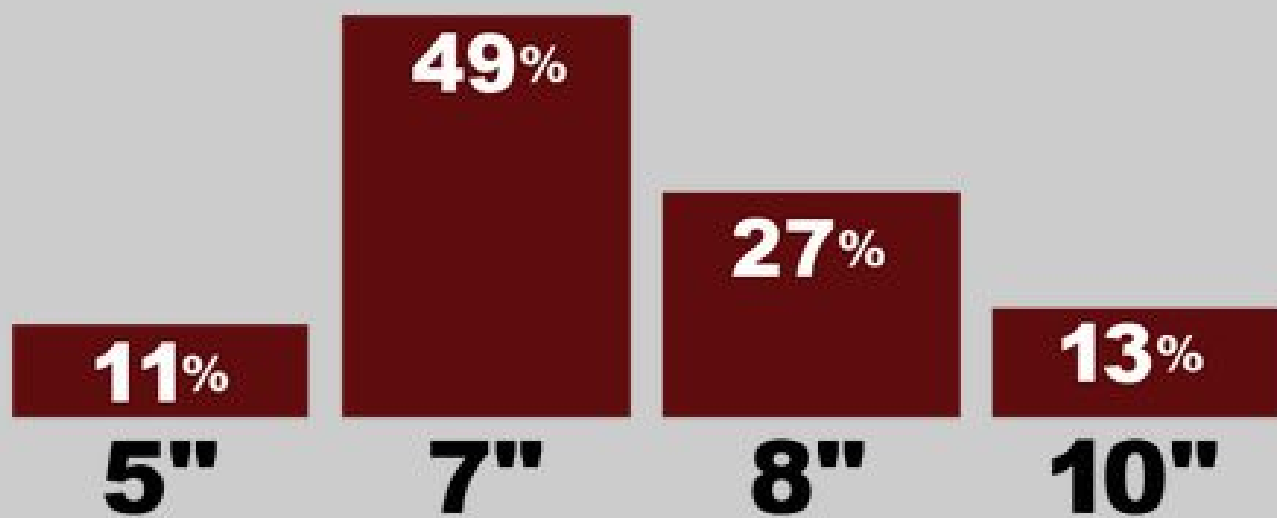
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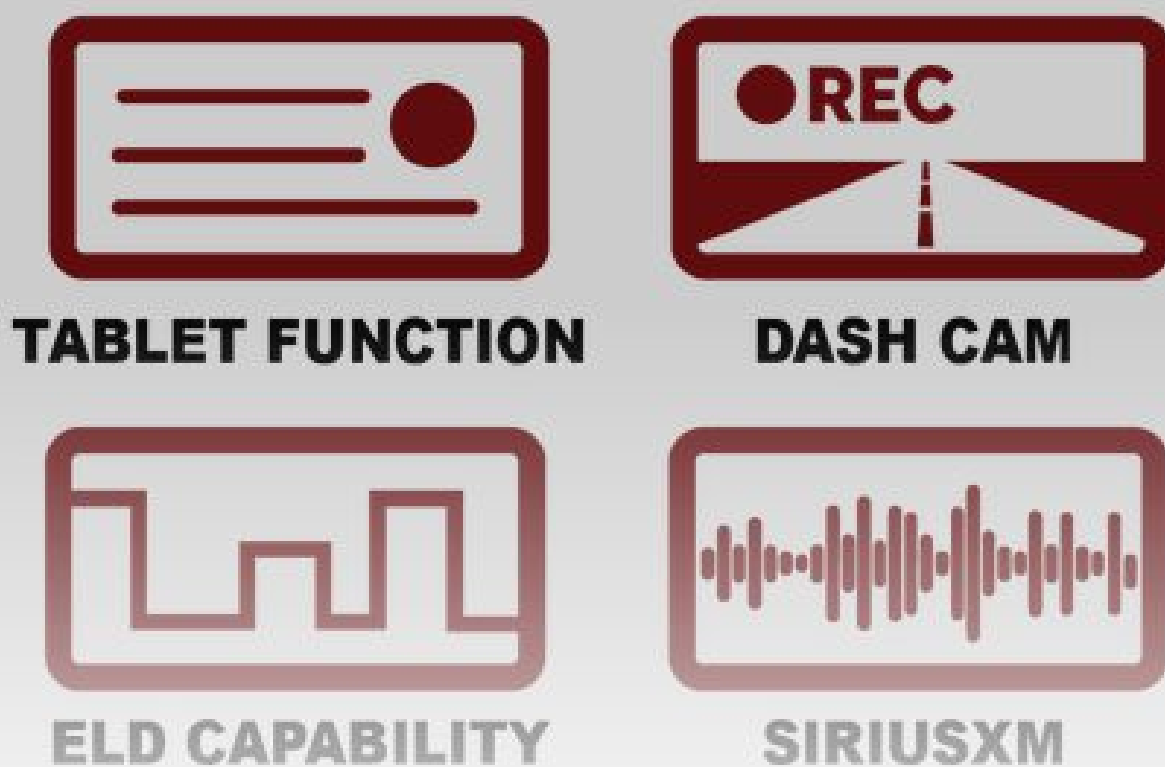
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BlueParrott B450 XT

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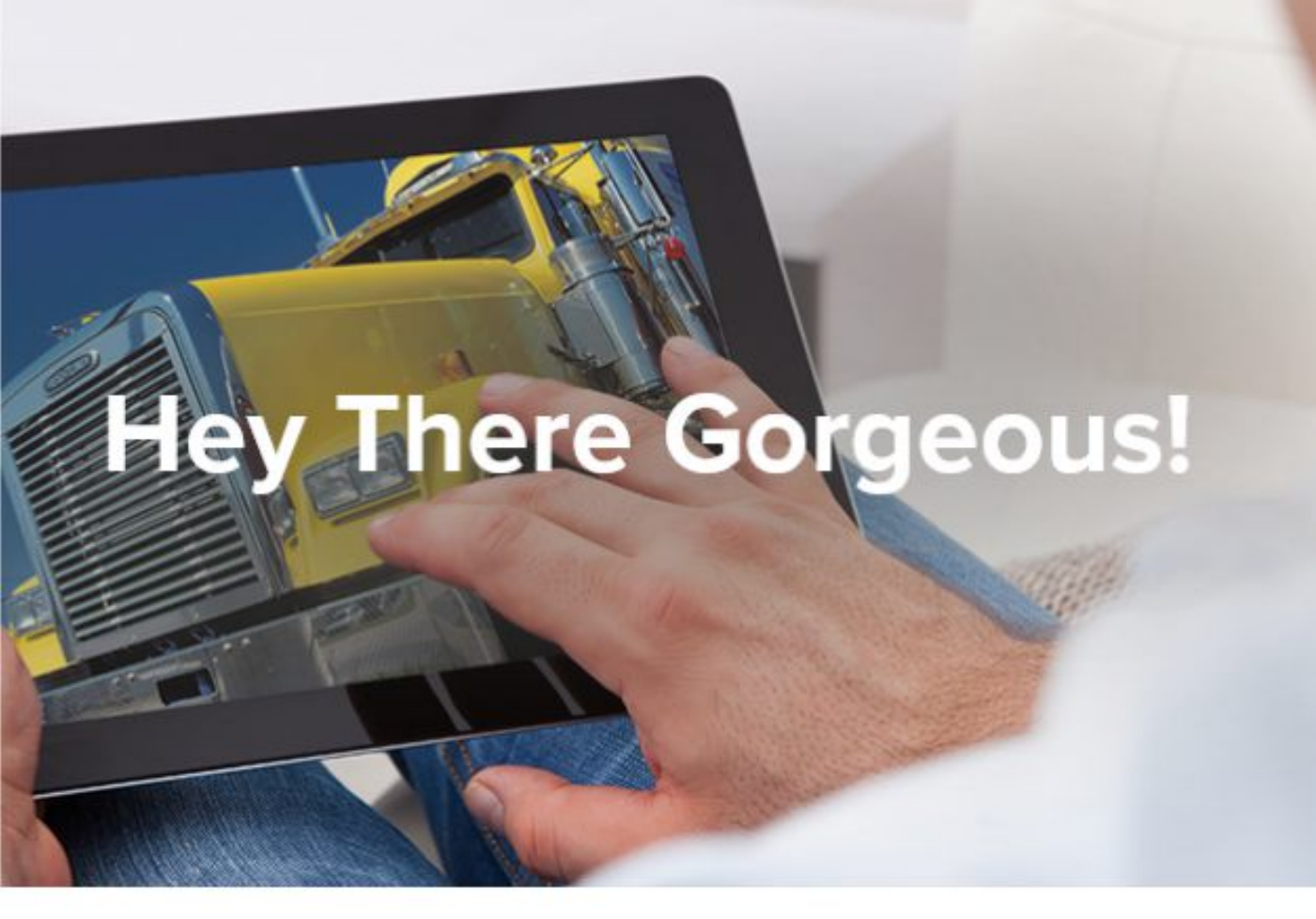
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Hey There Gorgeous!

Truck Shows Going Virtual and Beyond

By Kim McDonnell, Manager, Customer Experience, RoadPro Family of Brands

This time of year Truck Shows are typically in full swing. Kicking off in early Spring and lasting until the Fall there is a multitude of shows that showcase some of the best looking trucks around and both truckers and truck enthusiasts look forward to these events each year. With the onset of COVID-19 many shows initially were canceled or postponed until later in the year. But a few took a different road and decided to go virtual. Not only giving the people that usually attend the ability to still check out the show and see the many beautiful trucks but also those that never had the opportunity to attend in person before a glimpse at what these shows are all about.



One of the first truck shows to take place virtually was by the American Truck Historical Society, typically held during the last week in May. Organizers quickly shifted gears and moved the show online from educational sessions and the annual meeting held on Zoom to the ability to stage the truck show itself in a series of 20 YouTube videos. Each video was between 15 and 20 minutes long and showcased over 1,455 trucks including individual details on each truck. The virtual show was a hit and was viewed in over 37 countries allowing anyone with a passion for old trucks to get their fix. The society is already working on continuing to incorporate this technology into future live shows.

Another show that takes place in early May is the Make A Wish® Mother's Day Truck Convoy which RoadPro has proudly sponsored for the last five years. With over 500 trucks typically attending the event and also driving in the Convoy the decision was made to postpone the event until a later date in 2020. But with growing concerns surrounding the pandemic and out of an abundance of caution for the medically fragile children that attend the Convoy Carnival each year and for the health of all community members a virtual event soon took shape.



The rescheduled date for the virtual convoy will be Sunday, August 16 with a modified, small truck Convoy made up of the Top 30 Drivers and plans to broadcast live on the Make A Wish Facebook page. For the first time in the event's history, truck drivers nationwide can participate regardless of their location. Virtual drivers taking part in this year's event are encouraged to submit videos of themselves sharing a Message of Hope for the Convoy community, which the Make-A-Wish team will be sharing on their Facebook page leading up to the Convoy. Also for the first time in the event's history, "Honks for Hope" will be introduced to bring drivers together virtually. Convoy participants from across the country will be asked to honk their truck horns at 1:30 pm ET to show their support – drivers can share live videos of this on social media using the hashtag #VirtualConvoy. "This event means so much to the truck drivers who go above and beyond to make these children's wishes come true, and while we may not be able to spend the day together we are honored to be a part of the virtual convoy experience," said Chuck White, vice president of brands and marketing for RoadPro Family of Brands. This will be a great way for Wish Kids to see how many people nationwide are supporting them and are missing them in person at this year's Convoy. If you wish to take part in this year's Virtual convoy check out wishconvoy.org to receive more information.



JULY 9 - 11, 2020

The Walcott Truckers Jamboree, one of the biggest truck shows in the United States, also decided to take their show virtual. With a long history of celebrating America's Truckers, this huge event that sees over 45,000 in attendance, had no way to put on a live event while following the guidelines that were established by state officials. "We were heartbroken that we couldn't do this show but we still wanted to celebrate the drives that we love," said Heather DeBaillie, vice president of marketing for the Iowa 80 Group. With that in mind, Walcott will still host most of the popular events that take place at the show virtually. The Super Truck Beauty contest will still take place and in the past most were only able to enter one truck in the competition but this year with the event held virtually drivers can enter multiple trucks to compete for trophies and prizes. Typically the trucks entered were judged by a panel onsite but this year the voting will take place online and be open to the public to cast a vote for their favorite truck. Walcott has fans of not only the truck stop but the Jamboree from all over the world and they are already excited to be able to see the trucks online and to vote. There will also be an Antique Truck Gallery where visitors to the virtual site can check out all the antique trucks and see all the details and history of the trucks. Other fan-favorite events like the Pet Contest will offer pet owners an opportunity to upload their best pet trick video. The 100th Birthday party for a truck that is turning 100 will also be virtual with Walcott's museum curator Dave Myer speaking about the truck and its history. All of the activities will be hosted on the Walcott Jamboree's website and will be supported by Facebook live events during the days of the actual virtual show July 9th through the 11th.

The 2020 Great American Trucking Show, held annually in Dallas at the end of August, was also canceled for this year. But don't worry – Overdrive will stream online the major activities that would have taken place during the same week as the show, August 24-28. Included will be popular events like the Overdrive Red-Eye Radio Trucker Talent Search and Overdrive's Pride and Polish. Check out OverdriveOnline.com or sign up for the daily newsletter for forthcoming details.



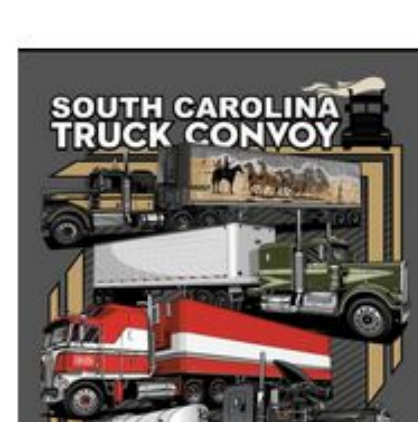
Not into the virtual experience? Well, you may be in luck as there are still a few truck shows and convoys that will still try to go on as planned.

Gear Jammer Magazine will host its 3rd Annual Truck show that benefits the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Children with Autism, July 31 – August 1. This show takes place in Brimfield, MA, and features a live performance by musician and trucker Tony Justice on Friday night.



Brad Wike's Southern Classic Truck Show in Lincolnton, NC, will be moved to a new location this year – and plans are still underway to hold the show the second Saturday in September. This show is always a winner as it includes the movie trucks including the Rubber Duck and the rig from Smokey and the Bandit. Check out their Facebook page for all the latest details.

At this time the Guilty by Association Truck Show in Joplin, MO, is still on! According to their website, this show is billed as "the most fun you can have with your truck. A cross between a truck show, a customer expo, and an open house, GBATS is jam-packed with much fun, good food, and great friends." Dates for this show are September 24-26.



The South Carolina Special Olympics Convoy in West Columbia, SC will also take place this year. The convoy will move out on Saturday, September 26, and benefits more than 30,000 Special Olympics athletes in the state. There will be lots to see and do at this show that features many antique trucks, a bar-b-q lunch, auction, and more. Check out their Facebook page for more details.

If you plan to attend any of the truck shows mentioned here whether it be virtually or in-person you will not be disappointed. While COVID may have taken away the chance to attend a few of them in person – taking them virtual opens up a whole new way to see a show without having to travel. If you plan on attending any of the shows please make sure to check their websites or social media pages before you head out for all the latest and greatest details. ■



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Are You Road Ready?

By David Hollis, Editor, Truckers News

It's official, summer is here.

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic notwithstanding, this is the time when folks kick back, slow down, hang loose, chill out and take life a little bit less seriously.

Good luck with that if you happen to be a trucker.

This summer, as some states reopen and others loosen stay-at-home restrictions, many Americans will still take vacations, go to the beach, head to the mountains, and, of course, participate in that uniquely American ritual, the summer road trip.

If you're lucky and have planned ahead, yours may be one of those American families that getaway for a week at a campsite, takes a weekend at the lake or even just enjoys a Sunday picnic in the park ... with the appropriate social distancing of course.

But, safety never takes a holiday for professional truckers. If anything, summer brings with it a unique set of issues that require extra effort and increased diligence when driving and even when stopped to pick up, drop off or simply to rest and refuel.

Key to dressing to drive through summer is staying cool but still being visible when you are out of your truck.

Trucking safely through summer means:

- taking care of your truck and trailer
- comprehensive trip and route planning to avoid delays and difficulties
- being aware of your surroundings
- keeping tabs on what other drivers are doing

But, first and foremost, driving safely through summer means taking proper care of yourself. That entails eating and drinking properly, protecting yourself against the sun, guarding against heat and over-exertion, and dressing properly.

Just as you wouldn't think twice about getting on Interstate 80 in Teaneck, New Jersey, and heading 2,900 miles west to San Francisco in the dead of winter without proper weather-related gear. You shouldn't do it in the summer either, and this certainly doesn't mean simply putting on flip flops on your feet instead of fur-lined boots.

Fortunately, BlackCanyon Outfitters, a member of the RoadPro Family of Brands, has a variety of items that can answer plenty of questions about what to wear as you drive during the summer of 2020.

Key to dressing to drive through summer is staying cool but still being visible when you are out of your truck. Dropping off or picking up, stopping to refuel, taking a walk while in your break, it's important you stand out; not from the fashion crowd but from your surroundings.

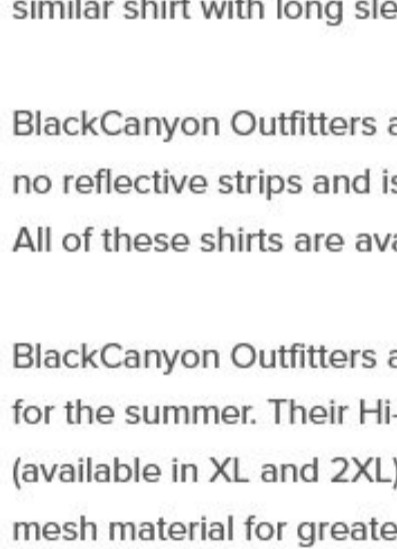
To that end, BlackCanyon Outfitters outfits truckers in a variety of high-visibility garments that help you be seen day or night.



Essential to wear this summer is a short-sleeved, pocket t-shirt that not only helps keep you cool, but also is NSI/ISEA 107-2010 Class 2 compliant. The shirt features reflective strips on fluorescent green material for better visibility day and night and in low-light conditions. Constructed of 100% polyester mesh, the shirt is lightweight, comfortable, and versatile. There's a similar shirt with long sleeves.

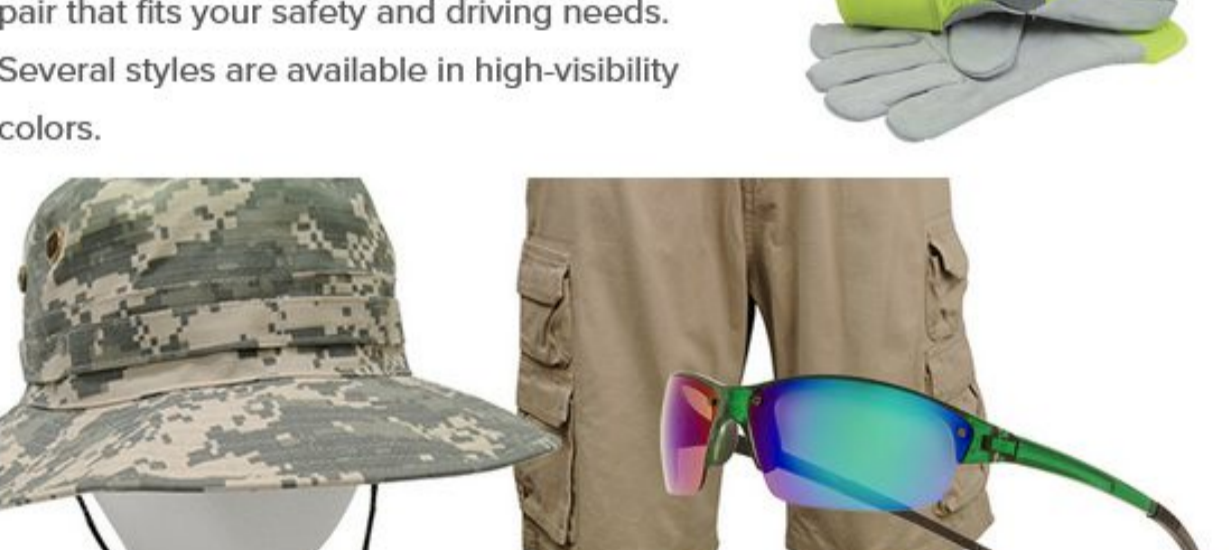
BlackCanyon Outfitters also offers a similar short-sleeved, pocket T that has no reflective strips and is not NSI/ISEA 107-2010 Class 2 compliant. All of these shirts are available in sizes L through 3XL.

BlackCanyon Outfitters also covers the other half of your body in safety gear for the summer. Their Hi-Visibility ANSI Class E certified mesh pants (available in XL and 2XL) feature reflective strips and fluorescent green mesh material for greater visibility day or night. They have a drawstring waist for an adjustable fit.



Keeping your head covered and cool is an important part of summer trucking safety. A hat keeps the sun off your face and head and minimizes your chances of overexposure to the sun. BlackCanyon Outfitters has several styles of caps, all in high-visibility fluorescent green with reflective trim. You can get the traditional trucker cap with a mesh back or a full cloth six-panel version.

While it may be hot out, you still need to protect your hands. BlackCanyon Outfitters offers an array of gloves, making certain you will find a pair that fits your safety and driving needs. Several styles are available in high-visibility colors.

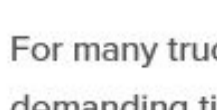


BlackCanyon Outfitters also has other options for your summer trucking wardrobe. They offer stay-cool cargo shorts in a variety of fabrics, colors, and sizes, as well as broad-brimmed hats, to keep the sun off your face. And, importantly, BlackCanyon Outfitters delivers a multitude of styles of sunglasses essential for summer driving.

Once properly outfitted, it's also important to follow some summer driving tips to keep you safe and on the road. You'll want to:

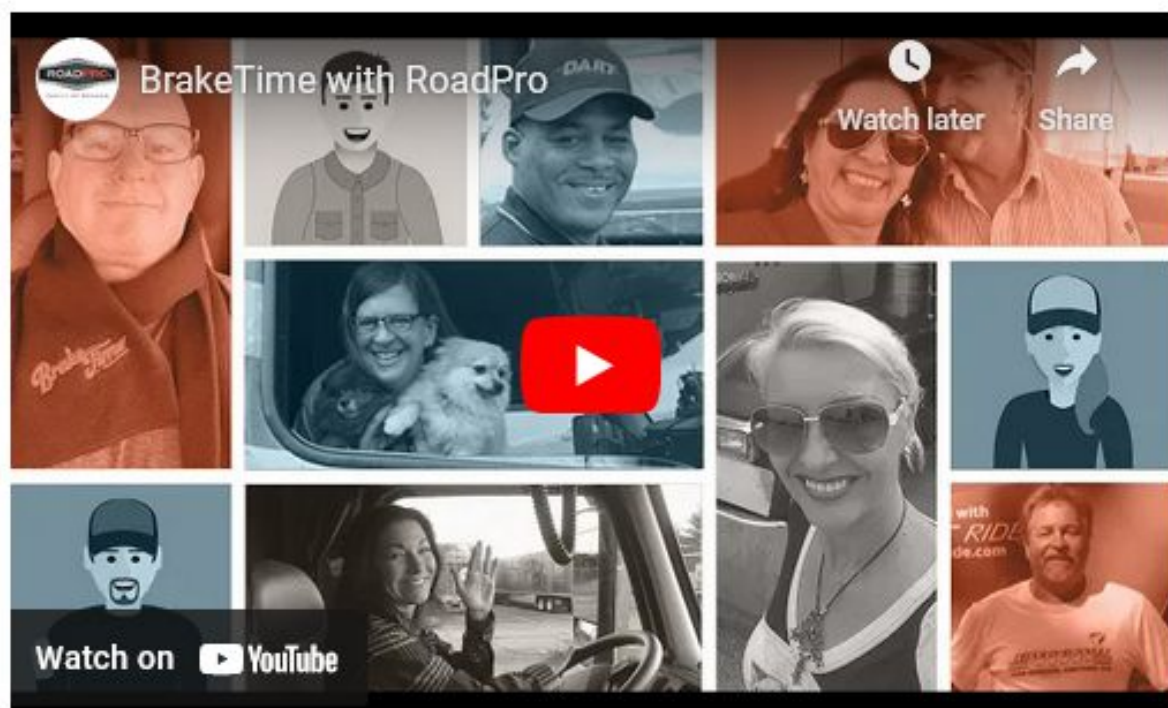
- Be especially thorough in your pretrip to look for damaged or frayed hoses and belts that could cause coolant problems that would leave you stranded in the heat
- Check your tire pressure as often as possible and don't fall victim to the oft-mentioned but wrong-headed "wisdom" that suggests underinflating your tires to compensate for the heat that causes air to expand; that way lies blowouts
- Check and carry windshield washer fluid to ensure you have a good view of the road ahead despite the arrival of summer's bugs
- Be mindful of highway construction when you plan your trip as this is the time of year most DIOT's are out making repairs, the kind that cause backups, delays, and workers on the side of the highway
- Understand that summer brings more travelers to the interstates (even if some states have some restrictions in place) and that means keeping an eye out for inattentive and/or distracted four-wheelers
- Pay close attention to the weather since summer thunderstorms can materialize quickly and unexpectedly, and rain-slick pavement can be a recipe for trouble
- Take care of yourself just as you would your truck and ensure you have plenty of fluids in you to keep you cool, hydrated and alert Pay close attention to the weather since summer thunderstorms can materialize quickly and unexpectedly, and rain-slick pavement can be a recipe for trouble Monitor your energy and alertness since summer's heat and all day in air conditioning both can make you sleepy

For many truckers, driving through the blizzards of winter is their most demanding time on the road. But, summer delivers challenges and cautions of their own. While four-wheelers may be taking a vacation, your attention to safe driving cannot. ■



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