



# The '72 Nimrod:

It's different  
any way you look at it!

JAKE & GEN TURK

AFTER reading the review of Nimrod's new tent trailer line in the June 1972 BETTER CAMPING and studying the material and owner's manual made available to us, our curiosity was aroused by all the "hootin' and hollerin'" about the trailer's simplified, modular construction—a basic unit designed to allow for flexibility and variety in use. We have long sought such a tent trailer, without success, so by the time the Nimrod man pulled his product into our driveway, we had become a tough pair of "show me" evaluators armed with many questions.

THE TEST unit delivered to us was a Nimrod Series Two, a six-sleeper. There is actually only one basic unit, a 6½ x 11-foot body mounted on a 2 x 4-inch box steel frame, well reinforced with steel cross members, and outfitted as a Series One, Two, or Three. The Series One is the basic unit without kitchen appliances; the Series Two is the basic unit with kitchen equipment; and the Series Three adds a furnace, power converter, and electric brakes to the features on the Series Two model. This simple concept for expansion, coupled with several unique innovations, makes the Nimrod a product that we think merits all of the "hollerin'."

Loaded, our test trailer weighed 1750 pounds, with a hitch weight of 190 pounds. Behind our American Motors '69 Rebel station wagon, with its modest 232 cu. in. engine, the Nimrod's over-the-road handling ability was very good. The 6½-foot width, plus the low 45-inch height, provided excellent rear vision using just the standard rear view mirrors.

Leveling the trailer with the dolly, the self-storing stabilizing jacks drop into position easily, and a flip of the lever on each jack puts you in business. Raising the roof utilizes a unique mechanism: A hand-operated cable winch pushes heavy coil springs through tubes into the telescoping corner posts, forcing the roof up and into place. The crank handle is conveniently positioned at standing height, which simplifies the setup. Unlike most campers, the Nimrod



has two beds which fold out from the sides of the trailer, rather than from the ends. Each bed measures 48 inches wide and 76 inches long, and has a 3-inch mattress. The dinette converts into a bed 45 x 80 inches. As an option, a third full-sized bed is available for use inside an Add-a-Room; both the room and the bed extend off the front end of the trailer—thus, if you are a small family with big plans, your Nimrod can expand to fill a future need. This is also a boon for those who do not wish to disturb the dinette area each night. In any case, all beds have floor access, which eliminates crawling over sleeping bodies.

THE NIMROD has other convenience and safety factors, too—like a large drop doorstep with nonskid threshold covering. And the canvas around the door frame forms a weathertight seal, with the use of a slip-on bead connection.

The easiest way to describe the galley is to quote an onlooker who said, "At last somebody put the kitchen where it belongs." It is located at the

rear of the trailer, out of the traffic pattern. With a work height of 38 inches, the galley includes a three-burner porcelain stove measuring 16 x 20 inches, a 15 x 10 x 5-inch porcelain sink, and an ice chest—all in one unit. In addition, the galley area is pleasant, provides ample room to turn around, and faces a large picture window.

Other refinements in the kitchen area include a cover for the stove, which opens to provide a wind and spatter shield, and an ample work area that measures 21 x 70 inches. Part of the surface area is actually a cover to the left of the stove that, when lifted, reveals a temporary storage area 16½ x 18 x 6 inches; this serves as a breadbox, or as general storage space, and includes a tray.

The cooler is a chest-type unit that slides in and out of a cabinet, and is easily accessible from the outside as well as from the inside. After we had filled it with food and ice, we had trouble sliding the cabinet along its runners, because it caught on the rivets in the frame. We hope Nimrod will correct this minor problem.

Next to the cooler cabinet there is another cabinet for permanent storage; a third cabinet houses the 10-gallon water tank—which has a city water hookup—and a 25-foot power cord, and still has room for storage of more gear. All three cabinets in the lower galley section have stained wood doors, and snap catches.

The dinette sports a really big table, a full 60 x 24 inches, with a white marble-patterned plastic finish. The table has lots of leg room, and it folds, ironing board-style, for easy portability, so it can be used outside the camper as well as inside. The dinette seats, angled into an L, provide more storage space, in both the long and the short seat boxes; opposite the dinette is a smaller bench-storage area. This side bench can be used to extend seating all around the dinette table.

A different kind of storage area is afforded by triangles formed by the canvas of the trailer at the foot of one bunk and at both head and foot of the opposite bunk. Though these spaces can't withstand much weight, they make marvelous catch-alls for the clutter of outdoor living.

THE INTERIOR of the tent trailer is tastefully coordinated, with a tan brick-patterned floor, yellow and brown striped upholstery—Scotch-garded—gay yellow and orange floral window curtains, and optional bed privacy curtains in a solid gold color. The ceiling is panelled wood, and adds to the Nimrod's look and feel of a large, spacious cabin rather than the usual long, narrow tent trailer. All three models also have dome lights.

The Nimrod has eight big, fully screened windows for all-around ventilation. Two, one at each end of the trailer, are picture windows, 48 x 29 inches and 53 x 36 inches; these also

have plastic weather guards and privacy drapes. Inside window zippers, all nylon, are double, to allow adjustment of open window area, and have ingenious swivel pulls that make opening and closing, from any angle, much easier.



Quick lunches are easy with the Nimrod: The chest cooler is accessible from the outside.



## PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS

### NIMROD SERIES TWO

Made by Nimrod, Inc., 500 Ford Boulevard, Hamilton, OH 45011. Test vehicle equipped with the following standard equipment: Outside rear access to storage area, crank-operated lift mechanism, vinyl hardtop, vinyl-coated tent ceiling panels, double-fold beds, polyfoam mattresses and dinette cushions, dinette sleeper, removable table, 5 x 4-foot plastic windows, drapes, two dome lights, doorstep, front and rear stabilizing jacks, leveling jack, safety chain, Tele-Rise galley unit, 3-burner stove, icebox with outside access, 10-gallon water tank, double-action water pump, city water connection, 110 v. electrical outlet, and 20-pound gas

bottle and regulator. Optional features include: 12,000 BTU furnace, 110/12 v. power converter, electric brakes, third bed, bed privacy curtains, family room, furnace fan (requires converter), gas/electric refrigerator, spare tire and wheel, and brake control kit.

**Dimensions:** Total weight (loaded), 1750 lbs.; hitch weight, 190 lbs.; overall length, 132"; width, 78"; height, unit closed, 44"; unit open, 96"; interior height, 77"; width, 168"; length, 124"; 20x8.00x10 tires.

**Handling:** (12-ft. lane change made in 3 seconds at 45 m.p.h.) Very good. Price (standard model), approximately \$1495, plus taxes and license. For information, circle 118.

The whole idea behind the Nimrod is the need for a basic unit, one that can be upgraded to meet campers' needs as they arise. We feel that this tent trailer fills that need. If more room is desired, an Add-a-Room can be attached; if sleeping space is a problem, an additional bed can be installed. The optional galley unit provides cooking facilities to camping families—and each option serves to customize the tent trailer.

The Nimrod people also claim serviceability as one great advantage of the tent trailer—and as a look at the owner's manual shows, this is indeed the case. Every part used to build this tent trailer is illustrated and numbered in the manual, clearly described and listed by part number. All parts can be replaced, and are available from every Nimrod dealer—or the owner can be his own mechanic.

As tent trailers have become increasingly larger and more elaborate, and prices have gone up correspondingly, the choice available to many camping families has been greatly decreased. Nimrod's new line of tent trailers offers a new choice—a basic unit, with enough extras to please every camper. ✓