

# NEW LIGHTWEIGHT CAMPERS



More lightweight truck campers than ever are being designed to fit the 1500 series (half-ton) as well as compact class (mini and midsize) pickup trucks.

BY FRED PAUSCH

Highly maneuverable truck campers are an excellent choice for those looking to enter the RV camping lifestyle as well as an excellent method for those wishing to trek where more traditional RVs would dare not go. Even John Steinbeck wrote of his 1960's exploits and rediscovery of the United States in his truck camper "Rocinante" accompanied by his ever-faithful companion, Charlie the poodle. When combined with the attributes and capabilities found in some of today's new pickups, and the new lightweight truck campers coming onto the market as well, it's a segment definitely worth investigating.

Two types of camper designs are presented here, each with its own benefits. Traditional hard sidewall cab-over campers provide ready-to-use convenience and can offer complete accommodations for eating, sleeping and bathing with attendant HVAC systems. Pop-top or soft-side campers also offer plenty of conveniences, but in a refined form, usually modifying some of those conveniences in a weight-saving design.

Take a look at what we found and choose what best suits your wildest outdoor dreams!

## Coyote RV (Phoenix Pop Up Campers)

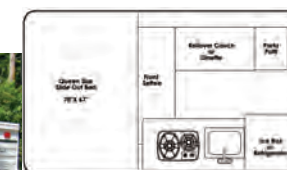
Coyote RV builds the custom one-of-kind Phoenix Pop Up Campers. Buyers can take advantage of the company's decades of experience building off-road adventure campers, and a choice of dozens of standard features including unloading jacks, a twin basin sink, three-burner stove and 2-cu.-ft. three-way fridge or larger optional 3-cu.-ft. fridge. Dinettes make up into a second

bed. Several awning options are available as well as an interior wet bathroom option in select models. Whether designing for a compact or full-size truck, Coyote craftsmen create a personalized home-away-from-home that's specifically designed for your truck and limited only by your imagination and the truck's GVWR. Coyote RV (Phoenix Pop Up Campers): 303/286-3921; [coyoterv.biz](http://coyoterv.biz).

## Four Wheel Campers

Four Wheel Campers manufactures several sizes of pop-up models specifically for outdoor enthusiasts visiting remote destinations. Construction highlights include unbroken framing members to bridge the body above the 26x48-inch rear door, welded-aluminum framing with aluminum or optional Filon siding and a one-piece seamless-aluminum top capable of carrying a pair of kayaks on optional Yakima racks. The top is rated for a 1,000-pound snow load when the roof is up. The easy-up roof system offers 6 feet 4 inches of interior headroom

with a pull-out frame creating a queen-size bed. A roll-over couch converts into a 70x74-inch bed for one or two, depending on the user's size and camper model. The standard cabover length is 32 inches, but the camper can be optioned with a 48-inch cabover. Conveniences include a block-ice fridge or the optional 12VDC, 2- or 3-cu.-ft. multi-power fridges. The portable dining table can be used inside or outside for meals cooked on the two-burner stove. An optional second battery and solar panel recharging system is also available. Four Wheel Campers Inc.: 800/242-1442; [fourwheelcampers.com](http://fourwheelcampers.com).



### PHOENIX TACOMA

**Exterior Length:** 12' 1"  
**Exterior Width:** 5' 10"  
**Exterior Height:** 4' 6" (w/o A/C)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 6'  
**Freshwater:** 18 gal.  
**Gray water:** 5 gal. (portable)  
**Black water:** N/A  
**LPG:** 5 gal.  
**Batteries:** (1) 12VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** None  
**Construction:** Aluminum/fiberglass  
**Truck Size:** Mini/Mid (compact)  
**Dry weight:** 950 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$14,995

### PHOENIX RAPTOR

**Exterior Length:** 14' 10"  
**Exterior Width:** 7'  
**Exterior Height:** 4' 10" (top down, w/o A/C)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 8'  
**Freshwater:** 20 gal.  
**Gray water:** 5 gal. (portable)  
**Black water:** 3 gal.  
**LPG:** 5 gal.  
**Batteries:** (2) 12VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** Wet  
**Construction:** Aluminum/Fiberglass  
**Truck Size:** 1500 (1/2-ton)  
**Dry weight:** 950 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$14,995

### FOUR WHEEL FINCH

**Exterior Length:** 9' 10"  
**Exterior Width:** 5' 9"  
**Exterior Height:** 4' 6" (top down)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 5' 10"  
**Freshwater:** 22 gal.  
**Gray water:** 5 gal. (portable)  
**Black water:** N/A  
**LPG:** 5 gal.  
**Batteries:** (1) 12VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** None  
**Construction:** Insulated welded-aluminum framing, aluminum siding and roof  
**Truck Size:** Mini/Mid (compact)  
**Dry weight:** 740 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$10,795

### FOUR WHEEL HAWK

**Exterior Length:** 10' 8"  
**Exterior Width:** 6' 8"  
**Exterior Height:** 4' 10" (top down)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 6' 8"  
**Freshwater:** 22 gal.  
**Gray water:** 5 gal. (portable)  
**Black water:** N/A  
**LPG:** 5 gal.  
**Batteries:** (1) 12VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** None  
**Construction:** Insulated welded-aluminum framing, aluminum siding and roof  
**Truck Size:** 1500 (1/2-ton) short bed  
**Dry weight:** 760 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$11,395

## Hallmark

With more than 40 years in the truck camper business, Hallmark has plenty of experience building production and custom pop-top campers. Its new units use hand-laid fiberglass applied over end-grain balsa wood in gel-coated custom forms built to precise tolerances that create individual wall panels. These panels are strong, rigid, lightweight and have a low-maintenance finish. This type of construction also minimizes delamination problems found in other types of vacuum-adhesive construction. Also available is Hallmark's one-piece Carbon Truss Roof. Built with hand-laid carbon fiber, the strength, added rigidity and light

weight offers a load rating of more than 2,000 pounds with no seams to maintain. Pre-2008 Hallmark campers can be retrofitted with this roof, and it will accommodate a number of different styles and brands of roof racks.

Four-season-ready, both the La Veta and K2 models use a crank-lift system to raise the roof. A 60x80-inch queen bed is standard in both with a pullout frame to accommodate an optional king-size bed in the K2, and a U-shaped dinette converts to a comfortable 6-foot 2-inch bed. An insulated soft-wall liner is standard for cold weather use, and an optional 16,000 BTU furnace and solar power are among the many custom features. Hallmark Mfg.: 877/659-5753; [hallmarkrv.com](http://hallmarkrv.com).



### HALLMARK LA VETA

**Exterior Length:** 11' 8"  
**Exterior Width:** 6' 11"  
**Exterior Height:** 5' 4" (top down, w/o A/C)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 6' 8"  
**Freshwater:** 30 gal.  
**Gray water:** N/A  
**Black water:** 5 gal. (cassette)  
**LPG:** 5 or 7.5 gal.

**Batteries:** (2) 6VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** Dry w/ext. shower  
**Construction:** Insulated molded-composite sandwich panels  
**Truck Size:** Mini/Mid (compact)  
**Dry weight:** 795 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$13,495



### HALLMARK K2

**Exterior Length:** 13'  
**Exterior Width:** 6' 11"  
**Exterior Height:** 5' 4" (top down, w/o A/C)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 8'  
**Freshwater:** 30 or 40 gal.  
**Gray water:** Ext. drain (12 gal. optional)  
**Black water:** 5 gal. cassette

**LPG:** 5 or 7.5 gal.  
**Batteries:** (2) 6VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** Dry w/ext. shower  
**Construction:** Insulated molded-composite sandwich panels  
**Truck Size:** 1500 (1/2-ton)  
**Dry weight:** 1,262 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$21,995

## Lance Camper

Closing in on nearly 50 years of camper manufacturing, Lance has a long history as one of the gold standards of the segment. And its all-new 865 short-bed model is the direct result of recent company-wide upgrades in computer technology and construction processes. It features proprietary interlocking-extrusion fasteners, jig-welded aluminum framing and high-pressure, bonded-laminated panels to create a more solid structure than ever before. The "Lite-Ply" cabinet construction is super sturdy, yet saves on weight. Large cargo, portable generator storage and holding tanks have been added. A queen innerspring mattress with a pillow top will pamper, and a new bath design with an improved head and more room is welcome. A long list of available options can further customize the 865. Lance Camper Mfg.: 661/949-3322; [lancecamper.com](http://lancecamper.com).



### LANCE 865

**Exterior Length:** 16' 7"  
**Exterior Width:** 7' 2"  
**Exterior Height:** 7' 6" (w/o A/C)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 8' 5"  
**Freshwater:** 30 gal.  
**Gray water:** 14 gal.  
**Black water:** 13 gal.  
**LPG:** 5 gal.

**Batteries:** (1) 12VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** Wet  
**Construction:** Laminated fiberglass/insulated aluminum framing/TPO roof  
**Truck Size:** 1500 (1/2-ton) short bed only  
**Dry weight:** 1,830 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$16,493

## Livin' Lite

Livin' Lite produces the small lightweight aluminum QuickSilver and CampLite travel trailers and has entered the truck camper market with a back-to-basics camper, the CLTC-10, for the Ford Ranger, Chevy S-10, GM Canyon/Colorado, Toyota Tacoma and Nissan Frontier. The CampLite truck camper is 100-percent aluminum — no wood — that means the floor, walls, roof surfaces and even interior cabinets are all aluminum. It offers an open floorplan with a 60x80-inch queen cabover bed, dinette sofa/bed and generous storage. By the time you read this, the company's all-new full-size (CLTC-13) half-ton model with a bath and an optional LPG system should be unveiled with additional information on its website. Livin' Lite Recreational Vehicles: 574/862-2228; [livinlite.com](http://livinlite.com).



### LIVIN' LITE CAMPLITE CLTC-10

**Exterior Length:** 10'  
**Exterior Width:** 6' 10"  
**Exterior Height:** 6' 8" (w/o A/C)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 5' 7"  
**Freshwater:** 7 gal.  
**Gray water:** N/A  
**Black water:** N/A

**LPG:** N/A  
**Batteries:** (1) 12VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** None  
**Construction:** All aluminum  
**Truck Size:** Mini (compact)  
**Dry weight:** 950 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$8,999

## Northern Lite

Northern Lite began building fiberglass hard-sided campers for compact pickups in 1989 and ultimately developed an entire line of full-size truck campers using technology and fiberglass construction techniques found in the boating industry. Northern Lite uses top and bottom clamshells with 1-inch-foam R6-insulation to form the camper body. Benefits to this type of construction include the reduced need for additional structural framing members, weight reduction, a lower center of gravity and ease

of exterior maintenance. Both models come standard with an 18,000 BTU furnace, sink, refrigerator and two- or three-burner cooktop, depending on model. The full-size 8-5Q Lite offers a full wet bath, while the 6-10 Lite offers a 48x76-inch bed while the 8-5Q Lite has a 60x73-inch queen-size bed. The 6-10 Lite fits Toyota Tacoma, Ford Ranger and Chevy Colorado; the 8-5Q Lite fits all 1500-series (half-ton) short bed pickups. Northern Lite: 800/887-5342; [northern-lite.com](http://northern-lite.com).



### NORTHERN LITE 6-10

**Exterior Length:** 11' 3"  
**Exterior Width:** 6' 6"  
**Exterior Height:** 6' 10" (no A/C)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 6' 10"  
**Freshwater:** 14.5 gal.  
**Gray water:** 5 gal. (portable)  
**Black water:** N/A  
**LPG:** 5 gal.

**Batteries:** (1) 12VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** No Bath  
**Construction:** 2-piece molded-fiberglass composite  
**Truck Size:** Mini/Mid (compact)  
**Dry weight (w/o options):** 1,050 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$21,924



### NORTHERN LITE 8-5Q

**Exterior Length:** 14' 7"  
**Exterior Width:** 7' 10"  
**Exterior Height:** 7' 4" (no A/C)  
**Interior Floor Length:** 8' 5"  
**Freshwater:** 24 gal.  
**Gray water:** 11 gal.  
**Black water:** 6 gal.  
**LPG:** 5 gal.

**Batteries:** (1) 12VDC  
**Wet/Dry Bath:** Wet  
**Construction:** 2-piece molded-fiberglass composite  
**Truck Size:** 1500 (1/2-ton) short bed  
**Dry weight (w/o options):** 1,750 lbs.  
**MSRP:** \$24,870

## Northstar

A manufacturer of hard- and soft-side campers, Northstar offers a wide choice of floorplans with a long list of standard features. The aluminum-sided Adventurer offers a 60×80-inch queen, extended-cabover bed, pull-out dinette/bed for two, 4-cu.-ft. three-way fridge, single-basin sink, city-water connection, rubber walk-on roof, generous wardrobe space and large overhead storage cabinets. It can also be optioned with an interior shower, microwave oven, insulated windows, several TV/stereo choices and exterior LED automotive lighting. The Adventurer also comes pre-wired for solar and roof A/C.



The soft-side 600 SS from Northstar offers crank-up top convenience, a 56×74-inch cabover bed with gas-strut assist lift, under-bed storage, his 'n her bedside hamper storage, 32×74-inch dinette/bed combo, 3.7-liter three-way fridge, insulated floor and marine grade ultra-light plywood construction. Available options include a 12-gallon gray-water holding tank, rear window A/C unit, boat rack and a choice of awning sizes. An exterior portable shower privacy enclosure plumbed from exterior shower connections is also an option. For cold climates, an "Arctic Pak Snap-Up Insulation Kit" is available. Northstar (R.C. Willett Co., Inc.): 319/233-3461; [northstarcampers.com](http://northstarcampers.com).



### NORTHSTAR ADVENTURER

<b>Exterior Length:</b> 15' 5"	<b>Batteries:</b> (1) 12VDC
<b>Exterior Width:</b> 7'	<b>Wet/Dry Bath:</b> Dry (int. or ext. shower optional)
<b>Exterior Height:</b> 5' 4" (top down, w/o A/C)	<b>Construction:</b> Marine-grade plywood, block-foam insulation, aluminum siding
<b>Interior Floor Length:</b> 8' 9"	<b>Truck Size:</b> 1500 (½-ton)
<b>Freshwater:</b> 20 gal.	<b>Dry weight:</b> 1,650 lbs.
<b>Gray water:</b> Ext. drain (15 gal. optional)	<b>MSRP:</b> \$14,357
<b>Black water:</b> 9 gal.	
<b>LPG:</b> 5 gal.	

### NORTHSTAR 600SS

<b>Exterior Length:</b> 10' 5"	<b>Batteries:</b> (1) 12VDC
<b>Exterior Width:</b> 6' 5"	<b>Wet/Dry Bath:</b> None
<b>Exterior Height:</b> 5' 3" (closed top w/o A/C)	<b>Construction:</b> Marine-grade plywood, block-foam insulation, aluminum siding
<b>Interior Floor Length:</b> 6' 3"	<b>Truck Size:</b> Mini/Mid (compact)
<b>Freshwater:</b> 17 gal.	<b>Dry weight:</b> 1,133 lbs.
<b>Gray water:</b> Ext. drain (12 gal. optional)	<b>MSRP:</b> \$11,745
<b>Black water:</b> N/A	
<b>LPG:</b> 5 gal.	

## Arctic Fox Wolf Creek

Northwood Manufacturing, long-time Oregon-based builder of the high-quality Arctic Fox brand of slide-in truck campers, saw the rising demand for a product in the lightweight market. Just as we were going to press with this guide the company announced the launch of a new camper called the Wolf Creek, specifically designed to fit 1500-series (half-ton) pickup trucks. We don't have all the data yet, but by the time you read this it should be available. Aluminum framing and laminated fiberglass construction — the very same high-quality, solid building style used in the larger Arctic Fox truck campers — will be featured in the lightweight Wolf Creek units. Best yet, the hard-sided Wolf Creek has successfully incorporated a streamlined aerodynamic profile with a full 6-foot 6-inch interior height. The Wolf Creek will also offer all of the basics with many popular options available to customize your camper. Northwood Manufacturing (Arctic Fox): 800/766-6274; [northwoodmfg.com](http://northwoodmfg.com). ▲



### ARCTIC FOX WOLF CREEK

<b>Exterior Length:</b> 16' 2"	<b>Batteries:</b> (1) 12 VDC (plus 1 more opt.)
<b>Exterior Width:</b> 8'	<b>Wet/Dry Bath:</b> Wet
<b>Exterior Height:</b> 7' 5" (w/o A/C or vents)	<b>Construction:</b> Aluminum/laminated fiberglass
<b>Interior Floor Length:</b> 7' 8"	<b>Truck Size:</b> 1500 (½-ton)
<b>Fresh water:</b> 30 gal.	<b>Dry weight:</b> TBD
<b>Gray water:</b> 22 gal.	<b>MSRP:</b> TBD
<b>Black water:</b> 20 gal.	
<b>LPG:</b> 5 gal. (5 more opt.)	