

First-Of-Its-Kind All-Electric ATV

"Hunters like it because it doesn't scare away game. Farmers like it because they can hear what's going on around them. Recreational riders like it because it's tough, stylish and inexpensive to operate," says Rick Doran about his new all-electric "Gorilla" ATV.

The Gorilla rides on heavy duty Dana axles and differential. "The battery compartment is at the center of the vehicle. We located it as low as possible to the ground to keep the center of gravity low and to provide easy access," he says. Although his 4-wheelers are considerably lighter than other ATV's, he says they're powerful, nimble, stable and, of course, extremely quiet.

For power, he used electric motors that are similar in operation to those found on golf carts but with much higher torque and speeds.

Doran uses a freewheeling automotive style differential rather than a solid axle as most ATV's use. "This is somewhat of a weakness if you're a serious off-roader, since if you spin one wheel, you may be stuck," he admits. "But, on the other hand, it doesn't tear up turf on tight turns."

Doran's Gorillas are available in four models. The basic Worker Gorilla has a 24-volt motor, allowing it to tow up to 4,000 lbs., carry a 650-lb. load, and, when not loaded, travel at 12 to 14 mph. It sells for \$4,595. Other models are available, including a street-legal one that travels at speeds up to 25 mph.

Doran says the Gorilla goes 30 miles on a charge, depending on load. The 3-battery 24-volt pack gives the longest range of about 35 miles without a load. "If you're pulling or hauling, it cuts your range back a little, but you should still have plenty of range for most



All-electric "Gorilla" ATV rides on heavy duty Dana axles and differential. On-board charger plugs into standard 110-volt outlet.

uses," Doran says.

All Gorilla electric vehicles have a battery level gauge that helps avoid getting caught with your battery down.

The standard onboard charger plugs into any standard 110-volt AC grounded outlet. "It's completely automatic, so when the battery is fully charged, it shuts off. You can leave it plugged in all the time when it's parked," he notes. Doran says even with continued use, you can expect the battery packs to last at least three years.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Rick Doran, Gorilla Vehicles LLC, 5672 Littler Drive, Huntington Beach, Calif. 92649 (ph 714 377-7776; E-mail: gorilla@gorillavehicles.com; Website: www.gorillavehicles.com).



Unit is powered by electric motors that are similar in operation to those found on golf carts, but with much higher torque and speeds.

Tractor-Mounted Side Boom Great For Spraying Fence Rows

Keeping miles of fence rows weed-free was a major chore for cow-calf producer Dan Godwin, Athens, Texas.

"We have a lot of electric fencing, and we have to keep the weeds down under them," he explains. "We'd been walking along the fences carrying a hand sprayer to apply herbicides to keep the weeds down."

He tried to eliminate the walking by pulling a small spray tank behind his 2150 Deere utility tractor and using a spray wand from the driver's seat.

"That didn't work very well, though," he says. "It was difficult to spray and steer, too."

He decided the job would be easier if one person drove the tractor and another did the spraying so Godwin set out to build a seat for the spray operator.

"I wanted something that would let the person operating the sprayer be as close to the fence as possible, so I made a boom that attaches to the front of the tractor," he says. "It has a seat at the end and is long enough so the tractor driver can position the sprayer over the fence without getting too close to it with the tractor."

Godwin says his boom is "...as simple as dirt, but it works great."

He made it out of two equal lengths (88 in.) of 1 1/2-in. thin-walled square steel tubing. They're spaced 18 in. apart with cross pieces welded between them at an angle.

To mount the boom to the tractor, he welded two 6-in. long pieces of 2-in. square tubing onto the front of his tractor, spaced so the two legs of the boom could slip into them. To give the boom more stability, he ran a round steel brace from the end of the boom to the frame of the tractor.

He mounted a steel seat off a Ford tractor at the end of the boom, with a platform made from expanded steel mesh. Hooks along the pipe brace hold the rubber hose to the spray wand.

He figures it took him about 4 1/2 hours from start to finish to make the boom. "The only materials I used were left over from other projects, so it didn't really cost anything except my time," he says.

He says it takes only about 3 minutes to fit the boom into place on the tractor and secure it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan B. Godwin, 2176 FM 2752, Athens, Texas 75752 (ph 903 675-1039; fax 903 675-2427).



Godwin made a boom that attaches to front of his tractor and has a seat at the end. One person drives the tractor while another person does the spraying.



Boom was made out of two equal lengths of 1 1/2-in. thin-walled sq. steel tubing, with cross pieces welded between them at an angle.



Steel seat off a Ford tractor mounts at end of boom, with a platform below it made from expanded steel mesh.

Don't Miss The Next Issue Of FARM SHOW

Every day our editors are uncovering exciting new products and farmer-built inventions that promise to save you time and money. Don't miss out! You can tell when your FARM SHOW subscription expires by checking your address label on the front cover. It gives you the date of your final issue (example: 12/1/2002). You can use the order envelope enclosed with this issue, or the order coupon on page 44, to send in your renewal. Or call us toll-free at 1-800-834-9665.