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and Kohler engine. "It moves fast and has plenty of power for its size. It has more than 3,500 hrs. on it but has required only routine maintenance. It still runs like new.

"My **Genie** TMZ 50-30 towable manlift with hydraulic wheel drive option has been in the shop more than it's been at the job site. It keeps blowing control boards, which cost several hundred dollars apiece to replace. The factory wouldn't even try to repair it. They sent out a rep who simply walked away from the problem. Absolutely no factory support at all. The last time this machine was in the repair shop, the rep said I should "cut it up and save myself a lot of grief", so that's what I'm doing."

**Kim Fahey, Tehachapi, Calif.:** "I haven't had any problems with my 2003 **Kubota** 3130 tractor equipped with a backhoe. Kubota tractors are well-built and dependable.

"If you ever drive a **Kubota** 900 utility vehicle, be aware that it can throw you through the windshield when you let go of

**"Be aware that it can throw you through the windshield. Dentists love them."**

the gas pedal. Dentists love them.

"I dropped my 18-volt **DeWalt** cordless drill from our 50-ft. high tree house. It didn't work after it hit the ground, but the company sent me a new model overnight. Great company."

**Tilman Jones, Stanley, N. Dak.:** "Last Thanksgiving I bought a well used 1973 **Cub Cadet** 129 garden tractor equipped with a 42-in. mower deck and a 42-in. dozer blade. A set of tire chains also came with it. This tractor starts in temperatures down to 20 degrees below zero. I use it to clear snow during the winter. I use a 10-in., one-bottom plow with it in our garden. Amazing durability."

**Stephen M. Sheeley, Mowrystown, Ohio:** "My 1953 **Farmall** H loader tractor always starts and is easy to work on. Parts for it are still easily available."

**Mike Durant, Dickinson, Texas:** "We use our **Kubota** ZD21 zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 60-in. deck to mow around our house, trees, barns and garden. It has more than 600 hrs. on it but still runs great. So this year I bought another **Kubota** zero-turn mower, a ZG 123S model with a 48-in. deck. They're both great mowers and I highly recommend them.

"The air conditioner in our **Case** cab tractor had a slow refrigerant leak, so I bought a can of **A/C Pro** refrigerant from O' Reilly auto parts. That fixed the problem."

**Connor Bishop, Guilford, Conn.:** "I replaced the Goodyear tires on my truck with **Toyo** Open Country ATII tires and am happy with them (www.toyotires.com; ph 800 442-8696; in Canada ph 877 682-8696). These tires are reasonably priced, have excellent traction in snow, and resist hydroplaning. They're nearly silent on the road, look good, and seem to resist wear very well.

"I use **Seafoam** Deep Creep multi-use penetrating lubricant on all my super-stuck fasteners (www.seafoamsales.com; ph 952 938-4811). The reason it works so well is that you can safely use a torch to heat the part, and the lubricant won't burn. The heat allows it to creep into crevices much more efficiently, eventually loosening the part."

**Paul Johnson, Fincastle, Va.:** "I received my **La Crosse Technologies** WS-9004U

wireless rain gauge as a Christmas gift from my daughter, but it failed to work for even 3 months (it comes with 10-year batteries). I returned it for technical service, but it never worked right again.

"At first I thought the problem was operator error and had 3 family members set it up and reset it, but that didn't help either. I followed the instructions to a 'T', and even located the rain gauge within 80 ft. of my house (it has a 300-ft. range). There's only one skinny wall for the signal to penetrate, but no luck.

"I finally smashed the rain gauge to pieces, mailed it back to the company, and bought an **Acurite** digital rain gauge, which measures to within .01 of a manual gauge" (www.acurite.com; ph 877 221-1252).

**Richard Andrews, Harrisonburg, Va.:** "My 2013 **Honda** **Rancher** 420 ATV quit running 3 days after I bought it. The dealer sent someone out to replace the spark plug, and the problem was solved.

"The engine runs fine, but the transmission shifts really hard. I use this ATV every day and hope the shifting problem will get better, but have seen no improvement yet. I've been a big **Honda** fan for decades and bought my **Rancher** without even shopping around. Next time, I'll look at other models."

**Joe March, Friendship, Maine:** "I use my **Kubota** L2800 4-WD tractor equipped with a front-end loader all year long in my commercial business. This tractor is stingy on fuel and has fierce traction. I've been in business for 50 years and have never had a better tractor.

"I bought 5 **GlowShift** gauges for my snowplow truck. One gauge didn't work so the company promptly sent a replacement sending unit. Then another gauge died just after the warranty expired, and I had to pay \$50 to get it replaced. Now 3 of the 5 gauges are either dead or reading incorrectly. The company wants me to do some troubleshooting before they replace any more gauges. Next time I'll buy **Stuart Warner** gauges from my local NAPA parts store."

**George Bates, Henrietta, Texas:** "My 2014 **Bosch** dishwasher runs very quiet and is energy efficient. We love it."

**Donald Wyant, Floresville, Texas:** "One of my best buys was purchasing a **Dragon Speak** voice recognition program for my computer. Instead of typing, I can just talk into a microphone and it takes my voice and types my words out on the page. It's absolutely amazing. It costs about \$45 at Walmart. Easy to install and easy to learn.

"**FARM SHOW** has been and still is one of my best buys. I was making a sales call to a customer in 1990 and saw a copy of the magazine on a table. I copied the subscription information, and when I got home that night I started my subscription. I've been a faithful reader of the magazine all these years. When I read the articles in your magazine I feel so proud of the great American creative spirit. We have a great country.

"We bought a new **Saturn** car in 2002 with 225,000 miles on it. When the car hit a deer in 2014 and was totaled, it had about 478,000 miles on it. In all those miles I replaced just one clutch, one water pump, an alternator, a radiator and a few other minor things. It always got 35 mpg. With the insurance settlement I went out and bought another used 2000 **Saturn** with about 200,000 miles on it. I'll report back to you on that car in about 8 years."

**Ralph E. Curtiss, West Grove, Penn.:** "We get excellent results with our **Esch** Mfg. 7-wide, model 5507 no-fill grass drill with 5 1/2-in. opener spacings (ph 717 397-1051). We're Amish and use 6 horses to pull it, but

## Re-Build Doubles Ram Diesel Horsepower

**Tim Svob, Canton, Ill.** says the over-hauling he did to his 2006 **Dodge** **Ram** 2500 HD pickup more than doubled the horsepower and didn't really affect the mileage.

"Before I upgraded it I was getting 260 hp. at the wheels. After all the new components were installed it was at 675 hp.," Svob says. The bright red **Ram** now gets about 18 mpg, about 2 mpg less than before the modifications.

Svob spent about \$15,000 on the modifications. Here's

what he did: He installed a compound turbo system from Source Automotive, added new high rpm head studs, amplified the fuel system with a 165-gph **AirDog** II, replaced the existing injectors with new ones 60 percent larger, and improved the engine air intake with a free-flowing black composite intake elbow from CFM Plus. He also replaced the stock CP3 fuel pump with a 10 mm **Stoker** pump from Exergy Engineering. Svob says the new pump feeds fuel through the stock rail to the new injectors.

**Goerend** Transmission built him a 48RE 4-speed automatic with upgrades that included larger billet steel input, intermediate and output shafts, a constant-pressure valve body, a 3-disc torque converter, and a **Mag-Hytec** deep transmission pan for extra oil-cooling capacity. The rear suspension was modified with **CalTracs** traction bars. A **Banks** 4-in. turbo-back exhaust system frees up air flow, yet makes the red rocket quiet enough for city driving. Svob left the original 305/65R 17-in. wheels on the vehicle because he drives it during the winter, and says the **Goodyear** **All-Terrain** tires provide great traction.

To keep track of his high performing engine, Svob has 3 **Isspro** white-faced gauges mounted on the A pillar, and other performance gauges mounted on the steering column. "From the outside or inside, the **Ram** still looks like the stock 2500 that I bought in 2006," Tim says. "The real



**Tim Svob spent \$15,000 to overhaul his 2006 Dodge Ram 2500 HD pickup.**

difference, however, is that I can blow the doors off just about anything on the road." Svob says it cost him about \$7,500 for the transmission overhaul and about the same for the other components.

"I installed the compound turbos and **F1 Flux** 2 (100 hp.) injector tips and rebuilt the transmission 4 years ago when the truck had 24,000 miles on it. In the winter of 2013, I was driving to work when it started missing and blowing white smoke. Long story short, the Cp3 high psi pump was disintegrating and metal shavings clogged the injectors and ultimately ruined the tips and needles. I towed it in and had repairs made, installed a new pump and injectors, and had it tuned by **Les** at **Silver Bullet** in California.

"The current setup gained me about 30 hp. over the old pump and injectors. I don't know if I'd do this all over again because the experience has been far from trouble-free. My advice would be to find a good, reputable shop and be aware that expensive breakdowns can occur. As for driving the vehicle, it's docile unless I floor it. Then it really moves. For reference, I watched a test on the new 450 hp. **Corvette** that ran a 12.8-second quarter mile. My truck should run a 12.1-second quarter mile, according to the performance calculators."

Contact: **FARM SHOW** Followup, Tim Svob, 695 W. Maple St., Canton, Ill. 61520 (ph 309 647-3970).

the drill can also be pulled by a 55 hp. tractor.

"This drill has 5 1/2-in. opener spacings. It uses coulters to open a slit, followed by double disc openers and packer wheels. The drill is heavy enough to plant in heavy late summer sod, although we had to add about 1,200 lbs. of suitcase weights.

"The drill has a big box that plants between the opener discs, and a small box that drops behind the openers and ahead of the packer wheels. We put enough weight on the machine to achieve the coulter penetration we want and to keep the wheels on the ground. We use spacers on the lift cylinder pistons to limit coulter depth. This drill is easy to calibrate and can probably plant anything."

**Jesse F. Stoltzfus, Canaan Grove Enterprise, Newmanstown, Penn.:** "In 2012

I bought an 80-gal. **Sunpower** solar water heater equipped with a stainless steel pressure tank and 32 collector



tubes (www.sunpower-solar.com; ph 717 949-3087).

"This solar water heater has exceeded my expectations. It even heats water on cloudy days. The \$2,000 cost will be paid back in 4 to 5 years through energy savings. It pre-heats the water on average to about 110 degrees before the water goes into our conventional propane water heater. After seeing this unit's super performance I thought more people should know about it, so I became a dealer."

**Evan M. Brubaker, Denver, Penn.:** Evan likes his **Stiletto** T15 hammer (www.stilettools.com; ph 800 987-1849). "I work at a truss manufacturing plant where we use hammers to attach heavy-gauge steel plates, and **Stiletto** makes the best hammer for the job. I only wish they offered an option for a bigger head. I had a weight machined for my hammer that fits between the head and hammer to make it heavier. The hammer works better this way for me."

**Edward Edelen, Bryantown, Md.:** Edward's impressed with his 2010 **Ford** **Focus** equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission. "This car has about 170,000 miles on it but has never been in the shop. It has a lot of power and handles really well. The seats are really comfortable. It averages 40 mpg."