

# “Pipe Rack” Fits Into Front And Back Receiver Hitches

“My home-built irrigation pipe rack fits into receiver hitches on front and back of my 1-ton pickup. It’s really handy to use and didn’t cost much to build,” says Dan Ambrose, Grand View, Idaho.

Ambrose gets a lot of mileage out of home-built receiver hitch brackets that he uses for everything from welding trailers to shop welding tables and 3-pt. hitches (Vol. 36, No. 5). The L-shaped metal brackets are designed to accept a standard receiver hitch. The height of each bracket can be adjusted by changing the position of a bolt.

Ambrose uses the pipe rack to haul 40-ft. long, 3-in. dia. irrigation pipes, which extend over the pickup cab.

The pipe rack consists of 2 brackets. One fits into the front hitch and the other into the

back. Each rack extends out 3 ft. and then up 5 ft., with a 7-ft. long horizontal telescoping frame on top.

The top sections telescope out to either side. Hinged uprights at each end can be flipped up or down.

“To load pipe I flip the uprights down on one side of the pickup. Once the rack is full I loosen a bolt and flip the uprights up to keep the pipe in place,” says Ambrose. “A lot of farmers build 2-wheeled pipe-hauling trailers, but I didn’t want to tie up an axle for something that I would only use twice a year.”

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dan Ambrose, 22219 River Road, Grand View, Idaho 83624 (ph 208 834-2388 or cell 208 598-3498; pdugger@earthlink.net).



Home-built irrigation rack hauls 40-ft. long irrigation pipes on 1-ton pickup.

# “Stand Up Wheelchair” Great For An Active Farm Life

When his legs were paralyzed after a car accident two years ago, Chad Hermanson did not intend to stay cooped up in the house. He loves to hunt, fish and help out on his uncle’s farm. Thanks to his stand up wheelchair called the Action Trackstander, he continues to do all those things.

“My friends saw it at a hunting show and brought me a brochure,” Hermanson says. “I got on the website, and it looked like it would take me wherever I wanted to go.”

With heavy-duty tracks, the U.S.-made Trackstander is built rugged for the outdoors. Knee supports, seatbelts and shoulder harnesses allow users to sit or stand in it and keeps them safely strapped in when they travel at up to 3 to 5 mph.

“The beauty of it is that I can operate it with one hand on the joystick and carry buckets and feedbags. Opening gates is a big thing, too,” Hermanson explains.

The 26-year-old lives with his uncle and helps him feed calves and steers and do other chores around the farm.

“The stander is great for doing mechanic work, because you have a greater reach. And it’s handy for filling gas tanks,” Hermanson says.

He’s owned his Trackstander since Sept. 2011 when friends held a fundraiser, and people donated money to purchase the \$15,000 unit. (Insurance doesn’t cover the unit, though low interest loans are available.)

Considering wheeled power chairs cost \$10,000 to \$30,000, the price is reasonable, especially since it’s a quality built U.S. product, Hermanson says. It has an onboard battery charger that provides 4 to 6 hrs. of continuous use with the 24-volt DC, 24:1 ratio high torque motor. With sealed bearings, the only maintenance he’s had to do is tighten the tracks one time.

Tim Swenson of Marshall, Minn., designed and started manufacturing the Action Trackchair in 2009, after his 16-year-old son was paralyzed in a car accident. To give his son even more mobility, his company introduced the Trackstander in 2012 (ph 507 532-9649; www.actiontrackchair.com).

The chair and stander work well for a variety of people who have muscular and other degenerative conditions, as well as older people and even children.

“Our main goal in life is to help get people outdoors,” Swenson says. Customers have included everyone from a 5-year-old girl with a disability to an 80-year-old man.

With four different size seats, the Trackstander (and chair) fit most anyone, and Action Manufacturing offers a variety of accessories including lights, gun racks and fishing rod holders.



Standup wheelchair mounts on tracks and lets people whose legs are paralyzed resume many normal activities.



Knee supports, seat belts and shoulder harnesses allow users to sit or stand.

Hermanson has a toolbox that fits in the unit and a ramp so that he can load the Trackstander in the back of his pickup by himself. He bowhunts for deer, ice fishes, and has hunted turkeys and wild boar with it. He also takes it to trade shows since he became a dealer for the southwest Wisconsin area, and has discovered how the Trackstander helps people with a variety of conditions.

“I can’t imagine what my life would be like without it,” Hermanson says.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Chad Hermanson, 9004 West Wheeler Rd., Evansville, Wis. 53536 (ph 608 921-0960; chad@tssatcsales.com).



John Richards turned a hollowed out round hay bale into a dog kennel, using a chainsaw to cut a hole 2 ft. in dia. and 30 in. deep.

## “Big Bale” Dog Kennel

“It’s weatherproof and stays warm in winter and cool during the summer,” says John Richards, Sebright, Ont., who turned a hollowed out round hay bale into a dog kennel.

“I came up with the idea about 17 years ago. My wife calls it our Beagle Bungalow,” says Richard. “Our dog really enjoys it and there’s no problem getting him to use it.”

He used a chainsaw to cut a hole about 2 ft. in dia. and 30 in. deep, a comfortable size for the dog. He also cut a rectangular hole into a large piece of plywood and placed it over the hole, adding wooden steps.

held in place by a pair of stakes in the ground and by a strap that runs around the back of the bale.

“I can drop a cover over the hole during the winter,” says Richards. He says he has tried both hay and straw bales to make dog homes. “I find that straw works better because it’s packed tighter in the center and cuts easier with a chainsaw,” he notes.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, John Richards, 404 Lk. Dalrymple Rd., RR 1, Sebright, Ont., Canada L0K 1W0 (ph 705 833-1224; grannyrich39@yahoo.ca).



He also cut a rectangular hole into a large piece of plywood and placed it over the hole, adding wooden steps.

## “Best Bargain In Farming”

Our “Encyclopedia of Made It Myself Ideas - Volume II” features the best farmer-built ideas from the years 2005 to 2010 of FARM SHOW. Even if you’ve saved all your past issues, all stories in this book are indexed and cross-referenced to make them easy to find. This 482-page book features more than 1,200 best ideas from our readers. One enthusiastic reader told us it’s the “best bargain in farming”. Sells for just \$14.95 (\$18.95 Can.) plus \$4.95 S&H (just one shipping charge no matter how many books you order). Makes a great gift!

