

Truckers' Gear Guide



▶ **Who's Doing It Right?**

▶ **Riding High Through the Holidays**

▶ **RoadPro's Holiday Gear Hunt**

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Howes.



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Who's Doing it Right?

By Kim McDonnell, RoadPro Family of Brands

We are now months into to the COVID 19 crisis, and most of us are weary of hearing about the virus and not only want "IT" to end but also 2020 too!



At first, when the country shut down, so too did many amenities at the travel centers and truck stops, as well as the truck stops themselves - leaving many a driver without food and essentials. But within weeks, not only the locations that closed but those that cut back on services realized just how essential they were to the ESSENTIAL truck drivers. Truckers were still out there, delivering everything the country needed so that many of us could remain sheltered in place. Many travel centers who initially closed, changed course and opened up with safety precautions for the drivers and their employees.

Things are now back to 'somewhat' normal in many travel centers and truck stops, but in most cases, not the same. However, after all these months, one thing that did not change is the truck drivers' expectations and what they want when they stop.

A recent discussion forum in Brake Time asks drivers what they look for in a travel center or truck stop. What makes one stand out over another? What makes a good travel center? Who is doing it right?

"As a country shutdown, we kept goods going out, and many travel centers and facilities helped us and continue to do so."

-Daniel W

While almost everyone said that a clean place, clean showers, and restrooms, plenty of parking, and friendly staff were the most important, others pointed out specifics and provided insights on what makes a travel center or truck stop stand out.

Allen M started us off and said the places that offer something other than hot dogs, pizza, or chips, especially when you are in a hurry, and provide good food choices, get his vote.

One driver pointed back to the impact the virus had on travel centers and truck stops. "I think the biggest thing done right was staying open and available to drivers." said Daniel W, "When all this crap really went crazy, yes, all of the drivers here made choices that were heroic, but we are nothing without support." He continued, "As a country shutdown, we kept goods going out, and many travel centers and facilities helped us and continue to do so." He is especially glad to see measures in place to protect the cashiers and workers.

Some pointed to specific places like Gary K, who likes to stop at Gearjammer in Union Gap, Washington. He said the friendly staff, cool products, quiet location, and lots of parking made this a favorite. He tends to like the 'Mom and Pop' truck stops and also said that Gordy's in La Pine, Oregon, is another standout and loves the small-town feel.



Judy D called out Russell's Truck Plaza in Bard, New Mexico, and said, "You will not regret it! Clean restrooms, good food, and coffee that is never empty."



"Out in western Washington, around Toledo off I-5, is Gee Cee's, family-owned truck stop, huge parking areas, big store, grill, and friendly staff," said Cindy A. "They just installed maybe six brand new large shower rooms and any issues you just tell one of the staff, and they are quick to fix it." She also noted that the regular chains such as Pilot and Love's that are where she travels are fairly reliable when it comes to being clean.

Linda C. said, "The travel centers are doing a great job staying open during this crazy year. They took a huge hit closing the restaurants and the country shut down, and yet they kept their doors open, the showers clean, and the stores open." She added, "I am constantly amazed at what a good job the travel centers do by allowing us to park at their locations and not just fuel and move on."

While many pointed to their favorite stops, including the major players like Love's, Pilot, and TA Petro, what came out again, and again in the Who's Doing it Right discussion on Brake Time was how the place made them feel.

What is your favorite stop? Join the discussion on [Brake Time](#). ■



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Noise-Canceling
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Top Tech for the Holidays

By David Hollis, Editor, Truckers News

Let's face it; we all could use a little help these days. 2020 has been a year filled with uncertainty, inconvenience, and even fear-driven primarily by the COVID-19 coronavirus and the issues it has spawned.

Fortunately, there are tools, gadgets, and technologies that help us respond to, cope with, and get beyond most of what has emerged. Many of the Top Tech for the holidays include gadgets and gear to help truckers fulfill their "essential" roles and keep them safe, connected, and comfortable while on the road.



Fitbit 4 Fitness Tracker

Now's the time to get a jump on your 2021 New Year's resolutions and shed those ten extra pounds that crept up on you during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Fitbit 4 fitness tracker can help. Think of it as the trainer you wear on your wrist.

Features include:

- Built-in GPS to track your mileage and pace if you're walking or running
- 24/7 heart rate tracking
- Sleep tracking
- Seven-day battery life

- Ability to make online purchases using Charge 4
- Gola-based exercises
- Apps to keep you informed about the weather
- Connect to your calendar
- Timer and stopwatch functions
- Get call, text, and email notifications
- Customizable watch face

Available online for \$150.



PowerDrive 3,000 Watt Bluetooth Power Inverter

One of the true facts about over-the-road trucking life in 2020 is that many truckers are spending more time in their trucks self-isolating. That means they are probably doing more in-cab meal preparation, using more devices for work and/or entertainment, and always needing to have their smartphone fully charged. It makes sense

then that truckers equip their 18-wheeled bubble with PowerDrive's 3,000-watt Bluetooth-enabled power inverter. It delivers a continuous 3,000-watt stream of power for your devices and 6,000-watt surge capacity for device start-ups. You can access all that power through four three-prong AC outlets and two USB ports (one 2.4 amp and one 3.0 amp USB-C port). Bluetooth-enabled, you can pair this inverter with your smartphone and use the PowerDrive app to control and monitor the inverter. This inverter also has audible alarms and safety shut-off triggers.

Available at travel centers and big box stores for about \$300.



Anker Soundcore Flare Bluetooth Speaker

You've put 500 miles behind you, made your delivery with time to spare, got in and out of the DC easily, and even found an open, free parking space at your favorite truck stop. Life is good, and after checking in with dispatch and the family, you can make the most of your sleeper berth and relax with a movie, your "end of the day" playlist, or a concert streamed from your favorite musician's living room. To make your good day even better, you'll need a decent Bluetooth speaker.

The Anker Soundcore Flare is a wise choice for several reasons:

- It delivers a superior sound for its size
- Has an easy-to-use mobile app

- Is waterproof and rugged, so it's at home on the road
- Will deliver 12 hours worth of sound before needing to be recharged
- And, costs just about \$60 online, making it the sort of bargain most truckers are looking for

Available online and at most big box stores.



Ember Travel Mug

Few things are as annoying as reaching for what had been a fresh cup of coffee two hours ago, and finding it had gone cold while you negotiated bad traffic outside on I-57 outside of Kankakee. If you are a serious coffee drinker, then you can rejoice in the Ember travel mug and no more cold coffee. And, we do mean serious. This heated 12-ounce travel mug is Bluetooth-enabled and links to your smartphone. You can use Ember's app to select the exact temperature you want your coffee, and the mug will keep it there for up to three hours. It also has an auto-sleep function and knows when to shut off the heat. It features a 360-degree non-spill lid, making it a godsend for truckers. And, here's why we say this is for the trucker who is serious about their coffee.

The Ember travel mug costs \$175.

ThermoWorks Wand No-Touch Forehead Thermometer

As a matter of fact, it **DOES** make sense to include a medical thermometer in a

round-up of the Top Tech for the Holidays. New this year, just in time for the COVID-19 pandemic, this thermometer uses infrared heat-sensing technology to take temperatures touch-free. If you've had your temperature taken while delivering to a warehouse or distribution center, it most likely with this kind of thermometer. Despite being medical grade, the ThermoWorks Wand is easy to use. It delivers easy-to-read results in about one second. It emits a soft beep when it is ready to use and also has a high-temperature alert and a mute setting. The ThermoWorks Wand features a bright, LED backlight screen and can store up to 25 readings.

Available for about \$70.



Rand McNally TND 750 GPS for Truckers

Now is not the time to get lost, hung up in traffic, on a parkway you oughtn't to be on, or simply running late for a delivery. Rand McNally's TND 750 GPS features a high-definition, 7-inch screen and marks the sixth generation of dedicated truck-specific GPS devices created by Rand McNally for professional drivers. It

includes Rand Navigation 2.0, the company's new proprietary navigation software that features truck routing, a clean interface, crowdsourced points of interest reviews, and new three-dimensional cities and landmarks.

Besides new navigation, the TND 750 has faster processing, stronger magnetic mounts, and other key features include:

- More powerful processors for faster routing, quicker responses, and smoother graphics
- Live traffic, current fuel prices, weather conditions updates
- Enhanced driver tools such as mileage and fuel logs and the ability to create custom routes
- Improved wi-fi and Bluetooth capabilities for faster over-the-air updates and connections
- Free lifetime map upgrades
- Advanced lane guidance

Available at travel centers and online, the TND 750 retails for about \$400.



Sharp 0.7 cubic foot Microwave

There was a time when a microwave oven was a novelty even in the best of high-end kitchens. Those days are as long gone as courteous four-wheelers. Microwaves today are a necessity including on the road, especially for the frugal trucker and the ones trying to eat well and

sensibly.

This model by Sharp features:

- +30-second key for instant start
- Time cook. Time defrost and auto defrost
- 10" carousel turntable – holds a full-sized dinner plate – for even cooking
- Popcorn, beverage, and reheat settings
- Express cook for convenient one-touch cooking up to six minutes

This Sharp microwave is 19.2 inches wide x 15 inches deep x 11.5 inches high.

It retails online and at big box stores for less than \$60.



Google Pixel 5 Smartphone with 5G

When the Pixel 4a debuted in August, tech publication reviewers could not heap enough praise on it, especially for its robust set of features and its modest \$349 price tag. The same is expected for the Pixel 5, which is outfitted for 5G, the next generation of mobile network. (There's also a 5G version of the 4a, called the 4a 5G.) The 5 is also loaded with features including a second wide-angle camera, a bigger display, an improved battery (one of the knocks on the 4a), 128 GB of storage, and a more powerful processor. And, unlike its competitors by Apple, it has an earphone jack. It runs the Android 11 software.

Not surprisingly, the Pixel 5 will cost a bit more; set to retail for about \$699. You can preorder now.



RoadKing Heavy-Duty Universal Qi Charger

No matter how new, how fancy or how expensive your smartphone is, it's useless unless properly charged. Sometimes, that can be a truck while on the road. However, this wireless charger solves that problem. It's compatible with all Qi-enabled smartphones including LG, Motorola, Samsung and Apple. It can mount on your truck's dash, window or vent, ensuring it'll be handy no matter what. Its adjustable metal arm holds your phone securely as you

drive. Comes with a DC charger and cable.



Tomboy Jennie

Today more than ever we all could use another best friend. And, we can have one that doesn't need to be walked, fed, cleaned up after or brushed. Tomboy Jennie is a cute, sweet, plush, adorable dog. It's also a wildly realistic robot. Originally created for Alzheimer's patients, this robot Rover is loaded with technology to make it look, feel, and respond like a real dog. Interactive sensors all over its body allow Jennie to respond as a real dog would when touched. It responds to voice commands and makes sounds like any other puppy. What makes Jennie different is that she's rechargeable, gets regular software updates, and comes with an app that lets you customize and personalize your pet, er, robot. Jennie's makers say she can help folks who suffer from depression, anxiety, loneliness, and stress. And, she's great for folks who want a dog but have circumstances that don't allow it. Jennie might be the solution for the trucker whose company doesn't allow pets or the driver who cannot take care of one while on the road.

Available online for \$399.

While the trucking industry continues to adjust to life amidst COVID-19, truckers remain essential. Fortunately, the stream of technology aimed at making their jobs easier, safer and less stressful continues.

As 2021 looms, professional drivers can rest assured the demand of their services will not evaporate anytime soon. They likewise can be sure there will be a new generation of technology available to help keep them rolling. ■



Pro Driver Tip



Stay Warm

Pro Driver Tip Brita NowakWatch laterShareWatch on  YouTube

A video frame showing a woman with blonde hair, Brita Nowak, sitting in the driver's seat of a truck. She is smiling and holding a blue jacket in front of her. A red play button is overlaid on the center of the video.

Born in Berlin, Brita worked as a model and actress in Hollywood before starting her trucking career. Now she owns her own trucking company, BratCat Express. In addition to all things trucking, Brita is multilingual and has a business degree. In the same week that she was voted Overdrive Most Beautiful 2016 Brita was diagnosed with breast cancer. She opted for immediate bilateral mastectomy WITHOUT reconstruction and is trying to bring awareness to the practice of selling vulnerable women on this unnecessary surgery.

Howes

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100
YEARS



STEP 1:

**USE DIESEL TREAT™
EVERY FILL UP TO
PREVENT GELLING.**



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**DIESEL TREAT AND DIESEL LIFELINE®
ALL THE PROTECTION YOU NEED
THIS WINTER.**

LEARN MORE



Howes Diesel Lifeline



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Share

NO



**FILTER
REPLACEMENT
OR
FUEL MIXING**

Watch on YouTube

Riding High Through the Holidays



By Sierra Sugar

2020 has been a year! I think we can all agree on that. And as we roll into the holiday season, it is not just the stress of the year behind us that brings us down, but also holiday stress and blues. What is a driver to do? How do you ride high after a year full of lows? Here are five tips to help you navigate through the holidays with high spirits.



Unplug!

Instead of feeding the beast that is misery, anger, hate, and depression - starve it. Unplug! Either get off social media and live in the real world or adjust your social media feed, so you stop seeing things that upset or depress you. We've all fallen into the trap of needing to know, comment, and argue the minutiae of life, from (the big one) politics to how someone dresses or where they choose to eat. Are you really changing anyone's mind? Are they changing yours? Put down your phone and step away. If you can't do that, then unfollow, unfriend, or block people and pages that constantly raise your blood pressure.

Challenge yourself. – Being positive isn't something that happens to us. It is a choice we make every single day.

Whatever you need to do for your own peace of mind is ok. Just because someone is family, or a close friend does not mean you have to see everything they post or say on social media. Unfollow them through the holidays. Follow pages of puppies and kittens, of good music, or of pretty pictures. The more you like and comment on these positive, fun things, the less your social media feed will show you things that you are trying to avoid.



Let the Sunshine In!

Fall and Winter can be beautiful times of the year. But the same reason the leaves change colors, is also the same reason so many suffer from seasonal depression. SAD or Season Affective Disorder is a real thing and is caused by shorter days and lack of direct sunlight. Put on a jacket and go for a walk. Let that sunshine on your face and lift your spirits. Vitamin D deficiency has been linked to depression. Our bodies make Vitamin D from sunshine. OMG we're a plant! But seriously, it's not an apple a day that keeps the doctor away, it is sunshine that keeps the blues at bay. Get a little every single day to lift your spirits.



Learn to say "No."

Holidays are a busy time of year. In trucking, the loads slow down this time of year, but life picks up everywhere else. It's the holiday season and everyone wants to travel or visit. Maybe you have big Thanksgiving or Christmas dinners, New Year's Eve plans, company parties to attend, local events and parades, shopping, decorating, hosting guests, traveling... the list goes on.

Learn to say NO. There is no rule that you must do all of these, or any of them. Divvy up your holiday time as if each day or event were a clean dish, let's say a spoon. You only have so many clean spoons, and once they are used up you need to wait for them to be washed, and that takes time. This is your rest time. You wouldn't eat off a dirty spoon, so don't let unnecessary stressful plans eat up your time and well-being. When you are out of spoons say NO and rest.



Challenge yourself.

Being positive isn't something that happens to us. It is a choice we make every single day. It is something we all must work at becoming and maintaining. For someone who is always negative, who lets outside forces such as other people's words or opinions affect them, being positive can be a challenge. (FYI – this is me! I am right there with you.) So, challenge yourself.

How? Be a devil's advocate with your foul mood. Put your depression under a microscope. Ask yourself if there is a different way you can look at the situation. Why are you upset? Why are you feeling depressed? These are not easy questions to answer. People spend years and thousands of dollars in therapy to try to get to the bottom of whatever is wrong.

And what are they doing in therapy? Being asked and forced to challenge themselves, to look deep to the root cause. You don't need a couch and a big wallet to find the answers. You can do it yourself, all for the cost of a pen and a notebook. Keep a journal and write in it daily. Be honest with yourself. This isn't for anyone else to read, so no need to embellish or lie. Write about what you are feeling and why. There is no right or wrong. Just write. To use a graphic literary term, "word vomit," your feelings all over the page! Let it all out. It doesn't have to be pretty. Don't worry about spelling, grammar, or penmanship. Just get it out.

When you're done spilling your guts to yourself and upchucked all the negative from the day onto paper, then write one thing that you are thankful for. Even if the only positive you can think of is you woke up today, or maybe fuel was 2 cents cheaper today, anything. But every single day, challenge yourself to write down ONE positive thing in your life for which you are grateful.



Play!

That's right; play. I think as adults, we get so bogged down with work, family, health, the state of the world, and everything else that we stress about daily that we don't just forget to have fun, but we have forgotten how!

Crank the radio and dance in your seat. Sing to your dispatcher, even if you sing off-key. Go for a walk or a bike ride. Turn off the TV and go watch the sunset. Go fishing. Be silly. Laugh out loud. And do whatever you need to do to bring a little fun and joy into your life. It truly is the little things that matter.

Fun can be spontaneous, but it can also be intentional. During a time of year that is wrought with stress and blues, fun absolutely should be intentional. Plan to have fun. Don't just pencil it in, write it in with permanent marker in capital bold letters! You've worked hard all year, and YOU DESERVE FUN AND HAPPINESS. Don't wait for someone else to bring it to you, be intentional, and do fun things for yourself! ■



Sierra Sugar is a blogger and writer with a passion for trucking, travel, adventure, tiny living, and cooking. Involved in the trucking industry for nearly four years, she has experienced living on the truck 24/7 for 3 of those years with her husband, Allen Wilcher, a 30-year veteran truck driver. For more on Sierra visit her website or follow her on Facebook or Twitter.

Website: <http://www.SweetLifeOfSierraSugar>
[Facebook.com/SierraSugar](https://www.facebook.com/SierraSugar)

There is a fine line between the unruly beard of a grizzled mountain hobo and the dashing beard of a world champion. Go from unkempt to "kempt" with Duke Cannon's Best Damn Beard Oil.



Made with premium natural ingredients such as Apricot kernel, argan, and jojoba oils, it's formulated to soften even the hardest working beards. Rich in vitamin e, carotenes, and antioxidants, these oils are considered beneficial against psoriasis, eczema, and acne.

At 3X the size of the competition, our Beard Oil will last much longer, and it features an amber apothecary bottle with a slow drip pour top to reduce spills.

RoadPro's GEAR HUNT HOLIDAY

NOVEMBER 1ST

to DECEMBER 31ST

GRAND PRIZE
\$1,000
IN ROADPRO REWARDS POINTS

WEEKLY  PRIZES



JOIN THE HUNT TODAY

ENTER TO WIN

LG TONE

HBS-SL5

Slim & Seamless
Design



Cooking with RoadPro

ROADPRO® BLUEBERRY BAKED OATMEAL

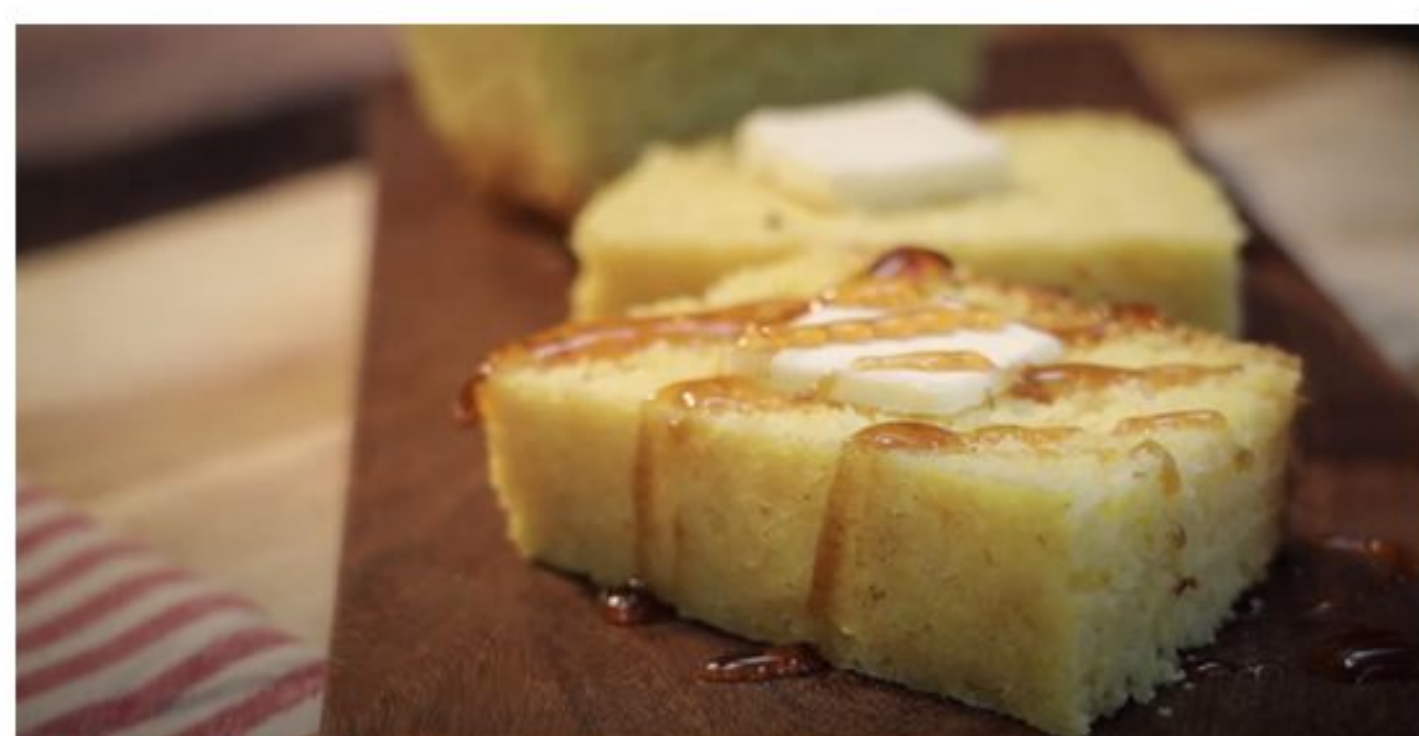
MADE FOR THE ROADPRO PORTABLE STOVE

INGREDIENTS

- 1½ cup oats
- 1½ tsp cinnamon
- ¾ tsp baking powder
- ¼ tsp salt
- 1½ cup milk
- ¼ cup honey
- 2 eggs
- 1½ tbsp butter, melted
- 1½ tsp vanilla
- 1 cup blueberries

DIRECTIONS

1. Combine oats, cinnamon, baking powder & salt in a mixing bowl. Set aside.
2. Combine milk, honey, eggs, butter & vanilla in a separate mixing bowl. Set aside.
3. Heat the [RoadPro Portable Stove](#) and grease pan.
4. Arrange ¾ cup blueberries evenly over the bottom of pan.
5. Cover with oat mixture.
6. Pour wet ingredients over oats.
7. Use a spatula to gently combine the wet & dry mixture so the milk moves down through the oats, and there are no dry oats resting on top.
8. Sprinkle ¼ cup blueberries across the top.
9. Bake 1 hour 20 mins.
10. Serve.



CORNBREAD

MADE FOR THE ROADPRO PORTABLE STOVE

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup milk
- 4 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 egg
- 1 cup cornmeal
- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt

DIRECTIONS

1. Grease bottom and sides of [RoadPro Portable Stove](#) or aluminum pan insert.
2. Combine all ingredients at once and stir, just until flour is moistened (batter will be lumpy).
3. Pour batter into pan.
4. Bake 1 hour and 45 min. or until golden brown and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
5. Serve and enjoy!



GARMIN.



TRUCK NAVIGATION FOR THE LONG HAUL

[LEARN MORE](#)

The newest over-the-road truck navigators
with large 7, 8 and 10" displays.

A YouTube video player interface for a video titled "Dezl OTR GPS". The video shows three Garmin navigation devices displaying truck navigation features. The top device shows a route on I-35 with a speed of 85 mph and an arrival time of 1:09 PM. The middle device shows a route on I-35 with a speed of 63 mph and an arrival time of 12:38 PM. The bottom device shows a route on I-35 with a speed of 63 mph and an arrival time of 12:38 PM. A red play button is overlaid on the video. The video player includes a "Watch later" button and a "Share" button. The video title "Dezl OTR GPS" is displayed at the top left. The video player is set against a background of a highway with mountains in the distance.

ROAD TO YOU

Dezl OTR GPS

Watch later Share

0.4mi South 35 Kansas Tpke
8% Steep Descent Ahead

4.0mi 224 95th Street
Deploying Popular Truck Paths

63^{mi} Speed 12:38^{PM} Arrival

65

85^{mi} 1:09^{PM} Arrival

63^{mi} Speed 12:38^{PM} Arrival

Select

DEZL™ TRUCK NAVIGATORS

Watch on YouTube



HOLIDAY GIFTING

A BUYERS' GUIDE FROM **TRUCKER GEAR** PRESENTED BY **ROADPRO**

FAMILY OF BRANDS



Like most everything else this year, the upcoming holiday season will present some problems most of us have not seen before. COVID-19 may make celebrating a bit more challenging, but the joy and meaning of the season may also be more welcome than ever.

One thing for certain that holidays in the time of a serious worldwide pandemic will mean is we'll all have to shop smarter and sooner for gifts for family and friends. Gift-giving while on the road is already difficult for truckers, so this guide to holiday giving 2020-style ought to help.

First, consider these important tips:

- Start shopping now! Supply chain uncertainty, coupled with increased demand, is likely to mean some items may be in short supply or not arrive in time.
- If you see an item, you know the recipient wants, and you can afford it, buy it now. It's better to store it in your sleeper or at home for a couple of months than not have it when you need it.
- Same goes for things you need to buy online. COVID has, for many online outlets, made two-day delivery a thing of the past. Be sure to check the fine print of when an item might arrive or if it is even in stock.
- Check your budget. In these uncertain times, it's good to always have even a few bucks in a savings account. And, be sure not to max out your credit card because you may need it for an on-the-road COVID emergency.
- Don't count on there being a traditional Black Friday the day after Thanksgiving. COVID has put the kibosh on that at many retailers. Walmart, for example, is promising an all-new Black Friday, and is expected to spread price breaks throughout the holiday shopping season and have more deals online.

That being said, here are some gifts that will help fill the stocking of just about anyone on your holiday list.



BlackCanyon Outfitters Duffles

It's easy to have items of clothing go one place while you go another when you're on the road. That's why you need a suitable way to carry your clothes and other gear. BlackCanyon Outfitters has two duffel bags — one large and one small — that can handle anything you have to take with you when you leave home. Both are made of heavy-duty cotton canvas with synthetic leather trim. Both features handles and detachable shoulder straps to make carrying effortless. Each has a large interior and several exterior pockets. BlackCanyon Outfitters also has a variety of backpacks, shaving kits, and other items to keep your stuff well stored.

Flatpak Toiletry Bottle

Space is always at a premium in the life of an over-the-road trucker. And convenience is prized. A FlatPak Toiletry Bottle is five times lighter and three and a half times more compact than other silicone bottles, making it ideal for carrying anything from shampoo to body wash to toothpaste. It has a large, easy-to-fill opening and is made with a waterproof fabric. It features a snap loop with space to note the contents inside and fits easily in a Dopp kit or backpack for when you're headed to a truck stop shower. Holds 3 ounces, is TSA approved, and unbreakable.



Coming Soon: RoadPro Tactical Gear

The image of the American trucker is that of a lone man or woman on a long stretch of open highway relying on their truck and their own skills to get the load delivered and themselves home safely. Sometimes, that image turns dark if highway mishaps intervene, and the trucker's safety is jeopardized. A new line of Tactical Gear coming soon from the RoadPro Family of Brands focuses on providing extra safety for professional drivers. It includes tools drivers will find beneficial when on their own and until help arrives. For example, there's a survival watch, the band of which includes a compass, whistle for summoning aid, thermometer, paracord, and a fire starter. Another multi-tasking tool in the Tactical Gear line is a flashlight that provides not just 200 Lumens of light but also nine tools, including screwdrivers, knife, hex wrench, scissors, glass breaker, and seatbelt cutter.

RoadPro also has a variety of survival-oriented gift sets that include combinations of lights and multi-tools, or lights and a tactical pocket knife, or a variety of specialty lights to help in any roadside emergency. All will be found in the coming months in special displays at most travel centers.



Duke Cannon Personal Care Products

We have said it before, and we'll say it again: the folks at Duke Cannon have both great products and great senses of humor. That truly shows up in their holiday gift items of men's hygiene products.

- They have seasonal gift items like:
- The Beard That Stole Christmas: which contains Best Damn Beard Wash, Best Damn Beard Oil, and Big Bourbon Beard Oil
 - Frothy The Beer Man collection of soaps: Big Ass Beer Soap featuring Deschutes Fresh Squeezed IPA, Big American Bourbon Soap made with Buffalo Trace bourbon, and Big Ass Soap Beer Soap made with Old Milwaukee
 - The Holiday 40 Soap Set: Four holiday-themed soaps including Burning Yule Logs with a woody scent, Illegally Cut Pine Soap with a fresh cut pine scent, Frothy The Beer Man Soap that smells of sandalwood, and Lump of Coal Soap scented with bergamot and black pepper

Huckleberry's Hammer

Most multi-purpose tools fit in your hand and provide you with numerous tools to help with mostly small but necessary tasks. However, Huckleberry's Hammer is a multi-tool of a different stripe, made for truckers by a trucker who knows firsthand what pros on the road require. It combines three essential tools — hammer, chisel, and a retractable hook — into one handy mega-tool. This tool serves numerous purposes as simple as helping open trailer doors and dragging pallets, to as truck-specific as removing glad-hands and pulling pins to slide tandems. The patented Huckleberry's Hammer can be collapsed to fit in a duffel bag or backpack for easy storage. It comes in three different sizes: 19" flatbed tool; 19" regular hammer; 15" standard-sized hammer. The Flatbed/Tow Tool has an additional spike on the extendable hook and a locking screw, allowing the hook to be locked in the extended position for pushing straps and chains.



Dual Foot Tire Gauge

This may seem a bit utilitarian for a holiday stocking stuffer, but the trucker who receives it will be thrilled the first time they get inspected, and all of their tires are properly inflated. This straight-on dual foot chuck measures from 10 to 120 PSI and has a magnified display. The bleeder valve holds pressure until released. It's calibrated for PSI and KPA readings and can reach inside valves on tandem wheels.

Razors & Accessories by Union Razor

Few things feel better or make you look better after a couple of weeks on the road and away from home than a hot shower and a close shave. And, like anything else you do, it helps to have the best tools for the job. Union Razor delivers classic razors and shaving accessories. It has beautifully styled razors that accommodate the popular Mach 3 blade cartridges, and for the trucker who is a true traditionalist, Union also offers a classic folding straight razor. Union also has a full line of shaving accessories, including brushes, bowls for shaving soap, beard combs, sharpening stropps, and stands to hold your razor and brush. Perfect for this time of year, Union has gift sets featuring either their cartridge or straight razor.



Cubii Jr. Under Desk Elliptical

Getting exercise and staying fit while on the road just got easier. The Cubii Jr. Under Desk Elliptical allows you to pedal while seated in your sleeper. You can do your day's paperwork, stream a movie, listen to music, and still log some worthwhile aerobic exercise. This little elliptical still packs a big punch, helping you burn calories while still being easy on your joints. The Cubii Jr. is designed so legs will move smoothly and comfortably. Its built-in display monitor tracks active time, calories, distance, strides, and RPM so you can chart your progress.

Heated Fleece Blanket

Ideally, as the old song goes, this is a season best spent with "chestnuts roasting on an open fire" to help keep you warm. Sadly, that's not possible in even the poshest of sleepers. However, you can stay perfectly snug underneath an ample, all-fleece heated blanket by Black Canyon Outfitters. This 12-volt heated blanket is a generous 58" x 42.5" with an 8-foot power cord that plugs into your truck's cigarette lighter. While it keeps you warm. It only draws 4.6 amps (55 watts).



If You're Shopping for Kids

Luckily the RoadPro Family of Brands can even give you a hand if you have to stuff the stocking of a young son, daughter, or grandchild. They've tapped Santa's workshop for a variety of toys most youngsters will recognize and enjoy. You can take home favorites from the big screen like Marvel action figure heroes, the loveable characters from Disney's "Frozen," and the stars of the Transformers series of movies. You can also find classic toys like Mr. and Mrs. Potato Head, Play-Doh, Nerf blasters, and Barbie. And, there are a number of small stuffed animals like the ones from Unicorn Squad, Squeezamals, Coco Plus Scoops, and My Little Pony Friends. All will be available at most travel centers so you can shop on your driving breaks. So, while holiday shopping, like other milestone events during the COVID-19 pandemic, may be different this year, the good news is that there are plenty of items folks on your list will love. Just be sure to shop early and keep an eye out for bargains while on the road. Travel centers can be great places to shop when you have stockings to stuff for family, friends, and coworkers.



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Don't Be Left Out in the Cold

This year has seen extreme climate changes across the country, including snow, much earlier than expected. It is always a good idea to be prepared for all of the temperature and road changes you may encounter, and with the colder months upon us, you certainly don't want to be left out in the cold.

From simple maintenance adjustments to essential equipment to have in your truck, here are a few tips to keep you safe on the road all winter long.

Battery

Cold temperatures can drain your battery, and you certainly don't want to have a dead battery when it is freezing outside. Since the lifespan of most truck batteries is three to five years, weather conditions can impact their operation. It is a good idea to know when it was that you last replaced your battery and if it is close to the end of its lifespan, make sure to get a new one.

Fuel

Diesel is rich with paraffin, which means it tends to thicken up in cold weather. It's a good idea to have a diesel conditioner and anti-gel fuel additive, such as **Howes Diesel Treat**, on hand to help fight gelling in colder climates.

Slow Down

Remember, temperatures and road conditions during the colder months can change quickly. Black ice, snow, sleet, and especially other drivers can make winter feel like you're driving an obstacle course every day. The slower you drive, the more time you have to react.

Lights

Remember, visibility can be significantly impacted by winter weather. Meaning that you need to do everything you can to be highly visible! Make sure all your lights are functioning properly and clear of snow and ice. Make it a practice to walk around your truck and check all of your lights every time you stop.

Cold-Weather Gear

Making sure you have extra layers of clothing, gloves, rain gear, a good pair of boots, and blankets on your truck will prepare you for anything winter throws your way. Check out some of the great options from **BlackCanyon Outfitters**.

Other Essentials

In addition to warm clothing in the winter months, it is essential to have a few other items in your truck. A good flashlight and extra batteries are a must, like the ones from **LUMAGEAR**. A portable charger or power bank if you are unable to charge your phone because your truck won't start. A bag of sand or kitty litter for traction, a small shovel, and extra food and water if you get stuck in the snow.

Know Your Limits

If you are not comfortable driving in the weather conditions, don't hesitate to pull over and wait it out. Remember what's important – family, friends, life. If it doesn't feel right, then it's not worth it.

Communication

Keep in touch by utilizing your CB radio, not only with your dispatcher but also with the drivers ahead of you. They will be able to advise of road conditions that you are heading towards and possibly direct you away from potential hazards. Don't have a CB radio? You may think you don't need one but remember that cell phone signals can be impacted by severe weather, and you probably don't know that drivers' cell phone number that is ahead of you. Having a CB radio onboard can be a lifesaver. There are several great options from **RoadKing** like the RK5640.

Windshield Wipers and Fluid

Make sure to carry a spare set of windshield wipers like those from **WeatherAce**. You never know when one might fail or become frozen to your windshield and tear. You want to make sure you always have a clear view out that windshield. Also, have plenty of de-icing windshield fluid on hand as what is coming off the roads during a winter storm can impact visibility, and you want to make sure you can quickly clear it away.

Pay Attention to Tire Spray

This is probably one of the most important driving tips we have heard from many truck drivers. If there is a lot of water coming off the tires of the vehicles around you, most likely, the roads are just wet. The less tire spray, the better chance that the roads are beginning to freeze. Again slow down and adjust your speed for driving conditions. ■



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