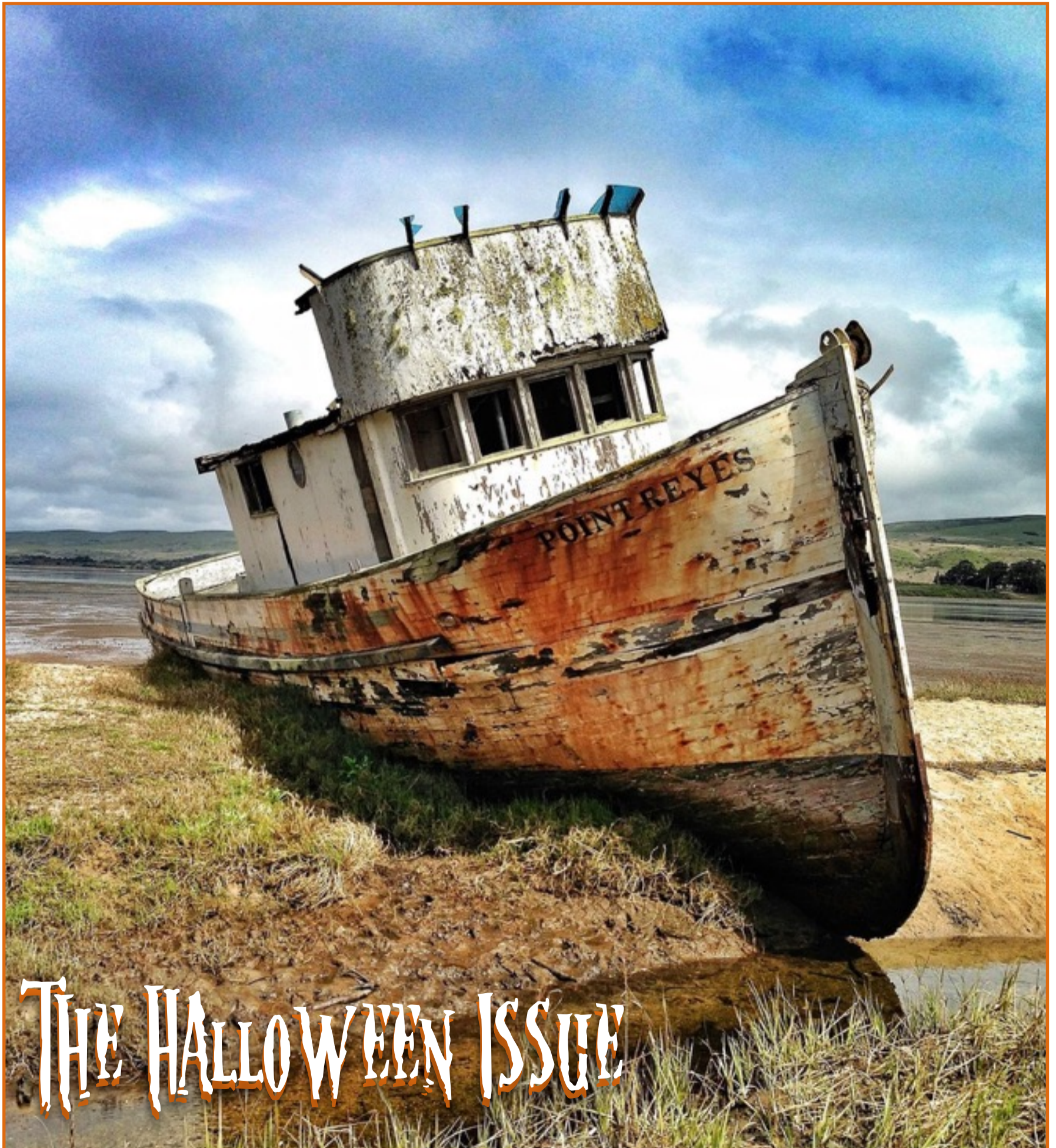


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# TINY HOUSE

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Photo by Steve Walser

# Relic Trailer

Born from a leap of faith, this trailer is a fresh view on a vintage design.

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Based on a nearly 60-year-old design that never saw the light of day, the Relic Trailer only looks vintage. In fact, this lightweight camper has only been in production for about a year but looks like a restored version from the 1960s

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By Christina Nellesmann

The story of this little trailer with the interesting details seems almost too good to be true.

Jayne Barocela, owner of Relic Trailers, is a vintage trailer enthusiast and one night before bed saw an interesting post on one of her favorite trailer blogs. Apparently, a man in Michigan had recently acquired a warehouse with some trailer manufacturing equipment, molds and a few unfinished trailers and was selling them on Craigslist. They had originally belonged to a welding instructor named Roy who designed and planned to sell the trailers between 1960 to 1963. Roy passed away without having his design come to fruition and his equipment and a few shells were sold in an estate sale.



*Photos courtesy of Relic Trailers*

Jayne took one look at the grainy Craigslist photos and knew she would be the person to bring this little design to life.

“I had never seen anything like this before and instantly I felt this connection,” Jayne said. “I thought about it all night long and called the guy the next morning. The interest in the trailers was so huge and he said he would put my name on the list. I could not imagine them being sold to anyone else, so I essentially bullied my way into getting him to sell everything to me.”

After lining up professional trailer manufacturers and interior experts in her area, Jayne went to Michigan to load the equipment and trailers onto semi trailers. She was nervous that the equipment and the original trailers would not be viable.

“They were dusty but pristine,” she said. “This equipment will outlive us all.”

The Relic (named after the definition of a found object) has a fiberglass shell created as one seamless piece that prevents leaking and cracks. The trailer has stylish details like fins and jalousie windows and can be painted to match a vintage or contemporary tow vehicle. A trailer with solid wood interior only weighs around 1,000 lb.

Designed and built by Brian’s Vintage Trailers, the interior of the trailer can be customized for each customer’s needs. The company offers three kitchen options (flush mount, L-shaped and front bathroom) and three rear sleeping options (U-shaped lounge that becomes a king bed, two twins with dinette, or two beds with extra cabinets). Customers can choose from a huge array of flooring, lighting, countertops, wood interior and stain.





The initial design of the Relic (which Jayne named “Roy’s Trailer”) includes 1960s inspired cabinets made of solid wood and Formica countertops with aluminum trim. The kitchen can have a sink, stove and ice box installed if needed.

The company is accepting orders for custom designs. Each standard trailer runs around \$16,000, and layout, options and colors can be discussed. The company requires a \$1,500 deposit before design and the complete amount before production. Production times average between 8-12 weeks once the design process is complete, but may take longer for designs with extensive customization requests.





The Relic made its first appearance at a vintage trailer rally where it stole the show. Rally participants began to appear at the trailer door at 6:30 in the morning to learn about the design.

“It’s only been a few weeks since the rally and I already feel like they are successful,” Jayne said. “It’s been so fun and I can’t wait to see what people come up with as their own ideas.”

Jayne is also thrilled that Roy’s newly revealed trailer is now happily cruising down the road.

“I try to have everything as close to the period design as possible to carry on Roy’s vision,” Jayne added. “Everything I do with these trailers, I do for him.”



**Christina Nellemann writes for the *Tiny House Blog*, the *Tiny House Magazine* and her own camping blog, *Tiny Yellow Teardrop*. [www.tinyyellowteardrop.blogspot.com](http://www.tinyyellowteardrop.blogspot.com)**