



The first installment of Electric Road Warriors Susan & Jenn on the road.

# Taking Charge

## Part One - The Truck

About five years ago, my daughter and I started talking about touring the country. Having been a military spouse, she knew she wanted to go. But for me, I just wasn't ready to leave Magnolia Point. I told myself when the time was right, I would know. But we started researching RV trailers, tow vehicles, mobile Internet services, and remote work.



¾ ton, towing power of a hefty half ton, it's quiet, easy to park. What was the catch? Range, of course. It's always the range. It wouldn't be easy, but if we wanted adventure, we would have it. After many, many hours of research and a test drive in Orlando, we were sold! Would you believe 0 to 60 in 3 seconds? That's what 835 HP will do!

Then, in the spring of 2021, it dawned on me I was ready for a new adventure, a fresh start. My plan was to start turning over responsibilities for the women's club and the homeowners' association. Our plans changed a few times, but we were sure we'd be ready to hit the road by the summer of 2022, or so we thought. Instead,

that April we hit a speed bump. A broken and dislocated ankle delayed everything. With all this extra time, we rethought our plans...again.



By now we were up to 30' Airstream, but we'd need more truck! After test driving several ¾ ton diesels, that was not what we wanted. They are huge, loud, bumpy, and so hard to park and see out of. Then Jenn asked me if I'd ridden in an electric truck.

Looking into them a little more, we found out they have a higher towing capacity in a smaller package. We were sold and got those plans in motion. That week on our way down to Orlando to buy a dual motor Lightning, we found out a stop order had been put on all dual motors, *the night before!* In the days following, we called all over the country trying to order one, but word was it would be Q4 at the earliest. Back to the drawing board.

Having been familiar with the Rivian, we thought about their truck, the R1T. But it's so small. How could it tow an Airstream? Then we found out it has the weight of a

A question we get from many is "What is it?" *A Rivian.*  
"Who makes it?" *Rivian.*  
"No, who makes it?" *Rivian.*  
"Where's the dealership?" *There are none.*  
"How do you get one?" *Order directly from Rivian.*

The R1T advantages:

**Storage** - Tons including a frunk, truck bed, gear tunnel, under the truck bed and under the back seats.

**Cameras** - Eleven cameras in all, from every angle.

**Range** - 314 miles when not towing, but that drops considerably when towing.

**Drive Modes** - Our model has ten driving modes ranging from Conserve to Rock Crawl.

**Suspension** - The air suspension allows you to adjust the ground clearance from 7.9 inches to 14.4 inches and when a door is

opened, it automatically changes to the lowest clearance which is very nice when you are short. We love this!

**Towing** - 11,000 pounds *and* up to 1,800 pounds of people and cargo.

**Size** - Mid-size and is 14 inches shorter than a Ford Lightning.

**WIFI** - Rivian provides free wireless in order to update the vehicle software.



The best feature is 'Pet mode' where you can leave your pets in the truck and set the inside temperature to keep them cool. Lola will love that!

- SUSAN AND JENN MITCHELL