

# Sidetracked: Travels Across the Undiscovered South

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I was raised in this area. I have family all around here My uncles are here, my cousins, my sister lives up front and my mom, too. It's all family. I love living here. It's peaceful. It's open and you can do pretty much whatever you want in your yard.



I have no complaints. The big thing I like is that family and friends are right here. We'll stick together. We had a power outage the other night, and we had a generator at my house, so everybody came up here. Sticking together is one of the important things that I like about this area. Out here, you look out for each other. Family might let you know that someone in on your property that they don't recognize. "There's a white truck in your yard, did you know that?" You just look out for each other. Everyone around here has no desire to move. They like it here.

Mud bogging is pretty much going as far as you can in the mud just to see what your truck can do. We have a lot of fun. It's a hobby really.

I don't have a lot of money in my truck like some of my friends. I know someone who has \$14,000 in just his motor, alone. I'm just turning the tires to see how far I can go. I got started with an 1986 Ford F150 with 33-inch swamper tires. From there, it has just grown ever since. I just keep getting bigger.

There is mud racing, but I do the mud bogging. It's just recreational — I do it just for fun. You don't get paid. You just see how far you can go. When you go mud bogging, everyone likes to see what you've got and see how far you can take it in the mud

When I got started, some friends said, "We're going to play in the mud," and I said, "That makes no sense to me." I went out to an old pond in the woods with them and we just played in the mud. They said, "We try to go around the pond on the outskirts to race each other and the first one to get to the other side wins." There was a Chevrolet that always got to the outside, and because it was harder surface, it was easier, and he would always win. In the mud bog race, he was way ahead of me, and I decided to cut across the middle through the bog. There wasn't a rule about how you had to get from here to there, so I decided to go right through the mud bog pond. I had water up to my floorboards, but I beat him.

The smile on my face is still the same today as it was then. Every time I hit the mud, it's just fun to me.

A lot of places to go bogging around town have shut down, because, I hate to say it, other people started trashing the place. They're disrespectful. We always clean up after ourselves. Kids come out there for underage drinking, stuff like that — people ruin it.

The bigger you go, the more money it's going to cost you. There are guys bigger than me out there. I bought the biggest axles possible back in the day. Where I'm at now, is about where I'm going to stay. I'm happy with where I'm at. I could go bigger, but I don't really want to.

This is our addiction — our drug, I guess you can say. My goal with this truck, is just to have fun and to see how far I can go. I enjoy doing it. I hate when it breaks down, but I like working on it to get it going again.

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