

# TRUCKERS' Gear Guide



**TOP GEAR**  
FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

**BE GRATEFUL  
AND REMEMBER TO SAY THANKS**

**WINTER  
PREPAREDNESS**

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AND REMEMBER  
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*Thank You Truckers!*  
**THE HEROES OF THE HOLIDAYS**



FAMILY OF BRANDS

# TOP GEAR FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON



By David Hollis, Editor, *Truckers News*

It seems like it was only yesterday that we were making plans for the long Memorial Day Weekend and how to deal with the extra traffic on the interstates. But, now, we're working to arrange schedules so we're home or near it for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We're also trying to figure out what to say when asked, "So, what do you want for Christmas?" While we can't help get you some holiday home time, we're able and happy to offer some gear and gadgets that would make great gifts for the trucker on your holiday list ... or for yourself. Add these to your Christmas list or consider sharing them with another trucker this holiday giving season.

## 12-Volt Soft-Sided Cooler Bag



Making the most of your driving day can often mean making sure you have food and refreshments with you in your truck. (It also allows you to stretch your paycheck by bringing food from home or stocking up at a grocery store.) A new 12-volt, soft-sided cooler from the RoadPro Family of Brands makes that possible. This well-insulated cooler is big enough to hold 24 12-ounce cans, meaning it gives you plenty of room for your food and drinks. Plugging into your truck's 12-volt port gives you enough cooling power to keep things 40 degrees cooler than the ambient temperature. It connects with a 6-foot-long, detachable cord and features a 10-amp fuse. An adjustable shoulder strap makes it easy to carry. It can be stowed in a handy exterior pocket. This cooler sells for \$69.99 and is available in truck stops and travel centers.

## True Utility FIXR Multi-Tool



You've got to believe that the maker of any multi-tool that would call it the FIXR knows that it needs to deliver a lot of uses; enough to fix a multitude of issues that can occur on your truck. The FIXR may fit easily in the palm of your hand, but it contains 20 tools that can help you address many of those nagging little issues that crop up while on the road. Among those tools are:

- Small, medium and large flat headed screwdrivers
- Small and medium Phillips head screwdrivers
- 14, 12, 10, 8 and 6 mm wrenches
- Cutting blade
- File
- Pry bar
- Box opener
- Wire stripper
- Ruler
- Nail cleaner
- Bottle opener
- And, it fits in a handy leather pouch.

[Available online for \\$12.95](#)

## Keurig K-Mini Plus Coffee Maker



There are times when you want a cup of coffee at the beginning or end of your driving day, but you're parked at a rest area with no restaurant or convenience store in sight. That's not a problem if you tucked a Keurig K-Mini Plus coffee maker in the sleeper berth of your truck. This compact coffee maker delivers a 6 or 12-ounce cup of quality coffee with no real fuss or muss. It uses one of Keurig's small coffee pods, or a universal, reusable pod you can pair with the ground coffee of your choice. The K-Mini has onboard storage for up to nine pods of coffee. It shuts itself off when done brewing and features a "strong" setting if you like your coffee a bit darker and more robust. Plug it into an inverter or 12-volt adapter and have a good cup before you roll.

[Available online for \\$94.](#)

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[Available online for \\$94.](#)

## BlackCanyon Outfitters Drinkware



Whether you drink coffee, sweet tea, Mountain Dew, Diet Coke or plain old water, it's important to stay hydrated while on the road. Fortunately BlackCanyon Outfitters, one of the RoadPro Family of Brands, delivers a variety of containers ideal for keeping your hot drinks hot or your cold drinks cold for your entire driving day.

BlackCanyon's drinkware selection includes:

- 17 ounce travel mug
- 20 ounce tumbler
- 30 ounce water bottle
- 32 ounce shotshell insulated bottle
- 40 ounce travel cup

All are designed and insulated to keep your beverage of choice at the proper temperature for up to 12 hours. And, all are free of BPA (Bisphenol A), a compound used in making plastic that has been found to have possible health concerns for people and is bad for the environment. All of BlackCanyon's drinkware can be found at travel centers and truck stops, as well as many big box stores and online.

## SleepPhones



You're done driving for the day. Post-trip inspection is history, hours certified on your ELD, and you called home to say goodnight. Now it's time to crawl into your bunk and unwind with an audiobook, your favorite tunes or a decent movie on Netflix. Thanks to SleepPhones, you don't need to put earbuds in or headphones on and worry about falling asleep tangled in their cords. SleepPhones is a soft headband with wireless Bluetooth speakers embedded. Not only do they deliver superior-quality sound, but

they also block out background noise to help you fall asleep. The SleepPhone battery delivers about 15 hours of power before recharging; it takes about two hours to reload. The battery and speakers can be removed so you can wash the headband.

[Available online for \\$99.95.](#)

## Tiovo Collapsible Stool



Sometimes it's good to get out of the cab, sit outside and just enjoy the fresh air if even for 20 minutes. Having a comfortable seat makes it that much more enjoyable. This Tiovo collapsible stool can do that, but not take up any valuable storage space in your sleeper berth. It's also lightweight (just a bit more than two and a half pounds) but can support up to 550 lbs. The stool expands to 18 inches when opened, but when collapsed it still fits in a handy nylon carrying bag. It includes a padded seat when in use.

[Available in several seat colors online for \\$33.99.](#)

## E-Teching Double-Sided Rechargeable Hand Warmer



It's nice to think that you'll stay warm and toasty all the time you are in the cab of your truck. But, there's those times you need to be outside, especially if you're a flatbedder, or gods of the highways forbid, you have to tend to a problem outside your truck on a nasty winter day. The E-Teching handwarmer can ensure your hands stay warm in such conditions. And, let's face, cold hands can lead to driving difficulties. This battery-powered warmer has three heat settings: 107 F, 118 F, and 131 F. It also has a port you can use to recharge your smartphone in a pinch. It has a convenient auto shut-off that turns off the power after an hour, and is small enough to fit in any pocket. If you suffer from arthritis in your hands or from Raynaud's, this could be a godsend when you are done driving for the day.

[Available online for \\$24.99.](#)

## Nokia T20 Tablet



Truckers, probably more than anyone else, depend on their smartphones for more than making or getting phone calls. Much more. But, there are times when it's easier, more convenient and just more enjoyable if you have a bigger screen to look at when reading, streaming a movie or Facetimeing with family. It's those times when a decent tablet comes in handy. Nokia is rolling out the new T20 tablet that would stand any trucker in good stead, and not break the bank in the process. The T20 has 4 GB of Ram and 64

GB of internal storage, and enough battery capacity for 10 hours of continuous streaming or 15 hours of web surfing. A nice bonus is its stereo speakers with OZO Playback for truly stunning sound. With a 10.4-inch screen, the T20 is far better than your smartphone when it comes to seeing what you're doing.

Retails for \$249.99.

## Anker PowerCore 10000



Anker's charging products are generally well-regarded and highly-rated. It's PowerCore 10000 power bank is no exception. It packs enough battery capacity to recharge your smartphone from zero to full two or three times. And, it supports fast charging technology as well. One of the things that sets the PowerCore 10000 apart is its size. It weighs less than seven ounces and at 3.6" x 2.3" x .9", it'll easily fit in a pocket for charging convenience. Available online for \$24.99. ●

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\*dēzl OTR500 and dēzl OTR700 only include a suction cup mount

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By Taylor Barker, *Professional Driver*

The other day I was talking to a friend when they said something that stopped me in my tracks and made me think hard. In fact, my train of thought was so consumed with the question; I had to take a minute to process it. The question was so powerful, yet so simple, that it made me realize the things we take for granted without realizing the work and effort that are involved. By now, you are wondering, "What was the question?" Well, the question was, "Do you know how many jobs are involved in making a simple pencil?" Do you know how many?

With that thought in my head, my brain spinning out of control, I began to realize the things I have taken for granted in my everyday life.

**Please remember that the convenience of our daily needs, comes with lots of unseen or unnoticed challenging work and dedication.**

I recalled a time when I asked for an extra towel in a truck stop for the shower I was about to take. I was ready to start my day with an extra towel, hot water, soap, and clean clothes at hand. Just the thought of it made me think that the idea seemed like a good one, so I pulled into a Love's Travel Center in Pennsylvania. I grabbed my bag, and off I went to enjoy a hot shower, this time appreciating everything involved in making it possible.



I was greeted with a friendly smile from a young man named Patrick, a 22-year-old that took extraordinary pride in his job. After leaving his job at a local deli, Patrick has been employed by Love's for the past six months. Every day, he comes to work and, time after time, cleans the same showers over and over again, all with a huge smile, outgoing personality, and a tremendous amount of pride. I was blown away to learn that this location provided between 150-200 showers daily, yet Patrick and his teammates were standing by, making every trucker's shower a pleasant experience.

By the end of our conversation, I walked away with a new respect for the hard-working folks that labor endlessly to ensure that every trucker has a clean shower and restroom to enjoy. The very thing that I have always taken for granted, now I realize just how much work goes into providing such service, and I am more grateful than ever.

**To all my fellow drivers, please drive safe, and thank you for your service to our great country!**

On behalf of this American Trucker, THANK YOU, Patrick, and everyone else involved in making the trucker's life easier on the highways. We appreciate you!

In closing, please remember that the convenience of our daily needs, comes with lots of unseen or unnoticed challenging work and dedication. Sometimes people make mistakes, and it is just as easy to bring the errors to the attention of those in charge in a polite, professional manner than it is to be rude and obnoxious.

To all my fellow drivers, please drive safe, and thank you for your service to our great country! •



*Taylor Barker is an owner operator leased to Heniff Transportation, pulling chemical tankers. He is married to his best friend, Cherie Barker, and together work to grow both of their businesses. They enjoy giving back to their community. Taylor is also an accomplished musician and when he is home he enjoys building furniture and playing music.*

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# GEAR & GADGETS

Presented by RoadPro Family of Brands

There are some items of gear you need on your truck that are like the credit card that used caution, "Don't leave home without it." The shortlist of "must-have" items includes – but is not limited to – things like tire chains, jumper cables, warm gloves, even warmer boots, a fully-loaded toolbox, spare light bulbs and fuses, triangle reflectors, fire extinguisher, flashlight, etc. But then there are a number of gadgets and other gear that are good to have and which can make life on the road a bit more enjoyable. Such things might simply make a task less annoying or fill the occasional need. Either way, they are good to have with you as you drive.

## Gerber Gear Key Note Keychain Knife



Sometimes you have modest, day-to-day cutting tasks that require more than your thumbnail but not as much as a blade from your jackknife. The one-inch blade of the Gerber Gear Key Note is the perfect tool for those sorts of jobs. The Key Note's dual-purpose blade is designed for scraping or cutting and is tailor-made for opening boxes. When opened, the blade safely locks into place. The Key Note is shy of 4 inches long, comes in black or brown, and [sells online for \\$20.89](#).

## Kadell Adjustable Wood Lap Desk



The driving day may be over, but you most likely have some paperwork duties to tend to. However, you need to relax and unwind a bit as well. This adjustable wood lap desk allows you to crawl into your bunk but still have a good, solid work surface for your laptop or to use as a table to complete your paperwork. At a generous 21" x 13" x 12", this desk delivers plenty of room for all you do. It also has a convenient drawer to stash office supplies or charging cords. Made of earth-friendly bamboo, the desk folds down for easy storage, but is stable enough for serious work. [Available online and at Walmart](#) for about \$36.

## Scrubba Portable Wash Bag



While most travel centers and truck stops worth visiting are likely to have washers and dryers for use by truckers, there often are times on the road you may need to wash up a few items. Having a Scrubba portable wash bag can help in such a pinch. How it works is simple:

- Add dirty clothing items, water, and laundry soap
- Roll down the top and clip it shut
- Bleed off any excess air in the bag
- Lay it flat and massage it for about three minutes
- Drain the dirty, soapy water, fill with clean water to rinse and repeat as necessary
- Hang your clean clothes to dry.

The Scrubba is no substitute for a trip to the laundromat, but it's ideal when you're a day and a half from being home and all out of clean clothes. It may work best if you have access to a restroom sink or truck stop shower for clean water. [Available online for \\$49.95](#).

## Gonzo Pet Hair Lifter



Having your dog or cat ride along while you're on the road can make even the longest haul a little less burdensome. They tend to be good company, and never question your choices when you listen to the radio. But, they often leave behind more than warm feelings of companionship. Most dogs and cats shed, and while tidying up your cab and sleeper berth behind them is far from the hardest thing you'll do, it can be a bit of a pain. The Gonzo Pet Hair Lift can be a bit of a pain killer. This sponge-like cleaner can be used on any surface in your truck and on you. It requires no water and leaves behind no residue. And, the Gonzo Pet Hair Lift is as good to your budget as your pet is to you: [order online for less than \\$8](#).

## RoadPro Two-Sided Auto Table



Once again, you're in line to unload. The wait could be 20 minutes. Then again it could be an hour and a half. However long, it's not time to be wasted. This two-sided auto table from the RoadPro Family of Brands can help you be productive while you wait. It attaches to your truck's steering wheel and gives you a flat, stable surface you can use to set up your laptop or tablet and catch up on your paperwork or emails. Then again it allows you to stream a movie or livestream to the folks at home. The 16.77" x 11.88" sturdy plastic surface is also an ideal resting place for a cup of coffee and a snack or a full meal in case your wait continues longer than expected. Available at most travel centers and truck stops.

## Road Atlas Pouch



You have a good, trucker-specific GPS device and any number of navigation/map apps on your smartphone. That's good. But, to be especially safe, you really ought to have a truck-centric atlas. But, what to do with one when not in use? Easy, store it in this specially-designed pouch, which hangs out of the way but is always handy hanging off the passenger seat's headrest. Made by Overland Gear Guy, this road atlas pouch keeps this vital reference out of harm's way where it's not likely to get stained by an errant coffee spill. It measures 13.5" x 16.5" and includes two external zippered pockets. A webbing strap with quick-release buckle ensures your atlas is always where it's easy to get to. [Available online for \\$59.99](#).

## Hiluckey Solar Charger Power Bank



You rely on your various electronic devices more than the average American worker. That means your smartphone, tablet, GPS, and headset all need to be fully charged and ready to be used every day. Keeping them charged can be tricky, especially if you're not able to find an unoccupied wall socket at a truck stop. This solar power bank is handy to have in your truck. It's four small solar panels that convert the sun's rays into electricity to power your devices. Simply unfold it and place it on the dash of your truck for it to get the sunshine it needs. Outfitted with a 25,000 mAh lithium-polymer battery pack, it can refill your smartphone up to four times or your tablet twice. The solar charge has two USB ports. [Available online for \\$46.99](#).

## 12-volt 20 oz. Smart Car Pot



You don't need to be a tea drinker to want an electric kettle in your truck. In fact, heating water for tea may be well down the list of things you'll use this handy kitchen item for. From the RoadPro Family of Brands, this pot plugs into your truck's 12-volt port (aka cigarette lighter) and will give you 20 ounces of boiling water in about an hour. This can be used for washing up before bed if you couldn't park somewhere with showers or provide hot water to tidy up your day's dishes. And, of course, hot water is essential if you want a cup of instant noodles, instant coffee, or hot chocolate, or enjoy any of the many dehydrated or freeze-dried meals. [Available online](#) or at most travel centers and truck stops for about \$25.

## PackLite 2-in-1 Power Lantern



These things we know to be true in the lives of a trucker working in 2021: Space is at a premium in your truck's sleeper berth. You can never have enough options to keep your various devices charged. It's almost as if Ann Stork and Andrea Sreshta were truck drivers. They're not, but what they are is a pair of women who invented an inflatable solar-powered lantern in response to an emergency need after an earthquake in Haiti. What they created is LuminAID, which creates these lanterns and distributes them to people in need. Purchasing one, helps fuel those humanitarian efforts. Good works aside, the PackLite makes sense for you as a trucker. It folds flat for easy storage, but then inflates when in use. When charged by a small solar panel, the lantern gives off 150 lumens, more than enough to light your sleeper berth for up to 50 hours. It also has a USB port so you can charge your devices. They come in three sizes and [sell online for between \\$50 and \\$75](#).

## 26-In-1 Pocket Tool



This may be the official unofficial winner of the multi-tool (which we love!) sweepstakes. It's a bit spendy at \$99.95 and is [available online from Hammacher Schlemmer](#), the Mecca of unique tools and gadgets. Made from aircraft aluminum, this modest multi-tool contains:

- LED flashlight
- 1" blade
- bottle opener
- hex wrench
- pry bar
- box cutter/scrapper
- carbide tip window breaker
- screwdriver with nine double-sided bits
- It comes with two LED watch batteries and a storage pouch for the screwdriver bits. •

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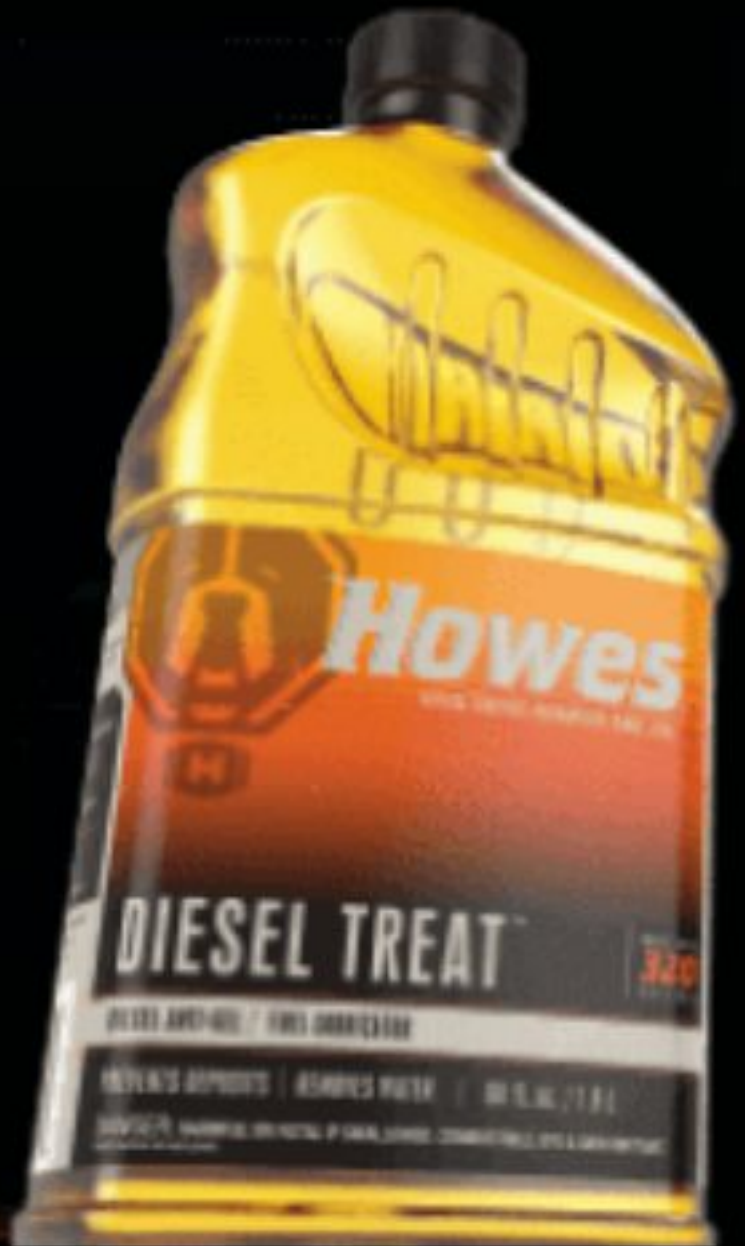




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# WINTER PREPAREDNESS

## UNCERTAIN WINTER WEATHER MAKES PLANNING CRITICAL

By Rich Guida, *Brand Manager, Howes*

Despite how confident your local meteorologist may sound when you turn on the news, winter weather has always been the toughest to predict. Massive temperature drops, volatile storms, and varying amounts of precipitation are just some of the things that can come about unexpectedly as winter falls upon us.

With that fact in mind, it's crucially important to take the time to develop a winter preparedness plan. You want to make sure that both you and your truck are equipped to take on freezing temperatures, icy roads, and all the dangers of severe weather. Here are 5 basic things to consider that could make a world of difference when facing the looming challenges of winter.

### MONITORING THE WEATHER



When hauling a load, trip preparation is key. So, checking the weather forecast before you hit the road will give you a baseline idea of what conditions lie ahead. Because weather can change in the blink of an eye, it's still important to keep tabs on it both throughout the day and your entire trip. However, knowing in advance where severe weather is set to hit allows you to plan your route more efficiently. For example, you may be able to avoid some bridges and overpasses until the roads are more likely to be salted or avoid less traveled roads that are likely to be plowed later than others. Whether the roads appear clear or not, you should always drive slower and more carefully when there's a chance of ice.

### ADDING EXTRA TIME



Bad weather slows you down, and road conditions can significantly affect your travel times. Winter is an important season to budget for what can easily become a longer trip. You want to be sure to buffer arrival times to allow for slowdowns without feeling the pressure to unsafely rush your driving. You also don't want to run out of driving hours or hit your driving limit before you can get to a safe place. While the DOT does allow you an "extra two hours of driving for unforeseen weather," this rule only applies if it's completely unexpected. You still need to factor in your slower speed when initially calculating your trip.

### TREATING YOUR DIESEL



Not being able to start your vehicle in the cold is certainly something you want to avoid. Diesel can begin to gel as soon as temperatures drop below 32°F, and if untreated, can cause your truck not to run. Fuel filter icing, which can occur in freezing temperatures if there's any water in your fuel, can also leave you stranded. As soon as the weather starts to get colder, you want to add an anti-gel additive to your truck's tanks before adding your fuel. This can help you avoid the costly issue of gelling. We recommend Howes Diesel Treat, North America's #1 trusted anti-gel, to prevent gelling in cold weather. Beyond preventing gelling, it safely removes water from your fuel, helping you to avoid icing. But for even more peace of mind, you can add Howes Diesel Lifeline to your supply list so you will have the best defense against unforeseen extreme weather. It can re-liquefy gelled fuel or de-ice frozen fuel filters fast in case of an emergency. Both products are alcohol-free, made with no harmful solvents, and are 100% guaranteed. It's a good idea to stock up on anti-gel additives early in the season because high demand during severe weather could make them difficult to find. It's also smart to always have an emergency backup plan, so keeping a rescue product on hand is essential.

### CHECKING COOLANT SYSTEMS



You want to be sure your truck's anti-freeze system is strong enough to handle colder temperatures. It's good practice to pressure-test your coolant system and radiator cap on a cold engine to recommended levels. It's also a good idea to check all heater and water hoses for wear, cracks, hardening, or softening. Finally, you want to be sure to tighten any loose hose clamps you find to prevent future issues.

### STOCKING THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT



It's good to have proper chaining equipment and a good quantity of various sized bungees stocked in your cab. You always want to pack sturdy, waterproof gloves, a reflective vest, boots with good traction, a flashlight, and a kneeling pad to be prepared for any job at hand. As the weather begins to turn, you also want to start packing extra warm bedding and winter clothes such as hats, gloves, and scarves. These can help with your own safety and comfort or be of great assistance if you ever encounter a fellow driver in need.

Winter can be a challenge but getting prepared can help make the season a lot less difficult. Being aware of your needs along with those of your vehicle can help ensure your safety and keep you both rolling along. •

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# PRO DRIVER TIP

## Winter Driving Tips

Henry Albert



Winter Weather Tips for Truck Drivers




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*Henry is the owner of Albert Transport, Inc., Statesville, NC. He has been in the trucking industry for 30 years. He is also a member of Freightliner® Team Run Smart and a former Owner/Operator of the Year Award winner from OverDrive Magazine.*

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# Thank You Truckers!

## THE HEROS OF THE HOLIDAYS

Kim McDonnell, *RoadPro Family of Brands*

Over this last year and a half, most realized just how ESSENTIAL the men and women of the road have been to our daily lives, and the Holiday Season will be no different.

Many of us use this time of year to relax and spend time with our families, but as a truck driver, you are most likely heading into your busiest time of the year, logging more miles and shifting into high gear to make those holidays deliveries.

**RoadPro knows that truck drivers are the ones that are getting all that we need to make the Holiday Merry and Bright.**

With the recent supply chain issues in the news now more than ever, truckers are in high demand, and getting all those holiday goodies and gifts into the stockings and under the tree will all come down to the truckers who deliver to the retailers that sell them. It's not only the brick-and-mortar stores but all those e-commerce gifts too. Fed X and UPS combined to deliver 34 million packages a day this past year, and truck drivers are the ones that make all those deliveries possible.

Let's not forget about the regular mail and all those Holiday Greetings and Christmas cards that need to be delivered. The U.S. Postal Service per day handles over 500 million pieces of mail. Truckers are instrumental in getting all of that mail to the right place.



What about that Holiday meal? Without truck drivers delivering those turkeys, ham's, and all the trimmings, there would be no Holiday feast to enjoy with our family and friends.

Then there is that extra fuel we use to get over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house. Without truckers, the fuel supply would run out within 24 hours, so certainly Grandmother would be disappointed if we couldn't visit.

While most of us get to shop online from the comfort of our couch for gifts for family and friends and make our grocery list for that special Holiday meal or dessert, it is the truck driver that makes that possible.

RoadPro knows that truck drivers are the ones that are getting all that we need to make the Holiday Merry and Bright.

So yeah – while Santa may want to take all the credit this Holiday Season – it is truly the truck drivers that are the Heroes of the Holiday! •

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# COOKING WITH ROADPRO®



## ROADPRO® SALMON DINNER

Made for the RoadPro® Roaster

### Ingredients:

2 Salmon filets  
Lemon, sliced

### Garlic-Lemon-Herb Butter:

3 Tbsp butter, softened  
1 Tbsp lemon juice, fresh  
1 Garlic clove, minced  
1 Tbsp parsley, chopped  
½ Tsp salt

### Directions:

1. Preheat [RoadPro Roaster](#)
2. In a small bowl, combine butter, lemon juice, garlic, parsley, and ½ tsp salt to make Garlic-Lemon-Herb butter
3. Place salmon & asparagus in pan and sprinkle with salt & pepper
4. Spread pre-made butter evenly over salmon & asparagus
5. Cover and cook for 30 minutes
6. Serve and enjoy!



## ROADPRO® BAKED PEACHES

Made for the RoadPro® Roaster

### Ingredients:

3 large, ripe peaches  
2 Tbsp honey  
2/3 cup water  
1 Tsp lemon zest  
2 Tsp fresh lemon juice  
½ Tsp sugar

### Directions:

1. Preheat [RoadPro Roaster](#)
2. Cut peaches in half and remove pits. Place in aluminum roaster pan
3. In a small bowl, whisk together jam, honey, water, lemon zest and lemon juice
4. Spoon jam mixture over halved peaches
5. Sprinkle sugar on each peach half.
6. Cover and bake for 1 hour, or until peaches are tender
7. Serve and enjoy!

Explore the entire  
**COOKING WITH ROADPRO LIBRARY**



Join an exclusive, trucker-only community...  
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BrakeTimeMission Watch later Share

The image shows three smartphone screens displaying different mission offers from the 'Brake Time' app. The central screen is highlighted with a red play button icon. The offers include: 'GEAR UP & SCORE BIG!' (15 PTS), 'Spin to Win' (30 PTS), and 'W Sliding Puzzle!' (10 PTS). Each screen shows a 'GET IT' or 'GET STARTED' button and an expiration date.

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[roadprobrands.com](http://roadprobrands.com)