

Free up space in your garage!

Store your Bushtec trailer in less space

By Bill McIlrath

Some of you have uncluttered garages with lots of free floor space. My guess is you are in the minority and, unfortunately, I am not part of your group. While I used to be able to store our Bushtec trailer in our garage, it has not fit for some time. This changed recently when our new Bushtec trailer stand arrived.

The body of our Quantum GL measures approximately 54-inches long by 36-inches wide. This does not include the length of the chassis neck, including the cooler. In previous years, we could back the trailer in on an angle, then park the front wheel of the Wing next to the cooler, but it still took up a lot of floor space. With the trailer mounted on the new stand, it only requires a 40-inch by 36-inch patch of floor and can easily be rolled out of the way into a corner or against a wall. If you have an 8-foot ceiling you are set – more on this later.

Bushtec made trailers with two different frames. The newer frames have box-steel running as the main chassis tube to the back end and use the kit without plates. Ours has the rounded steel tubing which requires the kit with plates. I had no idea how much time I would need to set it up when the stand arrived. After unpacking everything and reviewing the instructions, reality set in. With a half hour to kill, it was time to head outside. Installation required raising part of the floor carpeting (our carpet was already removed for another job), removing two bolts along with the rear-inside plate, drilling two holes, then installing the new inside and outside plates with the two bolts previously removed along with two new bolts. Sealant needs to be used around the four bolt holes to keep water out.

If your trailer has the box steel frame, skip all of the above. Your trailer is ready for the stand! Out of the box, the base arrived folded in half with the four wheels already attached.

Unfold the base and insert a pin, secured with a clip, and it is ready to roll. There is a bar that goes into the receiver, under the trailer, secured with another pin and clip. With that in place, you lower the stand onto the receiver with a third pin and clip, and your trailer is ready to go vertical. Be sure to empty it first!

To raise the trailer, grip the frame near the coupler and lift ... it is that simple. Once raised, connect the included ratchet straps for stability. To lower the trailer, remove the straps, place one foot on the curved pipe, grip the frame near the cooler mount and slowly lower the trailer.

Now a few comments about ceiling height. According to Bushtec, you need 96 inches. Removing the Heim-Joint will reduce the length/height by 1.5-2 inches as the swivel mechanism passes through the front of the tongue. Removing it is not recommended as this would require re-establishing the tension on the swivel each time it is re-installed.

Our trailer is 16 years old and has traveled 60-70K miles. Since the bottom was so "exposed," I took the opportunity to paint over all of the suspension. The wheels now have new tires, tubes and bearings. Working on all of this was far easier with the trailer standing up.

Bottom line, I love this stand! The stand without plates retails for \$299. The stand with plates retails for \$319. [www](#)



Bill McIlrath, GWRRR Life Member #22638, lives in Bethel, Connecticut. He is also a Life Member in the American Motorcyclist Association and an Iron Butt Association member.