

## **GAINESVILLE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TOWER TRANSPORTATION**

Material provided by Shannon Boal,

June 2018

Transport of tower trailer:

Hookup, driving, locating.

Prior to hookup, ensure that the telescoping tower sections are chained through, (so that they cannot move independently of each other), and that the legs are secured to this chain. (This prevents the tower from extending itself into or over the tow vehicle when you hit the brakes.) Spray ball, (2 inch, not 1-7/8") and the hitch latch, with lube. Lube jack screw by dripping a tablespoon of oil down the screw, located at the center of the handle. Tires require fifty PSI to carry their load safely. Powered through a "flat four" connector, there are turn signal and brake lights on this trailer. Attach and adjust safety chains just long enough to allow turning. Drive a short distance, then pull over and re-check. A follow vehicle is a good idea.

This trailer may be transported for a short distance, off the road, with a small vehicle, but on the road will require a vehicle capable of stopping and controlling it. It will require good mirrors, suitable for operating with only the side mirrors. A person to spot you while backing is recommended. Operation after dark or in bad weather is less safe and requires lights on the trailer. A small vehicle cannot safely pull it on the road. The trailer will push a small tow vehicle off its intended steering line, and greatly increase its required stopping distance, as it has no brakes of its own. The least important factor of towing ability is pulling power, the greatest factor control of steering and stopping.

Driving with this trailer will require caution and experience. It is top-heavy, tongue-heavy and just heavy! Allow time to get used to the different time required for turning, stopping and accelerating. DO NOT SPEED! If you routinely drive over the speed limit, get used to being at least three to five MPH UNDER the speed limit at all times. It is top-heavy, so if you lose control of this, it can turn you over. When turning, watch the trailer wheels (in your side mirrors), to see that they do not strike objects. Likewise when driving, watch the trailer wheels to see that they do not leave the roadway, that they stay in their lane.

Locating this tower trailer will require you to back it into a suitable location. A spotter is helpful. The location must be clear of power lines, and any other vehicles or structures for more than the height of the tower (50 feet) in any direction. The tires must be on firm, level ground, so that the frame is dead level left to right (there is a spirit level in the tool box). A total of two boards can be used under the tires for leveling, but it is preferred that none are used. After unhooking, the front to back leveling is set with the tongue jack.