

However, within 5,000 miles the transmission gave out. When the mechanic opened the oil pan he discovered the transmission had blown apart, and all kinds of metal shavings and pieces came out. He ordered a factory rebuilt transmission, but had to wait about 12 days for it to arrive. Apparently they can't rebuild these transmissions fast enough. It's disturbing to see the quality of Chevrolet products deteriorate like this."

Dr. Charles Michaels, Fountain City, Wis.: He likes his 2015 **Cub Cadet RZT S50** zero-turn riding mower. "The Kohler 23 hp. engine has plenty of power, and the foot controls are simple to operate. Best of all it has a steering wheel instead of a pair of handles, which makes turning a much easier job."

"The only negative is the cumbersome way the deck has to be removed and flipped over on its back in order to sharpen the blades. Then you attach a blade removal tool to the deck housing. It's time consuming, so we generally just return the mower to the dealer for blade sharpening."

Max R. Fitzpatrick, Greenwood, Ind.: "My **Dixie 6-ft.** chopper works great and just mows and mows and mows."

"My 2016 **Dodge 1500** Laramie pickup is deluxe in every way - except that over the years we've had to replace 5 different computers, which has resulted in far too much down time."

David Van De Weert, Geneseo, N.Y.: "No problems with the **Deere X300** riding mower I bought used at an auction sale."

"The problem with installing a DEF (Diesel Exhaust Fluid) system on any diesel engine is that it robs power."

John Schmucker, Cashton, Wis.: "My **Snap-On** sockets are the best I've ever used. These professional-level tools fit on snug and don't slip like cheaper brands do. They cost more but come with a lifetime warranty. You get what you pay for."

Norman Beery, Orrville, Ohio: "My **Kubota L245 DT 25 hp.** loader tractor was a real bull, but I finally sold it and bought a 2005 **Kubota BX2230** equipped with a front-end loader and mower. I love this tractor. I don't use it a lot so it should last a long time."

"I like my **Land Pride** zero-turn riding mower equipped with a 20 hp. Honda V-twin engine, Hydro-Gear transmission, and 52-in. deck. I bought this tractor mainly because I like the Honda engine. However, the Hydro-Gear transmission is obsolete. Three years ago while changing the transmission oil I noticed that the oil was shiny with aluminum. Turns out the magnet on the oil plug had fallen off and the Hydro-Gear 'ate' it up. However, this tractor is still running today."

"I teach ag mechanics at a local vocational school where my students often watch **YouTube** videos to learn how to fix things, including 2-cycle engines. YouTube is a great teaching tool."

"I bought a 40-ft. 'high cube' shipping container to use for storage. It's taller than a conventional container. I love it because with the wood floor there's no dampness inside during the winter and spring."

Don Lloyd, Kalamazoo, Mich.: Don's impressed with his 2018 **Dodge 2500 Ram 4-WD, 4-door** pickup equipped with an 8-ft. bed. "It's relatively fuel efficient for a big, heavy-duty truck. It gets 13 to 14 mpg pulling a 30-ft. fifth wheel trailer and 19 to 20 mpg empty."

Jim Queen, Metamora, Mich.: "I'm well pleased with my **Milwaukee Fuel 18-volt** cordless tools. I work in the electrical field, and electric power is not available when roughing in a job. Milwaukee tools have never let me down. They have a long battery

life and a lot of power."

Steve Bachman, Germansville, Penn.: "I bought a used 2013 **Kawasaki Mule 400** utility vehicle and find that it works great for hauling tools. It also can be a great towing vehicle. One time I used it to pull my Dodge 2500 pickup out of the mud. It starts and runs flawlessly."

Roger Berkoski, Cantril, Iowa: "Back in 1962 I bought a pair of Channellock pliers from **Sears**, and last April I accidentally broke them. I took the pieces back to Sears and they gave me a new pair at no charge. Their tools are made in the U.S."

Mervin Detweiler, Carrollton, Ohio: "We bought our 2008 **New Holland L175** skid loader used in 2013 with 986 hrs. on it. Now it has 4,279 hrs. with no major problems."

Jerry Miller, LaGrange, Ind.: "I appreciate the versatility of my 2018 **BCS 2-wheeled** walk-behind tractor. I use it with several interchangeable tools including a rototiller, sickle mower, chipper shredder, and snowblower. It comes with a quick-tach system that makes it easy to switch attachments. It always starts right up. No problems."

On the negative side, "I bought a 2018 **Gerkin** aluminum storm door with a lifetime warranty but the company won't honor it. The door is already sagging, and recently a gust of wind broke 2 of the tabs that hold in the window. The sales rep took photos and sent them to the company, but they claimed it was just normal wear and tear and wouldn't help."

Glenn Eppers, Kings Mountain, N.C.: "I like my 2016 **Chevrolet Malibu Premier** equipped with a 2.0-liter, 250 hp. turbocharged engine. Rides and drives nice."

Brian Longcore, Sand Lake, Mich.: Larry's the satisfied owner of a 2015 **Chevrolet Silverado Z71** crew cab pickup equipped with a 5.3-liter engine. "I drove Ford pickups for the last several years but thought it was time to try a Chevy. This one is very fuel efficient, and with only about 64,000 miles on it I plan to keep it for several more years."

Herman Borgelt, Ottawa, Ohio: "We're well pleased with our **Great Plains Turbo-Max** vertical tillage tool. It doesn't turn over the soil, which saves moisture, and leaves a very fine seedbed even in our heavy clay soil. I've rented the machine to neighbors who also like how it works. It's built heavy - a 15-ft. model weighs more than 13,000 lbs."

Tom Donahue, Mound, Minn.: "I've used my 2015 **Milwaukee 6370-20** metal cutting circular saw to cut pallet racking, and also 1/2-in. thick plate steel with no problems. Now I'm using this saw to cut 2 by 4 by 1/4-in. thick box tubing for a trailer that I'm building. Replacement blades for it are available at Menards, but I really like the company's blades because they're 8 in. in dia. and cut through metal like it's hot butter."

Mark Feltrop, Willow Springs, Mo.: "It's absolutely the best piece of equipment I've ever owned," says Mark about his 2002 **Polaris Ranger 6** by 6 industrial utility vehicle. "I use this machine to do many different chores on my 154-acre ranch. No problems."

A **Simpson 3,100 psi** pressure washer rates as his "worst buy". "After 2 hrs. of use the pump started leaking, and within 15 min. the machine was unuseable. I took it to the nearest authorized repair shop and they had it for 3 mo., but it just sat there because the company wouldn't return my calls. I then took it to the next nearest dealer about 100 miles away, but 2 weeks later I was told the company wouldn't pay for anything. Now they won't even answer my phone calls or emails. The warranty that came with this

Loader Upgrade For ATV

Jim Ruen, La Crescent, Minn.: After 15 years of pushing, pulling, and lifting with the Groundhog loader and blade on my ATV, I replaced it with a Wild Hare ATV System. Wild Hare Manufacturing bought the rights to the 3-way (lift, lower and tilt) hydraulic Groundhog system and has made some serious upgrades (www.wildharemf.com; ph 218 483-1000).

"The major change is the electric hydraulic pump. At 1.3 gpm at 2500 psi, it is more powerful and has a 500-lb. maximum lift. It also has an optional splitter valve that works with the quick connect hoses. This allows you to use the same pump to power the optional 3-pt. hitch or other small hydraulic tools. When lowered all the way, the bucket lifts the front end of my ATV 5 in. off the ground."

"The pump was the main reason I thought about replacing my old Groundhog system. I had banged up the loader and blade plenty, but it still did the job. However, I was having more and more problems with the electric hydraulic pump. I took it to a local repair shop, but it was a no-go."

"When I checked with Wild Hare on a replacement pump, it required a new wiring harness, controls and hoses. They also recommended powering it off a separate 12-volt deep cycle battery, as they felt the old system was hard on the ATV's battery. I couldn't argue, considering how many ATV batteries I'd replaced."

"The downside to the new pump is that it and the battery box mount to the rear rack instead of the front one. This means that instead of one power cable running under the cowl of the ATV, I would have 4 hydraulic hoses and a power cable running along the gas tank and seat. It also means my rear rack is no longer available for other uses. The price tag was going to run close to \$1,577."

"That got me wondering about replacing the entire loader. In addition to the bucket and blade bruises, the loader arms had a few added twists not there when I bought it."

"The new design is adjustable in both width and length to fit new and larger ATVs. It also offers more height to the lift than my old loader."

"My old 500 cc Honda Foreman is



Jim Ruen has had a loader on his Honda Foreman for 15 years. He recently went back to the company for an upgrade.

practically bulletproof, but the day may come when I need to replace it. It would be nice to know the loader system would fit."

"The folks at Wild Hare offer a number of packages with multiple tools. In addition to the bucket on the loader, they offer a snow blade (also works great with dirt), disc harrow, cultivator, box blade attachment, lawn basket and rear 3-pt. hitch."

"I opted for the loader package, which includes the electric hydraulic system. It's priced at \$3,895. I added the \$595 snow blade. I was tempted by the 50-in. box blade at \$695, but left it for another day."

"Using the new snow blade will be a real treat this winter. The old blade was only 48-in., just the width of the ATV. It barely cleared the track for my wheels. The new one is 57-in. and will give my wheels more play when hitting a big drift."

"The entire package came on a single extra large pallet. It was easy to assemble. All the parts were included with the exception of the battery and one small bolt."

"I've used it for a number of chores over the past month and a half, and it lives up to its heritage. It gets into those tight places my full-size tractor and loader can't go. I expect that like the old Groundhog, the Wild Hare will more than pay its way. All that's left is to find someone to buy the old Groundhog."

machine isn't worth the paper it's written on."

"My **Husqvarna 460** chainsaw is hard to start and also very heavy. The first week I used it the pull cord broke, and then the chain stuck so I had to remove it. Next time I'll buy another brand."

Bobby Martin, Prosperity, S.C.: "I like the 2019 **Predator** earth auger I bought at Harbor Freight. It always starts on the first or second pull and digs great, even in rocky soil."

"The motor on my **Remington RM430** Hero gas-powered leaf blower locked up after only 2 hrs. of use. I got another one but it doesn't run right, either. A local small engine shop says they can't do anything to make it work right."

Barton Gessaman, Troy, Ohio: Barton's impressed with his 2019 **Great Plains Industries (GPI) 5-30** in-line fuel meter. "The meter hooks up to our fuel pump and line with supplied connectors. It keeps a running total of all the fuel we use, which helps with planning the next fill date. This model is not digital and cost \$149. No problems."

"We also own a **GPI 01** series aluminum in-line fuel meter equipped with a digital readout, but it went bad within the first 6 mos. The company replaced it but the new one didn't last more than a month."



Wendy Wellnitz, La Crescent, Minn.: "The One Touch Rain Wand and Brass Hose Swivel from **Dramm** makes watering our gardens easier than ever. The wand gives thumb-tip control, and the water-breaker head delivers a gentle, full flow of water in a soft stream. It's available in 16 and 30-in. lengths. We went with the 30, and it is ideal for watering at the base of plants."

"I've been frustrated with conventional spray nozzles for years. They usually provide no control over volume while requiring

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