



Check Your Shackles

I enjoyed Bill and Jenn Gehr's February article, "Rolling Smoothly and Safely" — great advice about regularly inspecting RV components. The front pair of shackles on our 2010 Heartland Sundance 30-foot fifth-wheel completely broke and dropped the axle. It was impossible to load and haul away, so we jacked up the whole trailer and replaced the shackles. When we got home, I replaced the springs, hangers and equalizer, and went with wet bolts and brass inserts. Then I welded an angle iron brace between the two equalizers, per Lippert's recommendation. I now advise my fellow travelers to check their shackles often, or at least annually, when they repack their wheel bearings. I have included a photo from my experience, and it speaks for itself.

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