

Protection Against the Odds

— The Adventure of a Lifetime —

It is -87° F as howling winds whip across the frozen Siberian landscape. With temperatures this low, plastics and rubber become brittle and even metal can crystallize and break.

Most people avoid this part of the world during the winter, but in February of 1996, The Turtle Expedition Unlimited journeyed there on a photographic exploration. “Officially, there is no road across Siberia,” explained Gary Wescott, founder of The Turtle Expedition. “Bridges are rotten or washed out, food and fuel are in short supply, and crime is on a disturbing increase.”

Why would anyone take a chance like this just for a few photos? Well, according to Gary and his wife and co-traveler, Monika, it's *much* more than photos. They have been traveling around the globe since 1970, and their goals have remained steadfast: to explore remote backroads, to experience the uniqueness of people and their customs, to capture the excitement of travel in far-off lands on film, and to document the extremes of the world.

The Turtle Expedition adventures are a regular feature in *Four Wheeler Magazine* where Gary and

Monika are editors-at-large, and their web site — turtleexpedition.com — has additional information about their travels.



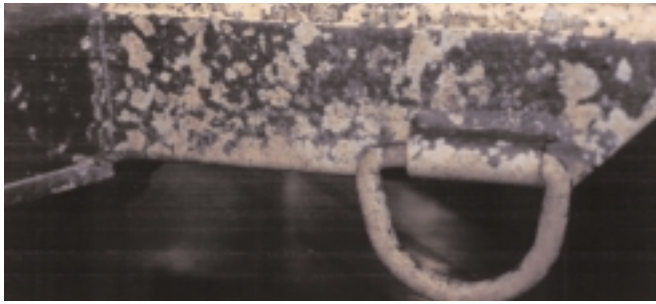
Gary and Monika Wescott pose in front of their Ford F-350 4x4 pickup — The Turtle IV. The couple has been traveling around the world since 1970. They are editors-at-large for *Four Wheeler Magazine*. Monika — originally from Switzerland — speaks five languages.

During their Siberian adventure, the Wescotts were protected from the elements by The Turtle IV, a well-equipped Ford F-350 4x4 pickup. “Our survival in treacherous regions depends entirely upon planning for the worst. In the places we go, reliability becomes all-important. This is not a vacation,” said Gary. The Wescott's truck is prepared with everything from an alarm system to a compressor to electric winches and a global positioning system. “We take only the best, most dependable equipment on our trips because we rely on top-quality products for our

safety. Over the past 26 years we have systematically found out what works.”

Among the products on the Wescott truck is 3M™ Paint Protection Film, supplied to Gary by the 3M Automotive Division. The film protects painted surfaces from stone chips, bug damage, abrasion and

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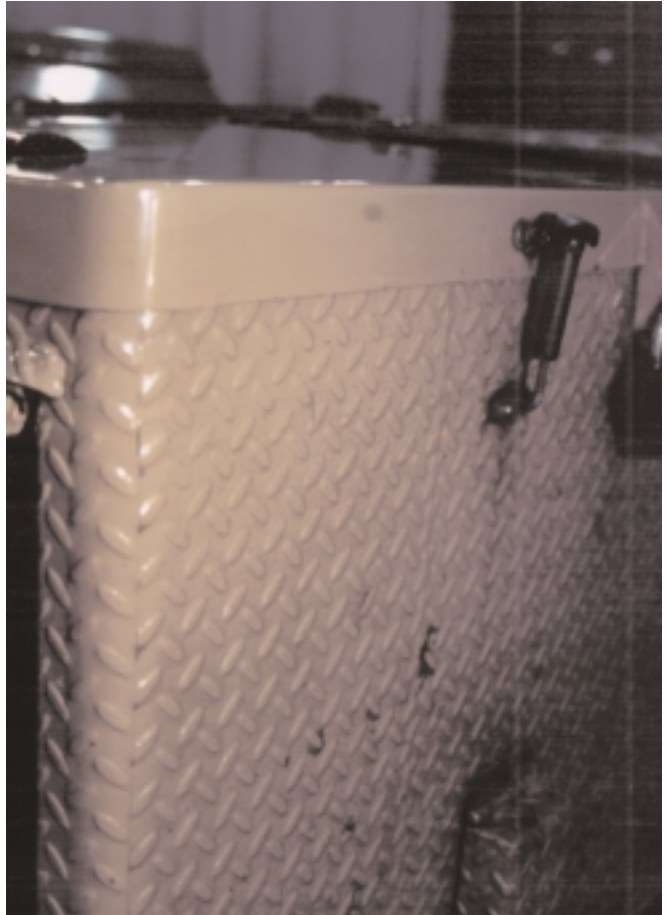


This unprotected trailer surface shows excessive paint damage from countless rivers, thousands of miles of gravel and temperatures from -87°F to over 100°F.

weathering which can eventually lead to rust, and Gary applied the film to his trailer's front end before the trip across Siberia. According to Gary, "The area where 3M's film was applied is significantly cleaner than the unprotected areas. I was amazed to see how well the film performed during our trip to Siberia. We didn't have to be concerned with the surfaces breaking down and rusting due to chipped paint." The unprotected areas show major damage from paint chipping, bugs and rust.

Just before painting the trailer, Gary covered the surfaces with a spray-on chip-guard primer designed to protect the vehicle from stone chips. According to Gary, the product didn't bond properly and once the trailer was painted and the 3M film applied, the chip-guard caused slight paint delamination under the 3M film on the diamond-plate metal surface. "Even though this chip-guard paint had failed to bond, the 3M paint protection film did not lose its adhesion on the trailer, or its ability to ward off thousands of miles of dirt and gravel roads. This is particularly amazing considering the truck has been exposed to the salt of Europe's winter autobahns, the ocean mist of the Faroe Islands, and countless river crossings — and it has never seen a garage."

You may not be planning a trip to the ends of the earth, but your vehicle is still exposed to bugs and rocks. The Wescott's experience is great testimony to the durability and reliability of 3M paint protection film even under the most extreme conditions, and Gary summarizes his experiences like this: "Enough to say, the front of the trailer has been through more torture than any 3M test booth, and it *still* looks okay. Had it not been for the mis-applied chip-guard, it would still look like new."



This trailer surface was exposed to the same rigorous conditions, but was protected with 3M™ Paint Protection Film.



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