30 October, 2008

Hello, my name is Doug, and I am a stuff-o-holic.

I used to live in a 2,480 square foot / 230.4 square meters home. It was filled with stuff.

It had a large garage. It was filled with stuff.

It had an attic. It was filled with stuff.

Every closet, every cupboard, every drawer, every storage bin and every nook and cranny was completely filled with stuff.

I had so much stuff I had no idea what stuff I had.

My name is Doug, and I am a stuff-o-holic.

To get rid of our stuff we sold our house and then gave away almost all of our stuff.

We moved into an overland expedition vehicle (OEV) with a footprint of 182 square feet / 21 square meters.

It was filled with stuff.

Every storage compartment, every cupboard, every drawer, every storage bin and every nook and cranny was completely filled with stuff.

Even the OEV's garage was filled with stuff. The garage was so filled with stuff, every time I opened the door stuff spilled out.

My name is Doug, and I am a stuff-o-holic.

After 16 months of living in the OEV, we decided to get rid of some of our stuff.

Our rule was: if it hadn't been touched in 16 months, then it was coming off the truck.

When we packed the OEV, we only put on things that we thought were essential to our survival.

Today we removed 523 pounds / 237 kilograms of stuff from the OEV.

I didn't recognize many of the things in the 523 pounds / 237 kilograms of stuff.

I had so much stuff I had no idea what stuff I had.

All 523 pounds / 237 kilograms came from the exterior storage compartments, the cab and the garage.

Those 523 pounds / 237 kilograms of stuff were not essential to our survival.

Tomorrow we tackle the stuff inside the OEV's camper.

My name is Doug, and I am a stuff-o-holic.

Help me before I stuff again.

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Photo by Jorge Valdes

Douglas and Stephanie Hackney are on a two to three year global overland expedition, with a little less stuff than they had yesterday.

You can learn more about their travels at: http://www.hackneys.com/travel