



Ideas @ work

BIG AGNES

Big Agnes, an award-winning manufacturer of high-end camping gear headquartered in Steamboat Springs, Co. had outgrown a patchwork campus of small warehouses when it decided to consolidate into a single DC. From a logistics point of view, it made sense to relocate their DC to Salt Lake City, Utah, with its greater inventory of warehouses, access to transportation, and to reduce the cost of bringing containers into Steamboat Springs. Big Agnes partnered with S.L.C. based material handling firm Hoj Innovations to engineer, deliver and install the equipment for their new 30,000 sq. ft. facility including vehicles and their proprietary warehouse management system, Warehouse OS. Warehouse OS is an iOS app driven inventory management system that uses an iPad as the user interface. Users have seen 30% - 40% increases in productivity, particularly when paired with the Big Joe Joey task support

“You overlook the controls because they’re so easy and intuitive. The Joey is really a tight machine. If you nudge it, it responds, you don’t have to guess how much it’s going to move.” Jeff Bailey



vehicle. “What makes Warehouse OS special is that it isn’t rigid about where you start an order from, you can start in the primary pick faces, in overstock, wherever you want and the Joey mirrors that flexibility. They let you to be as flexible as needed to get the job done,” said Jeff Bailey, Inventory Control Analyst with Big Agnes.

Since occupying the DC 2 ½ years ago, Big Agnes has continued to grow at a rapid rate and has now nearly maxed out the space. “We have some very large accounts like R.E.I., LL Bean, and Backcountry.com that are placing multi-pallet to multi-trailer sized orders, and then we have individual internet orders that average 1 – 3 or 4 items,” said Howard Peterson, DC Manager. “We’ll fill 300 orders totaling over 1,000 items per day. The flexibility and size of the Joey allowed us to have narrower aisles and fit more into our space. Right now, the most valuable thing to us is that space.”

Big Agnes uses their Joey up to 12 hours a day and has since moving into the DC. In the early morning, the Joey is used for replenishment of the primary pick faces, looping from overstock to pick aisles across the DC. During the day shift the Joey is multi-tasked as a support vehicle for the entire facility, “We use the Joey for a lot of different things – picks, inventory checks, inventory consolidation, replenishments, really, all over the building,” said Bailey. “Joey is quicker and easier to operate than our other equipment. What sets the limit is how much we can put on it, generally no more than 3 or 4 larger items like tents or whole cases, but if it fits on the Joey that’s what we use,” he continued.

Issue: Consistent growth lead to a consolidation of several smaller facilities into one large DC, with high volume order fulfillment driving the need for greater efficiency.

Solution: Big Agnes bought a J1-192 Joey for their new DC and set their pick aisles on a narrow footprint to maximize cube utilization and pick speed. The Joey’s flexibility, capability and reliability have made it an indispensable piece of equipment in the DC. “We haven’t had an issue with the Joey in 2 ½ years. The Joey is the most flexible and the most used lift in the DC,” Peterson said.

Results: As Big Agnes has experienced continued growth they were able to maximize their available warehouse space and keep payroll costs under control. “The Joey saves us on manpower and worked hours. It’s about more than efficiency, if we had a regular order picker in here, we wouldn’t be able to set the racking so tight, and we’d lose a lot of warehouse space that we’re currently benefiting from,” Peterson said. Bailey cited the Joey’s precise control and maneuverability as key contributors to its success in Big Agnes’ condensed footprint.



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J1 JOEY



The J1 JOEY combines attributes of elevated work platforms, order pickers and tuggers into a compact vehicle design.



BIG JOE MISSION:

We believe that we can help North American businesses improve their results and the quality of their workers lives by providing simple innovative material handling products and genuine responsive support. Big Joe equipment focuses on supporting customers changing needs related to how they Move, Stack & Access materials in their operations with the goal of helping companies and their workers **move more and hurt less.**

ABOUT THE J1 JOEY:

- + **Safety** – Reduce exposure to worker injuries compared to ladders
- + **Productivity** – Complete 2x as much work as compared to ladders
- + **Capability** - Carry up to 2x the load weight of other vehicles
- + **Capability** - Tow up to 2,500lbs with the optional tow hitch
- + **Capability** - Elevate operators as high as 192" on the J1-192

Key features:

- Electronic power steering with infinitely variable speed control
- Finger tip controls integrated into vehicle guardrails
- Premium steel I-beam mast construction and steel frame
- 180 degree articulating driveline with 72" minimum turn radius. The Joey can can be driven at height to move from task to task. Travel is provided by a high efficiency AC drive motor that can be programmed through the on-board LCD dash, while power comes from a standard 224AH AGM maintenance free battery pack that supports opportunity charging from a standard 120v outlet or a lead acid industrial battery and external charger which is required on the J1-192.