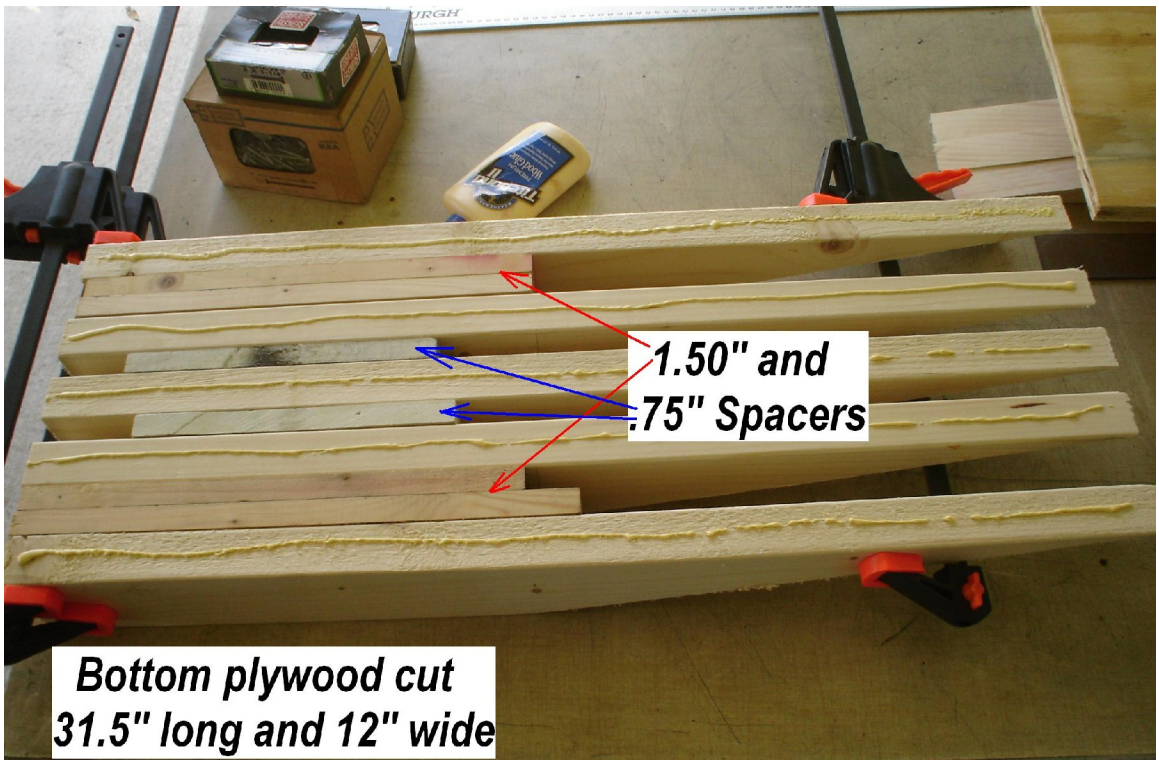
2010 43QGP Allegro Bus

10/6/2011

THIRTY-SIXTH - coach modification - **COACH WORK RAMPS.** Well actually a work tool and not a modification. After eight months the ramps were designed and constructed the ramps are necessary for some maintenance work underneath the coach. Previous coaches were not as large or as heavy as the 43 foot Allegro Bus so bigger and heavier equipment was needed to work safely on some of the chassis maintenance items. One of those maintenance items was the checking and adjusting if necessary the coach's ride height. The ride height checking and adjustment portion of our coach's service work can now be checked off.
The basic materials for the ramps consisted of 8 - 2" x 4" x 96" pine boards, one 4' x 8' sheet of exterior grade 23/32" plywood, a few pounds of 2 1/2" and 1 1/4" exterior grade screws and a bottle of wood glue. Total material cost around $ 50.00. Using those materials six - 5 inch tall by 12 inch wide by 32 inch long ramps were constructed. The 2 x 4's were cut 14.5 inches long plus a 17 inch slope for the ramp. The ramps bottom plywood was cut 31.5 inches long then glued and screwed to the 2 x 4's arranged in the below picture.



1" x 4" spacer boards were used to maintain the proper separation between the 2 x 4's prior to final assembly. A 1.5 inch separation on the outside 2 x 4's and a .75 inch separation on the inside 2 x 4's were used. Using this assembly method each ramps weight was by reduced by approximately one-third, only five vertical boards were used instead of eight vertical boards. After the bottom plywood had been glued and screwed into place all separators were removed prior to installing each ramps top plywood boards.

Each of the six ramps weighs approximately 20 pounds, driving up on the ramps allows the coach to be elevated five inches at the same time fully supporting the coach's weight without damaging the tires.