

CRICKET[®]esv



CRICKET[®] Electric Sport Vehicle
Owner's Manual, Safety Guide, and Warranty Information

Thank you for the purchase of your new **CRICKET Electric Sport Vehicle**. This owner's manual is designed to furnish you with a basic understanding of the features and operation of this vehicle. ***Important safety information and information about special techniques and skills needed to operate and ride your CRICKET ESV are also included in this publication.*** Basic maintenance and inspection procedures and warranty information are also included.

Please consult **Rick's Specialty Vehicles** (toll-free at **1-866-798-2227**, or via e-mail: **info@ricksesv.com**) if you have any questions regarding the operation or maintenance of your CRICKET.

For your safety, and the safety of all passengers:

- **Please read this owner's manual carefully and completely before operating your CRICKET. Make sure you understand all instructions.**
- **Take special notice of all warning and caution notices herein.**
- **Operate your CRICKET ESV only after with proper training or instruction.**
- **No one under 16 years of age should ever operate a CRICKET ESV.**

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CRICKET Product Specifications

Model: Double-seat CRICKET Electric Sport vehicle – Four-wheel, electric-powered

Power: Single 24-volt magnet DC 1,000-watt motor

Transmission: Direct drive through 30:1 reduction gearbox

Speed Control: Twist-grip step-less control for smooth operation

Directional Control: Forward/Reverse switch conveniently located on main control

Maximum Speed: Controlled from 0 to 10 mph in consideration of congested areas and terrain

Hill-climbing ability = 1:3 Gradient

Battery Charging: Plug charging unit into rear of buggy

Frame: MIG-welded high-tensile steel with corrosion protection

Body: Molded in polymer-reinforced plastic

Brakes: Single regenerative electromagnetic braking

Batteries: Two heavy-duty gel 12-volt 85-amp/hour in series

Battery charger: 10-amp, automatic cut-off when fully charged

Tires: 13" x 6.50 x 6" Tubeless

Turning Radius: 102"

Overall Length: 52" (including utility box)

Overall Width: 32" (including utility box)

Overall Height: 28" (when folded down)

Load Capacity: 600 lbs.

Weight: 313 lbs (typographical error in product brochure reads 213 lbs)

NOTICE: CRICKET specifications, safety, and performance features are subject to change as we continue to improve the CRICKET ESV.

General Information

This guide is provided to assist the owner or operator of this CRICKET ESV in the safe operation and maintenance of the vehicle.

Safety

General Safety Information

This guide is provided to assist the owner or operator of this Rick's Specialty Vehicles product in the maintenance and safe operation of the vehicle. The warnings in this manual are not a replacement for good common sense and safe driving practices. Your CRICKET ESV is designed and manufactured for off-road use. It does not conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and is not equipped for operation on public streets. Operators of the CRICKET ESV should have a valid motor vehicle license. No one under 16 years of age should be allowed to operate a CRICKET ESV.

Operating Safety

- 1) Always use your CRICKET in a responsible manner and maintain the vehicle in safe operating condition.
- 2) Always read and observe all warnings and operation instruction labels affixed to the CRICKET vehicle.
- 3) Always follow all safety rules established in the area where you are operating the CRICKET vehicle.
- 4) Always use extreme caution when making sharp or blind turns.
- 5) Always release throttle gradually (rotate forward, away from yourself) to control speed and stability on steep grades.
- 6) Always use extreme caution when traveling:
 - a) In wet areas
 - b) In blind spots
 - c) Along loose terrain
 - d) On uneven roads
 - e) In traffic with other vehicles
 - f) Near pedestrian areas.

Notes, Cautions, and Warnings

The following notations indicate important information. Failure to follow the warnings contained in this owner's manual could result in serious injury or death.

NOTE

Condition that should be observed. This provides key information that makes procedures easier or clearer.

CAUTION

Condition that may result in damage to the vehicle. Special precautions must be taken to avoid damage to the vehicle.

!WARNING!

Hazardous condition that could result in **severe injury or death** to the machine operator, a bystander, or a person inspecting and/or repairing the vehicle.

General Safety Practices

Steep Grade ► ! WARNING !

In areas where steep grades exist, vehicle operations should be restricted to the designated vehicle pathways wherever and whenever possible. Such potential hazards should be identified with a suitable warning giving the following information: "Warning: STEEP GRADE – Ascend or descend slowly, and proceed with due caution."

Wet Areas ► ! WARNING !

Wet grassy areas may cause a vehicle to lose traction and may affect stability. Wet areas should be chained or roped off to prevent access and potential accidents with injury.

Sharp Turns, Blind Corners, Bridge Approaches ► ! WARNING !

Sharp turns, blind spots, bridge approaches and other potentially hazardous areas shall be either chained or roped off to prevent vehicle operations or identified with a suitable warning to the operator of the nature of the hazard and stating the proper precautions to be taken to avoid the hazard.

Loose Terrain ► ! WARNING !

Loose terrain may cause a vehicle to lose traction and may affect stability. Areas of loose terrain should be repaired if possible, or chained or roped off to prevent vehicle operation, or identified by a suitable warning to operators not to operate vehicles in this area due to loose terrain or possible hazardous conditions.

Pedestrian Areas ► ! WARNING !

Areas where pedestrians and vehicles interfere shall be avoided whenever possible by rerouting the vehicle traffic or the pedestrian traffic to eliminate the interference. If elimination of the interference is not possible or is highly impractical, signs should be erected warning pedestrian traffic and to drive slowly and use extreme caution.

Ventilation ► CAUTION

Never charge a vehicle in an area that is subject to flame or spark. Pay particular attention to natural gas or propane gas water heaters and furnaces.

Safety

On steep hills it is possible for vehicles to coast at greater than normal speeds encountered on a flat surface. To prevent loss of vehicle control and possible serious injury, speeds should be limited to no more than the maximum speed on level ground. Limit speed by applying the automatic brake, which is engaged by gradually lowering your throttle speed.

Catastrophic damage to the drive train components due to excessive speed may result from driving the vehicle above specified speed. Damage caused by excessive speed may cause a loss of vehicle control and is costly. This is considered abuse and will not be covered under warranty. **Use extra caution when towing the vehicle.**

Safety (continued)

If the vehicle is to be used in a commercial environment, signs should be used to warn of situations that could result in an unsafe coasting condition.

Keep this manual as part of the permanent service record in case the vehicle should be resold.

Your CRICKET vehicle is intended for **off-road use only**. The owner should check local and other applicable laws and regulations before operating.

SEVERE INJURY OR DEATH can result if you do not follow these instructions:

- Read this entire manual carefully and follow the operating procedures described.
- Operate a CRICKET ESV only if you have had proper training or instruction.
- Follow these age recommendations:
No one under 16 years of age should operate a CRICKET vehicle or be left without adult supervision.
- Be wary of the safety of passengers and pedestrians.
- Do not operate a CRICKET vehicle on a highway.
- Do not consume alcohol or drugs before, or while operating, this machine.
- Never operate at speeds too fast for your skills or the outdoor conditions. Always operate at a speed that is suitable for the terrain, visibility and operating conditions, and your experience.
- Never attempt wheelies, jumps, or other stunts.
- Inspect your vehicle every time it is used to make sure it is in safe operating condition. Follow the inspection and maintenance procedures and schedules described in this manual.
- Always keep both hands on the both handles of the steering tiller during operation.
- Always drive at slower speeds and be cautious when operating on unfamiliar terrain. Be alert to changing terrain conditions at all times when operating a CRICKET vehicle.
- Do not operate your vehicle on excessively rough, slippery or loose terrain until you have learned and practiced the skills necessary to control the vehicle on such terrain. Be especially cautious of these kinds of terrain.
- Always follow proper procedures for turning as described in this manual. Practice turning at low speeds before attempting to turn at faster speeds. Do not turn at excessive speed.
- Do not operate the vehicle on hills too steep for the vehicle or for your ability. Practice on smaller hills before attempting larger ones.
- Always follow safe procedures for climbing hills. Check the terrain carefully before you start up any hill. Never climb hills with excessively slippery or loose surfaces. Shift your weight forward. Never open the throttle suddenly or make sudden gear changes. Never go over the top of a hill at high speed.
- Always follow safe procedures for going down hills and for braking on hills. Check the terrain carefully before you start down any hill. Shift your weight backward. Never go down a hill at high speed. Avoid going down a hill at an angle that could cause the vehicle to lean sharply to one side. Go straight down the hill wherever possible.
- Always follow proper procedures for crossing the side of a hill as described in this manual. Avoid hills with excessively slippery or loose surfaces. Shift your weight to the uphill side of the vehicle. Never attempt to turn the vehicle around on any hill until you have mastered the turning technique on level ground. Avoid crossing the side of a steep hill if possible.

Safety (continued)

- Use proper procedures if you stall or roll backwards when climbing a hill. To avoid stalling, use proper gear and maintain a steady speed when climbing a hill. If you stall or roll backwards, follow the special procedure for braking. Dismount on the uphill side or to a side if pointed straight uphill. Turn the vehicle around and remount.
- Always check for obstacles before operating in a new area.
- Never attempt to operate over large obstacles, such as large rocks or fallen trees.
- Be careful when skidding or sliding. Learn to safely control skidding or sliding by practicing at low speeds and on level, smooth terrain. On extremely slippery surfaces, such as ice, go slowly and be very cautious in order to reduce the chance of skidding or sliding out of control.
- Never operate a CRICKET in fast-flowing water or excessively deep waters. Contact with water may affect the batteries. Remember that wet brakes may reduce stopping ability. Test your brakes after leaving water. If necessary, apply brake pressure with throttle several times to let friction dry out the linings.
- Always use the size and type tires specified in this manual.
- Always maintain proper tire pressure as described in this manual. (8-15 PSI)
- Never modify a CRICKET vehicle through improper installation or use of accessories.
- Never exceed the stated load capacity for a vehicle. Cargo should be properly distributed and securely attached. Reduce speed and follow sound procedures for carrying cargo or pulling a trailer. Allow greater distance for braking.

Control Functions

CRICKET CONTROL PANEL

Functions of the respective switch positions:

ON: One click of key clockwise activates power and makes engine ready for operation. One more click clockwise turns on the headlight and taillights.

OFF: In the totally vertical OFF position, all electrical circuits are switched off. The key may now be removed.

CHARGE: “1” signifies **full charge**. “0” signifies **no charge**.

DIRECTIONAL TOGGLE SWITCH: Up (**0**) for forward - Down (**1**) for reverse.



Entering the Vehicle

All passengers (including driver) must be seated at all times while the CRICKET vehicle is in use.

Turning the Vehicle On ► Switch on key switch and select the desired direction (Forward or Reverse). One click forward (up) automatically engages the engine and drive train of the CRICKET.

Driving the Vehicle

After making the desired directional selection, slowly turn the throttle backward (towards you) with your right hand to engage the vehicle's power train. ***Always be aware of surrounding terrain and use caution.*** Judge speed accordingly. Be cautious when encountering loose or wet terrain. Do not attempt steep grades.



Control Functions (continued)

Stopping the Vehicle

Slow down by twisting the hand-operated throttle forward. Once you reach **zero forward speed**, the automatic electronic braking system turns your CRICKET off.

Turning the Vehicle Off

After turning the throttle all the way forward (away from you) to the OFF position and automatically stopping the vehicle, switch the key to the Off position.

Exiting the Vehicle

Once the vehicle has come to a complete stop, the key switch is turned to the Off position, all passengers can carefully exit the vehicle. **Never attempt to exit the vehicle while it is still moving.** *This could lead to severe injury.*

Storing the Vehicle

Store your CRICKET vehicle with the key switch in the Off position. Do not store vehicle for more than one day with the battery charger hooked up.

Riding the Vehicle

Ride with Care and Good Judgment. *Get Training If You Are Inexperienced.*

This CRICKET vehicle should only be used by experienced operators. This vehicle requires special skills obtained through practice. Take your time to fully learn techniques before attempting more difficult maneuvers.

You should familiarize yourself with the operation of the vehicle to achieve the skill necessary to enjoy riding safely. Be sure you have read this entire guide and understand the operation of the controls before you begin to ride. Pay particular attention to the safety information.

Beginners should get training from a certified instructor. Become familiar with this vehicle at slow speeds first, even if you are an experienced operator. Do not attempt to operate at maximum performance until you are totally familiar with the vehicle's handling and performance characteristics.

Passenger and Driver Safety* ► **! WARNING !*

During Operation

Always keep your feet inside the vehicle during operation. Otherwise, your feet may contact the rear wheels. Removing even one hand or foot can reduce your ability to control the vehicle or could cause you to lose your balance and fall out of the vehicle. If you remove a foot from inside the vehicle, your foot or leg may come into contact with the rear wheels or objects outside the vehicle, which could *Always keep both hands on the steering wheel and both feet inside the vehicle during operation.*



Tires and Tire Air Pressure

Operating this vehicle with improper tires, or with improper or uneven tire pressure, may cause loss of control, thereby increasing your risk of an accident.

Always use the size and type tires specified in this manual for this vehicle.

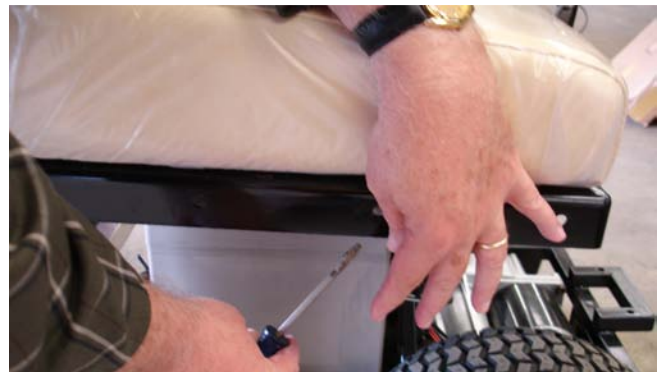
Always maintain proper 8-15 PSI tire pressure as described in this manual, adjusting periodically for conditions, load, and terrain.

Check tire pressure and adjust accordingly by removing custom full wheel cover from each wheel and removing cap from valve stem, just as with any automobile using pneumatic tires. Always replace valve stem cap and wheel cover after each tire pressure check operation.

CRICKET Installation, Maintenance and Operational Instructions

Installing Double Seat

- a. Position seat squarely on seat frame, with downward-sloping side of seat facing rear of vehicle.
- b. Secure seat to frame with six self-tapping screws provided in delivery kit. (Phillips-head screwdriver is only tool required.)



Adjusting Steering Tiller

Adjust the firmness and/or forward-backward motion range of the steering tiller by pulling up the rubber boot at the bottom of the steering tiller and tightening (or loosening) the nut and bolt that connects the steering tiller to the front axle.



Charging the Batteries



- a. Simply raise the hinged front seat with the convenient lift strap for easy access to the new on-board permanent charging system.

- b. Insert the plug (it will fit only in one direction) attached to the battery-charging unit into any convenient 110-volt electrical outlet. (Also works with Coach and other portable generators.)

- c. Charge light turns **GREEN** when CRICKET is fully-charged, and the unit cuts off automatically. Just unplug the cord, replace it in the underseat compartment, and return the seat to its secure driving position.



Adjusting the Free-Wheel Lever

- a. The free-wheel lever is conveniently located just underneath the left rear of your SW3.
- b. Pull the free-wheel lever toward rear of vehicle "out-of-gear" condition for free-wheeling operation; when you hear the "click", you've engaged the free-wheeling function. (This makes pushing, rolling, and/or loading the vehicle much easier.)

- c. Remember to push the free-wheel lever back in, toward the front of the vehicle, prior to normal operation.

(Listen for another "click" to indicate you have returned to regular driving configuration.)



Replacing your CRICKET SW3 Batteries

- a. To remove battery cover, un hinge two latches at front of engine compartment (beneath the front portion of the seat) and slowly, carefully slide the cover forward to reveal both batteries.

- b. Use 13mm wrench or pliers to turn bolts counter-clockwise to loosen and remove batteries with built-in, convenient rope handles.

- c. Install new batteries by reversing procedure in step "b", above. (Replace and secure cover.)

NOTE: Batteries are hermetically sealed and require
NO MAINTENANCE
for the life of the battery.
No acid. No acid odor. No leakage.

(continued)

Adjustment of Legroom and Vehicle Length

- a. Use your hand to pull up the spring-loaded T-lever in the center of the floorboard, just in front of the engine compartment cover.**
 - b. While still holding T-handle up and unlocked, firmly push front of vehicle chassis forward 1-2” (or pull it backward 1-2”) until you “click” into your desired position.**
 - c. Then push T-handle back down securely to lock vehicle in preferred position.**
-



Installation of Rear Carrier Rack

- a. Remove two rear center platform bolts and install carrier rack support brace and replace bolts and secure loosely at this time. (Do not firmly tighten any bolts or nuts until rear carrier rack is correctly positioned.)**
- b. Position rear carrier rack on top of support brace, tighten those two bolts, and secure rack to vehicle with two bolts in holes at bottom of seat back.**
- c. When rear carrier rack is properly aligned, tighten all six nuts securely to bolts.**

