



## AAA American Storage

- Self-Storage VRC Material Lift Package
- ArmorCar™ Carriage
- EZ Pro™ Operator Station

# Things are Looking Up at AAA American Storage



*ArmorCar™ VRC Material Lift with  
EZ Pro™ Operator Station provides safe and  
convenient access for second level self-storage.*

AAA American Storage – Groveland, FL



**N**estled among the lush orchards of central Florida stands the pride of Jim Gearhart, owner of AAA American Storage in Groveland. His new 87,000 sq. ft., multi-level self-storage operation, which was completed in November 2006, is one of the largest self-storage facilities in Florida and boasts some of the latest innovations and equipment available today for safe, secure, and efficient material handling and storage.

“The Groveland area continues to grow and expand,” states Gearhart, “as many people are realizing the affordability, accessibility and quality of life that is evident here.”

Groveland’s population has doubled in recent years and has an abundance of lakes that provide numerous opportunities for boating, fishing, or just relaxing and watching Florida sunsets. Beaches, theme parks and shopping malls are not far away, but it’s the quiet life that beckoned Jim to make Groveland home.

With people either on the move or just settling in, the area really needed an up-to-date self-storage facility that could provide both temporary and long-term secure storage for their personal property. After considerable site research and discussions with local community officials, Jim selected a location just off the main thoroughfare that conveniently connects Groveland with surrounding communities. Jim had previously been involved with building 8-9 other self-storage facilities having some 600 to 700 rental units each. That experience was instrumental in helping his plans for Groveland move forward.



*Aerial view of site during construction of second level at AAA American Storage.*

**“I enjoy the business and am satisfied that we are providing an essential service for families and companies who are looking for safe and secure storage.”**

Partnering with experienced suppliers was essential. To achieve the quality and state-of-the-art facility that he was looking for, Jim selected U.S. Door & Building Components of Orlando for self-storage facility construction and purchased the VRC material lift from AME Vertical in Troy, MI, a long-time



*The ArmorCar™ VRC was installed through the roof and then used to move building materials up for final construction of the second level.*

representative of Wildeck® products manufactured in Waukesha, WI.

Initial work on the Groveland facility began in June of 2000 with site preparation and construction of three buildings, including offices and on-site living quarters for Jim. Work soon proceeded on some 200 rental units positioned for easy access around the perimeter of the site. Rentals of these standard units moved quickly so plans were finalized to build additional units and to move up, not out.

**“The Lift worked great and saved us a considerable amount of money on crane rental. I would certainly recommend it to anyone constructing a multi-level facility.”**

The addition of 400 new rental units in the center area of the facility included a second level with 200 units served by a handicap-accessible elevator, two stairways and a 2,200 lb. capacity Vertical Reciprocating Conveyor (Material Lift) with a 6 ft. wide x 8 ft. long x 7 ft. high carriage.

According to Gearhart, “The VRC makes it easy for our tenants to transfer their belongings to a second level unit, which is typically more economical to rent than one on the first floor. During construction of the final center section, which was completed in November 2006, we installed the lift first and used it to move building materials up to complete the

second level. It worked great and saved us a considerable amount of money on crane rental. I would certainly recommend it to anyone constructing a multi-level facility.”

Moving up at AAA American Storage also meant offering deluxe, climate-controlled rental units which are in demand throughout Florida due to the warm climate. Units in the interior of the lower center section are ideally suited for climate control since they are more insulated from the sun’s rays and therefore less expensive to cool.

“We have three buildings that are air-conditioned today,” states Gearhart, “and the largest units are 10 ft. x 45 ft. They can store rooms of furniture, cars and even a nice fishing boat. Our largest upper units are 10 ft. x 20 ft. and customers can move material to them easily at the touch of a button using the EZ Pro™ Operator Control Station on our VRC. The VRC control has convenient status lights and is virtually ‘idiot-proof.’ A site manager can unlock it and train a user to operate it successfully and safely in a matter of minutes. The ArmorCar™ VRC carriage is also well lit, which customers like. In addition to interior lighting it has bright diamond-plate wall and floor panels that are maintenance free and add to the illumination. Adding a VRC that is both functional and looks good was very important. It gives our facility a competitive edge and cost a lot less than a large elevator,” he said.

contact Wildeck, Inc. at 262-549-4000 or visit [www.wildeck.com](http://www.wildeck.com).



*The ArmorCar™ VRC (Vertical Reciprocating Conveyor) with user-friendly EZ Pro™ Operator Station from Wildeck, Inc. (Waukesha, WI) provides quick, easy and safe movement of personal property to upper level self-storage rental units.*



**Self-storage lift manufacturer, Wildeck, Inc., headquartered in Waukesha, WI, is the largest manufacturer of mezzanines, vertical lifts and safety guarding products for safe and efficient handling, storage and movement of materials. For more than 30 years, the company has grown through a dedicated and experienced network of customer-service-oriented dealers and systems integrators, nationwide.**

**For more information on the ArmorCar™ Self-Storage VRC and the complete line of Wildeck® products and services, visit [www.wildeck.com](http://www.wildeck.com) or e-mail [info@wildeck.com](mailto:info@wildeck.com).**





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The self-storage industry continues to provide opportunities for entrepreneurs like Jim Gearhart. There are some 10,000 facilities in the U.S. today and Florida ranks #3 behind Texas and California with the most establishments. “I enjoy the business” states Jim, “and am satisfied that we are

providing an essential service for families and companies who are looking for safe and secure storage. Do I want to build another? I have no immediate plans except to service my Groveland customers the best way I can and to spend a little time with my six grandchildren. Did I mention that there are a few fishing lakes just down the road?”

We know where to look for Jim.



*The VRC carriage is lighted and covered with reflective diamond-plate wall and floor panels that enhance illumination and protect property from damage. The durable ArmorCar™ carriage interior never requires painting.*



*Jim Gearhart operates Wildeck's user-friendly EZ Pro™ VRC control. Clearly marked buttons and bright LED lights instantly signal lift status and inform the operator when the lift has been off-loaded for return to ground level.*



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