

Colonial Service Newsletter



Spring 2011
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Taking care of your Battery

Hopefully, you have been charging your batteries over the winter while your Airstream has been in storage; either by plugging it in to activate the converter or if you have unhooked the batteries by using a trickle charger.

You should make sure that you also check the battery fluid level in the house batteries as well as the chassis battery if you have a motorized product. You should check them at least once a month during storage and weekly if you are actively using your Airstream. It is recommended that you always keep the fluid level above the plates inside the battery. If the level gets to low, the plates react with the air and corrosion begins. If the plates are not covered, add just enough distilled water (don't use tap water as the chemicals and minerals in the water can shorten battery life) to bring the level back above the plates. Also tighten battery cables and clean battery posts, check battery for signs of swelling or other damage that could be clues to an upcoming problem.

Schu's News 3/09

Did you know?



WD-40 is great for removing the adhesive left from stickers or tape residue. It even will assist in removing road tar from your vehicle in addition to lubricating squeaky hinges.

WD-40 has an official list of over 2000 official uses and even has a Fan Club. WD-40 was developed in 1953 by a company called Rocket Chemical Company, they were working on creating products for rust prevention and solvents for the Aero Space Industry. It took them 40 attempts to get the water displacing formula worked out. The same secret formula is still used today. The name WD-40 stands for Water Displacement perfected on the 40th try. It is a great product to have in your traveling tool box.

AIR CONDITIONING, a Hot Topic:

This time of the year a high volume of the calls coming into Customer Support pertain to air conditioning and how can they get them to cool more effectively.

The air coming out of the air conditioner will blow 18 to 20 degrees cooler than it draws in if operating properly. If the air temperature is 100 degrees at the outside of the AC, the best your air conditioner can do at the interior is probably 80 degrees in the best of circumstances. There are things that you can do to help your AC and improve cooling.

1. Clean your air filters weekly or sooner if needed. Be sure to change or wash the filter in your unit. If it has a washable, reusable foam filter, then remove it and wash it, allowing it to air dry before reinstalling. The accumulation of dirt and dust in the filters will slow down the flow of air and could cause the unit to freeze up.
If you are having a problem with your AC freezing up, turn the fan speed selector to high when running in the AC Cool mode. This will move air through the evaporator unit faster and will help keep it from freezing up. Also excess moisture from cooking or showering will also add to the problem, use your range exhaust and shower exhaust to reduce moisture in your Airstream.
2. Perform preventive maintenance as environmental conditions require, clean the coils under the outside cover and straighten fins and make sure drain holes are open at base of AC. Plugged coils will restrict the flow of warm air out of the Air Conditioner and can reduce cooling.
3. Pull down your shades, close curtains, and add insulation to your windows or skylights when in extremely hot and sunny areas. Start the cooling process early in the day to get a head start on the heat. Make sure any cabinets and closets are closed reducing area needing to be cooled and you may want to also consider closing off the portion of the trailer you are not using during the day such as the bedroom or bathroom. Retract slides to minimize the space needed to air condition.
4. Park in the shade when possible. Shade from a tree will make a significant difference in air temperature at the exterior of the AC, also, when possible, try to park on a stone or gravel area instead of blacktop which can generate 30 to 40 degree higher temperatures.
5. Use Patio awnings and window awnings when weather permits to help provide shade for your windows and the side of Airstream.
6. Cook outdoors when possible to keep from creating additional heat and moisture inside of the trailer. Excess moisture and high humidity conditions will reduce the effectiveness of your A.C. The temperature drop across the coils at 80% humidity will be about 12 to 16 degrees, at 20 % humidity the temperature drop will be 23 to 26 degrees. Your Air Conditioner will perform better in lower humidity levels.
7. Monitor your AC voltage, the minimum is 107 volts, the maximum is 130 volts. Low voltage for an RV Air Conditioner can spell trouble. Air conditioners require a certain amount of power (watts) to operate. If the line voltage goes down, in order to meet that needed amount of energy, the air conditioner will simply draw more current (amps). If the need for current exceeds the capacity of the circuit breaker, the breaker will be tripped and need reset. Voltage drop is a common problem when it is hot and you are at a campground with fellow RVers all trying to stay cool by running their AC's. Repeatedly resetting the breaker will weaken the breaker and can lead to early failure. A weak breaker can also reduce the power to your AC and other appliances, the more a breaker is tripped the weaker it will become and can reduce the current flow.
8. It is not recommended using an extension cord when operating your air conditioner. The long length of extension cords and wire size smaller than 10 gauge can lead to voltage drop and the heat generated could also damage the extension cord.
There are probably other suggestions (move to a cooler climate) that may help but these suggestions should help in "stay'in cool".

New !!!

\$1295.00 plus tax installed

RV Internet Kit Solution Brief



WiFi In Motion
Internet. For Those Who Roam.

The Solution...

WiFi in Motion is a packaged solution that includes a high-gain antenna, a 3-watt amplifier, a 3G mobile router, and all the accessories you need to create your own hotspot. Some benefits of the solution:

- Provides best access to the Internet on the market
- Provides 24/7 communication with the world
- Offers a secure Internet environment
- Most affordable Internet access solution on the market
- Easy to use and set up
- Provides peace of mind

The Kit...

3 watt amplifier

- Extends cellular signal range (up to 60 miles)

3G mobile router

- Compatible with all cellular carriers except Nextel
- Creates a "hot spot"
- Pre-configured and secure for easy installation & peace of mind



Antenna

- Choice of Side-Mount or Low-Profile Roof Mount
- Ground plane included
- Durable
- Easy to install

Also includes:

- AC&DC power supplies
- Antenna mount
- Ethernet cable
- Universal data connector

Technical Specifications...

Antenna

Frequencies: 800/1900 MHz
Impedance: 50 Ohms
Connector FME-Female
Antenna gain: 4.12 dBi -OR- 8.12 dBi
Ground plane: Included — Built-in
Height: 2 inches -OR- 21.5 inches

Amplifier

Frequencies: 800/1900 MHz
Impedance: 50 Ohms
Connector: FME-Male
Dimensions: 5 X 3.5 X 1.2 inch

Router

Wi-fi standards: 802.11b/g/n
Network connections: 4 LAN, 1 WAN, 2 USB, 1 Express Card
Dimensions: 8 X 5.6 X 1.2 inches
AC Adapter: Input- 100-240V, 50-60Hz;
Output- 12V, 1.5A
Operating Temp: 0 C—50C
Certifications: FCC, Wi-Fi Alliance
Buttons/switches: Wireless On/Off switch;
WPS button (security), SGNL button (signal strength display mode), reset button

www.wifiinmotion.com 1-866-959-WIFI (9434)

You will need a compatible wireless data (air) card for the system to work. Please visit the FAQ section of our website to make sure you obtain the correct card. <http://wifiinmotion.com/frequently-asked-questions> **REQUIRES AN ACTIVE CELLULAR AIR CARD.** If you do not have a card, or would like to receive a \$25 rebate off of your kit, send an email to aircard@wifiinmotion.com.

Inside Colonial...

It's that time of year again. It's time to get your unit ready for the season. Don't fall into the trap of waiting until the last minute, just before your ready for a trip, to get your unit checked over. After a long cold winter of non use things can go wrong from sitting, batteries that go bad, drive belts that crack, lights that go out, appliances that won't fire up, a roof seam that has cracked.

If you feel performing these checks may be beyond your capabilities we can provide these services for you.

We have recently expanded out staff of technicians to include Mike Lees, a "Full Time" certified medium/light duty truck mechanic. This will allow us to even further attempt to meet your total service needs, weather it be on your motorhome or tow vehicle.

We have convenient hours to accommodate your needs and would be happy to schedule your reservation, Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. When an emergency should arise we will do our best to fit your RV into our schedule. For those who do not live locally, we can accommodate you by having a spot with electric open, so you can come in the night prior to your service reservation.

Thank you,

Anthony A. Cursi
Service Director

Main Phone: 1-800-265-9019

Service Staff

Anthony A. Cursi, Service Director – ext 110
Airstream Certified Technician

Robert Johnston, Service and Warranty Consultant – ext 109

Brian Hawtin, Parts Manager – ext 111

Ray Jeannotte, Parts Specialist – ext 108

Technicians

William Hofer Airstream Certified Technician-RVDA/RVIA Certified

Kevin Amaro Airstream Certified Technician-RVDA/RVIA Certified

Joe Giaccio Airstream Certified Technician-RVDA/RVIA Certified

Mike Lees Certified Medium/Light Duty Truck Technician

James Lenzo Jr. Airstream Certified Technician

Service Tips WIT Club News – October/November 2009

BENEFITS AND CARE OF ULTRALEATHER

Many RV's now offer furniture with UltraLeather. UltraLeather synthetic leather fabric material has the luxurious look and feel of the finest European calfskin, with durability and resistance to soils and stains on vinyl fabrics. This soft fabric is a great alternative to genuine leather as it is also tougher than real calfskin and has superior resistance to punctures, snags and rips.

Designed for longevity, UltraLeather stands apart from genuine leather when it comes to care and durability. UltraLeather allows you to have the same high quality, beautiful furniture in your RV as you do at home without the worry of spills and stains during travel.

UltraLeather virtually duplicates the surface of genuine leather while maintaining a subtle grain pattern over time. UltraLeather surfaces are made with a polyurethane molecular structure that acts as a foam barrier providing additional cushioning to your upholstered seating. Although the fabric offers extra cushion and softness, it exceeds the industry standards in wear and tear. In fact, test results show that UltraLeather exceeds heavy duty industry abrasion standards by more than 13 times and it is also scratch, nick and blemish resistant.

Not only is UltraLeather durable, it also handles extreme weather conditions. No need to worry about jumping into the cab seats on a hot summer day, UltraLeather cools 50 percent faster than genuine leather and 20 percent faster than vinyl. In addition, in extremely cold temperatures, the fabric won't stiffen or crack either like genuine leather or vinyl.

Being environmentally friendly is another great benefit of UltraLeather. The fabric doesn't contain any plasticizers, heavy metals or stabilizers making it 100 percent VOC free. Close to 99 percent of the chemicals used to create UltraLeather are also recycled by the manufacturer, Ultrafabrics, making it even more environmentally sound.

The fabric can easily be cleaned with soap and water. For most soils and stains, the fabric manufacturer recommends spot treatment with a solution of water and Tide® brand laundry detergent or equivalent. More stubborn stains may be treated with a water-based multipurpose cleaner/degreaser such as Simple Green® or equivalent. Solvent cleaners such as nail polish remover or other aromatic solvents are not recommended.

UltraLeather Care Instructions:

Spot clean with mild soap and water.

Air dry or, if desired, dry quickly using a hair dryer on warm setting – not hot.

For stubborn stains, use cleaner/degreaser.



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WHEN GETTING YOUR RV READY FOR THE COMING SEASON DON'T FORGET YOUR TOW VEHICLE!



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Offer expires 6/30/11. Cannot be combined with any other discount.

Colonial Airstream/Itasca

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Airstreams #1 Volume Dealer

