

PHRED SEZ.....

J. Fred Ettline, WBCCI #27910

I Slept at Wal-Mart

"If I am just staying overnight while on the road, I will never stay anywhere except a Wal-Mart parking lot," says a fellow Airstreamer. "Think about it. I pull to a reasonable level spot on the perimeter of the parking lot. I don't unhook the towed car or hook up any water hoses or electric lines. I fire up the motorhome generator and the air conditioning in the summer or the central heat in the winter. We can watch television or eat a meal. This is true self-sufficiency."

"The store managers from whom I get permission to stay overnight are universally happy to have me stay there. Their lot is well lighted all night with many stores open 24 hours. The lots are easy to get in and out of and the stores are generally near the major thoroughfares. My Family Motor Coach Association North American Road Atlas locates all Wal-Mart stores throughout each state map. We no longer have to search for and stop at separate grocery stores, pharmacies, or automotive parts stores. I get up in the morning,

start the motor, and drive away. Why would I go anywhere else?"

As a matter of safety I reminded him always to park with the door facing the store and to set the steps to retract at all times that the door is not open. We discussed the added security of a tri-mode cell phone and major carrier. If he happens upon a non-level parking lot, a few boards under selected wheels bring the coach more level without the risk that leveling jacks might punch holes in the lot surface.

Of course, Airstream trailers may not have the convenience of a generator for summer AC, a factor that may have a tendency to limit overnight stays to more temperate times of the year. Many climates have warm days but cool nights. If that is the case, position the rig so that the front of the trailer is toward the setting sun (the rear bedroom will be cooler). If it is winter, position the side of the trailer toward the afternoon sun to pick up any solar heat gain for the rig.

Ants and Fleas

At a recent rally we had **ants** crawling up the water hose. My next door neighbor, George Scott, WBCCI #17213, related the terrible problem ants were when he was in one of the western states. The local campers recommended he use **Comet** powdered cleaner (to dust around the hose, tires, electric cord, and hitch) instead of ant poison. They found it was just as effective and there was less concern for the environment. It certainly worked for me at the rally.

George also shared his method for eliminating **fleas** in Airstream carpet. He scattered powdered **20 Mule Team Borax** around the carpet, vacuuming it the next day. He repeated that every two days for a total of three applications. His idea was to kill fleas hatching from newer eggs over a period of time. It worked for him, and he recommends it to you.

The new book, Phred Sez - the First Ten Years, is now available on computer CD (written in Microsoft Works and also Microsoft Word). Order by mail for yourself or for loved ones by sending a check for \$15 each (includes shipping)

Help me with topics for the PHRED SEZ column. Send your creative experiences and ideas by US mail, E-Mail, Fax, or phone: Fred Ettline
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