

Schu's News

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LP Gas

I would like to start off by thanking everyone that attended the Florida State Rally for the wonderful reception Airstream received and the support that was shown at our company store. THANK YOU!

In this months article I would like to discuss an important maintenance item that came up during the Florida State Rally.

We had a very upset gentleman come to our service area stating that his water heater had caught fire and he was afraid the motorhome itself might catch on fire if he used any gas appliance.

Upon inspecting his water heater it was found that all the wiring had melted. I asked him if he had problems with the water heater in the past, he stated that in the past seven months he had only operated the water heater on 110v and this was the first time he had tried it on gas.

What had happened was a spider (insects love LP) had built his home in the gas burner tube which caused the gas to back up and fill the inside of the water heater compartment with LP. The LP Gas that had built up eventually was ignited by the water heater ignition system and melted all the water heater wiring. The spider web was not visible and was only found by running a small brush through the gas burner tube.

If you have not used your water heater, furnace or refrigerators recently, please do an inspection to make sure that spiders, wasps or other critters have not decided to travel with you. Check the refrigerator access area for signs of visitors, run your furnace fan with the LP turned off and listen for any unusual noises, inspect wiring for signs of damage. Check all vents or air intakes for obstructions that could cause improper venting or insufficient airflow to the appliance.

You can buy brushes that are sold for these specific applications or use some compressed air to clean out these areas. It is also advisable to have your LP system checked for leaks at least once a year.

If you do not feel comfortable checking these areas please have your local RV dealer check them for you.

Safety Recall Reminder

Airstream Inc. Voluntary Recall Campaign —Number 02V-247

Vehicles affected: 2000, 2001 and 2002 Airstream 390, 395, and 396 Motorhomes

Unit Range 810561 through 810819 and unit 810821

Safety Defect: The problem involves the possibility, when the unit is fully loaded with fuel, fluids, and passengers, that the front Gross Axle Weight Rating (GAWR) of your motorhome may be exceeded. Furthermore, your unit may have a disproportionate front axle weight distribution that could cause an overload on a front tire.

Proposed Remedy: Airstream Inc., at no charge to you (parts and labor), will repair your unit. Airstream Inc. will replace your front Michelin XRV 255/80R22.5G tires, with Michelin XZA1 275/70R 22.5H tires. In connection with the replacement of the front tires, Airstream Inc. will also install a poppet kit to compensate for the added width of the new front tires (if necessary). This remedy will increase the capacity of each front tire from 5,205 lbs. at 105 psi to 6,385 lbs. at 120 psi, and will increase the front GAWR from 10,410 lbs. to 11,000 lbs. If your motorhome is equipped with Independent Front Suspension (IFS), the new tires will increase your front GAWR to 12,000 lbs. A new set of vehicle weight labels will be issued to reflect these changes. Airstream Inc. will also issue to you an information brochure regarding proper unit loading, weight distribution, tire pressure and tire maintenance for your motorhome of these repairs, it will be necessary to have the tires replaced at a Michelin Tire Dealer, and the poppet kit installed at a Freightliner Dealer. The repairs must also be done in that order, tires first, then the poppet kit. These repairs can also be done through the Airstream Inc. Service Center in Jackson Center, Ohio.

If anyone knows of someone who has one of the listed motorhomes and have not had the recall performed, please have them contact Airstream at 937 596-6111 ext. 7400 or 7418. We will assist you in getting the work scheduled at a facility in your area.

“Traveling is not just seeing the new; it is also leaving behind. Not just opening doors; also closing them behind you, never to return. But the place you have left forever is always there for you to see whenever you shut your eyes.” *The Silk Road 1980*