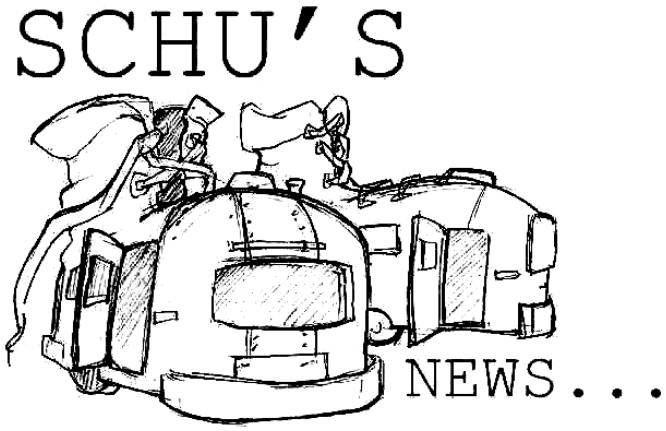

Dave Schumann, General Manager
Customer Relations Group

I just recently returned from the Region 8 Rally in Amana, Iowa and I wanted to thank everyone for the warm reception. It was a great place for a Rally with full hook-ups for the Airstreams and plenty of area history to absorb. Thanks again!
I recently received a note from a fellow Airstreamer that has switched out his old taillights to the new LED taillights that are now available. The gentleman provided a step-by-step guide for the change out and felt it may be something that other Airstreamers might find useful.

Upgrading Taillight from Incandescant to LED

Remove the lens cap (two black screws). Refer to Figure 2.

Remove four sheet metal screws.
Refer to Figure 3.

Caution: Do not pull fixture from the body; wires are molded into the body and will tear causing a short behind the exterior wall. Pulling the fixture could also compromise the water seal.

Carefully tilt from the top and cut the white wire on backside of old fixture (cut closest to the fixture leaving as much wire as possible for attaching later. Refer to Fig. 4.

Figure 1: Airstream Part Number **511973**

Note: Airstream Suggested Retail Price - $25 each (4 required). Estimated time to complete. Assembly will take approximately 1.5 hours.

Necessary Parts, Tools, & Supplies:

LED taillight. Refer to Figure 1.
Airstream Part No. **511973** (4 ea.)
Small Phillips screwdriver
¾" Stainless Steel Screws
Airstream Part No. **320006** (4 per light)
12-heat shrink connectors red/pink (along with a few spares)
Wire cutter/stripper

Note: There are no reverse light parts available (center light). Refer to Fig. 2.

Cut the black and green wires closest to the old bulb fixture. It may be necessary to destroy the bulb socket in order to cut at the very end of the short wires. The Black and green wires are only 1" long and everything needs to be cut at the end to gain all possible length.

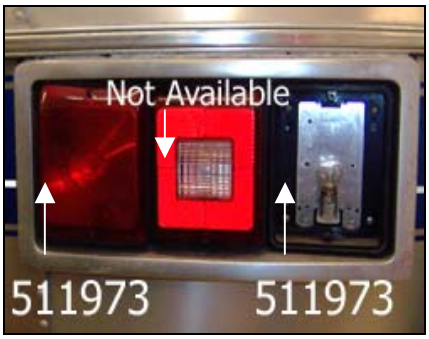

Figure 2: Removing the lens cap

Figure 3: Removing four screws

Remove the old fixture.

Remove lens cover on the new LED fixture.

Using wire strippers, strip approximately ¼" to 3/8" to expose wire.
Cut off plug on new LED fixture leaving about 4" of wire.
Trailer – white to new LED fixture white
Trailer – green to new LED fixture black
Trailer – black to new LED fixture red
Test lights once all connections are made.

Use lighter to heat the heat shrink connector sleeves at each end. Be careful not to burn -just shrink enough to seal.

Figure 4: Tilt from top to expose wires

Reinstall the new LED fixture using the four sheet metal screws you removed in step 2. Be careful not to over tighten.
Replace new lens cover with the two black screws you removed in step 1. Be careful not to over tighten.
Repeat these instructions for the remaining three taillight fixtures.

Seen on bumper stickers:

- There are 3 kinds of people: Those who can count & those who can't.
- Where Are We Going And Why Am I In This Handbasket?
- How Many Roads Must A Man Travel Down Before He Admits He Is Lost?

Hope to see everyone in Salem for the International Rally; stop by the Airstream Factory Parts and Service area in Columbia Hall!

Have a good month and we will see you on down the road.

If you have a topic for this column, please send your suggestions to:
Dave Schumann, Airstream, Inc., 419 W. Pike Street, Jackson Center, OH 45334

If your topic is published, you will receive a "Schu's News" t-shirt!