



**Dave Schumann, General Manager
Customer Relations Group**

Well it is hard to believe that 2013 is here already; the winter has been flying by and our thoughts are turning to spring. You may be planning visits to local RV Shows, the upcoming Florida State Rally or the Alumapalooza in downtown Jackson Center; but your thoughts have begun to involve your Airstream. Sooo.....

What's happening at Airstream?

Rick March has accepted the position of National Service Manager for the Travel Trailer Division. In his new position, Rick will be working with our Dealer Network to provide Dealer visits, training and help with set up of new Dealerships.

Mike Fasick has recently accepted the position of Service Manager at our Factory Service Center effective January 2, 2013 reporting directly to me.

Mike will be overseeing the complete operation of the service department including the retail store.

Mike brings to Airstream over 30 years of multifaceted background in the automotive industry with expertise in the management of service, parts, paint and body departments. I hope everyone will join in welcoming Rick and Mike in their new roles!

Florida State Rally Sarasota, Feb. 13th - 18th 2013

The 40th Florida State Rally is always a fun time and great for getting back together with old friends. Airstream personnel will be attending, bringing a limited amount of Airstream parts as well as taking pre-orders for parts that you can pickup at the Rally. Parts will be available from Feb. 14th - Feb. 17th. Kim Britt and myself as well as Justin Humphreys, Vice President of Sales, will be attending the Rally.

If you are interested in pre-ordering parts that you would like delivered to the Rally, please contact Kim Britt at 937-596-6111 ext. 7429 or kbritt@airstream.com

See you there!

Another Question

Question: I am having trouble with my water heater pressure/temperature relief valve. When I start up the water heater, and it runs for 5 minutes, the relief valve starts dripping and then shooting out water. I have an Atwood model G6A-8E heater.

Atwood PT (Pressure and Temperature) relief valve.



(This safety valve releases water (and thus relieves pressure) if either the temperature or pressure in the tank gets too high.)

If a customer's PT valve is weeping, it does not mean it requires replacing. They may have lost the "air space" at the top of the tank. The air space is needed as a "shock absorber" and to allow some expansion of the water as it heats up. Over time the air will be lost through the hot water that you use for dishes or bathing, also do not be tempted to lift the lever on the water valve while under pressure as this is another way air is lost.

Follow the steps below to restore the air space in the top of water heater tank:

- 1- Disconnect power to the water heater and let cool down.
- 2- Shut off the water pump and/or disconnect from city water supply.
- 3- Open the hot water faucet closest to the water heater.
- 4- Open the pressure relief valve and remain open until the water stops flowing.
- 5- Close the pressure relief valve.
- 6- Turn on the pump and/or city water. Continue to leave faucet open until the water flows freely without air.
- 7- Close faucet.

Excessive temperature

Another cause of the valve weeping is excessive temperature. Use a thermometer and measure the temperature of the water coming out of the faucet. If the temperature exceeds the standard operating temperature, the thermostat may be at fault instead of the P&T relief valve. If the valve weeps and the water temperature is less than the P&T relief valve rating, the air pocket may be gone. If the air pocket is restored and the valve still weeps, even with cold water, replacement of the valve is necessary.

When visiting dealers, I commonly see many PT valves being replaced; while some valves are indeed defective, many are not!

So the answer is: Before changing the valve, just try draining some water out (follow above procedure) of the water heater to restore the air pocket because the required air pocket may have gone away. Without the air pocket, the heated/expanded water has no place to go except out of the relief valve.

Heel thyself!

A man has a loose heel on his shoe, but he refuses to have it repaired, and keeps procrastinating over and over again, until one day while running to catch a bus, the heel breaks off. With nothing left to do he starts singing... "You Picked A Bad Time To Leave me, Loose Heel!" —WILLIAM DUNBAR, OTTAWA, ONTARIO

If you have a topic for this column, please send your suggestions to:

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