HINTS & KINKS

FOR YOUR AIRSTREAM

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This column is intended to give the owners of the Airstream RVs current ideas to improve the efficiency and comfort during the operation of their vehicle. They are offered as a result of usage on long or short trips and are applicable to all models. Many of the items presented are also applicable to other Airstream products and may be used accordingly.

ITEM: ENROUTE SHOES Yes, the shoes on your feet. At a recent stopover at a truck-stop, a motorhome pulled up next to me, the driver stepped down onto the pavement, & remarked how good his feet felt due to the soft-sole bedroom slippers he was wearing. One look revealed the half- inch soft sole that, in an emergency, the cushion-sole would require a full second of time to effectively depress his brake pedal. That lost second could mean disaster. There are comfortable & more sturdy shoes for long runs with less cushiony soles available in the vast shoe market. Your brake pedal needs a determined & solid signal from your footat all times. Aside: his wife overheard our conversation, and I left the scene pronto.

ITEM: ENROUTE SNACK What constitutes a satisfying & healthy snack on the road? That question came up at a recent roundtable where that table was filled with snacks of varied items contributing to obesity. One RVer

present was also a devoted hunter & fisherman. He advised that the formula for a satisfying & healthy snack, used successfully for many years, on all occasions, was as follows. A PACK OF JERKY, A PACKET OF DRIED FRUIT & NUTS, A BAR OF YOUR FAVORITE ENERGY FOOD, and all items SUPPORTED BY A BOTTLE OF WATER. That formula is also convenient for snack-cravings on the road.

ITEM: MORE ON BATTERIES

The result of a past Hints/Kinks item prompted requests for more details on checking the wet-cells in RV batteries. Carefully pry off & remove the cell covers. Check the level of the liquid in each visible cell. The level should be just below the cell top (about 1/8 th inch). If not, fill to that level with Distilled Water (available on laundry supplies shelf at supermarkets). If water level not visible, use Specific Gravity Suction Bulb, or have your garage

do that test. If below visible (use flashlight) level, & at that level for extended period of time, consider a new battery. The reason is that the internal plates "sulfate" or ground to the battery case, resulting in a dead battery. If other battery aboard in the circuit, it too, maybe in the same condition. If not affected, it has been the only source of energy & requires your close attention.

Your best bet is to replace all similar batteries in the circuit to preclude further problems on the road.

If refilling the cells has been successfully accomplished, replace the cell covers, after cleaning, tapping them on to closure. Clean the electrical line clamps to remove any foreign matter. It is best to remove the battery from its housing (or box) away from the RV to preclude acid splashes onto the RV's skin. Use work gloves for your personal protection. Your continual attention to battery condition is recommended.