

## MAINTENANCE TO PONDER section 1

### HOW DO THE TRAILER "SYSTEMS" ACTUALLY WORK?

- Utility Basics
  - ELECTRICITY
    - 12 volt Exterior lighting (powered from tow vehicle)
      - Turn
      - Tail / marker
      - Reverse (some models)
    - 12 volt Direct Current (D.C., battery)
      - Operates
        - Interior lights
        - 12 volt outlets (cigarette lighter)
        - Water pump (always)
        - Refer (seldom)
        - Exterior porch (scare) light (optional)
        - Trailer emergency "break away" switch
        - Furnace, most (if it has a blower)
      - Charging
        - Tow vehicle
        - Shore power (converter / charger)
        - Solar (optional)
      - Umbilical cord wires (from tow vehicle to trailer)
        - Ground (B-)
        - Charge line (B+)
        - Tail / marker lights
        - Left turn / stop light(s)
        - Right turn / stop light(s)
        - Reverse lights (some trailers)
        - 12 volt electric brakes
    - 120 volt Alternating Current (A.C. shore power cord)
      - Operates
        - 120 volt outlets
        - Water heater?
        - Refer?
        - a/c (always)

- WATER
  - shore water (hose to hydrant / faucet)
  - reservoir / tank water (via 12 volt pump)
- WASTE WATER
  - Black water tank
    - Source: toilet (most trailers, starting in late 50's)
  - Gray water tank (also known as “wash water”)
    - Source: sinks / shower (not common early 80's)
  - Some trailers have “black” & “wash” water combined
    - 1960 & 70's
    - 2000+ (some)
- LIQUID PROPANE (LP)
  - operates:
    - stove / oven (if applicable)
    - heater
      - furnace
      - radiant (no / minimal battery power used)
    - water heater (may also run on LP)
    - refer (may also run on:
      - 120 volt AC (if designed into it)
      - 12 volt DC (if designed into it, seldom)
  - Regulator
    - How does a dual tank regulator function
    - Red indicator
      - “automatic” tank transfer
      - Can use as a leak indicator

Questions? Feel free to contact:

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## MAINTENANCE TO PONDER section 2

- Bringing your (next) pre owned Airstream home
  - Tires, bearings
  - Brakes, Suspension
  - Ball coupler
  - See handout / flyer for more detail
- Axle replacement?
  - Axle 20-25 years old????
  - 40 years old or more...probably needs one
  - Symptoms
    - Loose rivets
    - Clothes falling off hangers
    - Frame separation
    - “airborne trailer”
  - See handout / flyer for more detail
- Brakes
  - Test tongue mounted break away switch
  - See if all brakes actually work
  - Adjustment of shoes
    - Self adjusting brakes now available
- Hitch
  - Tow ball, tight?
  - Hitch to vehicle fasteners
  - Cracked hitches, several known to crack near safety chain loops
  - Ball coupler on trailer
  - Weight distribution
    - Theory of weight transfer
    - Good, better, best?
- Safety items
  - Fire extinguisher (checked it when?)
  - CO detector (last checked when?)
  - Raw gas detector (last checked when?)
  - Smoke detector (last checked when?)

- Plumbing
  - Drain....socket saver
- Water leaks
  - Body...try lawn sprinkler
  - Fresh water...pump intermittently turning on??
- Batteries
  - If stored at less than 75% charged, 1.225 specific gravity, will sulfate
  - If sulfated, hard to save, see “equalization charge” section of handout
    - If acid / water freezes, plates warp /damage
  - Consider disconnecting battery due to CO detector battery drain
    - If not using trailer for 30 days or more
  - ATO fuses that glow if blown
  - See handout for details
- Awnings
  - Zip Dee was founded by Henry “Duda” about 1965
  - Clean & lube arms / pivots with Silicone
  - Call if parts are desired
  - Demonstration / show & tell, if desired
- Polishing
  - May have to strip clear coat...aircraft stripper, power washer
  - Initial cut(s)
  - “Cyclo” polisher to remove swirls

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