

I am in an elite club, as I know of only four other Airstream 370 LE models licensed today.

## THE RESTORATION

The motorhome looked great, but like any equipment that's 22 years old, it needed some work to restore it to a condition that would provide the comfort for which it was designed. I started upgrading the various systems, repairing or replacing the leveling jacks, the two roof air-conditioners, the in-dash air-conditioner, the water heater tank, the electric steps, the alternator, the batteries, and the tires. The air suspension system needed some work, along with a new compressor, and the overdrive unit on the transmission unit leaked, requiring a new case. After these mechanical issues were in good working order, I started on the things that I wanted for comfort. I replaced the old in-dash radio with a new AM-FM-CD unit, installed a stereo system with surround sound

and a sub woofer, and, of course, added a 32-inch flat-screen TV with a Blu-ray player.

The last thing we tackled was the upholstery. We went with a custom leather and tapestry combination that is classy and fits the quality of the motorhome. We re-covered the J lounge in the dining area, the couch, and two matching barrel chairs, and replaced the worn cloth inserts on the driver and passenger seats with new leather. The final touch was the curtains in the front window and in the bedroom. This restoration seems to have no ending point, and it can start to cost real money after a while. But as Bill pointed out, the motorhome has real pedigree and great bones, so it is worth doing. It is interesting how your friends don't mind watching you spend your money.

Was it worth it? I would say, absolutely. To own a rare piece of American motorhome history that demands attention wherever it goes is priceless.

## THE CLASS

This Airstream was built on a Gillig bus chassis with air suspension. It features a GM driveline, including a C6 three-speed transmission, but it has a Ford 460 engine. Go figure. It has oak cabinets and floors, Corian countertops, a cedar-lined closet, Alcoa aluminum wheels, and even a safe built in the bedroom closet floor. I have the original bill of sale and the price was \$134,363 when it first sold on January 14, 1989.

I would consider this to be the Chris-Craft of land yachts.

## THE ATTENTION

I was warned by the previous owner that people would want to look at my classic motorhome and ask questions about it, but it still amazes me how many folks are interested in it. One of the most frequently asked questions is "How long is that thing, anyway?" The motorhome is 37 feet, but it looks considerably larger to most people. The lower profile and rounded body style gives it a long,



### Clockwise from above:

New curtains were hung in the wraparound bedroom windows; the galley features the original Corian countertops and oak cabinetry; the J lounge and barrel chairs were reupholstered with matching fabric and leather.

lean look. Once I was in an RV resort for the night when two ladies walked up and asked if they could have a peek inside. This is a very common occurrence. After they looked, one of them said that she was not aware that Airstream was still producing motorhomes. She asked if it was a 2010 model. I told her that Airstream had discontinued Type A motorhome production years ago and that this one was 22 years old. She had trouble believing me. That made my day. This is a little piece of American history that some day I would love to see end up in a collection or museum so that others can enjoy it.

## OUR FIRST YEAR'S ADVENTURES

Last spring we made a trip to Palm Springs, California, to visit friends. I pulled a trailer with my Harley-Davidson motorcycle behind us. I found the motorhome to be very comfortable to drive, and we had no

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