

Blowouts Can Be Costly

Knowing the specifics of your Airstream's weight load can save you money. Howard Lefkowitz, WBCCI # 6077, had a creative solution that utilized his weight load knowledge. His 1990 Classic 345 LE Motorhome has a rear drive axle with dual tires on each side. Behind the drive axle it also has a trailing tag axle with a single tire on each side.

While traveling he had the misfortune to blow the inside dual tire which subsequently resulted in the outside tire being destroyed as well by the time he got stopped. Fortunately, he had no Airstream body damage even though both dual tires on one side were shredded. He called road service and was told that two 19.5 inch tires to match his originals could be located and would be delivered and put on for \$1200. He refused this even though they said they would accept \$1100.

His motorhome has a spare tire in a covered area above the back bumper, but the tire was too aged to put on the roadway in this situation. Then he recalled that the last time he had the rig weighed the tag axle didn't carry much weight. One side carried 1300 pounds while the other carried just 300 pounds. This information was critical because he knew he could dismount each tag axle tire and use the two of them in the positions of the shredded dual tires. Having subsequently gotten road service to do just that, he then drove at a diminished speed to the next city and camped. Obviously if only one tire had blown, he would have used the tag axle tire from the side that carried the 300 pound load. The next day he bought two new 19.5 inch tires to match his originals for \$600 and had the "borrowed" tires returned to the tag axle.

Other than a reduced speed of travel and an extended overhang length (from rear axle to rear bumper) where he might have dragged his tail on cross street dips, the safety of the rig was not terribly compromised. In retrospect he may have even considered mounting the "too aged" spare tire at the tag axle position on the side carrying 1300 pounds for his reduced speed trip to the next town. All things considered he did a fine bit of problem solving.