

## **Update to Tire Article Published in 2016 in the Blue Beret**

Michelin is replacing the LTX MS/2 tire with a Defender LTX M/S tire. This is a 50,000 mile tire and there are some load range E tires in the lineup. They have a 215/85R16 that is 30.4 inches OD, and a 225/75R16 that is 29.2 inches OD. They are also adding an XPS RIB tire. This is a 60,000 mile tire, load range E. They have a LT215/85R16 RIB tire that is 30.5 inches OD, and a LT225/75R16 RIB tire that is 29.4 inches OD. The RIB tire is a commercial tire that is also a trailer tire.

All of the new tires (I prefer the narrower tires - 215) will fit double and single-axle Airstreams if replacing existing 15" tires. Some minor trimming of the aluminum rib on the wheel well trim may be desirable for extra "finger" room. Generally, this is on the front side of the wheel well. All of these tires offer better mileage and safety over the existing 15" tires. The wheels also have to be changed out to 6 x 16, zero offset wheels with matching bolt stud pattern to existing axle. We have, and continue to, recommend aluminum colored steel wheels over the aluminum wheels because of the increased durability of the torque setting with steel wheels. All of the steel wheels are available in a variety of patterns (spokes, mod, etc.). We also continue to recommend stainless steel valve stems and solid lug steel lug nuts. Anyone interested in upgrading their tires can contact the Tech Help Group for additional help.