

### **Valve Stems-What I Learned at the Rally**

A fellow Airstreamer came into our service area at the Rally with a problem; his valve stem on his Alcoa wheel (pn:400935) had a slow leak. Upon removing the tire from the rim he noticed that the metal valve stem did not appear to be seating into the rim hole, someone had added extra o-rings to make up the difference but it still did not make a good seal with the rim and was leaking.

Okay just go get a new valve stem, seems easy. The gentleman visited all the local Auto Part stores in Perry but no one had a metal replacement valve or had seen one that resembled the one he had removed. Alcoa drop center wheels for tubeless tires come from the factory with metal air valves installed.

Alcoa rims require an o-ring seal valve, the wheel has a 9.7mm rim hole for the valve stem .The required valve is a TR-542 valve, the height is 1.25 inches and the Hex nut No. is HN-22.

If it becomes necessary to replace a TR-542 air valve, install it using the following torque values.

TR 542 Series valves need to be torqued to 7-11 foot lbs.

Replacement valves may be obtained from your authorized Alcoa wheel distributor. Always use silicone O-rings - not rubber - when reinstalling valve stems. Metal valve stem caps are recommended over plastic. Another source is Myers Tire Supply- ebranch warehouse 1-800-998-9897 We also carry them in our Airstream Store. Call 937 596 6111 ext.

**TR-542 Series Valve  
Airstream Part No.08182w**



**Alcoa aluminum rim, Airstream Part  
No.400935 used 2001-2006**



**While we are on the subject of tire valve stems and valve caps.....**

We know we are suppose to check air pressure in our tires every month or before any trips, we always look at the tire tread and check the wheel torque on a regular basis.

How often do we check the valve stem? Do you have the stems changed when you change your tires? Do all your valve stems have good valve caps? Do you ever test the valve stems for leaks?

The tire valve stem and the tire pressure valve cap are important components of your tire set. The valve stem allows air to be pumped into the tire and keeps it from escaping; the tire pressure valve cap helps to keep out dirt, moisture and road chemicals. A tire pressure valve stem cap can also help to keep the pressure within the tire should the tire valve start to fail.

Most valve stems are made of rubber and over time can deteriorate. A weak valve stem actually can bend from centrifugal force when your RV is being driven at higher speeds; this can lead to air loss and possible tire failure. Check or change valve stems when ever you change tires, repair tires or have them balanced. Check your valve stems and caps for leaks by using a soapy solution (apply to stem and cap). Put slight side to side pressure on the stem (while applying solution) to see if there are any cracks in the stem that may be leaking while traveling.

While the valve stem is the least expensive component in a tire/wheel assembly, it's also the most important.