Winegard TV Antenna

At a recent rally seminar the Winegard “Bat Wing” Television Antenna presentation was especially interesting. The antenna consists of two parts connected by co-axial cables - the roof mount that winds up and rotates for best reception, and the interior wall switch plate that most people refer to as the “amplifier.” In actuality the wall switch is a booster that sends 12-volt turn-on power to the amplifier in the antenna head on the roof. The wall booster switch is a slide switch with a red light indicator (newer models have a push button switch with a green light indicator). The switch also features a convenient 12-volt receptacle that may be used to plug in a 12-volt television.

In terms of maintenance or troubleshooting, it helps to know that the line voltage should be 13.7 volts at the amplifier on the roof. If the red (or green) light continually cycles on/ off, on/off, there is a short in the cable to the roof.

Regarding potential water damage one need only be concerned about the integrity of the watertight seal between the base of the roof antenna and the roof itself. No water will go down through the antenna shaft since it has three “o-ring” seals similar to those used in single handle faucet cartridges. The rubber boot cover for the co-axial cable entry should also be checked periodically for water tightness. Spray silicon onto the exposed gears and any pivot points once a year. Do not use WD-40 since it attracts dirt. Newer models have a rubber plug on the roof base that may be removed to spray silicon inside. This will help lubricate for antenna rotation.

Since the booster switch with indicator light only draws 1/10 of an amp, it may be left on at all times when connected to 120 volt power. In other words you do not have to turn the antenna off when you shut off the television, except if you are boondocking and watching battery voltage usage. If the booster switch is located in a cabinet, make sure that nothing sits against the lighted indicator light. When using the 12-volt receptacle on the wall booster switch plate, limit the amp draw to 8 amps (no 12-volt coffee pots or hair dryers). Finally if you are replacing the antenna co-axial cable, use RG-59U for over-the-air TV. For satellite TV **or** over-the-air TV use RG-6, a slightly heavier cable.