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SMARTIRE - A TIRE MONITORING SYSTEM

by Doug Marion



The SmarTire system monitors tire inflation pressures and temperatures at the push of a button.

The old adage, "Out of sight, out of mind," often applies to GMC Motorhome tires. Of course, tires are not out of sight, but the inflation pressure they carry often is out of mind, which can be costly and dangerous. When inflation pressure drops even a few pounds below the correct level, heat buildup causes damage that may extend over many miles, leading to tire failure. When underinflation is dramatic, a blowout is not far away. Most failures don't cause accidents, but the potential is there.

The SmarTire RV Wireless Tire Pressure Monitoring System is designed to prevent tire failures and ensure maximum tread wear by positioning a visual reminder in front of the driver. The dash-mounted display module electronically monitors not only the individual pressures inside as many as six tires, but it also keeps tabs on air temperature inside each tire. When pressures drop or temperatures rise beyond preset limits, the system issues warnings.

First developed and patented for commercial and industrial vehicles, SmarTire has been adapted

for all types of motorhomes. The RV-433 six-wheel Wireless Monitor System features six electronic sensors, one attached to the wheel rim inside each tire. Each sensor continuously sends a pressure and temperature signal via 433MHz radio frequency to a dash-mounted interactive display module. If air pressure or temperature vary from preset limits — 5 psi or 10 degrees F, for example — a red warning light atop the module is activated. If the deviation is not corrected, a buzzer sounds. The manufacturer is developing systems that will cover eight or 10 wheels, which will allow monitoring of motorhome and dinghy-vehicle tire pressures simultaneously.

System installation involves placing sensors in each wheel and mounting the display module. Each tire is removed from its wheel so a sensor can be attached to the wheel rim by means of a long stainless-steel clamp. The sensor is placed opposite the valve stem, centered laterally on the rim, and a rounded metal counterbalance plate is

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