SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: Airstream Inc., 419 W. Pike St., Jackson Center, OH 45334; (513) 596-5111.
Model tested: Legacy
Floor plan: 34-foot center bath; rear double bed (short queen)
Chassis manufacturer: Chevrolet
Engine: 454 cubic inches
Transmission: automatic, four-speed overdrive with electronic control
Axle ratio: 4.63:1

Alternator: 105-amp with heavy-duty isolator
Batteries: 1 main, two auxiliary
Steering: Saginaw power steering
Cross vehicle weight rating (GVWR): 16,000 pounds
Curb weight: 13,280 pounds
Payload: 2,720 pounds
Exterior length: 34 feet
Exterior width: 96 inches
Exterior height: 10 feet 2 inches including roof air
Interior height: 79 inches
Fuel capacity: 80 gallons
Fuel requirements: gasoline
Fuel economy: 9.5 mpg
Frame construction: 16-gauge, 1½-inch steel frame construction
Floor construction: 16-gauge, 1½-inch steel tubing with Bladelock top deck and lower galvanized covered Lauan floor (bonded 2-inch floor)

Insulation: 1½-inch block foam
110/12-volt converter: 50-amp
110-volt power: 30-amp service
Fresh water capacity: 80 gallons
Folding tank capacities: gray water: 36 gallons; black water: 29 gallons
Propane capacity: 105 pounds
Water heater: 6-gallon capacity, electronic ignition
Water system type: demand
Furnace: 35,000 Btu, electronic ignition
Air conditioner: dash air standard: (1) 13,500 Btu foot air; (1) 11,000 Btu roof air
Refrigerator: two-way double door
Toilet: Thetford
Warranty: 12 months/12,000 miles
Base suggested retail price: $64,025
Price as tested: $72,700

individuals the luxury of enjoying different television programs in one of the front and one in the rear of the coach, and it also makes it possible for one television to operate via the crank-up antenna and the other via the VCR.

Storage space for blankets, extra pillows, and such is available at the foot of the bed, which features a large pull-out drawer with three large bins.

Heating and air conditioning seem to have been sufficiently addressed in the Legacy. A 35,000-Btu forced-air furnace and an adequate supply of ducts and vents can move warm air to each area of the coach. A 13,500-Btu roof air conditioner is mounted toward the front of the coach, and an 11,000-Btu roof-mounted unit is located toward the rear of the coach to cool the bedroom and bath area. Airstream is convinced that the rear unit does not need to be as large as the one up front to cool the coach efficiently. We found this to be true. Even in the high temperatures and high humidity that we encountered in Ohio in July, the Legacy's air-conditioning combination did the job nicely.

Even though the Legacy we tested was 34 feet in length and had a wheelbase of 208 inches (a 30-foot model is available as well), it was quite "driver friendly." The Legacy is equipped with a large driver's door, which facilitates access to the cockpit. And the driver's door boasts a power window. The cockpit features a "no-nonsense" design. The instrumentation and switches are within easy view and reach of the driver. The adjustable driver's seat and the tilt steering wheel allow each pilot to tailor his or her position to the controls. A large oak utility tray sits between the two cockpit seats and has been designed to hold not only cups, glasses, etc., but features a storage area under a hinged top for storing personal items. Additional storage space is available in the overhead cabinet in this area and in the glove box.

Our test unit exhibited plenty of power. When entering the interstate, the Legacy was able to quickly pick up speed and settle into the flow of traffic. I found that the two adjustable, power split exterior mirrors did a good job of helping the driver to keep an eye on both sides of the coach.

Those interested in diesel pushers will want to note that the Legacy also is available on a Spartan RE2480 chassis with a 226-inch wheelbase and powered by a standard Cummins 190-horsepower engine, or an optional Cummins 230-horsepower diesel, and an Allison MD3060 transmission.

It's always great when a plan comes together, and our plans for exploring a new part of the country could not have gone any better. The real test was our family of four living, playing, resting, and traveling for 10 days in the Legacy. When we dropped the coach off in Columbus again we agreed that we were sorry to see our odyssey end. The bottom line is this: anyone considering a new motor coach will want to take a long, hard look at the Legacy.