Specifications

Manufacturer... Airstream, 419 W.
Pike St., Jackson Center, OH 45334; (513)
596-6111
Model tested... 36-foot Land Yacht
Chassis manufacturer... Chevrolet
Engine... 454-cid, V-8
Transmission... three-speed automatic
Axle ratio... 4.10:1
Tire size... 8R x 19.5 Michelin radials
Wheelbase... 208 inches
Brakes... front disc, rear drum
Suspension... rear Henschen CMA
tag axle system with air bags
Cooling system... heavy duty
Fuel capacity... 80 gallons
Fuel consumption... 7.06 mpg
(recorded at 60 mph, 3,000 feet elevation,
predominantly flat highway, ambient
temperature 80 degrees Fahrenheit)
Acceleration time... 0 to 60 mph
in 4.14 seconds; 40 to 60 mph in 32.15
seconds
Exterior length... 36 feet
Exterior width... 8 feet
Exterior height... 10 feet 2 inches
(with roof air)
Interior height... 6 feet 6 inches
GVWR... 17,000 pounds
Wet weight... 16,020 pounds
Payload... 980 pounds
Frame construction... tubular steel
Insulation... Styrofoam
Fresh water capacity... 80 gallons
Holding tank capacities... 43
gallons gray water, 45 gallons black water
Propane capacity... 125 pounds
Water system type... demand
Furnaces... 2 — 25,000-Btu unit in
front, 16,000-Btu unit in rear
Air conditioners... (2) 13,500 Bts each
Refrigerator... Three-way A/C, 8
cubic foot capacity
Toilet... freshwater
Generator... 6.5-kw Onan
Base suggested retail price... $84,250
Price as tested... $94,755

are being extended, but they are
powered up as well. Other systems
use springs to bring the jack back
into place. I found the RAM system
to be easy to learn and to operate.
The exterior of the Land Yacht,
although a departure from traditional
Airstream styling, has a distinctive
and attractive profile. In fact, the
aerodynamic engineering of the Land
Yacht is so unique that Airstream has
applied for a patent on the motorhome
to protect against other manufac-
turers copying the design.

The outer skin of the front and
rear caps and the sidewalls of the
coach consist of fiberglass that has
been laminated to lauan, which gives
the coach an exceptionally smooth
finish. The sidewalls of the coach
are skinned with polished aluminum —
shades of the traditional Airstream
style. To further enhance the look
of the elegant exterior, our test coach
was outfitted with polished aluminum
wheels.

What really gives the motorhome
its character, however, is its front end,
which includes an air dam that has
been contoured to maximize airflow
to the engine. The coach also has
smoothly integrated bumpers, a 40-
dergrees angled windshield, and flush
halogen headlamps.

One of the exterior features I par-
ticularly enjoyed was the keyless door
entry system. To unlock the coach,
one enters a secret code into a five-
button keypad located next to the
door. The code, which can be
changed by the owner, can also
remotely unlock the driver's door and
the storage compartments. Not only
will this state-of-the-art system give
the owner some bragging rights
around the campfire, but it is also
very functional.

It may seem a small item, but I also
was impressed by the Land Yacht's
entry door. Not only is it well fitted
to the curvature of the motorhome,
but it is extra wide, too. And the
screen door isn't a flimsy plastic job;
it is a heavy-gauge aluminum door
that has been welded to give it added
strength to endure the rigors of
over-the-road travel.

Exterior storage is abundant and is
highlighted by a huge storage com-
partment at the rear of the coach.
This spacious compartment provides
enough room for the owner to take
along all of his or her fishing tackle,
as well as a set of golf clubs. And the
other compartments provide plenty
of room for stowing "less essential"
gear.

The Land Yacht is built on a tubular-
steel frame that is welded to the
Chevy chassis. The sidwall construc-
tion includes foam insulation that is
custom-fitted between the cross
members. On the exterior side, the
walls are covered by the afore-
mentioned prebonded, high-gloss
fiberglass that has been laminated to
lauan, which forms the exceptionally
smooth outer skin. The sidewalls are
completed by the addition of panel-
ing on the interior walls.

The roof is similarly constructed,
except that its outer skin consists of
one-piece, skid-resistant fiberglass.
Finally, the coach is completed by
adding the custom-designed front
and rear fiberglass caps.

The Land Yacht is an excellent
motorhome, no matter how demand-
ing your yardstick or what criteria
you select — value, livability, or style.
If the 36-footer is more motorhome
than you need, you may want to con-
sider the 33-foot model that was
recently introduced. I'm happy to
report that it retains almost every-
things that was special about the 36-
foot Land Yacht I tested.

My conclusion after my outing in
the Land Yacht is that it is one of the
finest motorhomes I have tested in its
price category. Add to that the in-
novation in design, the very func-
tional floor plan, and all those extra
touches, and I predict that Airstream
has unveiled a true winner.

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