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Vehicle Weight, Tires, Pressures and Wheels

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Tires, Wheels, Brakes, Steering and Suspensions Discussion of preventative/corrective maintenance and other technical issues regarding your coach's Tires, Wheels, Brakes, Steering and Suspensions and related components.

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12-30-2011 #1



TKuhlman
Senior Member

Join Date: Apr 2011
Location: Battle Ground
Posts: 301

Vehicle Weight, Tires, Pressures and Wheels

My wife and I went out for a little winter camping this weekend and on the way to the park I stopped at a set of scales to weigh my Bird. It weighed in at 13,000 lbs on the front axle and 19,500lbs on the rear axle. I was fully loaded with fuel, water, wife, and 3 St. Bernards. So, hear are my questions and concerns. The tires on the Bird are what came with the Bird when I bought it. I had them inspected at Les Schwab when I bought it.

1. With the front axle at 13,000lbs that is roughly 6,500 lbs per front wheel. According the stampings on the Alcoa rims, they are rated for a max weight of 7,000lbs. There is only 500 lbs of margin. Does that sound correct or normal? should there be more margin?
2. The Tires on the front are Michelin ZXE's 11R 22.5 16 plys with a max load rating of 6610 lbs at 120 PSI. The wheel rim has a max pressure of 120 PSI. If I set that PSI when the tire is cold, I am sure it will go up 10 to 15 PSI when it is hot. This sounds scary. Based on the measured weight of the Bird, I should be at or near 120psi for this type of tire. The Blue Bird recommended tire pressure is 105 PSI. That is a big difference from the 120 PSI. I wonder what type of tires Blue Bird sold the bus with. Based on these values, should I look for a tire that can handle a larger load with a lower PSI so I am not at the threshold of the tire capacity and the wheel rim max limits?
3. The rear axle is at 19,500 Lbs. The Bird has Dayton 11R22.5 16 ply tires with a max load rating of 5800 lbs at 110 PSI. From different load tables I have read, it appears I should be running 85 PSI of air in the rear duals. At least with the rears I am not concerned with running at the max limits of the wheels or tire pressures as I am on the front. However, once again the BlueBird plaque calls for 75 PSI of air for the rear tires. Should I run this according to the BlueBird plaque or the Tire inflation table? I also question what were the factory tires that came with this rig that allowed it to run at the lower pressures?

What is the advice of the WOG?

Tim



Tim Kuhlman
Battle Ground, WA
83 FC35



12-30-2011

#2



Donn B
Consistently clueless

Join Date: Nov 2010
Location: Alvarado (Fort Worth)
Posts: 713



The max pressure of tires and rims are rated for cold pressure, so the increase due to temperature is taken into account. Others may disagree, but for at least that part I wouldn't have any concern.

But I do want to see photos of the St. Bernards. I've had several in my time. The last one died almost 25 years ago and I'm still heartbroken.



Donn Barnes
Alvarado (Fort Worth), TX

1990 WB-40 Royal Conversion
GS 810327023 -- FMCA 421581 -- SKP 109591

"We are confronted with insurmountable opportunities..."
Walt Kelly, 08/25/1913 - 10/18/1973



12-30-2011

#3



rselin
Senior Member

Join Date: Mar 2010
Location: Calgary
Posts: 775



1. Can't speak for the 83 FC35, but it is not uncommon for some coaches to have no margin or even be overloaded on the front axle when loaded up.

2. I know one WOG member who has had an Alcoa rim crack, and believes it was due to exceeding the 120 psi limit when the tire warmed up to operating temp, and then hit a sharp bump. However, I believe Donn is right that this is a cold pressure limit. I don't know what tires were standard on your coach. If you are concerned, I believe you could move up to 12R22.5 tires. These would allow you to run 105 psi instead of 120 psi at the same load rating (6610 lbs).

3. I would set tire pressure based on measured weights, not the BB placard.

Richard Selin
1992 SP36 "Plus Ultra"



12-31-2011

#4



Gene Mehr
Senior Member

Join Date: Oct 2009
Location: marblemount wa.
Posts: 1,145



Tim what park did you go to? My coach weighs in the same I havent had any problems of any sort after 12000 miles. oh minus the dogs

Gene Mehr
Mary Mehr
82 FC 33 250 hp
Sumner Wa.



12-31-2011

#5




TKuhlman
Senior Member

Join Date: Apr 2011
Location: Battle Ground
Posts: 301



Quote:

Originally Posted by **Gene Mehr** 
Tim what park did you go to? My coach weighs in the same I havent had any problems of any sort after 12000 miles. oh minus the dogs

Gene,

I went to Cape Dissappointment State Park in Washington State. It is near the mouth of the Columbia River across from Astoria Oregon. It is a great place to camp. You are so close to the Ocean you can hear the waves crashing from inside the coach.

Tim



Tim Kuhlman
Battle Ground, WA
83 FC35



12-31-2011

#6




TKuhlman
Senior Member

Join Date: Apr 2011
Location: Battle Ground
Posts: 301



Quote:

Originally Posted by **Donn B** 
But I do want to see photos of the St. Bernards. I've had several in my time. The last one died almost 25 years ago and I'm still heartbroken.

Don,

Here is a link to some of the dog pictures. <http://www.wanderlodgeownersgroup.co...hp?albumid=310>

Tim



Tim Kuhlman
Battle Ground, WA
83 FC35



12-31-2011

#7



Gene Mehr
Senior Member

Join Date: Oct 2009
Location: marblemount wa.
Posts: 1,145

We were there last year good place. the wife had a pizza deliverd I just got a kick out of that one

Gene Mehr
Mary Mehr
82 FC 33 250 hp
Sumner Wa.



12-31-2011

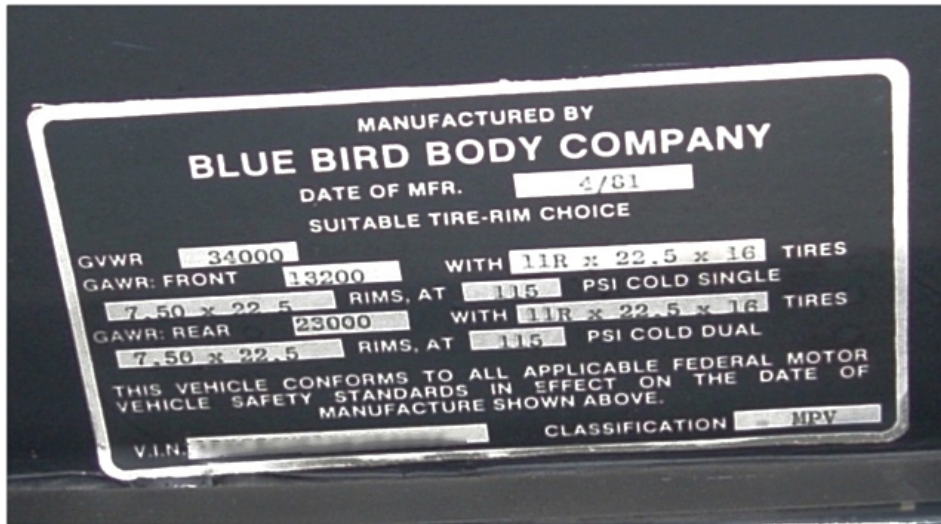
#8



iamflagman
Forum Moderator / Administrator

Join Date: Dec 2007
Location: Hopkins
Posts: 11,072

When I originally weighed my 1982 FC35RB 'Bird I noticed the narrow margin of what I would be able to carry on the front axle tires and wheels and realized that if I only carried 4 adult passengers and nothing else in the compartments or cabinets over the front axle area that would be almost at the limit of the tires and rims, which according to the tire and rim recommendation plate above the drivers windshield were 11R-22.5 16 ply tires and my 'Bird came with those mounted on 7.50 inch wide rims.



I asked basically the same question that you are asking on the old Yahoo forum and was told by an old member that as long as I used a "Quality Tire" that I would be OK if I was a little overladed, needless to say I didn't take that members recommendation and waited for another answer, which came from Randy and others that the old school advice was to upgrade to 12R-22.5 16 ply tires and use the 8.25 rims. Fortunately for me I already had a set of those rims and I needed new tires at the time so I upgraded both the tires and rims at that time and I haven't looked back on that decision ever since then.

98% of the time I pull my 10,000# maximum rated trailer it increases my rear axle load and decreases the front axle load, due to the tongue weight. With my weights on Michelin 12R-22.5 16 ply tires I runs 105# of air pressure in the front tires and 85# of air pressure in the rear tires, this is little more than what Michelin recommends in their load inflation guide <http://www.michelintruck.com/michelin...ion-tables.jsp> make sure that you use the most current load inflation table for the brand and size tires that you have on your 'Bird, they can be different from other manufacturers.

81488648
TICKET NUMBER

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SCALE	550	DRIVE AXLE	20240	lb
LOCATION:	WILCO TRAVEL CENTR	TRAILER AXLE	8540	lb
	I 95 EXIT 1&1 B	* GROSS WEIGHT	41240	lb
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1136
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PUBLIC WEIGHMASTER'S CERTIFICATE OF WEIGHT & MEASURE

IMPRINT SEAL HERE (IF APPLICABLE)

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TRAILER #

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Attached Thumbnails



JOHN FINN

FORUM MODERATOR-ADMINISTRATOR

1982 FC35RB

I'm NO EXPERT, but I did stay in the FINN'S INN EXPRESS last night

HOPKINS, SOUTH CAROLINA

VISIT THE FINN'S INN EXPRESS REMODELING ADVENTURE AND TECH. TIPS

I'M SO SLOW ON THE HILLS, THAT I GET TO SMELL THE FLOWERS AS I GO BY.....AND WATCH THEM GROW TOO!!

NOT SO MUCH ANYMORE 🌱

Visit the WILD HARE RACING website

REMEMBER 9/11



12-31-2011

#9



Randy Dupree
Forum owner

Join Date: Dec 2007
Location: Archer,Fl
Posts: 25,394

So Tim,you have a 1983 BB,lets see,almost 30 years old.
It has survived that long on those same wheels and tire style.
I don't think any extra weight has been added,so its most likely weighed around this same weight for 30 years.

I'm thinking your worrying about nothing!

DO NOT SEND PM
email me at randy@randydupree.com only.

Randy Dupree
2000 LXI 43
Bainbridge,Ga.
Archer Fl.
www.buybyebluebird.com
randy@randydupree.com



12-31-2011

#10



sfedeli
Senior Member

Join Date: Jan 2008
Location: Hershey
Posts: 2,740

Ditto!

Shane Fedeli
85PT40
Hershey, PA
Do not use PM... please use
shanefedeli@gmail.com
717-645-4912



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Weight Distribution on Rear Wheels	rueckwald	Most Frequently Asked Questions About Operating Systems	37	06-24-2009 05:08 PM
PROPERLY MATCHING TIRES TO WHEELS.pdf	iamflagman	Tires, Wheels, Brakes, Steering and Suspensions	0	04-08-2008 03:26 AM
Tires and Wheels and Weighing Your 'Bird	iamflagman	Tires, Wheels, Brakes, Steering and Suspensions	0	04-08-2008 12:46 AM

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