

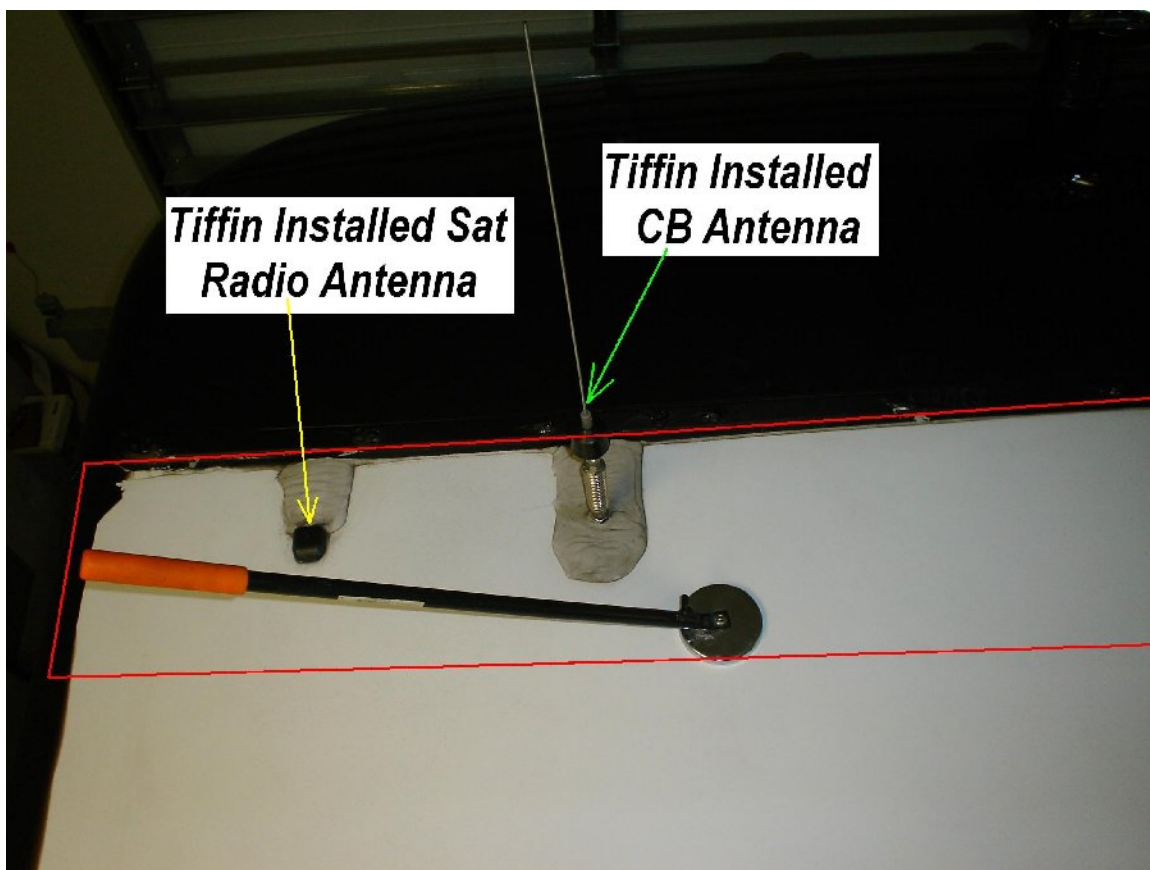


## 2010 43QGP Allegro Bus

4/28/2011

**5 – FYI - FIRESTIK II CB ANTENNA INSTALLATION.** I am not sure why this coach has to have a SWR problem with the Tiffin installed CB antenna however it does. Our 2007 Phaeton with the same CB antenna did not give me any problem setting the SWR. I was surprised the SWR was as low as it was with very little adjustment on my part.

Before purchasing a new CB antenna the CB's coax cable was tested in order to make sure the antenna cable was not the problem. After testing for continuity and grounds the cable was found to be free of any problems. I was surprised to find the cable shield was connected to the front cap's steel structure as well as to the steel plate which runs from side to side and about 10 inches wide (front to back), making an almost 7 square foot ground plane before the front cap's steel structure is adding into the mix. A large magnet was used to find the perimeter of the ground plane and its dimensions.



As seen in the above picture the ground plane runs from side to side and about 10 inches front to rear.

After finally giving up on the OEM CB antenna, a FireStik II antenna was purchased from a E-bay seller. After installing and adjusting the antenna's SWR, I was able to obtain a 1.6:1 ratio on channel 1, a 1.4:1 ratio on channel 20, and a 2.4:1 ratio on channel 40.

After finishing the installation the maximum traveling height of the coach was measured at 168.5 inches or 14 feet 1/2 inch at the top of the red tip on the FireStik II antenna.

The traveling height of this antenna is 7 inches higher than the Tiffin OEM antenna which was 13 feet 5 1/2 inches.

After reading many posts on the TRVN forum of members having to purchase a no ground plane antennas. I was pleasantly surprised to find such a large ground plane installed on our Bus. As already stated I do not know **WHEN** Tiffin began making sure a ground plane was part of the CB antenna system but on this 2010 Allegro Bus all three antennas are mounted into the metal which is part of the vehicles ground plane and part of the front cap structural steel.

