12/27/2012

70 – FYI – <u>TIFFIN'S HOUSE BATTERIES.</u> When we took possession of our 2010 Allegro Bus during January 2011 there were six 6 volt house batteries installed in a slide tray. Those six HOUSE batteries had been badly abused (discharged) for nine months (coach was built January 2010) sitting around Red Bay prior to the coach being sent to Marlin Ingram to be sold. Tiffin replaced the HOUSE batteries and battery tray based on the corrosion damage to the tray and batteries during our first warranty trip to Red Bay.

Notice the battery name and 20 Amp Hr. rating in the yellow circle. The 20 Amp Hr. rating was 232 Amp Hrs. on the U2200UT battery. When our HOUSE batteries were replaced in late February 2011 they were replaced with the new design Interstate GC2-HD-UT batteries, the U2200 batteries were no longer being sold, new batteries purchased by Tiffin on 2/3/2011.

As can be seen in the below photo the replacement (GC2-HD-UT) battery is rated at 216 Amp Hrs. where the older Interstate U2200UT batteries were rated at 232 Amp Hrs.

What happened to those 16 Amp Hrs.? Tiffin was able to save money by purchasing a lighter weight battery? Based on my research the battery below is the Heavy Duty version of the GC2 battery as noted by the HD on the label, Interstate does manufacture an (XHD) Extra Heavy Duty GC2 battery which has the extra 16 Amp Hrs. making the total capacity of the GC2-XHD-UT battery 232 Amp Hrs. that battery weighs 67 pounds, 3 pounds more than the below HD battery which weighs 64 pounds.

The bottom line by using a lighter battery with 16 Amp Hrs. less capacity Tiffin saved money on its Interstate HOUSE batteries.

When computing the battery bank size this lower battery rating (216 Amp Hrs.) should be used with the HD batteries. Computing with this rating makes a four battery bank rating equal to 432 Amp Hrs. and a six battery bank rating equal to 648 Amp Hrs.

The HOUSE battery rating on our coach's two six battery banks (12 batteries) equals 1,296 Amp Hrs.