



2010 43QGP Allegro Bus

7/31/2013

EIGHTY-SIXTH - coach modification – **GENERATOR START-STOP SWITCH COVER**. Until our last trip we've never had a need to protect the generators start-stop switch mounted on the generator. A couple of weeks ago while resting after a hard day of doing nothing our generator's starter engaged just long enough to know where the noise was coming from, maybe a tenth of a second or so. We know a camping neighbor has a cat and where we were camped there is an abundance of wild life so it could have been anything as there were no tracks left behind.

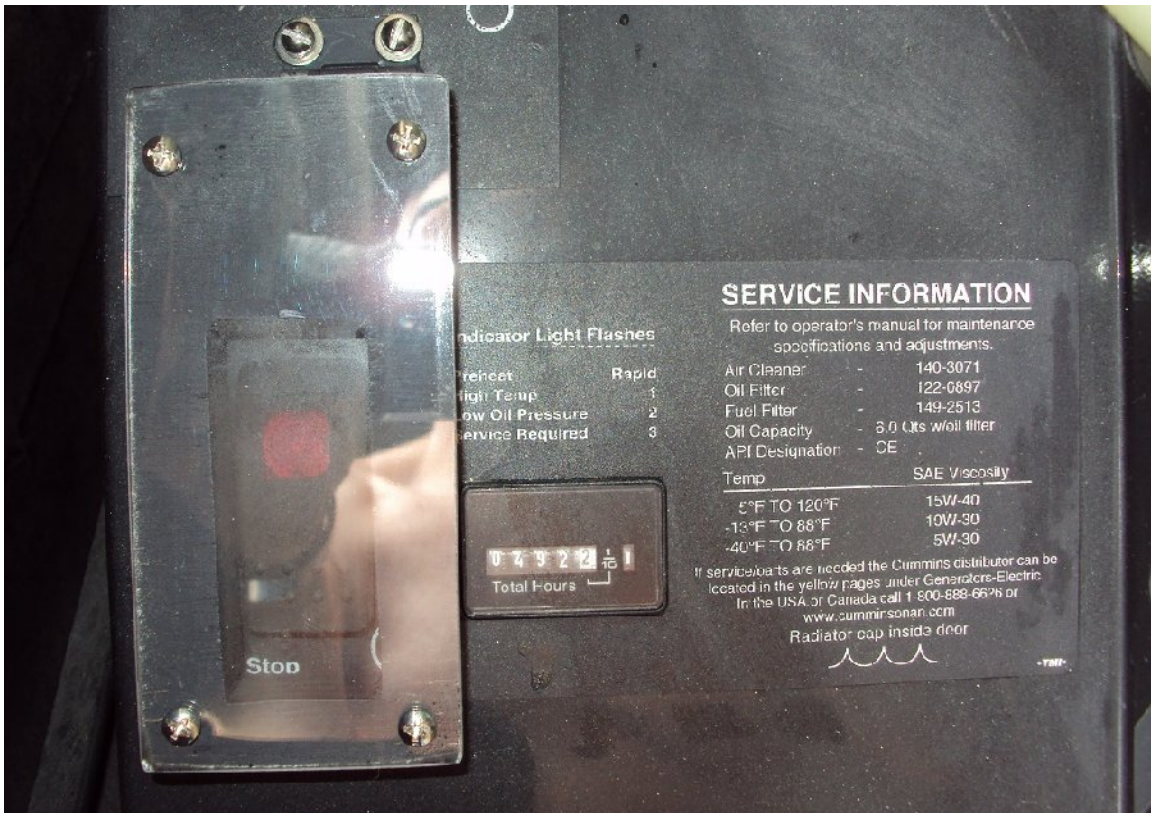
The following modification was prompted by an idea posted by Charlie on the forum.

Anyway today was the day to work on installing a guard or protective cover to prevent the spooks from starting the generator.

Below is a photo of the required components.

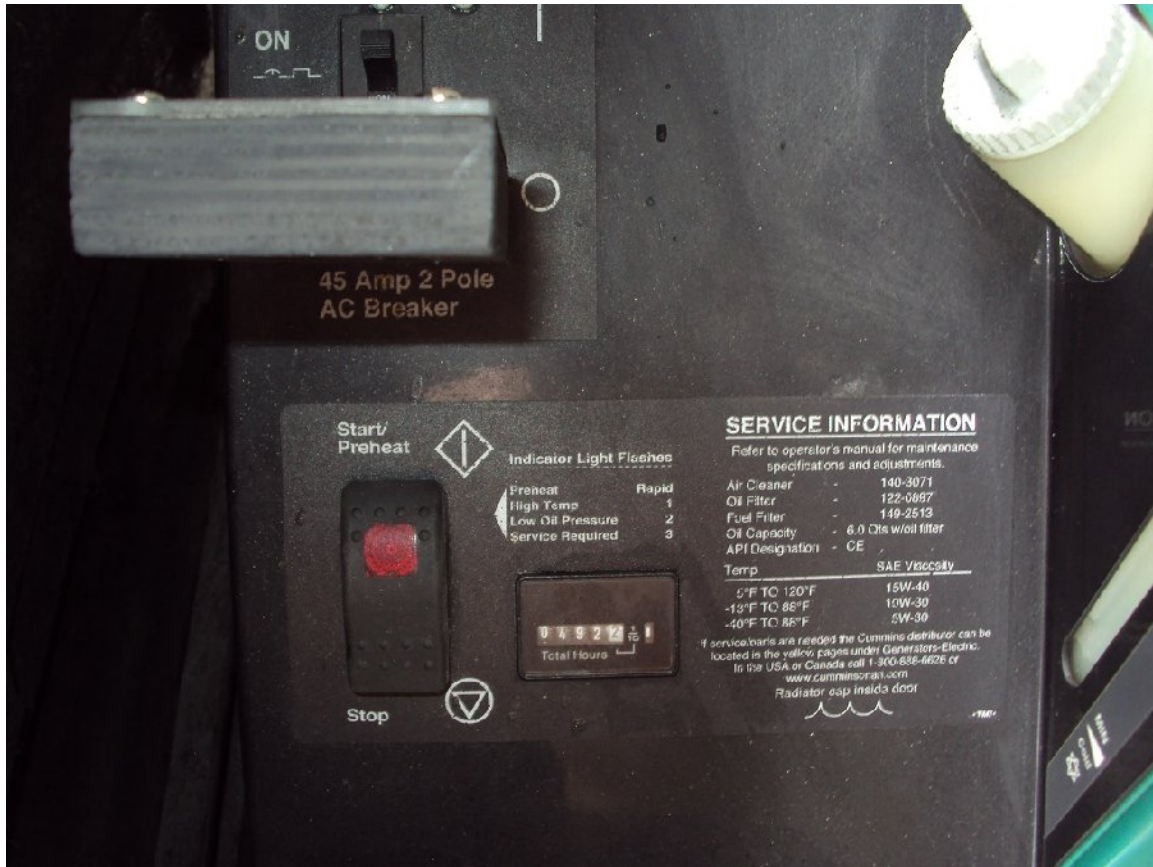


This project began by cutting a piece of $\frac{3}{4}$ " thick plywood $2\frac{1}{4}$ " wide by $4\frac{1}{2}$ " long with a $1\frac{1}{8}$ " wide x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " long window, the window allows the switch cover to fit over the start/stop switch. The wood block was painted flat black to match the generator panel. A small 1" hinge was mounted on the top of the cover the other half of the hinge was installed under the two lower circuit breaker mounting screws. The generator side of the hinge required the mounting holes to be elongated toward the outside of the hinge to allow for mounting, the circuit breaker mounting holes center to center are $\frac{3}{4}$ " prior to modification the holes in the hinge were $\frac{5}{8}$ " center to center. A piece of 0.080 inch thick acrylic was cut $2\frac{1}{4}$ " wide x $4\frac{1}{2}$ " long then installed over the wood cover the acrylic allows viewing of the switch and the status of the internal red light. The lower two # 6 x $\frac{3}{8}$ " circuit breaker mounting screws were replaced with # 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$ " screws plus a flat and split lock washer to secure the screws, the screws extra length was required because of the width of the hinge. Four # 6 x $\frac{1}{2}$ " stainless steel screws were used to mount the acrylic over the plywood.



The status of the switch and its internal light can be checked by simply looking thru the cover or the generator can be started or stopped by lifting the protective cover thus allowing access to the start-stop switch.

As seen in the below photo the protective cover can be lifted allowing access to the switch for starting or stopping the generator. The new protective cover does not conflict with the generators 45 Amp dual pole circuit breaker in either the open or closed positions.



This modification should prevent any creatures from starting the generator.