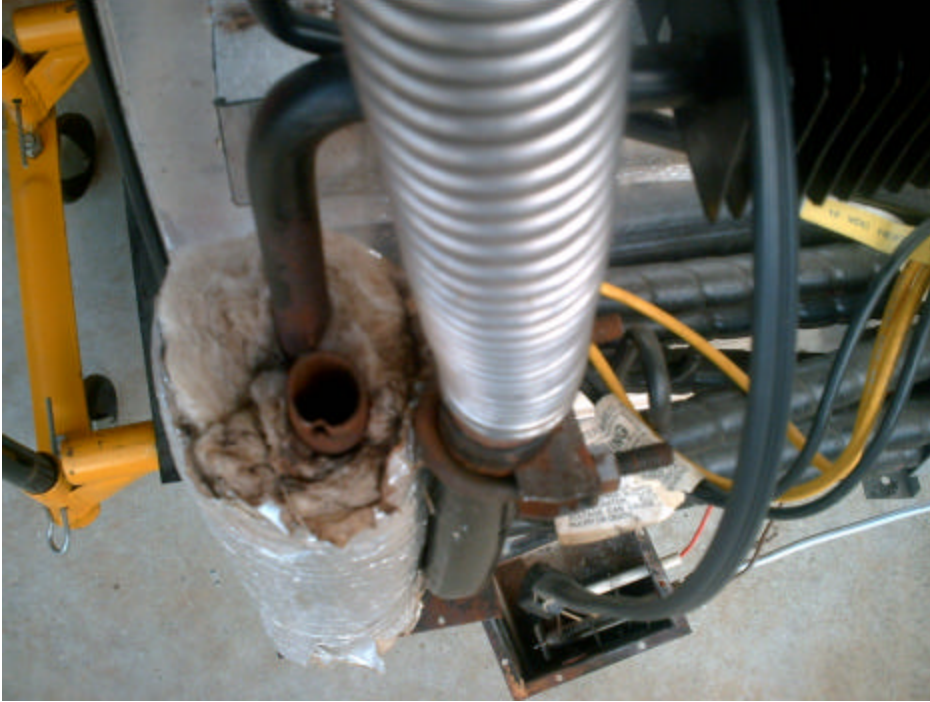


Installment 2 of "This Old Rialta"

I finished refurbishing the refrigerator, cleaned the burner and rifled out the heat tube with a shot gun cleaning tool. I also checked the cooling fan and its thermostatic switch.



Cleaning tool



Heat deflector removed from tube



Burner assembly



Cooling fan

The second monitor for the rear arrived so I installed it and connected it to the DVD/TV tuner. This is an 8 inch monitor that swivels and retracts flat out of the way. It also has a dome light that will help light up the table nicely. Still waiting on the large front monitor for the front it arrived last week DOA and had to be returned.



I removed the sink and cleaned it. It was installed beneath the countertop this is a nice feature on a solid surface counter but on laminate over pressboard it is a huge mess. Water works its way into the edge around the sink lip and swells the pressboard. I reinstalled it on top and added a new bar sink faucet. The stove was in good shape, did not appear to have been used much. I polished the stainless steel burner cover with rubbing compound this removed the rust spots and brought it back to a nice shine. I sanded and painted the mounting frame and the cover with gloss black appliance paint. Then topped off the sink with a cutting board and now the cooking area looks like new.



Next up was the Microwave. The old one was in bad shape the control panel was broken and it looked like it had a small fire inside at some point. I found a Magic Chef Model MCD11 1.1 cubic foot that was almost identical to the original. It was about ½ inch narrower, ¾ inch shorter and an inch deeper. I had to install two ¾ inch strips of plywood in the bottom of the cabinet and move the plug from the back wall to the bottom. I removed the deflection and mounting ducts from the old unit and installed them on the new one. The old case had an exhaust hole in the top; the new one has them in the side. I removed the cover of the new microwave and cut out a hole to match the old one and duck taped the side vents closed. The old trim fit the new case perfectly and the finished product looks like it came from the factory.



While I had the Microwave out I routed all the wiring for the rear TV and the surround sound system. I also took this time to refurbish the WineGard antenna. These things used to drive me nuts not only do the connections corrode but the internal electronics have mechanical connections that can corrode. I went to a school in 1978 on how to replace the internal stuff and almost 30 years later they are exactly the same. The hard part is getting the case apart. It snaps together along opposing seams at the top and the bottom and there are internal pegs that also hold it together. Sorry I did not take pictures of this the camera battery was dead. Once you get the case open you will see a circuit board mounted in the center of the bottom. There are 4 screws that hold it in place and these also supply the contacts to the “Wings” it is here that corrosion can cause bad reception. I un-soldered the wires from the coax (F) connector then removed the 4 screws. Two to the

screws have a coil of wire connecting them carefully remove this coil. Then you can remove the wings they just lift off the pegs. I put both the plastic pieces in the dishwasher they were nasty inside and out they came out sparkling. Clean all the contact points on the circuit board and the wings and reassemble. The weakest link in these units is the coax connectors. They are covered with rubber boots and most of the time smothered in caulking. I removed the roof plate, cleaned off all the goop and replaced it with clear silicone. I use silicone that is made for sealing glass blocks you can get it at Home Depot. This is 100% silicone and will stick to ANYTHING! DON'T use that 99 cent stuff it don't stay put. The best thing you can do to help reception from the antenna is to change the connectors. It comes with regular house type F connectors. Replace these with outdoor water proof connections. These types have an O-ring inside that keeps water out. I don't glue the rubber boot on I leave it loose so I can pull it back blow the water out of them. My antenna now works great, if your picture pops and jumps when you rotate your antenna then you may want to think about refurbing it. While I had the antenna connection on the roof open I ran a wire up thru it to power an X10 wireless camera that I mounted on top of the antenna housing. With this camera I can look around the campsite by turning the antenna. It is connected to a wireless receiver mounted in the cabinet with the DVD/TV tuner. The rear monitor has 2 inputs and the second one is connected to this receiver and with the antenna raised you get a bird's eye view of the campsite.

I think every fan on this thing was broken, the Fantastic Vent made a racket on high so I pulled the motor on it and the bearings were toast. I could have ordered a new motor (it uses a standard Fasco type) but while browsing the net I came across the new MaxxFan Ventilator. It cost a little more than the fantastic vent but you don't need a Maxx Vent Cover and all the issues that go with those things. It has a thermostat, 3 speeds and a reversing fan. It comes in white and smoke I opted for the smoke to cut down on the light up front and it can be fully opened when the vehicle is moving. All that and it looks DEAD SEXY!



Got lots to do yet! Mounted an inverter under the right jump seat along with the amp/subwoofer for the surround sound to the TV's. Have to run the wiring to the battery and install an outlet under the seat. That will give me one 110 volt outlet off the inverter and power the amp/subwoofer since it is 12 volt AC and needs 110 volts as its source. As soon as the replacement monitor arrives I can reinstall the front headliner and add some insulation to the cab and the transition areas. Then have to mount the front speakers and button the front end back up, then I can start on the outside. FUN! FUN! FUN!!!!!!

Robert