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Member: Mr. Wiley Price

Topic: Electrical System

Question: Folks, ever since buying my AA1-A 2 1/2 years ago, the amp meter shows no charge. Only once in a long while it will oscillate slightly. I replaced the battery about 2 yrs. ago as it finally got where it wouldn't turn engine. At the same time, I replaced the ammeter, but it still shows no charge. The battery checks at 12.75-12.85 v even after sitting for 2-3 weeks. Obviously it is charging. Got any idea what to check next as it would be reassuring to know system is working.

Answer: Read the voltage across the battery before and after starting the engine. The voltage should start at the 12.75 - 12.85 volts you have observed and, when the engine is running at 1000RPM or more, show 13.5 14.5 volts when properly charging. If it does, I suggest you install a voltmeter in the panel and ignore the poorly-designed ammeter circuit.

Les Staples A&P IA

AA5A - N9849U

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