

## MORE ABOUT THERMOSTATS by Scott McGilvray

Inquiring minds want to know ---- more about the thermostats. Years ago it was discovered that there was a thermostat available for our T-Birds that had a larger hole to pass more water. Those who were convinced that water circulation was the major problem in over heating were ecstatic. It was a joy to walk the concours field and see across the parking lot someone hearing for the first time of this thermostat discovery. Some could not contain themselves. But I digress.

The thermostat with the larger hole is a NAPA #6. In an effort at full disclosure I have to inform you that this thermostat is not without a minor drawback. It was reported to Gil Baumgartner that when used on a '57 this thermostat comes in contact with the water valve when fully open. There are those who delight in finding problems and this one is worth investigation.

The reason this is only a problem on 57's is that the position of the water valve moved closer to the thermostat housing that year. See picture #1 which shows a 56 and a 57 manifold. The hole for the water valve is 2" from the front on a 56 and 1 1/2" on the 57. Picture #2 and #3 shows the NAPA #6 thermostat and a conventional one both extended by use of a heat gun. The #6 measures 1 1/2" from the flange to the end. The other picture shows the difference in the holes when open.



Picture #1



Picture #3



Picture #2

Obviously a significant difference. Sure enough the length of the #6 could cause interference with the water valve on a 57. The solution can be one of two choices. First is to ignore the problem, coming in contact with the water valve on its last 1/16 of an inch of travel means nothing. The second is to remove the dip tube from the bottom of the water valve. The dip tube is on the water valve to make sure it picks up water for the heater even if the cooling system is low on fluid. Picture #4 shows two water valves one assembled and one with the dip tube unscrewed.



Picture #4

Picture #5 shows the box that the thermostat comes in. When I went to buy one the counter help at NAPA would not believe there was a part number in their system with only one digit. Fortunately I had brought along a picture of the box from Gil's garage on the CTCI web site. The price of the thermostat is about \$10.00.



Picture #5