

where air meets water

The Official Voice of Scenic City Volks Folks

Volks Folks Newsletter

www.VolksFolks.org

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Volks Folks e-mail List

Some of our newer members may not know we have an e-mail list. You are not automatically signed up for this list when you join the club. You may join the "eGroup" at our website: www.volksfolks.org, then click Volks-Folks eGroup on the menu, enter your e-mail address and hit enter. Or you can go to groups.yahoo.com, search for Volks-Folks and join there. It's a great way to keep in touch with other members, get meeting reminders, organize caravans, etc.

Club Officers:

President: Zen Hendricks
zenph@yahoo.com

Vice Pres.: Travis Barefoot
gobusgo@mindspring.com

Treasurer: Lamar & Cindy Lewis
LewisJLL@aol.com

Secretary: Jami Lowery
jlowery@vol.com

Club News

April Meeting:
Monday, April 16
7:00 P.M.
Wally's Restaurant
I-75 & Ringgold Rd.

Two Meetings a Month!!
It's getting close to show time! We have 2 meetings scheduled for April. The dates are:
April 5 & 16

The Trophies are Done!
This is great news, and they look mahvalous!
Here's a note from Herb:

"For EVERYONE who came up to our house last night let me send you a GREAT BIG THANK YOU! The trophies look great and last night proves that things go a lot better with a TEAM effort. I was about to get bogged down on the trophies and I'm all better now. Once again, THANKS to all who came and those of you who tried to come but couldn't cause of other conflicts."

And a note from Zen:

*"I second that! Thanks everyone!!
Herb also deserves a big thank you from all of the rest of us for the countless hours of gathering, cleaning, sandblasting,*

painting, sawing, sanding, drilling, etc., etc., etc. But, an even bigger THANK YOU should be extended to Dee Keedy for putting up with the mess and allowing us to use her house and her husband's time.

Thanks again to everyone who worked on the trophies. They are FANTASTIC! Now, I just have to figure out a way to win one of them . . . I thought I had a shot at Roughest VeeDub Running, then I realize that the word "running" is in there!"

Still lots of planning to be done!

See y'all at the next meeting!

Volkswagen Events

Bug-a-Paluzza 3
April 21-22
Camp Jordon
Chattanooga, TN
www.volksfolks.org

Everybus 2001
April 20-22
Hagan-Stone Park,
Garden, NC
www.mindspring.com/~ncbus

Buses at the Beach 3
April 21
Jacksonville Beach, FL
VW Trends coverage.
Sevwc@sevwc.com

Volkswagen by the Seaside
April 22
Jacksonville Beach, FL
VW Trends coverage.
Sevwc@sevwc.com

3rd Annual Savannah VW Car Show
April 28
Savannah Mall, Savannah, GA
Cgwwc@aol.com

Fisher Buggies Spring Nationals
April 29
1/8 mi. drag, show & swap meet. VW Trends coverage.
www.fisherbuggies.com

Circle Yer Wagens
May 5-6
Sevier County Fairgrounds,
Sevierville, TN
VW Trends coverage.
www.avwa.com

North vs. South Shootout
May 13
Darlington Dragway,
Hartsville, SC
www.geocities.com/~ksracecars/north2k1.htm

8th Annual GA Vintage Volkswagen Show
May 19
Southern Polytechnic State University, Marietta, GA
VW Trends coverage.
Deasterw@mindspring.com

4th Annual NSVWA Spring Show
May 20
Knoxville Farmers Market
Volbugjam@juno.com

Roswell 2K (R2K)
June 15-17
Roswell, New Mexico
New Beetle-only show. Since, the NB was reverse-engineered from UFO's, all "pods" were called to Roswell, NM (by the mother ship) in June of 2000. They had so much fun, they are being called back for a second year! Caravans from all parts of the country. For info: www.roswell2k.org



Shoot the Breeze

By Travis Barefoot

Gone South: Part III

And we're off! A twinge of excitement pecked at my neck as we pulled out of the limestone gravel road that led away from Grandma's house and onto a blacktop highway that twisted and turned, taking us to our destination on its way to everywhere. We had said our good-byes to my family and they had wished us luck for the journey ahead. Nearly seven air-cooled hours lay between the sandy beachside campsites of Bahia Honda State Park and us, so here we were, at it again. Last night's complete rest more than made up for the self-inflicted torture of the all-day drive the day before. We looked forward to today's drive because it was taking us into the flatlands and swamps of South Florida, across an extension of I-75, called Alligator Alley, which, as its name implies, is where alligators hang out. Also, it will take us to the East Coast of Florida, all the more closer to our goal.

Some things you just don't expect. On our first gas stop, only twelve or so miles from Grandma's, we had our first taste of the weirdness that was going to plague us the rest of the trip. After filling up with gas, I moved Sweetpea away from the pump and went in to get ice for the coolers. Two filled ice chests later, I turned the key only to hear silence. "Okay", I thought, "Let's just do the old 3rd gear-rock-the-bus-to-engage-the-flywheel routine." So I did. This time nothing happened. She still wouldn't start. "Alright then, I guess I'll have to crawl under and do the bang-the-starter-curse-whack-the-starter routine." After doing so, I hopped back in, turned the key, and FWEEM! She pattered to life with a low exhaust mumble of sarcasm. Something to the tune of, "Oh, I'm feeling great now, no thanks to you and your procrastination!" Like a child listening to mother's explicit instructions, I tuned the babble out and concentrated on getting on with the drive. Tampa, Sarasota, Port Charlotte, Fort Myers and Naples all lay ahead of us as points on the map merely used as calculating mileage yet to go. After Naples lay the Everglades and Alligator Alley.

Little towns between the major ones along the interstate had names that could have described the towns in detail. As we drove by the exits, I could imagine the piles of fruit in Fruitville, the lush vegetation of Venice

Gardens, the warm salty air of Tropical Gulf Shores, and the cool refreshing waters of Bonita Springs. Some names reflected their actual seaside location, such as Coral Cove, Bayshore, Pirate Harbor, and of course, Sanibel Island. Others had names that only the locals would know the history of. Names like Nokomis, Manasota, Bokeelia, and El Jobean, all whose exits went by virtually unnoticed.

"When I am driving Sweetpea, a sense of slowness comes over me..."

Naples was coming up soon. The tollbooth to Alligator Alley was visible in the distance. We were cruising down the interstate at a good pace, trying to keep the needle between the numbers 50 and 60 on the speedometer. Now that is not what I would call fast, by any means. It seemed like every car was passing us on the road. There is something euphoric about being passed on the road while driving an air-cooled bus. When I am driving Sweetpea, a sense of slowness comes over me...I almost don't mind it when someone who has much more important things to do and less time to do it in almost endangers their life just to get around me. I just honk and wave them on. Now as the tollbooth got closer, traffic was bottlenecking at the open gates. I wanted to keep Luke right behind me, so I slowed down and looked in my rear-view mirror to help gauge the distance between us. Luke was a little further back than he had been before, so I slowed down some more. At that instant, the CB, silent until now, came alive with Luke saying, "She quit!" Now I couldn't hold up traffic for much longer, so I paid my toll, pulled through and parked on the other side, out of the way. "She backfired and just died", Luke said to me as I ran up to help push him out of the way. Candace and I pushed their bus up to the gates, Luke paid his toll, and then we pushed and pushed until they were out of the way also.

What had happened? What could have caused Luke's bus to be going along fine, then backfire and die? That's what we were trying to figure out on the side of the interstate, just past the No. 1 gate of the Alligator Alley tollbooth on a hot Sunday afternoon. The only good we could see was that Naples was only a few miles back. And that traffic had to come to a stop at the booths, so they weren't flying by us at 80 mph like they would if we were stranded on the side of the interstate a mile behind or a mile ahead of us. Now if only we could find some shade to

work on the bus. Between some buildings, there was an access road that connected to a side road not 50 feet away. There were some trees over there that lent their shadows as shade. That's where we headed. Once we got the bus moving, Luke coasted like a pro into the shade, and before too long, the decklid was up and fingers started scratching scalps.

There were a number of things that could have gone wrong. Things we didn't want to think about. Like a dropped valve, a blown piston, broken crank or cam, or snapped distributor drive. Our imaginations could come up with many more answers, but they would only be worse. We pulled out the tools and books that we so tediously packed and carried for just such an occasion, quit imagining, and started working. We checked the plugs and plug wires. We checked the fuel system (took carburetor off), checked the valve clearances and checked the points, rotor button, and distributor cap. We decided to take the distributor out and check the shaft and drive gear. That's when we found out what ended up being the sole reason for the poor bus' despair. The distributor clamp would not hold the distributor down to fully engage into the drive gear! No matter how tight we would tighten it, the thing would pop out of the gear when Luke tried to start the bus. But we didn't know what else could be wrong. We decided that I would tow him a short way to the Super 8 down the road, think about the situation in an air-conditioned room (and hot shower!), call family for support, and look for local help. But whom could we find on a Sunday evening as the rest of the business world closes down, us being hundreds of miles away from home. Someone who would know what was really wrong...?

To be continued...

Till later,
Travis
GoBusGo!

Feel free to send contributions or criticisms for this column to:
gobusgo@volksfolks.org

Or:
Shoot the Breeze
P.O. Box 1344
Collegedale TN 37315

Das Karmann Column

By Anthony Henderson

THE WORLD'S LARGEST SWAP MEET

October 7, 2000

The sun has just risen over Sevierville. I wake to find out the gas tank for the Coleman heater ran out several hours ago, and using an icebox in the Campmobile would be redundant. I slide out of the bed, put on some shoes, and head for the vendors on a quest for swap meet treasure.

March 17, 2001

The sun has just risen over East Ridge. I wake to find out my Better Half turned off the heat to save energy yesterday, and that using the refrigerator in our kitchen would be redundant. I climb out of bed, put on my house shoes, and head for the computer on a quest for eBay treasure.

If you love Volkswagens, you gotta have stuff. Whether it's vintage toys, ads, literature, or even parts for the vehicles themselves, we know where to find it. A phalanx of salesmen await us on the other end of an 800 phone number with all the new parts we need, but where to go when you're looking for that little "Unobtanium" widget to replace the one you just broke, or the original "Think Small" ad?

There's always the swap area of the nearest

Volkswagen show, or is there? If you can't get to wherever the show is on that particular day, you're out of luck. Or you can try the world's largest 24-7-365 Swap meet-eBay.

If you're new to eBay, you might be a bit unsure, and understandably so. The idea of sending your money to someone in California whom you don't know from Adam's housecat may seem a bit looney. The truth is, the vast majority of eBay sellers are honest people.

There is an opportunity for every buyer and seller to leave a comment regarding each transaction and every member's file is accessible by every other member at any time. This keeps people honest. I have personally

bought about 35 items in the past two years, and never had someone fail to send me an item.

So go ahead! Browsing, bidding, and buying are free. They only charge when you sell something. You will need a member name to bid. This can be your e-mail address or something like "supermachoghiastud35". In the "search" window, type "Volkswagen". How many thousand items matched? You will need to be more specific. How about "Volkswagen Beetle"? This should return a more manageable list of a few hundred items.

Bidding works basically like this. Decide how

much you would be willing to pay for a particular item, type that amount in on the bidding page, and enter. If you have the highest bid at the closing time of the auction, you win! Get in touch with the seller via e-mail, and arrange payment, usually by money order, and shipping. I say "basically" because there are some tricks of the trade that would take more space to describe than I have. If feedback warrants, I'd be happy to share some next month!

So, is eBay safe? In most cases, yes. Is it addictive? In most cases, yes. Will it replace the swap meet at your next show? No. There's no substitute for laying hands on the trinket you want before you buy it, dealing face-to-face with a seller, and talking a price down, rather than watching the bidding go up. eBay, however, is a great way to get the parts you need or the toys you want in between swap meets. Who knows? You just might find a great deal on the old DDB ad with the Words of Volkswisdom that sums up that rare N.O.S. Westfalia accessory jack you just won-

"Cheap new. Expensive used."

Questions? Comments? More on eBay? E-mail

a_henderson17@msn.com

Cruise Report

By Lamar Lewis

We had seven VW's to make the trip to Gadsden, AL. We had a nice drive and a good visit with our friends from the Northeast Alabama Club. They were excited that we made the trip down and we all enjoyed sharing our VW's and VW stories with each other. They sported several nicely done custom VW's, original VW's, a New Beetle (I think Perk's car made a new friend, a blue New Beetle), and a Bus or two. We distributed information about our show with them and the response was very positive and several of their members are planning to make

it to our show.

Our caravan included:

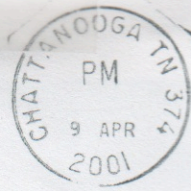
- * Zen and Joy and Jessie in their convertible
- * Herb in Dee's custom beetle
- * Anthony and Misty in the Ghia convertible
- * Verl and Sandra in their 67 beetle
- * Perk in his New Beetle
- * Travis, Linda and Talia in their Westfalia
- * Lamar and Cindy in their Westalia

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip and looking forward to doing this again.

The only upcoming event before our show is

the DAV show the second Saturday of April. If anyone is interested, lets get together and cruise up to that show.

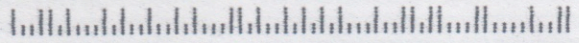
P.S. You always learn something new on trips like these and this one was no exception. Even though the night air was a bit cool, according to the wisdom of Herb and Perk if you eat a Sonic hot fudge Sunday it will warm you up. Imagine that!



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Truth, Lies and Other Stuff

Kudos!

This comes from a member of another club who read our newsletter. It is referring to Anthony's February article, "Unsafe at Any Speed." Congratulations Anthony! E-mail sent as follows:

"Anthony, Great article! Love your newsletter. Can I use your article in a future newsletter of the Bug Connection, the official newsletter of the Metro Volkswagen Club of Illinois? I of course will give credit to you as the author and with your permission give your e-mail address for comments. Thanks a lot. Keep on trucking. Joe Stumph secretary Metro VW Club stumph@peaknet.net."

Great Source For Parts!

Rumor has it that any road Zen has traveled on lately is a great source for picking up spare parts! Why just recently you could have picked up a nice '74 Beetle front bumper... slightly run over!

Wanted: Parts Bus

Parts bus wanted. Mostly need axle and associated parts. E-mail blbm@yaho.com. Oh, it needs to be 1:24 scale!

Special thanks to rumor contributors (you know who you are).

Heard any good rumors lately?

Please send them to : rumors@VolksFolks.org

