



The Official Voice of Scenic City Volks Folks

Volks Folks Newsletter

www.VolksFolks.org

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where air meets water

June 2001
Volume 2, Issue 6

Club News

**May Meeting:
Monday, June 18
7:00 P.M.
Wally's Restaurant
I-75 & Ringgold Rd.**

It's Time to Elect New Officers

Nominations were held at the May meeting and elections will take place at the June meeting. Here are the nominees.

President:

- ? Herb Keedy
- ? Travis Barefoot
- ? Eldon Eskridge

Treasurer:

- ? Lamar & Cindy Lewis

Secretary:

- ? Joy Hendricks
- ? Misty Henderson

We also voted before nominations that if there are more than two running for one office that there would be a second runoff vote between the top two. And it was also decided that the runner-up for President would hold the office of Vice President.

Please show up and make your vote count!

In this Issue

Travis's Shoot the Breeze column brings us installment 5 of the continuing saga "Goin South." A lot of us are beginning to wonder if they ever made it to their final destination! Anthony brings us "The Tao of Volkswagens" by Brian English which is written in the spirit of "The Tao of Programming" by Geoffrey James (which I happen to own as every good programmer should)! Lamar gives us a report from some of the recent shows members have attended. And

Eldon's back this month with Collectors' Corner to tell us about some new collectables to look out for.

T-shirt Sale!

We have several t-shirts left over. They are on sale for \$10.00! We have XL, 2X, and 3X. Contact Travis Barefoot, gobusgo@mindspring.com.

Post-mortem Party!

We're going to schedule what's called, at least in my industry, a "post-mortem." We'll get together and discuss the show, things we did right, things we did wrong and how we can improve. It will be held at Herb's. Date and time to be announced (Herb had to check with Dee). So, come to the next meeting, check the web site or e-mail list.

See y'all at the next meeting!

Volkswagen Events

Thundervalley Bug Blast

June 10
Bristol International Dragway in Bristol, TN
800-568-9001 or 423-854-0093

Georgia's VW Jamboree

June 16
Atlanta Dragway in Commerce, GA. 706-677-3610

Roswell 2K (R2K)

June 15-17
Roswell, New Mexico
New Beetle-only show. Caravans from all parts of the country. www.roswell2k.org

VW Trends International Drive Your VW to Work Day

June 22

Be sure to drive your VW to work this day! Go to the site below and print out a flyer to put in your window.
<http://www.geocities.com/billberckman/dd2001.html>

VW Odyssey

June 23
Titusville, FL
www.tekpage.com/cfvw

2nd Annual Alhambra Shrine Show

June 24
Alhambra Shrine Temple in East Brainerd.

Heart of Dixie VW Show

July 1
Snellville, GA

www.sevwc.com/heartofdixie.htm

Circle Yer Wagens

July 21-22
Sevier County Fairgrounds
Sevierville, TN
www.avwa.com

Also remember...

DAV Open Car Show

Cleveland, TN
Second Saturday every month from now through September. Since we started showing up at these last year they created a category just for VWs! Always a great time.

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New Beetle Birth Certificate!

I think some people are unaware that you can get a "birth certificate" for your New Beetle by calling VW Customer Relations (1-800-822-8987). They will need your name, the name of your car, and it's VIN number. If you don't have a name for you car, all you have to do is ask it!
[My '98's certificate is pictured above. -JL]

Club Officers:

President: Zen Hendricks
zenph@yahoo.com

Vice Pres.: Travis Barefoot
gobusgo@mindspring.com

Treasurer: Lamar & Cindy Lewis
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Secretary: Jami Lowery
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Shoot the Breeze

By Travis Barefoot

Gone South: Part V

Monday morning and things were still not as we had planned. We were already a day behind schedule, and with today's endeavors to get business taken care of, it would put us another day behind. We all knew what was waiting for us at our destination. Paradise was waiting. There would still be plenty of time left to enjoy walks along sandy beaches with spectacular sunsets and sunrises, looking for seashells, and chasing seagulls. The biting flies and mosquitoes would just have to torture other campers in our absence. The raccoons would have to steal other people's garbage until we got there. And most of all, the tide would continue to sneak up on the beaches, changing the small worlds that exist between dry land and water, and retreat just as uneventfully as it came, all without us to witness the event.

Today was going to be a busy day. We had already gotten Luke's bus to the shop. Linda and Candace were waiting for us to return so we could go get a rental car. "Sweetpea" was suddenly appointed resident taxicab for our business at hand. It was a job she took with stride. When we arrived back at the motel, the girls had come up with a plan to ensure that our campsites would still be reserved for us. They suggested that after we got the rental, they would start their way across Alligator Alley, all the while calling Bahia Honda State Park to somehow keep our campsites open for us. If they could settle it over the phone, they would turn around and come back. If they couldn't do it over the phone, they would continue on. Personally, I hoped they didn't have to go all the way to the park to straighten this out.

We went and got the rental, and then went separate ways. As Luke and I went back to Otto's for some things left in the bus, Linda and Candace had their own adventure as they were headed for the east coast. On both sides of the interstate, behind tall fences, canals stretched virtually all the way across the state. They could see the water filled with plants, birds, and the occasional

log. Some of those logs had tails and teeth. There were alligators everywhere! But they couldn't get a good look at them, so they stopped to shoot some photos up near the fence. They got a few shots before they heard a car pull up behind them. A state trooper, in a less than friendly tone, told them there was no stopping along the interstate unless it was an emergency. So, having gotten their pictures, they continued on. They eventually contacted Bahia Honda State Park and arranged to have our campsites held for us. Luckily, they were able to turn around at one of the two exits along Alligator Alley, and were soon on their way back to meet us at the motel.



The rest of the afternoon was mostly spent in the motel pool. We enjoyed ourselves floating on rafts, swimming back and forth across the pool, relaxing and turning our Tennessee skin to a Florida tan. We eventually ventured out to downtown Naples and the beaches beyond later in the day. Naples is a neat town, right on the Gulf of Mexico, with nice beaches and historic buildings. The old part of town is where the high-class restaurants and shops were, while the newer part of town held the Wal-Marts and the McDonald's for everyone else. Naples is also home to every retired millionaire couple from Michigan, Wisconsin, or some other northern state who finally got sick of the cold weather and annoying family, and moved as far away as possible. I think the proper term for Naples is "retirement community". Nice town anyway.

Getting back to the motel, we stayed up a little and watched cable TV, made sure that

Linda and I were packed and ready to leave at the ungodly time of 4:00 AM, and fell asleep to await the wake-up call. When it came, Linda and I tried not to disturb Luke and Candace as we got our stuff together to go. Packed and ready, we roused our sleepy partners a bit and said our good-byes. We had at least another 5 hours of driving time to the park, so we climbed aboard Sweetpea, and drove off into the dark night of South Florida. Alligator Alley is a straight line cut across swampland, and surrounded by darkness at night. The toll-booth lights lit up the night and were visible from behind even after several miles of travel. Up ahead of us was darkness. The headlights of the bus did their best to illuminate the way for me,

cutting a small path of light out of the black. I sure would have hated to break down on this road. Luckily we didn't and were soon on the East Coast, and headed down south to The Keys. The sun was peeping over the horizon as we maneuvered the bus through the maze of bypasses and toll roads that the morning rush hour traffic was already starting to fill. I just followed the signs and was soon on Highway 1, the only road in or out of The Keys. Like Alligator Alley, it is predominately straight, but is sometimes far inland, and sometimes right on the water. Very beautiful, but also very mo-

notonous. We did stop to look at a few Type 2's at a service center on our way through. The mechanic that worked there said they were his and we did "shoot the breeze" a little while. He was amazed that we had come all that way in a Westy just to say we did it. I didn't bother to tell him that I was assured by the mechanical abilities of Sweetpea and had no fear of failure. I was just happy to have been able to talk to a fellow VW enthusiast in an unfamiliar place.

We finally arrived at Bahia Honda State Park around 8:30 AM, a little early for the 9:00 AM opening time. So we waited. But we didn't have to wait long. A park ranger arrived and said we could come in and register. They were understanding of our situation and didn't seem to mind that we were two days late. But they did have our payments for the previous two days, so why wouldn't they mind? We paid for both campsites and went to find

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Das Karmann Column

The Tao of Volkswagens

written in the spirit of "The Tao of Programming"

by Brian English

First edition: 7/3/99

I. Introduction

There are many automobiles on this planet. They are large and small, luxurious and bare, powerful and slow, cherished and neglected. They come off mighty Assembly Lines in great Assembly Plants. They travel by truck or boat to all corners of the globe. There are those that carry great Leaders, there are others that carry common children. Built in mass quantities, there are few that have individual Souls. Few that are Alive. There are a select few that have Tao. Many are Volkswagens.

How are Volkswagens Different? What is the Tao of Volkswagens? How can it be identified? What can be learned from the Tao of Volkswagens? Does it exist in the Driver, or the Volkswagen itself? The answer is Yes. Listen well to these Lessons, for within their words shall you gain enlightenment.

II. Origin of the Tao

Some years ago, a mighty Automotive Assembler was looking to build a small car, built behind its own doors, to bring pride to the Empire. Its Wizards, Wise Men, Workers, and Bean Counters gathered in a circle to discuss their plans.

"It should be inexpensive to produce!" clamored the Bean Counters.

"It must be affordable, but not cheap!" demanded the Marketing Drone.

"It must have advanced features!" exclaimed the Wizards.

"It must sell many, many units!" exclaimed the Stuffed Suits.

"It should be built by our hands, and our hands only!" contributed the Workers.

With that, the Designer pulled the tarpaulin from the prototype. "It will have the engine in the back," he stated.

All present looked upon the prototype and smiled.

"It will have Tao," stated the Patriarch.

III. The Tao of Production

It had been ordained by the Patriarch that the Volkswagen was to be built. To that end, a new Assembly Plant was constructed. Modern and sophisticated, it still required Workers to operate its wondrous machines of Creation. It required a special kind of Worker; one who could understand Tao. The Plant Master stood outside the Plant door to meet those who would insert Tao into the

new little cars. The first candidate drove up in a Mercedes sedan and was dressed in a dark blue business suit, his appearance unruffled and precise. He approached the Master.

"Hello, I would like to be a Worker in your new Assembly Plant. Is there a position for me?"

Before the Master could answer, a second candidate drove up. He arrived in a restored Audi from years past. It gleamed in the sunlight despite its age, and was parked in the middle of three empty parking spaces. The candidate was dressed in more casual attire. As he climbed out, he frowned and gently brushed a piece of plant matter from the sparkling finish. He approached the Master and the first candidate.

"Is this where to apply for the position of Worker for this assembly plant?"

The Master studied him for a long minute. He turned to the first candidate. "I fear you have gotten lost."

The second was shown his locker and workspace that morning.

Some time later, the novices were learning at the feet of the Master; learning the ways they were to build the Volkswagen. "But Master," one queried. "I have no knowledge of what Tao is, and where to find it. Where shall we find what is to be put in this car?"

The Master smiled patiently at the novice. "The Tao is not a thing. It is something that is. It cannot be consciously added, yet must be present in every car that leaves this Plant."

The novice was still confused. "Where can I search to find this Tao?"

With that, the Master threw a cloth at the novice. It struck him in the chest. From that point, the novice was on his journey towards Enlightenment.

IV. The Tao of Selling

A man walked into a Dealership where Volkswagens could be acquired. He said to the Seller; "I am looking to buy a small car. It need not be fancy or extravagant; instead, it should serve as daily transportation, requiring little attention from me, for I do not wish to spend my time continually taking care of it, since I am often engaged in more important matters."

Some weeks later the Seller saw the man drive by in a Honda Civic. He sighed in relief.

If the Tao were obvious to all, it would be diluted by some.

A Seller looked up to see a young family

looking at a Volkswagen. The father peered at the window sticker and the mother opened the trunk while the child climbed into the driver's seat and played with the steering wheel, making engine noises with her lips. "Would it be the child were older," murmured the Seller to himself. "but she looks like she will be taking her driving test in a few months."

The Tao speaks not to the mind, but to the soul. It cares little for numbers or measurements; in fact, to fixate on arbitrary numbers is to deny the Tao.

A young man proudly strode into the Delivery Bay of the Dealership where he was to receive his new Volkswagen. The Seller stood waiting for him near the front of the car. "My name is John Smith"; the buyer stated.

The Seller, in his sable robes, was slightly confused. "I believe we have already met, Mr. Smith. It was I who sold you this Volkswagen."

The man named Smith looked startled. "Forgive me; I did not see you standing there."

The Tao of Volkswagens is not obvious to sight, but it attracts those who are Receptive. The Tao does not reach all Volkswagen owners, but it is unconcerned. It resides not in a single car, but instead, finds its roots in all Volkswagens; ready if a new owner appears who can be attracted.

A man was searching for a small car to buy. With many to choose from, he was undecided. He made a list of makes and models he was interested in, and presented it to the Master for his advice.

"What of this Toyota Corolla," he asked the Master. "It rides much quieter than a Volkswagen."

"The Master smiled slightly. "A silent man may lack the ability to communicate with those around him. A Volkswagen is louder because it communicates with it's driver."

"What of this BMW?" he asked, pointing to the small sports sedan. "It is stylish, and makes a bold statement of performance and status!"

"Are you buying this car to drive, or to impress the Emperor?" asked the Master.

The man turned next to an Acura Integra. "This car has an engine that sings a high-pitched song when in the upper ranges!"

The Master snorted slightly. "In the lower ranges, it has nothing to say. Remember that when you are in stop-and-go traffic."

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"What of this Saturn?" the man inquired.
"The price is something that does not need to be haggled over."

"The price of a plow does not need to be haggled over, either," answered the Master.

Next on the man's list was a Kia. "Truly, this car is an excellent value for its low price!"

"Agreed," answered the Master. "I think 'inexpensive' each time I see one."

The man considered the Volkswagen again. "I will confess, the Volkswagen does appeal to me. Is it possible I may be on my way to understanding the Tao you speak of?"

The Master templed his hands and bowed slightly. "We will not know that until we see if you appeal to the Volkswagen."

V. The Tao of Ownership

Two Volkswagen owners met at a Gathering, near the Village Square. "Look at my GTI," the first boasted. "It has an Iceman intake, Eibach springs, AF/X computer, underdrive pulley, and a five-inch exhaust tip! No one beats me in the quarter mile!"

The second replied; "Look at my Cabrio. It has the Camel interior, anti-lock brakes, and practically all the factory options. I love it as it is, and have no plans to modify it."

Both looked at the other's car and nodded in appreciation and Enlightenment.

The Tao speaks differently to different owners. It speaks, but also listens. For if the Tao were inflexible, it would not endure. A hammer that can shatter a stone cannot shatter a rubber ball.

A woman stood in her driveway, washing her Volkswagen. Her older sibling came up to her and chastised her for it. "Why are you continually washing this car? You have washed your Volkswagen more in the four months you have had it than I have ever washed my car!"

The woman did not look up from washing her Volkswagen. "You do not understand the Tao. It speaks to me and listens to me with greater clarity if the surface is not smudged with dirt. To allow dirt to stay for extended periods would imply a loss of faith in the Tao. I doubt the Tao could communicate with you through the rust on your hood."

Two novices were gathered at the foot of the Master in the Master's garden. "Master, how can we tell if we have received Enlightenment? We believe we may have become Enlightened, but are not sure."

The Master posed them a question. "What do the taillights of a Honda Civic Si look like?"

The first novice took a stick of bamboo and proceeded to etch a credible representation in the dirt of the taillights. The second thought for a moment, and shrugged. "Master, I have forgotten."

The Master turned to the first. "I fear you have more to learn."

A young man sat at a red light in his Volkswagen. In the lane next to him, a Ford Mustang 5.0 pulled up. Its driver looked over the little Volkswagen and scowled. When the light changed to green, he left in a loud mixture of rubber smoke and fury.

The Volkswagen owner smiled, and mentally recorded another victory. He was filled with Tao.

A young man was driving down the road towards a nearby village. Halfway to his destination, he became tense, and a frown appeared on his face. His passenger saw this and remarked, "What is the matter? What has upset you so suddenly?"

The driver did not answer. At the next traffic light, he picked a small piece of fluff out of the center console, opened the Volkswagen's window, and cast the fluff outside. He and the Tao both relaxed.

A Volkswagen owner greeted her sister as she drove up in her recently acquired Ford Focus ZTS. She laughed at her, saying, "My car has a manual transmission; which I have learned to shift. It should easily defeat your automatic Volkswagen in a contest!"

The woman posed her a single question. "Why is that so important to you?"

Her sister had no reply.

Several novices were gathered at the foot of the Master in the Plant's temple. They posed him their questions.

"Master, is the Tao present in all Volkswagens?" asked the first.

"It is," replied the Master.

"Master, is the Tao present in a Volkswagen with an automatic transmission?" queried a second.

"It is," answered the Master. "Some people are in a position to desire or require an automatic. The Tao welcomes them, for it is Receptive to all types of drivers. The Tao forces no one to choose."

"Master, is the Tao present in a Volkswagen fitted with an 1835cc engine, dual Dellorto carbs, a "Freeway Flyer" transmission, and Porsche wheels and tires?" inquired the third.

"It is," confirmed the Master. "The Tao also attracts those who wish to make their Volkswagens the fastest they can, for Tao recog-

nizes the human need to strive for excellence amongst their peers."

"Master, is the Tao present in an original, unmodified Volkswagen?" posed the fourth.

"It is," stated the Master. "The Tao also attracts those who are happy with their Volkswagens for what they are, not what they can turn them into."

"Master, is the Tao present in a Volkswagen outfitted with a Bradley GT body kit, aftermarket wheels and tires, and Naugahyde seat covers?" questioned the fifth.

"It is," replied the Master. "A Volkswagen is a canvas to some, who seek to express their individuality in a readily manifest fashion. The Tao speaks to them as it speaks to you and I."

"Master, is the Tao present in a Volkswagen fitted with lowered springs, axle extenders, 13-inch go-cart wheels, 5% tinted windows and a single wiper modification?" inquired the last.

At that point the Plant whistle blew. "It is time to return to work," the Master said as he rose to a standing position.

A young man was driving his female companion around in his brand-new dune buggy. She looked around the interior with distaste. "Why did you purchase this car? The day is sweltering, but there is no air conditioning to keep me from perspiring, no radio for me to listen to gentle music. The ride is harsh. I can feel each pavement jolt in my backside, and there is no lighted vanity mirror for me to maintain my makeup and hair. What is the appeal of this car?"

The man smiled with anticipation. His favorite corner was coming up.

One of the village elders was walking through the province's capital city. Lost in his own thoughts, he paid no attention to the sound of argument coming from the Temple of Justice. He only took notice when a woman's voice said:

"But my lord, in all our years of marriage, I could not get him to close my Karmann Ghia's door by pushing on the door, rather than the glass!"

Some minutes later, the woman walked out of the temple holding two sacks of gold. Her former husband left in another direction, scowling and holding half a bag of gold.

VI. Conclusion

The Tao of Volkswagens is present in both Volkswagens and Owners, for indeed it is created and nourished by their Union. Both must be present for either to exist. This is the reality of the Tao.

The Tao exists in the feeling of completion a

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Show Report

By Lamar Lewis

The 8th Annual Georgia Vintage Volkswagen Show in Marietta was held on May 19. We had had a caravan of three cars to travel to Marietta. There was a good number of vintage bugs and busses participating in the show. Not a lot of vendors were there but there was still plenty of used parts to look through. Unfortunately, a pretty strong thunderstorm moved through around lunch time. The wind was strong with heavy rain. We got soaked while trying to lower our EZup tent, but we still had a great time. T-Shirt sales went pretty well considering the weather. Club members who made the trip were:

- ? Zen, Joy and Jessie in their convertible
- ? Travis, Linda, and Talia in their Euro Van

- ? Lamar and Cindy in their 2000 (wants to be a VW) Honda

On May 20th was the 4th Annual NSVWA Spring Show in Knoxville. There show was a little off this year in participants but still a good show. Several nicely restored bugs and busses were there. Again, not a lot of vendors showed up but there were still parts to look through. Those who caravanned to the show were:

- ? Travis, Linda, and Talia in their Euro Van
- ? Lamar and Cindy in their Westy

On the second Saturday of May was the Cruise-In in Dalton. There were bunches of nice cars at this gathering. Street Rods, vintage, and custom. There were a total of four VW's there with two of those from our club. It

turned out to be a very pleasant evening weather wise. We meet up with Garland, a member of the Cool Breeze VW Club in Cleveland, and had a nice dinner with him and his wife at The Depot restaurant. Those who went to the Cruise-In were:

- ? Travis, Linda, and Talia in there newly acquired bus
- ? Lamar and Cindy in their bug

Upcoming show:

2nd Annual Alhambra Shrine Show on June 24th at the Alhambra Shrine Temple in East Brainerd. This would be another good event for our club to participate in to promote our club.

Das Karmann Column, cont'd

(The Tao of Volkswagens Continued from page 4)

Volkswagen owner gets when the steering wheel fits perfectly into his hand, the vibration from the running engine awakening his very soul.

The Tao exists in the slight feeling of remorse one gets when he closes its door behind him at his workplace. It exists also in the reassurance he feels knowing he only has to wait eight hours before driving it again.

The Tao exists in the smile of a new Volkswagen owner who decides that every car he owns will have an air-cooled engine that never boils over or freezes up.

The Tao exists in the mind of a Volkswagen owner where no concern with resale value can be found. To him, it resembles calculating the resale value of his children.

The Tao exists in the soul of a man who cannot sleep easily because melted snow has soiled his floor mats. It is strengthened when he spends an hour removing all traces of it.

The Tao exists in the perception of a man who never has to search for his Campmobile in a parking lot, for it will draw him unerringly to its side by standing out and over the crowd.

The Tao exists in the imagination of a man

who thinks it would be worthwhile to have "Fahrvergnügen" stitched into his door panels.

The Tao exists in a Volkswagen that gathers miles while the family minivan gathers dust.

There are those who do not see the Tao, and others who struggle to understand it. The Tao is patient, and is content to wait for a favorable wind.

That's enough words of Volkswisdom for this month.

Questions? Comments?
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Shoot the Breeze, cont'd

(Goin South Part V Continued from page 2)

two that were together. Well, there weren't any. We had to pick a place where a few campsites, which like ours were shaded by mangroves and other trees, would separate us. After getting the camper situated, we set up the tent and proceeded to sweat. We chose to go on vacation in May because we assumed the heat would not be as bad as it would be in June or July. Boy, were we wrong! Even though we were on the beach, the trees surrounding us kept most of the breeze away. Have you ever been so hot that sweat would actually drip off your nose like a leaky faucet? That's what was happening to me. Linda and I had camped here once before, on our honeymoon, and it was so hot that we found a motel room that cost

as much as it was to camp, but the room had air-conditioning. We had spent the previous week in an all-inclusive resort in the Bahamas, so our reluctance to swelter in the heat was rather reasonable. But that was in July, and this was May! I guess that's what you get for assuming something.

Hurricanes had drastically changed the beach area too. The mangroves didn't go as far out to the water as they once did. And most of the beach was blocked off by order of the park due to hurricane damage. Anyway, we made the best of our time there, even with the intense heat, the mosquitoes and no-see-ums, but most of all, without Luke and Candace, whom we missed. We needed to get in touch with them and see what their plans were for the next day...like,

would they be coming in their bus? And if they weren't coming down to stay in their bus, were we going to continue to camp without them?

To be continued...

Till later,
Travis
GoBusGo!

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

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We're on the web!
www.VolksFolks.org

Collectors' Corner

By Eldon Eskridge

Hey all, how is it going? Well the VW collecting market is kind of slow right now, but there are a few things that I have heard of. First, I am hearing good things about the Bugs & Busses set from Hot Wheels. Look for it within the next few months, I will keep you posted. Also, there has been an announcement of another VW bus from Hot Wheels. It will be a limited edition from Penske Auto Centers. 1/64th scale. Should be out some time this summer. Next, our friends at Matchbox have come to our VW rescue with 5 different castings. A

split window bus in two shades of blue, a grey split window panel, a with motor cycle on the side, a silver New Beetle convertible, a blue New Beetle, and the newest would be a yellow baja bug, very cool. Also from Matchbox's limited edition part there is a white bus with an Iron City Beer Pittsburg, Pa advertisement on its side. Only 250 of these were made. Looks very nice.

Then we also have Johnny Lighting. They have sent us 3 new and very cool busses. A 2 bus set called the Sun & Moon busses have very nice paint. They also have a

VERY cool mystery machine from Scooby-Doo, the best looking remake of this bus I have ever seen. Also, due out the first part of June, Johnny Lighting's 1/64 EMPI Inch Pincher Bus— 60s style bus. Two versions one with Crager Style 5 spoke wheels and wide rubber tires— 2500 pieces. The other has Smooth Chromie Wheels—5000 pieces

Hope this helps some, until next time look high and look low bugs are every where.

Rumors, Wishes, and Blatant Lies

Happy Birthday Karmann!

Karmann is 100! (No, not Eldon and Laura's baby.) Don't miss the Fan Club Event in Os-nabrück August 17-19, when more than 700 historic Karmann cars from around the entire world and their owners are expected. Find out more (and get the screensaver) at: <http://www.karmann.de/internet/website.nsf>. Road trip, anyone?

New Ostrich Leather Interiors?

Most of the leather in cars comes from Britain. And, well, due to Britain's problems with cow diseases, there's becoming a shortage. South Africa would love to work a deal to put ostrich leather in cars and trucks!

Peich Ponders Part

VW chairman, Ferdinand Peich is considering spinning off the Audi division in order to boost VW's stock value to try to protect it against possible hostile takeover.

What do you get when you cross an Audi TT with a New Beetle?

A BeeTTle! Yup, there's a company out there that makes a kit to make your New Beetle look more like an Audi TT. It's an interesting look, but looks kinda funny if you ask me... like an Audi TT that's way too tall! For some reason the company recently started calling it a G-Series Punch Bug instead of BeeTTle. Check it out for yourself at: <http://www.punchwerks.com/>

New Colors Spotted at Local Dealership

I recently spotted Isotope Green and a Mojave Beige New Beetles at VW of Chattanooga. Unfortunately I didn't have my camera with me! D'oh! The green is almost a mint green, very light and very pretty. Mojave Beige looks like gold to me! Reminds me of the color of the old Sun Bugs, maybe a little lighter. They need to do a New Sun Bug!

1:6 Scale Radio-Controlled New Beetle!

That's right, 1:6, not 1:16...this is not a typo! New Bright is making this gigantic new toy. It features opening doors, hood, and trunk, as well as working headlights and taillights! And all for only \$99! You can find these at www.amazon.com. Search their toy section for New Bright New Beetle. Their site incorrectly states 1/16 scale.

Thanks to Steve Disbrow for this column's new title!

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

Heard any good rumors lately?

Please send them to :
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