

October 2006

# V VolksFolks



A Monthly Publication of The Scenic City Volks Folks  
Chattanooga, TN

[www.volksfolks.org](http://www.volksfolks.org)

**NEWS**

## A Minty Fresh Look



# a note from the prez...



It has been 3 months since we've had a newsletter and we've got some catching up to do. Our Editor has been up to his neck doing his job AND a co-

workers job that has been out sick so we can't throw any rocks at him. He and I had a long conversation the first of October and Charlton told me he had a newsletter to go all but about 1 1/2 pages. Charlton spends a great deal of time searching the internet for content to go into the newsletter. He had

content from Travis B. and me but from no one else. If we want to continue with what has been a great newsletter, everyone HAS to contribute. We have club members who (I know) want to contribute but may be a little bit hesitant to do so. A lot of you spend a great deal of time on the computer so when you find something that you feel would be of interest to everyone just send it to Charlton. We had a long discussion and I know there are certain members who would like to contribute more than what they have in the past.

The show season is pretty much behind us as I type this all except for the upcoming show in Florida in November. Hectic schedules, other pressing projects and various other reasons have kept a lot of us from traveling as much as some of us would like to but there is always 2007 to look forward

to Let's make up our minds we will contribute more to club activities and events. Bug-A-Paluzza 9 is just around the corner and a lot has to be done for that very important event. Start thinking of areas we can improve on and let's get busy.

Until next time, slow down and take a side road and enjoy the view from inside a Volkswagen.

Herb  


## bugs on the web

### Interesting & Unusual

Found at [www.sharperimage.com](http://www.sharperimage.com) this Beetle ZipConnect Speaker System with AM/FM Digital Tuner & Alarm Clock is only \$89.95 for you die-hard VW collectors out there. This Beetle stereo speaker system features ZipConnect for iPod® and MP3; Fun little VW "bug" is also a radio/alarm clock!

Other features include:

- Working headlamps and taillights with stereo speakers hidden in the wheels.
- An AM/FM digital tuner with 20 presets and a control panel hidden under the hood.
- The windshield LCD features 12/24 time, a snooze alarm clock and a sleep timer.

Now there's something you collectors don't have!



### A New Species of Beetle Discovered!

This species of Beetle is found worldwide but is generally considered to be related to the German Beetle. Notice the front antennae that serve triple duty as radio antennae and curb feelers.

Or maybe someone just has way too much time on their hands with nothing to do but play with Photoshop all day long! This was a part of a collection of Photoshop art that a friend had found on the web and emailed to me. Being a dedicated Volkswagen entomologist I found this particular piece of art to be quite a treasure.



## VolksFolks NEWS

A Monthly Publication of the Scenic City Volks Folks



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The Scenic City Volks Folks meets the third Monday of every month at China Moon Restaurant in the old Eastgate Shopping Mall on Brainerd Road in Chattanooga, TN

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# shoot the breeze

## Mugwai, My Eye!



Just when you thought it was safe to drive again, you are hit with their presence. When you think that you are rid of them, they show up to fill your life with agony. Just when everything is going as planned, they strike. I'm talking about those pesky gremlins. I had a visitation from one of their kind one day last November. I thought that they had gone away for good. I was wrong.

As I recall, one of the last times that I was harassed by these gremlins, it was with my '73 Squareback (God rest her soul). One of them must have touched the generator because that was where the trouble started. I won't go back over the details of that experience, just only to say that the problem was fixed when the gremlin jumped from the Squareback over to my Westfalia. I suddenly started having issues with my brake lights. It was the weirdest thing...the tail lights were shining brighter than normal, and when I pressed the brake pedal, the lights would actually dim a little. If the ignition was turned on and I pressed on the brake pedal, the parking lights would illuminate and the brake warning light would shine. I just knew that a gremlin was to blame...what else could it be? After checking everything that I could think of, I finally took the right tail light housing out of the body and looked at it closer. Lo and behold, a gremlin had made two wire connections touch each other, creating a short that must have been the source of my problem. It had to be, because after I made sure they weren't touching, the problem went away. Take that, gremlin!

After a short vacation, the gremlin returned. Either he or his replacement showed up one chilly November day of 2005. Oscar, my '78 bus had just shown his proven stamina and reliability by driving me over 1200 miles to Tampa, FL and back here to Chattanooga, TN like a true champion. Truly, the gremlin that hitched a ride with me that day had mischief on his mind. Not just your harmless mischief, like putting Vaseline on the door handles of someone's house...more like mischief that ends up costing you more money than you would like to spend at the moment. It wasn't the cute little critter sleeping in a shoebox. It was the fed-after-midnight, doused with water, tormenting-evil-imp kind of gremlin. It actually made a little plug that the factory put in the engine case over

27 years ago come loose and cause all "heck" to come loose as well. Oscar tried to warn me that something was wrong with a short convulsion and a little attention-getting dash light...the one labeled "Oil". No wonder he started screaming about his oil...when I pulled over to the side of the road, it was everywhere! The oil was in a pool underneath the engine, in spots spreading behind the bus, and in a steady line for about 100 feet behind us. Of course, I wasn't aware of exactly what havoc the gremlin had wreaked upon me until I had Oscar back home and the engine pulled. I don't know what the gremlin's name was, but I had an apt one for him just at the tip of my tongue...

Gremlins must have different jobs and various ways of getting those jobs done. The latest one that graced my and my VWs with his presence must have been very smart. He had to have been riding around with me in my '72 Super Beetle for quite some time to think of this well-thought out bit of mischief. There was nothing wrong with the Beetle for the longest time, and then one day, the starter began acting up. I would turn the key, all the normal lights would come on, but there was no click-whirr-vroom that, up to now, happened every time the ignition was turned. The first place that I looked was at the starter itself. Maybe the gremlin removed a wire from the solenoid. Nope. All wires were in place. I then made a connection between the hot lead and the ground lead on the solenoid. Sparks and a turning over of the starter told me there was some hot power down there. I got the gremlin-killing Bentley manual out and commenced to tracing wiring paths. I also took out the back seat and physically traced wiring paths, just to back up what the book was telling me. While I was back there, I saw this piece of equipment that looked slightly familiar, but not VW familiar. It was a black cylinder-shaped object with four electrical posts coming from it. One post was connected to the positive side of the battery; another (I had to track this connection down) went to the ig-

nitition switch. The next post was empty, and the remaining post (again, found via physical tracking) went to the trigger terminal of the solenoid/starter. I had seen this contraption under the seat many times, but it didn't sink in to my thick head just what it was. I had a suspicion that it was the culprit. I also had a suspicion that this little do-hickey was one of those foreign (read: American made) model starter solenoids. As a test to see if it was the culprit, I connected a lead to the hot side and jumped it over to the wire that went to the starter. The starter turned! I put the key into the start position, and the Beetle roared to life. Aha! There was the problem. Something that someone had installed to assist the starter in having enough juice to work was the culprit of my problems. How the gremlin knew to affect the one thing that I just knew wasn't a VW part was something that I didn't have an answer for. I just took the old part to the auto parts store, asked for a replacement, hooked it up, and the Beetle almost jumped forward when I finally turned the key again. Good-bye gremlin!

I hope that he has moved on to someone else's vehicle. I know that I don't want a visit from one of them for some time to come. In fact, they all can stay away for good. But if one does come back, at least the next time I will have some more gremlin-hunting skills in my toolbox of knowledge to counter its efforts to ruin my day.

*Till later, - GoBusGo!*





# volkswagen shows **Knoxville Expo**

Submitted by Mike Heinze


Here is the skinny on the show. Nice, beautiful location though it rained a little Saturday, but not bad just a little shower. When I got there Saturday at about 9 am it was pretty full of cars, about what I expected. Some really nice cars were there, the faithful BK cars are always nice to look at. Had a handful of hoodriders there, those are neat cars to check out though I was really surprised to see a bunch of buggies, and Ghias also.

The vendors were all spread out so it didnt seem like there were many but I guess there was a decent amount. The food was a little pricey for me but ok. The camping area seemed a little small and only a few were camping as it was all on concrete. One nice attraction was a free car wash which was a welcome benefit for the people that drove to the show in the rain. There were no dogs or bikes allowed, a rule that was mostly enforced but a couple that got through. From

a car owners perspective that was nice.

As far as trophy's go they had plaques instead of trophy's, I would much rather get a trophy myself!

The main thing I have against this show is the location, although the Chahowee Park itself is nice. The park is in a real bad part

of town and there are much better places in Knoxville to have a show. Since the show is a two day event people at the show have to stay in the area. They also like to venture out in their VW's in the evening and I would never do that in that area in my car. But all in all it was a pretty nice show. 



# **THE RABBIT IS BACK!**

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# volkswagen in the news

## Volkswagen to Revive Scirocco

By Chad Thomas

Volkswagen AG, Europe's largest carmaker, is reviving the Scirocco hatchback coupe, using nostalgia for a model popularized in the '70s and '80s on U.S. television shows such as "Saturday Night Live" to win buyers.

Wolfgang Bernhard, Volkswagen brand chief, will unveil a prototype of the new car, scheduled to come to market in 2008, at a press event at Berlin's historic Tempelhof Airport, the base of the Berlin Airlift at the beginning of the Cold War.

"VW needs more emotional models aimed at the U.S. market," Adam Jonas, an analyst with Morgan Stanley in London said. "The Scirocco will help in this regard."

The Scirocco is one of 20 vehicles VW's main brand plans to bring to market in the next five years to expand into new niches. Bernhard aims in 2008 to introduce a compact sport-utility vehicle and a minivan Wolfsburg, Germany-based VW is building with DaimlerChrysler AG, where he used to work.

The carmaker in June brought back the Rabbit in the U.S., renaming its best-selling Golf model for the world's largest market.

VW will assemble the Scirocco, until now dubbed the IROC, in Palmela, Portugal, where VW builds the Eos convertible that went on sale this year.

"The Scirocco has a lot of details in combination with the Eos," said Hans-Gerd Bode, a VW spokesman. "It makes sense to do it at the same plant."

VW is working with DaimlerChrysler's Chrysler division to build a minivan that will be built and sold in North America. The minivan, which will come to market in 2008, will be based on the Dodge Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country.

"One of the most under-reported elements of Bernhard's model push is how it is aimed at broadening VW's addressable market in North America," Morgan Stanley's

Jonas said. "The compact SUV and minivan are key models."

Wilhelm Karmann GmbH, a German maker of specialty cars, built the original Scirocco for Volkswagen in Osnabrueck, Germany. Almost 796,000 Sciroccos were sold worldwide between 1974 and 1992.



Volkswagen's newly redesigned Scirocco will make its debut in 2008.

The Scirocco is named for an Italian word for a warm southeast wind from the Mediterranean Sea.



### Volkswagen reveals name of new compact SUV

Volkswagen announced the official name of its new compact SUV last month. The name is the **Volkswagen Tiguan**. The Tiguan shares its platform with the Rabbit and GTI hatchbacks.

Power for base models will be the same 200-hp 2.0-liter turbocharged 4 cylinder used in the GTI. The ForMotion AWD system used in both the Passat and the upcoming R32 could be standard if VW wants to position the Tiguan further upscale than typical compacts like the Toyota RAV4 and Honda CR-V, both of which offer lower-cost front-wheel-drive models. U.S. versions will get a 6-speed Direct Shift Gearbox as the sole option.

Although the Tiguan is based on the Concept A, with the cabin showing a fairly typical dash layout. There may be upgrades added to give the Tiguan a unique look and feel compared to its Rabbit and GTI cousins. A third-

row seat won't be available, but it looks as though second-row passenger room will be generous by compact-SUV standards.

The name "Tiguan" is a made-up combination of "tiger" and "iguana." Volkswagen decided on the name after polling readers of a European automotive publication. Production doesn't begin until 2008.



### Special edition models announced

by Auto123.com

Designed to create excitement and offer owners a higher degree of originality, Volkswagen has announced the production of three limited-edition models using the original specs while adding unique styling and design elements.

The Wolfsburg edition Jetta package is back with 16" wheels, sunroof, leather, cold weather package and oversized floor mats. Available with a selection of color schemes, the model can be fitted with an automatic or manual transmission.

Next, the Fahrenheit GTI showcases a gorgeous and energetic new exterior color called Fahrenheit Orange by VW. Only 1200 will be produced. Each unit carries its individual number on a plaque fixed to the steering wheel. 18" wheels, Fahrenheit badging, sports suspension, sunroof, and heated leather sport seats are included.

The Fahrenheit GLI is similarly equipped though it sports a different yellow color for the exterior paint and interior trim. Only 1200 will be produced.

The New Beetle Triple White Convertible serves up a new color scheme that shows strong ties to the original Beetle ragtop. The exterior, interior and roof-boot are all finished in white, and is fitted with an automatic transmission. 3000 will be built and are to feature 17" wheels, leather steering wheel, seats and armrest, black carpeting and Sirius satellite radio.

Both the Beetle Triple White and the GTI Fahrenheit models will be available to Canadian enthusiasts.



Volkswagen's new compact SUV, the Tiguan is scheduled to debut in 2009.

# bug bites

## Movie Review Time



After an agonizingly long wait from the time I first saw the previews, last month I went to see Little Miss Sunshine, a dramedy starring what appears to be a yellow and white early '70's Type II VW bus. The supporting cast included Greg Kinnear (As Good As It Gets), Steve Carell (TV's The Office), Toni Collette

- has been done repeatedly Little Miss Sunshine does a wonderful job of exploring the dynamics of this family.

What makes this movie worth seeing is the air-cooled VW bus. For anyone who has ever owned or ridden in one, the Volkswagen bus and all it's quirks are hauntingly familiar.

This is not a movie for children though. The cursing in movies used to go right over me but Little Miss Sunshine has an embarrassing overabundance of foul language. Used to be that bad language in a movie or on TV would just go right over me but now it really bothers me and in this instance it turns a very good movie into something that I'm ashamed to have spent my hard earned money



(The Sixth Sense) and a very foul-mouthed Alan Arkin.

I suppose there are high paid movie reviews who loved this film. Ebert & Roper called it one of "2006's funniest movies" and gave it two thumbs up. That, in my opinion, is an overstatement. While the premise of the movie - a very dysfunctional family going on a road trip

to see.

Be that as it may, it didn't stop me from scoring the movie poster from the theatre when its run ended and adding it to my VW collection!

In a nutshell - if you're a sailor the language in this movie will make you blush so I'd skip it. Maybe someone can one day do a video of

out-takes that showcase the bus and bleep out the vulgarities. Suffice it to say you won't ever see this one at Bug-A-Palūza!



## VW develops all-electric powered microbus...

Volkswagen of America Electronics Research Laboratory (ERL), located in Palo Alto, California, has taken a 1964 Deluxe Microbus and retrofitted it with a collection of new technologies, including an all-electric drive powered by lithium polymer batteries.

VW ERL worked with Hybrid Technologies on the electric powertrain for the bus, which VW has named the Chameleon. Ten 30-volt batteries under the van's floor provide a range of about 100 miles. A recharge takes about 6 hours. Surfboards mounted on the roof are also lined with flexible solar panels that provide an additional source of energy to this 100% electric vehicle.

A multitude of other projects are showcased in the Chameleon,

representing advancements in the topics of audio, speech, sensors, displays, navigation, and lighting, in addition to the electric drive system, batteries and solar cells.

The interior of the bus features an interactive digital instrument cluster, imbed-

ded capacitive touch-pads, digitally enhanced sound quality, rear seat entertainment options, and speech activated controls available throughout the cabin. The exterior houses several exciting new approaches for keyless entry, LED lighting, wide-angle parking cameras, switchable glass and more.

The Volkswagen Electronics Research Laboratory intends to use the Microbus as a public relations tool to showcase the potential future of automotive electronics. The Chameleon has already been showcased in Germany to Volkswagen executives and engineers. It made its North American public debut at the AltWheels event in Boston, MA on 22 September.



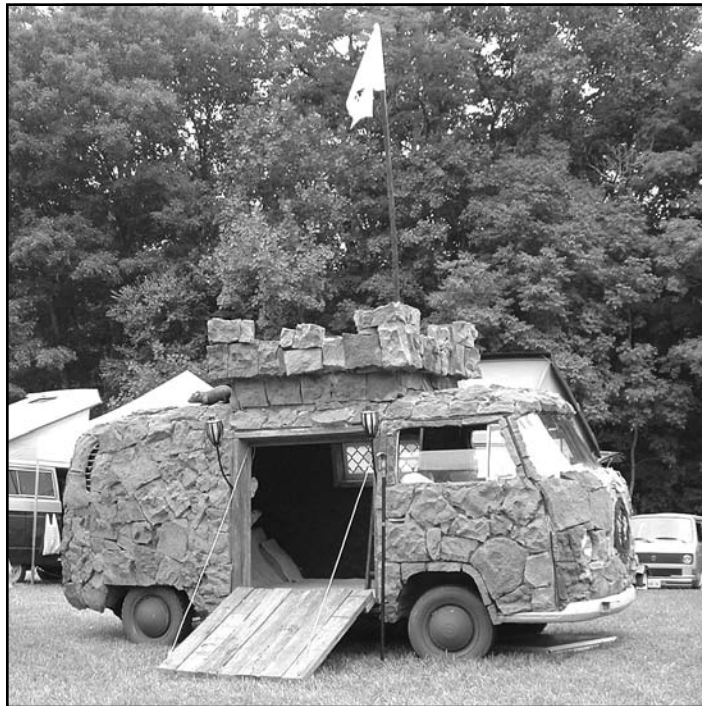
# high country bus festival

Boone, NC • July 28-30, 2006

**Wednesday, July 26:** We headed out of Chattanooga, TN at 12:00pm, a little later than we had hoped. We had reservations at the Quality Inn in Asheville, NC. For the trip there, we took the interstate...a thing that I loathe to do, but sometimes you have to... the drive from Knoxville to Asheville was better than the drive from Chattanooga to Knoxville. In Asheville, we got checked in and went to find a Target for some things that we forgot...mainly a little potty seat for my 3 year old son...he has an aversion to toilet seats for some reason. We got what we needed, picked up some supper and went back to the motel for swimming and relaxing for the next morning's drive.

**Thursday, July 27:** We got up early for breakfast, and went downtown for some shopping. To my disappointment, some of the stores we frequent were closed for business. T.S. Morrison's, the oldest town in Asheville, had closed (we were looking forward the Chocolate Malt Balls), Joe's Crab Shack was gone, Max and Ruby's...gone. Things change, I guess. After shopping, we headed back to the motel for our 2pm checkout and to head on to Boone on the Blue Ridge Parkway. I love the Parkway! 45 mph. is fine by me. The views are spectacular! The trip was uneventful and we arrived at the campground around 4:30pm. The field was speckled with the early arrivers. We headed for our campsite and set up, eager for the weekend's festivities to commence. Kevin Wilson, who was coming to meet us at the campground, called while we were on the Parkway saying that he was between Knoxville and Johnson City when his clutch started slipping and oil was leaking between his engine and transmission. He said he was turning around and heading home. While we were setting up camp, he called again and said he was on his way, the Vanagon was running good enough to come on up. He and his family showed up a little after we finished setting up our camp.

**Friday, July 28:** We woke up and fixed coffee and breakfast. We walked in the field and took pictures of the buses that were there. We visited and ate lunch and relaxed. In the afternoon, we took a trip to the Mast General Store for some touristy stuff (got our Chocolate Malt Balls and Chocolate Coffee Beans), then went into Boone to



look around. We came back to the campground and finished the day off with supper and some more visiting with friends. VWGirl and Knox showed up in the late afternoon and set up camp on my campsite. Kyle and Betty Guthrie, who had arrived late Thursday night, set up a movie screen and showed /Cars/...that movie hasn't gotten old yet. After that, I hit the sack...the family had been asleep for hours.

**Saturday, July 29:** Repeat of Friday morning...coffee and breakfast. More walking in the field and more picture taking. The castle bus was a hit with my kids..."Daddy, can we go to the castle...again?" Picked up my HCBF T-shirt, bought a tie-dye (love the "Full Moon" + "Bus" + "Club".com design!), visited the numerous buses and bus owners, played with my kids at the swing set, did I mention took pictures? The kids did some arts and activities and then we stuck around for the door prizes, raffle prizes, and awards. Then we witnessed the most beautiful wedding (apart from my own!) that I ever seen. After that, I stumbled around the field and about the fire till the bed started calling my name. That was it until the dawn.

**Sunday, July 30:** Again with the coffee and breakfast. More picture taking, although some of the buses had already packed up. Did I make the Carabus on the parkway? No. I can't ever seem to be ready by the time they are ready to leave. Maybe someday we will. Part of the proceeds from the raffle ticket sales went to the Blue Ridge Parkway

Foundation. The foundation set up a video camera on the parkway and got footage of the line of buses crossing the Linville Viaduct. You can view this video at <http://www.brpfoundation.org/vwbus.php>. We took our time taking down camp... I always hate that the most...I just don't want to leave. By the time we were ready, it was just after 12pm. We headed back towards Linville and the Parkway. My friends took another route and we got on the Parkway headed back to Asheville. Along the way, we stopped for a picnic lunch at an overlook. Just like the drive up, the drive back was uneventful...but just as pretty. Back in Asheville, we checked into our motel and enjoyed the rest of the evening of pizza and swimming.

**Monday, July 31:** We woke up early and went to the Black Mtn. art district. It was not what I thought it was going to be. I was imagining old stores with old grandmas sitting in their old rockers smoking on old corn-cob pipes selling their old woven vine furniture. I didn't expect side-by-side downtown stores selling \$85 hand-crafted ceramic bowls and \$95 ironwork garden sculptures. Nice enough place though. We then headed back to Asheville for one more walk-around and shopping. I love Asheville! That's where we are going to retire, I just know it. Our 2pm check-out time was quickly approaching, so we headed back to the motel, packed our stuff, and once again, got on the Parkway heading south. Nothing of importance happened on our way...we stopped for lunch at the highest point on the Parkway (6,053 ft. above sea level), took numerous pictures, and stopped at a few places that we hadn't had time for in past year's trips on the Parkway. That's probably why it took us over 7 hours to get from Asheville to Chattanooga. It took a long time, but the trip was well worth it. Next year, we plan on leaving another day earlier and taking the time to enjoy the many pleasures the Blue Ridge Parkway has to offer.

Find out more about this awesome campout at <http://www.highcountrybusfestival.com/>. Thanks go out to all who worked hard to make HCBF 10 one of my most memorable campouts to date. They know who they are. HCBF I I...here we come!

-Travis Barefoot






# REPAIRS

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**Box yourself in.**

The Volkswagen Service Wagon looks like a box because it is a box. It lets you enjoy the wind-powdered thrill of the breeze inside the open... (The fact is, the VW comes with more than the biggest regular wagon, even though it's a real starter.)

The VW's Facelift looks like you're in the room, except that it has 8 chrome 21 windows, 5 doors and 4 high seating.

You can't see the engine because it's in the back, out of the way. If you need the car's full range, you only have to raise the hood. The hood is 7 inches high. In between, it goes. And it's so light, so there's no extra weight here!

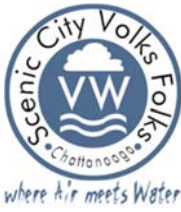
But the real fun comes when you climb into the box and get behind the wheel. Keep it up, there's no drag, but you can feel the road and drive more than you...

Behind you, there's nothing but space. It looks a little long, but it's really only 4 inches longer than the Volkswagen Sedan. So you can park it like the Sedan. And, as the driver, you get a lot of extra space. (In fact, it's a good inch shift. Write to us at [www.vw.com](http://www.vw.com).)

Write out everything we can tell you about it.

# WANTED

The Scenic City Volks Folks need your help in collecting used connecting rods to be used in our trophies for Bug-A-Palüza. Our trophies are all hand made by club members and use the connecting rods as part of the trophy. If you have any or know someone who does please collect them and give them to Herb Keedy. You can contact Herb by posting a message on the club's web site forum at [www.volksfolks.org](http://www.volksfolks.org)



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