

Spring 2008

V VolksFolks



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

www.volksfolks.org

NEWS



Speeding Along To Bug-A-Palüza X

From the editor...



I imagine most of you reading this were more than a little surprised when you saw it in your mail. It has been almost a year since the last newsletter and for that I am deeply sorry. When last I was in town I came to a meeting (June I believe it was) and I left planning to get the next issue out. Unfortunately I had not counted on life throwing me a few curves in the form of being thrust into covering for my boss for two months when he quit and then having my workload doubled when I was officially promoted. I relate all that by way of explanation, not as

an excuse. I know many of you looked forward to each new issue and I offer my apologies for letting you down.

Having said that... when I last spoke with President Kyle the plan was to begin putting the newsletter out every other month. So now that the holidays are over and I am more settled in my job and it is a new year I am making a resolution to achieve a new newsletter every other month. The format might change, the page count might increase or decrease, but it is my goal to honor my resolution.

I've also let my presence on the web forum decline, but by the time you get this in the mail hopefully you will have seen me contribute more in that arena.

Even though I'm not in town any more I'm sure there are a lot of new faces at the club meetings and I look forward to meeting you at Bug-A-Palüza X. Volkswagens are in my blood and I have really missed being associated with fellow bug nuts over the past many months.

-Charlton Wiggins

WORD SEARCH

The lovable Volkswagen Beetle is called many different names throughout the world. Hidden below are the names the beetle is called in many other languages, including Serbian, Romanian, Portuguese and Finnish as well as in English and many more. Enjoy!

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| KAFER | CUCARACHA | KUPLA |
| BUG | CUCARACHITA | KODOK |
| VOCHO | BOBLE FOLKEV- | BROSCU |
| VOCHITO | OGN | BEETLE |
| COCCINELLE | BOGAR | KABUTOMUSHI |
| MAGGIOLINO | GARBUS | VOLKY |
| CAROCHA | BUBA | PULGA |
| FUSCA | BUBBLA FOLKA | PUNGHBUG |
| ESCARABAJO | KEVER | POPOY |

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VolsFolks NEWS

A 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

Here Comes Stupid



AAA estimates that 38.3 million Americans will travel 50 miles or more from home on holidays. That's a lot of cars on the roads. And with more cars on the roads, the stupid things stupid people do will increase as well.

Most travelers will likely be taking to the interstates. I get on those roads myself I try my best to stay away from the morons on the road. You know who they are. They are the ones who refuse to use a turn signal, pull out in front of you (unsafely), tailgate you at unsafe speeds, and otherwise just do a variety of other rage invoking acts of stupidity. When they do stupid things like that while I am in a 'modern' vehicle, it's bad, but it's worse while I'm driving one of my 'vintage' vehicles, especially one of my Buses.

Take the not-so-modern vehicular feature that is called a 'turn signal'. Turn signals first appeared on cars around 1939 and were more widely offered on vehicles starting in the '40s. Since they have been around for so long, you'd think that their use would be ingrained in people's minds. I mean, mankind has had over 60 years of turn signal knowledge taught to them over and over. You would think that a newborn child would have it embedded into their DNA. But no, people still refuse to use their turn signals, especially when it really matters the most. I can't tell you how many times that geniuses in their cars directly in front of me come to an abrupt halt without any warning or indication of what they are about to do, then turn onto a side road. Usually, I go ahead and turn my turn signal on, just as a courtesy to the people behind me...and secretly hope that the person ahead of me sees me do it too.

Just because I'm in a VW Bus, people tend to think that they can pull out in front of me


like I wasn't even there. Sure, I'm in a historically known slow and lumbering beast...but it's not as slow and lumbering as they think. The time and distance it takes for me to slow down or come to a stop is greater than, say, a Honda CRX. There are many factors that determine how long it takes to avoid a potential dangerous situation in the road. On the average, a vehicle traveling at 60mph covers about 88 feet per second. But stopping the same vehicle takes more than 4.5 seconds and covers a distance of about 271 feet. Of course, this time and distance is determined by variables such as perception time (realizing there is a danger), reaction time (reacting to that realization), weight of the vehicle, and road conditions. While I'm in my Bus, I don't pull out in front of people either; because my takeoff time is slower than the average car. I tend to err on the side of caution.

One of the stickers on the back of both of my Buses reads "Never get behind a VW Bus". Another says "0-60 in 8 Minutes". You would think that would be warning enough. But no, people still ride my rear as if their close proximity to my hind end will make my Bus magically go faster. There is a safe distance that one should put between themselves and the vehicle ahead of them. How close is 'too close' when determining the distance between you and the car ahead of you? Most experts tell you to remember the 3-second rule. When the vehicle ahead of you passes a certain point, such as a sign, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-


thousand-three." This takes about 3 seconds. If you pass that certain point before you finish counting, you are following too closely. In a Bus, I would suggest at least a 4 second distance...maybe even 5. I heard this neat story about this guy in his bus who was being tailgated by some jerk in a Corvette. A Bus sits up off the ground a bit. A Corvette doesn't. The driver of the Bus saw the discarded muffler in the road ahead. The Corvette didn't. The Bus cleared the muffler. The Corvette didn't.


You must be vigilant in identifying these morons and steadfast in your ways to avoid them. They are most likely not looking out for you. I look at it this way: I really don't care about them. Let them crash into each other all day long. I don't care if it is bright and sunny or if it is raining, if its dusk, dawn, or high noon...I turn my lights on. Why? It's not just to be able to see...that doesn't make a difference in the daytime. I want those idiots to see me. I can't understand why someone wouldn't use their lights when it is raining. Don't they want to be seen? Anything I can do to make myself more visible, I do it. When I'm making a turn, I use my turn signal. Not to remind me where I'm going, but to let others know where I'm going. I'm doing more than just keeping in mind that there are a lot of morons out there. I'm looking out for myself. I can only hope that they're looking out for the moron behind the wheel of my Bus.

Till later, - GoBusGo! 

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Beetle

Volkswagen

member rides

The Godfather's Buggy

When club member David Johnston (aka - the Godfather) purchased this Allison dune buggy he got a great project vehicle to fill his idle time. If you've ever visited David's house and workshop then you know he doesn't have a whole lot of idle time, yet he has managed to turn this once proud buggy into a very nice buggy well on its way to be a show car. With a little more time, money and elbow grease this classic Allison will likely be of show car



quality before long. At the stage it is in now it seems close to driveable. The beautiful green metal flake paint job really brings this buggy to life. Who knows, by the time the weather warms up David and Mrs. J might be turning heads as they head for Bug-A-Palüza X.



I Spy A Volkswagen!

So you're sitting there in your big old Lazy Boy recliner enjoying your favorite show on the idiot box when a commercial break begins. You are half way out of your chair with a brightly painted split window bus comes charging across the screen with the music and voiceover proclaiming the benefits of drinking Sunny D.

"Cool bus" you say to yourself. "I'd like to see more of that." But with only a quick shot or two of the bus it is gone.

More and more it seems that vintage Volkswagens are turning up on screen. A few years ago there was a commercial with a snow covered beetle and the actor set something down on it and revealed a bright green beetle. It seems that Volkswagens are used to help sell everything from Subway sandwiches to insurance. But why are VWs used so often in commercials?

When you think about it the answer really is a no-brainer. Vintage Volkswagens reflect a kinder gentler time in life. True, civil rights, assassinations in the 60's, Vietnam, Watergate and the Iran hostage events all occurred during that "kinder, gentler" era. But it was the Volkswagen Beetle that became an icon of a generation, an icon that allowed us to "escape" the horrors of tragic events by symbolizing all that was fun, good and whimsical in life.

But there is something more I think

The simple design of the bulbous little beetle is enough to deliver a warm fuzzy feeling. The story is told about how Disney decided on the VW. A Disney employee put several small cars in the Disney parking lot one day during lunch just to see which one was the most popular. Included in the group was a brand new white VW bug car that Walt Disney had bought for his daughter. The other cars were stared at and the employee's kicked their tires but almost everyone patted the VW.

Of course not all commercials with VWs in them leave a warm fuzzy feeling either, rather they can leave a sickening feeling. Such is the case with a commercial a few years ago that featured a Karman Ghia that crashed through a hedge and into the pool. Seeing the destruction of a VW made me sick and I indulged in



The vintage split window bus used in the Sunny D promotions. Two of the vehicles were reportedly created for the beverage company.

a quest that resulted in finding the commercial on TV and then using Photoshop to examine the frames. Upon scrutiny I determined that the car plunging into the pool was all computer generated. No live VWs were hurt during the filming of the commercial.

I suppose I took it a little far but in the end I do love VWs. And tonight when I get off the computer and go in to watch a game on TV you can bet I'll be watching for commercials with VWs in them.

-Charlton Wiggins

volkswagen in the news

Records & Awards

Volkswagen expects all brands to exceed last year's unit sales during 2008

Volkswagen AG expects all its brands to achieve higher unit sales this year than during 2007 on strong demand in emerging markets, distribution head Detlef Wittig told magazine Auto Motor und Sport.

The German carmaker's unit sales grew 8 pct during 2007.

'We are expecting a major push from the BRIC-countries -- Brazil, Russia, India and China,' Wittig said.

No decision has been made on the site of a planned US production site which will likely take another six months until a decision is made.

Volkswagen's US operations are loss-making. It plans to build up a production site in the US to contain its exposure to negative currency effects resulting from the weak US dollar.

2009 Volkswagen Scirocco brochure leaked

Although prototypes of Volkswagen's upcoming Scirocco hatch have already

been spotted, this is the first time images of the car are available without any camo gear. Admittedly we don't get to see much of the new model but we do finally see the final shape of the headlights, part of the flanks and a glimpse of the interior.

Now that brochures have been printed, it's highly likely the first production models are already being assembled at VW's Portugal plant. Both FWD and AWD models will be available, along with DSG transmissions plus turbodiesel and petrol engines. A range topper could even be offered with the Golf R32's torquey V6.

Though we still don't have any official info -- we'll have to wait until its Geneva Motor Show debut in March for that -- many are predicting the new Scirocco won't be sold in the US. In fact, VW's U.S. Chief Stefan Jacoby revealed back in November that the Scirocco won't be returning to North American shores. The reason behind the decision is because of VW's need to focus on its core products such as the next-gen Golf and new Tiguan SUV.



The new Scirocco (which is not scheduled to be sold in the US) is still under wraps, but will likely resemble the prototype pictured above when it is released in Europe later this year.



Volkswagen new beetle sales reaches half a million in the U.S. in 2007.

Fundraiser promises to be a groovy time

Bellbottom jeans, platform shoes, tie-dyed T's and love beads are back in style for one nostalgic evening, as children of the Love Generation get ready to turn the annual Noblesville, IN Mayor's Charity Ball into "That '70s Prom" to raise money for local charities.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the drawing of the winner of a vintage, bright red 1967 Volkswagen Beetle.



Noblesville, Indiana Mayor John Ditslear shows off the grand raffle prize to be given away at the Mayor's Charity Ball, a restored 1967 Volkswagen Beetle. Photo submitted.

First Lady Teri Ditslear said she and the mayor have enjoyed tooling around town in the restored icon of the '60s and '70s.

"We acquired it from Steve and Lori Schwartz. Steve and his son restored it. It's got a new engine and new tires and it's really fun to drive," Ditslear explained. "I learned to drive in a VW, so it's really nostalgic for me."

Only 600 tickets will be sold to raffle off the car at \$25 apiece. The winning name will be drawn at the ball.



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Another year has come and gone. Another year further removed from the creation of the last air-cooled Volkswagens and as we move further away from that sad day it becomes more and more apparent that the supply of parts for our beloved antiques continues to diminish.

I recently took the engine from my 73 Super Beetle to David "the Godfather" to begin work re-building it. While I was visiting with him he talked about the trouble he was having finding certain engine blocks. It made me realize that the time is fast approaching when we will no longer be able to find parts for our hobby.

"David," I asked, "How do these people that have old Model T's and other antique cars get parts for their cars? I mean they haven't made Model T's in many a year."

"They have them built," he replied, "that's why they are so expensive. They'll

pay to have them milled and created from scratch."

That made sense but it wasn't something that I had ever considered and now here I am pondering what I am going to do twenty or thirty years from now when I can't find the parts I need for my VW's. I suppose my only recourse since I will never have the money to invest in having an engine block built from scratch is to start scavenging now and trying to buy all the used parts and engines that I can find. Sort of like saving for the future.

But while the parts for our air-cooled cars may be becoming sparse, interest in our hobby seems to be growing. Even in the face of ballooning gas prices, or possibly because of gas prices, it seems more and more people are seeking the object of our desire - air-cooled VW's. Of course we all should try and do our part to at

least increase the public's appreciation of our little cars. For my part that means introducing VWs to the youngsters. You may recall I wrote a year or so ago about my grandson and getting him interested in VWs. Recently I've begun giving away the duplicates of some of my VW die-cast cars to children of friends and co-workers. You should see their eye's light up when you hand them a toy beetle. One co-worker told me that her son, who I had given a couple of toy cars to, takes them to bed with him at night. And seeing the gleam in a child's eyes when you hand them a toy beetle is about as rewarding as seeing children open their presents on Christmas morning. Now I try always to have an extra Volkswagen toy close at hand in case I happen upon a child. But if you happen to come across a pink Hot Wheels VW bus from 1969 - hold on to it! It might be worth \$75,000 dollars like the one pictured below.



2008 BEETLE

As Low As \$19,494
Stock#V08175



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bug-a-palüza X Show Classes

With only minor changes from Bug-A-Palüza IX, this year's show classes will offer show participants many opportunities for a chance to win the coveted trophy's that will be presented on Sunday afternoon (April 20). Trophies will be awarded for First, Second and Third place. Additionally, trophies will be awarded in several additional categories such as the Engine Sound Off,

Bug-A-Palüza X Show Classes:

1. Survivors - Early
2. Survivors - Late
3. Beetle - Early - Stock
4. Beetle - Early - Custom
5. Beetle - Late - Stock
6. Beetle - Late - Custom
7. Super Beetle Stock
8. Super Beetle Custom
9. Beetle & Super Beetle Convertibles - Stock
10. Beetle & Super Beetle Convertibles - Custom
11. Type II Campers
12. Type II - Early - Stock
13. Type II - Late - Stock
14. Type II Custom
15. Type III & Type IV - Stock and Custom
16. Thing - Stock
17. Thing - Custom
18. Karmann Ghia Coupe - Stock
19. Karmann Ghia Convertible - Stock
20. Karmann Ghia - Custom
21. Air-Cooled Daily Driver - Early
22. Air-Cooled Daily Driver - Late
23. Resto-Custom
24. Rail Buggy - Driven
25. Rail Buggy - Show
26. Baja & Off-Road
27. Dune Buggy
28. Kit Cars and Trikes
29. Anti-Show Class
30. Special Interest
31. International Class
32. New Beetle - Stock
33. New Beetle - Custom
34. New Beetle Convertible
35. Rabbit, Golf & Jetta - 1992 & Older
36. Golf & Jetta - 1993 & Newer
37. GTI & GLI - Stock
38. GTI & GLI - Custom
39. Cabriolet & Cabrio
40. Passat
41. Scirocco
42. Corrado
43. Early Water-Cooled - 1992 & Older
44. Late Water-Cooled - 1993 & Newer
45. Current Production



Aline of of Volkswagen Beetles ready for judging at Bug-A-Palüza IX.

volkswagen show calendar

BKC Dyno Day & Silver Dollar Showdown
Peachtree City, Georgia.....**March 8-9**

Rooster's Redneck Rondevouz
Olive Hill, Kentucky.....**April 3**

Y U BUGG'N
Griffin, Georgia.....**April 5**

Fast Times at Farmington
Winston Salem, North Carolina..... **April 6**

Bug-A-Palüza X
Chattanooga, Tennessee..... **April 18-20**

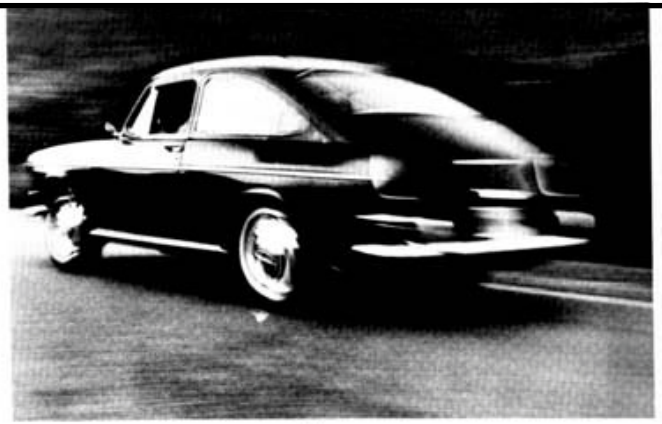
Circle Yer Wagens
Sevierville, Tennessee..... **May 3-4**

VW Meltdown '08
Montgomery, Alabama.....**July 26**

Bug Blast '08
McAlla, Alabama.....**August 23**

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 Kyle Guthrie. You can contact Kyle by posting a message on the club's web site forum at www.volksfolks.org



It's a Volkswagen.



A 1966 fastback Volkswagen.
A twin-carburetor Volkswagen.
A family Volkswagen.

A bucket-seated Volkswagen.
An engine-in-the-rear Volkswagen.
A fun-to-drive Volkswagen.
We call it the 1600 fastback sedan 1600 because that's how big the engine is. And sedan because it's not a sports car. Although it has a lot of sports car features. Like a fully-synchronized four-on-the-floor. And four-wheel independent suspension to take the bend out of corners. And front wheel disc brakes that stop you effortlessly. And the comfortable bucket seats we've already mentioned.

Then what's a sedan about our fastback sedan? Let's start with room. It seats five. Or two adults and as many kids as you want to stuff into the back seat.

There's 17 cu. ft. of luggage space. A fully instrumented padded dash with electric clock. Carpeted floors. And seat backs that adjust to seven different angles.

These are just a few reasons why our new fastback is a sedan. And a sporty car.

After you've driven one hard for a few years, you'll know why it's a Volkswagen.



Bug-A-Palüza

April 19-20, 2008
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