

THE TRANSPORTER



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LIMBO;
THE LATE MODEL BUS ORGANIZATION, INTERNATIONAL



Volume 22, Issue #1

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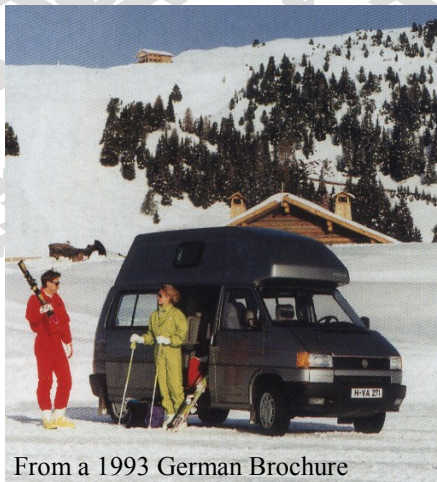
LET IT SNOW... LET IT SNOW... LET IT SNOW...



A Swedish Taxi



Sighting in Anchorage, Alaska '06. Source:Flickr



From a 1993 German Brochure



65 Bus under recent snow in Vermont. Owner: Tom Huyghebaert (aka: Crukab from the Samba)



Manny Hernandez's 66 Bus (aka: Manny66 from the Samba)

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The Transporter Volume 22, Issue 1

The Transporter is published 6 times per year by the Late Model Bus Organization, International. **Deadline for next issue: March 1, 2009**

The Late Model Bus Organization, International is dedicated to the maintenance, restoration, and improvement of post-'67 VW Type II's including Vanagons & Eurovans! The only prerequisite to join is your enthusiasm for these great vehicles.

Membership in LiMBO (which includes a subscription to The Transporter) is \$25 per year (\$30 US funds from US bank for non-US members), 2 years is only \$48 (\$58). Make checks payable to LIMBO. PLEASE direct correspondence to the appropriate address listed below:

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Back issues of the Transporter are \$4.00 per copy. Some issues are available as photocopies only. Some more recent issues are available online at www.LiMBObus.org for \$2.00 per issue.

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VIEWS THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD

Greetings All,

The winter mulls on. We begin to miss those who we share laughter and good times around the campfire with. Our buses are soundly sleeping under cover- in hibernation. Hopefully.



Now is a great time to reflect on our Volkswagens and write a story for the Transporter (how is that for a plug). Think back on your trips this past year. Send me photos, and write me a few paragraphs. Maybe you are doing some restoration. Let's share the progress with the club.

Come on....I dare you.....Now, about this issue:

Unfortunately the first article is the sad news of the passing of LiMBO member; Darcy Skinner . My condolences go out to his family and friends in the Volkswagen community. The reflections shared by his friends on page 4 are heartwarming.

Further on in the newsletter, you will find an article sent in by the original owner of 71 bus in Finland. Before I read the story, I opened the pictures in my email. I did not realize that the photo you see first in the article was actually taken 37 years ago. I thought it was taken current day. Maybe it would not have fooled you...but check it out.

The member spotlight this issue highlights the adventures of Frank and Janet Parsick of New Jersey. Frank is usually one of the last men standing (well sitting, actually) around the campfire at night- or should I say early morning. He always has the last four digits of his social security number etched on all his camp belongings too (just some noteworthy trivia thrown in here). We love Frank and Janet. They are good people. At this past June's 8th Annual Buses by the Big Duck Campout, Frank and Janet actually made their first appearance. They braved that nasty metropolitan traffic. Brad and I were very honored. Thank you Frank and Janet.

Well, that is it for now. Now go outside to the garage to visit your hibernating buses.

Andrea

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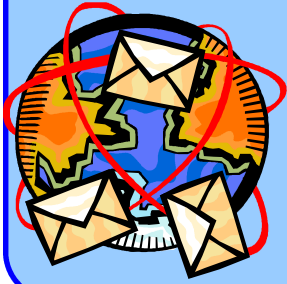
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LIMBO LETTERS



Send your LiMBO Letters to:

Andrea Rasso
35 Sharp St.
Patchogue, NY 11772

EDITOR@LIMBObus.org

The first two letters are in response to the last issue of the Transporter.

Andrea

What a beautiful cover for this issue. Being in Southern Indiana, I never had a chance to meet Bob. What a nice tribute To Bob. The cover picture really tells the whole story.

On the issue of merging the 2 clubs...The Transporter is a van. There are LOTS of mechanical differences between the split windows and the bay window years. I think if you enjoy your Transporter you can appreciate other vans.

With the drop in membership it seems to make good sense to merge the 2 clubs. Either way I'm too far away to be involved, but by looking at the back cover picture you have a good mixture already. Would we keep the same names like "LIMBO/NEATO " or " VW Campers "

Certainly sounds good to be able to combine camping events, lots of new folks to meet. I feel, membership wise, increased participation would be enjoyable for all. Good Luck.

Dave Eager
Evansville, IN.

The following letter was forwarded by Dale Ward

Hi Dale

The package arrived today -- Thank you very much. That color issue is fantastic -- no question it convinces me that we should attend one of the rallies as soon as possible.

We picked up our 1990 VW in Norway in 1990 just before they stopped making them. In fact, my German Norwegian teacher (get that one?) was very envious because he tried to order one and was told that the only units left were being sent to the U.S. We now have 220,000 miles of camping on ours.

Look forward to meeting you,
Bob Boylestad

Dear VW Bus enthusiasts in USA;

Recently I received your e-mail address from my VW-friend Mr. Macke Rapanen <maxmix@kolumbus.fi> and now I would like to send my VW Bus greetings to you and your magazine in form of an article on my own VW Kombiwagen, model year 1971, with several photos.

Have a grand and nice time your VW Busses!

Yours sincerely,

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Editors note: Thanks to Heino. His article and photos can be found on page 10.

This last letter is in regards to Westies in the Woods Campout held each Memorial Day weekend in New Jersey.

Andrea

I have news, but it isn't good... Stokes State Park has (again) tightened up regulations and capacity... I got a letter in mid-December spelling it out.

Occupancy on the biggest site (the one I booked) is now limited to 22 vehicles and 22 tents, and the state park wants license plate numbers for all vehicles mailed in ahead of time.

Given these stupid new rules, it looks like I'll need to cancel the event. :-)

Tim Demerest



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REMEMBERING DARCY SKINNER

It is with regret that we inform you of the passing of LiMBO member Darcy Skinner of Salisbury Mills (in the Town of Blooming Grove), NY.

Reflection from Karl Bower and Linda Brown

LiMBO member Darcy Skinner passed away from cancer on Thursday, December 11th. He leaves behind a lovely fiancé named Theresa and daughter Lauren. He was only 47 years old. Karl first met Darcy at a car show in 1999. They became great friends immediately because of their shared love of Volkswagens. Darcy was an officer of the Tri-State Volkswagen Club; the club that Karl and Ralph Hopper are also in. He was a wizard at anything Volkswagen, from mechanics to body work. His knowledge of the history of Volkswagens was amazing. He knew more facts and figures on buses, Beetles, Things, etc. than anyone else we know. He was a Volkswagen fanatic. His current VW collection includes a 1973 Westfalia Camper, a 1967 Beetle, a new GTI, fiberglass Dune Buggy, and an oval window Beetle. He was a great storyteller. He was always telling funny stories or jokes and was the main comedian at any camp-out he and Theresa were attending. He was a very loyal and caring friend. We will miss him



Theresa, Darcy & daughter Lauren winning first place at 18th annual Lions Club Town of Montgomery Car Show.



Bill Bender with Darcy and his 73 Westy at the Montgomery Car Show

very much. All of our love and support goes out to his family and fiancé Theresa; who is also a Volkswagen person. Ralph put it correctly when he said there will be an empty place between our campers at this years camping season. There is also an empty place in our hearts. The Volkswagen community lost a great friend and Volkswagen enthusiast.

Reflection from Ralph Hopper

These photos are from the 18th annual Lions Club Town of Montgomery Car Show. I talked them into adding a vw class a couple of years ago. Darcy's bus almost always took first place unless Karl brought his bus Hansie, and then he would always take first. People always seem to like the buses more than the Beetles or Ghias. Here is a photo of a VW gathering B.B.Q. a few of us has at Darcy and Theresa's in 2007. We had strangers just pulling off to the side of the road to walk over and look at the VWs, almost like it was a car show unto itself. Darcy was a full fledged VW nut (which is not a bad thing, only to our poor wives).



2006 BBQ at Darcy & Theresa's



COOKIN' OVER THE CAMPFIRE



THIS ISSUE'S RECIPE: **VEGGIE SURPRISE**

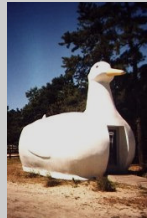


Kaiya

CAST OF CHARACTERS IN THIS RECIPE (in order of reference)



Rich (Binky)



Big Duck



John



Kevin



Tony



Andrea



Lori

Hi All, I am Kaiya (Rich's granddaughter) and I have a recipe I made for Buses by the Big Duck. It's called: Veggie Surprise. What you will need:

- 2 sweet onions
- 4 stalks celery
- 1 green bell pepper
- 1 red bell pepper
- 4 cloves garlic
- 2 broccoli heads
- 2 small zucchinis
- A bunch of fresh asparagus (we get a big bunch at the veggie stand before we get to the camp ground).
- 1 stick of butter
- 1/2 of cup extra virgin olive oil
- salt and pepper
- a pinch of basil and parsley (which works out to a table spoon of each).
- You will also need pasta (we like penne you will need the whole box)
- Parmesan cheese

My Binky says you can cook this over a fire but it is easier to do it on a stove.

Ok lets cooking...I have a 14 inch fry pan to heat up. Get John and Kevin off there butts to help you chop the onions, celery, peppers and garlic. Now with some help we throw the butter and the olive oil in the pan. We have the veggies chopped [thanks John and Kevin]. Now put this in the pan with salt and pepper and let it sizzle. Get a good size pot to cook the pasta in, fill with water and put it on the fire or stove. Now get Tony off his butt to help chop the broccoli zucchinis and asparagus. With that done, throw them in the fry pan turn the heat down and let simmer. Ok now the pasta water should be boiling- put a hand full of salt in with the pasta and let cook. Now put the the basil and parsley in the veggies and let simmer. Ok the pasta is done, drain and put them in with the veggies mix. Put some parmesan cheese on it. I like a lot its up to you.

This is my own, original recipe. I hope you like it. I will be at Andrea's Buses by the Big Duck 09. I hope you will make it because it is one of the best campouts that my Binky takes me to. Hopefully I will have a new recipe to share with you after that campout. As Lori would say LETS GO CAMPING (did I say that loud enough)! Let's do some Island camping,

Love, Kaiya Jefferies

THE SWAP AREA Available or Wanted Submissions

As a member of LiMBO you are entitled to a free classified ad each issue. Try to make it 100 words or less, written legibly, and with any abbreviations that can be made (i.e. 147k mi., trans., Westy, PS, PB, A/C, etc.). Include a price if possible, your name, phone #, e-mail (if applicable) and state. Be sure to mail in time for the next newsletter submission deadline indicated on page 2 of this issue. **Send to: TRANSPORTER CLASSIFIEDS, 35 Sharp Street, Patchogue, NY 11772 or email: editor@limbobus.org or via the web: http://limbobus.org**

Name: _____ Phone () _____

Email: _____ State or (optional) address _____

Description: _____

FOR SALE: I have a good sized VW toy collection I am selling by the piece. I have Corgi, LLedo, Schabak, Gama, Brekina, and Solido models. Also, Matchbox , Hotwheels, Herpa. Many are listed on Craigs List with photos in the North Dallas listings, and more to come. I have many Bubble, Vanagon, and Eurovan models, mostly just one each. Cell ph# 972-837-6331 and home ph# 972-736-2866. Dennis Wilson

EVENT RECAPS



Stacey, Tracy, Jen, and dogs Brody, Lulu and Astro

PIRATES OF PACHAUG THANKSGIVING CAMPOUT

Mt. Misery Campground, Pachaug State Forest, Voluntown, Ct.
By: Andrea Rasso



Pirate Kempo

The planning of any Pirates of Pachaug campout begins with sending emails out weeks ahead of time coordinating meals. We bring the kitchen outdoors and prepare and cook good ol' fashioned southern style meals. Friday night's menu included a side of beef

tenderloin grilled on the open fire. Saturday was deep fried turkey with all the Thanksgiving fixings.

The festivities for this campout began the day after Thanksgiving. For Brad and myself it began with an hour drive east to the Orient Point ferry on Long Island, over to New London, Ct. Once we got to the mainland, it is about a 40 minute drive to the campground. We were greeted by an overwhelming stack of pallets ready for burning. Luckily our pal Guy owns a local pallet business.

While there were 8 VW vans/buses, there were three additional pirate vessels in our fleet. An equal amount of vehicles and pirate pals passed on through to visit during the weekend. LiMBO members who sailed by included John Netsel, Kevin Kruger and Bill Monk (with kids). Now as far as pets go, I think there almost as many dogs as people. Dogs included: Kempo, Astro, Lily, Lulu, Zoey, Ziggey, Brody and Buddy.



Tony and Guy unload the firewood.



Turkey... (hat)

We took a walk through the park (out of the hunting area—so we kept it safe for everyone). We went to find a geocache, which took a while, as the GPS reception was jumpy.

The weather was cold and crisp. It was not until we packed up Sunday morning that it began to precipitate with hail. This made for a slow ride home for everyone. When we rolled out Sunday morning we only left behind about 5 unburned pallets – if that many.

The Pirates enjoy taking photos, and posting on the LiMBO site. Check them out. Maybe you'll venture out to one of our off season get-togethers in the near future.



LIMBO HOLIDAY PARTY

At the Home of John Jordan in Northboro, MA

There were about 24 on hand- about the same as last year. Snowy, but everyone made it safely. Plenty of food and holiday cheer. Tom and Linda; LiMBO's Event Coordinators, arrived early and helped set up. Things got rolling around 2:00 and lasted until 7:00 or so. Some of the younger ones saw our Herbie for the first time. Just a laid back affair with lots of VW talk. Carolyn and I were pretty busy hosting so I didn't catch all the chit chat but everyone seemed to have a good time. -John Jordan



It was quite a cold night, but we braved our way up to Northboro, Ma. for the LiMBO Christmas party. There was, as always great food from a Greek platter to meatballs! Our conversation was as varied; kids, work, experiences, and of course VWs, VW adventures, and VW characters. The kids migrated from their laptops to the food table from time to time. We always enjoy the Jordan's hospitality and will be back next time, hope to see you then!

-Coy Bethune



THE LIMBO HATCHSTIX

By: Nevin Lescher

Many readers of the Transporter may wonder, just what is this thing called a HATCHstix or Hatch Stick? The idea for this simple gadget is not new. In fact, it was conceived, at least a decade or more ago by Jim Harvey, a Westfalia owner and LiMBO member out in Scottsdale, Arizona. The idea was also pirated by others but none were as popular or successful as his. Its purpose is to allow the rear hatch door on Westfalia campers to be held open about 8 inches for added ventilation within the camper's interior. This added ventilation is especially welcome to the camper's occupants in hot and humid climates.

Jim Harvey's original design was made from 1/2" steel square tubing with a fillister-head post on one end to lock into the rotary latch on the rear door. The other end has a ring that fits over the sill post on the body. Harvey made several different styles that would fit Vanagons and Buses models from 1969 to 1991. All were made of a welded steel construction.



Several LiMBO members purchased Harvey's Hatch Sticks over the years and eventually his remaining inventory was acquired by LiMBO. As the inventory diminished it was decided to redesign the device to cost reduce it and market it as a LiMBOmart merchandise item. This was accomplished by eliminating the welded steel construction and use standard off-the-shelf hardware items while still retaining the features of Harvey's original design. Also only one model is made for Vanagons '80-'91 and Buses '73-'79.

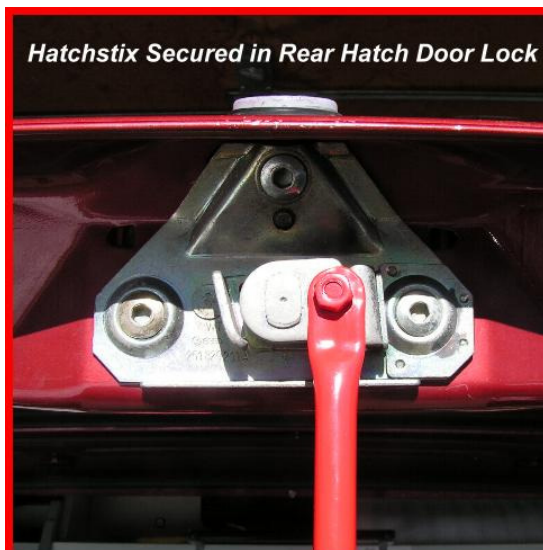
In addition to the added ventilation feature the HATCHstix provides some limited security from large animals and humans in general. There are two methods to install the HATCHstix.

1. The rotary latch can be left in the open position which allows easy removal of the HATCHstix from inside the Van or Bus if inclement weather is encountered. It must be removed from the sill post to close the hatch door. The hatch door can be opened from the outside.
2. The oval head post can be fully engaged in the rotary latch in its closed position and either left unlocked or locked for added security, however it can only be removed from outside the vehicle.

Owner discretion is advised on the above methods if inclement or windy weather is predicted and should only be used on parked vehicles. It is also recommended that a rear hatch screen be used to keep out insects and other critters usually encountered when camping.

The LiMBO HATCHstix is available thru the LiMBOmart by special order only.

Try one, you'll like it!



LIMBO mart

Send Check or Money Order to:
LiMBO-mart c/o John Jordan
 55 Cherry St
 Northboro MA 01532
 jwjordan2@verizon.net
 508-393-0663

Merchandise can also be purchased through our
 Website using Pay Pal at www.LiMBObus.org

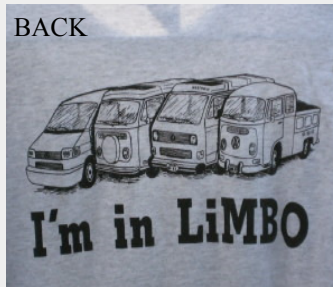
Contact John with any questions or for more info.

NEWLY ARRIVED!! T-SHIRTS IN GREY

New grey "I'm In Limbo" are slightly different than navy shirts. There is no stripe, but there is the badge on the



FRONT



BACK

front, and on the back you have the pictures of the buses. We have all sizes. Contact John for more info or to order!

LiMBO Stickers

LiMBO Stickers are available. Its black and white and uses the original LiMBO artwork with club web address below. Its two inch in diameter and is static stick for years of use. It can be transfered to a new vehicle. Comes to us from membership coordinator Steve Paine's Business, Cape Cod Impressions. So it has to be good. While supplies last! Price: \$3.00 shipping included.

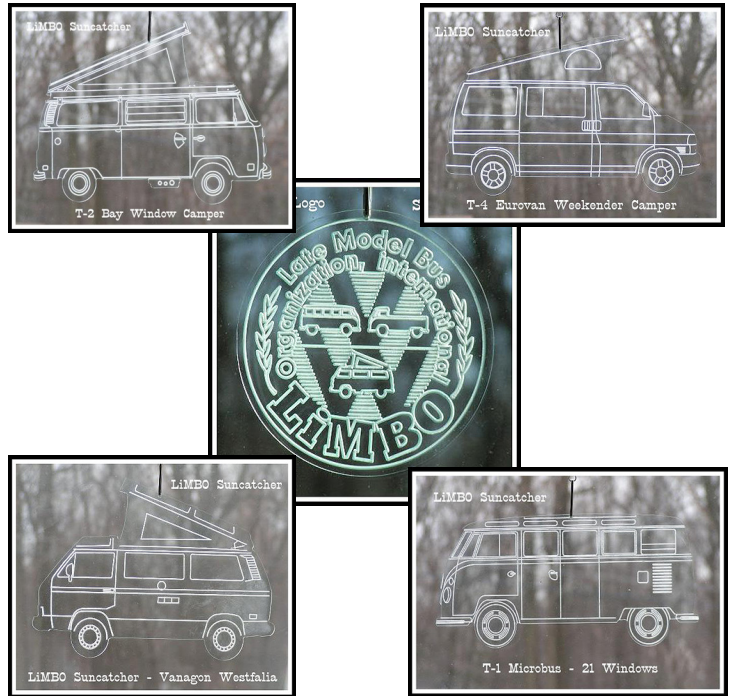


www.limbobus.org

LiMBOclox

New LiMBO-mart item... Suncatchers.

If you don't know what a Suncatcher is, it's really the optical version of a wind chime.



Made by Mike Verno of Stonington, Ct. these Suncatchers come in 2 sizes of the 4 most popular Bus/Camper versions (T-1, 2, 3 and 4). Mike machines these out of .125" green tinted plexiglasson with a hi-speed computer controlled profiler. From side profile photos we have supplied of the 4 bus versions.

Here are the selling prices:

- (1) Small Suncatcher (any version) \$6.00 + \$2.00 shipping by First Class Mail.
- Set of (4) Small Suncatchers (4 versions) \$20.00 + \$3.00 shipping by First Class Mail.
- (1) Large Suncatcher (any version) \$10.00+ \$2.00 shipping by First Class Mail.
- Set of (4) Large Suncatchers (4 versions) \$34.00+ \$3.00 shipping by First Class Mail.
- (1) 4" Diameter LiMBO Logo \$10.00 + \$2.00 shipping by First Class Mail.

Shipping will be in a standard 6" X 9" Bubble Pac Envelopes.

These are truly unique collector's items for all Bus, Van and Camper owners and enthusiasts. Hang a small one from the rear view mirror of your Bus. Hang a set of either the small or large ones from your side awning or hang them in a sunlit window in your home. Hang 'em anywhere. They are guaranteed to brighten your day!

LiMBO Clox

These clocks are ready for immediate shipping. Order yours now. The cost is \$15.50 which includes shipping. Choice of black or white frame. Please indicate color when ordering.



The LiMBO Polar Pal

What better way to show your LiMBO allegiance than with this practical can koozie. They'll keep your favorite cold beverage cold (or hot beverage hot). You get a set of 4 for \$16.50. This price includes shipping to your door.



LiMBO Beer Tankards

Heavy Duty 16oz Glass (Beer) Tankards with black and white LiMBO logo, dishwasher proof. You've probably had your favorite microbrew at your local pub in these same glasses and tried to stagger home with one under your coat. Buy now you can have one of your own!. Only \$15.50 per pair (shipping included).



NEW ON THE LiMBOmart
The LiMBO HATCHstix
 '73-'79 Bus, '80-'91 Vanagon

This Strut props the rear hatch open on your WESTFALIA to provide adequate ventilation. It is 10" long and fits between the current lock assembly.

This is a re-design of Jim Harvey's original version.

Not Stocked - Special Order Only \$12.50 includes shipping

BOOK DEALS!


Dometic Vanagon Refrigerator Repair Manual

LiMBO has acquired the complete repair and part number manual for the Dometic Westfalia Refrigerator; 26 pages; photocopied and spiral bound. This 'unofficial' VW dealer version covers lighting propane, operation, service and troubleshooting with fully detailed pictures. Complete resource to complete all repairs. Also includes VW tech bulletins updates. Price: \$13.00 (includes shipping).

Eurovan Winnebago Repair Manual

LiMBO has also acquired the complete repair manual for the Eurovan Winnebago. 132 pages. Lots of good information to fix the Winnebago camper equipment. Including; fridge, furnace, electrical and plumbing. Only \$20.00 (includes shipping).

Daryl Christensen
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VW BUS GREETINGS FROM FINLAND

DRAFT # 6.0 / October 17, 2008 / Heino Vänskä

MY BELOVED VOLKSWAGEN TYPE 23 KOMBIWAGEN OF 1971

Text: HEINO VÄNSKÄ
Photos: HEINO VÄNSKÄ

My first traveling experience in a Volkswagen Bus dates back to the year 1966 when I as biology student, I participated in a field course at Oulanka Biological Station in Kuusamo, in northeastern Finland near the Russian (then U.S.S.R.) border. On each course day our group was transported along narrow side roads in deep taiga forests to the various study areas in two Volkswagen busses which I found very practical and nice in field work.

My second and very impressive experience with Volkswagen busses and their unbeatable usefulness took place in East Africa, Kenya and Tanzania in January 1971 when I - with three other Finnish and seven Swedish colleagues - attended a three-week botanical field course arranged by the famous Swedish professor Olof Hedberg of Uppsala University. On the botanical safari our group of twelve persons used three Volkswagen busses of the model years 1968-70, which we had hired in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. I noticed that after the very numerous Land Rover terrain vehicles, the Volkswagen busses were the second most common vehicles in East Africa at that time, and that they were very sturdy and reliable under safari conditions.

After having come home I went to the local Volkswagen dealer in the Finnish capital Helsinki. I wanted to have a Volkswagen bus of my own and to use it on my botanical excursions in Finland and elsewhere in Europe.

Because a real Volkswagen Bus de Luxe or Volkswagen Westfalia Campingwagen (Camper) were far too expensive for my income at that

time I had to choose a much cheaper version which was called the Volkswagen Type 23 Kombiwagen. After much planning and thinking I finally ordered it on the 25th of February 1971 and paid the first part of the total price (which was FIM 11 852,00 at that time). The seller, Mr. Reijo Rutanen, recommended a red van to me, but I wanted to have a pale white van with several options, including



The first photo of the Kombiwagen "AX-922" in Käpylä, Helsinki, Finland in June 1971.

Eberspecher heating device for the cold Finnish winters.

My eager expectations were fulfilled on the 10th of May 1971, when the van was delivered to me and I paid the rest of the price. My new van had the identity body number 2312186-217, and it received the Finnish register number "AX-922" which sounded very nice to my ears from the very beginning. Several years later I received some documents from the Volkswagen Car Museum in Wolfsburg and the Finnish Importer, and these documents say for example that my Kombiwagen had been completed on the 31st of March 1971 on the production line in the Hanover factory, and it was imported to Turku harbour, southwest Finland, on the 20th of April 1971.

From the very beginning and in the subsequent years I made numerous botanical excursions in Finland and other parts of Europe, and my Kombiwagen served as my mobile home for several weeks each year. When driving in 1972 along the Autobahn A2 from West Germany to West Berlin through East Germany I

Kombiwagen "AX-922" in front of Wolfsburg Castle on the 18th of June 2000.



felt the very cool Cold War atmosphere in a very practical way when I was checked by the East German Authorities on the way. The excursions in the central European Alps and in the Scandinavian mountains were fantastic and exciting, and my dear Kombiwagen managed the challenges of the steep slopes and the small side roads very well.

In 1996, when my van had truly run more than 314 000 kilometers during 25 years, and when its third exchange engine was in use, I decided to have my beloved Kombiwagen restored and renovated by professionals. A small company called Reima Kanerva Oy in Helsinki, on the south coast of Finland, agreed to conduct the restoration of my van alongside its main work. I was happy and lucky to find a real vintage Volkswagen expert, Mr. Turo



Recent exhibition seen from back door. VW Kombiwagen "AX-

Now at the age of 65 years I always feel very relaxed, nostalgic, and happy when driving my vintage Volkswagen Kombiwagen. It keeps me forever young and energetic!



Kombiwagen "AX-922" visiting the Volkswagen Werk Hanover on the 18th of June 2000.

More information and photos of this Volkswagen Type 23 Kombiwagen are available at the web site:

<http://www.kolumbus.fi/hak.helsinki/>

[and there: Galleria / 1970 -luku / Volkswagen Kombiwagen, vm. 1971]

Thanks to Mr. Macke Rapanen (Vantaa, Finland) for his assistance with the photos.

Mustonen from Kirkkonummi, near Helsinki, who kindly and carefully supervised the restoration project on my behalf. Finally on January 13, 1998, the project was ready, and my Kombiwagen passed the very detailed examination by three inspectors of the Finnish Automobile Historic Club ["SA-HK"]. THEN it was enrolled in the official Finnish Museum Car Register.

Nowadays, each summer holiday time it is my practice to attend several Volkswagen meetings in various parts of Finland. In June 2000, after having visited the famous Bug Run event <www.bugrun.com> in Mantorp, Sweden, some other Finnish Volkswagen fans and I drove our own bugs and vans to Wolfsburg and Hanover and visited such sites as the Volkswagen factories and an international Volkswagen event in Wolfsburg (then the "11. Int. Käfer & Co. Treffen"). Next year, 2009, I am planning to drive my Kombiwagen first to Wolfsburg and then to its birthplace, Hanover, and finally to Kassel, where its present well-running engine (1584 ccm, 50 hp) was made.



A nostalgic meeting after 29 years. Mr. Reijo Rutanen and Kombiwagen "AX-922" which he sold as brand new to its first and still its owner Mr. Heino Vänskä as early as the spring of 1971.

SUCCESS OF THE EMPIRE VW CAMPING CLUB.

Joel Cort – Founding Member
Rochester, NY

Most of us with VW vans enjoy going camping either on our own or at a sanctioned campout, such as the ones put on through Full Moon Bus Club or LiMBO. These organized campouts are great gatherings of local VW owners as well as travelers from afar. In April 2007, while heading home from a great weekend at the EveryBus gathering in North Carolina, Mark Lund and I asked ourselves, why should we have to drive sixteen hours to camp with friends? Why not start our own camping club in New York? And thus the concept of the Empire VW Camping Club was born.



We were located in Rochester, NY, and proposed the idea to VW owners in Buffalo, Syracuse and Utica, thus expanding the club membership around most of the major upstate New York cities. Our basic charter is to discover and enjoy the natural and historical beauty of our state; the Empire State, by camping at as many new locations as possible with good friends.

A few of us who were interested in the idea of a New York State club communicated and organized some locations and potential dates for camping around the area. We used the free facilities of Yahoo and created our own group for advertizing and communicating: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Emp_VW_Camping_Club (This is an open Yahoo group if anyone is interested in joining in the club communication and chit-chat).

Initially, we drew a 150 mile radius (about a 3 hour travel distance) using these upstate towns and were overwhelmed at the number of NY State Campgrounds available just within this circle area. We figured that a 3 hour drive would be acceptable to most and not take too much out of the travel budget for gas, as well as allow for us to get there Friday after work.

Thus, in April 2007 the Empire VW Camping Club was created. Our inaugural campout was in May, near Syracuse at Green Lakes State Park. As a (retired) geologist I had a field day with this location highly carved out by the last glaciers. It was a cool overcast Spring day but even at that we had 11 campers—not bad for a first campout advertized mainly through word of mouth! The club membership has been growing ever since.

Upstate New York State has beautiful natural landscapes with the Finger Lakes region, the Adirondack Mountains, Lake Ontario, and the Catskill Mountains. The history of this nation has a rich foundation within the early settlements and battlegrounds of New York State and in areas such as the Mohawk Valley and the Erie Canal, allowing for something to see and do just about anywhere.

We have not forgotten that “downstate” also has vast camping

potential, but have not yet had the chance to expand the club that far. As our membership continues to grows and expands, we are also willing to extend that circle of friend to the Hudson or the Alleghany Mountains or even Long Island. We never wanted to limit the campouts to strictly “upstate”, but this is just were the majority of us reside. We are also aware of the vast number of campers in New England, New Jersey, Ohio Valley, PA and Canada that may be attracted to a neighboring campout in NY.

The Club has continued in the original tradition to travel to different regions and campgrounds during the camping months in NY. We alternate camping areas to even out the driving a bit, although I think that the Syracuse gang is best situated to go North/East/West/South. The club has consistently attracted over 15 campers at each campout and is gaining membership and popularity as more people find out about our events. A lot of our popularity has been assisted through the LiMBO group hosting pictures of our events on the www.limbobus.org website. This allows people to see our campouts and activities and maybe even decide to join us at our next events.

In 2008 we acquired a club web page. <http://www.empirevwcamping.org/> This is new and we continue to solicit input for content and ideas. We also solicit your camping input, if you know of some nice camping spots in your area, do not hesitate to make suggestions for future campouts. We all want to uncover new and interesting area to camp.

Here are the locations where we have held successful camping events:

Campgrounds visited in 2007

- May - Green Lakes S.P. - (Syracuse, Central N.Y. region)
- June - Sampson S.P. – (Seneca Lake - Finger Lakes Region)
- July - Selkirk Shores S.P. - (Lake Ontario near Pulaski, NY)
- Aug - Keuka Lake S.P. - (Finger Lakes Region)
- Sept - Nick's Lake - (Old Forge, Adirondack Mts.)
- Oct – Watkins Glen – Westies at Watkins (Finger Lakes Region)
- Oct - Letchworth S.P. - ([eastern] Southern Tier Region)

Campgrounds visited in 2008

- May - Glimmerglass State Park, Cooperstown, N.Y.
- June 13-14 - Robert Treman S.P. (Ithaca – Southern Finger Lakes Region)
- July 25-26 - Long point (north) S.P. (Watertown – Lake Ontario Region)
- Aug 22-23 - Little Sand Point S.P. (Piseco Lake - Adirondack Mts.)
- Sept 19-20 - Southwick Beach S.P. (Lake Ontario Region)
- Oct 10-12 – Watkins Glen – Westies at Watkins (Finger Lakes Region)
- Oct 17-18 - Letchworth S.P. - ([eastern] Southern Tier Region)

Please plan to join us in 2009 at one of the following locations and enjoy the camaraderie of the Empire Club:

Planned Campout for 2009

- April ?(stay tuned)
- May 16-17 Verona Beach S.P. (Central NY Region)
- June 13-14 Golden Beach S.P. (Adirondacks Region)
- July 25-26 Cayuga Lake S.P. (Finger Lakes Region)
- August 22-23 Bowman Lake S.P. (Central NY Region)
- September 12-13 Westcott S.P. (Lake Ontario Region)
- Oct – Watkins Glen – Westies at Watkins (Finger Lakes Region)
- October 17-18 Letchworth S.P. (Finger Lakes Region)
- November ? yeah it's a stretch.

The success of the Empire Club is based on great participation from all, good times, and great pictures and photo albums for all to share. We believe firmly in the adage: "if you build it they will come". The trick is getting the word out effectively through various

Internet lists and forums as well as our own website. There are several die-hard core campers and it seems as though we recruit new folks and see new faces at all of our campouts. We currently do not charge any membership fees or dues, and have around 80 members on our little group.

Our campouts are pretty free-form and usually include some interesting activity or cruise visit near the camping location. All VW van models, ages, colors or camper models, are welcomed, as long as you enjoy camping. We have adopted the Full Moon Bus Club's "breakfast burritos" for a group meal, usually before the journey home. Additionally, New York State has great camping potential due to its numerous State Parks and campgrounds. VW vans are the perfect vehicles to explore and discover the natural beauty of the region along scenic byways and pop the top at an Empire club campouts.

Happy Camping,
Joel

BUSES ARE PART OF THE FAMILY

Britin, Nick and Katie Foster
Empire Club, Albany

In June of 2008, my husband and I finally were able to purchase our dream bus (our first!), a 1974 Westy, bright orange, in show condition with lots of personal details that endeared Pumpkin to us right away; like friendly hemp curtains, a perfect paint job, no rust even on the undercarriage (even though she's a New Hampshire girl) and a peace sign made of twine, affixed to the refrigerator door). She felt like a loving entity from the start and became part of our family immediately.

In August, we got new tires, a tune up and new tie rods to gear up for our once a year vacation to visit family in the south (our first opportunity for a road trip and to Camp Out!). Pumpkin carried us to South Carolina cheerfully and faithfully without a hitch. We enjoyed spending time with our families and they all fussed over our wonderful new bus.

On our way back home to Albany, we were involved in a rather horrific accident, being struck by a hit and run vehicle, which caused us to flip three times and skid across the highway on Pumpkin's passenger side (where the baby was safely ensconced in her car seat) then flipping again and landing in the median. The gas tank punctured, but luckily we didn't catch fire. We were all able to escape out of the back hatch. Our belongings were all over the highway.

Not one of Pumpkin's windows shattered. There was not one broken bone or head injury on any of us. Not one bruise or scratch on our baby. We couldn't believe Pumpkin had protected us so well - it seemed almost a miracle. The camper top absorbed a lot of the rollover impact and the superior construction of the frame kept us from being hurt a lot worse. If we had been in any other vehicle, we feel sure we wouldn't be alive right now.

Pumpkin is totaled, but parts of her live on in our new bus, Daisy. She'll always remain in our hearts as part of our family. We miss her every day and we refuse to drive any other kind of vehicle again. This story is a testament to the bus we loved, who cared for us so well. We are incredibly sad she can't be repaired without spending thousands of dollars but we're alive and we must move on. Daisy's not as pristine as Pumpkin was, but she's just as cheerful and sweet to us (even though we've already been through 2 starters). We are fortunate enough to have encountered another loving, friendly entity in her.

Perhaps our story will inspire you to get on the VW Bus bandwagon if you're not already. These vehicles have heart and personality, among their other many positive qualities. We feel lucky to be adding to the rich history of our buses, while they add to the richness and quality of our lives.



COMING EVENTS

Coming Events is the place to get your bus or VW related event listed! Please send the vital stats: date, time, location, activities, costs, and contact person/phone number or address. Plan ahead and list your event early for maximum participation. For more information on any event, please contact Tom & Linda, the event coordinators, at volkswagenri@cox.net, 401-762-2448 or email to events@limbobus. Snail mail can be sent to: Coming Events, c/o Linda Manion, 286 Fourth Avenue, Woonsocket, RI 02895.

It is time to advertise your 2009 events. Be sure to get Linda your information before the next deadline!

Granny Grose's Buses 5

Contact: steelersbus36@atlanticbb.net

When: May 14- 17, 2009

Location: Beavertown PA, 17813

Come join us in central PA. Along the Bald Eagle Forest. Bands each night of campout!!

West River Westies VI

Contact: Nevin and Sue Lescher nesue@cox.net

When: July 17-19 (Fri-Sun)

Location: Townshend, VT - at Bald Mountain Campground.

This is a great event in beautiful southern Vermont adjacent to the West River. Further details will be forthcoming.

There have been rumors of a new campout, somewhere along the Erie Canal in eastern New York. No specifics yet but stay tuned for further information as it leaks out.

EveryBus XI

When: Oct. 8-11, 2009

Contact: everybus@mindspring.com

Location: Hagas-Stone Park, Greensboro, NC

This is the 11th annual international gathering of VW Transporters. The traditional April date for EveryBus have been moved to October for the 2009 event. EveryBus is held at Hagan-Stone Park located approximately 10 miles south of Greensboro, NC. Past events have brought more than 180 VW Transporters together for a few days of camping fun and fellowship for the entire family.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES & SPECIALISTS

Local reps are out there to gather articles and input from other club members in their area, organize local get-togethers, meets, caravans, and recruit new members from their part of the world. LiMBO is here to support them any way we can which strengthens the club.

Remember this is your club too. If you see a local rep or a specialist you would like to contact, please feel free to get in touch with them. If you don't see a local rep or specialist for your area and would like to become one, let me know at my address on page 2.

Brad Johnson

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: FRANK & JANET PARSICK

Introduction by Frank:

On occasion I do tell folks more than they want to know, but in reality we are really sort of private folks. I do recall boring everyone with the late life surprise when on my 69th birthday I found out I had

a younger sister that resided in Texas. We had a VW event shortly after I returned, hence the obligatory looking at my vacation pictures and hearing of my Las Vegas trip where we met each other for the first time. Let's leave the details for telling around the camp fire.

What did you do before you retired?

I worked for 40 years for the NJ utility: Public Service Electric & Gas. At one time I was Supervisor of the Customer Billing department and in later years went into Computer Security and eventually the Telecommunication dept.

Tell us a little about your family?

Janet & I reside in NJ, & we have 2 grown sons. Many moons ago in the old days we tent camped with our 18 ft Thompson boat at sites on the St. Lawrence River in NY State just 30 yards from the Canadian Border. We endured the mud & rain that does get into tents at times for many years. All the while envying the folks that were high & dry in mobile homes and RV's.

Give us some history on you and your Volkswagen adventures:

At my place of employment there was a VW devotee by the name of Ken Swan. The 86 Syncro owner is known to many of the older LiMBO members. He had a 70's circa van that really caught my fancy. I thought how nice to own one of those that could get you 12 or more inches over the water & mud.

A few years later on a visit to an aunt of mine in Toms River, NJ I spotted a 74 green camper for sale at a used car lot on Rt. 9. The next day I went down after work checked it out in the evening. The following day I called my aunt (who at that time was in her seventies) and asked her to go over, buy it & drive it to her house. Her being of the age that stick shifts were the norm, obliged me & drove it to her house. The great sport that she was.

It gave us many years of pleasure, its name was "Magic Carpet" and that it was. A real adventure wagon that lived up to its name. In '96 it broke down with a sucked valve in W. Virginia 20 miles from a VW meet that was to take place near the remote national radio observatory. As I recall the town we waited in all day for AAA to come was Monterey. The big thing in town is turkey processing. You use your imagination. Me, I can still smell. This had all the earmarks of a world class adventure.

We lost most of the power while on top of a mountain in George Washington National Forest where we had inadvertently landed when the road turned out to be the wrong one. As I recall Janet's last famous words were, "Why don't we get off this interstate & take a scenic route." When the white stripe on the road disappeared that should have been a tip off that we were about to lose the pavement altogether. The area was still devastated by the washed out roads

from the huge storm which caused tremendous damage the year before. It is not good to go over a road with 2 feet to the right and 200 ft abyss after that. Pedal to the floor and 5 miles an hour speed. We came upon two pickup trucks with a couple of guys that immediately evoked visions of the movie "Deliverance".

We being so far off the beaten trail that they were more shocked than we were. As I recall he said, "What in the hell are you all doing up here?" After many hours waiting for the local mechanic at his barn to look at the van to no avail we found a motel at 11 PM & settled in. Keep in mind no cell phones work near the valley where the telescopes are. So we could not inform the VW group on our whereabouts.

The tow truck driver took us 65 miles east to Staunton VA, to a Hampton Inn where we spent the weekend coasting down hill to the restaurant and struggling back the mile and a half to the motel. On Monday morning as good fortune would have it the only mechanic at the VW dealership (just a mile down hill to the North) that had ever seen a 70's Van, returned from vacation. He immediately sensed a sucked valve, made an adjustment, test drove it, came back & repositioned the accelerator cable which had pulled loose when I floored it to get some power with the mushroomed valve. Like new again. I immediately hopped on interstate 81 headed north 400 miles to home, Janet had to work on Monday so this was a good thing. Feeling quite confident, I stopped for supper 70 miles west of home in Pa. Big mistake. The next 70 miles were hell. It stalled at every toll booth. If you have ever been to Jersey-need I say more. But I must say the Magic Carpet brought me to my driveway, barely. This was in September. I spent the winter having the engine replaced, and a rebuilt transmission put in.

Meanwhile back at the ranch we had spent a few years looking for a water cooled model. To no avail. Come August the 23, the eve of the VW meet at the fairgrounds in CT. Janet & I decide to go on Saturday & stay at a campground near the fairgrounds. We would celebrate my day with dinner out. In looking for a quite secluded site on a back section of a private campground low & behold I come upon my dream machine. A water cooled camper, 84, automatic transmission, pristine condition and my favorite color; yellow. The price was \$6500 and this was my 65th birthday. No haggle just a celebration at a local restaurant (as you well know that is our idea of a cook out) where I informed my wife that she need no longer complain about not knowing what to get me for my birthday, A van will do nicely.

So the saga of the yellow VW has unfolded. The 74 was sold to Doug Kotcher (a local in our NJ bus club), when he realized it was in such great shape just rebuilt with every thing else in great working order. I do miss the Magic Carpet I, but Magic Carpet II is great. So ends this chapter of the adventures of Frank & Janet.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

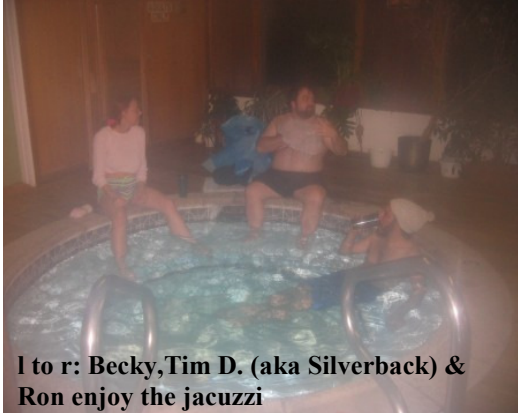


Dennis Ausel, Indiana, PA ('91 Westy)
 Michael Goode, Chicago, IL
 Carl Harris, Exmore, VA

Albert Kuhn, Long Beach, CA
 John Meeks, Brutus, MI
 Craig Rockhold, Palo Alto, CA



PARTING SHOTS a BLAST FROM THE PAST

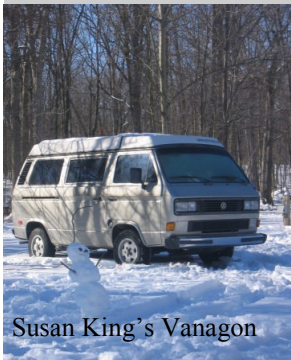


I to r: Becky, Tim D. (aka Silverback) & Ron enjoy the jacuzzi



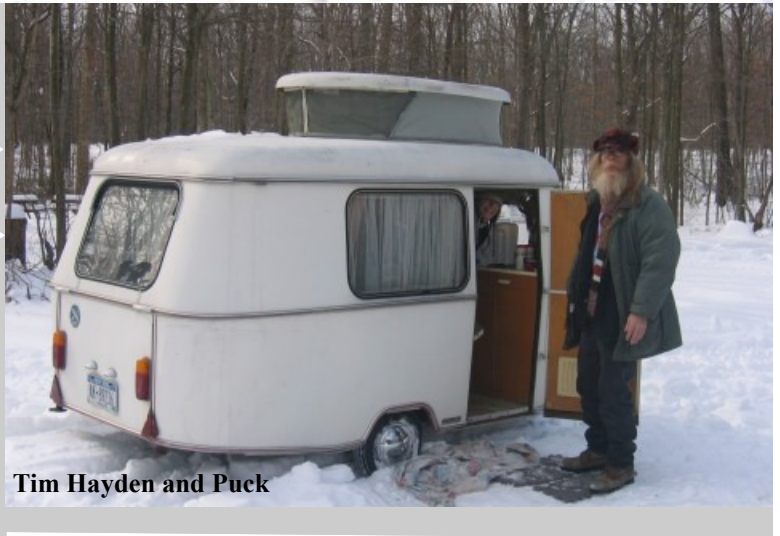
I to r: Amel, Bertie, Susan, Jon, Andrea, Tim H., Brad, Becky, Ron, Doug, Tim D., Teresa

Otter Lake Campground in Marshall's Creek, PA was the home to the Blizzard Out Campout that was held each February. Group events included Potluck dinner, staying warm around the campfire, enjoying the indoor pool, jacuzzi and sauna, as well as skiing at nearby slopes.



Susan King's Vanagon

These photos date back to 2005. A possible 2009 is in the works. Check the LiMBO website for any news.



Tim Hayden and Puck



I to r: Tim D., Brad, Andrea, Tim H., & Jon

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