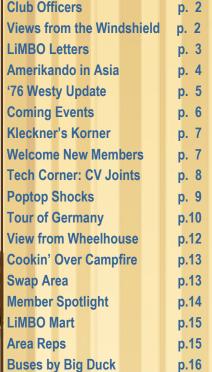
# THE TRANSPORTER The Official Newsletter of LiMBO; The Late Model Bus Organization, International

Volume 23, Issue 4

**July, Aug 2010** 



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:





Amerikando's journey continues in Japan on page 4. Photos in Tokyo of garage space (kombi belonging to hosts Yumiko & Tomokazu's).

### The Transporter Volume 23, Issue 9

The Transporter is published 6 times per year by the Late Model Bus Organization, International. Deadline for next issue: September 1, 2010. 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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Visit us online at: http://www.LiMBObus.org, (508) 842-2121. General email: LiMBO@limbobus.org

# Views From The Windshield



By: Andrea Rasso

verbal praise. Thank you, and keep up the feedback.

By the time you read this, Brad and I will on our cross country road trip. I will provide a trip report in the next newsletter edition. With the show and camping season upon us, there is bound to be a If you want to read on line, Our trip blog (which we hope to have lot of photos taken at a lot of events. Be sure to send Phil, or updated every few days) is: http://vwxcountry2010.tripod.com.

Now, on to this edition. Amerikando's Franck and Iris keep us up do date on the VW scene in Japan. Check that out on page 4. Last year, I believe I ran a story from Heino Vänskä of Finland. He Maybe you have a trip report you want to send in, or an upgrade still drives his first, and only vehicle a 1971 kombi, and submitted you've done. Where have you taken your bus, camper, van or an article of his road trip to various Volkswagen plants, factories other V-Dub? Share your story, or just drop me a line for the and museums. He submitted so many great photos too (like the "LiMBO Letters" one I put on the cover). His article is on page 10.

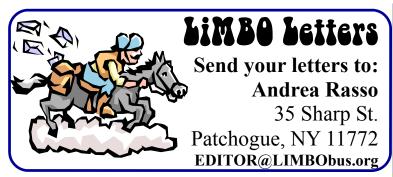
Other highlights in this edition include several tech articles on CV joint replacement as well as upgrade of pop-top strong arms.

Bryan and Sally Belman from New Jersey are our highlighted members. Back page is dedicated to Buses by the Big Duck Campout written by new LiMBO member Rigel Pelletier.

Welcome to another "Cover in Color" edition. We've In the coming events, in October is the Bustoberfest campout at been getting great comments; letters, emails and Blue Rocks. As you read this event, there is information on how to reserve a spot for the event with me. Payment can be check or PAYPAL. Coming Events is on page 6.

> webmaster an email to set up a photo album for you to add your photos to the website. Then write me a recap- a few short paragraphs or so, to add to the next newsletter.

That's it for now. Enjoy and happy camping.



Sent: Monday, May 31, 2010 8:51 AM To: EDITOR@LIMBObus.org Subject: Color issues

Andrea the color issues are great! Keep them coming and thanks for the great newsletter you put together!

Robert 1991 Westy

Hello LiMBO,

We are a brewery from Holland and placed the first of many models to come on our website. The first model is of a old Volkswagen Van, off course in a Breugems Brewery design.



The brewery has a social function / responsibility because we employ people with a "defect". we can use every kind of attention to make ends meet.

We would like you to mention the model in your blog. We would be honored it you would do so. you can find our model on the following link:

http://www.breugemsbrouwerij.nl/downloads.shtml

Kind regards, and many thanks in advance.

Maurice de Boer Breugems Brouwerij Holland

### bierinjisp@hotmail.com



Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2010 10:32 PM To: rassovw@hotmail.com Subject: May/June issue

Andrea, just a short note from the Midwest, way down in Southern Indiana. Evansville to be exact.

Just received the current issue today. Not only is the layout and graphics well done but the color is a GREAT addition. Way to go.

David Eager

Hi Andrea,

Received the newsletter shipment from Konica/Nevin yesterday. Opened the box this morning--another outstanding issue! Read it cover to cover. Pete King, Rod Durkin and President Kleckner were especially entertaining. Maybe that's just because I'm a fellow old fart too!

Love the color. Please, use color anytime you see fit (that's my answer to your question on page 2). I really like it, wished the whole newsletter could be in color, like it is in the electronic version.

We'd be lost without you, excellent job as always!

Dale Ward

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# Amerikando in Asia

By: Frank and Iris Thibaud Köchig

Editor's note: In the last edition, Franck and Iris put their bus on a cargo ship, and were waiting out the weeks in California until their bus arrived in Asia.

I asked Franck to write about what was involved in shipping the bus, and about the similarities and differences in the American VW friends and Asian VW friends they have met.

### About Shipping the Bus:

It was not so complicated as it was expensive. We started price shopping by making phone calls to **all** the shipping companies we could find on the internet using key words: "international shipping cars"

We found a big difference in prices ranging from 1700 USD to 4500 USD. Of course we choose the 1700 USD option with an additional 500 USD payable upon receipt of the bus in Japan.

We made the booking one month before the day of the shipping and paid a deposit. Then we spent 3 weeks driving around in California, going to VW events, making money to pay for our 2 flights. We went to the Kelley Park event, to the Spring Meet near Merced and to the Bug In (which impressed us by his size). In one of these events we met a wonderful guy, Rex from Merced. This man who saved our bus... And its engine!

We also met people from the clubs, especially in the Bay area. As always, we found very nice and friendly people. So on May 8th we secured a needed Canadian transit visa for Iris and were able to buy the flights, both things in LA. In the elevator of the Canadian consulate we were with... Pamela Anderson!! I (Franck) was close to a heart attack. We then drove back from LA to SF in one night.

On Monday, May 9th we put the bus in a container. It was a very emotional moment. The same day we also paid the last part of the shipping. The boat would take 10 days to reach Japan. It's quite a fast one, as some take 3 or 4 weeks. We could track it on internet.

We spent the last days in the house of Mike (Busboss on the Samba), Ann and their daughters Mia and Ava. They have been amazingly nice with us and we stayed one month in their house! They are the best people destiny could have sent us on the road. We felt incredibly comfortable with them. We really think we made friends for life.

On May, the 19th, we boarded a plane for Tokyo and left America– of which we have traveled one year and three months on this continent. We will never forget these months.

### Arriving in Japan:

At the airport we were received by Chiaki and his girlfriend Tamiko. Chiaki is a mechanic. He owns a VW shop and he's a friend of Rex's, from



Merced. Chiaki and Tamiko introduce us to kombi owners Tomokazu and Yumiko, who invited us to stay at their home until we get the bus. We felt very at ease with this couple! We are around the same age and we share a lot in common. Thanks to them, we met a lot of very nice people.

### Japanese Culture:

We quickly felt the big differences in the Japanese culture. There is so much respect, yet distance in human relationships. They never touch each other. But, we quickly introduce hugs to Japan O! On the other hand, they are extremely friendly people. For example, we have never received as many presents as we have from people in Japan.

We also spent a lot of time with Kaname, a journalist, who invited us to be interviewed for a television news show. He filmed us during our first weeks in Japan. Being invited to a news show and being live on the Japanese tv was a big experience!

### VW in Japan:

Getting back the bus was a 4 days process and finally it was more expensive than what we were expecting (about 800 USD). Our friends, especially Chiaki and Kaname helped us a lot. When we got Renatta (our bus) back, she was perfect, exactly as we left her!!!

Now there is no doubt that the VW family is worldwide and is GREAT everywhere! We shared some great times with the people of the KDF Owners VW Club of Japan <u>http://</u><u>vwkdf.web.infoseek.co.jp/</u>. We went to 3 of their events and each time it was wonderful! Special thanks to the president, Mr. Nobusawa. He has all of his family involved in the VW club. Additional thanks to others we met, such as Kazu, Noboru and Shin... so many great people! Their events are always very well prepared (as everything is in Japan). The caravan we went on was far away the best one we ever saw.



Financially speaking, here in Japan, we have made the most happy. We're learning a lot from this aspect. money on our trip so far by selling shirts and merchandise. This has been wonderful because we didn't know how we would be We have never seen such a safe and peaceful place before! There paying for the forthcoming boat to Russia. In absolutely ALL the is such an elegance to the people: even the taxi drivers are VW family. It's just crazy.

### **Other Interesting Things about the Japanese:**

It's the most different country as far as culture that we have seen Let's express ourselves! so far. So different from our original cultures and from this point of view, it's the most interesting. We have learned so much.

People don't own half of what people in the US own, even if they have more money. Their houses are 4 times smaller. A lot To follow Amerikando's journey, now almost 1 1/2 years on the emptier, more simple. People have less, but we notice them more *road*, visit their website at www.Amerikando.com.

places we go in Japan we can at least meet one person from the wearing suits. They respect the rules. They follow them so much that they can be boring sometimes. Come on...go through the red light, it's 3:00 am and its deserted all around you. The people are very shy, respectful and reserved. Come on, let's have a hug.

> With a Latin American, a North American and a Japanese, we can probably make a perfect human being! ©





lestx by James Gelbman Larchmont, N.Y.

A continuation to my VW bus

story from the Jan/Feb 2010 newsletter.

The winter was very cold, and bad weather had an effect on and that is what makes everything. We had weather in the low teens. Without heat in up this hobby. the bus, it was unbearable, but it was well worth the wait for spring. Unfortunately I will only be able to make a few VW I'm hoping that I can meets. I know definitely that I will attend the show at meet Governor's Island in NYC. This event sounds like a blast. I've members at any of the already preregistered for the meet. Since the last time my upcoming meets. Have Westy was in the newsletter, I have had a small mishap in a fun and peace. I love parking lot ... no big deal. There are only 2 long creases on my VW busses they are cargo door.

The car was parked and someone told me a delivery truck made the marks. I took it to a body shop for an estimate. The body shop told me that for a grand they would fix the door, and repaint the bottom half of my bus. I just feel bad that whoever did the damage did not fess up. Oh well, things happen.

The person that did my work initially sprayed the lower bottom with a paintable undercoating. This is going to be removed and painted a different color. The top half is a bright yellow and the lower half will be either schoolbus yellow or a bright blue. I know that's not original, but the difference between

original being or different is having fun

mv fellow cool.



# 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 401-722-2119, volkswagenri@cox.net, or email to events@limbobus. Snail mail can be sent to: Coming Events, c/o Linda Manion 27 Woodward Road #6B, Lincoln, RI, 02865

### Next deadline is Sept. 1, 2010

Remember, participation in any LiMBO event or activity is strictly voluntary and at one's own risk.

### July 2010

July 16-18 (Fri-Sun) Townshend, VT - West River Westies VII at the Bald Mountain Campground. Bring your family and friends, pets, bicycles, tubes and rafts, cameras, something to share at the potluck supper and a donation for the raffle to benefit Grace Cottage Hospital Sept 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Middlebury CT - CVA's 2nd Annual in Townshend, VT. Make new friends and greet the old ones. Go Oktoberfest at Ouassy Amusement Park, from noon to 6 both days. tubing on the West River, bicycling on State Forest Road, enjoy Eric Lindskog's famous pulled pork sandwiches and BBQ ribs, the potluck supper and bucket raffle. Camping rates: \$23.83/day includes W/E Sept 12 (Sunday). Deer Park, Long Island, NY. LIVC 9th Annual hookup and Vermont tax. Call Bald Mountain Campground for VW Show For more information, contact the Long Island reservations. 1-802-365-7510. The campground has free showers and Volkswagen Club at: The Long Island Volkswagen Club 11 May ample bathrooms. Nev and Sue Lescher, are your WRW Court, Freeport, NY 11520. Email: info@livc.net. Free shirts to the Wagonmasters.nesu@cox.net

#### August 2010

August 1 (Sunday) Windsor, ME- Vacationland VW Assoc. Annual VW Show and Swap Meet. Swap meet, food, music and fun. Stereo sound off, balloon toss, games for kids Plus matchbox racers. Camping on grounds the night before. For info contact: http:// users.adelphia.net/~vacvw/ or email: vacvw@adelphia.net

August 7 (Saturday) Shrewsbury, MA- Volks-Vair Fair. This annual show & swap meet is at Hebert's Candy Mansion on Rt 20 Shrewsbury. Air cooled only show for VWs and Corvairs. Rain or shine. Trophies to 3rd place. Sponsored by The Bug club and Colonial Corvair Club. Great time, music, food plus great candy and ice cream at the Hebert Candy Mansion. Contact Gerry Anderson: 603-898-2874.

Aug 20-22 (Fri-Sat) Empire/Limbo Campout at Copake Falls - The Oct 8-10 (Fri-Sun) Watkins Glen, New York - Westies at Watkins empire VW camping club is planning a campout in Eastern New York 2010 in the Finger Lakes of New York. This is the 9th year in the State so we can have our New England friends join in as often running this event at the Birthplace of Road Racing!! This is a requested. It will be at Copake Falls State Park. This is just a get premier LiMBO camping event sponsored by the Empire VW together. If you want to attend make reservations or just drop on by. Camping Club! All VWs are welcomed. We have our own loop at the More information will follow such as the campsite numbers where the Watkins Glen State Park. No reservations required, pay as you go VW group will try and gather round.

Aug 27-29 (Fri-Sun) Portsmouth, RI - 4th Annual Buses In The Bay caravanning, wine tasting, and campfire festivities. Communal at the Melville Campground, 181 Bradford Ave. The campground is breakfast burritos served Saturday morning. Pot Luck Saturday night, iust north of Newport and near the beach! Come join your old friends bring a dish to share. T-Shirts available, raffles and door prizes. or make new ones. Check in is 1 PM Friday. You will need to call Vendors welcome .Optional racetrack events on SUNDAY Oct 10th. make your reservation, tell them you are with LiMBO and ask for a more info, contact Joel Cort, home phone: 585-377-4161. cell phone: reservation on the safari field. After calling in your reservation you 585-690-8145 or jcort@rechester.rr.com

must mail a deposit to hold your reservation. They do not accept credit cards! PLEASE RESERVE EARLY !!! DON'T MISS OUT! Water and electric sites are \$35.00 per night. On Saturday they'll be a cruise to the beach and Saturday evening a pot luck dinner and raffle. The event organizer is Coy, and he looks forward to seeing you there! His contact info: 401-254-2350, or covandlynn83@hotmail.com

### September 2010

Sept 3-6 (Fri-Mon) Bloomsburg, PA - Camping Near Knoebels X at the Indian Head Campground. A vintage camping weekend of Pennsylvania's coal region. Come out for the tenth anniversary campout featuring the Friday evening dessert social, Saturday morning caravan to Knoebels Amusement Resort (www.knoebels.com), Sunday morning potluck brunch, and everyday kayaking/canoeing on the Susquehanna River, hiking, road trips, and great campfire conversation. Camping rates are \$24 for group/tent sites, \$26 for water-electric sites. Request the VW Bus section and the group rate. Http://mysite.verizon.net/bensbus/knk.htm for details.

first 100 show cars. No outside food or beverages, No smoking, No pets. Free admission for spectators. Show cars \$10, vendors: \$20.

Sept 25-26 (Sat-Sun) Middlebury CT - CVA's 2nd Annual Oktoberfest at Quassy Amusement Park, from noon to 6 both days. Trophies will be awarded for CVA Choice and Quassy Choice. Show is open to all German cars, owners, fans and anyone who enjoys an amusement park and Oktoberfest! There will be dash plaques for the first 100 cars. Camping will be available on the show grounds Saturday night. Every show car receives a complimentary park pass. There will be German food, bands and beer available at the Oktoberfest. Don't miss this weekend of German fun! For additional info please contact: Jeremy Clayton (860) 539-9704 vwadct@comcast.net or Milt McDonald redbug203@sbcglobal.net

### October 2010

when you get there, \$20/night. Discover the beauty of the Watkins Glen Gorge and beautiful surrounding Finger Lakes Region of New York. Activities for all, including antiquing, hiking, biking, (401) 682-2424 to make reservations between 10AM and 5 PM only! We will take our VWs on the racetrack for a three laps on Thunder (The campground does not take reservations by email.) When you Road. \$15 per vehicle. Come on the track or in the grand stands. For

Oct 10 (Sunday) Brookline, MA - Transporterfest/VW Day at the the \$30 reservation cost via Paypal using the same email Larz Anderson Auto Museum. All VWs are welcome; shiny, rusty, <u>address</u>. Bring contributions for the beer and wine tasting event. leaky, we love them all. Auto museum admission included with Potluck on Saturday eve. Hayride to local farm for pumpkins. Lots registration fee. Usually 100+ car show and good swap meet. Event is to do at campground and surrounding area. Check out site at: http:// rain or shine, no pre-registration necessary, just pay \$15 on the way in. Vendors \$25. Camping location for Sat. to be determined. Contact Stanagon: stan wohlfarth@msn.com or call 508-333-7813. Directions and more info about the museum can be found here: http:// Oct. 17 (Sunday) TBD location in Connecticut - The CVA's 12th www.larzanderson.org

We have booked Group sites116 (and overflow group site 114). More details when available. Contact: Jeremy Clayton (860) 539-IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT RESERVATIONS. 9704 vwadct@comcast.net or You must contact Andrea at rassovw@hotmail.com to reserve redbug203@sbcglobal.net and mail her your first night deposit of \$30. You can also pay

# Kleckner's Korner

By: Jon Kleckner



We are just a few days away from summer season as of this writing, and the camping season this spring has been one with large turnouts and great weather. Campers from all over the east coast gathered at Granny Grosse's in May for a record turnout this year with the campground under new At our first Westies in management. West Milford, we had a great turnout and crowd for the Memorial Day weekend,

Buses by the Duck had a record turnout ending up with a parade. and was another exceptional job by our host, Andrea.

This year I've had the pleasure of having my '80 Vanagon Westy back on the road. This is the first van which I've had registered as a 'historic' car. Here in New Jersey, historic designation cost less than a third of regular registration and requires no inspection. Check with your state classic, historic, or antique requirements for what savings are available. The Motor Vehicle Dept here now has a walk-in agency, no longer requiring a prolonged mail-in process. Several VW campers are licensed as 'camper' also. The normal requirement of vehicle age is 25 years in most states, making mid '80's eligible at this time.

There is another savings in insurance, too, at a fraction of the cost of regular insurance. Most owners use Haggerty or J.C. Taylor classic insurance. The policies differ from state to state, but usually include theft, collision, and several other benefits, and it is well worth checking out. Some people using this form of coverage are concerned with the restrictions based on mileage driven in a year, as there are usually limits. These are commonly set at 3 to 10 thousand miles a year, which falls into our yearly usage. In most cases, this

www.bluerockscampground.com/

Annual Fall Foliage Cruise from 9am to ???, rain or shine. To be determined start location. Will wind through the scenic roads of Connecticut with a few stops along the way. Bring a picnic lunch. Oct 15-17 (Fri-Sun) Lenhartsville, PA - Bustoberfest at Blue Rocks. There will be a dinner after the cruise for those that are interested. Milt McDonald

> coverage costs a quarter of what regular coverage does, as most insured drivers of Even our newest Vanagons are now 20 years old and soon will be eligible for the 'historic' requirements.

> There has been some talk about the reliability of air-cooled campers recently on the LiMBO website. Our newest air-cooled Campers are nearing 30 years now. It has been my experience for several decades that they are reliable and powerful enough to climb hills, as I use both water and air cooled, and enjoy them both. Recently at a Pennsylvania campout, a camper broke down 20 miles away while going home. While traveling home, I met up with him, and was able to get his 1978 camper back on the road. He was towing a trailer with a Harley, and had driven up from central Florida. The van was in rough shape, and like anything older would be a good candidate for a complete going over, as nearly all breakdowns can be prevented.

> Our new TTT directory is filled with members who can help with any form of advice to keep our Volkswagens alive for years to come.

> I hope to see everyone at future events during the summer show and camping season.

Happy Camping! Jon



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: By Steve Paine 😇

Craig Cowan, Slippery Rock, PA ('85 "Franken" Westy; Bostig Michael Govang, Bedford, OH powered)

Lorraine Gordon & Jacque Bilodeau, Chesterfield, NH ('84 Westfalia)

Valerie Iott, Seymour, CT ('70 Westy)

Patrick Peranteau, San Antonio, TX

# TECH CORNER: CHANGING THE CY JOINTS

By: Brad Rasso



I noticed one of my CV joints started making a clicking/clunking noise upon acceleration up hills. There is nothing more embarrassing than a loud, clunky van cruising through one of nature's wonders- a National Park, and scaring away all the wildlife. I knew I would have to repack or replace one or all of the joints. I figured I'd do both sides as the van has recently broken 100,000 miles. In addition, we also happen to be embarking on another road trip, with

several National Parks on our list (in fact, as you read this, we will be on the west coast, half way into our trip).

I looked on-line for my options:

- 1. New Lobro bearings and pressing them on my old axles (seems like a hassle as I don't own a bearing press)
- 2. Rebuilt complete axle assemblies from my FLAPS (friendly local auto parts)
- 3. New complete axle assemblies made by Empi (but are made in China)
- 4. Go Westy HD kit made with Porsche parts (having a more powerful Suby engine, I like the idea, but way too expensive)

I decided to go with door number two; the rebuilt axle assembly with the CV,s already pressed on. I go to my friendly, hometown NAPA and order a set. They told me they have them in their "system" but there out of state and will take a week. Two weeks later they cancel the order as they are "no longer available". Oh, and by the way, my friendly, hometown NAPA went out of business soon after. Next I go online to a few different Vanagon part suppliers. They have axle assemblies for manuals but for the automatics I could not find both sides (there are two different axles for right and left on the automatic).

So, now I trade in door number two for door number 3; the Empi's made in China. Yes, I am a bit hesitant. Yes I know the quality is not comparable to a German CV, but I order them on line anyway. Clicking that little send button can be so hard sometimes.

Whoo hoo...my CV joints have arrived quickly, and I am ready to install them....fast forward....it is now two months later and I think to myself as I start the job that this should take no more than 2 hours...

I put on some old clothes, gather up my tools, chuck the front

tires, jack up the van, put the jack stands under the frame, put on latex gloves and crawl under the van. Darn, the bolts don't use the Allen or Torx wrenches that I thought, but (what I found out later) a 6mm tri square bit head...and I do not own this tool. So....I crawl out from under the bus, take off the latex gloves, clean up a bit and go to Pep-Boys (remember, NAPA has since gone under) to purchase one. I come home, put on new latex gloves again and crawl back under the van.

I remove the bolts from the tranny side (inners) first, than lower the axle a little to be able to reach the wheel side (outer) bolts making sure I don't lose the washers. I remove the axle assembly and repeat for other side. I crawl out from under the van, get the new axle and some rags and put on another new pair of latex gloves and the fun really begins now.

Working on a bench, I pack the bearings with CV grease, making sure not to leave any voids. Very messy job! I do both the inner and outer CV's. I change another pair of latex gloves, crawl back under the van and continue. I try to install the outer side first, balancing the axle in one hand as I am trying to align the washer and bolt with the other. Not an easy task. The axle assembly gets real heavy- real fast when you are on your back with grease dripping all over you. But...finally I get the 1st bolt started. I can let go now. I have grease in my face hair and on my arms.

I put the rest of the bolts in. I crawl out from under the van, change latex gloves for the last time and crawl back under the van with the second axle again and do the inner side, rolling in grease that is smeared all over the place. I think I torqued all the bolts to 33 ft lbs, but I'm not sure because there was so much darn grease on the torque wrench that I couldn't read the numbers (and I did not have my reading glasses on). I repeat this for the other axle trying to keep the grease under control, and torquing to (the probable) 33 ft lbs.

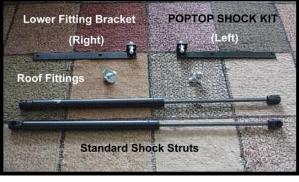
I'm done! Now, for the clean up. I clean grease from my tools, axles, tranny, tires and driveway. I throw away my clothes (remember these are old, work on the car clothes anyway). I Goop up my arms, face, hair. Not my hands though, as they are nice and clean. I jump into my outside shower. By the time I'm done cleaning up its more than four hours later. What did you guess it was going to take? A bit more than the original two hours, but still one afternoon, and I got the job done from start to finish– without too much cursing, or injuries to myself either.

So...here is a good question; does anybody manufacture latex body suits, maybe I can invent those?

I hope that these Empi's work. If they fail, I'm going to pay someone to install German ones next time. I'll give you an update in the next edition after our road trip. We estimate about an 8,000 mile trip. For more technical details, Van Café has a nice write up on cleaning, rotating and repacking CV joints. Or you can always refer to your Bentley-Bible manual.

# Poptop shocks

How to lift your Westy top with little or no effort. By: Nevin Lescher



As the years pass and my Westy gets older (as does its owner), the p o p t o p seems to get heavier to open and c l o s e .

Taking a closer look at this inevitable situation, I came to the conclusion that there must be something around to ease the task of raising and lowering the top.

So then I went on a little internet research about the subject. The search revealed a wealth of information and sources for "Poptop Shocks". After reviewing these sources and comments by users, I selected the kit offered by Mark Goddard thru his classified ad on "The Samba".

The kit comes with two lower fitting mounting brackets, two sets of stainless steel fittings to accept the upper end of the shock struts on the fiberglass top, two standard shock struts and a set of instructions.

After carefully studying the installation instructions, which incidentally are extremely detailed, I started the installation.



The lower brackets are mounted on the rear scissor hinges of the top. Real easy! The next step is the drilling of the  $5/16^{th}$  holes in each side of the top. This is the tricky part as you must follow the instructions correctly to locate the holes. After checking and re-checking the location, I bit my lip as

the drill sank into the top- this is the point of no return. If the location is not right, you are literally "up the creek with a leaky top"!.

After installing and tightening the upper fittings and retightening the lower fitting bracket, the shocks snapped perfectly in place and no further adjustment was needed on the latching mechanism.

The top goes up practically by itself with very little effort. However, to lower it does take a little more "Armstrong"

muscle. The top will remain slightly above the latch, enabling you to gather in the canvas before securing the top to the latch.

Mark Goddard also offers medium and heavy duty shocks for those tops that



carry additional roof loads like kayaks, canoes or solar panels. The price of the kit is reasonable at \$90.00 which includes shipping. Installation time (and you have got to take your time) is about 2 hours, not including studying and digesting the installation instructions.

You can contact Mark thru the Samba classifieds at: www.thesamba.com/vw/classified/detail.php?id=798951

Good luck if you are considering this installation and be sure to follow the instructions to the letter and you can't go wrong.



# A TOUR IN GERMANY IN 2009 WITH VW KOMBIWAGEN OF 1911

Text and photos: HEINO VÄNSKÄ

My first and still my only vehicle, a Volkswagen Type 23 Kombiwagen, identity body number 2312186-217 and registry number AX-922, has served me since the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1971, when it was delivered to me as brand new. In January 1998, after restoration by professionals, it was enrolled in the official Finnish Museum Car Register, and nowadays, each summer holiday time, I drive it to attend several Volkswagen meetings in various parts of Finland. Because my previous drive in this van to Germany dated back to the year 2000, in summer 2009, I decided to visit several places in Germany with at least some connection to Volkswagen (or other



vehicles): Hanover, Wolfsburg, Brunswick, Salzgitter, Kassel, Rheda-Wiedenbrück, Osnabrück, Emden, and Cuxhaven.



According to the document delivered by the *AutoMuseum Volkswagen* in Wolfsburg, my van was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1971 in Hanover. Therefore my first goal during this German tour was the plant building Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles (*Volkswagen Nutzfahrzeuge*) in Hanover, and there I took several photos of my van in front of the several gates of the factory. Inside the big factory halls a guided walk alongside the production lines was of course an impressive highlight.

The second natural goal for my tour was Wolfsburg with its endless treasures of Volkswagen history. Besides the attractive *AutoStadt*, (the immense factory area itself, including the tall building of the headquarters), the famous *AutoMuseum Volkswagen* (near the city center), and the *Volkswagen-Audi Classic Parts Center* (in the suburb of Detmerode south of the city center), are also many other places in Wolfsburg which belong to or are otherwise closely connected with the gigantic Volkswagen group (*Volkswagen AG = VAG*).

I visited the brand new building of the Volkswagen Service Akademie and I saw the Volkswagen Bürozentrum Nord in its

neighborhood in the suburb of Kästorf just north of the factory. I noticed further the buildings of the Volkswagen Dialog Center, the Volkswagen Logistics, and the Volkswagen Immobilien in the city center. I saw also the Volkswagen Service Deutschland and the Technisches Service Center in the industrial Park Wolfsburg Süd south of the city center. The very representative and wellequipped Volkswagen dealer Autohaus Wolfsburg Heitz und Hotmann is situated also in the city center quite near the western side of the vast VW Factory area. The massive football stadium called the Volkswagen Arena in Allerpark is close to the AutoStadt.

After Wolfsburg, it is easy to drive further to the Volkswagen plants in Brunswick and Salzgitter which are not far away. The former so-called *Vorwerk* in Brunswick, dating back to February 1938, is some months older than the main plant of the *KdF-Stadt* of that time - meaning the later,



present-day Wolfsburg. Nowadays the VW Plant in Brunswick employs nearly 5,700 staff, and manufactures many kinds of important components for the Volkswagen group, including front and rear axles, shock-absorbers, steering units, plastic parts, and tools and machines. In Brunswick we can see also buildings of the *Volkswagen Financial Services Ltd*, including the *Volkswagen Leasing* and the *Volkswagen Bank*.

The Salzgitter plant was built in 1969-70 primarily for production of the water-cooled *Volkswagen K70*, but nowadays this plant is one of the world's largest engine plants, producing gasoline and diesel engines of about 370 different types, ranging from 3-cylinder to 16-cylinder versions. The Salzgitter plant has about 6,200 employees today.

After Salzgitter my next stop was Kassel in Hessen. Volkswagen's Kassel Plant in Baunatal began in 1958 and since then has become a multitalented producer of many components. Its workforce amounts nowadays to about 13,000. It produces about 2.6 million manual gearboxes and automatic transmission annually. The light metal gearbox housings come from its own melting facilities and die-casting machines. Further products include exhaust gas systems of high quality. Old engines and gearboxes are conditioned in a special department. The gigantic *Original Teile Center* is capable of providing customers worldwide with 330,000 different genuine parts.

Continuing from the Kassel region towards the VW Plant in Emden on the North Sea coast, it was convenient to visit Rheda-Wiedenbrück, and there the *Westfalia Van Conversion* Company, which has a long and nostalgic history of producing VW



campers. The guided walk along the production line was very interesting, but sorry to say there were not many examples left of the former excellent collection of various VW camper models in the exhibition hall.

After this plant, the next stop on my route towards the North Sea coast was Osnabrück and the *Wilhelm Karmann GmbH* with its long traditions since 1901. *Karmann* is well known for its convertibles and convertible roof components, but for me its most important and classic product is the nice vehicle called the *Karmann Ghia*. The vehicle collection of *Karmann* was regrettably not accessible because of a company financial crisis, but some divisions of the company were still functioning in the beginning of the autumn of 2009. I learned that about 1,800 employees were still working there at that time.

The VW Plant in Emden was originally built for production of the *Käfer* (VW Bugs) to be exported to U.S.A. and Japan. The serial production began on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1965. Nowadays this plant produces *Passat* and *Passat CC*, and the number of personnel is about 7,900. The walk alongside the production line was very interesting and rewarding here, as well. From its own

harbor in Emden, the Volkswagen group exports nearly 900,000 vehicles yearly all over the world. Certain models are imported to Emden, for instance, the VW New Beetle from Mexico and the VW Sharan from Portugal.

The main target of my tour in Germany was the town of Cuxhaven on the North Sea coast, to participate in a VW bus meeting arranged by the *IG T2* (*Interessengemeinschaft T2, Feunde des VW-Busses 1967-1979 e.V.*) on the weekend of September 4-6, 2009. It was a great pleasure to participate in this meeting and see numerous colleagues with a real passion for VW busses. The atmosphere of this meeting was so inspiring and relaxing that I decided to participate in similar annual meetings in future.

This tour inside Germany measured about 2,100 km, but next time the drive may become considerably longer.

My beloved van runs still well despite its great age and its having more than 332,400 kilometers behind it. This shows the high quality of VW!

With kind regards from Helsinki!

Heino Vänskä & Kombiwagen of the year 1971, e-mail: heino.vanska@gmail.com





Last year was a banner year. We made 11 campouts 8 of which were spent in the rain. Call it the El Nino Blues. I just call it

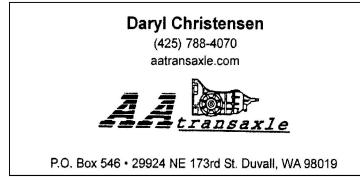
camping. Camping in the rain is not a bad experience if you have the right attitude and gear for the conditions. I'll show you mine if you show me yours.

I should start by prefacing this with the following statement, "I'm a storm chaser." There I said it. Every September, I take my bride and her family to the beach during the height of hurricane season. The lessons that we have learned there translate directly to the art of surviving a rainy VW campout, so maybe my experiences can help you.

The first thing you need to have is a sense of humor. Camping in the rain requires acceptance of conditions that generally appear outside the window of your house. In the south, rain is warm; in the north rain is cold. What you wear will directly affect your sense of good cheer and happiness. A rain suit is a must for cold rainy campouts.

You'll need a breathable rain suit, and though I'm not given to endorsements, Gore-Tex works really good. Additionally, you will need a wide brim hat, preferably something that takes a long time to get wet. In the summer I use my Tilley Hat. Its lightweight fabric allows me to breathe through the top of my head. It also dries quickly. Not only that, but I look damned good in it too.

In the fall, I wear a Minnetonka leather hat which takes longer to get saturated, but takes longer to dry, too. Few of life's pleasures compare to that of putting a wet leather hat back on your bald head in the morning. The good news is that leather warms up fairly quickly and the retained heat helps to dry the hat even if it's not raining (provided you occasionally remove the hat to let trapped water vapor out). Either hat can be dried on a hot engine block- although you'll find hungry people tend to gather around a leather hat quicker than a cloth one.



Clothing is pretty much a personal choice. I favor things that can get wet and dry fairly quickly. Once you are soaked in the north, you should change more quickly than in the south. In the south, if you don't like the weather, wait 5 minutes. If it's cold out, it goes without saying that you should change into dry clothing as quickly as possible. On the wettest of campouts, our EZ-Up resembles an outdoor clothesline in short order. Remember, this is wet weather survival; there is no place for vanity at a boutique campout. Once again, lightweight fabrics that wick moisture away from the body will stay drier than heavy cottons, but if you can't wear a tshirt and/or a wool coat to a campout, why did you go?

Another way to get dry is stand close to the fire. Care should be taken when wearing synthetic fabrics as to avoid spontaneous combustion. If <u>you</u> should catch on fire, any fellow camper will without a doubt be glad to put you out– but in a mutually agreed upon fashion. Hopefully this will have been agreed upon prior to you making a public spectacle of yourself. Liquids are preferable to rocks. Resourceful

campers that we are, you be rest assured, one way or another you will be put out.

Finally, choice of a campsite is vital. When I was 10 my father took me and my brother across the U.S. in a rambler station wagon. At some point, we were standing on a floodplain next to a clear running stream. You couldn't have asked for a better campsite in the history of

mankind. However, the old man shot down the request and with no further discussion. In light of things I have seen and recent events on Arkansas, he was 100% right. Never, ever camp in the floodplain of any stream or river. Period. The life you save might be your own.

Before parking in a rain-soaked campsite, pay close attention to the ground conditions and make the necessary arrangement to get you bus out safely before you shut it off. If it's raining, conditions aren't going to get any better for doing this, delaying the inevitable means you get to drive home covered in mud and slime, so give a thought to this before you shut the motor off and start to relax. You'll thank me for it later.

See you on the road -Oatmeal





# COOKIN' OVER THE CRMPFIRE By: Rich Macensky

Beef Tenderloin with Cheese sauce This is an easy one to do.

### What you will need:

One whole beef tenderloin (which is 7-8 lbs), 1/2 cup Montreal steak seasoning, 1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce., 2 cups heavy cream, 1/4 cup flour, 1/2 lbs Gorgonzola cheese (or blue cheese- your choice).

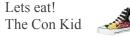
Put beef, steak seasoning and Worcestershire sauce in a plastic bag and let stand for a least an hour.

Ok lets get cooking. First put a grate on the fire. Now throw the beef on. It will take 20- 30 minutes to cook. I like mine rare so 20 minutes is good for me.

While that is on the fire, heat a pan on a stove- medium heat. Put the heavy cream in with the flour. You will have to whisk this to get the lumps out. Turn down the heat and put the cheese in. Let the cheese melt and be sure to stir often so it doesn't stick.

Don't forget the beef. You should turn every 10 minutes. Very important tip! Let the meat rest at least 15 minutes before carving.

I made this at the Buses by the Big Duck Campout. If you missed it you missed a great campout. Now carve the meat top with the cheese sauce and enjoy. We also had French fries and grilled asparagus. See the last newsletter for the grilled asparagus recipe thanks to Sue.



# 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 it 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

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### FOR SALE:

Bus rear seat camper bed. It is not perfect but it works, needs refreshing. See picture. More pics

can be emailed at your request. Fifty dollars is my price plus shipping. Since I do not read SAIF emails immediately, phone works best. Jerry, 1.847.825.5903. jspellman@loy.org, Illinois (very near O'Hare airport)



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Bryan and Sally Belman

Bryan Belman has been a VW enthusiast since his teens; working on his first VW that he purchased from his uncle for \$250 at age 16. This was a 15 year old 1965 Beetle with a wonderful top half, but the bottom half had a few holes. Thus, the relationship was born. He got hooked on diesel VW/Audi when he purchased a used 1979 Audi 5000S with a 5 speed diesel engine that he restored. He drove it for a few years until electrical problems were too much to fight anymore. Many other used VW/Audi's were acquired, restored and driven to the end of their useful lives. His love of all things VW continues to this day. He currently owns four VW's – a 1970 Standard Type 1 Beetle, 1982 Vanagon Westfalia Diesel, 1992 A2 Jetta Ecodiesel and 2004 A4 Jetta TDI



Sportwagen". Bryan does the vast majority of the work on the vehicles himself; except for body work and paint. He has only ever purchased 2 new cars in his life, a 1988 VW Cabriolet Convertible that he had for 9 years and his current 2004 Jetta Wagon.



Bryan and his wife Sally, 12 year old son Christopher, and dog Molly live in beautiful Point Pleasant, NJ on the Jersey Shore. The family usually attends several VW camping events throughout the year. Bryan drives about 65 miles each way to work and this is what also drew him to owning so many VW diesels. When one of them breaks, he drives another one and fixes the broken one later.

Bryan and Sally recently returned from a 13-day Vanagon adventure from New Jersey to Florida and back. They joined up with a group from the "VW Club of Central NY" on their "Sunshine Treffen" trip from April 24 to May 6. They camped in every state on the way down - Assateague National Park, MD, Oregon Inlet, on the outer banks of NC, Wilmington, NC, Edisto Island, SC,

Jekyll Island, GA and finally to the destination of Ft. DeSoto, FL. They camped in Ft DeSoto for 3 nights; close to the big "VW 4 Live Wild Weekend 10" events taking place in St. Petersburg, FL. The weekend events included a BBQ at Classic Camber, a big VW show the next day at the Pier in St Petersburg and the huge drive

with about 300 VW's of all makes over the Sunshine Bridge. After the events Sally and Molly in St. Petersburg, Bryan and Sally broke off from the group and made stops in Winter Haven, FL, St. Augustine, FL, Savannah, GA, and Jellystone Park in Virginia. Their little dog Molly made the big trip with them – she was a little trooper!

One of the best parts about the Sunshine Treffen trip aside from all the VW camaraderie was to be able to take the Molly, the dog. This sort of forced them to cook most all of their meals in the van and use the Westfalia camper as it was designed. They used the refrigerator on propane or electric for the

This past spring, on the Sunshine Treffen trip

entire time, cooked, boiled water from the on-board



holding tank for dishes and washed all of their dishes for the most part in the Westy and even captured the grey water in a 5 gallon jug to be put in waste water receptacles at the camp grounds. Where there was no recycling in the southern states they would transport the recyclable until they came to a place where they could deposit them into recycling containers in other states. It was a learning experience to say the least but they had fun figuring it all out and Bryan cannot wait to get back on the road again for another long trip. Since his son Christopher could not miss school to go with them he said he will have to plan a week-long trip with him for next summer; maybe to New Orleans. Bryan will post his route in the fall and anyone who is interested in tagging along, the more the merrier!

# MBO MA

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



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### **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).

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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 want to become a rep for your area, please contact me with contact info on page 2. Thank you. Tow Power

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The Transporter





# Buses By the Big Duck 10:

By: Rigel Pelletier

Hi, my name is Rigel. My mom gave me the name after a star in the constellation Orion. My mom and dad ( Tony & Jen ) brought me on my first campout, Limbo's Buses by the Big Duck on Long Island this past June. I got to see lots of VW's

Vanagons and a few buses and VW's.

We got there on Friday afternoon, and stayed until Sunday. Both Friday and Saturday night we watched Herbie and Pixar Cars movies on the outdoor theater that Mike (he lives on Long Island) had set up.

Andrea who runs the campout says it was the biggest one ever. People came from all over. I think they came just to meet me. The longest distance went to this nice, retired guy Karl Benne from Ontario, Canada in his '91 Vanagon. Another couple, the

Cochran's came all the way from Virginia in their '70 camper. Andrea says that there were 30 camping units total; many colorful vans, buses and even a Beetle and a Thing.

I had lots of fun and everyone wanted to hold me which helped my mom and dad so they could set up and have things ready for me. My Dad even thought I was going to sleep in a makeshift cradle (a cardboard box) in the van but NO WAY, I just wanted to snuggle between them -even if it was very hot.

I was glad to meet all my new friends and I can't wait for next time. The ferry boat ride back to Connecticut sure made for a short drive.

Next time I'll get to eat some of the great "big people" food because it looked so good. Even if I can't have all the good bbq for potluck for years to come, the first campout food I want to try is S'mores. Those look the yummiest of all camp foods.

I only have two questions; why does my camp have a pirate flag, and who is Binky.





The Transporter