

# THE TRANSPORTER

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

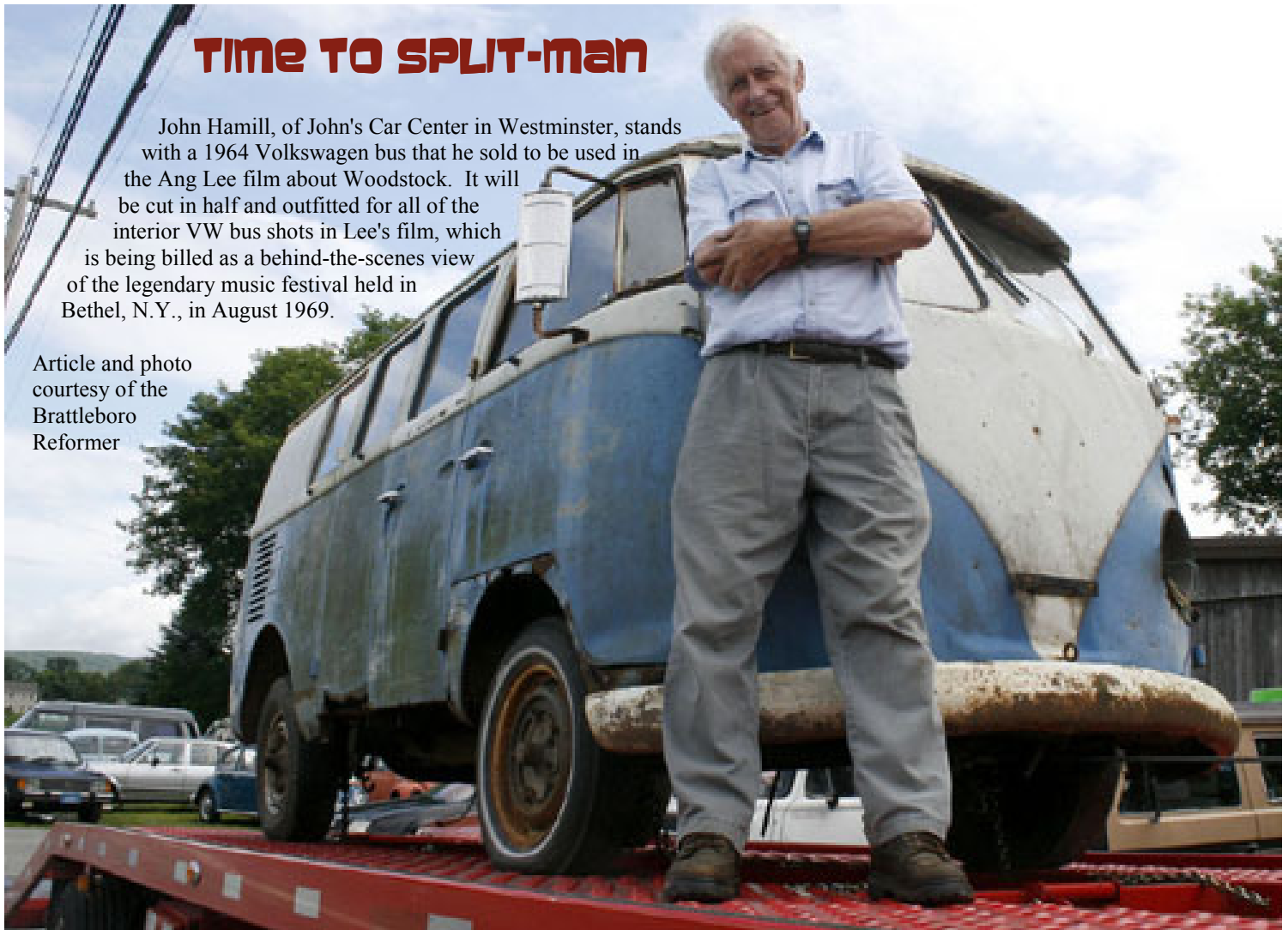
Volume 21, Issue #5

Sept./Oct. 2008

## TIME TO SPLIT-MAN

John Hamill, of John's Car Center in Westminster, stands with a 1964 Volkswagen bus that he sold to be used in the Ang Lee film about Woodstock. It will be cut in half and outfitted for all of the interior VW bus shots in Lee's film, which is being billed as a behind-the-scenes view of the legendary music festival held in Bethel, N.Y., in August 1969.

Article and photo courtesy of the Brattleboro Reformer



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## The Transporter Volume 21, Issue 5

The Transporter is published 6 times per year by the Late Model Bus Organization, International. **Deadline for next issue: Nov. 1, 2008**

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:

### Newsletter Editorials/Article Submissions

c/o Andrea Rasso  
35 Sharp Street  
Patchogue, NY 11772  
editor@limbobus.org

**Associate Editor: Events**  
Linda Manion & Tom Power  
27 Woodward Road #6B  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
events@limbobus.org

### Contributing Editors

Bill Dummitt  
bill@campinginthe parks.com  
Nevin Lescher: nesu@cox.net  
Jerry Spellman: jspellman@loy.org  
Gary Byers:  
gary.byers@us.army.mil

**Local Rep. Coordinator/  
LiMBO Mart Coordinator**  
Tom Power  
volkswagenri@cox.net

**Membership/Address Change**  
Steve Paine  
13 Cobblestone Road  
Barnstable, MA 02630  
nuvi@capecod.net

### New Members Back Issues

Dale Ward  
9 Golden Hill Ave.  
Shrewsbury, MA 01545  
limbobus2002@aol.com

**Website/Internet**  
Philip Dlugolecki  
LiMBO@limbobus.org

### Club Officers

#### President

Jim DiGennaro  
34 Summer St.  
Adams, MA 01220  
(508) 842-2121  
mrlimbo@limbobus.org

#### Treasurer

Glen Smith  
30089 Hickory Drive  
Mechanicsville, MD 20659  
cmoney@mail.ameritel.net

#### Secretary

Mike Guilfoil  
10 Meadow Parkway  
Franklin, MA 02038  
m.guilfoil@verizon.net

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Visit us online at: <http://www.LiMBObus.org>  
(508) 842-2121

General email: [LiMBO@limbobus.org](mailto:LiMBO@limbobus.org)

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# VIEWS THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD

Hello Everyone,



As I write this, the summer is coming to a close (and I have to go back to work). The Blue Max's engine is still out of commission since May and probably will be as you read this sometime in October. This has brought about much discussion on possibly buying a rebuilt engine, or even doing an engine conversion. Brad and I have had much discussion with our fellow VW friends on all of the options available and have gained much insight on the subject.

What I've provided is just a list of options and links we've been researching:

**Bob Donald's Rebuilt Stock Long Block (optional "Big Valve" upgrade)**

<http://www.bostonengine.com/>

**The Zetek engine conversion**

<http://www.bostig.com/>

**The Tiico engine conversion**

<http://www.foreignautosupply.com/>

**The Subaru engine conversion**

<http://www.vanaru.com/>

**Another Subaru engine conversion site**

<http://www.smallcar.com/index.php?act=viewDoc&docId=1>

**Rebuilt 2200, 2300, 2400, and 2500 cc Vanagon engines**

<http://www.gowesty.com/>

**A comparison chart by Joel Cort on some engine options**

<http://www.benplace.com/conversions2.htm>

Any others I've not included? Let me hear from you. Different people we've spoken to have different opinions of the route they would choose. What I found to be the main concerns for many people are: (1) the ability to install and work on any engine (2) the idea of NOT having a stock Vanagon (purist's viewpoint) (3) service of the vehicle if non-stock engine Who will work on it?

Well, I don't know what our next step is yet, we are still pondering (and money is an issue, obviously). Maybe next issue, I'll have that answer for you.

Ok, now about this issue. This past summer, there have obviously been so many events that I could not recap them all in this issue. I invite you to visit the website and check out those recaps and photos (and even upload your photos to share). Events include the Terryville show, West River Westies, some Empire State VW Camping Club Events, and Volks-Fair.

As always, I encourage you to submit your stories, articles and letters. If anyone wants to see themselves in the "Member Spotlight", drop me an email. I'd love to hear from you.

*Until next time,  
Andrea*

# LIMBO LETTERS

Send your LIMBO Letters to:

**Andrea Rasso**

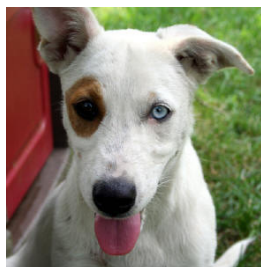
35 Sharp St.  
Patchogue, NY 11772



**EDITOR@LIMBObus.org**

Andrea,  
Here is the story of "Finding Bella"

When Steve and I planned on attending the 17th Annual Connecticut Bug-A-Fair in Terryville CT, this past August 10th, the last thing that we thought we'd bring home with us was a new puppy- but we did.



After losing Bianco in March, our best friend and camping buddy for almost the last 18 years, neither of us felt ready to get another dog but that didn't stop me from checking the web pages of the local shelters and petfinders.com. Honestly, I was really just looking for pictures of dogs that looked exactly like Bianco because I miss him so much.

About a week before the Terryville show I visited petfinders.com to perform my usual search, White German Shepherd and my Long Island zip code when this most unusual face appears on my computer screen. White 16 week old puppy, brown spot around one brown eye the other eye is blue- her name was Maitai. She looked like a Target ad! It said she was in Southington CT. I thought it odd that she came up in my search since she did not look like a German Shepherd and she was over 100 miles away from my zip code. I just kept her picture on my computer and went on with my week.

We decided to camp overnight the Saturday before the Terryville show. Saturday morning I did a google map search for Southington CT. and noticed that it was VERY close to Terryville. I started to get that feeling like "the planets are aligning for something to happen.". Literally about 5 minutes before we left for the show, I sent an email to PAWtectors, the group that was fostering the puppy. I told them where we were going to be, for how long and gave them my cell number. I asked if we could just meet the dog. I really didn't think that I would get an answer because the following bold text appears on their website:

"We are a network of foster homes, meaning we do not have a facility. All people interested in an animal must first fill out an application and be pre-approved before setting up a meeting.

Submitting an application does not guarantee you will receive a rescued dog. We reserve the right to deny any one to adopt a dog/pup without explanation. PLEASE note: Please allow 1-2 weeks for us to process your application. If your application has NOT been approved you may not receive a response as we do not have the time to get back to everyone who applies for our dogs."

But sure enough as the planets aligned themselves on Sunday morning I received a call from Karah at PAWtectors telling me she

was making arrangements for the foster family to bring the puppy to the show field to meet us. She also told me that she clicked on the link to my home page (which automatically attaches to my emails) and saw the memorial page that I created for Bianco. She said after speaking with me and viewing that page, she could tell that any animal would have a good home with us and added that despite their policy, if we decided we wanted the puppy, we could take her home with us!

At that point I was getting butterflies in my stomach. This was all happening too fast.

About 2 hours later my phone rings again. Its Meg, who was fostering the puppy and she was at the front gate. Well you can probably figure out the rest. Maitai is now "Bella" and has been with us for the past 3 weeks. She sits at my feet as I type this story.

Although we still grieve for and deeply miss Bianco, it is comforting that the love we had for him was partly responsible for bringing Bella to us. I'm sure you'll all be meeting her at a LIMBO event soon.

Maria Mucaria Stankowski  
Massapequa, NY

Andrea

Missed you at West River Westys ! Heard stories of troubles with the van. Hope they have got sorted out. Another trip to Mexico for this winter is in the works;  
<http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/busesinbacalar/>

You could mention that in the Newsletter. There will be a Blog and it will be announced when the time comes, so there will be material there for the Newsletter. Hope your having a good summer down your way. Up here it seems to be raining all the time.

Cheers,  
Frank Condelli  
Almonte, Ontario, Canada

Andrea,  
Here is a picture of a VW that we don't have here in the states. We spotted this while vacationing in England. It was photographed in the Village of Barton County, Cambridge.



Maryann Johnson  
Medford, NY

Overhead at a VW Campout.  
"A hairy back may be worth more than pocket aces".

**Daryl Christensen**

(425) 788-4070

[aatransaxle.com](http://aatransaxle.com)



P.O. Box 546 • 29924 NE 173rd St. Duvall, WA 98019



# THE HILTON'S CROSS COUNTRY adventure

By: Lori Hilton

Not until we get into the van that day do I believe that I am actually going. But it is finally happening. Not a big deal for some, but it has been on my list since I was a teen. Andrea and



Abby (top), Chili (right) Kempo (left)

Brad gave me a push two years ago, and the Hole in the Woods gang were also very supportive, unlike some people in everyday life that had the 'you can't do that' attitude. So anyway, off we go!

As soon as Kerri's SAT test is over, we head on the ferry to Buses by the Big Duck Campout on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Right in time for potluck dinner. We promise to write a lot of postcards.

So begins our month and a half long road trip. Comfortably seated in the Euorvan with me for this adventure are my teenagers; Kerri and Connor, along with our dog Kempo; Chili, our cat; and Abby, my parrot.

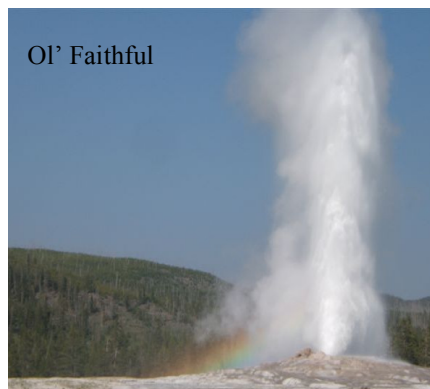
After Long Island, we head north, through Maine and into Canada to visit fellow LiMBO member Gerry Edge. Now, imagine what the entry point attendant at the Jackman, Maine border must have thought when he looked into the van. It must have looked like I packed up everything

## At the Badlands



at the Jackman, Maine border must have thought when he looked into the van. It must have looked like I packed up everything

I owned and was leaving the country. Although I was completely prepared with multiple passports, even having a passport for the bird (yes, these are required), it was not enough. The van is searched. The border patrol takes my pepper spray and we have to wait for several confirmation calls. After a few hours, we make the connections and get the approval to move on.



OI' Faithful

Finally on the road. Canada is beautiful. And the churches have silver steeples. Lots of clouds, and then Gerry and Almonte and Bus Fusion.

It was while in Canada that the check engine light came on. We find a dealership in downtown Montreal for service. After hooking it up to their computer, they could not find anything, and in jest, blame the cat. The light magically went out by itself a few days later. Gotta love those VW's.

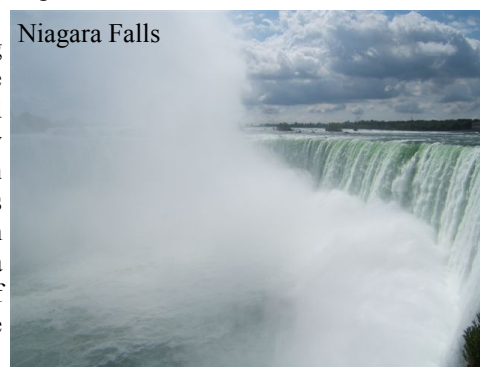
Coming back into the US at Niagara was not without incident. Abby, the bird has to go through inspection at USDA. Niagara Falls, however, was spectacular!

There are a few stops along the way before we head west. We go to Jamestown, NY to try and visit the Lucille Ball museum. CLOSED! We then make a stop at Carnegie Mellon University as a possibility for Kerri. We stop at Lake Erie when we are in Ohio to stick our feet into Lake Erie. There is also a side trip to the vet for the cat. (Stomach trouble.)

Now, we drive.....and drive....until we get to the Badlands, Mt. Rushmore, and the Black Hills. South Dakota was memorable with Wall Drug Store and all of the billboards leading up to it. We stopped in at the Corn Palace in Mitchell. Fun.

We head up through Montana to the north entrance of Yellowstone Park. Yellowstone Park had the nicest showers; well worth the \$3 fee. We enjoyed the wildlife, along with the must see "OI' Faithful." While in Yellowstone, we met some great VW owners of an early Bay. They were from California and own a VW parts shop there.

Leaving Yellowstone, we headed south and spent the day shopping in Jackson Hole. Then it was on to Zion park. There is a small corner of Idaho we drove



Niagara Falls



Residual snow in Montana/Wyoming



through on Route 89. It follows along Bear Lake into Utah. This lake has the most incredible blue water you've ever seen. Now, while in this little stretch of Idaho, I wanted to buy potatoes. This

proved not to be so easy, as the 40 miles of Idaho we traveled on, was potato-less. We wound up buying our Idaho potatoes in Utah.

Zion National Park was our next stop. It was very hot, and we tubed at the campground river for some relief. The cat gave us some excitement as she got loose, and we played the game 'chase the cat' for 40 minutes or so.

Two of the highlights at Zion were walking through the foot high water along the Narrows trail. The other was Weeping Rock.

On to the Grand Canyon. We spent two days here both on the bus and walking around. Every overlook was just as spectacular as the next. Then to the 4 Corners for photo-op and through Mesa Verde National Park to see the ancient Pueblo ruins. Very cool.

Because it was so hot, we headed north as opposed to our original

plan of Sand Dunes National Park. 4<sup>th</sup> of July found us at Estes Park, Colorado. This was at the base of the Rocky Mountains. The fireworks show was spectacular. The next night, we had dinner in the Rocky Mountains National Park. Next was off to Boulder where we spent some time, as we shopped, spent the night in Campground "Walmart", had the oil changed, and was pulled over by the police because he thought I had an unregistered vehicle. Obviously he was not savvy to the placement of registration stickers for Connecticut vehicles.

After Colorado, it was time to hit the highway and head east. We stayed at truck stops until we got to Maryland/DC to visit family. The only notable happenings were the huge rainstorm in Kansas, and the OZ museum- but it was closed.

Our 5 week long trip finally came to a close as we made our way back to New England to West River Westies Campout. We were awarded the Longest Distance Traveled to the Event Award.

(l to r) Connor, Lori, & Kerri at Yellowstone



# LIMBO EVENT RECAPS

**Cape May Campout 08**  
**July 17-20, 2008**  
By: Carol Foster

Cape May was a blast. We had lots of new, and old friends show up. We had 13 vans. We did get both group sites for the weekend. We even had 2 bands from N.C. but they would not play at the very hot camp fire.



**Buses in the Bay ' 08**  
**July 25-27, 2008**  
By: Coy C. Bethune

Though attendance was light, (I don't know if it was the gas prices or the terrible weather we had the week before) those who did venture out were met with sunny skies for Friday and Saturday. However, it did rain Sunday morning as we packed up, cleared up and as we drove home, that's New England for-ya.



John, Tony, Sue & Kevin chillaxing



JK's Synco

Tony's Bay

Saturday afternoon some went to a brew house in Middletown, some went to "Flo's" for chowda and clam cakes, and swimming. and some stayed at the campground and chillaxed.

Saturday evening we all gathered for the potluck and raffle. I think the best potlucks are at church, LiMBO camp-outs and parties. After dark we gathered 'round the fire for s'mores and stories. Next year I think we might cruise to a local vineyard for a tour! So please join us the last weekend of July 2009!

*There are many photos of past events on the LiMBO website. Be sure to visit, view and upload your photos. Email Phil, the webmaster, if you need help. If a photo album for your event does not exist yet, Phil can create it for you, then you can upload to it.*

# THE MIDWEST SCENE

BY: JERRY SPELLMAN

## Vintage Picnic #21 in Rockford, Illinois

July 20th, 2008

Here we are again at Alpine Park, Rockford, Illinois. We are here because the park is pleasant, the sun and shade is available, and the show and people are fun.

The event was the **Vintage Picnic # 21**. Stateline Volksfolks was at it again. For years they have set up, arranged, and provided what participants acknowledge is a restful, unstressed, and comfortable VW car show. There were 15 classes, plus Best Interior and Best of Show and much more. The much more included kids raffles, adults raffles, and a 50/50 fund raiser for Huntingtons Disease, among other activities. As usual, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class trophies were hand-crafted and prepared in the shop of Mel and Delores Mear (with some help from elves). The wood crafted trophies are related to VW design symbols, different every year, and treasures to be had. Winning at this show provides a work of art. One added show bonus is viewing the dandy woodwork of the interior of the Mear's vintage Beetle (which they refuse to enter in the show other than as "display only").



Gas prices, hot days, and busy families militate against attendance at shows these days, but the annual Vintage Picnic is a real summer treat. The club members are well informed about VWs, about repairs, about parts, about shops and though there is no swap meet, much info is swapped. At this show there was quite a variety of VW cars: Beetles, Buses, Ghias, Buggies, makeovers, recent and vintage.

The raffles were abundant, the trophies were abundant, and the fun was abundant. Keep this show in mind when you are planning next year. You will be rewarded even if you fail to win a unique trophy. The admission was small, but the benefits huge!



## Harsh Bug Palooza in Joliet, Illinois

August 24th, 2008

Lots of shows and VW outings are happening this summer. So there are a lot that people can't get to – gas and family events preclude some. But people with fresh cars, spectators with open eyes, and both with generous donations showed up at the **Harsh Winters Volkswagen Club at D'Arcy Volkswagen** in Joliet, Illinois, Fifth **BUG-A- PALOOZA**.

Those Harsh Winters guys and girls keep trying new locations, bring new unseen air-cooled cars, make connections with new donors of prizes, of which there were many, and goody-bag fillings, which included a show shirt and much more, and turn out to be not "harsh" at all. It's just the winters that bother them!



Around 100 show cars were comfortably placed. There was plenty of room for spectators to park. The swappers were able to spread out an uncrowded display of their wares. The location was on a busy road, facilitating easy invite and access to passers-by (free admission). However show entrants and swappers paid a nominal fee plus at least 2 non-perishable items (these for a local food pantry), in order to display. The dealer and other donors contributed numerous door prizes. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and such were also donated by the dealer and the monetary free will offerings for such were passed on to GIGI'S PLAYHOUSE supporting Down Syndrome children. Over \$250 was contributed to them as well via a 50/50 raffle.

The dealer personnel with Harsh Winters members cleared the large area. (One "harsh" guy told me he was there past 9 PM Saturday. I don't know how late they were there moving back!) A D.J. kept music coming and announcements clear. Games and contests for the kids included hula hoop, balloon count, jumper room, chalk-a-bug, pie eating.

Plaques, which included a picture of the car, were awarded for the top fifteen as voted by the participants. Awards were also made for best engine, best interior, best paint, loudest stereo, loudest engine, worst looking, dealer choice, and of course best of show. There was plenty to see, hear, and do, and plenty of fun! The show was good and plenty – hum! Go to [www.harshwintersvw.com](http://www.harshwintersvw.com) for details I could not provide herein.

Support those local shows far and near.



KONICA MINOLTA

Mitzi Koninis

Graphic Designer  
Production Supervisor

**KONICA MINOLTA  
BUSINESS SOLUTIONS U.S.A., INC.**

550 Marshall Phelps Road  
Windsor, CT 06095

Phone: 860-683-2222 x2435  
Fax: 860-902-7466  
Cell: 860-490-6083

Email: [koninism@kmbs.konicaminolta.us](mailto:koninism@kmbs.konicaminolta.us)  
URL: <http://kmbs.konicaminolta.us>



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# COOKIN' IN THE KITCHEN



With Rich Macensky; *The Flaming Cons Kid*

## LET'S MAKE PICKLES!

This issue's recipe is an easy one to make at home, and bring with you to a campout. Who doesn't love condiments? Ok, this recipe is for a pint canning jar.

What you will need is:

- \*1 pint canning jar
- \*Some pickling cucumbers (maybe 6, it depends on cucumber size)  
*Make sure you get pickling cucumbers the pickles are not as good with regular cucumbers.*
- \*1 tbsp of kosher salt
- \*1 tbsp pickling spice (you can find this at most stores I get mine from Penzeys.com)
- \*A garlic clove
- \*White vinegar
- \*Fresh dill.
- \*A little crushed red pepper to taste (you don't have to add this it's just my choice).

Cut the cucumbers into 1/4 and place them into jar; as many as you can get in there. Add the garlic salt dill and pickling spices. Now is the time to decide if you want to add the crushed red pepper. Now with that done fill the jar with 1/3 vinegar and the rest of the way with water. Now put the lid on and put in the refrigerator for at least 4 days. Ok its been 4 days open and enjoy. The longer they sit however, the better they are- they just have to stay refrigerated.



Finished product.



Enjoy!  
Just another recipe from the Con Kid

## 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. Thank you. *Tom Power*

**Brad Johnson**  
645 "E" St. SE  
Washington, DC 20003-2716  
202-543-4123

**Fred Garnes**  
28042 Randolph Rd.  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218-847-3973  
fcgarnes@yahoo.com

**Dennis Haynes**  
970 Smithtown Ave.  
Bohemia, NY 11716  
631-563-8248

**Steve Paine**  
13 Cobblestone Rd.  
Barnstable, MA 02630  
508-362-9877

**Glen Smith**  
"Buses near the Bay"  
30089 Hickory Dr.  
Mechanicsville, MD 20659  
301-884-5461.

**Pete Sottnik**  
300 N. Gardenia Ave.  
Broken Arrow, OK 74014  
918-258-1401  
VWSottnik@cox.net

**Joel Cort**  
"Westies at Watkins"  
5 Hunters Drive North  
Fairport, NY 14450  
585-377-4161  
jcort@rochester.rr.com

**John Hamill**  
John's Car Corner  
Rte. 5, Box 85  
Westminster, VT 05158  
802-722-3180

**Todd Olson**  
7511 Sunfish Dr. NE  
Rockford, MI 49341-9051  
616-874-5536  
todd.olson@charter.net  
www.busesbythebeach.com

**Bill Bowman**  
"Buses Nowhere Near the Arch"  
1514 Wild Goose Run  
St. Charles, MO 63303  
636-949-2455  
Email: bill@bnnta.com

**Ken Madson**  
PO Box 621  
Duvall, WA 98019  
206-523-6525

**EuroVan Specialist**  
Jim DiGennaro  
34 Summer St  
Adams, MA 01220  
413-743-1814  
(Grumpy after 10pm)

**Brian Davis**  
2149 Joel Johnson Rd.  
Lillington, NC 27546  
sunroof71@yahoo.com

**Ron and Becky Maxon**  
The Bus Guild  
591 Hickory St.  
Township of Washington, NJ  
07676

**Karl Bloss**  
21 Saint Andrews Dr  
Hurricane, WV 25526  
304-760-2115  
kbloss@charter.net

**CANADA**  
**Frank Condelli**  
RR#2  
1873 Concession #8  
Almonte, Ontario, Canada  
KOA 1A0  
613-256-6763  
www.busfusion.com  
fkc@aol.com

**Joseph Ames**  
10 Andrews Rd.  
Malvern, PA 19355  
joe.ames@comcast.net

201-358-9169  
beckybus12@hotmail.com

**Brad Rasso**  
35 Sharp St.  
Patchogue, NY 11772  
rassovw@hotmail.com

# LIMBO MART

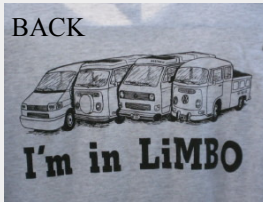
Send Check or Money Order to:  
**LiMBO-mart** c/o John Jordan  
 55 Cherry St  
 Northboro MA 01532  
 john\_jordan@charter.net  
 508-393-0663

Merchandise can also be purchased through our Website using Pay Pal at [www.LiMBObus.org](http://www.LiMBObus.org)

Contact John with any questions or for more info.

## NEWLY ARRIVED!! T-SHIRTS IN GREY.

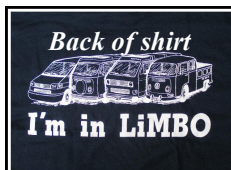
New grey "I'm In Limbo" are slightly different than navy shirts. There is no stripe, but there is the badge on the front, and on the back you have the pictures of the buses. We have all sizes. Pictures not yet available. Contact John for more info or to order!



### Last Chance!!

The LiMBO Tee shirts in Navy Blue sold fast, we only have 2 mediums left. LiMBO logo on the front and four buses with "I'm in LiMBO" on the back.

Please specify color (navy or grey) and size of shirt when ordering. \$16.75 shipped to your door.



### INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE ON T-SHIRTS

They feature the classic LiMBO Logo on the front pocket and the 'LiMBO Diner' artwork by Chris Brown on the back. They come in Ash Grey and Oceana Green. Come in sizes small through XXL. **Clearance sale** Only \$13.50 delivered to you express mail or \$10 if you catch us at a show. Support the club and wear a comfortable shirt at the same time. **NOTE: At the time of printing, there is ONLY ONE GREEN IN SIZE XL LEFT IN STOCK.**

### 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 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 transferred to a new vehicle. Comes to us from membership coordinator Steve Paine's Business, Cape Cod Impressions. So it has to be good. Price: \$3.00 shipping included.



www.limbobus.org

While supplies last!

**LiMBO Beer Tankards**

Heavy Duty 16oz Glass (Beer) Tankards with black & 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. But now you can have one of your own! Only \$15.50 per pair (includes shipping).



**LiMBOclox**

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.



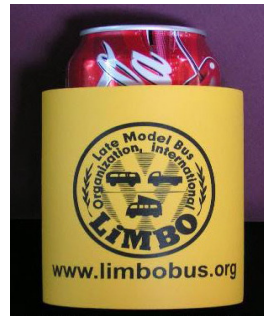
**NOW AVAILABLE ON THE LiMBOmart**

**"The LiMBO CAP"**  
A Solid Six-Panel Pigment-Dyed Cap  
Embroidered LiMBO Logo, One Size Fits All

Only \$19.50: Includes shipping to your door by Priority Mail

**The LiMBO Polar Pal**

What better way to show your LiMBO allegiance then 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.



**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).

Whitey Worsham - Owner  
Telephone: (828) 684-0684

**German Automotive**  
Highway 25, P.O. Box 517, Fletcher, North Carolina 28732

Specializing in Air and Water Cooled  
Stock & High Performance Parts & Accessories  
Complete Machine Shop Services





# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JOE ST. CROIX

**Q: How/when did you begin your love of VW's**

A: When I was 18 I had a friend who bought a 78 poptop bus, it was painted yellow with latex house paint, we took it to the carwash and power washed the yellow off and saw the sage green we are all accustomed to now. well we promptly painted it like the partridge family bus and lived in it for the winter (yeah no heat!) and then recruited another fellow and drove to California, where of course it broke down, funny how I think back to the lack of tools and experience we had.



Frankenbus

**Q: What do you have now in your inventory?**

A: Just the FrankenBus. It started as a 7 passenger kombi 2.0L F.I. in Los Angeles California I believe a company purchased it to make its own California conversion like Adventurewagen did in the late 70's. These people made this bus into the Landmark edition, with their own style interior sink and such, and the signature asylum padding. There are a few around and there's a link on the Samba to a specific forum thread on these. Anyhow (imported from Germany) then customized and sold to Russ Thor Volkswagen. I even have the original warranty booklet for the bus when it was sold in 78 with 5k miles on it! The bus went to Colorado for a spell and came to Mass I think 5 years ago, so the story goes. 3 years ago, I bought her for \$1000



and since, its gone under some major renovations to accommodate us campers, but I think she likes her new look.

**Q: What is your history of VW's owned?**

A: This is the only Bus I've had so far, but I always wanted one since those days traveling.

**Q: Where did you grow up, where do you live now?**

A: I was born in Lowell Mass and lived a time in NH but I really consider myself a visitor no matter where I am, its all just kind of on the way to where we are going.

**Q: How did you find LiMBO?**

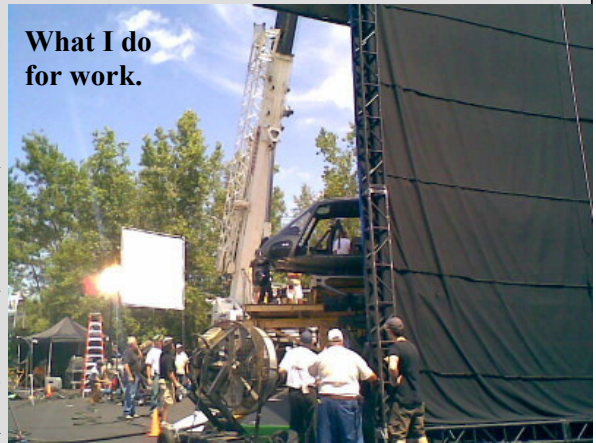
A: Jen and I were at the Granny Grose campout 2 years ago and we met Tom and Linda there. they informed us of the LiMBO family

Jen and Ava



**Q: What do you do for a living?**

A: I work for a company that provides rigging support for live events and the Film industry (above is a picture of a scene from the new Bruce Willis movie they are shooting in Mass) and yeah he's like my best buddy and stuff too. We're bros.



What I do for work.

**Q: Hobbies, interests (other than VW of course)**

A: I have been a lover of music since minute one, recent hobbies include brewing beer. funny how hobbies have a way of disappearing when you have children huh?

I just also want to include Jen and Ava I love you! (heart Papa)



AvaMae Pearl

Thanks, Joe



# 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.org. Snail mail can be sent to:

Coming Events  
c/o Linda Manion  
27 Woodward Road #6B  
Lincoln, RI 02865

## October 2008

\*\*October 10-12 (Fri-Sun, Columbus Day Weekend) Watkins Glen, New York - **Westies at Watkins 2008**. This is the seventh annual LiMBO family campout. Discover the beauty of the Watkins Glen Gorge and beautiful surrounding Finger Lakes Region of New York. Activities for all including hiking, caravanning, wine tasting, and campfire festivities. Campout is near the clubhouse at Watkins Glen State Park. For directions or more details and information on the campout, contact Joel B.Cort of the Empire State VW Camping Club at [jcort@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jcort@rochester.rr.com) or (585)-377-4161

\*\*October 12 (Sunday) Brookline, MA - **The 23rd Annual Transporterfest Volkswagen Day** at the Larz Anderson Auto Museum. **Please note- this is a NEW date.** This is a fun filled day of VWs, with the emphasis on buses, vans, and transporters. All VWs are welcome though; from 1946 through current models. Held on the historic and beautiful grounds of Larz Anderson Park, in front of the original carriage house, which is now a car museum. Food, fun, friends and plenty of great prizes are available. Pre-registration not necessary. Just come enjoy the day! Hours are 9am to 4pm. Vehicle registration: \$12. New parts vendors: \$25, used parts: \$15. Vehicle registration includes museum admission for 2 adults and kids. Saturday night camping location to be determined. Contact Stan via e-mail: [stan.wohlfarth@bentleypublishers.com](mailto:stan.wohlfarth@bentleypublishers.com) or phone 508-651-3502 Directions to the show and museum details are available here: <http://www.larzanderson.org>

October 17-19 (Fri-Sun) Lenhartsville, PA - **Kampers on the Rocks** at the Blue Rocks Campground. [www.bluerockscampground.com](http://www.bluerockscampground.com) sponsored by the Kampin Kombi VW Group. Activities include a cruise to Cabellas, Crystal Caverns, Hawk Mountain, hayride & pumpkin picking, winery tour, junkyard crawl, and Saturday night sauerbraten dinner. For reservations call 610-756-6366 and tell them you are with the VW group. The group campsite is #116. If you need a water & electric hook-up, you need to make a separate reservation. For more information, go to the event website: [www.geocities.com/kampinkombi](http://www.geocities.com/kampinkombi) Any questions, contact Patricia and Matthew Miller 908-638-8028 or email [kampinkombi@yahoo.com](mailto:kampinkombi@yahoo.com)

October 19 (Sunday) starting in Simsbury, CT - **The CVA's 10th Annual Fall Foliage Cruise**, held rain or shine. Meet at 9am at The Simsbury Fireman's Clubhouse. Cruise will wind through the scenic roads of Connecticut with a few stops along the way. Please bring a picnic lunch. There will be a dinner after the cruise for those that are interested. Come and enjoy the colors of fall with us. For additional info please contact: Jeremy Clayton (860) 539-9704 [vwbus@excite.com](mailto:vwbus@excite.com) or Joe Hughes (203) 982-6257 [vwjoehughes@yahoo.com](mailto:vwjoehughes@yahoo.com)

October 24-26 (Fri-Sun) Talladega National Forest, Alabama - **The Fifth Annual Alabama Fall Ball** at Turnipseed Hunters Camp. We will have Breakfast Burritos on Saturday Morning and a Potluck dinner that night. Plenty of hiking trails lead out of this camp ground so be sure to pack your hiking boots. Cost is only \$5 a night per bus in the honor box. You can get more details as available at [www.bamabusbrigade.com](http://www.bamabusbrigade.com) under the events forums.

## November 2008

\*\*November 23 (Sunday)- **Folding Party** at Coy's in Bristol, RI. Take advantage of this opportunity to visit this beautiful and historical Rhode Island town, and help us get out the newsletter! Details to follow. For direction, contact Coy at 401-254-2350, or [coyandlynn83@hotmail.com](mailto:coyandlynn83@hotmail.com)

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# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**BY: STEVE PAINE**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Guy Calafato, Brick, NJ</li> <li>★ Christopher Carroll, Pelham, NH</li> <li>★ Rebecca Graham, N. Billerica, MA</li> <li>★ Jim Krackzkowsky, Moodus, CT ('85 Westfalia GL)</li> <li>★ Steve Laurenzano, Palm Beach Gardens, FL</li> <li>★ John &amp; Judy Laviska, Reading, MA ('84 Westfalia)</li> <li>★ Peter Lugner, Winthrop, ME</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Daniel Mason, San Jose, CA</li> <li>★ Lisa McClellan, Stuart, FL</li> <li>★ Kelly Moore, Macomb, IL</li> <li>★ Heather Mundell, Winter Haven, FL</li> <li>★ Corey Shaw, Chambersburg, PA</li> <li>★ Matthew Sim, New Cumberland, PA</li> <li>★ Stephen Wagner, Indian Harbour Beach, FL</li> <li>★ Meredith Watson, New York, NY</li> </ul>
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# TECH CORNER

## VANAGON HEAD LIGHT RELAYS - WHY? & HOW?

BY: FRANK CONDELLI

This document will explain why and how to easily upgrade the wiring on your 1980 ~ 1985 & 1986 ~ 1991 Vanagon to have more powerful headlamp power by installing two relays to transmit high voltage power to your vehicles headlamps by bypassing the original headlamp circuit switches.

The reason for this is very simple really. The Vanagon headlamp circuit switches: ignition switch, main headlamp switch and hi/lo beam switch; are not able to handle the amperage necessary for the high draw of the standard headlamps. The contacts in these switches are too small and cause too much resistance and that along with the length of wiring in the circuit from the battery under the passenger's seat and the head lamps at the front make the voltage available at the headlamp bulbs 9.5 volts instead of the necessary 12 volts. Then, if you try to use more powerful headlamp bulbs apart from the standard two 65/45 watt hi/lo beam bulbs and the two 55 watt high beam bulbs ('86 model Vanagons only) you most definitely will have problems with the headlamp switches melting, especially the main headlamp switch and often the ignition switch headlight circuit and rarely the hi/lo beam switch, or insufficient voltage to properly illuminate the bulbs.

A simple cost efficient solution to this problem is to install relays to transmit the voltage and amperage necessary to properly and safely illuminate the standard headlamps or whatever more powerful headlamp bulbs you would like to use. The Vanagon's original headlamp switch will be used to activate the power to the headlamp dimmer switch which in turn activates the power to the relays of either the high or low beam depending on the position of the dimmer switch. Also, a clean-up of the ground return path of the headlight circuit is advisable for proper operation.

You can either buy pre-wired ready made headlamp relay kits for Vanagons. I have them on my website at <http://members.aol.com/Fkc43/hdltrela.htm> as do any one of the many other Vanagon parts sellers on the Internet. Or, you can make them yourself.

To build them yourself you will need two 12 volt, 40 amp minimum standard automotive four pin relays of good quality, two relay sockets for these relays either generic or VW OEM ones that snap onto the relay box of the '86 ~ '91 model Vanagons relay box, female spade terminals for the relay sockets, 12 and 14 gauge wire, butt connectors, insulated and non-insulated female spade terminal ends, and a good terminal end crimper that works for all types of terminal end connectors including the special terminal end connectors for the relay

sockets and a good wire stripper. A complete detailed list of components follows at the end of this document.

There are two wiring plans that follow also, one for the '80 ~ '85 Vans and one for the '86 ~ '91 Vans as their fuse boxes and wiring are different.

### Parts you will need:

1980 ~1985 Vanagons

2 - 40 amp or higher 12 volt relays, four pin.

2 - relay sockets, standard automotive type.

8 - spade, female, relay socket, terminals for 12 ~ 14 ga. wire

1 - double terminal end extender

*Note: the colors of the following wires are only to aid you in keeping things easy. They can be any color you choose or have.*

8" - #14 ga. wire, stranded copper, yellow

8" - #14 ga. wire, stranded copper, white

16" - #12 ga. wire, stranded copper, red

24" - #14 ga. wire, stranded copper, brown

2 - spade, female, terminals for 12 ga. wire

6 - spade, female, terminals for 14 ga. wire.

1986 ~ 1991 Vanagons

2 - 40 amp or higher 12 volt relays, four pin.

2 - relay sockets VW/Audi #161 937 501 B or standard automotive type.

8 - spade, female, relay socket, terminals for 12 ~ 14 ga. Wire

*Note: the colors of the following wires are only to aid you in keeping things easy. They can be any color you choose or have.*

16" - #12 ga. wire, stranded copper, red

24" - #14 ga. wire, stranded copper, brown

2 - spade, female, terminals for 12 ga. wire

4 - spade, female, terminals for 14 ga. wire.

### Installation Procedure for 1980 ~ 1985 Vanagons

12 gauge yellow wires from both relay terminals #30 goes to position # 7 as described below.

12 gauge yellow wire from first relay terminal #87 goes to fused position #4 as described below.

12 gauge yellow wire from second relay terminal #87 goes to fused position # 6 as described below.

14 gauge wires from both relay terminals #85 with un-insulated spade connector goes to ground as described below.

14 gauge yellow wire from first relay terminal #86 goes to wire removed from fused position #4 as described below.

14 gauge yellow wire from second relay terminal #86 goes to wire removed from fused position #6 as described below.

Remove the Vanagon's fuse block from the firewall under the left-hand corner of the dash by removing the large Phillips head screws on the mounting bracket. On the reverse side of the fuse block you will find at fuse position 7 a spare male terminal end, on the fused side of the fuse, where you can pick up the necessary 12 volt fused power supply for the headlights. Some people



suggest that it is better to drag an all new 12 gauge wire from the battery using a new inline fuse for this circuit but I have not found that it is necessary. The original power feed from the battery to the fuse box, if in good condition, is sufficient to provide the current needed. Fuse 7 should have a 16 amp fuse. Test with a 12 volt light tester to make sure there is 12 volts present when the ignition key is in the on position. Using a double terminal end extender connected to the free male terminal, connect one end of each of the two 8" red 12 gauge wires with a female terminal end securely crimped on each end, to this 12 volt power supply terminal. Crimp on a female spade relay socket terminal end on each of the opposite ends of the two red 12 gauge wires then plug them into the relay sockets so they line up with position 30 of the relays.



**Relay kit  
for 80-85  
Vanagon**

*\*Note\* - For Safety reasons, you should disconnect the negative terminal from your battery after doing the test for power at the terminals if you feel unsure of yourself working with the electrical circuits involved.*

Next, take two 12" 14ga. brown wires and attach one 14 ga. female spade terminal end to each of them. Then attach one female spade relay socket terminal end to each of the other ends. Locate the round grounding block on the firewall above where the fuse block was located. There should be some empty male spade terminals. Plug the brown wires on them. Run these wires to the relay sockets and insert the two female spade terminals with the brown wires attached into position 85 on each relay socket. While there, locate the two brown ground wires from the headlamps which are terminating together in one connector. If there are more than one pair you can determine which pair are for the headlights by turning on the headlights then removing one pair at a time until the headlights go out. Cut the connector off and attach one female spade connector to each wire and reconnect each one to an individual terminal on the grounding block. This will improve the return path of the electricity from the headlamps.



**Relay kit  
for  
86-91  
Vanagon**

Next, looking at the rear of the fuse box, the side that was against the firewall before you removed it, find at fuse #4 the single 12 gauge yellow w/black stripe input wire coming from the hi/lo beam switch that goes to the two fuses of the low beams of the right and left headlights. This wire should have 12v power when the low beam headlights are on and low beam headlamp fuses, #3 & #4 fuses, are removed. Remove this wire from its connector, cut off the terminal end and crimp on a new female spade relay socket terminal end then connect it to one of the relay holders at position 86. Take the 8" yellow 14 gauge wire and crimp on a female spade relay socket terminal and connect it to the same relay socket at position 87. Crimp on a female spade

terminal end to the opposite end then plug it on the terminal on back of fuse 4 where you previously removed the yellow w/black stripe wire.

Next, looking at the rear of the fuse box, the side that was against the firewall before you removed it, find at fuse #6 the single 12 gauge white input wire coming from the hi/lo beam switch that goes to the two fuses of the high beams of the right and left headlights. This wire should have 12v power when the high beam headlights are on and high beam headlamp fuses, #5 & #6 fuses, are removed. Remove this wire from its connector, cut off the terminal end and crimp on a new female spade relay socket terminal end then connect it to the other relay socket at position 86. Take the 8" white 14 gauge wire and crimp on a female spade relay socket terminal and connect it to the same relay socket at position 87. Crimp on a female spade terminal end to the opposite end then plug it on the terminal on back of fuse 6 where you previously removed the white wire.

Now, push the relays into the relay sockets. Then secure the relay holders to the fuse box or some other wires with tie wraps.

Now you're done and ready for a test. Start the vehicle and make sure the charging indicator light is out. Turn on the head lamp main switch. Activate the dimmer switch to see if you have high and low beams operating. Test the voltage at the headlamp plug if you wish, it should now be higher. If everything is satisfactory replace the fuse block on the firewall being careful to position all the wires so that there is no strain on any of them. Enjoy your new headlamp power !

If you decide to use higher wattage bulbs in your headlamps after installing the relays, you may find the fuses will burn out. If this is the case then you can install higher amperage fuses in the fuse positions for the headlamps. Use the next size higher amperage fuse. Do not go higher than necessary to keep your new bulbs from burning the fuses. Usually one size larger is needed and sufficient on the high beam circuit only.

#### **Installation Procedure for 1986 ~ 1991 Vanagons**

12 gauge yellow wires from both relay terminals #30 goes to fuse block as described below.

12 gauge yellow wire from first relay terminal #87 goes to yellow wire at fuse block as described below.

12 gauge yellow wire from second relay terminal #87 goes white wire at fuse block as described below.

14 gauge wires from both relay terminals #85 with un-insulated spade connector goes to ground as described below.

14 gauge yellow wire from first relay terminal #86 goes to yellow wire from dimmer switch as described below.

14 gauge yellow wire from second relay terminal #86 goes to white wire from dimmer switch as described below.

Remove the Vanagon's fuse block from the firewall under the left-hand corner of the dash by removing the two large Phillips

*Continued on page 14*

Continued from page 13

head screws on the mounting bracket. The metal mounting bracket needs to come along with the fuse block to give better access to the space behind.

Install the two relay sockets to the top edge of the fuse block if using the VW relay blocks. There may already be one or two fuse sockets and one relay socket there. You can move whatever is there already so that you will be able to group the two new relay sockets side by side. To move the relay socket or fuse sockets release the two locking tabs that are holding them in their mounting. If using standard automotive relay blocks you can just tie wrap them with their relays anywhere convenient.

Locate on the back of the fuse block the two red 12 ga. wires that are plugged to the two large male spade terminals on the fuse block. These will be on the lower left-hand corner of the fuse block. Just up from these two terminals are usually four unused smaller male spade terminals, sometimes some of the four are already used due to factory options or other owner installed accessories. You will have to deal with this situation on your own so that you can gain access to these terminals. Test them with a 12 volt light tester to make sure they have 12 volts present when the ignition key is in the on position. Some people suggest that it is better to drag an all new 12 gauge wire from the battery using a new inline fuse for this circuit but I have not found that it is necessary. The original power feed from the battery to the fuse box, if in good condition, is sufficient to provide the current needed. Run two 8" 12 ga. wires from two of these terminals by using the two female spade terminal ends crimped securely to the ends of the 6" 12 ga. wires, to the two relay sockets. Crimp a relay female spade terminal on the end of each of the 12 ga. wires. Then push them into position 30 on each relay socket.

*\*NOTE\* - For Safety reasons, you should disconnect the negative terminal from your battery after doing the test for power at the terminals if you feel unsure of yourself working with the electrical circuits involved.*

Next, take two 12" 14ga. brown wires and attach one 14 ga. female spade terminal end to each of them. Then attach one female spade relay socket terminal end to each of the other ends. Locate the round grounding block on the firewall above where the fuse block was located. There should be some empty male spade terminals. Plug the brown wires on them. Run these wires to the relay sockets and insert the two female spade terminals with the brown wires attached into position 85 on each relay socket. While there, locate the two brown ground wires from the headlamps which are terminating together in one connector. If there is more than one pair you can determine which pair is for the headlights by turning on the headlights then removing one pair at a time until the headlights go out. Cut the connector off and attach one female spade connector to each wire and reconnect each one to an individual terminal on the grounding block. This will improve the return path of the electricity from the headlamps.

Remove the plastic cover from the underside of the steering column, two screws and spring clipped in place, to expose the

wiring to the turn signal/dimmer switch. Locate the 12 ga. white and yellow wires leading to the switch. Follow these two wires back to the fuse block. Cut these two wires so that the four resulting wire ends will reach the relay sockets. Crimp a female spade relay socket terminal end onto each of the ends of the four wires. The yellow wire from the switch goes to position 86 on one relay socket and the yellow wire from the fuse block goes to position 87 on the same relay socket. The white wire from the switch goes to position 86 on the other relay socket and the white wire from the fuse block goes to position 87 on the same relay socket.

Now you're done and ready for a test. Start the vehicle and make sure the charging indicator light is out. Turn on the head lamp main switch. Activate the dimmer switch to see if you have high and low beams operating. Test the voltage at the headlamp plug if you wish, it should now be higher. If everything is satisfactory replace the fuse block on the firewall being careful to position all the wires so that there is no strain on any of them. Replace the steering column plastic cover. Enjoy your new headlamp power !

If you decide to use higher wattage bulbs in your headlamps after installing the relays, you may find the fuses will burn out. If this is the case then you can install higher amperage fuses in the fuse positions for the headlamps. Use the next size higher amperage fuse. Do not go higher than necessary to keep your new bulbs from burning the fuses. Usually one size larger is needed and sufficient on the high beam circuit only.

Also, check the condition of the bulb sockets. Often as these vehicles age the wires and connectors in the headlamp sockets are corroded especially in the '86 ~ '91 models and will add resistance which impedes proper illumination of the bulbs. Sometimes they can just be cleaned with phosphoric acid and sometimes it is necessary to install new pigtail sockets. These are usually available from any good automotive store such as NAPA. Try to get the best quality ones you can and ones with 12 ga. wires are preferable to those with 14 ga. wires. When installing these pigtail sockets use heat shrink covered butt connectors to insure a good sealed joint.

Frank Condelli  
Almonte, Ontario, Canada  
[Fkc43@aol.com](mailto:Fkc43@aol.com)  
[www.frankcondelli.com](http://www.frankcondelli.com) – Vanagon Service & Parts in the Ottawa Valley.

<p><b>Frank Condelli &amp; Associates</b> <b>RR #2, 1873 Concession 8</b> <b>Almonte, Ontario, K0A 1A0</b> <b>613-256-6763</b></p> <p><a href="mailto:Fkc43@aol.com">Fkc43@aol.com</a>      <a href="http://www.frankcondelli.com">www.frankcondelli.com</a></p> <p><b>VW Vanagon &amp; Vanagon Westfalia Repair &amp; Renovation in the Ottawa Valley</b></p> <p>*All mechanical &amp; cosmetic repairs *Waterboxer engine rebuilding *Stainless Steel Waterboxer Exhaust Systems *Complete parts sales *Manufacturing of specialty item *Pre-purchase inspection *See my <a href="http://www.frankcondelli.com">www.frankcondelli.com</a> website for complete details</p>
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# THE SWAP AREA

## Available or Wanted Submissions

As a member of LiMBO you are entitled to a free classified ad each month. 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 indicate on page 2 of this issue.

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### FOR SALE:

1988 VW Vanagon Westfalia, 128,510 miles. Body and interior in Great condition, have to see it to believe it! Automatic Transmission. New since 2004: New rebuilt "Go Westy" 2.2 engine 8,000 miles (have all the parts/labor information), New Sunbrella canvas tent top with three windows. New 16 inches retro fit tires. New brakes, new front shocks and upper ball joint. New rear hatch struts. New CD/AM/FM radio and two new front speakers. New propane tank that meets Federal Standards. New battery. Non-smoker's vehicle. Fuel gauge and passenger electric window needs repair. For sale \$11,900 or best offer. Lots of pictures. For more info, contact Jelane Kennedy at: [jkenn1010@yahoo.com](mailto:jkenn1010@yahoo.com) or call (518) 482-4921. Located in New York.



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# 7TH ANNUAL DIXIE BUS GATHERING

Mt. Vernon, Ohio  
August 7-10, 2008

By: Frank E. Biffith III



Wow! Thanks to all that enabled this event to happen and thrive. The fire took care of itself, thanks to Paul (Side Show Bob) and my welcoming committee Baker, Rooster, Sixer, and Chuck. The chili committee was right on; Six, Uncle Larry, Syracuse & Jim (the stirrer).

We had a small community fire for the campers, and some country music by Toby. I don't think our crowd much liked the music. Thank you to the breakfast club, Mark aka Bruce, Regina, Six, Chuck, Tim and Rooster...who'd I forget.

We had a raffle, and some fool won the wonderful creation that Pam put together (quilt). I hear \$200 was raised for St Judes kids. Looks like we have a nice tradition to keep up.

Against all odds, we had a carabus to the Volksfest show in Columbus... too bad Haydens Pristine 66 had to be last in line on the

gravel road...12 buses later and a cloud of dust!

Side Show honored us with a kilt. That was a beauty..I am jealous. I got scolded by Kristen early Saturday morning... Here's my advice to you Ms. Kristen...sleep farther away from the community fire place.

We had lots of new folks and few old time returnees. Robert and Julie in Chasin Racin, Rick and Rick from Michigan, The Steele clan, glad you guys made the trip, of course Syracuse from 600 miles away. The Leak Oil guys, Greg and ??, Ken and ??, Regina and Keith, Cristy and her brother, Brad and his girl, Hayden and Alex from Cumberland Md, a couple of other leak oil guys in the green Sages', Don and his daughter, Beau and Amy, Beau was happy I left my cooler unlocked on Saturday evening.

I hear Regina gave the boys a lesson at bocce, and Nancy taught school to Rooster and Henkel on CornHole. Story has it that Jess enjoyed her beverages Friday eve.

Thank you everyone for coming and spending your time with us. We appreciate it.

Pictures located at: <http://s267.photobucket.com/albums/ii309/hapybus/Dixie%202008/>

## PARTING SHOTS: VW SIGHTINGS BRAD & ANDREA RASSO'S ALASKA TRIP JULY 2008



Brad stands alongside this Orly Blue camper (photo above) from Colorado. It is the "sister ship" to our Blue Max, so we had to check it out, while in Valdez. We were hoping the owners would show up to chat with, but no such luck.

This European LT Camper (aka: the Karmann Missouri) was spotted on the highway in Anchorage as soon as we got on the road from renting our RV. We followed behind it for a while, but was finally able to get in front so we could take a picture of its front.



This European Renault (photo to the right) has a German Eriba camper conversion. It was spotted in Seward alongside the "Alemania".



Dubbed the Alemania, this green European Eurovan is outfitted with matching green gas can, and green child's ride on toy.

