

# THE TRANSPORTER



**The Official Newsletter of LIMBO;  
The Late Model Bus Organization, International**

Volume 23, Issue #1

January /February 2010

## AMERIKANDO

Franck and Iris Thibaud Köchig travelling through the Americas and beyond!



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# The Transporter Volume 23, Issue 1

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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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# Views From The Windshield



By: Andrea Rasso

Happy New Year to all. Here on Long Island, we've encountered much snow fall already. A blizzard swept through this past December with record accumulations for us. The town I live in received the most snow of all.

Jan. 2010 makes for almost 2 years that I have been doing the newsletter. The decision for me to continue has been one met with debate between me, myself and I. With the annual meeting just around the corner (well, it will have taken place by the time you read this). I will have reported to the board that I plan to continue for at least another yearly term.

Now, on to this issue. As you read Letters to the Editor, my friend Fred Williams made inquiry to more (if not all) cover-in color issues. I would be interested in how many who receive a paper version would also like more color editions. His letter was discussed prior to printing, and as you can see, we did indeed print another "cover-in-color" issue.

Page 4, Paul Abdis continues with Part II to his "Not Just Another Bus Story". It is never a surprise that VW folks are always willing to lend a hand with no expectation of anything in return. Which brings me to my next story.

We met new friends, Franck and Iris who you've already seen on the cover. What a wild story of "Amerikando" (see page 8). If you have not already heard of them from the Samba or other websites, their story is truly a trip to live vicariously through. On the road for nine months already, they have only been met with kindness from so many people. People have opened their homes up to them, as well as help with bus repair. I am sure many of you will log onto their blog and follow them as they continue to travel. I will also cover their travels in future editions as well.

Besides Amerikando, Frank and Rita Condelli are on a road trip themselves, down from Canada to the west coast and then down to Mexico. I've included the URL for their blog (see page 11) so you can follow along on their escapades too.

I love Jon's story on page 5 as he recollects the tornado that ripped his bus apart back in the '70's. Steve (aka Oatmeal) makes me laugh with his story of "Johnny Law" in his column (page 7).

Other articles include: Member Spotlight with the Weikels, James's Bus which attracts yellow jackets, campout review in PA, all the way up to the back page where Colorado member Richard Jones shares photos from his trip to Turkey.

Happy Reading...and let me hear from you....it helps inspire me to keep the editions flowing.

Andrea



## LIMBO LETTERS

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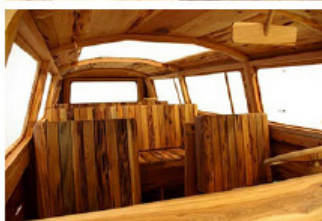


Hi Folks,

Attached are some fun bus photos that just came my way that I thought you would be interested in seeing (some you may already have, and some you may not of).

Enjoy!!

G.Miller Smyth  
Brielle, NJ



Andrea,

I recently saw and have read a COLOR version of the Transporter. What a difference it makes. Our colorful VW's seem just right for a color publication. So...what would color for all copies add to the cost of each edition and I have been getting many direct mail- and other publications simply folded over, and held closed by a tape sticker with the address label stuck on- all to lower mailing costs. Why not look at this option and layout change to accommodate COLOR?

Cordially,  
Fred Williams

*Editor's Note: Fred, I will ask the board to look into committing to more color options for the upcoming year. I agree too, that color editions look incredible (as does this issue). Those with internet membership do get the entire pdf file in full color.*

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# Not Just Another Bus Story - Part 2

by Paul Abdis

If you think back a few months you read part 1 of this story right here in this newsletter. It explained how some members of the LiMBO along with some Long Island Volkswagen Club



m e m b e r s were “co-operating” to get a 72 bus, belonging to a young Scottish scientist, back on the road. Steve S. and I had removed the expired engine and were getting

ready to work on the engine donated by LiMBO member, Rich Macensky. Don, a co-president of LIVC, invited us to use his garage and we were joined by Patrick, the other LIVC co-president (and professional, modern, VW mechanic). We worked for 4 or 5 evenings getting the donor engine ready by cleaning, torquing hardware, and replacing seals. One of the parts that needed to be moved over from the seized engine to the donor was the oil filter adaptor. When I removed it I found at least one reason for the engine’s demise, the gasket for the oil filter adaptor was installed improperly and was blocking oil flow.

I find it amazing the previous owners could drive from Pennsylvania to Long Island with it like that, but then again, the oil pressure light wasn’t hooked up, so who knows. We also replaced both crankshaft seals, pushrod tube seals, valve cover seals, oil cooler seals and installed a new oil sump screen and seal kit along with oil drain plug seal. During our work sessions we also found that the engine had been fitted with hydraulic lifters at some time in it’s life so we didn’t yet do anything with valve adjustment.

With the end of our garage, work sessions Steve and I focused on getting the engine installed. I’m embarrassed to say that after getting the engine in place, we realized that we had forgotten to move 2 lower mounting studs from the old engine to the new one. That meant that we had to drop the engine out a second time to screw in those studs, oh well. A few more work sessions to connect wires, hoses and cables and we were ready to start it up.

Since Steve had charged up the battery the engine turned over fine but it just wouldn’t fire. We went through the 3 basics of air, fuel, and ignition and didn’t find anything wrong, at first. In the end we needed to turn the body of the after market distributor 180 degrees and then the engine fired right up...but oh what a clatter! And the noise wasn’t the only issue, there were some oil leaks

from items we hadn’t worked on.

Come another day and we dealt with the leaks,. The valves had quieted down quite a bit and we decided it was time for a test drive. Steve and I jumped in and headed down the long driveway.

We didn’t go far before realizing this bus had other problems too. A few trips up and down the driveway and we parked the bus back in it’s parking spot. There was a problem with the front end, or steering, that we felt through the steering wheel. We took a quick look at the front end but didn’t see anything obvious and decided the bus needed the attention of a professional to tackle that problem. We advised the young owner that we thought she shouldn’t drive the bus the way it was and gave her a short list of the problems we knew about.



I haven’t heard what she did with her VW but I’m sure spending more money on it wasn’t in her original plans. Instead of getting depressed and thinking that all of our work was for nothing I’m looking on the bright side, how a group of VW enthusiasts came together to help out another owner. It’s always good to know that we belong to a community of people who are willing to go out of their way to help each other. That’s as far as the story goes right now, but I’m wishing you all many happy miles in these cars that we’ve come to enjoy so much.

Since I typed the above, I’ve heard from the young lady who owns the bus. She said that she’s getting her finances in order, and hopes to take her ’72 to a professional mechanic before too long. So who knows, maybe in the end there’ll be another bus at some of the LiMBO campouts.

Look for an all white camper driven by a young lady with a Scottish accent!



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## Kleckner's Korner By: Jon Kleckner

" Student Escapes Tornado, Escape a Miracle" was the title of the newspaper article recounting the 1973 event.

By the time I was at the University of Georgia student teaching at the high school level I had been driving VW vans for some 6 years. At this time, putting together cars with modified drive trains and everything else was the norm. I was a poor college student for 5 years, and barely existing on the income made in the short summer as a VW mechanic.

After leaving Dean College in Franklin, Mass. in 1970, my hopes of going into pre-med had changed to education and I took a chance to go further from home to continue another degree in Georgia. The one-owner '63 beetle was the first car I put together to take to Georgia. In January 1971 I packed all of my belongings. I didn't know anyone, and had never been to the south. Lester Madox was governor, preceding Jimmy Carter. It was indeed 'old school', politics, and race relations were in a major change. I was a 'Yankee', yet in this large university town, there were others from several locales there, and I slowly adjusted to it. I found it to be enjoyable.

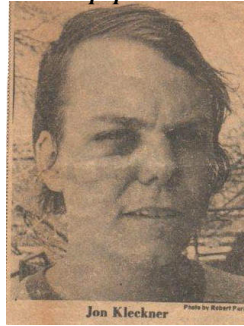
It seemed to be an extension of the 1960's, with many free thinkers, intellectuals, and artists, who made me feel at home. Just outside Athens, in the country, there was a fair share of 'hillbillies and rednecks', several of whom I befriended. I found it to be more culturally diverse than in most sections of Europe.

Upon my second year there, I was restoring old homes. One night, I was taking a shower in my triplex that I had just converted and heard a big crash. I ran to the door to see my Beetle smashed on the front lawn. The driver of the other car was driving away. I had no choice but to run after him in the nude, grab the wheel, and stop him. He was extremely drunk, so I took the keys, called the cops, and eventually received an insurance check to buy the 1959 Kombi (for \$80 ). This is the van that took its last 'ride' into the center of the tornado.

The '59 was a walk-through, making it a good candidate for a camper, so I proceeded to make it into one. It turned out great. I used it for over a year, and had it going 60 to 70 mph all over the eastern US. I even had a modified gas heater in it, making the winter driving enjoyable. In February of 1973 my friends came up with the idea of going to Mardi-Gras, so the 4 of us went. We parked on Bourbon street for a few days and had a great time. That was its last trip, but it was the last time parking was allowed within the city for the yearly Mardi-Gras event.

Athens, Ga. is not home to 'Tornado Alley'. The alley is part of the mid-west. In fact, the last tornado to hit the town was 25 years previous to the 1973 one, so I had been under the impression the chances of me being in one are near zero. Yet, while driving one night at 6PM in late March on the 4 lane 'by-pass', an intense rain came at me quickly. Then there was a loud roar, followed with intense winds. Within seconds I realized I was in a tornado. I thought I would

Photo from '73 newspaper article



be dead real soon. Then, within a second or two, I thought I could be a paraplegic, which is worse. My only choice was to run-and get away-fast, for the van was about to be blown away. During my exit, I had the brake on, but the van was still moving. I remember pushing the door open and it slamming me in the face. I finally got out and ran fast-to find something to hold on to. I found a small tree and squeezed so tight. I thought I was going to be blown away. Within seconds, the tornado was gone, and I got my big chance to escape, with only some blood from a cut on my head. I looked around for the van and saw no trace of it. Looking forward to an overpass, I noticed emergency vehicles with lights about 2/10<sup>ths</sup> of a mile away. I ran to them. There were large primary power lines down on the highway, sparking between us, which I made my way around. I then saw 2 nurses yelling at me near a Mustang at the overpass, and offered me a ride to the hospital. I quickly jumped in. At this time I was bleeding a lot, and wanted to move, fast. The girls seemed frantic, and not competent to drive, so from the passenger seat I drove the car to the hospital with my left foot and left hand.



Upon entering the hospital, they gave me a wheel chair which I quickly gave to others in more need. There was blood all over the place. Several people getting were getting sewn up while others with more dire needs were still waiting. I prolonged 'till later for my stitches. After my release, my friend came and we secured a tow truck to find the van. It took some time to locate. It was about 60 ft. off the bypass, and about 300 ft from point of liftoff, in the woods. The seats were torn out, doors peeled off, suspension bent in, roof crushed, and engine/trans torn out. There are some parts to this date still missing. It seemed to be picked up very high

in the funnel, though one never knows how high.

During the aftermath of the tornado, my pilot friend and I flew over the stricken area; very narrow, and about 2 miles through town. Some brick buildings were blown down, numerous houses flattened and everything tossed. Luckily, there was only one death. Prior to the tornado, there was only a 'watch' posted, and I had the radio on, waiting for any warning. However, these were the last days when there was no satellite warning system for weather systems in the U.S.

A year later, in April, a 'super outbreak' of most powerful tornados ever recorded to date took place. They were centered around Xenia, Ohio, where 315 people were killed and over 5,000 injured. This has the amount of force that sucks everything out of holes, giving little chance of escape. They sound like a freight train, and it's worse if it takes place in the dark. One month after the first hit, while I was asleep, a second tornado came through town. After pondering spending my life in Georgia, I changed my mind and moved back to the New York City area where I could feel safe.

There are no words to express my good fortune in escaping this extreme accident. It is indeed good to be alive, and to have learned that at an early age.





# Member Spotlight: Ken (and Malissa) Weikel

### Where do you live?

We live in FLEETWOOD, PA

### Tell us about your family:

Wife, Malissa; Children, Genevieve (5) and Trent (almost 4)

### What do you do for a living :

I am a Systems Technician for Verizon. Malissa works part-time as a bookkeeper for a high end, custom woodworking company



Malissa and Genny

### How did you get into VW's– the history of your VW addiction:

Malissa was pushing for a magic bus. The more I researched, the more I decided this would be a fun hobby. We purchased our 1989 GL on Ebay for \$600 with hopes of restoring it. After installing many new parts and learning how to get around mechanically, I determined there was a head gasket issue. Around the same time, Malissa's uncle, an avid VW enthusiast and owner of many, many VW buses over the years, found the Vanagon of his dreams....the 'flag' Westy. He was looking to sell his 1989 Carat, which was a daily driver. We jumped on the opportunity to own a van in decent shape. We bought the Carat from him and not long after, ended up installing a remanufactured engine. We are still working on getting it in top running order. There are still some minor issues here and there. I do the majority of the work on it myself and enjoy (although frustrating at times) working on it.



Malissa's  
Uncle's Bus

### What is in your current fleet?

1989 VW Vanagon Carat self-converted to Weekender, 1989 Vanagon GL (parts car) and a 2006 VW Jetta (daily driver)

### Any notable, fun stories you wish to share?

You've read about our pop top conversion in an earlier edition this past year, and we will continue to make improvements to suit the needs of our family. We enjoy the many modifications we have made to the interior. Most

recently we installed plank laminate flooring to replace the carpeting. We have met wonderful people as we continue to travel to camping events in the Mid-Atlantic area and hope that we can travel further as the vehicle gets more and more reliable for us.

We recently took up recreational kayaking and enjoy spending time with our fellow bus/boating gang...two hobbies that go well together. We also enjoy music festivals and have made 2 trips to the annual moe.down festival held in Turin, NY and hope to make the trip again next year. Our van has been good to us and we have only had minor setbacks on the road...including a coolant leak requiring quick thinking repairs (using magic tape) in the parking lot of a gas station just an hour into our trip home from Natural Bus in VA 2 years ago. We had another coolant leak on the way to our first moe.down which lead us to a great import garage which went out of their way to patch us up and send us safely on our way.

We host several campouts, look out for them: Jim Thorpe PA, and Bustoberfest at Blue Rocks.



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# View from the Wheelhouse

By: Steve Herman

Looks like y'all got more snow there in the north East. We only got a foot here in PA and "Nedrick" the Snowblower ran w/o a problem (year-old premium still in the tank, fired right up). Here is a story that relates to Buskateers being hassled by "Johnny Law".

Exclusive: Dateline Abington, PA.....

My fuel injection started acting squirrely after the Tohickon Water Release Campout (my local club doesn't even know about this, neither does FMBC). I developed a hard-starting problem. Fuel pressure/cold-start/ignition coil tests (it had spark) revealed that there was no discernible problem. That's when the EV quit in greater downtown Abington, Pa. The EV quit on day three (3) of "I've got a bad cold and I ain't coming to work. Period!" I managed to get it off of the main drag and as I was calling my boss for the 2nd time that day I got voice mail (yes) and left a message that I would once again be out. Never mind the doctor's excuse...does AAA write excuses? Bluebird (my wife Lorraine) and I are platinum AAA members, so when the EV quit runnin' (no power, rpms dropping as the throttle is depressed further, no power), I was smart enough to get the truck off of the main drag (ever push a "dead" EV by yourself? You get smart in a hurry, trust me) so that it could be towed home.

So...as I was calling my boss to let him know I wasn't comin' in today, I look up and Johnny Law is pullin' up. Great!!!. So there I am, "dead" EV loaded with camping gear from the Tohickon event and now, two (2) of Abington's finest at my door. I explained to both "oscifers" that the only reason I was parked there was because the motor wasn't runnin' right. I didn't feel safe runnin' it like this (hence, why I pulled it off of the main drag) and that I was gonna call AAA and get it towed home.

Johnny said, "Do you have any i.d.?" I handed him my driver's license, registration and insurance card. Johnny came back and said that my bus wasn't registered to me. I replied that he better check again because he was mistaken. About this time, Johnny's best friend Jimmy pulled up in his cruiser, so now I got two of 'em. Johnny came back and asked me if I lived in my truck, to which I explained that this was a Eurovan, a multivan, a hardtop camper... and no, I have a house. Johnny then wanted to know if I ever had been arrested. I replied that outside of traffic violations, that I have never been arrested (there haven't been any war protests so there ain't no reason to get arrested and yeah, I voted Democrat and I also did 6 years in the NAV, so what?). Johnny wanted to know if there were any outstanding warrants against me. Hello "oscifer" my truck broke down, so I'm gonna get it towed home is what I am screaming inside. Out loud however, I replied that to the best of my knowledge there were no warrants against me.

Next question by Johnny was, "So you're up-to-date with your tickets?" My reply was that unless there are some I don't know about as far as I know, I am up-to-date. Johnny then asked if I was carrying any concealed weapons (you know, guns). I replied that no, I wasn't carrying any guns because I don't currently have a carry permit. Things got really quiet, 'cause Johnny wasn't expecting this hippie to be a freak too.

When the "oscifers" got confirmation that there were indeed no warrants (as I knew they would), Johnny then asked me if the EV would start, and damned if it didn't. I then told Johnny which roads I would use to try and get home by. Thank God Johnny followed me, because the EV quit two (2) minutes later on the busiest street in Abington. Johnny then proved real useful, because he and his buddy got to push my bus off the road in dangerous rush hour traffic instead of waiting for AAA towing. Who says cops aren't useful/can't learn anything?

I'm still working out the fuel injection, it's hard to find people who work on ECM's/fuel injection. I'll keep you posted. Bluebird really likes busses and she wants me to fix it. I just can't wait to get it running again, so I can let my new friends Johnny and Jimmy in Abington know I'm there every time I go by.

Stay tuned for updates....see you on the road.



Oatmeal

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# Amerikando

By: Andrea Rasso

*This article is a compilation of both written text from Amerikando web blog and interview with Franck and Iris.*

## Introduction:

There will always time for work—indeed for some people 30 to 40 years of work before retirement... and then the dream of travel. Why not travel first, and work later?

This is exactly what newlyweds Iris & Franck Thibaud Köchig are in the midst of doing. As I compile this article, they have travelled from Argentina to New York. After sitting down and talking with them, I've found out that their trip has just begun.....

Before discussing their journey, where they have been and where they plan to go, I wanted to find out exactly what the title Amerikando was (my assumption was it was the name of their bus)...What did it mean?

The word Amerikando is a word of Franck and Iris's creation (just like VW creating the word Fahrvergnügen) and is an interpretation of the journey they are on. A verb, it is the act of being/doing/travelling through the America's. In English it would translate to read "America-ing". The k in place of the c is for the **K**ombi they are travelling in. The extra bonus was that it also seems to be a play on words.....

We "CAN DO America".

## The Beginning:

Franck (now, an urban developer) from the coastal city of Brest, France came to Argentina as a prospective student. It was during a tango lesson in Iris's home town of

Mar del Plata that he met Iris (now a math teacher, like myself) in 2005, and have been together ever since.

They began to study, work, and save for the craziest of dreams: to travel around the Americas driving an old 1982 (made in Argentina) Bay Window Kombi with an upright engine.

Destination: New York. Before heading back to Argentina, they set a loose course to circle the US "counter-clockwise".

## The Trip Begins:

One month after being married in February 2009, they embarked on their journey. The feeling of infinite freedom was indeed met with some difficulties in the beginning. During the very first day of the trip, the

transmission needed to be rebuilt and two weeks later, in a fuel station close to the Brazilian border, their bus engine went on fire!

Through the generosity of new friends that they met (such as Fabio and his employees), a failed mission was avoided. During the next week after the fire, they lived in the Fabio's repair garage, fixing, sanding and painting the van.

Back on the road, they headed into Brazil and found it to be a giant and amazing country. During the trip, Franck and Iris

have been emailing and contacting VW clubs across the Americas in hopes of meeting up with others who share the love of VW's and travelling, and perhaps would wish to host them. In Caracas and Merida, they met people from the local VW clubs. In Merida, they spent one entire week in Reinaldo's garage, taking care of the bus.



On the first day of the trip in Pampa, Argentina



Engine fire



The next country they entered was Colombia. They had heard many scary things about this country and had the surprise to discover just the opposite. There were very friendly people as well as beautiful and diverse landscapes.

Nevertheless, entering Colombia meant they would have to find a way to cross the border into Panamá. There is no road that cuts through the “rain forest” and the border is controlled by the guerrilla! They had to resort to putting the bus on a cargo boat and with four other travelers taking a sailboat from Columbia to Panama. Sailing from one deserted island to the next, they can only explain it like “what you see in the movies”. One more time in their travels, one of the biggest obstacles was transformed into an unforgettable memory.

### Into Central America and Mexico:

Now in Panama and back into their bus, they continue on to Costa Rica and Nicaragua which afford landscapes of volcanoes, beautiful beaches and rain forest. They were met with more engine problems, and met a new friend, Samuel; a VW specialist, who did the work for free— just to help Franck and Iris continue their dream.

As to date, their favorite country of all the trip was Mexico. They met an amazing quantity of people (especially from the VW clubs) and the country was just amazingly beautiful. People were waiting for to meet them in all the cities they went to. Meeting with VW clubs in Mexico, Franck and Iris were presented with gifts from their new friends; a new trunk for the roof as well as a new GPS. It is definitely a country they will go back and visit in the future. There were a lot of things they did not get to see as well as new friends they would love to revisit with.

### Into the United States:

Right before the US border into Texas, they were met with



some electrical issues that they were able to work out. When finally arriving at the US border and getting through customs (without incident), one of the first things they notice in the US (from all the countries they just were) was the quantity of stores, the lighted billboards along the roads and the amazing number of fast food chains. Stops in some Texas and Tennessee cities as well as driving along back US roads (all capable of the GPS they received) allowed them to meet with many more new friends, new terrain, new landscape and new culture— to them like a new planet.



### Fast Forward to New York:

Franck and Iris got to New York as they had dreamed of, making their way to their “base” in Freeport, Long Island, to the home of fellow V-Dub owner Manny Hernandez (many of you know him from the Samba as Manny66). From here, Franck and Iris are easily able to take the train into Manhattan— the city they had waited so long to meet. They arrive just in time to experience a record breaking blizzard for Long Island, as well as spend New Year’s Eve in the Big Apple.



They have had contact with several of my local VW clubs and have met new friends. LiMBO members Steve and Maria took them on a tour to the Botanical Gardens in Brooklyn, as well as a stop to Yankee Stadium.

Brad and I spent one evening with Franck and Iris at Manny’s home. We shared in some wine and good conversation. I presented them with a glass LiMBO mug, a LiMBO decal, and Buses by the Big Duck decal. While all the windows in their panel bus are already filled with decals, hopefully they will find room for a few more. Seeing from photos that Iris has been bundled up in a scarf quite often, I gave her a new scarf as well.

*(Continued on page 10)*



(Continued from page 9)

It was then that I found out their original plan of just the America's has been "upgraded". Their original plan was to spend nine months on the road— go to New York and back. Being on the road now, for nine months, they plan to spend up to another year on the road.

**The New Plan:**

After leaving New York (they will be gone by the time you read this), they plan to head south to Florida, then west through the southern tier of the US into California. There, they will plan to transport their bus via cargo ship to Russia (they will have to fly). Then the loose plan is to drive through countries including Russia, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and then head south through Georgia, Turkey, Istanbul, Greece, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Belgium and their final destination of France where they will take residence in Brest which is Franck's city of origin.

Their time frame and route is not "set in stone" because the generosity of new (VW) friends who they meet via internet that offer hosting, can easily alter their route/plans.

They had thought of this "world" plan from the start, but were not sure at the time, if their dream was too big of an undertaking.

But now, seeing that every problem has been met with a solution and that they have only been met with the kindness of new friends along the way, they have a positive outlook that they can overcome any obstacle in the way.

And...since they plan to reside in France, this is a way of uniting their families, by way of the world with their VW Bus.

What I was quite happy to hear about, was that Franck and Iris who originally bought the bus for the sole purpose of the trip, had the plan to sell it when their trip was over. They now have realized they can not part from the little bus that has been their residence for the last nine months.

**An Excerpt from their Blog:**

When the night comes, when we speak between us in the bed before we sleep, we always say that we want this trip to help us become better people. It's not so easy, but the world shows us the way. It's not so bad that we used to think (*about the world being big, unfamiliar, even scary*). Even if our newspapers always speak of the dramatic events that take place all around the world (do your ever

see breaking news for "good" news?), we see with our own eyes and live with our own hearts that there is much beauty, solidarity and friendship in this world. This trip makes us feel that we're transforming our lives in ONE destiny and it's probably one of the prettiest things we have ever done.



In Steve and Maria's Eurovan to Brooklyn

**To Be Continued:**

Just prior to printing, the Long Island VW Club held a meet and greet with Franck and Iris. Besides Brad and myself,



Franck vending shirts, photos, postcards and decals at a car show in Mexico to help fund their trip. Log on to their website to view their products.

fellow LIMBO members Steve and Maria as well as Paul (author of p. 4 article) and his wife Kathy attended. The club presented them with an official LIVC jacket, t-shirts and decals, while Brad and I presented them with a tote full of canned goods and camp provisions for the next leg of their journey. With one week left on Long Island before heading south, a few more gatherings are planned with the

Long Island VW Club. You can read all about it, as well as their continued journey in the next edition of the newsletter.

If you cant wait that long, however, you can log onto: [www.Amerikando.com](http://www.Amerikando.com) now. There is a link their Facebook page as well. There are links to view the merchandise they sell while on the road, and a Paypal link if you wish to help sponsor their dream.

Want to send correspondence? You can email them at: [amerikando@hotmail.com](mailto:amerikando@hotmail.com), they will answer you back!



Franck, Iris, Brad and Andrea at LIVC meet up



# 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 want to become a rep for your area, please contact me with contact info on page 2. Thanks. *Tom Power*

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Before painting

## JAMES'S YELLOW JACKET MAGNET

By: James Gelbman

Hello to all the VW's and their owners. My name is James Gelbman from Larchmont, NY, and I own a '76 Westy. I have owned the camper for 5+ years and the camper has seen 75,000 miles. I was looking for a Westy for 15+ years and every one that I looked at was rotted so badly.

It was during a cross country trip that I finally found mine. It was in San Francisco. I hauled it back to NY. I was lucky...the

person I bought it from had purchased it himself to restore. He had the Westy for 15 years but did nothing with it. He had plans of fixing it up to go camping with his son. But...soccer and football got in the way.

After getting it home, my friend who has a shop (named "Pitstop") in Yonkers, NY worked on it. He removed the fuel injection and replaced it with a single Weber carburetor and manifold, bolted it up, and the motor started right up. He laughed because a family of field mice had made home in the camper and pieces of mice came out of the tailpipe.

It took 5 years to finally get it painted. Seeing the bus was painted School Bus Yellow and I decided to paint it another color. I wound up painting it Safety Yellow. Unfortunately, now it attracts yellow jackets...so I may have to paint it another color soon.

I will have to thank Dale Ward and others that make the hobby easier. I have been in the hobby for 40+ years and have owned antique and show cars as the years have gone by. I have travelled through the country going to shows, but I have always loved the VW's. I want to finally make my bus a functional camper. My next project will be the interior— oatmeal rugs with tan seats and door panels.

Maybe it's the hippie in me, but this vehicle is the bomb. I drive it daily and love it!



After painting

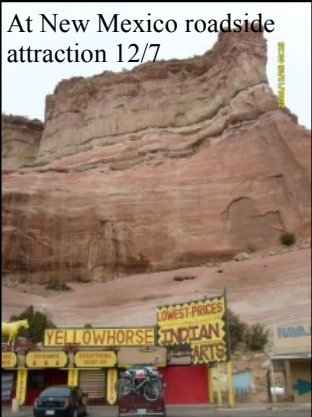
# Frank and Rita's Winter 2009-2010 Travels



## Blog Entry: Sunday, November. 15; The Beginning.....




Folks, Rita, Hunter & I are about to embark on another travel adventure in our trusty 1987 VW Vanagon Westfalia for the next five months or so. We plan on leaving Almonte on Tuesday November 17 or Wednesday November 18, heading for the Pittsburgh, PA. area to visit my mom and sister in New Kensington for a week or so. Then heading across the US probably from Pittsburgh to Columbus to St. Louis to Oklahoma City to Albuquerque to Flagstaff to Bakersfield then to the Santa Cruz area of California.




We plan to spend Christmas with our daughter April, husband Sal and now seven month old Owen Kai in Watsonville. Then after Christmas we head for Mexico's West Coast, ending up in La Manzanilla where we will stay a while. Travel will be slow and options are open for side adventures along the planned route across the US and on into Mexico. Then once in La Manzanilla we will probably stay a while, meet up with good friends; Mike & Marianne who live there. Along with them we will head for Oaxaca to spend some time there. Then on to the Yucatan area to Bacalar to meet up with friends Tony and Eileen, who spend their winters there. We will help Tony out with his van's new engine transplant. Then we are on to Cozumel to meet more friends; John & Michele who have a place there. By the end of March or early April we will start heading back home to be back home for the end of April to run my Vanagon repair business for the summer.

That's the rough outline of our plans and of course we make no pledge to anyone to adhere to these plans. Day by day and circumstances will certainly make their changes. We will have a blog again, thanks to Jonathan Poole, so you will be able to keep up with our adventures. The address of the Blog is [www.westfaliatravels.com](http://www.westfaliatravels.com) so bookmark it and subscribe to it so you will be notified of any postings. The Blog will also be linked from all of my web pages at [www.frankcondelli.com](http://www.frankcondelli.com) so you can always find it there. And of course we can always be reached by email, or our Canadian cell at: 613-297-5051 but will not be good in Mexico. Our Mexican cell is: 315-109-4147

*Editor's Note: This is just the first entry of Frank and Rita's blog. Log on, and read up -to -date entries of their travels thus far.*



## COOKIN' OVER THE CAMPFIRE



### Corned Beef and Cabbage


You will need 4 lbs corned beef which you can make this a few days beforehand at home (or just buy it). To make the Corned Beef yourself you need:

1/2 cup salt	1/4 cup pickling spice
1/2 cup sugar	4 lbs beef brisket.

Combine all ingredients with the beef in a bowl/pan and fill with water until the beef is covered. Cover, and let it sit in the fridge for 2 days.

Now for cooking the corned beef and cabbage. You will need:

A whole head of cabbage	1 tbsp of thyme
2 onions	1 tbsp of parsley
3 carrots	2 bottles of beer
4 potatoes	pepper to taste
2 bay leaves	2 tablespoons horseradish
10 whole cloves	1 cup sour cream



The corned beef is already salty so we don't need to add any more. This is a great winter recipe to sit around the fire with. So let's get cooking.

First take 1 onion and stick the cloves in it. Now put the pot on the fire (I'm using a 12 qt Dutch oven) set the meat in and cover with the beer. The Beef is happy! Now put the clove onion in with the bay leaves. Let cook on the fire for an hour. Now cut up the other onion and the carrots. Throw them in and cover for another hour. This is slow cooking- great for a camp fire. Now cut up the potatoes and put them in and cover and cook another hour. Now cut up the cabbage. Put the cabbage, thyme and parsley in the pot. Let them cook uncovered now for another 30 minutes. Take out the beef and cut into thin slices. Then serve with the veggies. As the beef and vegetables cook, add water to the pot as needed.

Discard the bay leaf and clove onion. When serving, top off with a dollop of sour cream mixed with the horseradish.

This is a great winter recipe, a real rib sticker. Enjoy and Happy New Year

*The Con Kid*



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: By: Steve Paine

**Christopher Bowen**, Albuquerque, NM  
**Kathleen Connors**, Wellfleet, MA  
**Richard Coombs**, East Syracuse, NY  
(’71 Deluxe Station Wagon)  
**James Gelbman**, Larchmont, NY  
(’76 Westy daily driver)  
**Rob Grant**, Cornwall, ON  
**Tim Hayden & Teresa McHugh**, Blenheim, NY

**Steve Herman**, Colmar, PA (two ’93 EuroVans)  
**Karl Kennedy**, Valencia, PA  
**Jon Knight**, Smithfield, RI  
**Rory McCormick**, Toano, VA  
**Richard Regan**, Harpswell, ME  
(’91 Vanagon Weekender)  
**Glen Schattner**, Sanford, Manitoba, Canada  
**Michael Stocker**, North Canton, OH

## The Swap Area Available or Wanted Submissions

As a member of LiMBO you are entitled to a free classified ad each issue. Include a price if possible, your name, phone #, email (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  
email: [editor@limbobus.org](mailto:editor@limbobus.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

State or (optional) address \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

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## FOR SALE: 1972 Westy

Price: \$18,000.00

You are looking at one of the finest examples of a Westy Camper. I have owned this bus for 12 years. It has been totally rebuilt ! This bus is solid. There has never been a trace of rust or rot on this bus. It has a CB 1800 rebuilt motor. The motor was rebuilt in 1999 and has about 25,000 miles on the rebuild. The bus has been painted from the drip-line down in it's original color, Sierra Yellow. It has a color coded awning to match the bus. It has new front seat covers,



padding, and door panels. The rubber mat up front is in perfect condition, along with the rear floor. All of the yellow vinyl on the camping equipment in the rear, is in excellent condition. All cabinets are in excellent shape.

I do have the original sink/refrigerator unit for the bus. It has new canvas on the pop-top. This bus has lots of extras on it, including rear safari window, EMPI shifter, comfort bar, BRM rims, one inch rear sway bar, fog lights, partial tray, AM/FM/CD player, battery isolator with second battery and second fuse panel. All new rubber on doors and windows.



This is probably the nicest bus on the East Coast. Numerous trophies have been won with this bus, 17 first place trophies, 4 second place trophies and 2 third place. I thought that I would never sell this bus, but it is time for a new owner to take care of it. My price is firm. No trades. I am willing to assist with shipping, both in the US and other countries. Clean title in hand for the last 12 years. The bus is located in Beach Lake, PA. Contact: Karl Bower 570-729-8712.

Additional photos on the Samba.

<http://www.thesamba.com/vw/classifieds/detail.php?id=896801>

# 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](mailto:volkswagenri@cox.net), or email to [events@limbobus](mailto:events@limbobus). Snail mail can be sent to:

Coming Events, c/o Linda Manion 27 Woodward Road #6B, Lincoln, RI, 02865 401-722-2119. **Next deadline is March 1, 2010**

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

## FEBRUARY

Feb 12 -14, Marshalls Creek, Pa. Blizzard Out Campout at Otter Lake Campground Special rate: \$5 per person per night. This is a '5 W' rated campground by Woodall's. Camping in group area with covered pavilion. Electric sites, indoor pool, sauna and Jacuzzi. Sat. night potluck dinner. Campground website: <http://www.otterlake.com/> Contact: Jon Kleckner for info: [jonsmtrs@optonline.net](mailto:jonsmtrs@optonline.net) or (973) 506-4293. Monday 2/15 is President's Day, and some folks may want to consider staying an extra night.

## APRIL

**Sunday April 25th, 2010 - The CVA's 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Dust-off** Mansfield Hollow State Park, Mansfield, CT from 9am to 3pm. Held rain or shine. This is an informal, non-judged car show. Dash Plaques to the first 200 cars. Last year we had almost 250 cars, so arrive early. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the cars and your fellow VW comrades! No alcohol or burnouts! Info: Jeremy (860) 539-9704 [vwadct@comcast.net](mailto:vwadct@comcast.net) or Milt [redbug203@sbcglobal.net](mailto:redbug203@sbcglobal.net).

## MAY

May 28-31 (Friday -Monday) Westies in West Milford. At Westbrook Park. Address: 857 Westbrook Rd. W, Milford, 07480 \$5 per person per night. Pot luck Sat. Area hiking, [4 mile hike to NYC view], boating in nearby Greenwood Lake, nature museum, [Weiss Ecology Center] More to follow. Contact: Jon Kleckner: [jonsmtrs@optonline.net](mailto:jonsmtrs@optonline.net) (973) 506 -4293.

## JUNE

June 10-13, Riverhead, Long Island, NY. 10th Annual Buses by the Big Duck at Indian Island County Park. *This is a tentative date and subject to change.* More info in the next edition. Contact: Andrea at [rassovw@hotmail.com](mailto:rassovw@hotmail.com) for more info.

June 10-13, Almonte, Mississippi Mills, Ontario Canada - Busfusion 2010 at the North Lanark Agricultural Society Almonte Fairgrounds, located 35 km west of Ottawa, on the banks of the Mississippi River. The fairgrounds have level camping spots along the banks of the Mississippi, toilet facilities running water, a dump station, and a building for a communal dinner, swap meet and gathering. With the Fairgrounds being just a few minutes walk to the town center, there will

be no need to move your vehicles to visit Almonte. Bring your bikes for a countryside ride. For more information, to to the website: [www.busfusion.com](http://www.busfusion.com) or send email to [busfusion@aol.com](mailto:busfusion@aol.com)

## JULY

**Sunday July 11th, 2010 -The CVA's 6th Annual New England Volks-Meet**, Lebanon Lions Fairgrounds, Lebanon CT from **9am to 3pm Sunday**. Trophies will be awarded by people's choice in many different classes. Show will be open to all Volkswagens and all German cars, owners and fans. Will be held rain or shine. There will be dash plaques and goody bags to the first 200 cars and camping is available on Saturday night and we will have live bands. There will be entertainment for the kids both days. Come and enjoy a weekend of true German fun. Thank You!! For additional info please call: Jeremy Clayton (860) 539-9704 [vwadct@comcast.net](mailto:vwadct@comcast.net) or Milt McDonald [redbug203@sbcglobal.net](mailto:redbug203@sbcglobal.net)

## SEPTEMBER

Sept 3-6, 2010 Bloomsburg, PA Kampers Near Knoebels X at Indian Head Campground, A vintage camping weekend in Pennsylvania's coal region. Come out for our tenth anniversary campout featuring Friday evening dessert social, Saturday morning caravan to Knoebels Amusement Resort ([www.knoebels.com](http://www.knoebels.com)), Sunday morning potluck brunch, and every-day kayaking/canoeing on the Susquehanna River, hiking, road trips, and great campfire conversation. Bring your vintage camping rig and join in on all the fun! Rates are \$24 for group/tent sites, \$26 for water/electric sites (request VW Bus section and group rate. Go to <http://mysite.verizon.net/bensbus/knk.htm> for complete details.

**Saturday September 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010: Quassy Amusement Park & The CVA's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Oktoberfest**, Quassy Amusement Park, Middlebury CT 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](mailto:vwadct@comcast.net) or Milt McDonald [redbug203@sbcglobal.net](mailto:redbug203@sbcglobal.net).

## OCTOBER

October 15-17 Lenhartsville, PA- Bustoberfest at Blue Rocks. We have booked Group sites 116 (and overflow group site 114). **Contact Andrea at [rassovw@hotmail.com](mailto:rassovw@hotmail.com) for info and to get info on mailing first night deposit of \$30.** Bring contributions for the beer and wine tasting event. Potluck on Saturday eve. Hayride to local farm for pumpkins. Lots to do at campground and surrounding area. Check out site at <http://www.bluerockscampground.com/>

Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010 - **The CVA's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Foliage Cruise**, TBD location, CT 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. Please bring a picnic lunch. There will be a dinner after the cruise for those that are interested. Contact: Jeremy Clayton (860) 539-9704 [vwadct@comcast.net](mailto:vwadct@comcast.net) or Milt McDonald [redbug203@sbcglobal.net](mailto:redbug203@sbcglobal.net).





By: Steve Herman

The idea for VW buses to congregate for the 1st weekend in Nov. was thought up at the last minute, centered around the dam release and white water rafting event in eastern PA. Fellow bus owners Joe F., and Bobby Mac are avid white water kayakers and participants in this event. Posted only 2 weeks ahead of time on both LiMBO and FMBC, we had a much larger turnout than expected.

It all began so innocently...I mean what could happen? In fact, "What could happen" has become, "Did that actually happen?" When you begin to conjugate verbs in the future past tense, things begin to get stranger and stranger by the minute. For the newcomer, this campout is a two-venue minimalist-camping event-freak show.

We started out for Tohickon (Toe-hee-kon) Valley park on Friday night arriving next to last (don't these people have jobs?). By then, the freak show was already in progress. Mook (Marc from NJ) scored a primo campsite with good rates, tons of space, located directly below cub scout pack 52. The ranger said that we could log out some of the abundant deadfall seeing as the season was ending, so Friday night we burned a third of a cord of wood while watching a 67% full waning gibbous moon rise over clear skies. After mistaking several airliners on approach for planets, I saw one shooting star.

All of this was then interrupted by the nearby cub scout pack 52 kabuki theater. All of a sudden one of their tents had bright fluorescent internal illumination (no big deal); but then the noises and groaning that accompanied and the movements of the shadows inside of the tent suggested an obscene twist in the proceedings above us on the hill.

Sookie (Sara; Marc's wife) managed to send pack 52 a packin' the next morning when one of the cubs was sending Sookie a Morse code message via stick on the left side, middle window of her EV while she was sleeping. Sookie didn't waste any time. A reply message was transmitted verbally and the cub scouts got sent back up the hill (to kabuki theater?). Rest assured that Sookie spoke for every Buskateer everywhere. Later, I offered to drive over every one of their tents; all of my oil leaks, grime and wet undercoating would have been certain to leave a lasting impression.



Unannounced bus road rally, anyone? So we logged out a third of a cord of wood from the deadfall. After lunch we were in the process of banking down council fire when a silver '97 ('99?) EV GL rolled into the park where we were. I walked over to compliment the owners on their ride; but before I could say anything, the pilot says, "is this FMBC?" to which I replied, "Yes it is". Noticing the LiMBO sticker in the top left hand corner of his windshield I replied that he was more than welcome to stay with us- as there were many LiMBO members in attendance as well.



They were us and we were them, cool. From there we carabussed to the Tohickon Valley Day Use Area and proceeded down to the banks of the Tohickon Creek to spend the afternoon watching all of the boaters at play. The water rats all work together to make sure that everybody has a good safe time. People have died on this creek; Hat's corner is a rapid with jutting rock that is adorned with a brass plaque for a Hat, a fellow who had a heart attack while boating and died. I believe that he died with his boots on doing what he loved the most. From the day use area, we carabussed down onto the floodplain of the Delaware River at Point Pleasant to set up stealth/primitive camp, leaving behind kabuki theater of cub scout pack 52.

Saturday night's council nearly doubled the number of busses to thirteen. Most were from NJ, South East PA, North East PA and Ct. too. The Gatorade flowed freely and there were more and more happy campers as busses continued to arrive. Once the fire pit was built and council was in session, the water rats used our fire to get warm and dry. Steaming humans wearing rubber clothes were standing way too close to a blazing fire. We all agreed as to the proper method of how to put anyone out who might catch a blaze, but luckily we were incident free.

Mrs. Mittens was sent to her eternal rest and we were informed that the entire mittens family is on the schedule for upcoming runs. Later on the fire tender built what could only be described as an x-rated fire made entirely of virgin firewood. We offered to allow neighbors without fire to park next council fire with sliders open-for a different kind of kabuki theater.

Sunday morning, some said that they never wanted the weekend to end as it could have just as easily been a family reunion- and in some respects that is exactly what it was. Every campout I go to feels like this, so it never really stops. Plans were discussed for the winter boating runs, if the weather cooperates and the bus gods are willing...

But like I said, it all began so innocently...as for cub scout kabuki theater; if we would have known it was gonna happen, we coulda pulled up some chairs, treated it like it was a game of charades and offered guesses as to just exactly what was goin' on in there. Talk about an organic freak show.

See you on the next run.



Bobby Mac's roof, all geared up



# VW's In Turkey By: Richard Jones

In 1991 when our daughter was a senior in high school, a Turkish girl (Rotary exchange) lived with us. We loved her! We kept in touch first by letter then by email, always promising we'd come to visit. We could not attend her wedding four years ago because our daughter was having grandson #2 at the same time and we were needed. So when Eda (and her husband Bleda) had a baby girl, Nisan, in April, we told ourselves it was time to go.... Nisan means April in Turkish. We just went in Sept. 09. Here are some photos of the VW's we saw when we were there.

What I learned was that they are ALL TDI, both T4s and T5s, and Caddys and everything else. Virtually everything is diesel and all must be TDI or equivalent. No smell anywhere of diesel exhaust; and they are quiet.

I saw two Syncros. One was in a parking lot in Ankara, silver. Couldn't stop to see it. This one, was in the airport parking lot at Bodrum. It looks like it hasn't been driven for a while, it is so dirty.



Caddy: I remember these in Europe as being panel vehicles, made for the trades. They have been up-scaled to small passenger vans. Seats 4-5. Lots of them on the road. No minivans, though; this is the Turkish VW minivan.



The VW equivalent of the Sprinter is the Crafter VOLT. Not too many plain ones in Turkey, but lots, LOTS, of the minibus model--seats about 15-16. Here they are lined up at the Bodrum airport.



Lots of T-5's in Turkey; silver, white and black. Caravelles; 7-8-10 passenger versions & Transporters.



Turkey is not that different from California.



## PARTING SHOTS: BUSES IN THE SNOW

Amerikando 12/19/09 Long Island Blizzard



So, that's where the wild things are.



Close up, all these guys (same bus both left and below) were actually smiling....

