



# KeyNotes



[vwawny.org](http://vwawny.org)

published monthly for WNY VW enthusiasts

January 2009

## EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

By Bob LaPorte

The VWAWNY officers and Board of directors wish all of our fellow VW club members a very prosperous and happy new year! We continually work to improve the organization and to make your membership more worthwhile. With the recent down turn in the economy, consider that VWAWNY has a completely free main event in July; we have various technical sessions, cruise events, a family picnic and offer a free Oktoberfest dinner for every paid member. I can't think of a better return on \$20 anywhere!

**Please remember to send in your renewal as soon as possible!**

One new benefit to membership that your board of directors recently approved is a VW tool loan program. If you work on your own car, eventually you run into a task that could best be performed with some cost prohibitive, special tool. VWAWNY is going to invest in some of these tools, maintain them and loan them to members in good standing. We are starting off this program with two items produced by Joey Cogdill of South Carolina; you can view his for sale ads on [www.thesamba.com](http://www.thesamba.com). As of this writing, our inventory includes a steering wheel puller and a door hinge pin removal tool, both for vintage Bugs and Buses. Both tools also have a reputation as being much better than the original VW factory item. If you have suggestions for other tools please contact me and we will look into them in the future.

While reading the latest edition of Hot VWs I noticed that the advertisement for John's Bug Shop indicates that they moved from Niagara Falls to Welland, Ontario, just a few miles further from us in the USA! John Spironello has been a driving force in the Niagara Volks Folks for many years while maintaining the only local VW shop within a couple hundred miles of Buffalo. John as well as other members of the NVF often assisted VWAWNY in our early years. I look forward to visiting John's new

shop in the near future.

On a personal note, I'd like to share some VW highlights from our recent trip south. Agnes and I were away with dog Henri and cat Roscoe for several weeks. The idea was to avoid some of the Buffalo snow, but it seems to wait until we return home before it really piles up. Most of the time away was spent with our daughter Stephanie in South Carolina doing small repairs around the house and farm.

A couple of years ago driving around Steph's neighborhood I ran into a local VW junkie named Malcolm Rupp. Malcolm has several VWs including two splits, an oval, '56 Westy and others. He does all of his own work including fantastic paint jobs. Well to add to his stable of cars, Malcolm recently found a VW shop truck built in the '60's by a local dealership. It's constructed from an oval dash beetle with a modified back end made from bus parts. According to Malcolm, this vehicle had been sitting in a field for many years before he was finally able to negotiate a purchase. When I saw the truck last year, it was pretty rotten, but as you can see in the photo, it's now almost ready for paint. I can't wait to see it finished.



The next photos are from a very brief trip to Florida.

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**Next Meeting is January 21st at The Rose Garden 7:30PM.**

## KeyNotes

January 2009

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**KeyNotes** is published by the Volkswagen Association of Western New York, Inc. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month unless otherwise announced. The VVAWNY and its membership are not responsible for a readers inability to use, or the misuse of any material contained herein. **CLASSIFIED ADS:** free to members and non-members

**Deadline** for all material is the third Wednesday of the month prior to publication of this newsletter. **Contributions from members and non-members are encouraged.**

## Classified Ads

**For Sale:** [1] Hidden Hitch Class I Receiver Hitch. 1 1/4 Hitch opening. Tow up to 2,000 lbs. Fits 2004 VW Jetta Sedan, including Turbo models (may fit other years). Asking \$75/BO. [2] Genuine VW Jetta Splash Guards (fits 02-05)- complete set of 4. These aren't you're average cheap mud flaps. These are molded to fit perfectly in your fender and keep debris from scratching the side and rear of the car. Asking \$40/BO. [3] Genuine VW Monster Rubber all weather floor mats (fits 02-05). These heavy duty rubber floor mats are a must for harsh winter climates. Keeps all the snow & salt in the rubber mat and they are easy to clean. Asking \$50/BO. Contact Rob LaPorte @ 716-512-9234

**For Sale:** Small collection of extra Johnnie Lighting 1/64 scale Volkswagens \$6.00ea Call or email Don for list. 716-532-3647 or [dondehos@yahoo.com](mailto:dondehos@yahoo.com)

**For Sale:** Seats type 1, 3 lowback and 1 highback \$25.00 each / BO. Doors type 1 right side w/glass 1/67 & 1/68 \$25.00 each / BO. Doors typ 3 late left & right \$25.00 each / BO. 2 Mufflers 1-1200 \$25.00 and 1-1500 \$25.00 contact Don at 716-532-3647 or [dondehos@yahoo.com](mailto:dondehos@yahoo.com)

**For Sale:** Five (5) 5 1/2" x 15" Pedrini alloy wheels from Porsche 914. 4 bolt pattern will also fit 4 bolt VW's of the late 60's to 70's. Very good condition, four of them have decent 195-60x15 tires mounted. \$500.00 Call Mike at 716-875-5147 or e-mail [mjl1147@verizon.net](mailto:mjl1147@verizon.net).

**For Sale:** Camper that goes on top of a pickup truck. It has a stove and a spot for a refrigerator. Has some broken windows. I think the body is aluminum. Price is \$200 firm. Call Ken Weinstein 716-689-6888

**For Sale:** '82 Blue Vanagon Westy Diesel, 114,500 miles, Engine was replaced by dealership at 80K miles. Injection pump & brakes done in July, 2000. \$11,000 or b/o. Call Howard Sherry at 716-464-9923 between 6 - 10 PM.

**For Sale:** '74 Red Karmann Ghia, 49,000 miles, 4-speed, new clutch, great shape. \$5,000 or b/o. Call Howard Sherry at 716-464-9923 between 6 - 10 PM.

**For Sale:** For Sale: 2 165 R15 Guardsman radial tires for classic Beetle (one tire never driven, still has nubs on the tread and the other has several hundred miles only). Both for \$90, no shipping charges or tire disposal fee. The following body repair panel parts are for a '67 or older Beetle: right wheelhouse (the inner fender area where the bumper bolts onto) \$25; right lower wheelhouse (the inner fender area that joins with the heater channel) \$12; left rear fender, Italian reproduction \$50. 65-66 rear decklid, rust free California piece, with licence plate light housing \$70. Contact Gene at 716-636-0887 or email at [genmel@verizon.net](mailto:genmel@verizon.net). Photos of the parts can be provided.

**For Sale:** Seatcovers, aftermarket patterns-usually plaid vinyl in the center, and solid vinyl around the edges. \$99 per car includes hogrings. Available for '65 Beatle (blue), '70 Beatle (black or red), Karmann-Ghia (orange), American cars with bench seats (1949-1980). Contact Ken Weinstein 716-689-6888 (nights) or e-mail [KMW57@hotmail.com](mailto:KMW57@hotmail.com).

**SERVICE OFFERED:** Line boring service for all Type 1 style engine cases from 40HP up. Also available air cooled and water cooled engine and transmission rebuilding. Consult services also available on site or internet. Vince Harrington 716-693-5510. No calls after 9:30pm

**For more local classifieds check [flrvwc.com](http://flrvwc.com), [vwccny.com](http://vwccny.com), and [Johnsbugshop.com](http://Johnsbugshop.com)**

## Select Eurocars

"Specialist in VW and Audi Automobiles"! Sales of 1997-2007 VW Jetta, Golf, New Beetle, Gas and Diesel, Audi A4, A6, Quattro. Factory trained technicians for AAA Approved Service on all front engine models and tremendous parts selection. Less than 90 minutes away via I-90 East, exit 42, Right on 14S 2.9mi, left on Packwood Rd 3.4mi 0685 Waterloo-Geneva Rd Rts 5 & 20 Waterloo NY (315)-789-9368, [www.SelectEuroCars.com](http://www.SelectEuroCars.com)

## Hospitality

### January Birthdays

1/1 Bill Earle  
1/1 Mike Lannan  
1/1 Agnes LaPorte  
1/3 Laryssa Melnyk  
1/7 Kevin Waldorf  
1/10 Jim Whittlemore  
1/14 Ed Barone  
1/19 Sandie Golden  
1/19 Bev Modelski  
1/28 Fred Stahlecker

If you would like to have your birthday and anniversary announced in *KeyNotes*, please contact Dick or Barb Meinhold at 625-9555 or e-mail dick5864@verizon.net. Only the day of the event will be listed unless requested otherwise. Thank You



### **VW Tennessee Plant on Schedule** (contributed by Jim Backlas)

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — With huge dirt movers shaping the site of Volkswagen's \$1 billion assembly plant at Chattanooga, Europe's largest automaker says it has no regrets about announcing its arrival as an American employer in hard times.

"We have stuck with our goals of growing our sales in the U.S. market," Volkswagen AG spokeswoman Jill Bratina said. "This plant is critical to that."

Since Volkswagen announced plans to build the plant in July, the global economy has been deflating. Following the housing, credit and financial crises in the U.S., the possible collapse of General Motors Corp. or Chrysler LLC would likely drag down some auto suppliers and manufacturers of steel, aluminum, electronics and plastics.

Volkswagen AG spokeswoman Jill Bratina said the company is "absolutely not" having any regrets about the timing of the Chattanooga plant. Volkswagen is also building assembly plants in Russia and India.

Kia Motors Corp. plans to open an assembly plant at West Point, Ga., in 2009, and Toyota Motor Corp. said earlier this month that it is sticking with plans to open its new plant at Blue Springs, Miss., in 2010. They'll join other foreign automakers like Nissan Motor Co., Honda Motor Co. and BMW AG that have opened plants in the South.

Otherwise, the Tennessee Department of Economic &

Community Development is "not aware of an automotive company seeking to locate a large assembly facility," spokesman Mark Drury said this week.

Not only are VW executives sounding spirited about the early 2009 groundbreaking for the Chattanooga plant that will employ about 2,000 people, they already have expanded the planned size of the site's paint shop to accommodate 1,000 vehicles per day instead of 650 when production starts in 2011.

"We expect to see a turn in the economy by the time these cars will be available," Bratina said.

The plant will be able to make 150,000 vehicles a year when it opens, but Volkswagen already is planning to start construction in 2011 of a second phase that would increase capacity to 592,000 vehicles a year.

Building a new sedan in Chattanooga is part of VW's plan to expand sales in the United States to 1 million a year by 2018, or more than four times the number sold last year. Volkswagen has sold 191,255 vehicles in the first 10 months of 2008, less than a 1 percent decrease from the same period last year, while U.S. auto sales overall have fallen 15 percent.

David Cole, chairman of the Center for Automotive Research in Ann Arbor, Mich., said Volkswagen's timing appears sound, even though the global economy has drastically changed since the company's July announcement and the value of the euro has fallen, eroding the cost advantages of manufacturing in the U.S. Cole predicted we "will be past the bottom of this huge financial mess" by the time production starts two years from now.

Volkswagen's plans are moving forward while the Big Three U.S. automakers are asking for \$25 billion in federal loans to stay alive through next year. GM,

**VW Tenn. Plant** continued on page 4

We were not able to make Bulli Brigade this year, or spend much time with friends but wanted to try and squeeze in a little time in the sun. We were thrilled to enjoy a couple days of mid 70s temperatures lying around on St. Pete Beach watching the kite surfers and sunsets. When friend and fellow VW metal fabricator Mark Rafferty heard we were nearby in his back yard, he invited Agnes and me to Thanksgiving dinner at his mom's just a couple miles from our hotel. After that I couldn't refuse a ride in his '54 Kombi over to check out the latest projects in his shop.



This bus is Mark's only driver, and sports a two-tone flat grey finish – I just love the look and boy does it turn heads. Of course it is slammed, has upgraded mechanics and a set of his own hand fabricated barndoor only safari windows. The final photo is a project that Mark currently has in his shop. Kind of a VW truck lover's dream, it has a normal 8 1/2 foot long single cab bed, along with a double cab and walk through front seats. According to Mark, this was a project that someone started in the 70s mating the front and back of two trucks together. The new owner wanted Mark to finish the metal work and add the walk through feature.



While you are working on your VW projects this winter take a few photos and send them to the Editor. Yeah, it's hard to top a life story like Dick Meinhold's in the last Keynotes, but we all enjoy hearing about each other's projects and adventures.

Chrysler and Ford Motor Co. say they've burned through a combined \$34.6 billion in cash through September of this year as high gas prices and then the economic downturn pulled auto sales to a 25-year low.

Bratina said Volkswagen supports government financial help for the auto industry but in a way that treats "all investors in the U.S. market fairly. It should focus on all companies that have invested in creating jobs in this country."

She said VW needs a "vibrant supplier network" and also has a stake in consumers having credit available to help get them back in auto showrooms.

Erich Merkle, auto analyst with the consulting firm Crowe Horwath LLP, said Volkswagen has no reason to second guess the timing of its new plant to build a new midsize sedan aimed at American buyers.

He said automakers "have to be able to produce in the markets in which they sell."

"If you plan to be a player here in North America, it doesn't make sense to export," Merkle said. "That's what Volkswagen is finding out."

### **Membership**

***It is once again time to renew your membership. The form on the next page contains all the information you will need to take care of that for another year. Why not do it now, while it is fresh in your mind. Dick will really appreciate your efforts, and it will keep him from tracking you down later, so do it now!!!***

***Happy New Year***

# VOLKSWAGON ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN NEW YORK INC.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2009

If all information is the same from your last renewal or application, please check this box,   
Print and sign your name and forward with dues payment.

If we do not have your Spouses or significant others name, please print here. \_\_\_\_\_

Volkswagons currently owned if you have acquired or deleted any in the past year:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If we do not have your birth anniversary date or your Anniversary date and you would like to have it or them listed in the KEYNOTES Monthly [Month and day only] Please list here.

| NAME: | BIRTHDAY | ANNIVERSARY |
|-------|----------|-------------|
| _____ | _____    | _____       |
| _____ | _____    | _____       |

If you do not wish to have your name, address, telephone number and Email address listed in the roster sent to all members check this box

Please indicate any change in address, phone number or Email here:  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name, Please Print \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please consider having your KeyNotes e-mailed. If you are currently receiving your KeyNotes by U.S. mail and you now have e-mail, please check this box

All memberships (Dues) are still only \$20.00 per year payable now until February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.  
**Dues not received by February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 will halt your delivery of KeyNotes!**

**Please make check payable to VWAWNY and deliver or mail to:**

**Dick or Barb Meinhold  
5864 Tonawanda Creek Road North  
Lockport, NY 14094-7939**

**Any questions, contact Dick or Barb at 716-625-9555  
E-mail dick5864@verizon.net**



Volkswagen Association of Western New York  
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***Next Meeting at the  
Rose Garden,  
January 21<sup>st</sup> at  
7:30***

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**Happy New Year to All!!!**



**Beachin' It** Here's a shot of the resort and beach area that Bob and Agnes visited in St. Pete, FL. Agnes must have taken this picture because there are no girls in bikinis to be seen anywhere. The article starts on page 1