



# KeyNotes



vwawny.org

published monthly for WNY VW enthusiasts

March 2009

## EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

By Ray Ball

Well here we are again. Winter is winding down and our annual eagerness to get those cars up and running is beginning to percolate inside. Soon some of our resident snowbirds will be migrating back home and the winter doldrums will have passed us.

Gene Melnyk is once again hard at work putting together the Bugs in the Garden. Keep the second Saturday in July open on your calendars as it promises to be another tremendous day. We'll be having new sponsorship this year as Schmitts Audi Volkswagen has agreed to take part. We are pleased and proud to have this association with them. I'd also like to thank Joel Osserman at Select Auto for his many years of sponsorship. As with so many he has felt the current economic pinch and was unable to sponsor us this year. We all wish him the best and hope to continue our very good relationship again in the future.

As you get those cars ready please take the time to check out all those "little" safety items necessary for some of our older cars to perform risk free. I'd invite you all to visit the following website to look into the treasure trove of information about your car or truck and the long list of articles there to assist you. <http://www.thesamba.com/vw/archives/info/> The website is called "The Samba" and is well known for its excellent information as well as its fun reading.

Also, I need to put out an all-important call for anyone who has pictures from last year's Bugs in the Garden to forward them to me in any manner they can. Our photos from last year are missing in action and we could certainly use them to help promote this year's event. Send me CD's, email them to me, hard copies that I can scan and return... Anything we can get will help at this point.

In closing I must add this somber note. I am sure all

of us by now are well aware of the tragic loss of flight 3407 not far from our meeting place in Clarence. As consumed as any of us can sometimes get with our vehicles and our hobbies, it certainly puts into perspective the truly important things in this world. At several points during this winter's meetings I was informed of the losses of club members, relatives and friends. Perhaps as we head into another season of fun with our friends and hobbies, how fortunate we are to have the camaraderie we share here. Please take a moment to keep those whom we all have lost in your thoughts and to appreciate the great friends we have here.

Volkswagen released its first design sketch today of the New Mid-Size Sedan (NMS) to be built in Chattanooga, TN. A VW spokesperson says the Board of Volkswagen AG released the drawing to provide a more realistic idea of the car's design. This sketch shows the general outline and concept of the vehicle.



Volkswagen recently completed construction of a 400,000 sq ft painting facility at the plant and plans to continue development. Volkswagen's Chattanooga plant is expected to be fully operational by 2011. While they have felt the current pinch like everyone else VW continues to "drive on" with their plans.

**Next Meeting is March 18<sup>th</sup> at The Rose Garden 7:30PM.**

## KeyNotes

March 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 VWAWNY 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:** 1996 VW Golf. 98,000 miles . It is rusty around the edges, but runs and has been cared for with much TLC. \$1,000 or B.O. If interested call 877-6013 or email at [ddbclark@verizon.net](mailto:ddbclark@verizon.net).

**For Sale:** 1971 Beetle in very good condition. Please call Ricardo Rivera at 716-3366 8590

**For Sale:** 1937/40 Ford Hood made for a Super Beetle at a very reasonable price. Dick Meinhold has seen it and he thinks it's a "steal". Call Tim at 716-649-4526.

**For Sale;** one NOS German right front fender for a '68 to '70 Beetle. This is a VW factory fender, nothing like the crap they are selling now \$85.00. I also have other early (pre '67) Beetle fenders for various years. They are not German, but good older reproduction fenders that fit well - some used, one NOS. Email with your needs [Busnutbob@hughes.net](mailto:Busnutbob@hughes.net)

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

## Schmitt's Audi VW

**You're Gonna Love Our Deals !!!!**

**5255 Genessee Street (half mile east of Transit Rd.)**

**716-683-3343**

**New Car Sales, Certified Pre-Owned, Service,  
Collision Repair and Parts**

## Rotisserie alternative?!

by Bob LaPorte

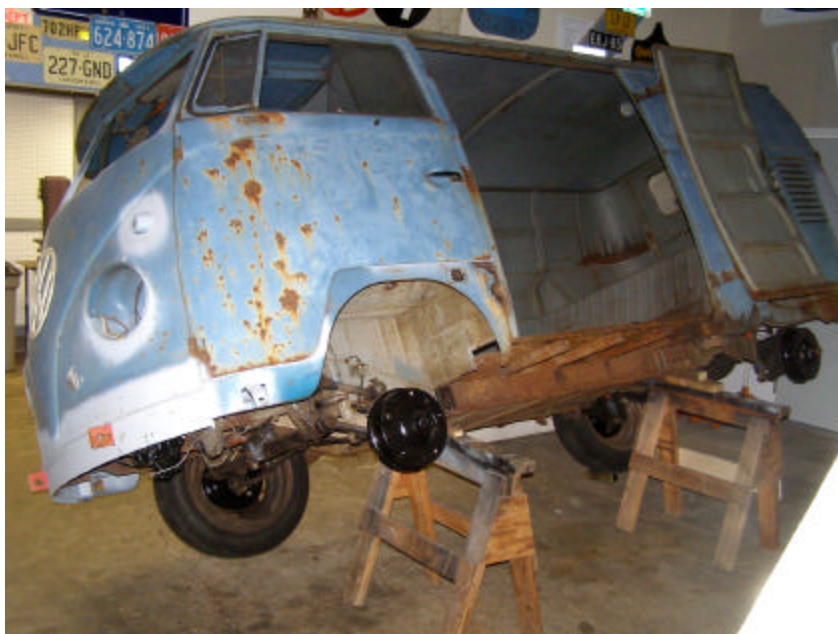
Surfing through the forums on [www.thesamba.com](http://www.thesamba.com) you can find many different designs for mechanical devices to turn your VW upside down or on its side to facilitate rust repair. Automobile rotisseries are not new, I recall seeing one in a custom body shop in the early 1970s. About ten years ago I fabricated a very simple rotisserie for my one and only Beetle from thin wall electrical conduit. It has two main rails that run under the body and the whole assembly pivots on two engine stands. This works really well, but then a Beetle body minus chassis, interior and glass probably weighs less than 700 pounds.

Even without engine, transaxle and front axle, a VW bus weighs closer to the one ton mark. This weight is due to the complete unibody construction and integral chassis. So the conduit idea is no good for a bus. There are nice commercial rotisseries available starting at around \$1000, but I have always been on too much of a budget and prefer to build things myself. Years ago I had what I thought was a great idea of making two large rings of steel pipe mounted around each end of a bus so it would roll over. With a couple of idler rollers on a floor fixture the bus could be rolled over in place to any position.

Back to the Forums on [www.thesamba.com](http://www.thesamba.com); just a few years after I had the ring idea, I spotted a guy in Canada making a similar device but with a pair of eight sided rings. The idea being you can just roll to a flat and then work on that side of the vehicle. One problem with both of these designs is that the rings are often in the way of your work. Another interesting design is the addition of two large “J” shaped fixtures made of square tubing and bolted to the axle locations on the chassis of a bus. This allows you to roll the bus on one side or the other depending on which side they are attached.

Anyway to bring this informational tidbit to a close, I have yet to build a good bus rotisserie, so I've reverted to an old solution that works for me. **Please don't try this at home unless you have extreme confidence in your ability.** If you insist, first you need a good solid wall in your shop. Park the subject bus so that the edges of both tires on one side are about 33" away from the wall and then chock both of those wheels securely so the bus can't roll. Next you need a couple floor jacks and something capable of lifting 1000 lbs to a height of 40 inches or so. I use a manual hydraulic forklift.

The tricky part is lifting the bus on the one side, just a little at a time, until you almost reach the point of tipping over (helps to have an assistant) – or the point where it is balancing on the edges of the two chocked tires. This is where the 33" dimension is critical; keep in mind the ride height of your bus can change this dimension. Finally, when the bus reaches balance, I put a few layers of cardboard between the bus rain gutter and the wall it will be leaning on, and wedge two good saw horses under the raised frame rails. To be 100% secure, you can fasten the top of the bus to the wall it's leaning on with a strap or chain. Now I can cut, patch and weld the bottom of my bus without lying on my back! In fact, I can work comfortably on the rocker panels sitting in a chair.



## Hospitality

### March Birthdays

3/5 Sharon Hausner  
3/8 Andy Putzak  
3/8 Eric Townsend  
3/10 Mike Thompson  
3/13 Dennis Merritt  
3/13 Howard Wozniak  
3/13 Gregg Zimmerman  
3/14 Naomi Ciaramella  
3/15 Laura DePasquale  
3/15 Tony Richiazzi  
3/23 Deborah Lanski  
3/23 Martin Padilla  
3/30 Sue Barone

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](mailto:dick5864@verizon.net). Only the day of the event will be listed unless requested otherwise. Thank You



### March Anniversaries

3/4 Kevin and Susan Waldorf  
3/16 Mike and Wendy Thompson  
3/31 Howard and Kathy Brubaker

## VWAWNY Tool Crib - Tools for loan, FREE!

- 1) Door hinge pin press for vintage beetles and buses
- 2) Steering wheel puller for vintage beetles and buses

To borrow either of these tools, contact Bob at 716-795-3569 or email [Busnutbob@hughes.net](mailto:Busnutbob@hughes.net)  
Refundable deposit required; details upon request



Door hinge pin press pictured above,  
steering wheel puller shown at right



## VWAWNY Memorabilia For Sale

Show your pride of membership in one of the best VW clubs in the USA!

### Car flags - \$10.00 Each

Flags measure approximately 14" x 11". They are printed with the original club logo in white over blue on both sides and come attached to a durable plastic mounting pole. The mount slips over the top edge of an up-down window. If you don't have an up-down window, the base can be modified to mount by other methods.



### Car badges - \$10.00 Each    The oldest car accessory

Badges are a top quality cloisonné finished production casting. The original design was to be black and red over a gold bronze colored background signifying German flag colors, however the company made a few in error that have a silver background. Both gold and silver badges are still available in limited quantities. Each weighs 4.7 ounces and has a weatherproof clear epoxy finish. Mounting choices are a peel-and-stick backing or a single small screw stud with washer and nut. From my own experience I can tell you that the adhesive sticks very well to a flat painted surface or window. Removal can be accomplished by using a heat gun, with no paint damage.

**Because of the production error, we are able to offer either of these badges to club members for half the actual cost of \$20 each!**

### Decals - \$.50 Each

Peel and stick decals are made to be applied to the inside of your car window. Available in 3" and 3.5" diameters.



### Patches - \$5.00 Each

These high quality patches are embroidered with white over dark blue, measure 3.5" in diameter and can be ironed on or sewn on your favorite jacket, blanket, car cover or whatever.



**All of these items were purchased in specific minimum quantities. When they are gone, many items will not be ordered again because of the investment required. To purchase any of the above please contact Bob or Agnes at 716-795-3569 or email [Busnutbob@hughes.net](mailto:Busnutbob@hughes.net)**



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***Next Meeting at the  
Rose Garden, March  
18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30***

***Inside This Month:***

***Executive Comments***

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***Rotisserie Alternative***

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The above picture is of Bob LaPorte's '59 double door walk through panel van resting against the wall of his shop. This van has cargo doors on both sides and a split front seat so you can walk through to the back. Read about how and why this is happening on page 3.