

ARIZONA

# BUS CLUB NEWS

March 2013

PO Box 65001  
Phoenix, AZ  
85082

March Madness invades the ABC!

# Behind the Wheel



Hey Cochise!  
HERE  
WE  
COME!

Velma  
Topless!

SPRING  
FLING  
TIME  
LET'S GO!

Chances are most of you don't flaunt your Thing in public but if you did it would be in typical Peace and Love fashion; not with a symbol associated with a dark period when Germany was the enemy of everything good. You wouldn't parade it around even if it did sport a swastika. Once you left everybody would be talking behind your back; fueling your already out-of-control paranoia. Wait, we don't know what you silly people are thinking but we're talking about things. Volkswagen type 181. Imported for only 24 months before the no-sense-of-humor federal transportation agency declared them unsafe at any speed.\* This month the News salutes the often-misunderstood and now wildly-popular Volkswagen Thing. This interesting automobile has roots in the 30's making it just as revolutionary as the original VW Sedan. Taking a thing off road must remind the driver of how rugged and reliable these German Jeeps were; good things the Russians decided to keep the Krauts busy or we might all be driving on an Autoban. Wait, when you put it that way it doesn't sound all that bad... Hmm what was it Jefferson said, " The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure." Maybe that's what we need; a little revolution of sorts. We could start with the ABC Board and their minions. When they're not busy taking all the choice parking spots the PERA Club they're rigging corn hold games and "meeting to discuss the day to day operations of the ABC. For God Sake how much meeting does it take to run a herd of cats? Apparently a lot. Anyway this column took a wrong turn somewhere maybe the city could do a better job of illuminating the intersections near where we live. Is that asking too much? While you're pondering that deep thought consider this:



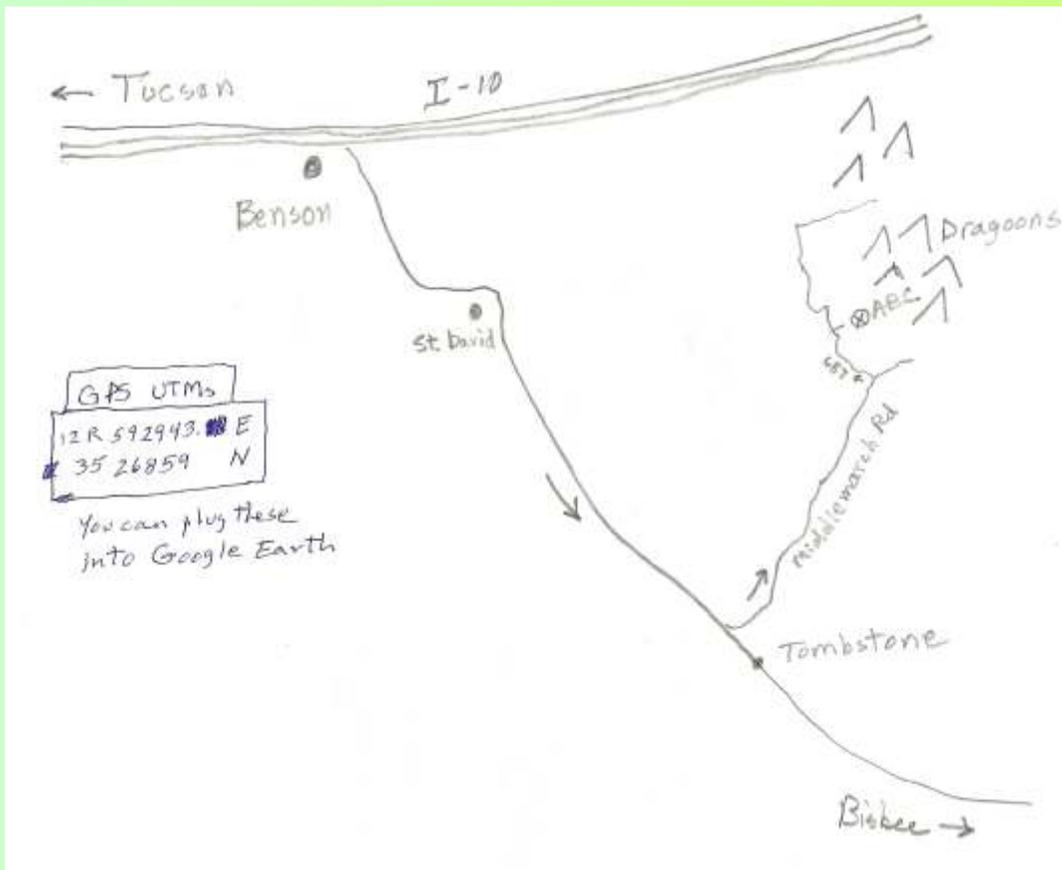
there are at any given time less than 100 things for sale on thesamba. That's under 2 per state. Not many chances to go kick tires so if you have your eye on one go get it and don't look back. You won't regret it; have you ever ridden in one and Not smiled? We know Roy Jonas smiles when he rides around in his thing known as Velma and we included a rather risqué shot next to Chad's old wreck for you to enjoy. Who says high class journalism like this has to be expensive? Renew your membership and keep the News rolling! Enjoy your March News!

\*Well that line actually belongs to Ralph Nader who helped kill one of the best cars Chevrolet ever made; the Corvair. If you don't believe us let Eric O'Mara take you for a spin in his new 64 Monza Spyder Turbo. Yeah Baby!!!

CC Update our good friend Charles Corridori is on the mend and healing up just fine. Hang in there buddy and we hope to see you soon!

okay where are we going this year?

Thanks to Doc Hilpert we have not only a fine-tuned article regarding our new Spring Campout site but an extremely well-produced map which you can see for yourself below. A high-resolution version is available on our website [arizonabusclub.com](http://arizonabusclub.com) Let's take stock here; we've been kicked out Corona De Tucson where the ABC Spring Campout originated 622 years ago then we trashed Holzmans for about 3 years then finally Colossal Cave. But not this year and maybe never again. Who knows what the future holds! Only one thing is for sure. Does anyone remember what it is?



Join your ABC friends and the Tucson Bus Mob at our new Spring Campout in the beautiful Dragon Mountains April 19-21

**CLASSIFIEDS:**

For Sale: 2012 Beetle. Black exterior, Black interior. 2.5L, manual, 6k mi. \$18,500 Call Charles Corridorri at 602-826-7076

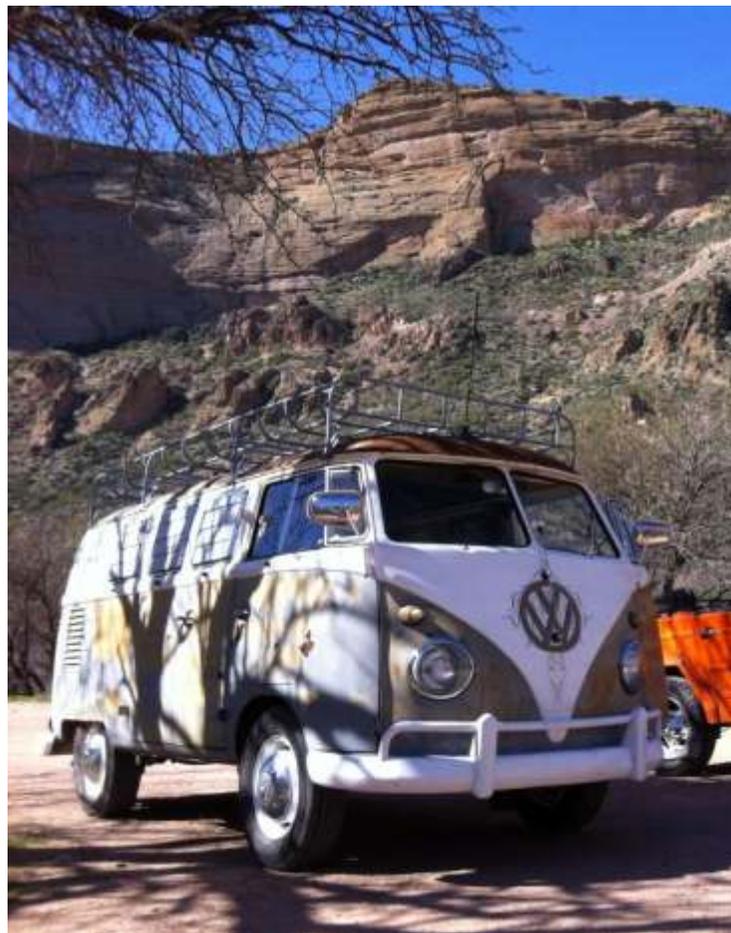
For Sale: 1971 Adventurewagen Light Blue exterior. \$2,300 obo. Lots of parts included. no engine, has tranny. Clear title. Call Elvis at 480-201-6024

For Sale Passat VR-6 fuel injected engine w/ adapter plate & flywheel for bus tranny \$3000 Call Gary at 602 881 1291

# EXPLORING ARIZONA with

**F**our Peaks Adventure "Pre-Trip" Report. Chad mentioned he wanted to check out the planned FPA route a little in advance of next months actual trip and campout since road conditions can vary up there. And...I've been itching for a good off pavement romp ever since I moved here in mid October after living all my life near St. Louis, Missouri. We met at the QT in Apache Junction about 930am where Chad gassed up his 59 standard and I in my 73 Thing "Velma". Such a nice day I let Velma go topless while we headed east on Hwy-88 aka Apache Trail past Canyon Lake to Tortilla Flat for breakfast at the million dollar wallpapered diner. After stuffing our faces with omelets, biscuits and gravy we browsed at the tourist trap waiting for a gunfight but I think the duelers were busy clogging up the plumbing in the men's bathroom by the sounds of it. We then continued east to where the pavement ends but we noticed the local "Mini" club had all their shiny new Mini's lined up for a photo shoot with one actual original Mini in attendance. I would guess about a dozen were there and we got the full on paparazzi photo treatment as we whizzed by kicking up dust. So this is about where the wash board road began to loosen bolts and rattle windows winding down some pretty steep cliffs on a narrow gravel road. Apparently every one, their brother and second cousins had the same idea as this was the busiest damn gravel road I've ever seen...dually diesel trucks with slide in camper units towing boats were crawling along but grandpa in his Camry had his cruise control set at 55 doing fishtails while passing on blind corners, eating an ice cream cone and causing considerable damage to his poor struts from the sound of it. We stopped at the bottom near what Chad said was Fish Creek but I did not see any fish in it while down there polluting it with recycled Mtn Dew. Looks like it would be a nice place to cool off when the days get hotter.

When we saw a break in the traffic our adventure was back on as we traveled toward Roosevelt Lake where we stopped at the dam for a look see and a dam history lesson. From there we crossed the bridge on Hwy-188 heading north while peering at the



# n roy's thing!

very low water level and evidence of a not too distant very high water level that drowned a whole bunch of large trees leaving them very dead. Note to self...this may be a good spot to grab some firewood. Hung a left on El Oso Rd and stopped for a brew.

[http://i30.photobucket.com/albums/c328/rjonas2309/1973%20Thing/Velma076\\_zps60489ca6.jpg](http://i30.photobucket.com/albums/c328/rjonas2309/1973%20Thing/Velma076_zps60489ca6.jpg)

Oso was a very well maintained but twisty road all the way up to the military antenna site. Not much farther the conifer trees were abundant and snow was hiding in the shady spots. A few areas snow was still on the road but melting quickly putting a bit of a chill in the air. There were several sweets nooks where a small group of buses could campout among the trees with beautiful vistas and the Four Peaks nearby.

After munching on pistachios and making some yellow snow we continued on Four Peaks Trail then Lone Pine Trail where the road condition deteriorated. This side of the mountain had packs of quads and side by sides with looks of amazement on their faces seeing a couple 40+ year old 2WD VW's heading at them. With excellent scenery all around, my eyes were glued to the road negotiating washes and boulders exposed in the roadway just trying to keep up with Chad in his bus.



From there we traveled Cline Cabin Rd around the north side of Saguaro Lake which dumped us out on Hwy-87 where the pavement took us home. Besides the ½" of dirt in the bottom of my oil bath air cleaner, a busted loose speaker box, a dangling front turn signal lens and a nose full of dirt boogers...me and Velma made it home just fine. I am planning on following Chad with my 65 deluxe bus on this same adventure next month and looking forward to having a few of you'z in the pack too. Thanks Chad for letting me tag along on this pre-trip shake down run.

# Colossal Cave Campout in April? Not this year. To the Dragoons!

Pssst! Hey, ya wanna know a secret? Yeah, you! Promise you won't tell anyone? Okay, here ya go: "West Cochise Stronghold in the Dragoon Mountains."

There you have it. I have now revealed to you my favorite "secret spot" in southern Arizona. It is a unique and stunningly beautiful place and I hope you will enjoy it as much as I have as the spring campout moves to a new location after 5 years at Colossal Cave.

Why the big secret? Well, here's the story:

About fifteen years ago one of my grad students invited me to go along to a new place he had discovered, West Cochise Stronghold. "But," I protested, "Cochise Stronghold is on the east side of the mountains." "Yes," he said, "but West Cochise Stronghold is on the west side of the mountains." Oh, now I get it.

So, we set out in the morning and headed south from Benson, AZ. Eventually, we took a left off the paved road and followed a graded dirt road about eight miles, then took another left onto a two track road that skirted a craggy mountain range with huge bulbous rock outcrops. We eventually turned into a narrower canyon that opened up into a basin surrounded with towering "domes" of granite, giving an effect of a small Zion Park or even Yosemite. But, the rock formations were even more impressive than the sheer cliffs of those landmark sites.

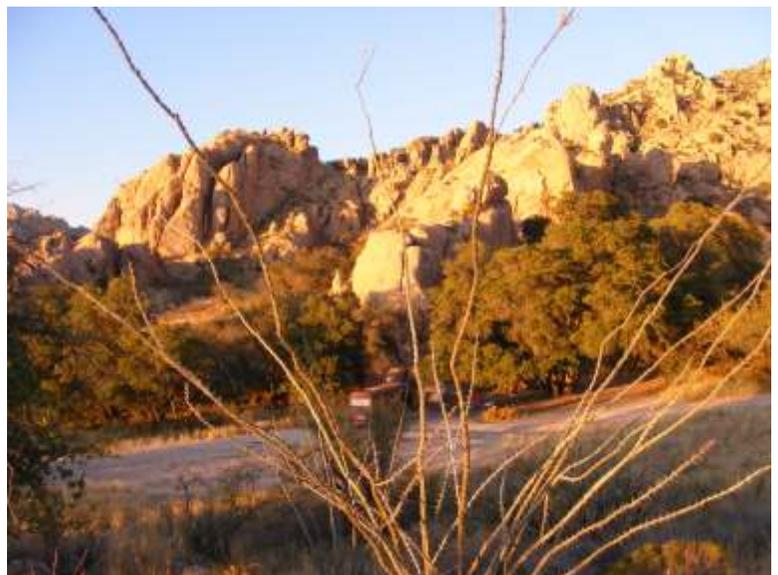
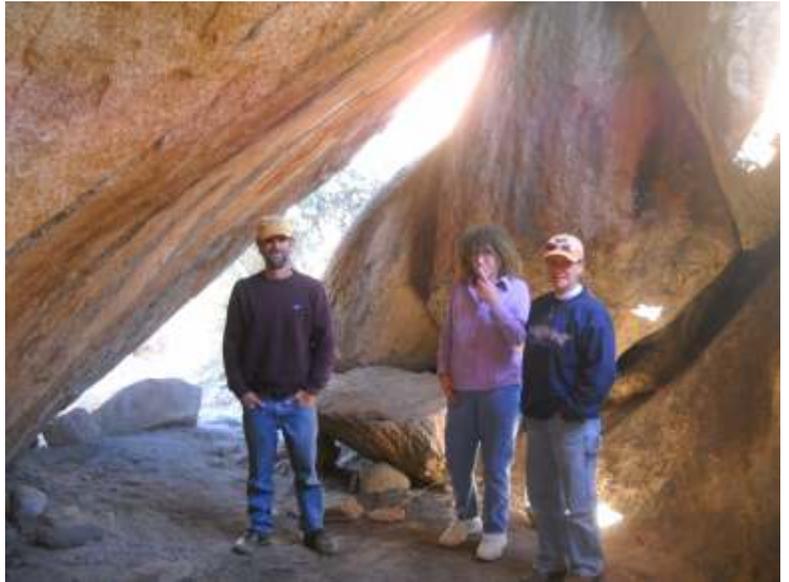
As surprised as I was by the splendor of the mountains, I was even more surprised by the several vehicles that were camping among the oak, juniper and cypress trees in the canyon. Not one car was from Arizona! Somehow, people from Oregon, Colorado, California and even Maryland knew about this gem of a place, but after 30 years camping throughout southern Arizona I did not?

What's up with that?

Well, after talking to some of the campers, I found out what the story was – they were rock climbers and the granite domes that dominated the skyline attracted mountain climbers from all over the country. In fact, as we talked the climber pointed up to a little black speck on a mountain that I had overlooked. Yes, indeed, that little spot was a human!

But, you don't have to be a rock climber to fall in love with the Dragoon Mountains. The domes, peaks and outcrops look almost like soft, squishy pillows of granite. Among the rocks I have seen the Pillsbury Doughboy, a Hopi Maiden with Butterfly Whorls and even a VW bus! As the sun sets, the rocks begin to glow with the warm light and the mountains take on a number of different moods.

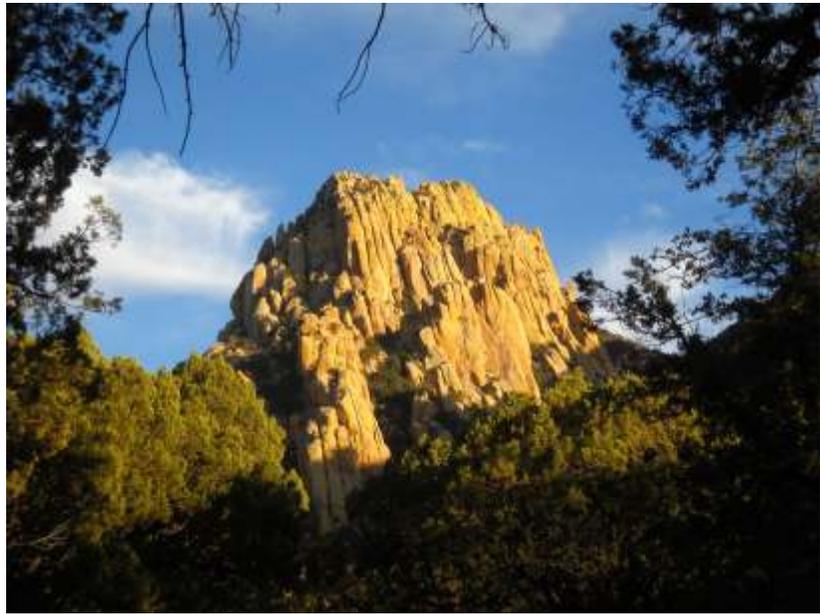
While the upper reaches of West Cochise Stronghold is probably the most impressive area of the Dragoons, the rest of the range is dramatically beautiful as well. The rock formations erupt abruptly from the desert, providing a sheer backdrop to the groves of oak that are nestled amongst the ridges. At 4000' elevation, the flora is lush and trails wind along the base of the cliffs and through the large boulders. For the more ambitious, there



are trails that lead from the west side of the mountain to Cochise Stronghold on the east side.

There are also historic points of interest. Council Rocks was a secret meeting and hiding place for the Chiricahua Apaches, who left painted pictographs on the boulders to mark their presence. Nearby, the crumbling adobe walls of a nineteenth-century building guard the secrets of its former life.

The annual bus club Southern Arizona Campout will be held at a large grove of oaks protected by two rock ridges. There are numerous large campsites scattered among a grove of mature oak trees. At 4000', the weather should be good in April.



ATTENTION: The Dragoon campground is primitive camping. WATER: There is no running water at the site or anywhere nearby so bring your own and bring plenty. RESTROOMS: There are no restrooms or porta-potties. We will make some porta-potties that you ladies will LOVE! ROADS: I have not been to the Dragoons in about two years and the roads change with the rains. The first eight miles of dirt road are wide and graded...no problem. The next 4 miles or so that run along the base of the Dragoons to the campground have a few places that might slow you down, but have never presented a serious problem for my bus. As you head up to the end of the road at West Cochise Stronghold there are a couple of spots that are rough but have never been a serious challenge to my bus. BUT, if your bus is lowered, you might have a problem, even getting to the campground.

DIRECTIONS: The Dragoons are located about 60 miles east of Tucson and about ten miles east of Benson. From Phoenix, get to Tucson however you like and proceed east on I-10 past the Vail exit (Colossal Cave exit) and proceed to Benson. Exit I-10 at Benson and head south on Rte 80 to Tombstone. About one mile before Benson (just past the Border Patrol inspection stop) take a left (north) on Middlemarch Rd. It is well marked. Continue north on Middlemarch Rd. for about 8 miles until you hit a Y marked with a Forest Service sign. Take the left onto FS Road 687. I can post GPS readings for the campground on the Yahoo group. If you want some more pics, visit my flickr site at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dedhed1950/sets/> and look for the Dragoons pics on pages 2, 4, 5. The driving time from Tucson is about two hours and from Phoenix, about four hours. Yes, a long drive but I promise that when you get there, you will agree it was worth the drive. Bruce "Doc" Hilpert

[Author's Note: I would like to thank our esteemed editor, Bob "Shakespeare" Smith for conveying upon me the most prestigious appointment of my academic career, the position of Roads Scholar.]

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March Meeting update: Come join us Wednesday March 20th at the PERA club ! East Continental Tempe, Az at 6:00PM (Okay the official meeting doesn't start until 7pm but why not come early and show off your ride?) the club has a full bar but doesn't serve food so eat before you arrive. If you have questions about this or anything else call our esteemed Membership Coordinator Chris Lee at 480-241-7025.

# JEROME JAMBOREE XXII September 20th - 22nd

## RAFFLE BUS WISH LIST (so far) 1967 Standard

Interior:  
Driver's front seat frame 1/3  
Driver and Passenger seat padding Wolfsburg West  
Driver and Passenger seat covers  
Door panels  
Cab floor mat Wolfsburg West  
cargo floor mat Wolfsburg West  
Steering wheel restoration  
2 dome light lens  
Sun Visors Wolfsburg West  
Interior Panels  
Ash Tray Wolfsburg West  
O. S. Handle Bob Smith  
Radio Block off Plate Bob Smith  
Exterior, Body, Glass:  
Wiper Blades -  
Interior rear view mirror  
Passenger's mirror Wolfsburg West  
Driver's mirror Wolfsburg West  
Complete Front Bumper (guards, brackets, etc) Wolfsburg West  
Complete Rear Bumper (brackets, etc) Wolfsburg West  
Splash pans Wolfsburg West  
New Tires for 14" rims  
Spare 14" rim  
Hub caps  
Hub cap clips Wolfsburg West  
Gas cap  
Rubber gas neck collar Bob Smith  
License plate bracket- Bob Smith  
Paint -  
Antenna Wolfsburg West  
Gas Tank Strainer and Gas Tank Seal Bob Smith  
E-brake cables and rebuild kit  
Windshield squirters Bob Smith  
Cargo Door Straps Wolfsburg West  
Vent window kits (rivets, rubber, latches)  
Sliding window divider cleat  
Electrical:  
Front turn signals left & right  
Rear turn signals left & right Bob Smith  
Head light assembly rebuild kit Wolfsburg West  
License light lens & gasket Bob Smith  
Fuel Guage  
Wiring Harness  
Fuse box and fuses Wolfsburg West  
Battery, battery cables David Butler  
Battery Strap Wolfsburg West  
Ignition switch with key  
Mechanical:  
Engine build - Jim Burnite  
Front brake cylinders - Bustoration  
Rear brake cylinders - Bustoration  
Complete brake lines - all wheels  
Master Cylinder (1967 only) Mike Baleda  
Front & rear brake shoes - Bustoration  
Brake seal kit  
Fuel Line-Bob Smith  
Shocks  
Tranny mounts - front & rear -Bob Smith  
Tie rod - passenger side Bob Smith  
Drag link Bob Smith  
Speedo Cable  
Shift coupler front and rear Wolfsburg West  
Clutch cable  
Accelerator Cable  
Gear oil  
Swing lever kit Bob Smith  
Bilstein Jack  
Rubber: Everything...  
Windshield seals - Wolfsburg West  
Rear window seal - Wolfsburg West  
Door handle rubber -Bob Smith  
Door bumpers - all doors Bob Smith  
Front door rubber kit -Bob Smith  
Deck lid seal and hinge kit Wolfsburg West  
Engine tin seal kit Wolfsburg West  
Tail light seals -Wolfsburg West  
Headlight seals -Wolfsburg West  
Headlight bucket seals -Wolfsburg West  
E-brake boot Bob Smith  
Shifter boot Bob Smith  
Knee knocker Wolfsburg West  
Pedal pads Bob Smith  
Door Plugs Bob Smith  
Door Hinge Seals Bob Smith  
Gas door bumper Bob Smith  
Fresh air flap & bumper - Wolfsburg West  
Fresh air rubber - Wolfsburg West  
Wiper w/ grommets -  
Front door window seal kit Bob Smith  
Cargo door seal kit Wolfsburg West  
Pop out window rubber & rebuild kit Wolfsburg West  
Turn signal seal kit Bob Smith