



[www.vwthingregistry.com](http://www.vwthingregistry.com)

## October - December 2017

This Newsletter is going to mostly be about The THINGS EAST (formally KTE) event that took place in Corydon, Indiana this past July. We are going to recap the event with member articles and lots of photos! The KTE is the original Thing show started in 1993 by the Crips. In 1995 The Thing Registry founder, Bob Miller started a KTW event in the West. After years of no KT events on the West Coast, we started the event back this year. The KTE show has been going strong for 24 years thanks to the Domeck brothers and others.

Update about the Registry: It's been a year and a half since we started the Registry back. I never dreamed it would grow so fast and be so popular again. Not just in the USA but all over the World!

1. We currently have over 3,500 members from all over the world.
2. Our Facebook Page and Facebook Group has grown to over 5,500 members total. If you are not on FB, you may want to join just to be a part of our group. We have members from all over the world talking every day. You can meet other Type 181 owners and get any question you have ever had about your Type 181 answered in seconds from one of our members.
3. Updated Website with a link to the current Registry list.
4. Registry Stickers and Shirts are still available. We are also thinking about having Registry Patches made. Minimum order is 50 Patches, let me

know if you would be interested in ordering one?

5. Planning for our 2018 THINGS WEST is underway. We have about 6 Registry member who are helping Jeff and I this year. If you would like to be on the committee, please contact Jeff or myself.
6. Sponsors: Thingparts.com & Raby's Air-cooled Technology are supporting the Registry with discounts and specials. We are always looking for additional sponsors, if you know anyone please have them contact us.
7. Our Archives pages has been updated with thousands of pages of Registry and Type 181 history and information thanks to Jeff! If you have anything you think members would be interested in and its Type 181 related, please send it to Jeff.
8. As a Chapter of the Vintage Volkswagen Club of American we encourage everyone to join the VVCOA.

The VW Thing Registry is self-funded and with the cost of our website, product and office we appreciate all the donations. You can see it went to a good cause this past year and we want to keep the Registry around for 30 more years... And keep the Type 181 alive forever! Membership to the Registry is FREE, but you can donate to help the Registry @ PayPal: [vwthingregistry@yahoo.com](mailto:vwthingregistry@yahoo.com).

## Things East

Mike and Mary Crisp of Asheville, North Carolina began the Kubel Treffen East Thing Show in 1993. Over the years, the all VW Thing show grew to well



over 100 cars annually. After 15 years in Ashville, Mike and Mary agreed to pass the torch to Sherry and Ron Domeck, who teamed up with Evelyn and Tee Watkins to host the show in Bardstown Kentucky. The show was held in Bardstown for three years before moving to Hiawassee, Georgia in 2011, with plans to move the show every year or two. Next, hosting duties were handed to Bill Hermsstedt of Lincoln, Delaware, who chose Dover as the site for the 2013 Kubel Treffen East. Encouraged by the success of the Dover show, the "guest host plan" was continued as Lorie and Carl Church took the reins to host the 2014 Kubel Treffen in Branson, Missouri. For 2015 and 2016, I enjoyed the privilege by hosting shows in Tipp City, Ohio; near Dayton.

Through the last few years, participation has begun to expand; good news considering the increasing rarity of these cars, especially east of the Mississippi. Dennis and Ron Domeck resumed the hosting duties for Kubel Treen East 2017, the subject of this article.

On Friday afternoon, July 7, despite the threat of stormy weather, the group began to assemble at the Baymont Inn in Corydon, Indiana. That evening, we took a scenic drive over some of Indiana's country roads to Polly's Freeze, a quaint roadside ice cream stand. Then it was back to the hotel to button up in preparation for the overnight rain.

Saturday, show day, brought perfect sunny weather for the group and their 33 cars from 12 states. Old friendships were renewed, and new friendships were made. Naturally there were awards to acknowledge the eorts of our colleagues and door prizes for all. As evening approached, we hopped back into our cars and hit the Indiana country roads to The Overlook Restaurant where we all enjoyed the KTE Banquet along the banks of the Ohio River. All in all, it was a great Thing day.

Sunday, after breakfast, the group took another scenic drive to the West Baden Hotel; an Indiana landmark. After touring the hotel and its grounds,

the crowd dispersed and headed for home with plans to do it again in 2018. Mike and Mary Crisp, the originators of Kubel Treffen East plan to host the 2018 show in North Carolina; marking the 25th anniversary of Kubel Treffen East. I sincerely hope to see some of you west coasters there!  
Best regards, Gary Mondshine





Saturday morning was sunshine and clear skies as we arrived back at Baymont Inn for the show. Several folks had parts for sale that they no longer needed and a couple of Things were for sale... one of those was sold by noon. Mike Basso was set up selling parts that we all want and need from time to time. Judging was by People's Choice and door prizes were given out throughout the day. Saturday night we were off to Overlook Restaurant in Leavenworth, IN for a meal overlooking the Ohio River. Reservations were made for 40 people but had to be changed to 53 by the time we got there. The parking lot was filled with Things! Saturday night we returned to the Hotel for a gathering of lawn chairs, chat and relaxation after a fun filled



**Kubel Treffen East 2017**

The morning of Thursday, July 13 was a bit foggy as my cousin, Dale Piercy and I began our back-roads trip to Kubel Treffen East in my 1974 German Military 181. About nine hours later we arrived at Tom & Carol Poole's home in Louisville, KY. We spent Friday catching up on each other's lives over the past few years and reminiscing about past Kubel Treffens. We made the 45 minute drive to Baymont Inn in Corydon IN. and after seeing old Thing friends and making new ones drove the 30 miles round trip to Polly's Freeze Ice Cream with about 20 cars.





day of Thing bliss. There were thirty-three Things from twelve states participating in this year's event. Corydon, IN.

Sunday drive Pulled out of the parking lot for the 58 mile trip to West Baden Springs Hotel, built in the early 1900's featuring a casino, live performances nightly, movies, bowling and billiards and the mineral baths that were said to cure "darn-near anything." After years of abandonment and neglect it was restored by 2007 to it's original grandeur (the fireplace will burn 14' logs!). After touring West Baden Springs, some that left for home, some visited the winery and by then we were down to a group of 8 cars returning to the motel to conclude another gathering of the Things - The car that can be anything.

We spent one more restful, enjoyable night with Tom & Carol before returning by backroads to Western North Carolina and so concluding our 1017 miles round trip in a 43 year old Volkswagen. Looking forward to next time! Mike Crisp

**KTE Results**

Top 10 People's choice Kevin Ames, Mike Frankart, Dawn & Ty Ryan, Paul Reagon, Mike Crisp, Jerry Roberson, Bob Boyd, Tracy Pittenger, Gerald Blair and Chad Fish. In no order. Special Awards, Promoters Choise Kevin Ames, Most Unique Mike Crisp, Most Original Tommy Johanson , Longest Distance Driven Mike Chrisp, I think 465 miles. From Ron Domeck



**VWOA Thing accessories, part 3.** By Registry member, Shawn Sitar LSVWC906@gmail.com

In this installment of the VW Thing accessories series, I'll discuss a few option items offered at VW dealerships that were made by Superior Industries for VWOA and one offered by Pacific Italia. Again, anyone with more questions or information on these items, please feel free to email me. Enjoy. Spare Tire Carrier (ZVW 148 702) The Spare Tire Carrier is a nice accessory to "gain extra luggage space by mounting your spare tire outside." This is another dealer accessory made by Superior Industries for VWOA that came in black steel and mounts to the rear bumper, engine lid, and right rear corner above tail light. There are five major pieces to the STC, the engine lid lock bracket, tubing frame, top hinge support, wheel bracket, and license plate bracket. This accessory has been reproduced by the Thing Shop and the same license plate bracket was still available at NAPA auto parts last I checked. Look for the S-1 or S-2 on the wheel bracket or tube frame if you're looking for an original one. Note the 1973 and 1974 have different top hinge supports—the '73 wraps around and the '74 (ZVW 148 705) is short to accommodate air scoop. The wheel bracket has two mounting holes: one for the stock wheel and one for the accessory Chrome Wheel (ZVW 148 184). This accessory will not work with rear bumper overrides in original position.





### Chrome Wheels (ZVW 148 184)

The Thing chrome wheels are 14" steel and come with chrome plastic center caps with a Wolfsburg Crest decal. The dealer brochure indicates it comes with lug studs, which I haven't seen. I am using the chrome plastic lug nut caps (ZVW 155 201) on my set of chrome wheels on my '73 Thing, but the stock lug bolts seem too short with these rims. I have seen these wheels on Type 2s, but they were marketed only for The Thing. I see these come up for sale on occasion on TheSamba for a reasonable price, and there was even a NOS in-the-box set going for \$1650!



### Roll Cage (ZVW 148 203)

There were two versions of The Thing roll cage, a 4-point cage that was sold in early 1973 and the more common 5-point roll cage in later 1973 and 1974. I think there were some aftermarket 4-point roll cages out there too and the Thing Shop has reproduced the VWOA 5-point cage and calls it a 'show bar.' I have heard that the original 4-point roll cages didn't fit under the hard top, but I know the 5-point cage does fit. The 4-point cage looks to be one piece, but the 5-point one comes in four pieces: front hoop, rear hoop, and two trans bars that connect the hoops with bolts. Both the 4-point and 5-point cages came with padding. These are nice accessories to have for added protection and I even used mine to carry a canoe when the top was down.



### Tunnel Console (ZVW 155 181)

This accessory is a 1973 Thing-only part since the 1974 Thing has the heater tubes on the tunnel and the console was designed to mount to the tunnel. This accessory was made by Pacific Italia and mounts with 4 black screws included in the package. In case you're looking for one, the Thing version is very similar to the ones made for the Beetle/Super Beetle and one would be hard-pressed to tell the difference. Just look at the compartment layout as there are various versions of the beetle ones.





The VW Thing Registry sponsors:

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**Mike Basso**  
[mpb181@aol.com](mailto:mpb181@aol.com)

Call  
518-630-0173  
Free Advice

“The purpose of The Thing (Type 181) Registry is to promote the preservation and enjoyment of the Volkswagen Thing, while keeping track of all VW Type 181's around the world. We track the VIN, owner's information, color and location. This is FREE to all VW Thing owners. Although we don't have formal meetings, membership does provide the opportunity to participate in various scheduled Thing activities all over the world. We promote Thing and Volkswagen events and sponsor activities like cruises, parades, gatherings, etc. Our activities are made possible by our network of volunteer “Thing Ambassadors” throughout the country. Our members also receive discounts at participating VW businesses who sponsor the Thing Registry”.

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