



www.vwthingregistry.com

Quarterly Newsletter

April-June, 2017

The VW Thing (Type 181) Registry is now a Chapter of the Vintage Volkswagen Club of America. The VVWCA has been around for almost 50 years and is well respected in the VW community as an outstanding organization. The Registry has been around almost 30 years and together we can do more to support the VW community. After we posted on our Facebook page that we had joined the VVWCA as a chapter we had over 13,000 views on our page!

As a Chapter of the VVWCA, we will be able to offer more great benefits to our members. The VVWCA will help promote and support the Registry with liability insurance for our events, ads in their newsletter, discounts to members, raffle items (free memberships) and much more. Please Like the VVWCA Facebook page and join as an individual member to help support the VVWCA and the VW Thing Registry.

Mike Epstein, the President, and Mike Klem, the Vice President of the VVWCA, are both great guys and are committed to supporting our Type 181 community and the entire VW hobby. They put many, many hours into making the VVWCA successful. I know from personal experience how much work it is to run an organization like ours and the VVWCA is much larger.



Membership to the VW Thing (Type 181) Registry to be FREE to all our members. But you can support the Registry by ordering a shirt, sticker, etc. We recently announced on our Facebook page that we would send a FREE T-shirt and Registry Sticker to anyone that donates \$20. You can send payment via PayPal to: vwthingregistry@yahoo.com or contact me if you want to send us money. It costs us thousands of dollars to keep the organization



going. At this point it is self-funded. Anything you can do to help is greatly appreciated.

It will be a year in July since I started the Registry back and we have grown a lot. We have over 3,500 Things (Type 181's) registered on our list worldwide. You can view the list of all the Type 181's in the Registry on our website: www.vwthingregistry.com under the heading "Current Registry". We had people register and then contact us saying they don't see their Type 181 on the list. We update the Registry list at the end of each month. We get hundreds of new registrations every month.

Our Facebook page (our main form of communication during the month) and private Facebook group has grown a lot also! As I type this Newsletter we have 1,900 "Likes" on our Facebook page and 2,300 members in our private Facebook group. We update our Facebook page everyday with information about anything Type 181/182 from all over the world. Our Facebook group is busy everyday with members talking about everything Type 181/182 related. It is a great source of information for any Type 181/182 owner. It is now the second largest VW Thing (Type 181) Facebook page. The only group that is larger is the Safari club in Mexico.

I have met so many amazing Type 181 owners from all over the world! Some are now good friends who I talked with every week. I never thought I would have friends in so many other countries. Our members are great people and the VW Type 181 community is the best!

The VW Thing (Type 181) Archives are on our website and updated often. If you have not looked at our Archives page, check it out. There is lots of VW Thing (Type 181) history. Please feel free to send us anything you think our members would be interested in. Thank you to everyone who has already sent information, old newsletters and Type 181 magazines. Jeff our VP is the mastermind behind this project and its

better than I could have ever imagined. Thank you, Jeff.

We have lots of "Thing Ambassadors" working with the VW Thing Registry all over the world now helping to promote our organization. They are: Ashleigh Morrow- Australia, Jeff Gilleland- California, Gunter Hofmans- Belguim, Bien Marquez- Philippines, Hugo Pereire- Portugal, Raymond Huppee- Canada, Wim Oosthoek- Holland, Shawn Sitat- Michigan, Jim Knox California, Gerardo Gonzales- Mexico, Thorsten Vitt- Germany, Jeff Nall- California, and Birch and Sandy Price- California. Thank you all for your help and support! If you are interested in being an Ambassador for the Registry, let me know. All you have to do is promote the Registry in your area and let us know about local Thing events.

The Registry is sponsoring the VW Thing class at the Volkswagens in the Valley Show July 29th in Fargo, ND. www.redrivervwclub.com. This year the show is Featuring the VW Thing. We will post the show flyer on our Facebook page. Thank you, Joel Herman at Red River VW Club, for contacting us. If your VW club has a show and would like the support of the Registry, please contact us.

We are also supporting the LA Air-cooled for their first show n shine: Seis de Mayo, The Hangover Show will be held at California Car Cover Headquarters located at 9525 De Soto Ave, Chatsworth, CA 91311 on May 6th from 9am-3pm. Roll-in begins 8 am sharp. Cost \$10 a car so pack them full! All air-cooled VW clubs & solo riders are welcome. Mark your calendars. For more info check out @la_aircooled on Instagram.

You may have heard the news about our annual show the Kubel Treffen West event, which will also be the VW Thing (Type 181) Registry Reunion this year. If you have not, here it is:

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:



Unfortunately, we have received a letter from Porsche Club of America's attorney who notified us that they have a United States Trademark Registration for the word: TREFFEN. Because of this we can't use it for our show the Kubel Treffen. We host the Kubel Treffen West show and the Domeck brothers host the Kubel Treffen East show. We have been working with the Domeck brothers and our attorney all week to resolve this issue. Because of the legal Trademark the other club owns, we will change our shows name to the THINGS EAST and THINGS WEST shows effective today. We are sad to see the Kubel Treffen name go away after 27 years, but we have no other option at this point. Thank you all for your understanding and support!

We have moved on and the new name for the show(s) is: THINGS WEST & THINGS EAST. Same events, just a new name. We appreciate everyone who contacted us and we understand your frustration, but we as a group decided we did not want to fight the PCA and made the final decision to change the name.

You can find a copy of the flyers in this newsletter. We are working with the guys from the El Prado show, which is one of largest VW show in the country for our THINGS WEST show and the Domeck brothers for their THINGS EAST show. If any member is interested in starting a THINGS South and or Mid-West event. Please let us know. We would like to see other THING events in other areas, but we need help with hosting.

Eric Arnold Photography will be at THINGS WEST and The Thing Registry Reunion this year. He will take a group photo of all the Things that attend. Eric is a famous car photographer and a VW owner himself. You can check out his work at www.ericarnoldphotography.com.

Things owners from Northern California, Central California, and the Bay Area, are planning a caravan to come to THINGS West. If you are traveling from another state, you can join one of the groups. We even have one Thing coming from Canada and one from the East Coast to the West Coast!

Please send in the registration flyer for THINGS EAST to the Domeck Brothers or Register on our RSVP list for THINGS WEST: <https://goo.gl/eyStGa>

Once you RSVP you will get an email with more information.





I am going to answer some of the Registry's most FAQ:

1. How many Things (USA) were made? 28,930.
2. What year were Things made? Only 1973 and 1974 in the USA.
3. How many Type 181's were made? 140,768 worldwide between 1969-1983.
4. What is a Type 181? A left-hand drive Thing (USA), Kubel (Germany), Safari (Mexico), Camat (Indonesia) or Pescaccia (Italy).
5. What is a Type 182? A right-hand drive Trekker (U.K.), about 300 were made.
6. What is an Acapulco Thing? It's a Blue/White Type 181 made only in 1974 for Mexico and the USA, only 400 were made.
7. What year is my Type 181? The first three number of the VIN are the year. 1970: 180, 1971: 181, 1972: 182, 1973: 183, 1974: 1974, etc.

8. Where were Type 181's made? Germany, Mexico and Indonesia. 1973 & 1974 VW Things sold in the USA were made in Mexico only and will have an "E" after the VIN for Export.
9. What colors were original Things in the USA? They were only sold in Pumpkin Orange, Sunshine Yellow & Blizzard White in 1973. Avocado Green and the Acapulco Edition was added to the colors above in 1974.
10. Was the Type 181 a Military Vehicle? Yes, it was first made for the German Federal Army (Bundeswehr) in 1969 and was not offered for civilian sale until 1971. More Type 181's were sold to the Military then to civilians. Therefore, the Type 181 is so rare and you don't see many. Around 90,000 were sold to Civilians total from 1971-1980, only 10,000 Type 181 a year were made (averaged). 1973 and 1974 was the largest years of production.

Feel free to contact us if you have any other questions or need any Type 181 advise. We have helped members located Things, find paint codes, tips, answer any VW Type 181 questions. vwwthingregistry@yahoo.com

The VW Thing Registry has another new sponsor: Jake Raby. Here is a little information about Jake and his business. He owns a VW Type 181 from the German Military.

Air-cooled Heaven, USA

Raby Introduction: I built my first VW engine with little supervision or guidance at 8 years of age. I continued building engines, receiving my first paying customer at 13 years of age. As a High School Student, it wasn't my studies that occupied my time, but rather building cars, engines, and fabrication. The same day I graduated High School, I joined the US Marines and attended the "University of Parris Island" where I was a Helicopter Crewman, Mechanic



and Turbine Engine Technician. The experience took me around the Earth where I was exposed to many cultures, but I remained loyal to the air-cooled VW engine, continuing to rebuild and modify them while serving my country. After four years of active service with the Marines I was Honorably Discharged and returned to the North Georgia Mountains to assume my business, Raby's VW Restorations. After a short time of restoring VWs, I decided to switch directions and focus my efforts on engine development. I have since been recognized internationally by most every major VW and Porsche publication over the last decade and this dedication continues today encompassing all horizontally-opposed air-cooled VW and most recently, water-cooled, boxer Porsche engines. Thank you, Jake, for your support of the VW Thing (Type) 181 Registry.

Raby's Air-cooled Technology
47 Raby Drive
Cleveland Ga 30528
706.219.4874
www.aircooledtechnology.com

Original VWOA Thing Accessories series:
By: VW Thing Registry member, Shawn Sitar
Lsvwc906@gmail.com

Volkswagen of America (VWOA) offered numerous accessories or options for the VW Thing at their dealerships in the US. Many of you may have questions as to which options were original items for your Thing and what they looked like or how they were installed. I wrote a series back in the 1990's about VW accessories for one of The Thing clubs and I never finished. So, I offered to Eric to write an informative article series describing each VWOA Thing accessory for the Registry newsletter to redeem myself. My plan is to primer the series with some basics on the accessories and a list of what was offered for

The Thing in the US in this issue, then write about the individual accessories in following issues.

First off, I don't want to get into semantics too much, but some use the term "factory accessory" and the only "Factory" accessory I am aware of for The Thing was the Acapulco Top. It came standard on the Special Edition Acapulco Thing in 1974 and was supposed to be an option for others to purchase for their Thing. All the other accessories for The Thing were sold and installed by the VW dealerships, so they technically are dealer options or accessories supplied by VWOA. Most if not all the dealer accessories were made by manufacturers in the US. Ok, a bit more technical here, but when you are scrounging for these parts, this may be useful. VWOA accessories usually have part numbers that start with ZVW. For example, ZVW 151 809 is The Thing bumper overrides. There were some accessories that were ordered from the VW factory in Germany and those parts usually start with 000. I will do my best to describe each accessory and hope it is interesting and informative. Of course, I don't know everything so anyone with better information, please let me know.

During the era of the VW Thing, VWOA offered 16 accessories that were specific for The Thing including:

1. The Top (Hard Top), ZVW 175 101
2. Luggage Rack, ZVW 175 181
3. Electric Winch, ZVW 162 181
4. Spare Tire Carrier, ZVW 148 702
5. Roll Cage, ZVW 148 283
6. Trailer Hitch, ZVW 164 181 (1973);
ZVW 164 182 (1974)
7. Bumper Overrides, ZVW 151 809
8. Sport Horn set, ZVW 123 408
9. Front Push Bar, ZVW 148 701
10. Tunnel Console, ZVW 155 181
11. Chrome Wheels, ZVW 148 184

12. Chrome Wheel Covers, ZVW 154 181

13. Air Conditioner, ZVW 203 181
14. Side stripes, ZVW 146 181
15. Strobe stripes, ZVW 149 181
16. Coco fiber mats, ZVW 197 181
17. Zebra Stripe Seat Covers, 192 181

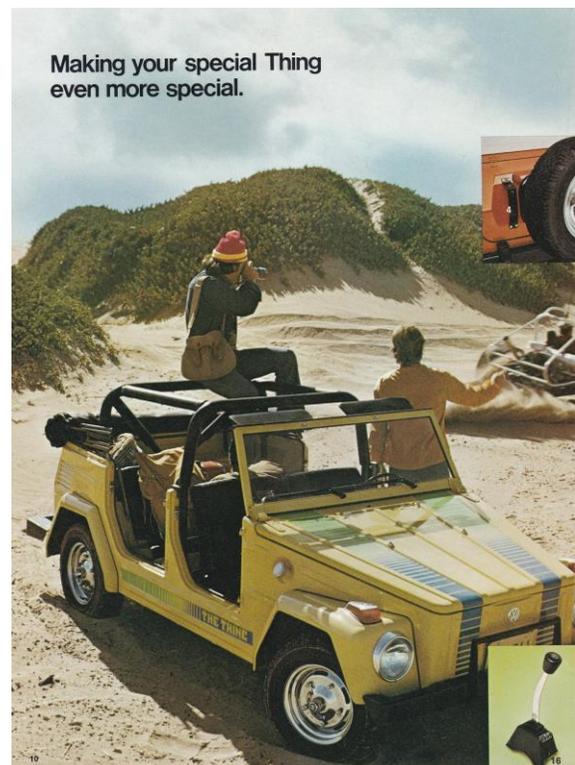
Some of the other accessories that were offered for all VW models that were commonly installed on The Thing included:

18. Fog Lamps, round amber ZVW 123 202, rectangular clear ZVW 123 203, rectangular clear, below bumper ZVW 123 204
19. Sports Gearshift Level, ZVW 145 501
20. Sports Shifter (Formula Vee), ZVW 148 105
21. Utility (Trunk, Engine Compartment) Light, ZVW 181 101
22. Sapphire XIX AM/FM radio, ZVW 501 061
23. Sapphire XVIII AM radio,
24. Leather-grained Steering Wheel (Formula Vee),
25. Steering Wheel Cover

I don't know the part numbers for a few or the accessories as you can see. Additionally, VWOA offered many other VW accessories that were offered for all the VW models that some owners bought for their Thing.

VW dealerships usually had accessory catalogs that included all VW models that they gave out to customers that featured options each model year. There were only two different accessories catalogs that had The Thing featured in it and both were produced in 1974. The 1973 accessory catalog did not feature Thing options, however in 1973 The Thing catalogs (featuring the car itself) did have drawings of some of the accessories. In the next issue, I will start describing some of the accessories listed above in detail and provide pictures. Hopefully, you will find this series interesting and informative. Perhaps these articles will be helpful for those of

you seeking to find and install these on your Thing and to know what to look for at swap meets or on the internet.





58-68

11 THINGS FOR YOUR THING.

58. Sport Horn Set. (not shown)

They'll hear you loud and clear. Rugged plastic trumpets mount securely behind the fender.

59. Stripe Kits.

Stripe your Thing with handsome Name Stripes or eye-boggling Strobe Stripes. Everything you need for quick, simple installation is included in these kits. Color fast material resists weathering.



THING STRIPE. Black.



STROBE STRIPE. Blue and green.

60. Trailer Hitch.

Enjoy real back woods mobility with this handy Trailer Hitch. Lets you haul trail bikes, snowmobiles, boats, or what have you. Specially designed for plenty of pull without damaging your Thing. Made of hot-rolled steel, chrome plated finish, with 1 7/8" diameter ball.

61. Roll Cage.

Add this rugged steel Roll Cage for extra protection in tight situations. Heavy gauge black steel. Foam-rubber padded overhead bars.

62. Hard Top.

Your Thing will be extra sleek, and you'll be extra snug with the Hard Top. Keeps the rain and snow outside where they belong.

63. Spare Tire Carrier.

Open up plenty of extra luggage space by mounting your spare outside. Tire swings away to give you free access to the engine. Black, heavy-gauge steel carrier is easy to install. Kit includes complete hardware and license plate bracket.

64. Zebra Stripe Seat Covers.

Add extra dash to your interior with these simulated Zebra Stripe Slipcovers, specially designed for The Thing. You can even wash them and they won't change their stripes.

65. Chrome Wheel Covers.

Slotted Chrome Wheel Covers look like real chrome wheels, but at a fraction of the price. Racy, rugged looking 5-slot design is specially styled for The Thing.

66. Chrome Wheels.

Customize your Thing with a set of these sporty, one-piece road wheels. Racy, vented design, custom styled in a heavy chrome finish. Complete with hub caps and lug studs.

67. Front Push Bar.

Black steel push bar gives you even more front end protection than standard bumper overrides. Accentuates the rugged look of the vehicle. Easy to install.

68. Electric Winch.

Handle really big jobs or pull yourself out of trouble with this rugged, heavy duty Electric Winch. Has up to 2200 lbs. of pulling power in a straight line. Use it in front with an optional special adapter, or on the rear with the Trailer Hitch. Operates from inside or outside the vehicle, or by remote control. Stores in luggage compartment when not in use or when you're in motion. Easily mounted or demounted.

Sponsor spotlight:

www.thingparts.com,

By: Michael Basso.

I've been a driving a VW Thing for over 30 years. I currently own two Things, a black 1974 and a white a 1973 with air conditioning. I have been collecting Thing parts for years. I have bought many complete Things and parts from all over the world. Now I have two buildings full of Type 181 parts. I decided to make it a business and offer parts to other Thing owners.

I offer personalized service and free advice. Feel free to call me if you have any questions. I go to many local VW shows during the East Coast VW season. I buy, sell and swap parts. I can procure many hard-to-find parts from my contacts. Many NOS parts and gently used second hand parts. We offer fast shipping to most locations.

I rebuild mirrors, wiper motors, speedometers and gas heater components. I offer online contests and support the Thing shows. I am a proud sponsor of the VW Thing (Type 181) Registry. The Registry is very valuable to Type 181 owners, they promote the preservation of the VW Thing.

www.thingparts.com

New and used VW thing parts



Mike Basso
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



- 1. Top.** You'll be extra snug with the Top. Keeps the rain and snow outside where they belong.
- 2. Luggage Rack.** Take more with you to that out-of-the-way spot. Available for use with the Top. Permanently mounted rack has highly polished chrome finish.
- 3. Electric Winch.** Handles really big jobs or pull yourself out of trouble with this rugged, heavy duty electric winch. Use it in front with an optional adapter, or on the rear with the Trailer Hitch. Operates from inside or outside the vehicle by remote control. Easily mounted and removed.
- 4. Spare Tire Carrier.** Gain extra luggage space by mounting your spare outside. Tire swings away to give access to the engine. Made of black, heavy-gauge steel. Kit includes complete hardware, license plate bracket and installation instructions.
- 5. Chrome Wheel Covers.** Slotted chrome wheel covers look like real chrome wheels, at a fraction of the price. Styled especially for The Thing.
- 6. Roll Cage.** Extra protection in off-road situations. Made of heavy-gauge steel with foam-rubber padding.
- 7. Trailer Hitch.** Haul trail bikes, snowmobiles, boats, etc. Specially designed for plenty of pull without damaging your Thing. Made of hot-rolled steel for extra strength. Flat black finish, with 1 7/8" diameter chrome ball.
- 8. Bumper Overrides.** Protect your Thing-on the road and when parked. Look rubber strips provide a cushion against shock. Flat back to match your Thing's bumpers.
- 9. Sport Horn Set.** They'll hear you loud and clear. Rugged plastic trumpets mount securely behind fender.
- 10. Fog Lamps.** Designed for greater illumination and added safety. These lamps provide an amber lens for mounting above bumper, rectangular with clear lens for mounting below bumper. Lights have attractive black housing with chrome trim and quartz-halide bulb. Mounting kit contains all installation hardware.
- 11. Front Push Bar.** Steel push bar gives you even more front end protection than standard bumper overrides. Accentuates the Thing's rugged look. Easy to install.
- 12. Radios.** Find the sound you like with this wide selection of radios and tapeplayers. If AM alone is not enough, you can choose from several AM/FM and AM/FM Stereo radios. Or if you also listen to your own music, you'll want the AM/FM Stereo radio/tapeplayer. All units are 100% solid state and offer superior tone quality.
- 13. Sports Gearshift Lever.** Gives your Thing a sporty shift, without loads with Wolfsburg City Crest. Slips over original shift lever.
- 14. Tonneau Cover.** Put the area between the front seats to use. Console holds items you want close at hand. Made of molded ABS material in black, gelable grain finish with simulated wood grain inserts. Easily installed.
- 15. Chrome Wheels.** Customize your Thing with a set of these eye-catching road wheels. Vented design, custom styled in a heavy chrome finish. Complete with chrome hub caps and lug studs.
- 16. Sports Shifter.** Looks sporty—makes shifting quicker and easier. Chrome-plated lever has black leather-trimmed knob with Wolfsburg City Crest. Short shift pattern reduces lever travel. Built-in overdrive spring eliminates depressing lever for reverse. Low-profile floor console included. Easy installation, original VW mounting parts.
- 17. Sliding Wheel Cover.** Vinyl-urfacad Perfortherm wheel cover keeps your hands warm in winter and dry in summer. Installs in minutes. Regular or Super Cushion Grip covers are available in black, tan or red.
- 18. Air Conditioner.** Compact, attractively designed to complement your Thing's interior. Engineered to circulate cool, dehumidified air with minimum horsepower requirements. Simple to operate, it features automatic cycling control, speed 3 speed blowers and fan. Adjustable louvers that distribute cool air in all directions.



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".

Eric L. Goodman
President
info@vwthingregistry.com

THINGS WEST

VW Thing Registry Reunion 2017

June 9th - 11th 2017

El Prado Park
16700 S Euclid Ave.
Chino, California
www.vwthingregistry.com



June 7th - 11th

Camp at Blackstar, Prado Park
Meet and greet

June 10th

Octo show or Prado Park- Cruise, Dinner

June 11th

El Prado Show "Special Thing area"
Awards



Please RSVP to reserve your show spot!

RV spot Contact Steve 909.868.8761

Show Contact: Eric Goodman 909.855.7625 vwthingregistry@yahoo.com
Jeff Gilleland 408.702.2309 jeffgilleland@gmail.com

Show sponsored by: Thingparts.com

THINGS EAST 2017 CORYDON, INDIANA



at the
Baymont Inn and Suites Corydon
2495 Landmark Ave NE, Corydon, IN 47112 (812) 738-1500

Hotel rates start at \$72.00 + tax per night

**MAKE RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONE WITH THE HOTEL BEFORE JULY 1 FOR THIS RATE!
BE SURE TO MENTION THINGS EAST!**



Friday Afternoon: Meet & Greet / Get Together
Friday Night: Cruisin' for Ice Cream



Saturday: Car Show KTE Registration Fee \$25.
5:30 1/2 hour drive to KTE Banquet at Overlook Restaurant
1153 West State Road 62 Leavenworth, IN 47137

Saturday dinner is \$172 with tax and \$1070 with tax for kids 10 and under. Pay at the door.
Choice of fried chicken or roast beef with gravy, side salad, green beans, cut corn,
homemade mashed potatoes, fresh dinner rolls, cobbler and ice tea.

We do need to know if you will be attending dinner and how many in your party.



Sunday:
Scenic drive through Indiana back roads.

Contact: Dennis Domeck
citroen@twc.com
www.kubeltreffen181.com

Ron Domeck
rsdomeck@bellsouth.net
www.kubeltreffen181.com

