



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

## Quarterly Newsletter

### June-August, 2017

This Newsletter is going to be about our THINGS WEST event that took place in Southern California this month. We are going to recap the event with member articles and lots of photos!

First a quick update about the Registry: It's been a year since we started the Registry back. And what a year it has been! Wow. Just amazing how fast it grew and everything that has happened in this past year. We had no members when we started. After almost 30 years, all the Registry history had been lost... Here are some of our highlights:

1. Over 3,500 new members joined the Registry from all over the world.
2. Our new Facebook Page and Facebook Group grew to over 5,000. Our page has been updated every day for the last 365 days.
3. We launched a new Website.
4. Sold hundreds of new Registry Stickers and Shirts.

5. Held our THINGS WEST event and had over 52 Things attend. The three-day event was amazing!
6. Two new sponsors: [thingparts.com](http://thingparts.com) & Raby's Air-cooled Technology.
7. Published an updated Registry list of all the Type 181's registered in the world monthly.
8. Started a quarterly Newsletter that's sent to all our members.
9. Started an Archives pages with thousands of pages of Registry and Type 181 history and information.
10. We became a Chapter of the Vintage Volkswagen Club of American.

The most important, we have hundreds of new friends from all over the world!

Thanks to Jeff Gilleland for helping me as VP, thanks to our sponsors, Mike Basso and Jake Raby, and most importantly, thank you to all our members for your support. I have self-funded



The Registry this past year and appreciate all the donations. You can see it went to a good cause and we want to keep the Type 181 Community alive for years to come. Membership to the Registry is FREE, but you can donate to help the Registry @ PayPal: [vwthingregistry@yahoo.com](mailto:vwthingregistry@yahoo.com)

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 2,400 "Likes" on our Facebook page and 2,800 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.

Our THINGS WEST event was a huge success this past weekend. Thank you to everyone who came. We had 52 Things attend. The most Things we have ever seen on the West Coast. It would not have been possible without the help and support from some of our amazing members, Jeff Nall, Jan Skelton Boyd, E Ted Boyd, Lee Caplan, Raymond Huppee, Gina Huppee, Jim Knox, Sam Williams, Chris Conway, Rick Copeland, Birch Price, Sky Van Vliet and finally, my right hand our VP, Jeff Gilleland. Thank you everyone.

Eric Arnold Photography was at our THINGS WEST event. He took a huge group photo of all the Things that attend. Eric is a famous car photographer and a VW owner himself. You can order a copy of all the photos from THINGS WEST on a DC for only \$20 at his website: [www.ericarnoldphotography.com](http://www.ericarnoldphotography.com).



Things owners from Northern California, Central California and the Bay Area caravanned to come to our THINGS WEST. Here is what took place during the event.

Friday, we arrived at Prado Park in Chino California. Many members camped at the park and some stayed at nearby hotels. We gathered around a camp fire that night and talked about all about everyTHING ☺

Saturday, we left Prado early to caravan to the OCTO show in Long Beach, California. This was an amazing show! Midmorning we left and drove Pacific Coast Highway from Long Beach to Newport Beach for lunch with stops at Seal Beach pier, Huntington Beach Pier on the way for photos on the beach. We arrived in Newport to a private parking lot outside the restaurant where filled it full of THINGS! After lunch, we caravanned back to Prado to meet Eric Arnold. Here we took a large group photo of all the THINGS and their owners on the grass at the park. We had 36 THINGS in a line... We drew quite a large crowd from the park to see this. After the photo shoot, we went to the campsite and had pizza and dessert with everyone.





Sunday, we were up early around 5am to park all the THINGS on the grass at Prado for the car show. We had 52 THINGS in total for the show. The So Cal weather was amazing and the show was a huge success. At the end of the day we had a raffle with 55 items and awards. Congratulations to everyone who won a prize and award. After the show, everyone said their good -byes... Thank you all for your support!











THINGS WEST recap from Registry member, Raymond Huppee from Canada:

Last year after emailing back and forth with Eric Goodman and seeing some of the planned events for this year's Things West show my wife and I decided to make a full two-week holiday and attend. We pulled our 1974 VW Thing behind our class C RV from Lethbridge Alberta to Las Vegas, Southern California, the Oregon coast and then made our way home. After 16 days, 3535 miles and 7 states I can confide in you that this was the best vacation decision we've ever made. Meeting many VW folks, cruises, surfing, group photos, dinners together, awesome weather, the camaraderie and being treated like family made our year. We are very grateful to the club for receiving a first-place trophy at the show. Gina and I are hoping we can afford to do the Things West show again in 2018. Thank you, Eric and Jeff, for the huge amount of work you did to put on this event.

A journey across the USA to THINGS WEST by Registry member, Lee Caplan:

What do Dayton, OH, Springfield, MO, Amarillo, TX, Winslow, AZ, Chino Hills, CA, Richfield, UT, Limon, CO, Independence, MO, St. Louis, MO and St. Clairsville, OH have in common? These are the towns I stayed in during my June 2017, 6,500-mile trek from the Eastern Shore of Maryland to attend the Things West show at the Blackstar Campout at the El Prado Regional Park in Chino, California.

First, if you've never driven across North America within the United States I encourage you to do so. We live in a beautiful, resilient nation which, when seen up close from ocean to ocean in just five days is that much more remarkable.

Of course, if you're making that kind of commitment it helps to be motivated by something other than seeing sights. This trip my goal was to share and display on the west coast my unmolested by time or humans 1974 Volkswagen Type 181 which had previously covered only 736 miles under its own power.

The opportunities to show my car to others in California were numerous and spread out over an eleven-day period. After arriving in San Bernardino County my 'day of rest' involved meeting Eric Goodman and his entourage at the Russo and Steele auto auction underway in Newport Beach. While an interesting venue and auction experience the lack of sales there left me feeling kind of flat.

The next day I hauled my car to Huntington Beach for the Rare Vintage Air display at the unique venue known as Old World Village. My Puebla assembled vehicle may have been a little out of place amongst the multitude of mostly German sourced iron in a recreated Bavarian village but the car was well received securing two awards, one for Special Interest and the other for Most Original.

Before sun-up next morning I hauled the Type 181 to the Pomona Swap Meet and Classic Car Show. This was a 'bucket list' item for this lifelong east coast resident. I've known of Pomona but was never there on the right day so this was an opportunity I wasn't going to miss. I met and spoke with hundreds of people, some extremely knowledgeable and helpful, that day staying from 5AM until the fairgrounds shut down. Had I wanted I could have sold the car ten times over that day. In that regard, the crowd was a little intimidating.

Following Pomona, I had a few days before El Prado to take in Southern California. I used the opportunity to visit the Petersen Automotive Museum and lunch at the Farmer's Market in



Los Angeles one day and attend a Washington Nationals - Los Angeles Dodgers game at Dodgers Stadium with fellow VW guy, Dodgers fan and new friend Jeff Nall.

Finally, the date containing the reason for the trip arrived. For four days, I was in and out of the El Prado Regional Park to experience all the activities surrounding the Blackstar Campout. People and cars from all over the west descended on El Prado. Amongst the thousand or do Volkswagens were 52 Type 181s. My car was singled for a photo session with a freelance photographer for hopeful inclusion in a future magazine (maybe 'Hot VWs') issue.

It should come as no surprise that I met some unique and dedicated Thing owners who I now count as friends. Those friendships were cemented over many different activities including picnic night, pizza night, the day trip to the Orange County Transporter Owners show and flea Market in Long Beach including the lunch cruise through Seal Beach, Sunset Beach and Huntington Beach into Newport.

After returning from the day trip all the Type 181s then on site assembled for an historic and iconic photo session with photographer Eric Arnold who did a fine job capturing the extent and variety of those vehicles present.

Finally, Sunday arrived and along with it the El Prado Show and Shine. In total, a remarkable 52 Type 181s participated in this event made even more memorable by having our own unique display area with the greater show. This breakout area gave our cars a prominence and recognition as 'Things West' they would not have had if mixed in with the Bugs, Busses, Ghias and other Volkswagens. Ultimately Things West and the greater Show and Shine was one of the most satisfying and enjoyable car shows I've ever attended. My Type 181 won

the "Most Stock" award. This was a great honor from such an amazing and nolgible group.

Sadly, all good 'things' must come to an end and the Monday morning following Things West the car was trailer loaded and on its way with me back east. That phase of the trip was decidedly slower. I used those days to attend two other cars shows before returning home.

The first show heading east was the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) Annual Grand National conducted at Independence, Missouri. That group likes to see and rewards even small effort in improving the appearance of displayed vehicles. I accept that going in and did transform the car some before placing it on the AACA show field. Installed for that show were powder-coated flawless wheels with modern tires, powder-coated perfect bumpers and reproduced side windows. It took about two hours in the trailer parking lot to make this adaptive transformation.

That work paid off. The AACA awarded my car a First Place Grand National award in the Volkswagen Class.

Before sunrise the next day I was off with the vehicles to the Sixteenth Annual Cars with Class Concourse organized by the Horseless Carriage Club of Missouri held on the grounds of the St. Louis Transportation Museum. I met a long time Chevy/VW/Kaiser-Frazer friend there and displayed my Type 181 next to his 1955 Chevrolet 210 Hardtop. I have a nearly identical Chevrolet in my two-car collection.

Apparently, the folks in St. Louis liked the Type 181. They bestowed a much-appreciated Nicest Preservation award on it despite the fact the car was still wearing its updated bits from the previous day's display.





The next day I departed St. Louis for my last night on the road before returning home. The last travel day found me in my old home town of 16 years Cumberland, MD. The day before my wife called the M&M Bake Shop there and ordered one of their fantastic not duplicated elsewhere, birthday cakes. It wasn't anyone's birthday. On arriving home, we rejoiced at being together again for the first time in more than three weeks. Following the rejoicing we ate cake.

THINGS WEST by Registry VP, Jeff Gilleland: Life is a journey and I happen to take my fun voyages in a 1973 VW Thing. This Thing of mine has been a part of my life for over 23 years now and one of the finer moment was when I took my well worked soul down the coast to a new tradition called Things West. No, it was not originally intended to be like this... No, it was intended to be part of a grander tradition handed down from my forefathers that should have been called Kubel Treffen West, but that is a story for another time. For decades, I read the fine tails of those that road these nobbie German beasts across the country for the great gatherings. So, the inspiration goes on and I bear the torch for the next generation to join us in this most nobbie quest of VW Thing fun and camaraderie. Many of these past adventures can be found at a certain web page I maintain called the VW Archive: <https://goo.gl/AEyg57>

As I sit here drinking my wine and remember back to the forceful march of Eric Goodman. I thought about how Things could be better and how we could all gather and rejoice in our fond interests. Emails flew back and forth between us and I raised the call for a new escapade that we could bind the tribe for many years to come. It was decided that perhaps having this would be best done under the VTO group who holds the best darn VW event in the USA called

Blackstar at El Prado in Chino Hills California. I love their moto "Keep it Stock".

<http://www.keepitstock.com/blackstar.html>

One of my elders Sam Williams had been dragging me down to this 5-day air-cooled camping extravaganza for several years now. It has grown to such proportion it now overshadows the legendary Classic. I hope that there will be enough enthusiasm and love that the Classic will find a way to sustain and grow again.

After Eric had several meetings with "Vintage Transportation Owners" VTO we were graciously allowed to be part of their great event. We were even allocated a nice area near the lake to camp all our fine 181's and a special area during the main show on Sunday. A big debt of gratitude goes out to the VTO crowd for their gracious & fun VW spirit. Now we were rolling...

So now we had to up the bar and get some fun T-Shirt design, some awards and a raffle to focus the 181 tribe. Eric came up with a cool inspired shirt & the neat flier and I designed in CAD some entertaining 3D Printed unique awards for some enjoyable competition. Happily, these designs were well received by the attendees. They all had blossomed from a KDF inspired design for a new industrial hood emblem to mount on the front of my Thing. This project is documented on The Samba for further research. <https://goo.gl/QQ2mEH>



<https://181thing.wordpress.com/>

Documentation on The Samba of Kubel Treffen West 2017 aka Things West :

<https://goo.gl/cyW7Bb>

Things West 2017 Award Winners:

1st Place went to the Canadian's from the great white north Raymond Huppee. Who courageously went surfing on the coast for the first time at the event with Jeff Nall.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place "fill in the blank please, I do not remember"?

3<sup>rd</sup> Place "fill in the blank please, I do not remember"?

Most "Stock 181" went to the amazingly original 750mile 1974 Thing of Lee Caplan from Main.

"Furthest Driven" went to Sam Williams of Cupertino California who also has the same award from Kubel Treffen East.

We are grateful to German Billy for his coordination of the judges for this event. He jumped right in and found some help and did a swell job.

Eric reached out for some sponsor's and was pleased to be embraced by our friend Michael Basso of Thingparts.com who paid for the event banner.



Now that very special car that was out from Main was quite a treat. It certainly my devilish intent to increase the number of Volkswagens on the road, for like a majestic hawk flying a Volkswagen Thing is something that other should be able to indulge and enjoy on a regular basis. The one serious exception would be Lee's 1973 Volkswagen Thing with 750 miles on it. Truly a beauty to behold with many markings and factory options that you never see on a modern car with so many mods and paint jobs after decades. With such low mileage and rare items of original factory untainted by time. I certainly could not poke at Lee very much for this excellent piece of equipment that he allowed us to indulge in. So nice and





generous was Lee that he even allowed Eric to drive it for a hundred feet off the trailer to the camp where we all congregated for conversation and food. What an excellent treat that must have been, embellishing our interests with this fine specimen, such an exquisite car should perhaps be in a museum but Lee chose to indulge us with this great Beast.

There were several planned events that led up to Sunday's show. Friday, we had a group BBQ and drinks at the designated 181 camp area. Much thanks to the fine kamikaze mixer.

Saturday was jammed packed with fun and started with a migration to the best pre-1967 Bus event in So Cal. The annual assembly at Vitrines Memorial stadium in Long Beach held by O.C.T.O. One year they had over 52 bar door VW Busses at one show; that was Amazing! After tolling the swap and enjoying the crowd and busses we all gathered at around 11 am to move out. Off to Seal Beach and a fine Saturday 181 cruise down the coastal highway 1. We stopped at several large beach parking lots to an admiring crowd of surprised spectators. Down the Pacific Coast Highway "PCH" to Pier Plaza in Huntington Beach for a quick stop and picture. We made a quick left turn and drove through downtown to enjoy the sights. The back down PCH to have lunch and a parking lot photo shoot at CP Restaurant & Lounge in Newport Beach; boy where they surprised. After a quick bite, we rerouted up through Irvine to the toll freeway 261 / 241 and over the hills to avoid the parking lot, also sometimes known as a freeway called the Imperial highway 91. It was a fun chase uphill following Jeff Nall's lovely Single Cab Bus in the lead.

Off to Chino Hills we went to an extra fine photo shoot at El Prado Park at 4 pm arranged by Eric Goodman. We drove in and were all lined up and nicely shot by a professional

photographer Eric Arnold. The entire set of pictures is available in a nice CD commemorating the event. These fun pictures can be purchased at

Eric web page:

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

During the shoot, I had the great privilege of presenting to Eric Goodman the 2017 Common Gears Antique VW Society award "For Selfless & Significant Contribution to The Antique VW Hobby" plaque. The last time I had this privilege was at Kelley Park in San Jose in 2009 when Everett Barnes, creator of the Samba, received it.

The official articles can be found here:

[www.shorelineantiqueautoconnection.com/cghe-roes.htm](http://www.shorelineantiqueautoconnection.com/cghe-roes.htm)

This fine day was topped off by pizza and drinks Saturday night at the group camp spot near the lake. Off to sleep we all went after a hard day's play with our Things.

Sunday was the final event at Blackstar. Rising early, we set up the club tent, banner and raffle tickets were sold to support the Thing Registry. Many great gifts were generously donated to this raffle by our supporters. After about 10 pm we had a stronghold of 52 VW Things all washed and show worthy. At noon, sharp we held the drawings for the awesome raffle prizes and shortly thereafter announced and dispensed the unique 3D Printed Things West 2017 awards to the worthy winners. It was a great 4-day event with much comradery and all in all I would say I counted over 60 VW Things that crossed my path during the entire spectacular weekend. With such a great initial show of strength I am sure we can hit a count of 100 or more 181/182's at next year's Things West 2018. We hope to see you there and may this new tradition live on for decades to come.



## VWOA Thing accessories, part two.

By Registry member, Shawn Sitar  
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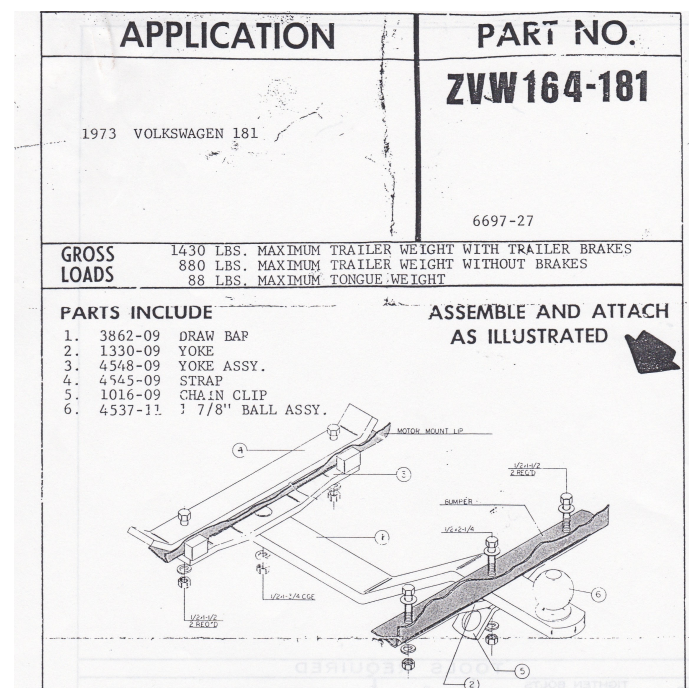


In the last newsletter, I described the list of VW dealer offered accessories for The Thing. Now, I'll start by describing each accessory in detail. Again, I am just describing what I know about VW of America (VWOA) accessories that were dealer sold and installed (not factory). I hope you find this series of articles interesting and useful if you are searching for these. I have some of the original installation instructions for VWOA Thing accessories that I will provide Eric to post on the Registry web page for your reference. Should any of you have additional information or literature on VWOA accessories, please let me know.

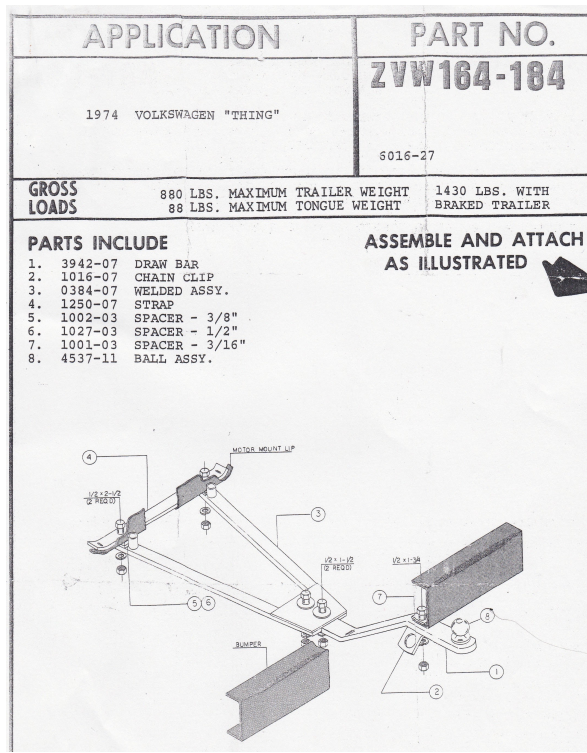
### Trailer Hitch (ZVW 164 181, ZVW 164 184)

"Specially designed for plenty of pull without damaging your Thing." There were two different trailer hitches made for each model year of The Thing. The 1973 hitch had part # ZVW 164 181 and the 1974 hitch was ZVW 164 184. The 1973 hitch design had the draw bar run straight to the rear bumper from the motor mount cross bar. When the oil had to be changed, you had to unbolt the draw bar and swing it to the side to access the oil drain plate. The 1974 hitch had an improved design with a

y-shaped assembly around the oil drain plate that connected to the draw bar which allowed you to change the oil without messing with the hitch. The draw bar of the hitch bolts to the bottom center of the rear bumper with the tongue projecting back and comes with a Valley 1 7/8" chrome ball. For both model years, the maximum trailer weight with trailer brakes was 1,430 lb. and 880 lb. maximum without brakes. The tongue weight was 88 lb. A trailer light kit was also available with the hitches. Valley Tow Rite of Lodi, CA was the manufacturer of The Thing (and other VW model) trailer hitch.







the Spare Tire Carrier (ZVW 148 702) on the rear bumper, but you can still have the front overrides on. The VWOA bumper overrides for The Thing were made by X-L-O Automotive Accessories, Inc.



### Bumper overrides (ZVW 151 809)

“Protect your Thing—on the road and when parked.” This is one of the more common and easier to find accessories you’ll see for The Thing. The dealer option bumper overrides were made of flat black metal with a rubber strip on the front that has VWOA imprinting on the top and they came in a box of 4. They mount to the bumper with a single nut and have black vinyl strips that go along the interior edges so as to create a tight fit to the bumper. The instructions state to drill a hole 10 ½” right and left of center of the front bumper (just inside of the tow loop), but I think the later 1973s and 1974s already have these holes from the factory. The rear bumper mounting locations were 13 ½” left and right of center. I recall having to drill holes in my ’73 bumper to mount the overrides. The 1974 Things sold in California had factory big rubber trapezoid shaped overrides that were required by law. The bumper overrides are not compatible with



### Luggage Rack (ZVW 175 181)

“Take more with you to that out-of-the-way spot.” This is one of the harder to find dealer accessories for The Thing. Although the hard top is somewhat common to see on Things, most do not have the optional VWOA luggage rack. The hard top came with 8 pre-drilled screw holes with a screw in it that was designed to permanently mount the optional luggage rack. My VWOA Thing luggage rack actually still has the label with the part number and maximum weight limit of 110 lb. on it. There was a VWOA luggage spider (ZVW 271 107) made of bungee cords that you could also purchase to hold down your cargo. I noticed it had “X-2” which I also have seen on the sticker for the hard top (ZVW 175 101). The luggage rack is made of chromed steel and appears to be similar to ones installed on Volvo wagons and other American utility vehicles such as the International Scout. In fact, I acquired such a rack from an old International Scout and had to cut the bars down to fit on The Thing hard top. The scout rack brackets were identical to the VWOA ones but had screws on the side of the base in addition to the two that go through the top of the (see pics). I do not know what company manufactured the luggage rack for The Thing, but it is the same company that made the racks for the Volvos and other cars.

I am pretty sure it was a US manufacturer of accessories that supplied VWOA. Should any of you have any more information on the luggage rack, please let me know.

### Front Push Bar (ZVW 148 701)

The push bar is a nice option for the front bumper and is made of solid steel and painted black. As the VW accessories brochure says, it “Accentuates The Thing’s rugged look.” It mounts with only two bolts on the top of the bumper. I recall seeing a reproduction of the original push bar for sale on TheSamba.com or one of the VW Thing newsletters. The original push bar was manufactured by Superior Industries of Van Nuys, CA, which made many accessories for The Thing and other VW models, and on the side of has “S-2” or maybe S-1” stamped on the left (driver) side. I am not positive on the “S-1” as mine has “S-2” and I am assuming the number is the production run. The push bar looks nice alone or with fog lamps (ZVW 123 202). The push bar is not compatible with the front bumper overriders (ZVW 151 809), though I have seen people put both on.







The VW Thing Registry sponsors:

Raby's Air-cooled Technology  
47 Raby Drive  
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“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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