



Rochester, New York

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**MORE DETAILS TO
COME IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER.
I JUST RESERVED OUR
APRIL EVENT DAY AND
TIME,**

APRIL EVENT

**WHEN:
SUNDAY APRIL 13**

**TIME:
1:00 to 3:00**

**WHAT:
SLOT CAR RACING**

**WHERE:
FANTASY RACEWAY**

**JUST AS LAST YEAR,
ONE HOUR OF RACING
WITH REFRESHMENTS
TO FOLLOW!**

FLRVWC NEWS

Visit us online at flrvwc.com !!

Hello Everyone, I would like to feature a new series to our newsletter. Please send in a short story and photos of your recent or past project, or adventure you have been on.
Thank you and Enjoy, Joyce

CLUB MEETUP #3

We will again have club meetups during the winter season There will be discussion, conversation about VW's or anything else that comes up. Bring your ideas, Volkswagen items, or any related item of interest to show off.

The next meetup will be Thursday February 13th

6:00 p.m.-until the last person leaves.

Bill Gray's Henrietta
1225 Jefferson Road (by Rt. 390)
Rochester, NY 14623
(585) 424-2350 (Restaurant)

Bring your appetite and enjoy a delicious Bill Grays meal.

Coupons available online at billgrays.com

RSVP appreciated but not mandatory
Text Dave Clark at (585) 490-5334

JASON AND POINDEXTER

Poindexter is a 1972 Super Beetle finished in L51B Enzian Blue. The car started life with Brent Brohlin here in NY and some point soon after made its way to California where it remained for 20yrs.

Shortly after it's return in 1993 and 91K showing, it was purchased by a former club member and I was hired to repair and refinish the exterior. At this time the car was still wearing the factory paint. Club member "A" sold the bug to another club member, using the funds to purchase a house. Club member "B" then hired me to reupholster the seats and soon lost interest and as per my recommendation, sold Poindexter to my mail lady. The postal carrier had me finish the car, adding new brakes and tires and by summer 1995, Poindexter was on the road

Sadly in August '96 Poindexter was "T" boned by a full size Chevy truck. Luckily none of the occupants were seriously injured but Poindexter was hit so hard that the speedometer now reading 93K had popped out and landed in the trunk and the bug was a total loss.

In the fall of '96, Poindexter was given to me with the intention of a parts car. Being the hired caretaker, I formed a bond with the car, not to mention that it was probably the nicest, rust free VW I had ever seen or repaired at the time. As a result, I felt the need and wanted the challenge of rebuilding Poindexter and I did!!!



After significant repairs and metal grafting, Poindexter looked as he did before the crash.



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I was attracted to the trunk space of a Super Beetle and as a result, this would be the first bug I would use for cross country travel. Over the next several years Poindexter and I attended several shows and events while criss crossing the country and Canada.

We made 5 round trips to California and back also making a stop in Colorado. We also regularly attended Mid America Motorworks funfest in Illinois as well as a few runs to various locations in Florida.

Sadly in 2009 Poindexter was rear ended while my wife and young son were inside which resulted in my daughter being born a tad earlier than expected.

Sadly Poindexter was again a total loss. Of course I kept the bug and rebuilt him again.

One month later I had him all rebuilt once again and in February 2009 my family of 4 took Poindexter to Walt Disney World in Florida.

Since then things have gone well for Poindexter and though we hit a deer in the fall of '23, there was only minimal damage which required a right fender replacement.

Over the years I have since built other Beetles and Supers for long distance travel and Poindexter now enjoys a semi retired lifestyle. Sometimes I think about a total resto as life has given him a well loved, well used appearance ...but I don't think I will. All of those little dings, scratches and some faded paint as do the tears my young children's little fingers put in the headliner.

Either way, Poindexter still whistles happily along.



TOY TALK BY: David Clark

Not one to pass up an opportunity to make a profit, Sears already had a Auto and Truck Parts and Accessories catalog, so why not a catalog for only imported cars as well. That was the hot market at the time. J.C. Whitney already had a lock for catalog aftermarket auto parts in, so why shouldn't Sears capture some of that share. All that was needed for the customer was to walk into a Sears retail store, of which there were over 900, and either walk out with the desired part, or order the part and it would be shipped to the store. Pretty simple. Sears was founded in 1886 by Richard W. Sears and Alvah Roebuck in Chicago Illinois. It started out as R.W. Sears Watch Company, and quickly broadened it's offerings, and became Sears & Roebuck. At one point in it's early days they even sold houses, which many are still standing today. As far as Volkswagen parts go, Sears published a Imported Cars catalog, which included many various VW parts. Such things as fiberglass custom hoods, fenders, Baja Bug parts, Rolls Royce hood. Hardwood dash set-\$13.69. Metal basket type roof rack-\$17.99. Front and rear seat covers-\$33.95. Muffler \$18.99. Heater Boxes-\$19.59. Pretty much most routine maintenance parts right at your finger tips. BUT, the Biggest surprise I found was Dune Buggy bodies-\$329.00. However, if you look closely at the attached picture, The driver of the available Dune Buggy is none other than Bruce Meyers with one of his wives as a passenger. The front hood has the Meyers Manx logo. Sears leveraged a massive network of top-quality suppliers and often used multiple vendors to keep shipping costs at a minimum. YES! B.F. Meyers shipped an initial batch of Manx bodies to Sears to be sold as the Rascal, and Terra Buggy shipped Coyote bodies under Sears brand. Wow! Who knew? Buying a Sears Dune Buggy body you could have gotten a Manx body. If only I knew when I was buying/building my Dune Buggy. Although, unofficially, I have heard that the manufacturer of my body, Chase Manufacturing, was also a supplier of Sears Dune Buggy bodies.



The toy feature this month is the Franklin Mint Meyers Manx replica. Franklin Mint Precision Models issued this replica to commemorate the world famous creation of Bruce Meyers. It is a 1/24th scale of an original Dune Buggy created by Bruce Meyers, measuring 6 inches long by 3 inches wide. This fiberglass bodied model is hand assembled from more than 85 separate components, and is hand finished. The model is officially authorized by Bruce Meyers and is exclusively designed with a metal roll bar, dune flag, surf board, removable hard top (both of which I chose to leave in the original box) and operable steering. I visited Bruce and Winnie Meyers at Carlisle Import Festival several years ago, and had Bruce autograph the hood of this replica.



A Brief History of Turbonique By Elias Schabel

It's January 13th 2025, I was in need of a haircut, so I went down to my local barbershop. Once inside I sat in the waiting area and picked up a magazine "Science and Mechanics September 1963". Flipping through the magazine an AD caught my eye, I then realized I'm holding and original Turbonique Advertisement!

Let me explain the significance here, Turbonique was a company that produced **ROCKET ENGINES** and **SOLD** them via **MAIL ORDER**. There were 3 variations of their rocker engines: one was a rocket turbine that would act as a supercharger for your car's engine, another was a bolt in replacement for go kart engines, and their most expensive model was the rocket drag axle. The rocket drag axle was particularly interesting, as it would bolt onto a standard axle, when you desired rocket fueled fun, simply put your car in neutral, say a prayer and pull the pin. I bet you're wondering how this has any relation to vintage VWs, so here it is, Dragracer Mr. Pitiful ran a Turbonique powered VW Beetle called the "Black Widow". This car would run down dragstrips in the mid-1960s until the car's demise in October of 1966 when the little bug would experience liftoff at 183 mph.

There is so much history surrounding Turbonique that I can't report all of it here. So if you would like to learn more, here is an article on Mr. Pitiful and his VW Beetle from the Auto-pian, in addition I also added a link to the Dork-O-Motive podcast where I first heard about turbonique.

<https://www.theautopian.com/happy-juneteenth-meet-mr-pitiful-and-his-rocket-turbine-powered-vw-beetle/>
<https://dorkomotive.com/podcast/1-6-the-most-insane-speed-parts-company-in-history-turbonique-thrust-danger-and-federal-prison-sentences>



ABOVE: Picture of the Turbonique AD from the barbershop



Picture of the Black Widow VW Beetle, the car is commonly reported as a 1955, but in other pictures you can see the taillights are mounted higher, leading me to believe it's a 1956.
 Image Source: <https://justacarguy.blogspot.com/>

Restorations, Auto Services & Repairs Provided by club members

Need your air cooled VW repaired or tuned?

Engine work, brakes, etc...

We have members who have years of experience working on Bugs, Dune Buggies, etc.

Jeff Van Hoover 315-589-7486 or
jvanhoover@williamsoncentral.org Williamson

Steve Crispino 585-755-5920 or
steve.crispino@gmail.com Webster

Jason Haag mechanical & metal/welding repairs
Hilton/Brockport
585-368-8694 or jasonhaag73@outlook.com

Classified Advertisements

All ads are free to club members. Ads will run for one month unless you notify editor to continue the ad.

FOR SALE: Club logo T-Shirts, \$12,
Club logo color window decals, \$2. Beetle Stress w/club logo \$2
Bug Bust dash plaques, \$1 each.

AVAILABLE: Beetle tow bar, fits standard Beetles (not for Super Beetle). Club members are welcome to use this tow bar for no charge for up to two weeks. A \$60. Cash deposit and liability release is required. Tow bar accepts a 2 inch trailer hitch ball.

Contact Joyce for ads, club sale items and tow bar rental.
(585) 670-0129 or e-mail joycec@rochester.rr.com.

FLRVWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter submissions are
always welcome !!
Send contributions to:

Joyce Crispino
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2025 FLRVWC Activities Calendar

Date	Activity	Host
January 16th Thu	Club Gathering for Dinner at Bill Gray's	Dave Clark
February 13th Thu	Club Gathering for Dinner at Bill Gray's	Dave Clark
March	TBD	
April 13 Sunday	Slot Car Racing at Fantasy Raceway	Joyce
May	TBD	
June TBD	German Blossom Festival	Don Brown
June TBD	Harborfest Car Show at Charlotte Beach	Organizer
July 4th Friday	Town of Irondequoit July 4th Parade	Joyce
August TBD	Bug Mill Visit and Picnic	Jason
September	TBD	
October/ November	TBD	