



This is Kevin Golden's Ultra Van #502. He lives in Harrison, Mo. Owen Strawn helped him locate it in the Indianapolis area sitting in a pasture. He has it running but still has more work to do on it. We met Kevin at the 2008 National Rally and hope to see his completed Ultra Van at the next rally.

Whales On Wheels

a publication of the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club

Volume 2008

October Issue #4

The Whales on Wheels is a quarterly publication of the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club, Inc. a CORSA Chapter and is dedicated to the preservation and use of the Ultra Van. This 22 foot, unique, motor home was designed by David Peterson and built in Kansas until 1970. About 365 units were built. Dues are \$10 annually. Please remit to the Treasurer, Diane Galli. Make checks payable to Ultra Van Motor Coach Club. Send submissions to WOW by email to the Editor, Brenda Leighton (Digital submissions are preferred, but even hand written are acceptable)

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This is the notice of the passing of Lucille Peterson on June 23, 2008. She was the beloved wife of David Peterson (inventor of our Ultra) who preceded her in death eight years ago.

A Special Note from Your Editor.....

If there some of you out there who now have e mail and would like to receive your Whales on Wheels very fast (It takes 2 seconds to e mail it to you), please let me know and I will take you off of my Snail Mail list. You can e mail me at the address below.

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“Prez Sez”

October 2008

No doubt you all wonder what the “Prez Sez” this October. I had better “se..” SOMETHING to satisfy your curiosity.

Having very recently returned from the National Rally at Nebraska City, I am excited and enthused about the UVMCC. Nancy has written a very nice report on the rally, included in this WOW and I have little to add. I do appreciate the effort many made to attend and can say we had a very enjoyable event. Weather, facilities, people, tech sessions, activities, and the “vittles” were all wonderful. We had a very “intimate” rally. In case any of you misconstrue or misunderstand that last statement, let me say that our group was small and compatible enough that everyone visited with everyone. We enjoyed a total of four meals together.....not bad for a 5 day rally. As far as I know, that was the extent of any “intimacy” outside of our coaches, (aside from Doug and Nancy’s skit)....sorry, modesty dictates that we show no pictures of that activity! After what she did to him in that TUB, Doug and I are happy that she failed her “hatchet throwing” lessons, and that she showed absolutely no prowess for that activity. I refused to take Martha to that exhibition (the hatchet throwing, that is)! I actually was embarrassed for her to see Nancy give Doug a bath. Now....all of you who couldn’t attend the rally will really be curious!

It was great to meet new people, boast about our coaches, and answer questions, even a few of our own. When I tell friends, that we numbered thirty people representing two countries and eleven states (a.k.a. provinces), they fail to comprehend.

Having said all of that, I am acutely aware that the Ultra Van Club does not exist just for people who attend the rallies. For the bonds to exist and persist (which are certainly experienced at those “get-to-gether”) we need to explore and use all “avenues” to connect with each other. I certainly could not maintain my enthusiasm for our Ultra and for the “Club” without all of these “avenues”.

We continue to have a good publication (as this issue of WOW illustrates). We also have a few regional rallies. I hope we can have more regional and seasonal rallies and that many will attend them

We still have the telephone and “snail mail”. Not available (or even dreamed of) when our coaches were built and this club started, the internet has certainly made our job easier! Ernie Newhouse would smile if he knew of all of the flurry and activity on our website and such things as the Yahoo User Group. (He would NOT smile about yesterday’s Wall Street activities). My enthusiasm is maintained by the “connectivity” afforded by the “magic” of the electronic media,. And it is in “real time”....

Having said that, I urge you to read Ken Wildman’s piece in this issue. I urge you all to go to the web site (and follow the links). Then, please let Ken know what you would like to see changed or added. We (Ken, I, and others) will work on transitioning to a new site, as he has suggested. We would welcome a computer and HTML savy volunteer, to help with this endeavor. I continue to urge you all to subscribe to Yahoo Groups....realizing you may have to tolerate bad jokes, bad questions, and even a few bad answers (that’s what Ctrl+X is for).

Happy Ultravanning! To those whose Ultras are disabled, we wish you Happy “Enabling”.

Your Prez for another year, Ron Zoutendam

Ultra Vans For Sale

#236. Motor was rebuilt by Jim Craig and has less than 1000 miles on it. The motor was also LOWERED IN THE ENGINE BAY FOR BETTER ALIGNMENT. The paint is in fair condition on the metal parts, but shows cracking in the gelcoat areas. The brakes are in good condition. The upper spring mounts have been upgraded to I-beams. Overall this Ultra is in excellent mechanical condition. The upholstery and carpet have been removed from the inside as well as some of the paneling. All of the original paneling is available and can be reinstalled. The cabinets are in average condition. This Ultra has not been used in many years so the condition of the plumbing is unknown. I am putting it up for sale in **as is condition for \$4800.00.** I have a clear title and it is currently registered in CA. If it doesn't sell at this price I will finish the interior work and be asking a higher price. **Please give me, Ed Gurr, a call if you have any questions 209-742-7469 home. 510-909-3435 cell.**

#257 This Ultra was under full restoration and use until three years ago when I got my boat so I have lost interest in it. It gets between 16 and 21 MPG on a 95 HP Corvair engine.

It's been sitting for three years and the silver paint needs redoing and the fuel system will need cleaning, of course. But you should be able to drive it home and use it after some cleaning up. It's been converted to a 3 tank system with new water tank and fiberglass black water tank. Has a side drain (4" knife valve) for the black water. Toilet flushes straight into BW Tank. Upgrade steering to late model specs. Installed 1959 Buick tail lights. Pertronix electronic ignition. Dual exhaust.



Forward storage compartment. Forward table. Oil Temp sender and Lowered oil pickup. New roof top air conditioner. New lower instrument panel with Oil pres, oil Temp, Voltmeter, lights. Cleaned oil cooler and added baffles to ends. Replaced door hinges with large barn door hinges. Head Temperature Gauge. Replaced front shocks and springs.

Replaced rear shocks. Replaced all "U" Joints. Replaced both rear spindles. Overhauled transmission. Replaced 37 amp Alt with 10SI 63 amp, Internal Regulator, Alternator. Differential dip stick. Remote switch for battery charger. Trap Door Shrouds. Bucket seats from a 1991 Le Baron. Air Dam. Replaced all Hard brake lines Except the rear trailing arms. Dual Master Cylinder. **\$5000 firm. Contact: Jim Isbell E-mail Jim.Isbell@gmail.com or 361-776-7884**

1968 UltraVan #391. Corvair powered, 110 H.P. runs good. It has a late model Air Conditioner with heat strip and a 50 watt solar panel. It also has a 13' A & E awning. The body is in good shape with no corrosion. Red metallic paint. The Ultra is stored in Wisconsin.

Asking \$6,900.00

Contact Pat Kennedy, N4671 County Rd P, Delavan, Wi. 53115

Home 262-728-5842 Cell 262-215-3014

#604. For Sale: Rare 1973 Ultra Van - 26 Feet Long
Sleeps 5 or 6 One of Four Built -This is the only one of its kind on the Road V/8 350 Oldsmobile Engine – 50,000 miles on engine-Full dash instruments 200R4 Overdrive transmission, 4.11 Gears in differential, Power steering, Power 4 wheel disk brakes - Air Bag Suspension, Solar Panels, Good tires 2.8 Microlite 2500Kw Generator-13,000 BTU Roof Air Conditioner, Large awning, All Tinted Glass, TV w/antenna, Microwave. **Asking \$18,000.00**

Location: Apache Junction, Arizona

Contact: Howard Boso

Home: (480)288-2636

Cell: (480)518-4103 Email: Hamboso@juno.com



#2019 This unit is for sale. It is in very good running condition. It has new air conditioner, rug, mattresses like the astronauts use, refrigerator with big freezer two doors. MANY OTHER ITEMS that I can't tell you about as I'm no mechanic. **Asking \$15,000.00 or best offer. Ruth Harvey , 7685 64th St. , Pinellas Park, Florida tel. 727)541-3433**



Ultra Class Ads:

The Ultimate Corvair Ultra Van Rescue/Repair Kit as prepared by veteran Ultravaner Pat Fitzgerald for Ultra Van #211. Approximately twenty (20) hard –to-find parts ranging from starter nose assembly to power-glide C-clip. **Cost \$90.00. Half price. Buyer pays shipping.**

Complete heater assembly with cover removed (in working condition) from #211. **\$50 or best offer. Buyer pays shipping.**

Completely rebuilt and assembled rear wheel assembly. By Pat Fitzgerald. **\$90. Half price now. Buyer pays shipping.**

Pair of matching 110 heads. Hand cleaned. **\$75 or best offer. Buyer pays shipping.**

All of the above by Bill Welle, Nokomis, Florida 941-488-6535

Email: billpatjrs@wmconnect.com

WESTERN WINTER ULTRA VAN RALLY

28, 29, 30 OCTOBER
2008

KOA RV PARK - AVI CASINO
LAUGHLIN, NEVADA

WELCOME DINNER - POT LUCK - YANKEE SWAP MEET
FREE WED VIDEO POKER TOURNAMENT
FREE SHUTTLE TO LAUGHLIN MALL
THURSDAY 2-FOR-1 BUFFET
6 BINGO SESSIONS DAILY
GOLF - MOVIE THEATRE
POOL - SPA - BEACH

hosts Betsy and Leo 928-565-1298
sennasylum@npgcable.com

This rally date has been selected by the Western Ultra Members
in lieu of attending the Great Western Fan Belt Toss.

KOA rates are \$23 per night with 10% discount for KOA, AAA or AARP Members. Ultra Vanners attending this rally must call KOA to make reservations and pay for first night with credit card. Advise making reservations ASAP before 10 October so's we can all park as a group together. Ask for LINDA 1-800-562-4142

Betsy's famous spaghetti will be served at the Welcome Dinner Tuesday afternoon.
Wednesday will be a Pot-Luck Dinner & the Yankee Swap Meet.
Thursday we'll pig-out at the 2-for-1 or half-price Buffet (Slot card required for this and other discounts - slot cards are FREE from the Advantage Club Inside Casino)
* Yankee Swap Meet gifts should be \$5 - \$10 *

If you plan to attend this rally, please RSVP Betsy!

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NATIONAL RALLY REPORT - NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA Sept 14 – 19, 2008 *by Nancy Pratt*



Who would have thought we'd head off intentionally to an Ultra Van rally in a CAR, but that's exactly what we did and others had the same idea. We had high hopes that our Ultra would be repainted in time for departure but time & weather were against that happening. However, attending rallies is fun and seeing Ultra friends is worth it, so keep that in mind for future rallies!

There were only 7 Ultra Vans at Victorian Acres RV Park but we had 32 people in attendance, even Art Moore who came from Ontario by motorcycle towing a new "motorcycle popup". He was held up for 2 days due to flooding in Illinois from Hurricane Ike. Traveling by Ultra were hosts Ron & Martha Zoutendam (IA), Norm Standal & Brenda Leighton (FL), Howard & Marsha Boso (AZ), Jerry & Marylou Kramer (OH), Jim & Roy Davis (KY), Pat & Mary Kennedy (WI) and Clyde & Kaye Stanton (MI), who had to delay their departure due to Hurricane Ike. In their recently purchased big motorhome were Ken & Penny Wildman (OH). By car/motel were Bob & Diane Galli (CA) along for the ride with Lew & Shelley Young (CA), Doug & Nancy Pratt (PA), Norm & Marion Helmkey (ONT), Glenn & Joann Lemke (WI)...who stayed at a bed & breakfast and had me drooling with reports of their wonderful breakfasts, Jon & Carol Crisman (IA), Sherry Morrow (NE), and for an afternoon Kevin Golden & Connie Summers (MO).

This year's rally was again hosted by Ron & Martha Zoutendam so there were plenty of interesting activities planned. Doug & I took in all of them, from museums to tomahawk throwing plus checking out Model A Fords, and of course there was plenty of eating!



from previous rallies (so if you have any you don't want, just send them or pass them along to our WOW editor). With Marion's expertise at doing the ticket sales, lots of tickets for a drawing were purchased (and \$100 raised) but I was amazed that I got to walk away with the quilt! Thank you, Brenda!!



Someone else should probably be the ones to report on our "Off-Off Awful Broadway" appearance one evening. If you remember the blonde that appeared in Arkansas and surprised Paul Piche...well, she was back, only this time more well-endowed, and not just in the lip department! She/I ended

Brenda Leighton was at it again and made a

wonderful Ultra quilt using T-shirts

up washing Doug as he sat in a tub of water to the tune of “You Light Up My Life”. I had to keep searching for that slippery soap!! Doug sure had some funny expressions on his face along with all of that shampoo. Sorry, I was too busy and couldn’t take any pictures so you’ll just have to use your imagination.



Our nice banquet meal was served at a downtown Nebraska City restaurant on Thursday evening. Newly elected directors were added to those who have already been serving on the board as we thanked those who finished serving their terms in office. Then the Ernie Award was announced and somehow the secret never got out, so Jim Davis was quite surprised. President Ron Z. added humor to the presentation by replacing the neck chain with a fan belt to hold the award medallion. How fitting! Well deserved, Jim! For once you seemed speechless!!!

All good things must come to an end, so many of us said our goodbyes at coffee time on Friday morning. We headed off in our different directions, all the way from California to Florida, Ontario and spots in between. Make plans to attend next year’s rally. Even if you can’t come by Ultra Van, you’re always welcome and sure to have a fun time.

But let me just close with this one last story that I received from Diane Galli after they got back home to California. She wrote about the gift that we all received from the campground owners as a thank you, even those of us who stayed at motels. We received ours from the owners Thursday night and received extras to pass along in case some were headed home without returning to the campground. Diane wrote as follows:

“Here is a hearty laugh for you, unless Shelley wrote first. Remember when you gave us the lavender planted in the little bucket at the motel? Well, we (Gallis & Youngs) were ready to leave for the RV park and say our good byes, so watered them before we put them in the trunk.

When we got to our destination on Monday and were unloading the trunk of Bob and my stuff, Shelley said, ‘hey look, they survived the trip’. I said ‘OH Good’, and proceeded to show the little pot to our Granddaughter Amanda who came to pick us up, and Bob's sister and her husband who came from Fresno to meet and greet and have lunch and a visit with us all.

They both took a look and said they were plastic flowers, and Shelley and I said ‘no way’. Well, when we realized they were indeed fake, we really got a good laugh out of our thinking they were real. I hope you both got a good laugh out of our tale too.”

Yes, Diane, we sure did chuckle and I’m sure that others will get a good chuckle out of your story as well! Whether the flowers from the campground were fake or not, it certainly was a nice parting gesture from the campground owners!

Letter from Ken Wildman

At the recent rally in Nebraska, there was some discussion about the website that is currently located at <http://www2.onu.edu/~kwildman/ultraVan.html>

I created this site back in 1995 and have maintained it ever since. I also maintained an “echo” site at <http://clubs.hemmings.com/clubsites/uvmcc/>

There are several limitations for the club in this arrangement. First, is the question of continuity. When I can no longer maintain the site it will disappear from the ONU computer system. That would be a shame since the site has had hundreds of thousands of hits over the years and is the first site to come up in a Google-search for Ultra Vans.

Second, ONU was my former employer. As a private university they have several restrictions, most importantly that websites can not be used for commercial purposes. I have pushed the limits somewhat by listing coaches for sale, but not giving any prices.

Finally, I haven’t directed any creative efforts towards the site in years. We need to make some improvements and to “freshen up” our message.

I have checked with the University technical staff and they are able to set up the current URL to re-direct inquiries to a new location. The club could rent a space on an ISP, or even set up its own domain, with a name like xxx@ultravan.org. In this arrangement, we could have a forum, entire pages devoted to technical issues, photos, or rallies. And we could have an informative classified section with room for pictures, descriptions, and prices.

Ron Z and the Board of Directors can select someone to work with me in the transition to a new site that will allow us to keep the ONU URL so that people can find us easily.

The new person should have some computer experience and hopefully some experience with the HTML programming language or a willingness to learn (it’s really very simple).

Additionally, we need suggestions for improvements, new areas to present, etc. Please re-visit the site (above) and think about what you would like to see on the web pages. We can’t promise that every idea will be incorporated but we are very open to suggestions.

Ken W.

MEMO PAGE

Memo #1:

Reminder: For those who have only paid their dues through 2008, please remit the \$10.00 membership for 2009 before January to our Treasurer, Diane Galli, UVMCC Inc, 5000 Cascabel Road, Atascadero, CA 93422. If you have a question about anything, contact Diane at her home 805-466-2737 or by e mail at rdgalli@tcsn.net.

Memo #2:

Our Long Time Ultra Club Archivist, Norm Helmkey, has indicated that he would like to turn over the archivist reins to someone else. Until that time, Brenda Leighton will digitalize the archives and they will be stored with Ron Zoutendam.

Memo #3:

A thank you note has been received by e mail from Claire Hoffman. The club sent a Thinking of You card. Below is her e mail:

Thank you (club) & You Diane for the cute card. Talked to Jane Harrison yesterday. They are back in Mesquite. Love, Claire

Memo #4:

2009 Eastern Spring Rally is at Hillsborough River State Park just northeast of Tampa, FL from March 16th-20th. Hosts and hostesses are Jerry and MaryLou Kramer and Norm and Brenda Standal.