

Whales on Wheels

Number 2

2022



UVMCC was incorporated in October 1967 for all who are interested in Ultra Vans
CORSA Chapter #008



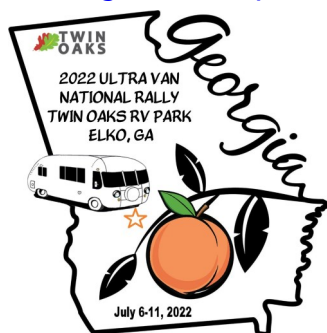
WHALES RALLY AGAIN!

The Ultra Vans are ready to rally. Are you coming? Let us know!

The RV Park has informed us that there are over a **dozen** reservations so far. **This is really exciting.** But, we need to know who and how many will be attending, especially if you're not camping at the park. Remember everyone is welcome whether camping or just coming for a day or two. We need this information so we, as hosts, can do the planning for food, events, and of course, door prizes. We don't want anyone to be left out or be short of anything. Here is a link to a simple registration form on the Ultra Van website, <https://ultravan.org/2022-national-rally-registration/>. **Please, please** complete this if you will be attending or email uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com the attendee name(s), arrival date, number of days attending, staying at campground Y/N, UV coach or other brand. Thanks!

We also have an agenda and rally merchandise for sale, **see pages 2 & 3.**

The rally will be held at **Twin Oaks RV Park** July 6-11 in Elko, GA, which is just off of I-75. **Please come join us!!!** You can still make reservations. 478-987-9361, mention the Ultra Van group for a discount. Rally flyer, <https://ultravan.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022-Rally-Information-Sheet-updated-with-agenda-link.pdf>



TWIN OAKS



CO-HOSTS

Molly Bacon & Chris Brown
 Nona & Jim Cheek

706-457-2242
 864-497-7722

uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com
nona8668@hotmail.com

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Agenda National Ultra Van Rally July 6 – 11, 2022 Twin Oaks RV Park Elko, Georgia

Wednesday, July 6

1:00-6:00 p.m.

Arrival at Twin Oaks RV Park

(if arriving after 6, call the park in advance, no arrivals after 10pm)

6:00 p.m.

Dinner provided by co-hosts in the clubhouse. Door prizes.

Thursday, July 7

7:00-10:00 a.m.

Morning coffee, etc. (host provided) and conversation in the clubhouse

Noon-ish

Lunch on your own

2:00-5:00 p.m.

Second welcome for Thursday arrivals. Games with prizes. Snacks.

6:00 p.m.

Self-pay dinner - 57 Diner – Unadilla, GA

Friday, July 8

7:00-10:00 a.m.

Morning coffee, etc. (host provided) and conversation in the clubhouse

This event each day is for EVERYONE, please join us!

10:00 a.m.

Division Meetings

Noon-ish (between mtgs)

Light lunch provided by the club. Door prizes

1:00 p.m.

National Membership Meeting (elections & club business)

After member mtg

Tech Session/Ladies' event. Door prizes

6:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner. Yankee Swap

**Member
Meetings**

Saturday, July 9

7:00-10:00 a.m.

Morning coffee, etc. (host provided) and conversation in the clubhouse

Noon-ish

Lunch on your own (in town possibilities - see link below)

1:00 p.m.

Visit historic downtown Perry (lots of eateries there)

<https://perry-ga.gov/mainstreet/>

Club provided dinner/banquet (awards) at The Swanson, downtown Perry

5:00 p.m.



Sunday, July 10

7:00-10:00 a.m.

Morning coffee, etc. (host provided) and conversation in the clubhouse

10:00 a.m.

RV Crawl (show off your Camper/RV)

Noon

Potluck Leftovers. Door prizes

2:00 a.m.

Tech Session/Ladies' event. Games with prizes

6:00 p.m.

Self-pay pizza party (your choice ordered from Dominos). Door prizes

Monday, July 11

7:00-9:00 a.m.

Morning coffee (host provided) and breakfast leftovers

Clean up the clubhouse

Check out before noon



2022 National Rally Merchandise Now for Sale!!

In the club's CafePress merchandise store, there is a selection of items with the 2022 National Rally logos. This is the only place they will be offered. **None will be for sale at the Rally.** Please order in advance to have them in time for the rally. If there are some other items CafePress offers not shown here, contact uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com and request it. It will be added.

<https://www.cafepress.com/ultravan>



2022 Ultra Rally T-Shirt (back & Front Images)
\$19.00



2022 Ultra Van Rally Men's Long Sleeve T-Shirt
\$24.00



2022 Ultra Van Rally Men's Long Sleeve Golf Shirt
\$24.00



2022 Ultra Van Rally 11 Oz Ceramic Mug Mugs
\$11.00



2022 Ultra Van Rally 15 Oz Ceramic Large Mug Mugs
\$15.00



2022 Ultra Van 1.0l Stainless Steel Water Bottle
\$15.00



2022 Ultra Van Rally Baseball Cap
\$15.00



2022 Ultra Van Rally Canvas Tote Bag
\$15.00



2022 Ultra Van Rally Silver Square Charm Charms
\$25.00

Ultra Van Sales for 2021

Compiled by UVMCC Historian, Owen Strawn. Please contact Owen with any updates.

- 358 - Gary Spaniak Jr. to Joe Schiller - 12/29/21
- 229 - Jason Suterland/Mark Pannell to Nathan Trautman - 12/30/21
- 483 - Joe Sexton to Scott Michael Sturm - 12/27/21
- 364 - Gabbi Rose to Jackie unknown - 11/12/21
- 461 - Janet Bell to Martin Sellers - 11/6/21
- 63104 - Paolo Galli to Russell Nicolozakes - 10/5/21
- 283 - Sadler estate to Rueben Ezekiel - 9/22/21
- 503 - Jim Shipp estate to Ken Mitchell - 9/5/21
- 358 - Darrell Woofert to Gary Spaniak Jr. - 8/31/21
- 497 - Gale Pfueller to Larry Forman - 8/29/21
- 251 - Charles Fason to Ben Ramsey - 8/16/21
- 700 - Roy Muranaka to Russell Nicolozakes - 8/2/21
- 495 - Orlando Ramirez to Ryan Weis - 7/6/21
- 268 - John Robere to Joseph Hofmann - 6/20/21
- 101 - Craig Lamond to Russell Nicolozakes - 5/2/21
- 104 - Tim Ericson to Russell Nicolozakes - 5/1/21
- 601 - Joe Garcia to Russell Nicolozakes - 5/1/21
- 397 - Rod Kershaw to Eric Cole - 3/24/16
- 322 - Chesney Auto Salvage to Phillip Trella - 2/22/21
- 407 - Ronald Schemmer to Ed Lindsay - 2/6/21
- 522 - Victor Korte to Russell Nicolozakes - 1/31/21
- 420 - Gary Anderson estate to unknown - 1/9/21



ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!

Getting Ready for 'Ultra Rally' Business

This is important for all members!!! Not just Rally attendees.

Each year before the Rally, there are some business items that we all need to be involved in.

We need to have this information by the July newsletter to be able to publish:

- Any proposals, especially those that will change the bylaws
- Nominations for officer elections. A ballot will be sent out the first part of June.
- Award nominations or special recognitions

Officer Elections

Officer positions are open to any member in good standing that is willing to fulfill the duties of the office as described in the bylaws. A copy of the bylaws is on the website [here](http://uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com) or can be obtained by contacting the Secretary (uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com). Most often, candidate discussion and nominations are part of the regional rally's business meeting, but anyone can nominate someone else or themselves by submitting their name and a short bio to the Secretary.

The following positions are open for election this year. Incumbents are listed, but there are no guarantees they will run.

- ♦ President - two year term - **vacant**
- ♦ Vice-President - one year term (no term limitations) - incumbent Joe Scalet
- ♦ Secretary - one year term (no term limitations) - incumbent Molly Bacon
- ♦ Treasurer- one year term (no term limitations) - incumbent Molly Bacon
- ♦ Newsletter Editor - one year term (no term limitations) - incumbent Molly Bacon
- ♦ Eastern Director - three year term—**vacant**, past Directors must wait a term to rerun
- ♦ Central & Western Director—**not applicable**—they are finishing their 3-year term.

If you know of anyone, or yourself, interested in running, you are encouraged to "throw their/your hat in the ring." Please DO NOT assume someone else will take care of these positions. **We need you!**

Ernest Newhouse Award



Each year the Ernest Newhouse Award has the opportunity of being presented. It is important that you read the criteria below for the award and even MORE important you read the criteria below for submitting a nomination. Please read everything below **CAREFULLY!**

The award recognizes an Ultra Member who has contributed in an outstanding manner to the progress, enjoyment and general success of The Club and its activities, and meets the qualifications as stated below. Basis for selection will be the individual's performance during the entire period of membership. Not just limited to the previous year or any other shorter time period.

To qualify for nomination of this award, the individual must have done four of the following six items:

1. Host at least one National Rally
2. Hold a chair position of a committee
3. Hold at least one term as a club officer, tech. or other club position
4. Be a member of The Club for a minimum of two years
5. Host at least two regional rallies, or a second National Rally
6. Accomplish outstanding or superior services to The Club

A **written, qualifying report** must be reviewed to the President for each nominee for verification before the ballot is published (**NO** write-ins). The President will forward each qualified report to the editor for inclusion on the Ballot. Members vote by ballot, preceding or during the National Rally. Presentation of the award occurs at the National Rally. A tie vote selects the individual of longest Club membership. An individual may receive the award only one time (**see your Roster for past recipients**)

Welcome to our new members



#201

New Hampshire
Bob & Agnes Brown
Matt LaCoe #201



#358

Pennsylvania
Joseph & Irina Shiller #358



#309

Texas
Derek & Nicki Farrell #309

UVMCC currently has 119 members



News From the Prez

Hey Everyone,

Some of us are starting to come out of the deep freeze and will be getting our Ultra's ready for the summer. For those of us that have warm weather and/or indoor work facilities, well you have no excuses! LOL

The National Rally is pretty well planned and scheduled for the week preceding the Corsa Convention. I plan on being at the rally and the convention, but I am not sure with what yet. I am one of the ones coming out of the deep freeze, plus I have customers to satisfy. So, I hope to have the Ultra #398 ready with a new 2.9L engine, but no guarantees. I also have a race car, Yenko YS-318, to get prepared for the race season.

With that, a group of us have some NOS Ultra parts that are for sale including a few late tanks and some fiberglass and miscellaneous sheet metal parts. They should be listed by the time you read this (see [page 7](#)). They will be on the website, but because of the size of most, you will need to arrange for your own shipping or in-person pickup.

It is really past time for the election nominations, and we need one Eastern Director and a President. Neither can run again, so those are critical. The other offices have incumbents that will be running, but you can still nominate others (see [page 4](#)). Send in your nominations to Molly before June 1st, but the sooner the better. Also, do any of you have any nominations for the Ernie award? Keep in mind there are qualifications that need to be met and are in the by-laws, plus I'm sure Molly will have them highlighted in the newsletter (see [page 4](#)). The nomination needs to be sent to me or Molly and I will review if the person is eligible. This needs to be sent in now and will NOT be allowed as a write-in on the ballot. We will accept emails from known members for any nomination.

Keep in mind that we need to move up the schedule of the July newsletter by a few weeks due to the timing of the National Rally and the CORSA Convention.

Ken Hand,

Ultra Prez



Congratulations to Whales on Wheels

**Recipient of the
Old Cars Compact
Chapter Golden
Quill Award for
2021**



The **2022 Membership Roster** is included with the newsletter. A printed copy can be obtained for \$4.00 plus shipping from the website merchandise shop here, <https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-club-merchandise-shop/2022-membership-roster-booklet-only-available-to-current-members/>

As hinted to previously, the stash of **Ultra Van NOS parts** is now for sale in the website's Merchandise Shop.

Here's a picture of a few of the listings. You can visit the shop by clicking on this link, <https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-club-merchandise-shop/>. Happy shopping.

FYI - Pickup preferred. Shipping will be extra and you will be invoiced separately for it and must pay in advance.



Ultra Van Motor Coach Club
All Things Ultra Van

Home About UVMCC - The Club For Sale/Wanted Events Gallery Newsletters Shop Contact Us Privacy Policy

Factory Parts
Fiberglass Rear Corner - factory original (NOS) - sides sold separately - limited quantities
\$400.00
[Select options](#)

Factory Parts
Used driver's side cut windshield (check pictures for measurements) - 1 only
\$200.00
[Add to cart](#)

Factory Parts
Lower Front Fiberglass Corner - factory original (NOS) - each side sold separately - limited quantities
\$300.00
[Select options](#)

Factory Parts
Interior front fiberglass headliner - factory original (NOS) - limited quantities
\$300.00
[Add to cart](#)

Factory Parts
Aluminum front floor support - factory original (NOS) - limited quantities - sold separately
\$30.00
[Add to cart](#)

Factory Parts
Powerglide shift cables - 22 foot long - sold individually - factory original (NOS) - limited quantities
\$275.00
[Add to cart](#)

Factory Parts
Aluminum black water tanks - later 3 tank coach models - factory original (NOS) - limited quantities
\$300.00
[Add to cart](#)

Factory Parts
Steering Box aluminum floor support - factory original (NOS) - limited quantities - sold separately
\$75.00
[Add to cart](#)

Factory Parts
Fresh water tanks with spray foam insulation for late 3-tank coaches - factory original (NOS) - limited quantities
\$300.00
[Add to cart](#)

2022 Western Division Rally

August 15-19, 2022

Hosted by

Doug & Meg Bell, Carl & Fran Jones, Jerry & Patty Mello



Here is your request to attend the 2022 Western Division Rally scheduled for August 15-19, 2022, at the [Turtle Rock RV Resort](https://www.turtlerockresorts.com) located at 28788 Hunter Creek Loop, Gold Beach, OR 97444.

RVing is more different in 2022 than it has ever been in the past. In the last two years more than 50,000 new motor homes and towables have been sold every month. That means more and more people are competing for the same number of spaces that were available two years ago. This also changes the complexity of reserving and holding spots for special events like ours.

Because of this, I URGE you, if you are going to consider attending the Western Division Rally this year, **book early, very early** in order to get your spot and have it held for you. I have included a phone number at the bottom of this article for you to call to reserve a spot.

We guarantee you will have one of the most enjoyable Augusts you've ever had. Southern Oregon is about the best place you can be, and we plan on making this August a great time for all who attend this Rally. The beach and Pacific Ocean are just steps away from your spot, **really!** So, you can walk for miles on the beach, relax around a great evening campfire with liquid refreshments, take a jet boat trip up the Rogue River (highly recommended), go charter deep sea fishing, shop at the local gift shops, or just hang out with friends. Some of these activities will be planned and some will be on your own time and of your own choosing.

We have sites held for our group but only for a limited time. This is what I was alluding to when I mentioned things have changed on the RV world. The Turtle Rock RV Resort will only hold the sites for a limited amount of time, and they will only charge you one day if you have to change your reservation later in the year, **so book now.**

You can go to www.turtlerockresorts.com to see a location map.

Call Turtle Rock to confirm your reservation at [541-247-9203](tel:541-247-9203) and make sure you tell them you are with the Ultra Van Group. Once you have reserved your space either call or email Carl Jones at 253-988-2275 or carloftaco-ma@gmail.com. Once you call or email an itinerary will be sent to you of all the planned activities.

We currently have 8 Ultra Vans registered to come from Canada, Washington, Oregon, and California, but would love to have at least 10, including yours! During our Tech Talk sessions we will be able to tour and talk about an Ultra Van with a VW Diesel engine, an off grid capable, all electric, solar powered Ultra Van (although it is still has Corvair power for the engine), maybe two and the last Ultra Van built but never registered until now that may look like a 600 series but it has been stretched 3', is powered by a police pursuit V8 engine and has too many other fantastic modifications to mention here. Needless to say, this will be a very interesting day of Tech Talks.



In Memorial

Gale Pfueller, UVMCC member since 2009. Pictured here with his wife, Gretchen.

Editor, Molly Bacon:

I received this information below just last night (3/29) and was able to find room in the already completed newsletter for these memorial statements from some of the members. I personally met Gale and Gretchen at the 2017 National Rally in Hutchinson, KS and in addition, talked to him and corresponded by email with him quite a few times. As described below many times, he and Gretchen were kind, wonderful people.

Carl Jones:

Gale died last Friday, 3/25. He was either a host, cohost, or great supporter of many Western Rallies and attended several National Rallies. I'm not sure of any national positions he held but he probably was a Western Director at some point. Gale and his wife Gretchen were a big part of the northwest Ultra Van group and were always in hand to do whatever they could to make sure everyone had a great outing at our get together.

I would add that Gale and Gretchen "allowed" Fran and me to co-host a couple of Regional Rallies with them. I say allowed because while we helped make decisions and they accepted some of our thoughts they were the real hosts, knowing exactly what to do and when to do it. They made everyone welcome and a part of the Rally! We learned a lot from them.

Doug Bell:

Meg and I first met Gale and Gretchen right after they had purchased Lew and Shelly Young's coach, at the Western Rally they hosted in Newport Oregon in 2010(?)

We were very impressed with their determination in hosting a rally not knowing any Ultra Van owners here in the Pacific Northwest or knowing any of the protocols about hosting.

They were a wonderful, charming couple, Gale being soft spoken and Gretchen with her wonderful sense of humor. Ever since they have been dear friends and part of the PNW family.

Gale grew up in Bellingham and worked in his father's hardware and auto parts store and eventually inherited the store and worked it until retirement.

Gale was a real gentle man. Very giving and never one to raise his voice. He will be sorely missed.

Jerry and Patty Mello:

Patty and I first met Gale and Gretchen when we attended our first Ultra Van gathering that they hosted in Newport and Lincoln City Oregon in August of 2011. Everyone there had a great time, and I had no idea that they had never hosted a rally before. They were relatively new owners and just wanted to contribute to the club. I think we traveled with them almost every year after that. We even made two excursions into Canada. On the first trip after we participated in The Northwest Econorun at Harrison Hot Springs BC, Canada in 2018 We took 5 Ultra Vans on journey west to Vancouver Island. I refer to that trip as a traveling tech session because every day someone had problems from carburetors and u-joints to complete brake failure. Gale was extremely proud that his coach was the only one that did not need work! He even had a spare modulator that he gave to Carl Jones when his coach started pulling transmission fluid into his engine. Patty and I will miss Gale a lot, especially during our future Northwest get togethers.

Owen Strawn:

Gale & Gretchen bought #497 from Lew & Shelley Young in 2009 and sold it to Larry Forman & Rosie Walker in 2021. They attended many Rallies and events. I personally got to meet them and tour their gorgeous coach at Colorado Springs in 2012 and to visit with them again at Hutchinson in 2018. And of course, Gale & I exchanged many emails over the years. Like his lovely wife Gretchen, Gale was an extremely friendly, kind, generous, and gentle person. He will be deeply missed.

Ken Hand:

Sorry to hear about Gale, I got to meet them at a rally when the convention was out there.



Short Reports



Bits of information from our members

Grant HelmKay, son of Norman and Marion HelmKay - past owners of 4 UVs

Norman and Marion are doing well. Norman just turned 92 this past February and Marion will be 92 in June. They are both not as active as they used to be, but at that age they can rest all they want! We talk a lot about the Ultra Van and the club reminiscing about their travels behind the big windshields of the Ultra Van. They enjoyed those days immensely and the memories. Both Norman and Marion do not do emails any more as their eyesight isn't what it used to be, so I have taken over for any communication that comes along. Thanks for the memories UVMCC!

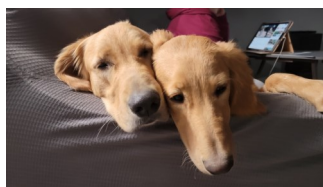
Chuck & Cyndie Hanson - #460

Whale460 Spring Update

It was one year ago when my 3.0 Liter Corvair engine, built by Mike Biron, dropped a valve seat with 3,000 miles on the "bulletproof" heads. When I informed Mike of my plight, he just said "not my problem. I don't work on Corvairs anymore".

So, I took the engine to a highly qualified guy from Chicago, Dominic, who told me 2 to 3 months. After almost a year of delays and excuses, I finally got the call I was waiting for, from the garage owner: "Are you going to come pick up your engine, or is Dominic going to deliver it?" I was there the next day and picked it up. Untouched. Seems Dominic packed up his stuff and left. At least I got most everything back.

So, rather than start this process over again, I am focusing on the Subaru swap. Level Ten Transmissions is doing the rebuild of the 5 speed automatic, and converting it to front drive; I should have it to their shop by April first, after checking to be sure the 3.6 H6 will fit properly in my engine bay. My wiring harnesses and computer modifications should be ready by early June, and I should be nearly ready with modifications to the Whale by then.



I really need to get back behind the wheel of the Whale, and continue the adventures with Cyndie and the Beasts!



John Sargavy (greetings from the UK)

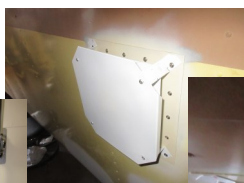
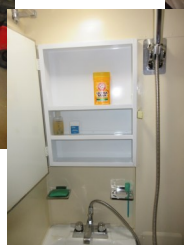
ed—In case you've missed it in the past, John is an avid Ultra Van member, but his only project is an early Corvair. We can't leave him out just because he doesn't have an Ultra Van.

Update on the '64 Monza... Exterior finished. Just need to re-install the interior...



Allan and Judy Jones - #392

More work accomplished.



On the Road to Hiawassee, Georgia

By Jim Cheek #346

August 2021

My wife, Nona, and I were preparing to take a trip in Charlotte, a 1968 Ultra Van and it was our third trip in her for the year. We were heading for our first Vintage Camper Rally.....and several "what could go wrong, did" things happened. We had spent the last week getting her ready, checking everything, and excited about getting on the road.

I was warming up her engine to leave, while waiting for Nona to finish loading the refrigerator and the dogs. We have had some issues with Charlotte travelling before, so we have decided to always have Nona follow Charlotte in her car, just in case. As usual, one thing or another happened, and some time passed and then Charlotte shut down. Oh no! We're going to be late for our first rally. After **two hours** of trying to get her started, with no luck, I decided it was time to eat and let us both cool off.

Just as we are getting ready to get in the vehicles again, my phone rings. It is my dad is calling. I can't ignore him, and he tells me his truck has broken down on Hwy 29, 20 minutes away and he needs assistance. Oh no! We are going to be even later now. So, I hop in the truck, Nona unloads the dogs and goes back into the house. By the time I return, we are already **four hours** behind schedule, but let's try this again. Luckily, Charlotte fires right on up and away we go. All is going great, I have one dog in the seat next me, the music is going, and I am happy to be headed down the road. It comes time to make a stop at the Georgia Welcome Center to check everything. We all ate a snack and loaded back up, after drinking lots of water, as it is now late afternoon and 98 degrees. Nona has A/C, but I don't. Charlotte starts up again (whew) and I pull out into the traffic lane in the truck parking area of the rest stop and the engine dies. Oh no! What now? By this time, we have already missed registration, we are tired and nowhere near our destination.

After about 45 minutes of trying everything I could, I broke out the starting fluid, it was in my little tunnel under the mattress, to spray the fluid and then ran to the front, jumped in to crank her up and in the process she backfires. I immediately hear Nona yelling my name from the back, my brain says, "fire!" so I hold it to the floor and keep cranking her over. Then Nona's yelling is louder, and more frequent, and she is saying the engine is on fire. I climb out of the front, run to the rear, and see a nice fire burning. I climb back into my tunnel and try to blow the fire out. That doesn't work and the fire is getting higher, and the mattress is not far away. It is fire extinguisher time! Eventually I get her cleaned back up, I am drenched in sweat, Nona and the dogs are in the car with the AC blowing and big rigs are passing by all looking down at me.

Finally, I figured out that the brand-new electric fuel pump went bad. Fortunately I just happened to have another one in Charlotte. I put it on and off we go again. By this point, we are **6 ½ hours** late and hours to go. We had to navigate lots of small, winding roads through the mountains and at one point we thought we were lost since the road was so small. The dogs were antsy, and everyone was hungry. By the time we got to the

campground, the sun is almost down, and the office is closed. We find our spot, pull out the electrical cord to get Charlotte cooled down and it WILL NOT WORK. I tried several things to no avail. Almost defeated, our neighbor

offered to allow us to piggyback on his power. Yay! However, this required Nona to go into town and try to find an electrical drop long enough and something to eat. Thank goodness, everything is working! We set everything up and head for bed. We wake up bright and early and it is beautiful. We meet with the Rally Host, and he tells us there are spots open with the group if we want to move since we were quite a bit away from everyone. We decided we do so and packed up everything. We set everything up again while people kept coming by to look at Charlotte. She was quite the hit over the weekend. Fortunately, the rest of the weekend went smoothly, and we made it home safely.



TECH ARTICLE NUMBER: 2022-03
UV MANUAL SECTION: 4-18

SUBJECT: **New toilet for UV #389**
AUTHOR: Dave Beck #389

Pictured is the Thetford Campa Potti XG that I purchased at Cabela's for \$128.00 to replace the leaking Aqua Magic III in our #389. Portable camping toilets have come a long way recently and this looked like a good way to simplify the aging system we had. No macerator motor, or leaking holding tank issues to contend with using this toilet. The Campa Potti XG holds 4 gallons of fresh water in the top section with a manual flush pump and 5.5 gallons of waste and is almost exactly the same size with a fairly-good factory appearance. Thetford also manufactures the new unit. It is easy to separate the top from the bottom waste section and has a handy carry handle to transport to the dump station. It also has a 1.5" swing out pour spout. I simply mounted a board to the floor and applied Velcro to it and the bottom of the new Campa Potti XG to keep it in place, but allow easy removal for emptying.



I removed the black water tank for repair/replacement because of leaking and found it to weigh a whopping 29# because of years of sludge build up and previous welded patches. Dave Beck #389



TECH ARTICLE NUMBER: 2022-02
UV MANUAL SECTION: 3-7

SUBJECT: **Adding captain's chairs to an Ultra Van**
AUTHOR: Larry Forman #497

When Rosie and I bought UV 545 in 2009, we definitely wanted to improve the van seats, that were not comfortable, with some nice captain's chairs. At that time, the best van captain's chairs for an Ultra Van were manufactured by Flexsteel.

Fast forward to 2022 and Flexsteel discontinued their RV and van furniture line in August of 2020. Fortunately, a company named "Shop 4 Seats", at www.shop4seats.com has become a replacement supplier for Flexsteel's RV and van furniture lines. They are also less expensive than Flexsteel's products but are of high-quality construction. Because of this, their business has gotten very busy with delivery times at about 4 months from placement of the order.

There is one difference that needs to be pointed out. I found that the seat height is a few inches higher than the Flexsteel van seats and that means that there is not sufficient space to easily move the driver's legs under the steering wheel when getting into the driving position. As a temporary accommodation, I just move the driver's seat back and keep my legs spread so there is room under the steering wheel. A more permanent solution will be to add a U-joint bearing to extend the steering shaft thus moving the steering wheel up a few inches. Adding tilt steering is another alternative. I found the original Ultra Van seats a little too low for me, so the added height works out well for us.

The Shop 4 Seats captain's chairs come in a variety of colors and fabrics including leather. The seats we purchased have lumbar supports that are electrically adjustable. The seats come with only one arm installed, but there is a YouTube video that explains step-by-step how to mount the included other side arm.

The seats have a forward and back adjustment of seven inches by a lever under the front of the seat. Shop 4 Seats also sells shoulder seat belts, but the color selection is limited to black or grey.

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Since UV 497 had the original Ultra Van seats when we purchased it, it also had the original extended seat pedestal supports in the center for those extended seat lengths. Converting to captain's chairs first involves removing that diagonal sheet metal support, which then allows for a removable dining table between the captain's chairs. Fortunately, when removing the diagonal supports, there are existing vertical supporting sheet metal panels.

I found a seat rotator for use under the van seats. It weighs about 18 lbs. and has a locking lever for various rotation positions. I mounted the passenger captain's chair centered two inches rearward from the driver's seat and located one inch toward the center left. I did this so the passenger's seat could be rotated facing rearward for viewing a planned TV addition and allow the seat back to be reclined and not hit the coffee bar. That location also allows for the passenger to ride with their feet resting on the coffee bar when the seat is rotated and facing forward.

Because we are changing the interior colors, I removed the original fabric and foam in preparation for linoleum covering the seat pedestals. The foam under the fabric was attached with adhesive, which I used Strip Ex to remove. That popular and aggressive epoxy and paint remover has very smelly and hazardous chemicals and requires good ventilation when using it and also air filtering masks. I found a citrus based alternative called "Safe 'n Easy Citrus Paint & Varnish Remover Gel" that works well but does take a much longer time to work its magic. It is available from Amazon for about \$24 for 32 ounces with delivery in a day or two. The instructions say to coat the adhesive to a thickness of 1/8" to 1/4" and keep wet for between 1 and 24 hours and then remove with water. I found the gel took about three hours to soften the adhesive and then I used a green Scotch pad to remove everything nicely without all the hazardous fumes. With the foam on top of the seat pedestals removed, I will need to add noise suppression to the bottom surface of the seat pedestals and added battery boxes located under the seat pedestals.

Both seats can be rotated facing each other so a removable table can be attached to the coffee bar for dining. Previously we stowed the removable dining table in the closet with its attached rear leg and front removable mounting bracket for the coffee bar.

We really like the added comfort and versatility of the new captain's chairs, especially the nice lumbar back support.

With the driver's seat, the steering wheel is actually a few inches above the seat cushion. I can slide one leg under the steering wheel and if that is not enough, I can slide the seat rearward and get into the driving position. Later I will likely extend the steering shaft so the steering wheel is just a few inches higher.



The location of the passenger's seat is far enough rearward to allow the passenger to set her feet upon the coffee bar, if desired, for long trips.

The photo of the passenger's seat rotated so it is facing the driver's seat allows for a dining table to be attached to the coffee bar and be located between both captain's chairs. With one folding rear table leg, that dining table can be attached

to the coffee bar and be easily removed for storage in the closet. We had that same arrangement in UV 545 and it worked well for us.

The photo of the passenger's seat reclined and facing rearward is positioned so the passenger can recline and view a flat screen TV that is planned to be mounted on the ceiling and fold down for viewing. The photos are shown with the under-seat pedestal's



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new battery boxes installed. The two battery boxes inside the seat pedestals each hold two Battle Born GC2 (Game Changer 2) Lithium Iron Phosphate 100 A-h batteries. These LFP batteries are somewhat unique in that they are approximately the same size as a golf cart deep-cycle battery. Often only one golf cart battery will fit under the seat pedestal due to the lower A-arms providing somewhat limited space under the seats. I wanted to mount two batteries under each seat pedestal and was able to do that by installing a battery box that is 15" long x 11" deep x 12" tall. It is mounted so the battery box slightly protrudes into the center aisle by about three inches. There is still plenty of space between the two battery boxes for access to the seats. I will write another article along with photos showing how the battery boxes are constructed and installed. Note that I have two additional GC2 batteries that are located under the passenger's feet partly under the floor. These six Battle Born batteries provide 600 A-h total and should be able to power the RecPro roof mounted A/C and heat pump. I believe that once the 800 watts of roof mounted solar panels plus a slightly larger alternator are installed they will allow sufficient power to run the A/C when traveling in high temperatures.



TECH ARTICLE NUMBER: 2022-01

SUBJECT: **Rear Axle Hubs for Late Corvair Rear Suspension**

UV MANUAL SECTION: 9-71

AUTHOR: Larry Forman #497

With our recent purchase of Ultra Van 497, aka Heaven Sent, we started enhancing it for our style of Ultra Van camping, as well as performing some preventative maintenance. One significant item to maintain is the rear axle hubs for Ultra Vans with late model Corvair rear suspension. We selected the hub rebuild to Steve Goodman of Rear Engine Specialists of Golden, CO, (303) 278-4889 and email: rearengine.steve@gmail.com. I have known Steve for roughly 20 years and know from several Ultra Van owners that he does an excellent job of the tricky rebuilding and correctly setting up the rear hub bearing preload. We received the rebuilt hubs in pristine condition all painted and ready for installation. When we removed one of the two hubs, the bearing was quite loose and wobbly. It did not make any squeaking sound or make itself noticeable at all.

After replacing the rear hubs, I started looking at the rear hubs on my 1965 Monza, which has the same setup. I raised one rear wheel off the ground and found that if I held the tire with both hands at the 6 and 12 o'clock positions there was some movement in and out at the top of the wheel. I called Steve Goodman and asked him if this was an indication of a failed rear hub bearing. Somewhat to my surprise, he said, "No, not typically." He said that the rear axles have some end play typically in the differential and the usual test is to hold the rear wheel (when off the ground) with your hands at the 3 and 9 o'clock positions and check for bearing play. If there is wheel wobble, then the rear hub bearing is in need of servicing. It does not have to be making any noise when rolling down the road to have this failure mode.

Note that these rear axle hubs are under pretty severe service in an Ultra Van, and it is recommended to check them prior to any long-distance travel. Checking the rear U-joints for excess play is also recommended. Usually, good practice is to carry a spare hub with an extra drilled hole for the parking brake cable, so the spare hub could be used on either side. Carrying an extra heavy-duty U-joint is also recommended.

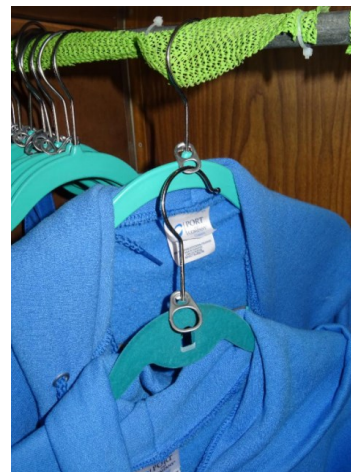
TECH ARTICLE NUMBER: 2022-04

SUBJECT: **Increase Closet Space**

UV MANUAL SECTION: 18-5

AUTHOR: Larry Forman #497

If you want to increase the amount of clothes you can hang in your limited closet space, try this free and simple hack to allow more clothes to be hung on that hanger rod. Just take a pull tab that has been removed from a soda can or food can (which is often larger) and place the pull tab over the closet hanger hook. I placed a regular soda can pull tab on the upper hanger and a larger pull tab from a can of food on the lower hanger for comparison. Either works fine, but using the larger one might be just a bit easier. With the second hanger lower, that will allow more clothes to fit into a small closet. Simple yet effective. I would probably only use one pull tab on the upper hanger unless I had several t-shirts and then using a second pull tab on the lower hanger so they would be stacked three tall and see how that works. No cost involved either way.



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Call or e-mail either of us.

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Item	Price
Club badges	1st one <i>free</i> at a rally or \$5.00 for a replacement
Miniature Cloisonné Ultra pins	5.00
Cloisonné Ultra earring set (post & wire)	\$7.00
Cloisonné Ultra charm	\$3.50
Ultra Van Coffee Mugs	\$10.00
Ultra Van Coasters—2 designs	\$1.00
"Corvaire Powered" bumper stickers	\$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00
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UVMCC Membership

Go to the website membership page:
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Founded in 1969, **CORSA** is group of automobile enthusiasts working to satisfy the common needs of individuals interested in the preservation, restoration, and operation of the Corvair.



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Profit and Loss

Ultra Fiscal Year 2021

Quarter 3 - Jan 1— Mar 31

Income—\$563.63, Expenses—\$477.59

Whales on Wheels (WOW)



is the quarterly publication of the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club, Inc. (UVMCC), a chartered chapter (#008) of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). Incorporated in 1967, UVMCC is dedicated to the preservation, enjoyment, and use of the Ultra Van, a 22 foot, unique motor home, which was designed by David

Peterson and built in Kansas until 1970. About 365 units were built.

UVMCC is open to anyone with an interest in Ultra Vans. Annual dues are \$5 for an emailed newsletter and \$15 for a mailed newsletter. Application and payment can either be make online with PayPal at <https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-motor-coach-club/> or make checks payable to Ultra Van Motor Coach Club and mail to the treasurer at:

UVMCC, 5425 Morrow Rd., Gladwin, MI 48624

Stories, articles, photos, memorabilia, or any other item for publication should be sent to the editor by the 15th of March, June, Sept, and Dec. Send newsletter submissions to WOW by email to the Editor, Molly Bacon, uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com

Digital submissions are preferred, but even hand written are acceptable. Mail to: UVMCC, 5425 Morrow Road, Gladwin, MI 48624

Authors are asked to submit at least a photograph of themselves for the article with any other relevant photos.

Technical material will be sent to the Technical Coordinator for review.

Website: <https://ultravan.org/>

Awards

Golden Quill Award - 2021, 2003, 1999, 1997, & 1995

CORSA Chapter Newsletter Award - 2019 - 3rd place & 2014 - 3rd place.

Available:

Ryerson Manual (Ultra Coach Owner's Manual)

The Ryerson is available in two forms, Printed and on a searchable CD.

Printed Manual \$60 plus shipping

Printed Manual and CD \$70 plus shipping.

CD \$17 postage paid to the contiguous U. S. Shipping is based on your choice of shipping options. Please send me your address and I will let you know what postage will be.

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