

“Liz’s Love Bug”

By

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It all started out innocently enough. We had the camper packed and were on the way for a week of fun at the 2017 AACA Fall Meet in Hershey. We planned for a few long days walking around the show grounds and flea market, visiting the AACA Museum, taking in some local antique shops and relaxing in the evening back at the camper with the dogs and some beverages.

At the time we already owned two fully functional fire trucks, both 1967 models. We really didn’t have any plans on buying another vehicle. As a fun way to spend our time we decided to play a game and pick one car each that we would like to “buy”. It made walking the car corral a little more interesting. We walked by car after car and I finally “chose” an over-restored, and equally over-priced Dodge Power Wagon. Liz wasn’t quite finished yet.

As we walked past a nicely done 1964 VW Bug she immediately snapped her head and stopped in her tracks. She went over to the car and the seller immediately saw that look in her eyes and stepped up his game. He showed her everything on the car, inside and out. He explained to her how it had been completely refurbished and ran really great. Before long she was behind the wheel and heading for the streets of Hershey for a test drive with me riding shotgun. That ear-to-ear smile on her face told me that we would probably be going home with one more vehicle than we came with. I was right and two days later Liz was happily driving her new Bug back to Manassas.

Liz has many memories from when she was growing up with a black 1960 Bug that her Mother used to own. She learned to drive a manual transmission in a 1972 yellow Bug and spent many good times shuttling her friends around Manassas when she was a teenager. She had always had a “thing” for the Bugs. Me, on the other hand, had absolutely no experience with VW’s. I knew very little about them but over the last couple of years have learned quite a bit about these cool little cars.

The Bug quickly was given the name “Liz’s Love Bug”.

The origins of the Bug were well documented. The original owner was active duty Army and stationed in Japan when the car was ordered from Volkswagen of America in Englewood Cliffs, NJ on January 24, 1964 through Overseas New Car Suppliers Ltd. Volkswagen of America confirmed the order on March 3, 1964.

On June 12, 1964 serial number 63346-924, a Bahama Blue Model 113 VW Deluxe was delivered by Mid-City Volkswagen Sales Corp. which was located at 1401 Rhode Island Ave N.E. in Washington, DC to a proud new owner for a total of \$1,664.62. The only options that were checked off were rear-opening windows for \$24.50 and leatherette interior for \$30.

Evidence suggests that even though the Bug exchanged hands back in the 80's it stayed in the DC area until bought by the seller we purchased it from. It was then briefly transported to New York and then brought to Hershey to "flip". The last registration shows the car residing in McLean, VA until shortly before we bought it. Interestingly, the car still had a valid VA State inspection displayed along with vintage 1964 VA license plates.

The Bug still retains the original 40 HP 1200 cc horizontally opposed four cylinder engine and four speed manual transmission. The electrical system is still 6 volt. The Bug is a little over 13 feet long and weighs approximately 1,700 pounds. The fuel capacity is 10 gallons and oil capacity is just shy of 3 quarts.

The actual mileage on the car is a mystery. The odometer reading does not correspond to what we were told by the seller nor does it correlate to the mileage indicated on a 1980's registration card.

Other than performing basic maintenance of the Bug the only upgrades made is the addition of a Pertronix electronic distributor and Flame Thrower ignition coil both of which have increased the drivability of the car. Plus, who likes dealing with points anymore? Also, the dipstick was replaced with an oil temperature sensor which will activate a dash light in the event the engine oil gets too hot.

Liz has enjoyed showing the car at local car shows and taking it out with our dogs for evening cruises. Two weeks after getting the car she took the overall champion award at the Lindsay VW show in Sterling and she received a Best in Show at the last AACA Bull Run car show in Manassas. Everywhere she goes the car draws a crowd. The amount of people who have a memory and share or a story about their personal connection to the VW Bug is amazing. It truly was the "people's car".

The Bug currently resides in a custom themed bay, "The Bug Bay", in our large two car garage surrounded by VW themed decorations and custom wall color to match the Bug.



“Liz’s little Bug makes a big statement at the 2018 Rohr Show. Picnic anyone?”



“The attraction was just too great to resist. The new owner is ready to drive her Bug home from Hershey.”



“The Bug at the Hershey Car Corral has aroused Liz’s interest. Can she resist it?”



“Liz’s Bug enjoying a time out from all the attention. That’s one spoiled Bug.”



“The family dogs, Knuckles and Niko, enjoy Bugs, too.”



“Liz proudly displays the first trophy she’s earned with her Bug.”