

My Christmas Vacation inna VW by Duane Duff

Driving out of town on vacation in a VW is never without incident. I have taken trips to Tulsa, Iowa twice, Northern IL, Louisville, KY, Mtn View, AR (3 times). I left town on Tue morn. The temp was about 45. A nice 550 mile trip? North? No problem! About 6 hrs on the road, my points decided to go just about shut. It was so cold, I kept going at 45-50mph, cause there was a heated garage waiting for me. An easy fix. Re-adjust the points, reset the timing, & life goes on.

On the way back was different. I left town in Iowa, the temp was 2 above zero! A little over an hour later, I had the distinct odor of BURNING WIRES! I was trying to figure out where it was coming from, when the gen light came on. YEA! I pulled over, the belt was still on, but the generator was TOAST! Turns out, all the smell from the generator was pumped into the car, via the fan?? I pulled off at the next exit, which was Riverside, which was about 15 mi south of Iowa City. I asked the cutest girl I could find in the convenience store about a garage. She had me talk to her brother, who ran the body shop, on her PINK cell phone. He told me to go to the auto repair place there. They told me I would have to wait a day & there's no generator around, and none to be had on NAPA.com. He told me to go another 10 miles to the next town, that the Napa store was there & they might be able to help, or they had a motel there. At NAPA, they could get no part. The parts guy makes a call & tells me to drive out to the stop sign, drive 6 more miles north. Turn left at the 2 big silos till I come to a stop sign. Then drive into "JOETOWN" and look for Joetown garage?

Sure enuf, there it was! A big VW emblem in their front window!!! "WALLY" was waiting for me, got me in right away, we got a used generator & down the road I went!!! Turns out the garage has been there since Wally's dad started it in 1924! His dad first starting working on model T Fords!! Ya know, if you're up that way, stop in. Wally or Scott are always up for some good VW shop talk!!! Their outside Kalona Iowa, 319.683.2440.

I made it back without further incident. A nice 13 HR DRIVE!!!

REGRETS:?? Should have been warmer.....



Blast from the Past by Historian Allen Conway

January 2002----officers, newly elected: Scott Rache, prez., Al Conway, vp., Jim Ellis, sect., Barb George, treas., Matt Montgomery, newsletter and website, Jay Myers, car show chairman....active members 77...total registry 205...Clyde Kensinger was a new member! Meetings at Western Sizzlin'.....note from Scott thanking all for electing him..info from Matt on oil bath air cleaners..picture of new officers and last Christmas party..picture of Jim Ellis' squeaky clean 66 rag-top that was in Hot VW's magazine...classifieds..Rob Davis had a 56 oval project and "clean running" 67 beetle for sale..Scott listed a 69 and 72 square backs up for grabs..Charles Hudson offered a "gone thru" 63 beetle and Lance had a 78 Westy and a rebuilt 1600 single port for sale..postage was 34cents..This was my first year as Vice President with Groove, a position I held until 2006!!
Happy New Year everyone!!

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