



# MVVC Quarterly Newsletter

2017 Fourth Quarter

**I hope everyone has had a fun car season with lots of adventure and learning.**

By Dan Pierce



As we finished up the season it is good to reflect upon our hobby and those we share it with. I myself had a challenging season with lots of new tech to wrangle and understand. Also with new power comes new breakage! I suffered many a failure this season but was helped by many friends and some professionals.

On the color tour we had a great turn out and though it was a tad rainy that morning it turned into a classic nice fall day. What I like to call football weather. I had a great time and Ally was actually doing pretty well with the exception of a little bit of smoke on startup and also on hard acceleration (I will diagnose this winter). As I said all was well till the middle of the day when we were going to turn towards the end destination (restaurant) for dinner. Ally had other plans of course and decided this was the perfect opportunity to seize up its now 7'ish year old fuel pump. Since as with most mechanicals on Ally it was a non stock item Bosch 044 pump (the kind of pump used on fuel injected Mercedes/Porsche/BMW), I knew my day was pretty much over no matter how I decided to proceed. I decided to use my 2nd tow of the season with AAA (I get three up to 250 miles!) and before I knew it Ally was back on its lift at home. Not the best way to end the season but perhaps a fitting one. It will be fixed quickly enough and I can look into the smoking issue. Overall I still got to go to a lot of shows this year and still got to race it 2 times (admittedly I was disappointed most by that fact). Anyway next year I will be in a much better place having sorted most of the issues this year.

We still have a few events left. I hope everyone can make it to the Christmas party at the Stahl Museum as that is usually a great time. For the winter of 2018 I hope to see everyone at the most excellent Dakota Inn for a great dinner followed by a great rendition of Shnitzelbank. If you have not experienced this event you are missing out on pure fun.

Changes are afoot in the board; and as always we will invite all that wish to be more active in the club or instill changes please consider joining the board.

I look forward to a great 2018. Start to get your cars ready for the winter slumber with fuel stabilizer and battery removal. I usually start tearing stuff down.

Ally's motto always is..... faster, stronger, more expensive!





# Prez Sez!

The Ramblings of Your MVVC President-H. Neil Reichard

Timing of publications does not allow for a critique of the Vintage VW Tech Session at Munks Motors held on November 5 in Waterford this year. We anticipate an excellent turn-out and thank Chris Braden and Merritt Collins in advance for providing an informative session again this year.

Mark your calendars so you can attend the MVVC Annual Holiday Party and Membership Meeting to take place at the Stahl's Automotive Foundation Museum. The museum is located in the upper East Side in Chesterfield, MI. This will be held Saturday, December 10th from 2-6pm. Always a great way to close out the year for our club!

This is also an opportunity for you to vote for your MVVC Board. I plan to step down as President, and Dan Pierce will assume the duties next year. I have been President since 2014. My goal was to make the Club active and fun, keeping within reasonable fiscal standards. If you are interested in assuming a board position, please let me or Dan know.

Please bring a dish to pass to the Annual Holiday Party and Membership Meeting. The Club will provide the meat and beverages. Remember to bring an unwrapped gift to be donated to Starfish Family Services. Also, bring a VW themed item to be auctioned at this event. Proceeds of the auction will also benefit Starfish Family Services

Not to be overlooked is the Annual Dakota Inn Social Event on Saturday, January 21 at 6:30 pm. Please be there early to ensure that your order is taken in a timely manner.

I want to wish our Members a Happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season. Enjoy it with friends and family and be safe while driving your VW or daily driver.

Also, please remember to wear your Club T-shirt and Name Tag to VW events. You are entitled to one Name Tag for yourself and one for your significant other. Please check with Wayne Burling to order yours if necessary.

Lastly, please remember to support our generous Sponsors

Be sure to check upcoming events on our website ---<http://www.mvvc.net/eventlist.php>.

## Please Welcome our newest Members

**Merritt Collins**

**Jim & Bonnie McClung**

**William Lampman**

**Ron Rein**

**Mike & Allison Mitchell**

**Brian Bukantis**

**Dan Garza**

**Tony Ellul**

## For Sale



1973 VW Super Beetle. Runs and has new carburetor, fuel pump & filter, gas line, brakes, wheel cylinders and starter. Good car to restore. Has 93,780 miles. Asking Price: \$1,500 Call Larry Calvin at 517-741-7929 or 517-231-6802

## **Reminder!!**

**All Memberships renew on December 31st.**

**Send your dues to:**

**MVVC Membership, 14122 Jackson Dr., Plymouth, MI 48170**

**or**

**Contact Wayne Burling at any club event.**

**or**

**You can pay online at**

**<https://www.mvvc.net/membership/>**



2017

# Annual Christmas Party and Membership Meeting.

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It is that time of year again when we celebrate a year of fun with even more fun.  
This year's our annual Christmas Party and Membership meeting will be held at

**Staul's Automotive Museum**

**56516 North Bay Dr., Chesterfield, MI 48051**

**December 10, 2017 at 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

**MVVC will provide the meat and beverages, please bring a dish to pass.**

**FOR YOUR VW COLLECTION, OR FAVORITE SOMEONE, BRING YOUR \$\$ AND VW ITEMS FOR THE CHARITY AUCTION.**

**We will have Elections of club officers along with other business.**

**Also please bring an unwrapped gift to be donated to Starfish Family Services.**

**Charity Auction proceeds will also go the StarFish Family Services.**

**If you have not already, PLEASE RSVP, BY November 30th, TO**  
**[wayne@mvvc.net](mailto:wayne@mvvc.net) OR 734-377-0696**

# Tech Corner

By Chris Braden

I am frequently asked “how much will it cost for a new sound system in my Beetle”. This is difficult to answer even when asking the following questions. The final answer depends on your budget and desire for a superior audio experience. There is no limit to the possibilities. I will list a few but it seems that the “audio landscape” changes very few months.

What music source media do you plan to use with the receiver: iPhone, USB, 3.5mm phone jack, or CDs? If you anticipate never using CDs a “Mechless” receiver may be worth considering. Do you have satellite radio or would you anticipate subscribing to it? Are you interested in HD Radio as an option? HD radio in metro areas can give you dozens of additional media outlets compared to FM alone. In addition, the sound quality is comparable to digital sources.

Do you use Pandora or Spotify as a music source? If you do, Bluetooth pairing for your device would be desirable. This also allows automatic muting when accepting a phone call and listening to a phone conversation through your speakers. No connecting cord required! If navigation is available, is this an option you might consider?

Are you concerned about original appearance or not? There is a company called “Retro Sound” which offers authentic appearing units that have modern internal components and features. This is especially useful for 67 and earlier cars! You can see what they offer online.

What is your preferred music style? Loud, moderate, or mostly talk radio?

Would you prefer 2 speakers or 4 speakers? Either way, the improvement will be astonishing. The best place for two speakers is the front “kick panels” just in front of the door opening. The speakers are angled toward the driver and passenger via Fiberglass panels that screw into the kick panel area. This does not alter the integrity of the car and the panels can be covered with the original carpet pieces that were removed to install the Fiberglass panels. This maintains an original appearance. The cheap imitation plastic panels are junk compared to the Fiberglass panels made by Innovations. Spend a little more, no regrets.

If four speakers are desired, installing them under the back seat is an excellent choice. Although this may seem counterintuitive, my experience has shown this to be an excellent placement for the rear speakers. We fabricate plywood rear speaker panels which fit under the back seat and look much more finished than the original covered hard board panels. These can be covered with vinyl, carpet, or simply painted. A modest amount of rear seat leg room is lost but this does not affect our recommendation. Another good rear speaker location is under the back window behind the seat. This is also an excellent space to mount subwoofers with up to two 12” drivers.

I do not recommend mounting speakers in the door panels. Door panels, based on their construction materials, do not provide enough support for speakers, they always seem to fall out of the door panels! However, if your door panels do not have map pockets and if you reinforce the doors with metal to support the speakers, mounting them in the front of the doors is a good option. Smaller 4 inch speakers can be mounted higher in the doors but again, unless very well engineered, they will fall out. Another factor is routing the wires from the door to the “A” pillar on the body, a permanent modification that never looks good.

Amplifiers are a common option when installing a sound system but most recently, car audio has gotten much better in many ways and also become less expensive. Vintage VW radios commonly had an output of about 4 to 8 watts and were puny compared to today. A 2017 Sony has about 110 watts of peak power which negates the need for an additional amplifier. A Beetle is small enough, the stereo and speakers are efficient enough that you do not need an amp. On the other hand, in a bus, you have a much larger space. In that case, you might need more amplification. If you decide to add large subwoofers in either a Bug or Bus, an amplifier will be needed. And just when you think you have seen it all, now Sony just came out with a higher priced unit that will also power a subwoofer.

# Tech Corner (cont)

Would you like a small self-powered subwoofer (adequate for a Beetle), a large subwoofer (better in a convertible) or a large box with a pair of 12" subwoofers? Subwoofers provide a satisfying audio experience at low volume levels and exceptional distortion free sound at higher levels. You may have experienced cars with extremely loud subwoofers. Those "audio hot rodders" tend to give subwoofers a bad rap, but hearing the difference in a system with no subwoofer versus a small subwoofer is amazing...hence the term "satisfying".

Would you like to listen to your stereo when the ignition key is turned off or only when the ignition is turned on? If you choose to operate the unit when the ignition is turned off, that can be accomplished by either powering the unit up utilizing a "key in ignition" relay or providing constant power to the unit. If constant power is supplied, you must remember to remove the stereo's detachable face plate. If you forget, your battery will do dead.

When wired with constant power, even when the stereo is turned off and the display goes dark, power is still supplied to the amplifiers that are part of the unit. This is what drains battery power. If power is provided by an added "key in ignition" relay, you can simply remove the key from the ignition switch and it will automatically turn the stereo off. Most modern cars function this way, but classic 70's Beetles require this "key in ignition" relay modification. Naturally, providing an automatic method of fully powering the unit down is the best method, but it is optional and increases your cost. On very early cars, the only option is an auxiliary switch but then you have to remember to turn it off every time!

So there you have it. You can select from these options, have a great sounding stereo with all the modern conveniences, and you don't need to mangle your beloved VW or break your bank account.



Chris Braden  
President and Head Chipmunk  
248.681.8081  
[www.munks.com](http://www.munks.com)



The MVVC is a Chapter of the Vintage Volkswagen Club of America (VWCA). Members are encouraged to also join and support the VWCA. Membership is separate from the MVVC membership. Applications for the national club may be found at :

[www.vwca.com](http://www.vwca.com).

# Check out our club store



Get your Hoodie with the club logo on the back.  
They are \$30.00 each and we have sizes M - XL.



You can also purchase a club t-shirt for \$12.00.



Club carry - all bag with full color club logo. \$5.00

Follow this link to get to the Store.

<http://www.mvvc.net/onlinestore/catalog>

## Contact Information for 2017 MVVC Board & Staff

▷ President — H. Neil Reichard  
▷ Vice President — Dan Pierce  
▷ Treasurer — Wayne Burling  
▷ Secretary — Chris Schroer  
▷ Club Events — Merritt Collins  
▷ Webmaster — Wayne Burling  
▷ Newsletter Editor — Wayne Burling

[hneil@mvvc.net](mailto:hneil@mvvc.net)  
[danpierce@mvvc.net](mailto:danpierce@mvvc.net)  
[wayne@mvvc.net](mailto:wayne@mvvc.net)  
[chris@mvvc.net](mailto:chris@mvvc.net)  
[events@mvvc.net](mailto:events@mvvc.net)  
[webmaster@mvvc.net](mailto:webmaster@mvvc.net)  
[newsletter@mvvc.net](mailto:newsletter@mvvc.net)

## The MVVC Newsletter Needs YOUR STORIES!

If you have an interesting, technical or simply entertaining story about your vintage VW, PLEASE consider submitting your article to the Newsletter! Also, if you have photos of any recent MVVC events or members, those are appreciated as well! Remember the Newsletter is written FOR you and BY YOU!

**Next Newsletter Deadline is January 28, 2018 submit to [newsletter@mvvc.net](mailto:newsletter@mvvc.net)**



Printing and Mailing compliments of

Michigan Vintage Volkswagen Club  
14122 Jackson Dr.  
Plymouth, MI 48170