

# F.Y.I.

F.Y.I. IS A PERSONAL NEWSLETTER FOR VOLKSWAGEN ENTHUSIASTS, BUILDERS AND MODIFIERS.

## THE REAL BAJA 1000 RISES AGAIN

SCORE has announced the return of the granddaddy of all off-road races—the Baja 1000 (Baja Mil). For the first time in over six years the 1979 race will start in Ensenada, on Thurs. Nov. 8, and will run down the Baja peninsula to La Paz, the traditional finishing site of the old Baja 1000s. Obviously the race will not be following the same route as before as the main highway is now paved. But SCORE plans on keeping the course as near to the highway as possible and will only use 50 miles of pavement in the nearly 1000 mile long course. It should be one of the best off-road races in years.

## MOTOR RACING NO. 3 SPORT IN THIS COUNTRY

A couple of months ago we published some figures by Goodyear that showed motor racing as the number two sport world wide, after horse racing. Now a survey by a horse racing newspaper shows horse racing as number one in this country with 79,018,999 spectators last year, baseball was second with 54,881,009, motor racing third with 50,750,500, football fourth with 48,845,662 and basketball fifth with 39,776,242 fans. It's difficult to believe motor racing is number three when one considers how little of the sport is seen on TV and in newspapers. If only all the "fighting" organizers could get together and promote motor racing as a united body it could well become the number one sport.

## PORSCHE POWERED AIRSHIP

British Aerospace Developments has built an experimental airship powered by two Porsche 911 SC engines that will cruise at 48 mph for 24 hours, while carrying 14 passengers and more than two tons of payload.

## THE 'POLITICAL' GAS SHORTAGE



In 1974 when the last gas shortage was in force, the Mint 400 off-road race was cancelled. This year the Mint race was held as usual with a record entry of 461 cars and over 35,000 spectators watching the race, also a record. But, when it came time to leave Las Vegas, everybody had difficulty getting gas despite a tremendous amount of publicity the week before saying there was no shortage in the city. The whole shortage in this country seems to be a political thing anyway as other countries don't have a shortage. We just hope that the government and the oil companies see the light before a civil war erupts over who is to get gas.

## NEW TYPE 2 BUS



Considering the Type 2 VW Bus appeared as long ago as 1952, it has not really changed very much in that time and although it has a lot of character, it could do with some modernizing. VW has just announced an all new Type 2 which should overcome many of the criticism leveled at the present vehicle. Details are sketchy at present, but, as we forecast a couple of months ago, it will be available with either an air-cooled engine or a water-cooled engine in either two-wheel-drive or four-wheel-drive. As soon as we get more info we will publish a story on the new generation vans and buses.

## ELECTRIC VWs IN TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Valley Authority-Electric Power Research Institute has recently purchased ten electric VW buses and Kombis for use as demonstration vehicles. VW has sold over 100 of these vehicles in the last year to authorities in Germany and are hoping to sell more and more to fleet buyers in the coming years. At present it is not possible for the public to purchase the 144 volt, 45 mph vehicles that have a range of 48 miles on one charge.

## NEW SCIROCCO IN 1981

Reports from the Arctic Circle indicate that some new prototype VWs have been seen testing in the snow. One of them is a new Scirocco that will probably not be introduced until 1981. It is basically the same as the present car but with larger rear side windows, dual rectangular headlights and built-in front and rear spoilers.

## THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BUYING GERMAN

A market research team has just come out with a report on the quality of VW Rabbits built in the USA compared to the quality of the German ones. Interestingly fewer owners of US built Rabbits experienced mechanical problems (44%) than owners of German built cars (50%). According to the report, VW has been able to maintain quality equivalent to the German cars in the cars built in the USA. But despite this, the researchers found that half of the purchasers of Rabbits felt the German ones were better than the USA models. The report found that the profile of buyers of US built cars was almost identical to that of the buyers of the German built cars.