

# VOLKS**AMERICA**

2022 ANNUAL



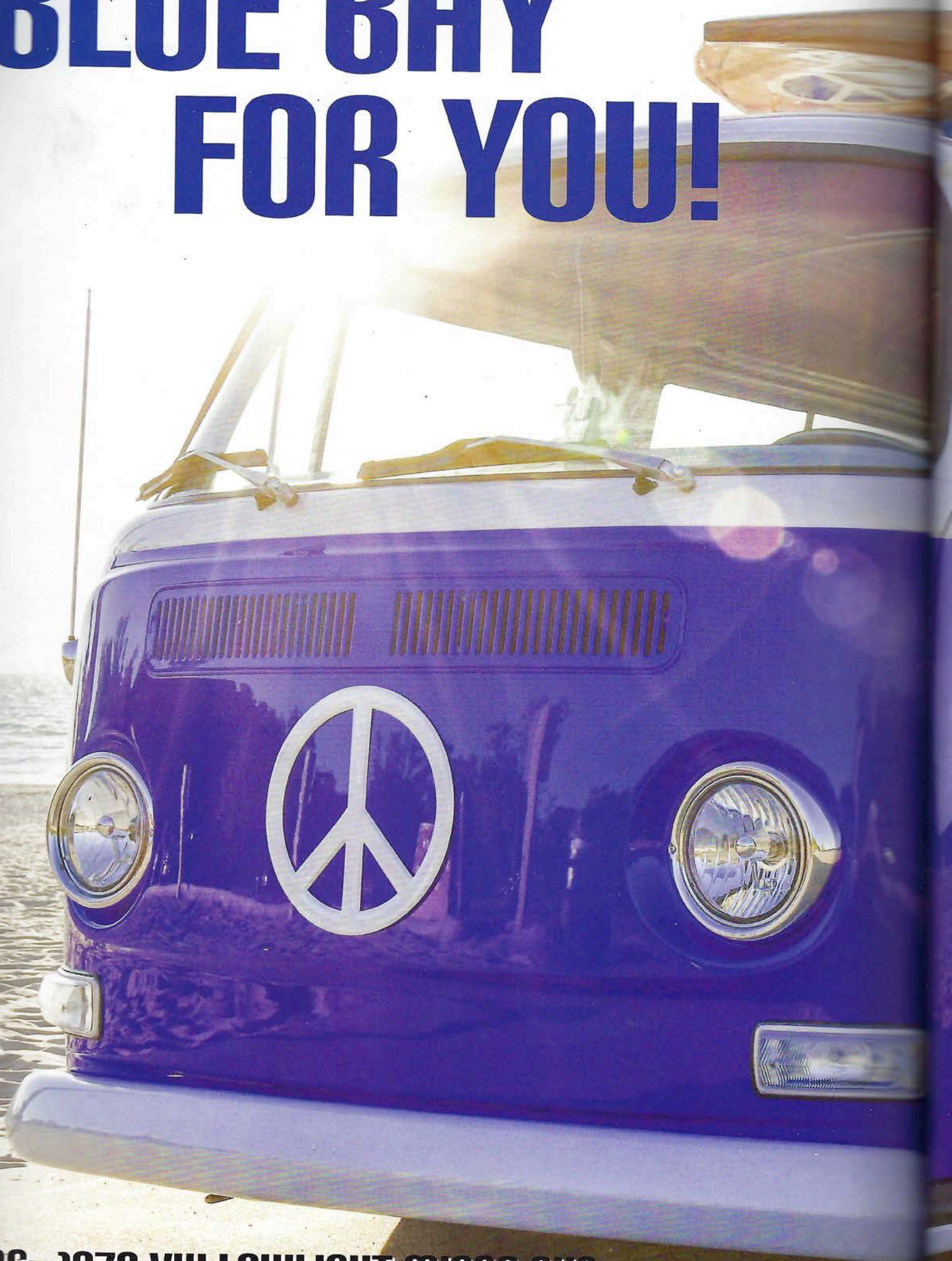
0 62825 28432 4  
RETAILER: DISPLAY UNTIL 02/28/2022  
www.volksamerica.com

\$19.99 US \$24.99 CAN

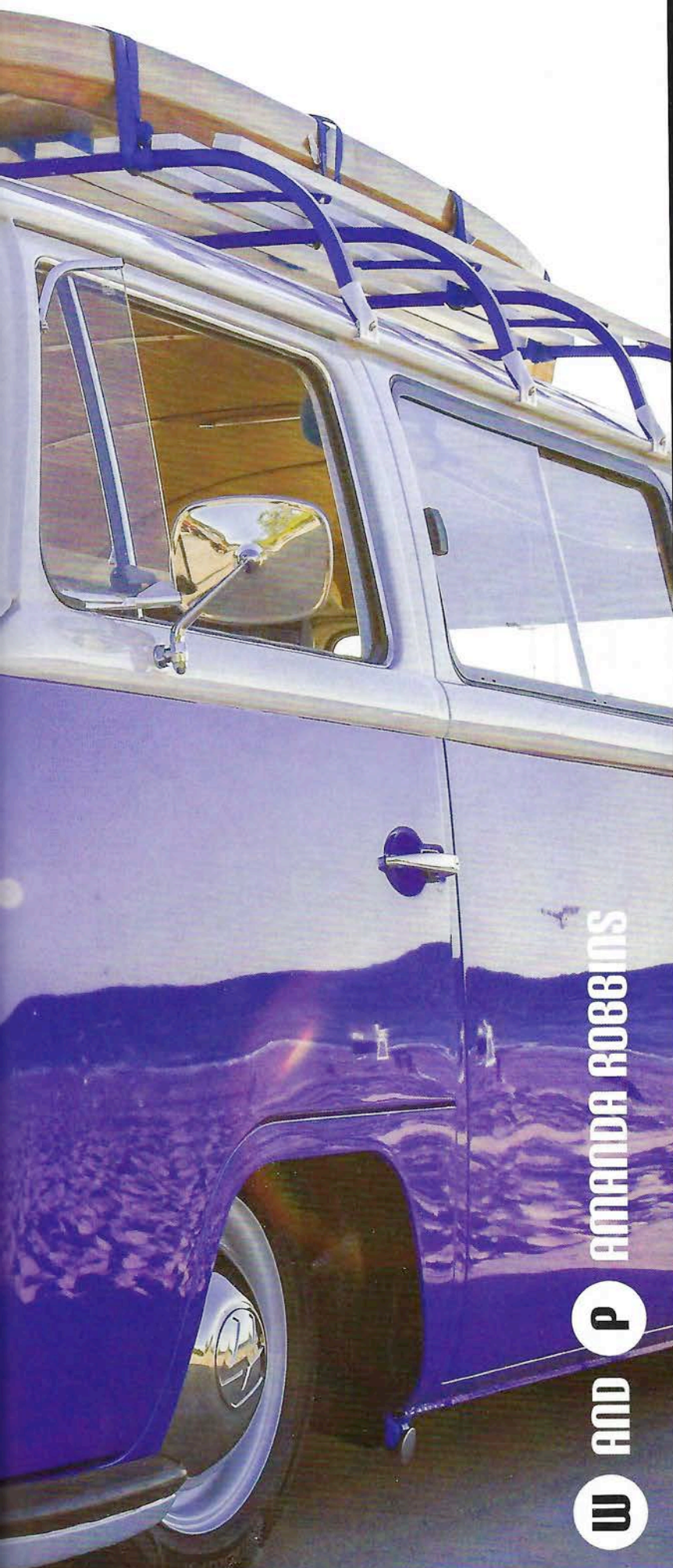
**VW & PORSCHE LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE**



# BLUE BAY FOR YOU!







W AND P AMANDA ROBBINS

W AND P

It was 16 years ago when Emerson DeLaney saw a VW Bay Window Bus sitting at Dean's Tire and Lube in town, so he pulled in to inquire about it. On closer inspection, he found the Bus had tchotchkes and wooden figurines caulked and plastered all over the body...

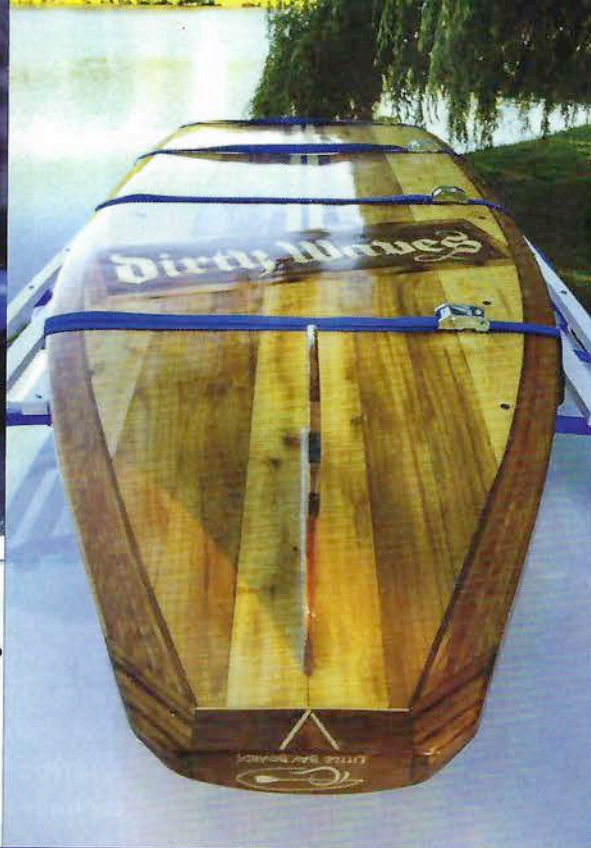
everything from a sun, fish, sharks, lily pads, frogs, and dragons. It was breathtaking, but not in the best way. The owner of the shop explained that the Bus broke down on the Indiana Toll Road near Chesterton and it ended up at his shop. It was a 1970 and Emerson wanted it. His mom had bought a 1970 Bay Window Bus brand new when he was a teenager. It was the car he learned to drive in, and he had to have it. Dean, the shop owner, told Emerson he was going to give the owner, who was driving through from California, time to either pay to get it fixed or to come and get it, but if she didn't, it was his. Well, after six months of harassing Dean over the Bus, he got the call to come and pick it up... for FREE!

Now that he had it home, his four sons were still in school and he ran a busy business, so the Bus had to be parked until a later date. Over the years, Emerson started the daunting task of removing the extra ornaments. Some of them were very cool and unique and he took care not to destroy them in the process of dismantling them from the body. You will find some of the figurines have found new homes within the newly restored Bus. Once removed, a lot of thick caulking and plaster remained on the body, so he had it sand blasted. Also over the years, Emerson started collecting parts, removed the engine and transmission, and worked on the undercarriage and some side panels. Unfortunately, with a busy life and kids, time kept slipping by and the Bus remained incomplete and parked.

It was two years ago, while attending Driver's Gallery Cars and Coffee in Valparaiso, Indiana, that Emerson and his son saw me and my husband's Beetles and came over to talk to us. Of course, it was no time before we started talking about his Bay Window he got for free and his dream of







restoring it. And that is when I like to say his wife Debi regrets that he ever met us. We suggested he should take it to Dirty Rides, located in Spring Grove, IL and let them restore and customize it for a one of a kind ride, and showed him vehicles they had restored and had been featured in *VolksAmerica*. So the conversations with Dirty Rides owner, Jeremy Hatfield, started and in a few months the Bus was in the shop and the most important decision needed to be

made... paint color. Not able to make up his mind, Emerson leaned on his wife, Debi, to choose. She settled on Tamco's Nitro Blue and Blizzard of Oz White. With paint colors picked out, choosing a blue, gray, and black plaid fabric, with a similar pattern you would see in modern GTI's was easy. The interior was completely custom made by Dirty Rides and Stitch Girl of Northbrook, IL. Since the Bus was not designed to be a camper, the guys at Dirty Rides designed facing seat

boxes that would pull out to become a bed, and then Oksana Ignatova of Stitch Girl covered and designed a beautiful interior that honored the VW past, while giving the Bay Window its own modern twist. Along with the modern twist, the team at Dirty Rides designed and installed an air-ride kit especially for it.

Since they lived very close to Michigan Lake and paddle boarding is very popular in the area, Emerson and Debi decided a long paddle board



**108 BLUE BAY FOR YOU!**



**IT WAS A 1970 AND  
EMERSON WANTED IT.  
HIS MOM HAD BOUGHT  
A 1970 BAY WINDOW  
BUS BRAND NEW WHEN  
HE WAS A TEENAGER. IT  
WAS THE CAR HE  
LEARNED TO DRIVE IN,  
AND HE HAD TO HAVE IT.**

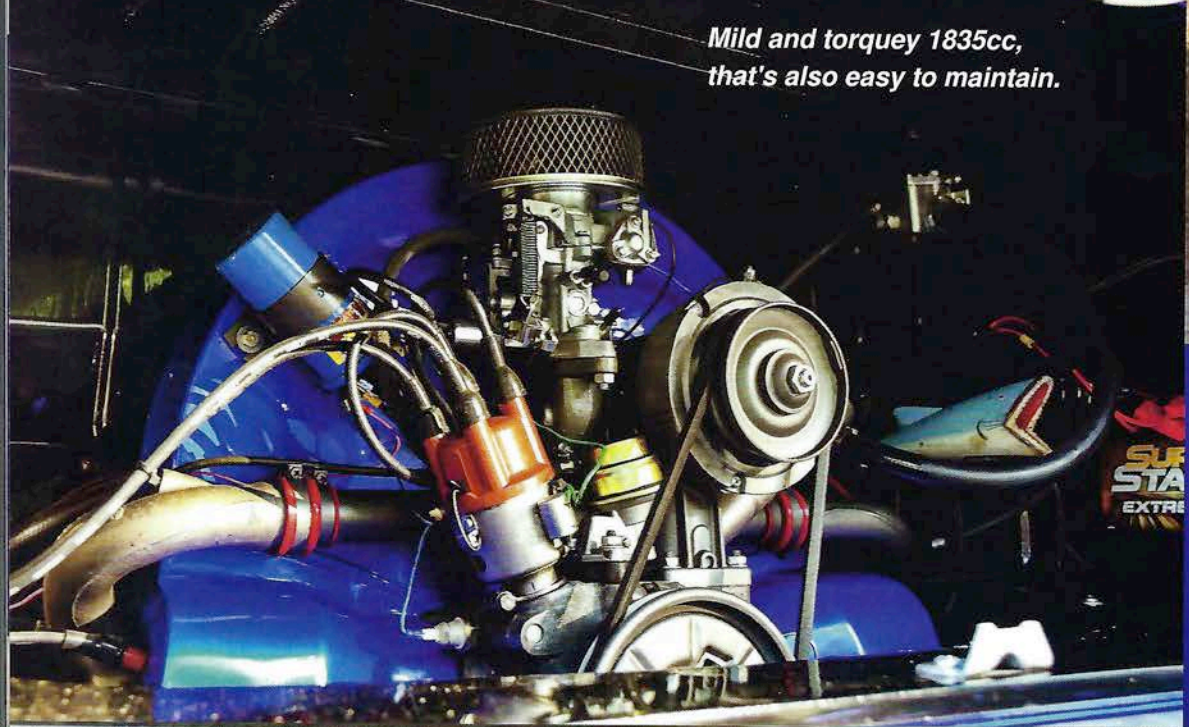
**EMERSON**







*Mild and torquey 1835cc,  
that's also easy to maintain.*



**NO BLUE BAY FOR YOU!**







## WWW CONTACTS

DIRTY RIDES - [WWW.DIRTYRIDESINC.COM](http://WWW.DIRTYRIDESINC.COM)

STITCH GIRL - [WWW.STITCHGIRLINC.COM](http://WWW.STITCHGIRLINC.COM)

ACE ADAMS CUSTOM BADGES - [WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/ADAMSERIAH/](http://WWW.INSTAGRAM.COM/ADAMSERIAH/)

LITTLE BAY BOARDS - [WWW.LITTLEBAYBOARDS.COM](http://WWW.LITTLEBAYBOARDS.COM)

TAMCO PAINT - [WWW.TAMCOPAINT.COM](http://WWW.TAMCOPAINT.COM)



112 BLUE BAY FOR YOU!



would be a great addition. So, while the Bus was still at the Dirty Rides shop, they went to Little Bay Boards of Petoskey, Michigan to meet with Jason Thelen and Nellie Eve to design and commission the artists to build them a stand-up paddle board. Each board is made ultra-light, with eco-friendly wood from Michigan. Their slogan says it all... " 'Building your dream' It's more than just a saying, it's our Mission."

The 1970 Bay was finally completed in May of 2021 and immediately went on to win multiple awards, but Emerson is not concerned with awards. Although a show piece, he wants to enjoy his VW the way they were meant to be used. His plan is to drive the Bay all over

**SINCE THEY LIVED VERY CLOSE TO MICHIGAN LAKE AND PADDLE BOARDING IS VERY POPULAR IN THE AREA, EMERSON AND DEBI DECIDED A LONG PADDLE BOARD WOULD BE A GREAT ADDITION.**

and hit as many stops as he can along the micro-brewery trail, called Tag A Brew, and collect tags for his collection.

Emerson would like to thank his wife, Debi, and his four sons, first and foremost. He'd also like to thank the owners of Dirty Rides, Jeremy Hatfield and Jennifer Bardell, as well as the lead fabricator and painter, Troy Hatfield, and the rest of the Dirty Rides crew. A huge thanks to Willy Page for rebuilding the 1835 engine, custom interior by Stitch Girl, Tammy at Tamco Paint, and Little Bay Boards for the sickest paddle board to ever hit the waters of Lake Michigan and ride around on top of a VW Bus. **VA**





# Dirty Rides

inc.com



The midwest's elite Volkswagen restoration shop.



[dirtyridesinc.com](http://dirtyridesinc.com)

(815) 581-0126