

Museum of Vanning
Guest Blog
April 20, 2020

Good Evening Vanners!

Joe Madonia has not been able to do his Sunday night blog for a while so I thought I'd shout out to you all tonight. I don't have Joe's style for storytelling but I'll give it a shot.

First of all, a Joe update: as most of you know, Joe is recovering from Cellulitis, (not Covid 19). His recovery is and will be slow because the infection is quite virulent, requiring massive doses of antibiotics to kill the bacteria and a lot of care of the infection sites. I spoke with Joe today and he expects to go home early this week. There will still be a recovery period once he's home but at least he'll be home instead of locked away in a hospital. Keep sending those get well greetings to the Museum mailing address or Museum email address and Joe will hear about them and eventually see all of them. Museum of Vanning, 12121 Little Rd., Box 320, Hudson, FL 34667 or museumofvanning@gmail.com.

Most of us have had several weeks of being homebound or close to it and we can't wait until things ease up enough to get out and VAN!! I know I'm praying that we can still hold the National. In the meantime you may be looking for things to occupy at least some of your time. In addition to working on a long honey-do list for our own home, I've starting working on a couple of additions to the Museum website. **You can help with both of them.** We will be opening two new sections on the Museum website as soon as I can complete their setup – in a few weeks at the most. (This is, after all, a part-time volunteer job.)

1. Fallen Flags – this will be a section of the website documenting van clubs, van councils and other van related organizations that no longer exist – real vanning history. Many of you have belonged to a club that went out of existence for one reason or another – Bleu Kitten and I belonged to two van clubs that no longer exist. Now you can help the Museum document and honor those clubs, councils and other vanning organizations by contributing information about them and memorabilia from them. We will display as much information as we can gather about each club, council, etc. in a special “Fallen Flags” section on the website. Eventually, we hope to also have a similar display at the Museum. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANYTHING YET** – we will let you know when you can contribute via the website, etc.

For now, please start gathering the best examples that you can find of defunct club/organization logos, colors, banners, other keepsakes, group and other pertinent photos, etc. We ask you to either scan them in as .jpg files or take good quality digital pictures of each item so that you will be able to send them to us electronically when the right time comes. Yes, you will be able to donate the actual artifacts to the Museum also at a later time, but for purposes of building the website pages, we will want only electronic copies for now. Just as important as scans/pictures will be historical information about those former vanning organizations: when was each first formed, by whom, the area where they operated, unique things/stories/legends about each one and when they were disbanded. Any club that combined with other clubs or morphed into something else along the way should be included. This will all be explained and laid out in the new website section along with directions on how to contribute the information. We'll announce its rollout as soon as we can.

Start collecting fallen flags information when you can and get it ready to send to us electronically when we make the request. In the future we hope to develop the same sort of “memorium” for eVANts that have bit the big one and there are plenty of those.

2. Album of Vans – this will be a section of the website displaying photos of vans – vans of all kinds – show vans, street vans, camper vans, conversion vans, 4x4 vans, high custom vans, regular personalized

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vanner vans, ones-of-a-kind, etc., etc. This section will show just how diverse vanning was and still is and how it's all about the vans as well as the people. We already have a huge collection of van photos from Facebook and other sources but we'll take all we can get. We'll ask you to electronically send whatever photos you can as long as the main subject is a van(s). Many of the older photos will be grainy and of lower quality but that's okay – they're history!

Again, **DON'T SEND ANYTHING YET** – please wait for us to set up a manageable system for transmitting and handling them on the website. But, since you've got all of this time on your hands, why not start going through your old vanning photo albums now and scan in a few van pix. We will not ask for any personal information, just the van photos, so keep it simple – it's about the vans.

In addition, as soon as Joe is able to work at the Museum we will be opening a "Toy Vans" section in the Online Gift Shop in the Museum website. Toy Van Collectors stay tuned.

Thanks to all who do and will contribute to the Museum. Stay well and Keep On Vannin'!!

Bleu Kat (Larry Gibson)

