



# LIBERTY Times

A Liberty Coach Newsletter Winter 2011



## IN THIS ISSUE

Page 1  
Cruising Through 2011

Page 2  
Liberty Coach Battery's

Page 3  
Volvo Engine Impressions

Page 4  
Shows/Events



## Cruising Through 2011

by Frank Konigseder

## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2 - 5, 2012  
Join us for the  
**40th Anniversary Celebration!**

Liberty Coach of Florida  
Stuart, Florida

Space is limited.  
Questions?  
Call Kim Konigseder  
800-332-9877 or  
Jeanne Konigseder  
772-349-7016

As we signal our exit from the curvaceous highway known as 2011, I'm very pleased to report that the strength of Liberty Coach continues to straighten those curves with more than 80 units sold, a 23% increase over 2010 and a 20% increase in gross sales over the same time period. These figures include 14 new units sold as of this writing which successfully matches the current factory production. My family and I are very proud to witness the unwavering commitment of the Liberty Coach team as well as the continued support from our ever expanding family of customers.

I am very excited to announce that 2012 will mark the 40th Anniversary of the incorporation of Liberty Coach, which we will celebrate during the 11th Annual Open House Rally in Stuart, FL February 2-5, 2012. I have learned that the only guarantee in life is change, whether we bring it or it is brought to us, the ability to cope with change continues to be the underlying foundation on which Liberty Coach's success is built upon. As we merge on to the freshly paved highway that will become 2012, change could not be more apparent at Liberty Coach. With the completion of the Keswick Bath & 1/2 layout, to the Quad

Slide which is scheduled for completion in early spring 2012, and the new X3 Prevost which will be finished early summer 2012, I can see how proud my mother and father are of the changes they have witnessed starting from a desire to build a coach of their own some 44 years ago.

In closing, I am confident that highway 2012 will be very exciting and fast paced for all of us at Liberty Coach, there is much more to come and it all starts at the January 2012 Tampa RV SuperShow in Tampa, Florida; don't miss the start of the next 40 years!



Manufacturing and Service  
1400 Morrow Ave.  
North Chicago, IL 60064  
847-578-4600  
800-332-9877  
Fax: 847-578-1053

Sales and Service  
635 SE Monterey Rd.  
Stuart, FL 34994  
772-463-2701  
800-554-9877  
Fax: 772-463-2705

# Sorting out the Lithium-Ion Battery Rumors.

It has come to my attention that there is a lot of misinformation circulating regarding the Lithium-Ion battery systems currently used in the Liberty Coach. I would like to refer to an article which was circulated when Liberty Coach first installed the Lithium-Ion Iron Phosphate batteries:

“The Lithium-Ion system we are now using is a Lithium Iron Phosphate battery which makes it inherently safer and very stable compared to the Lithium Cobalt Oxide which is very volatile. You may hear from some people that these are very unsafe, have been recalled, explode, etc... it is also not efficient in our application and has a much shorter cycle life, so we are not using that type of Lithium-Ion battery. The batteries that explode and experience thermal run-away when damaged or overcharged are Lithium Cobalt Oxide. We are using Lithium Iron Phosphate technology.

The safety characteristics inherent to lithium iron phosphate technology result from the incorporation of phosphates as the cathode material. Phosphates are extremely stable in overcharge or short circuit conditions and have the ability to withstand high temperatures without decomposing. When abuse does occur, phosphates are not prone to thermal runaway and will not burn. As a result, lithium iron phosphate technology possesses safety characteristics that are fundamentally superior to those of Lithium-ion batteries made with other cathode materials.

Lithium iron phosphate technology does not contain any heavy metals and does not exhibit the “memory effect” of Nickel-Cadmium and

Nickel-metal Hydride solutions. Lithium iron phosphate technology demonstrates excellent shelf life, long cycle life and is maintenance free.

The advantages of traditional Lithium-ion coupled with the safety features of phosphates, make lithium iron phosphate technology the Lithium-ion technology for the future. Our lithium iron phosphate Lithium-ion technology utilizes natural, phosphate-based material and



offers the greatest combination of performance, safety, cost, reliability and environmental characteristics.

We have been assured by the manufacturer and have watched safety presentations and videos of them shooting the batteries and overcharging them, that these are safe.”

After reading this article and a little effortless research one will find that the leading Motor Yacht, Sailing Yacht, and Motor Home manufacturers globally are installing the Lithium-Ion Iron Phosphate battery technology, and this type of battery technology is regularly flown on commercial aircraft. It is also noteworthy that Lithium-Ion battery technology is so important and ground breaking that many companies are spending 100's of millions of dollars in Michigan and other states

to build plants specifically for the manufacturing of Lithium-Ion batteries as part of alternative energy plans; please refer to the following links:

[Mass Transit Magazine](#)

[AutoBlog](#)

Since Liberty Coach has continually set the benchmark for technological advancements it should come as no surprise that we have continually installed this technology since January 2010 and can report that

the batteries should easily keep the systems alive the documented 2000 cycles, which could easily be 10 years or more; this translates to a significant reduction of battery replacement.

The installation of the Lithium Ion Iron Phosphate technology has enabled Liberty Coach to reduce the weight of the coach as well as reducing the generator fuel consumption. This battery technology enables a full state of charge to be reached much faster than the

traditional battery technology thus reducing the run time of the generator systems. As we all board the coach heading to a greener world, clearly Liberty Coach has already left the station with plenty of forward momentum and reserve capacity.

In conclusion, the most important element in the coach building process is customer safety, all of the technological advancements available mean nothing if safety is compromised. I can assure you that Liberty Coach continually ranks consumer safety as our number one priority.

**Frank X Konigseder**  
[frank@libertycoach.com](mailto:frank@libertycoach.com)  
800-332-9877

# Volvo Engine Impressions

by Frank Konigseder

As I roll into sharing my impressions of the Volvo D13 engine, I am reminded that my involvement in the conversion industry spans some 40 plus years. Over that time I have been exposed to a number of different engines that have been utilized in the coach business such as, Ford gasoline, Caterpillar diesel, and a family of Detroit models including the 6-53, 8V-71, 8V-92, and the Series 60. While we were converting the first Volvo D13 equipped Liberty Coach Prevost chassis you can imagine the excitement and also trepidation we were feeling. The following are my impressions and comparisons of the Detroit Diesel Series 60 to the Volvo D13 incorporating the 2010 EPA regulations; a full explanation of the Volvo D13 with Advanced SCR can be found at [www.volvobusscr.com](http://www.volvobusscr.com).

Since completing the interior in the first Prevost Volvo equipped shell this past June I have had the opportunity to use 2 coaches traveling over completely different parts of the country, from the flat highways of Florida to the high attitudes of the west. Both coaches I used were 2012 Liberty Coach Elegant Lady models, inside of a Prevost H3-45 Double Slide (Super Slide Rear) Shell, with Prevost factory installed Over the Road A/C or what is commonly referred to as "Bus Air". The drivetrain package is a Volvo D13 which is a 13 liter 6 cylinder engine rated at 500 horsepower and will develop 1750 ft-lbs of torque, combined with the Allison 6 speed GEN IV transmission and a 4:10 rear end axle ratio. An important note here is that the 2010 EPA regulations have added approximately 640 lbs to the chassis. In all cases I was either towing a Ford Explorer, a Jeep Wrangler, or a 20 foot enclosed trailer.

I can report that after some 5000 miles of seat time, I was traveling with Detroit equipped coaches and we were all very impressed by the pulling power of the Volvo, considering the engine rpm is slower with the higher rear end axle ratio the added torque is very welcome. The coach is also quieter at highway cruising speeds, in fact at 70 mph the engine was turning approximately 1525 rpm as compared to the Detroit turning approximately 1725 rpm.

In the mileage category I would have to say that the Volvo equipped coach did very well compared to the Detroit, consistently using 25-30 gallons less fuel over the same distance and highway conditions.

In conclusion, the Detroit Diesel engines have been with us for many years, the Series 60 engine has had several versions. It is a known, very reliable, and proven engine package. As for the Volvo D13 engine with the additional 2010 EPA equipment, there are some design and operational challenges associated with it, one is the approximate 20% loss of the typical rear closet area because of the DPF and SCR exhaust systems another is the DEF (Diesel Emission Fluid) that has to be maintained after every 2 tank fills of diesel fuel. Change is always somewhat difficult. At the end of the day, the Volvo reliability will be the final grade; so far I believe we are on the right track.

We are all navigating the road to be a greener world, as long as we can maintain or increase the performance of the finished product I can live with the minor inconveniences associated with it.

A more detailed comparison can be found at [www.libertycoach.com](http://www.libertycoach.com)

## LIBERTY COACH SOUTHERN RIVIERA RALLY 2011



Liberty Coach hit the Gulf Coast with an event to remember, coordinated by Liberty Coach's own Dave Wall and Elissa Zidek, and hosted at the Heritage Motor Coach Resort and Marina. The turnout was great and the weather cooperated when it needed to.

We started out the rally having a great dinner at the clubhouse entertained by Brent Burns known as the Best Local Musician. Day 2 had the ladies shopping in Fairhope and the men discussing the nuts and bolts of coaches at the tech talk, we then dined at Cobalt's restaurant where we could view the sunset and the bay. Day 3 was packed with a ½ day fishing charter aboard the Lady D, where we found out who the professional anglers are. We also found out that one can use every type of motion sickness remedy available on the market at one time and not derail Mr. Ronnie Klatt. Keeping our sea legs, we transitioned to a Dolphin/Sunset Cruise on the bay and into the Gulf of Mexico to view a breath taking sunset. Day 4 had the ladies heading for a spa day at the Marriott Grand Hotel and then a farewell dinner at Café Grazie.



# 11th Annual Open House Rally



Be sure to sign up for the 11th Annual Open House Rally during which we

will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Liberty Coach. The highlights of the event will include a raffle for an amazing 4 person trip to Los Suenos, Costa Rica for 3 days and 4 nights at the Hacienda Kasanova, a 3 bedroom Condominium, and fishing aboard the 65 foot Hatteras Kasanova. We will enjoy a private culinary experience at the 51 Supper Club in Palm Beach Gardens and a private tour of the famous Car of Dreams museum. The event will also include a Ruby Red 40th Anniversary sit down dinner at the Liberty Coach of Florida facility and culminating with a Super Bowl party. As with the past Open House Rallies, this will be one for the record books. For more information, or to register, [click here](#).



# 2012 UPCOMING SHOW AND EVENTS

**Tampa RV SuperShow**  
January 11-15, 2012  
Tampa, Florida State Fairgrounds  
[Event Website](#)

**Bus N Biker  
20th Anniversary Rally**  
March 3-8, 2012  
Ocala, Florida

**Pelican Lake Open House**  
January 20-22, &  
February 17-19, 2012  
Naples, Florida

**Food City 500,**  
March 17-19, 2012  
Bristol Motor Speedway  
Bristol, Tennessee

**11th Annual Open House Rally,  
Celebrate 40th Anniversary  
of Liberty Coach**  
February 2-5, 2012  
Stuart, Florida

**Don't miss out on the end of the year  
Bonus Depreciation!!**

**Save on your next Liberty Coach with  
2011 Economic Tax Stimulus.**



**Frank Konigseder**  
772-349-7025  
[frank@libertycoach.com](mailto:frank@libertycoach.com)

**Dave Wall – General Manager**  
772-349-7020  
[dave.wall@libertycoach.com](mailto:dave.wall@libertycoach.com)

**Gary Patterson-Sales Specialist**  
772-349-7019  
[garyp@libertycoach.com](mailto:garyp@libertycoach.com)

**Dave Wishnoff-Sales Specialist**  
772-349-7028  
[dave.wishnoff@libertycoach.com](mailto:dave.wishnoff@libertycoach.com)

**Robin King-Sales Specialist**  
772-349-4207  
[robin.king@libertycoach.com](mailto:robin.king@libertycoach.com)

**800-554-9877**