

# V-DUBBER

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL FLORIDA VW CLUB

LUNCH MEETING SATURDAY 2 pm 11 MAR 23 @

MELLOW MUSHROOM Sanford

## ELECTRIC PICKUP CONSIDERED



Suggesting the long trend to sit on the sidelines may finally be lifted, Volkswagen could be the latest automaker to join the electric pickup fray. MotorTrend reported that Hein Schafer, Volkswagen's senior vice president, has said the next focus for the brand will be a pickup for the U.S. The electric truck segment is rapidly picking up steam, and Schafer hinted "it won't be gas... But for sure, definitely the next focus for us will be a pickup." While VW Group has already put in place plans to debut its new Scout brand with an all-electric pickup, the German automaker says its potential pickup will be a separate endeavor, and as more options are made available, it's good news for those seeking pickup capabilities with zero emissions. (The prototype above appears to be based on the LT line known briefly in the US as Eurovan. The makers decided to add the winch for reasons of their own.)

CFVWC, P O Box 560235, Orlando, FL 32856-0235 web site [www.centralfloridavwclub.org](http://www.centralfloridavwclub.org)

President: Rollie Walker (407) 721-2455; Secretary Debbie Van Treuren (386) 345 4208

CFVWC and VWCA are non-profit organizations and are not affiliated with or sponsored by VWoA or dealer

Local membership includes National Club and newsletters: \$30/ family per year

Meetings normally held at the Mellow Mushroom, Sanford, second SATURDAY of month, 2PM.

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Volkswagen considering an electric pickup isn't much of a surprise given any automaker with a foot in the U.S. market wants to capitalize on the segment as it expands. The segment has just two players currently (Ford Maverick and Hyundai Santa Cruz) with possible compact trucks from Nissan and GM in the works. The Rivian R1T is the only mid-sized electric pickup. If VW decides to go that route, it could make its pickup an important player in the segment. However, Volkswagen Group has established Scout Motors, a new company independent of Volkswagen Group of America (VWGoA).

When VW acquired Navistar in 2021, it bought the iconic Scout brand (formerly International Harvester Scout). The designing and engineering of these models will take place in the U.S. Scout Motors will report directly to the HQ in Wolfsburg, Germany. The Volkswagen Group feels that the revival is a great US opportunity, but keeping local Volkswagen dealers in the dark has gone over like a lead balloon. According to Automotive News, Volkswagen dealers are seeking an explanation from the company, with comments ranging from "untenable" to not launching a VW pickup truck "is disconcerting and discounts" the Volkswagen brand portfolio.



It looks like the Scout electric SUV will be quite a big pickup truck like the GMC Hummer EV SUV. An official sketch has revealed this electric truck will feature a flat hood that could hide a voluminous 'frunk,' an upright face, a tight front overhang, vertical tail lamps, a sleek greenhouse, straight lines, and smooth surfaces. Computer-generated images like the one above are clearly speculative since the proposed Scout has yet to be designed. The German conglomerate had earlier only stated that the Scout pickup will sit on "a new technical platform concept" that offers "credibility beyond the existing Volkswagen Group portfolio". The CAR Magazine disclosed that the Scout pickup truck's chassis is a steel & aluminum monocoque with Double Cab configuration. All-wheel drive will be powered by two electric motors capable of producing up to 469 horsepower.

Volkswagen Group has confirmed that it will build the Scout electric truck and Scout electric SUV in the United States but may outsource manufacturing to lower its risk. Should Volkswagen Group choose Foxconn, production of the Scout EVs would take place at the Taiwanese company's factory in Lordstown, Ohio, where the Lordstown Endurance has been under production since September 2022 and the Fisker Pear will join in 2024. If it gives the contract to Magna International, which is more likely, the Canadian company could build a new plant in North America. Even though Scout will likely be a lifestyle brand, Volkswagen Group may not compromise on the capability of the trucks. From the initial sketches, it looks like it is designed to handle anything that comes its way.



# Secretary's Report

There was an in-person meeting of the CFVWC in February at Hollerbach's Willow Tree Café, 205 E 1st St, Sanford. Present were Rollie Walker and Brad Johnson (visiting from the frozen north).

Discussion continued and the consensus was to vary the meeting restaurant between our two favorites, starting immediately. It is hoped after the effects of recent storms and other calamities we will have more participation at the in-person lunch meetings.

See you Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> at the at the Mellow Mushroom!

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**The next CFVWC in-person  
Meeting is 11 MAR 23 at 2pm  
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