

# Hog Tied and TWISTED

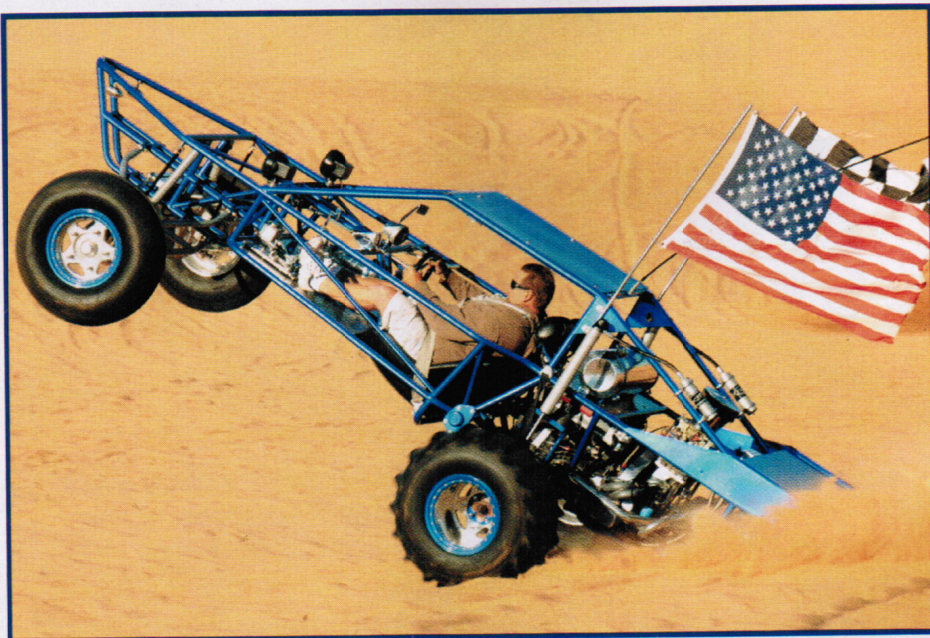


## *An Arkansas rodeo fan takes a wild ride in his Twisted sand car*

BY MARK A. ROLLAND

**W**e've all met people from time to time who seem to have their hands in everything. By that we mean a person with many hobbies and interests. Don Taber, a 43 year old grandfather from Conway, Arkansas is one of those people. Carving sand in his Twisted sand car is something he loves to do. But, with a busy schedule that comes with owning a trucking company, it's not something he gets to do as often as he'd like. So, make it count when you do it, is Don's way of thinking.

Here's the story of how Don came to own this sand car. He made the trip to the Buggy Shop in Hutchinson, Kansas with plans to make improvements to his current car. But, instead he decided to get a new one all together. One that would do all he wanted it to do. Corey Aikens, designer and fabrication tech at The Buggy Shop built this long-travel Twisted car just for Don. He designed it to be comfortable, but also set up the suspension so Don could jump, climb hills, roost, wheelie and simply give his wife Peggy an amazing thrill ride in the Little Sahara Sand Dunes of Waynoka, Oklahoma.



Twenty inches of travel, a power charger on a 2365cc stroker VW motor building over 250 horsepower, and a bottle of NOS for that extra bit of excitement will really move this 1,500 pound buggy with a 104-

inch wheelbase. It's no surprise Don named the car "Blue By U." He told us his trips to the dunes are spent sharing fun time with the family. He leaves the phone in the truck and his first and last thoughts are having fun





with his wife, six kids and two grand children. So far, during his four years in the sport, he has only been to the Little Sahara dunes outside of Waynoka. But, Don has seen photos and talked to others who have been to Glamis and the St. Anthony dunes in Idaho and would like to one day experience those for himself.

Don has his brother to thank for getting him into the sand sport. As if team roping, rodeo, riding his Harley and enjoying boating wasn't enough excitement, his brother thought Don should also feel the thrill of climbing a dune and launching off the top for even more fun. Needless to say, Don took right to it and

**Baby blue and chrome always looks great in the sand! Staying with old school design, no side panels were used. The stroked VW engine puts out more than 250hp thanks to the DLI blower. Combine that with 20 inches of wheel travel and you're set for some good times. The rear engine design is great for wheelies.**



hasn't looked back since. Being a truck driver gives Don a chance to see a lot of the U.S. and what it has to offer. That's how he heard about a VW car show in Memphis, Tennessee where he entered his "Blue By U" and took first place in the sand rail class.

When Don decided to have a sand car built, he wanted it to be able to do a little bit of everything. But, he didn't want to spend a fortune at the same time. Its frame is 1.5-inch mild steel tubing which uses Radflo (2.0 in front & 2.5 in rear) shocks that are nitrogen filled. CV joints are standard 930s and DWT bead lock wheels mount Xtreme tires to help keep the buggy in control. Race Trim seats and 4-point Crow harnesses keep Don and wife Peggy in place.

The Holley Power Charger was built by legendary drag racer Dick Landy. Custom headers and exhaust were made by Bill Frye Motor Sports in Greenbrier, Arkansas. It's good to know that sand duning is still thriving in all parts of the country. Families are still being introduced to the adventure of sand and off-road excitement, and manufacturers continue to bring us great vehicles and products to enjoy. Even in a recession, there are many stories like Don's out there. Just keep reading Sand Sports and we'll continue to bring you these features. Until then, we hope you enjoy your time in the sand, and be sure to give Don a hand if you see him. Because, between he and his brother, one of them may have lost a bet about who gets to drive while the other is "Hog Tied and Twisted."

**SAND SPORTS**

