



Home Sweet Motorhome

At the Saabfestival 2007, some of you may have noticed a very special Saab-based motorhome parked just in front of the Saab Car Museum. Owner is Claes Johansson, motor journalist and a qualified Saabnut. When Claes bought the Saab motorhome, based on a Saab 95 V4, it was revealed that there was a predecessor: a motorhome based on a Saab 92 from 1953!

"ON A BEAUTIFUL WINTER WEEKEND THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER THE RESCUE OPERATION STARTED. AS MANY AS 20 VOLUNTEERS MET UP IN SÄTER, AND OF COURSE CLAES ARRIVED IN HIS MOTORHOME, KNOWN BY ITS NICKNAME 'LITTLE BROTHER'."

In 1963 the owner of Biltjänst in Ramsele, Torsten Johannesson, got a brilliant idea. There are caravans, and there are cars. Why not combine the best of two worlds and build a Saab motorhome?

Assisted by his son Anders, Torsten went from idea to action. He started with a Saab 92. It is likely that the FWD with good traction and the absence of drive shaft and a bulky rear axle gave a good opportunity to make the most of the relatively small vehicle.

Drive train, chassis, steering and instruments were taken from a used Saab 92. As you are all well aware, the 28bhp from a Saab 92 may not be the most powerful installation.

This fact, in combination with a fairly high front axle load, caused the vehicle to fail the very first MOT. This caused the vehicle to be placed as a minor cabin in the woods in the county of Dalarna, not far from Säter. The wheels were removed, and the rest longing for better times.

However, based on the experience from the first car, a new motorhome was constructed. It was based on a Saab 95 with a 40bhp Two-Stroke engine, which was later replaced with a four-stroke 1500cc V4. The vehicle attracted a lot of attention when it was launched. Saab showed interest in the product, but decided



not to take part. Maybe they saw it as a competitor to their own Saabo Caravan. The V4 motorhome was used for a couple of years, but eventually it ended up in a barn. Several years later it was up for sale on the Internet and Claes Johansson bought it.

As already mentioned, Claes was informed that there was a 'Big brother', namely our Saab 92.

Claes dropped a note on Svenska Saabklubbens Internet site, with the hope that someone, somewhere would be interested in saving the big brother, but there was no response. A month later he dropped another note, and eventually, a few people started to react. After some discussions a Group was formed, and the aim was clear. This Saab 92 motor home must be saved and restored to its original condition and specification again.

On a beautiful winter weekend at the beginning of November the rescue operation started. As many as 20 volunteers met up in Säter, and of course Claes arrived in his motorhome, known by its nickname 'little brother'.

The Saab 92 motorhome was a really sad sight when we approached it. After some tinkering with the brakes and steering, and clearing of the interior, the vehicle was ready for salvaging with an excavator loader. It was a true pleasure watching the driver zigzagging between the trees from the resting place and

out to the road again after more than 40 years in the forest.

We have finished the first step, the salvage, and we are now in the fundraising and planning stage of this project. The restoration itself will start as soon as possible.

We have formed a club solely dedicated to the restoration of this unique vehicle, and our aim is to have the vehicle back in its original and roadworthy condition by the summer of 2009. The body is a complete mess, as it was damaged by a forestry machine a couple of years ago, and after that it was said by the locals, the deterioration accelerated. However, the remains can be used as templates. The mechanical parts seem to be in a very decent condition.

Recently, Lars Olofsson in Östersund, responsible for the restoration, cranked the engine for the first time in over 40 years, and behold, it started and sounded as only a Saab 92 engine can. Lovely!

Please visit our new webpage at www.saab92h.se and watch how the restoration develops.

Thank you for your attention, Best regards,

Martin Bergstrand
Chairman of "Föreningen Saab 92H"
Former chairman Svenska Saabklubben