

MAY 2014

HELLO WORLD



It's been a long time between new cars! My last car was a 2001 green Jetta bought used about 10 years ago. What a fun car—it took me camping; on a high altitude study in Bishop, California; and on trips to Monterey, Placerville and Big Sur. It transported people, camping equipment and beehives (in the trunk). But after several fender benders, that green 2001 VW Jetta was losing its paint job, used a little more oil than it should and was showing its age by performing like an old car. Although that car was a trusted old friend, it was time for a new one. What to buy? Time for another fun car.

It's a personal decision on what car to buy. If you live in California, it's always tempting to get a convertible. Although a beautiful convertible was located and test driven, the additional road noise on long trips caused this dream to be postponed. Why not another Jetta? Compared to other cars I tested, it was very affordable. The new models have laser seam welding, great cargo space, keyless access, heated front seats, a tire pressure monitoring system and are Bluetooth enabled.

After looking at the various cars, trucks and jeeps available and comparing them against my budget and my actual driving habits, the VW Jetta just worked for me. The hard part was deciding on the color! New Mexico, my home state, is the only state in the United States that has a state question (related to their hot peppers): Red or Green? After having a green Jetta for 10 years, the new color had to be red. And yes—I went for the sunroof! With the money I saved, I could buy some "fun gear."

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Have adventures! I love stories of your treks and enjoy your pictures—keep them coming!

Steve Bowles
CEO/CFO



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