

CELEBRATING OUR 1000TH COACH

by Mary Barton

This November, Marathon Coach will celebrate the completion of its 1000th bus conversion. The 1000th coach is dedicated to the entire family of coach owners, employees, and vendors who have contributed to the accomplishment of this unprecedented milestone in the bus conversion industry.

The production process of the coach is being documented by film crews to air on several national and international television programs. It will be an exciting day at the plant when the coach rolls off the line on November 7. After the celebration, the coach will make its inaugural voyage to Arizona for Marathon's Phoenix NASCAR[®] rally, which takes place November 9-13. Once the coach arrives in Phoenix, more festivities will ensue.

Ultimately, the coach itself is a celebration. It is the culmination of more than 20 years of experience custom building 999 previous coaches. It is the most advanced, most expensive, and the highest quality coach Marathon has ever made. And it's very impressive.

Coach #1001 will feature a Vorad[®] collision detection and maintained-distance system, Marathon's TechLink[®] electrical network system, and two KVH in-motion digital satellite system receivers. A Crestron[®] touch-

screen remote control system, with wall and countertop charging stations, remotely controls all interior and exterior audio/video systems, lights, automatic window blinds, and the climate within the coach.

A color rear-view camera mounted on the back of the coach and two side-view cameras vastly simplify the coach's maneuverability.

In the salon, the coach is equipped with a 42" flip-down NEC plasma TV centered in the headliner, in addition to a 15" LCD placed in the forward slide-out display cabinet. The rounded occasional table is made of solid walnut hardwood with a polyurethane protective finish. The carpet will be accented with a tiled wavy walkway through the center of the salon. The tile, which will extend into the galley and bath, will have a marble pinwheel pattern with randomly placed lighted keys. A custom wavy front sofa in gold-highlighted fabric will feature extra-

large wavy arms and a full-width sofa storage box. Two leather Lafer recliners are included in the salon furnishings.

The galley cabinets, and concealed Fisher Paykel[®] drawer dishwasher, will be laminated using Wilsonart's Desert Oasis pattern with a glossy finish and brushed nickel accent trim. Surface-mounted Keller-Cifial[®] satin nickel cabinet pulls will be used throughout the coach, and picture recesses will be designed into the galley walls.

In the dining room, a 15" pop-up LCD TV is positioned behind the dinette countertop. The dinette tabletop is made of solid walnut hardwood with crushed glass tile inserts and a polyurethane protective finish. The curved dinette bar will have two fixed swivel, leather-upholstered wooden stools, and storage underneath. The acrylic display cabinet will conceal the M & K sub-woofer system.

The 1000th bedroom will sport a 32" LCD TV and a SlumberEase[®]

Continued on page 35



adjustable queen bed. Each side of this two-section bed operates independently, with variable massage and vibration controls. A large drawer opens at the foot of the bed and the walk-in wardrobe has additional drawers. The central Sony VHS hi-fi VCR and Pioneer DVD player are located behind the air-pocket mirrored doors of the wardrobe.

A 13" LCD TV is viewable through the mirrored bathroom medicine cabinet door. Sumptuous glass oval sinks and marble tiled flooring further accentuate the vanity and watercloset. The backsplashes of the bath and shower walls are composed of glass and metal tile. The hallway

features enclosed Asko® stacked washer/dryer units, a walk-in wardrobe with drawers beneath the full hanging closet, and custom shoe storage.

All countertops are polished solid surface Karadon® Candle Glow with Avonite® ruby glass trim. Sculpted, overlaid, acrylic and metal ceiling panels are highlighted with four-color fiber-optic lighting. The motorized pleated and roman shaded windows are trimmed with wavy solid walnut valances and rope accent lighting; metal, with a decorative cut design, is inserted into the lit window stiles.

The dash of the coach features a 7" TechLink® color display

monitor and a GPS mapping system. The lighted entryway has a marble landing and steps with polished stainless steel risers.

Outside the coach, the underbelly entertainment center contains a 32" LCD TV, audio/visual system, and custom scooter storage. The coach features undercoach LED lighting and red underbelly carpet.

Everyone at Marathon is very excited about the 1000th coach. Marathon Coach extends sincere appreciation to the coach owners, employees and vendors who helped to achieve this thrilling milestone. •