



C'MON GET HAPPY!

The Partridge Family never has this much fun!

By Michelle Williamson • Photography Seville Media

IT'S BREWERS PRE-GAME TIME AND THE ASPHALT EXPANSE OF MILLER PARK IS AWASH IN A SEA OF YELLOW. A grid of school buses, with an occasional coach thrown in, patterns the lot, creating a maze of maize nearly impossible to conquer without the requisite "where are you?" phone call. Unless, of course, you're looking for a Partridge Family Party Bus.

With its groovy signature patchwork paint job, throbbing sound system and constant crowd of revelers, this is one ride that's hard to miss. And trust us, you don't want to.

When owner Donny Rector, aka "Partybus Donny," set out to put Milwaukee's party on wheels just over two years ago, he vowed to "keep it unique, keep it different."

And that he did. Toto, I don't think we're in kindergarten anymore. Passengers can tow along any beverage of their choice, from kegs to champagne. (No one will tattle.) The rows of sticky plastic seats we all remember from the dreaded route to elementary school have been replaced with cushy red perimeter seating, leaving the lacquered wood center aisle a makeshift dance floor, complete with disco lights and the symbol of good times to come: a pole.

"It's a dance pole, not a stripper pole!" Rector insists. "It's a hit. Eighty year olds have been on that pole swinging around."

He's literally decked out his buses with all the party essentials, with a platform on top that's perfect for a group photo or something even more imaginative. "I've had live bands, fish boils, even bonfires on that deck."

Prefer to cozy up to a natural wood fireplace? Oh yeah, there's one of those too. Perfect for an intimate ride with up to 40 of your closest friends, whether celebrating a birthday or heading to the big game. "Brewers games, Packer games, heading up to Alpine Valley... We do just about any event," Rector says. "We do a lot of disco parties, a lot of 40th, 50th, 60th birthday parties."

Even "Good Morning America" wanted to get in on the fun, inviting Rector and a party bus to meet Diane Sawyer and actor David Cassidy (of '70s TV show "The Partridge Family," naturally) in the summer of 2009.

Despite his brushes with fame, Rector is "all about keeping it real," even offering up specials for weddings and on weekdays.

"Getting my customers around safely is the main thing," he says. "I just want people to have fun."

With a license plate that reads GET HAPY, that message is clear.

"The buses are all clubs on wheels," Rector enthuses. "People walk by and they don't want to leave. They want to stay and party!"

www.partridgefamilypartybus.com