



## BACK to the 50s / 60s DRESS UP

**Monday February 1, 2016**

Pontiac / Waterford Elks Club

Regular Monthly Meeting

**50s & 60s DRESS UP NIGHT**

NOTICE

We will have a brief Board meeting after our regular DACC meeting February 1st.

**HOMECOMING 2016**

**Register for your hotel NOW**

**August 24 through 28, 2016**

**DO NOT assume there will be any rooms available after the block ends.**

Call Comfort Inn **DIRECT ONLY**

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**President Tim Bramble**

We had a great turnout for our first monthly meeting in 2016. The evening was a typical January evening with the temperature around 18 degrees. So I hope our Snowbirds are enjoying themselves. It was neat hearing from our members why they own a Corvair.

Of course Pete K acquired a Corvair for a mere \$10.00. Only Pete could do that. With the raising of hands on how many members purchased a Corvair from Pete, we should probably rename the club after him.

I want to thank our members for braving the cold January night and for sharing they stories of our favorite little car.

Before we know it we will be at our February meeting which is going to be our 50s and 60s dress up night. So dust off your favorite 50s or 60s clothes and plan on showing up.

We have a guest speaker, which I know you are going to enjoy hearing from. I'm going to let Eva McGuire tell you about him and his presentation in her Aircooler article.

Election for officers is coming up in March so once again volunteer for one of our board positions. It's good to have new faces and ideas. It keeps our club fun and relevant. All positions are open except for the Presidents position. The March meeting Pete Koehler will be our new president and will be presiding over the elections. So show up and help decided our new board.

Thanks **Tim B**



## CAVEMAN GARAGE

Most of the time my contributions to the Aircooler revolve around a car or a project in the Caveman Garage. This month we will highlight one member of our club; Ian Smith. Or, as he is known in his hometown - Evil Ian. The Salt Meister of Wasteland!

I've always said that if you don't like your job, get a new one! Personally I liked my job, but the General said I was too old to enjoy it anymore and kicked me to the curb. That was a few years ago and now I'm sort of okay with being retired. With the onslaught of Winter in Michigan the best part of retirement is that I don't HAVE to go out on the snow covered roads and slip and slide my way to any destination. But for you working stiffs just be glad there are folks like our man Ian.

Meister Ian works for the City of Westland. His many duties include driving a plow truck and spreading salt on the municipal roads when the weather conditions require it. Basic stuff. Somebody has to do it. But, Ian takes this set of responsibilities to a whole new level. You could say that he is driven. When piloting his plow truck down some of the narrow side streets in town he has been known to take drastic action if any residents were foolish enough to leave their cars or trucks parked in the street. If the lane isn't wide enough for his truck and plow the offending vehicle could be punted into the next zip code. Of course once it leaves the city limits it is no longer Ian's concern. Problem solved! But Ian's true talent is with the salt spreaders.

I've heard it said that he isn't happy until he has first removed the white snow and then made the road surface white again. This time with salt. Lots of salt. Salt everywhere. Rust making salt. Cars and trucks cringe at the first faint sound of Ian's salt spreader. When he shows up at the end of their street their wheels are wobbling knowing that while the

snow and ice may be gone, so are their chances of prolonged life and solid floor panels. I even heard a rumor that local car dealers have been secretly passing him a bounty for promoting rust and generating new customers for them after their present cars have melted back into the Earth. And you know he enjoys this whole scene. You can tell by the hideous cackle he emits after dumping his load of the white stuff and running back to the DPW for more. Yeah. He loves his job.

I still consider Ian a buddy and I'm glad he found our club and joined up. He and his brother Mark are great additions to our ranks. In fact, Ian is one of only two members who drive Corvairs exclusively (the other being the Corvair Lady Eva). Ian's current ride is a 1962 Monza sedan that will be sacrificed this Winter to save his beautiful '63 Monza coupe from the ravages of what Ian does at work. If there is anything left of the sedan when Spring arrives we are planning to transplant it's engine into Mark's late model coupe so the brothers Smith can both enjoy some good old Corvair camaraderie. What could be better than that? **Pete Koehler**

## Chrome & Ice Winter Classic Car Event

Feb 12th & 13th

Dort Federal Credit Union  
Event Center

3501 Lapeer Rd. Flint 48503

This is the first year of what we hope to be an annual event that will grow in size like all of the other Back to the Bricks events have been doing since 2005. Since it is in the small arena and room is needed for a stage and an area with sand and palm trees there will be 35 cars and trucks on exhibit including C.S Mott's Corvair (or one of Pete Koehler's) and a certain 1949 Cadillac that only

comes out of the garage a couple times a year.

The idea for the show is to get people out of their homes in the middle of winter, walk on the grass and join a beach party in a warm building with a Beach Boys Tribute band playing for aprox 90 minutes at 7:00-9:30 PM Friday and 3:00-4:30 PM Saturday.

The show is open from 12 Noon to 9:00 PM Friday and 9:00 AM to 00 PM Saturday, cost of admission is only \$5.00/person and parking is \$5.00/car. There is a Flint Firebirds Hockey game Sat at 7:30 PM on the other side of the complex and tickets will be available onsite if you want to stay and enjoy the game.

Next year we hope to have both the "big ice" side and the smaller arena with more cars, trucks and vendors. Many years ago Carl Casper would put on custom car shows in the old IMA Auditorium in downtown Flint and we hope to revive that type of event over the coming years and bring people and money to Flint & Genesee County.

Check out the new [backtothebricks.org](http://backtothebricks.org) website for more info and if you click on the gallery of pictures there is a Corvair on the bricks and our President's and Marvin's old 58 Chevy on the promo tour link. I will be at this event from set up Thursday until tear down Saturday night (just like at the Homecoming) in some kind of Tommy Bahama T-shirt, stop by the Promo Tour table and fill out your registration form and join us on the tour this year; And you can buy a collectors edition T-shirt.

from **Pete Cimbala**





## Chevrolet Corvair

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader built his career on demonizing the Chevrolet Corvair in his 1965 book *Unsafe at Any Speed*. While the Corvair wasn't a particularly safe car, the book highlighted many of the safety issues that virtually every car of the era had.

In the early '60s, features like the collapsible steering column, three-point seat belts, padded dashboards, and two-circuit brake systems (to prevent brake failure) had yet to be standardized, causing most cars to be shockingly dangerous by today's standards.

This article claimed the Corvair was # 2 in all time Dangerous to Drive cars with the Model T as number 1. Porsche came in as #3 followed by Pinto, DeLorean DMC-12, Fiero, Yugo, Bronco II, Cobalt, and Ferrari 458 Italia,

Who thinks up this kind of stuff anyway?

**CORVAIRS ON THE PRAIRIE**

**JULY 12-16 2016**  
**SPRINGFIELD • ILLINOIS**



**DACC WEST 2ND SUNDAY  
ACTIVITY CELEBRATES  
1ST ANNIVERSARY**

Wow, it's been one year since the inception of the second Sunday activity known as DACC-WEST. There were 12 of us daring folks who came out in the frigid cold to meet at the Ypsi. Auto Museum on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, our guest speaker, Tommy Espy, was unable to attend due to hazardous road conditions. We will, hopefully, reschedule his visit for another time.

Discussions were made regarding our participation with upcoming parades/events/orphan show on our side of town.

Dan & Linda Betzholdt brought guests with them; Mitch & Lynne Robertson. Mitch is a former Willow Run Corvair auto worker who spoke briefly of his various jobs at the plant; one involving a salaried position in the GM Suggestion Plan. He showcased a pocket knife commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GM Suggestion Plan.

Due to the time allotted during our meeting, we went around the room and each owner discussed why they chose the Corvair as their car of choice. (like we did at Waterford's Jan. 4th meeting). I enjoyed this activity as it helps to get to know our fellow members better.

The Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> second Sunday DACC-West activity will welcome Frank Winchell's grandson, Nick Gigante, who will give a presentation regarding his grandfather's role in the legal defense of the Corvair. (See separate article in this Aircooler for more details).

**Corvair Lady (Eva McGuire)**

**INDOOR DO IT  
YOURSELF CAR REPAIR  
PLACE AVAILABLE**

It's winter time and those of us in Michigan usually have to wait until the weather breaks before repairing our beloved Corvairs (or other cars). I drove by this place a month ago and was going to go back to check it out for prices, etc., however, one of our DACC-West members got there before me sparing me from having to go back. Thanks to John Wolter, he dropped by the "My Mechanics Place" to get the details. They offer a fully equipped auto repair shop for do it yourself repairs and is located at 35655 Plymouth Rd., Livonia, MI 48150. Stalls (with or without hoists) are available along with paint booths which can be rented on an hourly, daily or weekly basis. Prices: To rent a stall (without a lift) would run \$12.00 an hour or \$50.00 for the day; stall with a lift runs \$25.00 an hour or \$100.00 a day; paint booth \$100.00 an hour or \$400.00 a day. They also feature ASE Certified Mechanic on hand, computerized service manuals, 40,000 square feet, RV & Truck Lift, Tool & Equipment Rental (such as jacks, etc.). They are open Monday-Thursday 10am-9pm, Friday 10am-10pm, Saturday 8am-10pm, Closed Sunday. For more details, call (734) 743-5808 or go to [www.mymechanicsplace.com](http://www.mymechanicsplace.com). John was kind to pick up a few brochures for us; which I will bring to our next Waterford meeting for those who are interested in this service.

**Corvair Lady (Eva)**

**Meeting Minutes  
January 4 2016**

Welcome to a new year! With a new year we start to talk about the up coming March elections. All positions are open except for President. Pete Koehler will be stepping up from Vice-President to President. Please consider taking on a role and supporting our club. (Especially if you have never held a position before)

This month's topic was sharing stories. I know I enjoyed listening to all of the stories of how everyone got hooked into Corvairs. I hope everyone else enjoyed it as well.

John O'Leary shared with us an event called Ice 'n' Chrome. It will be on February 12/13 at Dort Federal Credit Union Events Center in Flint. This year it is limited to 35 cars. Admission is \$5 pp and parking is \$10.

Pete Cimbala stated that the Back to Bricks web site is being revised.

Judy O'Leary gave us an update about how happy Haven House was from our donation and that it went to help 610 children and 280 women.

Swap and sell: Bob Jennings has bought his brothers' entire inventory of parts for early Corvair. If anyone is looking for anything come talk to him.

Eva gave an update for DACC west. The upcoming meeting was going to have the grandson (Mr. Nick Gigante from Lansing) of Frank Winchell. Frank was the expert witness during the trials against the Corvair. Nick was bringing reports and information about the case. She also had a copy of the December issue of Auto Week and it had an article about Corvairs.

For next months meeting please be creative and dress up in '50's or 60's clothing.

The 50/50 drawing of \$57.00 went to Donna. The attendance went to Les. Eva raffled off her article from Auto Week, it went to Shelly. **Lori Komora** - Secretary

## FAST COMPANY

Ever wonder why a Top Fuel dragster gets a rebuilt engine after each run? - even if you aren't a 'car nut', this is interesting.

One Top Fuel dragster outfitted with a 500 cubic-inch replica Dodge (actually Keith Black, etc) Hemi engine makes more horsepower (8,000 HP) than the first 4 rows of cars at NASCAR's Daytona 500.

Under full throttle, a dragster engine will consume 11.2 gallons of nitro methane per second; a fully loaded Boeing 747 consumes jet fuel at the same rate but with 25% less energy being produced.

A stock Dodge Hemi V8 engine cannot produce enough power to even drive the Dragster's' supercharger.

With 3000 CFM of air being rammed in by the supercharger on overdrive, the fuel mixture is compressed into a near-solid form before ignition. Cylinders run on the verge of hydraulic lockup at full throttle.

At the stoichio-metric 1.7:1 air/fuel mixture for nitro methane the flame front temperature measures 7050 degrees F.

Nitro methane burns yellow. The spectacular white flame seen above the stacks at night is raw burning hydrogen, disassociated from atmospheric water vapor by the searing exhaust gases.

Dual magnetos supply 44 amps to each spark plug, which is typically the output of a small electric arc welder in each cylinder.

Spark plug electrodes are totally consumed during a pass. After 1/2 way thru the run, the engine is 'dieseling' from compression and the glow of the exhaust valves at 1400 degrees F. The engine can only be shut down by cutting the fuel flow.

If spark momentarily fails early in the run, unburned nitro builds up in the affected cylinders and then explodes with enough force to blow the cylinder heads off the block in pieces or split the block in half!

Dragsters reach over 300 MPH + ... before you have completed reading this sentence.

In order to exceed 300 MPH in 4.5 seconds, a dragster must accelerate an average of over 4 G's. In order to reach 200 MPH well before reaching half-track, at launch the acceleration approaches 8 G's.

Top Fuel engines turn approximately 540 revolutions from light to light!

Including the burnout, the engine must only survive 900 revolutions under load.

The redline is actually quite high at 9500 RPM.

**THE BOTTOM LINE:**  
Assuming all the equipment is paid for, the pit crew is working for free, and NOTHING BLOWS UP, each run will cost an estimated \$1,000 per second.

0 to 100 MPH in .8 seconds (the first 60 feet of the run)

0 to 200 MPH in 2.2 seconds (the first 350 feet of the run)

6 G-forces at the starting line (nothing accelerates faster on land) 6 negative G-forces upon deployment of twin 'chutes at 300 MPH.

An NHRA Top Fuel Dragster accelerates quicker than any other land vehicle on Earth ...

Quicker than a jet fighter plane ...

Quicker than the space shuttle ...

Or snapping your fingers!

The current Top Fuel dragster elapsed time record is 4.42 seconds for the quarter-

mile (2004, Doug Kalitta). (I think the time is now closer to 4 seconds, as of Winter 2014.)

The top speed record is 337.58 MPH as measured over the last 66' of the run (2005, Tony Schumacher).

Update:

Only going 1000 feet (320 feet less than 1/4 mile) they do it in 3.7 seconds at around 332 mph with 10,000 horse power with 90% nitro - methane 10% alcohol.

**THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TOO FAST FOR 1/4 MILE AND COULDN'T STOP.**

Let's now put this all into perspective:

Imagine this: You're driving a new \$140,000 Lingenfelter twin-turbo powered Corvette Z-06. Over a mile up the road, a Top Fuel dragster is staged and ready to 'launch' down a quarter-mile strip as you pass. You have the advantage of a flying start. You run the 'Vette hard, on up through the gears and blast across the starting line and pass the dragster at an honest 200 MPH. The 'tree' goes green for both of you at that exact moment. The dragster departs and starts after you. You keep your foot buried hard to the floor, and suddenly you hear an incredibly brutally screaming whine that sears and pummels your eardrums and within a mere 3 seconds the dragster effortlessly catches and passes you. He beats you to the finish line, a quarter-mile away from where you just passed him. Think about it - from a standing start, the dragster had spotted you 200 MPH. And it not only caught, but nearly blasted you off the planet when he passed you within a mere 1320 foot long race!

That, my friends is acceleration.  
author unknown

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Be sure to visit ... **detroitcorvairs.com**

### DID YOU KNOW?

Along with a web page the DACC now has a FACEBOOK page ... Here is the address

[https://](https://www.facebook.com/#!/ETROITCORVAIRS)

[www.facebook.com/#!/ETROITCORVAIRS](https://www.facebook.com/#!/ETROITCORVAIRS)





## Corphibian

In 1961, a couple of engineers at the automaker got the bright idea that the new, and itself unique, rear-engine Corvair Rampside pickup would make a great platform for an amphibious vehicle. So they started a company and went to work, with Chevy on board with their project.

## CORVAIR 'HOT WHEELS'



Winter sure is a good time to get ready for the 2016 HOMECOMING! This year you could show up with your very own **RACING VALVE COVER.**



## DECEMBER TREASURY REPORT

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<b>John Allesee</b> john@allesee.com H (734) 429-2196	<b>Jay Nugent</b> jjn@nuge.com H (734) 484-5105

1/1/2016	\$11,252.88
JAN AIRCOOLER	107.41
MEMBERSHIP	60.00
CUPCAKES	31.42
CALENDARS	932.00
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	\$10,242.05

Robert Jennings, Treasurer

## SELL & SWAP

ADS ARE FREE TO ALL – SEND TO [kenpepke@yahoo.com](mailto:kenpepke@yahoo.com)

**FOR SALE:** 62 6 dr std Greenbrier Light blue /white stripe. solid but dented, easily repair, good tires. not run eng apart has all parts. great to start \$ 2500.00 firm - Tim Bramble 248 343-9677 pictures if interest.

**FOR SALE:** 63 Monza 2dr restored, original paint 5300 mi [maryflanery1@gmail.com](mailto:maryflanery1@gmail.com) 734 2864787 Mickey Widener 734 692 2122

**FOR SALE:** 64 Maroon convert PG, eng rebuilt by Ken Hand in 2011 – new black top & carpet – 3 year old tires – AM-FM \$4,200 Dave 248-363 7277

**FOR SALE:** Frank Sheridan's 1965 Corvair conv. red w/ white top, blk int.VGC - two tears in top, body VGC - 164 turbo 110 hp that needs work. [Vancel01@comcast.net](mailto:Vancel01@comcast.net)

**FOR SALE:** 1966 Monza 2dr 110 PG Sharp i/s & o/s, no rust - runs perfect, shows 68,106 mi - new batt & much more - \$8300 OBO Judy 248 288 2126

**WANTED:** To look at an original 1966 factory WW spare tire to provide dimensions for an upcoming article. Tom Deptulski (313) 835 6803

**FOR SALE:** 65 convertible to a good home \$7000 -- 810 - 444 - 7555

**FOR SALE:** Brand new '64 turbo engine, High School auto shop teaching aid - never in a car \$7000 Tom Deptulski (313) 835 6803

**FOR SALE:** 1961 LAKEWOOD 700 wagon 80,000 orig. miles. Store i/s since '73. All orig & complete, except engine. Now good running 62 car engine, 84 HP-PG. - Glass & Rubber seals are v. good. New floor pans, little rust. very restorable. \$1,000.00 OBO  
**Also:** 1961 LAKEWOOD 700 wagon for parts. GC No rr window. BO - Evan Thomas 810-471-8826

**FOR SALE:** 63 Greenbrier automatic \$3700 & 61 Rampside 4 speed \$7500 Both are very solid from the dry climate of Eastern Montana. Un-restored & original paint. Rampside has topper from the 60's will sell separate. Hope to have at the Home Coming swap meet, Lansing area. 517-667-1407

**WANTED:** FOR '64 CORVAIR MONZA CONV. USED, GOOD COND, FRONT & REAR, R/L, WHL. OPNG. MLDNG, REAR BUMPER. BLACK BOOT COVER. ROCKO @ 586-431-4494

## DACC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January 16, 2016 by Clark Hartzel

**Thanks for keeping membership up to date:**  
Belfontaine, Cavataio, Hensley, Huff, R.Jennings, B.Johnson, Major, Schwartz, G.Shreve, J.Shreve in

**Exp in Nov:** D.Jennings, O'Guinn. Will be dropped.

**Exp in Dec.:** Christ, McDonald, Nugent, Parsons. G.Shreve.

**Due in Jan.:** M.Granger, Jacobi, Sanger.

**Due in Feb.:** Betzoldt, Blanchard, Deptulski, I.Hand, Lindh, McKean, Timmermans.

**Due in Mar.:** Emanuelle, Flinn, Ives, Maciejewski, Murray, Pleitner, Rutherford, Sheffer, Weeks.

We have 126 paid members and 9 who owe dues. We are mailing 13 complementary newsletters to other clubs and the Ypsilanti museum Please don't pay in cash. I can forget who gives it to me! Get those checks in folks!!!

*We are no longer collecting \$3 for non-CORSA members*

If you can't make it to the next meeting, send a  
**\$20.00 check**

dues, payable to: Detroit Area Corvair Club,  
16911 Anita Ave., Fraser, MI 48026-2275

If you wish to receive only an on-line newsletter let me know *by email* so I can verify your email address.

Questions about membership or change address or e-mail [chartzel@comcast.net](mailto:chartzel@comcast.net) or phone 586-293-1587

We have an **email blast list** to notify members of quickie tours or last minute changes. Please send me your email address so I can keep the list up to date.



The Detroit Area Corvair Club is a charter chapter of CORSA, Inc. Monthly meetings are held on the First Monday of each month, 7PM, at the **WATERFORD ELKS Club**, on Scott Lake Rd, Waterford, MI 4/10 mi south of Dixie Hwy. Meetings are open to DACC Members, friends, and all interested in the Corvair. Come early; join us for dinner in the ELKS dining room. Choose entries from their menu.

**MONDAY FEB 1st  
BACK  
to the 50s / 60s  
DRESS UP NIGHT**

**The AIRCOOLER**

Ken Pepke, Editor  
126 S Riverbank  
Wyandotte, MI 48192

**FIRST CLASS**



**DACC ACTIVITIES**

**June – Sloan Museum Spring Event, Flint – June 25-26, 2016**

**July – Concours d' Lemons, Plymouth – July 30, 2016**

**CORSA International, Springfield, IL July 12-16, 2016**

**August - DACC Homecoming, August 25-28, 2016**

**-Woodward Dream Cruise, August 20, 2016**

**-Back to the Bricks – August/13-14, 2016**

**-Berkley Parade, August 19, 2016**

**-Hines Drive Cruise, August 28, 2016**

**September – Orphan Car Show, Ypsilanti September/17-18, 2016**

**October – Springfield Oaks Antique/Classic Car Show and Auction**

The DACC Activities calendar consists of one "planned" activity and then a Saturday and a Sunday event each month.

**-John O'Leary, Activities Director**

**2016 Calendars**

Are available for  
\$15 plus \$2 shipping.

Go to

[www.allesee.com/calendar](http://www.allesee.com/calendar)

for order form or to pay with  
credit card. Send check to

John Allesee -

Calendar

PO Box 549

Saline, MI 48176

**MECHANICAL REPAIRS / BODY WORK:**

Show and Go Collision 9103 Chalmers Detroit, MI 48213 Tom Cavatio (313) 371-9085

**PARTS & SERVICES:**

Mike McKeel - Mechanical Repairs / Parts & Tech Advice (734) 485-2729 [vaircare67@gmail.com](mailto:vaircare67@gmail.com)

Clark's Corvair parts 400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA. 01370 (413) 625-9776

**BOTH PARTS & REPAIRS:**

Ken Hand 1896 S. Gregory Rd., Fowlerville, MI 48836 (248) 613-8586

**CONSIGNMENT SALES:**

North American Classic Cars – 27222 Plymouth Rd. Redford, MI 48239 [www.northamericanclassics.com](http://www.northamericanclassics.com)

On line ads provide our members with a quick reference guide to satisfy their Corvair needs

DACC members wishing to be included on this list should submit their information to Editor Ken Pepke

**PARTS AND SERVICES**