

Corvan Antics

March/April 2016
Volume 44 Issue 2

Founded in 1972 by Ken Wilhite



The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the
Corvanatics
The Forward Control Corvair People



Riding with the President *by Chris Nickel*

Hope you all are having a spectacular day. Time is flying by so fast; pretty soon it will time for the convention. I'll be honest, I cannot wait for it. The annual meeting is set for 8:30 to 10:00 pm on Wednesday, July 13 in Springfield.

I am still looking for a Corvair. It would be better if it were running, or able to run needing just a few things. If anybody has any suggestions, feel free to email me at camo.chris.cc@gmail.com. Thanks in advance. If anyone is wondering how my job is going—it is going very well. I am looking into joining the Marines because I decided to follow my dream of joining the military. What's the harm in trying?

At least it's almost spring and hopefully the cold is over so we can get working on those Corvairs and if you have them, those FCs. I'm really excited about seeing what all Corvairs will be at the show this summer.

Sorry this is so short....

Keep On Truckin', Corvanatics!

Christopher Nickel



5 A little Loadside love from Robert Gold. Reasons why these rare FCs should not be overlooked.

6 Die cast 1/43 scale Greenbrier models are now being offered by Brooklyn of England.

INSIDE

7 Tech Editor, Gary Baxter shares his process of adding electric door locks to Corvair FCs.

9 Molly Bacon provides several photos and a few words about the 2016 Corvair Lover's Holiday event.

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| Item | PDF | Mailed |
|---|------|---------|
| Corvanatics Jacket/Hat Patch | N/A | \$2.50 |
| Corvanatics Window Sticker | N/A | \$2.00 |
| Corvanatics Magnet | N/A | \$2.00 |
| Corvanatics Lapel Pin | N/A | \$3.00 |
| Corvanatics Key Fob | N/A | \$8.00 |
| Corvanatics Hat | N/A | \$18.00 |
| Corvanatics Roster* | Free | \$2.00 |
| Powerglide Transmissions booklet by Bob Ballew | Free | \$10.00 |
| Differential Booklet | Free | \$5.00 |
| 3 booklet set: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint Codes (includes cars thru 64) • Prices and Options • Paint and Trim Combinations | Free | \$5.00 |

Closeout Sale - When these are gone, they're gone!

| Item | Size | Price |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Corvanatics Canvas Tote Bag | 15 1/2" tall x 15" wide | \$10.00 \$6.00 |
| Corvanatics T-shirt | Small (only 2 left) | \$12.00 \$6 |
| Women's Polo Shirt | Medium (only 2 left) | \$18.00 \$8 |
| | Large (only 3 left) | \$18.00 \$10 |

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Membership and Merchandise payments can be Mailed or completed on the Corvanatics website:, <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/corvanatics/index.php>



Roster only available to current members. Send request to Corvanatics@gmail.com.

Details and pictures at: <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/corvanatics/merchandise.php>

From the Secretary *by Molly Bacon*

The Winner Is
Stan Drake

\$10 Clark's Gift Certificate
 Remember, you can only win if your
 dues are current



Hi all,

Chris and I've already started off 2016 with a Corvair event. You can read my article on the Corvair Lover's Holiday elsewhere in the newsletter. I'm sure we're all looking forward to spring to be able to start attending this year's Corvair events.

Since last newsletter:

254 members

3 new members

22 members renewed their dues

1 member was dropped

I know almost all of you pay your dues in a timely manner, but for those concerned I am dropping people without adequate notification, you need to know that I post dues due notifications in three newsletters. I also send out dues due emails or postcards for those without email addresses after they are past a month or so. Finally, after the third delinquent newsletter posting, I send a personal Final Notice postcard. Lastly, the statistics above also include our members that have passed. Hope that make you feel better that you will not just be dropped.

WELCOME !! to our new members

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|
| <i>Kenneth Ragan</i> | <i>KS</i> | <i>1965 Greenbrier</i> |
| <i>Ed Lindsay</i> | <i>FL</i> | <i>1961 Rampside</i> |
| <i>Bruce Coleman</i> | <i>TN</i> | <i>1962 Rampside</i> |

Please encourage any FC owner you see or communicate with to join Corvanatics. I can provide you with a PDF of a welcome letter and membership form you can print and pass out or request some of the Corvanatics business cards. Just email me at Corvanatics@gmail.com or call me to have these mailed.

Dues Due!!

Everyone should have a membership card. Please let me know if you don't or have misplaced it, I will send you another one. It has your "Good till" membership dues due date on it, so everyone will be able to keep up with when to send in their dues. That way your name doesn't get published in the newsletter and you stay eligible for the gift certificate giveaway. Send those dues in on time or even early and pay for multiple years, too! Paying early doesn't cheat you of any time on your membership. It will be renewed to the number of years from your current due month.

Remember, your dues can be paid for more than one year at a time. When you pay your dues, you will be sent an updated membership card with your new expiration date. Dues can be paid from the website with PayPal or sent "snail" mail with a check or money order.

Continued on Page 4

From the Secretary

by Molly Bacon

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Last Chance

We still have a few members on the last chance list. This list is folks who are seriously overdue. If you are on it, this is your last newsletter unless you pay your dues. There is no penalty. Please pay up so this list goes away and you become eligible again for the gift certificate drawing.

Due November and December – Final Notice

You are **NOT** eligible to receive a gift certificate even if your number is generated.

| | | | |
|------------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| James Carrington | Nov 2015 | Les Campbell | Dec 2015 |
| Graham Dell | Nov 2015 | Jess Corrigan | Dec 2015 |
| Lee Richardson | Nov 2015 | Gary W Moore | Dec 2015 |
| Steve Turner | Nov 2015 | Eric Prosize | Dec 2015 |
| Nicole Kennen | Nov 2015 | Brian Tucker | Dec 2015 |

Dues Already Owed

Due January and February Second notice

You are also **NOT** eligible to receive a gift certificate even if your number is generated.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| Ralph Loewinger | Jan 2016 | Gary Duncan | Feb 2016 |
| Mark Dixon | Feb 2016 | John Sunden | Feb 2016 |

Coming due in the next two months (early reminder)

Due March and April – coming up, pay now! You're still eligible for the gift certificate drawing, but renew and stay eligible


| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|------------|
| Cole Adcock | Mar 2016 | Jack Bacon | April 2016 |
| Alex Becker | Mar 2016 | Greg Czopek | April 2016 |
| Dale Dewald | Mar 2016 | Stan Drake | April 2016 |
| Jim Diell | Mar 2016 | Herb DuPlant | April 2016 |
| Jim Pennell | Mar 2016 | Lucia Holmes | April 2016 |
| Donald Richmond Sr. | Mar 2016 | Roger Moody | April 2016 |
| | | Dave Todd | April 2016 |

Don't Forget

Corvanatics Business Cards


Email, call, write me or order online at the Corvanatics website in the merchandise section for a "stack" of Corvanatics business cards to give out whenever you see an FC.

Thanks,
Molly Bacon



The Corvanatics chapter of the Corvair Society of America advances preservation, restoration and enjoyment of Corvair Forward Control (FC) vehicles.

More information and how to join on the back of the card.



In Memory of

Richard
Zabinski

Richard J. Zabinski, P.E., of Albany, NY, died at Albany Medical Center on Monday, December 21, 2015, having recently been diagnosed with cancer. He was 65. Born in Albany on March 27, 1950, Richard was the son of Joseph Zabinski and the late Florence (Smolinski) Zabinski. Richard completed his undergraduate degree in civil engineering at RPI in 1971 and earned his master of science in transportation engineering at Union College. He served in the Army Corps of Engineers. Richard retired after a long career at the New York State Department of Transportation. He was an inaugural inductee of the Intelligent Transportation Society of New York Hall of Fame. A lifetime member of Mensa, Richard enjoyed attending science cafes and was a regular participant at the SciTech Cafe in Amherst, Mass. He was also an avid amateur radio operator and an accomplished photographer. Those wishing to remember Richard in a special way may send contributions to the American Cancer Society, 1 Penny Lane, Latham, NY 12110.

Richard was a member of Corvanatics since 2006.

See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/timesunion-albany/obituary.aspx?pid=176983119#sthash.BDznev0A.dpuf>

I Love my 1962 Loadside

by Robert Gold

I have a message to all my fellow FC owners—I love my '62 Loadside. I say this to counter all the negative words that are said about that truly rare vehicle.

It's been 30 years since I purchased my first FC, a Rampside, here in Albuquerque. Since then I've had a love affair with those unique vehicles. However, over the years I didn't even consider buying a Loadside because of the "drawbacks". People said that it was a useless vehicle, because of its lack of access. As a result people said that only Rampside were worth having.

To that I beg to differ. I was first drawn to the beauty of the Loadside. As an owner of several Rampside I lamented the unattractive bulge that protruded on the right of the bed caused by that ramp. I do allow that the ramp does make entry easier, but what it does is that it also takes away from the straight lines of the bed and the stripe... And that's the point... today our vehicles are classics, not work vehicles. It is now form over function that counts.

What's more, I feel that it gets a "bad rap" about using the Loadside to haul things. I've had my Loadside for some 6 years and I've never had trouble using it to haul things. The body, when I bought it, was rust free, but a bit rough. It could have used a paint job, but I decided to keep it rough and just fix the mechanics. I now can drive my rust free FC anytime and anywhere, not worrying about a door ding or rock chip. It always starts right up and with it's PowerGlide and gas heater it's a dream to drive in any weather. Even in it's "used" condition I can't count the number of "thumbs up" signs I've seen from passing people. It excites me that I can drive this very rare FC on a daily basis.



Robert and Anna Mae Gold with their Loadside in Sunny New Mexico.

I'd like to leave you with a brief description of my steed. It's a former U.S. Government vehicle, with two numbers listed on the VIN tag: one with a traditional number and the other a special Federal number. It comes with factory windshield washers and 4-way flashers, and special auxiliary taillights. It's just a special vehicle. It's listed on Kent Sullivan's '62 Loadside Registry.

Stuck Bolts, If ALL Else Fails

by Tim Palmer

What do you do when you need to loosen or remove the clutch head hinge bolts on your Ramside and the head is in too bad a shape for the tool to work without rounding the corners of the slot? Maybe you are repairing the rust area and have even tried cutting an opening in the outside of the ramp, heating the nuts and using your favorite brand of



Extraction is easier once a nut is welded to the stubborn bolt.

penetrating oil, all without success. There is one method that will work, although the bolt will no longer be useable. Welding a nut to the top of it allows the use of a six point socket to remove it. The heat from welding seems to help, as so far none have twisted off. A 3/8 nut, 9/16 across the flats, will sit on top of the bolt head and form a recessed area between the outside of the nut and bolt head to weld in. A much larger nut would allow the weld to be on the inside of the nut, causing less chance of the socket not fitting over the nut.

Brooklin Scale Greenbrier

by Gary Swiatowy

Gary Swiatowy reports some new Corvair 1/43 scale models are being produced by Brooklin Models. A Greenbrier is currently offered with a 1966 Corvair Yenko being designed. A "race set" will be offered with the Greenbrier pulling the Yenko on a trailer soon. Brooklin Models is a British company, based in Bath, England.



Greenbrier and Yenko:

<http://www.brooklinmodels.co.uk/sphoto/8246>

Race Set:

<http://www.brooklinmodels.co.uk/sphoto/8295>



Envious Dilemma

by Al Hilderbrand

In January Al Hilderbrand bought a '61 Rampside, 110 hp, PowerGlide, nice interior and ready to go. This caused a dilemma; he had too many Rampside. He owned two and only had space for one.

He had a tough decision to make, keep old Orange or new Blue. Of course he went with the blue. For those interested in old Orange Al reports that may already be sold.

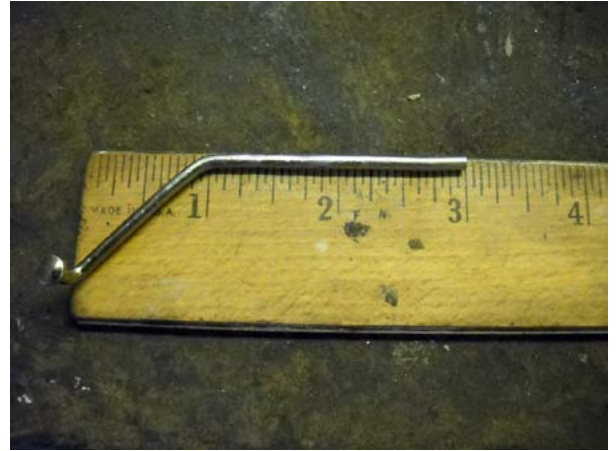


Electric FC Door Locks

by Gary Baxter

To say I am not a fan of the separate inside/ outside door lock system on an FC would be an understatement. Perhaps it is because my first experience with such a system was on a '64 C10 which, if you were not really careful in getting out and pushed down on the inside handle exiting the cab, would remain down as you closed the door. Having the keys in your hand and finding there was no way to unlock it as both doors were now locked from the inside was, to say the least, frustrating. While our FC's have not done that trick, it still has been annoying to go to open the passenger door, only to find it locked from the inside, or to wait for your passenger to get in, and they can't because the door is locked from the outside. I decided I wanted to be able to lock and unlock the doors with a remote and eliminate using the key and inside locks.

This should be simple, as I had already done an electric lock setup on our Lakewood, which uses a similar inside handle motion. It did not take long to learn that is where the similarity ends. I realized that I was not going to be able to attach to the stock linkage. Ok, how about using a car latch? While I saw that there was no way that would work, I did learn that the car latch works by blocking the outside button no matter whether locked from the inside or with the key. So that made it fairly simple to use the lock solenoid to actuate a rod that would block the outside latch



motion. After checking that out on the bench, I proceeded to figure out where the solenoid could fit inside the door. Because the window channel actually runs on an angle, it turns out space is very limited. It fits too close to the latch to allow a rod to pass between them, thus eliminating mounting the solenoid on the side of the door facing the inside of the cab. That leaves a tiny space between the channel and the outside of the door. I welded a bracket to the channel to mount the solenoid and, using a longer top screw, mounted a guide to hold the rod close to the door latch. It must be close to the latch to support the rod so it does not bend easily when the outside button is pushed. The solenoids in the kit I used had some excess flashing on the sides that I ground off to improve the fit.

After bending and trimming the rods a few times to get them to just clear, I now have remote operated locks on my Ramside. Like most things, it is better to start out too long and trim to fit. Note: the dimensions shown in the pictures are for reference only. Your kit might have different solenoids, requiring different lengths. The kit I used was Bai Feng BF-05.



Two FC reproduction parts for sale

Greenbrier and Corvan Door Hinge Grommets
and Battery Compartment Lid Catch

Both are exact reproductions made of tough, heat-cured industrial grade polyurethane rubber, colored with UV protecting pigment.

Door Hinge Grommets

Just like the original, the side door grommet has a bead contour along the center hole and a slightly narrower flange on the back side. The rear door grommet is smaller, lacks the bead, and is symmetrical on both sides. There may be some mold flashing along the edges that you may wish to trim.

\$6.75 per grommet (either size)

set of 4 (for 1 door) - **\$25** (save \$2)

set of 8 (for 2 doors) - **\$50** (save \$4)

set of 16 (for 6-door van) - **\$100** (save \$8)

set of 24 (for 8-door van) - **\$150** (save \$12)

+ shipping

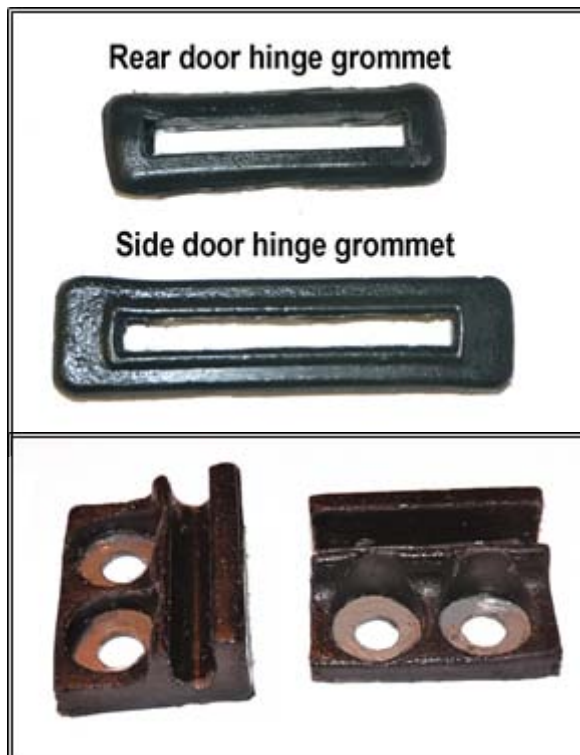
Battery Door Compartment Lid Catch

The lid catch has not been previously reproduced and incorporates an internal metal plate the same as the original. These are time consuming to make, and depending upon interest, this may be a onetime production run.

\$18 for one and \$15 for additional catches

+ **\$4** shipping (in lower 48)

Order by contacting Steve Spilatro
at spilatr@s@marietta.edu



CORVANANTICS is the bi-monthly publication of Corvanatics, a Chartered Chapter of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). Established September, 1972, Corvanatics is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of America's most original and innovative small vans and light trucks, the Chevrolet Corvair 95 Series.

Corvanatics is open to anyone with an interest in Forward Control Corvairs. Dues are \$10 for an emailed newsletter and \$12 for a mailed newsletter. Application and payment is made to the Secretary/Treasurer either through the Corvanatics website at <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/corvanatics/membership.php> or by mail. If mailed, please include a completed membership form. Forms can be printed from the website or obtained directly from the Secretary/Treasurer.

Stories, articles, photos, memorabilia, or any other item for publication should be sent to the editor. All of these can also be sent by email to: CorvanAnticsNews@gmail.com. Technical material will be sent to the Technical Editor for review. Authors are also asked to submit a photograph of themselves for the article.

For advertising in the newsletter, please contact the Secretary/Treasurer. Members can have a free small ad in the newsletter. Display advertising is also available at the following rates: Full Page: \$25; Half Page: \$15; Quarter Page: \$10; Business Card (2 x 3.5): \$5; Please submit print-ready or typed copy and pre-payment to the Secretary/Treasurer. Photos for ads are \$6.00 each and can be color or black/white. Authorization and payment must be received prior to each issue. Deadline for publication is the 15th of February, April, June, August, October, or December. All ads must be Corvair related.

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New Shoes on my Rampside

by Dean Gemberling

As one of many overdue “upgrades” to my ’62 Rampside, I replaced the American Racing 14” Outlaw II wheels and “undated” Chinese tires because I wanted a different look and larger tires. The truck has always had a somewhat bumpy ride between 60-65mph despite professional balancing. Then it dawned on me that this was probably caused by the “unilug” design of those wheels. I did a fair amount of research to determine the best wheel and tire combination.

Since Alex Becker owns that gorgeous ’61 Loadside with new 17” wheels and tires, I found his telephone number and gave him a call to get his insight. Alex stated that he was able to install 215x45x17 tires on the rear of his FC without any modifications. Therefore,



Dean shows off the Cragar wheels and Nexen tires on his '62

I did a trial fit of the 215x45x17 set from my ’69 convertible. but was uncomfortable with the tight fit, especially on the driver’s side. More research ensued, with many visits to the Rims n Tires size comparer website: <http://www.rimsn-tires.com/specspro.jsp>. I finally settled on new 17x7 Cragar Eliminator Grey wheels along with 205x50 Nexen N5000 Plus tires. The 4.25” backspace of the wheels along with the 205 width allow comfortable clearance at the rear wheel wells without the need to “roll the fender

wells” or modify the suspension. The fronts also bolted on with no need for hub-centric rings and no interference with the suspension or the front disk brakes.

The new ride is awesome and smooth at all speeds! Not to mention they really improve the overall appearance of the Rampy!

Corvair Lover's Holiday '16

by Molly Bacon



Karl Stelzer polished up his '63 Rampside.

Sun, fun, and even more Corvairs on display this year. The 31st annual Corvair Lover’s Holiday at Pensacola Beach, FL was a great way to start off the 2016 Corvair event season. There were four FCs on display this year; three Rampside and a shortened Loadside named Shortie. There were also about twenty-five other Corvairs and yours truly’s Ultra Van. Activities included

competitive valve cover races, rambunctious corn hole games

Continued on Page 10



Dan Avallone's '63 Rampy.

Corvair Lover's Holiday '16

by Molly Bacon



Ed Lindsay displayed his 1961 Rampside at the Corvair Lover's Holiday Car Show.

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(a form of bean bag toss), and eating lots of great home-made food. This is such a great event; include it on your Corvair bucket list.



Russ Thuleen with his "Shortie" pickup.

Wanted for '64 Greenbrier

Under seat drawer

Cargo net (fits Corvan also)

Table

Highway emergency kit Rear

bumper guards (driver quality)

Emergency flare kit

Spotlight (must be for FC's only)

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