



Monthly Meeting

APRIL 3, 2017

Pontiac / Waterford Elks Club

2nd SATURDAY BREAKFAST CLUB

information not available

DACC-WEST MEETING

17 people joined us for our second Sunday March 12th DACC-WEST gathering. It began with meeting at the Ypsilanti Auto Museum's parking lot and following me to an undisclosed warehouse of classic cars within the city. Thanks to Peter Pleitner and John Tucker, Jr., for helping me to make this meeting possible. We began by playing a game of "Guess What's Under the Car Cover" which included the former Corvaire that belonged to famed Astronomer, Carl Sagan. After admiring and taking photos of the many cars in storage, Mike McKeel proceeded with giving a Tech Session on the electrical systems on the Corvaire with trouble shooting tips. Mark your calendars for my next DACC-WEST gathering as we will be take a driving tour pilgrimage to the Willow Run Assembly Plant on Sunday, May 14th to celebrate the anniversary of the last day of Corvaire production. The plant will be closed but we will pull over to pay homage at 1:30pm. We will continue into Ypsilanti for more activities. More details will be announced in the May Aircooler.

Corvaire Lady (Eva McGuire)

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A Few Words from the President

With this past months worth of weird and wild weather, getting your Corvaire up and refreshed for the upcoming cruise season may not be at the top of your priority list. Maybe it's just a few hours away from getting back on the road but you may not have the time, know how or just the extra cash to take it to a shop to be repaired.

Introducing ... the Corvaire Garage Squad! Some of your fellow DACC members want to help you get that 'Vaire back on the road...and you enjoying it! Contact me at my e-mail: jonasgrumby8080@yahoo.com or text my phone at 734-334-8206. A couple of us will come to your place, assess the situation and come up with a plan. The best part ... labor is free (might cost you a pizza), parts for the most part are available and discount priced. Tech sessions/ repairs will be made at least twice a month. Get a hold of me and let's get you rolling again. Not a bad deal huh? Better than a poke in the eye with a sharp stick.

Ian Smith, President

Right Time Right Place

One of the interesting parts of our hobby is "The Chase". I mean more like Wayne Carini's Chasing Classic Cars show on TV rather than the ever-changing NASCAR chase. I have found that you need to follow up on every lead even though most of them turn out to be a dead end or at least an over-promoted car not worth what the seller is asking. But sometimes the stars align and the weather improves and your lead turns into a real treasure. This is a story about one of those leads.

A while back I heard about a Corvaire-powered vehicle that the owner wanted to move on. It was said to be so quick and powerful that he wasn't comfortable selling it to someone who might go out and hurt themselves with it. Yeah. Right. But... you have to check out every lead so after a few false starts I finally made the phone call and to my good fortune the owner had just returned to Michigan from an extended stay in California. First thing I did was apologize to him for our Welcome Home weather of 12 degrees F. And then it was out to the garage.

In the garage sitting on a four-post hoist was a smallish sports car like I had never seen before. It was hand-built by this gentleman back in the late 1960's. It had a mid-positioned late-model Corvaire engine that was

Right Place ... cont on page 2

Right Place ... cont from page 1

bored out to 176 cubic inches and balanced by the engine builder, a Corvair racer also from Michigan. Horsepower was said to be around 200 and with a total vehicle weight of 1200 pounds this should be a screamer. This engine was hooked up to a Porsche 901 5-speed transaxle with a Crown Engineering adapter. The space-frame chassis was designed and built by this man as was the fiberglass body. The car rides on a 90 inch wheelbase and uses stock Corvair 13 inch wheels. The tires are ancient redline Goodyear Rally GT's also from the '60's. They should have plenty of tread left (at least the front ones) as this Special has only traveled a bit more than 900 miles since completion in the Fall of 1969.

The overall height of this beauty pegs at 38.5 inches. That is even lower than the famous Ford GT40 of around the same era. This car trumps Ford by an inch and a half! As we were talking I mentioned that the only other car that comes to mind for its lowness was the Chevrolet show car the Astro 1. Since this fellow worked at GM Design Staff around the time that the Astro 1 was being built he remembered that car fondly. Perhaps my connection with saving that car (see April 2016 Communiqué) helped me with the next part of the negotiation for this little red sports machine.

So you want to hear the bottom line, right? Was the car for sale? Did I manage to wrest it away from the original owner/designer/builder? The short answer is YES! My plans for the car will be to get it operational again and then see where the next chapter takes us. Since the car still wears it's 1974 Michigan license plates it will probably take some effort to coax the engine back to life. All of the typical issues with re-commissioning a sleeping beauty like this will have to be dealt with. And since many of the components of this car are unique

my job will be even more interesting"!

Eventually the car will end up in a museum. Before that I hope to have at least a little fun with it. The original design parameters set in 1963 for the car were for it to have faster acceleration than a Corvette, the fuel economy of a Corvair and the handling of a Lotus. Did the builder meet those objectives? Time will tell. As soon as I get the cobwebs out of this little car we will give it a try.

PETE K

How Not to buy a Corvair Convertible

I've always said that the convertible buying season starts when the weather turns bad and the outside temperatures drop and should end when the sun returns to Michigan in the springtime. Of course I hope that the sun WILL return so we can enjoy driving our Corvairs soon! My reasoning is the same as my definition of boat buying season or in reverse (first snow to last frost) my idea of Snowmobile buying season. Buying items that are out of season should result in a better purchase price for the buyer as the seller may be more motivated to clear out his garage or perhaps he doesn't want to store the car/boat/snowmobile until it is time to play with said item again. This should be good advice.

Sometimes we make a purchase decision based on less sound reasons. Sometimes I just make an Oooops! and pull the trigger on a car that I should have stayed away from. My most recent folly was a decision to buy a convertible project car because it had a new fabric top installed by a previous owner. In this case the project was kicked to the curb by that party due to a very rusty floor and rocker panel area. Now as we know, the Corvair is a uni-body car. That means there is no frame under the car to hold it together. The floor and rockers have that duty on a convert.

I should have considered the time and expense required to reconstruct the floor of that car and compared it to the relatively painless act of having a new top put on a less rusty candidate.

So that brings us to the newest entrant in the Caveman's "Save as Many Corvairs as you Possibly Can" derby: a fairly solid 1966 Monza convertible/ragtop that defines the term "rag"! My buddy Ian Smith checked it out with me and reported that the car had a floor (Bonus!) and good rocker panels (Double Bonus!). Yes, the top was in tatters, but it was a power top! I checked and it will cost between \$700 and \$1000 to replace the top on this beauty. If the rest of the car is deemed worthy of that additional investment then we may just see this car back on the road again. If not we will tear it down for parts at a special edition DACC Tech Session at Motor City Auto Sales in Swartz Creek on April 1st. You are right, I might be the biggest April Fool.

Pete Koehler

Meeting Minutes

March 6th

Lori Komora ~ Secretary

Not Available

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MARCH TREASURY REPORT

Not Available

from Casey Schesky, Treasurer

SELL & SWAP

ADS ARE FREE TO ALL – SEND TO kenpepke@yahoo.com

WANTED: - your dead Corvair! I have a ready-to-go 110 engine that needs a new home. Whatcha got? - Pete Koehler 248-630-6442 (April)

WANTED: Rust free rear deck lid for 65 2 door — Ken Pepke 734 476 9616 kenpepke@yahoo.com (Feb)

WANTED: Looking for a set of 13" wire wheels for my 1964 Monza, 4 bolt McColgan 519 657 5527 cmccolgan@execulink.com (Jan)

FOR SALE: 66 Monza 140hp 4 spd, 2 dr, vgc body, need minor paint & electric work - has new exh, batt, u-joints, dis & coil, extras \$8500 OBO Jim Mandelik - 440 392 0520 - wormchile@aol.com is a former museum car (Dec)

FOR SALE: 4 Goodyear Eagle white letter tires. 3 on wheels 1 tire new never been on wheel size P195 70R 13 tires have lots of tread. Also 4 1965 corvair hub caps, good shape. offer no longer have car. Tim Kribs 424-6122 after 9am - Utica MI (Sept)

WANTED: 64-65 FC 4 spd trans & late model 3:08 gears. Steve - 810-282-8480 (Sept)

FOR SALE: 78 450SL, \$8,500.00 (Would like to trade for a like price Rampside) ALSO: 61 700 4 Dr Police Car, \$2,500.00, Marvin Granger, 1965fourdoor@gmail.com 810 869 4876 (June)

FOR SALE: 60 Monza, disassembled, many extra parts, Price: TBD **ALSO:** 60 500 Sedan (wrecked) Will part out or sell all, Price: TBD Robert W. Jennings robertwjennings43@gmail.com, 810 516 2839 (June)

DACC CALENDARS

\$12 per calendar

plus \$2 s&h per

order at www.allesee.com/calendar.

Thanks, John Allesee

DACC MEMBERSHIP REPORT

March 17, 2017 by Clark Hartzel

Welcome: new member Tim Spry of Rochester Hills, 65 Corsa coupe

Thanks for keeping membership up to date: Allesee, Deptulski, Lindh, Schlack, Dewald, Maciejewski, Bluhm.

Exp in Dec.: Adair, Belfontaine. Dropped.

Exp in Feb.: Blanchard, L.Hand, Wolter.

Due in Mar.: Flinn, Ives, Pleitner, Rutherford, Weeks.

Due in Apr.: Anstine, B.Granger, Gross, Mascia, Rider, Schultz, J.Shreve, Shuster.

Due in May: Ambrozy, Duve, Euesden, Hartzel, Hines, Poskie, Rollins, Taylor.

We have 134 paid members and 8 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!!!

If you can't make it to the 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 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.

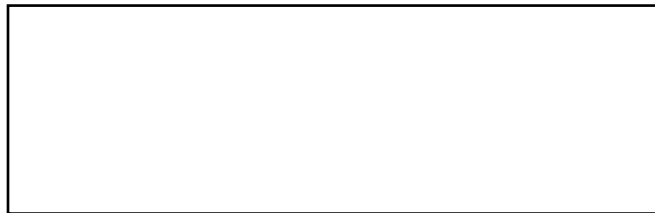
The Detroit Area Corvair Club is a charter chapter of CORSA, Inc. Monthly meetings are held on the First Monday of each month, 7PM, at the **WATERFORD ELKS Club**, on Scott Lake Rd, Waterford, MI 4/10 mi south of Dixie Hwy. Meetings are open to DACC Members, friends, and all interested in the Corvair.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

MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017

The AIRCOOLER

Ken Pepke, Editor
126 S Riverbank
Wyandotte, MI 48192

FIRST CLASS



DACC Calendar

May 19-20 Fort Wayne, Indiana is officially ON!!
Jun 17, The Gilmore Car Museum - Air Cooled Gathering
Jun 24 - 25, Sloan Museum Auto Fair
Jun 27 – Jul 1, CORSA International Convention, Independence, MO
Jul 29, Concours d'LeMons
Aug 19 - 20, Back to the Bricks - "Main Event"; Berkley Parade; Woodward Dream Cruise
Aug 24 - 26, DACC Homecoming
Aug 27, Hines Drive Cruise
Sept 17, Orphan Car Show
Oct 7, Davisburg Antique Festival

Bob Wittmann (rcwittmann@comcast.net)

**2017
DACC CALENDARS**

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www.allesee.com/calendar.**

**Thanks,
John Allesee**

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

CONSIGNMENT SALES:

North American Classic Cars – 27222 Plymouth Rd. Redford, MI 48239 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