

Heart of America Corvair Owners Association

Editors Gary and Helen Moore

June 2017



V A I R C O R

Volume 53-6

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 12, 7:30 to 9pm
Sar-Ko-Par Park, Meeting in the Park
87th and Lackman, Lexena, KS 66215 Social Hour: 6:30 to 7:30
Convention Prep Meeting 6:00, BoD Meeting 7:00

May Meeting Highlights

By Gary Moore



This year's Charity Auction was pretty mild. Though we did receive a visit from CORSA and CPF president Mike Hall and his wife Rhona. Excluding the peanut cluster frenzy, most items went very reasonably. I was particularly proud of my purchase of an antique fishing basket filled with antique fishing lures and a goldfish net. I researched the lures on AntiqueLures.com and discovered that some were worth hundreds of cents.

The range of items included paintings, glass tumblers and wine glasses with the HACOA logo etched into them, a small parts bin, an ancient dual-head car polisher, tool boxes, a tabletop



Cliff Carlino offers a sign to live by to the highest bidder.

hockey game, exercise ball, shirts, and baked goods. In the end we collected well over \$800. A decision will be made at the July meeting about which two charities to honor.

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HACOA Calendar at a Glance

Social Chair Scott Allison

Date	Event
Saturday June 3	Working Tech Session, Mike and Sandy Dawson's house, Belton, MO
Saturday June 10	Welcome Bag Assembly Gathering, Cliff and Sheila Carlino's house, Kearney, MO
Tuesday June 13	June HACOA Meeting in the Park, SAR-KO-PAR Trails Park, Lenexa, KS
June 27-July 1,	2017 CORSA International Convention, Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO
Tuesday July 11	HACOA Monthly Meeting, 1808 Clay St., North Kansas City, MO
Tuesday August 8	HACOA Monthly Meeting, 1808 Clay St., North Kansas City, MO
Sept. 29- Oct. 1	2017 Great Plains Corvair Round Up Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, OK
Friday Dec. 8	HACOA Annual Holiday Party, Granite City Food and Brewery (Zona Rosa) KC, MO

Check the HACOA online calendar for up-to-date list: WWW.HACOA.org

Member Suggested Events

Date	Event
June 2-4	Tri-State Corvair Meet, Kachina Lodge, Taos, NM
Saturday June 17	Juna Tuna, Terry Kalp's shop, Valley Center, KS
Monday August 21	Total Solar Eclipse, Helen's planning a party. Details TBA
August 25-27	Corvair Track Classic, Motosport Park, Hastings, NE
Saturday Oct 21	Luna Tuna, Terry Kalp's shop, Valley Center, KS

To find cruises and events near you check: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/acckc/EventFinder.htm>

Working Tech Session & Front Yard Car Show

Saturday June 3, 2017 Noon – Until Finished

16001 Oakland Ave, Belton, MO

Take this opportunity to enjoy some great socializing, get to know other members, and most important, take care of any repair or maintenance item you have been contemplating doing. Come and be comfortable knowing that parts, tools and advice will be available to make sure you can drive home whatever project you take on. There will be a sign up sheet for assistance.

A sample of items that can easily be addressed during the afternoon are: greasing fan bearings, packing wheel bearings (front and rear), carburetor balancing, distributor rebuild, brake jobs, etc. Brake replacement requires turning drums; I can have exchange items ready if you let me know ahead of time. The Roundup is the following week, so get prepared for a fun road trip.

The following will be furnished: grill food, plates, soft drinks and adult beverage. Please bring a dish or snack to share; grilling begins at 4:00 and spouses are encouraged to attend. **Bring a chair.**

Please RSVP to insure food and beverage supply and I will email all potential attendees of any changes.

Mike Dawson 816 322-4057, mdawson1961@sbcglobal.net



The Preventive Maintenance Series

By Mike Dawson

'61-'65 4-Speed Transmission Tips

Errors in the Books: The better guide to service these transmissions is the 4-inch by 8½-inch booklet by GM, *Overhauling the 1961 4-Speed Transmission* (available from CCP). It has lots of pictures; however page 3 shows an un-necessary puller, page 4 does not warn you about holding slight pressure against the counter shaft as it emerges, and page 14 shows using stub shafts on both sides of the counter gear during installation (only the left side is used). Although the '64 and '65 units had many changes from '63, which you need to be aware of, this booklet is a good guide to the general layout and process.

The shop manuals also show the unnecessary puller, tell you that you can remove the 3-4 shifter fork in the wrong order, show the incorrect diameter of the dummy shaft, are poor help on installing the counter gear, and contain confusing directions for installing the shifter shafts.

Driving Out Pins From Shift Forks: Do the removal in the correct order of disassembly or you could lock up the fork with the pin pushed halfway out and no access to it. You must have the shifter forks **fully** engaged in the gears as specified in the books. If you do not, the pins will not clear as you drive them out.

Check Spur Gear Teeth: The four forward gears each have spur gear teeth that interact with the synchronizer hubs. Check them for major chips or flattened edges. If these are really bad they could cause shifting problems even with good blocker rings. Over the years I have had good luck with putting points back on flattened teeth with a very thin cut-off wheel. Practice on a junk gear and with patience and a steady hand you should be able to make the gears serviceable. Also check the corresponding teeth on the synchronizer clutch sleeves; these are usually good but can also be dressed up if necessary. The two sets of teeth for reverse are usually damaged but unless large pieces are missing (causing clicking in reverse) they do not need dressing up.

Checking blocker ring-to-cone clearance: The tapered area of the brass ring can wear causing it to ride too close to the spur gear. They also lose their ability to engage the cone firmly due to partial loss of the internal splines. You can check by inserting a feeler gauge between the ring and the spur gear ledge while pushing the ring tight against the cone. Clearance should be a minimum of 0.030; new blocker rings from Clarks measured 0.050 on gears I recently checked.



Counter Gear Shaft and Bearings: This is the most common wear problem on the '61-'65 transmissions. If you are driving a vehicle with a bad shaft, you will hear whining in first gear that gets less noisy in second, again less noisy in third and finally quiet in fourth. There are four sets of needle bearings surrounding the shaft and with the loading greatest in first gear the first set of bearings and the corresponding area on the shaft wear out. Continuing to drive the vehicle will increase the wear down the shaft with increasing noise in each gear except fourth gear, which does not load the counter gear as there is no reduction; fourth gear is 1:1. The shafts wear badly but I have never seen the bearing surface of the counter gear worn. The replacement shaft and its bearings are available from CCP.

Changing this shaft and the necessary bearings can be the hardest part of the transmission maintenance so I will share some things that help me out. You can remove the shaft for inspection and leave all 92 bearings in place by use of a dummy shaft as described in the shop manual. I used a junk clutch shaft from a '64-'65 4-speed which is the correct diameter (or visit Metal By The Foot for an 11/16-inch dowel) and cut one piece exactly 7 inches and a second piece about 2 inches, keeping perfectly square cuts. Chamfer the

Preventive Maintenance Series

ends of the dummy shaft slightly but leave the ends of the 2-inch piece sharp; it is the re-installation helper. The counter gear shaft is a press fit at the clutch gear end of the case. Start the shaft carefully with a punch and heavy hammer (or shop press) until you feel it give up the press fit, then use the dummy shaft to push the counter shaft out while using your other hand to keep pressure on the shaft as it emerges. This keeps the bearings in place. Since the first gear end where wear occurs comes out first you could inspect it for wear and if perfect (not likely), simply push it back in.

If you install a new shaft and bearings, use lots of Vaseline when placing dummy shaft, bearings and spacers into the counter gear. When you are ready to install the counter gear in the case, the book is of little help, so the following is what I use. With the case opening facing you, first, check the inside area on the case where the thrust washer fits on the right side. Half of the cases have residual casting that rubs against the small raised tab on the washer so do a check by sliding the washer into position and note if the tab hangs up. Remove any of the casting that is necessary to be able to slide the washer into place smoothly when the counter gear is in place. Next, use Vaseline to place the thrust washer in place on the left side and use the 2-inch dowel mentioned above inserted through the washer from the outside. Lower the counter gear into place without disturbing the left thrust washer. Keeping the counter gear level, insert the right thrust washer (coated with Vaseline) into place with its tab in the slot. Look through the hole from the outside and

Continued from page 3

when the washer and dummy shaft are centered, you are ready to insert the new shaft from the right side. You may have to look back and forth at the ends to make sure of the centering. As you slide the (new) shaft through, hold pressure on the emerging dummy shaft to keep the bearings in place. Remember the shaft is a press fit into the case on the clutch gear end.

Changes Over the Years: There were many changes made from '61-'65; eight different versions with many parts upgrades according to our CORSA Transmission Historians. A lot of changes were made in the middle of model years so if you are sorting through used gears that you do not know the history of, it is vital that you read up on changes and measure parts and count teeth carefully.

Craig Nicol has written a great guide to yearly upgrades and parts changes, and combined that with interesting historical information. His article can be found in the October 2004 issue of CORSA Communiqué or in the CORSA Tech Guide.

Charity Auction Photos



No one enjoys the auction more than the Green girls (Meghan and Chris Green's young daughters) shown here winning the bid for an exercise ball. I believe it is second only to Christmas as their favorite event. Luckily for their parents, they're too cute to bid against.

Continued from page 1

Travis Bolton presents for bid a fishing basket with lures. Bill Bennett did a fine job as Auctioneer. Travis, Cliff Carlino and Scott Allison served as presenters of items.

Valve Cover Track Repair Party

By Larry Sherwood

The Valve Cover Track repair party took place on Saturday May 13, albeit a week or two later than originally planned. Scott arrived first, and brought lunch courtesy of Ray. The rest of the group arrived within the hour, and by nine, Scott, Mike, Travis, Gary M, Mark and I were busy unloading the trailer.

We sorted out the track parts and studied photos and text, trying to determine how to assemble the track. Mark was the only one who had assembled it completely before, and was a huge help in understanding how to get it pieced together.

Working most of the morning, we assembled the track and sorted out items stuffed in the trailer that weren't needed. Those items, which were mostly a huge excess of traffic cones, were placed into Mike's work van for transport to storage.

Now, for those of you that didn't show up because the whole thing sounded like too much work, you should know that the lunch provided by Scott, Ray and Sandy made all the work worthwhile. Of course, working with fellow club members meant it was more fun than work anyway. After lunch, we tested the track by running



*A welcome improvement to the track was introduced by Richard Hawk of Green Country Corvair. The masonite underlayment panels for the steel track flooring was showing its age. Richard made new panels using a black plastic material. They fit so well the steel was no longer needed. A great time saver.
Thank You Richard.*



test cars down each lane, and adjusting the traps to time each car perfectly. I re-did some wiring, cleaned up some routing and connections, and added some protective tape here and there. After we tested the track we re-loaded the trailer and hitched it back to Gary's truck ready to haul to the convention.

Just as the work was completed (perfect timing!) Taylor West showed up with newly upholstered seats for Mark's late model. They looked really nice.

The club would like to offer special thanks to Mike and Sandy for the venue, Scott and Ray for lunch, and Gary Moore for hauling and storing the trailer.



2017 Spring ~~Dust~~ Rinse Off



We saw it coming, we had been warned by the weather service, and we had put our Corvairs under shelter in Linda's barn and garage in anticipation of the storm's arrival. Then, as silly men do, we went outside to have our lunch on the covered porch to watch the storm pass by. As Corvair owners we like to live life on the edge.

Linda opened her shop and found shelter for everyone's Corvair.



As the storm rolled toward us we first felt a gentle cool breeze, like the air conditioning had come on. Then off to the west we noticed trees swaying. Then it began to sprinkle. We moved our chairs from the edge of the porch closer to the center. The sprinkle turned into a down-pour. Our "edge" became the innermost part of the porch. The wind reached the house, the drenching began and we all scrambled into Linda's living

room to escape the torrent. You should know that the living room in Linda's house could serve as a small church. It absorbed our numbers with plenty of room to spare where we continued watching the storm pass by. At one point visibility was down to 30 feet outside the windows. The lights flickered, but came back on quickly. The only casualty was the *Little Orphan Annie* movie the kids were watching on TV that had to be restarted.

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Dust Off

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Linda served a great meal featuring hamburgers, hot dogs, brats and baked beans. HACO A members brought side dishes and, as always, there were amazing desserts. By the time lunch was finished the storm had moved off to bother someone else.

The Mellie's Award votes were tallied after lunch. Last year's winner, Kat King, handed over the coveted Mellie's Cup to Cliff Carlino. In the last few years Cliff has served as HACO A's president, treasurer, and on the board, and is currently coordinating all outdoor events for the convention. Congratulations Cliff, the award is well deserved.

Each year the winner must add something to the Mellie's Cup trophy. Kat's addition was the Corvair taillight lens that was involved in a collision with her Honda. The Honda sustained several hundred dollars worth of damage, but her Corvair's only damage was a cracked (not broken) taillight.

After dinner we talked of many things, mostly the upcoming convention. In fact Scott Allison and Sheila Carlino left early to drive the convention's rally route. Gary Wolfe and Cliff Carlino discovered one of the streets on the route had been torn out. The route was altered slightly. Luckily no one will ever know of the change unless they read it here.

Above: The view from Linda's porch of one of her two ponds.

Below: Kat King presents Cliff Carlino with the Mellie's Cup.



Helen and I are usually the late ones to events and we stayed true to form. But our newest member from Sedalia, Brent Greene, arrived about 3 p.m. Linda was happy to feed him, and he told the story of why he was late. I won't go into detail here but it started with a dead battery and went downhill from there. If we had given a Hard Luck Award he would have gotten it.

If Linda hosts the Dust Off next year please come. Linda's place is beautiful with an amazing view of the open countryside around her, two ponds, plenty of porch, plenty of living room, plenty of Corvair parking (including under-cover parking). In short, plenty of room for "a good time to be had by all."

The Tool Crib

Club tools for rent

Contact: Ken Ragan

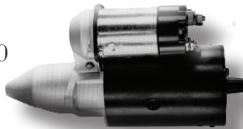
212 Warner Rd, Bonner Springs, KS 66012
913-422-5778 E-mail: kenrragan@gmail.net

Tool	Deposit	Monthly rental fee
Harmonic balancer puller	\$3.00	\$1.00
Ramps, auto	\$4.00	\$1.00
Torque wrenches		
½ inch drive 20-150 ft/lb	\$15.00	\$2.00
¾ inch drive 100-1000 in/lb	\$15.00	\$2.00
Floor jacks and stands	\$25.00	\$3.50
Ring grove cleaner	\$3.00	\$1.00
Dwell/tach meter	\$5.00	\$1.00
Greaser: Fan and idler bearing	\$5.00	\$1.00
Ken's advice	\$.02	Grain of salt
Hubs: Rear (towing LM PowerGlide)	\$5.00	\$1.00
Pushrod tube extractor	\$10.00	\$2.00



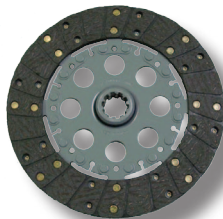
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Mike Dawson

mdawson1961@sbcglobal.net

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Convention Corner

By Helen Moore

The 2017 Convention is upon us. This will be the main topic of discussion at the June Meeting-in-the-Park on Tuesday, June 13. In between now and then Gary and I will be emailing event chairs to check on progress, resolve problems and to make sure everyone knows what to do.

I would like to ask everyone (particularly event chairs) to keep a daily eye on their email because that's the most efficient way for us to communicate, particularly with several people at a time.

Anything that needs to go in the program (ADS!) needs to be emailed to us by Tuesday June 6. It goes to the printer on June 7 in time to make it in the goodie bags. Anything else that needs to go in the goodie bags should be given to Sheila ASAP.

In between now and the Meeting-in-the-Park will be Mike Dawson's Tech Session on Saturday, June 3 and the following Saturday, June 10, is the Goodie Bag Stuffing Party at the Carlino's. Please use these events as opportunities to bring goodie bag/door prizes items, meet with other people on your committee, or to find yourself a committee.

Speaking of finding a committee, we still need volunteers for shifts at registration, the hospitality room and help directing traffic and parking—particularly during the day. Please fill in where you can.

We will also have need of a few items. We have two 10 x 10 pop-up shelters, we may need more. A golf cart might come in handy. We need some sort of wagon or wheeled cart to move coolers loaded with ice and beverages. And I think extra coolers may help.

OK everybody, take a deep breath and remember, *Many Hands Make Light Work* and *This Is What We Do For Fun!*

President's Corner

By Mike Dawson

Linda Reece hosted a great luncheon feast at her rural home last Saturday; nobody could have left hungry! Linda had invited kids to go fishing and two did; Gary L. and Sherman, with a little catch and release success. Cliff Carlino won this year's coveted "Mellies Award" right after a spring shower chased us indoors.

Our annual meeting in the park (June 13) will give us an opportunity to address any member suggestions about fine tuning the convention, so I would urge everyone to attend and provide input. Helen and Gary have stayed on top of a huge array of events and issues and with continued member input and support will have preparations complete and ready for guests!

I talked with Reid Miermaster, one of our long distance members, this past week and found out that Marina is now on dialysis three days a week for four hours a day. Kidney disease had reduced function to less than 13% so she had no choice. She has also had seven eye surgeries to maintain vision so she is dealing with some tough life challenges. On the positive side, Reid says she is coping with those issues and although they will not make it to the convention they may pay us a visit later in the year.

Two reminders, if you have not given Suzanne Berger a tentative RSVP for the (free) Christmas Party, please do so. Also, if you want to recommend a charity to be the recipient of our auction proceeds, please contact me or a Board member prior to the next meeting at which time the entire club will vote instead of the Board as in previous years.

Hope to see everyone in the park-

Mike



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Don't Forget the June Meeting is in the Park!



Our next meeting, June 13 is our Meeting in the Park. This year our meeting is again at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park in Lenexa. Please enter the park at the 87th Street and Acuff Lane entrance. In the past few years we have witnessed the renovation of the park. These are now finished and the park is beautiful.

VairCor is the official monthly publication of the Heart of America Corvair Owners Association, the oldest incorporated, continuously active, single marque Corvair club, and Chapter 640 of the Corvair Society of America. The HACOA membership fee is \$15.00 annually, payable January 1. CORSA membership is required. HACOA monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except June and December) at 7:30 pm at Paul and Jack's Restaurant, 1808 Clay Street, North Kansas City, MO 64116. Social time begins at 7:00. The June meeting is in Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park and the December meeting is our Holiday Party.



Heart of America Corvair Owners Association
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Belton, MO 64012

