



THE CONNECTING ROD

THE NEWSLETTER OF CORVAIR ATLANTA, INC

December
2019

Inside this issue:

The President's Corner	1
Upcoming Events	2
Springfest 2020	3
December Celebrations	4
Nov. Meeting Minutes	5-6
1st Corvaair Christmas	7
Hist. of a '61 Rampside	8-9
<hr/>	
Did You Know?	10
The Drivetrain	11
For Sale	12
Classified Ads	13



The President's Corner

By

Mike Gassmann

What a weird Fall season -- freezing one day and 65 the next! I love Georgia! They can keep the cold and snow up North.

Well, we had a good meeting on November 16th at the Golden Corral on Cobb Parkway. The food was good, we had a decent turn-out and some good conversations around several subjects.

We voted for new members getting their first shirt free, we voted in South Carolina as a member of our Spring Fest team, and we held our annual elections. The following volunteers were elected to the Board of CAI for 2020:

Mike Gassmann	President
Frank Metasavage	Vice President
Tom Constantine	Secretary
Nolan Grant	Treasurer
Steve Ratcliffe	Editor
Robert Birkinbine	Director
Dan Terry	Director
Paul Llewellyn	Director
Ted Farenthold	Director
Lanny Milbrandt	Director

I would like to Thank Robert Birkinbine for being our President these past two years. He and Mikey are great contributors to our Club and I very much appreciate them both.

I would also like to thank Steve, Nolan, and Tom for their past work on our behalf and for stepping up again in 2020.

We also have a start on our 2020 calendar. If you know of an event we should do as a Club, please bring it up. Our goal is to attend as many events as possible and get our cars shown and increase the membership.

I hope to see everyone on December 15th at our annual Christmas Party. It's being held at the same place as the last couple of years:

Tom and Susan Constantine's Club House
4719 Ivy Ridge Drive, Atlanta, 30339.

Merry Christmas to you and your families,

Mike Gassmann

Coming Events

DECEMBER 15, 2019 - *Christmas Party* -

The Olde Ivy Clubhouse,
4735 Ivy Ridge Dr SE, Atlanta, GA 30339

Click "[Here](#)" for a link to the Google Map and directions.

- ◇ *The Olde Ivy development is off Exit #16 of I-285 in Cobb County.* Take Exit #16 (South Atlanta Road) towards Atlanta, turn left at the first traffic light that is not an entrance to I-285 (Shell Station / Mini Mart on the left), take another left in about 50 feet at the 4-Way Stop Sign, and Olde Ivy will be on your right.
- ◇ The Club pays the fee for catering and clubhouse rental. We should have access to the Clubhouse by ~ 11:00 for the caterer (Hugh Banks) to get set-up. Members usually start arriving around 11:30 to 12:00 and we typically eat around 2:00. Usually, the festivities are over by about 5:00, in part, because it gets dark so early in mid-December. Also, sometimes the weather is a factor too.

DECEMBER 31, 2019 - *2020 Membership Dues are Due*

- Family Membership is \$20.00 a calendar year.
- Single Membership is \$15.00 a calendar year.
- Student Membership is \$5.00 a calendar year.
- Lifetime and Honorary Memberships do not pay dues.

Send dues to: Corvair Atlanta, Inc.,
c/o Nolan Grant
5605 Browns Bridge Road
Cumming, GA 30041

JANUARY 11, 2020 - *"SPRINGFEST 2020" Planning Meeting (See next page)*

February 14 & 15 – Pensacola FL show - (Details will come in January)

February 22 – Monthly Meeting – Golden Corral – Cobb Parkway

March 21 – Monthly meeting and car show – Partners Pizza, Fayetteville

April 24 & 25 - Springfest 2020, Helen GA (See next page for details)

May 16 - Armed Forces Day – Maybe a parade, car show

June 20 - Monthly Meeting

July 18 - Monthly Meeting

August 15 - Monthly Meeting

September 19 - Combined picnic with the Heart of GA in PTC

NOTE: *The full schedule of Events — with details — is always up to date on the "Calendar" tab of the CorvairAtlanta.com website.*

Springfest 2020

JANUARY 11, 2020 - “**SPRINGFEST 2020**” Planning Meeting

The Springfest Planning meeting will be on Saturday, January 11th at Clay Grant's house, 940 Weldon Road, Forsyth, 31029.

We have this meeting instead of a regular CAI meeting. We need CAI members to help and we hope you can come. **Please let Nolan Grant know if you are coming** so that we can make sure we have plenty of food. People start arriving after 11 AM.

APRIL 24 & 25, 2020 - “**SPRINGFEST 2020**” Helen, Georgia

- ◆ **Sponsored by: Corvair Atlanta, Heart of Georgia, Queen City, Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts, and Corsa S.C.**
- ◆ **People's Choice, President's Choice, Auto Cross, Valve Cover Races, Welcome Party, Awards Banquet, and more. Clark's Corvair Parts will be attending.**
- ◆ **Motels are accepting reservations now.**



**For more information, contact Lillian Law - 229 291 0567 or lawjandl@aol.com
or Visit the Springfest Website: www.corvairspringfest.com**

November Celebrations!



Jeff Champion

Dan Cook

Paula Hilderbrand

Alice Patterson

Raymond Paul

Larry and Diane Blanks

Keith and Sharon Burkingstock

Raymond and Katherine Waters

NOTE: If we missed your event, please email Nolan Grant with the information, including dates and names.

grantphoto2@gmail.com



Minutes from the November CAI Meeting

By

Nolan Grant

We had a very productive CAI meeting at the Golden Corral in Smyrna on Saturday November 16th. In attendance were:

Nolan Grant

Billy Bruce

Lanny & Melody Milbrandt

Frank Metasavage

Wanda Cook

Ted Fahrenthold

Robert Birkinbine

Dan Terry

Paul Lewellyn

Earl & Lindy Lively

Mike Gassmann

Mikey Birkinbine

Jeannette Rudolph

President Robert Birkinbine called the meeting to order and we proceeded to talk about the possibility of including the Corsa South Carolina Club as a partner with us for the Springfest project. We concluded that it would be a benefit to all clubs if that happened. We would also benefit from their help with the 2021 convention. We voted unanimously to add them as a partner to Springfest. Springfest in Helen, GA this coming year will be on April 24 and April 25th, 2020. We hope all members can come.

Make reservations now at the Helendorf Inn or the Baymont Inn in Helen.

The Springfest Planning meeting will be on Saturday, January 11th at Clay Grant's house, 940 Weldon Road, Forsyth, GA 31029. We have this meeting instead of a regular CAI meeting. We need CAI members to help and we hope you can come. Please let Nolan Grant know if you are coming so that we can make sure we have plenty of food. People start arriving after 11 AM.

Nolan Grant, CAI Treasurer, asked about how the club would like to distribute new club shirts to members. We voted unanimously to give all new members one free club shirt. After that one free shirt, club shirts are available to members for \$20 per shirt and an extra \$5 for postage if it is mailed to the member.

Brian Baker had requested that we look into opening a Pay Pal account for CAI, so that members could pay their dues and shirt purchases using Pay Pal. After some discussion it was decided that it could benefit the club by having this service. Nolan Grant will pursue setting up a Pay Pal account.

Our discussion shifted to name badges. We decided it would be nice to start making name badges for members. Nolan Grant will research how that can be done at minimal cost.

The Fix-A-Vair program has been very fun. So far we have helped Doug Johnson and Paul Lewellyn in getting the Vairs fixed. All members should feel free to let Nolan Grant know if they need help with their Corvair. Our goal is to help members get their Vair running if it will maybe take only one day of work on a Saturday.

(Continued on the next page)

Minutes from the November CAI Meeting (Cont.)

By
Nolan Grant

Jeannette Rudolph asked if we were donating to a charity at Christmas time. After some discussion we voted unanimously to send a \$300 donation to St. Jude's Hospital for Children.

Our Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 15th at the Old Ivy Clubhouse, 4735 Ivy Ridge Drive, Atlanta, 30339. It is located off of exit 16 from I-285. Tom Constantine lives at this complex and we give him a tremendous "Thank you!" for reserving the clubhouse for us.

- ◆ Everyone needs to bring one gift per person so that everyone gets a gift. It can be valued at about \$10 and it can be a regular gift or a weird, fun gift, your choice.
- ◆ People can start arriving after 11 AM and we will eat at noon.
- ◆ We will have filet mignon with sides and Jeannette Rudolph and Wanda Cook are providing desserts. We appreciate those desserts so much!
- ◆ Robert Birkinbine volunteered to bring ice and tea.
- ◆ We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Please RSVP so we can tell the caterer how much food to bring. **Let Nolan Grant or Tom Constantine know if you are coming.**

Put on your calendar right now the 2021 Corvair Convention, July 12 through July 16th. It will be on 40 acres of property at the Crown Peachtree Plaza Hotel in Peachtree City. We are all excited to have this opportunity to showcase Corvairs in Atlanta. Please volunteer to help assist us as we put together a successful Corvair Convention.

We conducted our elections for CAI Officers to serve in 2020. Unanimously the club voted in the following team of people:

President	Mike Gassmann
Vice President	Frank Metasavage
Secretary	Tom Constantine
Treasurer	Nolan Grant

Directors:

Robert Birkinbine
Ted Fahrenthold
Dan Terry
Lanny Milbrandt
Paul Lewellyn

We have a great team moving forward into 2020.

We gave many thanks to Robert Birkinbine for serving the club as President and Newsletter Editor for the past two years. He is a person who will step up to anything when you need it, always giving unselfishly. We will be forever grateful for having Robert in CAI.

My First Corvair Christmas

By
Steve Ratcliffe



It's December 1961 and I'm home from college for the Christmas holidays. Several days before Christmas, a white 1961 Corvair 700 Club Coupe appears in the snow-covered driveway. There is a huge red ribbon with bow on the trunk lid and the car looks beautiful.

To clarify the scenario, we lived on a 150 acre farm in western Pennsylvania, which a couple sisters and I still own. Our driveway is about a mile long, up a 60% grade with many turns in it. We don't get strangers at our house and most people — even relatives — won't attempt the driveway in the snow. So, of course I had to go check out this strange arrival. As I approached the car, the window opened and my father, yelled to me, "Please get your mother out here!" I went to the house and returned with my mother, followed by my 4 sisters. My mother was truly surprised by her Christmas present — her first new car. It truly was a glorious site.

Now, as mentioned, I have 4 sisters. A 1961 Corvair Coupe won't hold 6 people. Fortunately, I had my own car — a 1948 Plymouth sedan that I paid \$50 for, and my older sister was away at college most of the time. But, that still left my mother and, during vacations from college, all 4 girls for the Corvair, which didn't seem to make much sense. Nevertheless, as she did with everything, my mother made do and was grateful for her first new car ever.

Being a "car guy" since birth, I had to drive the Corvair at the first opportunity. I loved the little car, even though I hated that it wasn't a "stick shift", which is all I had ever driven previously. I loved the way it ran up the slippery, snow covered driveway. So, being a somewhat industrious kid, and knowing it was time to cut a Christmas tree from a hillside that we had planted with 1,000 evergreen trees about 10 years earlier, I decided the Corvair would be the perfect vehicle for the job. Normally, I would crank up our 1936 Farmall tractor and drag a hay wagon the 3/4 mile across open fields to get a tree. But, look at the wonderful traction the Corvair has with its rear engine and snow tires — that would be much warmer and so much less hassle! The Corvair was the obvious choice.

With my favorite hand saw, the Corvair and I took off across the fields at a good clip. We're about half way to our tree crop, when I slowed a bit due to a spot that I knew had an indentation in the ground, even though the snow made the field look completely level. Suddenly, the car dropped about a foot and stopped moving, throwing me against the steering wheel. The Corvair was buried in snow almost up to the window. I couldn't even open the door. I tried to make it move, but the wheels just spun in the snow and soft ground. It was time to crank the tractor. So, I crawled out the window and walked to the barn.

Yes, I froze while towing the Corvair back to the barn, where I cleaned it as best I could with no hot water, then took the tractor and hay wagon to get the Christmas tree.

But wait — that's not all... I was not through with my stupidity with the cute little car. I loved driving it, so I took it to pick up my sister in our little town, about 7 miles away. While enroute home, I rounded a 90 degree bend on a narrow, level road and suddenly saw a car headed toward me with the rear end fishtailing all over the road. I didn't want to brake hard, so I dropped the shifter into "Low". Yep — Bad idea!! The little Corvair spun a 360 and slammed with the passenger side flat against the wall of plowed snow. The snow completely covered the windshield and part of the driver's door window, as well. To add insult to injury, someone knocked on my window and yelled, "You OK in there?" It was the guy who had been fishtailing...

History of a '61 Rampside

By

Paul Llewellyn and Nolan Grant

In 1983, Paul Lewellyn was in the Army based at Fort Gillem, Forest Park, GA serving in the Army. One day, while looking in the Atlanta Journal, he saw a Rampside for sale. So, he did what all of us would want to do. He went to take a look. The Rampside was under some pine trees on a five-acre parcel of land owned by the seller. Next to the Rampside was a Greenbrier. Paul bought them both for \$500. He was able to get the Greenbrier running and, after using about 6 cans of "Fix A Flat", he was able to get it home.

The Greenbrier ran fine, even taking it on trips to Florida and to Savannah. The Rampside was a different story. The engine was locked down and wouldn't turn over... it was frozen. So, Paul had to trailer it to his home.



Paul revived the Rampside by soaking all cylinders with penetrating oil, rolling it down a hill in second gear and, "Bang!", the engine unlocked! Paul then did a thorough tune up and the engine started. However, after it started it made very loud "tap-tap-tap" noises. Paul thought it was a rod knocking. Nope. Turns out it was a bad flywheel -- all rivets were loose. Paul ended up putting another engine in it and it ran fine after that.

Then Uncle Sam called and said, "Hey Paul, you have to go to Germany for 3 years." So, the Rampside and the Greenbrier sat for 3 years. When Paul got home, he sold the Greenbrier and went to work on the Rampside. He put a four speed in it and replaced

the 95 HP engine with a 140. He even did the body work on it himself and taught himself how to paint. He ended up painting it twice. It looks good today even with a few dents, scratches, and rust spots.

Paul had the Rampside about 10 or 12 years after returning from his 3-year tour in Germany. He met my father, Spencer Grant, on a visit to see Tony Kruzich. Tony is a long-term CAI member and one of the best Corvair mechanics you would ever have the opportunity to meet. My father offered Paul \$1500 for his Rampside and Paul took the deal.

My dad was thrilled. He loved the engineering behind the Corvair and owned at least 5 of them. He bought a brand new crated 140 engine and asked Tony Kruzich to install it in the Rampside. Tony did a great job and the Rampside ran great for a few years. My Dad started having concerns with the engine overheating. He spent years experimenting with water cooling and adding additional oil coolers. He finally decided to create an extremely elaborate system of 1 ½-inch piping that ran from each valve cover to the front of the vehicle. The piping looped around the full underside of the vehicle at four times. My Dad installed an oil pump by splicing it within the piping and it forced oil all the way around this huge coil of piping. It actually helped cool the engine a little, but not as much as was expected.

(Continued on Pg 9)

History of a '61 Rampside (Cont.)

By

Paul Llewellen and Nolan Grant

One day in 2013, I was visiting my Dad when, right out of the blue, he asked me if I wanted to buy his Rampside. He knew I was a Vair fanatic. I was the first one to own a Corvair in the family and have owned 6 of them. My answer to him was, "I would love to buy it, but you probably want more money for it than I want to pay". He said, "How about \$2000?". I had expected \$5000 or \$8000, so my answer was "For sure! Sold!". Driving the Rampside from my Dad's house in Stockbridge to my home in Cumming was an oil smoking ordeal. I stopped twice to stop oil leaks that were leaking on the exhaust and smoking like crazy. It was all because the oil piping cooling system was heavily leaking. I had to tighten the thirty-something clamps that were joining that lengthy piping system under the truck.

I made it home without getting a ticket for smog everywhere. I gave the Rampside a good tune-up and rebuilt the carbs. I was excited to drive it to Helen for its first Springfest. On the way, it overheated twice. On the way back, it did the same thing. The cooling system of pipes just didn't seem to be working. I decided to remove my Dad's cooling system, the engine, and drive train.

When I removed the engine shroud cover from the top of the engine, to my dismay there were acorns, shells, and mice nests between and on top of all 6 cylinders. All cooling fins were very dirty. When I removed the oil cooler, it was very badly in need of cleaning with burnt oil and dirt in the fins. The 308 differential had a crack in it and was leaking oil through a gob of JB weld that had been put on it. After much cleaning of everything and replacing the 308 differential with a 327 differential, it is now my daily driver and running well. I am still planning to rebuild the 308 differential and put it back in the Rampside some day. The 308 differential is good for keeping up with Atlanta traffic. The lower RPM's at high speeds will help the engine last much longer.

So that ends the history I have on my 1961 Rampside. It is a fun vehicle and will pass through many more owners in the future because, just like all of our Vairs, it is a timeless and fun machine.



Did You Know?

- ◆ This is a very exciting time for Corvair Atlanta, with the CORSA Convention coming to the area in July 2021 — less than 2 years from now. There is a lot of work to be done and we need your support.

If at all possible, please contact Tom Constatine or Mike Gassmann with your offer to assist in preparing for and making the show a success.

“It takes all of us together to make Corvair Atlanta a fun, active, and informative organization.”

- ◆ There are Corvair powered aircraft? If you like Corvairs and also airplanes, check out William Wynne's FlyCorvair.com, The Home of Corvair Powered Flight Since 1989 and his FlyCorvair.net for more information.



Above: Randy Bush's Pietenpol. (Pietenpol is a homebuilt aircraft designed by Bernard H. Pietenpol.) Randy stands beside his 3,000cc "Cleanex" at Oshkosh 2017. Yes, he has two Corvair Powered planes, and they have more than 1,000 hours between them.

The Drivetrain

President	Mike Gassmann	mgassmann@comcast.net	(678-296-7225)
Vice Pres	Frank Metasavage	frankmetasavage@trackmobile.com	(706-302-6543)
Treasurer	Nolan Grant	grantphoto2@gmail.com	(336-473-0071)
Secretary	Tom Constantine	corvair_1965_monza@yahoo.com	(678-294-8149)
Director	Dan Terry	wa3hcr@comcast.net	
Director	Ted Fahrenthold	tterribleted@comcast.net	(770-621-9999)
Director	Robert Birkinbine	dabirk@comcast.net	(404-630-1467)
Director	Lanny Milbrandt	LDM9654@gmail.com	
Director	Paul Llewellyn	JudyPaul@hughes.net	(678-688-7543)
Editor/Web	Steve Ratcliffe	corvairatlweb@gmail.com	(803-807-3554)

Website: <http://www.corvairatlanta.com>

Corvair Cars & Parts

FOR SALE

For Sale:

4 stock, 13 inch, 4 stud wheels with mounted tires — *\$100 for all.*

- Tires are usable with exception of one which has steel cord showing.
- Others are Hankook, Mavis, etc., but would be good for a garage roller or even to check out a resto. Keeping one out five for my spare.
- Wheels are painted black and in good shape.

I've finally got some new wheels and tires for my Spyder and I wanted to post an ad for the old ones to see if they are useful to anyone.

Got a set of wire wheel hubcaps too if you want to dress them up.

John Witt
(206) 915-8557



Classified Ads

DISCOUNT

TIRE

Manager: John Noddingham

3567 BUFORD DR
BUFORD, GA 30519

678-546-7298

AMERICAN SUPERCARS UNLIMITED

Doug Rogers

1413 Little Refuge Rd
Waleska, Ga. 30183

770-720-8472

For your Sand/Abrasive Blasting, Powder Coating,
and Ceramic Header Coating

<http://www.dougsamericansupercarsunlimited.com/>

CORVAIR ATLANTA, INC. ADVERTISING POLICIES

- Classified advertisements should be sent to the newsletter editor via email or US Postal Service. They must be typed and ready for print. Email to: corvairatlweb@gmail.com

Commercial Advertising Rates

Ad Size	1 Issue	6 Issues
Business Card	\$5.00	\$27.00
3/4 Page	\$7.50	\$42.00
1/2 Page	\$12.00	\$60.00

- Classified advertisements are free to paid-up members of CAI.
- Corvair vehicles and Corvair-related items will be listed for free, at the sole discretion of Corvair Atlanta, Inc.
- Free classified items will typically be run in no more than two issues of The Connecting Rod.