

Heart of America Corvair Owners Association

VairCor



April 2020

Volume 56-4



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March meeting

In like a meeting and out like a ham sandwich. March 10 brought us together again for our monthly meeting, and there were 35 members attending, with two Corvairs in the parking lot. With it being the March meeting, the question asked of the membership was "Does your Corvair run like a lion or a lamb?" Of this, five were lambs and nine were lions. However, there was also a wounded duck and a goat, among others!

Our meeting started out a little unusually, as Vice-President Kat King called the meeting to order. Travis Bolton, our President, was absent so he could attend his daughter's Senior Awards ceremony. First on the agenda was member news, and it was reported that unfortunately, Sheila Carlino's mother had passed away on February 26. Next was Don Wagner to discuss new or potential members, and he introduced

guest/potential new member Jim McGinley, who has a '65 Monza coupe with a 110.

After this, Secretary Helen Moore read the minutes from our last meeting and Treasurer Suzy Sherwood followed up by reading her report. As far as trophy reports are concerned, there weren't any! Once Suzy reported that, Don Wagner reported that new membership lists have been distributed and an electronic copy as well. Nothing was new on the newsletter front, but Chris Green stated, "If you have photos, send them in, since we love seeing what everyone is doing!"

Webmaster/President Travis Bolton wasn't there to report, but the website is up and running and we haven't had any problems with it. Kat King then reported that the club is invited to join with the

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HACOA Calendar at a glance

Date	Event
Tuesday, April 14	HACOA monthly meeting, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO
?Tuesday, May 12?	?HACOA meeting/auction, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO?
Saturday, May 30	HACOA Dustoff, Linda Mellies residence, Kansas City, KS
Saturday, June 6	HACOA tech session, Dawson residence, Belton, MO

Presidential Ramblings

"Trying Times..."

What a crazy time in the world right now. The COVID-19 global pandemic has had a dramatic impact on just about all phases of life: Kids not in school but trying to continue learning using online tools, and those lucky enough to have a job that allows them to be working from home. Many who do not have that luxury find themselves without a job or at least without a paycheck. All professional, college and many high school sports seasons are cancelled. The 2020 CORSA International Convention is postponed for a year. The list goes on and on of things big and small. I feel especially bad for those high school seniors (my oldest daughter Marie included) who may not even get to walk across a stage at graduation. I pray and believe that this will pass and we will once again be able to get out and see family and friends.

However, that time is not here yet, and I regret that our April meeting will not be able to take place. Don Wagner had a great suggestion that committee chairs should send me their report that would normally be given at the meeting and I will send them out to the group on meeting night. The Board is currently planning to have a video call to handle our business for April. Additionally, if you have any updates on projects, I encourage you to send them in so that way we can still see what other members are doing.

Member Keith Hammett had a suggestion that in these trying times we may have some members that need a helping hand with something, especially anyone who really should not be leaving their home. If you have such a need, or know someone who does, please send me an email or give me a call and I'll try to find someone nearby who can help.

With any luck we will be together for the May meeting and auction but in the meantime - keep your distance from others, wash your hands and if possible JUST STAY HOME.

Travis

March meeting, continued from page 1

Northwest Missouri Street Rods in the Dearborn Veterans' Day parade taking place on April 18 (further information on our website).

Ken Ragan followed up by reporting that the tool crib is still there and "the rent's real cheap!" Social Chair Scott Allison listed some of the events coming up, including the Great Plains Roundup in Arkansas in October. With that, Paul Sergeant and Kevin Rafferty noted that they are currently working on their projects.

Moving on to old business in a nutshell: They were — nametags are still available (contact Suzanne Berger); we have HACOIA glovebox pamphlets; and money for the Lyceum Theater trip can be paid to Suzy Sherwood. Additionally, the motion to allow a 50/50 split on certain item sales at the May auction was passed.

From there, the natural progression was to new business. The first item was for the May auction, as Bill Bennett is our perennial auctioneer. He advised that he will continue doing it unless someone else wants to do it. As of now, he is our man with the auction plan. Next was our financial audit, and it has been completed. Also keep in mind the HACOIA Dustoff is scheduled for May 30 at Linda Mellies' home in Kansas City. Mark your calendars!

Looking at new business ahead, the valve-cover track will need to come back to HACOIA after the Roundup in October, so members are encouraged to keep that in mind. Additionally, the tentative date for our Christmas party is December 18 at Cascone's in North Kansas City. Other dates were explored but were not available. New business was then wrapped up with Mike Dawson thanking all who attended the Bybee

Bash on February 28 (the Bybee's were absent from the meeting).

Our program for the evening was presented by Kevin Rafferty, covering (no pun intended) deck staining. Kevin has used many products to do this job so he was able to offer some insight and advice on the products that he has had good luck with, and any tips for application.

This is normally where we say we look forward to seeing you at the next meeting, but as you are all probably aware, the April meeting is canceled due to the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. We're bummed that we won't get to see everyone but look forward to hopefully having a May auction/meeting!



The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

Grounds; 50+ Year-Old Circuits Are Showing Their Age

Many Corvair electrical glitches are caused by poor or no grounds; the electrical “complete circuit” necessary for an item to function is open or has a weak link.

In order for electricity to perform its job, the wire supplying an item from the battery must be large enough (gauge size) to carry the required amps and keep the voltage up. The ground wire or path back to the battery also must be at least identical in capacity. Where body or engine parts are used in place of ground wires, the parts must have a clean, tight fit that at least duplicates the size of wire supplying the positive battery current.

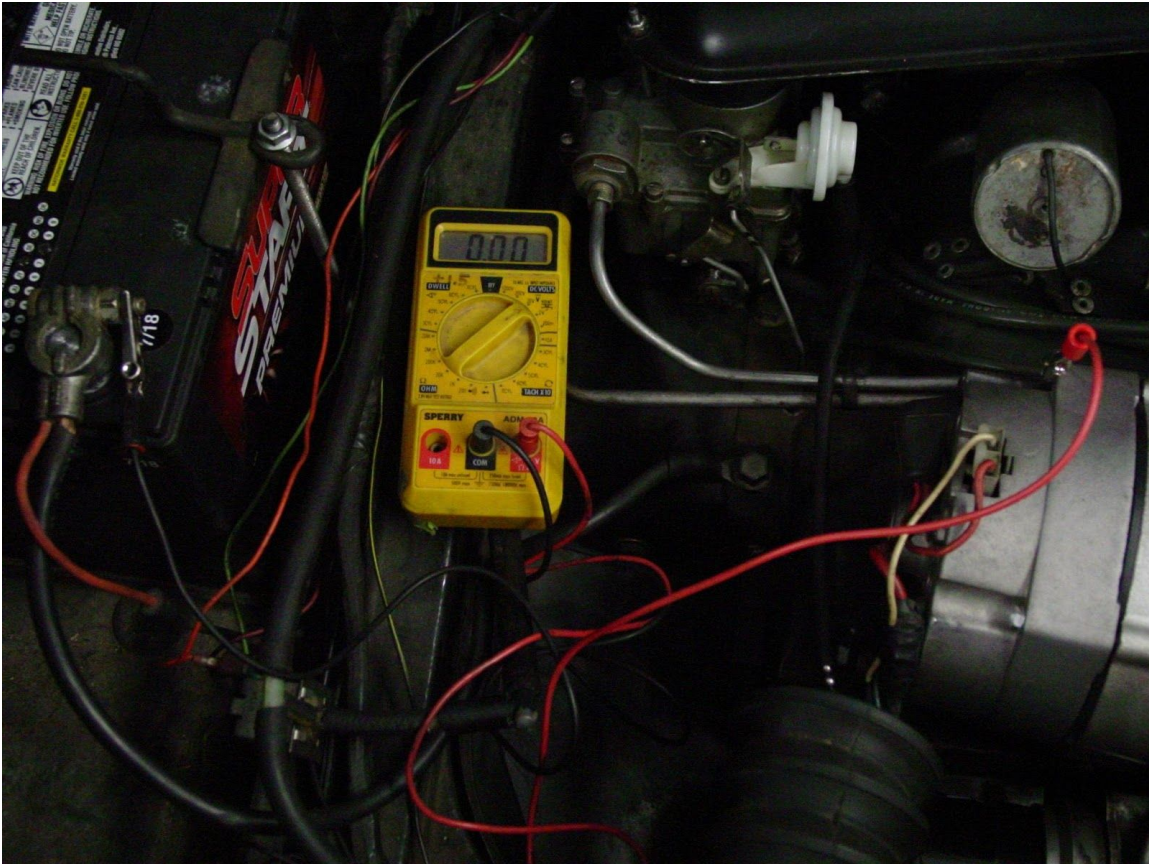
Some good examples of common problem areas:

- A Corvair starter may draw 160 amps through the positive battery cable when cranking but the mating area of the cable clamp and battery post must have a clean contact area to do this. Likewise, the connection of the cable to the starter solenoid must be clean and tight. For the return to the battery the circuit is completed by good contact between the starter nose and its two bolts to the aluminum housing (no heavy paint). The return

travels through the engine to the generator or alternator mount where it must then use the same capacity cable as the positive side to carry 130 amps to the negative battery post. **A major problem will arise if the negative battery cable is attached to the body and not the engine (the powertrain is mounted in rubber except for small attachments).** Missing this large capacity ground between the negative battery post and the engine can burn Powerglide shifter cables, clutch cables and other items that can only supply a small ground. .

- **Missing a good ground between the battery and the body** can affect charging and in some cases ruin an alternator or generator as the regulator tries to overcome the lack of ground available. Early models fitted the negative battery cable to the body and engine with one braided battery cable. Late models have a separate 10-gauge pigtail on the negative cable that bolts to the body next to the battery.
- Slow heater motor speeds can occur when the heater box slowly loses its ground to the body (all Corvairs). You don't suddenly hear the change as the loss creeps over the years. A quick check is to use a jumper wire (while the blower motor is turned on high speed) between the blower motor body and the engine sheet metal that is close by. If the blower motor speeds up, make the jumper wire permanent. This can really be significant if you are using a late-style high-speed blower with a remote relay.
- Other common ground problems are: late-model car dashboards, early-model car and FC taillight housings, early-model front turn-signal sockets and late-model rear taillight/brake light sockets.

Grounds can be checked with a voltmeter by looking for potential difference, i.e. connecting in parallel to the negative side of a circuit. In the above example with a slow blower motor, instead of using a jumper wire, connect your voltmeter between the blower body and a good engine ground area. If you get a meter reading with the blower running, the ground circuit is insufficient. Another example would be to use your voltmeter to check the battery-to-engine ground while cranking as in the picture below. Ideally, you would use the top of the battery post instead of the clamp for the best results (or have recently cleaned that contact area).



The voltage drop while cranking should be 0.20 volt or less.

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 groove 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

Internally regulated
63 amp Corvair
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rebuildable core

Rebuilt Corvair
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solenoid \$90
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Mike Dawson
mdawson1961@sbcglobal.net
816-322-4057


Professionally rebuilt Corvair clutch disc on a
welded center Borg & Beck core with a thickness
of .325" \$55 exchange with same core.

Reproduced end plates for the 12 and 8
plate oil cooler. These are the two pieces of
sheet metal that help keep all the hot air
from the oil cooler moving out the bottom
instead of back in to the engine
compartment. \$10 each





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hrmoore14@gmail.com

Dick Berger still has several sets of wheels and tires for sale. Most are 14" diameter. Let him know if you're interested.

Due to a dropped valve seat, Jeff Biaggi is looking for a serviceable left side head for his '62 Spyder while he sends it to be machined. His email is:
boulderforkfarm@gmail.com.

Free-Late model block with two pulled studs. Has crank (will need turned) and -891 (110/140 HP) cam. Contact Chris Green if interested.

Other Events and Tidbits

Well, now that the weather's getting nicer, it's a good time to get that Corvair out to beat the Coronavirus blues! If you have any photographs of your Corvair sneaking out for a drive or doing something it's not supposed to do (hopefully not rolling over so you can pet its belly!), send them in. It's always fun to see what other members are out and about doing!

2019 Round-up trip

On Friday Oct. 18 Annie and I took off for Carthage, MO, in our '66 Blue Corsa. Other than losing a fan belt around Yates Center, KS, we made it into Carthage with no problems. Friday evening, we drove up to the Antique Flea Market not far from the hotel and when we got ready to head back to the hotel, my passenger door would not open. Several club members tried to assist in opening the door but we were unsuccessful. We drove home Saturday with Annie either crawling over the console or riding in the backseat; neither was a very pleasant ride home. Got it home and put it away for the winter.

After having a few nice days and with spring on its way I decided to get the Corsa out of storage. Gary Jones came up Thursday, March 26th, and helped me get the door open by using a 2 ft. long 2x6. It took multiple hard kicks to open the door. Problem was, the small piece of plastic in the latch had broken and fell. This was keeping the door from opening. I was glad to have the door open and with no damage to the door, and we left the plastic piece out. The door seems to work fine without it. Thanks for everyone's assistance and advice on this problem.

Jerry Lentz

Get the heck out of Dodge Kansas City!

The morning of March 21 dawned bright and crisp, promising good weather for a down-the-road move of Scott Allison's shop. I arrived around 8:30 and Scott, Mike Dawson and Keith Hammett were already packing things into Mike's Greenbrier. Travis Bolton arrived shortly thereafter, ready to join the action.

Things progressed quickly, as we filled Mike's van, then moved on to filling Keith's trailer and truck bed. When those were at capacity, we shifted our attention to Scott's trailer, which was being reserved for heavier/bulkier items. After loading up all of it, we made a parade down Holmes Road while making our way to Belton (Scott's new locale, conveniently located at 104 South Scott Avenue!).



Courtesy of my terrible Photo-shopping skills:
The moving crew.
Travis somehow grew really tall and Chris was laying down on the job!

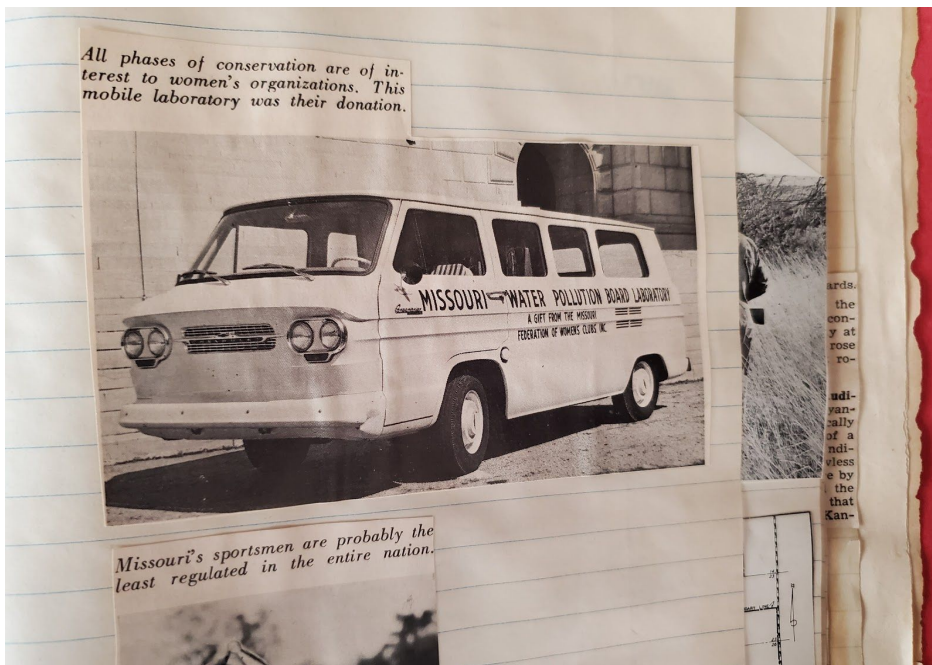
Luckily, our first load was the majority of the items to be moved, so after a filling lunch, and chatting with Ray and Gunnar along with a quick tour of the new house, we went back to the former house to get the rest. We loaded everything that was left in the shop but still had three Corvairs to move! When the keys were tossed out, Scott took Gertie, Travis took Mr. Peabody and I took the track car (I tried not to act excited to drive it!).

With everything winding down, we made the trip back to Scott's former abode to wrap things up. Keith and his family grabbed some furniture for his daughter and I picked up some computer towers to bring home for Ethan and myself. I have to say, I never enjoy moving, but moving Scott's shop was about the least amount of stress I've had with moving. I wish all moves were like that!



Scott's cars all lined up at their new home, awaiting their snugly carhouse to open up and let them in!

An "Air-schooled" project?



Treasurer Suzy Sherwood found this photograph in a report she did in grade school from around 1966.

Coronavirus Quarantine Classroom is in session

I couldn't resist using some semi-alliteration since I don't have any classroom students to instruct! This photograph is from a haircut that Meaghan received during our quarantine time. No, there wasn't any actual Corona involved when the barber clipped her hair! It was Olivia and we were doing a "cosmetology" lesson. By the time she realized that she had cut mom's hair way too much, it was obviously too late; whoops! At least Meaghan is a good sport and doesn't mind! I think I'm due next week so wish me luck.



HACOA birthdays

April	
Name	Date
Terry Kalp	3
Jim Gately	7
Edye Bruner	8
Dorothy Morris	13
Bill Kiely	14
Linda Reece	15
Gary Jones	17
Greg Osorio	20
Jean Gately	22
Annie Lentz	26