

Heart of America Corvair Owners Association
VairCor



December 2020

Volume 56-12



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November meeting

After being lambasted for the past few months with political ads, mail and everything that goes with it, 17 members showed up for the November meeting. Since it was a little chillier and darker, we met inside once again for our regular meeting spot at Paul and Jack's.

We opened up with member news, including new member John Gervais from Polk, Missouri, with his '69 project cars. This is close to Pomme de Terre Lake, where members Larry and Suzy Sherwood like to frequent; maybe they've crossed paths without knowing it!?

In more somber news, Marti Jones left her terrestrial walk on November 5, shortly before what would have been hers and Gary's 56th wedding anniversary. Our thoughts and prayers go to Gary and the family at this time, while celebrating the life that she and Gary lived,

and the quiet battle that she fought with Gary at her side.

Following this, Mike Dawson presented the names of the members selected for the nominating committee. Those being mentioned were as follows: Travis Bolton, president; Kat King, vice-president; treasurer, Mike Dawson; secretary, Dominique Allen; board members, Dick Berger, Chris Green, Scott Allison, Mike Kliethermes. Following this, we thanked Sandy Dawson and Suzy Sherwood for their service during the 2019-2020 years. Thank you!

Even though there haven't been many items on the agenda for social events, Scott Allison and Mike Dawson attended the Luna Tuna at Terry Kalp's shop on October 17. Of course, while attending, they helped

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HACOA Calendar at a glance

Date	Event
Friday, December 18	HACOA Christmas party, Cascone's, North Kansas City, MO
Tuesday, January 12	HACOA monthly meeting, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO
???????	It's depressing to not have any events; does anybody have some socially-distant ideas? If so, let us know! PLEASE!!!!

Presidential Ramblings

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone!

It sure has been a trying year. From the COVID pandemic, to social unrest and political division 2020 is one year I'd like to forget. But the end of the year is a time for reflection, lists of the top X number of whatevers for the past year and now more than ever hope for a better new year.

As I look back on 2020 there were a few monumental events that I don't want to forget. Marie graduated high school and started college at Iowa State University. Julia began her senior year of high school and continues her search for the right college. My nephew got married. Those are all wonderful events. So far my family has managed to stay healthy for which I am thankful.

From a Corvair perspective, there weren't many activities this year but I did enjoy a tech session at the Dawson's, the Belton cruise and social at Scott's and the Air Cooled Track Classic in Hastings. The monthly meetings we did have were welcome social activities with club members and I enjoyed each one of them.

I hope you can all take some time to reflect on the past year and focus on the good things that happened for you and your family.

As I write this the COVID vaccine is being deployed and administered. I pray that it is effective and we can get back to normal in 2021.

Since we don't have our Christmas party this year where we traditionally thank outgoing officers and welcome the incoming, I'd like to take this opportunity to do that.

Thank you to our outgoing officers: Treasurer Suzy Sherwood, Secretary Helen Moore and Board Members Sandy Dawson and Gary Moore. And welcome to the board: Treasurer Mike Dawson, Secretary Dominique Allen and Board Members Mike Kliethermes and Dick Berger. This is a club of volunteers so thanks to everyone who works to keep it running smoothly.

Happy New Year! I hope to see all of you more in 2021.

-Travis

November Meeting, continued

everyone they could with whatever project they had and in addition to that, Gary Jones stopped by and bought a '69 convertible. Now he has one of every year; nice work Gary!

Following the (many) events that occurred during the Air Cooled Track Classic in Hastings, Nebraska, Dick Berger brought his car to member Aaron Holstrom at Bob Hindson Racing for diagnosis and repair of what was ailing his beaming blue convertible (maybe a heart transplant?). While having lunch, he met a group from down the street at MindDrive, mentioning to them that the yellow car was a (electric) Corvair. One member of that group proclaimed that he was actually the owner of that car!

In other member news, Travis Bolton is cleaning out and selling items from his shop. If you are looking for something, just let him know since he might be able to accommodate your request!

With good news, it was announced that Fred and Sharon Bybee are welcoming a new Bybee baby! They now have a great-granddaughter, Katie. Congratulations to them!

Finally, after gathering the numbers against what is required, we will have to cancel the Christmas party at Cascone's this year (refunds will be issued for those who prepaid). Unfortunately, we were not able to meet the minimum amount of 35 guests to hold the room so we will have to forego our party this year. This is unfortunate, as members always look forward to this event each year. Hopefully things will be on the upswing next year!

After this our meeting was adjourned and everyone stayed for a few minutes to socialize, quietly aware that we wouldn't be able to meet next month. Though this time is a somber one, we hope that we can see each other again in the near future on better terms. Stay tuned for January, but until then be safe and have a great Christmas and New Year!



The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

Mechanical Fuel Pump Issues: Never Ending?

Fuel pump manufacturers have struggled with Corvair pumps for decades, with loose valves and leaking gaskets becoming revolving issues. This time there is something new with the regular Airtex pumps, both branded and re-boxed units. In addition, I can report on another brand of pump that is being offered for sale.

Issue One:

Many of the Airtex fuel pump boxes over the past few years have a red card inside telling you to tighten the screws before installation. That would be a good idea if their engineers had designed reasonable fasteners. The screw heads were changed on different production dates (the most recent screw used is a 5/16 hex) and with that change, the length of the screw was shortened causing the potential problems.

As can be seen in the picture below, the pump on the right has an issue with short fasteners.



- The screws on the right pump are shorter.
- The protruding screws on the left pump are missing 1 ½ threads; the same was true for the screws on the right pump when they were removed.
- The aluminum casting has only ¼” of threaded depth.

In the second picture below you can clearly see the number of threads that are not utilized by the screws and with the tapered end missing threads, you have the scenario that failure is probable during tightening. Heat cycles might cause pulled threads also.



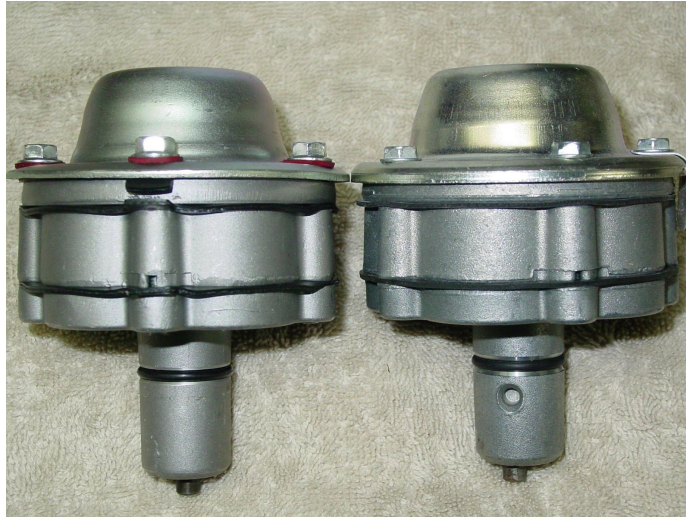
Pictured below is a replacement screw you could utilize to correct a problem in damaged holes or as a preventive measure in undamaged holes. The left screw is an Airtex original.



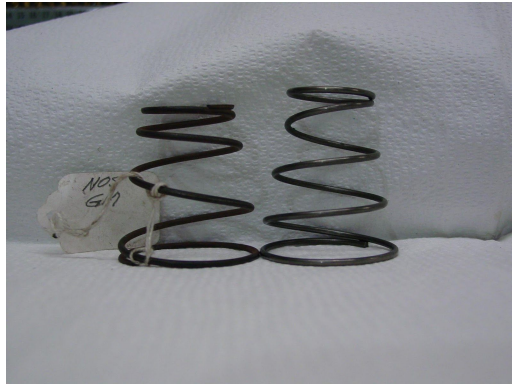
The screws I used are 10-24 by 2" and are slightly larger with deeper threads than the original 10-32 screws so they cut their own threads into the stripped holes. Any screws in stripped holes should have a nut and lock washer added to the bottom and I also added a lock washer under the head when I installed them one at a time into undamaged holes. They seated into the original 10-32 threaded holes and held the torque I felt was necessary. The extra length of the screws will clear without cutting them off if you were replacing screws without removing the pump. If you question whether it would be better to use coarse or fine threads, please refer to the following link and decide for yourself (thanks to Keith Hammett): <https://resources.tannerbolt.com/articles/coarse-vs-fine-thread-what-thread-type-do-i-need/>

Issue Two:

There is a new mechanical fuel pump being marketed by US Motor Works: USMP09970. The cost is \$53 plus shipping. It is manufactured by our Trans-Pacific Trading Partner and the pump I received needed immediate attention before installation as the tapered mounting hole had not been installed in the casting. Overall the PRC pump weighs 17 oz, while the Airtex design weighs 28 oz.



Subsequent testing on a running engine (thanks to Scott) was almost disastrous. The pump immediately pegged my Snap On fuel pump tester (15lbs max) and started leaking profusely around the pushed on hose connection. The original pump we started with produced 7lbs, and as noted in GM manuals, it should be 4.5lbs. And as shown in the pictures below, the pressure spring is taller, has no flattened coils (top & bottom) and some kind of epoxy used to seal the center of the diaphragm was already coming apart.



Classifieds


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	\$0.02	Grain of salt
Hubs: Rear (towing LM PowerGlide)	\$5.00	\$1.00
Pushrod tube extractor	\$10.00	\$2.00

Internally regulated
63 amp Corvair
alternators \$85
exchangeRebuilt harmonic
balancer
\$105 exchange for a
rebuildable coreRebuilt Corvair
starters with
solenoid \$90
exchangeMike Dawson
mdawson1961@sbcglobal.net
816-322-4057Professionally 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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816-678-8860
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. 678-650-4246

Free-Late model block with two pulled studs (can probably be easily repaired).
Has 164 ci crank (will need turned) and -891 (110/140 HP) cam.
Contact Chris Green (call or text) 913-369-5861.

Classifieds, continued

Wilson Litter has several items for sale, including:

- 1966 transaxle, code AA (3.27 non-posi) and V8 bellhousing: \$400
- 140HP engine (code T0223RN). Engine turns over but has not been apart: \$600

-
- Set of 6 Sealed Power 0.060" over pistons on rods with cylinders (one has a crack): \$600
Or \$1,500 for all. Wilson Liter 417-667-6927. wilsonliter@hotmail.com

Other Events and Tidbits

Well, as we all know there's not much going on right now for car stuff or get-togethers. For better or worse, it's a time that we can reflect on this past year and the one(s) to come. With that said, I know it's past Thanksgiving but I still feel thankful.

I'm thankful for our great club that is active and always trying to encourage and help one another. We have meetings, outings, tech sessions, phone calls, emails, socials, racing, goofing around and just plain hanging out. We've got a comprehensive catalog of technical help with a good dose of on-the-spot diagnosing. We've got people we have drinks with, shake hands with, hug and sometimes cry and mourn with.

When I bought my '66 this year, I really had no business buying it, as there were a multitude of items to address before it could even get on the road. I had some gumption and determination but still felt a feeling of defeat MANY times, as there seemed (to my limited eyes) to be a lot of roadblocks. However, before I could even grab the proverbial towel to throw in, I had phone calls, text messages, emails, parts and just plain words of encouragement.

Since then, I've driven it all over the area. After taking instruction from HACOIA members to break-in the engine (I still remember where I was when I hit the 500th mile), I've since absolutely **beat** on it at the track, doing both road courses and autocrosses (still working on that!). There is NO, and I repeat, NO way I could have made this possible on my own! I continue to work on and make this car my own, but I can't imagine where I'd be, had it not been for the assistance and question-answering of fellow HACOIA members.

I will often frequent a Corvair internet blog, www.corvairster.com, and see posts from Steve Goodman in Golden, Colorado, who many of our members know. He regularly asks new members to the online forum if they've found and/or joined their local club, to which some may not understand. However, I know and understand why he says this. Like so many things in life, experience is the best teacher, and my experience has taught me that we have an absolutely phenomenal club that thrives and does so well because of our membership base, ie-our people! We can sometimes be dysfunctional (okay, that's probably just a few of us, including me!), but as the saying goes, one can't have dysfunction without function; or is it the other way around!?

One of my students, knowing my interest in Corvairs, even gave me a fitting gift for Christmas this year (see photograph)! I look forward to having meetings again, tech sessions to share knowledge, track events to drive hard, outings to socialize, and just plain hanging out because that keeps us sane. HACOIA, thanks for being such a great club family that my family and I are proud and excited to be a part of!



HACOA birthdays

December	
Name	Date
Sharon Bybee	2
Charles King	2
Phyllis Yost	7
Sandy Reece	18
Howard Gillogly	19
Sheila Carlino	20
Patricia Franklin	23
Melissa Holstrom	26
Elaine Richardson	28
Denise Reavey	29
Kevin Koch	31