

Heart of America Corvair Owners Association  
**VairCor**



September 2021

Volume 57-9



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## August Meeting

Our August meeting took place on the 10th, with president Travis Bolton calling the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Member chair Don Wagner started by mentioning that no new members were present at the meeting, and it was also mentioned for the club to keep fellow members in their thoughts. Don also mentioned that an updated club roster would be forthcoming in September.

The premiere for the movie *Accidental Family* took place on August 6, in St. Joseph, Missouri, with Kat King and Don Wagner attending and helping, as they needed 4 door cars.

Ken Ragan then reported that he has a lot of tools in the tool crib. Upcoming events include the Corvair Track Classic on September 11-12 and the HACO trip to the Lyceum Theater on September 26. The deadline for purchasing tickets is August 25.

There are several other upcoming events with the club. These include Travis and Marcia Bolton's anniversary party on September 25, a working tech session at Mike and Sandy Dawson's home on October 2, and the Great Plains Corvair Roundup in Little Rock, Arkansas, running from October 8-10. There are others, so be sure to check the calendar on our website.

Following that, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM. Our next meeting will take place on September 14.

*Editor's note:* I would like to thank many members, including Dominique Allen, Scott Allison, Mike Dawson, and Helen Moore for helping out in my absence from the past two club meetings. Unless something comes up, I hope to be at the September meeting!

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## HACOA Calendar at a glance

Date	Event
September 11-12	Corvair Track Classic, Motorsports Park Hastings, Hastings, NE
Tuesday, September 14	Monthly meeting, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO
Saturday, October 2	Working Tech Session, Dawson residence, Belton, MO
October 8-10	Great Plains Corvair Roundup, Little Rock, AR

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## Presidential Ramblings

### August Already

I'd like to start by apologizing (again) to our newsletter editor. He has been waiting patiently for me for a while to submit this article. It's not Chris' fault this is so late. I know who the two happiest people will be after December and there is a new president at the helm.

I'd like to thank Dick Berger again for letting me drive his '68 Corvair CP race car at the SCCA Solo Nationals in September. The new motor really works although the clutch may need some sorting. I had a great time spending the week with Dick, Charlie and Scott just hanging out and hearing stories and making memories. And thanks to Marcia for letting me have the week away.

Coming up in October we should be hearing about the nominations for the new board of directors. As always, all positions are up for vote every year, but we must fill the President, Vice President and one board position at least. The nominating committee is nearly finalized so if you are asked to serve on the board of directors, please consider it. As you know the club is run by volunteers.

I'm sure HACOA will have a good showing in North Little Rock for the 2021 Roundup. We are looking forward to going and having a great time. As you know, HACOA is the host for the 2022 event, and if you'd like to help get a hold of Kat or Dean (our co-chairs) and volunteer. I know they'd love to have volunteers appear instead of having to hunt them down.

See you in North Little Rock!

-Travis

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## The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

### Late Model Window Issue

A repair I recently made on a late model driver's door window is becoming more common with late models as time passes. A preemptive maintenance procedure would be a good idea, plus every thing in the door that moves may not have been lubricated since the '60's. The problem is poor spot welds at the factory between the glass bottom channel and the slides; the welds fail and let the window get jammed during operation. Forcing the window with the crank will wind up bending the lower sash channel which is almost impossible to bend back perfectly because of its shape.

Pictured below left is one of the 2 areas where the spot welds break (front and rear channel slides). Pulling the door panel allows access by adjusting the window height. Small welds done one at a time with quick cooling (water soaked rag) will cure (or prevent) the problem. Have a waterproof door paper on hand (Clark's) as it is usually bad.



The bottom of the window is spot welded to the channel slide and will break loose.



This is the lower sash channel that will bend if the window is forced with the crank.



This front mount is now repaired.



This is the rear mount reinforced.

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## Working Tech Session & Front Yard Car Show

**Saturday, October 2, 2021 12:00 – 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 prior to the Roundup in AR. 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 rebuilding, brake jobs, oil changes, etc. Brake replacement requires turning drums; I can have exchange items ready if you let me know ahead of time. Also available is gas and Mig welding, sandblasting, and glass beading.

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

**Please feel free to do whatever you feel comfortable with if attending, such as masks and sanitizer; at recent events I have noticed that all the folks in our groups have been very respectful of others. Consumption of alcohol based beverage is encouraged for disease control but I doubt if germs can live very long in my garages anyway! We do plan on grilling burgers and brats.**

**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



## 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](mailto: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  
alternators \$85  
exchangeRebuilt harmonic  
balancer  
\$105 exchange for a  
rebuildable coreRebuilt Corvair  
starters with  
solenoid \$90  
exchangeMike Dawson  
[mdawson1961@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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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*Helen Moore*  
Handmade Ceramics



816-678-8860  
[hrmoore14@gmail.com](mailto: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

**1964 Monza convertible**

White with black top and turquoise interior, 110HP with a Powerglide. Nearly new whitewall radials with 3 prong wire wheel covers along with door edge guards, outside mirrors, push button radio, and others. Car is very nice and has 29,000 original miles with the only items not original being the tires and a Clark's dual exhaust system. Looking to get \$15,000 but slightly negotiable. Contact Trueman Ervin 816-630-2382.

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## Classifieds, continued

Wilson Liter 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

Wilson Liter 417-667-6927. [wilsonliter@hotmail.com](mailto:wilsonliter@hotmail.com)

### 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.

- 4 late model 13" wheels with old tires (decent tread but show cracking) and Monza wheel covers.

Contact Chris Green (call or text) 913-369-5861 or email: [hacoa1news@gmail.com](mailto:hacoa1news@gmail.com).

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## Other Events and Tidbits

### Bob St.John Obituary

Platte City, Missouri – Robert Calvert “Bob” St. John, 87, passed away on August 17, 2021. He was born on Dec. 4, 1933, on the family farm, near Camden Point, Missouri, to Rolla Dodson and Mary Ethel St. John. He graduated from Camden Point High School in 1951. He enlisted in the Navy and served from 1951, to 1954, training in Port Hueneme, California and then serving in theatre in the Philippines, during the Korean War. He was a 32<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason and a Shriner. He was also a lifetime member at both the VFW and the American Legion. He was also a life member of the Platte County Historical Society. He was predeceased by his son, Bruce Calvert St. John, in 1989 and by his wife Marion Jean St. John, in 2013. He is survived by his sister, Helen (St. John) Davis of Platte City; daughter, Rhonda St. John Hamborsky (Doug) of Grosse Pointe, Michigan; his stepsons Richard Harris (Susan) of San Dimas, California; Clinton Harris (Sandy) of Platte City, and David Harris (Debbie) of St. Joseph. He is also survived by 6 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren and grand-nieces/nephews. His remains will be interred at the Higginsville Veterans Cemetery, on Friday, September 3, at 11:00 am.

### Bob St.John Remembrance

Along with the family obituary I wanted to add some information about Bob and his love of Corvairs, and of course, his close affiliation with HACO A over many years.

Bob became a member with wife Jean in the late '70's and my first remembrance was a club party at Bob & Jean's home in Platte City in the summer of 1980. I have a couple of pictures of their yard full of Corvairs that day. They moved to Higginsville a couple of years later to be closer to Bob's employer, West Central Electric, and Bob soon had a large detached garage where he could get serious Corvair work done over the next two decades. The St.Johns hosted a myriad of tours, rallies and social events over thirty years and held numerous positions in the club including newsletter editors.

After Bob retired, he and Jean decided to abandon cold and snow and moved to Mesa AZ, only taking two Corvairs to their new home. They joined the Cactus Corvair Club but said it was much different than HACO A. Jean passed away in Mesa, and Bob got into dirt bikes and 4 wheelers (he said he was back in his

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childhood) and rode the desert in the mornings and along with his four new buddies hit the VFW in the afternoons. Back here, we had formed an “Old Guys Club” that met in my garage whenever Bob came back to visit the KC area. We would go into town for lunch and then enjoy some adult beverage while sharing news and old stories. Bob sold his last Corvair to Chris Shade a couple of years ago and when all but one of his riding friends in Mesa passed away, Bob bought a house near his sister in Platte City and moved back to be near his friends and family from the old days. I talked to him on the day the house closed and he said he would be at our August meeting. On meeting day, Bob wound up in the hospital where they could do nothing for his failing heart. He passed away in hospice care on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Bob owned and enjoyed all kinds of cars, motorcycles and off-road vehicles in his lifetime, but I know Corvairs and the folks associated with them were his favorite.



Old Guys Gathering in 2020, Bob is second from the right. We had lost Karl Cozad and Bob Brought when this picture was taken.

Mike Dawson

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## Lyceum Theater

Join us for a day trip to the Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock Missouri to see the play *Sister Act* on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Showtime is 2:00 and we will also have lunch for those that wish to join us.

Tickets are \$34 per person for the Theatre. Lunch price is not available at this time, but in the past it has been about \$25, so I expect it to be similar.

The deadline for signing up for the Theatre is August 25<sup>th</sup>.

I will have information about the lunch menu and price soon. There is no deadline for lunch payment. I will contact those who are going to the Theatre in the coming weeks with lunch information.

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Contact me at [warbrdfan@aol.com](mailto:warbrdfan@aol.com) if you would like to purchase tickets, or if you have any questions.

Cliff Carlino

## Sill Plate Touch-up

Here are some helpful tips passed on by Don Wagner:

Don: On my 69 which I started with NOS door sill plates when putting my car together in 2000. I use a product called Never Dull with plates removed and sitting on a short 2x4 or 4x4. I work that in until it gets real black then wipe and finish with a product called Wizards Metal Polish. Wear disposable gloves and wipe residue off with a clean, soft rag. My door sill plates look better than Clark's new ones. I do this every couple of years. It will work on old ones if not corroded too much .

This is how you can bring those dingy door sill plates back to also mostly new looking:

1. Take a phelps screw driver and remove the screws (you will need a very short screwdriver also).

If you don't take them off mask the area around them so as you don't hurt the paint.

2. Mask off the GM sign and take a knife to cut around the sign.

3. Start with steel wool coarse #3 first.

4. Use medium steel wool #1.

5. Next take steel wool # 00.

6. Last steel wool super fine # 0000.

7 This will make them look good but if want to look better go to number 8.

8. Go to a buffing wheel and put whiting bar on the wheel to make the sill plate have more shine (whiting bar can be found at Hobby Lobby or Turtlewax has polishing compound; light to medium cleaner).

## Remember→ CORSA Membership Perks:

1) CORSA now has a formal relationship with Mecum auctions! Your membership in CORSA now permits you to purchase the \$200 bidders registration for just \$100!!

2) We have many fresh new items of CORSA-wear now available on our website. [www.corvair.org](http://www.corvair.org) <<http://www.corvair.org>>. We have a new vendor, new artwork and new items. I think you'll be excited about the selection.

3) Please remember, if you have members who are new to CORSA, they will receive a free copy of the "Corvair Basics" book with their paid membership in CORSA.

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**HACOA birthdays**

<b>September</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
Jeanette Hammett	1
Cindy Anders	5
Ray Curtis	9
Dennis Gordon	13
Ken Ragan	14
Mike Kliethermes	14
Ray Sego	20
Donna Hill	30