



## **DRIPPY LEAKS & FLYIN' FANBELTS**

The Monthly Newsletter of

**Mid Maryland Corvair Club**

Corsa Chapter 217

Website: [www.Corvair.org/chapters/chapter 217](http://www.Corvair.org/chapters/chapter 217)

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December 2021



From the President

"It's December, time to break out your fat pants and ugly sweater" - Unknown

We had eleven club members attend our November meeting at Bob Evans in Frederick, MD. We discussed Dick's purchase of a 33k original mile 1966 Monza coupe barn find. His intent will be to safely get it in running condition and eventually sell it. It is a 110 hp automatic, Marina blue with blue interior. Also discussed was the recent Corva magazine article regarding the destruction of the

upper fan blade while the owner was driving the car. Bill Hubbell also remarked about his loose fan blade on the Glenn Corvair trip to the PA club museum car show. On 11/13/21, our club member Gary Dewitt Powell, age 82, passed away. A sympathy bouquet was sent to Caroline, his spouse, from our club.

She

thanked us for the bouquet and wants to convey her gratitude to our club members.

For those club members thinking on attending the Corva convention on 07/12-16/22

in Peachtree City, GA, you may want to seriously consider making hotel reservations before year end if you wish to stay at the Crowne Plaza host hotel.

The hotel rate is \$119/night. See the Corva magazine for all convention information. Kandy and I hope to see all of you at our holiday dinner in Hagerstown, MD on 12/19/21. To you and yours, I wish you the joys of the season

and a new year filled with much happiness. Happy Vairing!

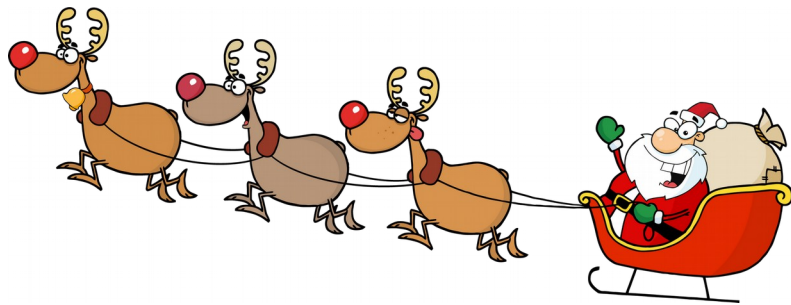
Tom - Club President



## Financial Report

Beginning balance was \$1,542.18.  
Flowers for DeWitt \$66.24  
Ending balance \$1,475.94

**Club Holiday Dinner will be  
Sunday 12/19/21 4 PM at  
Western Sizzlin Hagerstown  
17567 York Rd,  
Hagerstown, MD 21740**



Have a Happy and Blessed Christmas to all members of the  
Mid-Maryland Corvair Club.  
Joe Darinsig



## Tidbits from Ron Moss

Corvairs were included in 3 different lists of significant cars in the Autocar Blog during the month of November.

### Autocar

#### The golden age of the rear-engined car Ronan Glon November 14, 2021

Chevrolet Corvair (1959)

Chevrolet released the Corvair for the 1960 model year in a bid to compete directly against the Volkswagen Beetle. The Corvair used a rear-mounted, air-cooled engine but the similarities between it and its German rival largely ended there. It wore a considerably more modern design, it was bigger and it offered buyers a flat-six engine that made 80hp in its initial state of tune. Sporty variants – including a turbocharged, 180hp model – joined the line-up in the early 1960s.

Chevrolet's answer to European economy cars could have spawned an entire segment but its handling drew the damning criticism of safety advocate Ralph Nader. His book *Unsafe at Any Speed* cemented the model's reputation as a death trap. Chevrolet corrected most of the Corvair's handling faults with a thorough update in 1965 but the damage was already done and the nameplate never recovered from it. The firm didn't dare release another rear-engined car after Corvair production ended in 1969.

Other cars on the list: Tatra; Renault Dauphine and 8; Fiat 500, 600, Multipla, and 850; NSU Prinz; Subaru 360; BMW 700, Simca 1000; Alpine A110, Hillman Imp, Porsche 356, 911; Skoda 1000MB. Absent were Tucker 48, Stout Scarab from the USA

### Autocar

#### The most innovative cars America has ever made Ronan Glon November 13, 2021

Innovation takes many forms in the automotive industry.

In 2020, the term often hovers around electrification and autonomy, though the GMC Sierra pickup puts a unique spin on it by offering a modular tailgate. In the 1960s, innovation was embodied by a turbine-powered luxury coupe that looked like Chrysler's space-age answer to the Ford Thunderbird. And, in the 1910s, being able to start a Cadillac without cranking its engine was the pinnacle of innovation.

Chevrolet Corvair (1959)

Over six decades after its introduction, the Corvair remains one of Chevrolet's most controversial nameplates. At launch, it was celebrated as one of its most innovative models. It was powered by a rear-mounted, air-cooled flat-six engine in an era when a vast majority of American cars were front-engined and rear-wheel drive. It proved the company could think outside the box when pressed to. It retired without a successor after two generations so it's Chevrolet's first, last and only rear-engined car.

#### The most underrated cars ever made

##### Autocar Nov. 26, 2021

Chevrolet Corvair

A link to a famous personality can position a car in a positive light. Jim Clark and the Lotus Cortina, Elvis Presley and the BMW 507, Lady Di and the Austin Metro, Princess Anne and... Other links are less favourable, as demonstrated by the unfortunate Chevrolet Corvair. Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at Any Speed* highlighted the problems with the entire American car industry, ***but the technically brilliant Corvair took the flak. Later data showed it was no more dangerous than equivalent cars of the period.*** italics, bold and underlined by Ron

So there you have it. These folks say that Corvairs were ***significant, innovative, and underrated!***

Did you know? Maryland MVA has a specialty historic tag registration for vehicles 60 years old or older. It differs from the 50 year old vehicle tags that some of our members have obtained. If your Corvair is a 1960-1961 or 1962, you can apply for a Permanent sticker to be attached to your existing Historic plates for a one time registration fee of \$50.00. This is particularly attractive to me since my tag # 333-33L is pretty cool and I want to keep it. I have attached a copy of MDOT form VR-096 (5-17) for anyone who wants to take advantage of this deal. The vehicle must be 60 years old or older in the calendar year to qualify.

Ron



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO**

**RICK SANFORD 12/11**  
**RUBY SCHLEIGH 12/16**

Happy Anniversary to  
Julia & Terry Glendenning 12/21



Always Remember The True Meaning Of  
Christmas

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