

# Heart of America Corvair Owners Association

# *VairCor*



April 2022

Volume 58-4



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## March Meeting

Pardon the alliteration, but we had another good group gathering for our monthly meeting on March 8th. Over 30 members, including new and current, showed up.

Although he wasn't able to be there in person, Kevin Koch did a fine job of providing some trivia for the program of our meeting. He researched some fun facts about those performance and power-providing (sorry, the alliteration needs to stop!) snail shells, otherwise known as turbochargers. The questions were good and not necessarily Corvair-related, providing a good challenge. Gary Jones and Gary Moore came through in the end for a tiebreaker, which they decided splitting a six-pack wasn't a bad idea!

Don Wagner has also been hard at work organizing the current club roster and he provided hard copies of it for all present. He also introduced new members Adam Fisher and Tabby Saysoff, who own a '63 Monza coupe and are active in other car scenes.

Things are starting to warm up and soon more events will be on the calendar, with the Bybee Bash scheduled for March 12 along with the St. Patrick's parade in Belton. Looking ahead, Linda Mellies is planning on resuming the Dustoff on May 28 and there has been much planning for the Roundup in September/October, with members volunteering for various positions. If anyone is able, help is still appreciated.

Another event on the horizon that was discussed is our annual charity auction, taking place on May 10. Being a well-attended event, the club is considering the purchase of a Bluetooth microphone and sound system. A system such as this would not only benefit the auctioneer, but also augment sound at our regular meetings so all members in attendance can hear.

There was no mention of any particular projects being undertaken by members so unfortunately there was

***Continued on page 4***

## HACOA Calendar at a glance

Date	Event
Tuesday, April 12	Monthly meeting, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO
Tuesday, May 10	Monthly meeting/auction, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO
Saturday, June 4	Working tech session, Dawson residence, Belton, MO

## President's Tapping

### April 2022

What a great turnout for the March meeting and fantastic program. We learned about the history and some very interesting trivia behind the various turbo applications. Many thanks to Kevin Koch for putting this information together and we all wish Kevin well in the path that has been laid before him.

The board has received a couple suggestions for the charity auction in May; Veterans Cemetery in Higginsville (where several HACOA members or family members of HACOA are interred) and Build Tribe (vocational training for youth recently out of foster care). The club will vote at the May meeting so please bring any additional recipients forward before that time to anyone on the board or speak up during the general meeting in April.

Round up planning is moving forward. Kat is busy recruiting volunteers for the various activities. It's not too late if there is something you would like to help out with. The Funkana is always an event where creativity is at its best. The event will be a non-timed skills event so Gary Jones would enjoy hearing your ideas. Please be sure to make your hotel reservations and get your registration form in as soon as possible.

The Bybee Bash was moved from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of March due to mother nature leaving her mark in many areas with cooler than average temps and very soggy surroundings. I was not able to make the event this year so I'm looking forward to hearing about the festivities either in the newsletter or at the next meeting. Many thanks to Fred and Sharon for hosting this event again this year.

After a 3 year sabbatical the Dust Off is back on and scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> of May. Linda Mellies is opening up her shop for the club to gather while providing hotdogs and beans for lunch. Please bring a side dish to compliment or a desert. It is here where the board will present the names of the nominees for the Mellies Cup, last awarded to Suzanne Berger in 2019. You must be present to accept the award and to vote.

The definition of the Mellies Cup was recently summed up as a "Member of the Year Award". Someone who has gone above and beyond for the club, assisted someone outside the club with their Corvair, or made the greatest effort to get their car and our club into the public eye. Each board member is responsible for nominating someone so please share the names, and a short reason why you feel they should be nominated, of any recipients with any of the board members to aid in confirming we are considering all eligible individuals. We don't always know what goes on so here is your chance to bring us in the loop.

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Car shows are starting up in April so be sure to share your planned outing by adding the information to the [hacoa.org](http://hacoa.org) calendar or let Paula Roberts know and she will assist with the task. At the least it's time to dust off the cars and get them out for everyone to see.

Vairy Best Wishes, Scott

On a personal note, I once again find myself thinking of summer and which car I'm going to take to events and only one is coming to mind of the 3 I presently have. I acquired my dream car last fall and I find myself spending all my time thinking about it and forgetting the other 2. I sold my daily driver 4-door to a club member and told myself that I'd use the other 4-door as my daily driver but when it came down to it I couldn't bring myself to drive it in the salt. As we all know, sitting is not always the best for them. As a result, I'm offering up two of the cars for new homes. Neither need anything beyond cosmetics and I would feel confident they would provide lots of fun and miles. They are listed in the for sale section.

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## The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

Spring and Summer are close, get ready!

The following is a list of items I suggest checking before taking a trip (or before/after buying a car). Remember that even long trips are usually less than the mileage between a single oil change. Serviced properly, your Corvair will cruise to all of this summer's events and back, and be happier for it!

1. All Corvairs roll on four sets of wheel bearings and they all can be repacked. Check & lube the 2 or 4 U-joints. Check front end parts and lube the fittings (install missing ones).
2. Have tires balanced and aligned if necessary. Before trips, check all five tire pressures and tighten lug nuts with the tool you would use to change a tire.
3. Check or change all fluids: oil, transmission, differential, brake fluid, washer fluid and battery level (if possible). Synthetic Powerglide fluid is a very good idea, and with regard to oil, remember that our air cooled engines run hotter and have greater tolerances than newer cars. A higher number viscosity oil such as 20W50 or SAE30 is recommended. If you have leaks, know your loss rate.
4. Check the oil pressure sending unit and change this inexpensive item if you do not know its history.
5. Check the engine tune, and include cleaning the crankcase vents. Check the breaker plate in the distributor, lube the distributor cam and inspect the electrical connections such as the primary coil wires, alternator wires (no generators allowed) and multi-connectors. Check carburetor inlet nuts for leaks.
6. Check the battery date, cable ends, ground cable mount and check the overall charging system with the lights and accessories on maximum.
7. REMOVE the belt and check the condition of the entire length. Spin all three pulleys and lube anything questionable. Tools are available to grease the fan and idler bearing.
8. Check all running lights, check the fuse block for rust, check the large multi- connector in early model engine compartments on the left side (by-pass the 10 gage wire), and check warning light operation.

9. If air conditioned, blow out the condenser, check the mounts, the belt, check the evaporator drain. Remove the lower shrouds for better cooling.
10. Check the harmonic balancer, and if it is original, replace it! Be sure to check the fuel pump mount, it can work loose. To be safe with the increasing ethanol addition you should have a new version of the mechanical pump or an electric pump. If you already have an electric pump, check the pre-filter.
11. Lube your late clutch cable ball and look for frayed cable between the two pulleys under the dash on early models – also check parking cables in the same area.
12. Check brakes; wheel cylinders, shoes, master cylinder (push rod leak under the dash), and most important, the steel and rubber lines. Give your car the “stomp test” in the driveway. Steel lines above the gas tank and next to the transaxle are the most prone to rust, with tunnel lines next.
13. Be aware of any speedometer error you may have and know your oil consumption rate. Test drive 15 minutes on the highway on a hot day, pack up and head out!

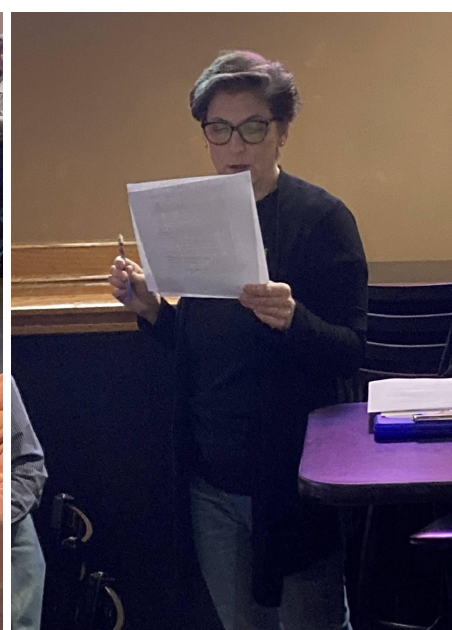
Spares and tools? My favorites would be a belt, a new fuel pump, one rocker arm with pushrod and valve cover gasket, one 30 amp fuse, a set of points and condenser or an already set up breaker plate if you have a pertronix, oil as required, tools for these items, and a CORSA Travel Roster (Cell phone and credit card are assumed to be permanent contemporary companions).

There are other tech articles in this series that could help you address many of the above items. Available at [HACOA.org](http://HACOA.org) under Libraries and Technical.

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### March Meeting continued from page 1....

nothing new on this front. The meeting was adjourned to make way for the turbo trivia program. Be sure to attend next month's meeting if you can, as there will be a special guest from the KC Automotive Museum (see listing later in this issue) along with planning for our annual auction meeting in May. See you April 12!





## 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 exchange



Rebuilt harmonic  
balancer  
\$105 exchange  
for a rebuildable  
core

Rebuilt Corvair  
starters with  
solenoid \$105  
exchange




Mike Dawson

[mdawson1961@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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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*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

### 1963 Corvair Monza coupe

With Powerglide, located in Topeka. Contact Dick Berger for more details 678-650-4246. Asking \$13,500.



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## Classifieds, continued

1965 Monza 4-door with a 110hp and '65 4-speed. The motor was built 4 years ago with Noland heads and stock cylinders, new rings, and bearings. It has about 10k miles on it and runs great. Freshly painted by Maaco 1 year ago and some rust repair behind the wheels and minor dents removed. Front seats are from a Pontiac but I have a set of '65 seats needing recovered that will go with the car. Rear seat was recovered by me with Clarks upholstery. DIN radio and tach installed in the dash and an electric fuel pump replaces the manual pump. Trunk bottom has been patched but I have a full inner trunk that can go with the car for a "prettier" repair. New tires 3 months ago on 15" Camaro wheels. Asking \$7,500.



1966 Monza 2-door with a 110hp and '66 4-speed. The motor was built with mostly used serviceable parts in March of 2022 with Noland heads (deep seats) and Clarks Premium +.020 pistons and cylinders, new rings, stock -891 cam, +.010 bearings, rebuilt carburetors, and cherry bomb exhaust. The engine has very few miles on it and is in the break-in phase. Painted 4 years ago by Maaco just to make it all one color, there is some rot in the wheel wells, behind the rear wheels, and a small hole in the drivers' floorboard (flat sheet metal presently covering) that was not repaired nor was the car completely stripped of its old paint (didn't want to cover up defects). New hard brake hoses and lines, except for the long center but including above the tank. Stock '66 front seats in fair shape. The back seat bottom has a seam that has given way. Tach installed in the dash. All heater parts are present and functioning. There is a working AM radio in the dash. Tires are older staggered size tires (rear are larger, not shown in picture) on Camaro wheels with no center caps. Asking \$4,500.





## Parts in Arkansas

Clyde Jones passed away about 3 years ago and his wife Dee Jones is needing to find homes for his many Corvair parts. She is in Harrison, Arkansas. Talk to Gary Jones, Jerry Pentzer, or John Miller for a rundown on what's available; I've heard these folks have visited and have an idea of what she has. Please talk to one of the individuals mentioned before you call her as she has no idea what's there but you may call her to schedule a time to visit at 417-693-2323. Please do not share Dee's number with anyone outside of the Corvair club.

## For Sale : 1964 Corvair Spyder Coupe \$22,500

Purchased Fall 2015, the engine and body work were completed Summer 2018.

Suspension, brake, and interior work were done through 2020.

It has a '63 transmission with short throw shifter, '64 differential and the 180 HP engine from '66.

The odometer showed 51,200 at purchase and I have put 10,000 miles on it in the 3 1/2 years since the rebuild, both in town and on the highway. Maintained summer / winter oil changes and drained and refilled the transmission and differential Nov 2021.

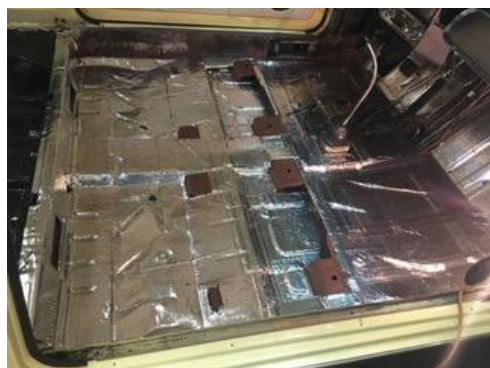
Aside from the attached work summary, additional work includes rebuilt starter and battery / new back up switch / new bi-metal thermostats replacing bellows system / new headlamps.

I kept a ledger and receipts for work done along with photos available to any interested. This is a car that can go anywhere at any time. Please feel free to call or email with any questions.

Dan Hardin

[dustdevil.dan@gmail.com](mailto:dustdevil.dan@gmail.com)

816-547-0410



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**Seats for sale from a '67 coupe; need to be recovered but good solid frames**

Contact Dean Sego at: [see\\_dean\\_go@hotmail.com](mailto:see_dean_go@hotmail.com)



**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**

I received a call from Roscoe Yoder of the Kansas City Automotive Museum regarding an upcoming exhibit planned for their venue in August of this year. <https://kansascityautomuseum.com/exhibits/> The museum has elected to feature the Corvair and they are looking for an example of each of the Corvair models that Chevrolet offered through the years.

I invited Mr. Yoder to the April 12, 2022, meeting to share the event details and how we may be able to assist/participate. The event is a month long and would be a great opportunity for members to display their cars for visitors to view. They desire to have original examples as they were produced by Chevrolet. After the presentation Mr. Yoder can be reached at the email address provided or 913-710-7720.

I will be asking for a volunteer to coordinate a visit to the museum for the HACOIA and MCCA clubs during the month of August. Let me know if this is something you would like to take on for us.



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If everyone is not able to stay for the program, usually by 8pm, I can move up the time for Mr. Yoder to earlier in the general meeting which normally begins at 7pm.

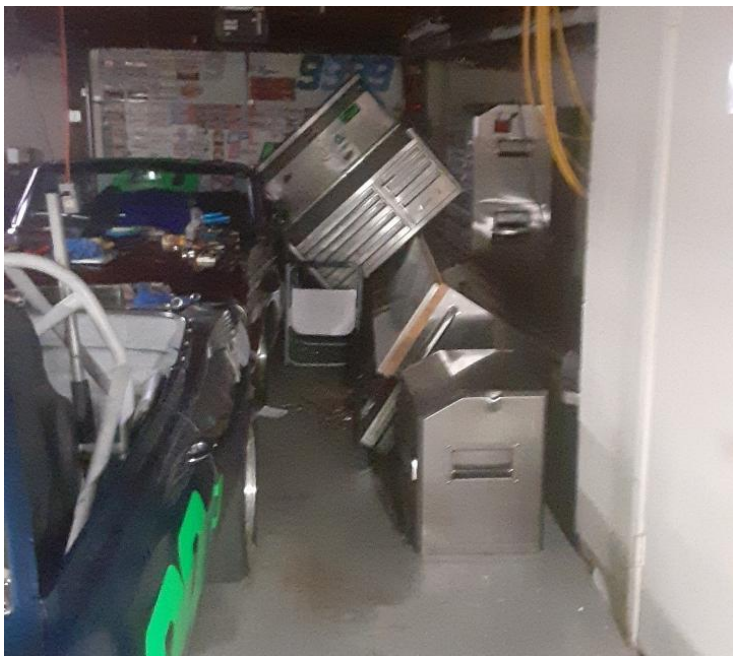
This is a meeting and opportunity that you will not want to miss, I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting.

Thank you, Scott

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### A Close Call

Dick Berger had a close call with some of his tool chests while working on his Corvair. The drawers started opening and the cabinets were falling, almost as they came to life. During this, his phone was even ripped out of his pocket so he couldn't call anyone. Definitely a scary moment and luckily his Spyder caught the brunt of the weight so it didn't go on Dick, almost as if it were protecting him!



### It's not all bad...

Fortunately, Dick was also the recipient of 2021 Outstanding Member for the SCCA. We all know Dick is good at helping and being encouraging in our hobby so it's nice to see it recognized, especially considering his close call with the tool boxes! Congratulations Dick!



## Aftermarket Stereo in a Late Model Corvair

by Dominique Allen

First, this project is prefaced with the primary intention of minimizing the number of cuts and/or holes required to complete. Under no circumstance were cuts in door panels and/or dash to accommodate speakers and radio to be made. Secondly, the intent was to hide as much, if not all, of the system (stealth). Thirdly, the goal was to create a functional (perhaps not optimal) quality install with good sound and ability to enjoy modern amenities in a car stereo system. This install is placed in a 65' Chevrolet Corvair Corsa Convertible. This car is primarily driven with the top and windows down. Sound quality is pretty much a moot point anyway in this open environment. Some music is better overall than none.

1. Starting with a stock 65' AM head unit and enlisting Richard Blankenship with R and B Vintage Auto Radio to modernize it. (708 N Greenhill Rd., Mt. Juliet, TN 37122, (615) 390-1139, [randbvintageradio@comcast.net](mailto:randbvintageradio@comcast.net), no known website available) He took the stock 65' AM radio and gutted it to convert it into an AM/FM/Bluetooth/USB stereo. He refinished the original case, polished the face, faceplate, knobs, etc. Video of actual finished/updated radio is here: <https://youtu.be/2F52ECEkuh0>

2. A component speaker system was utilized to be able to produce some directed sound staging. Settling on a 3-way component

speaker system from Focal, model 165AS3 that allowed for some directional sound staging.

This system is comprised of two 6-1/2" woofers, two 4" mid-ranges, and two 1" tweeters with 2 (left/right) crossovers. The two tweeters are mounted in the corners of the front "A" pillars of the front windshield. The two 4" speakers were mounted in the center dash location above the stock radio where a single oval speaker resided originally. A speaker mount was fabricated for the



two 4" speakers and covered in black speaker felt to create the center sound staging. The two 6-1/2" speakers created a greater challenge overall. Initially intended to mount them under the dash to the far right/left. However, the size of these speakers proved too great to adequately place. Again, stealth a focus here, in these intended locations the speakers would be pushed well below the dash. Ultimately, utilizing the area under the radio/ashtray area. This afforded utilizing some existing holes for mounting screws and metal straps were utilized for mounting supports. In hindsight, utilizing a smaller 5-1/4" speaker and/or lower profile speakers may have allowed for mounting them in the corners under the dash. Being already committed to these speakers, necessity dictated this final location. 😊 Other Corvair enthusiasts have located speakers within the vent doors in the kick panels. These vents are exclusively utilized for fresh air and were considered but ultimately rejected for this reason.



3. A compact subwoofer/amp combination to install under the front passenger seat was originally conceived. Settling on a JBL BassPro SL2 8" Subwoofer was found. However, when placed under the seat two problems arose. One, how to adequately mount





it without drilling holes in the floorboard. Second, while it fit under the seat nicely, no one would be able to sit in the seat as they would be resting directly on the speaker and eventually would cave the speaker grill in with use, another solution was required. Mounting the unit inside the rear seat back rest was proposed. Utilizing two metal supports, proceeded to drill four small bolt holes to mount to the seat frame. Speaker/amp is mounted so that it faces forward in the car to provide substantial bass within the passenger compartment. This unit has a wired remote that allows for volume adjustment that was routed and mounted within the glove box. Easy access for adjustments while on the road. Sitting to either the left or right of center in the back seat is not affected. Sitting in the center may prove awkward.



4. All electronics were mounted in the trunk on the shelf above the gas tank. Both crossovers for the component speakers, amplifier for component speakers (amp has ability to install rear speakers and additional subwoofer later if desired), fuse block for all components, and a capacitor cell to maintain appropriate voltage levels for all items. This is held in place and secured by the spare tire. Equally, the stock 37-amp alternator was upgraded to a 120-amp to power everything. It is noted that the



stock radio utilizes a 3-amp fuse. With the upgrades it now requires a 10-amp fuse in the stock fuse block under the dash. All components are feed from the stock battery location with an inline 125-amp fuse.

5. In all this install required drilling 12 holes for either wiring or bolt mounts. No holes were cut for the speakers and the radio utilizes the stock radio and mounting brackets. The largest hole is 1" in size and is located on the trunk/passenger wall. This location is where all speaker wiring is located. Primary power was routed from the engine compartment along the left under the seal plate to the trunk. These were both 1/2" holes. All large holes can be plugged with rubber plugs if system is ever removed, returning the car back to near original stock configuration. If you look at the picture to the right, you will notice a small black button in the top right of the dash above the Tachometer.



This is the control for the radio function mentioned in the YouTube video of radio operation. This was the best location to allow access and normal use. Charging cable for phone and speaker for Bluetooth handsfree are in the ashtray. When the

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ashtray is opened iPhone rests sideways allowing for Google Maps viewing. Equally, access to SiriusXM radio, Spotify, and Amazon Music via the Bluetooth wireless sync. Tunes, navigation and hands-free phone are in easy access for the road.

6. All wiring utilized consisted of Oxygen Free Copper (OFC) wiring throughout. Connectors were either soldered or feral connectors, utilized to maximize electrical contacts. Largest size wire, 4-gauge, runs from the engine battery to the capacitor in the trunk and provides central power throughout the stereo system. As mentioned above, head unit connects to stock fuse block (10-amp fuse) to facilitate on/off operation via stock key/ignition switch. This was probably overkill for a 65' Corvair, but it was a fun challenge to undertake. In the end, serious tunes can be enjoyed in the convertible all that much more. Happy motoring.

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### **Poppies for Patriots Calendars**

Bri Schaefer has Poppies for Patriots calendars available for \$15 each. You might catch her (or Caleb) at the next meeting or visit their website: <https://midwestpoppiesforpatriots.com/>

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### **!!!!!!!!!!!!HACOA Dues!!!!!!!!!!!!**

If you haven't already, make sure to pay your \$15 membership dues for this year, which can be mailed to Mike Dawson (16001 Oakland, Belton, MO 64012), or brought to the next meeting.

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### **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>April</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>
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