



the fifth wheel

March 2023

[HTTP://WWW.CORVAIR.ORG/CHAPTERS/LVCC](http://www.corvair.org/chapters/lvcc)

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Next Meeting: 3rd Saturday of March 2023



Date: March 18, 2023

Time: 10 AM

Place: America On Wheels
5 North Front Street
Allentown, PA

The Fifth Wheel is published monthly by Lehigh Valley Corvair Club Inc. (LVCC), a chapter of the Corvair Society of America. We accept articles of interest to Corvair owners for publication. Classified advertising of interest to Corvair owners is available free of charge to all persons. Commercial advertising is also available on a fee basis. For details, email our newsletter editor, Allan Lacki, redbat01@verizon.net.

Springtime, Racing, and Corvair Parts

by Bob Marlow

March is here and with it come thoughts of Spring. In my case, thoughts of Spring include thoughts of car-related activities, be they the familiar car shows or oval-track racing, my vice other than Corvairs.

As a recent transplant to the Lehigh Valley, I find that I miss the old Dorney Park Speedway a great deal. I spent plenty of Saturdays, and a series of Wednesdays, on the microphone at Dorney Park. This was in the early 1980s, and to get there from my North Jersey home at the time I often drove my "Ratvan II" 1962 Greenbrier.



Dorney Park photo courtesy of James Hontz, Pinterest

Trivia: NASCAR Hall of Famer Ray Evernham raced at Dorney Park a few times back then, and I was on the mic the night that he crashed into the fence and broke his sternum. Ouch!

Anyway, I drove that Greenbrier to a lot of races in those days, including a sequence of five consecutive race days that began at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, passed through Dorney Park, and concluded in Massachusetts. I drove (and lived in) the van for similar multi-day series extending from Williams Grove, Pennsylvania to Hudson, New Hampshire. Aah, to be young with an old van...

Today there is a water park where the Dorney Park track used to be, and to rub salt in the wound I can see the top of one of the current roller coasters from where I now live.

Through the years I became pretty well known in the racing community as the "Corvair guy." Only recently, when I crossed paths with a racer whom I had not seen in over ten

years, he mentioned that he thinks of me each time he sees a Corvair.

But while this Spring I will again face a racing season without the fun old "bullring" track at Dorney Park, I will enjoy an all-Corvair swap meet right here in the Lehigh Valley. Yes, that's LVCC's own swap meet that is taking place on April 15 at John Egerton's farm in Bath.

I freely admit, I like automotive swap meets, and I like being a vendor at them. Doing so enables me to sit in a chair, greet plenty of friends old and new, and occasionally sell something. I always have an extra chair or two with me so that others can sit a spell. So when John suggested that LVCC renew having a swap meet I was on board immediately.

You should be, too. LVCC needs to be more than just monthly meetings and Das Awkscht Fescht, and this swap meet is a step toward that goal. The New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts has made the swap meet their official April activity, so if they can come from NJ, you can come from your PA home.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 15, and plan on attending. If you have some excess Corvair parts to sell, put a table or tarp in your car and bring 'em – there is no charge for sellers. If there is a part that you need for your Corvair, chances are good that you'll find it there. And if you wish neither to sell nor buy, come anyway for the camaraderie. It's free to attend, it's rain or shine, there will be refreshments available, and you might even win the 50-50 raffle!

February Meeting Minutes

These are the minutes of the Lehigh Valley Corvair Club General Membership Meeting, February 11, 2023. Location: American on Wheels Museum, Allentown, PA

President Al Lacki called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM.

A discussion of dues income and club expenses, the latter primarily as a result of printing and mailing the newsletter each month, resulted in approval of a proposal to adjust the individual annual dues to \$20, and to distribute the newsletter via email, only. Three longstanding members without access to email are to be "grandfathered" to continue to receive a

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Photos from the NJACE Corvair Parts Auction February 18, 2013, Pompton Lakes, NJ



LVCC members Scott Oberholzer, Allan Lacki, Greg Dittrich and Bob Marlow attended the Corvair Parts Auction conducted by the New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts (NJACE). In a gesture of inter-club reciprocity, NJACE has designated our own swap meet as an official NJACE event. Allan, Greg and Bob are members of both clubs.

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printed newsletter. It was also proposed and approved that in the interest of bookkeeping simplicity, no dues adjustment is to be made based on an individual's CORSA membership or lack thereof.

A discussion of the club's fiscal year, which runs August 1 through July 31, resulted in a consensus to retain that status.

A discussion of how to accommodate dues for new members who join mid-year resulted in a consensus to continue the informal practice of making adjustments to first-year dues based on what point in the year a new member may join.

A discussion of seeking new volunteers to take over the positions of club Secretary and club Treasurer took place. Due to his wife's ongoing illness, longtime Secretary/Treasurer Dick Weidner has overwhelming demands on his time and is no longer able to devote attention to the business of the club. It was agreed to seek new volunteers, and it was agreed unanimously to grant Dick Weidner an Honorary Lifetime membership due to his decades of service to the club.

Bob Marlow agreed to serve as an interim secretary and Al Lacki agreed to serve as an interim treasurer.

A discussion of the plans for a club swap meet at John Eger-ton's farm on April 15 took place, specifically the need for volunteers to share the workload.

Discussion of the capabilities and carrying capacities of Corvair trucks and vans took place, with agreement that these vehicle punched above their weight and with anecdotes to support that opinion.

A discussion of approximately a dozen unidentified Corvair parts, brought to the meeting by Bob Marlow, took place, with little progress on identifying them.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18.

Wanted: Secretary & Treasurer

As noted in Bob Marlow's minutes above, LVCC is looking for volunteers to assume the duties of club secretary and club treasurer. For those who did not attend the meeting, this was made known to all the members by way of an email blast a day or two after the meeting.

If you are interested, please make yourself known by emailing or calling Al Lacki at (610) 927-1583 or red-bat01@verizon.net.

If we receive multiple nominees for either position, we'll prepare a ballot for voting. The vote will take place at our next meeting, Saturday March 18.

Welcome Greg & Rebecca Dittrich!



Greg & Rebecca moved from New Jersey to Bangor recently and joined LVCC last month. They have a very nice 1961 Corvair 700 sedan.

Greg writes, "We love the 61 and it is doing great. I'm pulling the seats out now to have them recovered with a Clark's kit and a new carpet too."

My Dad still has his '66 Corsa too and my brother has a '65 500. Two more members on the way!"



Attention! LVCC Meeting Dates for March and April

This month, we're having our membership meeting on the third Saturday of March - that's March 18th - at the America on Wheels Museum as usual.

However, in April, we're having our Swap Meet on the third Saturday of the month - that's April 15th. So, we'll be skip-

ping a formal meeting in April and having the Swap Meet instead!

Corvair Brake Bleeding Problem by Nolan Grant

Source: The February 2023 issue of Connecting Rod, the official newsletter of the Corvair Atlanta club.

Have you ever tried to bleed the brakes on your Vair to no avail? You just can't seem to get enough pressure to blow out those air pockets. Well, unfortunately, I recently had that problem.

My first thought was that the wheel cylinders were stopped up. Naturally, I took them apart, cleaned them and reinstalled them. I then proceeded to bleed the brakes - all in vain. It wasn't going to happen.... The master cylinder just would not push the fluid far enough due to air pockets in the system.

Therefore, I took apart the master cylinder and rebuilt it with all new seals. I even made sure the clearance was right between the cylinder walls and the plunger. Then I did the bench bleed on the master cylinder and that was perfect, no air bubbles at all. But after all that effort I still had no luck getting those brakes bled.

It is hard to believe that over the past 10 years I have bled the brakes on at least 10 or more Vairs with no trouble at all. So now I still have a problem.

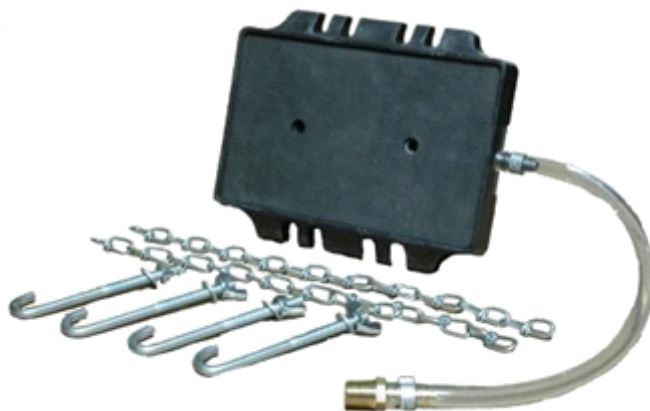
I got on the phone with one of the best Corvair mechanics that I know, Tony Ellison. Naturally, I can't not mention a Vair problem with a fellow Corvair lover. To my surprise Tony said he had the same problem and found the solution. Don't you love it when networking works so well?

Tony said he made a plate to cover the master cylinder and make it airtight. Then he added an air valve to the plate and sent 20 to 30 psi into the system. He said that blew out that big air pocket with ease. He was then able to bleed each brake cylinder successfully. Yes, networking is great!

So, I Googled it and found a company called Zoro that had an adaptor plate for bleeding the brakes. I didn't know they existed. I immediately ordered it.

When my new part arrived, I applied it. It worked great! It blew out the air pocket. Brakes are good now.

Editor's Note: Zoro is not a manufacturer. It is a supply house for industrial equipment and tools. It's quite likely Nolan's adaptor plate was manufactured by another company. Motive Products is one example.



Above: Master cylinder pressure-bleed adapter by Motive Products, Model 1105. This is likely the same device Nolan Grant bought through Zoro.com

The Silva V8s! by Allan Lacki

During the 1960s and 70s, Crown Manufacturing and Kelmark Industries offered mid-engine conversion kits for installing V8 Chevy engines in late - series Corvair bodies. With one of these kits, the V8 would sit where the rear seat used to be for a huge boost in horsepower and much better weight distribution.

Around the same time, a man named Art Silva came up with a different idea. He developed a kit for replacing the Corvair's flat six engine with a 215 CID aluminum block Buick V8. The difference between Art's kit and the others was that the engine was mounted in the same place as the Corvair engine. As such, the Corvair remained a true rear-engine car.

Buick produced aluminum block V8s between 1961 and 1963 for their Special and Skylark compact models. The reason why Art specified the Buick engine instead of the much more popular small block Chevy V8 is because the Buick engine was significantly lighter in weight. In fact, they weighed no more than the Corvair flat six, give or take a few pounds. And so, with the Buick engine, you got a big boost in horsepower with no penalty in terms of weight distribution, front to rear.

Alex Haber built engines for Art. Your author talked to Alex Haber on the telephone in February. He claimed that Art produced six of these kits before throwing in the towel. Alex contends that the Crown kits were much more popular - so much so that demand for Art's kit faded before production really got underway.

After all these years, you might suspect all these cars had

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Mark your calendars for this one!

In lieu of our regular April meeting, we're having a swap meet!

Lehigh Valley Corvair Club

All-Corvair Swap Meet

Saturday, April 15, 2023

rain or shine

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

at the Egerton Farm
2510 Community Drive
Bath, PA 18014

FREE for sellers

FREE for buyers

FREE parking

REFRESHMENTS (okay, they're not free)

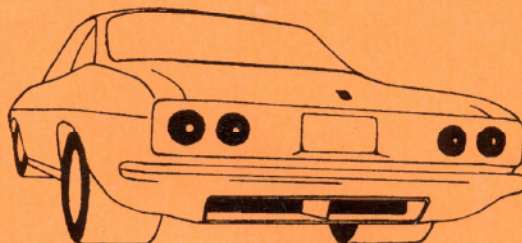
50-50 Raffle (that's not free, either)

Corvairs, Corvair Parts, and Corvair-Related items only, please.

Sellers, bring your own tables or tarps or canopies.

Buyers, bring cash!

See our Facebook page for details
Lehigh Valley Corvair Club





Calendar of Local Car Events

LVCC-Sanctioned Events denoted with a check mark like this: ✓

Sunday March 5, 2023. 56th Annual Hamburg Swap Meet & Car Corral. Location: Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, 127 South 4th Street - Rear (Pine St.), Hamburg, PA 19536. Time: 7 AM to 2 PM. Rain or shine. Admission: \$3 per adult. Children under 12 free. Inside vendor spaces 10' x 8' \$25 each. Tables (8' x 30") \$2.00 each. Outdoor vendor spaces 25' x 17' \$15 each. Car corral \$5 each car. Free paved parking. Over 100 indoor spaces with unlimited outdoor spaces and car corral. Handicap friendly. Vendor spaces available. For information call 610-823-4656 or email Lhedgehog1@aol.com

Saturday, March 11, 2023 Corvair Performance Workshop

Location: Dernoshek Racing & Restoration, 5645 Ashland Road, Kannapolis, NC 28083. Begins at 8 AM. The event will consist of a full day of speakers, dyno testing, bench racing, tech talk and vending. Refer to "Dernoshek Racing" on Facebook and click on "More" and then "Events".

✓ Saturday April 15, 2023. LVCC Corvair Parts Swap Meet. Location: Egerton's Farm, 2510 Community Drive, Summit Station (Bath), PA 18014 Mark your calendar. Admission: Free. Price per table, if any, to follow. Contact John Egerton email address: jegerton@ptd.net

Wednesday thru Saturday, 4/19/2023 thru 4/23/2023 Spring Carlisle Swap Meet

Location: Carlisle Fairgrounds, 1000 Bryn Mawr Rd., Carlisle, PA 17013. Time: Wednesday through Saturday 7 AM to 6 PM; Sunday 7 AM to 12 PM. Admission price varies by day. While exploring the grounds and 8,100 vending spaces, you will marvel at one of the largest automotive swap meets in the world. Carlisle is the place to purchase any of the 2,000 vehicles at the car corral where you can slip behind the wheel and get a feel for the vehicle. <https://carlislepafairgrounds.com/project/spring-carlisle/>

✓ Sunday June 4, 2023 - GM on Display Car Show. Includes Corvair Class.

Location: Macungie Memorial Park, 50 N. Poplar Street, Macungie, PA 18062. For details, email macungiepark@gmail.com or call (610) 966-4289

Saturday June 10, 2023. Fleetwood Show of Wheels Car Show

Location: Fleetwood Community Park. Time: 8 AM to 4 PM. Day of show price: \$17. Food, entertainment, flea market, door prizes. Participant judging. 17 classes (but no Corvair class). Rubber Duck Race in the creek! Questions? Gary Eberly (484) 332-1056. Garye@effectivevegs.com

Monday thru Friday, 6/12/2023 thru 6/16/2023 CORSA International Convention

Location: Chula Vista Resort, 1000 Chula Vista Parkway, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965. Dates: June 19th, 2023 12:00 AM through June 24th, 2023 12:00 AM. Booking Information for hotel rooms: Booking Code: i79431. Toll Free #: (844) 240-4922. Event registration to open soon (typically early April). www.corvair.org

✓ Saturday June 24, 2023 – Drive-in Movie at Shankweilers

Location: Shankweiler's Drive In Theatre, 4540 Shankweiler Rd, Orefield, PA 18069. Rain date: 6/25/22. Time to be announced. Price will be standard admission price for the theater. Contact Larry Asheuer at a-lcorvair@msn.com or (267) 994-1569.

Friday and Saturday, 6/23/2023 and 6/24/2023 GM at Carlisle Car Show & Swap Meet

Location: Carlisle Fairgrounds, 1000 Bryn Mawr Rd., Carlisle, PA 17013. Time: 7 AM to 6 PM. Bring your vehicle and join over 1,000 other participants at the Carlisle GM Nationals. All General Motors vehicles are welcome. \$50 registration fee includes weekend admission for the car, driver and passenger. To have your entry window sticker mailed to you, please register no later than May 9, 2023. <https://carlisleevents.com/events/events-detail/index?id=gm+nationals>

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Calendar of Local Car Events

✓ Sunday, 8/4/2023 – 8/6/2023 Das Awkscht Fescht Club Day

Location: Macungie Memorial Park, 50 N. Poplar Street, Macungie, PA 18062. Gates for cars open from 8 AM to 12 PM each day. All vehicles welcome on Friday. Factory stock cars on Saturday. Car club on Sunday. To show your car, you must pre-register no later than July 1. Price: \$20 per car per day. Sunday is Club Day and LVCC will be there. Meet us in Corvair Row! For registration forms visit <https://awkscht.com/registration/>

Saturday August 12, 2023 1st State (Delaware) Corvair Car Show
Details to follow.

✓ Sunday September 2, 2023 Duryea Days Car Show & Museum Visit

Boyertown Museum's 57th Annual Duryea Days Car Show. Location: Time: Price: Contact: <https://boyertownmuseum.org/duryea-day/>

✓ Saturday September 16, 2023 Central PA Corvair Club's Corvair Day

Location: EMMR - 100 Baltimore Rd (US 15) York Springs, PA. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Mark your calendars for this day as Corvair enthusiasts throughout the region converge at the Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR). The day is filled with lots of fun, food, friends, and prizes! Additional details will be posted at a later date. Contact: www.centralpacorvairclub.org

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been scrapped, but apparently, a few remain. John Lanning, President of the V8 Corvair Registry, claims that two of his club members own Corvairs with the Silva conversion kit installed. It also appears that Art's original prototype remains intact, albeit in poor condition.

Trivia Note 1: Art Silva ran his prototype car at Lime Rock



Park raceway in the Northeast Corvair Council time trials, way back in 1985. His best lap time was 1 minute 19 seconds, which was about average for that day. He may have ran in prior NECC events but the records don't go back that far.

Trivia Note 2: Buick's aluminum block V8 has an interesting history. Buick produced it for only three years: 1961 through 1963. It was expensive to manufacture and the block was difficult to cast. Voids in the castings led to high rejection rates on the production line. But variants lived on for many years. You can read more about it on Hemmings. Here is a link that will take you there: <https://tinyurl.com/58nhhhyn>



Left: Last known photo of Art Silva's first rear-engine V8. Note the dry-sump oil pan. Right: Another Silva conversion with the Oldsmobile version of the 215 aluminum block Buick V8. Whereabouts unknown.



LVCC Classified Ads

For Sale: 1964 Spyder Coupe. Very solid body. All glass good. Factory sport steering wheel. 14" aluminum slot wheels. Drive train not installed but included in price is a complete 1965 turbo engine and a 1964 4-speed transaxle with 3:55 ratio. Price: \$5,000. Location: Bath, PA. Contact John Egerton. (610) 217-0514 jegerton@ptd.net



Jeff Marvill's Suspension Services: I have over 45 years of suspension experience and I'm extremely experienced with the Corvair suspension systems as well as all other makes of vintage cars. I also have a computerized alignment system here so all repairs can remain in house. Now that I'm retired, I have more available time to repair these great cars. I can be reached at 267-424-4911 .Jeff Marvill, Perkasié, PA

A&L Corvair Parts: New Parts: Brakes hoses, air filters, oil filters, tune-up parts, brake shoes, shocks, tail light lenses, gaskets, plugs, cables, choke pull offs, electrical switches, gas filters, caps, backup switches, suspension parts, engine bearings, valves, emblems, exhaust, turbo parts, patch panels, early bezels, head studs, 140 exhaust extractors, Y pipes, mufflers, fuzzies, clutch cables, lower bracket, heim joints, models, magazines, CORSA magazines, Hot Wheels, Racing Champions cars and much, much more. Contact Larry for pricing. Used Parts: Too many to list. Larry Asheuer Call 267-994-1569 or email: alcorvair@msn.com

Sky King Automotive Services: Now offering Corvair head work. Valve-seat grinding, Pro Flow grinding/ polishing, cleaning-cutting head gasket surfaces, de-flashing , thread repair. (I have measurement equip to confirm correct gasket surface depths). HV carb rebuilding. Top engine cover modifications for one gasket, no more leaks! Sound proofing interiors, gas tank replacements, as well as rear and front axle bearing units. Late rears in stock! Bob King kcorvair@ptd.net or text/call to 610-442-2873.



Clark's Corvair Parts® Our 50th Anniversary - 2023



Thanks to the support of 1,000's of Corvair owners over the last 50 years we continue to grow and reproduce more parts every year. Have a great year and enjoy our monthly sales and specials all year—Joan & Cal Clark

SPECIAL SALES EVERY MONTH- each month we'll send an email (if you have signed up) and list in a sale section on our Home page www.corvair.com **FREE 50th MEMENTO gifts with your first order in 2023**

LIST YOUR CORVAIR FOR SALE- Sell your Corvair or a spare you just don't have time for! For all of 2023, we will list it on our website at **NO CHARGE-** check website (Corvairs For Sale)

CLARK CAR SHOW & PARTS SALES- September 16, 2023 - Rain or shine. See our 2023 supplement or website for more details. We expect around 130 cars, and will offer tours of our buildings

Clark's Corvair Parts® 400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370 (413) 625-9776 www.corvair.com email: clarks@corvair.com **CATALOG-** over 450 pages, free with an order, \$8 postpaid in USA

We Meet Here!



America On Wheels Museum. You do NOT need to pay the usual admission fee. Simply explain that you are with the Lehigh Valley Corvair Club, courtesy of Rich Greene. The docents will guide you to the proper room.



Date: **Saturday March 18, 2023**

Time: 10 AM

Place: America On Wheels Museum

5 North Front Street

Allentown, PA 18102



Located near the Lehigh River, where Hamilton Street meets Front Street, the museum is both easy to find and easy to get to. Spacious parking beside the building offers plenty of room for even large groups.

LVCC Officers

President Allan Lacki Phone: (610) 927-1583 Email: redbat01@verizon.net

Vice Pres: John Egerton Phone: (610) 217-0514 Email: jegerton@ptd.net

Secretary / Treasurer: Richard Weidner. Phone: (610) 502-1414

Newsletter & Website Editor: Allan Lacki. Phone: (610) 927-1583 Email: redbat01@verizon.net

