

Heart of America Corvair Owners Association

VairCor



March 2023

Volume 59-3



In this issue

Calendar of events....	2
President's message...2	
Preventive	
Maintenance series....	4
Classifieds.....	6
Other events and	
tidbits.....	11

February Meeting

Love was in the air...or something like that. With our February meeting being held on Valentine's Day, I'm sure there was love and air somewhere! We had plenty of sweethearts show up and Paula Roberts had the tables decorated for everyone, so the room looked festive for President Scott Allison to start the meeting.

It was reported that member Kevin Koch is doing okay and spending time with his granddaughter, while Ken Ragan enjoyed Mike Dawson's company with an impromptu lunch on his front porch; Ken's parts and tool crib are going to be more of a pick and pull-type setup going forward. Speaking of members, dues for membership are past due so please make sure to get with Don Wagner (membership chair) and/or Cindy Anders (treasurer) to get renewed. They're both very understanding and will forgive you if it's late but then I don't get to send the newsletter and you won't be in the new roster that he'll bring next month until everything is paid!

Many of the committee chairs didn't have anything to report on because it's cold and not much going on; that should change as the weather gets warmer. Speaking of getting warmer and more events, several items were brought to the club's attention. Following a good turnout for the tech session at Mike and Sandy Dawson's house on January 22, the next event is the Cold Tuna at Terry Kalp's shop on February 18. Looking beyond those, the Bybee bash will be in March or April, the next tech session will be May 20, followed by the Dust-off on June 3, and Travis Bolton mentioned the King of Kings car show on June 4. Plenty of events to attend so mark your calendars.

Dick Berger mentioned that he recently attended the SCCA banquet. While there, he found out that fellow member Travis Bolton earned the 45 year membership award; this would have made Travis 6 years old when he joined (not totally sure how it happened but it was funny nonetheless)! After having a good laugh about that, we capped off the night with some Valentine's trivia. This was a fun challenge, as the top score (earning a prize of a box of chocolates) was 5 out of 15 answers correct. It was an entertaining night for all and we hope to see you at the next meeting!

HACOA Calendar at a glance

Date	Event
Tuesday, March 14	Monthly meeting, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO
Tuesday, April 11	Monthly meeting, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO
Tuesday, May 9	Annual charity auction, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO

President's Tapping

March 2023

Thanks to all that were able to attend the February meeting. The Valentine's Day Trivia contest, prepared by Paula and Larry Roberts, was lots of fun and we all learned something. Thank you both for pulling this together for us. Larry Roberts also presented the members present with a very brief questionnaire. I'll repeat the questions for those that were not present and you can either bring your ideas to the next meeting or email them to Larry Roberts at lwr489@gmail.com. Our program frequency declined in 2021 and 2022 and I'd personally like to see them pick up again but it's up to the members whether that happens or not.

- 1) What topic (or topics) would you like presented at the monthly meeting for the program?
- 2) Would you be willing to present something as a program at the monthly meeting?
- 3) What process (bodywork, upholstery, electrical, etc...) do you feel is something you currently do not want to tackle?
- 4) What jobs have you had and what do you do currently?

Mike Dawson, Paul Sergeant, and I attended the MCCA Tuna on February 18. The weather was great (considering it was the middle of February), the company superb, and the chili was HOT! All this made for a great trip. We also helped with a few projects and met some new folks. It's always a great day and if you haven't even been and want to go in the future let me know.

Update on the KC Automotive Museum in August; Wes Mellies has committed to bring the Latewood, Linda Mellies the Mystery Machine, Travis Bolton a Monza Jr., and Terry Kalp to provide a car. That makes up 3 of the 8, the Monza Jr. isn't counted, desired for the event. I will have the 500 Coupe/Sedan as a backup but I've also talked with Don Cory who may provide the Blown Vair and Super Vair, Dick Berger and Charlie Clark may provide a racecar, Gary Jones may provide his "Pace" tribute, and Adam Fisher may provide his low riding early coupe. I know that we have other custom cars in the club, I'm not going to call you out, and if you'd like to present your car please let me know. The final 8 will be determined by the club.

I did get some interest at the meeting regarding the 2023 HACOA Christmas Party but no commitments yet. If you know of a place or a caterer then speak up. I'm looking in Belton and hope to have a backup should there be no other suggestions but I'll have to book it soon.

Mike and Sandy Dawson have invited us back to their place on May 20, 2023 for a working tech session as well as Linda Mellies has invited the club back again this year for the 2023 Dust Off on June 3, 2023. Stay tuned for details.

If you haven't secured your hotel room for the 2023 GPCRUI please do so. As a reminder it is Sept 29 thru Oct 1 hosted by COCA. Hotel is Territorial Inn, 2323 Territorial Trail, Guthrie, OK 73044. Call 405-282-2100 and mention the group code "Corvair Club" for \$75/day. No on-line reservation option. Once the event registration form is prepared it will be shared via Facebook and/or at the meetings.

Be safe and take care of each other and yourself.

Vairy Best Wishes, Scott

February meeting photos (top to bottom): Chuck Morris does his best answering for the Valentine's trivia; Mike Dawson informs the club on fellow members; trivia winner Cindy Anders finishes her answers.

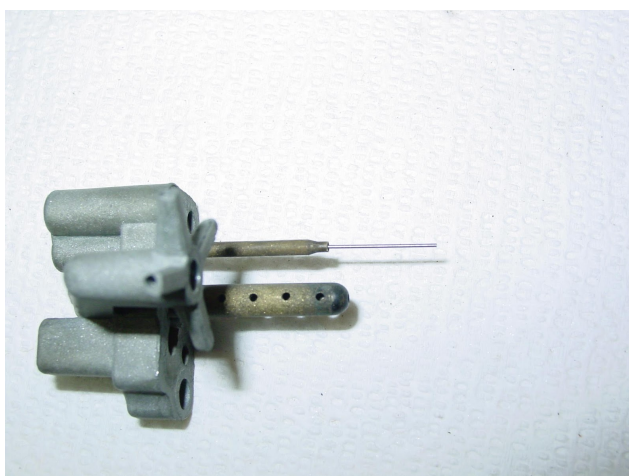
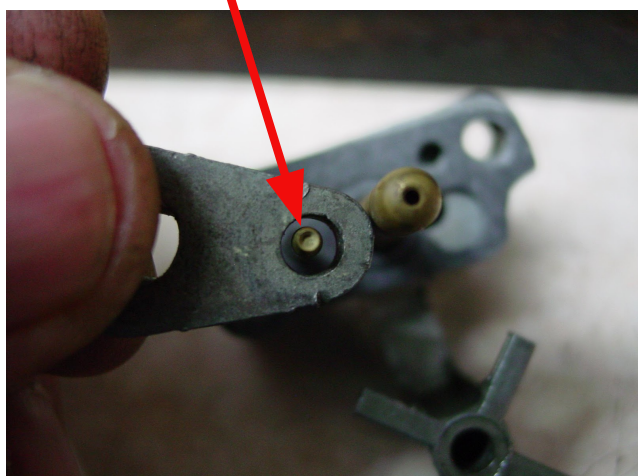
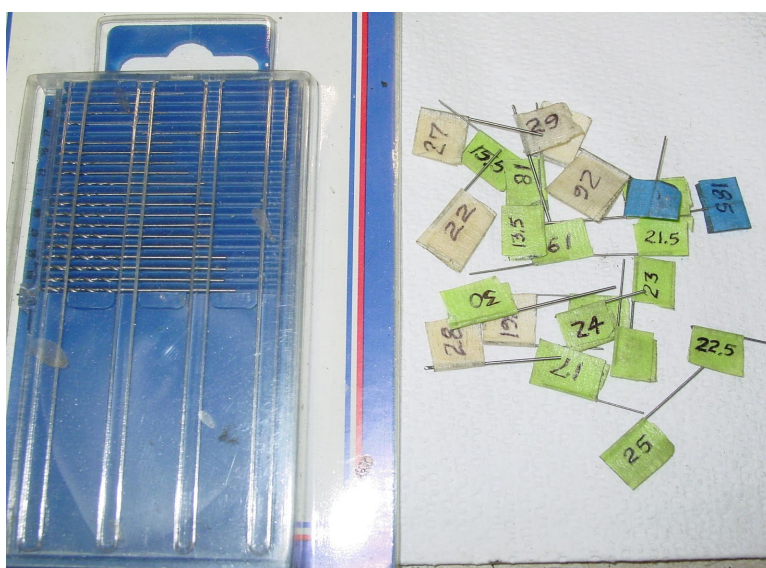


THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERIES

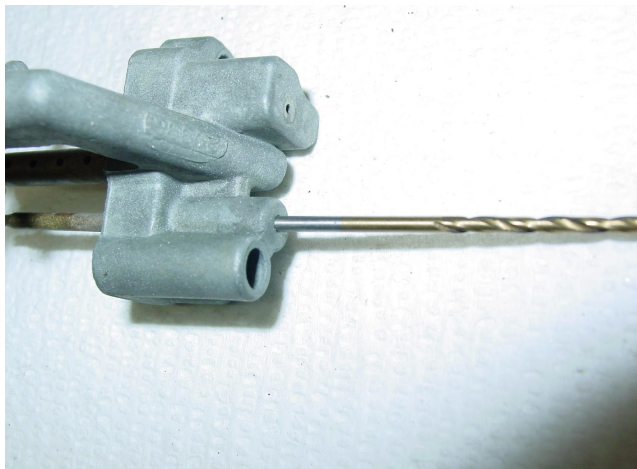
Mike Dawson

Carburetor Venturi Cluster Checks, Rochester 1 Barrel (Inspired by a recent project)

It does not matter if they are 60 year old originals or potential reconditioned carburetors, the venturi clusters must be carefully cleaned, inspected and matched in order to maximize performance and mileage. This requires miniature drill bits for both cleaning and checking. They are available as sets, both in standard American and in Metric (under \$10), and I recommend you get both for a larger variety. You also need American numbered bits (set 1-60) for air bleeds. ACE Hardware does carry individual bits. These can also be used for drilling out metering jets. Use a micrometer to verify the shanks of the miniature bits for sizing and the flutes for cleaning. Mark them with tape as in the picture.

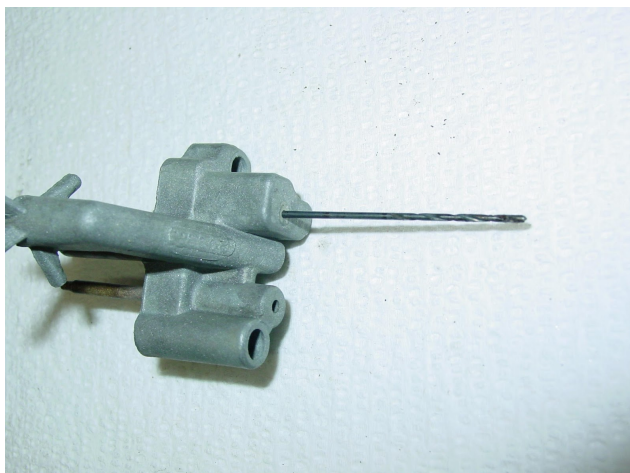


The left picture shows a plugged up idle pickup tube. On the right you can see the size of the tube being checked with the shank of a miniature bit. The tubes range from .024-.029 for late models and 0.24-.032 for early models. Matching from side to side is essential for a good idle.

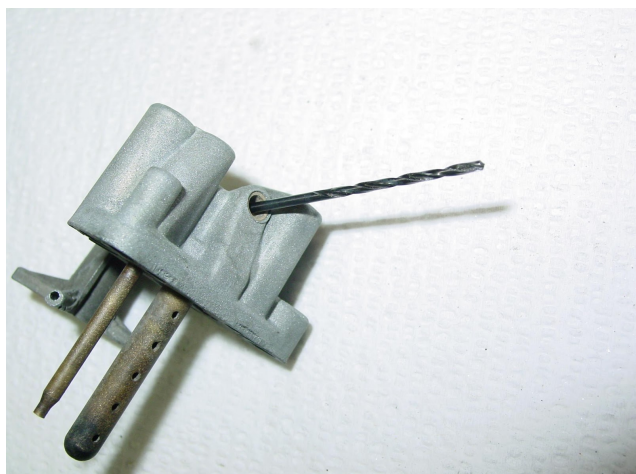


Checking Idle Air Bleed

There are different sizes for different years and engines which you can look up, but the main thing is that they match from side to side.



Checking Main Well Air Bleed



Checking Siphon Breaker; it is a brass insert and should measure approximately 0.056.



Totally plugged discharge nozzles being cleaned with a #56 drill bit.

Be sure and straightedge the gasket surface and remember that the main well aluminum insert must be installed with the holes 90 degrees opposite the holes in the main well pickup tube.

The 1960 and 1961 models had some extra bleed holes and odd sizes which are listed (along with all of the above suggested specs) in Bob Helt's book on carburetors, available from Clark's.

You can also check PMS 35 & 36 on our website for additional venturi cluster information.

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	\$.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
\$110 exchange
for a rebuildable
core

Rebuilt Corvair
starters with
solenoid \$105
exchange



Mike Dawson
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





AMSOIL
The First in Synthetics
Since 1972



KEN RAGAN
LIFETIME AMSOIL DEALERS

Ragan Enterprises
212 Warner
Bonner Springs, KS 66012-1134
(913) 422-5778
E-mail kenrragan@sbcglobal.net

Helen Moore
Handmade Ceramics



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

OUR 50TH ANNIV – 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- NO CHARGE- 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- See our 2023 supplement or website for more details. We expect around 130 cars, and will offer tours of our buildings including the Upholstery Dept. Slide show by Cal. Parts on sale! **SEPT 16, 2023 - rain or shine**

2023 SUPPLEMENT- On our website or as a hard copy -many new repros & updates.

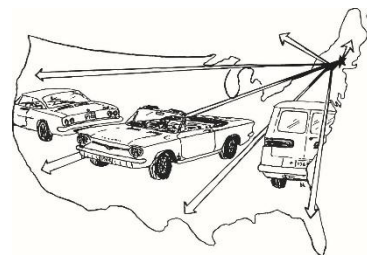
INTERNATIONAL CORSA CONVENTION -Wisconsin- We will be there Tues, Wed & Thurs with lots of recent repros on display. Stop by and say hello. Convention dates June 19 - June 24

CATALOG- over 450 pages, free with an order, \$8 postpaid in USA

Clark's Corvair Parts
400 Mohawk Trail
Shelburne Falls, MA
01370

413-625-9776

www.corvair.com



Classifieds, continued

'64 Convertible for sale

A gentleman named Harris Tate is in the process of selling his elderly relative's '64 Monza convertible. It does not appear to have the original engine (110hp?) and the brakes could use some work but it has been repainted at some point. In the past 10 years, it has mainly been driven for short distances to shows in the Topeka area. The car will come with the original engine as well. He's not certain of what price so is entertaining offers. Photos can be found here:

<https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=kZrzEmVZc11SWoC4q4RomoBmTIH0vhoc20vX>

<https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show?code=kZoFvLVZfl3ytNBjRwJ5HdDoNiacHQ4aqjgX>

Youtube video of it running: <https://youtu.be/I1pGthTSHAU>

Harris Tate 785-330-9781

102 Engine for sale

Freshly rebuilt 102 engine if anyone is looking for one (can be brought to events such as the Roundup). The heads were redone with new valves and pistons. Asking \$2500.00 (can provide pictures). Contact: Ray Morales.

For Sale: 1965 Corvair Monza Convertible 110 HP/PG

Bill Bicknell, of Rolla, Missouri, has a '65 convertible for sale. New items include: gas tank and sending unit, shift cable (Powerglide), parking brake cable, alternator, and a rebuilt fuel pump. It is rust free but the top is weathered and the rear window needs to be replaced. He also has many extra parts and a car cover. He says to make an offer. 970-218-1352 (call or text).



Classifieds, continued

Parts for Sale

Bob Shellhorn has some parts he would like to sell, including:

3 - 14" 2 bar spinner Corvair wire spoked hubcaps - \$25 each

1 - 13" 2 bar spinner Corvair wire spoked hubcap - \$25

8 - 13" stainless steel LM Corvair hubcaps, most with plastic center caps but of poor condition, \$15 each

3 - LM dash instrument panel with most gauges

chrome trim handles, lots of misc. engine components, carb. bodies, etc.

No blocks, intakes, drive train, or body sheetmetal.

Contact Bob Shellhorn, at Bshell46@sbcglobal.net

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

816-547-0410

Classifieds, continued



Wilson Liter has the following for sale:

- 140HP engine (code T0223RN). Engine turns over but has not been apart: \$400
- Wilson Liter 417-667-6927. wilsonliter@hotmail.com

Other Events and Tidbits

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ANNUAL DUES

I am planning on printing a new club roster on March 8 Tues. I have emails from 3 people who had planned to send a check. I will be giving the new rosters out at the club meeting March 14.

-Don Wagner

Rust and Rodent Nests

The tragic long-term demise of over six dozen Corvairs

On Saturday, 25 February 2023, on the northeast edge of Carthage, Missouri, there was an Estate Auction. They were selling everything outside the house – shop tools and equipment as well as the cars, trucks, tractors, boats, motorcycles, etc. What got my attention was that the sale bill started out, “Approximately 80 Antique Corvair Cars, Trucks & Vans. No autos are running. All are for parts or salvage. Some have titles; majority do not.” Being only 90 miles from me, my youngest Grandson and I had to go check it out.

After arriving at the auction site and getting my registration number, we proceeded to the field where the cars were parked. It became readily apparent that “parts or salvage” was almost an understatement.

The first nine attached pictures show the field of mostly Corvairs, with other makes mixed in. But even before you got this far, the first thing you saw after walking from the registration trailer toward the car field was the back half of an early model Monza coupe, including powertrain, sitting vertically in the mud. This was not a good omen. The front part was about 150’ farther east.



Many of the Greenbriers and vans were being used for storage. The back and top of one wasn't being used for anything except as an umbrella for its long-removed engine.





Yes, they had a few cars that, in better days, would have been good parts sources – a couple of early Spyders and a late Monza 4-carb 140. There were also a couple of Lakewoods.

As I was making my tour, I kept three things in mind:

One, I learned many years ago that rodent urine and feces are highly corrosive to metal, especially aluminum. It was obvious as I walked around in that field that rodents had been inhabiting these cars for a very long time. On one '77 AMC Matador sedan that had the hood still down, I opened it just to check out the engine, and the entire engine compartment was one huge rat nest. I even surprised one of the large rodents still lying in the top of the nest, who promptly scurried back towards the firewall and down a nest hole above the left-front wheel well.

Two, the engines wouldn't turn. I brought a long box-end wrench with me and tried to rotate the crankshafts of most of the engines in the cars that still had them, especially the Spyders and 140. No luck.

And three, I wondered how many of these Corvairs were operational 'junk' when they arrived in the yard. It was looking like most of them were.

One of the cars listed in the sale bill was a "1961 Buick Skylark w/Aluminum V8 motor." I had read stories of how these engines made great Corv-8 conversions, so I was really interested in that non-Corvair. But when I got to it, the hood latch was jammed, and the hood wouldn't open. It probably hadn't been raised in many years. Remembering what I saw with the '77 Matador, I walked away. I didn't want to haul this car home, get the hood opened, then watch three generations of rodents scatter across my property.

So, after doing a fairly complete inspection and deciding I didn't really need any of these "parts", we left. The auctioneer was running late with the small stuff anyway, and I couldn't see hanging around three or four more hours for something I wasn't going to buy.

A truly interesting but disappointing afternoon. I've been interested in Corvairs since I read the first *Motor Life* preview story in the summer of 1959, and in the ensuing 64 years, I never dreamed one individual could mistreat so many Corvairs for so long.

[Editor's note:](#) Rodney shared several other photographs of his adventure to this auction but they couldn't be included due to space constraints. If you'd like to see more, just let me know.

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>. 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.
-

HACOA birthdays

March	
Name	Date
Dominique Allen	2
Marilyn Killion	6
Robert Franklin	12
Paul Skeans	13
Dean Sego	13
James Gargano	18
Ada Koch	22
Charlie Clark	24
David Irwin	25
Jim Conway	28
Jack Bacon	30