

# the fifth wheel

August 2023

HTTP://WWW.CORVAIR.ORG/CHAPTERS/LVCC

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Wes & Angie's Rampside. Photo by Bob Marlow.

# Next Meeting: 3rd Saturday of September 2023



Date: September 16, 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.

## Das Awkscht Fescht Report!

Saturday August 6 was Club Day at Das Awkscht Fescht and it was a good one with several hundred cars of all makes, models and vintages on display.

Thirty eight Corvairs (and their owners) populated the Corvair section. They included members of several chapters of the Corvair Society of America including Lehigh Valley Corvair Club, Philadelphia Corvair Club, First State Corvair Club and Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club.

A number of LVCC members are also affiliated with the New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts, so it may be said the Jersey club was represented, too.

All kinds of Corvairs were there, including Monzas, Spyders, Corsas, 500s, 700s earlies, lates, coupes, convertibles, sedans and Rampsides. 'Sorry, no Corvans or Greenbriers this year!

Folks gathered around the LVCC EZ Up throughout the day to socialize. Plenty of stories were told, automotive and otherwise. The gathering also gave Treasurer Joan Lacki a great opportunity to collect membership dues for the upcoming fiscal year - which she did!.

Mid-day, a photographer from Old Cars Magazine selected the pristine Rampside owned by Wes Heiss and Angela Fraleigh for a photo shoot. Look for it in an upcoming issue!

One of the Corvairs arrived running rough. A quick inspection of the engine compartment revealed a severely cracked distributor cap - a freak failure never encountered in the annals of Corvair mechanical maintenance! So, an all-hands-on-deck call was made for a replacement.

As it turned out, Paul Passini had a spare which he promptly donated to the bewildered owner. Meanwhile, Larry Asheuer scoured the vendor area and found (and bought) a couple more.

Our eternal thanks go to Randy Kohler who arranges for us to have a section of our own every year. In addition to reserving a spot for us on the show field, Randy gathers up door prizes in the preceding weeks so we can give them away during the mid-afternoon drawing.

We also need to thank Wes and Angie's young daughters Tuesday and Sagan Heiss who assisted Randy by pulling winning numbers for the door prizes. Thank you!

This year, the prizes included a batch of valuable \$10 and \$20 gift certificates donated by the folks at Clark's Corvair Parts of Shelbourne Falls, Massachusetts.

#### July 2023 Meeting Minutes

Lehigh Valley Corvair Club Membership Meeting July 15, 2023 America On Wheels Museum Allentown, PA

The meeting took place in the AOW auditorium with 8 persons in attendance: Greg Dittrich, William A Dittrich, William D. Dittrich, Wesley Heiss, Allan Lacki, Scott Oberholzer and Dave Smullen. The meeting was called to order at 10:16 AM by President Al Lacki.

Minutes of our July 17 meeting and treasury report for the month of June were published in previous issue of the Fifth Wheel newsletter. They were approved here by acclamation of the members present.

During this meeting, we talked about a wide range of topics. Scott and Wes talked about Monza go-karts. Wes has one and Scott has two, one of which is a kiddie-ride body mounted to a Rupp chassis. Scott noted that a group in western Pennsylvania has a go-kart and mini-bike meet every year.

The discussion then turned to engines of all kinds. How much horsepower can you get out of an air-cooled Corvair engine? Greg recalled a souped-up 600 hp Volkswagen engine located in Hillsborough, PA. Can a Corvair do that? Bill Sr. said his collection includes an antique lawn motor powered by a water-cooled one-cylinder hit-and-miss engine that relies on siphon-cooling rather than a water pump.

Yenko Stingers came up next. As it turns out, Greg used to own one. He said it was great fun. Punch it and it goes! He sold it seventeen years ago for an undisclosed sum.

Dave Smullen talked about treks in his Corvair to Watkins Glen to see vintage races. Typically held the week after Labor Day, this event attracts race cars of the 1920s and 1930s including Bugattis, Allards and much more.

Some people will go great lengths to store their antique car collection. Greg said his aunt and uncle are friends with a wealthy collector whose garage is a bunker with two-foot-thick concrete walls. The collection includes a Duesenberg valued at \$2.5 million, so maybe it's worth it.!

To cap-off the meeting, Al did a show-and-tell session by presenting his collection of Corvair books including Corvair Af-

(Continued on page 4)

## Das Awkscht Fescht Foto Fest!













See more photos of Corvairs at Das Awkscht Fescht on our Facebook page! We have thirty-six of them there. Here is the link: https://tinyurl.com/bdzy76c8

fair, How to Keep Your Corvair Alive, and several more. One of the more-interesting books is a softcopy simply named Corvair 1959 – 1968 published by Brooklands Books. It contains copies of dozens of Corvair magazine articles from the 1960s.

The meeting adjourned 11:31 AM – early enough for folks to attend the Jacktown tractor show in Bangor.

#### Treasury Report by Joan Lacki

Beginning Balance: July 1, 2	2023		\$ 803.54
Receipts			
7/14/2023 Deposit: Memberships		\$ 125.00	
7/19/2023 Deposit: Memberships		\$ 140.00	
Total Receipts			\$ 265.00
Expenses			
Newsletter expense (Allan Lacki)		\$ (10.58)	
Postage stamps		\$ (25.20)	
Total Expenses			\$ 35.78
Ending Balance: July 31, 20	23		\$ 1,032.76

**Note:** Reports are based on the calendar month in order to match the bank statements. There was an additional \$833.00 collected on 8/6/23 which will be included in the August report.

Editor's Note: \$833? That's no misprint! It includes not only dues collected at Das Awkscht Fescht, but also a transfer of un-deposited cash from last year.

#### Miscellaneous Musings by Bob Marlow

It has been an interesting "Corvair Summer" so far.

In June, Sue and I traveled to Wisconsin Dells for the CORSA convention, as did LVCC members Al Lacki and Philip Levering. I sold parts in the vendor room. Al, in his role as CORSA secretary, dealt with CORSA admin issues. Philip tended to his car. Of the three of us, Philip did the best job, earning the 2023 Edward N. Cole Award for the best overall performance in ALL the convention events – concours, road rally, econo-run, autocross etc.

It takes commitment and hard work to win the Cole award.

both of which we witnessed on our first evening at the hotel. While Sue and I relaxed by a fire pit near the hotel pool. Philip was working on his car, ensuring that all systems were in tip-top shape for the following morning's "operations check."



In July, Sue and I were back on the road, this time to Ann Arbor, Michigan, for the Detroit Area Corvair Club's annual "Homecoming." This event, a much more low-key Corvair gathering, was another parts-selling opportunity for me, but a highlight was the appearance of a very nice 1966 Glenn Pray Cord, one of a mere 97 produced. This particular car was purchased new by Dick Clark, yes, that Dick Clark, and was one of the rare Powerglide-equipped examples. Pale yellow with a deep red leather interior, it was bee-yoo-tee-ful.



August found us back at home in Allentown, so of course we attended LVCC's largest gathering of the year, Das Awkscht Fescht in Macungie. Randy Kohler does a great job of coordinating the Corvair display in this nearly 60-year-old show, but this year's turnout was a bit smaller than prior years – "only" 38 Corvairs!

Das Awkscht Fescht is, as I am sure you know, the point in

the year when LVCC membership dues are collected, and I am happy to report that club treasurer Joan Lacki has so far received dues payments from 30 members. Were you among them? If not, you can mail your dues payment to LVCC, PO Box 33, Orefield, PA 18069. (See Page 10 for a membership renewal form). Membership dues are \$20 for the year, but new this year is an option to renew for two years at just \$35.

You can find the membership renewal form in this newsletter, and also under the "Join LVCC" tab on our club web site, https://www.corvair.org/chapters/lvcc/

Summer isn't over yet, so as I write I am getting ready to go to the Delaware Corvair Club's annual All-Corvair show on August 12, to be followed by the Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club's "Corvair Day" on September 16. I hope to see LVCC members at both events!

# Driving a Corvair Without Keys by Mike Dawson

**Source:** Here we have another informative tech article written by Mike Dawson. This particular article appears in the August 2023 issue of VairCor, the official newsletter of the Heart of America Corvair Association. It's part of Mike's Preventive Maintenance Series of tech articles posted at http://www.hacoa.org/index.php/technical

1. A useful little device that can be carried in your billfold (or purse) for gaining entry into any Corvair is the little spring clip that holds the air baffles up against the cylinders in all Corvair engines: about 3 ½ inches long with an eye on either end.

To open a wing window, gently push one end past the rubber under the vent handle with the eye to the rear of the car. Push in on the vent window and rotate the clip counter clockwise.

#### Vent Window Tool



The vent handle will unlock and you can reach in to open the side window or door. This method is quick and will not damage anything.

2. The wiring for the Corvair starter operation begins at the battery, travels twenty plus feet through several connectors and switches (depending on transmission) to end up only two feet from the battery where it started.

To bypass all of that, run a jumper wire from the positive battery terminal to the purple wire in the two-wire connector found at the left front of the engine compartment. Unplug the connector and touch the jumper wire to the purple wire that leads through the rubber grommet in the sheet metal to the starter. Anytime you make the connection, the starter will engage.

The engine will only start if the key is on, so you can use this for compression checks, setting dwell, mechanical fuel pump testing etc. A commercial remote starter is a good tool to have. To actually run the engine, you need the next step.

3. During normal running, the coil receives less than six volts to the + terminal because of a resistance in the wiring (1.8 ohms). Full battery voltage is supplied only during the cranking to help starting under extreme conditions. If you apply 12 volts during running, the points will quickly burn and the engine dies.

To run an engine without using the ignition switch, make up a jumper as follows: cut a length of standard wire (any gauge from 12 to 20 will work) that reaches from the positive battery connection to the positive coil terminal. Attach a clamp or large clip for the battery end and a smaller clip for the coil + terminal end.

Purchase a coil resistor from a parts store (1.8 ohms is a standard listing) and attach it in series anywhere in the middle of the wire. Wrap it with tape because it gets hot to the touch.

#### Resistors



You also could use the original resistance wire from another harness.

Anytime this jumper is hooked up, the engine will run until you unhook it. You cannot run other accessories with this jumper, only the ignition part of the engine. Also be sure you don't lay the wire against anything that moves when the engine starts. When I need to drive a locked car without keys, I use all three of the above.

#### Graphite Spark Plug Lube

**Source:** Here's an interesting article. Your editor has never heard of anybody using a special lube for installing spark plugs. What do you guys think? This article appeared in the August 2023 issue of Group Corvair's newsletter.

Corvair people and other owners of cars with aluminum cylinder heads would be interested to know that piston-engine aircraft manufacturers such as Lycoming and Continental all advocate the use of graphite lubricant for spark plugs used in aluminum cylinder heads. Even the FAA recommends graphite thread lubricant to prevent galled or stripped threads in aircraft engines.

**Champion Spark Plug** Company makes a liquid graphite-based spark plug thread lubricant that comes in a small bottle with an applicator brush inside that is similar to a bottle of finger-nail polish except the consistency of the liquid graphite is like a thick paint. This spark plug thread lubricant is intended to be applied each time spark plugs are removed and installed, usually at about 100-hour intervals in most piston-engine aircraft. The Champion Spark Plug lubricant can be purchased at most local aircraft service centers and aircraft supply stores. (\$11.50 at www.aircraftspruce.com.)



To prevent thread galling on our Corvairs, dress the threads on each new spark plug with a rotary wire brush to remove any manufacturing burrs, then use the thread lubricant before installing them in the cylinder heads. Even brand-new aircraft spark plugs often have burrs on their threads. We can't expect ours to be any better.

(The nuclear navy uses a lot of graphite lubricant on stainless steel and similar metal threads. Their version is a colloidal suspension of graphite in alcohol. One note! Don't get graphite lubricant on you or your clothes. It WILL NOT wash out. About the only thing that will dissolve graphite is molten iron...)

Counterpoint! Here is a quote from several of the reviews on the Aircraft Spruce website:

"I just talked to the Tech Support guys at Lycoming and I was told that the factory uses Loctite C5-A copper anti-seize. Ref: Lycoming Service Instruction No. 1042AG, Use a copper-based anti-seize compound or engine oil on spark plug threads starting two full threads from the electrode, but DO NOT use a graphite-based compound.

Mavin J September 30, 2019"

#### Check those Secondaries on 140 Engines by Seth Emerson

**Source:** Here's another article that appeared in the August 2023 issue of Group Corvair's newsletter.

This is from Seth Emerson via the Northern Virginia Corvair Club HAM. "In 1967, I bought my first Corvair ('65 Corsa convertible) from a Chevy dealer "OK Used Car" lot. About 20k miles on it. I drove it for several months. Whenever I drove it on the highway at "enthusiastic" speeds, it would run hot. As I delved into modifications on the car, I decided to rebuild the secondaries, which looked fine on the outside. I found ½" of water in each, on top of ¼" of solid gunk on the bottom of the float bowls. No fuel had passed through those carbs in many, many miles. The carbs passed air but no fuel – I wonder why it ran hot when those secondaries were open? Lean, anyone?"

"Always check out the secondaries on seldom-driven 140 motors. Tip – remove the air filter housing and aim a connected timing light down the throat of the carb. At idle – and off idle – the flash of the timing light will freeze-frame fuel flow in place allowing you to see if fuel is passing through and if the accelerator pumps are working."





## Calendar of Local Car Events

#### **Cruise Night Anyone?**

Go to https://carcruisefinder.com/ It's easy to use and lists more car cruises than we could possibly fit in this newsletter!

#### Other Car Events! LVCC-Sanctioned Events denoted with a check mark like this: \(\sqrt{}\)

✓ Saturday August 12, 2023. First State Corvair Show

Location: Limestone Presbyterian Church, 3201 Limestone Rd, Wilmington, DE 19808. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. This is an all-Corvair show sponsored by the First State Corvair Club, a chapter of the Corvair Society of America. For more info, contact Mike Slotwinski at 302-377-5268 or e-mail him at slinkyslot@verizon.net

Sunday August 13, 2023. Classics & Cruisers on Hamilton

Staging Location: America on Wheels Museum, 5 North Front Street, Allentown, PA. Time: 8 AM to 5 PM. Rain date: August 20. It's an all-day event. Rain Day of cruise price: \$25 per show car (Oy!) Cruise includes self-guided tour of AOW Museum, open house at RB Classic Car Restoration Collection, police escorted cruise to car show area, awards ceremony. Ends at "the Ritz" at 5 PM. Info: Lucinda Wright (610) 841-3506 or Asst. Chief Jim Gress (610) 439-5915.

✓ Sunday September 2, 2023. 57th Annual Duryea Day Car Show & Museum Visit

Location: Boyertown Community Park, 419 South Madison Street, Boyertown, PA. 19512. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Day of show price: \$20 per show car. Flea market & vendor spaces available. Typically includes a free pass to the Boyertown Museum of Historic Vehicles. Contact: mail@boyertownmuseum.org or visit https://boyertownmuseum.org/duryea-day/

Saturday September 2, 2023 Calvary Car Show

Location: Calvary Bible Fellowship Church, 4891 Penn Avenue, Sinking Spring, PA 19608. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Rain date: Monday, September 4, 2023 (Labor Day). Here's a deal you don't see every day: FREE vehicle registration, FREE refreshments for all attendees and FREE activities for children. Pre-registration not mandatory but highly suggested for planning purposes. Contact Will Lockhart, No later than August 31, Will@cbfc.net, or (610) 678-5166

Sunday September 10, 2023. Annual Fiberglass & Steel Car Show. Location: Macungie Memorial Park, 50 N. Poplar Street, Macungie, PA 18062. Day of show price: \$25 per show car (\$\$). Rain or shine. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Fifty trophies (no Corvair class). Door prizes, raffle baskets, craft vendors, DJ, food & drink, 50/50. Contact Bruce Garnto at (484) 201-0018 bruce. granto@gmail.com. www.allentowncorvetteclub.org

✓ 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

Saturday September 16, 2023 Clark's Corvair Show.

Location Clark's Corvair Parts, 400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Rain or shine. Entry Fee: Not listed. Help celebrate our 50th year! Tours, door prizes and presentations. We will also be offering a 10% discount for cash orders and a 5% discount for Credit card orders- Clark's will cover all sales tax for orders placed at the show. For upholstery orders we ask that you order 2-3 weeks ahead as each order is custom made! We will have a food truck on site.

Saturday September 16, 2023. Twin Cities Car Show

Location: 106 N. Susquehanna Avenue, Shickshinny, PA 18655. Time: 12 PM – 5 PM. Rain date Sunday September 17. Day of Show Price: \$15 per show car. Spectators free. Trophies, music, dash plaques, food, 50/50, vendors, raffle baskets. Benefiting the Mocanaqua Volunteer Fire Company of Shickshinny-Mocanaqua. Contact (870) 447-8556.



## Calendar (Continued)

Sunday September 17, 2023. 37th Annual Anthracite Region AACA Show

Location: Tri-County Little League Field, Corner of Grove & Hancock Streets, McAdoo, PA. Time: 8 AM to 3 PM. Rain or shine. Day of Show Price: \$15 per show car. Judged show. No Corvair class. For info, call Joe Forish (570) 929-2017 or visit www.araaca.com

Sunday October 1, 2023. 48th Annual Fall Meet of GM Cars

Location: Padre Pio Shrine, 111 Barto Road, Barto, PA 19504. Time: 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Day of Show Price: \$20 per show car. Rain or shine. Food, music, trophies, 50/50, door prizes, flea market. Portion of proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. Flea market space: \$20. For info, call Tom Wright (610) 587-3468 tommyjw22@yahoo.com or Sandy Kemp (610) 367-6664.

Saturday October 14, 2023 Slate Belt Rotary Car Show

Location: Wind Gap Borough Park, 334 S. Lehigh Avenue, Wind Gap PA 18901. Time: 9 AM to 2 PM. Rain date: October 15. Day of show price: \$20 per show car. Complimentary coffee & donuts while supplies last. Food. Old-fashioned cake walk. Trophies. Judging. 15 classes (No Corvair class). Contact: Greg Dittrich gdittrich1@gmail.com https://slatebeltrotary.org/

### LVCC Classified Ads

For Sale: 1963 Corvair Convertible. Powerglide. 80,000 miles. \$12,500. As for Tom McKinney at (610) 800-2232.

**For Sale:** Work Shop items! Contact Dan Schmidt. Call or email and leave a message. (570) 801-1710 or Aircooleddan@yahoo.com

- Modine Shop Heater. 150K Btu, propane. Was working when removed from shop. \$200.
- Torpedo Style Kerosene Heater. 200K Btu. Needs tune-up. Last used ten years ago. \$50.
- Several Electric Baseboard Heaters. 200V. \$5 each.
- Motors Repair Manuals. 1970s through early 2000s. I have dozens and dozens and dozens! \$10 each or less if purchased in bulk.
- 1960s Allis-Chalmers Garden Tractors and implements. Have several in various conditions. All require some work. Prices vary.
- 5 hp Sandone Air Compressor. 80 gallon 220 V. Old but was working when removed from shop. Very heavy!

**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. <u>Used Parts:</u> Too many to list. Larry Asheuer Call 267-994-1569 or email: a-lcorvair@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.

**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, Perkasie, PA

### We Meet Here!





Next Meeting Date: Saturday September 16, 2023

Start Time: 10 AM

Place: America On Wheels Museum

5 North Front Street Allentown, PA 18102



# Clark's Corvair Parts<sup>®</sup> Our 50th Anniversary - 2023

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

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## LVCC Officers

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Lehigh Valley Corvair Club c/o Joan Lacki, Treasurer PO Box 33 Orefield, PA 18069

☐ New Membership or ☐ Renewa	a
☐ Individual or ☐ Family*	

Family Membership Includes two	adults and all children under age 21 living at a single address.
Date	
Last Name	First Name
Name of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Adult Family Mer	mber
Mailing Address	
City	State
Zip	
Phone ()	
Email	
LVCC membership of One Year Mem	er updates are delivered via e-mail. Printed materials ed. We do not share our mailing lists with others.  dues are payable as follows: hbership, New or Renewal \$20.00 embership, New or Renewal \$35.00 pership expires on July 31 <sup>st</sup> Total Remitted: \$
form and payment to the addres	ey order payable to LVCC Inc. and mail this completed as above or deliver it to the Treasurer at any club airst newsletter within four weeks of our receiving your
_	o join CORSA, the Corvair Society of America, P.O. Box 59 USA. Email: messages@corvair.org. Phone: (630)
Tell us abou	ut yourself and your Corvairs
Your Corvairs (year, model, colo	r, equipment, condition etc.)
Your other cars and trucks	
Your other hobbies and interest	s
When and why did you first buy	a Corvair?
Anything else you'd like to tell u	S

http://www.corvair.org/chapters/lvcc