



THE *Aircooler*

DETROIT AREA CORVAIR CLUB

ESTABLISHED 1974

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50 YEARS AS YOUR CORVAIR CLUB

September 2023

**From The Dashboard of Your DACC President,
Mike Anstine mikeanstine@yahoo.com**

Hello All,

So, Homecoming is done. There are only so many gatherings left this season. There are only so many more times I will be writing as your President. Let me say now, it has been an honor to serve as President for the best Corvair Club in America! No, I am not buttering you all up because I am in need of anything. Our club has grown larger and larger each month. Hopefully this trend continues for many years to come. I see we have more young members as well. One I know has his own Corvair, recently repainted in a two-tone finish (the picture I saw was beautiful) another young member is in search of his first Corvair. His dad bought one but ended up parting ways with it so now his son wants one of his own. Hopefully he will be at the next meeting to see what's for sale.

Speaking of the next meeting, **due to Labor Day, our meeting will be the Second Monday of September 9/11 at the Three Hundred Bowl.** By the time you read this, Woodward will be in the rearview and so will the Hines Drive cruise. Hopefully I will have seen some of you at both venues. Next up will be the Orphan show for my Rampside and 65 Monza. My only true updates are, make sure you are all keeping track of your mileage for our annual contest. Prize still to be determined, as promised at the last meeting, the prize will be less than one million dollars, but more than a pat on the back. The second update is our election is coming up quick. If you plan to run for a position, please be at the Sept meeting to officially put your name in the running. This will be a good opportunity to win over the crowd and secure a vote too! See you all real soon! Have a good and safe Labor Day as well.■

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**Make checks payable to.
Detroit Area Corvair Club**

**From the internet for your knowledge.
California Man Loses Homeowner's Insurance Over
Chevy Corvair Project** Story by Steve DaSilva



Screenshot: ABC7 News Bay Area on YouTube© Screenshot: ABC7 News Bay Area on YouTube. Insurance companies are, as a rule, [pretty much the worst](#). It seems they'll do anything in their power to avoid paying out for claims, even going so far as to drop customers they think *might* someday need a payout. Case in point: A California resident had his homeowner's insurance revoked because of a project Chevrolet Corvair on his property.

CJ Sveen still owns his first car, a 1966 Corvair that he's in the process of restoring. But Sveen's home insurer, California State Automobile Association Insurance Group, claimed that the "dilapidated car" was cause for the termination of his policy after apparently seeing it in a drone photo. Then, oddly, the insurer denied ever flying drones over Sveen's property.

From [ABC 7](#): It came as a shock. At first, he was told he'd lost his insurance because "drone photos" taken over his property showed hazards in his yard. But the company would not show him the pictures. Later he was told there was no drone, just aerial photos. He felt it intruded on his privacy, with no way to reinstate his policy. His house isn't in a fire zone, and he's never filed a single claim in 15 years. Instead, the notice said CSAA found "debris, hazardous conditions, tires or a dilapidated car" in his yard. But CSAA later told Sveen it did not use a drone, and "the company does not perform surveillance on insured properties using drones." In a letter, it said it may review "proprietary aerial imagery" to assess risk. The company told 7 On Your Side the images may be captured by "fixed-wing

Continued page 2

From the Rear Deck of the DACC VP, Pete Cimbala

This will be a short report, yes sometimes I don't have much to say so enjoy this when it happens. Due to the long days being spent on Back to the Bricks events this week I am writing this at 11:40 pm before I go to sleep only to get up and be away for another 12-14 hours. We had rain and mud at the Bricks Flicks at the historic US 23 Drive In but still managed to have a good crowd, **Wed** was a perfect day nice and sunny for everyone to enjoy the Rolling Cruise. **Thursday** was rain and cool and we did a job on the lawn in front of the Insight Campus, there were several Corvairs cruising Saginaw St. **Wed**, and I hope to see a few downtown **Friday** and **Sat**. More on the results next month when the event is over. We had a good time at the last pick a part gathering and there are a couple more cars on the chopping block in the next month. The big thing coming up is our annual election of officers that now happens in October. You will be blessed or burden with me as President, so we need a new VP to pass out the attendance tickets at the monthly meetings. All the other positions are open, and we are going to try something different with the activities each month, this could be fun and spread out some of the events to different areas with the host offering their ideas on where to go and what to do once we get there. We have been seeing 50+ people at the last few meetings and each month we have the pleasure of meeting someone new and welcoming them to the fold. See you on the 11th. ■

Activities by Raven Hand

Hi everyone, by the time you see this we will be past Woodward Dream Cruise and Back to the Bricks (perhaps in time for Hines Drive cruise, if so take note that there is a new entrance to Hines this year so be sure to check it out online before heading down)

• Remember Sunday **September 24th** is Aircooled on the Hill with the Volkswagen folks , details are on the flyer. We hope to see you there.

Next Aircooler I will include details for Fall Color tour. ■



**AIRCOOLED
on the HILL**

**The Michigan Vintage VW Club invites you
to a car show -- ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**Waterford Hills Road Racing
SUN. SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
10 am - 6 pm**

- \$5 for adults (12 & under free w/adult)
- Watch an exciting day of racing
- Drive parade laps on the track in your own car at lunchtime for \$5
- There are bleachers but we recommend bringing a folding chair.
- They've relaxed their stand against coolers full of food, but please: no outside alcohol, no glass.
- There's also a concession stand for food, soft drinks, and beer.
- Vintage Munk's will buy the first beer or soft drink for MVVC members.
- Dogs are welcome on leashes, but bear in mind that it gets LOUD.

**WHRRI is at Oakland County Sportmen's Club
4770 Waterford Road • Clarkston 48346**

www.mvvc.net • www.waterfordhills.com

Corvair Man continued from page 1

airplane or satellite." Whether by drone, airplane, or satellite, the idea of insurers keeping tabs on their customers' properties is unnerving. So too is the idea of a project car disqualifying someone for home insurance — and of that decision being made unilaterally, without warning or recourse. If you have a project car at your home, maybe throw it under a tarp when you aren't working on it. You never know who's watching. ■

Treasury Report by Carol Hairsine

8/17/23 Treasury Report

7/20/23 Balance \$13,487.32

Income: Membership \$220.00

50/50 \$94.00

License Plate Sales \$15.00

HC Swap Donation \$20.00

Dream Cruise spots -Kerry +Greers \$61.00

Expenses: Ken Pepke HC food \$1933.38

Wyndham Garden HC bill \$1905.32

Lori Komora HC \$790.17

Mike Hurt HC pop & water \$180.74

Newsletter \$221.27

Raven Hand Dream Cruise spots \$90.00

50/50 Payout \$47.00

Attendance \$10.00 8/17/23

Balance \$8719.44



DACC OFFICERS

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August meeting minutes by Lori

It's been great having as many people show up to the meetings every month lately.

Just a reminder next month's meeting is September 11 due to Labor Day being the first Monday.

We had four first timers at the meeting. Welcome Mark, JJ, Marilyn, and Tim.

Hopefully everyone had fun at homecoming would like to thank everyone who helped and for all the goodies we received for the goody bags. Our bags were loaded with lots of good stuff this year. It's not too early to start collecting for next year if you don't want to keep it at your house feel free to bring it to the meeting and give to me I will hold onto it to stuff for next year.

Our next election will be held in October all positions are opened so feel free to run for anything it would be great to know in September who is running so we can have ballots with names on it if not we can write them in, in October.

At homecoming we had 17 new member sign up we have 128 paid members. Everyone else who is outstanding between now and the end of the year needs to pay by the September meeting or will be dropped. this has been published in the Aircooler quite often since September. The people that owe between July and December only owe \$10 that will get them till next year.

Currently we have in the account \$8456.44, but there is still outstanding monies owed for homecoming. Just to make people aware newsletter cost have gone up due to increase in postage.

50/50 winner received \$47 Mike H, Len won attendance, Donna won can cozies.

Lori ~~ Secretary ■

DACC History 1995 by Clark Hartzel

January Aircooler:

President: Dan Weir; Vice Pres: Rob Duerden; Secretary: Kim Carless; Treasurer: Pete Cimbala
Membership: Tim Bramble; Editor: Sharon Pepke; Parts: Bob Kirkman; Activities: Jeff Shreve;
Parades: Sharon Pepke.

The Christmas party was a success with a paper road rally. Clark Hartzel and Ellie Shuster finished first place and won a DACC watch. Marvin Granger and Elaine Duerdon won second place and a DACC shirt. Jim Westervelt and Joanne Hartzel were third and received a DACC license plate.

10 members went to Crossroads Village and had dinner and a train ride. The points race winners were Bob Greer in the Historical class (Corvair) and Jeff Shreve in the regular class (non Corvair).

Automotive writers liked the Corvair but didn't like the fact they didn't have cup holders!

Treasurer reports balance of \$1,386.47

The Aircooler needs your input, email a short article with some pics.

February Aircooler:

This meeting will be Corvair toy night. Bring your Corvair toys instead of driving the Corvair in the winter. Our oldest member Gene Haubert has passed away. Elections are coming up and we

need some new blood to run the club. A list of the duties of officers was published. We now have 6 videos of Corvair related content which you can borrow from Bob Kirkman. John Zelenak wrote an article about getting new carpet and seat covers for his Corvair. Many new parts are in stock for your Corvair. See Bob Kirkman for tune up parts, battery, gaskets and fuel pumps.

A nice article in the Windsor Star about Corvair trucks. 3M makes a flexible rubber compound that you can repair windshield or backlight rubber moldings. It is a two part mix and is available as part 5900.

March Aircooler:

Guest speaker will be Don Gates who was on the GM legal staff. He was involved in the Corvair lawsuits. He met Stu Shuster thru model railroad activities. Election of officers is this meeting, and you can still be on the ballot. An article in The Classic Auto Restorer was about exhaust emissions. When the Ranken Technical College hooked up a 1919 Buick to their exhaust analyzer to compare it to the latest government standards they got a big surprise. It had a very good air/fuel ratio of 14.3 to 1. Hydrocarbon emissions were 130 parts per million well under Missouri's limit of 220. Carbon monoxide was 0.86% again under 1.2% allowed. Maybe they don't build them like they used to!

Stu Shuster found some old GM slides featuring the Corvair and will bring them to the April meeting.

Mark Luther reports that it will cost \$3,000 to convert his Corvair to right hand drive in Australia.

How many of you have checked the oil level in your differential? Running low or out can cause catastrophic failure of the gears and bearings. If it locks up while driving, you might cause a serious accident. Treasury is \$1,517.09. Bob Kirkman has ordered magnetic drain plugs to collect and metal particles. Tim Bramble bought 8 California Corvairs to get 2 he wanted. The other 6 will be for sale.

April Aircooler:

Membership is up to 161. Rob Duerden is the new president. Norm King is vice pres. Kim Carless remains secretary. Jean King is treasurer. Clark Hartzel is membership. Sharon Pepke remains editor.

Bob Kirkman remains parts. Jeff Shreve remains activities and Sharon Pepke remains parades chair.

An article on Ron Turner's El Cormino was printed. This was a Corvair station wagon that was made into a pickup rear compartment.

Since few members drive their Corvairs in the winter the newsletter was pretty short.

May Aircooler:

The room rate for the Homecoming is \$49.00. May 13 is the Michiana Corvair swap meet at Al Grunert's house in Three Rivers, MI. The annual 4th of July Cass City parade is Saturday July 1st.

Continued on pg 4

DACC Membership Report for SEPTEMBER 2023 AIRCOOLER

Submitted August 17, 2023 by Mike Hurt

Welcome to our New Members: Ron Bonin, Justin Johnson

Thanks for keeping your membership up to date:

John Allessee, John Bussard, Dale DeWald, Jim Fleischhauer, Tanja Greer, Carol Hairsine, Mike Harrison, Rocko Heath, Pete Koehler, Mike McFarland, Tod Miller, Len Newill, Don Scharich, Mark Williams

Dropped for non-payment: Don Kosanka

Due in May: Gerald Ambrozy, Chris Braden, Tom Hall

Due in June: Mike Henk

Due in July: Sam Christ, Gigi Debbrecht, Ken Pepke

Due in August: Don Eichstaedt, Janice/Gus Shay, Jean Marc Urbain

Due in September: Mike Davis, Dan Dood, Chad Guthrie, Greg Kellogg, Dave Kubiske, Dale Ropp, Jerry Schmidt, Jim Spaulding, Bob Storc

Due in October: Ray Dubia, Sue Hamil, Jacob Mann, Ron Mann

Due in November: Dave Munaco, Phillip O'Guinn, Bill Richards, John Ronayne, Patrick Skiver

Due in December: Tom Cavataio, Orville Hensley, Steve Schwartz, Jerome Yoscovits

We have 148 paid members, 10 who owe dues and 9 due this month!

*****ATTENTION TO THOSE OWING DUES*****

A Note to those whose Dues are up between July and December – the Board decided that to get everybody to a renewal date of June 2024, those paying for the July – December due dates would pay \$10 to get them to June 2024 by *THE SEPTEMBER 11th MEETING DATE *****

We are mailing 2 complementary newsletters to Clark's and the Ypsilanti Museum.

If you can't make it to the meeting, send a **check for \$20.00 (\$10 FOR THOSE IN THE JULY – DECEMBER TIME PERIOD)** payable to **Detroit Area Corvair Club** to: Mike Hurt – DACC. Address: 1795 Ring O Kerry, Milford, MI 48381

Questions about membership, change of address/email can be sent to Mike Hurt at (248) 972-7188 or mdhurt821@gmail.com and leave a message. We have an **email blast list** to notify members of quickie tours or last-minute changes. Please send me your email address so we can keep this list up to date.



Aster flower – birth flower for September



DACC History 1995 continued from pg 3

Several lengthy articles were written about our Sloan Fair exhibit and the cost/condition of paint jobs were too long to repeat here.

June Aircooler:

The July meeting will be Sunday the 25th at the Sloan Fair. There will be the traditional hot dog roast. On May 4th the channel 7 weather picture was showing two Corvairs in the back yard of Jim and Marilyn Westervelt with blossoming cherry trees. A perfect photo for spring. Speaking of Marilyn, she is active in the Rainbow Connection which tries to fulfill the wishes of children with life threatening diseases. She almost died after heart valve surgery and vowed to help others. June 11th is the Carnival of Cars event at the Waterford Hills race track. There will be a separate class for Corvairs if 3 or more are pre-registered. July 15th is the Leonard Strawberry festival parade. ■

Swap & Sell

1964 Monza convertible, 26,990 miles from Texas no rust ever. Stripped to bare metal now in epoxy primer. Windshield has been removed for paint, Black interior and top that need to be replaced due to the hot Texas summers when not in the garage. Many new parts, brakes, stainless steel lines, duel master cylinder, powder coated wheels, wire wheel covers, new tires in June of 23. Includes a 64 Monza coupe parts car for the price of \$8000.00 or best offer. Selling due to bad health and advanced age. Dick Porter (517) 745-7491 porterra@wowway.com located in the Albion, MI area.

From the DACC Facebook Group

Posted by Kerry Borgne

Corvair's on parade!

[Greg Joseph](#) and family driving their red, late model convertible in Friday nights Berkeley CruiseFest Parade.



Posted by Brian Granger

Had my picture taken at Applegate Chevrolet in Flint during BttB .

What do we celebrate in September?

September is known for Labor Day, the start of the harvest months and the fall equinox, and traditionally, the beginning of a new school year.

From Haggerty Media Senate will soon vote on whether to require AM radio in new cars

Steven Cole Smith
31 July 2023



Getty Images

AM radio in automobiles may live to broadcast another day—or indefinitely.

Last December, [Senator Edward J. Markey](#) (D-Mass.) sent a letter to 20 auto manufacturers asking the companies whether they plan to, or already have, discontinued access to free broadcast AM radio in their vehicles, including any battery-powered models. Of the 20 companies, eight—BMW, Ford, Mazda, Polestar, Rivian, Tesla, Volkswagen, and Volvo—said yes.

Ten automakers—Honda, Hyundai, Jaguar/Land Rover, Kia, [Lucid](#), Mitsubishi, Nissan, Stellantis, Subaru, and Toyota — still maintained access to broadcast AM radio in their vehicles, they said. Two additional automakers, Mercedes-Benz and General Motors, refused to provide individual responses and instead relied on a message from the industry trade group, the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, which claims that AM radio is a technology that has lost its potency; while AM radio is “the backbone” of the Emergency Alert System according to the National Association of Broadcasters, the AAI claims that it is no longer relevant. The results of the inquiry prompted Markey and his colleague across the aisle, Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) to introduce legislation in May of 2023 called the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act. The Act would require that car manufacturers include AM radio in every new vehicle, including electric ones, at no charge.

We mention electric vehicles because manufacturers say that the electric powertrain interferes with the AM signal and that circumventing that interference is difficult. The Alliance for Automotive Innovation has pushed back, saying there are other ways for the public to receive emergency warnings besides the AM band.

Next

“Whether or not [AM radio](#) is physically installed in vehicles in the future has no bearing on the multiple methods of delivering emergency communications alerts to the public,” said AAI CEO John Bozzella. “Mandating audio features in a vehicle isn’t necessary. Congress hasn’t ever gone this route, especially in a competitive environment with so many choices, many of them free.”

Ford, for one, has [backtracked on its decision to drop AM](#). Last week, Markey and Cruz “celebrated the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee’s vote to advance the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act.” They say the Act should go to the full Senate floor for a vote “sometime this year,” following the August recess.

“Today’s vote to advance the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act sends a clear signal to carmakers,” said Senator Markey.

“AM radio is an essential communication tool during emergencies, and for decades has been a source of news, entertainment, sports, and music for tens of millions of drivers. I thank Senator Cruz for his partnership as we work to cut through the noise and uphold access to AM radio as we plug into our clean-energy, all-electric future.”

The radio in a 1986 Ford Mustang GT [Cameron Neveu](#) “AM radio serves a critical function during emergencies,” said Senator Cruz. “It reliably gets important information to the public, which is why several former FEMA administrators and representatives of the emergency response community have called for AM radio to remain in vehicles. AM radio is also vital to free expression and viewpoint diversity. With low barriers to entry, it allows Americans, especially conservatives, to communicate their points of view and help free speech flourish.”

According to [DGR News](#), the House version of the bill is pending, with bipartisan support that includes 70 Republican and 68 Democrat cosponsors of the bill. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-Minnesota) said that of the 4000 AM stations in the country, 1500 broadcast largely to farmers and ranchers with agricultural news. “Minnesotans look to AM radio for everything from news and weather updates to music and sports scores. It’s critical to protect AM radio for our communities, but right now, it’s on the chopping block,” said Klobuchar. “That’s why I’ve been working to pass the AM for Every Vehicle Act, and now this legislation is one step closer to becoming law,” she said in a statement.

Talk show host Sean Hannity told the [Los Angeles Times](#) that most of his 13 million listeners tune in on AM. He’s ready to draw attention to any and all auto companies that remove the band: “If they’re being obstinate about this, I’m just gonna name the names and let people know that they’re silencing conservative voices here,” Hannity said. “I don’t think they’ve put a lot of thought into it.”

Check out the [Haggerty Media homepage](#) so you don’t miss a single story, or better yet, **bookmark it**. To get our best stories delivered right to your inbox, [subscribe to our newsletters](#). ■

Labor Day is a [federal holiday in the United States](#) celebrated on the first Monday in September to honor and recognize the [American labor movement](#) and the works and contributions of [laborers](#) to the development and achievements of the [United States](#).^{[1][2][3]} The [three-day weekend](#) it falls on is called **Labor Day Weekend**.

Beginning in the late 19th century, as the [trade union](#) and [labor movements](#) grew, trade unionists proposed that a day be set aside to celebrate labor. “Labor Day” was promoted by the [Central Labor Union](#) and the [Knights of Labor](#), which organized the first parade in [New York City](#). In 1887, [Oregon](#) was the first state of the United States to make it an official [public holiday](#). By the time it became an official [federal holiday](#) in 1894, thirty [states in the U.S.](#) officially celebrated Labor Day.^[4] ■

Parts and Services.

Show and Go Collision

Tom Cavatio

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413-625-8498 Fax
clarks@corvair.com
www.corvair.com



**Check out this site and
expand your
Knowledge of the
Corvair.**

<https://www.corvair.org/>

Updated the CORSA Club
Office address

CORSA Club Office
PO Box 68
Long Lake, MN 55356

SEPTEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 DACC Monthly Meeting 7:00pm	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**September
DACC
Monday
Meeting
will be @
6pm on
the 11th.
Please
Attend.**

The Aircooler – Adam Morenski
15237 Roycroft
Roseville, MI. 48066

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
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00000

Other Corvair Club newsletter links

<http://www.vv.corvair.org/pipermail/chapters/attachments/20230726/f391ae19/attachment.pdf>

<http://www.vv.corvair.org/pipermail/chapters/attachments/20230724/5694472a/attachment.pdf>

<http://www.vv.corvair.org/pipermail/chapters/attachments/20230723/31ac9320/attachment.pdf>

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<http://www.vv.corvair.org/pipermail/chapters/attachments/20230808/9eae7d3/attachment.pdf>

<https://www.daytoncorvairclub.com/newsletters>

<http://www.vv.corvair.org/pipermail/chapters/attachments/20230820/a476862b/attachment.pdf>



SIGN UP AND USE THE NEW AND IMPROVED CORVAIR CENTER FORUM!



STARTING AUGUST 22

CORVAIRCENTER.COM

Corvair Center Forum Announcement

CORSA is pleased to announce that the upgrade of the Corvair Center Forum (CCF) will be ready to use on the evening of August 22nd. The CCF is an important site for Corvair owners to learn and share information. Led by Alec Carlson with input from moderators and users, the upgrade offers improvements such as:

- New Forum Site is secure
- Ability to embed videos
- Forum now running on the latest industry-standard software
- Easier uploading images/attachments
- Place links to the attachments anywhere in the body of the post, not just

at the end.

- New and fresh user interface and look
- Ability to configure the Forum for your needs
- Faster web page displays
- Powerful search engine for finding information
- CORSA updates and information

There are changes for all enrolled users of the site:

If you are not a user of the Corvair Center Forum, this change will not affect you. Become a user by setting up an account! Go to the Forum and join.

1. The old forum will be set to read-only starting August 20th and remain up for 30 days. New posts will need to wait: Between the 20th and the new Forum being ready you can read posts on the old forum but not post anything new.
2. The new forum will be should be available starting the evening of August 22nd. All the past posts will be available on the new forum.
3. Use this web address for the new forum: corvaircenter.com
4. FAQ Instructions for the new site are available on the CORSA website. [CORSA Headlines \(corvaircenter.com\)](http://corvaircenter.com)
5. You must set up a new password. Your password from the old forum will not work on the new forum. You must use the email address associated with the old CCF to set a new password.
6. Private messages from the old forum will be available as read-only from August 20th for 30 days.
7. Familiarize yourself with how to attach pictures- it's different and better

For the most up-to-date information regarding CCF, please go here: [CORSA Headlines \(corvair.org\)](https://corvair.org)

Corvair Society of America ~ (630) 403-5010 ~ PO Box 68, Long Lake, MN 55356
www.corvair.org

6 tips for using jack stands

Kyle Smith

17 August 2023

Share



Kyle Smith

Working on cars requires a whole slew of relatively specialized tools. Often times we don't even realize how unique those tools and practices are until we talk to someone new to the hobby. Or someone who is on the outside looking in. Just one example: How casually we discuss (and practice) the act of lifting our multi-thousand pound vehicles into the air and then supporting them with separate load-bearing apparatuses that allow us to work on, disassemble, or reach under the vehicles. It's dangerous when done right, and deadly when done wrong.

That sounds scary, and to a point it should be. Being cautious when the risks are this high is not a bad thing. That's why we created a quick list of tips for using jack stands: good for newbies, but it's also a refresher for those experienced enough to have lifted up a vehicle many times, in many ways over the years.

Buy once, cry never



[Kyle Smith](#)

There are many factors in selecting jack stands, and price is one that many of us are forced to consider. While tools can and will be shopped based on price point, jack stands should not be one of them. These are critical safety items that should come from reputable and trustworthy sources. The Harbor Freight jack stand [debacle](#) of 2020 should be burned in our collective memory for a long time, as being crushed by your car is not the way to go. Cheaping out with jack stands is a fast track to a mere feeling of safety, rather than possessing actual safety.

Jack stands should be sturdy with a good wide base. A secondary method of locking them at the desired height is also a plus. Do not modify jack stands or otherwise compromise safety features in the name of convenience. Doing so is only making it easier to get hurt.

Size appropriately



[Kyle Smith](#)

Jack stands produced after 2015 are rated as a pair. Which means if you find some at the local parts store that say they are “three-ton” jack stands, the ability to support the claimed 6000 pounds requires both stands. In reality, three-ton jack stands should be the smallest used in most home shops, as it gives a good safety margin when working on smaller cars, yet a set of four does have enough capability to hold a medium-sized truck or SUV in a pinch.

Next

Remember that storing jack stands can be a hassle, so having one set that covers anything you'll work on is the best way to go. That said, a small and large set of them is a nice luxury if you have the space. Inevitably something gets "stranded" on your one set of stands...and you'll need another set shortly thereafter.

Trace the load path



[Kyle Smith](#)

Jack stand placement is as critical (if not more critical!) than proper sizing. The biggest jack stand in the world is useless if you place it in the wrong spot, letting the car fall down anyway. The service manual is the best place to look for jack points and jack stand placements. Even the owner's manual in the glove box, a book that's been shrinking over time and loaded with "please see dealer" language, likely still outlines the jack points for safe lifting. A quick internet search will likely reveal appropriate information too.

But sometimes that doesn't work, or what you are doing is something the original engineer from decades past could have never imagined. That's when a little bit of critical thinking goes a long way. Look under the car and locate a place that looks sturdy enough to place a jack stand, then follow what that is connected to. From there, imagine how it would support the load being placed on it. Supporting the rear of a car by placing stands under the rear differential makes sense because the entire weight of the car is normally supported by that part. Using a bumper or frame brace that doesn't support and wasn't designed for that load is a bad place to put a stand. If unsure, consult professionals.

Do the shake test



[Kyle Smith](#)

Now that your project is up in the air and supported by jack stands, there is one last step before you roll underneath: You gotta shake it. No, not the latest TikTok dance. *Shake the car*. Go to one of the corners and give it a good push and pull to make sure the car is stable and the stands are not going to move or shift while you are underneath. This is the same thing that mechanics in shops do when putting a car on a two post lift.

After all, now is the time to find that the ground isn't really flat or the stands aren't fully seated on their safety catch. Only after a good shake can you roll under the car with confidence that it will not be coming down on top of you.

Buddy system



[Kyle Smith](#)

It feels strange to do when performing an innocuous task like adjusting a transmission shift cable or removing a driveshaft, but telling someone that you are working underneath a car with jack stands is a good practice. A text or call to a friend just to say "hey, I'm working on my project and am under the car for a bit" is enough of a heads up: if they don't hear from you in awhile they know to check on your well being. Being pinned or injured under a car with no means to get help should be horrifying to you, and encourage you to whatever is necessary to prevent it.

Keeping a phone on your person is one option, as is using smart speakers or other items that require nothing more than yelling at them to activate them. I personally have a Google Home Mini above my workbench, which allows me to broadcast a message to another speaker inside my house by just yelling at it. This lets me feel safe-ish when I am working on projects while my wife is inside. (Presumably enjoying her time without me.) This practice isn't for everyone, but it works for me. Find a system that works for you and use it.

Cribbing away that sinking feeling



Kyle Smith



Kyle Smith

Motorcyclists are familiar with the peril of asphalt: Ride somewhere on a warm day, set the bike on the kickstand, stop for a coffee, and the bike is laying on its side by the time you get back. Vandals? Inattentive drivers parking too-big SUVs? Nope. The asphalt did that.

Asphalt comes in a variety of flavors and mixtures, some of which isn't nearly as solid as it feels under your feet. A heavy load concentrated on a small point can sink into asphalt. And the weight of that motorcycle leaning on the kickstand's relatively small area can punch a hole into asphalt. Lo and behold, the kickstand sinks down enough that the motorcycle tilts and falls over. Bad news, but it points to a bigger problem.