

Heart of America Corvair Owners Association

VairCor



October 2023

Volume 59-10



In this issue

Calendar of events....	2
President's message..	2
Preventive	
Maintenance series....	3
Classifieds.....	8
What's	
happening.....	9

September Meeting

September 12 brought us together for our monthly meeting at Paul and Jack's, and our prez Scott Allison got us rolling just after 7 PM.

We began the meeting on a positive note with member medical updates. Kevin Koch expressed his gratitude for the support of our HACO community, saying, "All the prayers from all of you help a lot. Thank you." Paula Roberts shared that her mother and brother, Donna and Donnie, continue to thrive in their new home. Unfortunately, Paula also informed us of the passing of her sister, Yvonne, on August 17th. Our hearts go out to Paula and her family during this difficult time.

Membership Chair, Don Wagner, reported no new members or guests for this meeting. Helen Moore then read the minutes from our last meeting and they were approved as read. Following this, treasurer Cindy Anders reported on our finances and we are doing okay.

During the open floor discussion, we celebrated Michael Kleithermes for taking his red car to a local show and winning the DJ's Choice Award. Additionally, Ray Sego received recognition for winning the People's Choice Award for his Rampside at another event.

Moving into committee reports, Don asked if everyone had received the updated roster via email, and the response was affirmative. Chris and Meaghan are still experimenting with the new newsletter format to make it even better.

Continued on page 6

HACOA Calendar at a glance

Date	Event
Tuesday, October 10	Monthly meeting, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO
Tuesday, November 14	Monthly meeting, Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO
Friday, December 1	HACOA Christmas/holiday party, Trezo Mare, Kansas City, MO

President's Tapping

President's Tapping, October 2023

September was full of Corvair fun. On September 2nd everyone retrieved their cars from the Kansas City Automotive Museum. Club member Roscoe Yoder and his staff were appreciative of the participation and were there to help us load up and send us on our way. The week of Labor Day a few members traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska for the 50th annual SCCA Tire Rack Solo Nationals where Dick Berger and Charlie Clark were honored.

The 16th of September around 32 individuals met at the Dawson homestead for the Working Tech Session where work was done and individuals were fed. The club gained 2 new club members during the Tech Session, welcome to Matt Olson with his 1964 coupe and Alicia & Dan Forbes with her 1962 coupe. Terry Kalp and Jay Allen were also in attendance from Wichita for the event.

I'm going to take this time to also welcome John & Sue Weisensee of Platte City with a 66 convertible. We look forward to meeting you soon. Don Wagner continues to remain diligent with recruiting members and I for one appreciate all he has done for the club.

The GPCRUI was the 29th of September through October 1st. I hope many of you were able to make the event so that we can share stories at the October meeting.

The 2024 Board of Directors Nominating Committee is formed and consists of Don Wagner, Adam Fisher, Mike Dawson, Taylor West, and Dwight Hamby. If any of these individuals approach you for a position on the board I hope that you will accept. Nominations can occur up to the November meeting where we will find out who the committee has nominated for each position as well as any nominations from the floor.

If you have any desire to attend the HACOA Christmas Party this year please RSVP to Cindy Anders ASAP. The board will make the decision at the October meeting if the event can occur based on the number of registrations. To remind everyone, and provide information to our new members, the party is scheduled to occur at Trezo Mare from 5pm to 10pm. Dinner is scheduled for around 7pm following the general meeting at 6:30pm where the 2024 officers will be installed. The limited menu that you will choose from is; Caesar or Crisp Greens salad, then Chicken Piccata, Wood Fired Tilapia, Vegetable Pasta, or Sausage Pasta for your entrée, and finally Trezo Chocolate Bar or Tiramisu for dessert. Appetizers will be Tomato & Mozzarella Crostinis and Chicken & Artichoke Dip served buffet style. After dinner there will be a White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Coming up from October 13th through the 15th is the Lake Garnett Grand Prix Revival. Come on out on Sunday the 15th to cheer on one of our club members. I plan to cheer them on during the 10th anniversary of this event. The gates open at 7am, the track goes hot at 8am with the first session beginning at 9am followed by an afternoon session at 1pm after a short lunch break. The entrance to the event is at 500 N Lake Rd, Garnett, KS 66032.

On a personal note, another customer engine, a 95hp 4-speed, left the shop this month. I was invited to assist with installation and then even got to test drive the car. Everything went great and everyone is happy. I hope to move

forward on the turbo engine this month and then begin on the next two that are already on the list. Both future builds are local, club members actually, so they should go pretty quickly and be lots of fun.

Lastly, reminding anyone that would like a HACOIA nametag they can be obtained from Dean's Trophies, T-shirts & Awards at 17141 Bel Ray Place, Belton, MO 64012 for \$16 each and have a magnetic back. Be sure to ask me about the Item # to aid in their review of our previous design or simply let them know it's the Heart of America Corvair Owners Association (Corvair club) design they have on file.

Be safe and take care of each other and yourself.

Vairy Best, Scott

The Preventive Maintenance Series

Gas Gauge Diagnosis Revisited

Mike Dawson

Gas gauges for early models, late models and FC vehicles all operate essentially the same; they vary only in the resistances involved. A 12 volt power supply is provided to one side of the dashboard meter and a variable resistance to ground is provided by the in-tank rheostat to the other side of the meter. This varies the magnetism that locates the gauge needle.

Use of a quality ohm meter would be a very useful tool; a cheap unit will not read accurately in the range you need, which is 0-100 ohms. The early model and FC units are a 0-30 ohm resistance and the late model units are 0-90 ohms. Note: there can be a variance of a few ohms when checking sending units, including new ones.

Quick Check

With the key on, you can check your dashboard meter movement by removing the output wire at the tank; your meter should read over full (On FC models you would have to cut the wire coming from the tank since you cannot reach the connector). Ground that wire and your meter should read empty. Keep in mind that late model dash boards can lose their ground either at the screw attachment or at any of the ground strap connections behind the dash. The dashboard meter will read overfull if you loose the dash ground.

After performing the quick check test which confirms that your dashboard meter works properly, the following information may be useful.

The majority of the problems will come from one of the following: a missing ground between the tank's sending unit and the body, a float that has sunk, or a bad rheostat or wire on the tank sending unit. There are several tests that can help you determine where the problem is before you start replacing parts.

If your dashboard meter reads overfull, the dashboard ground is good and the dashboard meter passed the quick check: There is an open circuit between the dashboard meter and the sending unit, an open in the sending unit itself, or between the sending unit and a good ground.

1. To check the sending unit you would disconnect the wire on the tank sending unit (FC's require cutting the wire unless you pull the tank) and check the resistance between the stud on the sending unit and the sending unit flange. Your ohm meter should indicate some resistance on the 0-100 scale depending on early or late. If not, then the open is

in the sending unit rheostat or the in-tank connection. You might be able to repair the problem but replacing the sending unit, float, pickup filter and seal would be the permanent solution. Stainless steel units are now available.

2. If you register the correct resistance at the tank, then next check the ground for the tank. The ground wire must have a good connection where it is attached to the body. If the ground and the wire are good, then you must have an open in the wire from the tank's sending unit to the dashboard meter. The quick check above would have shown this when you grounded the wire at the tank – the gauge unit would not have moved.

If you have another sending unit available, hook it up by using a long jumper wire connected to the sending unit wire you have pulled off. With the key on, ground the unit and move the float to observe your meter movement.

If the dashboard meter reads empty all the time and the meter passed the quick check, then proceed to the following possibilities:

1. The float has a hole in it and has sunk to the bottom. Attach your ohm meter to the output stud at the sending unit and to ground. You would read either 0 or only a few ohms, confirming the float is on the bottom.
2. The wire from the sending unit to the dashboard meter is grounded. It could have a screw grounding it or the insulation scraped off around the tunnel pan area or if it is an FC the wire may be pinched between the tank and the body.
3. The insulation on the sending unit strap that connects the rheostat to the output stud has rotted away and is grounding at one end or the other where the strap can touch. See example below submitted by new member Matt Olson:



Other possible causes of erroneous meter readings; I have experienced all of these:

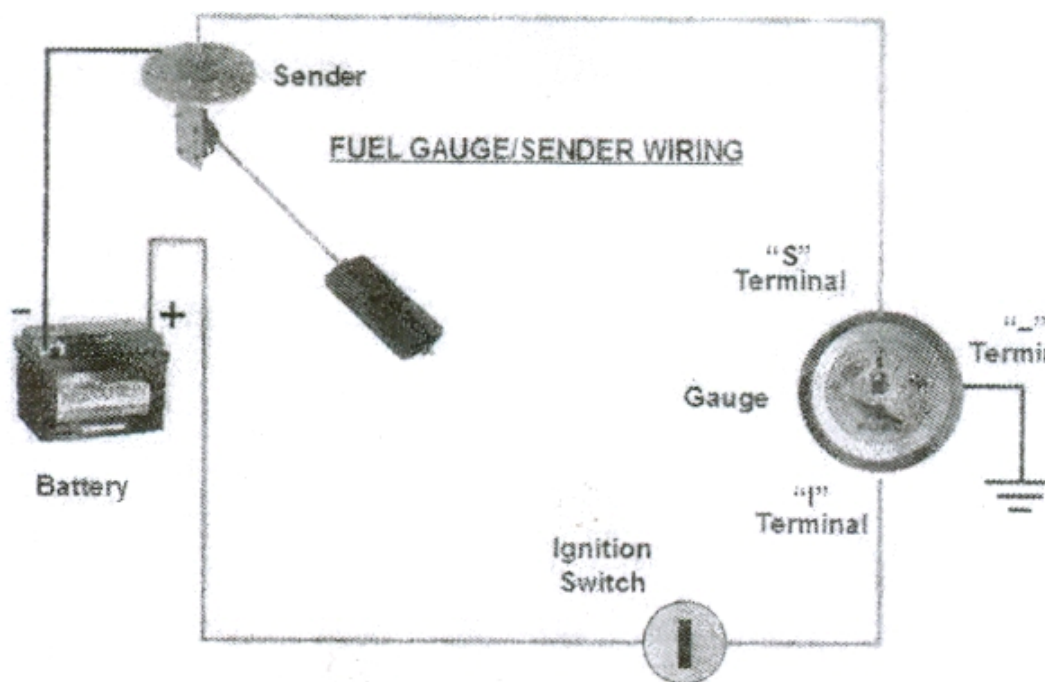
The wrong year sending unit has been installed

The bottom of the tank has been attacked by a floor jack.

A rusty tank has had a liquid liner applied inside without proper cleaning. The liner came off and is under the float like a wadded up newspaper.

It is not uncommon to find that those before you have altered wiring for some modification or repaired wiring with non-soldered connections that corroded.

One final note: Before installing a replacement sending unit, use a long jumper and a ground to remotely move the float up and down while observing the dashboard meter. You can adjust the arm movement slightly to get closer to the full or empty mark if necessary.



Addition from Mike Dawson:

For those who have not seen it yet, Larry Claypool has published the first installment of his Electric Fuel Pump video. Lots of good information at the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pj8QKJ4u5uk>

September Meeting, continued from page 1

Travis is diligently adding all the current VairCors to the website for everyone to enjoy. Kat informed us about an upcoming tour this Sunday, and details will be sent via email to members. Scott reported that he recently visited Ken Ragan, who still has plenty of tools available for our members to borrow.

Paula, through Scott, updated us on recent and upcoming social events, including the cancellation of the Timeline of Transportation II event due to unforeseen circumstances. We also thanked everyone for their assistance in retrieving cars from the KC Automotive Museum. Furthermore, Paula reminded us of the upcoming Working Tech Session hosted by the Dawsons on September 16th and the 2023 GPCRU in Guthrie, Oklahoma, from September 29th to October 1st. Any questions about the latter event should be sent to Newslettercoca@gmail.com. Paula also mentioned the Lake Garnett Grand Prix revival from October 13th to 15th and our Christmas Party, scheduled for December 1, 2023, at Trezo Mare.

We've established a Nominating Committee, responsible for presenting next year's slate of officers at the November meeting. The committee members are Don Wagner, Adam Fisher, Mike Dawson, Dwight Hamby, and Taylor West. Please consider saying yes if one of these members approaches you!

In response to a request to RSVP to Cindy Anders (preferably with a check), a few more people signed up for the Christmas Party. We remind everyone that if we do not have adequate participation, the event is subject to cancellation by the board at the October meeting.

Regarding the HACO Christmas Donation recipient, no additional suggestions were made, so the board will choose one before the December meeting from the following list of charities: Operation Breakthrough and KC Pet Project.

There were no new business items to discuss, but we followed with a list of member project updates. Here they are:

- Dick Berger reported a broken shifter, which occurred at the Solo Nationals in Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Dwight Hamby shared that he's working on his Corsa's rear end wheel alignment for the third time and will have it at Mike's tech session.
- Michael Kliethermes is busy fixing all the things he got dinged for at Concours.
- Travis Bolton noted that Paul's car no longer has a hole in the floor.
- Scott Allison humorously stated that there's "nothing going on" for him at the moment, which is indeed news!
- Taylor West mentioned that "Kandy," Kat King's convertible, is getting a new top, to be delivered at Mike's tech session.

With all the updates and discussions wrapped up, the meeting was adjourned.

Vice President Larry Roberts invited Kevin Koch to present a program on "Buying and Selling on Bring a Trailer." Kevin shared his recent experiences with buying and selling vehicles on the platform and provided insights into what to expect for those interested in doing the same. Kevin's most recent purchase, a 1991 Nissan Figaro, received special attention for its "retro cool" factor (it's not cute!). Scott Allison, who also had experience with the platform, added his insights to the discussion.

That's it for this month's newsletter! We look forward to seeing you at the October meeting.



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 Corvair
starters with
solenoid \$130
exchange



Rebuilt harmonic
balancer
\$110 exchange
for a rebuildable
core



Mike Dawson
mdawson1961@sbcglobal.net
816-322-4057

Reproduced end plates for the 12 and 8
plate oil cooler. These are the two pieces
of sheet metal that help keep all the hot
air from the oil cooler moving out the
bottom instead of back in to the engine
compartment. \$10 each





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E-mail kenrragan@sbcglobal.net

TAYLOR WEST

TMK

upholstery

taylor.west@hotmail.com

816-896-2240

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

Classifieds, continued

1963 Corvair/Clam Digger dune buggy for sale. All Corvair running gear and suspension, including 1965 140 HP engine with centermount carburetor, dual point distributor, and electric fuel pump. Running gear includes a '64 4-speed transaxle with transverse spring and new 13 inch tires. Needs some wiring work. Asking \$3,500. Contact Dick Berger 678-650-4246.

What's Happening?

HACOA Working Tech Session, Saturday, September 16, 2023.

37 Attendees and 16 Corvairs on Site

The first arrival Saturday morning was Chris Green who installed fittings and greased the rear wheel bearings on his late model. Chris was planning to travel to Ottawa for the car show so Scott Allison jumped in to lend assistance. Along with the wheel bearing maintenance, Chris replaced some badly relaxed brake return and hold down springs. Floyd Becker arrived next and proceeded to install a Pertronix ignition system and followed up with a wiper switch replacement.

Fred Bybee arrived with Sharon and provided some raffle items plus a couple of boxes of miscellaneous small Corvair parts and other hardware that was free for the taking.

Just after noon lots of folks started showing up and other projects got under way. Travis Bolton and Gary Jones conversed over fuel gauge issues with Travis replacing his and Gary planning on finishing his at home. Mike Kliethermes brought his concours car to address judging issues and Don Wagner aided Mike in coming up with ways to improve his scoring. Larry Roberts jacked up his late model and proceeded to replace both crossover pipe packings.

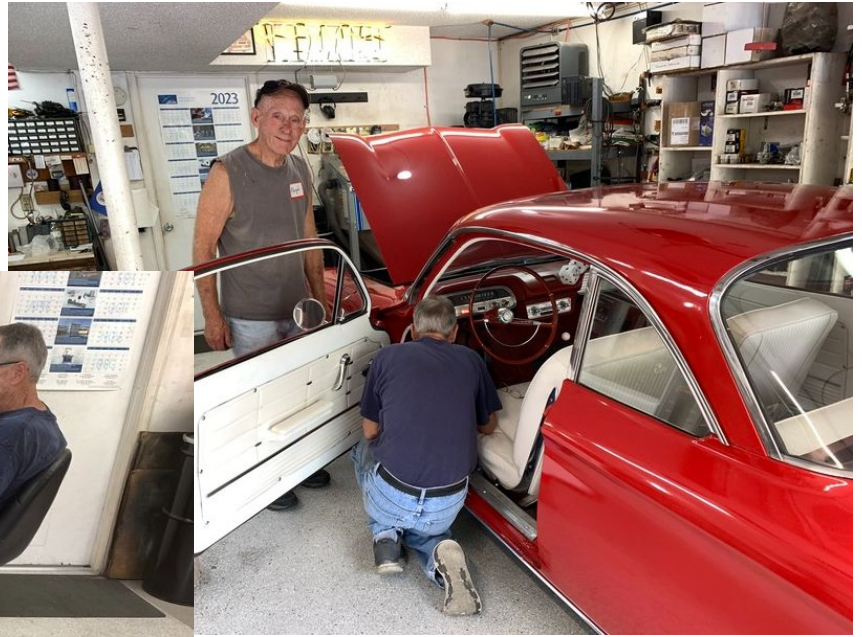
The long distance mention goes to Scott McClune from St. Louis who picked up reconditioned parts and replaced a throttle valve in a Powerglide. He also did some prep work on a wiring harness to convert to an internally regulated alternator. Second place for the long distance mention goes to Terry Kalp and Jay Allen who spent the entire afternoon discussing and socializing. Dwight Hamby needed carburetors balanced and it was also discovered the points were defective and could not be gaped correctly. That also led to tightening the vacuum advance which was quite loose. Tim Kienzie drove his late turbo convertible and fixed a fuel leak, plus he picked up tips on temperature gauge calibration after a test drive with an infrared gun showed a significant disparity between the gauge unit and actual readings on the road.

We picked up two new members during the afternoon, one is long time Corvair owner Matt Olson from Belton, who has a very nice '64 Monza Cpe. Matt is the proprietor of 816 Vintage on Main Street in Belton. Matt's car and Sandy Dawson's car have both been confused for the other in Belton due to the style and color. The other new member is Dan Forbes who brought his entire family for the afternoon. He has an early model with a frozen accelerator pedal which will now be addressed as he took home bushings and tips for the repair. It was great having young folks attend, both his kids are within a couple of years of driving.

There was a big round of applause for Cindy Anders who took care of all of the grilling and thanks to all the folks that brought side dishes to share; there was quite the extensive food line!

And yes, everyone who brought something to work on was able to drive it home!





Solo Nationals

HACOA peeps Charlie Clark, Dick Berger, Travis Bolton, and Scott Allison attended the 50th running of the SCCA Solo Nationals at Lincoln Air Park over Labor Day week. Scott was crew chief for 2 cars 🚗 and blue. And he got to work on both cars, fitting an electric fuel pump on the red car and finding every gear on the blue one when the shifter broke and only second was wanted...

Travis had the fastest 2nd day run of the 3 drivers while Charlie hit cones in both cars. Charlie and Dick received trophies for attending their 50th championship event (see picture) and neither car had to be pushed into the trailer (thank goodness for electric winches!).

Many beers were consumed and stories told during the 8 days spent in Lincoln, Nebraska and plans are already being formulated for 2024.





Nate McCrary, another Corvair driver, was also there to join in on the fun.

Breakfast time!

The Moore's were out for a cars and coffee event and had a cup with Roscoe Yoder.



SAVE THE DATE
FRIDAY
DECEMBER 1, 2023
HACOAS
CHRISTMAS
AT
TREZO MARE
WINE ROOM

4105 N. Mulberry dr.
Kansas City, MO 64116

Four course dinner – per person \$50.
Includes fresh bread and non-alcoholic
drinks
Cocktail and social hour 5:00–6:30pm
Dinner at 7:00pm
After dinner White Elephant Gift
Exchange

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

October	
Name	Date
Martha Martin	2
Donna Pentzer	2
Brent DeGreene	7
Larry Sherwood	7
Shaunda Irwin	9
Stefani Sergeant	11
Suzy Sherwood	17
Don Barta	18
Kevin Rafferty	22
Mike Dawson	29
John Miller	30