

# West Florida Corvair Club



## The Chronic Corvair December, 2023 – Merry Christmas!

West Florida Corvair Club #325

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Above Gary Mierzwa, Debbie and Karl Stelzer and Howard Ruble at our meeting in November. We had a good meeting.



Kris Verwey and Ron Schemmer above brought three pizzas and several bags of grapes and walnuts which were distributed among our members. This was much appreciated by all. I wonder what they will bring to our January Production Meeting?

Howard Ruble drove his 65 Corvair up on Howard Furr's four post lift so he could look at the undercarriage with Ed. Howard and Ed had a little tech session together before the meeting. In the picture below, Kris Verwey is standing in front of the Corvair engines in Howard Furr's garage and in front of Howard Rubles Corvair behind him on the lift.



Kris Verwey wants Ed to call him when he helps other members with their Corvairs so he can learn more about working on a Corvair.

### 1.MINUTES:

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

WELCOME: 13 members were present.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report was given.

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### Officer nominations:

President: Ed Lindsay

Danielle Avallone (if she isn't moving)

Vice President: Gary Mierzwa

Secretary/ Treasurer: Mary Mierzwa

Newsletter editor: June Lindsay

Activities: Danielle Avallone

Elections will be held at the January production meeting.

### Corvair Lovers Holiday:

Members were asked if we needed to address anything

about the show. Registrations have already started coming in.

**Christmas Party:** Our Christmas party is on December 10<sup>th</sup> at Karl & Debbie's home. Address is: 9912 Edendale Ln., Cantonment, FL 32533. Party will start @ 2pm. Karl & Debbie will provide the meat. Please bring a dish to share.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

It was proposed to change the meeting time to 1:30 pm for the winter months so we don't have to drive home in the dark. It was decided to give it a try. We will meet at 1:30 in January for our production meeting. We will decide whether we like the new time or not at that time.

**Next meeting:** Christmas party @ Karl & Debbie Steltzer's home. 9912 Edendale Ln., Cantonment, FL. 32533.

**January meeting:** Howard Furr's garage. We will meet at 1:30 pm instead of 2:30 pm.



Howard Ruble was the only one who drove a Corvair to the meeting. Above Howard in his 1965 Corvair is waving goodbye after our meeting.

## **2. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OUR MEMBERS?**

Our members are to mark their calendars for December 10<sup>th</sup> when we will hold our club Christmas Party at 2:00pm at Karl and Debbie Stelzer's at 9912 Edendale Lane Cantonment, FL 32533. Please call Debbie and let her know what you plan on bringing as a dish to share. Call Debbie 850-478-0134 or email her at [drkastelzer@att.net](mailto:drkastelzer@att.net). Call Ed at 850-781-6350 if you get lost. There will be no business done at this meeting.

## **2. THE WONDERS OF TECHNOLOGY:**

Email the newsletter editor at:

[wfcc@mediacombb.net](mailto:wfcc@mediacombb.net)

CORSA @ [www.corvair.org](http://www.corvair.org)

[CorvairForum.com](http://CorvairForum.com)

Clarks Corvair Parts@ [www.corvair.com](http://www.corvair.com)

Visit [www.oldcarsweekly.com](http://www.oldcarsweekly.com) and <Speak your piece in forums at Oldcarsweekly.com>

Facebook: [West Florida Corvair Club](#). Send Friend Request!

## **4. HOW CORVAIR LOVERS CELEBRATE LIFE:**

### **What's for breakfast?**



Ed and June enjoyed French Toast with bacon and sausage this past Sunday. The bacon and sausage were made by Howard Furr in his new smokehouse. Howard's sausage and bacon is a lot better than store bought.



Above is Howard's smokehouse behind his greenhouse where he dries the lumber cut from his sawmill.

## **5. DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that the club wants to continue to cater the Friday Night Hospitality Dinner and Saturday Lunch for our Car Show in February? Danielle told the members at our last meeting that Dan is aware of not making so much food. Club members will still be responsible to bring snacks and desserts. Mary will start coordinating snacks and desserts at our Production Meeting in January and put it in the newsletter.

## **6. HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY:**

If your birthday is not listed below, it is because you don't have a Birthday listed on your personal profile or because you did not pay your dues. (Or, I goofed!) If you or your pet would like to be on the Birthday List, pay your



dues, contact June Lindsay at [wfcc@mediacombb.net](mailto:wfcc@mediacombb.net) or call her at 850-994-2161. (June and July birthdays are listed in our August Newsletter.)

### Birthdays

Nancy Moyer	12/02
Froop Mierzwa	12/04



Froop Mierzwa

Charlie Kelson	12/18
Lisa Dudak	12/19
Daniel Hunter	12/20
Holly Hunter	12/20
Kevin Mroz	12/21
Kris Verwey	12/27

### Anniversaries

Ken & Shirley Hosking	12/09/09
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## 7. TECH TIPS OR ARTICLE:

### Fan Belt Maintenance

Mike Dawson

CORSA Tech Guide Supplement – 1996

Fan Belts page 5

The Corvair boasted a specially designed belt that GM used only after rejecting at least four different designs. Since GM discontinued the original design years ago, no other company has duplicated it. Anybody can have good luck with a \$3 belt, but if you want one close to the original, use a 3V50 wrapped industrial belt. The original belt was 55 3/4" x 3/8". The 3V560 belt are sold by most Corvair vendors as "super belts."

#### Installation Checks

The drive pulley or balancer should be checked for wobble or separation and the timing notch checked for a sharp edge that can wear the belt.

The idler pulley should be checked for wobble and dents caused by prybars. The big washer on the slide end of the bracket must be between the nut and the slide.

Check fan pulley for wobble and dents and, most important, for proper height. On-the-car reference: lay a straight edge across the top of the pulley, measure down to the shroud next to the choke rod (intake flange) on the left side. It should measure exactly 6" for '62-69 and 6 5/32" on '60-61. This dimension will be wrong if your fan bearing was installed incorrectly, or if it has moved in the top cover where its interference fit has become loose.

Alternator/generator pulley must be exactly 3" O.D. Rebuilders change them and even a 1/4" sized difference will change belt alignment. Look for a loose generator mount on the left end, check for the proper alternator/generator adapter. As with other pulleys, check for dents, wobble and wear.

#### Belt Tension

There should be a 3/8" deflection with a 15-pound load between the idler and the fan. The book calls for 55 pounds if you have a strand tension gauge. You can barely turn the alternator fan with your thumb when correctly tensioned. Tension should be checked after a break-in period.

#### Belt Guides

The rear guide can be installed on any year with ease; the top guide should be on any that have the mount holes in the top shroud. Clearance between belt and guide is 1/16".

If the GEN FAN light comes on, stop immediately. Determine if the belt is working or not. If it is, you can drive the car but have the charging system checked as soon as possible. If it is off, replace it before driving. Once a belt comes off, the cords are bent and it will continue to flip.

If you must drive, follow the owner's guide instructions for operation without a belt. Remember, if you ruin an engine by overheating, it usually cannot be rebuilt. **Never drive a Corvair with the TEMP PRESS light on.** (4/96)

## 8. CHIT CHAT BY JUNE LINDSAY:

### Classic Bikes and Penny Farthing Bike

By Lamar Childs



The car and the bikes are about the same age, from about 1964! These were Donna and her sisters' bikes!! We brought the bikes back from Arizona at the same time we brought the Corvair back to Pensacola. I refurbished the bikes myself with colors that are of Donna's favorite time of the year, HALLOWEEN. The names Broomstick #1 and Broomstick #2 are located on the chain guards. Lucky to have them both.

Since I am resigning my position as an FAA Designated Pilot Examiner effective 01/01/2024, this is a great time to get started with my bucket list, as was going to Dayton to fly in the Wright B Flyer this past September. I have wanted a Penny-Farthing for a very long time, but never had the time to learn to ride it. Finally, I have the time, so I ordered my 50" (front wheel) Excelsior (like some it has no brakes - LOL) from a company in California. Since these are not off the shelf bikes, it takes about 6 weeks from the time you place your order until its delivered. I suspect it will arrive around the middle of December or slightly earlier. I found the following Penny-Farthing article informative and thought you might like to read about them.



#### Penny-Farthing

The Penny-Farthing, also known as a high wheel, high wheeler or ordinary, is an early type of bicycle. It was popular in the 1870s and 1880s, with its large front wheel providing high speeds, owing to it travelling a large distance for every rotation of the legs, and comfort,

because the large wheel provided greater shock absorption.

It became obsolete in the late 1880s with the development of modern bicycles, which provided similar speed, via a chain-driven gear train, and comfort, from the use of pneumatic tires. They were marketed as "safety bicycles" because of the greater ease of mounting and dismounting, the reduced danger of falling, and the reduced height to fall, in comparison to penny-farthings.

The name came from the British penny and farthing coins, the penny being much larger than the farthing, so that the side view of the bicycle resembles a larger penny (the front wheel) leading a smaller farthing (the rear wheel). Although the name "Penny-Farthing" is now the most common, it was probably not used until the machines had been almost superseded. The first recorded print reference is from 1891 in *Bicycling News*. For most of their reign, they were simply known as "bicycles", and were the first machines to be so called, although they were not the first two-wheeled, pedaled vehicles. In the late 1890s, the name "ordinary" began to be used, to distinguish them from the emerging safety bicycles, and that term, along with "hi-wheel" and variants, are preferred by many modern enthusiasts.

Following the popularity of the boneshaker, Eugène Meyer, a Frenchman, invented the high-wheeler bicycle design in 1869 and fashioned the wire-spoke tension wheel. Around 1870 English inventor James Starley, described as the father of the bicycle industry, and others, began producing bicycles based on the French boneshaker but with front wheels of increasing size, because larger front wheels, up to 5 feet (152 cm) in diameter, enabled higher speeds on bicycles limited to direct-drive. In 1878, Albert Pope began manufacturing the Columbia bicycle outside Boston, starting their two-decade heyday in America.

Although the trend was short-lived, the penny-farthing became a symbol of the late Victorian era. Its popularity also coincided with the birth of cycling as a sport.

#### End of an era

The well-known dangers of the Penny-Farthing were, for the time of its prominence, outweighed by its strengths. While it was a difficult, dangerous machine, it was simpler, lighter, and faster than the safer velocipedes of the time. Two new developments changed this situation and led to the rise of the safety bicycle. The first was the chain drive, originally used on tricycles, allowing a gear ratio to be chosen independent of the wheel size. The second was the pneumatic bicycle tire, allowing smaller wheels to provide a smooth ride.

#### Operation

Mounting requires skill. The rider must first grasp the handlebar and place one foot on a peg above the back wheel. Then the rider scoots the bicycle forward to gain momentum and quickly jumps up onto the seat while continuing to steer the bicycle and maintain balance.



Although easy to ride slowly because of their high center of mass and the inverted pendulum effect, Penny-Farthings are prone to accidents. To stop, the rider presses back on the pedals while applying a spoon-shaped brake pressing the tire. The center of mass being high and not far behind the front wheel means any sudden stop or collision with a pothole or other obstruction can send the rider over the handlebars. On long downhills, some riders hooked their feet over the handlebars. This made for quick descents but left no chance of stopping. A new type of handlebar was introduced, called Whatton bars, that looped behind the legs so that riders could still keep their feet on the pedals and also be able to leap forward feet-first off the machine.

## **9 COMING EVENTS:**

See our Face Book Page for more car shows.

**Dec. 1:** Milton Sandy Sansing Chevrolet Toy Drive with entry fee of one new unwrapped Christmas Toy Drive 4-7pm, food & drinks.

**Dec. 10:** Club Christmas Party at 2pm at Karl and Debbie Stelzer's, 9912 Edendale Lane, Cantonment 32533, Bring a dish to share and call Debbie at 850-478-0134 or email her at [drkastelzer@att.net](mailto:drkastelzer@att.net) to let her know what you are bringing. Call Ed at 850-781-6350 if you get lost.

*Remembering last year's Christmas Party at Karl and Debbie Stelzer's. Below is Mary and Gary Mierzwa at last year's party. Mary broke her upper leg the day of the 2022 VW Rare Air car show.*



*Santa was at last year's Christmas party too. Kris Verwey was dressed for the occasion, see below.*



**Feb 16 -17, 2024:** 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Corvair Lovers Holiday to be held at the Perdido Bay Golf course, 1 Doug Ford Drive, Pensacola, FL 32507. Call Kayla at 850-492-2214 to make your cottage reservations by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Jan 21, 2024:** WFCC Production Meeting at 1:30pm at Howard Furr's big Garage. Members are asked to bring all the door prizes and goody bag items that they have been collecting and goody bag items

**July 22-25, 2024:** Corvair Airborne, CORSA International Convention, sponsored by the Ohio Corvair Clubs, Host Hotel Marriott at the University of Dayton, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, OH 45409, For more information see [www.daytoncorvairclub.com](http://www.daytoncorvairclub.com)

## **10: CLUB STORES: SALE!**

**\*\* Club Patches @ \$8                      \*\*1960-69 Stickers @ 2.00**  
**\*\* Club Pins @ \$2                              (No 62's or 66's)**  
**\*\* Note Card's \$1 (Dog & Cat) \*\*Corvair Puzzle` \$25.00**  
CORSA Mmerchandise: 3" Inside and Outside window stickers \$3.00, CORSA Hat Pins \$6.00, mostly Small CORSA T-Shirts \$2.00 each or three for \$5. **(Good for grandchildren or great-grandchildren play clothes or night shirts for Christmas! Contact Ed Lindsay at 850-781-6350.**

## **11: For Sale: (If sold, let us know)**

**For Sale:** 1963 Corvair Convertible, 64 running gear & Spyder Dash, 1964 Corvair Convertible Spyder no drive train, 1964 Corvair Convertible body only for parts, Ken Zaiser, Tallahassee, 850-576-5835 or 559-4290

**For Sale:** Early & late model Corvair parts: including FC parts. What do you need? I might have it! Ed Lindsay at [wfcc@mediacombb.net](mailto:wfcc@mediacombb.net) or call him at 850-781-7350. 6/15

**For Sale:** 1980 TR8 Convertible, \$10,000 OBO, Lee Oxford, 102 Dee Court, Daleville, AL 36322, (334)714-0100. 2/23



**For Sale:** #407 1968 Ultravan "shell" for sale \$1500, contact Ed Lindsay, 5670 San Vair Steet, Milton, FL 32583, 850-781-6350. Thinking about putting in a drive train and the price will go up. All washed and getting some interest. The price has gone up. 9/22



**For Sale:** 1962 Monza S/W, 4 speed, bench seat and is mechanically perfect. Runs, drives and stops perfectly. New floor pans. Paint is about 6-7 years old and 9 out of 10, I drove it about 20 miles in the last year, \$10,000 Firm, Ken Smith, [chevymann@yahoo.com](mailto:chevymann@yahoo.com) Samson, Alabama about 80 miles from Pensacola/Milton, FL. 9/22



**For Sale:** Corvair Memorabilia, Model cars, Hot Wheels, Franklin Mints, you name it I probably got it! Old Corvair manuals and periodicals, you name it, I probably got it! Ed Lindsay 850-781-6250. 7/22

#### **12: ADVERTISEMENTS:**

#### **Eddie Meadows Automotive**

991 Foxfire Trail  
Oviedo, FL 32765  
407-36-09748

#### **Able Auto Repair**

Service you're Able to Trust  
Ron Schemmer & Chris Deloney  
6548 Mobile Hwy  
850-332-5162

#### **Handy Car Care – Ken Hand**

1896 S. Gregory Rd.  
Fowlerville, MI 48836  
248-613-8586

[www.corvairmechanic.com](http://www.corvairmechanic.com)  
[vairmech@aol.com](mailto:vairmech@aol.com)

#### **Rafee Corvair**

[www.rafeecorvair.com](http://www.rafeecorvair.com)  
2695 Bengal Rd.  
Wister, OK 74966  
918-753-2486

#### **North Florida Corvair**

Repairs – Restorations  
Woody Woodfin  
Lake City, FL  
386-406-0606



**Bow Tie BBQ & Catering**  
Dan Avallone, 850-974-9429

#### **Charlie Kelson Plumbing**

[kelsonplumbing@gmail.com](mailto:kelsonplumbing@gmail.com)  
Call: 850-221-9905

#### **North Florida Corvair**

Repairs – Restorations  
Woody Woodfin  
Lake City, FL  
386-406-0606



Thane Taylor  
850-341-1330

Mention WFCC & get a discount equal to the Tax

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**Bill Cotrofeld Automotive, Inc**

Call or write for a free brochure:  
America's Oldest Corvair Shop  
3630 Route 7A Arlington  
P.O. Box 235  
East Arlington, VT 05252  
802-375-6782

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**Wolf Enterprises**

Carburetors & Collectibles  
32605 Rhode Island Ave.  
San Antonio, FL 33576  
E-mail: [GyoungWolf@earthlink.net](mailto:GyoungWolf@earthlink.net)  
Write, call, or send an email to request  
your Free Catalog at 352-588-0645

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**Stelzer Stoneware**



<https://www.etsy.com/shop/StelzerStoneware>

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**California Corvair Parts:**

We would like to let everyone know about our  
growing online parts store at:

[www.CaliforniaCorvairParts.com](http://www.CaliforniaCorvairParts.com)

More than 30 parts categories including everything  
from New, Used, Rebuilt and NOS items. The store  
currently features over 560 parts available and we  
are adding more every week. For those of you who  
enjoy shopping online we invite you to have a look.  
We accept all credit cards and of course Pay Pal  
payments too. 951-284-3555, 15090 La Palma Dr.,  
Chino, CA 91710 Thanks, Jeffrey Williams, CCPI

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**Clark's Corvair Parts**  
**Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Thaks 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](http://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  
[www.corvair.com](http://www.corvair.com)  
413-625-9776



That's All Folk's

**13. WEST FLORIDA CORVAIRS, INC.** is a chartered chapter # 325 of the Corvair Society of America? We advocate membership in CORSA of which dues are currently \$45 annually. Send Dues to CORSA, Executive & Editorial Offices: 1448 Seagull Drive, Apt. 312, Palm Harbor, FL 34685. You may contact them at their Web Site: [www.corvair.org](http://www.corvair.org). Executive Secretary: Paul & Ramona Bergstrom, P.O. Box 68, Maple Plain, MN 55359, 630-403-5010, you may email them at [corcluboffice@gmail.com](mailto:corcluboffice@gmail.com). CORSA publishes a monthly magazine dedicated solely to the Corvair. You may contact them at: Executive Editor: Donald Keefe, [communiqué@corvair.org](mailto:communiqué@corvair.org). Membership Dues for West Florida Corvairs, Inc. is presently \$15 annually in January. We meet on a regular basis on the third Sunday of each month at 2:30 p.m. at a predetermined place for our business meetings. Social gatherings are arranged for family enjoyment as weather permits. Both meeting places are published in our newsletter. Anyone who has an interest in the Corvair is welcome to join us at any of our meetings. Thinking about becoming a member? Three complimentary newsletters can be mailed to you. Contact our club c/o Ed Lindsay, 5670 San Vair Street, Milton, FL 32583, and Phone: 850-994-2161, E-mail: [wfcc@mediacombb.net](mailto:wfcc@mediacombb.net). (The address of our club is that of our Newsletter Editor.)

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First Class

