

Jan
2024

THE CONNECTING ROD

The Newsletter of Corvair Atlanta, Inc



Stay Warm, Stay Happy, Stay Healthy!

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The President's Corner

Happy New Year! Another trip around the sun has just completed, and 2024 is upon us. Let's all hope for a great one.

In December, approximately 26 members attended the Corvair Atlanta annual Holiday and Christmas party detailed below in the newsletter.

We held our annual elections at the meeting, adding Michael Rickey as a new board member and swapping Mike Gassmann back to Vice President and Tom Constantine to the Secretary position. Nolan will retain the Treasurer position for another year, and Steve Ratcliffe the Webmaster, Newsletter Editor, and Guru of all tech.

Robert Birkinbine, Dan Terry, and Zack Fitch will retain their board positions, and I will remain as President for another year.

We hope to start this year with a little more punch than usual and are scheduling a January meeting. Traditionally we have skipped January for meetings, as this is when the Springfest planning meeting is usually scheduled. But we held that meeting on November 4th to get an earlier start on planning the event. The exact time and place for the January Corvair Atlanta meeting will be announced by e-mail in January.

Speaking of Springfest, please note that there are 2 or 3 large weddings in Helen on Springfest weekend, so it would be advisable to reserve hotel rooms very early. Also note that membership renewal is upon us, and Steve has worked hard to make it easier than ever to do this with an online registration process. Dues can be paid and new members can join using credit or debit cards and through an online process. Read more about it in this newsletter below. Please try to have your dues in by February 29th. We added a day to February this year just to make dues easier!

I hope to see each of you at the January meeting this month. In the meantime, please consider taking a few minutes to submit a short Corvair or personal story of interest to Steve for inclusion in the newsletter. We are a pretty diverse group of people who share a common interest in Corvairs. Tell us what got you interested!

Let us know about upcoming car events in your area, and let's have some informal or formal get-togethers.

Over and out!

Frank



CAI Holiday Party

Dec 17th 2023



The holiday party was a huge success! We didn't have as many participants as we would like, but it was great to be with all the wonderful folks who attended. The club house was beautifully decorated, as usual, and it was warm and cozy on a cold, damp day.

Hugh Banks, our favorite caterer, provided an excellent salad with a good selection of fruit and vegetables to choose, and a variety of dressings. This was accompanied by an interesting and perfectly prepared vegetable medley, large rolls, and his incredible baked salmon and roast beef au jus. Such a treat!!

But wait!!! There's more!! ~ Jeanette Rudolph, Wanda Cook, and Dee Dee Gassmann brought hors d'oeuvres and desserts "to die for"! Thanks to Lindy Lively for her wonderful fruit punch and all the appetizers she prepared! Additionally, Nolan Grant brought lots of iced tea (even some unsweet!!), Lemonade, and water. *Thanks to all of them!*

Near the end of the main meal, CAI President Frank Metasavage held a short meeting at which Michael Rickey was elected to the Director position vacated when the long-time invaluable Director, Lanny Milbrandt, died last Spring.

Having completed lots of great food and socializing, everyone adjourned to the "living room" for the gift exchange. This year's exchange did not disappoint! Lots of interesting gifts and a few "Gag" gifts to keep things both fun and interesting. Some gifts were "stolen" twice, which always make these activities lively.

We are very grateful to Tom Constantine for arranging for the party to be at the and Vinings Club House and for his hard work to ensure we had another great party.



CAI Holiday Party (Cont.)

Dec 17th 2023





Jack Allison
Mary Arnold
Larry Blanks
Tom Chaapel
Ted Fahrenthold
Tony Krusich
Phyllis Majors
Frank Metasavage
Aubrey Ogletree
Bill Rudolph
Ben Schneider



Yes, It's that time again...

Starting January 1st!

Want to renew with a credit card? YES!!

***Prefer to use PayPal or write a check?
You can do it!!***

***Simply click on the link below to renew via
Credit Card, PayPal, or Check:***

Corvairatlanta.com

Select the "Join Us/Renew" tab and follow easy directions.

Mecum Auction Jan 2 - 14, 2024

will showcase a collection of **4,000 vehicles** at
Osceola Heritage Park, Kissimmee, FL

Corvairs coming up for auction:

Lot# G 220 - '61 Greenbriar
G 192 - '61 Rampside
G 173 - '61 Rampside
G 40 - '64 Monza 900

Calendar

Jan 1st - New Years Day

Jan 1st - **CAI 2024 Membership Renewals begin** - See Pg. 6 Below for info.

Jan 15th - Martin Luther King Day

Jan 20th - **CAI Monthly Member Meeting.** Location TBD

Feb 13th - Mardigras

Feb 14th - Ash Wednesday

Feb 14th - Valentines Day



**Feb 29th - CAI Membership
Renewal Drive Ends!**

Fun with your Vair!



SHOW OFF **YOUR** RIDE THIS WEEKEND



Sunday Classic Car Worship



1st Sunday of each month! No awards, no “Monkey Business”, just folks who love classic cars you don’t see very often, if ever!
Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell, GA 30075 8AM - 11AM

Fun with your Vair! (Cont.)



**Springfest 2024 will be
19-20 APRIL**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

Springfest 2024

Helen, GA. April 19-20

1964 - The Last of the Earlys

Corvair Atlanta
Heart of Georgia Corvairs
Update Corvair Club
Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts
Queen City Corvair Club

Details & information: <https://corvairspringfest.com/>

*Ideas Worth Sharing
For a Worthy Cause*



**Be A
National Corvair Museum Supporter**

If you haven't heard yet, the Corvair Preservation Foundation (CPF) has started a Capital Campaign to raise funds to build our own **National Corvair Museum** building. We have been in multiple leased locations since we opened our doors as a museum in 1994 and for one reason or another none of these have proven to be a long-term solution to the growing international interest in the Corvair.

The Capital Campaign is a multi-year campaign to raise \$2,000,000. These funds will be raised from individuals, businesses, corporations, foundations, and other entities. The end of the campaign will be celebrated at the International Convention in Gettysburg, PA in the summer of 2026.

A MeetUp session was recently held to discuss the campaign, watch it [here](#).

You can also find out about our Capital Campaign on our website [here](#).

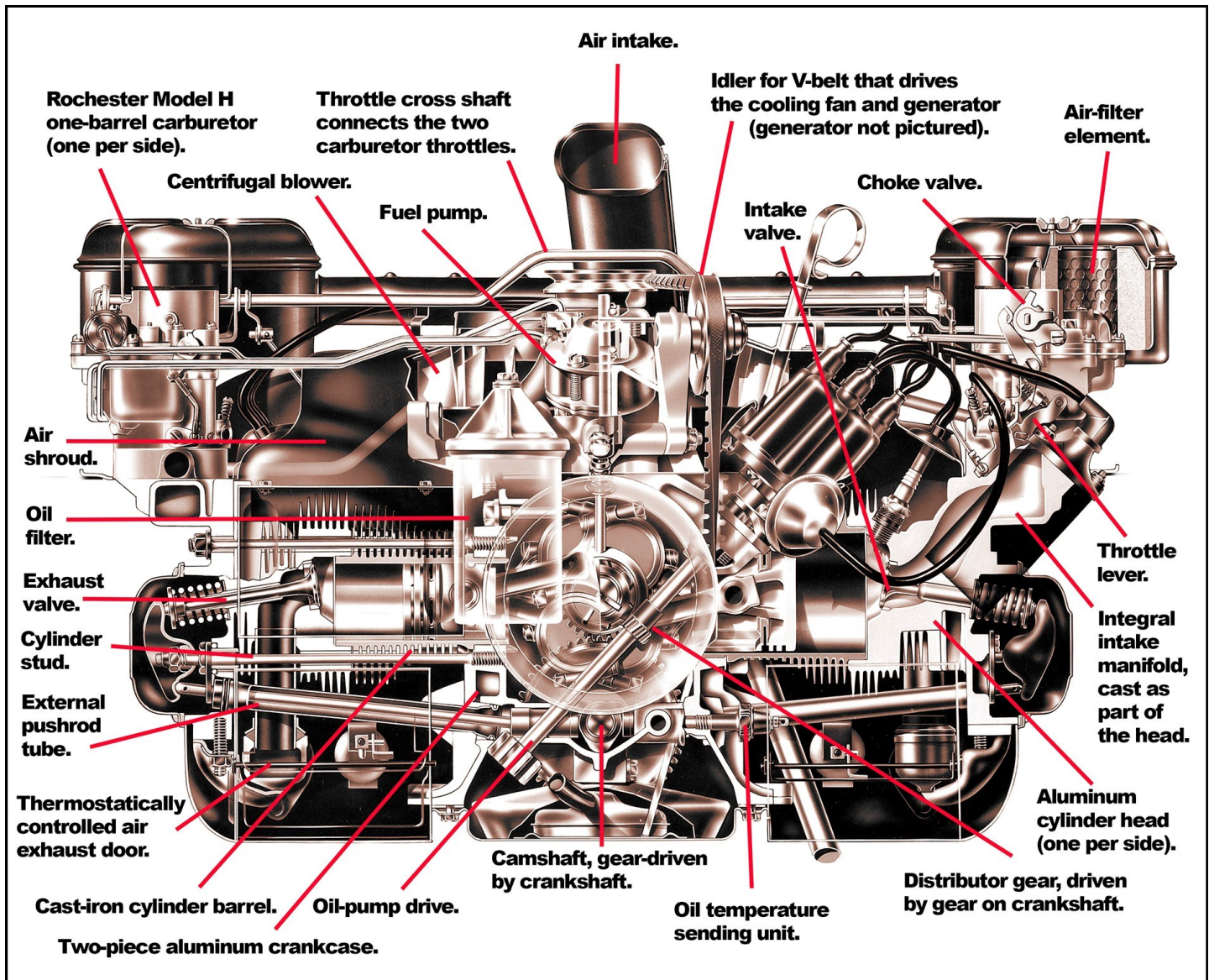
If you are currently considering beginning-of-the-year giving, the National Corvair Museum would greatly appreciate being the nonprofit organization you choose. If you plan in multi-year increments we would love to talk to you about how to do that through the CPF for the Capital Campaign of the **National Corvair Museum**. We have developed a giving structure that can meet changing giving situations and you can learn more about it by contacting **Carl Jones** at (253) 988-2275 or at developmentdirector@nationalcorvairmuseum.org.

Gifts of cash, pledges, securities, vehicles (even non-Corvairs), buildings, land, or part of an estate plan are accepted. Naming opportunities are available for individuals and corporations to consider as well.

Air Cooled Engine

By: Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire

Cutaway illustration in detail of the flat six, horizontally opposed air-cooled engine of the Chevrolet Corvair. Let's appreciate what a feat of engineering this was back in the day. Vairy Cool!



Brief Background: Work for the Corvair engine began as early as 1952 when Ed Cole (then Chief Engineer at Chevrolet) wanted to create a small compact economy car with an aluminum engine that would make a lightweight vehicle.

Choosing aluminum would be a costly decision over iron as GM didn't have an aluminum plant to accommodate this need. GM made a deal in 1956 with Alcoa Reynolds Aluminum and made plans to secure a site in Massena, New York. In 1957, GM signed a deal and Chevy began to build a foundry to create Corvair engine parts. The plant was completed in 1958 and the first production parts began in April, 1959 with 70 Corvair engines being built per hour at the Tonawanda Engine Plant. Talk about a time crunch! The first Corvair car (including putting the engine together) was hand assembled at the Willow Run Assembly Plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan, by Cecil Cole (no relation to Ed Cole) beginning on May 20th, 1959, with the first production car rolling off the assembly line on July 7, 1959. The Corvair was officially introduced to the public on October 2, 1959.

Continued Next Page

Air Cooled Engine (Cont.)

By: Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire

Corvair engine fun facts: Ed Cole's inspiration and influence to develop the Corvair engine was partly based on his own personal pursuits of being a private airplane pilot during the early 1950's where he logged many hours on a Continental powered small aircraft. During this same time frame, he was working on military projects as Senior Engineer at Cadillac in 1950 and assigned to make a lightweight military tank that would involve another Continental, horizontally opposed, flat six engine.

These engines made a great impression on him that would set the stage when time came for Mr. Cole to have the final say on what power unit would be chosen for the light weight compact Corvair vehicle.

Mr. Cole developed the Corvair engine basically using the same set up as VW (rear engine and air-cooled). Despite using an aluminum block for Corvair making the car more lightweight; the engine turned out to weigh 78 more pounds than originally planned. These engines made a great impression on him that would set the stage when time came for Mr. Cole to have the final say on what power unit would be chosen for the light weight compact Corvair vehicle.

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All the Corvair engines were made at the Tonawanda Engine Plant in Tonawanda, New York, and that is why you will see the letter "T" stamped on your engine. The month and date manufactured will follow that letter "T" followed with a one, two, or three letter code (like YC, ZF, RH to signify type of engine, horsepower, whether it's a powerglide or manual, etc. To understand the breakdown on Corvair engine codes, go to <https://www.tpocr.com/corvairec.html>

By: Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire

Corvair Historian/Creator,

[Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair](#)

Historian & Publicist,

Corvair Preservation Foundation and

National Corvair Museum

[#GMAuthority](#)

[#preservingcorvairhistory](#)

Rebuilt Fuel Pump Fiasco!

by Dan Terry

This is an Update on the rebuilt fuel pump fiasco installed in the Corsa.

As most of you know, I had a fuel pump failure last year in Sept. 2022. I have always contended that, if at one time a reliable pump could be manufactured, then there is no reason that it could not be done today. After all, there are new materials, etc.

After my pump died in September of 2022, I started looking for a replacement. I tried NAPA, OPG, and Amazon. All of them failed by 15-25 miles or upon first start up. I had heard some good things about Arthur Gould Rebuilders from other Corvair owners. I gave them a try.

Arthur Gould rebuilds fuel and water pumps for cars going back to the early 1900s. I sent in my best "dead body", a GM pump purchased from Love Chevrolet in Columbia, SC on Christmas Eve 1977. It was in my car until 1993. About two weeks later, I received it back. At first look, the actuating rod length appeared to fall between the very early style and the '62 and '69 style. I installed it anyway and drove it 4 miles to the gas station. It was already leaking.

I called them and returned it, along with a scan of the leaflet describing the differences that GM used to put in the box. This time the rod was the correct length. Since that time, it has been working without a problem for over 3,000 miles, except for having to tighten the screws about an 8th of a turn at about 2,000 miles.

If you want to stay with a mechanical pump, I would give them a try. However, I plan to get Clark's pump for a backup when it is available.



Water Pump &
Fuel Pump Rebuilding
Specialists since 1970

Arthur Gould Rebuilders, also known as AG Rebuilders, is a company that specializes in the rebuilding of mechanical fuel and water pumps for various vehicles, including antique and vintage cars, marine water pumps, and industrial applications. The company was established in 1970 and has been a leader in the industry for over 50 years. They offer rebuilding services for a wide range of pump types, including those for major car companies such as Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Ford, and others. Their services come with a fast turnaround time and a one-year conditional warranty. The company is located in central Massachusetts and can be contacted at 508-210-0891. The website for Arthur Gould Rebuilders is <http://www.agrebuilders.com>.

Site of the World's Largest
Corvair Parts Supplier
Since 1973

We have only been able to locate 2 manufacturers of original style Corvair fuel pumps. Since 1973, we have consistently seen 1-2% of new fuel pumps fail. From about 1998-2001, the failure rate went to nearly 10%! We finally convinced the pump manufacturer that they were using the wrong diaphragm material! Currently, about 1%-2% of the fuel pumps continue to have problems. The problems have usually been seepage of fuel or complete failure resulting in no fuel or a rupture of the main diaphragm. The main supplier (C3403) is now using "antiwicking" diaphragms & has returned to all 3 diaphragms having fabric reinforced material. We've also added a pump from a 2nd supplier (C3403A). Our experience with both is nearly identical. A spare pump is always a good idea. **—See page 66 for Electric Pumps—**

Corvair Purgatory

By Mike Callahan

Happy January! A time of Good Cheer and welcome in another year.

So, what's going on at Corvair Pergatory this month: Things went well this month despite the coldness (repeated from last month). Spent most of the last 2 weeks working on my '58-pickup truck. I had a friend install the motor mounts and trans mount and bolt in the LS motor from a 2006 Tahoe. Installed front disc brakes and new master cylinder, new coil packs (8 of them), started installing the modified wiring harness. Need to find or make an exhaust manifold for the driver side – there's no room for the stock one – the steering box is in the way.

Gas gauge wasn't working on the red a/c conv. Found that the float was full of gas and that the rubber hose for the in-tank fuel pump had disintegrated. Turns out you need to use "submersible hose" at \$2.50 per inch.

Wired the electric seats on the white a/c car. Got the red '66 a/c convertible out and did a bunch of work on the top and interior and it is up and running. It has a rebuilt engine in it. Going to the muffler shop for a custom muffler tomorrow.

Started tracing wires on the LS car. The OBD11 module is not reading the data. Sold lots of parts, cut a '64 up for body parts and took it to the scrap yard. Price of iron is up to 7 cents vs 3.75 cents a few months ago.

For Sale:

'62 Rampside from Texas, sand blasted and now rust free, all rust has been cut out and metal welded in. Has non-running engine. Very restorable – \$3,000.

1955 Studebaker Commander \$12,000. Beautiful car never any rust.

'65/'66 am/fm radios from \$300 to \$450. Have 2 left for \$450 each. Sold one.

14 rebuilt heads – \$500 a pair – Sold 2 in Dec.

Tons of parts, call me with your needs.

'63 convertible stripped and floor cut and trunk cut for V8 installation. Body is perfect. Too good to be cut up, but available for whatever you need. \$500.00 OBO

'63 convertible, rusty in spots, runs and drives, has a good top, would make a good doner for the one above to make a real nice car.

Rebuilt engine – Late turbo engine –100% all new parts.

Rebuilt engine – Late 140 engine – 100% all new parts, rebuilt.

Late 140 complete engine good running dual exhaust to carbs.

Corvair Purgatory (Cont.)

By Mike Callahan

Work in Progress:

- **'58 chevy apache 3200:** long-bed step-side pickup truck:
Needs: Wiring the LS motor, get computer and have it programmed, wiring the cab, order and install custom drive, electric power steering.
Dec: LS motor and trans installed, disk brakes installed.
- **'61 El Corvino:** Needs: door weather stripping, carpet, other interior finishing (door panels, etc.) wire up the seat switches. Build a console to hold seat switches.
- **'68 Ultravan:** Needs: driver wiper motor stopped wiping. Find a place to install microwave ...Road time. Build tow-bar.
- **'33 Ford coupe:** Needs: interior, more wiring to straighten out, headlights, turn signals, find a way to increase ground clearance, paint.
- **'66 Coupe:** A/C, 4 wheel disc brakes. Needs: wiring to engine for gauges, wiring for electric seats, chrome around windshield installed, DEC: wired up seat, installed new seat switch.
- **'66 Corvair:** LS motor implant. Needs: Brakes not right, repair some body damage from garage accident, design and build a dash, interior work.... First need to get OBDII to work right, trace wiring from computer.
DEC: Started to trace out wires to the OBD11 socket.
- **'62 8-Door Greenbrier** with Brown EFI. Needs: weather stripping a round all 5 of the 8 doors.
DEC: installed w/s on back 2 doors, now just need to finish doors 7 and 8.
- **'62 Studebaker Hawk Gran Tourisimo:** Needs: a/c wiring, passenger door won't shut properly.
- **'66 Red A/C convertible:** Needs: Some run time to break in new engine, a/c hooked up.
DEC: Did a bunch of interior work and replaced chrome pieces at the top of the windshield. Fixed fuel sending unit and gas guage.
- **'66 mid-engine Ford V8 Kalmark Kit,** only one known to exist.
Needs: carpeting.

Chuckles...



What-aya Think???



*Introducing the 2024
Corvair Minx!*

AN
IDEAL
VEHICLE
TO
ENJOY
TRAVELING
AND
OUTDOOR
LIVING



• ENJOY THE MOST IN OUTDOOR LIVING WITH A GREENBRIER! •

Auctions

1965 Corvair Monza Sport Sedan 4-Speed

Sold on BaT for **\$12,000** on 11/30/2023.



1966 Corvair Monza Convertible 4-Speed

Sold On BaT for **\$27,500** on 12/08/2023



Auctions

1965 Corvair Monza Convertible 4-Speed
***Sold* on Hemmings for \$4,000 on 12/18/2023.**



1963 Corvair Monza Spyder 4-Speed
***Sold* on BaT for \$16,050 on 12/18/2023.**



Auctions

1964 Corvair Monza 2-Door Show Car

No Sale on Hemmings Auction for **\$8,000** on 12/15/2023.



1967 Corvair Monza Sport Coupe

No Sale on BaT for **\$6,400** on 12/26/2023.



The Drivetrain

Officers:

President	Frank Metasavage	metasavage@gmail.com	(706-302-6543)
Vice Pres	Tom Constantine	corvair_1965_monza@yahoo.com	(678-294-8149)
Secretary	Mike Gassmann	mgassmann@comcast.net	(678-296-7225)
Treasurer	Nolan Grant	grantphoto2@gmail.com	(470) 623-0476)
Editor/ Webmaster	Steve Ratcliffe	corvairatlweb@gmail.com	(803-807-3554)

Directors:

Dan Terry	dterry8123@aol.com	(770-928-0074)
Robert Birkinbine	dabirk@comcast.net	(404-630-1467)
Zach Fitch	fitch.sprint67@gmail.com	(770-461-2383)
Michael Rickey	michael.e.Rickey@gmail.com	(678-576-7158)

Remember to renew your CAI Membership!!
Simply click on the link below to renew via
Credit Card, PayPal, or Check:

Corvairatlanta.com
Select the "Join Us/Renew" tab

Classified Ads

OUR 50TH ANNIV - 2023

Thanks to the support of 1,000's of Corvair owners over the last 50 years we continue to grow and reproduce more parts every year. Have a great year and enjoy our monthly sales and specials all year - Joan & Cal Clark.

SPECIAL SALES EVERY MONTH - Each month we'll send an email (if you have signed up) and list in a sale section on our Home page www.corvair.com

FREE 50th MEMENTO gifts with your first order in 2023.

LIST YOUR CORVAIR FOR SALE - NO CHARGE- sell your Corvair or a spare you just don't have time for! For all of 2023, we will list it on our website at **NO CHARGE-** check website (Corvairs For Sale)

CLARK CAR SHOW & PARTS SALES - See our 2023 supplement or website for more details. We expect around 130 cars, and will offer tours of our buildings including the Upholstery Dept. Slide show by Cal. Parts on sale!

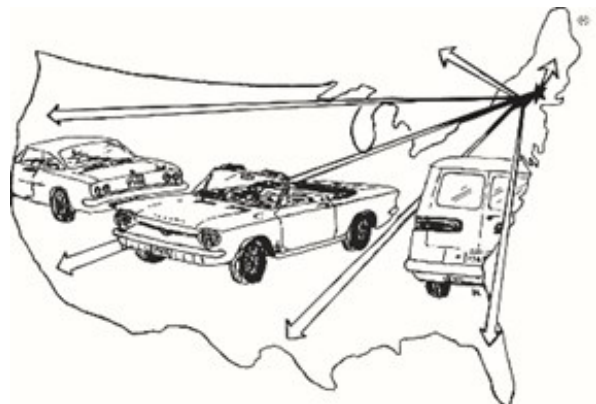
SEPT 16, 2023 - rain or shine.

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

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

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

Clark's Corvair Parts 413-625-9776



Classified Ads

AMERICAN SUPERCARS UNLIMITED

Doug Rogers

1413 Little Refuge Rd

Waleska, Ga. 30183

770-720-8472

**For your Sand/Abrasive Blasting, Powder Coating,
and Ceramic Header Coating**

<http://www.dougsamericansupercarsunlimited.com/>

CORVAIR ATLANTA, INC. ADVERTISING POLICIES

- Classified advertisements should be sent to the newsletter editor via email or US Postal Service. They must be typed and ready for print. Email to: corvairatlweb@gmail.com

Commercial Advertising Rates

Ad Size	1 Issue	6 Issues
Business Card	\$5.00	\$27.00
3/4 Page	\$7.50	\$42.00
1/2 Page	\$12.00	\$60.00

- Corvair vehicles and Corvair-related items will be listed for free, at the sole discretion of Corvair Atlanta, Inc.
- Free classified items will typically be run in no more than two issues of The Connecting Rod.