

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHICAGOLAND CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS

A CORSA CHAPTER

January 2024

VOLUME 57
NUMBER 1

January 17 CCE Meeting In-Person at Villa Park VFW

The January 17 CCE membership meeting will be held upstairs in the main meeting room of the Villa Park VFW, 39 E. St. Charles Road, Villa Park. Doors open at 7:00 PM. Meeting starts at 7:30. All members are welcome.

February 14 CCE Board of Directors Meeting In-Person at Manny's Ale House

The February 14 board meeting will be held at Manny's Ale House, 683 St Charles Road, Elmhurst. Meeting starts at 7:30 PM. All members are welcome. Come at 6:30 and eat dinner.

From the President

Hi Everybody!

I hope you all had great holidays this season, Lin and I certainly did.

And, with that thought in mind, I thought a few words about our recent CCE Christmas Party might be in order.

First, I want to thank Kevin Kloker for volunteering the use of his house for our party. It was the perfect venue, plenty of room, comfortable seating, a truly beautiful home! I hope we didn't leave too much of a mess!

Kirk Parro



And three of our new members came to join us, Jennifer Gillaizeau and Doreen Prucha with their "significant others" and Gene Haubrich—I sincerely hope everybody got a chance to meet them and welcome them to our fold.

That said, we now have to remember to put "2024" on our checks instead of 2023. It seems that I don't really get it right until March (of course, I am assuming that all of you still write checks, but maybe that's just me showing my age!).

'24 is looking pretty good, so far. We have a number of activities already lined up, but we are ALWAYS looking for new things to do, and places to go. We do not have a Spring Tour planned yet, and we are asking you all to give us some ideas. Fun activities are what we are all about, after all.

On our agenda in the near future is a "Garage Squad" event to be held at Larry Claypool's 'Vair Shop (date to be determined) in which we will perform an engine teardown and give all present a good look at how our waterless wonders go together and work. I have provided a tired 140HP motor for this purpose (the other purpose is to clear my workbench of a motor that has sat there for more than five years—maybe ten?).

We will be able to tell the Do's and Dont's about the Corvaire engine. And, if you're thinking about building or repairing a motor for your 'Vair, this will be a great start on your project.

One more thing: my ten year old grandson Hudson just sent me a text that reads as follows:

"It's hard to know how much I care should we put in the Corbiere tired because I wann go to that of my myself today"

I had to read it about five times to decipher the message—he was asking me how much air to put in the Corvair tires (I recently had my (newly repainted!) '64 Monza Convert sent out to San Diego because I lost my storage spot for it!) and he LOVES the car. In fact, he refers to it as “the Game Car”.

I asked why that name? Chad told me that Hudson is very into soccer now that his heart problems have been dealt with, and he INSISTS that he arrive to the matches in the Monza—hence, “the Game Car”!

Life is good.

From the Director

Kevin Kloker

Researching for my first *Airhorn* article, I learned the name “Corvair” is a portmanteau of “Corvette” and “Bel-Air” from a 1954 Motorama exhibition car. In 1960 *Time* magazine put Ed Cole and the Corvair on their cover, and Motor Trend named the Corvair as “Car of the Year”. And in 1965, conspiracy theorist Ralph Nader tried renaming the Corvair as “Unsafe” (later proven to be untrue). But maybe Corvair is really an acronym? After further research and 3,000 miles of road testing, here’s what I think Corvair means.



CHEVROLET’S – the everyman’s car brand, with a national dealer network allowing you to “see the USA in your Chevrolet.”

ORIGINAL – “compact car” styling, early unibody with four-wheel independent suspension, air-cooled engine, early turbocharger, unlike any other vehicle from the Big Three.

REAR-ENGINE – 2.7 liter, aluminum block, low-profile flat-6. I even hear the 8th generation Corvette finally adopted our rear-engine design!

VARIETY – have it your way - 4-door sedan, 2-door coupe, convertible, station wagon, window van, panel van, pickup with or without a side ramp, RV, or special edition sports car (Yenko Stinger, Fitch Sprint).

AUTOMOBILE, – from “grocery getter” to “poor man’s Porsche”, affordable for all your wants and needs.

INNOVATIVE and – lightweight for decent gas mileage, no drivetrain hump or center console, fold-down rear seat, great 360-degree visibility (no B pillar).

REVOLUTIONARY – a clean sheet design with no prior legacy, selling 1.8M vehicles over 10 model years. An endearing oddball that still looks good, runs good, and feels good!



From the Editor

Charley Biddle

Ramblings from your Humble Editor—

Evolving With the Digital World: Traditionally CCE has put a membership’s last paid date on their *Airhorn* mailing labels. This has been useful for reminding members their club membership dues are due. If the paid thru date is last year (or earlier), dues are due.

This has worked for many years to remind members that their dues need to be renewed. However, as we began to offer *Airhorn* delivery this year as emailed PDF files, we encounter the situation where PDF files don’t have mailing labels, and thus, no last paid date reminders.

Therefore, starting with this January issue of the *Airhorn*, the Membership Report will include the names of the memberships who have not paid their dues as of the time the Membership Report. This will be regardless if the membership receives the printed and mailed *Airhorn* or if they receive the digital emailed *Airhorn*.

Experiment: We are going to try something new for this month. Instead of having our normal commercial printer print up the mailed and printed *Airhorns*, Mike Charewicz has volunteered to print the *Airhorns* on his personal computer printer. Because it is not feasible to mail loose pages of 8 1/2 by 11 pieces of paper thru the post office (the sorters will shred them), the *Airhorns* will be folded and mailed in envelopes. Because I am freed from the restriction of creating the *Airhorn* in multiples of four pages, I can create it in multiples of two pages. The commercial printer has printed the *Airhorn* in black and white, due to the high cost of color printing. Mike will print them in color, just like the emailed PDF versions of the *Airhorn*. As I said, this is an experiment. We will see how it works out.

Thought: Driver: “What am I supposed to do with this speeding ticket?” Officer, “Keep it. When you collect four of them, you get a bicycle” — Internet meme

Thought: “Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect.” — Mark Twain

Thought: “War does not determine who is right, only who is left.” — Internet meme

Board Meeting Minutes

Kevin Kloker

Date: December 13, 2023

Location: Manny’s Ale House, Elmhurst, IL

Start time: 7:40 PM

Roll call:

Board members present at meeting start: President: Kirk Parro, Vice President: Mike McGowan, Treasurer: Mike Charewicz, Secretary: Kevin Kloker, Director at Large: absent. Absent: Paul Polster. Committee Heads Present: *Airhorn* Editor and Membership: Charley Biddle, Activities: Lin Parro. Members Present: Diane Johnson

1. Welcome from Kirk Parro, Presiding Board member:

Kirk welcomed everyone and showed some laser-cut steel Corvair decorations he had made, based on his own graphics, at the recent Muscle Car & Corvette Nationals show.

2. Treasurer's Report – Mike Charewicz

The November financial report is published in the December *Airhorn*. The end of November balance is \$13,481.59. Mike anticipates a \$383 profit in 2023, partly due to the recent \$1,000 anonymous donation.

Mike Charewicz reviewed the end of year “profit and loss statement” from QuickBooks – to identify expected income and expense changes affecting our 2024 budget. Overall, we are looking to reduce expenses by \$100 per month in 2024. Our *Airhorn* expenses were \$225 lower in 2023 compared to 2022, and we are looking at additional ideas to reduce *Airhorn* expenses. We discussed using our own printer for *Airhorn* color printing and mailing and continuing to encourage members to switch to PDF email distribution. Charley was very helpful in pointing out various problems we might encounter with the post office and printing using inkjet or laser color printers. We will decide this at a future board meeting.

Our \$10,000 CD matures in January 2024. The Board approved renewing this CD for another six months, based on good cash flow from 2024 membership renewals.

3. *Airhorn* Report – Charley Biddle

The December *Airhorn* is in the mail, we're hoping for good holiday delivery!

4. Membership Report – Charley Biddle

We have 136 members, an increase of 4 over last month. 80 PDF *Airhorns* are being sent out, and 56 are being printed. Charley gave Mike Charewicz checks from 42 members who renewed their 2024 membership.

5. Special Reports or Announcements -

None.

6. Activities – Lin Parro

This Saturday at 6 PM, Dec 16th, is the CCE Christmas Party at Kevin Kloker's house. Lin and DeeDee are coming early to decorate. There will be a Christmas puzzle and a trivia contest. Ugly sweaters or T-shirts are always welcome!

Coming in 2024! January 17th is our “What's It?” contest, Kirk will coordinate with Larry Claypool on bringing unique Corvair items.

February 21st is our “Annual Sweets Auction”, a CCE fundraiser. Everyone please bring something (food, decorations, etc.) to raise funds for our club.

The March 20th meeting will be our “Annual Chili Cookoff”. April might be a game night. Please see the *Airhorn* for details on future events.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

Paul Polster is unable to attend future CCE board meetings and general meetings due to a work schedule change. Paul resigned in order to allow the board to seek a replacement. Our Constitution allows the President to appoint a club member to fill this vacancy, with board approval. Kirk will propose possible candidates at a future board meeting.

Mike Charewicz asked if we could email future election ballots to save mailing costs. We could email ballots to those who have email addresses and mail hardcopy ballots to those without email addresses. Hardcopy ballots can also be available at general meetings or upon request. We checked our governing documents, and this seems possible. We will decide

in June, before the next election cycle.

9. Adjournment

Motion by: Kevin Kloker, Seconded by: Kirk Parro, Time: 8:42 PM.

General Meeting Minutes

Kevin Kloker

Date: Dec. 20, 2023

Location: Villa Park VFW

Start time: 7:35 PM

Roll call:

Board members present at meeting start: **President:** Kirk Parro, **Vice President:** Mike McGowan, **Treasurer:** Mike Charewicz, **Secretary:** Kevin Kloker, **Director at Large:** Paul Polster, **Absent:** none. **Committee Heads Present:** *Airhorn* Editor and Membership: Charley Biddle, Activities: Lin Parro, Librarian: Diane Johnson, Social Media: Shelly Claypool, **Absent:** none.

1. Welcome from Presiding Board Member

Kirk shared some funny memes. There were no new attendees at today's meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report – Mike Charewicz

The November ending balance is 13,481.59, all details are in the December *Airhorn*. Mike thinks we will end 2023 “in the black”, made possible by a \$1,000 anonymous donation and many other donations. Mike brought hard copies of his 2023 year-end analysis for those interested. The club worked hard to control expenses and did not pay VFW rent for June when we were at the 2023 CORSA Convention.

3. *Airhorn* Report – Charley Biddle

The December *Airhorn* has been mailed out. We noted three members passed away, with several of their cars “For Sale” in the *Airhorn*. One Corvair Wanted ad is looking for a late model automatic.

4. Membership Report – Charley Biddle

We have 136 members, with 56 printed and mailed *Airhorns*, and 80 PDF emailed *Airhorns*. More PDF *Airhorns* are being requested in our 2024 membership renewals. 42 renewals this month, it's going well.

5. CORSA News – Larry Claypool

The 2024 CORSA Convention details are on the CORSA web site, and the hotel registration link is now on our CCE Facebook page. Dates are Mon-Thurs, July 22-25, but Larry recommends you arrive on Sunday, July 21, since the agenda starts Monday morning. The University of Dayton Marriott hotel is \$142 per night, total with taxes and fees is \$165.43. More details are on the CORSA web site.

The first events start on Monday (Concourse meeting, Welcome Party, Valve Cover Races, and Car Display). The Welcome Party and Car Display (no classification) are together with the National Impala Club. Tuesday will be the Concourse de Elegance judging at a museum close to the hotel, and a dinner at the National Air Force Museum (6-10 PM). We have full access to the whole Museum, which is closed to the public during our visit. Wednesday will be the Rally and Economy Run. Thursday is the Autocross which will be on a banked oval racetrack. Thursday night is the Awards Banquet. Think about staying an extra day to experience more of the National Air

Force Museum.

Larry shared some history and names from the first CORSA Convention (in 1971) which was hosted by CCE and held at the Arlington Park Towers, Arlington Heights near the old horse racetrack. We made the national news that year.

6. Library Report – Diane Johnson

No activity.

7. Social Media – Shelly Claypool

The 2024 CORSA Convention info is on the CCE Facebook group page. And it's Dawn's birthday today!

8. Special Reports or Announcements

None.

9. Activities – Lin Parro

Last Saturday December 16th we had a great Christmas party at Kevin Kloker's house. A lot of food and good conversations!

Lin reminded us of these upcoming events (see the Dec *Airhorn* for more details):

Jan – What's It Contest. Learn about obscure Corvair parts.

Feb – Sweets Auction. Please bring something to sell at this CCE fundraiser.

Mar – Chili Cook-Off. Bring a pot of your homemade chili. Everyone tastes and votes for their favorite chili in four categories – Wimpy, Spicy, Inferno and Alternative.

April – John Meyer is organizing a "bring in your model cars" event to show off and share your collection's history and stories. Look for more details in future *Airhorns*.

10. Old Business

Jeff Wentz is planning the first "Garage Squad" meeting, possibly an engine teardown at Larry Claypool's shop. Stay tuned for future announcements.

11. New Business

Lou Zanon's highly modified, early Corvair is featured on the cover of January's CORSA Communique. Lou thanked many CCE members who worked on his car over several decades. The club presented Lou with a framed cover commemorating this fine accomplishment. Thanks to Frank Regal for making the award.



As reported in the December *Airhorn*, future board meetings will be at Manny's Ale House, 683 St. Charles Road, Elmhurst. CCE members are welcome to attend.

The 49th Annual Swap Meet presented by the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America (Great Lakes Region) will be held January 7, 2024, at the Will County Fairgrounds, 710 S. West St., Peotone, IL. Car parts for all makes and models. Times are 7 AM – 1 PM, \$7 donation at the door.



DeeDee led a 25 question Christmas Trivia contest before the meeting adjourned. It was fun! The best score was 18 correct by Andy Allen.

12. Adjourn

Motion by: Lin Parro, **Seconded by:** Paul Polster, **Time:** 8:24 PM

Treasurer's Report

Mike Charewicz

12/01/2023- 12/31/2023

Fifth Third Bank Checking Account

	Debit	Credit	Balance
12/01 Beginning Statement Balance			3,273.67
12/13 <i>Airhorn</i> printing	179.00		
12/15 USPS <i>Airhorn</i> mailing (used previous bought stamps)	0.00		
12/20 VFW hall rent	200.00		
12/20 <i>Airhorn</i> mailing seals	11.00		
12/20 Meeting event supplies	26.13		
12/20 Dec Meeting cash donation		15.00	
12/31 Closing balance			2,872.54

Five Month CD, Matures in Jan 2024

	Debit	Credit	Balance
12/01 Beginning Balance			10,207.92
12/15 Oct interest		41.03	
12/31 CD Closing balance			10,248.95

Summary of Accounts

Account	Balance
Checking Account	2,872.54
Five Month CD	10,248.95
11/31 Grand Total	13,121.49

Membership Report

Charley Biddle

No New Members This Month

New Email Addresses:

Al Harris, brpswx@gmail.com

Peggy Harris, skim8te@gmail.com

Dues Renewal Season: We are well underway in our dues renewal season. In November I sent out membership renewal forms to all members. They were included in the printed and mailed *Airhorns* and postal mailed to the PDF *Airhorn* members. Renewal forms are also available on the CCECorvair.com CCE web site. As of this writing, we have had 54 renewal/application forms returned, 12 of them in the last month. If 2024 dues are not paid by the time the April *Airhorn* is delivered to members, unpaid members will be dropped from the rolls of active members.

PDF *Airhorn* Adoption Progress: Last month we had 79 PDF delivery memberships. As of this writing, we have a total of 87 PDF delivery memberships and this is after only 54 renewals. In this season's dues renewals, a number of existing members have selected the less expensive *Airhorn* PDF delivery option.

New Feature: Starting this month and extending to the March *Airhorn*, the names of active members who have not yet renewed their dues for 2024 will be listed at the end of this report.

Birthdays for 2/1 thru 2/29 are: 2/2—Jerry Malloy; 2/3—Ken Johnson; 2/4—Connie Lundin; 2/5—Jeanne Mueller; 2/6—Bill Kowalewski, Kathy Rominiecki; 2/7—Rich Carroll; 2/8—Louis Zanon; 2/15—Lynda Neuner; 2/17—Vicky Benuska; 2/18—Joyce Quattrochi; 2/19—Renate Zachman; 2/21—Bill Stricker; 2/26—Mike Pfingsten; 2/27—Eric Schuermann; 2/28—Lonny Rigdon.

Anniversaries for 2/1 thru 2/29 are: (none)

Membership: CCE has 51 Active members, 70 Family members, 6 Honorary members

There are 66 Memberships Subject to Expiration in Year 2024:

Fred & Jean Bachrodt, Tony & Peggy Bagnola, Ray Behrends, Robert & Vicky Benuska, Charley Biddle, Peter Biskis, Warren Butzow Jr., Pat & Cathy Carroll, Rich & Barb Carroll, Jim Cermak, Mike Collins, David Davenport, John DiProva & Jane Horak, Ray Dyreson, Joseph Falbo, Mike & Rhona Hall, George & Elli Hauser, Vic Heen & Dee Dee Dickinson, Ian & Becky Hellings, Rob Hentschel, Matt Herda, Rick & Kim Herda, Clarence & Peggy Izydorski, Michael & Melissa Izydorski, Wayne & Elizabeth Janis, Ken & Laura Johnson, Ray & Diane Johnson, Ron Kolb, Dave Kolber & Maureen Burns, Bill Kowalewski, Dirk & Mary Krueger, Ivan & Connie Lundin, Joe & Joy Lynaugh, Jerry & Susan Malloy, Ron & Susan Mensik, Alan & Lorraine Morgan, Dan Morgan, Geoff Morse & Amanda Bakken, Kurt & Jeanne Mueller, Jerry & Meredith Nagles, Stanley & Donna Naymola, William & Carol Neufeldt, Lynda Neuner, Phil & Sue Nolte, Jim & Lelia

Novak, Allan & Linda Pilloff, Steven & Cindy Pokrajac, Paul & Pepe Polster, Frank Regal, Lyle & Lonny Rigdon, Andy & Kathy Rominiecki, John & Patty Schiera Jr., Laura Schoenher, Roger Schoon, Eric Schuermann & Larry Cady, Aryn Schultz, Leon & Rose Stonis, Bill & Sandy Stricker, Connie Swenson & David Kiefer, Keith Watts, Will Weissheimer, Renee & Fritz Wiesner, Darryl Wischstadt, Gerry & Renate Zachman, Louis & Gloria Zanon, Mark Zeman,

Activities and Events

Lin Parro

January

General Meeting: What's It Contest

How well do you know Corvair parts? Well that's what this informal contest is all about—identifying as many parts as you can that are on display. Some parts may be obscure and some not.

This contest is also informational because each part is discussed as to how the part is being used on a particular Corvair year and model.

At the end, whoever has the most points wins bragging rights until next year's contest.

February

General Meeting: Sweets Auction

This is a club fund raiser, created many years ago by a past Board President inspired by St. Valentine's Day since this month's meeting falls around February 14th. Members are encouraged to bring homemade, or purchased, dessert type items. Some members get creative and name their goods that are Corvair related such as "Oil Pan Debris" (Peanut Brittle).

Not the baking type or into sweets?—no problem, auction items don't necessarily have to be sweet, non-edible items are also welcome to be auctioned off. All proceeds go to CCE.

March

General Meeting: Chili Cook-Off

Another member participation event. Members bring their crock pots filled with their favorite, or experimental, chili recipe. All attending members taste and vote for their favorite chili.

There are four categories: Wimpy, Spicy, Inferno and Alternative (non-beef or non-red chili).

When the tasting is done, everyone is welcome to have a bowl of their favorite chili while the votes are being tallied. Each category has a winner and is awarded a gift card. Yes, Bean-O and Tums are on hand.

April

General Meeting: Model Car Night

Calling all model car enthusiasts!!! Dig out those boxes and boxes of model cars (doesn't matter the make) and/or dioramas, dust them off and bring them to this night's general meeting. Tonight is YOUR night to show off your artistry and imagination.

That's it for me, if you have any activity ideas for club

outings, general meetings, or know of any non-CCE upcoming events, **don't be shy**—please send them my way to Lin Parro at (cell) 708-932-9966 (if texting, please identify yourself-thank you) or email to lindaparro@gmail.com.

Thanks everyone!

What a Party!!!!

Lin Parro

CCE's Christmas party was on Saturday, December 16th, in Palatine, at the home of Kevin Kloker.

HUGE Thank you's to Kevin for hosting, to Dee Dee Dickinson for her time spent in creating and designing the unique centerpieces, to Kirk Parro for putting together the slideshow, and to all who came early to setup and stayed late to cleanup.

Kudos to everyone who brought delicious dishes that created, as always, quite the potluck feast.

It was great being able to get to know new members and reacquainted with members you haven't seen in a while.

Because of the many conversations, and discussions, going on about anything and everything, including, of course, Corvairs; two games were planned to be played and were forgotten. Why interrupt?—people were having a good time.

A very pleasant and enjoyable evening was had by all.



Golden Quill Award

Charley Biddle

On April 5, 2023, Old Cars Magazine announced their Golden Quill Awards. This is how Old Cars honors the hobby's top club publications and editor.

The *Airhorn*, the publication of the Chicagoland Corvair Enthusiasts, editor Charley Biddle, won a Golden Quill Award in the Compact category.

Club Clips Article

Charley Biddle

[This is a reprint of Gerald Perschbacher's Club Clips column from the January 1, 2024, issue of Old Cars Magazine. This is the same organization that issues the Golden Quill Award. I am delighted that such an organization actually reads the Airhorn. I am never sure what happens to it once I launch out to the universe.]

The best car clubs know how to keep things fun!

It takes much work to make a car club successful, but it takes a lot of fun activities to make it memorable and enjoyable. How is "fun" added to that blend? Part of the additive is humor.

Bow-Tie Bulletin (by the Jersey Lakeland Region VCCA, Ron Panicucci, editor, rp@lan-nj.com) recently was brimming

with goodies. Here's one: A man came to a pharmacy for some cough syrup. None could be found, so the assistant "sold him a bottle of laxative instead." Horrified, the pharmacist said, "You can't treat a cough with laxatives!" The reply: "Of course you can," said the assistant. "Look at him" leaning against the wall. "He's far too scared to cough."

Conundrums often bring smiles. Here are a few examples from the same newsletter. "Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?" Also, "If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried." Or, "A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking." Lastly, "If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you." Drive an old car instead!

Newsletters can have a nice human element with enjoyable insights beyond humor. In *Airhorn* (Chicagoland Corvair Enthusiasts, a CORSA chapter, Charley Biddle, editor (CLBiddlePcomcast.net), insightful witticism and advice recently were included in candidate statements for club positions. One candidate concluded that "a lot of friendly faces" over the years have kept him active in leadership and became "a major part of my social life." Another candidate noted that his impetus beyond regular club activities was to hold "technical sessions, activities with other clubs and a new emphasis on getting our members' cars running and out on the road."

Car clubs are much more of a human experience than a mechanical challenge.



Spring Tour

Lin Parro

Now is the time to start thinking about our Spring Tour that will happen in April or May. In 2023 we went North/Northwest (Monroe, WI and Rockford, IL).



We've been to most car related venues, not once but several times, and have found some car museums have closed their doors.

We've also been to non-car related venues, which I was informed of some criticisms of last year's tours, therefore, I am now at a loss for ideas for this year.

So I challenge the membership for ideas for this year's Spring Tour (and even for the Fall Tour). No ideas – guess we'll just have to see where the road takes us.

This Week In Corvair History

Eva McGuire

[This article was originally posted on the Corvair Preservation Foundation Facebook page on November 14, 2023. It is reprinted her by permission of the author.]

November 14, 1968

This week in Corvair History - (November 14, 1968)—The Corvair was taken off the main assembly line at the Willow Run Assembly Plant to make room for the high demand of Novas being made. At that time, there were 57 Novas and only 3 Corvairs coming down the main line in November of 1968 during the 1969 production model year. It became difficult for workers to put those random Corvairs together when they were now trained for Nova production. The bosses decided to take the Corvair off the main line and construct a mini assembly area in the Chevrolet Division called the "Corvair Room" to make the remaining cars by hand assembly. There were a total of 6,000 1969 Corvairs made and car #2194 would be the last car produced on the main assembly line.

On Friday, (November 15, 1968), hand assembling of the remaining 3,805 cars would begin in the "Corvair Room" with car #2195 being the first hand assembled 1969 Corvair on that same day. The last made Corvair (car #6000) would end production of this air-cooled wonder and was completed on May 14, 1969 at 1:30 PM. This last made car was placed in a truck headed for the GM garage in downtown Detroit but was never seen again creating a mystery about its whereabouts all these years later. (click on article link below for details).

Workers were hand picked by Supervisor, Joe Casey, to work in the "Corvair Room" due to their expertise in putting these cars together. These guys went from working on a Corvair for a few moments on the main line to now having to learn 20 minutes of work with all the different options. Joe states that they had 1-1/3 jobs per hour with 45 minute cycle times. They had a clock that would sound every 45 minutes and they would push the carriers to the next station. They always had two shifts working (1st shift from 6 AM to 2:30 PM and 2nd shift from 3:30 PM to 12 Midnight). Joe was first shift (and main) Supervisor and Jim Comiskey was in charge of second shift. They usually made 3 cars per hour. They only

made one convertible a day as Joe said, "They were a pain in the a@\$ to make." Car #5997 was the last (and only) 1969 Corvair convertible made on May 14, 1969.

I asked Joe how many Corvairs did they make on the last day of production. To the best of his memory, he believes there were only 3-5 cars made as they only had one shift due to the production ending at 1:30 PM. He said they held the last three cars (#5998, #5999, and #6000) until the press arrived at 9:00 AM.

How did they make the "Corvair Room?" Joe Casey explained how the Corvair Room was created when he gave a talk presentation at my Meet the Makers event in 2015, and excerpts from that speech appeared in an article I wrote about "The Last Corvairs" in the June 2016 CORSA Communique. (See link below to read full article)

Joe Casey:

"When we started this Corvair Room, we decided we'd build a little spot in back of the plant and take the Corvair off the main line because, at three an hour, you hated to see the Corvair coming because you learned all of your job on the Nova and then you had to do just about the reverse when the Corvair came. And so, it was a nightmare from an assembly standpoint, material standpoint, and so on. We set up about nine bays which were 50' by 50' of an area and put a wall around it, and that was the Corvair Room at the end of production. We built 1-1/3 cars an hour which was the opposite of the problem of building something every minute because you had to learn what to do in 45 minutes, and to do everything that was required in 45 minutes took a lot of training. If that person was missing one day, we were really in trouble in the Corvair Room. We learned a lot about building on small volumes.

The bodies had come over from Fisher; we'd stage them outside (usually five to six at a time were available to us), and then we'd select what order we were going to build them depending on what options and so on, and what material was available. And as was mentioned briefly, that last year of material availability really became difficult because, as you can imagine as a supplier, there was a custom at the beginning to building 250,000 a year of these pieces that had to come down to building 50 a month. So they were having to pull out tools and run a whole bunch and then warehouse them; and, hopefully, they ran the right amount before they put it back into production. So, as we got down to the last few days, it got really tough. We were told there was going to be a big show; the press was coming on the last day and top management was coming on the last day, and so that last Corvair better run!"

For those who wish to learn more about those last made 1969 Corvairs, please click on the article link below for all the details:

<https://www.corvair.org/.../meet-the.../the-last-corvairs>

The Corvair Preservation Foundation owns the last known surviving 1969 Corvair coupe (car #5999) and is proudly on display in our National Corvair Museum located at 10041 Palm Rd. (Old Route 66), in Glenarm, Illinois. For those who would like to book a tour, you can contact Museum Curator, Mike Hall, at (217) 494-7105 or email mrhvair@aol.com.

Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire

Historian/Publicist & GM Liaison

Corvair Preservation Foundation & National Corvair Museum

Photo in this post is one of the few images we have of the last made 1969 Corvair (car #6000) on the mini assembly line in the Corvair Room on May 14, 1969. Notice the press off to the right filming the last Corvair being made.



CORSA News You Can Use

Board of Directors

Happy New Year Edition

Happy New Year! We hope you are having a joyful holiday season and are gearing up for a great 2024. Happy New Year! We hope you are having a joyful holiday season and are gearing up for a great 2024. Our resolutions for the new year are to get our Corvairs on the road and have even more fun with our cars.

-To help you with those resolutions, check out the Corvair Center Forum. It is a great place to research, learn, and ask for help. It's easy to join and become a part of this great community. Corvair Center Forum - User Control Panel - Register.

-You will also want to check your Corvair literature library and add the Tech Guides and Corvair Basics books. These are important reference books, reasonably priced, to help keep those cars on the road! Sales Through CORSA WareHouses (corvair.org).

-And don't forget, CORSA has a YouTube channel where you can watch the experts who have presented on our Meet Ups. We encourage you to also watch other Corvair experts on YouTube. Corvair Society of America - YouTube.

-2024 CORSA Director Nomination Window closes on February 10, 2024. We hope there will be a slate of candidates

to run for open positions in all 3 regions. To be nominated, please submit your information by this date to David Dean, election chair, at dr.dea@cox.net or call him at 480-251-7177. Required information is detailed on Page 2 of the October 2023 Communique.

The CORSA International Convention Information:

-We encourage you to get your hotel reservations made early. You can find the hotel information here. [CORSA Headlines \(corvair.org\)](https://corvair.org/corsa-headlines).

-The 2024 Dayton, Ohio convention host chapters are pleased to announce that sponsorship and advertising opportunities are now available. *Corvairborn* is a convention for Corvair enthusiasts from all over the world. While sponsorships are not tax deductible; this is a wonderful way to market and promote your business. These sponsorship opportunities will provide great visibility at the convention. We also welcome individuals and Corvair Chapters who wish to support the convention. Please read the materials on the website. [CORSA Headlines \(corvair.org\)](https://corvair.org/corsa-headlines).

Wanted: Conventions are a fun benefit of being a member of CORSA. We are planning for the future and CORSA is in search of a convention manager. If you are anyone you know is interested, please contact the club office at corsacluboffice@gmail.com or Paul Sergeant, President of CORSA.

Happy New Year from CORSA! Get out and Drive! See you on the road in 2024.

Atlanta 1980

Fred Bachrodt

[Fred is a CCE member from back in the early days of our Slalom Team. He now lives in Arizona. This story dates back from when we would drive to CORSA conventions in our beaters and sometimes make it home. For more stories like this, see the CCE web site (ccecovair.com) under "Corvair Stories".]

If you have read my previous articles about driving to Denver in 1981, you may have read the phrase "glancing at the left outside mirror, I saw billows of smoke coming from the left rear of the Corv-8". Or something to that effect. Uttering that phrase had reminded me of saying that exact same thing one year earlier, this time on the way home from the Atlanta convention.

The scenario starts out same as the '81 trip—65 4-door Corsa wannabe towing the 66 Crown Corv-8. The trip down to Atlanta held no surprises and Wayne Janis was travelling with me in his Plymouth TC3. The convention itself was great fun, including finding two new CCE members: Wayne Weber and John Janis. Hmm, seems that's the convention where Terry Webb jumped naked into the pool. In any case, this story revolves about getting home to Park Ridge, IL from somewhere around Gary Indiana.

Somewhere past Gary, at around midnight, I was cruising along, when I noticed tons of smoke coming from the left rear of the Corv-8. I pulled over and discovered that one of the Heim joints in the lower strut rod had broken, giving about 30 degrees of negative camber. The tire was rubbing on the spring.

Hmm. After deciding that repairs were not possible at the moment, I then removed my towbar, removed all 4 of my (borrowed) wire wheel covers, left a note on the windshield, and drove home to get parts. At home, I had a stock strut rod, but it wouldn't work on the Corv-8 because the diff was mounted about 1.5" rearward. But, it would fit if I left the special washers out. So, I grabbed the strut rod and some tools and headed back to Gary.

By now it was 1 AM. I got to the car, parked behind it and used my headlights as my light. I jacked the Corv-8 up. This is where it got really scary. Here I was, on the right shoulder with semis zooming past, after they came around a turn. There was very little warning to the traffic that I was even there. I was petrified of getting smashed, but I continued anyway. At one point, Bill Kowalewski stopped to help, but there wasn't much for him to do, so he continued on. I wrestled the strut rod into place and got everything bolted up. I then had to re-install the tow bar, connect it to the 4 door, and took off. My tire now had only maybe 3 degrees of camber. I made it home about 4 AM, tired as heck, but at least I made it!

When I look back on that situation today, I can't believe that I didn't get run over! I would never try that today (probably), there are too many total idiots on the roads now. So, 43 years later, I still remember that incident and the scariness of the situation.

Stock Is...

Larry Claypool

[This is an excerpt from a "Stock Is..." article written by Larry Claypool and published in the March 1987 issue of the Airhorn.]

Belt Line Trim – Body peak or "beltline" trim is used on 700 series models. Beltline trim fully circles '60 and '61 sedans and coupes, and misses only the tailgate of wagons.

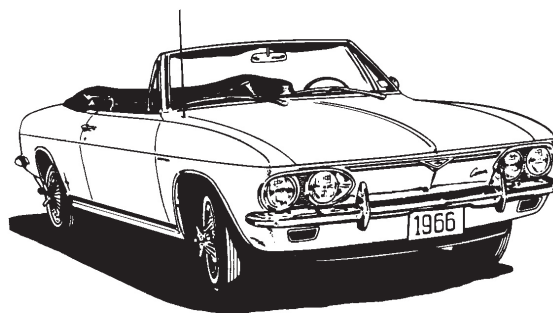
For '62 and '63, belt trim extends rearward only as far as the middle of the front doors.

All of the '60-63 belt trim is rounded, smooth, stainless steel with a slight peak in the middle.

For '64, the only survivor in the 700 series received new belt chrome. It is wider than the trim used previously, and has a depression in the middle to make its overall appearance flatter. In a turnabout of previous evolution, the '64 trim encircles all of the body except the front hood. Its construction was changed to anodized aluminum.

Belt chrome was not available on 500's or Monzas (except the '62 Monza wagon, which is trimmed identically to a '62 700 wagon).

Late models did not use any belt trim, but the '65 Corsa did have a pinstripe as standard equipment. This pin-stripe is 1/16" wide, and it is located 1/8" below the peak of the beltline. It extends from the cove moldings in the rear all the way around towards the front and across the hood. Pinstripe colors vary according to the interior/exterior color combination. A red car, for example, with a black interior has a black stripe. Same car with a white interior would have a white stripe. Red interior, you ask? Black stripe again. A light blue car with blue interior would use a dark blue stripe. Pinstripes complement or contrast with a particular combination. This was the only model and year a painted stripe was used on a Corvair.



Classified Ads

Corvair Wanted: Looking for a late model, automatic trans, in good condition. Used to ride around in one back in high school. Gale, sunset4212@aol.com, (630) 964-7699 [submitted 11/2023].

For Sale: From the estate of Ken Eakin, 1965 Corsa Convertible, 180 HP turbocharged. Restoration in progress, needs completion of installation of convertible roof and some interior components reinstalled. See pictures. More pictures at <https://smtp3.e2services.net/e2/keakin/>. More parts available and some tools. Contact Scott Eakin, 630-222-9653. [submitted 2023-12]



For Sale: From the estate of Ken Eakin, 1985 Fiero/Ferrari kit car. Fiberglass Ferrari fiberglass panels installed over a stripped down Pontiac Fiero. Complete and running. See picture. More pictures at <https://smtp3.e2services.net/e2/keakin/>. Contact Scott Eakin, 630-222-9653. [submitted 2023-12]



Activities Calendar

CCE Board

CCE SPONSORED OR RECOMMENDED EVENTS

Jan 10 – Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, in person at Manny's Ale House, 683 St. Charles Road, Elmhurst. This is about one half mile east of the Villa Park VFW Hall on St. Charles Road and about a quarter mile west of Route 83, on the north side of the street. All members are welcome.

Jan 17 – General Meeting, 7:30 PM, in person at the Villa Park VFW on St. Charles Road. Meeting upstairs. Doors open 7:00. The night's entertainment will be the annual **What's It Contest**, where members are asked to identify obscure Corvair parts laid out on a table. Larry Claypool hosts and judges entrant's skills at knowing the parts. No prizes, just bragging rights.

Jan 24 – Articles are due for the February Airhorn.

Feb 14 – Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, in person at Manny's Ale House, 683 St. Charles Road, Elmhurst. This is about one half mile east of the Villa Park VFW Hall on St. Charles Road and about a quarter mile west of Route 83, on the north side of the street. All members are welcome.

Feb 21 – General Meeting, 7:30 PM, in person at the Villa Park VFW on St. Charles Road. Meeting upstairs. Doors open 7:00. The entertainment will be the annual **Sweets Auction**, where members are encouraged to make or bake Corvair related (or not) or Valentine's Day sweets and confections, that will be auctioned off. The proceeds go to supporting CCE.

Feb 28 – Articles are due for the March Airhorn.

Mar 13 – Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, in person at Manny's Ale House, 683 St. Charles Road, Elmhurst. This is about one half mile east of the Villa Park VFW Hall on St. Charles Road and about a quarter mile west of Route 83, on the north side of the street. All members are welcome.

Mar 20 – General Meeting, 7:30 PM, in person at the Villa Park VFW on St. Charles Road. Meeting upstairs. Doors open 7:00, meeting starts at 7:30. Annual **Chili Cook-Off**. See Lin Parro's Activities

and Events article for more details. All members are welcome.

Mar 27 – Articles are due for the April Airhorn.

DOWN THE ROAD

Second Wednesday of the Month – CCE Board Meetings, 7:30 PM, in person at Manny's Ale House, 683 St. Charles Road, Elmhurst. This is about one half mile east of the Villa Park VFW Hall on St. Charles Road and about a quarter mile west of Route 83, on the north side of the street. If the parking lot in front of Manny's is full, there is a larger parking lot further west across side street Pick Avenue. The place we will meet in is the room with the pool table to the right when you come in the front door. The pool table is not being used during the time we will be meeting.

Third Wednesday of the Month – CCE General Meetings, Villa Park VFW Post 2801, 39 East St. Charles Road, Villa Park 60181, at the eastern end of the Jewel parking lot. Meeting is upstairs in the main hall. The bar is downstairs. Meeting starts 7:30 PM. Doors open 7:00.

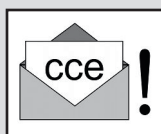
April/May – Spring Tour, date and details to be determined.

July 22–25 – CORSA International Convention, Dayton, OH. See CORSA Communiqué for details. Hotel reservations are now open.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Please let us know about any other events that you think should be listed here.

ALERTS AND REMINDERS



For alerts and reminders of these events and more, e-mail your name and e-mail address(es) to which you want the alerts sent, to **CCE.Corvair@gmail.com**, and specify "Alerts and Reminders" or "Alerts Only." Also, if you want text messages to your cell phone, include your phone number and your carrier, and whether you want "Alerts and Reminders" or "Alerts Only".



established 1968

The monthly publication of CCE. Deadline for contributions is the 4th Wednesday of the month preceding the issue month. All articles and advertising should be mailed to the *Airhorn* Editor, Charley Biddle. Items can be e-mailed or sent direct mail. The *Airhorn* is mailed as a benefit of membership of CCE, and is also sent to most chapters of CORSA. All material is subject to editing.

Classified Advertising: Classified ads are considered any ad selling a car or car part. Classified ads are free to members of CCE. Deadline is the 4th Wednesday of the month preceding the issue month. Nonmembers may submit classified ads for a \$5 fee.

Commercial Advertising: Commercial ads are defined as those representing a business or commercial enterprise. Current circulation of the *Airhorn* is over 200 copies per month. There is a fee for all commercial ads. It's low rates make it an excellent buy for the alert commercial advertiser. Rates are \$30 for a full page, \$20 for a half page and \$10 for a quarter page. All advertising rates are quoted for camera ready or typeable copy only. Any production charges (including screening of photographs, special art, etc.) will be billed at cost. The Editor reserves the right to determine what is commercial advertising.

Original Articles: The *Airhorn* prides itself on publishing original material from a variety of contributors. This material represents a great deal of work by the authors, and therefore the *Airhorn* reserves all reproduction rights with the following exception: any material may be reproduced or reprinted by CORSA or any CORSA chapter only for nonprofit purposes benefiting Corvair enthusiasts. Any such reproduction must credit both the author and the *Airhorn*. Rights for any other use must be requested in writing from the Editor.

CCE Meetings: Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at the Villa Park VFW, Post 2801, 39 E. St. Charles Road, Villa Park, Illinois 60181 (0.7 miles west of Route 83). Doors open at 7:00 PM; meetings begin at 7:30.

Membership: CCE offers Individual (\$30/year) or Family (\$32/year) memberships with digital newsletters and printed and mailed newsletters for an additional \$36/year Distribution Fee. All are payable to Chicagoland Corvair Enthusiasts.

CCE Website: www.ccecorvair.com

CCE Facebook: www.facebook.com/Chicagoland-Corvair-Enthusiasts-CCE-106483452772030

(or search on "facebook chicagoland corvair enthusiasts")

CCE Instagram: www.instagram.com/chicagocorvairclub

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Address correction requested

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