

Inside For Sale 2 Tech Day 3 Two Corvairs 4&5 Events 6&7

The Flat Six Journal

Mid Continent Corvair Association Newsletter

January 2025



Jan. Meeting
Saturday,
Jan. 11th 7 pm

Oaklawn
Activity Center
4904 S. Clifton, Ave.
Wichita, KS

'24 Was a Great Year

The major accomplishment of the MCCA in 2024 had to be hosting the 2024 Great Plains Corvair Roundup. Thanks to great leadership of Marcus Trotter, Tiffany Smith and her committee, the members that headed up events, everyone that pitched in to make things happen, and some help from Mother Nature, it turned out to

be an outstanding event that will be hard to top. Thank goodness it will be four more years before the MCCA will host again.

Jason Pool was presented the Mel Horstman award for the second year in a row. Jason drove a Corvair to the majority of 2023 MCCA Club events.

Continued on Pg. 2

Pre-meeting Eating At Hog Wild

Some MCCA members will be gathering at Hog Wild Bar-B-Q at 630 E. 47th St. South, Wichita, to eat before the January 11th meeting. So bring your appetite and join your friends starting at 5:30-6.

For Sale

There is a car that can make you feel the magic, the magic of a 1963 Corvair Monza 900 Spyder Coupe! That magic is for sale, not at your local dealer but right here. New features include a sealed engine; new brake shoes on all four corners; rebuilt transmission; sealed differential; cleaned and inspected wheel bearings on



both the front and rear; new heater hoses; new muffler; rebuilt carburetor and turbo (by Mike Dawson); upgraded electrical from generator to alternator; and many other items. All with low miles! This car is a pretty solid Kansas car that is ready for some dents to be repaired and your choice of color to be applied. The magic of a Monza 900 Spyder Coupe can be yours for a reasonable price of \$6000. Contact Keith Hammett at (417) 844-8627.

'24 Was a Great Year

Continued from Pg. 1

The Tunas were well attended. Many Corvair repairs and updates were made and delicious food was consumed at the Tuna pot-luck lunches. A huge thank you to those who made the trip from Oklahoma City and Kansas City to attend these events.

Speaking of consuming food, President, Marcus Trotter the monthly breakfasts and road trips helped keep club Corvairs on the road and members appetite satis-

fied. Looking forward to the Break-fast/trips in 2025.

MCCA also gained several new members in 2024 and they have turned out to be a real asset to the club. Welcome to the MCCA.

Several Corvairs are back on the road in 2024 that were non-running projects in 2023. Many members made progress on their projects that may be able to hit the road in 2025.

It was the members of MCCA that made 2024 a success.

Members to Keep in Thoughts and Prayers

Several MCCA members have been facing medical issues.

Lyle Ackerman is in rehab at the Catholic Care Center in Bel Aire (45th & Woodlawn). He is in room 304 (might check to be sure). He has been fighting severe back pain and several falls since Thanksgiving and has been in and out of the hospital.

Lloyd Folger is back at his apartment at Via Christi Village at Georgetown after a short stay at the hospital and rehab in Derby. The address is 1655 S. Georgetown Wichita, KS 67218.

Terry Kalp will be having surgery on Wednesday January 8 at the NMC hospital at 600 Medical Center Dr., Newton, KS.

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Pre-Spring Fling & Mel Award Feb. 8

MCCA Pre-Spring Fling, dinner, MCCA meeting and Mel Award will be held at Spears Restaurant & Pie Shop 4323 W. Maple on Saturday, February 8. The group will start eating at 6, meeting will begin around 7 pm.

Spears menu is filled with traditional comfort food. The food is tasty and portions are generous. However one needs to remember to leave room for a slice of one of Spears famous pies.

The winner of the 2022 MCCA Mel Horstman Award will be announced at the Pre-Spring Fling. The Mel Award was started in 2015 to honor club patriarch, Mel Horstman who drove his Corvairs everywhere and encouraged club members to do likewise. The Ninth Annual Mel Horstman Award will be presented to a MCCA member at the February dinner/meeting. The honor goes to the member that drove a Corvair to the most designated MCCA activities during the calendar year.

For more information contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419



At the 2024 HACO A Mid-Winter Tech Session Mike Dawson demonstrates how to check starter draw.

KC Tech Day Set For January 25th

HACO A and Mike Dawson will be hosting a Mid-Winter Tech Session: Saturday January 25, 2025 4:00 – Dinner to Follow. Location is 16001 Oakland Ave, Belton, MO. The topic will be electrical issues that were the most common puzzlers over the past year. When feeding time arrives (approximately 5:30) Sandy will provide soup and stew with tableware, soda, coffee and adult malt beverage. Please bring something to compliment dinner such as veggies, chips, fruit, or bread. There will be drawings for some memorabilia items from the estate of Kevin Koch, donated by Ada Koch. Additional items from Kevin's collection will be available at the annual auction next spring. Bring a chair to be comfortable and spouses are encouraged to attend; there will be an upstairs version. Please RSVP to insure food and beverage supply, and so that I could contact you if we would need to postpone due to weather. Mike Dawson 816 322-4057, dawsonm1942@gmail.com



Starting the New Year out right. David Swartzendruber dug this '61 Monza coupe out of the tree line at the Kalp Shop. David will transfer all the necessary manual transmission parts from the '61 to his '60 coupe which has a PowerGlide presently..



**ABOVE: Lonene with her '63 700 in the St Francis parking lot
LEFT: Lonene with her '62 Monza in the same lot.**

Lonene Ackerman's 1962 & 63 Corvairs

A Tale of Two Corvairs

By Lonene & Lyle Ackerman

I had just finished Radiologic Technology School in July of 1965, had to move out of the dormitory at St. Francis Hospital, find a place to live, and buy my first car. I had two friends that had Corvairs, one had a '63 Monza convertible, and the other had a '64 Monza convertible. I found my '63 Corvair 700 white, red interior 2-door sedan, automatic and air conditioning at Quality Chevrolet on East Douglas in Wichita, KS. This was in July of 1965. This 2 year-old Corvair looked like new with only 18,000 miles on it. With the help of my dad, I negotiated my best deal, and drove it to my new apartment. I drove the car to work for three years, Then I got married, became a housewife. Lyle drove it to work for the next seven years. Lyle then wanted a PU truck so was going to trade in the Corvair for

a trade-in price of \$350. Instead I sold it to my Dad for \$350. He drove it from the mid 70s until he turned 95 in 2008, when he decided to quit driving. At this point the Corvair had 215,000 miles on it. During that time it had a Transmission rebuild, engine rebuild and a 110 HP upgrade that he bought from a friend who had it stored in a chicken coop for \$100. My dad offered to give the Corvair back to me at this point, but we were living in KC and did not have space for it. So dad advertised the car on Ebay for \$5,000, sold it in a couple of weeks. A transport truck containing several other Corvairs stopped by his house in Wellington KS. Dad drove in onto the transport and it headed to South Carolina. This is the 43 year history of Lonene's 1963 Corvair.

We moved back to Wichita from Kansas City in 2010 and it did

not take too long until we started missing the Corvair at family gatherings, so we decided we would look for an early model, white exterior, red interior, automatic and air. A car to mimic the original '63 Corvair. In 2013 we saw an ad on KC Craig's List for a 1962 Corvair that looked like it might fit our needs. It was a white 2-door sedan, red interior, Monza automatic. The only air it had was on the button near the heater button on the dash. Only 38,000 miles and it looked to be original. The car was located in Olathe, KS, owned by a new mother that needed the garage space for her daily driver. She was the fourth owner and convinced me the car was original based on her conversation with the previous owner. I removed the car cover and took the car for a test drive. It did not run very well and had a loud lifter. I stopped by a Midas Muffler shop

A Tale of Two Corvairs

in the test drive as they were advertising a free brake check. I thought if a mechanic could see and hear it, it might help me make a decision. The kid in the shop had never seen drum brakes before. He had to get the manager. After looking the car over, we concluded it was road worthy brakes felt good, tires were new. The exhaust system was intact and the steering was tight. Still did not know why the engine was running rough and why the lifter was clacking. I decided that the car was low miles, looked good, I would be able to figure out the reason it wasn't running well and why the lifter was noisy. I purchased the Corvair for \$3,000, then drove it from Olathe, KS to Overland Park, KS to visit my daughter and son-in-law, a distance of 40 miles. Car was still running rough. My son-in-law, who never saw a Corvair before, was impressed with the rear engine. He did notice that a spark plug wire was disconnected. Upon reconnecting the wire, the Corvair ran much better. The next morning filled the gas tank with no alcohol gas, added a can of Seafoam and we were off the Wichita. The Corvair was driving well, still had a noisy lifter, however the sky was turning dark. Soon a heavy thunderstorm was upon us. First I checked the headlights as it was getting dark, the red bow tire con in the dash. Next tried the wipers, they worked and the blades were good. It rained so hard we had to pull over for 20 minutes for the storm to pass. Made it to Wichita, driving 231 miles since purchase. I took the Monza to the next Tuna and got the Corvair experts, Terry, Mark Welte and

Ned Madsen to help diagnose the lifter problem. Put the Corvair on the lift and pulled the valve cover on the noisy side and found two lifters were not oiling and the rockers were worn badly. Found the two push rods were installed upside down, which explains why they were not oiling. Turned the push rods around, installed two new rocker and now that the rockers are getting oil, the noise went away. The Monza now has 45,000 miles on it with no further problems. This is the 53 year history of my two early model Corvairs.



Lonnie Bedwell with the faithful '62 700 coupe.

ME AND MY WHEELS



Mike Berry/The Wichita Eagle

Lonnie Bedwell's 1963 CORVAIR COUPE

This would be a good car for the Energizer Bunny – it just keeps going and going, doesn't it?

It is my "Town Car" — I use it every day. It has over 226,000 miles on it. When I had about 155,000 miles on it, the engine completely gave out. A good friend's son had swapped engines in a '65 Corvair and stored the engine in a chicken house. He said, "If you can use it, one hundred dollars. If you can't, it won't cost you anything, but I don't want it back."

So that was a step up in performance, wasn't it?

Yes, my '63 engine was 85 horsepower and the replacement was 110 horsepower. The automatic transmission had to be overhauled back about 215,000 miles. Now when I step on it, I leave

everyone else in my smoke.

This is your second go-round with this car, isn't it?

I became the owner way back in the late 1960s. Then my daughter used it until she got married and she called and asked me "Do you want to buy my Corvair for what (they) offered me as a trade-in?" At first I said no, but then I called her back and asked how much would they allow her and she said \$350. I've always said it was one of the best investments I ever made.

You must draw a lot of attention with it for a 94-year-old car guy.

Even the high school kids say, "It's too cool." They all know me as the old man with the little white car. And old people say they had one just like it ... and wish they had never got rid of it.

The Eagle feature on Lonnie and his Corvair.



Samatha Fuller (green 4-door) and Dennis Fuller (blue station wagon) wait in line for the start of the December 7th Derby, KS Christmas parade. Dennis borrowed Terry Kalp's Lakewood for the event. Both Corvairs have a long history of representing MCCA in parades, especially the Derby parade.



Alex Moats dropped by the Kalp Shop to use the headlight aiming kit to get the headlights on his recently purchased '66 Monza pointing in the correct direction.

Cold Tuna 2/15

Time to start thinking about projects for the 2025 Cold Tuna tech session. The Tuna is held at the Kalp Shop 2140 W. 101st Street North. Doors open around 9 am. It is a time to get members Corvairs in shape for Spring. A lot of Corvair speciality tools, a lift, parts, and a lot of Corvair expertise will be available.

A great pot-luck lunch and a lot of socialization opportunities are available. It is a great way to cure the cabin fever that usually strikes at this point in the year.

Contact Terry Kalp about the projects you want to bring 316 882-3056. More details will be discussed at the January meeting and in the next newsletter.



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November Breakfast was a full house at the Stearman Field Bar and Grill in Benton, KS.

Nov. Breakfast

As MCCA members trickled into the Stearman Field Bar and Grill, the staff continued to push tables together. The buffet style brunch filled everyone up. Driving Corvairs to the breakfast were Roy Juenemann, Jay Allen, Mark Welte and Terry Kalp.

The **January MCCA Breakfast** will be at Delanos Diner, 1220 W. Douglas, Wichita, on January 25th. Breakfast will start at 9 am. The diner serves traditional diner food, mostly comfort food. The club has eaten there several times in the afternoon, but never for Breakfast. Hope to see a lot of folks there.



Mark Welte's '65 Corsa was one of several Corvairs in the parking lot for the November Breakfast.



E V E N T S

January 11, 2025: Saturday January MCCA Regular meeting at the Oaklawn Activity Center. Pre-Meeting eating at 5:30-6 meeting at 7.. Contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419.

January 25, 2025: Saturday January MCCA Breakfast/Road Trip. Delanos Diner 1220 W. Douglas Ave. 9 am Contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419.

February 8, 2025: Saturday MCCA Pre-Spring Fling, Meeting and Mel Award. Spears Restaurant & Pie Shop 4323 W. Maple. Start eating at 6, meeting around 7 pm. Contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419

February 15, 2025: Saturday Cold Tuna. This is a great time to work on Corvairs, have a great lunch and socialize 8am Kalp Shop 2140 W 101st street North, Valley Center, KS. Contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419

February 22, 2025: Saturday February MCCA Breakfast/Road Trip. TBA. 9 am Contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419.

March 8, 2025: Saturday March MCCA Regular meeting at the Oaklawn Activity Center. Pre-Meeting eating at 5:30-6 meeting at 7.. Contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419.

March 22, 2025: Saturday March MCCA Breakfast/Road Trip. TBA. 9 am Contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419.

April 3, 2025: Friday April First Friday show and Shine at Central and West Streets in Wichita. 5 pm. Contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419.

April 4, 2025: Saturday April MCCA Regular meeting at the Oaklawn Activity Center. Pre-Meeting eating at 5:30-6 meeting at 7.. Contact Marcus Trotter 316-214-6419.

Ran When Parked



This Ran When Parked This Corvair FC was posted on Facebook by Ran when Parked Imperial Valley Photography. Send your Ran When Parked photos to tkalp@cox.net.

Ten Years Ago



Thanks to Larry Lee driving his Corvair around Goddard another Glen Pray 810 was discovered. Steve Zubke got to talking with Larry about Corvairs and told him he had recently purchased Glen Pray Cord #38 and had it at his home in Goddard. It is one of the original seven owned by the division of Uniroyal that made the Cord bodies. The company Steve works for purchased that division of Uniroyal and that included the Cord. Then Steve got the Cord from his employer.

**Jan.
Meeting
7 pm
Jan. 11th**

**Oaklawn
Activity Center
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Wichita, KS**



Calendar

January Meeting	Jan. 11
Jan. Breakfast	Jan. 25
Pre Spring Fling	Feb. 8
Cold Tuna	Feb. 15
Feb. Breakfast	Feb. 22
March Meeting	Mar. 8
March Breakfast	Mar. 22
April First Friday Show	April 3