

Mar
2025

The CONNECTING ROD

The Newsletter of Corvair Atlanta, Inc



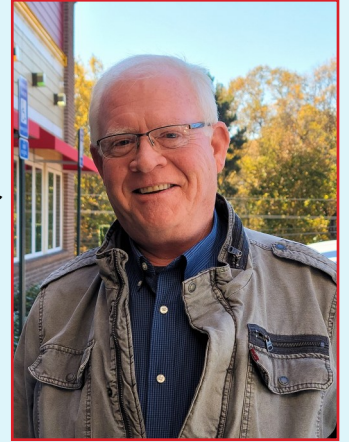
Coming Again in April - Springfest Autocross!

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The President's Corner

Hi folks, it's March! The weeds are starting to grow, bulbs are popping out of the ground, and we are getting geared-up for Corvair Springfest in April. This year it is April 25-26 with many of us arriving in Helen, GA the 24th. We are planning a great event this year with the Autocross and People's Choice car show in a new and bigger parking lot just down the street from the historic city parking lot that has been used for years. Since this is farther from the Festhall than the old location, we will have several golf carts available to shuttle you if you don't want to walk.



Please go to <https://corvairspringfest.com/> for complete details.

If you have not yet registered, please go to the website and do so. We ask you to do so as soon as possible to aid in planning. It is very important for us to have an advance number of attendees. The entire registration and payment process can now be done through a very simple online process using a credit card or by mail. You can select your preferred method through the Springfest website shown above.

If you would like a Springfest 2025 shirt, they are only available by direct order from the website this year. Go to this website page <https://corvairspringfest.com/registration> and scroll to the bottom right to view and order any merchandise.

February's meeting was not as well attended as they usually are at North River Tavern in Sandy Springs. Unfortunately, several of the CAI Officers and Directors were unable to attend and I understand that despite the dreary rain, Phil Kelley and Howard Rothstein drove their Corvairs. Tom Constantine lead the meeting, and Springfest was the major topic of conversation.

Various other Corvair-related subjects were discussed, including the upcoming Tech session to be held for the March meeting. NOTE THAT THE MARCH MEETING DATE AND LOCATION HAS CHANGED from what was discussed in the February meeting.

March's meeting will still be a tech session. But it will be held on Saturday March 22, starting at 10:00AM at Phil Kelley's place in Canton instead of the 15 th in Peachtree City as previously planned. Phil is one of those lucky stiffs who has a lift, which he has generously offered to share with members for this session. Nolan Grant, our resident Guru, will be there offering his expertise. This session will not be, for example, to teach how to rebuild a carburetor.

It is so that YOU can bring your car, put it on a lift, if necessary, and get expert advice on how to repair it or get help with a diagnosis. Minor repairs might also be possible, or if you would just like to get a look at the bottom of your car or check out a component, bring your car. If you have a particular problem you would like to address, it would be great (but not required) for you to contact Nolan in advance so that he might be better prepared to perhaps help fix it there.

Continued on next page

The President's Corner

The address is as follows: at 224 Crescent Moon Way, Canton, GA. CAI will provide coffee and donuts. Lunch will be at Williamson Bar-B-Q, 1600 Marietta Hwy, Canton, GA 30114. I hope we can get good attendance from both sides of Atlanta!

In this month's "Connecting Rod":

☐ Check out "Coming Events" and "Fun With Your 'Vair" listing mostly car-related events coming up in the next couple of months. Also Daylight Savings comes back March 9th!

☐ Take a look at Springfest results 42 years ago in "Looking Back".

☐ Have you ever considered buying a pristine-looking older, very low mileage car thinking it will be in perfect shape? Beware, or at least be educated. Read "What happens when a car sits?" to give you some insight into these type autos.

☐ "Corvair Pergatory" has been updated for March. If you have never read it before, look at what one Corvair guy, Mike Callahan, has going on. In addition to restored car and parts sales, he has a lot of different projects that keep progressing.

☐ Steve Ratcliffe adds a lot for entertainment each month. He is always looking for more. If you have anything fun or interesting, or just cute, send it to him so he can include it in such places as "The Real Life".

☐ There are also interesting Corvairs and related items in "For Sale" and "Classifieds" .

☐ "Auction Results" gives a real-life picture of current Corvair values.

☐ As always, you will find quick access contact information for the officers and board members at the end of this publication.

We hope you enjoy the latest edition of "The Connecting Rod"!

Frank

Coming Events

Mar 2nd - Classic Car Worship - 8AM - 11AM, [Bring your Vair!](#)
Panera Bread, 1195 Woodstock Road, Roswell, GA 30075

Mar 4th - Mardi Gras Parade

Mar 8th - Annual “Chiming of the clocks” at Champ’s Clock Shop.
3834 King Dr, Douglasville, GA 30135-3124

People can start coming from 9 o'clock on. Hotdogs are generally ready about 1030. If the weather is nice and it's been dry enough, there is a the huge field to put cars in.

Mar 9th - Daylight Saving???

Mar 17th - St Patrick’s Day

Mar 22nd - CAI Tech Session - 10AM at Phil Kelley’s Garage.

Coffee & Donuts will be provided by the club. Lunch will be at Williamson Bar-B-Q, Canton.
The addresses will be emailed to you and also put on the CAI Website calendar.

Apr 1st - “April Fools” Day

Apr 25-27 - Springfest 2025



Fun with your Vair!



Welcome The Ultimate Corvair Experience Weekend

April 25 - 26 2025
Early Registration Ends April 18th

[CLICK HERE TO
REGISTER](#)

Springfest Gets Even Better for 2025!

Most Outdoor activities will be in bigger & better parking lots!!

- Events like **Autocross**, **Funkahna**, and **People's Choice Car Displays** will be in the **COOL RIVER TUBING** parking lots near the Dollar General.
- Each of the 5 host clubs will provide 2 golf carts for transportation to and from the Fest-halle, as needed.
- **Outdoor vendors** will continue to be in the Helendorf River Inn parking lot.
- Join the **Fan Belt Toss & Corn Hole tournament**.
- Sign up for the **Valve Cover Races** & Join the **Fun Car Rally**.
- Have fun with the **Ladies Bingo**.
- The **Tee shirt selection** this year is fantastic! Don't miss it!!

Register Now!

Fun with your Vair!



SHOW OFF **YOUR** RIDE THIS WEEKEND



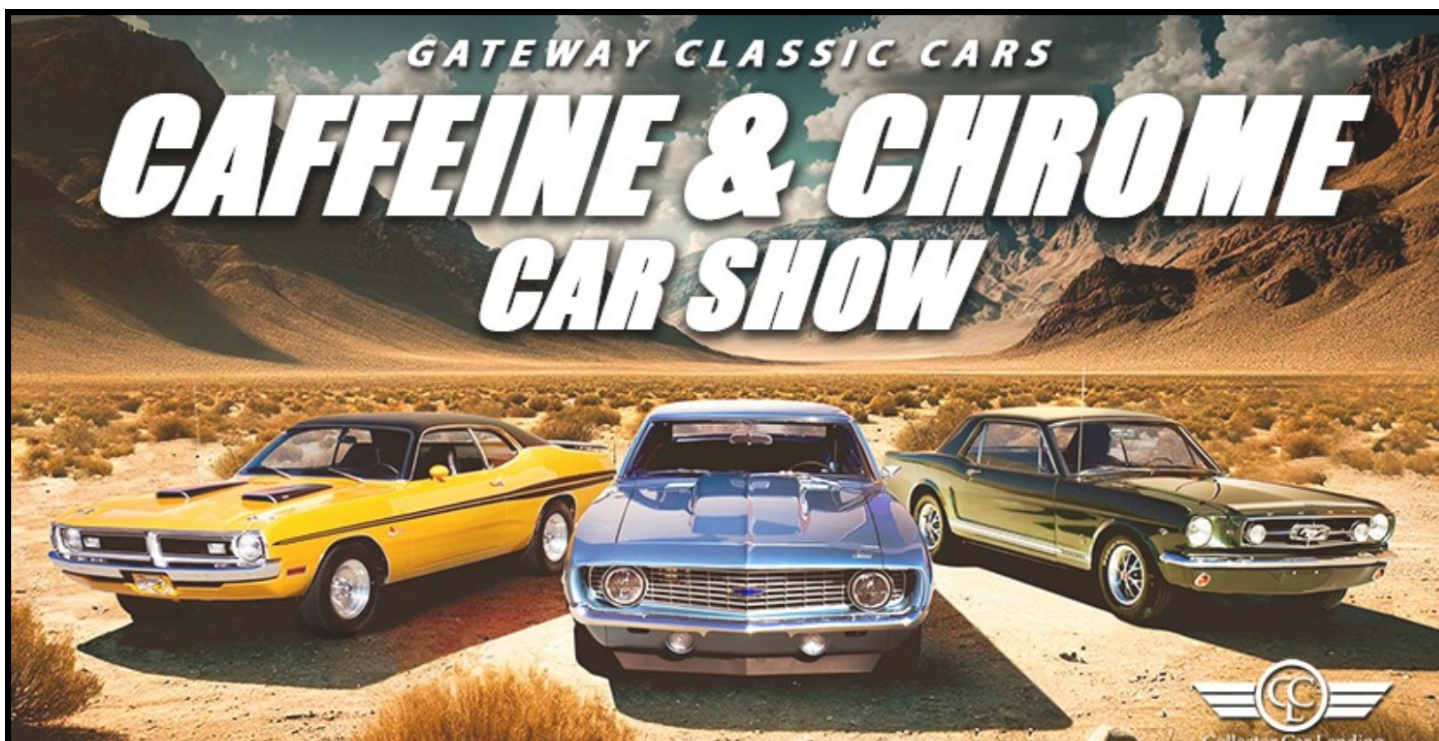
Sunday Classic Car Worship



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!



The last Saturday of every month!

2705 Ronald Reagan Blvd, Cumming, GA 30041



Looking Back

At Springfest 1983

One hundred seventeen souls with Monza-mania breathed lightly as the 2nd Corvair Atlanta Spring Whingding and "Alergyarama" was declared officially in full swing at 6 PM, April 29th. That was the moment the hospitality room doors swung open to elaborate visions of magnificent munchies, meat and other impressive morsels. This could all be washed down with 7-up, soda, Sunkist or Schlitz...whatever your preference. Even the dreaded Uno game erupted among the hard-shell card sharks, won by George Hackney, frequent quoter of little known "Florida Rules". In another corner was a circle of story tellers entertaining one another, one in particular adding a special flair to his revelations with his mammary-mug from which he sipped his malt. What better way can you think of to "Get the show on the road?" Or better yet, "Off the road."

Saturday was the big day. Out came the polish and the rags, and down came the pine pollen...a car show entrant's holocaust. Visions of the yellow stuff passed before the darkened back-grounds of distant hills like low-lying clouds. People with contacts looked like they had tried to hide pimentos behind them. It was that bad.

But, it could have been raining.

Either way it didn't dampen the spirits of the attendees or the judging, or the swapping, or the shopping, or the renewing of old acquaintances.

Parts vendors were much in evidence and a multitude of bucks changed hands on the hill. One vendor in particular had a unique stand from which he operated...a Cadillac hearse. It's believed the owner also makes home deliveries for Godfather's Pizza. Too bad he didn't bring some 14 inchers with him with mushrooms and pepperoni. They would have sold well about 3 PM.

Twenty nine cars sporting Corvair emblems assumed their respective places on the show ground overlooking picturesque Helen, the Alpine Village of the South. The newly initiated "Daily Driven" category was well received with 11 entrants, most of which could have qualified for Concours as well.

Our most looked forward to division, "Runt of the Litter", suffered a quick death this year. No takers. Fred Heal, last year's hands-down winner, elected to bring his '69 two-tone daily driven this year. It's suspected the title of "Mr. Musty" bestowed on Fred in '82 might have touched a sensitive nerve. Bill Dickert of Cedartown had fully prepared (and repaired) his entrant of last year that choked (no pun intended) at the city limit sign. However, a charitable event in conjunction with his son superseded and he could not make the run. Lee Mashburn, Corvair Parts Barn bargainer, could have won with any of his vehicles, but elected not to for fear of being lab1ed a "home town favorite".

While the men were at the Concours area voting their preference and looking jaundiced from the yellow stuff filtering down from the loblollies, the ladies were sensibly inside the hospitality room partaking in cheese-related goodies, grapes, and fermented juice from the grapes. Several raffle gifts were won and a festive mood was set for the awards dinner.

At 6:15 PM a motorcade was formed to make the 30 mile trip to Dahlonga to whet our appetites at the family style restaurant called The Smith House. Served was ham, steak, chicken, innumerable vegetables, biscuits, iced tea and dessert. If you left hungry there, it was your own fault.

It must be noted that this entourage of 34 Corvairs headed by The State Patrol and directed through town by the local police of Cleveland, GA and Dahlonga, was quite a diversion from the usual everyday traffic patterns of pickups and pulpwood trucks. In fact, the reaction of oncoming traffic was quite reverent...they pulled off to the side of the road as though a funeral procession was passing.

Looking Back

At Springfest 1983

There are two schools of thought here. Either these local travelers were awe struck seeing so many shiny Chevy 60s in one line, much like farmers watching a parade of 1984 John Deere farm equipment, or they were paying homage to a belated Corvair "March-to-the-Sea" type recall.

Please let it be known that we are not dead yet.

Then, as our digestive juices worked overtime, there came the moment for the awarding of raffle prizes, the travel TV and the fine selection of trophies and plaques.

Over \$500 worth of raffle prizes found new homes. Well, almost that is. The Cotrofelds won part of their donations back along the Clark's Corvair Parts offering of an aluminum oil cooler.

Corvair Atlanta member Clyde Holler, the only preregistered person who was unable to attend, learned you don't have to be present to win. And WIN he did, the Panasonic TV that works off about any voltage there is. Congratulations, Clyde. You saved your Editor from being flogged in the event he won.

Winners by class in Concours were:

Early Open:

1st Frank Ranelli - Vulcan

2nd Dick Ferreby - NJ Corvairs

3rd Ron Warnken - Atlanta

Late Open:

1st Archie Payne - Atlanta

2nd Burnie Weddle - Atlanta

Early Closed:

1st John Kirkman - Atlanta

2nd Jack Allison - Atlanta

3rd Curtis Hare - Vulcan

Late Closed:

1st Jack Shanks - Atlanta

2nd Hugh Miller - Atlanta

Forward Control:

1st Jim Guider - ChooChoo

2nd Francis Lux - Low Country

Daily Driven:

1st Pete Sugg - Atlanta/SC

Best of Show:

John Kirkman - Atlanta 1964 Monza Coupe

Longest Distance:

Lee Moret - Fla. Unattached

Major Mishap:

Jeff Champion - Atlanta

Ten clubs were represented with 117 adults in attendance. Clubs were Vulcan, AL; Low Country SC; ChooChoo TN; Central FL; Chicagoland, IL; Circle City, IN; Memphis, TN; Carolina Corvair, SC; New Jersey Corvair Enthusiasts; and Augusta, GA.

Summation: Beautiful weather, beautiful cars, beautiful ladies, outstanding trophies and plaques, delicious food, great camaraderie, and lots of Alle-rest.

What Happens When A Car Sits? (Cont.)

Cotter, who owns a storage facility called Auto Barn in North Carolina, encourages enthusiasts to store their vehicles thoughtfully because they're protecting their financial investment. "It might take you a half-day to get a car ready to lock up, but put a little bit of effort into it. You are maintaining your investment. It's a mechanical portfolio. A car that's parked haphazardly will more than likely go down in value."

The best place to store a car—with any odometer reading—is in a clean, dry place with temperature and humidity control. To avoid flat spots on the tires, which can develop within a year, the car should be elevated, just slightly, on jack stands (as mentioned above, a trick used by museums) or lowered onto a set of tire cradles. If the fuel isn't drained, it should be ethanol-free; the regular stuff turns into a gummy, gooey mess when it sits. If the fuel in the tank does contain ethanol, it should be supplemented with a fuel stabilizer. If the car was driven regularly before storage, the carpets in the driver's side footwell should either be completely dry or propped up, away from the floorboards. Cotter explains why: moisture from the driver's shoes may get onto and under the carpets, and it may mold the carpets or, worse, become trapped between the rubber backing and the sheetmetal underneath, which may begin to rust.

Some sort of rodent protection, even a Bounce sheet, should be taken. (This nifty device, called [Mouse Blocker](#), uses sonic pulses to keep the critters at bay.) One moisture-absorbing trick that Cotter recommends is cheap, and readily found at your local hardware store: charcoal, which absorbs moisture and odors. Ideally, the paint should be waxed and the car put under a cover. Feeling fancy? Look into a [Car Capsule](#), the "bubbles" that the Detroit Historical Society uses to store its cars.



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While in Storage

Of course, not all low-mile cars are barn finds like Tom's Porsche. Many of them present amazingly well. Scott George weighs in. There's an excitement, he says, about buying a car that appears locked in time and cosmetically perfect—free of nicks, scrapes, bumps, wrinkles. But some people, he says, may not think about what they're getting into at a mechanical level: "Every time I see a later-model car sell with low mileage, what often goes through my mind is 'cha-ching, cha-ching, cha-ching.'" He's seen what can happen when cars sit for 25 or 30 years: "Everything functioning part of the automobile, maybe except for a total engine rebuild, has to be redone."

Not all buyers may want to drive their pristine, low-mile prize, he admits—some may simply want to be the next owner, to park the car in their climate-controlled showroom as a trophy. There is nothing wrong with that, of course, but down the road, it may be a very costly one—if not for them, for the next person who buys it and wants to drive it. "Cars are operating machines," George says. "They like to drive."

At the very least, a car should be started once in a while, and run for more than 5 or 10 minutes—half an hour or so, at least, so that the engine and oil can come up to temperature and cooling fluids can fully circulate. Starting a car and quickly turning it off, says Cotter, "does more damage than if you just leave it alone because the cylinders are dry—there's not enough oil in the system."

Acids and moisture can build up, warns George, if a car doesn't run long enough, "and exhaust systems can corrode from the inside out, and so forth." He practices what he preaches: The Revs Institute has an unusually high commitment to keeping most of its 120-something collection running, and that means driving the cars—on a 40-, 50-, or 60-mile loop, for the road cars, or on track, for the race cars, whether that's at a historic racing event or during a test day where Revs rents out a facility.

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What Happens When A Car Sits? (Cont.)

Where a car is stored may make the most difference in preserving its condition, but how it is maintained during that period is a close second. “I have witnessed actually cars that 25 or 30 years old that literally sat,” says George, “and I’ve seen it firsthand: every functioning part of the automobile, maybe except for a total engine rebuild, has to be redone. The fuel systems, the fuel injectors, all of that stuff.” Maintaining a low-mile car in driving condition requires a balance of commitment and restraint: “There are some people that have just had these wonderful low-mileage cars,” says George, “and they have done annual maintenance and they have cared for the mechanical systems. They’ve just been cautious about how many mile miles they’ve put on.”

In short, the best way to keep a car in driving condition is to, well, drive it.

Before Buying



HVA/Preston Rose

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What Happens When A Car Sits? (Cont.)

An odometer reading, then, provides only a sliver of information. The number it displays may be sensationally low, but, for a buyer, the detective work has only begun. The current owner is likely the best source of information on the condition, storage, and maintenance of the car; if the car has traded hands frequently (normal, for some of the lowest mile examples of a particular model), it's a good idea to hunt down the person who owned it longest. Looking at the car in person, and on a lift, is always preferable, especially if there's an expert or specialist around to deliver the hard truths. If you are frustrated in any of those pursuits, and if you still have questions about the roadworthiness of the car, consider your goals. Even if you don't intend to drive it, a thorough inspection and proper storage are wise. If you crave a well-preserved example of a car you've been dying to own, and drive, since your childhood—you and your budget will be better served by a car that is actively driven.

After Buying

Following Cotter's example and hiring a marque expert to inspect a car is particularly wise, especially if you're far from an expert in that model yourself. In some very specific cases—[an original car with a very special history, perhaps tied to a person](#)—preserving the character of that may be the top priority for a buyer. In such cases, a private conservation firm is an excellent resource.



Steering assist knob, an extremely rare piece on the Cord 812. This example belonged to Amelia Earhart. *Eric Weiner*

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What Happens When A Car Sits? (Cont.)

If a buyer does know a model well and wants to return the car to running and driving condition, the list of necessary checks may be long. The worst thing you can do is rush to start the car before doing a proper diagnosis: If the cylinders are dry or maybe have rusted slightly from condensation, Cotter warns, “you could put probably a decade’s worth of wear on that engine in an hour. Because you’re dragging a dry piston ring on a dry cylinder wall.” Go through every system, methodically, observing everything.

If it sounds like a lot of work to keep a car in top shape over tens of years, it is. Respect for the complexity of the machine is paramount, no matter what the storage or maintenance protocol may be, and no matter the odometer reading or the value of the car. As George says, “The mindset that we’re taking is that we’re in this for the long term, not the short term, and we’re stewards of these cars, and we want to see ’em active in the world for as long as we can.” Respect for the second law of thermodynamics is also critical: We can’t freeze cars in time, and we can only do so much to reverse the effects of time without replacing original parts.

Are low-mile cars worth the hype? That’s a personal call. For buyers and sellers, the more discerning question may be whether they are worth the trouble.



The interior of the 130-mile S2000 CR sold by Bring a Trailer. *Bring a Trailer*

Corvair Pergatory

By Mike Callahan

Happy March 2025!

So, what's going on at Corvair Pergatory this month:

Bought 2 Rampside trucks, sold one and cut the other up for parts, lots of time hauling and dismantling the truck. Listed parts on FB and then packing and shipping parts all over the US.

Bought the rest of Alonzo Green's Corvair parts.

LS Corvair working on brakes again, this time added a remote vacuum booster in the rear seat area as there is no room under the hood. Update on the results next month

62 Monza Wagon: Still trying to align the doors, not a fun job. Still need to install the rear windows but waiting for a warm day. Installed the new dash and having electrical problems. Need a day when I have more patience to work on it as a lot of the work is on your back under the dash.

FOR SALE:

61 Rampside, 4 speed, front disc brakes. Usual rust. Has car engine, new clutch parts, \$5,000.

65/66 AM/FM radios from \$300 to \$450 Still have 2 left for \$450 each. Sold 2, bought 1.

14 Rebuilt Heads - \$500 a pair.

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

Late Turbo Engine 100% all new parts rebuilt engine,

Late 140 Engine 100% all new parts, rebuilt engine.

Late 68 Rebuilt Engine \$2000.

Work To Be Done List:

I have more projects on my list than are listed here, but these are on the priority list.

61 El Corvino: Needs: carpet, other interior finishing (door panels, etc.) wire up the seat switches. Build a console to hold seat switches troubleshoot rough engine issues.

68 Ultravan: Needs: driver wiper motor stopped wiping. Find a place to install microwave ...Road time. Install Brown fuel injection.

66 Coupe A/C PG: 4 wheel disc brakes. Needs: chrome around windshield installed, find rear seat bottom and install, tune engine.

66 Red A/C convertible: Needs: some run time to break in new engine, a/c hook up,

The Real Life...



I put this old fridge outside with a sign saying free. Three days and nobody touched it



So I changed the sign to \$50, It was stolen that night



The best things about the good old days was that I wasn't good and I wasn't old.

The Real Life...



For Sale

2 Corvairs For Sale + Other Corvair Stuff

1. 1965 Monza 4-door sedan. 110hp automatic. \$500.

- Was running when I parked it 7 years ago. Although it was running, suspect folks might want to use it as a parts car.
- Engine is good...electronic ignition, and electric full pump.
- Front trunk rusted as well as rust around the windshield.
- Body damage due to low speed backing into the yard.

2. 1965 Monza Convertible. 4-speed 110hp. \$1,200

- Very little rust, been garaged for many years.
- A little body damage just behind driver's door.
- Front end and engine were removed for complete restoration.
At this time, I will not put it back together — busy with new house...
- West Texas car originally.

The guys from the Heart of Georgia club knew these cars.

- I also have a new engine 110hp with new jugs and re-ground crank.
- I have an old engine 'block' for free.
- I just found brand new interior pieces for the convertible.
- I want to find a good home for all. I also have a Corvair towing hitch.

Glen Bankston glenk4kv@gmail.com

Moultrie, GA

'63 Corvair Back-up Light For Sale

Complete assembly with lens, NEW! \$30, I'll pay shipping. Call **Frank @ 314-752-4150**

13" Spare Tire/Wheel

Left from my Corvair when I replaced with 14" wheels/tires.
I think \$25 is a fair price but best offer. Need to clear out my garage.

Larry Blanks: gblanks@bellsouth.net

Auctions

1965 Corvair Monza Sport Coupe 4-Speed

Sold on BaT for \$8,000 2/12/2025.



No Reserve 1964 Corvair Corsa Monza Spyder Turbo 4-Speed

Sold on BaT for \$23,500 on 2/17/2025.



Auctions

No Reserve - 1965 Corvair Corsa Turbo Convertible 4-Speed
Sold on BaT for **\$24,527** 2/23/2025.



1964 Corvair Monza Conv. 4-Speed
Sold on BaT for **\$8,600** on 2/24/2024.



The Drivetrain

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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.