

VairCor

December 2025

Volume 61-12

November meeting

Meeting Minutes - November 11, 2025

- *President Kat King called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.**
- After some discussion, the proposal for a 50/50 Pot with tickets priced at \$1.50 was approved by a majority vote.
- **Health Report:** Tim Kienzle reported that he has been diagnosed with throat cancer.
- The October minutes were read by Scott and subsequently approved.
- The Treasurer's report was presented by Stefani and approved.
- Travis reported that the website is functioning well.
- The Tool Crib is in good condition.
- Mike stated that calendars will be finalized and available at the Christmas Party.
- There were no new trophies reported for the November meeting.
- A movie featuring Kat's Corvair will premiere at the Missouri Theatre in St. Joseph on November 30, 2025, at 2:30 PM.
- A reminder was given about the Christmas Party on December 5, 2025.
- The CORSA election deadline is December 1.
- There was a discussion regarding the repair of the valve cover racetrack.

Project Reports:

- Dwight reported water in the gas in Elva.
- Steve is in the process of rebuilding the differential.
- Mike K. is troubleshooting issues with his loose steering.
- Scott has a customer with a missing exhaust valve guide.
- Paul is working on a 1964 model.
- Dominique is polishing all the chrome for his 1965 model.
- Cliff is currently working on his Rolls Royce.

*Dick Berger made the motion to adjourn the meeting.**



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Event	Location	Date
HACOA Christmas party	St. Andrews Golf Club, Overland Park, KS	December 5
HACOA monthly meeting	Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO	January 13
HACOA monthly meeting	Paul and Jack's Tavern, North Kansas City, MO	February 10

PRESIDENTS CORNER

ABOUT OUR LOGO

First ... We lead with HEART (Kindness, empathy, hugs, and friendships)
Then ... AMERICA. (For which we stand).

Then ... CORVAIR OWNERS.

Collective pride for our unique automobile.

It's understanding ... is continually being passed on
by the passion of our experts and mentors.

Their sole goal ... is to educate all those who will listen ... and appreciate.
To share our pride and knowledge with anyone, to promote interest with us.

Last... ASSOCIATION Thankful I am a piece of this company, a part of the main.
I am proud to be associated with all of you ...
and ... to feel at home ... in HACOA

Happy Thanksgiving!
Kat

Starter Solenoids Revisited

I recently completed rebuilding 10 Corvair starters and began to test them. For testing I have a low mileage engine on the floor and I use a complete late model Powerglide wiring harness to ensure that the amp draw, voltage drop and mechanical functions all work properly through repeated cranking tests. The new starter drives, solenoids, and some of the small parts that get replaced, came from Clark's Corvair Parts and have been giving perfect service.

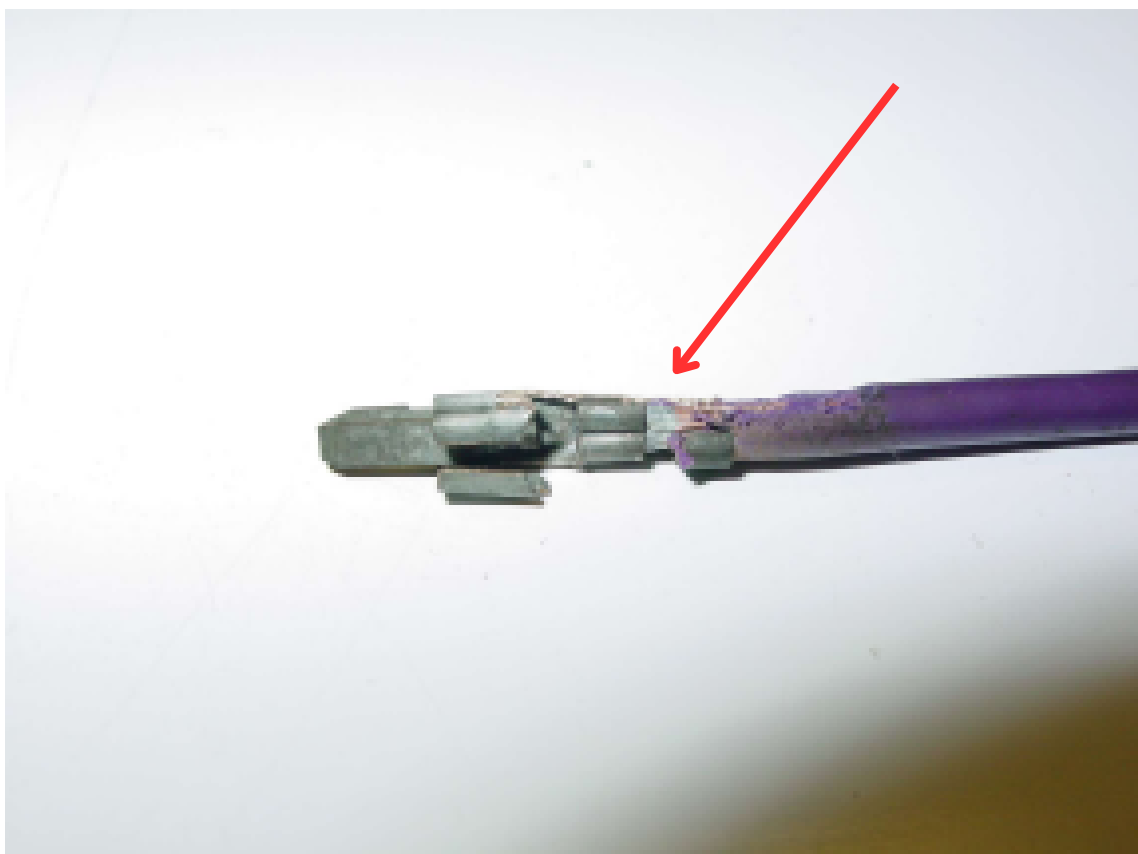
When I began testing this group of starters, several of the units would occasionally click but not crank the engine. I had run into that a couple of years ago and tried several different solenoids which finally cured the problem. This time I found that changing solenoids might lessen the frequency but did not completely eliminate the problem. Voltage testing showed that the drive teeth were not engaging the ring gear but instead clicked against it, which in turn did not allow the starter motor to receive any current through the solenoid internal switch. A voltmeter found between 8-9 volts at the solenoid S terminal. If I jumped between the positive battery cable and the S terminal (remote starter), the starter would work every time. This pointed to a voltage drop between the battery, ignition switch and solenoid. An investigation of my wiring harness was in order.



The approximate length of the wiring needed to start a Corvair is 38'+ including both directions. It begins at the positive battery post, travels to the ignition switch, turns around and travels back to the starter solenoid. An easily understood routing, however, during that routing the current has to pass through 10 push on connections, 2 switches and 15 crimp connections. There is only one soldered connection in the entire starting circuit. Our electrical system has been exposed for 60 years to humidity, road salt mist, and sometimes added crimp and twist connections done by others.

I ended up cleaning and soldering numerous crimp connections, cleaning push connections and replacing the ignition switch. After the wiring harness tuneup, a retest of clicking starters found the problem was solved.

Pictured below is one example of the 19' long purple 12 AWG solenoid wire with a crimp connection turning green from corrosion and high resistance. It was in a late model 12 pin connector behind the defroster duct.



If you have a starter that has a noticeable click occasionally (or regularly), use a volt meter and a paper clip to check the supplied voltage at the two wire starter harness in the forward left side of the engine compartment (purple wire). The circuit has to be under a load to check so do not unplug that connector. Have an assistant turn the key while you watch the meter. If you see less than 9 volts with a click, you have found the cause. If you jump from the positive battery to the purple wire at this point you should find the solenoid works every time. The original GM solenoids were supposed to work with as little as 7.7 volts but all of the replacements I have used weigh less (fewer copper windings) and will not function at that low voltage.



Here are the push connectors, switches, and battery cable parts that make up the cranking circuit. None of them are in the lower two tunnel pans.

Positive battery cable clamp to battery post

10ga positive battery to frame connection on late model (screw in a plastic plug). 12 wire connector left front of engine compartment.

12 wire connector behind defroster duct late model or under dash early model. Connector in to ignition switch. Ignition switch.

Connector out of ignition switch.

Neutral safety switch connector in.

Neutral safety switch.

Neutral safety switch connector out.

12 wire connector under dash.

2 wire connector in left front of engine compartment.

Connector at terminal on solenoid.

And there are 2 crimp connections at all of the push connectors and one at each side of the switches. Last but very important, check the ground side of the system. Folks change parts, parts come loose and they corrode. With the drivetrain mounted in rubber, it has to be solidly connected to body and battery.

If you do determine that the harness voltage drop is the problem and you just want a dependable Corvair without additional time or wiring, you could utilize an early Ford type fender solenoid attached (or hidden) next to the battery or the two wire starter harness. They are \$10-25, and can be purchased at any auto supply. A turn of the ignition switch sends full battery voltage directly to the starter solenoid S terminal, avoiding the electrical trip to the front of the car and back. The Ford solenoid only needs a fraction of the amps previously needed for starting.

**Mid-Winter Tech Session: Saturday January 24, 2026
4:00 – Dinner to Follow
16001 Oakland Ave, Belton, MO**

The topic will be electrical issues including switches, starter solenoids, heater blower relays and other interesting items.

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.

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

Classifieds

The Tool Crib

Club tools for rent

Contact: Ken Ragan

212 Warner Rd, Bonner Springs, KS 66012
913-422-5778 E-mail: kenrragan@gmail.net

Tool	Deposit	Monthly rental fee
Harmonic balancer puller	\$3.00	\$1.00
Ramps, auto	\$4.00	\$1.00
Torque wrenches		
½ inch drive 20-150 ft/lb	\$15.00	\$2.00
¾ inch drive 100-1000 in/lb	\$15.00	\$2.00
Floor jacks and stands	\$25.00	\$3.50
Ring grove cleaner	\$3.00	\$1.00
Dwell/tach meter	\$5.00	\$1.00
Greaser: Fan and idler bearing	\$5.00	\$1.00
Ken's advice	\$.02	Grain of salt
Hubs: Rear (towing LM PowerGlide)	\$5.00	\$1.00
Pushrod tube extractor	\$10.00	\$2.00

NEW internally regulated
63 amp Corvair alternators
\$110 exchange

Rebuilt Corvair
starters with
solenoid \$130
exchange



Professionally rebuilt Corvair
clutch disc on a welded center
Borg & Beck core with a
thickness of .325" \$65
exchange with same core.



Rebuilt harmonic
balancer
\$110 exchange
for a rebuildable
core



Mike Dawson
mdawson1961@sbcglobal.net
816-322-4057

Reproduced end plates for the 12 and 8
plate oil cooler. These are the two pieces
of sheet metal that help keep all the hot
air from the oil cooler moving out the
bottom instead of back in to the engine
compartment. \$10 each



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1963 Corvair/Clam Digger dune buggy for sale. All Corvair running gear and suspension, including 1965 140 HP engine with centermount carburetor, dual point distributor, and electric fuel pump. Running gear includes a '64 4-speed transaxle with transverse spring and new 13 inch tires. Needs some wiring work. Asking \$3,500. Contact Dick Berger 678-650-4246.

Space for rent

Charlie Clark has a spot available in his shop if anyone needs a place to work on their car. The rate is \$220 per month and is available now. Call Charlie 913-432-9630

Classifieds, continued...

Barb and her husband have a 66 Monza coupe for sale in Olathe.

Hasn't run in a few years. See attached pictures. Asking \$1500.

Includes business card signed by Ralph Nader!

Reply to Barb with questions. mamaphish@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ANNUAL DUES

It's that time of year again! It's time to start thinking toward the new year, and time to dig deep into your wallet and pull out the \$15 or check to send in for renewal of your membership in the Heart of America Corvair Owners Association Club. Club dues are due by the end of January, but can be sent in before then (and we'd love it if you could renew early to help with paper work).

We don't take your membership in the Club for granted, and are deeply appreciative of the support every member provides in being able to keep the Corvair out in front of the public to enjoy. So, thank you all for all you do, and now go get that checkbook and renew today! Don't wait!

To help our Treasurer, Cindy Anders manage the books effectively, we ask that everyone please send their dues renewal check in no later than the end of January, 2026 to the following address: Mike Dawson, 16001 Oakland Ave, Belton, MO 64012. Or, Stefani Sergeant will be our treasurer starting again in January and your dues will need to be paid to her at that time. Her address is 726 SE Wingate Cir, Lee's Summit MO 64063. You can always pay in person at the January meeting. We'd like to close the books on the 2026 Membership Drive by the end of January, and your support in the meeting of that goal would be greatly appreciated.

When you are paying your next year's dues please update any information that needs to be corrected in the club roster. Check the roster information to make sure that your home address, email address, cars, cell phone numbers as well as your home phone number are correct.

******* A reminder to update your CORSA membership and strongly encourage to support the national organization, which works to support our local effects through an event liability insurance policy, advertising of events in the national publications, and inclusion in online tech sessions and Zoom meetings.**

I will be sending another email a list of people that have paid their dues for 2026 year.

Membership Chairman

Don Wagner

If you have any questions email -wagtoy@gmail.com or call 816-273-8644

What's Happening?

Trunk or Treat!

Not every Halloween exhibit has to show ugly, spooky, scary, orange/black , monsters at a TRUNK & TREAT. show.

My beautiful '64 Monza was lined up, and as attractive as the rest, at the St Paul Methodist Church, in St Joe.

My 1957 doll, Marthaleen, surrounded by white Lillys, was a pretty crowned Princess waving to the crowd, in a parade.

The little boys liked the car, candy and spiral notebooks I passed out. Little girls eyes lit up in awe and asked to touch the doll.

One mother had a time getting her 7year old daughter to "come on". She litterly stood straight on and stared like a deer in headlights.

The show of appreciation, made my day.

Just wanted to share my smile.

Kat



2026 Elected officers

President – Paul Sergeant

Vice-President--- Mike Kliethermes

Secretary –Helen Moore

Secretary – Stefani Sergeant

Board Members

Steve Maloney

Larry Sherwood

Christopher Sperry

Rearview Mirror



'66 CORVAIR

A MOST UNUSUAL CAR FOR PEOPLE WHO ENJOY THE UNUSUAL



A funny thing happens on the way to the office

You somehow find it's not so far. Traffic's not as much of a problem. Other drivers are nicer guys. As a matter of fact, you're even nicer to other drivers.

Mostly because you're enjoying yourself. The car is fun with no foolishness. Rear-engine traction keeps you moving. Independent suspension and Wide-Stance

wheels mean balance. Steering's easy and sure. It all happens in the '66 Corvair. Plus some speculative glances at the lyrical lines when you pass appraising pedestrians.

There's only one requirement. You have to like to drive. . . . Chevrolet Division of General Motors, Detroit, Michigan.

(You'll find them at the usual place . . . your Chevrolet dealer's.)



Mark your calendars!!!!

HACOA Annual Meeting and Christmas Party

Date: December 5, 2025

Time: Social hour starts at 5:00pm with Cash bar followed by a delicious Buffet dinner and Gift exchange

Location:

St. Andrews Golf Club, 11099 W. 135th St., Overland Park Kansas

Cost: \$40 per person

Please make check payable to HACOA and deliver to Stefani Sergeant

RSVP payment deadline is Nov. 20

We look forward to celebrating together to create lasting memories!



December birthdays	
Deanne Harper	1
Charles King	2
James Dollar	2
Larry Roberts	12
Floyd Becker	14
Tiffany Smith	16
Sandy Reece	18
Sheila Carlino	20
Melissa Holstrom	26
Elaine Richardson	28
Denise Reavey	29

