



Group Corvair Comments

GROUP CORVAIR'S NEWSLETTER FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA



VOLUME LIV, No. 2

February 2026



**Travis Lee Hamilton (3/31/1940 – 1/20/2026)
flanked by daughters Laura and Tina.**

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

It's time to pay your annual Group Corvair dues!

The Club needs YOU! Dues are a mere \$10/year. Please send a check, payable to **Group Corvair**, and mail it to **Jim Simpson, 3845 Wayson Rd, Davidsonville, MD 21035.**

February

17 -- Group Corvair On-Line Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Zoom link will be sent via e-mail the weekend before.

TBD – Group Corvair social gathering. Late February or early March.

March

17 -- Group Corvair On-Line Meeting. 7:30 p.m.

April

21 -- Group Corvair On-Line Meeting. 7:30 p.m.

May

19 -- Group Corvair On-Line Meeting. 7:30 p.m.

June

16 -- Group Corvair On-Line Meeting. 7:30 p.m.

22 – 26 – **CORSA International Convention, Gettysburg, PA.** Note several Group Corvair members will likely be there a day or two early to set things up. Group Corvair is responsible for the opening day car show!

GROUP CORVAIR 2026 OFFICERS and Points of Contact

(We are delaying 2026 elections until after the CORSA International Convention in June.)

President: Bob Hall

4612 Franklin St., Kensington, MD 20895

301-493-8405 HallGrenn@aol.com

Vice President: Mark Shiffler

174 Dividing Ct., Arnold, MD 21012

443-770-4719 mshiphty@gmail.com

Secretary: Marolyn Simpson

3845 Wayson Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035

301-262-0978 or 240-232-2820

MarolynSimpson1@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jim Simpson

3845 Wayson Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035

301-262-0978 or 240-232-2820 simpsonj@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor: Jim Simpson

3845 Wayson Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035

301-262-0978 or 240-232-2820 simpsonj@verizon.net

From the Oval Garage

Bob Hall

January gave us a very cold shoulder (as low as 6 degrees where I live) on its way out so our lunch was moved to February 4th. I have not heard of any cases of frostbite, so I hope everyone either postponed their Corvair projects or had a heated inside location to work on their car(s). If you must work outside, from personal experience I can tell you that a couple layers of cardboard between you and the ground (and snow) can make a major difference.

We will be continuing our discussion and planning for the convention at our next Group Corvair business meeting (listed in the calendar above). This will include selecting a date for a Group Corvair visit to the hotel in late March or early April so as many club members as possible can become familiar with the hotel and, especially, the parking lot where our club will be managing the welcoming event--the cruise in/people's choice. (Note that this is being called the "car show" in the Communique currently). We sent CORSA a short synopsis of how we plan to manage the cruise in/people's choice, taking into account all the issues that GC has discussed to date, and this should appear in the March Communique. (Central Pennsylvania has submitted information on the rally that should also appear in the March Communique for those of you interested in that event). Please plan to attend our February Zoom meeting. We will be going through all aspects of our planning to date and welcome everyone's input--especially those of you who have attended earlier conventions. Look for Jim Simpson's Zoom meeting announcement which will include at least one attachment showing our current schedule for the event. We will have updated info about signage and how volunteers will be managed as well as what we learned at the last CORSA convention meeting.

Warmer weather is coming so it's time to let our club know if you need any extra help with a project. Tech sessions are one of the best reasons to join Group Corvair so let us know if you need a little help to move your project along a little faster. The convention gets closer every day.....

Minutes of the January Virtual Meeting

Marolyn Simpson

Nine Group Corvair members participated in the January 18 Zoom business meeting. As the members were logging on, the pre-meeting discussion was mostly about ordering club logo shirts that club members can wear at the convention in June. There are still questions concerning the type of material, the style, and color of the shirts.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Hall, president, at 7:41 pm. The minutes of the December meeting were accepted as written in the newsletter. Jim Simpson gave the treasurer's report. He received three checks for dues during the last month. (Dues for 2026 are due. Send a check for \$10, payable to Group Corvair, to Jim Simpson, 3845 Wayson Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035.)

Planning for the Gettysburg convention continues. The first meeting each month is for a limited number of participants, usually one representative from each club plus CORSA leadership. The second meeting is more focused on the club workers and welcomes all interested club members.

This may be the last convention organized and run by individual clubs. Corsa will probably run the conventions from now on. Still TBD is just how much local participation will be needed and how that will be organized.

For the car show, we are still debating if the cars will be parked in random order as they arrive, or if they can (or should) be separated into categories such as early, late, or forward control. We are anticipating a large number of vehicles and want to make it easy to get them on the lot. Corsa will be responsible for barriers and signs. Bob is looking into getting feather flags to direct people to the car show. They will be used in conjunction with the Corsa signs.

Our current plan is that during the car show the vehicles will be parked at an angle and therefore will need to be repositioned to straight-in after the show.

Pictures will be taken as the cars come in and will be used in the awards. Owners should be behind the car, and the assigned number should be visible on the windshield.

Many hotel rooms have already been reserved. The convention rates are good for three days before and three days after the convention in order to accommodate things like the Corvair Ranch open house and the numerous tourist attractions of central Pennsylvania.

Carl Kelsen and Titus Stuart are discussing having Carl make a presentation during the convention. There are a number of topics that could be used ranging from Chevrolet's role in the Australian automobile world to the challenges of owning, operating, and maintaining a Corvair half a world away.

There will be a lunch meeting at Nonna Angela's on Thursday, January 29, at 1:00 pm. Several members have already signed up. *[Note: The meeting was changed to Wednesday, February 4.]*

Jim has installed more Vair Trix products in his Corsa. He also got new Maxxis tires to replace the now ten-year-old ones on the car. (Great tread, but 10 years is pushing them in terms of on-the-road safety.)

Carl said his engine is progressing very well. He should get it back from the shop in a couple of weeks.

Mark will put in an order for shirts in early March. The shirts will be white unless otherwise specified.

Bob mentioned that Main Street upholstery in Thurmont is a good place to get interior (primarily seat cover) work done.

The meeting ended at 8:57 pm.

Group Corvair Social Meeting

After nine days of cabin fever caused by the snow, freezing rain, ice, and constant subfreezing temperatures, it was time for a change. On Wednesday, February 4, six members of Group Corvair ventured out on their mostly cleared driveways and roads to gather for lunch at Nonna Angela's restaurant in Crofton. The thermometer showed a balmy 38 degrees, but as might be expected, there were no Corvairs in the parking lot this time.

The main topic of conversation was the upcoming Gettysburg convention. This was in preparation for a Zoom planning meeting with Corsa and representatives of the sponsoring clubs scheduled for that evening. The main issues for Group Corvair were related to the opening day Car Show. They included setting up a scouting trip to the convention site, what signs we would need, organizing the cars in the car show in three categories, and just how to handle the concours cars.

Mark Shiffler showed a sample of the embroidered GC logo; it really looks great. Get your orders in!

Throughout the lunch other Corvair topics came up, such as possible future projects, as well as stories about our recent “once in a lifetime” winter weather. We finally wrapped up at about 3:00 pm.

Travis Lee Hamilton, 3/31/1940 – 1/20/2026

Jim Simpson

Lee Hamilton, as everyone in the Corvair community knew him, passed away on January 20th. Here is the obituary that the family provided:

In Loving Memory of Travis Lee Hamilton It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of our father, Travis Lee Hamilton, who passed away on January 20, 2026, at the age of 85. He was born on March 31, 1940, in Carbon Hill, Alabama. He is predeceased by his wife Judy, and son Jeffrey. He lived a life filled with love, kindness, and dedication to his family and friends. Travis was a devoted husband to his wife Judy and a loving father to Gregory, Kelly, Jeffrey, Tina and Laura. He was a pillar of strength and wisdom, always offering support and guidance to those around him. His generosity knew no bounds, and his sense of humor brightened every room he entered. Those that knew him, know firsthand the phrase “Once a Marine always a Marine.”

Throughout his life, Travis worked as a self-employed automotive mechanic, where he was respected for his knowledge, ingenuity, creativity and hard work. He enjoyed NASCAR, woodworking, games, and whatever activity his children and grandchildren were involved in. He found happiness spending time with family, and friends. Nothing more so than people stopping by for a chat, whether it be at the shop with a honk and a wave, or by the firepit in the yard. He loved to travel, especially to our family reunions.

He is survived by his loving children, Gregory Hamilton (Sue), Kelly Hamilton Grable (Scott), Tina Hamilton, and Laura Custer—and his cherished grandchildren—Jeff Hamilton, Whitney Hamilton, and Damian Grable—as well as many nieces and nephews who will forever hold his memory in their hearts.

The family will be planning a Celebration of Life, along with an inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery. Details will be shared with family and friends as soon as dates are finalized, so that all who wish to honor Travis may attend and celebrate his remarkable and full life.

Travis will be deeply missed but never forgotten. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

Group Corvair knew him as a phenomenal Corvair mechanic and enthusiast. He was “the” Corvair mechanic at Roger’s Chevrolet in Bowie, MD. In an era where most Chevrolet mechanics were reluctant to touch the “weird, air-cooled Corvair”, he took them on with enthusiasm. He was also our club’s sponsor at Roger’s Chevrolet, hosting occasional tech sessions in their shop. Through his good graces, we had many years of “Fall Flea Fairs” – combination Corvair car shows and swap meets that attracted people from the entire mid-Atlantic region and vendors from as far away as Vermont!

Lee left Roger’s Chevrolet and established his own repair shop in Edgewater. Many Corvair owners brought him their cars to solve problems big and small. As many Group Corvair members have noted, Lee was very generous with his time, technical expertise, and even his supply of rare Corvair parts. (The rear deck emblem on my ’66 turbocharged Corsa came from his stash!)

We’ll never know just how many Corvair are still on the road thanks to Lee’s ministrations, but there are many.

I think this remembrance from Group Corvair member Phil Richardson sums Lee up very well:

“I too only met Lee a few times, but when I first bought Warren Friberg's 69, I had to transfer it from VA to MD, which required a state inspection. It passed fine except for the Pitman arm bushing, which was rotted. Pressing out that bushing was beyond me at the time, so I think on the club's recommendation I took it to his shop. He took care of it in about ten minutes, but he let me watch him do it and in the course of chatting with him it was quickly

clear that I was a newbie (I hadn't owned a Corvair since my '63 when I was in high school). He spent way longer than he needed to patiently going over the whole car with me, he talked about adjustments, tune ups, preventative maintenance, etc., etc. It was very helpful and so kind of him and gave me some confidence that I could do this. I'll never forget him for being so decent to a new Corvair owner."

And from one US Navy Sailor to a fellow US Marine, Fair Winds and Following Seas.

You Do Want Some Group Corvair Apparel!

We're going to put in an order in early March, so get your order in now!

We're decided that default color will be white so or great logo will stand out and that the shirts can be worn in the sun without overheating. (There are other colors available so check with us if you'd like something else; we don't think there will any difference in price.) We also plan to get ballcaps with the logos; they will be "fit all sizes" and have adjustable Velcro straps rather than the plastic snap strips.

We have settled on a couple of styles with pricing in the in the \$30 range for a polo shirt and \$15 - \$20 for ballcaps.

Right now, we need a count of how many people want them and a general idea of quantities. Don't forget, Group Corvair is a sponsor of the week-long CORSA Convention in Gettysburg this year and you might want a change of clothes. And of course, your significant other will want some matching apparel as well!



A Sample from Our Last Batch

So send a note to Mark Shiffler (mshiphty@gmail.com), Bob Hall (HallGrenn@aol.com), and me, Jim Simpson (simpsonj@verizon.net) so we can start putting an order together. We will get back to everyone to get final numbers, sizes, and colors as well as the prices before we put in any orders.

Tech Tips

Choosing the Correct Oil Filter: (Adapted from SFBA CORSA, 12/12/2025)

The old rule was, under normal driving conditions, to change your oil and filter every 3 months or 3,000 miles -- whichever came first. With modern synthetic oils, and because most of us only drive our Corvairs on the weekends, to events, parades, meetups etc, we may not keep a close eye on how many miles or months it's been since that last change. A good rule provided by Richard Finch in his book, *How To Keep Your Corvair Alive*, is to check the oil on the dipstick and if it isn't straw or amber color, change it! But when it comes to the filter, your Friendly Local Auto Parts Store (FLAPS) may not have their filter. (After all, these cars are now all about 60 years old!) But fear not, here are some options:

- **Wix:** 51038 (The filter you will most likely find on the shelf at a chain auto parts store)
- **AC Delco:** PF4 (These are no longer manufactured and will be "old stock")
- **Fram:** PH4 (50/50 chance this will be on the shelf at a chain auto parts store)
- **Hastings/Baldwin:** LF/215
- **Purolator:** L20014 (These are no longer manufactured and will be "old stock")
- **NAPA Gold:** 1038 (crosses to Wix 51038. Exclusive to Napa Auto Parts and should be available in store).
- **Clarks Generation II:** designed specifically for the Corvair

Fun Things to Know About The 2026 CORSA Convention

Ron Fedorczak & Eileen Clegg

It's easy to get to:

“GETTIN to GETTYSBURGH”

Start your engines and ramp up your enthusiasm for the Monday to Friday (June 22nd – 26th)
CORSA International Convention.

No matter if it's your “cousin from Boston”, “Aunt Dorothy” from Kansas or a “Crocodile Dundee” from Down Under that lands at any of these four major airports – Harrisburg, BWI, Dulles, or Regan National -- they will have less than 2 hours driving time to Gettysburg.



The largest monument on the Gettysburg battlefield, the Pennsylvania State Memorial, honors the more than 34,000 Pennsylvanians killed during the Civil War.

Roads from all the cardinal directions lead to Gettysburg, being at the junction of US Routes 15 (north and south) and 30 (east and west). And if you prefer Interstates, from the east or west you have the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) to Exit 263 south where you will head south on US Rt-15 joining the people coming from the north and 30 minutes later you've ARRIVED!

The convention hotel, *The Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel & Conference Center*, is easy to get to. It's located 2 miles east of Gettysburg at the junction of US Routes-15 and 30, an area known as Gateway Gettysburg. Reservations are

now being accepted; call 717-339-0020 and ask for ext. #3 to speak directly to a hotel customer representative; mention the CORSA Convention for the special rates.

For campers, The Drummer Boy Campground (the closest) is 1 mile away.

A-PLUS ATTRACTIONS:

The **Corvair Ranch** will be hosting an Open House on Saturday June 27th, so be sure to extend your accommodations and airline reservations to include an unforgettable visit.

And while driving to or from the convention or if you have some spare time in the middle, check out **The Eastern Museum of Motor Racing** near York Springs, PA, just off US Rt-15 north of Gettysburg. It's free although they do ask for donations. Their website: www.emmr.org.

BOOK YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS NOW -- 2026 is AMERICA'S 250th BIRTHDAY and Gettysburg will be a popular tourist attraction.

And once you get there:

WELCOME to HOTEL WYNDHAM GETTYSBURG,

“ SUCH A LOVELY PLACE,”

THAT YOU WILL SOON EMBRACE.



This spacious, beautifully refreshed, 1863 presidential-themed hotel was chosen by CORSA because of its crossroads location at the junction of US Routes 15 and 30, just EAST of Gettysburg proper.

It's open, inviting LOBBY and REGISTRATION area allows for gathering with other Corvair enthusiasts and old friends. (Hopefully, you have already secured your reservations.) The hotel amenities include an oversized INDOOR POOL, WHIRLPOOL as well as an EXECUTIVE FITNESS CENTER for your enjoyment and relaxation.



Hotel Wyndham Gettysburg

The 8,900 square foot BALLROOM will accommodate seating for the awards dinner participants at the concluding convention event.

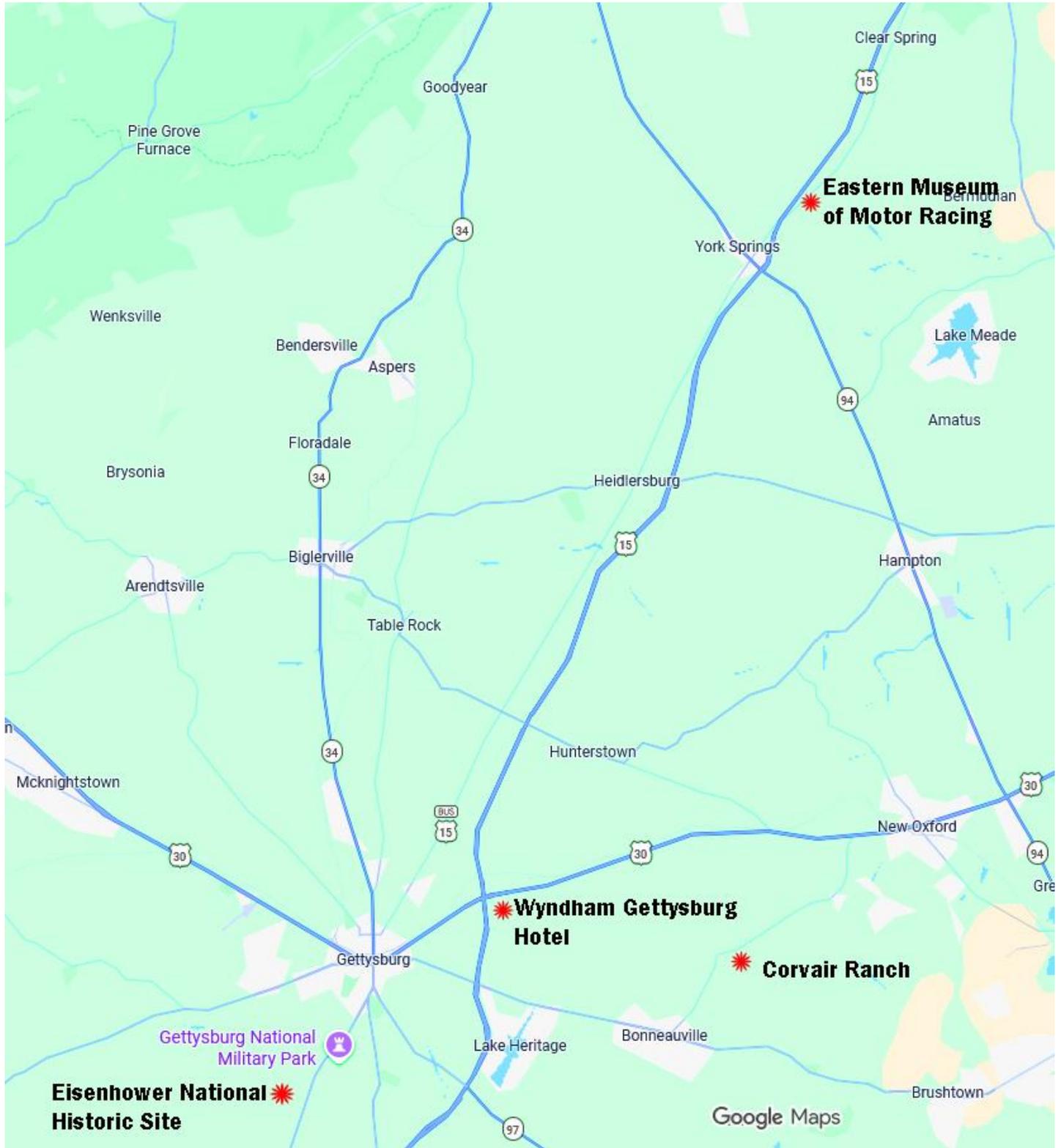
One of Gettysburg's top dining establishments is also conveniently housed in the Wyndham. The 1863 RESTAURANT & GRILL awaits you for your dining pleasure. Just off the hallway leading to the restaurant is the LOBBY BAR, open daily for informal socializing with CORSA friends and family while enjoying a brew, a burger, and brake repair discussions.

Strolling the wide and brightly lit hallways off the Ballroom, are MEETING ROOMS ready to host TECH SESSIONS and other activities scheduled by CORSA. The OUTDOOR TERRACE (located off the wide hallway in the rear of the hotel) overlooks the LARGE, SHADED EVENT AREA.

Hearty Corvair fans might choose to walk on sidewalks (about a 1 mile) to the AUTOCROSS event located at the BATTLEFIELD HARLEY-DAVIDSON motorcycle dealership.

There's a convenient shuttle from the adjacent Courtyard by Marriot hotel to DOWNTOWN GETTYSBURG where the spirit of specific historical events of 250 years of American History will be on display.

The WYNDHAM, one of the Top Rated TRIPADVISOR* hotels in Gettysburg, PA, awaits your stay for a meaningful and historical 2026 CORSA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.



A Sample of Nearby Attractions



SAVE THE DATE!



2026
International Convention
June 22-26
Historic Gettysburg
See you there in your Vair!

The 2026 CORSA Convention is being presented by four clubs:

- Mid-Maryland Corvair Club
- Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club
- Group Corvair
- Northern Virginia Corvairs

We hope that you will join us for what is gearing up to be the biggest and best convention to be held on the East Coast! Come join in the fun and the history of Gettysburg- tour the battlefields, take a ghost tour, and dine at historic restaurants!

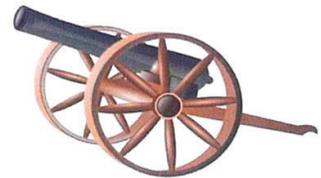
You can even visit wineries, tour car museums, and even spend time at the world-famous Hershey chocolate factory and the fun-filled HersheyPark.

Like the country life? Gettysburg is a short hour drive from the heart of the Amish communities in Lancaster PA where you'll find fantastic dining and shopping.



What's the schedule of events? Take a look at what we have planned:

- Monday, June 22nd: Welcome Party
- Tuesday, June 23rd: Concourse
- Wednesday, June 24th: Road Rally
- Thursday, June 25th: Autocross
- Friday, June 26th: Econo-Run
- Friday, June 26th: Banquet and Awards



Tours, technical sessions, and other fun and exciting activities and events are in the works!

Mark your calendars and start planning to

"See You There in Your 'Vair!'"



Corvair Part and Services

clark's 2019-2025
SINCE
1973
Corvair Parts[®]
400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370



FAX
24 hour
413-625-0498

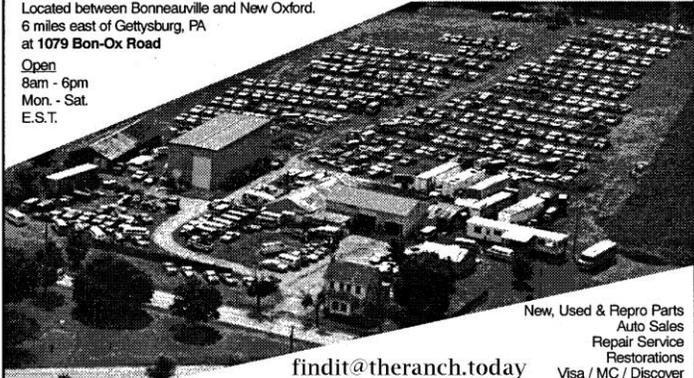
MAIN PHONE
413-625-9776
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. (EST)

EMAIL: clarks@corvair.com
INTERNET: www.corvair.com

CORVAIR RANCH, INC. Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-624-2805

Located between Bonneauville and New Oxford.
6 miles east of Gettysburg, PA
at 1079 Bon-Ox Road

Open
8am - 6pm
Mon. - Sat.
E.S.T.



findit@theranch.today
All Corvair... Nothing Else!

New, Used & Rebro Parts
Auto Sales
Repair Service
Restorations
Visa / MC / Discover
UPS Daily
PA Inspection

George Jimmy

GLENN DALE AUTOBODY
Specializing in all the Finest Paint Finishes

Domestic Customs Imports

(301) 577-7973
(301) 577-6317 fax
glenndaleautobody@verizon.net

9451 Smith Avenue
Seabrook, MD 20706

CALIFORNIA CORVAIR PARTS, INC.

PARTS FOR 1960-69

CHEVROLET CORVAIR CARS & TRUCKS

Monday - Friday 9:30 to 4:30
Saturdays 9:30 to 12:30

15090 LA PALMA DRIVE, CHINO, CA 91710

Phone: (909) 287-0741

Email: ccpinc19@gmail.com