

# *The* **CONNECTING ROD**

The Newsletter of Corvair Atlanta, Inc.



*April 2026*



*Autocross participant – Springfest 2025.*

*Mark your calendar: Springfest 2026, April 17-18, Helen, GA.*

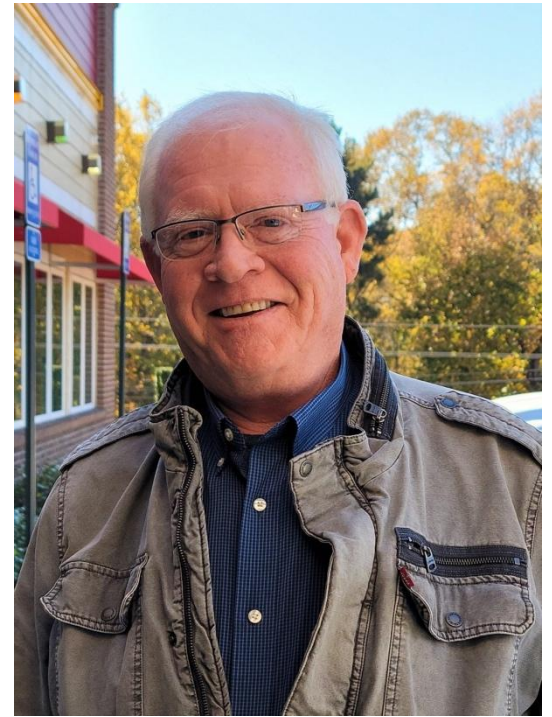
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# *The President's Corner*

Welcome to April everyone! April Fool's Day, warm weather, and pollen season are upon us, but more importantly, Easter is this weekend and Corvair Springfest is coming mid-month! If you haven't gotten your registration in, please do so as soon as possible. Rooms are selling out and special Corvair rates are expiring at hotels. Go to <https://corvairspringfest.com> for details and registration.

With Springfest coming the weekend of our regular meeting, we will not have a formal Corvair Atlanta meeting this month. But because there was not a formal meeting last month with the Clock Shop event, we will have a "Zoom" meeting sometime next week to go over the details of Springfest and answer any questions anyone might have about it. Please "tune in" for it. We will be sending out an e-mail with the details and the link to join in early in the week or this weekend. It looks like we will have a lot of members there, and it should be fun as usual. Check out your weather app before leaving, as Springfest can be warm or cold; wet or dry, but it is always fun!



The clock shop meeting in March was an interesting event with hundreds of clocks chiming simultaneously at noon to celebrate the start of daylight savings time that day. We had 4



*CAI members enjoying lunch at the Champ's Clock Shop*

Corvairs there and about 12 members. Mike Gassmann and Tom Constantine reviewed some of the details of Springfest with those present and everyone enjoyed a free meal compliment of Jeff and Linda Champion who own the Clock Shop. They also met Gil and Jennifer Hess, long-time former members of Corvair Atlanta who subsequently re-joined Corvair Atlanta. Please enjoy some pictures of that event here!

Since that meeting. Gil and Jennifer Hess bought a beautiful burgundy '63 convertible that we will see at Springfest. Mac Crawford, a Corvair enthusiast and auto shop owner who is trying to specialize in Corvairs also joined our club in April. Mac plans to be at Springfest this year again. I met him there for the first time last year. Mac owns several Corvairs including the van he used on the road when he was a drummer for Molly Hatchet! We hope to see him driving one soon. We also had a third person join our organization, Janice Flack from Hoschton, GA who has a '62 Spyder convertible. I haven't yet had an opportunity to talk to her, but I hope to soon. Welcome new members!

In this issue of "The Connecting Rod", you will find a list of upcoming events. If you find an auto-related event in your area, we always welcome member input into this section.

Each member has a member contact list and we encourage you to contact other members if you want company at a nearby event.

Following that is an article written by Keith and Sharon Burkingstock about the day they bought their new '64 4-door sedan. They still have that car, and it can be seen in person if you come to Springfest or in a photo in this publication. It is the immaculate burgundy one in the Clock Shop photos... a one-owner car for over 62 years and looks better than the day they bought it!

Following this is more information on coming events, including Springfest and the Corsa National Convention in Gettysburg, PA this year.



*Linda Champion working the grill*

Mike Callahan is recovering from another surgery, but he still found time to update “Corvaire Purgatory.” It shames me to see how much he accomplishes every month, but I love reading about it and hope each of you do too.



*A couple Vairs at the Clock Shop meeting*

Please read about the benefits of being a member of CORSA in the ad we run monthly. There is a huge amount of information available on their website, and the bi-monthly publications keep us aware of what CORSA, there would

not be the resources available for our cars that many take for granted. Page 15 of this issue has some local sources for service listed, and we invite you to send additional local sources if you come upon them.

I hope you enjoy this edition of “The Connecting Rod”, and I hope to see you in Helen.

*Frank*



*Tom Constantine showing his Late Model*

# *Coming Events:*

**Friday, April 3, 2026** – Good Friday

**Sunday, April 5, 2026** - Easter

**Sunday, April 5, 2026** – Sunday Classic Car Worship – Target Shopping Center, at Panera Bread, 1135 Woodstock Road, Roswell, GA 30075

**Monday, April 6, 2026** – Summit Racing Parts Cruise In - McDonough, GA 6-8 PM

**Friday, April 17 - Saturday, April 18, 2026** – Springfest 2026, Helen GA

**Sunday, May 3, 2026** - Sunday Classic Car Worship – Target Shopping Center, at Panera Bread, 1135 Woodstock Road, Roswell, GA 30075

**Tuesday, May 5, 2026** – Cinco de Mayo

**Sunday, May 10, 2026** – Mother’s Day

**Saturday, May 16, 2026** – Corvair Atlanta Meeting

**Saturday, May 16, 2026** – Armed Forces Day

**Monday, May 25, 2026** – Memorial Day

**Sunday, June 14, 2026** – Father’s Day

**Saturday, June 20, 2026** – Corvair Atlanta Meeting

**Monday, June 22 – Friday, June 26, 2026** – 2026 CORSA International Convention, Gettysburg, PA



*Don't forget to bring your Valve Cover Car to Springfest 2026*



*Keith and Sharon Burkingstock's 1964 Monza*

## *Me and My Corvair part two*

*By Keith and Sharon Burkingstock*

The call came in mid-October that my Corvair was in. So the following weekend we drove from Chicago to southern Illinois to pick it up. All paperwork was completed. They got my '62 and I got the '64. Smooth exchange. The next day, Sunday, we started back north. There were no interstate highways at that time, so we always took the little 2 lane back roads through the famous tall corn fields of central Illinois. We were about half-way to Chicago when all a sudden I lost all power and the accelerator fell to the floor. After a careful examination I found the pedal had come loose from the base on the floor. So much for their quality control! Being straight off the farm, we could fix anything with either bailing wire or binder twine. Well, I had neither. I determined that I could use my heel to operate the little one-inch pivot point left attached to the floor. At the next little town, we stopped at the first and only service station for repairs. The attendant didn't have a welder, thank God, or he would probably have caught my carpet on fire and burned my new car up. He made a temporary fix by drilling a hole in the pedal and the pivot on the floor and put a bolt in it. It worked fine and got me back home.

In February of 1964, I got a transfer to Charlotte NC. I rented a U-Haul trailer and a bumper hitch, loaded all our life possessions in the trailer and headed to warmer weather. The flat land in the Midwest was no problem but then we came to the Great Smokey Mountains. I wasn't sure what would happen then, but it took them just like the flat land. I hardly ever got it out of fourth gear. Instead of the "little engine that thought he could," "I had the little engine that didn't even think, it just did the job". In Charlotte, we lived near a large lake, so we got a ski/runabout boat which we towed with the Corvair.

After we started our family, we thought our boys needed a dog, so we got a puppy for them. Our puppy kept growing and finally became a 180-pound Great Dane. We would take her out for rides in the Corvair. She rode in the front and the back seat all at the same time. Butt up on the

top of the back seat, front feet on the floor, and head between Sharon and me in the front seat. Quite a sight and a lot of thumbs up.

A friend of mine told me of a garage about 3 miles from where I lived that had a mechanic who worked on Corvairs. I took the car in for service and that became the only place I would let service it for the next 17 years. That man was Richard Jenkins who became a life-long friend of mine.

In the early '80s I transferred to Atlanta to help open the "NEW" Atlanta Hartsfield terminal. I was looking for someone to service the Corvair when I heard of a big Corvair convention coming to Atlanta. I attended and joined Corvair Atlanta. I didn't get to attend too many meetings since I was on the south side of Atlanta, and the meetings were usually on the north side. At one of the meetings I attended, I learned of a big Corvair get together in the north Georgia mountains in Helen. It sounded interesting, so we attended. It was something called Spring Fest. When we got there, I thought that I was seeing a ghost. There stood Richard and Sarah Jenkins. What a surprise.

On one of our motorcycle rides, we stopped at a gas station and a Corvair pulled up on the other side of the pump. That is where we met Tye and Janet Howard. They told us they were members of another Corvair club that met in Warner Robins. We got the information and then joined their club, the Heart of Georgia.

I never dreamed that little Corvair purchased in 1963 would be the thing that has given us so much enjoyment and made so many life-long friends.

After 63 years, that temporary fix to the gas pedal is still holding strong. I just tighten it up every year or two.

*Keith and Sharon*



*Fun with your Vair!*



## SIXTY YEARS OF SIXTY SIX SPIRIT

Come and join us for our 44th Annual Date with Helen!

Experience the usual fun and camaraderie by checking out:

- 2nd Year Bigger & Better Autocross
- Inside & Outside Vendors -- Friday H'burg & Hot Dog
- Valve Cover Racing -- CLUB Competition
- Peoples Choice Car Show -- Funkhana -- Rally
- Tech Session -- Bingo -- Door Prizes -- Hospitality
- Saturday Awards Banquet

**For more information visit: <https://corvairspringfest.com>**

# *Fun with your Vair! Continued*



**June 22-26, 2026**

**Gettysburg, Pennsylvania**

**2026 CORSA International Convention**

**Location:** Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325-8397.

**Reservations:** Phone the hotel at **717-339-0020** and use the name CORSA National Convention for the convention rate.

**Tentative schedule of events:** Monday June 22: Concours Meetings, Cole Participant Meetings, Model Car Set up, Convention Kickoff, Car Show, Valve Cover Builder Workshop + Racing. Tuesday June 23: Concours d'Elegance, Battlefield Tour Bus with Guide, Rally Participants Meeting. Wednesday June 24: Rally, Pre-Auto Cross Tech Inspection. Thursday June 25: Autocross, Banquet Table Assignments. **Friday June 26:** Econo Run, Driving Tour, Battlefield Tour Bus with Guide, Banquet. Information: Please refer to upcoming issues of the Communique for convention previews and also check our website, [www.corvair.org](http://www.corvair.org) for further updates and online hotel reservation links.

# ***\*VERY IMPORTANT\****

## **Convention Hotel Room Reservations**

The Wyndham Gettysburg is our host hotel, and they are now accepting room reservations for the CORSA Convention. King and Double Queen rooms are available. The rate is \$159 per night, not including local taxes. Please make your reservations early to ensure we fill our room block. To get the convention rate, reservations must be made before May 21st. After that date, the rate may not be available.

To simplify the reservation experience, contact the Wyndham Gettysburg directly.

*Do not call any corporate toll-free number or third-party site. Phone the hotel at 717-339-0020, You will be asked to choose an Option.*

*Do NOT choose Option 1 - Reservations. Instead, **choose Option 3** and use the name CORSA National Convention for the convention rate. A credit card will be required to hold the reservation.*

Another way to make hotel reservation is **use this link** - it has been set up specifically for our Convention:

[Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel & Conference Center | Gettysburg, PA Hotels](#)

- \_To extend your vacation, the hotel will offer the convention rate three days prior to and after the dates of the event, if rooms are available.
- \_Campers are not allowed on the hotel property other than to park with trailers. Check back for a list of campsites.

You can make your hotel reservations right now. Registration for Convention events will open in February.

Thank You,

Joan & Chris Law

# *Fun with your Vair! Continued*



## *Sunday Classic Car Worship*



*1st Sunday of each month!*

*8AM - 11AM*

*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*

# *Corvair Purgatory*

By Mike Callahan

## Happy April 2026

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

Had surgery on March 18, hopefully the last one. As of today, I am upright and taking nourishment. Should be back in the shop with restrictions by the time you are reading this.

Selling parts and working on the 62 wagon and 47 Hudson pick up.

Spent most of my time in March when out of the hospital working on my granddaughters 4-wheeler and on my recently purchased Cadillac 500 Cubic inch motor. Getting it ready to install in my 78 El Camino. It's ready to go in when I get well enough to do it.

**62 Wagon:** Fixed a couple leaks. Still plagued by water leaks, most leaks stopped, but not all. Got Headlights and turn signals working. heater motor is not working. Need to buy the rear ducts that go behind the back seat, the ones I have are not fitting, guessing the wagon ones are different than the car ones that I have, if someone knows, please let me know.

**47 Hudson Pickup Truck:** Lots of time searching for parts for this truck. I need windshield wiper parts, door parts, dash parts. Using modified Corvair parts for the window hardware where I can. Passenger door is apart and repaired and now starting to reassemble. Wiper motor arrived but doesn't physically fit, \$350, ouch and was forced to repair and use the original parts otherwise. Driver side it is working but need to find parts for the passenger side. Finally got all the lights working and all the gauges working. The dash is all apart and needs to be assembled after I get the wipers working. Found out that the truck would start in any gear, after I ordered the second, correct part for the 76-steering column, I spent the next 3 hours installing it and splicing in the wires. Now only starts in Park.

Started driving **66 A/C Convertible** and fixing things as I find them.

## 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 TWO, bought one**

**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,

**110 Rebuilt Engine:** 100% new parts built by Barry Owen.

## **Work to be done List:**

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

**78 El Camino:** Remove motor and transmission and install 500 Cadillac motor. Finish interior.

**58 Chevy Apache 3200 Long Bed Step Side Pickup Truck:** Needs electric power steering, fix drive by wire issues. Not getting spark, need to trouble shoot it.

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

**68 Ultravan:** Need to find a place to install microwave. Road time. Install Brown Fuel Injection.

**33 Ford Coupe:** Needs interior, more wiring to straighten out, headlights, turn signals, find a way to increase ground clearance, paint.

**66 Coupe A/C, PG, 4 Wheel Disc Brakes:** Needs chrome around windshield installed, find rear seat bottom and install, tune engine.

**62 Studebaker Hawk Gran Turismo:** Needs a/c wiring,

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

*Are you a current CORSA Member?*

We strongly encourage all to support the national organization, which works to support our local events through a liability insurance policy, advertising of events in national publications, and inclusion of members in online tech sessions, newsletters, and Zoom meetings.



The National Corvair Museum is currently located at 10041 Palm Road – on the Historic alignment of old Route 66 – in Glenarm, Illinois 62536-6621. Just ten miles south of Springfield, it's in close proximity to popular tourist destinations in the Springfield area.

For those of you who wish to be a Museum Supporter,



[Click HERE to download a hardcopy of your contribution form.](#)

<https://www.corvair.org>

# *The Drivetrain*

## **Officers**

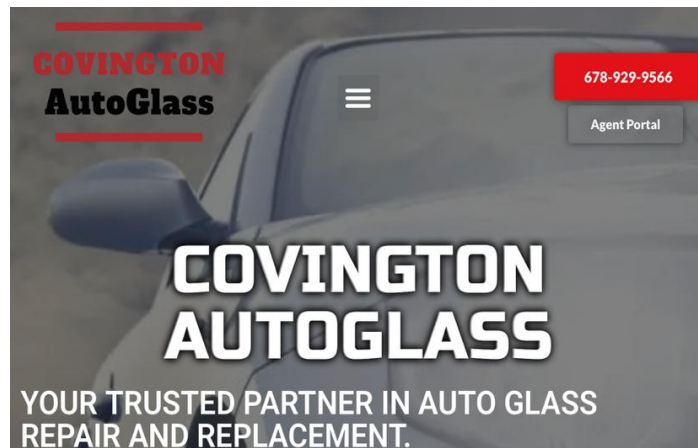
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Michael Rickey	michael.e.Rickey@gmail.com	(678-576-7158)



# Resources



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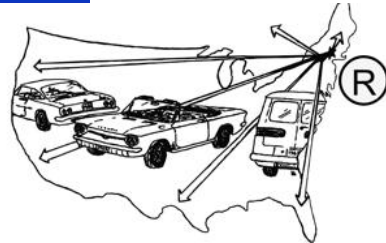
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