



Group Corvair Comments

GROUP CORVAIR'S NEWSLETTER FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA



VOLUME LIV, No. 4

April 2026



Gettysburg

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

April

- 21 – **Group Corvair On-Line Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Check your email the weekend before for the Zoom link instructions.
- 22 – **Group Corvair Social and Convention Planning Meeting:** 12 noon, Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center, 95 Presidential Cir, Gettysburg, PA 17325. This is in the “Gateway Gettysburg” campus, on the south-east corner of the intersection between US 15 and US 30.

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!

22: High Performance Driving at Summit Point. Gates open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., the track is “hot” from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. <http://www.neccmotorsports.com/>

July

21 – Group Corvair On-Line Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Convention wrap-up and plans for the rest of the year!

GROUP CORVAIR 2026 OFFICERS and Points of Contact (We are delaying 2026 elections until after the CORSA International Convention in June.)

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From the Oval Garage

Bob Hall

Spring is really “busting out all over” and putting a smile on a lot of faces. We might just get all of our Corvair projects done in time for the 2026 International Convention in June. I would recommend that everyone log onto the CORSA website at least once a week to see the latest official information. And if you see something that conflicts with what you are hearing from Group Corvair (Jim Simpson, Mark Shiffer, Phil Richardson and myself) let us know right away. We are doing the same thing ourselves. We will be updating GC club members at our Zoom meeting on April 21st before we meet in person at the Wyndham Hotel in Gettysburg at noon on April 22nd.

On a somber note, we just learned that Group Corvair lost long-time member Gus Torbert on February 24th at the age of 90. Gus was half of the Torbert team along with his wife Barbara who organized and contributed so much to Group Corvair and their wider community. In addition to GC the Torberts were also very active with the Northwestern High School Alumni Association annual reunions which Carol (also an NW Alumna) and I attended regularly. Past GC officers Ward and Carol Bourgondien, the Torberts and Jim and Marolyn Simpson were instrumental in making the 1991 CORSA Convention in New Carrollton a major success. Ralph Nader, looking for some publicity, even attended and spoke (acknowledging that CORSA members must all be very good drivers because we had survived driving Corvairs). Jim and Marolyn can offer newer GC members some great stories from the preparation for and running of that event.

Please add the April 22nd Wyndham Hotel meeting to your calendars. Even if you can't attend personally, we will still need your input, as club members—questions, suggestions etc., to help Group Corvair prepare for the first day car show. Jim and Ron have scoped out an optimal parking arrangement, and we are getting closer to pinning down signage requirements. Carl Kelsen will be flying in from the other side of the world, “down under”, to join us in

June to tell CORSA about the conversion of his Monza convertible to right hand drive. I hope all Group Corvair members will be able to attend.

Minutes of the March Virtual Meeting

Marolyn Simpson

The March 17 Group Corvair meeting at 7:30 pm on Zoom was well attended. When Bob Hall, president, called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm there were 13 members online. As members were logging on, Mark Shiffler told us that his Corvair transmission was connected to the engine, but it was not in the car yet. Carl Kelsen said he had entertained foreign guests for a couple of weeks; also, there was a discussion about the studs on his car.

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as written in the newsletter. Jim Simpson gave the treasurer's report. The club owes Mark Shiffler for the preprints of the logo and will pay up front for the shirts and hats. The deadline for ordering is the end of March. Everyone needs to let Mark know men's or women's style and size for the shirts and the number of hats. The hats are one size with an adjustable strap in the back.

Bob is planning to send out an email in the middle of the month asking for dates that will work for the next social meeting. We want to be able to include as many members as possible.

Carl Kelsen is working on his presentation for the convention. He will emphasize the right-hand drive conversion, which is the subject most folks are interested in.

The next social meeting will be at Not Your Average Joes restaurant in Bethesda on Wednesday, March 25 at noon. *[Note: the social meeting took place as scheduled.]*

Members of Group Corvair are planning to go to Gettysburg on Wednesday, April 22 to check out the Wyndham Hotel and parking lots, the official venue for the 2026 convention. It would be nice to have at least one Corvair at that meeting, which will help in setting up the area for the car show that our club is responsible for. Rob Neighbour and Randy Ricktor both offered to supply some cones to help with traffic control for the car show.

Corsa will provide signs along the route coming into the hotel from the highway; it will also provide vests. We will need to tell Titus Stewart how many signs we need for the parking area. Group Corvair will provide signs related to the car show.

Jim has installed his new speaker that he got from VairTrix. It goes in the same place as the original speaker. He is a beta tester for several VairTrix products. The new speaker will be available from Clark's Corvair Parts; however, it will probably be relatively expensive. A discussion followed on the Corvair radio and speakers.

Barb and Barry Grofic recently had a steering box redone, but on the way home the headlights then failed. Other members had had the same experience and found that the solution was to hit the dimmer switch several times. Some other remedies were also discussed.

Carl said there are about 150 Corvairs in Australia, but few owners are Corsa members. He also said that he is glad that our convention is called the Corsa International Convention—many other car clubs just say “National Convention” even though they have international members.

The last discussion of the meeting was on heater control cables.

The meeting ended at 8:43 pm.

Group Corvair Social Meeting

Marolyn Simpson

Since our last Group Corvair social meeting was on the east side of town, it was time to head out west. Bob Hall had made reservations for us at Not Your Average Joes in Bethesda, MD where 12 club members rode in and met at high noon. The menu had a good variety of choices, but the most popular one was probably the fish and chips.

Once again, the 2026 Corvair convention, which will be in Gettysburg, PA June 22-26, was the main topic of conversation. But since this lunch was a social occasion, we did not spend all our time on business. We also

discussed Corvair projects, some successful and some not so much, as well as totally unrelated topics. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event because we didn't leave the restaurant until roughly 3:00 pm

Philip Lyles “Guz” Torbert, 2/8/1935 – 2/24/2026 Jim Simpson

Guz Torbert, or “Gus” as we knew him, passed away in late February. He and Barbara had been long-term members of Group Corvair, having joined in the mid-1980s. Gus and Barbara were a real team that helped grow and guide the club during Group Corvair's hay days when our membership peaked at over 130 individual and family memberships. Gus served as Vice-President in 1988 and helped initiate Group Corvair's bid for the 1991 CORSA International Convention.

According to the obituary published in the *Washington Post*, 3/8/2026, Gus served honorably in the US Navy Reserves from 1953 to 1961 and then went on to a 34-year career as a telephone installer and union representative for the Communications Workers of America. He and Barbara were avid supporters of Northwestern High School, organizing class reunions and school fundraisers.



Even after their beloved 1963 Corvair convertible went into retirement at the Corvair Ranch, they maintained their membership with Group Corvair. Barbara organized numerous club outings including a trip on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad (where we had a dining car entirely to ourselves), a sailing tour of the Baltimore Harbour, and numerous dinners and other social events. Gus kept his hand in by taking over the club merchandise, stocking everything from oil filters to club logo coffee mugs.

Gus and Barbara left their mark on the club and will be long missed.

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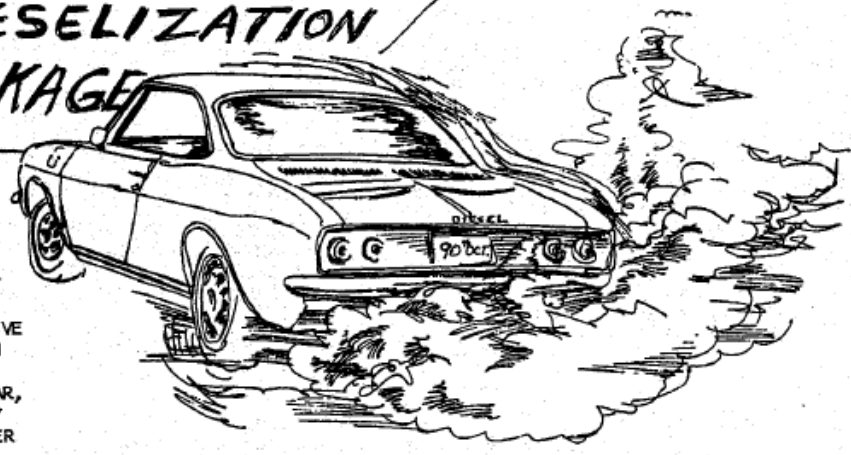
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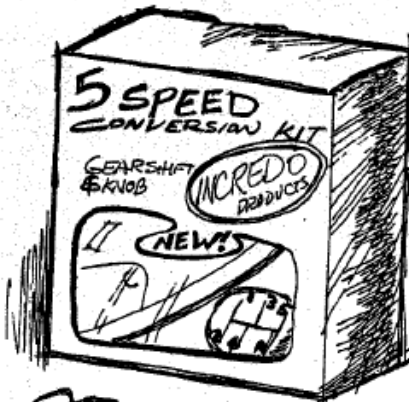
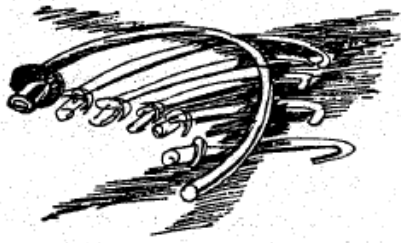


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 **SAVE THE DATE!**



The graphic features the year '2026' in large, stylized red and white numbers. The '0' contains the CORSA logo. Below the year, it says 'International Convention June 22-26'. The background is a stylized American flag. A vintage orange and white pickup truck is shown in the foreground. A blue star is positioned below the truck. The text 'Historic Gettysburg' is written in a blue, outlined font. At the bottom, the phrase 'See you there in your Vair!' is written in a large, red, outlined font.

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!

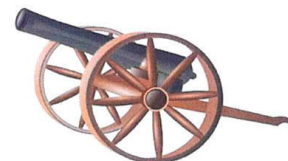
You can even visit wineries, tour car museums, and even spend time at the world-famous Hershey chocolate factory and the fun-filled HersheyPark.

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!'"



CORSA International Convention Website is Open

For all things you need to know about the CORSA Convention, go to: <https://2026corsaconvention.com/>

From this site you can register, find the schedule and lots of other useful and fun information.

Vair Vendor

For Sale: Full set of 5 Cragar SS Wheels. 15 x 7 with Chevrolet bolt patterns. (Wheels only, tires have been removed.) While these aren't new, they are show quality. New these go for about \$340 each; all five for \$625 (that's \$125 each). You pick up in Bowie, MD. Jerry Yates, yatesj@verizon.net, 301-575-6341



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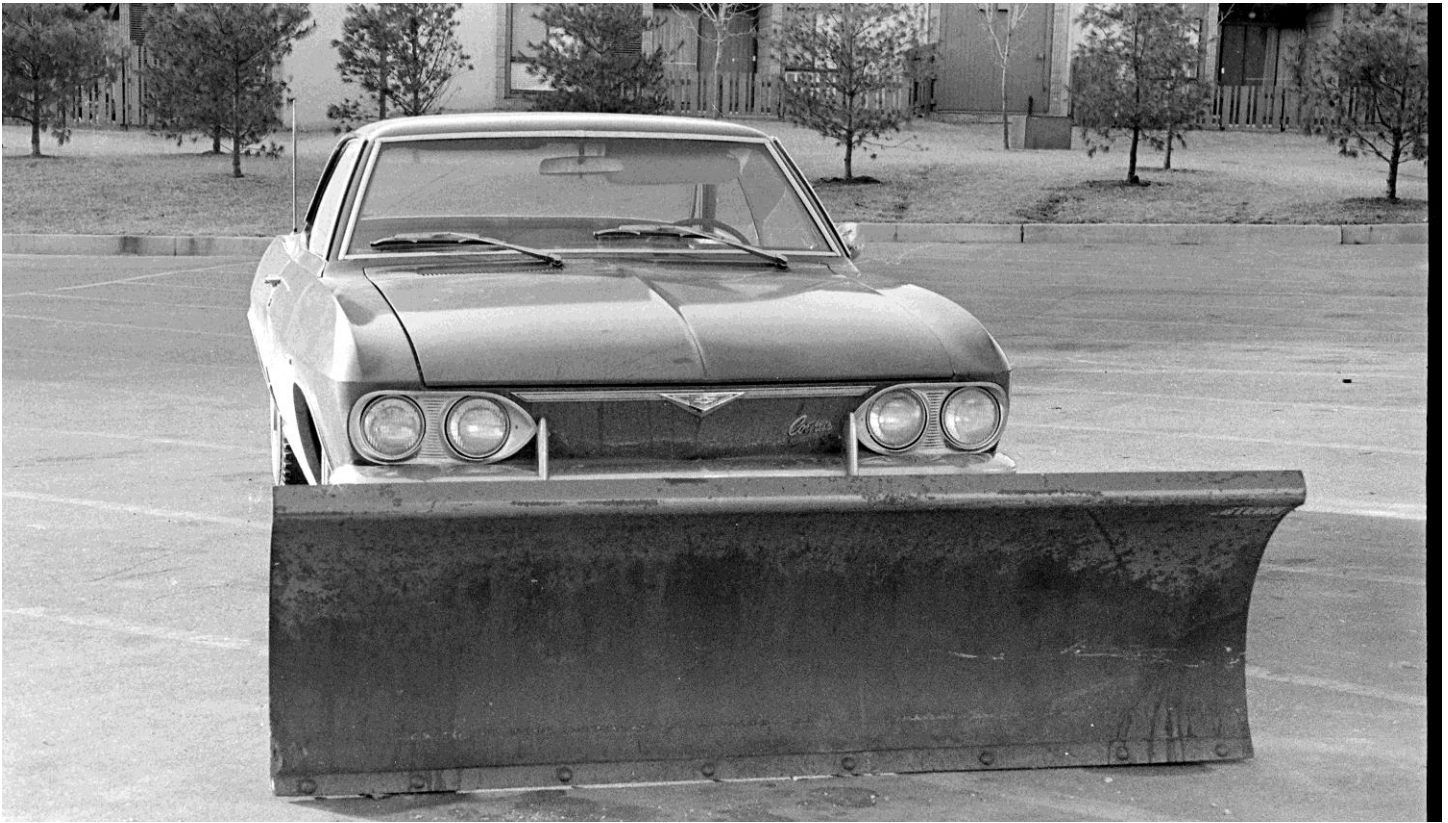
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Spring Sale!

Are you still being an April Fool after a season of relentless shoveling your driveway and risking a heart attack? Why not invest in a “snap on” snowplow especially designed for Corvairs? Save your back and money too by taking advantage of the spring sale prices!