



Group Corvair Comments

GROUP CORVAIR'S NEWSLETTER FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA



VOLUME LIV, No. 5

May 2026



Gettysburg Planning Meeting CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

May

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

TBD – Group Corvair Social Gathering. 1:00 p.m., Green Turtle Restaurant, 15660 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD. This will be in the last week of May; date is still TBD.

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/>

TBD – Group Corvair Outing. We’re planning on taking a tour of the decommissioned NS Savannah, the first commercial, nuclear-powered vessel. She’s currently docked in Baltimore, and our own Rob Neighbour is a docent. Unfortunately, she’s going to be losing her berth this fall and it’s unclear what will happen afterward. So, this may be your last chance to tour this historic ship!

July

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

TBD – Group Corvair cookout. Jerry Yates has offered to host us at his home for a post-convention gathering and cookout. Date and time TBD but make a note on your calendar!

August

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

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

Fifty-seven years ago, the last Corvair was rolled out and refused to start in front of the assembled press. (Read Dave Newell’s 1969 Corvair Fingertip Facts). Who could blame it? It wasn’t cancelled because it was a bad car—it was cancelled because it was too expensive to build compared to its competitors. First against the economy cars (Falcon etc.) then, after the bucket-seated Monza created a new sporty market, the Mustang. Chevrolet responded with the Chevy II/Nova and then the Camaro. Despite the rave reviews for the 1965 Corvair, Ford sold roughly twice as many Mustangs that model year. And Mustangs cost less to build. GM created the Camaro for the 1967 model year and decided to cancel the Corvair after the 1966 model. Ironically Ralph Nader’s book condemning Detroit that included a chapter about 1960-1963 Corvairs (but not 1964 and the 1965 models) affected public opinion in the fall of 1965 compelling GM/Chevrolet to build our cars through the 1969 model year. But, as Consumer Guide in “1930-1980 Collectible Cars” said Corvairs were “The kind of cars we should have had in the 1970s and didn’t.”

Jerry Yates has offered to host a cookout at his home in Bowie, tentatively in July, so look for more information in the coming weeks. You will be able to check out his Yenko Stinger clone up close. And Rob Neighbour and Andrew Dan have offered to set up a tour of the NS Savannah that is penciled in for August. The nuclear ship NS Savannah will be leaving Baltimore later this year so this will be the last chance to see it nearby. **Note: If the Savannah departure date gets moved up, we will try to tour it earlier.**

Planning for the 2026 CORSA convention continues. Dianna Moy and Tom Rahochik of Mid Maryland Corvairs have the volunteer database up and running. We reported our volunteer list to them last year for inclusion as well as the list of Northern Virginia Corvair Club's volunteers provided last month by Mark Holmlund. **They are using a program called SignUpGenius and say that anyone who is volunteering who wishes NOT to have their email address listed on that program should let them (and me) know.** Our club meeting in Gettysburg on April 22nd was well attended with 14 showing up including nine from GC with the rest from Mid Maryland, Central Pennsylvania, Titus Steward from CORSA, and Bob Marlow. Phil Richardson was able to view the room to be used for the Corvair Model competition. Thanks to all the spouses and partners who attended in support as well. I will be submitting our signage requirements to CORSA this month. We have already laid claim to the Corvair Car Show banner that was used at last year's convention, and I will try to use other signs that CORSA has in storage once we confirm their condition. I have priced new signs from several sources and, in addition to the typical 24' x 18" signs I, and others, have been lobbying for some large feather signs that would be used to highlight first, the GC sponsored car show area on Monday, and then Concours, EconoRun, Rally etc. CORSA would keep these for use at other events. CORSA has also reviewed, with thanks, Ron Fedorczak and Eileen Clegg's comprehensive convention promotion ideas and will/has forwarded them with comments back to Group Corvair for action.

Jim Simpson's latest planning information for the car show follows the club minutes below. Please continue to review the CORSA convention website (<https://2026corsaconvention.com/>) to stay current on planning—and let Jim, Mark and I know if you have any questions. Bob Hall

Minutes of the April Virtual Meeting

Marolyn Simpson

Nine Group Corvair members met on Zoom at 7:30 pm on April 27 for the monthly business meeting. Before the meeting started the conversation centered around various parts that have been stored away in sheds and attics, mostly Corvair parts, but a few mystery parts.

Bob Hall, president, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and announced that he had set up a drop box for photos.

Minutes of the March business meeting were approved as written in the last newsletter. Jim Simpson gave the treasurer's report. Expenses for the month included payment of the chapter fee and payment for the flowers for Diana Yates' memorial service.

The club has paid for the Group Corvair shirts and hats for the convention. Club members will need to reimburse the treasurer (send payment to Jim Simpson, 3845 Wayson Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035).

Concerning the convention in June, the Wyndham hotel has reserved half of the rooms for Corvair folks. The back parking lot will officially become ours at 4:00 pm on Sunday. Group Corvair is in charge of the Monday Car Show. The show will officially start at 5:00 pm; however, all cars that are entered in the show will need to be in the correct parking pattern by 4:00 pm. There will be designated start and end times for the people's choice voting. We will be able to use most of the back parking lot but only cars with handicapped designation can park in the handicapped spaces.

Parking will be the main topic of the April 22 meeting in Gettysburg. Randy Rictor plans to take one of his Corvairs to Gettysburg to help with the parking plan. Mark and Randy will take orange cones to help design the layout. We will also check out the facilities for the model cars since Phil Richardson is in charge of that event.

There will be a 3D printer demonstration at the convention. This could possibly be a way to reproduce parts for the Corvair.

Signage around the hotel, especially concerning the car show, is another Group Corvair concern. Jim printed out copies of the hotel and surrounding area, and both Jim and Bob have been checking out the best locations for signs and what they should say. Bob is working on getting prices for getting them professionally made.

Jerry Yates invited the club to his house in Bowie for a cookout sometime after the convention. There will be more information on this event at a later date.

Rob Neighbour is a docent for the USNS Savannah (the first, and only nuclear powered merchant ship) now moored in Baltimore. It's been decommissioned and the reactor removed and is now open for tours. That is a possible group activity for later in the summer.

Jim is looking into various ways to do the online meetings; the Zoom subscription is running out.

As the meeting was winding down, we heard tales of driving a Corvair across the country "back in the day."

The meeting sign off was at 8:29 pm.

CORSA International Convention Opening Day Car Show

As you've certainly heard, Group Corvair is going to put on the Opening Day Car Show at the upcoming CORSA International Convention. Planning has been going on for some time now and it's time for a status update and a general overview of what and how we're going to do this.

As the name suggests, the opening day car show is an opportunity for everyone who brings a Corvair to the convention to show their car. No, it's not free, you must register for the convention and sign up (and pay) for the car show. It's a "people's choice" event where everyone who has registered for the convention will have a ballot to vote for the top five cars based upon whatever criteria they want. The top 10 will receive awards. (Concours cars can be shown but are not eligible for awards. And yes, they must pay to be in the show.)

Here's a nicely annotated map of the entire convention site courtesy of the Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club.



As you can see, it's a pretty large complex with two hotels and plenty of parking areas. The CORSA convention has the exclusive use of the large lot at the lower left in this picture, labeled "Car Show". And that's what we're going to be using for the car show beginning Sunday, June 21 with the show itself on Monday.

Beginning as soon as we can on Sunday (or even Saturday), we will put up signs and be directing traffic to the car show lot area. Here's the lot in more detail:



This is the planned configuration for the lot for Monday evening, during the car show. We will be controlling access to the area with signs and people – the only way in and out is via the perimeter road at the far left of the picture. The area between the parking lot and hotel will be blocked off for pedestrians only during the show.

The large, pale-yellow area is reserved for the car show itself. (After the car show is completed on Monday night, this becomes open parking for Corvairs.) We've allocated some parking along the perimeter (pale purple) for concours car parking as an option to give them a degree of protection during the convention. There are about 50 spaces there and concours participants will have priority. Any concours cars entered in the car show, and as of today, there are quite a few, will be placed in the car show area. The outdoor vendors have the pale-green area all week. Note the six spaces labeled "Ultravan" (blue) and the two labeled "Food" (yellow). As I'm sure you've already surmised, the "Ultravan" spots are for the Ultravans who participate in the car show and the "Food" spots are for food vendor trucks to provide the meals during the opening day evening events. We've been assured that there will be a variety of tasty meals available for the opening day festivities.

Now how is that all going to work? Good question! Ideally, we'll have control of the lot late Saturday or early on Sunday. We've laid out a number of things we'll have to do. The list below is specific to the car show, but some activities such as "Controlling Traffic" will be an all-weeklong requirement:

1. Sunday: Put out convention signs
2. Sunday: Mark parking lot to line up cars
3. Sunday & Monday: Control Traffic
4. Sunday & Monday: Photography of Car Show Entries. This includes any concours cars in the car show.
5. Sunday & Monday: Direct cars to the correct lane and have them park on diagonals. (More on this below.)
6. Monday: Setup Ballot Collection
7. Monday: Collect & Count Ballots

8. Monday: Correlate winners with their photos and create slide show
9. Monday: Awards presentation
10. Monday evening and possibly Tuesday: Repark show cars to free up spaces in lot
11. Monday evening: Change signs as necessary

In number 5 above, it said that the cars would be parked on diagonals. Members of the planning committee were at Gettysburg in April to check out the lot and see how we could park cars. We sorted through various configurations and decided upon parking the

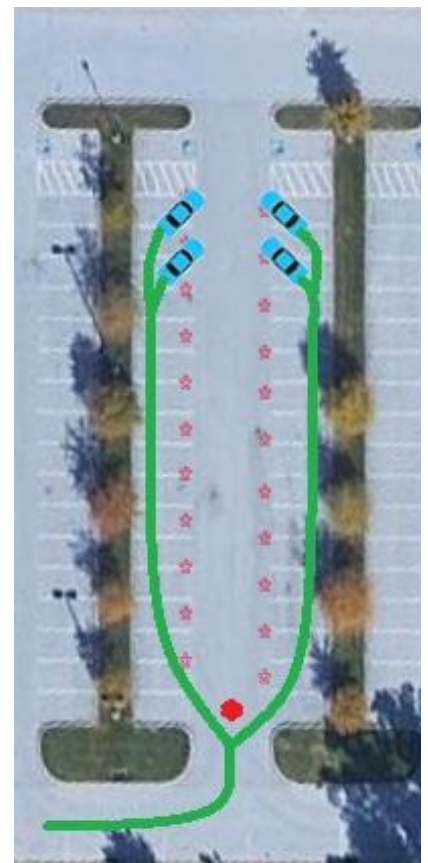
show cars at a 45-degree angle to the curb with all the cars facing the center of the lane. Here's a photo of our test: We think this will be about optimum for the show with several advantages. First, by parking the cars at an angle, that presents them with their best aspect for viewing and photography. Second, the lanes are pretty wide so there will be plenty of room behind the cars to walk and check out the engine compartments as well as allowing owners to set up chairs and such. Third, parking them this way should be easy and NOT require anyone to have to back into a spot.



Here's the plan: At the entry to the parking lot – that's the left-hand perimeter road – we'll have a couple people to 1) verify that the car is entered in the car show, 2) tell them which lane they are to park in (we plan to split the field into early, late and FC areas), and 3) take two photos of the car, one with the owner holding his entry card so we can record the entry number, and the second of the car and owner for the awards ceremony.

After that, the car will proceed along the perimeter road and then turn into the appropriate lane. As you can see in the picture to the right, the driver will go to the right or left and drive along the curb and when they arrive at the last available spot, make a 45-degree turn toward the center of the lane. They pull far enough forward so the driver's side front wheel lands on a chalk mark on the paving. What could be simpler?

Of course there will be complications. First, while the "Opening Day Car Show" is scheduled to start at 5 p.m., that means all the cars need to be parked and ready **by then**. We anticipate something over 100 cars in the show (latest count is 88 in the show) and if they all arrive at 4:45 p.m., it's just not going to work. So, we'd like to start parking them in their show positions as early as Sunday and have them just stay there. If that's not possible, for instance, they want to drive to a restaurant, we recommend they park in one of the other lots until Monday. **But we want all cars to be lined up to enter the show lot by 3 p.m. at the latest!**



Another complication will be at the end of the car show. Every car will have to be moved to free up the parking spaces in the lot. Everyone will have to go to their car, pull a bit forward and straighten it out, and then back into the space behind them. These spaces are wide, approximately 10' wide, so there should be plenty of room to avoid door dings. This may be a bit chaotic, but with enough workers and some patience, I'm sure Corvair drivers can manage.

How many people are we going to need? For Sunday, we anticipate having three or four people working in shifts. Essentially a couple of people at the lot entrance and one or two to guide cars into their parking spaces. Monday will be busier. For most of the day, five or six workers will be adequate. There will be a couple at the entrance checking entry forms and taking photos and then one for the early, late, and FC lanes to guide cars into position. We might need a couple more people between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to handle the traffic.

During the car show, we'll need a couple of people to tally ballots and one to correlate photos with entry numbers and owners and prepare the awards slide show.

After the awards, it will be "all hands on deck". We will need as many people as we can get to help guide all the car owners as they move and realign their cars. Potentially we have five lanes of show cars, and it would be good to have two people in each lane to help. So, we could easily find jobs for at least 10 people for up to an hour.

There are still plenty of details to work out, but overall, the car show seems to be coming together. It should be a fun event!

GETTIN' ROUND GETTYSBURG **or** ***ALL ROADS LEAD TO LINCOLN SQUARE***

Ron Fedorczak & Eileen Clegg (edited by JS)

Should you venture into Gettysburg, you'll find that all the major roads lead you to Lincoln Square, the historic center of town. This is now a large, paved square with a center park making this a roundabout. From there, you can get just about everywhere else in town. But unless you are prepared – or armed with a GPS – you might end up going around the circle several times searching for a street sign. The roads are marked with route numbers, so check below to see how the route numbers are associated with the desired street! They're easier to spot.

If you come into town from the CORSA convention hotel, you'll be going west on **York Street, US-30 East**. You will enter the Lincoln Square traffic circle from the east.

The first exit (north) from Lincoln Square is **Carlisle Street, US (Business Route) BR-15 North, PA-34**. Points of interest are:

- **Hotel Gettysburg** which houses the "One Lincoln" restaurant.
- **Majestic Theater**
- **Historic Gettysburg Lincoln Railroad Station**. (Temporarily closed but hopefully reopens soon.)

The second exit (west) is **Chambersburg Street, US-30 West, Lincoln Highway**. Notable destinations are:

- "Sign of the Buck" restaurant.
- **Union Hotel**

The third exit (south) is **Baltimore Street, US BR-15 South, PA-97, PA-134**. In this direction are:

- The "Farnsworth House" Bed & Breakfast.
- The "Dobbin House" restaurant.
- **Gettysburg Diorama & History Center**
- The **Eisenhower Farm** (about 3 miles south).
- **Destination Gettysburg Visitor Center**. (Turn west (right) two blocks south onto West Middle Street, PA-116.) (Note, there will be a representative from the visitor center with brochures at the hotel on Monday.)

Finally, completing the traffic circle, you are back to **York Street, US-15 East, PA-116**. This exit takes you to:

- **Wyndham and Courtyard Marriot** hotels.

Gettysburg is a small, historic town, with the streets laid out long before the automobile was invented. It makes it interesting to explore, being packed with inns, restaurants, taverns, historic sites, and much more than you'll likely be able to find in just a couple days. Have fun!

Some other tips:

- It's easy to confuse US-15 with PA-15 and US BR-15, so pay attention.
- When driving Downtown, stay to the right as the center of the street is usually for left turns.
- When heading back to the CORSA Convention from downtown, be aware that US-30 bears off to the left two blocks after you've left Lincoln Square.
- And finally, if you'd rather NOT DRIVE to downtown Gettysburg, ride the Downtown Greyline bus shuttle from the Marriott Courtyard Hotel next door.

There's a Lot of GOOD EATIN' in This Burg!

Ron Fedorczak & Eileen Clegg

You will probably spend most of your time eating at the **Gateway Family Diner**, just a few steps from the Wyndham, or at **The Bistro** in the Marriott Courtyard for breakfast or dinner (note: they don't serve lunch). But also, please consider at least some of these fine dining downtown establishments:

Farnsworth House Dining - 401 Baltimore St

Entrees include lots of extras, good value. We recommend their wild game pie, Goober Pea soup, Tears of Gettysburg wine. Note there's a 10% Discover Gettysburg (DG) discount. Turn on South Street to park BEHIND the restaurant.



Farnsworth House

Dobbin House - 8 Steinwher Ave (US BR-15). - Oldest building in Gettysburg, dates to 1776. We recommend the William Penn pork tenderloin. Note:



Dobbin House

10% DG discount. Parking is in front of restaurant.

Sign of the Buck - 2 South Chambersburg St, behind the Union Hotel. To park, turn right on Washington St, then right on Racehorse. Recommended - Braised venison chops, Nicoise Salad

CREATE@48 - 48 York Rd Specializing in unusual creations from local

collaborators, BYOB, open Tuesday & Wednesday 5-8 p.m., Thursday - Saturday 5-9 p.m.

La Bella Italia, 402 York Rd

The name says it all. Everything Italian, tantalizing aromas, specialty pizzas, beer and wine served.

The Oak Room (formerly 1863) in the Wyndham Hotel Menu is on display near Tavern.

BREAKFAST SPOTS:

Gateway Family Diner (In the hotel complex)

Bistro in Marriot Courtyard Hotel (In the hotel complex)

Gettysburg Family Restaurant, 1275 York Rd

Perkins American Food Company, 859 York Rd

One Lincoln, 1 Lincoln Square (in the Gettysburg Hotel)



CREATE@48



Gateway Family Diner

LeeBell's Mercantile & Cafe at Redding's Hardware, 279 S Franklin St. (Corner of Franklin and Breckinridge.) Enter the third generation Hardware and Hunting supply store through back of the restaurant. Mounted animal specimens greet you from above. Work and hunting clothing for sale. It is an ADVENTURE in retail from before the rise of Bass Shops. Lots of local character, an eclectic collection of furniture and local gifts in restaurant area. Tasty food, good value.

Plan ahead and check the hours of operation; some restaurants are not open on Mondays and Tuesdays. And remember, this is the country's 250th anniversary so make your reservations in advance – you can expect a lot of competitions from the (other) tourists.

Safe Travels and *Bon Appetite!*



LeeBell's Mercantile & Cafe

Our First Show of the Season

Marolyn Simpson

We had just gotten our Corvair back from the Glenn Dale Autobody shop after some minor, but necessary, tweaks. It was ready for an outing! Jerry Yates told us about a car show (or rather a car, truck, and tractor show) on Saturday, April 25 at the Green Turtle restaurant in Edgewater that he was planning to participate in. The show was a fund raiser for the Southern High School FFA (Future Farmers of America) program. It sounded like fun so we told him we would meet him there.

We arrived there first and looked around the lot for two empty spots side by side. As we were getting the car parked, we saw Jerry coming into the lot. The day was cloudy, quite cool, and a bit windy, but it didn't rain. The number of spectators was a bit lower than it might have been, but there was still a lot of interest in our cars.

The judging was not a people's choice. There were judges walking around with clipboards and boxes to check. I don't know how many cars there were in the show; a guesstimate would be about 100. The trophies were for the top 40 and were presented in no particular order. Both Jerry's car and our car got a trophy, about 20 inches tall, and topped with a tractor to fit the FFA fund raising theme.



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 **SAVE THE DATE!**



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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