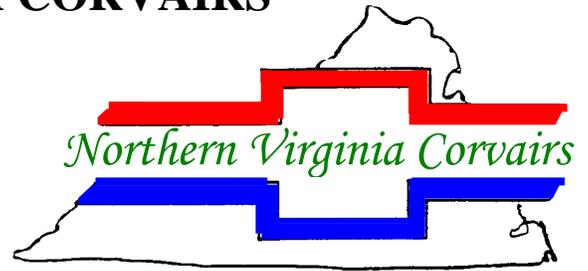


NORTHERN VIRGINIA CORVAIRS



**HOT
AIR
MAIL**



NVCC, CORSA Chapter 220

Volume XXIV, Number 5

May 2012

CHAPTER CHATTER

By Doug Jones

Newsletter time again....and it's a little late again, too. Sorry, but it is because I went to the Corvair Ranch Open House and wanted to be sure to include all the latest happenings.

First, let's start out with the events of the late April meeting. There was a pretty low turn out I must say but I must say that I understand that everyone has things going on this time of year. Sometimes you just can't make the great Corvair camaraderie! Bryan, A.J., Richard, Luke and I were in attendance. There was also a new member, Steve Melville, who showed up in his recently purchased, late Corsa coupe that he is using as a daily driver between Lorton and Haymarket.

Discussions with Steve revolved around Corvair maintenance, tires, and the lack of availability of the thirteen inch variety. There was also a demonstration by Bryan showing that some BMW five and seven series wheels will work on a late model five lug bolt pattern. It depends on the wheel size, offset, and tire size to make this combination work on your particular application. You can also visit Bryan's website: autoxer.skiblack.com Enter wheel and tire sizing in the search. Thanks to Bryan, our president, for some great info!

There was also a conversation about sound deadening. Luke is planning to use a sprayable, ceramic coating called Lizard Skin on the interior of his convertible to help deaden the road noise of his car. Hopefully, it will be a lot quieter. Lizard Skin is available through Summit Racing Equipment.

That pretty much sums up April's meeting.

The Corvair Ranch Open House was a big success. Jeff had approximately fifty cars in attendance from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic areas, with the farthest from Rochester, New York. There was quite an eclectic group of cars and individuals including stock, modified, V-8, early, late, trucks, vans, ... You name it and it was there.

The weather was a little drizzly at times but basically held off. (The lying weather men said no rain on Sunday!) The food was fabulous and there were many desserts, door prizes, and a lot of Corvair enthusiasm.

May is shaping up to be a busy month. The Mother's Day Car Show is always held in Franconia. The following weekend is the Vair Fair and for those who can't make it, our regular monthly meeting will be held that day at Dan's house. As for your editor, I will be AWOL for both, unfortunately! So much for Corvair camaraderie.

2012 NVCC Officers

President:

Bryan Blackwell
6329 Hillside Road
Springfield, VA 22152
(703) 569-6908
bryan@skiblack.com

Vice President:

Ron Tumolo
905 North Amelia Street
Sterling, VA 20164
(703) 430-6582
rvtum522@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Darrin Hartzler
8214 Beech Tree Drive
Bethesda, MD 20817
(301) 365-7332
dhartzler@ifc.org

Secretary:

A. J. Paluska, Jr
6839 Brimstone Lane
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
(703) 250-4455
ajjr13@earthlink.net

Editor:

Doug Jones
3602 Lions Field Rd
Triangle, VA 22172
(703) 441-6863
dj2063@comcast.net

The Northern Virginia Corvair Club (NVCC) publishes the HOT AIR MAIL newsletter monthly as a service to its members. NVCC is a non-profit chapter of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). The \$10 annual dues are payable January 1st, to "Treasurer, NVCC" at the address herein. A prorated amount of \$5 is accepted for periods of less than six months. All other correspondence and submissions can be addressed to the Secretary/Editor. Newsletter expiration date is three months beyond dues anniversary if they are not current. Original material appearing in the HOT AIR MAIL may be reprinted in other non-profit publications with appropriate credits.



*****AUTOMOTIVE CLASSIFIED*****

65 Sedan: 110HP, Powerglide, new carpet. Contact former NVCC member Aaron Payne at aaronpayne@me.com. (6/11)

66 Convertible: 110 HP PG, Restored in 2007, Regal Red. \$18,000 invested. \$15,000 or Best Offer Call Jay at (910) 270-0785. (1/12)

Parts/Miscellaneous For Sale

Parts: From our club's 65 coupe parts car: Right hand door, 4 Monza Wheel disks. Call Venice Cox at (703) 791-6517. (1/05)

NEW LISTING: 40+ year collection of Corvair Parts. Please contact John Getz at jgetz@comcast.net or 301-717-9452 for a list of sale items. Parts located in Frederick, Md.

NEW ITEM: 31st Vair Fair T-shirts. Priced for quick sale. You don't want to miss this opportunity to own rare Corvair Memorabilia! **HURRY**, as they will go fast!

Gas Tanks: Six or so good used gas tanks \$30 and YOU pick up; NE Maryland. Harry Yarnell hyarnell1@earthlink.net

Early Model Bumper Guards: Good Condition: front and rear; best offer: Call Doug Jones 703-309-8705

Corvair Vendors and Services

Clark's Corvair Parts, Inc.
Route 2, 400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA
01370-9748 (413) 625-9776

Corvair Underground
PO Box 339 Dundee, OR 97115
(503) 434-1648 or (800) 825-VAIR

Corvair Ranch, Inc
1079 Bon-Ox Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325
(717) 624-2805, www.corvairranch.com Email: corvairranchinc@earthlink.net

NVCC Calendar

13 May 2012, Cruisin' Company Mother's Day Car Show, Moose Lodge, Beulah Road, Alexandria.

19 May 2012, 9:00AM: Graciously hosted by A.J. at 6809 Old Stone Fence Road, Fairfax Station, VA (703) 250-4455

18-20 May 2012, Virginia Vair Fair, CVCC: Lexington, VA. Wade Lanning at wblanning@comcast.net or (804) 861-5748 www.vairfair.com

2 June 2012, Orphan Car Tour
WebEditor@orphancartour.org or
TourDirector@orphancartour.org
Contact John Battle 540-364-1770

16 June 2012, Regular NVCC Meeting
Open – Host Needed

21 July 2012, Regular NVCC Meeting
Open – Host Needed

25-28 July 2012, CORSA Convention, Northeast Corvair Council: Sturbridge, MA.
The host hotel is currently sold out. Sturbridge is a town of historical significance. You may want to make your reservations soon.

18 August 2012, Regular NVCC Meeting
Open – Host Needed

Treasurer's Report

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Balance as of 3/31/12 | 2933.25 |
| Dues Income | 0.00 |
| Interest Income | 0.00 |
| Balance as of 4/30/12 | 2933.25 |

Are All the Car Guys Going Gray?
By: Joe VonDerHaar

Reprinted from the Negative Camber
Corvair Club of Cincinnati
April 2012

As I grow older and seem to spend more time reflecting and noticing things, I wonder why all the car guys I see have gray hair.

Is it the toll the car hobby casts upon you? Is it because most folks don't get involved until their kids are raised and are nearing or in retirement? Is it because the marks we enjoy are not of interest to the young? Have the changes in the economy and the loss of so many well-paying jobs left the new generation without sufficient funds to have such a hobby? Has the interest in cars been replaced by something? Is the hobby dying out? These are all interesting questions and possibly all could be playing a part in the evolution of our beloved car hobby.

The basis for my thinking is what I see in club newsletters, magazines and car events I either subscribe to or attend; also, the observations and discussions I have with my children and their friends. For the most part, the car guys of today are gray!

But why is this? In my life so far I have observed my father and older friends heavily involved with cars. They had them, worked on them, raced them, cruised our town and talked about them all the time. It was exciting when the new car models came out and you went to the dealership with dad to check them out. My father worked for Fisher Body, and car talk was a daily occurrence.

My buddies and I were into cars as soon as we could drive. On weekends we cruised the town and worked on our cars, discussing what kind of car we wanted in the worst way, until well after midnight. I would like to mention that while doing this, we were not drunk, high, stealing or involved in any wrongdoing. We were occupied by a hobby, and our parents could rest easy (at least they should have).

So what is going on today? Where are all the young people? Every club newsletter I get has a bunch of guys that look like me standing around cars and eating pizza. In the magazines, the "owners view" sections have baby boomers in them. At the swap meets guys have those cane seats to rest on. It sure looks like we are getting old.

So, with that, let's analyze things for a minute and try and answer some of the questions I have posed.

Does the toll and stress of the car hobby cause you to go gray? No. Once you get past the part where you can park your prized possession in a parking lot and/or you don't have a heart attack if you get caught in the rain, there is not much stress. Actually, a hobby like this relieves stress, giving you an outlet from work and family responsibilities. If you are gray, that means you have been lucky enough to have been in the hobby for a long time.

Do people have to wait until the kids are raised or be in retirement? Depends. There are for sure people that don't have the time and disposable income to get into the hobby until later in life. Many guys I know really kicked it up a notch (or two) after the college bills were over and they had the whole week to play with cars. With anything in life, if you want it bad enough, you will find a way. You don't need a stable of cars or one from a high dollar auction house. There are many inexpensive classic cars to get into the hobby with. Some guys use them as a dual purpose daily driver and hobby car (you need transportation anyway – right?). Even if you can't afford a car, you can be involved in clubs, help other guys and attend shows. The guys I know that I would have categorized as "car guys" have been in the hobby in some way since they were sixteen years old (some before

that) and had careers and raised families. They found a way. The golfer crowd seems to find a way for their hobby.

Are the cars you are interested in different than the ones of today's young people? Yes and no. This is a mixed bag of nuts question. When I was growing up, I liked cars of the fifties, sixties, and seventies. I did not really like the old model T's and cars of the thirties and forties. I was a muscle car generation guy. Mustangs, Camaros, Cudas, and Corvettes were the main focus. As I aged, my scope of interest, both in years and makes, expanded. Today, anything from 1903 to today is of interest. Unfortunately (but not really abnormal) there are certain types of newer cars I can't get motivated about. Some of these are of interest to the younger generation. I do really like the rat rod stuff, and I see a whole new generation of young folks into them. So I do think there is some generation gap effect going on that keeps the young folks from being in the same clubs as the older guys. The clubs of today were started by young guys with an interest in a certain model of car. The same guys are still going strong in that club. There are other newer clubs that they young guys have started. I'm sure the guys in the Model T club in 1975 were wondering where the kids were also.

Is the economy and job market affecting things? Yes. The economy affects everything. A hobby by definition is an extravagance for the most part. Surviving life by putting food on the table, a roof over your head and raising the kids is job one. When times get hard, the hobbies are gone. The thing that concerns me most about the car hobby, and any hobby for that matter, is in the future; there appears to be a drastic shift in the types of jobs and the overall financial health of the country. We, as a nation, were ver fortunate to ride a great economic wave after World War II. It gave us the lifestyle we are all used too, and for the most part, helped build the car industry and associated hobby that we all enjoy. As I grew up, the guys into cars worked at GM, Ford, Chrysler, steel mills, paper mills, machine tool builders, utilities, phone companies and others supporting manufacturing concerns. If you drive through cities today, many of these businesses and factories are gone and so are the jobs. Add the fact that the country is in major debt, everything is going up (fuel, utilities, taxes, healthcare, etc.), our government is way oversized and lost in the weeds, puts us in a world of hurt for the future. I apologize for bringing you down with this one, but it is a major concern of mine. This one could be a game changer if it does not get fixed.

Has something replaced the car hobby? Maybe. If you think about it, at one time the automobile was the great new thing. Henry Ford and others really did change the world by making the automobile viable and putting us out of the horse and buggy age. The automobile was a player in the industrial revolution and helped build the economy that we could then enjoy its benefits. Think of our current world. Without the automobile there would not be the suburbia we all live in. It changed the face of the country and world as we know it. There is a new player since then, and it is the computer. It also has changed our world. It is electronic transportation. Today we have the computer and all of its video games to keep us occupied. You can see and learn so much on the computer and never leave your kitchen. You don't need to take Sunday drives to go see things, just Google it. I think the computer has had a great impact on where people, both young and old, spend their time. The thing we forget is that there is nothing like living life outdoors and actually experiencing things in person. The computer impacts more than just the car hobby.

Is the car hobby dying out? I don't think so. At the present time, the car hobby is strong and well. Yes, you can say the prices of cars are soft at present as a result of the economy, but otherwise all is well. There are more businesses than ever before supporting the hobby. There are TV shows dedicated to it. I currently believe if the car hobby dies out, there will be many other things dying or dead at the same time.

I was at the Cavalcade of Customs the other day. There was a wide range of types of cars there. There were several vendors on hand with every type of tool or product you could dream of to help you out. I scanned the audience from a level above the show floor. To my surprise, among all the gray-haired guys there was a sea of brown, blonde and red.

The car hobby will continue for at least the next generation.