

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CORVAIRS HOT AIR MAIL

NVCC, CORSA Chapter 220

Volume XXXII

August 2015

Chapter Chatter
By Daniel Goldberg

**YOU WILL NOW NEED A NEW
NEWSLETTER EDITOR! SEE INSIDE FOR
DETAILS!**

Our previous meeting was one that I was very much looking forward to, and I don't think that I was the only one.

Back in May, Bryan Blackwell and I looked over Suzy Thompson's Regal Red 1965 turbo convertible, one of approximately 2,100. Suzy's car hadn't been started in 15 years and hadn't been roadworthy in close to 20. What Bryan and I found was a solid, complete, and loaded Corvair that deserved a new lease on life. Since the car had been in the family since 1973, its history was known. What's more, before it was parked a new clutch had been installed and the engine was resealed. It was also my understanding that the top had been replaced after the family dog jumped through it.

Suzy's intention was to get her Corvair roadworthy once again. Accordingly, Bryan and I put together a list of parts Suzy would

have to purchase in order to get her car started so we could further assess its needs.

Due to the CORSA convention, July was the soonest the club could meet at Suzy's to tinker. When the day arrived, we spent an hour or so performing a basic tune-up: plugs, plug wires, points, cap, and rotor. We also replaced the ancient battery. Before attempting to start the car, we verified that the oil pressure light and gauge were, in fact, working. Once verified, we turned the key and the old Corvair spluttered to life – sort of. Although the engine would turn over, it simply refused to start.



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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.

As it turned out there were several problems. The first was that some of the new plug wires were installed on the incorrect plug. After we resolved that problem, we were absolutely confounded as to why the car still would not start. We swapped in a new coil Bob Marshall pilfered from my trunk and disconnected a 1980s-vintage electronic ignition system, but to no avail.

As it turned out, the new points were defective, since opening them with the electricity on produced no spark. After reinstalling the worn-out old points, the Corvair fired up and ran (poorly) on the decades-old old gasoline still in the tank. Happily, there were no strange noises and nothing fell off or caught on fire. (My standards for successful wrenching are relatively low).



Suzi now has a decision to make regarding how far she wants to go in resurrecting her Corvair. Like any old car that's been sitting for more than a decade, the gas tank will have to be drained and de-varnished; brakes, fuel lines, and tires will have to be replaced; and the carb will have to be rebuilt. In any event, it would be thrilling to see this rare Corvair motivating under its own power once again!

Currently, my Corvair is parked in my new garage in Charlottesville, Virginia. As many of you know, I will be attending the Army Judge Advocate General's school in order to obtain an LL.M degree (i.e., a Masters' of Laws). Frankly, I have no burning desire to go back to school, but I have no choice if I want to continue serving in a world where it sometimes seems as though the twin concepts of proof

beyond a reasonable doubt and innocence before guilt are considered quaint and outmoded. Even though I'm something of a government hack, it gives me pause to consider that, increasingly, the scales of justice are weighted unfairly against an accused.

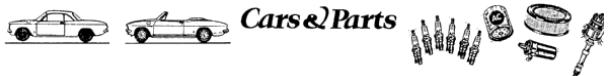
The flip side is that important people ask me to make recommendations on important matters – *that they then follow*. Seriously: I can't believe I get paid to do this stuff (not very well, granted, but bear with me). If the powers that be only knew that I live in my own filth and that I'm mired in a permanent state of arrested development, I think they would treat me like the hack lawyer I probably am. For now, though, I can still get by on smoke and mirrors.

My point is that even though the Army routinely sends me to places where dreams go to die (Afghanistan; Killeen, Texas), I can't seem to tear myself away. For a time I thought seriously about resigning my commission and going to work for the Department of Widget Safety, which is why I agreed to write the newsletter (that, and no one else was volunteering). But I just couldn't do it. There simply isn't a more exciting way to practice law.

Once I complete the graduate course I'll be sent somewhere else. I have no idea where that somewhere else will be, but it most certainly will not be the D.C. metro area.

So it's goodbye once again. It was great seeing old friends again, and it was great making new ones too. Since all roads seem to pass through D.C., you may see me again before you know it.

September 19, 2015 – Manassas, Va. – 40th annual Edgar Rohr Memorial Antique Car Meet, Manassas Museum, 9101 Prince William St., 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. (car registration 8:00 – 11:00 AM). Fifty class awards, 11 special awards. Two Model T Ford assembly demonstrations, car corral and antique car flea market. Free spectator admission & parking.
Registration: \$15 per car by 9-14-15, \$20 thereafter. Rain or Shine. Sponsor: Bull Run Region AACA. Flyer at website www.bullrunaac.org. More info: Scott Patton, (703) 474-6909.



Miscellaneous For Sale

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

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

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

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Treasurer's Report

Balance as of 5/31/15	\$2686.69
Dues Income	0.00
Balance as of 6/30/15	\$2686.69

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