



**NVCC, CORSA Chapter 220**                      **Volume XXXIII, Number 3**                      **March 2016**

Chapter Chatter  
By Bob Marshall

Hard to believe that it was a short six weeks ago that our area was hit with a record breaking 28" of snow. This week we had two record breaking days of temperatures in the mid 80's. So much for time to work on our cars while winter carried on. Now the mad scramble to get all the planned project items we never got around to because there is plenty of time left before good driving weather is here NOT! My plans to pull the power pack to replace the pressure plate with the bad ring gear, install new rear bushings, weld in upper shock reinforcements and install new HD rear springs just got accelerated! That and a new job that will have me traveling extensively will radically modify my "winter car work schedule". Oh well that mother nature, unpredictable. The good weather also signaled the beginning of early Saturday morning runs to Cars and Coffee in Great Falls Va. This mornings attendance was massive. Ever need a shot of motivation to get back working on your car, attend a local cars and coffee. You will put your Saturday todo list in the trash and head for your garage. One interesting bit of information I hear at cars and coffee is that Chasing Classic

Cars host Wayne Carinni is planning on doing a show shoot at the Great Falls C&C this year. A frequent attendee at the Great Falls event is Eric Zausner who has a stunning collection of full custom cars build by renowned custom car builder Steve Moal. I talked to Eric and he is good friends with Wayne so the information is probably pretty accurate. Wouldn't it be cool if we could find out the date of the shoot and get 10-15 members with their cars to be in attendance that Saturday. Carinni did the prep work on John Fitch's Phoenix prior to it going to auction last year so he may have a soft spot in his heart for Corvairs. If I can find out the expected date of the shoot we can consider have our monthly meeting at C&C. One note is that in order to get good parking spots you have to arrive no later than 6:30 AM if not sooner. We also have a busy spring with the Vair Fair fast approaching. The venue is secure, great music will be provided by our own DJ Al Harris. Work is almost done on a T-shirt design by Stan Darke of Vintage Tees. We will probably have a meeting soon to begin to wrap up more of the details so stay tuned.

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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.

## **Member Profile – Fran DuVal**

I was around when the first Corvairs hit the streets of Richmond. Of course I was only 6 at the time, so I did not get to drive my aunt's 60. I did get to drive Corvairs when my friends bought them as they turned driving age and they were cheap transportation. I was intrigued by their different engineering and the bug bit hard. I finally bought my first one in 1976, a 64 Spyder convertible. Well, I learned a lot, and started adding to the collection. I worked on so many around the house that I finally stopped my engineering career and opened a collision repair shop, Quality Customs, that also did Corvair mechanical repair. I kept the shop open until I built the house in the Fredericksburg area. It took ten years, but I finally got a garage built at the house.

So that is almost 40 years of Corvair ownership. I've belonged to CORSA since the late 70's and CVCC since its first year (1979). I think I have been to every Vair Fair except in 1989, something about being on a honeymoon that weekend! I've seen the hobby go from cheap transportation daily drivers to over restored major money machines that never leave garages or trailers. Now if I could find the time to fix my own projects!

EDITOR – For those of you who have not had the experience of visiting Frank's garage make sure you attend this month's meeting at his home. Not only is Frank a wealth of technical information and experience working on Corvairs but he is happy to share that knowledge with those of us who are still learning. The garage is pretty awesome also. How long is it again Frank? I can see it on Google Maps without zooming in.

## **February Meeting**

This month's meeting was held at the Stan Darke's garage in Fairfax Va. Profiled in last month's newsletter Stan has a great collection of Corvairs. Two Greenbriers, one 64 Spyder convertible and a 65 Corsa coup. The plan for the meeting was to start with a hearty breakfast provided by Stan and Carri but let's be clear Carri was the chef. A great breakfast casserole was served along with the usual coffee, juice and donuts. The fun twist was a nice pitcher of bloody mary's for the more adventurous ones. I am always adventurous. Since Stan has had to move his T-Shirt printing operation to his home due to an unfortunate fire at his business, members were given an opportunity to print their own custom Corvair T-Shirts that Stan provided. Great treat Stan thanks!

The weather was perfect and the attendance was 16 not counting Stan's neighbors that dropped by. Great turnout everyone. The task for the meeting was to install the correct PVC tube and hoses, install new chrome individual air cleaners and give the car a minor tune up. Everything went in without an issue. Timing was set, carbs were balanced and the proper idle speed set. We did find that one of the secondaries was stuck which is common for the 140's. Our resident carbmeister, Frank DuVal determined that the driver's secondary was also drawing vacuum. This is attributed to either a worn throttle shaft or leaks around the carb base. Either way the carb will have to be pulled and the leak corrected. In spite of this minor issue the Corsa ran great during a subsequent test drive and no longer diesels when shut off. The meeting hardship award goes to Greg Walthour who suffered the infamous "fan belt tries to flee the engine pulleys". Several members hopped in their cars and took off to help Greg but he had solved the problem by the time the cavalry arrived. We missed you at the meeting Greg. I think we have some of the most interactive and fun meetings for car clubs. This is what keeps the membership vibrant and engaged. Good friends, great Corvairs and the chance to share experience, knowledge and stories. What better way to spend a Saturday.

## **Social Media Update**

We already have a club website and a Facebook page and we now have an Instagram account. Launched last month by Stan. Northernvirginiacorvairs is the name and the password is corvair6069. If you don't have an Instagram account look into signing up and you can follow Corvair related posts. We have 28 followers already and we will be posting photos of events from time to time. This is a great way to expand our exposure and promote the brand to a different group.

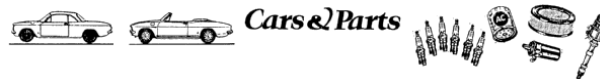
## **Monthly Tech Tip**

Since the weather has done a 180 and it appears we are going to skip spring, this month's tech tips will be about electrical and getting your cars out of storage.

As most of us are not the original owners and many of our cars have been worked on by a myriad of both mechanics and shade tree mechanics it is important to check the nervous systems of our cars. As our cars age the electrical system begins to deteriorate. Wires become brittle, especially in the hot environment of the engine compartment. This can lead to shorts in the wiring. Corrosion also is an enemy of the electrical system. Ground straps become covered with corrosion, fuses in the fuse box suffer the same fate and the harness connectors get brittle. From my own experience I was amazed to find that the PO had all the wrong fuse sizes in the fuse box. Fuses are there to protect the downstream wiring from a short and overload. Installing the wrong size fuse can create a dangerous condition that could result in a fire. Get a flash light and crawl under your dash. Pull each fuse and check that it is the correct size. Put a little dielectric grease on the metal ends and snap it back in. When I changed out to the correct fuses and used the grease the dash lights were brighter but more importantly I didn't have to worry about a short. Ground straps also need attention. Anywhere a ground strap connects to the body you should take it off, wire brush both the metal on the body and the strap and apply the dielectric grease. The leading cause of gauge malfunctions is bad grounds.

**Preparing the car after storage**

This is pretty basic. If you took the time to winterize by using sta-bil in the fuel, changed the oil and hooked up the battery to a trickle charger most of the work is done. Reconnect the battery after cleaning both the terminal ends and the battery posts with a wire brush. If you didn't mouse proof then you should pull the oil cooler cover and look for debris under the cover. Air up your tires to the proper front and rear pressures (remember these pressures are critical to the handling of our rear engine cars) 20 PSI front, 30 PSI rear is what most people typically run. Always keep a 10 PSI differential between front and rear. Check all your lights. Do a hard harder test on your brakes. Push down on the brake pedal hard and then harder. The pedal should be firm and not creep down while you hold it. If it does creep then you need to check the brake system hydraulic system. Now go out and drive it like you stole it!



**Miscellaneous For Sale**

**Gas Tanks:** Six or so good used gas tanks \$30 and YOU pick up; NE Maryland. Harry Yarnell [hyarnell1@earthlink.net](mailto: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](http://www.corvairranch.com) Email: [corvairranchinc@earthlink.net](mailto:corvairranchinc@earthlink.net)

**Our 41<sup>st</sup> Year!**

**Get the New 2013-2018 Catalog**  
**If you did not get our new catalog in 2013,**  
**you can get one free on your first \$50 order**  
**during 2014.** (Additional catalogs \$3 with an order)  
*The new Catalog includes parts from the last 5*  
*Supplements as well as 100's of improvements.*  
*This is our most major revision ever.*

**Treasurer's Report**

Balance as of 1/31/16	\$2356.69
Dues Income	\$100.00
Balance as of 2/29/16	\$2456.69

**Don't forget to visit our Facebook page!**

**Return To:**

Bob Marshall  
1919 Upper Lake Drive  
Reston, Virginia 20191

**Dues - Dues are due the first of the year. If you have not paid for 2016 please send your \$10 to AJ or bring to the next meeting.**

**2016 Meeting Schedule**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> 9AM**

Frank DuVal  
648 Holly Corner Road  
Fredericksburg, VA 22406

**April 16<sup>th</sup> 9AM**

Doug Jones  
5176 Woodfield Drive  
Centreville, VA 20120

**May 13-15**

**Vair Fair**  
Quality Inn  
Leesburg, VA

**June 18<sup>th</sup> 9AM**

Driving Tour to Staunton VA

**July 16<sup>th</sup> 9AM**

National Convention

**August 20<sup>th</sup> 9AM**

TBD

**September 17<sup>th</sup> 9AM**

TBD

**October 15<sup>th</sup> 9AM**

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**November 19<sup>th</sup> 9AM**

TBD

**December 17<sup>th</sup>**

XMAS Party Meeting