

HEART of AMERICA CORVAIR OWNERS ASSOCIATION



VAIRCOR



April 2009

ANNUAL AUCTION
APRIL 14th

WWW.HACO.ORG

Happy Easter

45 Years and Still Having Fun !!!

Since it's incorporation on April 15 of 1964 the Heart of America Corvair Owners Association has been working toward a common goal of preserving and restoration of one of America's most unique mass produced cars.

Here is a bit of history compiled from past VairCors and Event flyers.



The club got its start in Nov. of 1963 when Mike Dawson's neighbor, a salesman for Van Chevrolet, told Mike a man had come into the dealership and asked if there was a Corvair club in the area. The salesman gave Mike the phone number of Gene Caldwell. Mike got together with Gene, Bill Breckenridge, and Paul and Pat Brown and the Heart of America Corvair Owners Association was formed.



The club's first event was the Wheelspin Crankcase Caper, a fun rally held on April 26, 1964. The club's first gymkhana was held later that year at the Edgewood Shopping Center. By the end of 1964 the club was a very respected member of the Kansas City Council of Sports Car Clubs.



In 1982 the club hosted Vair Trek, a regional convention sanctioned by the CORSA. The three day event was held at Regency Park featuring events such as autocross/gymkhana, Concours judging, a picnic, a Corvair only swap meet, a fashion show, tech sessions and an awards banquet.



In 1984 we celebrated our 20th anniversary. The event program featured an article by Bob Brought titled *20years-40years????* Comparing the Corvair to the Ford Model A and 1984 model cars. The Corvair had many advances over the Model A, but was still mechanically simple. He believed that the Corvair was built at the end of an age when owners could work on their own cars. This would allow the Corvair to remain very driveable, dependable and competitive for a long time. The modern (1984) cars were so complex that Mr. Goodwrench now needed a PhD to give a tune-up.



For its 25th anniversary the club hosted a very successful CORSA National Convention in 1989. A swap meet at the convention had 84 spaces with 52 new old stock vendors. The Gymkhana had 50 entries, the Rally/Econorun had 72 participants, the Concours had 63 entries and there were 51 entries in the Toy Car Concours. The new General Motors Assembly Plant in the Fairfax industrial complex in Kansas City KS was toured by 278 attendees. The River Queen Cruise had 373 CORSA passengers. The Fashion Show was held at the hotel with a shopping tour afterwards. The Cole Award had a record 20 competitors. Nearly 60 HACO members pitched in to make this convention one of the best.



In 2004 we celebrated our 40th Anniversary inviting Corvair Clubs in the surrounding states to join us. The get together included a car show, swap meet and a Funkhana at the Metcalf South Shopping Center. The event may have been the inspiration for the Great Plains Round Up that began in 2005 in Wichita.



Auction Proceeds to benefit

Frank Winchell Memorial Scholarship

And

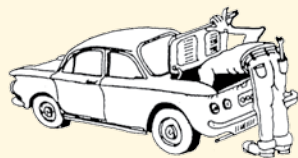


AUCTION TIME
April 14, 2009 Chappell's Restaurant

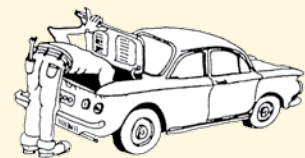
The auction this year promises to be filled with useful, frivolous, fun and tasty items. Even some Corvair related!

Here is a short list of the items to be offered with many more expected to be added at auction time. (in no particular order)

1. George Foreman Mean & Lean Grill family size
2. Cordpro Extension Cord Holder still in the box
3. 2 Corvair headlight warning buzzers
4. Rebuilt Corvair internally regulator alternator (\$75 value)
5. Late model rear bumper with hitch
6. Homemade cookies
7. Peanut Clusters
8. Greenbrier roof rack
9. 1964 Greenbrier Factory Camper Special sink
10. Small dart board game
11. Chevrolet Parts and Accessories Catalog 1960 thru 1969
12. Towels
13. 1965 Chevrolet Corvair Promo (on CD) Engine tune-up, Engine Highlights 45min
14. Chocolate truffles
15. USB powered fan
16. A six pack of Schiltz
17. Hot Wheels Corvair
18. More Peanut Clusters?



Working Tech Session:
May 23, 2009 12:00 – 6:00
(Rain Date May 24)



Need help with diagnosis, tune ups, carburetor work, wheel bearing packing, exhaust work, etc. Bring your own parts or let me know what you want; I have a fairly extensive supply of maintenance and repair parts. **This is a do it yourself session**, whether you only want to watch or just socialize, come ahead, the bigger turnout the better.

Please note the following:

Four garage spaces available plus lots of driveway room and front yard if necessary.

Bring your own hand tools; I will supply specialty tools, 175 PSI air, acetylene torch, wire welder, hydraulic press, etc. (Also supervision if you want it)

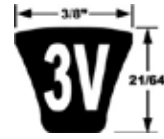
Brake replacement requires turning drums: I can have exchange items ready if you let me know ahead of time.

I have six jack stands, first come first serve: you might want to bring your own.

Bring a chair unless you just like concrete.

Food, soft drinks and adult beverage will be served. Just what is still to be determined. A small donation will be requested to cover shop supplies.

The Corvair boasted a specially designed belt that G.M. used only after rejecting at least four different designs. Since G.M. discontinued the original design years ago, no other company has duplicated it exactly – I kept an original and compared all of the reproductions. Some are close but not exact. Anybody can have good luck with a \$5.00 belt, but if you want one close to the original, use a 3V560 wrapped, industrial belt. The original belt was 55 3/4" X 3/8". The 3V560 belts are sold by most Corvair vendors as "super belts"; the Gates and the Bando belts work great on any Corvair with the correct items as noted here.



Installation Checks:

- Drive pulley or balancer should be checked for rust, wobble or separation and the timing notch checked for a sharp edge that can wear the belt.
- Idler pulley should be checked for rust, wobble and dents caused by pry bars. The big washer on the slide end of the bracket must be between the nut and the slide, not between the slide and the casting.
- Check fan pulley for rust, wobble and dents and most important for proper height. On the car reference: lay a straight edge across the top of the pulley, measure down to the shroud next to the choke rod (intake flange) on the left side. It should measure exactly 6" for 62-69 and 6 5/32" on original 60-61. This dimension will be wrong if your fan bearing was installed incorrectly or if it has moved in the top cover where it should be an interference fit.
- Alternator/generator checks: The pulley must be exactly 3" O.D. Rebuilders change them and even a 1/4" size difference will change belt alignment. Look for a loose generator mount on the left end, check for the proper alternator/generator adapter. As with other pulleys, check for rust, dents, wobble and wear.

Belt Tension: There should be a 3/8" deflection with a 15# load between the idler and the fan. The book calls for 55# if you have a strand tension gauge. You can barely turn the alt/gen fan with your thumb when correctly tensioned. Tension should be checked after a break in period.

Belt Guides: The rear guide can easily be installed on any year; the top guide should be in place on any that have the mount holes in the top shroud. Clearance between belt & guide is 1/16".

If the GEN/FAN light comes on, stop ASAP. Determine if the belt is working or not. If it is, you can drive the car but have the charging system checked as soon as possible. If it is off, replace it before driving. Once a belt comes off, the cords are bent and it will continue to flip.

If you must drive, follow the owners' guide instructions for operation with out a belt. (Short drives with the heater fan on high) NEVER drive a Corvair with the TEMP/PRESS light on; you are already at 550+ degrees. Remember, if you ruin an engine by overheating, it probably cannot be rebuilt due to softened aluminum in the heads and crankcase.

Attention!!!

- 1.** The Club will be giving away 6 Raffle Tickets during the night of the Auction. Each lucky ticket winner will have a chance to win the 1964 Corvair coupe at the Florida convention this summer.
- 2.** CORSA dues are going up the 1st of August and the cost will be \$45 per year or \$90 for 26 months. The price of dues had to go up because the revenues have gone down, due to the membership being down. If for some reason you are not a member of CORSA please sign up today.
- 3.** If you have not paid your HACOIA dues for this year please do so. We need to get a roster out for the club members.



This Month's Featured members: Ken and Gini Ragan

My wife Helen went along with me this month to visit with Ken and Gini on the second day of spring. A few of the flowers that Gini had planted in the front yard were blooming. It was a near perfect early spring day.

Ken invited us into their living room, the TV was on the Speed channel of course. Ken and Gini are huge racing fans and involved with the Sports Car Club of America. Ken serves as a SCCA Course Marshall and Gini as a Regional Executive. They often travel to different raceways staying in their motorhome.

Gini and Ken met at the Rock and Roll Club in Tonganoxie, Ks where Ken worked part time. Ken asked Gini if she would share a dance with him. Gini accepted because, she says, she thought Ken Ragan was a good name. A year and half later they married (next year is their golden anniversary!). They have four children, a son Chris, a daughter Leslie, and twin son and daughter Michael and Kelly.

Ken is a retired IBEW Union Electrician working mostly for two companies over the years. Gini is proud to say she was a stay at home Mom for the most part, working when there was a need, but when the need passed she would return to what she enjoyed most.

Their first Corvair was a 1965 mist blue Corsa coupe purchased in the spring of 1966. Of all the Corvairs that they have owned it is Gini's favorite. She just felt better about herself being behind the wheel of a Chevrolet, rather than the Porsche it replaced.

They have been active members of the Heart of America Corvair Owners Association since 1982. They have hosted many events at their home over the years. Gini published the VairCor for 15 years. Ken is the club's parts crib guy in charge of the tools the club rents out and the club's small mostly forgotten trailer. Ken would like to remind everyone needing parts to check with him, he can probably save you some money. He has a great many parts

in his garage and even more at his building just outside of town.(I found a battery tray for my Rampside during the interview).

When asked to tell their favorite Corvair story. Ken didn't know where to start. After 40 plus years he had so many and after a while they start to run together. Gini on the other hand quickly told of the time she assisted Ken in towing a car home. She was the tow-er pulling Ken the Tow-ee with a tow cable between the vehicles. Lets just say it did not go well. The next time Ken asked her to help pull something home she didn't refuse, but he was able to tell by her facial expressions and body language that it would be better to ask someone else.

Ken related a story of the time he was sent home early from a job one day because of a winter storm. The weather was just too bad to get anything done on the job. He drove home safely in the snowstorm. He decided it was too early to just sit around and replaced his clutch in the driveway during the storm.

They had many other stories including one in which they nursed their Corvair home with a very loud engine to find later that they had broken a piston. Another time Ken drove home 20 miles in a snow storm with a broken clutch cable. Ken admitted that he, just like Don Wagner, had once put a clutch disc in backwards.

When asked whether they had driven any racing evens themselves Ken admitted he hadn't done any serious racing. But Gini was proud to say she had done very well in an autocross event, so well that she decided that she should retire from racing while she was at her peak with no blemishes on her career.

I met Ken at my first HACO meeting in 2006. I thought to myself that he was quite a character. When I met Gini I discovered she was more than a match for him. Case in point is their downstairs bath. It is decorated with a racing theme complete with a large SCCA emblem prominently displayed on the bottom side of the covering for a common bathroom fixture.



Ken and Gini's 1964 Maroon Spyder Convertible and Red 1966 Monza Convertible

Did I mention that Ken has Corvair parts? Here are some photos from his basement. He also has parts in his garage and in his 60 by 100 ft. workshop. He has turbo parts, engine parts, trim parts, suspension parts, early model parts, late model parts and given time he is able to find just about anything you would need.



Ken has loose parts on shelves.



Ken has boxes of parts.



Ken is up to his knees in parts.

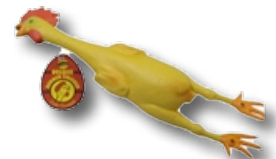


Ken has parts in baskets and parts hanging from shelves.



Ken shown driving some assembled parts.

Just a footnote. When you visit Ken and Gini take time to stop at the Moon Marble Company located just over the hill from the Ragan Home. Besides homemade marbles, they have traditional toys and games, tin toys and wind-ups, gags and prank items, travel games, some offbeat action figures, pinball games and old time wobble heads. They offer bendable poseable Elvis, Pink Panther, Popeye, Betty Boop and Gumby figures. The original metal Slinky and Slinky dog are available. Board games, card games, puzzles and brainteasers. The store has a School of Glass, where students are taught to make glass ornaments by seasoned instrutors. And for your Corvair you can buy fuzzy dice and a bacon scented air freshener for the car-nivore. It is a great place for kids no matter their age.



Michael Sloan reports these Vairs are near Princeton, KS-Sell whole or parts, no titles, bought out of auction about 10 years ago. Can deliver whole cars for free as he has his own truck and flatbed trailer. (reasonable distance).

Darold Tawney 785-418-1064 cell (after 5pm)



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Tool	Deposit	Rental Fee
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Torque Wrenches:		
1. 1/2" drive 20-150 ft.lb	\$15.00	\$2.00
2. 3/8" drive 100-1000 lb.	\$15.00	\$2.00
Floor Jacks and Stands	\$25.00	\$3.50
Ring Grove Cleaner	\$3.00	\$1.00
Dwell-Tach Meter	\$5.00	\$1.00
Greaser:		
Blower Motor and Idler Pulley	\$5.00	\$1.00
Hubs:		
Rear Towing for LM Powerglide	\$5.00	\$1.00

Contact: Ken Ragan

Ragan Enterprises
 212 Warner Rd
 Bonner Springs KS 66012
 913-422-5778

E-mail: kenragan@sbcglobal.net

For Sale: Rust free '62 Monza wagon, former California car. Many items done to make it roadworthy, the carbs, tune, brake work, new tires and such. Yet due to a lack of funds it sits waiting in my driveway, needing a more capable owner. Typical 'project', needs interior redone, a paint job, a windshield, but 99% of everything is there.

I have right at 3000.00 in the car, but I'd consider a bit less to give it a good home...say 2500.00? Maybe a bit less, let's see if there is interest. I can take pictures and help do a better description for those who reply.

Thank You...Mark McCanon 3213 west 9th Lawrence, Ks 66049 785 423 3053



For Sale:

Rebuilt Corvair alternators converted to 63 amp internally regulated. \$75.00

Rebuilt Corvair starters with solenoid. \$85

Installation available - Mike Dawson 816 322-4057



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MANY USED PARTS & TRIM

CONTACT - BOB ST. JOHN @ 816 289 8711
AFTER APRIL 1, 2009.
BE BACK IN MISSOURI in APRIL.

Northwest Missouri Street Rods 16th Annual Car Show

Sunday May 17, 2009 - 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Civic Center Park (Downtown St Joseph, Mo)
Entry Fee - \$10 per car - Spectator's Free
Dash Plaques first 100 - Show Shirts first 50
Many Door Prizes throughout day - 50/50 pot
Top 20 Awards and 20 Major prizes at 2:00 PM
(Air Compressor, Microwave, Custom Wheels)

NOTE: No Alcohol or Pets on Grounds

Sponsors: Ken Smith Autobody - R&W Towing
Dishman Fertilizer - O'Reilly Auto Parts

**HACO member Kat King's Corvair is
featured on the event T-Shirt**

Cruise At Casino

Saturday May 16, 2009 - 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Terrible's Casino

Dash Plaques - Cruise Shirts
\$100 Cash Drawing - Casino Certificates

Richard Bradley/President NWMSR, INC.
816-244-6464 - rbx21022@sbcglobal.net

SATURDAY CRUISE NIGHTS!!!!

Bill Bennett our cruise chairman explained that there are cruises every Saturday night through out the warm months. Opportunities to display our cars and hobnob with other enthusiasts of classic cars. The cruises start at 3pm (get there early for a good spot) unless otherwise indicated.

First Saturday of each month
Blue Springs on Main Street. We park on the East end of Main Street

Second Saturday of each month
Northtown behind Chappell's on Fayette Street parking lot.
St. Joseph, MO Belt Highway and Frederick Avenue Cruise Night
6:00 pm Northwest Missouri Street Rods.

Third Saturday of each month
Johnny Ray's 800 SW Blue Parkway, Lee's Summit, MO

Fourth Saturday each month-
Belton Cruise in old downtown Belton. We park at east end of Main Street.

Last Saturday of the month
Liberty Square, Liberty MO.

For more information call Bill Bennett @ 816-767-1760

For a listing of 34 local area cruises visit: http://www.hotrod-express.com/local_events.html

Cruisin' Down Memory Lane Car Show and Parade

Benefiting the *Parkinson Foundation of the Heartland* This annual spring event is sponsored by the Sunrise Communities. Each year, over 200 car and motorcycle enthusiasts bring out their cherished vehicles for an afternoon show while members of the community enjoy picnic fare, drinks and music. The cars and bikes, escorted by members of local police departments, line up and parade through several communities, ending at the *Buffalo Wings* restaurant for food, drinks and fun. This event is free and open to the public. In 2009, the car show will be held on May 9th, beginning at Brighton Gardens by Sunrise in Prairie Village Kansas. For more information, please call Meg Duggan at 913-341-8828. *club contact* Jack and Elaine Richardson

March Meeting Program Highlights

After the March general meeting the nights program was presented by Dave Anderson of ARI Racing Engines. Dave is no stranger to Corvair engines and was very knowledgeable. After his talk no one had any doubt that he could handle any engine work we could throw at him.

As interesting as Dave was he was upstaged by his program partner that night, Terry Glasscock. Terry races sand dragsters, and competes against V8 powered dragsters with Corvair power. His dragster is very competitive and is always a hit at the events. Terry produces several hundred horsepower out his highly turbocharged engine and has at times had a bit of engine trouble. In one race he blew the heads completely off the block. The noise put the crowd and his wife in a very sober mood. But it was a problem that he was able to overcome with a bit of good old American ingenuity and a welder. Terry can be seen racing nearly every other Saturday through the summer at Thunder Valley Sand Drags in Grain Valley, MO.

<http://www.thundervalleysanddrags.com/>



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David L. Anderson, Pres.

Social & Calendar - Chairman Mike Dawson

April 14-Monthly Meeting and Annual Auction at Chappells 7pm

April 25-Weston display of cars. (see page 9)

May 9-Brighton Gardens event - cruise - Buffalo Wings Restaurant (see page 7)

May 12-Monthly meeting Chappell's 7pm

May 17-Northwest Missouri Street Rods 16th Annual Car Show (see page 7)

May 23 -Tech Session at the Dawsons (see page 2)

June 6- Frontier Festival at Albany, Mo. - Corvairs hosted by the St. Johns.

June 6- Shawnee Parade , Shawnee, Mission KS contact Jack Hill

June 9- Annual meeting in the park, Sar-Ko Park, 87th and Lackman Rd. Lenexa, KS

June 27 - HACO 45th Anniversary Social at Gary & Helen Moore's.

July 13-17 - National Convention - Jacksonville, Florida.

August 8 - Play at Crown Center "Are we there yet?" (see page 9)

September 26 - Overland Park Parade

October 2-3-4 - Great Plains Roundup in Wichita, Kansas



**President's
Corner –
April – Don
Wagner**

On April the 14th we will be having the annual Auction with the proceeds going

one half to Turner House and the other half to the scholarship fund. We will be having the auction at Chappell's Restaurant and if you are planning on selling large parts etc., take some pictures and bring a description of the item so Karl will be to be able to read about it when he is selling it. The Auction will be a fun time to come and bid on all the different parts, etc. Gary I think Barb is going to bring some more peanut clusters so we hope you tell Helen that she can bid it up again this year! I hope a lot of you members can come, the more the merrier! I guess that if you can't be there you might use your cell phone and call you bid



in! My cell number is 816-244-1744 and just think, you can bid like you were on ebay by calling me at the meeting! This could be a fun way to bid if you can't be there!

On April 25 the club members are invited to display their Corvairs at Weston. I will have more information in the VairCor.

We have more things lined up for the Corvair family to do this summer.

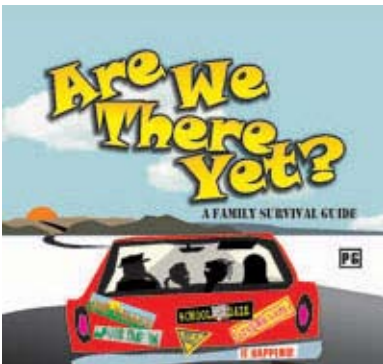
The Corvair was born on Oct. 2, 1959 and it will be 50 years old in Oct. of this year. I am hoping that we will have a 1960 to put in the Show room at Randy Reed Chevrolet Dealership on Frederick Ave, St. Joseph, MO. I would like to have one of each of the different models and many, many more Corvairs to show off! The Dealership is about one hour north of KC and a Mall across the street! Also close are many restaurants of all kinds where you could eat, and after we get done I will have things set up to do. Mark your calenders to come on Oct. 10, Saturday, to show off our Great Corvairs and talk to the people! I talked to one of the salesman and asked if he knew what a Corvair is and he looked at me and laughed. (He was not born when they came out)

**Sat., April 25, 2009
26th Annual Show
Lions Club Antiques & Collectibles**

Come search for treasures in the old Weston Burley House at the end of Main Street. Here's another opportunity to find something special at the show or in lots of shops featuring the antiques and collectibles that gave Weston recognition as one of the top antiquing towns in the Midwest. 80 booths, all inside

Don't miss the other historical sites, restaurants and entertainment while you're in Weston. Just minutes north of KCI Airport or south of St. Joseph, I-29 to exit 18 – then 273N. Schedule for Trip

HACOIA members to meet at Burger King in Platte City at 10:30, Exit 18 at McDonalds & north half a block and we will drive over to Weston together. We will display the cars next to Weston Burley House in a park and plan on breaking up about 2:30. I hope that we will have a number of cars to display. Don



We will be traveling to Crown Center's American Heartland Theatre for this year's play. The National WWI memorial and Museum is nearby for those who wish to tour. The date is August 8 for a 4 o'clock matinee. We will need at least 12 to get the group price of \$23 a ticket. If you are planning on attending or need more information please contact Gary Moore (816-296-7819). It has not yet been decided where to meet to eat. If you have a favorite nearby restaurant please suggest it.

From AHT, comes a roller coaster ride through the lives of modern American families! This merry musical romp includes everything from hysterical family car trips and mothers praying for hits at their sons' baseball games, to fathers sitting through ballet lessons and the joy of sex after 60! This lively musical portrays the love and challenges of the old adage, "You can pick your friends but you can't pick your family." One thing is for sure, you will definitely relate to this family musical and "enjoy the ride!" <http://www.ahtkc.com/>



Ken and Gini Ragan's 1966 Red Monza Convertible

HEART of America Corvair Owners Association
16001 Oakland Ave
Belton MO 64012



A group of friends devoted to the fun, preservation
and restoration of all Corvairs

Founded 1964

Meetings 2nd Tuesday of each month
At Chappell's Restaurant
323 Armour Road
Kansas City MO



VairCor is the official publication of the Heart of America Corvair Owners Association (HACO), the oldest incorporated continuously active single marquee Corvair club and Chapter 640 of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). The membership fee in HACO is \$15.00 annually, payable January 1. CORSA membership is required. HACO monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm., with a 7:00 pm Social time at Chappell's. 323 Armour Rd, North Kansas City, MO