

# The Flat Six Journal

Mid Continent Corvair Association Newsletter

June 2009

*From the President*

## Activities Fill June

June is a busy month.

Just a reminder that the Lake Afton Car Show is June 14<sup>th</sup>. Along with the car show this is our monthly meeting and also the election of officers. Anyone that is interested in one of the officer positions let us know.

The following Saturday, June 20th, is the Juna-Tuna. Planned activities include tuning up your valve cover racers. If you don't have one ready for testing yet you might want to hurry it up. Julie & I are going to have to hear about it



**It is Autocross season and the Corvairs are out. Greg Renfro gets ready for his ride in Jim Dallas' Corvair racer. The May 10th event got the SCCA season started. See Greg's story on pages 4 & 5.**



**May Meeting**  
EM 3 LM 4



**June Meeting**  
**Sun. June 14th Noon**

All Wheels Car Show  
Lake Afton, KS

from all of you since we are going to be busy with our daughter's Wedding, For some reason she thinks that we need to be at the wedding instead of at the tuna.

Then Sunday, June 21st is Father's Day and so Happy Father's Day to all of the fathers out there. It is also the annual Car Show at the Sedgwick County Zoo so if you are interested in a day at the zoo this is a great chance to show off your cars and have a great day at the zoo for a discount price.

This month's activities are great ways to show support of our club and also area clubs. There is nothing better than the feeling of getting out there and meeting people that have enjoyed experiences in Corvair and the sharing of these stories make the time spent all worth while.

Lets all get out and enjoy the friendship and have fun with our Corvairs.

**Bernie**

# Classifieds

**FOR SALE:** Three Corvairs for the price of one. First is a gray '64 Monza coupe with great mechanicals, 110 4-speed, lowered springs, 17" wheels. The body is rusty and should be replaced. Second is another '64 Monza coupe with an excellent body and decent interior. It has a good Kansas title, but does not

run. Last is a '63 Monza coupe, good replacement body for the gray car, needs minor rust and body repair. No title but can be titled with bill of Sale and VIN inspection.

Cars are in Wichita and can be seen at the July Meeting. Contact Eric Kline 303-1717 or e-mail [motorest@netzero.net](mailto:motorest@netzero.net)

**FOR SALE:** Lower Price \$1500 White 1963 convertible with 1960 engine. The engine runs but the carburetors need adjustment and probably a tune up. The body is very straight and has just a couple of small rust spots. The front seats are of the Terry Kalp collection and are in good shape. The top frame

is intact but needs the top cloth. There are miscellaneous extra parts, some unknown. It does have new brakes, single master cylinder, 0 mile tires, dimmer switch, push rod rings, muffler and new black carpet. I'm asking \$1500 or best offer. If interested, please e-mail [wrightres1@cox.net](mailto:wrightres1@cox.net) or call me at (316) 304-1266 or (316) 789-8302.

## MCCA Officers

Bernie Strecker  
*President*

316-619-9844 cell

Bob Bright

*Vice-President*

316-619-5800 cell

Julie Strecker

*Treasurer*

13802 W. Texas Ct.

Wichita, KS 67235

[juliestrk@cox.net](mailto:juliestrk@cox.net)

316-619-6213 Cell

316-722-0556 Home

Terry Kalp

*Newsletter Editor*

Web Site

<http://www.Corvair.org/chapters/chapter672/index.html>



Eric's Corvairs, Red '63 above Gray '64 Below



**No Dues  
You Lose  
MCCA**

# Friday night Cruise-in Attracts Corvair fans

Corvairs are getting noticed at the Friday night Cruise-ins at Central and West Street in Wichita. There was a great turnout on June 5th, MCCA members, Bernie and Julie Strecker were joined by their son Jarred and family. Bob and Lee Bright also showed up. Jim Dallas displayed his LM Coupe, Ned and Kathy Madsen showed his '66 Corsa while Terry Kalp displayed his Loadside and Corvair bicycle.



**Great Plains Corvair Roundup**  
 October 2nd - 4th \* Wichita, Kansas  
 2009  
 Introducing America's First Rear-Engine Car  
 50th Anniversary of the Introduction

## The Best Western Airport Inn & Conference Center

6815 W Kellogg Drive Wichita, Kansas

For Roundup special room rates call 316-942-5600

Friday October 2

Valve Cover Race  
Hospitality Room

Saturday October 3

Concours  
Peoples' Choice Car Show  
Model Car and Valve Cover Peoples' Choice  
Tech Sessions  
Hospitality Room  
Moving Event  
Banquet and Awards

Sunday October 4

Send off Breakfast

Roundup Contacts:  
 Bernie Strecker  
 316-619-6844  
 Julie Strecker 316-619-6213  
 Terry Kalp tkalp@cox.net

**REAR-ENGINE SPECIALISTS**  
 16010 W. 5th Ave. Unit 12  
 Golden, Colo. 80401  
 Steve Goodman  
 (303) 278-4889  
 e-mail: rearengine.steve@worldnet.att.net

**CUSTOM Engines By Jerry Wilson**  
 Chet Wilson ENGINE SERVICE  
 (316) 264-5155  
 CHET WILSON ENGINE SERVICE  
 email: offykilr@aol.com www.chet-wilson.com  
 559 W. Douglas  
 Wichita, KS 67213

# Ridin' With Jim

*Racing Cars in an Amish Community on a Naval Base in the Middle of Kansas*

by Greg Renfro

After talking to Jim at the club meeting, Terry and I decided we would go and take some photos of Jim racing. There was an autocross event scheduled to be ran in Yoder Kansas. If I recall we left Terry's shop in the sedan around 9:00AM. Yoder is about a 45 minute drive which gave us time for some good conversation. During the drive my brother called and asked what I was up to. I explained to him that I was on my way to Yoder to watch car races on the old naval base. After a short pause he said "You must be seeing someone on the side because Yoder is an Amish community and it is a thousand miles away from



The second Autocross of the season was held at Strother Field between Ark City and Winfield. Jim Dallas puts his '64 thru the cones.

Ned Madsen was also at the Strother event on May 31st. Ned took his oldest daughter Megan out for a Sunday Drive . . . at speed.



the ocean. You say you are going to a naval base? Yeah right..." I assured him everything was on the up and up after which Terry and I had a good laugh.

We arrived at the course and signed waivers as spectators. The day was cool and rainy so we set up shop under a tent. We had some words of encouragement for Jim and set up to watch the warm ups. After some small issues with the timing and scoring, it was time for Jim's first run. I really had no idea what to expect. The starter gave

Continued on pg. 5

the signal and he was off. "Wow", I said to Terry, "I've never seen a Corvair burn rubber." Jim ran the course in a respectable 65.026 with no penalties. After Jim climbed out Terry and I went over to talk to him. Jim was complaining about the balance of the car. "I could really use some weight on the passenger side." Almost immediately Terry looked at me and I was volunteered. My only thought was wow they really take that spectator waiver a long way. But it sounded like fun so I agreed.

First challenge was getting in the car. As some may have noticed, I'm kind of a big guy. I grabbed a loaner helmet and returned to the car where Jim proceeded to give me instructions on the proper way to enter the car. First you stick your head in then one leg, fold yourself in half then settle down into the seat as you unfold. Thankfully I was still flexible enough to get it done and with the helmet on I had at least 1/4" of headroom left.



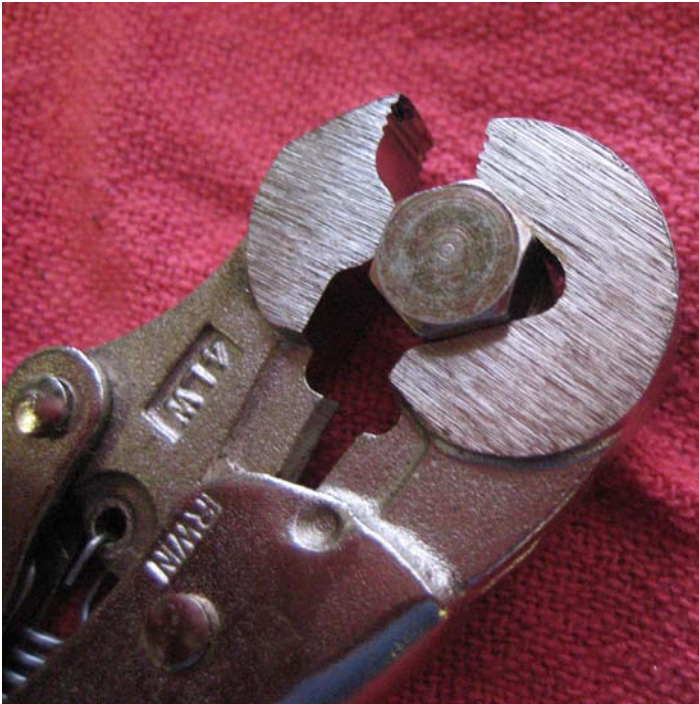
**Jim Dallas negotiates a sea of cones at the Strother event. Jim's times went down as his tires warmed up. One of Megan's friends rode with Jim and provided "ballast" fore a couple of runs.**

So it was time to ride. I got in I got buckled up and off to the start line we went. The starter gave the signal and we were off. Wow what a rush. I was giggling like a school girl the whole way. After we completed the run all I could say to Jim was "Wow that was cool". The only thing I could equate it with was riding on a roller coaster without the hills. Jim's second run with the human ballast was much better at a 63.016. I thought it was smooth, Jim said there was more.

We did 3 more runs. Run number 3 was a 64.403 due to a slip in one corner that easily cost us 2 seconds. (I say us because I was in effect a part of the suspension) The 4<sup>th</sup> run was a 62.348 but it felt like there was more left. As we prepared for the 5<sup>th</sup> run it began to rain. Rain and slicks are not a good combination. We took off and quickly I could tell the lack of grip due to the wet surface. At about the half way point Jim struck a cone, then another. Jim said it all over and I could tell it was time to just have some fun for the remainder of the run. Jim drove the wheels off of the Corvair sliding and smoking the tires as I grinned ear to ear. We finished the run and I climbed out for the last time that day. All I can say is thanks a million for the ride Jim and anytime you need ballast and I'm around, I am willing.

**Ned running the cones at Strother. This time his passenger was his youngest daughter Shannon. Not to be outdone by her daughters, Ned's wife Kathy even took a ride around the course. Kathy surprised Ned by showing up at the track with Shannon, Megan and a couple of Megan's friends. Kathy had just picked up Megan and a friend as they returned from their Senior trip to New York.**





The Vice Grip wrench, unlike their pliers, has a notch in the gripping part of the wrench that puts the twisting pressure of the jaws on the flats of the fitting, resisting the tendency to round off the flats.

## *“Get a Grip” on stubborn Gas & brake line fittings*

By Terry Kalp

One of the jobs I dread the most is working with the flare fittings on the Corvair fuel and brake systems. There always one fitting on the system I am working on that due to age and corrosion or the previous mechanic’s brute force is very tight. Unlike messing up the wrenching surface on a bolt or nut, if the tube fitting is mauled, the whole line must be replaced.

In my younger days, once I rounded off the flats with an open end wrench, I would grab the fitting in the jaws of my “Vice Grip” pliers and wrestle the fitting loose, effective, but not very pretty and every time after that to tighten or loosen the fitting, it would have to face the “Grips”.

As my budget for tools expanded, I added a set of Craftsman Flare Wrenches to the toolbox. Now I thought all my problems with flare fittings were solved, I had the proper tool. The flare wrench is like a thick walled 6 point box end wrench with a notch cut out to fit over the tube. My success rate removing flare nuts went up, but there were still occasions when even the flare wrench wasn’t enough and I would have

to resort to ugly the repair with vice grip pliers.

When working on the Black and Silver Corsa coupe brakes with Mark Welte we ran into several stubborn fittings on the brake lines. After cracking the flare wrench, Mark went to the hardware store to look for a miniature pipe wrench. The True Value didn’t have the wrench but talked him into trying a Vice Grip wrench, it worked great on the stubborn fittings. Unlike the pliers the wrench has jaws that fit the flats of the fitting, even flexing it a bit to help it come off.



## June 2009 Sec./Tres. report

April 2009 - \$2,708.67

Deposits - \$191.00

Balance: \$2,899.67 May 29, 2009

## “Ran when Parked”



This great Greenbrier planter photo came from Andrew from Indianapolis, IN on the Corvair Center Forum. Remember to submit your candidates for “Ran when Parked” to Terry Kalp



## June Birthdays:

Larry Lee - June 5th  
Greg Renfro - June 7th

## June Anniversaries:

Bernie & Julie Strecker - June 14th



## Juna Tuna events include: Valve cover racer test 'n tune Headlight Aim-A-Thon

June 20th and the Juna Tuna is less than two weeks away. One of the highlights of the Tuna will be the opportunity to run and tune your valve cover racer before the Roundup in October. Make sure your VC racer is finished enough to run at the Tuna, if you haven't started get started now. Contact Terry Kalp if you need a cover for your racer. We can also work on constructing the racer at the Tuna, bring some wheels and we will try to scrounge up the rest. Terry will be resurfacing the track on Saturday, June 13th at his shop, any help would be appreciated.

Another great opportunity at the Tuna will be the Headlight Aim. Greg Renfro and Terry will have an area setup for you to pull your Corvair into and get the headlights aimed in less than 20 minutes. Before the Aim-a-thon it would be good to check you Corvair for burned out head lamps and make sure the plastic sockets for the headlight adjustors aren't broken. If you find problems purchase replacement bulbs and get the new sockets ordered and delivered so they can be installed at the Tuna.

There will also be time for regular Tuna activities including working on your Corvair (Mel already has some project for his convertible). Eating is also on the menu, check with Terry to see what you need to bring.

## *Trip planned to KC for 45th Anniversary of the KC Club*

Terry Kalp is meeting up with Chris Teer and other members of the Oklahoma City Corvair Club on Saturday morning, June 27 to drive to The Heart of America Corvair Owners Association 45th anniversary as a Corvair car club. The celebration will be held at the home of Gary and Helen Moore near Lawson, Missouri (Kansas City Area). Events start at 1 pm and include a scenic tour. Several MCCA members made the trip to KC five years ago to help the HACO celebrate their 40th Birthday. The Kansas City club is the oldest continuously running Corvair only Corvair club in the world. The club started at a dealership in KC in 1964. If you are thinking about making the drive up to KC to help them celebrate and want to travel with the group contact Terry Kalp 316-755-2458 or 755-9821. We will be leaving Wichita about 8:30 or 9 am.

BE THERE WHEN IT ARRIVES!  
**Corvair**  
NEW COMPACT CAR BY CHEVROLET

AMERICA'S ONLY CAR DESIGNED  
THE WAY A COMPACT CAR  
SHOULD BE

(CHEVROLET  
TOOK THE  
TIME—  
9 YEARS—  
TO DO IT  
RIGHT!)



COMING **FRIDAY, OCT. 2**

See it at your local authorized Chevrolet dealer's

**June Meeting**  
**Sun., June 14th Noon**  
**All Wheels Car Show Lake Afton, KS**

Map labels: 39th Street South (MacArthur Road), Goddard, MacArthur Rd., Lake Afton, Schulte, Tyler, West, Highway, K-254, K-96, 21st St., 119 St., Tyler St., K-42, I-35, Kelllogg, I-35.

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|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 5-08 | 6-08 | 7-08 | 8-08 | 9-08 | 10-08 | 11-08 | 1-09 | 2-09 | 3-09 | 4-09 | 5-09 |
|      |      |      |      |      |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |
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# The Flat Six Journal



Mid Continent Corvair Association  
621 N. Birch, Valley Center, KS 67147

## Calendar

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Lake Afton                   | June 14     |
| Juna Tuna                    | June 20     |
| Zoo Father's Day Show        | June 21     |
| KC Birthday                  | June 27     |
| July Meeting                 | July 11     |
| Moonlight Show               | July 11     |
| Great Plains Corvair Roundup | October 2-4 |