AR

⋖ I

۵

ш

æ

ш







RAMPSIDE

CORVAN

LOADSIDE

GREENBRIER



The Bi-Monthly Newsletter of Corvanatics The Forward Control Corvair People

VOL. 33, NO. 4

JUL / AUG 2005

BROCHURE ARTWORK



For 1961, Chevrolet has taken another giant step ahead of the industry, with three precedent-shattering Corvair 95 models! They're totally new from road to roof, in concept, configuration and components, and they're built to handle more payload for their size and weight than any other trucks on the road! Body and frame are 'unitized,' combined in a single assembly, featuring high strength, low weight, and lots of load space. The year-shead Corvair 95 power team also reflects the unit design principle, combining engine, transmission and rear ake gearing in one package, tucked between the rear wheels. Further, Corvair 95 proportions cradle the bulk of the cargo amidships, retaining near-perfect weight distribution whether empty or fully loaded. And coil springs cushion the ride at all four wheels, with fully independent suspension, front and rear, for handling no conventional chassis can match. For 1961, Chevrolet has taken another giant step

SPECIFICATIONS

STANDAR JOUPMENT

AXLE, REARY, Italia 3-29.

BEAKES lightenile, front & rear 11° x 2°; lining aven 167 sq. in.

BEAKES lightenile, front & rear 11° x 2°; lining aven 167 sq. in.

DEROCTIONAL SIGNALS: Front & rear.

ENGINE: Turbo-Air Sig, 80 hp; 145-cui-ni displacement.

AXK; Capacity 18 gallone.



Automotive brochures used to be so much fun. Remember when the new cars were about to roll out? All the excitement downtown as the dealership windows were covered over, and the spotlights were searching the skies. Everybody was so excited to go downtown and see the new models, and collect all the brochures they could carry. Remember the fun of selecting options for Detroit to put onto your new car made just for you? What happened? Today's one size fits all cars and megasuburbia dealerships just don't have the same pizzaz. Collecting new car brochures—just one more thing I miss today.

CORVANATICS OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 2003-2004

PRESIDENT

Corbin Tayloe ctayloe07@aol.com 817-430-1910 275 Double Oaks Dr., Lewisville, TX. 75067-8268 VICE PRESIDENT

Ken Hand vairmech@aol.com 248-613-8586

97 Peach Pontiac, MI. 48342

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Diane Galli rdgalli@tcsn.net 805-466-2737

5000 Cascabel Rd., Atascadero, CA. 93422-2302

DIRECTORS

Eastern: Tim Schwartz, toschwartz@att.net, 201-447-4299

5 Riverview Ln. Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423

Central: Lon Anderson LonzoVair@aol.com 270-862-2135

503 cave road Glendale, Ky. 42740-9752

Western: Lon Wall | lonwall@corvairunderground.com

P.O. Box 339, Dundee, OR. 97115

At Large: Ben Stiles, bensbus@paonline.com, 717-687-7558

212 Georgetown Rd. Strasburg, PA. 17579

TECHNICAL EDITOR

Jim Jimenez triplej@lsol.net 920-793-1982 2826 Memorial Dr., Two Rivers, WI. 54241

HISTORIAN

Dave Newell chevrobilia@california.net 415-223-4725

P.O. Box 588, Orinda, CA. 94563-0588

EDITOR

Garry Parsley geparsley@sbcglobal.net 817-558-1281 402 Forrest Ave. Cleburne, TX. 76033-5343

FOUNDER

Ken Wilhite

9560 Maple Way Indianapolis, IN. 46263

CORVANANTICS is the bi-monthly publication of Corvanatics, a Chartered Chapter of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). Established September, 1972, Corvanatics is dedicated to preserving and enjoying America's original and most innovative small vans and light trucks, the Chevrolet Corvair 95 Series.

Membership in Corvanatics is open to any CORSA member with an interest in Forward Control Corvairs. Membership applications are available from the Secretary/Treasurer, Diane Galli, 5000 Cascabel Road, Atascadero, CA. 93422-2302.

Dues are \$10.00 per year and must be sent to the Secretary/ Treasurer. <u>Sending them to any other address will only slow your</u> renewal and possibly cause you to miss an issue.

Stories, articles, photos, memorabilia, or any other item for publication should be sent to the editor: Garry Parsley, 402 Forrest Ave. Cleburne, TX. 76033-5343. All of these can also be sent by e-mail to: geparsley@att.net. Technical material should be sent to the Technical Editor for review.

Classified ads are free to Corvanatics members and should be sent to the editor. Display advertising is also available at the following rates: Full Page: \$25; Half Page: \$15; Quarter Page: \$10; Business Card (2 x 3.5): \$5; Please submit print-ready or typed copy and pre-payment to the editor. Photos for ads are \$6.00 each and can be color or black/white. Authorization and payment must be received for each issue. Deadline for publication is the 15th of February, April, June, August, October, or December.

Web Page Address: www.corvair.org/chapters/corvanatics/

corvair

N.O.S PARTS USED PARTS

Jim's Corvair Shop

2826 MEMORIAL DRIVE

JIM JIMENEZ 920-793-1982

CORVANATICS MERCHANDISE

Available from the Secretary / Treasurer

RO\$TER....\$2.00

3 BOOKLET SET:

PAINT CODES (INCLUDES CARS THRU 64) PRICES & OPTIONS

PAINT & TRIM COMBINATIONS.....\$5.00

POWERGLIDE TRANSMISSIONS

by BOB BALLEW.....\$10.00

DIFFERENTIAL BOOKLET.....\$5.00

CORVANATIC\$ PATCHE\$.....\$2.00 CORVANATIC\$ DECAL\$.....\$1.00

HGLWRULDO#GHHS##WKRXJKWVÂ 1#

I've finally restarted my efforts on the '62 Corvan restoration. So far the new front floor is in, the rocker panel rust has been repaired, the remainder of the rust problems at the back of the wheelwell openings has been cut out and is awaiting new patch panels. The front wheelwells have been stripped of all old undercoating and have been primed with POR15. The collection of NOS and other new parts continue. I did a program on instrument cluster refurbishment at a recent NTCA meeting, and was able to display the newly refurbished cluster for this van at the end of the program. It got rave reviews. Progress is painfully slow, but it is progress.

A couple of weeks ago I got into our '65 "brier and the brakes hit the floor. I pulled up the trim and carpet, checked the reservoir and sure enough, it was empty. Not only no fluid, but a jelly-like substance. Much work later, I was back on the road. Only after thinking about it did I realize it had been several years since it was last checked! I hang my head in shame. Due to the inconvenience of getting to the cylinder, I just always by-passed that critical check. Don't fall into the same trap—check that fluid at least twice a year!

Garry Parsley

2 CORVAN

RIDING WITH THE PRESIDENT

Here we are on the countdown to Portland. With just over a month to go, I am getting ex-

cited to visit this part of our country. I have been to Portland one time and I really enjoyed the beauty of the northwest. I hope you are planning to attend.

Here at North Texas Corvair, we have a group we call "Romeos." In fact, this is a group of seven, and the youngest is 65 years old, and all retired. "Romeo" means something different. Now, you have to understand that "Romeo" stands for "Retired Old Men Eating Out." We have lunch every Wednesday and solve all the world's problems, not to mention all of our Corvair problems. All total, we have about 165 year's seniority in the North Texas Club. Now, with all of this group meeting at one time, do you think we can't solve all of the above problems? We do have a great time.

Just a reminder, if you would like to be nominated for one of the positions on the Corvanantics as an officer or director, please let me know as it is not too late. This will take

place at our meeting in Portland. Just let me know by meeting time and I will put your name in the hat. Join in and be a big part of Corvanantics.

Well, I have to go for now. I hope to see you in Portland, and may all of your travels be safe and fun!

Corbin Tayloe





This is an artsy shot taken by Clay Wispell of Mike Dobie's 1965 8-door Greenbrier, currently undergoing restoration. Mike, better known for his immaculate Corsas actually does own a Greenbrier. We hope to see it on the road one of these days.



Clark's Corvair Parts, . Inc. NEW! 2002 - 2006 catalog

OVER 570 pages
OVER 500 diagrams OVER 670 pages OVER 11,000 index items OVER 14,000 parts

OVER 1900 photos OVER 1100 sketches

OVER 75 % of the pages have changes! ALL parts and KITS are in the NEW catalog. Easier to use!! Our BIGGEST revision in 8 years.

→ \$6.00 We'll rush a catalog right out to you. (\$8 for Canadians - USA funds) (MORE for FOREIGN)

Clark's Corvair Parts, & Inc.

400 Mohawk Trail, www.corvair.com

Shelburne Falls, MA. 01370

FAX: 888/625-8498 413/625-9776

email:clarks@corvair.com

ANTICS



+IHDWXUHG#FROXPQLW,#

G. Chambers Williams III: The Corvair is still in style

Web Posted: 04/24/2005 12:00 AM CDT

San Antonio Express-News

KERRVILLE — The 1960s were alive and well last weekend in the Hill Country.

Specifically, it was dozens of those cute little Chevy rear-engine cars from the '60s, known as Corvairs, that brought the decade back to life.

Members of Corvair clubs from San Antonio, Austin, Fort Worth-Dallas and Houston gathered for their annual "Heart of Texas" homage to the



G. Chambers Williams III / Express-News

Tom Robinson of Seguin polishes his 1964 Corvair convertible, which he has owned 34 years, during last weekend's Corvair show in Kerrville.

vehicles that made Ralph Nader famous, or in the eyes of Corvair fans, infamous.

Nader, whose factually shaky book indicted the early Corvair models as "Unsafe at Any Speed" and launched his career as a self-appointed auto safety advocate, has yet to attend a Corvair club event (despite an open invitation, club members say).

But those in attendance at the event here said he would have been welcome, particularly because his inclusion of the Corvair in his famous book has helped secure the cars' special place in history.

Some minor suspension tweaks in the early years of production (the cars were built model years 1960-'69) corrected the problems Nader complained about, and the Corvair went on to earn high marks for road handling and performance among its peers of the era — even beating some Corvettes of its day in skid-pad tests.

Despite the misconception that continues today among those unfamiliar with Corvairs that Nader's book killed the little cars, they are as popular today with collectors as they were with those who owned them in the '60s as their daily drivers. Of more than 2 million Corvairs built, a good percentage of them are still around, in the hands of people such as those who gathered for the weekend event — Corvair lovers who are dedicated to preserving and displaying these cars for as long as possible.

The cars were quirky and different, but those quirks have made Corvairs the great collectors' item they are today. There really was nothing else like the Corvair, and because it was so different, it still stands out as something unique in a world of sameness.

The most remarkable thing about Corvairs, though, is how they seemed to touch just about everyone's life. Corvair owners say that wherever they go with their cars, people stop and comment, and start telling their own Corvair stories.

And, of course, those who collect the cars today have their own stories, many of them associated with their coming of age in the '60s and '70s. They're the same kinds of stories one hears around vintage Ford Mustang owners. Corvairs, despite their differences from Mustangs, had the same kind of following — and still do today.

Tom Robinson of Seguin, a member of the Alamo City Corvair Association, drove a 1964 Corvair Monza convertible he has owned for 34 years to the Kerrville event.

It still has its original interior, but it has been repainted and the engine has been rebuilt. Robinson has been careful, though, to keep the car as close to the original as possible, even to matching the factory exterior color when repainting it.

For Robinson, as for many other Corvair fans, the car brings back lots of memories.

"When my daughter was born, we needed a second car for my wife to use around town," he said. "I bought this car in Kansas City in 1971 for \$600. When my wife and I divorced in 1978, she didn't want it, so I ended up putting it in storage for 12 years. Then I got it out in 1990 and

4 CORVAN

started putzing with it, and the more I putzed, the more I like it. I've been putzing with Corvairs ever since."

Those who collect these cars rarely seem to be able to limit themselves to just one.

Geary Grimes of Hurst, a member of the North Texas Corvair Association, came to the weekend event with his daughter, Rachel, in a 1965 Corvair sedan. For him, it's not just a collector car to be brought out of the garage and shown off on special occasions.

"I bought it in 1999, and I've been driving it daily since," said Grimes, a lawyer who can certainly afford a newer and more expensive car. But like many who love Corvairs, he thinks there is nothing on the market today that quite measures up.

Daughter Rachel, 16, now has one of her own — also a '65 model — that she drives to school every day. And the family has a third Corvair that is being restored.

Corvair collectors get a real charge out of saving derelict examples that they find rusting away in fields, barns and garages.

Some are in terrible shape, others just need a little TLC.

Such was the case with the red 1963 sedan restored by Tom Herman, president of the San Antonio club. The car looks almost like new, but it wasn't in such great shape when he got it.

"I've had this one five years," he said. "I've painted it, put in a headliner and redone the seats. The engine was filthy when I bought it, so I've done some work on it as well."

San Antonio resident Ron Scott drove his beige 1964 Spyder convertible to the event — a car that has been in his family for 30 years but spent 20 years sitting in his garage with a blown engine.

"I finally got it back on the road in mid-March, and this is the first big club event I've brought it to," he said. He is the car's third owner

It's just one of four Corvairs he owns. His son, Ron Scott Jr., drove one of the others to the event — his 1963 Corvair Greenbrier.

The Greenbrier, which was produced from 1961 to '65, was the first American minivan. Taking the idea from the Volkswagen Bus of the day, Chevrolet created the Greenbrier passenger van, with seating for up to nine people. It has the same rear-engine layout as other Corvairs.

Also included in the lineup was a van, known as a Cor-

van, which essentially was a Greenbrier with no rear seats or side windows; and the Rampside pickup, a Greenbrier with the top chopped off behind the front seat to create a rear-engine pickup. Because the engine made the bed too high to load from the rear, the Rampside had an opening on the passenger side for loading cargo.

The convertibles, particularly the Spyder models with turbocharged engines, are the most popular Corvairs among collectors today, and they often command the highest prices.

Rob Price of Austin, a member of the Lone Star Corvair Club, drove his 1966 Monza convertible to the event.

"I've owned it since 2000, and it is special because it was one of the last Corvairs to be made at the Los Angeles assembly plant," he said. "Chevy stopped building Corvairs at that plant about midway through the '66 model year."

He bought the car almost completely restored, with only 63,284 original miles on it.

Another well-preserved Greenbrier was driven to the event by Garry and Denise Parsley of Cleburne, also members of the North Texas club.

They bought this one, a yellow 1965 model, in 1998. But they have another Greenbrier and a Corvan at home, they said.

And one of the best-looking cars at the event was a yellow 1965 convertible driven in by Alan and Dee Kress of Thrall, who are members of Corvair Houston, the club that sponsored this year's Heart of Texas event.

After a Saturday morning drive to a barbecue lunch at the Lost Maple General Store in Vanderpool, and a return run to Kerrville with a stop at Stonehenge II near Hunt, the group gathered around the Kerr County Courthouse for a public display of their cars for the rest of the afternoon. A banquet followed Saturday night.

For more information about Corvairs, visit the Corvair Society of America Web site at www.corvair.org or the local club's site at www.alamocitycorvair.org.

Ed. Note: G.Chambers Williams III is a noted automotive columnist in Texas. He writes for the San Antonio Express News and the Ft. Worth Star Telegram (possibly others). He is also an avid Corvair collector, owning at least two right now, and looking for a Greenbrier, the vehicle he learned to drive in. I know this article has little to do with FC's, but a whole lot to do with promoting the Corvair hobby. I hope you enjoyed it. His columns, many mentioning the Corvair, can be found online through the San Anto-

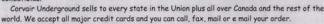
ANTICS 5



CORVAIR PARTS!

Since 1974 Corvair Underground has been selling parts and services to the Corvair community!

We offer new, used, rebuilt, NOS and reproduced parts as well as toy cars and collectibles.



Our giant 300 page mail order catalog. The Corvair Book, is just \$6.00 postpaid (USA). You can also get a subscription to our newsletter, The Corvair News, free. All we need is your name and address. Also, don't forget our online website www.corvairunderground.com. There you'll find our newsletter online, our GoVair performance and custom site and a

Find out why so many of your fellow Corvair owners save time, effort and especially money at CORVAIR UNDERGROUND Inc. PO Box 339 Dundee, OR 97115

CORVAIR UNDERGROUND Inc. PO Box 339 Dundee, OR 97115 503-434-1648 800-825-8247 Fax 503-434-1626

Your Corvair Parts Supplier for the 21st Century!



TECH TOPICS

FROM THE CORVANATICS BB

FUEL PUMP PREP

When installing a new fuel pump I always put it in a vise (carefully) loosen the screws, and hold the plunger full in then retighten them with diaphragm tight (post up as far as it goes). I have not had failure of new pumps yet. Napa had some bad ones a few years ago, but I think it was because the screws were tightened with no tension on the diaphragm, then it is too tight on upstroke. Maybe its just my good luck, or maybe skill, but an old timer taught me that one many years ago on other types of pumps.

Tim Colson

A QUESTION ON TIRES

Western Canada CORSA wrote:

A quick check of my Corvair Basics Manual tells me I need a 205/75R14 to put some new shoes on the soon-to-be-mine Rampside. The question is though, will a passenger car tire in that size do, or do they have to be a Light Truck Tire?

Regards, Joel

AND THE ANSWER IS..

All P205/75-14 are rated at 95 or 1,535 lbs load at 34 PSI or 44 PSI. For trucks and SUV you are not supposed to exceed the 90% rating of the tire or 1381 lbs. The max load of the FC is 4,600 lbs (according to the shop manual and data plate) or 1,150 per tire. Thus any tire of that size is fine. You need to run about 25 PSI all around for no load and go up to 30 PSI for the loaded truck (1885 lbs). For the tires that require 44 PSI for the rated load, the figures would be 30/37. There is no need for a LT tire or Euro-metric tire.

Jim Davis



6 CORVAN



WANTED - - Later version FC floor shifter box. I have a '61 Rampside with the crooked shifter under the front end. I want to put in a unit that will let me shift through my new 'holey' gas tank I will have to weld in the appropriate section of the floor to receive the new box, so please include that floor section, for me.

Fran Schmit 952-929-9174 schmfran@juno.com

FOR SALE

1961 Loadside, very nice, runs well, new paint (red/white) in 2003. New tires on alum. Wheels. \$6500 or would consider trade for nice late coupe or convt. Dorsey Gilliam 740-881-4410, Delaware Ohio Gilliam@acc.met.com

FOR SALE

Used but good parts:

License lamp lens, dirty but not cracked or broken, fits 64-65 FC #384887, Group 2.709 \$5.00 Chrome FC horn button, minor pitting \$5.00 Clutch cable (from 1962 model) \$10.00 Accelerator cable (from 1962 model) \$10.00 All plus postage

Marsh Hessler 970-586-8081

P.O. Box 872 Estes Park, CO. 80517

FOR SALE

A second owner 1963 Greenbrier titled as a '61, fairly strong car engine, powerglide, new tires, new (amateur) paint job (white w/red, two seats, some deluxe options such as windshield washer nozzle, supposedly 18,345 original miles...nice tight ride except that it kept stalling when I would try to pull out. The owner admits that it needs some work, but I would say it is a prime candidate for a resto or driver. Oh, and one more thing: orange shag carpet as far as the eye can see. I'll leave that to your imagination. It is located in Southern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, phone number is 717-284-4355. He said he is asking around \$1000. Contributed by Ben Stiles

FOR SALE

35 Years of Corvair Parts, NOS-New -Used Car and Van parts. Too many to list. Call or write with needs Frank Justavick 496 Nancy Dr. Berea, OH 44017-1619 PH: 440-243-4115

AMBLEWAGON ANYONE?

I have read in the "Forward Control Corvair Primer" that only 3 Corvair AmbleWagon Greenbriers are known to exist. I have also observed the 2001: A Corvair Odyssey page with a Corvair Amblewagon photo and text stating that only three units were built by the Automotive Conversion Corporation. I question that only three were built because I acquired two of the Amblewagons from Eagle's collection after he passed away. My operational Amblewagon has only 8,000 original miles on it and runs like new. The original wide white wall tires should be replaced before I make any long trips. The second Amblewagon that I own has 52,000 miles on it and needs restoration. Please inform me where I can find other Amblewagon owners and articles that have been written about these unique vehicles. Thank you.

Dick M. Schoen 651-646-7539 dmschoen2@msn.com

FOR SALE

1964 Corvan, new tires and battery, fair condition, original engine, 3 spd. Trans. Will run.—\$1000.00 95hp engine \$250.00 140hp engine \$350.00 Francis Tanner 3320 S.E. 24th St. Del City, OK 73115 405-677-1935

WANTED

Front Bucket seats for 1964 Greenbrier Francis Tanner (see above)

FOR SALE

1961 Rampside, PG with '66 110hp engine (rebuilt by Woody Thomas). Blue/white, runs well, no rust. Owned 24 years. Asking \$6500.00 Ricky Meals Clarksville, TX. 903-427-3390

FOR SALE

1961 Rampside, restored to approx. level 3. Fully driveable, fully worked over, new suspension, brakes excellent, push rod job recently done. Shoulder belts, new stereo, fuzzies, and weatherstripping. New paint within last year. Must sell, not as young as I used to be. Asking \$11,500.00.

Faith Schexnayder 512-448-2256 schex@austin.rr.com

FOR SALE

1961 Rampside, white, MT needs windshield and back glass. Needs body work, EM non-original engine. Has not run in years—will need everything. Project/parts. Located in Brown county (approx 150 miles from D/FW TX).

Lowell Windahl 817-306-9593 lwindahl@aol.com

ANTICS 7



















FAMILY ALL-PURPOSE
Got lots of kids? Need a wagon to take the family places?
And want it with room inside to carry things as well? Look
no farther than a 1965 Greenbrier.

CAMPER EXTRAORDINAIRE
Travel bug bit you but tenting-out problems keeping you at
home? Then look into a camper-equipped Greenbrier. Just
about all the comforts of home.

MOBILE OFFICE
Do a lot of jobs on the go and need a versatile, roomy, mobile office? How about ordering a Greenbrier with a built-in table? Go from site to site in comfort.

BUSINESS CARRIER
Up to nine people can ride in foam-cushioned chair-high
comfort in a '65 Greenbrier. For small businesses, hospitals
and other firms requiring a passenger carrier, this is it.

PASSENGER BUS

Not much room left in ordinary vehicles when you load 'em up with nine people. With Greenbrier, there's more room behind the third seat to fit plenty of luggage.

LOAD CARRIER
Greenbrier does beautiful trucking duty. Standard tires carry generous payload; specify the heavy-duty tires for maximum payload capacity.

OFF-ROAD DANDY

Just point your Greenbrier where you want to go, right up to your job. Superb rear-engine traction and 4-wheel independent suspension should get you there in style and comfort.

BUSINESS DELIVERY
Those wide-opening side and rear double doors (even left-hand side doors can be ordered) make deliveries an easy proposition.
Greenbrier's easy ride protects cargo, too.

SPECIALIZED DUTY
Bands to bashes, surfers to beach—you name it and Greenbrier
will swallow up the unusual things you want to take in
cavernous fashion. Got the idea now?

Covered in the illustrations and descriptions in this catalog are some of the extra-cost Options and Custom Features for Greenbrier. A more complete list appears on the back cover

CORVANANTICS 5000 Cascabel Road Atascadero, Ca. 93422-2302



