

Corvan Antics

Celebrating our 41st year.

May/June 2013
Volume 41 Issue 3

Founded in 1972 by Ken Wilhite



The Bi-monthly Newsletter of the

Corvanatics

The Forward Control Corvair People



Riding with the President

by John Nickel

Seems like when spring comes things just keep moving faster and faster! First, I'd like to apologize for breaking the news of the date change for the CorSA 2014 Convention in Tacoma 2014. It so happens that on April 1st, the host hotel, [Hotel Murano](#), contacted CORSA, asking if we would be willing to change our dates! It wasn't an April fool's joke either. They found that there was a conflict with our dates and another large activity scheduled at the same time. We had signed the contract with them, which they said they would honor. They offered to give CORSA an additional amount in rebates along with some other benefits if we would re-negotiate the contract. After checking with the LeMay Museum to see if they would be able to adjust their dates, we accepted their proposal. The new final-final dates are July 21-25, 2014. Work is still continuing on the convention and so far things are beginning to come together.



Just a reminder to Corvanatics members: The annual meeting at Kalamazoo is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday evening the 17th of July. We will be talking about our convention in Tacoma, WA next year and will be making an appeal for help. We will also be holding our board elections as usual. If you would like to volunteer for one of the positions, please let us know.

Speaking of Kalamazoo, the hosting chapter, West Michigan Corvair Club, is asking for help for the 2013 Convention. Lend a hand if you can, next year we may be asking for volunteers. See page 6 for more information.

I am sure all of you have read and enjoyed the May *Communiqué* and the articles featuring survivor Corvairs. Mike McGowan, the *Communiqué's* executive editor, has proposed to Corvanatics that we put together articles for another feature issue on Corvans, Rampsides, Loadsides and Greenbriers. Now is the time to show the Corvair family our love for FC's! If you would like to submit an article on your experiences with them, please do so. They can be submitted to the *Communiqué's* feature editor tkalp@cox.net or Gary Moore, our editor, CorvanAntics@gmail.com. If you have questions about how to submit an article or pictures, ask the same guys. Once sorted, the pictures and articles will be sent on to Mike McGowan for final editing. Lots of pictures would be great as well. Think about why you have that Rampside (or other FC) and how you got it, what you did or didn't have to do to it and how you did it. We can use this feature issue to further interest in the 2014 convention as well. Time to get writing, but don't worry If you aren't a writer, Mike will edit your article so that it will flow with the eloquence of a Pulitzer Prize winner! I hope to see you all in Kalamazoo.

John Nickel
President



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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 the preservation and enjoyment of America's most original and innovative small vans and light trucks, the Chevrolet Corvair 95 Series.

Corvanatics is open to any **CORSA member** with an interest in Forward Control Corvairs. Dues are \$10.00 per year and must be sent to the Secretary/ Treasurer accompanied by a membership application. See directory on this page for address. Applications available on website or from Secretary/Treasurer.

Stories, articles, photos, memorabilia, or any other item for publication should be sent to the editor. All of these can also be sent by email to: **CorvanAntics@gmail.com**. Technical material will be sent to the Technical Editor for review. Authors are also asked to submit a photograph of themselves for the article.

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/

Corvanatics Merchandise

Item	pdf *	mail
Corvanatics Roster*	free	\$2.00
3 Booklet Set:		
• Paint Codes (Includes cars through 64)		
• Prices and Options		
• Paint and Trim Combinations	free	\$5.00
PowerGlide Transmissions by Bob Ballew	free	\$10.00
Differential Booklet	free	\$5.00
Corvanatics Patches	N/A	\$2.50
Corvanatic Decals	N/A	\$2.00

Corvanatics **Convanatics@gmail.com**
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Membership and Merchandise payments can be made through **PayPal**
*roster only available to current members. **Convanatics@gmail.com**

*Download from Corvanatics website
www.corvair.org/chapters/corvanatics/

Article Submissions:

Have a FC story, an article on a local event or tech tip you would like to share? Please email the articles to CorvanAntics@gmail.com.

Text in Word documents preferred, please send photos separate in .jpg format. Hardcopy stories by mail are accepted, but must be typed or legible, send copies of photos not originals.



From the Secretary

Hi all,

Spring is here and it's time to get those FCs out and drive them. I'm still waiting for my Rampside to move up on hubby's project list. Unfortunately, it's getting left south for now. Which brings me to an important item. Chris and I are working on a move from Georgia to our place in Michigan, which means a lot of trips back and forth for the next year.

This will create times when **I will not be able to check the mailbox daily** for dues and especially for orders for patches, window stickers, booklets/brochures, etc. PLEASE, if you want any of those items, **email or call me** (leave a message as my phone messages are emailed and text to me). I will have the merchandise with me and will be able to mail them off from where ever I am at the time. Also, remember the booklets are all available on PDF and can be emailed.

I just want everyone to understand that I will not see a mailed request for a month or more at a time and I do not want someone to have to wait. Working it this way, will help me continue to provide good service to you as Secretary/Treasurer during this transition. Your cooperation on this will help me satisfy everyone and get us moved, too.

Speaking of patches, we received a new order and they are really nice and sure would look great on your jackets, shirts, or hats. Unfortunately, with a new order, came a price increase. The patches are now \$2.50, but the window stickers continue to be \$2.00.

Again, we received a donation. This time from Jeff Kent. As with the other one, the money will be used towards the 2014 CORSA Convention that Corvanatics is hosting in Tacoma.

WELCOME !!

Again, we have a few new members since our last newsletter.

Jimmy Harris	TN	1964 Eight Door "Corvan"
Matthew Dixon	FL	1963 Corvair 95 "Corvan"
Daniel Vallée	Quebec	looking for a PG Rampside

Please encourage any FC owner you see or communicate with to join Corvanatics.

Editors note: It is very hard for us to keep track of all Corvanatics members. If you know of a member or ex-member who has passed please let either Molly or I know. We would like to acknowledge their passing. Our email addresses, mailing addresses and phone numbers are on page 2.



Dues Owed

Last Chance

We still have a couple people on the last chance list. This list is folks who are seriously overdue. If you are on it, this is your last newsletter unless you pay your dues. There is no penalty. Please pay up so this list goes away.

Jon Jantz	Oct, 2012
Jim Patterson	Nov, 2012

Overdue

Due from the first part of this year. Second reminder.

Lee Cramp	Feb, 2013	Thomas O'Leary	Mar. 2013
John Mellies	Mar. 2013	JC Ash	Mar. 2013
Ray Davis	Mar. 2013	Michael Burgio	Mar. 2013
Sterling Winings	Mar. 2013	Les Curtner	Apr, 2013
William Meglen	Mar. 2013	Darren Pralle	Apr, 2013
Jeff Stonesifer	Mar. 2013		

Currently Coming Due

Due May and June. First notification.

Timothy Palmer	May 2013	Bill Fenemore	May 2013
Lee Richardson	May 2013	M. Alexander	May 2013
Bill Prichard	May 2013	Harold Dexter	June 2013
Tim Shortie	May 2013	James Nicklas	June 2013
James Law	May 2013	John Howell Jr	June 2013
Fran Schmit	May 2013	Thomas Robinson	June 2013

Remember, your dues can be paid for more than one year at a time.

I will continue to send dues reminders with both emails and postcards to help remind members about paying their dues. Mailed newsletters labels include renewal dates, if your date is in highlighted it is past due or due before the next issue. Do remember, sometimes my reminder and your payment can pass each other up, especially using "snail" mail, especially now with my traveling.

**Thanks,
Molly Bacon**

Progress Report 1962 Rampside

by David Brown

Here's "before & after" pictures of my 62 Rampside, that I'm in the process of saving. It has come a long ways, but obviously still quite a bit to go. I rescued it from an open/covered barn, where it had been sitting for 20 (plus?) years. Prior to that it was predominantly a Houston truck.

It has a great body that is very rust free. As in most, it had a small amount of rust under the battery that is already repaired. It had the ever popular rust repair, of a deftly installed license plate covering a small hole on the driver's side floor. This will be a working 'country' truck, so I don't plan on a perfect restoration on the first time around.

Mike Tidwell, in Houston, is finishing off a rebuild of its original 80hp motor to mate up to the 4-speed transmission, which should make this a very reliable truck for many years to come.

I was able to acquire from Mike, a very nice original late model 'hole-thru-the-middle' gas tank and all the late shifting links, shafts, etc., so I will update it to the late shifter as well. The front end has been cleaned & repaired & everything underneath has been checked & replaced as needed, including new brake & fuel lines that I made myself.



Waiting patiently for over 20 years this 1962 Rampside was rescued by David Brown of Wimberly TX.



The Rampside safely home and cleaned out.

One current problem is trying to rescue a set of 80hp heads to use on my engine. I removed another 80hp engine from a parts Rampside, but as the picture shows, there was a nice multi-generational mouse/rats nest under the shroud. I am told that the urine from those dwellers helped to 'weld' the heads to the cylinders. After several months of soaking with penetrating oil, I pounded several wooden 2 x 4 blocks into obliteration with a 4 lb. sledgehammer in an effort to remove the heads, but no luck. The heads are not hard to find, so I may bite the cheap bullet and send this engine to the scrap yard! At any rate, if work allows, I plan to have this Rampside on the road before the end of this year. Once running and useful, I'll then start on the body.



Rat's nests and make shift floor panels, just a couple of the usual problems encountered by Dave.

Wanted: A left and right hand original FC original door mirror and bracket. These are the small brackets and round mirrors painted the color of the FC. I know some members must have some laying around on a shelf or in a box somewhere, seems like most people took them off and replaced them with the larger 'West Coast' style mirrors. Any condition will be considered. Thanks

John Howell, Lenoir City, Tennessee UV417@0306.org or (865) 986-8898



Our 40th Year!

Get the New 2013-2018

Catalog

When you place your first order over \$40.00 you get a FREE Catalog as a 40th Anniversary

Thank You

March 1 - December 24, 2013

Thank You

(additional catalogs \$3 with an order)

The new Catalog includes parts from the last 5 Supplements as well as 100's of improvements (including better descriptions, more photos & new charts). Changes / additions to over 70% of the pages.

This is our most major revision ever.

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CORSA International Convention

JULY 16-19, 2013 • WEST MICHIGAN CORVAIR CLUB • KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

The Annual Corvanatics Meeting is scheduled for 8.30 till 10pm Wednesday July 17, 2013 at the CorSA National Convention in Kalamazoo.

We hope to see a large Convanatics turn out. Don't miss "A Vairiation in Kalamazoo".

West Michigan Corvair Club asks for Volunteers

One thing is certain about a CORSA Convention - you can expect good times with good friends and a good dose of camaraderie among fellow Corvair enthusiasts. There are a lot of events and activities packed into a fairly short period of time and all of them take a significant number people to run smoothly.

We need volunteers! Assistance from you and your club members would be greatly appreciated. Would you be willing to put out a plea for help to your members? Attached are two clipart that you can use in your member newsletter. An email campaign to your members would also be helpful. We created an electronic Volunteer Sign-up Page to make it easy for everyone to select a time-slot or two at an event or function that interests you:

www.vairiation2013.com

Note from editor: What comes around goes around, the Corvanatics will be hosting next years convention. Volunteering will give us experience for our convention and helps out West Michigan at the same time.

HOT FCs at the Heart of Texas

The CORSA chapters centered in Dallas-Ft. Worth, Austin, San Antonio, and Houston take turns hosting a Corvair weekend we call "HOT" – Heart of Texas. Typically we have visitors from the adjacent states of Oklahoma and Louisiana, but this year they came from as far away as Colorado, Kansas and Missouri. Corvair Houston was this year's host and produced a positively inspired weekend. The site was La Torretta Resort and Spa in Montgomery, Texas on Lake Conroe. The event featured a concours and economy run, plus some of the most unbelievable sight seeing activities imaginable.

Clay Wispell

North Texas Corvair Association

Host of 2014 H.O.T in Johnson City, TX



Steve Kirkton, NTCA, with his 1965 Greenbrier, a CorSA Senior Division Concours van and Best FC at the 2013 HOT. The only way to improve the looks of this van would be to put Corvanatics sticker on it.



Photos sent in by ClayWispell





Tim McCann sends in photos of his modified 1961 Rampside, first photo from the County Fair Celebration in La Crescenta CA. parked next to a very nice 1965. The second photo is from an Earth Day event with several Nissan Leaf and Chevy Volt owners admiring his Rampside. Yes that box in the back is the battery pack for the electric motor. For more info: <http://www.evalbum.com/656>



Eric Prorise's '61 Rustside hauling a 1949ish GE Keg fridge!

Around Town



Clay Wispell sent in this photo of a mysterious FC camper from the Heart of Texas. Does anyone know who it belongs to?



Chris Brown, husband of Secretary/ Treasurer Molly Bacon, shakes hands with President Jimmy Carter at the Plains GA Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show. Molly wrote:

Chris and I went to a car show Plains, Georgia. Former president Jimmy Carter comes each year and picks his choice. Though 88 years old, he strolled around and looked at each car. Chris was able to catch him and I snapped a picture of them in front of our Lakewood. I think it was better than a trophy, which of course, we did NOT win. Neither of us have even seen a president (current or former) let alone talk to him and shake his hand.

Our Website

First a little about our webmaster Dr. Steven Spilatro. Steve is your usual Corvanatic, he has a Ph.D in Biology. He teaches cell biology, Microbiology and Immunology at Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. He is actively developing new interactive web-based educational tools, using new technology in classes and labs.

It says a lot more on his bio page but nowhere does it mention the ongoing restoration of his Greenbrier. With all his other accomplishments there probably wasn't enough room. We are very lucky to have such a talented member as our webmaster.

If you haven't visited the Corvanatics website lately you are missing a lot. Steve recently added some documents that were only available by mail, from our merchandise section of this newsletter.

The documents are on the *Resources* page and include a 3-booklet set containing paint codes, price and options, and Paint and trim combinations, PowerGlide Transmissions by Bob Ballew, and the Differential Booklet are in the manuals section. Did I mention the download is free?

The website consist of 8 separate pages, each page is accessible from the others.

The *Home* page contains history of the club and our mission statement. A slideshow containing several photos sent in by members runs on this page. Not free hard copies of documents are still available by mail.

The *About* page is split into two sections, the first is about our Corvaair 95s, the second is about other FCs of the sixties. VW, Jeep, Ford and Dodge also made forward control vehicles in various models.

The *Membership* page has a membership form for new members and can be used by renewing members. It is an easy way to update your information. Also on the membership page is a section for registration of the most rare of the Corvaair 95s, the 1962 Loadside, 1964 Rampside and 1965 Greenbrier.

The *Newsletter* page has a searchable archive of nearly every *Corvan Antics* newsletter published. Only the most recent are held back.

The *Photo Gallery* features FCs at local, regional and national events. Your FC may be there.

The *Links* page contains links to other Corvaair 95 sites, Corvaair sites, Venders and service people, Ultra Van club, Jay Leno, and TV commercials that advertise or use the FC.

So head on over to the website, just give yourself some time to browse. www.corvaair.org/chapters/corvanatics/



Corvanatics

Dedicated to the preservation of Corvaair 95 light trucks and vans

Corvanatics Home



Corvanatics to host the 2014 CORSA International Convention - more [here](#)



Home



About



Membership



Newsletter



Gallery



Resources



Links



More...

The Corvanatics chapter of the Corvaair Society of America advances preservation, restoration and enjoyment of Corvaair Forward Control (FC) vehicles. While anticipating in size current minivans and small pickups, the Corvaair FCs are prized by enthusiasts for their distinctive styling and design features. Corvaair FCs rolled off the assembly line from 1961 to 1965, with a total production of 127,221 vehicles. Also known as the Corvaair 95 (for its 95-inch wheelbase), the Corvaair FC was powered with a rear engine and had a swing axle rear suspension like the more familiar Corvaair coupe. The line featured several models, including the corvan panel van, greenbrier recreational sportswagon, and the rampside and loadside pickup trucks. Special models included 8-door models with intermediate doors on both the driver and passenger sides, and units with a camper conversion.



Corvanatics was founded in 1972 by Kenneth T. Wilhite, Jr., with an initial membership of 17. The club has flourished since that time with membership rising to over three hundred. According to the founder, the name Corvanatics came to him after being described as a "Corvaair Fanatic". The club newsletter *Corvan Antics* has been published in several issues each year since that time.

[Home](#) - [About](#) - [Membership](#) - [Newsletter](#) - [Links](#) - [Contact](#)



A chapter of the Corvaair Society of America since 1972



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Myrtle Beach 2013 Spring Warm Up

by Molly Brown

Spring Warm-up in Myrtle Beach, SC was held on March 8-9, 2013 at the Sea Mist Resort (what a great place). The morning started out rather cold, but was sunny and warmed into the low 60s by the afternoon. Approximately 40 Corvairs were on display to include four FCs. Paul Broyles had his 61 Rampside, Dante Bernardini, his 64 Greenbrier, Earl Jones, his 62 Greenbrier, and James Carrington who now owns the late Charles West's 64 Greenbrier. Just a note that your secretary made it a grand total of 80 miles before our 61 Lakewood just quit and then took a nice flatbed ride home. Need to work a little harder on getting the Rampside drivable instead.



James Carrington 1964 Greenbrier



Paul Broyles 1961 Rampside



Earl Jones 1962 Greenbrier



Dante Bernaldini 1961 Greenbrier



Harold Parkey 1964 Rampside



Barry Devore 1963 Rampside



Ted Worley 1961 Rampside



Donnie Bird 1963 Corvan



Dante Bernaldini 1961 Greenbrier



Brian Tucker 1964 Greenbrier

SPRING FESTIVAL IN HELEN GA.

We, my wife Nikki, our daughter Adreanna and me, left Pelzer, SC 6am Friday made our way over to Helen, GA in our 1964 Greenbrier. At Clarksville, GA right outside of Helen, the rain started coming down and continued on and off until 3pm, which is when the autocross began on a wet track. After the autocross, the Valve Cover Race took place. The swap meet was held in the festival hall with quite a few venders selling everything from seals to engines and everything in between. Friday there were not many people, cars, or venders, but Saturday was a different story. We woke up Saturday to beautiful skies, but cold temperatures. The car show was a big hit, with both lots were full of Corvairs. FC's were represented well with 3 vans and 3 trucks.

When we started home after picking up a roof rack from my dad, I felt a pop from the clutch after making it up the steep hill out of the Super 8. We pulled over in a parking lot outside of a tattoo shop. The housing had broken at the transmission crossmember. After an hour of pulling it apart, figuring out the roadside repair, 3 hose clamps later we were back on the road for an uneventful ride home. It was a great show and looking forward to next year!

Brian Tucker

Dean Gemberling despite being under the weather also got some great photos from the event. To see his photos go to: <http://s1126.photobucket.com/user/ihscomputers/library/Springfest%202013>



2013 Heart of Texas at La Torretta Resort and Spa in Montgomery, Texas on Lake Conroe. With the FCs up front.

CorvanAntics

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