



the fifth wheel

JUNE 2011

[HTTP://WWW.CORVAIR.ORG/CHAPTERS/LVCC](http://www.corvair.org/chapters/lvcc)

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Corvair Club Road Trip!

Join Lehigh Valley Corvair Club, Philadelphia Corvair Association, and the New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts for a trip to the America on Wheels Museum in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, June 12. Why? Because there is a direct Corvair connection.

The AoW museum is a terrific facility, with well-presented displays in an architecturally interesting building. Feature displays change regularly, meaning that return visits always offer something fresh.

And beginning this month, a special exhibit marking 100 Years of Chevrolet is opening. This exhibit will be on display through March of next year, and it includes, very appropriately, a Corvair. But not just any Corvair. The Corvair is a 1960 Monza coupe owned by Larry Asheuer of the Philadelphia Corvair Association.

Larry Asheuer has expended considerable effort preparing the car for inclusion in this display, and the Philly club is making a day of it on June 12, too. So we can expect a good number of Corvair friends to be on hand.

The museum is located at 5 North Front Street, Allentown, PA 18102.

That's near the Lehigh River, where Hamilton Street meets Front Street, and there is parking alongside the building. Museum admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for seniors (62+). Students (age 6-16) are \$3.50 and children 5 & under are admitted free.

So plan to join us (and our friends from our neighboring Corvair clubs) on Sunday, June 12. America on Wheels Museum, 5 North Front Street, Allentown, PA 18102. The suggested arrival time is 12 Noon.

Acknowledgement: Our editors thank Bob Marlow of NJACE for preparing this article and sharing it with us.



The Fifth Wheel is published monthly by the Lehigh Valley Corvair Club (LVCC), Inc. We accept articles of interest to Corvair owners for publication. Classified advertising of interest to Corvair owners is available free of charge to all persons. Commercial advertising is also available on a fee basis. Please contact our newsletter editors, Wesley Weiss and Allan Lacki, for details.

LVCC is one of the many regional chapters of the Corvair Society of America (CORSAs), a non-profit organization that was incorporated to satisfy the common needs of individuals interested in the preservation, restoration, and operation of the Chevrolet Corvair. LVCC caters to Corvair people who live in and around the Lehigh Valley Region of eastern Pennsylvania. This is a very special car club! LVCC dues are \$10 a year for CORSAs members or \$15 a year for non-CORSAs members.

CHARLIE FRIEND'S CORVAIR AND OPEN ROAD RACING



World's Fastest Corvair.

In May 2011, at the Nevada Open Road Race Challenge, Charlie Friend of Alamogordo, New Mexico blew through the high-speed timing lights at 200.2 miles per hour in his 1965 Corvair. Not fast enough for ya? Well, the year before, he was timed at 205.7 miles per hour. Charlie has been doing this event in his Corvair since Year 2000.

The Nevada Open Road Race Challenge is one of at least three wicked high speed open road races held in the United States, the other two being the Silver State Classic Challenge (also held in Nevada) and the Big Bend Open Road Race, which is held in Texas. And Charlie is a frequent participant in all three of them, often winning the top classes in each event.

Oh, it hasn't been easy. Charlie is on his second Corvair right now. Back in 2004, he smushed his first Corvair up into a ball when one of the front tires blew at 165 MPH. But he walked away from the accident and built another one. And now he's faster than ever.

Charlie's Corvair.

Back in 2005, Charlie wrote an email describing his car. "It is pretty much of a silhouette car. I have a late model coupe that I have "slightly modified" over the years. It has a 400 cubic inch small block Chevy in the back seat running thru a Porsche 930 transaxle. It has '94 Corvette suspension and brakes, front and rear, as well as steering (with no power assist). It runs Corvette wheels and tires: 17x9.5 with 275/40ZR17 tires front and 17x11 with 315/35ZR17 tires rear. The top has been slightly chopped and it runs a front air dam and a rear spoiler. The interior has been gutted and it has a full cage, aluminum racing

seat, five point harness, a 20 gallon fuel cell, and a fire suppression system. All that is left of the Corvair is the modified body. It is licensed for the street but is used primarily for Open Road Racing and some autocross. The Corvair body makes a good platform for a mid-engined low buck "supercar" since it is fairly aerodynamic and has a small frontal area."

Open Road Racing.

An open road racing event like the Nevada Open Road Race Challenge can really be defined as a high-speed rally. They are point-to-point excursions are driven on state highways that are closed to the public by the police for the duration of the event. The word rally brings to mind the concept of an average speed for a measured distance to be run within a specific elapsed time, and that is true of these events as well. To be among the top runners then, is to have a working knowledge of Time, Speed, and Distance. Unless you run a car in the Unlimited class, (as Charlie often does), your objective, is to arrive at the finish line at the exact minute, second, and hundredth of a second to win your class.

The selected highways have long straights, twisty sections, and dips, which for the faster participants, may result in an airborne experience. The cars are run in classes at five mile per





hour increments, from 95 mph to 180 mph, with the class determined by the vehicle's safety equipment, the driver's experience level and the driver/navigator comfort level. There is also an Unlimited Division for very experienced drivers with full race-equipped cars.

Vehicles are started at one minute intervals and 30 second intervals, beginning with the 150 mph class and working back to the 95 mph class. Once the last 95 mph class vehicle clears the course, the Unlimited Division and the higher speed brackets over 150 are run as the final group.

For new runners of the event, the requirement for pinpoint accuracy can be somewhat of a challenge. How on earth do you blast off from the start line, run 90 miles through the desert valleys and canyons to arrive on the finish line at the exact second of a specific time interval? Speedometers? The tires grow at high speeds and so the accuracy of the speedometers and odometers is not good enough. Of course, drivers have the option to drive the route prior to the event, but practice runs at illegal speeds are a very bad idea because to get a speeding ticket during the month of the event is to guarantee disqualification by the sponsors!

Qualifying for the Run.

Yes, you too can participate in one of these open road race challenges! From Big Bend Open Road Race website, we find that this event is open to anyone 18

years of age or over and just about any type of 4 wheeled vehicle. "We have had everything from vintage to 18 wheeler tractors to dwarf cars, to just about every production marque ever made." Many of the participants have no other competitive driving experience. The entry fees range from \$495 for Touring Division to \$780 for Unlimited. There is an additional \$150 charge for a navigator and \$250 for running the open practice session. First time participants are required to attend a qualifying session which costs an additional \$250. And as you might expect, all cars must conform to a wide array of safety rules and pass rigorous a tech inspection.

The next big open road racing event is the 2011 Silver State Classic Challenge. It will be held on the days of September 15 though 18. Ya 'wanna go?

<http://www.sccc.us/>
<http://www.bborr.com/>

LVCC MEETING NOTES

LVCC held its regular monthly meeting on May 25, 2011. Vice President Dennis Stamm chaired the meeting. Attendees also included Allan Lacki, Jerry Moyer, and Dick Weidner.

Secretary & Treasurer's Reports: Dick Weidner read the minutes from the last meeting and presented the club treasury report. At the beginning of the current period, LVCC's starting balance for its checking account was \$1,456.74. The club collected \$35 in dues and spent \$38.82 for newsletter and postage expenses. LVCC's ending balance for the checking account is now \$1,452.92.

News and Upcoming Events: Dennis Stamm distributed copies of flyers advertising the upcoming GM Nationals show at Carlisle and the America on

Wheels Chevy Cruise to the PNC Center in Bethlehem. For more information, please refer to the LVCC Calendar of Events in this issue of the Fifth Wheel.

Dick Weidner discussed his trip to the big Corvair Springfest event which was held in Helen, GA on the weekend of April 29-30. Sponsored by Corvair Atlanta, Heart of Georgia Corvairs, and the Queen City Corvair Club, this event featured a hospitality gathering, go-cart races, 50/50 drawing, valve cover races, concours show, peoples choice show, vendors, children & ladies activities, a mountain drive, an awards banquet, and more. Former LVCC members Jerry and Kathy Lopez were in attendance. Dick reported that Jerry and Kathy are doing well and that Jerry ran his Fitch Sprint in the autocross event.

Show and Tell: We had three show-and-tell sessions at our May meeting. Dennis Stamm brought his suspension alignment tools and demonstrated them in the LANTA parking lot for us. These are hand tools manufactured many years ago for setting camber and toe-in. Dennis showed us how easy they are to use for setting up the suspension on a Corvair.

While we in the parking lot, Dick Weidner showed us the modifications he made on his 1964 air-conditioned coupe. Those of you who are familiar with air-conditioned Corvairs will remember that Chevy mounted the A/C condenser right on top of the engine on Corvairs manufactured between 1962 and 1965, making it difficult to access the carbs, sparkplugs, and fan belts. Dick solved this problem by hanging the condenser on the inside of the engine lid instead so that, when the lid is opened, the condenser swings up with it, out of the way. All of the condenser shrouding remains intact so that, when the engine lid is closed, the shrouds line up with the engine fan, just like the factory-original installation. Very creative!

Back in the meeting room, Dick Weidner passed around a pair of governor units taken from Corvair Powerglide transmissions. He told us how the governors function and pointed out the wear points that cause the governors to shift the transmission erratically when they are too far gone.

For those of you who want to know more about Corvair Powerglides, Dick suggests that you purchase a copy of "Powerglide Transmissions. More Than You Ever Wanted to Know" by Bob Ballew. This publication is available from the CORSA Corvanatics group. It describes the internal workings of Corvair Powerglides and provides far more practical tips for rebuilding Powerglides than any factory manual.

Deer and Snake Stories: Now that it's Spring time, the woodland creatures are getting frisky! Jerry Moyer and Dennis Stamm traded stories about deer-car accidents. Both of them have had unusual encounters where the deer ran into the cars instead of vice-versa! Luckily, no Corvairs were damaged...

Dennis told a hilarious story about the time he surprised a rattlesnake while working on the underside of a old Jeep. Apparently, the snake had taken up residence in the shift linkage. Naturally, Dennis skedaddled out from underneath as soon as possible, but he remained undeterred from fixing the Jeep. After he and his buddy tried every means possible to scare the venomous viper away, Dennis took out his trusty shotgun, poked it through the window, and blew a hole in the floorboard by the shift lever. Snake dead. Problem solved!

Next LVCC Meeting. It's In August!

Date: Sunday, August 7, 2011 at 1:00 PM.

Place: LVCC Tent at Das Awkscht Fescht
Macungie Memorial Park,
Macungie, PA 18062

Next Meeting. The attendees made a command decision to go to a summer-time meeting schedule. No business meetings will be held in June or July. Our next meeting will occur at the LVCC tent at the Das Awkscht Fescht car show on Sunday, August 7. Das Awkscht Fescht will be held at Macungie Memorial Park in Macungie, PA.

DUES DUE IN AUGUST!

Yes, it's that time again! Secretary-Treasurer Dick Weidner will be collecting dues for the August 2011 to August 2012 timeframe at Das Awkscht Fescht. If you can't make it, then please mail your payment to Dick. His address is listed in the Membership Roster shown in this issue of the Fifth Wheel.

LVCC's annual dues remain ridiculously cheap! They are a mere \$15, but if you are also a member of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA), then you pay only \$10. To qualify for the lesser rate, please provide your CORSA membership identification number!

NECC UPDATE

Only a few more days remain before the Corvair Olympics, in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Olympics consist of three days of time trials, autocross and drag-racing.

- June 16, 2011 - Time trials at Putnam Park, Mount Meridian, IN

- June 17, 2011 - Drag racing at Muncie Dragway, Albany, IN
- June 18, 2011 - Autocross at Carbon Motors Plant, Connersville, IN

Visit www.neccmotorsports.com to register.

A number of NECC volunteers will be traveling to Sturbridge, the selected site for the 2012 CORSA Convention, to check out the host hotel and other amenities in the area. Like many villages along the I-90 corridor, Sturbridge suffered tornado damage during the violent storms of early June, but everything should be back in shape next year. LVCC is an NECC member club.

CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale: 1963 Corvair Monza convertible. White exterior with black top. Powerglide. \$1,500. Photos of this lovely car are shown right here on this page. Contact Keith Koehler. (215) 703-0644. kpissant@verizon.net



Keith Koehler's 1963 Corvair Monza is for sale!

LVCC Calendar of Events

June 12, 2011 :::: Corvair Club Road Trip to the America on Wheels Museum.

Join the Lehigh Valley Corvair Club, Philadelphia Corvair Association, and the New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts for a trip to the America on Wheels Museum in Allentown, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, June 12. The suggested arrival time is 12 Noon. Beginning this month, a special exhibit marking 100 Years of Chevrolet is opening. This exhibit will be on display through March of next year, and it includes, very appropriately, a Corvair. But not just any Corvair. The Corvair is a 1960 Monza coupe owned by Larry Asheuer of the Philadelphia Corvair Association.

June 16, 17 & 18, 2011 :::: Corvair Olympics at Indianapolis.

Corvair Olympics, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Three days of time trials, autocross and drag-racing. Visit www.neccmotorsports.com for latest information.

June 24-26, 2011 :::: All GM Nationals at Carlisle.

One of the largest and most diverse of General Motors events, with separate classes for Corvair cars and trucks! Organized by year, make and model, the show field will be loaded with top quality restored classics, original muscle cars and modified high-performance new models. Buckle up for: test drives from Chevrolet; indoor displays of concepts, customs, performance and historic vehicles; NHRA drag racing; industry guests; activities for the kids; as well as vehicle and engine giveaways. You will also find an unbelievable variety of vendors, an all-GM car corral and the Manufacturers Midway vending area. Full details at <http://www.carsatcarlisle.com/ce/events/gm-nationals/>

June 25, 2011 :::: 6th Annual AACA Museum Car Show & Flea Market.

At the AACA Museum Route, Hershey, PA. Rain or Shine. Show 8:00 am - 3:00 pm. Show is open to all pre-1984 vehicles including antiques, classics, street rods, trucks, buses, motorcycles and sports cars. Other activities will include a 50-50 Raffle, antique car rides and a be-hind the scenes look at one of the Museum's storage facilities including additional vehicles not on public display. Admission to the vehicle Storage Facility is by donation. Pre-registration \$10.00. Day of show registration \$15.00. Call Don Barlup at (717) 582-3209 or visit <http://www.aacamuseum.org/events>

July 2, 2011 :::: Chevy Cruise to PNC Plaza at SteelStacks.

America On Wheels Museum will be hosting a Chevy Cruise to PNC Plaza at SteelStacks located in Bethlehem on July 2, 2011. DEPART: America On Wheels Museum, 5 North Front Street, Allentown, PA at 10:00AM. ARRIVE: PNC Plaza at SteelStacks, 645 East First Street, Bethlehem, PA. Participant's Choice Trophy- Awarded at 3:00PM. All types of Chevy vehicles are welcome. \$5.00 Registration fee per car. This family friendly weekend will include something for everyone, all happening at the base of the iconic Bethlehem Steel Blast Furnaces which will be awash in red, white and blue lights each night. There will be free patriotic music from such groups as the Lehigh Valley Harmonizers and Roosevelt Dime, old newsreels from WWII, The Korean War and the Vietnam War, a special station for children to write letters to local heroes and a special menu with all of your picnic favorites. Details at <http://www.americaonwheels.org/events/>

July 26th-30th, 2011 :::: CORSA International Convention.

Denver, Colorado. <http://rockymountaincorsa.com/denvaireven.html>

August 5-7, 2011 :::: Das Awkscht Fescht & LVCC Meeting at Macungie.

Macungie Memorial Park, Macungie, PA 18062. Bring your Corvair to the Corvair Display with LVCC on Sunday, August 7! But you must pre-register by July 1, 2011! Full details at <http://www.awkscht.com> Information hotline: (610) 967-2317.

September 9-11, 2011 :::: Annual Corvair Camping Weekend.

At the Pioneer Campground in LaPorte, PA. Ray and Kathy Coker, Pioneer Campground's new owners, are Corvair enthusiasts. This will be their fourth annual Corvair Camping Weekend. You can visit their website at <http://www.pioneercampground.com>. Or call Ray and Kathy by phone on (570) 946-9971.



Lehigh Valley Corvair Club Membership List

NAME STREET TOWN STATE ZIP PHONE EMAIL

Sorry internet readers! We redact our members' personal information from newsletters published on the web.

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Vice President: Dennis Stamm
Secr-Treasurer: Richard Weidner
Editors: Wesley Heiss & Al Lacki

