



the fifth wheel

Winner of the 2014 CORSA Tony Fiore Newsletter Competition

MARCH 2017

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

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Next LVCC Meeting: Wednesday 03/22/2017

Time 7:30 PM. Place: Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority Headquarters (LANta), 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 1060 Lehigh Street, Allentown, PA 18103. Latitude : 40.587607 | Longitude : -75.474405. Bring a guest!

Don't get locked out. If you arrive late, the main door of the LANta office building may be locked. This is for security purposes. But the facility is open around the clock, so ask one of the garage employees to direct you to the second floor.



The Fifth Wheel is published monthly by Lehigh Valley Corvair Club Inc. (LVCC). 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. For details, email our newsletter editor, Allan Lacki, redbat01@verizon.net.

KEYSTONE CORVAIR TRAVELS (Part 1)

BY Paul Miller, Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club

Want to try something different driving your Corvair in Pennsylvania? Me too. What are the possibilities? Let's have a look:

Like heights? Go to Mt. Davis in Somerset County. At 3,213 feet it is the highest point in the state. And you can drive to the very top. Want higher? Go up the nearby fire station outlook; you'll need good legs plus your binoculars. Don't like heights? Head to the Delaware River which, at sea level, is the lowest point in the state.

Like bridges? What will be one of the longest bridges (4,545 ft) in PA upon completion is part of the CSVT (Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation) project in 2022. This standard post and beam bridge will cross the West Branch of the Susquehanna River in Union and Northumberland Counties. It spans starts at Winfield & ends at PA147 just north of Lewisburg. The bridge is currently under construction. See it while it is new.

Want still more bridges? Allegheny County has more bridges - an astounding 1,188 bridges; more than any other county. Don't like bridges? Go to Cameron County- only 68 bridges; the least number in all 67 counties. PA has 25,393 bridges 8 feet or more- plenty to drive your Corvair over.

Even though the state may be politically polarized, you and your Corvair can strike a centrist view by going to the very geographic center of Pennsylvania located in Centre County at N40 52.500, W77 48.167. It is on State Game Land 333- good luck finding it. Take hiking shoes. Do a quick check on people's political persuasion upon arrival. Good luck with that!

Want to test your Corvair's brakes? Head to Canton Ave in Pittsburgh at a very steep grade of 37% - the steepest street in PA. A close second is Dorn-

bush Street at 32% grade, also in Pittsburgh.

Want to experiment your with your 'Vair's durability? Then try State Rte 144 between Snow Shoe and South Renovo. It has the least 'human habitation' in the state. No phone signal, no people, no nuttin'. Break down at your

peril. Fortunately, this section is "only" about 30 miles long.

Perhaps even more remote is the Hammersley Wild Area; a 30,253-acre wild area in the Susquehannock State Forest in Potter and Clinton Counties in north-central PA. Although there is limited driving of the 'Vair in the forest, you



Fire station at the top of Mount Davis. Next page: Canton Ave., Pittsburgh, CSVT bridge plan, & Hammersley Wild Area entrance.



can walk. Collect your thoughts in absolute peace.

Not enough travel variety? Stay tuned for Part 2 where a discussion of other opportunities will arise. For Part 2 destinations, make sure your Corvair is "weather worthy" and you are a lonely sort of person!

STOP PESKY FUEL LEAKS

by Chris Brown of Corvanatics

The 45° are fittings used on fuel system connections work very well when they are new. However, after repeated disassembly and reassembly, the things wear and the flares become distorted.

Getting them to seal becomes increasingly more difficult. First we over tighten them. Then we resort to Teflon tape, liquid thread sealer, or even custom made rubber washers.

SAE flares are not designed to seal at the threads. Gas softens Teflon and bits and pieces can clog the fuel supply. Thread sealer can make things even more difficult to separate, if it seals. Rubber washers can soften and even dissolve if the material is not gas resistant.

There is a readily available item that will compensate for wear and allow new and used 45° fittings to seal without excessive tightening. Commonly used in air conditioning, 45° copper gaskets are available in 1/4" and 5/16" sizes to fit Corvair fuel lines. Manufactured by Parker-Hannifin, they are available from multiple vendors online. Local refrigeration or industrial suppliers may also be a source. 2GF-4 is the number for the 1/4" and 2GF-5 for the 5/16".



PRACTICAL GUIDANCE: SHOP TIPS

From a Classic Motorsports Magazine article. (Edited by Rick Norris)

Most of us Corvair guys have something we like to call a “shop” where we work on our cars. Here are a few tips with comments to make the experience better.

CAMERA Have a dedicated digital camera for taking photos during a tear-down. It’s very handy to refer to later, and it won’t matter if it gets dirty or greasy. I have a Canon S100 that works really well and has a really good macro mode. Very simple controls are perfect for garage use. An SD card can easily be transferred from camera to computer. (Ed. You can never have too many pictures! Make sure you get every angle. Also get a wide or establishing shot because an extreme close up will be hard to identify later.)

COMPUTER A retired tablet or portable computer connected to the internet is also handy for information searches. It’s amazing the amount of information out there. Once I had a problem, posted to an board late at night, and received a reply with a solution 15 minutes later.

TAPE Get some dum dum tape. It’s a butyl rubber tape often used for window installation or sealing ducts. It’s also great for removing metal shavings from various objects, especially magnetic ones. Put a tiny piece on your finger, and now you can hold that nut even upside down. Put some on the tip of a screwdriver to hold the screw when getting it started. Use it to fill holes in your firewall. Use it anytime you need something to stick to something else, or if you need something sticky to pick up an object.

MAGNETIC TRAYS When taking something apart, I start with magnetic trays. I always have three or four stuck on the front of my lift (providing you have one) for easy access. If the item I’m taking apart starts to be complex with many sub-parts, I then pull out the

small Ziplocs I’ve saved from various purchases like Clark’s and start filling them up. Label each bag with a marker or just drop a note inside. This will save you when your project gets delayed a for a long time.

TOOL TRAYS I purchased two trays that hold many sizes of U.S. and metric wrenches—all labeled and organized. If I’m not sure which wrench size I need, or I know I need more than one size, I’ll just pull the tray out of the tool chest to have one copy of almost anything I need I have a similar tray that holds my entire set of quarter-inch drive sockets. (Ed. I have two tool trays, one for metric and one for SAE. Both have carry handles which makes it easy to have them at hand to the work.)

LIGHT “You can never have enough light.” And I’ll add “especially under a lift.” I bought a number of small, inexpensive under-cabinet fluorescent lights and mounted magnets on the back. These sit under the lift, always connected, so I can turn them on and move them around if needed. They can also act as a trouble light and can attach under the (metal) hood of a car. Along the same lines, I have many small, portable, magnetic lights to use inside the car and under dashes. While fluorescent or LED trouble lights are great, sometimes you need to eliminate shadows by getting the light way up under the dash. That’s where the little magnetic LED lights come in. Small LED headlamps are great, too. I think that for most interior jobs, I end up using a 3AAA headlamp to augment the light.

SHOP TOWELS For dirty jobs—lots of oil/grease/grunge—use fabric shop towels instead of rags. It helps on the domestic front when the rags aren’t too grungy. (Ed. This is where I call T-shirts “shop rags you can wear”. All of my old shirts eventually become shop rags, although some synthetic fibers are

not very absorbent.)

WORK SPACE Have a working space reserved for setting aside large parts. Put down a drop sheet (cardboard!) so you can slide it around when the parts need to move. (Ed. As those of us who have taken a car completely apart know, it takes at least two and a half times the space to store the loose parts.)

CAULK If you’ve ever installed a windshield, you know you have a limited amount of time to lay down a specific-sized bead of urethane. On my first attempt I actually bent my manual caulking gun, so I found a fairly inexpensive pneumatic gun. I’ve already used mine twice and it has worked great. (Ed. And if you have arthritis in your hands this can be painful.)

AIR TANK I bought a portable air tank before I had a big compressor. I find myself using the tank quite a bit even with the compressor. The air tank is great because you have air available without starting up the compressor. It’s also useful for refilling tires at the end of a track day; filling neighbors’ tires when you can’t get your compressor close enough, blowing dust off of items, drying tools, etc. (Ed. I never start and stop my air compressor as it’s on all the time. With a 60 gallon tank and outlets positioned around my shop I always have air any time and any place. You can never have too big of an air compressor!)

WISE Have a good, heavy vise attached to a sturdy workbench. This has already been covered in previous articles, but it is totally essential. My workbench is my wife’s old desk, and it withstands repeated pounding. (Ed. Again bigger is better and so is American made. I bit the bullet and bought a 6 1/2” jaw Wilton Tradesman. It wasn’t cheap but it was free shipping and

(Continued on page 7)

Shop Tips :::: Handy Helpers



Here are some useful helpers for your shop. Clockwise; A can of dum-dum, camera, battery-powered LED light with magnetic base, tool tray, propane torch, air tank and magnetic parts tray. Shown on page 7: Partner with beer!



CORVAIR COOKING CORNER!

Peanut Butter Tasty Kakes

Here's another easy and very tasty recipe from LVCC's very own First Lady, Mrs. Mary Ann Stamm!

*1 cup milk plus 2 tablespoons of margarine, scalded
2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 eggs
Pinch of salt
1 1/2 cups peanut butter
16 ounce chocolate bar*



Beat eggs with sugar well. Add dry ingredients to egg mix alternating with scalded milk. Beat well. Add vanilla. Pour into greased and floured 15 1/2 x 10 cookie sheet or 13 x 9 cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. While hot, spread peanut butter over cake. Refrigerate 1 hour or more, (check it). Melt 16 ounces of plain chocolate bars and spread over peanut butter cake. Cool in refrigerator. Cut into squares.



that sucker weighs 70 pounds!)

TORCH I inherited a small propane torch from my dad and never knew how useful they were until getting one. They can help greatly with getting fasteners unstuck, shrinking metal, soldering, brazing, etc.

PARTNER Last, have a partner who supports your hobby and hours in the garage—and also likes to drive some of the cars that you work on! (Ed. And brings beer!)



FEBRUARY MEETING NOTES

Attendees. Larry Asheuer, Allan Lacki, Larry Lewis, Scott Oberholzer, Fred Scherzer, Dennis Stamm and Dick Weidner.

Treasury Report. Dick Weidner read the January minutes and gave the monthly treasury report. The club has \$1,294.33 in its checking account.

Show & Tell. Larry Asheuer passed around two items of great interest. The first item was a 1963 Hanks Speed Shop catalog chock full of listings for Corvair hop-up parts with many photos and illustrations. The well-known IECO catalog had nothing on Hanks Speed Shop, which billed itself as the

"East Coast Corvair Headquarters." Hanks was located nearby at 991 Lancaster Avenue, Berwyn, PA, not far from Paoli.

Larry also passed around a Corvair Greenbrier piggy bank, molded in red plastic and distributed by the Pennsylvania Elks Club way back in the 1960s.

Dick Weidner made a presentation on rear axle bearings for early-series Corvairs. He pointed out that the original (Hyatt) bearings have a double row of rollers riding in curved races. The curved races allow the inner ring to swivel slightly with respect to the outer ring. This, in turn, accommodates the change that occurs in axle shaft alignment as the suspension goes through jounce and rebound. Without the swivel effect, the bearing binds up and fails. This is exactly what occurred to unsuspecting owners who replaced their Hyatt bearings with convention roller bearings.

Now, it's true that the original Hyatt rear axle bearings were relatively expensive, so some jobbers thought they'd be doing a favor by offering conventional roller bearings instead. The cheaper replacements were manufactured by the Green Bearing Company, and so they are commonly known as "green" bearings. They were originally designed for roller conveyors. Not surprisingly, they quickly developed a poor reputation in the Corvair community. But they remained on the shelves of many parts stores for many years.

During his cross-country travels, Dick once found himself in need of a rear axle bearing replacement and the local parts store had nothing in stock but green bearings. Dick was aware that it wasn't a great idea, but he was in Houston far from home, so he installed one as a stop-gap measure. It failed in 5,000 miles.

During the presentation, one of the members pointed out that Clark's

Corvair Parts offers a rebuild kit for rear axle bearings. It contains all the necessary parts except for the bearing housing and puller ring. The housings differ, depending on year. Rear axle bearings for 1960-62 Corvairs have a sheet metal outer shell whereas 1963-64 Corvairs have a cast iron shell. Doing a rebuild is more economical than buying new-old stock. NOS rear axle bearings are now trading at prices up to \$300 apiece!

The discussion then drifted to axle yokes. If you're planning to pull hole-shots on the drag strip or even doing long-distance travel, it's not a bad idea to carry a spare universal joint axle yoke. The splines in the yokes have been known to strip; an understandable risk now that early Corvairs are approaching sixty years old.

Corvair Maintenance. Last month, Dick Weidner mentioned that he detected exhaust fumes coming from the heater in his '64 Monza coupe. Since then, he has cured the problem. One of the exhaust stacks had corroded through. Dick's engine has 232,000 miles, so this was no surprise. Dick replaced the exhaust stack and now his heater is fine. As a side note, both Dick and Larry Asheuer mentioned that Chevrolet offered oversize stacks for this kind of repair.

Activities. Dennis Stamm volunteered to arrange a tour of the Harley Davidson motorcycle factory. Larry Asheuer suggested that members of the Philadelphia Corvair Association may be interested in joining us for the tour. Most likely, they would prefer a weekend date, as most of them work full time Monday through Friday.



Present day site of Hank's Speed Shop.

Car Events In and Around Lehigh Valley

November 19 2016 through April 22, 2017 :::: Amore della Strada: Italian Cars

Location: AACA Museum, 161 Museum Drive, Hershey, PA Phone: 717 566-7100 x100. See the latest exhibit at the Antique Automobile Club America (AACA) Museum in Hershey. The array of vehicles ranges from the ordinary, a 1937 Fiat Topolino, to the extraordinary, a one-family owned 1954 Siata 200 CS, Balbo. Rare and unusual vehicles include a 1974 DeTomaso Longchamps Coupe, a 1967 Italia Omega Convertible, and 1977 Piaggio Ape. You'll see iconic cars such as, a 1971 Fiat 850 Spider, 1974 Fiat X 1/9 and 1974 Fiat 124 Spider as well as the more exotic 1978 Ferrari 308GTB and 1995 Ferrari 512M. The Alfisti will delight at the sight of a 1974 Alfa Romeo Montreal, 1974 Alfa Romeo GTV, and 1967 Alfa Romeo GT 1300 Junior. Next best thing to a Corvair show!

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 :::: LVCC Membership Meeting

Location: Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority Headquarters (LANta), 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 1060 Lehigh Street, Allentown, PA 18103. Time: 7:30 PM. Bring a guest!

Thursday - Sunday, March 23-26, 2017 :::: Lehigh Valley Auto Show

Location: Stabler Arena at Lehigh University, 124 Goodman Dr S, Bethlehem, PA 18015. Time: 10 AM to 9 PM each day except Sunday. Event closes 6 PM on Sunday. Admission is \$10 per person with discounts for senior citizens and children. This is a show for new cars, not antiques. Makes and models from more than 32 manufacturers will be featured. Ride and drive participants already include Ford and Toyota. <http://go.activecalendar.com/glvada/event/20th-anniversary-2017-lehigh-valley-auto-show/>

Every Saturday Starting April 1, 2017 :::: Eastwood Cruise On In

Location: Shoemaker Road, Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464. Time: 8 AM-12 Noon. All vehicles welcome. Each Saturday we will have a different car featured and if you bring that car we will give you a free gift! Free coffee and donuts each event. On 4/1 there will be a free gift for the first 50 cars. On 4/8 the featured car is a Dodge. On 4/15 it will be Jeeps/Off Road. On 4/29 it will AMC. Contact: jfuller@eastwood.com, (610) 323-9099.

Saturday April 8, 2017 :::: Penn State Lehigh Valley Charity Car Show

Location: 2809 Saucon Valley Road, Center Valley, Pennsylvania 18034. Time: 8 AM - 2 PM. Price: \$10.00 on the day of the event. Sports cars, classic cars, muscle cars, tuner and sport compact, exotics, low riders. Contact: tqs5450@psu.edu (610) 271-2955.

Sunday April 9, 2017 :::: First Annual Air Raid at Island Dragway

Location: Island Dragway, 20 Island Rd, Great Meadows, NJ Time: Featuring: Car show, swap meet, drag racing with two classes. Includes test and tune. Open to all air cooled Volkswagens, Corvairs, Porsches, and other makes. Must be air cooled, no exceptions! Clubs are welcome. Gates open at 11 AM. Prices: \$45 to race & show (includes driver); \$20 to show only (includes driver); \$15 adult spectator. Lesser prices for military and youth spectators. Presented by the Central Jersey Volkswagen Society. Car show contact: Casey Masterson @ 973-454-2024. Drag racing contact: Art Neary @ 908-496-4985. Track safety rules: <http://www.islanddragway.com/> Updates should be available at <http://www.cjvws.com/>

Wednesday - Sunday, April 19-23, 2017 :::: Spring Carlisle Flea Market

Location: Carlisle Fairgrounds, 1000 Bryn Mawr Road, Carlisle, PA 17013. Gate Times: Wed.-Sat. 7 AM - 6 PM, Sun. 7 AM - 3 PM. Admission: Daily Wed.- Sat. \$10 / Sun \$7 / Event Pass \$30. Phone: (717) 243-7855. Contact: info@carlisleevents.com or www.carlisleevents.com

Sunday May 21, 2017 :::: 34th Annual Cruise to the Gap Car Show

Location: 3rd & Lehigh Street, Wind Gap, PA 18091. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Pre Register by May 1 Price: \$15. Day of Show Price: \$20. <http://www.cruisetothegap.org>

Saturday July 8, 2017 :::: 3rd Annual Great Phillipsburg Car Show

Location: St. Philip & St. James School, Roseberry Street, Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Conducted by our very own LVCC Member Ron Peles. Includes Corvair Class. Registration Price Day of Show: \$15. All Proceeds Benefit Grandma's House-a home for homeless and pregnant women. Contact: George Bloeser Show Chairman (908) 388-7573, 69fstbk@gmail.com. Website: www.kofccouncil474.com

LVCC Classified Ads!



For Sale: 1964 Corvair Monza 2-door coupe. 110 hp engine. Powerglide automatic transmission. Goldwood yellow with black interior. Great condition. 77,000 miles. \$7,000. Contact Wayne Troxell, Andreas, PA. (570) 386-4347.

For Sale: 1969 Corvair 500 coupe. 35,000 original miles. Frost Green with black interior. 110 hp engine. Powerglide transmission. All-new brakes, lines, hoses, wheel cylinders, hardware, master cylinder. Rebuilt front suspension. New gas tank, sender unit, sock, etc. Engine resealed, rebuilt carbs, balancer, plugs, cap, rotor, ignitor, coil, heater hoses, heater motor, exhaust y pipe, muffler, tail pipe. New Coker tires, engine wire harness, battery, carpet. All smog equipment hooked-up and works. Runs great. \$7000.00 obo. Call or email Larry Asheuer, Lansdale, PA. (267) 994-1569. a-lcorvair@msn.com

For Sale: 1969 Corvair 500 2-door coupe. 110 hp engine. Powerglide automatic transmission. Garnet red with black interior. Zero rust. Excellent condition all around. 48,000 miles. Hellertown, PA. \$10,000. Larry Lewis, Hellertown, PA (610) 209-0297.



LANta Community Center Entrance



Lehigh and Northampton
Transportation Authority
(LANta) Headquarters

Community Center Meet-
ing Room, 2nd Floor

1060 Lehigh Street
Allentown, PA 18103

We Meet Here!
(Entrance to LANTA)



Corvair Society of America News

CORSA Members - Exercise your voting privileges! The nomination statements of all announced candidates for the Board of Directors are posted in the March 2017 issue of the CORSA Communique. Read them carefully, then vote before May 1.

This year, beginning March 10 and ending May 1, you can vote online at this website, www.corvair.org. You will need to log in. Once you do, there will be a link to the online ballot in the User Tools.

If you have lost your log in credentials, or if you have any difficulty using the site, please send an e-mail to Harry Jensen at corrsa@corvair.org.

Save a stamp by voting via the website. We hope that more of our members will be able to cast their ballot in this way. Remember - you must be a CORSA member to vote!

Clark's Corvair Parts®

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SPECIALTY CATALOG - Over 220 pages

SUPPLEMENT - Price list has over 40 pages

Clark's Corvair donates door prizes for our meeting at Das Awkscht Fescht.

LVCC Officers:

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Next Meeting: Wednesday 03/22/2017