



the fifth wheel

DECEMBER 2019

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

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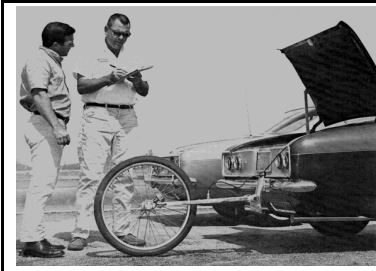
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Next Meeting! Wednesday, January 22, 2020
Happy Holidays!

LVCC Meeting Information: 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. 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), a chartered chapter for the Corvair Society of America. 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.

Offenhauser is Back!

Old-School Cool for Corvairs

A company named White Owl Speed is now offering an entire catalog of period-correct Offenhauser speed parts for all kinds of cars including Corvairs. Talk about old school cool!

White Owl doesn't mention it, but I imagine these are new old stock that had been locked away for decades.

White Owl Speed is the newest distributor for Offenhauser. We have exclusive merchandise and parts that have not been available for 60 years! We are constantly listing new parts and making new inventory available so make sure you check back often! Offenhauser was established in 1946 by Fred C. Offenhauser and Fran Hernandez. All of Offenhauser's parts are cast and machined in California. All Offenhauser parts are forged using a hand-carved wooden pattern at Bell foundry in South Gate, California and machined at the

Offenhauser Shop In Downtown Los Angeles. Offenhauser is one of the oldest premium automotive parts manufacturers in the world operating for over 70+ years continuously.

So, you ask, what do they offer for Corvairs? Answer: The old classics. Finned aluminum oil pans and valve covers, four-carb adapter kits (precursor to the 140 factory setup), and those 2-barrel carb adapters that used to be included in the now-discontinued Clark's Ultimate Carburetor kit.

Here is what they say about their Corvair oil pans:

A functional new oil pan which is finned both inside and out, thus providing tremendous heat transfer-bearing life increased. Oil capacity increased by 3 quarts. A boss is provided for installation of an oil tem-

perature gauge. A must on Super-Charged and hot Corvair engines. All surfaces special polished to a high luster.

And they say this about their four-carb adapter for 2-carb heads:

4 Carb manifold for Corvair. Necessary to machine heads and Heli-Arc manifold onto them. (picture included), Sold in pairs. Made in the USA.

These were the type of performance parts offered for Corvairs in the early 1960s before companies like IECO and OTTO stepped in. To be polite, they may be pretty to look at, but not likely to be specified by the serious performance geek.

But for those of you who like your Corvair to be souped-up in period-correct style, they may be just the ticket!

You can buy Offenhauser speed parts for your Corvair by visiting White Owl's website here: <https://www.whiteowlspeed.com/product-category/corvair/>

Stock-Is and Donk An Editorial

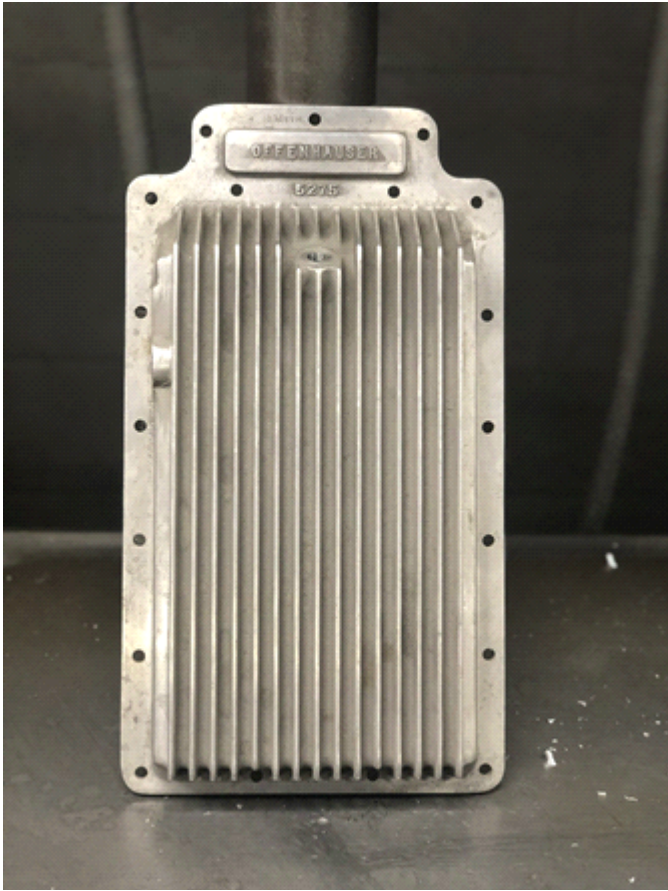
In the November/December issue of the CORSA Communique, Kent Sullivan, Vice President of the Stock Corvair Group, posed the question, "What value and priority should CORSA, in the form of its membership, put on documenting, preserving, and celebrating original "survivor" Corvair cars and trucks?" This set off wide-ranging discussions on Corvair-centric social media.

The fact that we have the Corvair Pres-



Offenhauser valve covers are inscribed with the Offenhauser name and are available in four-hole and six-hole configurations. Nice!

Offenhauser Speed Parts for Corvairs



Finned aluminum oil pans come in either two or three quart capacities.



Interior of the Offenhauser oil pan. Later designs, like those offered by Otto and Clark's, have more internal fins and pins for heat dissipation.



Convert your single-carb cylinder heads to twin carb, for a total of four. Carbs and linkage not included.



An alternative: Replace your Rochester H carbs with a pair of two-barrel carbs.

ervation Foundation and the Corvair Museum suggests that we place very high value on original survivor Corvairs. But if I interpret Kent's question accurately, I believe he was referring to the lack of recognition they receive at our meets and conventions – the annual CORSA International Convention in particular. It is ironic that we find ourselves in this position.

The discussion boards have also been buzzing with suggestions to incentivize owners of non-traditional Corvairs to show off their cars. By "non-traditional", I'm referring to rat rods, donks, slammed cars and other variants that go beyond the usual modifications to Corvairs we see at our conventions.

These interest groups may seem totally divergent, but in a way, they represent an opportunity to broaden CORSA's appeal to people of all ages. And that's a good thing for the Corvair hobby.

Quickie Tech Tip by Bob Marlow

When did you last replace the gasket on

the underside of your Corvair's oil filler cap? If you're like many Corvair owners, the answer is "never."

Permit me to recommend that you check yours. On the 1965 Monza four-door that Sue and I purchased earlier this year, when I took the oil cap off and looked at the gasket, it looked fine. Then I touched it, and it crumbled! I do not know what material GM used for these gaskets, but whatever it was, it was not intended to last 50+ years.

New gaskets are readily available from Clark's Corvair Parts and cost all of \$1.90 each. Clark's also sells what they term the "Positive Seal Oil Cap," pictured here, which is an industrial T-Handle Expansion Plug. This replaces the factory oil filler cap entirely. NJACE President Brian O'Neill uses these on all engines (and if you turn your back long enough he may put one on your engine), but speaking as a "stock" guy these are not my preference.

Clark's part number for the stock-style gasket is C444X, and for the Positive Seal Oil Cap the part number is C5407, and the price is \$13.70.

Gas Tank Sending Units

On November 30, Bill Stanley wrote the following message on the Corvair Owners Group at Facebook:

In recent months I have gone through a series of gas tank sending units from our favorite supplier with the float, in short order, developing a leak that caused it to fill with gasoline and sink to the bottom thus rendering my gas gauge non-functioning. Any suggestions?

It would seem to me that a non-hollow float might be a better idea but I am unaware of such a thing.

Richard May responds: What about dipping the float in a fuel resistant substance, some sort of an epoxy maybe, to keep it sealed?

Lon Anderson writes: I somehow recall the float being the same size as the early 60s Falcon? Maybe a tech tip in the 1990s? Might be worth looking into...

(Continued on page 6)



Clark's Positive Seal Oil Cap. Part # C5407.



Ford fuel tank sending unit float. Part # COAZ-9202-B

Mike Passini's Corvair Collection

Mike Passini, brother of Paul Passini of the Philadelphia Corvair Association, has an astounding collection of antique pedal cars, tin toys and dealer promo models. He has miniature Corvairs of all kinds including an unusual Corvair 95 fire engine and dump truck. But nothing can top his pair of fine Testudo show cars. With a flip of a switch, the headlight pods role open, the lights come on, and the cars drive in circles. But that's not all. To cap the performance, they then stop and the canopy over the cockpit opens up, as if by magic. Photos courtesy of Marlene Passini.



Seth Emerson weighs in: People have been using the Ford floats for decades.

And Daniel Vallée says: Bill, you can go with Ford part # COAZ-9202-B

Per Jim Bents: The one thing I could say about all of my Fords is they had a good gas gauge.

From Larry Schmuhl: I put a solid plastic type float from a Chevy truck junkyard. Bent the hook to make it stay. Probably 15 or more years ago.

Bryan Jaumot: I've pulled tank out of my Rampside 3 times because of Clark floats. Each cracked. Lesson learned! Ford float listed above # COAZ-9202-B comes in 2-pack or did. Gauge spot on and no more problems.

Bruce Weeks: John Sweet says his are better than Clark's. I'm going to try one in Corsa next summer. My current one has failed after 5 years.

Cotter Pin Alternatives

Those of you who work on your Corvair have surely encountered cotter pins. They are used in several locations on Corvairs. For example, they are used in conjunction with castle nuts on wheel bearings, tie rod ends and transmission mounts. They are also found in accelerator linkages, clutch linkages, and early-Corvair engine mounts. Often they are located in nearly impossible locations and rusted so badly that only a pair of vice grips can remove them. They are intended to be used only one time, but a lot of guys straighten

them out and reuse them anyway. It's not the best way to do things.

There are alternatives. Where space permits, they can be replaced with hair pin clips, or better yet, self-locking clips. And if you ever think you'll be working on that part of the car again in the future, they are definitely the way to go.

Hair Pin Cotters (Sometimes called "Hitch Pins"). Hair Pin Cotters (or "R Clips") are a spring-type cotter made to be reusable. Double Loop Hair Pin Cotters are also available. They are all very easy to install and remove, which makes them popular. And so long as they aren't hit by road debris, they stay in place. Bow-Tie Locking Cotter Pins or Rue-Ring Locking Cotter Pins are better than Hair Pin Cotters where the latter may be vulnerable.

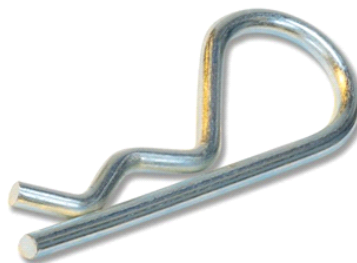
Bow-Tie Locking Cotters. Invented by Pivot Point of Wisconsin, a Bow-Tie Locking Cotter works like a Hair Pin Cotter but locks itself on. Push or pull the cotter pin leg into the mating hole, the Bow-Tie Locking Cotter Pin snaps into a zero-tension locked position. It is easily released by lifting the loop and sliding the cotter pin off. The Bow-Tie reduces the risk of being accidentally knocked or vibrated off.

A Rue Ring Locking Cotter Pin surrounds the shaft and locks itself on, making it one of the safest cotters available today- unlike Hair Pin Cotters and other Cotter Pin Clips. Rue Ring Locking Cotter Pins are best used on light to medium applications. Rue Ring Locking Cotter Pins install fast without tools. And they are easy to remove too. Rue-Ring Locking Cotter Pins are also known as Rue Cotters, Ring Cotters, Locking Ring Cotters, SureLock Cotters, SureLock Ring Cotters and Ring Clips, depending on the supply house. (Whew!)

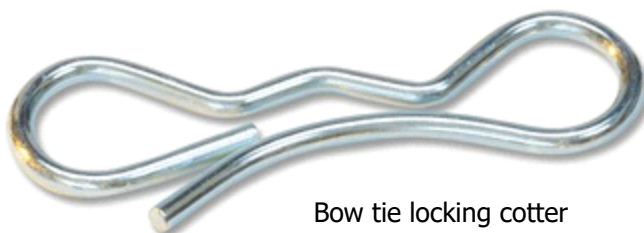
Conventional
cotter pin



Hair pin cotter



Bow tie locking cotter



Rue Ring Locking
Cotter Pin



NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 22, 2020

That's right! No meetings in November or December due to the Holidays! See you in January!

Torque Wrench Calibration by Rick Norris

In my Corvair Racers newsletter, I have expounded before on torque wrenches. I inventoried my collection and came up with six different examples from ½" to ¼" drives.

In the case of a clicker-style torque wrench, if the wrench has not been calibrated — or it is not always returned to a relaxed position after use — it is very possible the wrench could un-

der-torque a rod bolt or other important fastener. This could also cause the fastener to fail.

If you've invested thousands of dollars in a performance engine, calibrating the wrench should be considered part of the cost of building the engine. I don't always do it yearly but I have sent several to Team Torque. <https://www.teamtorque.com> They do a fast turnaround as advertised on their web site.



Clark's Corvair Parts®

Our catalog lists over 15,000 parts for your Corvair. We carry engine parts, body panels, upholstery and much more! There are 1,000's of reproduced items available, pages of technical information and lots of other helpful hints.



Clark's Corvair Parts® 400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370
(413)625-9776 www.corvair.com email: clarks@corvair.com

Clark's supports LVCC by donating gifts every year for our door prizes at Das Awkscht Fescht.

Calendar of Local Events

Saturday & Sunday, January 11&12, 2020 :::: Dragfest Indoor Drag Racing Showcase, Lebanon, PA

Location: Lebanon Valley Expo Center, 80 Rockerty Rd., Lebanon, Pa. 17042. Time: From 9 AM on Saturday to 4 PM on Sunday. With more than 200 drag machines on display, automotive enthusiasts from around the local area and afar; come to get an escape from the winter blues. The nearly 100,000 sq. foot facility is filled wall to wall with various automotive racing exhibits. No matter what you sell, from automotive parts, apparel, candles to custom art work, die-cast cars to vacations, there will be nearly 10,000 consumers spending the weekend inside a venue filled with action, activities and live entertainment. <https://motoramaproductions.com/dragfest>

Friday to Sunday, January 17 to 19, 2020 :::: Auto Mania

Location: Allentown PA Fairgrounds, 302 N 17th Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania 18104. January 17 from Noon to 9 PM. January 18 from 9 AM to 6 PM. January 19 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Price: \$10 daily. Event Info: Pennsylvania's largest indoor heated automotive flea market. Pickers, flippers, investors and collectors can get their share of the fresh merchandise. Contact Info: Phone: (717) 243-7855. Email: info@carlisleevents.com <https://www.carlisleevents.com/events/events-detail/index?id=auto+mania>

Saturday, January 18, 2020 :::: Jacktown Annual Antique Engine Show

Location: Jacktown Grove, 1229 Richmond Road, Bangor, PA. Time: 8 AM to 4 PM. Snow or shine. Free admission. Great display of operational antique gas and steam engines. Presented by the Blue Mountain Antique Gas & Steam Engine Association. Food available on the grounds. Come out and enjoy the fun by the bonfire. For more information, call (610) 588-6900 or visit www.jacktown.org.

Saturday & Sunday, February 15 to February 16, 2020 :::: Motorama Custom Car, Truck and Bike Show

Location: PA Farm Show Complex, 2300 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA. February 15 from 9 AM to 10 PM. February 16 from 9 AM to 5 PM. Event Info: Open to all American, Japanese and European vehicles. This is a judged show where cash prizes and trophies will be awarded. See hundreds of the nation's top touring show vehicles from the early 1900's to today's modern marvels; antiques, classic muscle, exotics, lead sleds, modern muscle, movie cars, rat rods, tuners and so much more. Hosted alongside an additional 800,000 square feet of motorsports racing and events. Live, indoor racing includes karting, 1/4 midget, motocross, R/C events, and more. Phone: (717) 359-7056 <https://motoramaevents.com/>

Saturday & Sunday, February 15 to February 16, 2020 :::: Motorama Racing

Location: PA Farm Show Complex, 2300 N. Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA. February 15 from 9 AM to 10 PM. February 16 from 9 AM to 5 PM. Event Info: The nation's largest all indoor racing event and live show featuring 1 million square feet of action. The schedule includes full-size and radio-control races including arenacross racing, go kart racing, quarter midget racing, RC off road racing, RC scaled trials, RC oval racing, RC demolition derby, robot conflict, and a Ms. Motorama competition. Register online here: <https://motoramaevents.com/>

Sunday March 1, 2020 :::: Hamburg Swap Meet and Car Corral

Location: Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, 127 South Fourth St. (rear), Hamburg, PA. Time: 7 AM to 2 PM. Event Info: Over 100 indoor spaces with unlimited outdoor spaces, handicap friendly, refreshments available. Held rain or shine. Adults \$2, children under 12 free. For vendor spaces or general information call 610-823-4656. <http://ontelaunee.aaca.com/hamburg-swap-meet/>

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