



the fifth wheel

AUGUST 2020

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

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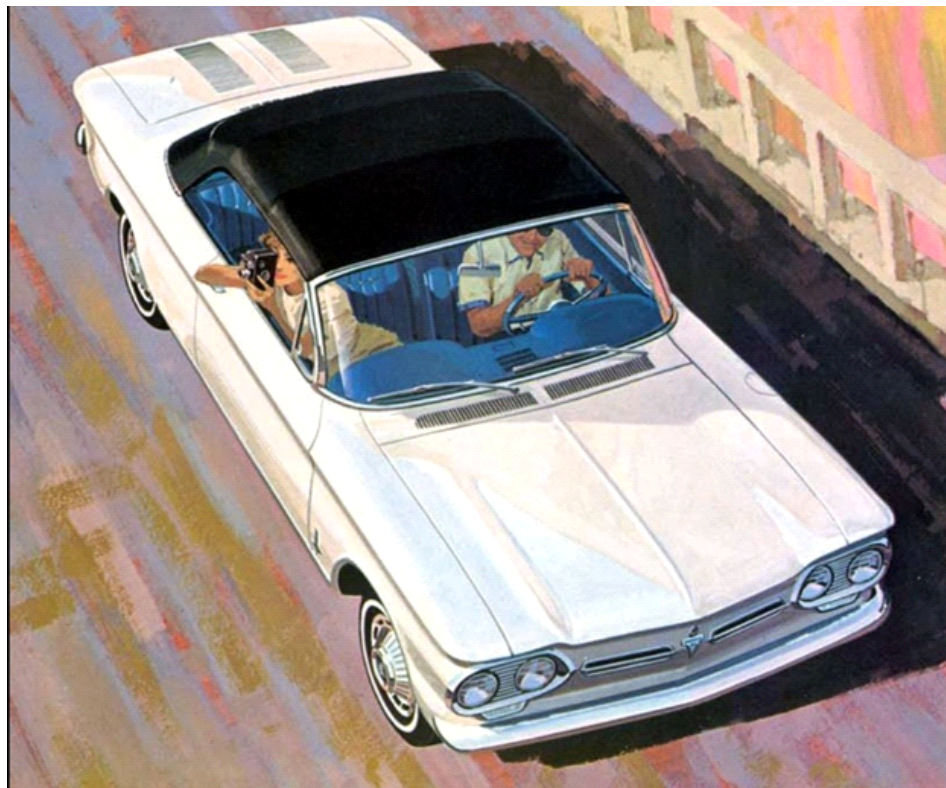
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Monza... 1962 Corvair convertible brochure illustration

LVCC Membership Teleconference for August

Lehigh Valley remains in Pennsylvania's "Green" zone and that restricts our ability to conduct an in-person meeting without a lot of fuss about social distancing. So we're doing a teleconference instead. It will be on the fourth Wednesday of August - that's August 26 - at 7:30 PM. All members of LVCC are invited! See Page 8 for complete information and instructions.

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.

Sparks Will Fly! Race Car Body Surgery

Brian O'Neill's track car is something of a rolling laboratory of ideas for squeezing out extra performance from a late model Corvair. Aside from the long block and body shell, it's more NASCAR than Corvair.

Among other things, the front and rear suspension are pure race-car design, and the rear suspension is especially impressive because it is a five-link setup, with two trailing links and three lateral links per axle. All three of the lateral links are connected to the diff case; two on the bottom and one at the top.

The multi-link suspension along with the floating axle shafts make for lots of agony when doing an R&R job on the power train - a near annual ritual because Brian is always working with new engine setups.

Wouldn't it be neat if the engine could be pulled straight out the rear of the car without taking the transaxle with it? Certainly, and it's been done before by making the entire rear of the car removable!

Rear-engine Fiats designed in the 1950s were designed to do just that. The body panel and engine mount cross brace were held in with just a few easily-accessible bolts. Remove 'em and presto - easy access to the engine.

Early-on, Corvair racers like Doug Roe and Jon Brakke caught on to the idea and made the rear ends of their rear engine machines removable, too. All to make engine swaps quicker and easier.

For the past year or two, Brian has been talking about doing the same to his Corvair track car and, last weekend, he decided to pull the trigger. Brian, John Egerton, Mark Lipkovitz and yours truly got to work.

The race car has had surgery in this

area before. The stock steel panel was replaced with one made of fiberglass twenty years ago. So, removing the panel was a mostly matter of drilling-out the rivets that secured the panel to the rear edges of the fenders and the big steel cross brace that connects the right and left frame rails. This brace also serves as the attachment point for the engine mount. It took a while to locate all of the rivets but we got it done.

Of course, this opened up the rear end of the car, but that cross-brace was still in the way and so we proceeded to remove it. And it was at this point that John Egerton became the star of the show with his angle grinder and Sawzall. Sparks were flying all over the place as John cut the brace, first on the passenger side and then on the driver side. Naturally, the engine had to be supported by a jack to keep it from slamming to the ground. The engine mount bracket was unbolted before the final cuts were made.

Now, I must digress a bit, for as noted above, that cross brace supports the back of the engine. It can't be permanently deleted. Yes, to make the engine removable from the rear, the brace needs to be removed, but the brace also needs to be replaced once the engine is reinstalled. Brian and John arrived at a solution. The brace would be attached to the right and left frame rails using a pair a heavy-duty bolt-on brackets.

John just so happened to have a pair back in his workshop and he brought them to Brian's garage first thing in the morning. Brian, Mark and I took turns drilling holes in the brackets, side rails and cross brace for the necessary bolts and nuts. The brackets were made of hardened steel, so this was no easy matter. Brian's drill press got a workout and the drill bit needed to be sharpened a couple of times. And of course, there was a lot of measuring and

checking before we put drill to the metal. The long-term plan is to weld the brackets to the cross brace but bolt them into side rails. There will be other stiffeners welded in place to make everything secure at racing speeds.

When all the metal work is done, Brian will figure a way to re-attach that fiberglass panel back to the cross brace and the edges of the rear fenders, maybe with Dzus fasteners or other removable fasteners. It shouldn't be too hard. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

When that time comes, Brian will be able to remove and install another engine in his race car much more easily. In time for the NECC's 2021 track day schedule, of course!

Photos of Brian's car courtesy of Dr. Mark Lipkovitz. Text by Allan Lacki.

Corvair in Need of Rescue

'Stopped by Hassler's Automotive in Womelsdorf to check-out an attractive '61 Monza. I spoke to the mechanic who sent these photos to me. (See page 4).

The car is for sale, but the owner has not quoted a price even though both of us have asked. I'm hoping he's not intending to ask a zillion dollars for it like so many people seem to do.

Thirty years ago, before I had my current Corvair, there was a very pretty 1965 Monza parked next to a garage down the street from where I lived. The rear quarter panel was hit but otherwise it was in perfect condition. I wanted to buy it but the owner said he intended to keep it and restore it someday. Over the course of many months,

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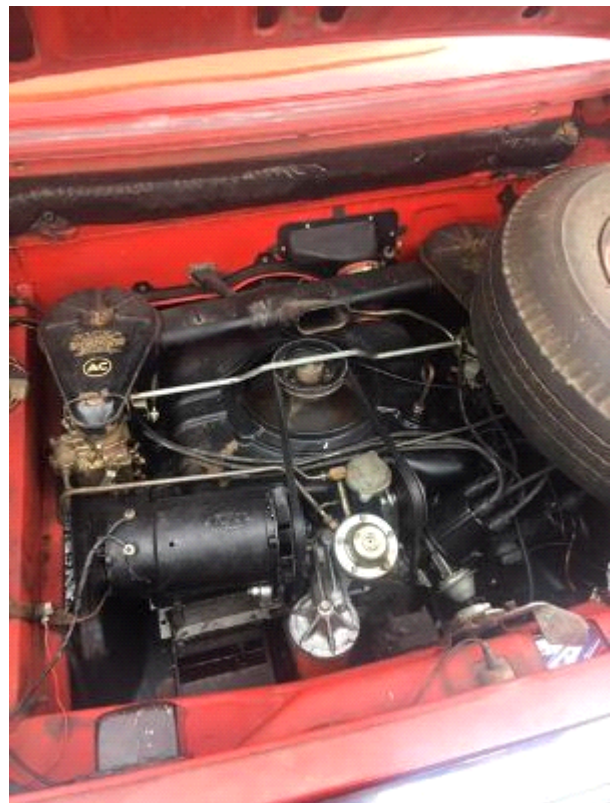


Surgery on Brian O'Neill's track car. Top-left: Sparks fly as John Egerton takes angle grinder to rear cross-member. Engine is under the blanket. Top right: John dressing the edge of fender where rear panel used to be. Bottom left: Brian and John discussing next move. Bottom right: Al Lacki with detached rear panel.





Corvair in Need of Rescue. Sitting next to the garage at Hassler's Automotive on Route 422 in Womelsdorf, PA. "Ran when parked". Nice shape. Needs tender loving care.



somebody left the windows open and the interior was destroyed. Some time after that, the little '65 Monza disappeared. I hope this red '61 Monza meets a better fate. Here is what Hassler's mechanic told me about it.

1961 Corvair Monza 2-door coupe. Roman red exterior and interior. 81,000 miles. Factory stock throughout and totally complete. Powerglide. Nice condition but hasn't been on the road in 3 or 4 years. Owner has moved from Stouchsburg, Pennsylvania to North Carolina. Car is being sold on behalf of the owner by Richard Hassler. (610) 589-2852. sales@hasslersautosales.com. Car can be seen at Hassler's Automotive, 3200 Conrad Weiser Parkway (US-422), Womelsdorf, PA 19567.

LVCC July Teleconference Notes

On July 22, in lieu of an in-person meeting, we had a teleconference. Rich Greene, Randy Kohler, Allan Lacki, Fred Scherzer and Curt Stone were on the call.

To make it happen, we used a service named "FreeConferenceCall.com". It's mainly for conference calls but it also has a video option like Zoom. Several of us tried to use the video option. Some were successful, some were not. But all of us were able to hear each other and that's what counts. So, after settling down, we had a nice discussion.

Randy Kohler told everybody that the Detroit Corvair Club's annual Corvair Homecoming event has been cancelled for this year along with so many other events. Due to COVID, he hasn't had a chance to take his Corvairs out on the road.

Rich Greene said he's been keeping himself occupied as a volunteer at the America On Wheels Museum in Allentown. The museum changes its line of featured cars every so often. This month, the Ford Thunderbird display was moved out and a number of Hudsons were moved in. Also, as an added bonus, museum visitors are being treated to tours of the RB Museum located across town on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Curt Stone talked about the really attractive '65 Monza convertible that he listed in the LVCC and CORSA classified ads. So far, his ad received sixty-five hits on Craig's List, but no buyer so far. Curt said he's not concerned; he doesn't mind keeping it. (Curt has a '69 Monza as well as this '65).

Curt also mentioned that his son Michael owns a '65 turbo CORSA convertible that needed some work. It's currently at the Jeff Stonesifer's Corvair Ranch. Curt said the work has been completed and the car is ready to come home.

LVCC VP Fred Scherzer said he spent two weeks in May in the hospital for triple bypass surgery, so that put the kibosh on any Corvair stuff. But he's feeling better now and that's what counts.

Al Lacki reported that both LVCC Prez Dennis Stamm and LVCC Secretary/Treasurer Dick Weidner have been lying low. Dennis injured his tail bone in a fall and Dick Weidner has been diagnosed with spinal stenosis that has kept him in the house. Al also said he ran his own Corvair at the Northeast Corvair Council time trials at New York Safety Track on June 13.

Social Distancing at the Race Track By Ray Coker, NJACE

Editor's Note: Two months ago, we brought you an article about NECC's day of high performance driving at New York Safety Track. Since then, NECC held its second event of the year. NECC/NJACE member and all-around good guy Ray Coker provided this report.

On Saturday August 1st 2020 the directors of the **Northeast Corvair Council** (NECC) once again showcased their skills by securing a great venue, promoting a driving event, organizing the various classes of cars and pulling off a day of driving excitement at Pocono Raceway in Long Pond PA. Even the weather cooperated. It was hot and it didn't rain.

People familiar with Pocono Raceway are always saying "if you don't like the weather, wait 5 minutes". Fortunately for the NECC organizers, volunteers and the drivers who wanted to test their driving skills, the hot dry track did not turn into a slippery wet track.

Twenty-two cars were either trailered, towed or driven to the track from NJ, NY and PA with hopes of setting the FTD (fast time of the day) or beating their own track time from their previous visit.

Drivers who want to tackle a part of the Tricky Triangle for the first time need not fear, they can enroll in the NECC sponsored *Taste of the Track*. During this segment, drivers are informed of the corner workers duties and what each flag color indicates, they will see the layout of the track, they will learn about timing the cars and best of all each driver will be allowed to drive their own car on the track following the pace car.

Everything about this driving event is top-shelf beginning with the POCONO Raceway operations personal including the track safety crew which consists of the Fire Safety Team and the First Responders. Whether you are driving slow-mph or fast-mph, safety is priority one. Each car going on the track has to pass a safety inspection, driving helmets must meet the latest requirements, convertibles must have roll bars and all drivers must wear appropriate clothing.

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The road course used this weekend was the north end of the track which included a high-speed drive around turn #3 (clockwise), down a back straight-away and just before turn #2 you cut back into the infield for six turns coming back out at turn #3 to complete one lap.

The cars were assigned to four different groups. Beginning at 9:00 AM each group got a chance to drive on the track to get familiar with the layout, to check out the handling of their cars and to get the drivers' heart rates up.

Once each group had a chance to explore the track, it was available to all groups for hot laps and a test and tune opportunity until 2:00 PM (with a break for lunch, of course).

At 2:00, the groups were once again brought out to the starting grid to begin their timed laps which included one

warm up lap, two timed laps and one cool down lap.

Once all the timed laps were completed, the track was open to all drivers once again to get in as many hot laps as they desired. The fun lasted until 5:00 PM when the Pocono staff closed the track for the day.

Although this event is promoted by the Northeast Corvair Council, it is open to all manufacturers. There were Fords, Chevys, Subaru's, Mazda's, Porches', a Maserati Bi-Turbo, an Alfa Romeo 4C and a Factory 5 Cobra all being driven as fast as possible yet in a safe manner.

Helmets were fastened, seatbelts were cinched tight and the loud pedal was pressed to the floor with the driver's concentration focused on the track.

A mid-engine V8 Corvair suffered

catastrophic engine failure and we had a couple of cars run off the track "slideways" while negotiating the tight curves. That's not bad considering 350-450 laps were run that day by 22 different cars with many drivers "living on the edge".

LVCC Dues Are Due!

Our accounting year is from August 1 to July 31 and so your membership dues are due! If you haven't yet paid, send your check to LVCC Secretary-Treasurer Dick Weidner at 2304 Main Street, Northampton, PA 18067.

The price of LVCC membership remains very reasonable at \$15 per year, and if you are also a member of the Corvair Society of America, the rate drops even lower to \$10 per year.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB



41st Annual Corvair Day

hosted by

Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club

This is a Corvair Only Show.

WHEN
SEPTEMBER 19, 2020
9AM - 3PM *(Rain or Shine)*



REGISTRATION
9am - 12pm
PRE-REGISTER BY AUGUST 31, 2020
\$12 Pre-Registration
\$15 Door

WHERE
Eastern Museum of Motor Racing
100 Baltimore Road, York Springs, PA 17372
**GPS Address for Latimore Valley Fairgrounds (a part of EMMR)*
314 Latimore Valley Road, York Springs, PA 17372 *(map on back of this flyer)*

INDOOR/OUTDOOR
VENDOR SET-UP FREE

FEATURING • Bake Sale • Food: hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and much more • Silent Auction • 50/50 • Free Dash Plaques • Door Prizes •

PROCEEDS
All proceeds from this event go to Salvation Army of Harrisburg, York, and Lancaster counties and Sgt. Mac Foundation.



Corvairs on the grid at Pocono.



LVCC's John Egerton of Bath, PA..



Joe Salmestrelli of Sayre, PA.



Dan or son Nick Schmidt of Stroudsburg, PA.



Nick Gravino of Burlington, NJ.



Terry Stafford of Huntington, NY.

LVCC August Teleconference



You Have Been Invited to a Teleconference Meeting!

Date and time: Wednesday, 8/26/20 7:30 PM - (US/Eastern)

Duration: 30 minutes

Conference Call Dial-in number: (515) 606-5376

Access code: 838110

What's It All About?

Instead of a face-to-face meeting, we're going to do a teleconference again. Just like last month. There is no cost. You don't need a computer to use it.

It's not a video-conference. It's just a teleconference. Think of it as a phone call with a bunch of people on the line. That's what it's like. Naturally, we'll all have to watch that we don't talk over each other.

Allan Lacki a.k.a.
redbat01@verizon.net

Instructions:

At the scheduled date and time, dial in to the conference. When prompted, enter the access code followed by pound or hash (#).

Optional Video and Screen Sharing:

I imagine most of us will simply join our teleconference by way of telephone. But apparently, we have an option to join the video and screen sharing session. The only people on your computer screen are those who log onto their computer and click online meeting link. I've never tried it, but a couple of guys on the CORSA Board of Directors have done so and they say it works.

Online meeting ID: redbat01

Online meeting link: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/redbat01>



Calendar of Local Events



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE! *If you plan to attend any of the events below, please contact the organizers to see if they are still "on". Almost of all the listings include contact information, so give 'em a shout.*

RESCHEDULED to Sunday August 23, 2020 :::: 18th Annual Silver Creek Father's Day Car Show

Location: 2943 Route 212, Springtown, PA 18081. Time: 8 AM to 3 PM. Rain or shine. Price: \$10 day of show. Food, entertainment, 50/50. Voting 12:30 to 1:30 PM. Trophies at 2:30 PM. (No Corvair class). SilverCreekAA@gmail.com. Wwww.silvercreekathleticassociation.com

Sunday August 23, 2020. Pottstown Cars & Coffee

Location: Coventry Parlor at Laurel Locks, LLC. 653 Laurelwood Road, Pottstown, PA 19465. Time: 8 AM to Noon. Price: free. Stop in for breakfast and some hot rod chit chat. <https://www.facebook.com/deadlyfastcars/>

Saturday August 29, 2020 :::: Saturday Night Car Meet

Location: Ollie's Bargain Outlet, 2251 West Lancaster Avenue, Shillington, PA. Bring your car out and chill. All vehicles welcome. No excessive noise or burnouts. Park at the back of the lot. Hosted by Tuner Takeover. <https://www.facebook.com/tunertakeover1>

Sunday August 30, 2020 :::: Reinholds 8th Annual VFW Show

Location :Reinholds VFW Post 6759, 250 Brunners Grove Road, Reinholds, PA 17569. Time: 9 AM to 2 PM. (717) 336-9918. <https://www.facebook.com/Reinholds-VFW-Post-6759-271507189579054/>

Wednesday September 2, 2020 :::: Gianottis Car Meet

Location: Giannotti's Ristorante, 14949 Kutztown Road, Kutztown PA. Time: 5 PM to 10 PM. Car meet open to all makes & models. Giannottis has a bar side and restaurant side, so kids are welcome. No burnouts/2 step, etc. Food/drink specials. Will have CarCollab club shirts available for purchase. Phone: 610-894-9694. <http://www.giannottisristorante.com/>

Wednesday September 2, 2020 :::: Monthly Cruise-In at Mission BBQ

Location: Mission BBQ, 1775 Papermill Road, Wyomissing, PA 19610. Open to all makes and models. Bring out your car and you will receive one ticket for a food item. Dash plaques to the first 25 cars. Hosted by Berks County Mustang Car Club. <https://www.berkscountymustangcarclub.com/calendar>

Friday September 4, 2020 :::: Hatboro Cruiser's First Friday Cruise Night

Location: Lowe's Home Improvement Center, 425 Easton Road, Warrington, PA. Cruise night organized by Adrienne Fisher. DJ, food. Rain date is second Friday of the month. No burnouts please. This is a family friendly event. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/63776404666/>

Saturday September 5, 2020 :::: New Hanover UMC 10th Annual Classic Car & Bike Show

New Hanover United Methodist Church, 2211 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville, PA 19525. Time: 10 AM to 2 PM. Day of Show Price: \$15. All proceeds will be donated to Happy 2 Be Home which benefits children who have suffered life changing catastrophes who desire to be cared for at home. Rain date: Monday, September 7, Registration, 10:00 am - 2:00 PM, show begins, 2:30 PM. Phone: (610) 323-2353. Visit newhanoverumc.org and click on Events to register and find out more information.

Sunday September 6, 2020 :::: Blakeslee Rotary 2020 Car/Truck/Bike Show

Location: Pocono International Raceway, 1234 Long Pond Road, Long Pond, PA. Time: 9 AM to 4 PM. Price: \$15 day of event. Participation Voting 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM. Awards at 3 PM. Rain or shine. Dash plaques to the first 45 participants. Organized By: April Guilherme. Phone: 570-817-9058. Email: blakesleerotary@gmail.com. Note: This event is not listed on the Blakeslee Rotary website at <https://blakesleerotary.org/> For more information or to register please call 570-817-9058 (April) or email april.blakesleerotary@gmail.com

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Calendar of Local Events



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Monday September 7, 2020 ::: 5th Annual Robesonia Car Show

Location: Robesonia's Community Park/ Robesonia Ball Field, Birch Alley, Robesonia, PA 19551. Time: 1 PM to 4 PM. Price: Join us on Monday, September 7th / Labor Day for the 5th Annual Robesonia Car Show at Flamin' Dick and the Hot Rods will perform from 1pm to 4pm. All makes, models, and years of cars are welcome. Pre-registration is \$10. Day of Show registration is \$15. Registration and sponsorship forms will be available at the Robesonia Borough Hall, Pioneer Hose Fire Company, or from Randy Gartner. For more info, call Randy at 484-955-7381.

Sunday September 13, 2020 ::: 49th Annual Strausstown Antique Auto Show & Flea Market

Location: Strausstown Lions Club Community Park located along Route 183, 1/2 mile south of I-78, Exit 19. Time: 6 AM to 3 PM. Price: \$11. Pre-Registration required! Deadline: September 5, 2020. Food stand, dash plaques for the first 200 cars, free registration to antique vehicles 1931 and earlier. Phone: 484-388-0358. <https://www.strausstownlionsclub.com/car-show/>

Saturday, September 19, 2020 ::: Corvair Day 2020

Location: Eastern Museum of Motor Racing, 100 Baltimore Road, York Springs, PA 17372 *GPS Address for Latimore Valley Fairgrounds (a part of EMMR) , 314 Latimore Valley Road, York Springs, PA 17372. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Pre-registration price: \$12 if you register before August 31. Gate registration price: \$15. Food: hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and much more . Silent Auction. 50/50. Free dash plaques. Door prizes. All proceeds from this event go to Salvation Army of Harrisburg, York, and Lancaster counties and Sgt. Mac Foundation. This is a Corvair-only event.

Wednesday to Sunday, Sept 30 to Oct 4, 2020 ::: Fall Carlisle 2020 Flea Market

Location: Carlisle Fairgrounds. 1000 Bryn Mawr Road, Carlisle, PA 17013. Event Hours: Wed- Sat: 7AM-6PM, Sunday: 7AM-12PM. Prices: Daily Wed- Sat: \$12, Sunday: \$7 (Free with Event Ticket), Event Pass: \$35. Kids 12 and Under free. This massive automotive flea market is one of the best opportunities to get your hands on all things automotive before the winter non-picking blues kicks in. With 8,100 spaces of vendors selling a vast array of automotive parts, accessories, cars, collectibles and memorabilia Phone: (717) 243-7855. <https://www.carlisleevents.com/events/events-detail/index?id=fall+carlisle>

RESCHEDULED to Sunday October 11, 2020 ::: 6th Annual Red Coffin Memorial Car Show

Location: Lyons Community Park, 15 Park Avenue, Lyons, PA. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Price \$12 day of show. Dash plaques for first 100 registered. Food, music, door prizes, Chinese Auction, raffles, flea market, 50/50. For more information, call Marie Gift at (610) 921-2611 or visit www.readingfairgroundsracing.com

Sunday, October 18, 2020 ::: Cabela's Auto Show

Location: Cabela's, 100 Cabela Dr, Hamburg, PA 19526. Time: 9 AM to 2 PM. Details are not finalized and will be updated soon according to Berks County Mustang Car Club, Inc. Look them up on Facebook.



Don't Forget - Dues Are Due!

LVCC Officers

President: Dennis Stamm Phone: (610) 926-4723 Email: dmstamm@comcast.net
 Vice Pres: Fred Scherzer Phone: (484) 948-5142 Email: jukeboxman44@gmail.com
 Secretary / Treasurer: Richard Weidner. Phone: (610) 502-1414 Email: anythingvair@yahoo.com,
 Newsletter & Website Editor: Allan Lacki. Phone: (610) 927-1583 Email: redbat01@verizon.net

