



the fifth wheel

December 2022

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Next Meeting: 3rd Saturday of January 2023



Date: January 21, 2023

Time: 10 AM

Place: America On Wheels
5 North Front Street
Allentown, PA

The Fifth Wheel is published monthly by Lehigh Valley Corvair Club Inc. (LVCC), a chapter of 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.

Fun Facts - 1969 Corvairs by Eva McGuire

All 1969 Corvairs were built at the Willow Run Assembly Plant (where most Corvairs were made) with the last car rolling out of the plant on May 14, 1969, at 1:30 PM. Out of a total 6,000 cars made in the last year of Corvair production, only 521 were convertibles.

There was only one convertible made on the last day of production and that was car #5997, frost green in color. Per my interview with Joe Casey, Supervisor of the Corvair Room at Willow Run (where they hand assembled the remaining 69 Corvairs after taking them off the main line in mid-November of 1968); they only chose to build one convertible in a selected day because as he stated, "They were a pain in the a\$\$ to make."

The first car to be hand assembled in the Corvair Room was car #2195 built on Friday, November 15, 1968. Cars 1 through 2,194 were made on the main assembly line.

Why did they take the 69 Corvairs off the main assembly line and hand assembled the rest? Because there was a high demand for Novas being made at that time. They were running 57 Novas an hour and only 2-3 Corvairs were coming down the line in that time.

Most workers were trained to assemble the Novas so it was difficult for them to deal with a random Corvair coming down (i.e. tools, etc.). They had issues of Corvair powertrains trying to be married to a Nova body and the engineers had a difficult time correcting that problem (according to Joe Strayhorn, Superintendent and Senior Reliability Engineer of the last 6,000 Corvairs made).

Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire
CPF Historian & Publicist

November Meeting

We met on Saturday November 19 in the library at the America on Wheels Museum. Larry Asheuer, John Egerton, Bob King, Allan Lacki, Bob Marlow, Dave Smullen, Jeff Strasser, Bob Weideman and Dick Weidner were there.

Dick Weidner read the minutes and treasury report. LVCC's bank account has a balance of approximately \$1,200.

Sad news: Scott Oberholzer won't be able to serve as LVCC's Vice President. He is just beginning chemotherapy. It was a surprise. Of course, we all wish him a full and effective recovery.

There was lots of discussion about members' Corvairs. Al Lacki and Larry Asheuer gave an update on the status of Greg Cain's CORSA coupe. It's at the Corvair Ranch awaiting an engine rebuild. The Powerglide transmission in Dennis Weaver's 1966 4-door Monza seems to be stuck in first gear. John Egerton, Bob Marlow, Brian O'Neill and Al Lacki replaced the clutch and front main seal in Ron Peles' '65 convertible. The garages at Egerton's Farm served as the venue for the work on Ron's car.

Speaking of members helping members, Rich Greene discussed tech sessions held by the Philadelphia Corvair Club. The sessions are held at the owners' houses, not a central location. The owner supplies the parts and the tech squad brings the tools, just in case the owner doesn't have them.

Bob King said he has a set of special tools for disconnecting electrical connectors in GM cars, including Corvairs. He volunteered to bring them to our next meeting for show and tell.

One of the members inquired about Schenkweiller's drive-in movie theater. In the past, the Philadelphia club held their movie night activity there. It is now under new management. Rich Greene said Philadelphia club will soon be deciding whether or not to do it again in 2023.

Mark your calendar! On behalf of LVCC, John Egerton volunteered to host a Corvair parts swap meet at his place on April 15. Bob Marlow agreed to get the word out to neighboring Corvair clubs. The event will likely include a 50/50 drawing, burgers and refreshments as well as a good assortment of parts for sale.

We also talked about having a Corvair show in the America on Wheels parking lot. Rich Greene expressed some concern that the show could draw too many cars to fit. It may be necessary to make it an invitational event, like the big concours shows.

Rich Greene talked about an upcoming exhibit at the America on Wheels Museum. The exhibit will run from October 2023 to April 2024 and the theme will be cars with air-cooled engines. Naturally, the curator of the museum would like to have one or two Corvairs on display. Other kinds of cars with air-cooled engines will also be invited. Jeff Strasser mentioned a friend who has a couple of air-cooled Franklins. Jeff will try to reach out to him to see if he is interested in putting them on display.

Last but not least, we discussed elections. We received no formal nominations, but at the meeting, two members stepped up to the plate. Al Lacki volunteered to be LVCC president and John Egerton volunteered to be Vice

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1969 Corvairs "Hand built classics!"



One of 521 Corvair convertibles for model year 1969. Photos courtesy of Hemmings and the GM Heritage Center.



Shades of green were popular colors..



Instrument panel was largely unchanged from 1968. Note padding around the radio and ash tray.



Interior of a 1969 Monza convertible.



1969 engine compartment.



Upholstery pattern for 1969 Corvair Monzas.

President. Dick Weidner said he will continue as Secretary Treasurer. Bob Marlow said he will help out in the management of the club as requested.

Consistent with past practice, we won't be having a meeting in December. Our next meeting will occur on Saturday January 21.

If You're Not Part of the Solution... ***by Bob Marlow***

When my wife and I moved to Allentown in September, 2021, one of the first things I did was seek out the LVCC. At the time, LVCC had just begun meeting at the America on Wheels Museum, a beautiful facility and an easy 15-minute drive from my new home.

Having lived in New Jersey my entire life previously, and having been a member of the New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts for decades, I of course knew of LVCC and had attended Das Awkscht Fescht numerous times. I've known Al Lacki since the 1980s, Dick Weidner for even longer, and I've known a number of other LVCC members as well. So, while attending the meetings was new for me, I was not among strangers.

But – please forgive my candor here – I was disappointed. While the club members have all been welcoming, friendly, and generous, aside from the excellent and award-winning Fifth Wheel newsletter there appears to be no substance to the club. Other than the club's participation in Das Awkscht Fescht each year there are no events or activities. The meetings, while enjoyable socially, are pretty dull affairs.

This was a change for me coming from NJACE, where the club has a long history of well-attended meetings and a busy and varied calendar of events. I'm still the editor of that club's news-

letter. So I decided that I needed to try to make things better for LVCC. That's where the title of this article comes from, the phrase "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

The greater Lehigh Valley region strikes me as rich soil for growing a healthier club. The overall automotive hobby is strong here, and there is a good number of Corvair owners throughout the area. We have within reach the ingredients to be bigger and better.

By happy coincidence, when I expressed my thoughts to longtime LVCC member John Egerton, he perked up and said that the club should hold a swap meet at his farm. Great idea! And a great way to begin to kick-start the club. When I spoke to Rich Greene, he suggested that the club consider having a Corvair-related event on the grounds of the AOW museum, another great idea! Rich, by the way, is part of the museum's volunteer staff, and it is he who makes our monthly meetings possible.

When I expressed my views publicly during the October LVCC meeting, those in attendance were in favor of re-energizing the club. For my part, one of my suggestions was that we as a club join in with the Philadelphia club for their annual visit to Shankweiler's Drive-In. Shankweiler's, in addition to being the oldest continuously-operating drive-in theatre in the country, is located right here in the Lehigh Valley.

Hands-on tech sessions, as was done recently with Bill Geary's recently-acquired Corvair, can not only be good for the club but can also help those new to Corvairs learn more about these unique machines. And I'd like to try to schedule a club visit to the showroom of the Eastern Auto Racing Historical Society in Orefield, where grassroots racing history from the Allentown Fairgrounds to Nazareth Speedway to Dorney Park and elsewhere is on display.

Das Awkscht Fescht, of course, should remain a centerpiece event.

What about the meetings? Well, at the November meeting it was suggested that specific tech topics be planned for the meetings, whether basic or in-depth, and I hope to push that idea forward. Also, I would like to find opportunities to get the club together over breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to provide greater social engagement and to draw in spouses and families.

I also hope to broaden regional participation, with our members attending activities conducted by neighboring clubs such as PCA, CPCC, and NJACE, and inviting those club's members to attend ours.

But none of this will happen if it's just me. We need more members to pitch in. With Dennis Stamm having expressed his wish to step down as LVCC President, Al Lacki has stepped up. Similarly, Fred Scherzer asked to not continue as vice-president, and Scott Oberholzer volunteered to serve in that position. But a serious medical diagnosis subsequently forced Scott to withdraw, which is totally understandable and we all wish the best prognosis for Scott. John Egerton then raised his hand and will now be our vice-president for 2023. Dick Weidner will continue as secretary/treasurer.

Rich Greene will continue to facilitate our meetings at AOW. And me? I'll be an unelected activities coordinator-cheerleader. Please send your ideas/recommendations/comments to me at rmarlow4040@gmail.com. My phone number, for voice or text, is 201-444-1859.

The Lehigh Valley Corvair Club's all-Corvair Spring Swap Meet is now on the calendar for Saturday, April 15, at Egerton's Farm in Bath. Mark the date. Plan to be there. Offer to help. Let's start building a better, more vibrant LVCC!

Robert Marlow
rmarlow4040@gmail.com

1966 Corvair Bike by Huffy

Rich Greene, editor of "Transmissions", the Philadelphia club's newsletter, wrote: On October 29th Bob Weideman drove to Wilkes Barre to buy a Huffy Corvair bike for \$50. It is in good working order, and he rode it around his driveway before parking it in the garage. It even has the hard-to-find plastic headlight unit. Bob had purchased his first Corvair bike several years ago and had written a story for the 2017 February issue of Transmissions. Below you will find photos of his new bike and the story from 2017.



"I am continuing my research into the Huffy Corvair Bicycle. I first searched the internet and was only able to find pictures of the bikes, but no information on them. I then reached out to customer service at Huffy. Huffy responded via email.

"We have passed most of our older information onto a Bicycle Museum located in New Bremen, Ohio. Their website is www.bicyclemuseum.com".

Next, I searched through the museum's website and, while it contained a lot of good information, it didn't list the Huffy Corvair. I emailed the museum and waited patiently to hear back, figuring it was the holidays and it may take a while. After 2 weeks or so, I received this email from the Bicycle Museum:"



"Hi Bob,

I found the Huffy Corvair in our Huffy records. They only produced the Corvair model one year – 1966.

There was a men's 26 inch, boys 24 inch, ladies 26 inch and girls 24 inch. The men's' and boys' models had a black frame, chrome fenders and rims, black tank, black chain guard, black carrier, white seats and white hand grips and whitewall tires. The ladies and girls' models had white frames, chrome fenders and rims, blue tank, blue chain guard, blue carrier, white seats and white hand grips and whitewall tires.

Men's models featured Huffy's "Twin Arch" frame. Huffy said they were "Sonic Styled". That is all we have on the Corvair. Hope this helps you! John Boeke, The Bicycle Museum of America, 7 W. Monroe Street, New Bremen, Ohio 4586"



Corvair Videos! **by Paul Miller**

Source: December 2022 issue of The Four Wheel Independent, the official newsletter of the Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club.

It is Dark, it is Cold, it is Time to watch-YouTube Corvair Videos!

Snuggle up folks with your device of choice and enjoy some quality time watching our favorite car the CORVAIR- the star of the show in each and every video listed below. Corvair as bankable video star. Highlighted are six videos (from literally hundreds available) for your consideration & viewing pleasure. All freely available on YouTube.

1. Time: 13:53 1960 Chevrolet Corvair Promo. The true classic video to watch whilst you are cold- I present the Rumble in the Jungle- Corvairs drive from Chicago to the Yucatan Peninsula. No computer graphics here, my friend, just old school graphics, water, mud, muscle and the Darien Jungle. THE epic road trip in a Caveman 'Vair. Time to repeat the effort?

2. Time: 19:40 Unsafe at Any Speed? Jay Leno's 1966 Chevrolet Corvair Corsa. The maestro of classic cars and motorcycles- he also had a secondary career as a comedian. With three aircraft hangers at his disposal, a full machine shop and many professional car restorers he does it right. Need a part- make it, need painting- can have it tomorrow, need Corvair parts- call Cal Clark personally on the phone for service. Just a great effort and another professional presentation. A wonderful Corvair video by a strong Corvair friend.

3. Time: 6:27 Introducing the 1960 Chevrolet Corvair. It is B&W with bleeding film stock-but the deep voice over adds depth, character, seriousness and authority to the venerated Corvair story. The camera work is so extraor-

dinary you may just find yourself at the local Chevy dealer with down payment in hand- GOOD LUCK!

4. Time: 2:02 1965 Corvair Commercial. The alluring Miss Blondie romps across the desert sands highlighting the spectacular new 1965 Corvair Series 2. In vaguely dreamlike sequences the 2 door Corsa gets it due. Again, photography, as it always is from GM, is at its best. The fading colors of the transfer only add to the mystic sense of a time gone by.

5. Time: 14:39 Rise & Fall of Corvair-Factory Footage. Real deal stills of the manufacturing process of the Series 1 Corvair. See how they made'em. After watching you'll want a factory authentic smock to wear while working on your car.

6. Time: 4:40 1966 Joie Chitwood Show. The whole Chevy line up does crazy stunts with a white Corvair frequently leading the pack. The cars jump, swerve, stand on two wheels- now that was entertainment car style. Don't try this in the Hoss's parking lot.

BONUS FEATURE: Has absolutely nothing to do with Corvair BUT... The BBC created a hoax for April Fool's Day circa 1957 called the Spaghetti Harvest (Time 2:28) in Ticino- watch it and you'll have a smile on your face

National Corvair Museum

Corvair Preservation Foundation Museum Gets New Name and New Recognition.

The Corvair Preservation Foundation (CPF) Museum, which has been in operation since 2016 and located in Glenarm, Illinois on historic Route 66, has been officially recognized by General Motors as the official Corvair museum for North America.

"It is with great joy and genuine ex-



citement that we announce the official new name of our "National Corvair Museum", which has just been approved by General Motors", said Mike Hall, CPF President and Museum Curator. "We look forward to a long and productive partnership with General Motors as Corvair will now have a national home for its display of historical vehicles, engines, artifacts as well as containing an archive for the history of this air-cooled wonder", Hall added.

The facility is located at 10041 Palm Rod. (Old Route 66) in Glenarm, Illinois. The museum will also be hosting events throughout the year to celebrate, preserve, and tell the story of the Corvair for future generations of classic car enthusiasts.

To book a tour of the National Corvair Museum, please contact Mike Hall, Curator, at (217) 494-7105 or mrhvair@aol.com.

Honda to Exit Lawn Mower Market

In another blow to lovers of air-cooled engines, we present the following.....

According to an October 3rd announcement posted to the Honda dealer Interactive Network, Honda will end its lawn mower production by September 2023 and left over inventory

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Calendar of Events

Cruise Nights Go to <https://carmacruisefinder.com/> It's easy to use and lists more cruise events than we could possibly fit in this newsletter!

Day-Time Car Shows & Events:

Car show season is over, so this month, we're including other kinds of events that are likely to be of interest to us gear heads!

Saturday January 21, 2023. Blue Mountain Antique Gas and Steam Engine Get Together. Location: Jacktown Grove, 1279 Richmond Rd, Bangor, PA 18013. Time: 9 am - 4 pm. Snow or Shine! Dress appropriately! Admission price: Free. Parking price: Free. Sponsored by Blue Mountain Antique Gas and Steam Engine Association. Contact: Tom Buist Jr. Phone: (610) 588-7360. Email: bluemountainassociation@gmail.com

January 26 – 29, 2023. Pennsylvania Auto Show. Location: Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, 2300 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110. Thursday, January 26, 2023 1 PM - 9 PM. Friday, January 27, 2023 10 AM – 9 PM. Saturday, January 28, 2023 10 AM – 9PM. Sunday, January 29, 2023 10 AM – 5 PM. Admission price: not listed. Hundreds of new cars, trucks, SUVs, motorcycles, and so much more. Last year, this event was cancelled due to COVID, so before attending, check the event website to make sure the event is on. <https://www.autoshowharrisburg.com/>

Saturday, February 18: Corvair Parts Auction, indoors at the Pompton Lakes Elks Lodge located at 1 Perrin Ave, Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442. The Parts Auction dates back to 1982, and now stands as one of our club's longest-running events and most popular event.

Sunday March 5, 2023. 56th Annual Hamburg Swap Meet & Car Corral. Location: Hamburg Fire Co. Field House, 127 South 4th Street - Rear (Pine St.), Hamburg, PA 19536. Time: 7 AM to 2 PM. Rain or shine. Admission: \$3 per adult. Children under 12 free. Inside vendor spaces 10' x 8' \$25 each. Tables (8' x 30") \$2.00 each. Outdoor vendor spaces 25' x 17' \$15 each. Car corral \$5 each car. Free paved parking. Over 100 indoor spaces with unlimited outdoor spaces and car corral. Handicap friendly. Vendor spaces available. For information call 610-823-4656 or email Lhedgehog1@aol.com

Saturday April 15, 2023. LVCC Corvair Parts Swap Meet. Location: Egerton's Farm, 2510 Community Drive, Summit Station (Bath), PA 18014 Mark your calendar. Details to follow. John Egerton email address: jegerton@ptd.net

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will be offered in 2024 until it is sold out.

"The decision to end lawn mower production is driven by market forces such as stricter environmental regulations, shifting customer preferences, and our focus on growing profitable products in our portfolio," the statement said.

"Honda will continue to sell the remainder of its lawn and garden product line and industrial type power products such as GX engines, generators and water pumps, and continue to support its service and parts operations in the U.S. market." The End.

Cheap Gas? Thrown Fanbelt?





LVCC Classified Ads

For Sale: 1964 Spyder Coupe. Very solid body. All glass good. Factory sport steering wheel. 14" aluminum slot wheels. Drive train not installed but included in price is a complete 1965 turbo engine and a 1964 4-speed transaxle with 3:55 ratio. Price: \$5,000. Location: Bath, PA. Contact John Egerton. (610) 217-0514 jegerton@ptd.net

For Sale: 1967 Corvair Monza Coupe. Hi, this is Zack Wood. Here are photos of my uncles' Corvair. The car is complete and runs with 4 speed transmission. He would like to sell it for \$500, but he really wants to sell it and will take any reasonable offer for it. He is located near Hamburg Pa. His name is :Rich Kramer and his phone number is (215) 850-7795.



Jeff Marvill's Suspension Services: I have over 45 years of suspension experience and I'm extremely experienced with the Corvair suspension systems as well as all other makes of vintage cars. I also have a computerized alignment system here so all repairs can remain in house. Now that I'm retired, I have more available time to repair these great cars. I can be reached at 267-424-4911 .Jeff Marvill, Perkasio, PA

A&L Corvair Parts: New Parts: Brakes hoses, air filters, oil filters, tune-up parts, brake shoes, shocks, tail light lenses, gaskets, plugs, cables, choke pull offs, electrical switches, gas filters, caps, backup switches, suspension parts, engine bearings, valves, emblems, exhaust, turbo parts, patch panels, early bezels, head studs, 140 exhaust extractors, Y pipes, mufflers, fuzzies, clutch cables, lower bracket, heim joints, models, magazines, CORSA magazines, Hot Wheels, Racing Champions cars and much, much more. Contact Larry for pricing. Used Parts: Too many to list. Larry Asheuer Call 267-994-1569 or email: a-lcorvair@msn.com

Sky King Automotive Services: Now offering Corvair head work. Valve-seat grinding, Pro Flow grinding/ polishing, cleaning-cutting head gasket surfaces, de-flashing , thread repair. (I have measurement equip to confirm correct gasket surface depths). HV carb rebuilding. Top engine cover modifications for one gasket, no more leaks! Sound proofing interiors, gas tank replacements, as well as rear and front axle bearing units. Late rears in stock! Bob King kcorvair@ptd.net or text/call to 610-442-2873.

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



Corvair Living Puzzle - Answer Sheet!

Here are the answers to last month's puzzle. Source: the November 2022 issue of Temp Press, the official newsletter of the Central Florida Corvair club.

Down:

1. The man who we owe it to
3. The souped-up version maker
4. A car, a region, another car, a race
6. A model type and an organization
8. Not a hard-top
10. The station wagon model
13. These models ran from 1965 to 1969

Across:

2. The models from 1960 to 1964
5. The man who had it all wrong
7. Taking it to 180 hp
9. A major supplier of Corvair parts
11. The car that was produced from 1960 to 1969
12. Our version of an automatic
14. The working man's version
15. The symbol for the manufacturer
16. The engine type

The crossword puzzle grid is filled with the following words:

- Down:**
 - 1. Earl
 - 3. k
 - 6. c o r s a
 - 8. n
 - 10. l a r k s
 - 13. l a
- Across:**
 - 2. e a r l y
 - 4. m o n a d e r z
 - 5. n a d e r
 - 7. t u r b o c h a r g e d
 - 9. c a r k s
 - 11. c o r v a i r
 - 12. p o w e r g l i d e
 - 14. r a m p s i d e
 - 15. b o w t i e
 - 16. a i r c o o l e d

We Meet Here!



Hub Cap Café, located inside the America On Wheels Museum. You do NOT need to pay the usual admission fee. Simply explain that you are with the Lehigh Valley Corvair Club, courtesy of Rich Greene.



Date: **Saturday** January 21, 2023 (Weather Permitting)

Time: 10 AM

Place: America On Wheels Museum

5 North Front Street

Allentown, PA 18102



Located near the Lehigh River, where Hamilton Street meets Front Street, the museum is both easy to find and easy to get to. Spacious parking beside the building offers plenty of room for even large groups.

LVCC Officers

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