It’s winter, and the cold weather means we are driving our Corvairs with the heater on. Corvairs use heated air from the engine area. Any exhaust leaks (even very minor ones) can lead to CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning. I heard about a fellow who always drove his Corvair with the window partway down because he didn’t want to risk CO poisoning. The only problem with this approach is that you’re still breathing fresh air mixed with heated air. Even exposures to air with small amounts of CO accumulate and can result in illness or death. This is not a unique Corvair problem. Many antique cars, early Volkswagens, and small aircraft can pose the same risk, not mention home heating systems.

The best solution is to FIX ANY EXHAUST LEAKS! Placing a CO detector in your car is a good safety/health measure. Carbon Monoxide detectors come in a lot of sizes and shapes:

- Home detectors that use 9-volt batteries are available from home repair stores (about $30.00).
- RV and marine units that run off 12Volts ($50.00 > $200.00)
- Non powered visual indicator cards are available at small airports from Flight Based Operators (approx. $8.00) BUT must be replaced periodically.
- A compact 9-volt battery unit for automobiles is available from Quantum Group called the COSTAR model P1 ($50.00). It’s brand new. See www.qginc.com.

Each has advantages/disadvantages. Check them all out and purchase one that works for you.

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**Corvair Drivers can race at Willow Springs Raceway June 22nd.**

California Arizona Racing (CAR) will hold Corvair Time Trials on Sunday, June 22, at Streets at Willow Springs road course, Willow Springs International Raceway. The fun day on the twisting 1.8 mile road course in Rosamond, CA is open to 60 drivers of Corvair bodied or powered cars. Historic race cars, modified, and stock daily drivers are entered. Spectators are welcome for $10.00 admission.

CAR is a Corvair Society of America chapter in formation, and comprised of a dozen experienced Corvair competitors and event producers organized to preserve the Corvair racing heritage. Acting President Jack Pinard has produced Corvair autocross at Camarillo Airport. CAR will be assisted by Northeast Corvair Council (NECC), a club that for 20 years has produced events at eastern road courses, some in conjunction with annual CORSA conventions. Their previous West Coast appearance was at Portland International Raceway in 2005.

**Saturday evening, June 21** - A drivers' meeting in Rosamond. A block of rooms has been reserved at Devonshire Inn Motel. Rules will be explained by Brian O’Neil, president of NECC. A talk on driving tips for the course will be presented by famed Corvair racer Rod Bean, former owner/driver of Corvair Yenko Stinger YS-077, who competed on Southern California tracks in the 1970s. For several years he has been a driving instructor at Willow Springs Raceway.

**Sunday, June 22** - Corvair Time Trials are the day before the Monday thru Friday, June 23-27, Corvair Society of America (CORSA) International Convention at Ventura, CA.

Only 60 drivers of Corvair bodied or powered cars can participate. To date over 20 deposits of $50.00 have been accepted. The balance of $100.00 with completed registration form will be due April 1. Checks or money orders for $50.00 payable to Corvair Time Trials may be mailed to Jack Pinard, 116 E Garden Green, Port Hueneme, CA 93041. For questions e-mail corvairjack@verizon.net or phone 805 340-6533.

Novice drivers and unmodified cars are welcome. Cars will be checked for good mechanical condition, brakes and tires, battery tie-down and shoulder harness. Convertibles must have a roll bar. All drivers must wear approved helmets. Two drivers can use the same car. Complete rules are available on the NECC web site: www.corvair.org/chapters/necc/