



RAMPSIDE



CORVAN



LOADSIDE



GREENBRIER

CORVAN ANTICS

##A CHARTERED CHAPTER OF CORSA, CORVAIR SOCIETY OF AMERICA



Jul/Aug 2007 VOL. 35, NO4



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CORVANATICS is the bi-monthly publication of Corvanatics, a Chartered Chapter of the Corvair Society of America (COSA). Established September, 1972, Corvanatics is dedicated to preserving and enjoying America's original and most innovative small vans and light trucks, the Chevrolet Corvair 95 Series.

Membership in Corvanatics is open to any COSA member with an interest in Forward Control Corvairs. Membership applications are available from the Secretary/Treasurer, Larry Schmuhl 4563 Deep Grove Ct Jacksonville, FL 32224
Dues are \$10.00 per year and must be sent to the Secretary/Treasurer. Sending them to any other address will only slow your renewal and possibly cause you to miss an issue.

Stories, articles, photos, memorabilia, or any other item for publication should be sent to the editor: Mike Moyer 2736 Sherwood Dr Navarre, FL 32566. All of these can also be sent by e-mail to: Vairvert67@yahoo.com. Technical material should be sent to the Technical Editor for review.

Classified ads are free to Corvanatics members and should be sent to the editor. Display advertising is also available at the following rates: Full Page: \$25; Half Page: \$15; Quarter Page: \$10; Business Card (2 x 3.5): \$5; Please submit print-ready or typed copy and pre-payment to the editor. Photos for ads are \$6.00 each and can be color or black/white. Authorization and payment must be received for each issue. Deadline for publication is the 15th of February, April, June, August, October, or December.

Web Page Address: www.corvair.org/chapters/corvanatics/



CORVANATICS MERCHANDISE

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All Corvanatics Invited to Labor Day Weekend Campout

Ben and Lynn Stiles invite all Corvanatics members to come out and camp with us and the VW Bus crowd Labor Day Weekend (August 31-September 3, 2007) at Indian Head Campground in Bloomsburg, PA. You and your family are welcome to come in your FC, your Corvair car, waterpumper with tent, motorhome, motorcycle, or what have you. Be prepared for awesome food, automobile enthusiast conversation and camaraderie, a caravan to Knoebels Amusement Park, and lots of fun. Visit the Kampers near Knoebels website at http://www.geocities.com/bens_bus/knk.htm or contact Ben Stiles at lbstiles@verizon.net

The \$200,000 Greenbrier By Charlie O'Hare

It all started early one fall afternoon in 2005 when my neighbor, a nationally known artist, Risa Moldovan walked up our driveway and came into our garage as I was working on our 1965 Corvair Greenbrier van. Risa asked me what was the largest size painting that would fit inside the Greenbrier. I told her that the interior dimensions with both the second and third row seats removed was approximately five feet wide by ten feet long. Next, we measured the side door openings and determined that a painting 54 by 64 would just make it in the door opening. Of course by this time my curiosity peaked and I asked her what she had in mind. Risa recently sold a painting in Chicago for more than \$30,000 and that painting was approximately a 24 inches by 30 inches. She was planning on painting a much larger piece and would need a method of transportation for it; hence, the Greenbrier questions.

A few weeks later, I received a call from Risa asking me to come over and help her assemble a very large easel in preparation for the expected arrival of the 54 by 64 canvas. I was impressed with the size and quality of the easel, and I couldn't wait to see what she had in mind for her painting. Over the next twelve months, my wife Mary Kay and I took many walks across the street to Risa's house to check on the progress of the VERY LARGE painting. Although neither my wife nor I have any artistic talent or knowledge, we soon learned by watching Risa that she is an extremely talented artist who paints in the style of the Old Masters. Every detail of every object in the painting looked so real that one felt that they could just pick it up out of the picture. It was amazing! The colors, the shadows and lighting and the correct angle of any reflections in the picture were perfect. As the months past, the painting took shape and was completed and professionally framed in February in 2007. We planned on delivering the paintings to The infamous Watergate building in Washington DC for an exclusive showing of 27 of Risa's paintings. Risa's website is www.Moldovanfinearts.com. However the week before we were to deliver the paintings, the weather in Pittsburgh turned nasty with snow and ice and the dreaded salt. Due to the bad weather, we decided to rent a new van and deliver the paintings and leave the Greenbrier at home. The show lasted six weeks and by that time the weather in both Pittsburgh and DC was fine and the Greenbrier was ready, willing and certainly able.

I left Pittsburgh early on Friday afternoon, April 20, 2007 carrying in the van all of the necessary movers pads, blankets, tie downs and bungee cords and drove the 225 miles to my sister Patty's house in Charles Town, West Virginia which is approximately one hour west of DC. Early Saturday morning, my brother-in-law Jim and I drove the 65 miles into DC and proceeded up Virginia Avenue to The Watergate. Upon arriving, we were greeted by Dale, the owner of the Gallery at The Watergate and she was immediately impressed with the size of the interior and the condition of our 42 year old Greenbrier. Also, a resident of the Watergate came over to admire the Greenbrier and told us the story of the 1964 Spyder that he had when he was younger. He said it was one of the best cars he ever owned. I told him about Corsa and suggested that he take a drive over to Leesburg and go to the Vair Fair show that afternoon. He said that he had no plans for the day and would do so. Hopefully he will come back to the Corvair Community. It took approximately one hour to carefully load and tie down our precious cargo of 22 paintings worth more than \$200,000 including the 54 by 64 painting valued at \$67,500. To say I was nervous would be an understatement. Here we were driving a 42 year old van worth about \$4,000 with almost a ¼ of a million dollars worth of art work inside. But I knew our Greenbrier was extremely reliable. Since purchasing the van three years ago, I took the power train out and with the help of Rad Davis and expert coaching from Rob Adams and Jeff Stonesifer at the Corvair Ranch, carefully put a new clutch, shocks, universal joints, blower bearing, motor mount, etc. in it and cleaned and resealed everything. My biggest fear was that someone on one of the beltways around DC or the Pennsylvania Turnpike would run into the van and destroy the paintings. After leaving the gallery, we carefully drove through the DC traffic, onto the Beltway and headed west with our very precious and valuable cargo. On the way home, I stopped in Leesburg, Virginia and visited with John Sweet and Jeff Stonesifer at the Virginia Vair Fair. After leaving the Vair Fair, I drove the remaining three and one half hours home and delivered the paintings without incident. The total mileage for the trip was 677 carefree miles. We have driven our Greenbrier approximately 4,000 miles since we purchased it, and it has proven extremely reliable, functional and fun. It is always a pleasure getting a "Thumbs Up" from passers by. Little did they know what valuable cargo was inside !

See pictures next page

\$200,000 Greenbrier

Watergate Pictures From previous page



Dale Johnson, Watergate Gallery Owner



Risa Moldovan with one of her paintings



Greenbrier at The Watergate

Ben's Bus Serves as a Mobile Office

Some of the nice things about my new position as a school counselor at the local high school technology center are the flexibility of scheduling and the totally unexpected opportunities that occasionally arise. Case in point was the benefit carwash I organized in late May in order to financially assist two of the school's families in need.

I made the appropriate arrangements with the local Harley Davidson dealership that we would be allowed to use their facility's parking lot, water supply, and hoses. My co-worker's



husband owns a carwash supply company, so the soap, buckets, and air fresheners for sale were all donated. The students happily signed up for a day in the sunshine and outside of the classroom. One other detail was sure in my mind...Ben's Bus would be the mobile office for this event. After the Greenbrier hauled many of the supplies down to the site, and once parked, the van's camper top was popped, the awning was pulled for shade, and all of the students' belongings were stored within. We set up a folding table with the money box and a large cooler of water for the students.

We washed cars for four hours. During that time, the students became comfortable stopping in at the van for a break from the sun and a cold drink. Some ate around

it and commented how cool the "hippy van" really was. I was able to indulge in some good stories of our travels



Ben Stiles
Strasburg, PA

CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted: **Rampside** Prefer Powerglide but will consider manual Must be Restored or very nice original Bob Grant 304-263-2763 granteb@comcast.net

Wanted: **Looking for a good-conditioned "fake metal floor"** that was an option on some of the Corvair Rampside Pickups Please Contact Darrell: 417-725-8088 Or woofcor-

For Sale: Set of 4 13" Minilite Wheels for Late model Car. In good condition no center caps. \$200 obo Mike Moyer 850-261-1709 vairvert67@yahoo.com

For Sale: **64 700 4 door**, 110 hp, white with blue interior, 21,000 miles, de-flashed, new seals everywhere, new gas tank, new gas tank gauge, new rear shocks, new Firestone 440 white wall tires, interior good, good glass, new weather-strip, new billet idler pulley, remanufactured pressure plate (bolted) and clutch (all balanced), new disc and release bearing and pilot bearing and release shaft, new plugs, points, condenser, cap, rotor, brakes rebuilt, bearings greased, new pitman arm bushing, nearly new battery. Original spare tire still holding air Gonna take a bit of a loss on it at \$4000 Merv Krull Salmon Arm, BC krupross@sunwave.net

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Collectible
Commercial Vehicles



1963 Chevrolet Corvair 95 Rampside Pickup:
Cab Forward

Corvair, Chevrolet's first compact car, featured a rear-mounted, air-cooled engine like the VW Beetle. Chevy followed the German's lead further by turning the Corvair into a van and a pickup.

Conversion from a sedan to a van/pickup involved moving the driver seat forward over the front wheels. Total length stayed at 180 inches, but wheelbase actually shrank from 108 to 95 inches. In the event of a crash, the driver's feet were danger-

ously close to front bumper, but behind him was a truck bed 105 inches in length or, in the van, a load deck 114 inches long. The Corvair Greenbrier wagon could be fitted with three rows of seats—offering the room and versatility of a minivan.

The commercial series was badged "Corvair 95" for its wheelbase. Three models were offered—Corvan, Loadside, and Rampside. The Corvan was a panel van. The Loadside was a pickup with conventional dou-

ble-walled box and rear tailgate, while the Rampside added a door on the right side of the bed that folded down to form a ramp. Unique to Corvair, this feature allowed heavy loads to be rolled instead of lifted into the bed, and Chevrolet sales literature never missed a chance to illustrate it. The top edge was covered with rubber to protect it when lowered to the ground or curb.

The cargo bed was longer than a conventional truck's bed, but

Collectible Automobile®

FC REGISTRY

Merv Krull of Salmon Arm, BC, Canada has graciously volunteered to start a registry of all known Corvair FC models. E-mail Merv at krupross@sunwave.net and supply the following information:

Make: Greenbrier, Rampside, Loadside, Corvan

Year:

Model:

Vin Number:

Features:

Location:

E-mail or phone number:

Status: Running, under restoration, parts, junked

I'm sure any interesting short notes would be appreciated by Merv. He says you can send up to 3 jpeg pictures with the information. Thanks from all of us for taking on such a large task Merv.





CORVANANTICS
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FIRST CLASS