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CIRCLE CITY CORVAIRS April 2024

Indianapolis, Indiana

Volume 50, Issue 4

# Years VALVE CLATTER



## Circle City Corvair Club Celebrating

### 50 years!!!



We are inviting all of our 60 plus members to please make a special effort to join us on April 20th, 2024 Beginning at 11 a.m.



At Scamahorn Park, Pittsboro, IN



The Main Course and Drinks provided  
Bring a side or dessert...and of course your Corvair!!



The day will include recognition of founding and long-time members; club history in photos and memorabilia; And of course our fundraising silent and live auction!

**MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY!**

the happiest driving compact car ★  
**corvair**  
by Chevrolet



# The President Speaks

From Your Vee Pea.....by Todd Stires

## Greetings Corvair enthusiast.



Please set your calendar for Saturday the 20th for our Corsa Birthday Party at the park in Pittsboro. We will have our meeting, auction and lunch all there at the shelter building along with a car show if you drive your Corvair. The club provides the main course, drinks, tableware and you provide any side dishes you choose to bring. Oh, one more thing please bring your wallet with cash to purchase items at our auction and any items you may want to donate to the club's fundraising auction. We expect to have a few special items that have never been seen before for a raffle as well. Come by 11 am and lunch at noonish.

One thing I haven't ever mentioned is a suggestion to join CORSA if you are not already a member. This organization supports all nationwide clubs and organizes many events, it also provides the insurance for some auto-cross events at our conventions among other things. CORSA helps to keep our hobby alive and active. Another group that some of you may not be aware of is Corvanatics, this is a sister group that focuses on van and truck owners needs and provides a lot of information dedicated to this group. You receive a special newsletter and meetings at the Corsa convention that connect you with other FC owners.

Dave

Writing this on April Fool's Day may not be the best idea but by the time this is published hopefully all of us have emerged from "Totality" of the solar eclipse! In addition, my wife Alice & I will either still be celebrating a PURDUE basketball championship or we may be on medication. The last time the Boiler's were in the Final Four was 1980 and we were both freshmen at Purdue but had not met each other yet! Now you know why my Corvair is "Granada Gold" color code "GG" Boiler Up!

Furthermore, let it be known that the Circle City Corvair Club is not only celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year as a club but it was well represented by 4 club members Corvairs at the recent World of Wheels Car Show in Indianapolis! All four entries earned a class plaque and our club won a \$100 prize for its booth display. A hearty "thank-you" to Steve McBride & his Rampside, Paul Fox & his Yenke Stinger,

Tom Miller & his LM Corsa and Rod Lasley & his EM Convertible. They spent many hours preparing their cars and being at the show representing CCC as we had a steady crowd all weekend as they had to pass the Corvairs to get to the three Batman cars on display! We also were visited by our CCC member from Canada, Jean Marc Urbain, who was in the State's visiting his brother! The new CCC feather banner looked great, the Corvair info placards were a nice touch in our booth and the CCC Rulers were a hit with new & old Corvair fans!

Continuing with more festivities in April be sure to join us on April 20<sup>th</sup> at Scamahorn Park in Pittsboro for our Corsa Birthday Party & CCC 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Picnic. This is a great opportunity to get the Corvairs out for a cruise & enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Many former club members have been invited to share Corvair stories and join in watching some Corvair videos.

Plan to bring a side dish for all to enjoy and plan to bring a donated item for the club fundraiser auction. Bring your wallet to purchase that special item! We are hoping for a big turnout of CCC members **and their** Corvairs! We hope to see you there!

Visit our website "[circlecitycorvairs.org](http://www.circlecitycorvairs.org)" to review an entire calendar of events planned for 2024

*Valve Clatter* is the monthly newsletter of the Circle City Corvairs, a Chapter of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). We welcome story ideas and articles for publication. Advertisements for cars and car parts, either wanted or for sale, are free. Send information to newsletter editor Tom Miller.

### 2024

### Club Officers

Visit our web site: <http://www.circlecitycorvairs.org>

President:	Dave Beck	Ph. 317-409-5682
Vice President:	Todd Stires	Ph. 317-205-5900
Secretary:	John Shull	Ph. 765-620-4615
Treasurer:	Rod Lasley	Ph. 317-294-2871
Activity Coordinator:	Ron and Anita Bunten	Ph. 317-590-2056
Directors:	Dan Brizendine	Ph: 317-862-3550
	Dale Smiley	Ph. 317-742-7643
	Carlton Smith	Ph. 317-697-0318
Newsletter:	Tom Miller	Ph. 317-504-4624
Technical Advisors:	Paul Fox	Ph. 317-605-0724
	Dan Brizendine	Ph. 317 862-3550
Web Master:	Rod Lasley	Ph. 317-294-2871

## Where did that saying come from???

They used to use urine to tan animal skins, so families used to all pee in a pot & then once a day it was taken & sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive you were "piss poor."

But worse than that were the really poor folk who couldn't even afford to buy a pot; they "didn't have a pot to piss in" & were the lowest of the low.

The next time you are washing your hands & complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be. Here are some facts about the 1500s.

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. Since they were starting to smell, however, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.



Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it ... hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof, resulting in the idiom, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed, therefore, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, leading folks to coin the phrase "dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way, subsequently creating a "thresh hold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire.. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while, and thus the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

## 2023 Club Service Directory

**Corvair Repair Work** Carry-in component rebuilding. Some NOS and used parts.  
Dan Brizendine 317-862-3550 [debrizo@comcast.net](mailto:debrizo@comcast.net)

**Corvair Repair Work** Mike McKeel 765-358-3930

**Corvair Repair Work and Parts** Paul Fox 317-847-7913

**Printing Services, Embroidery, Screen Printing** KC Designs Karl Clark  
812-876-4020

### *Where did that saying come from???* Continued

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial.. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up, creating the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive, so they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer.

*And that's the truth. Now,  
whoever said History was  
boring?*



# Preventive Maintenance Series

By Mike Dawson

## Driving a Corvair Without the Keys

1. A useful little device that can be carried in your billfold (or purse) for gaining entry into any Corvair is the little spring clip that holds the air baffles up against the cylinders in all Corvair engines: about  $3 \frac{1}{2}$  inches long with an eye on either end. To open a wing window, gently push one end past the rubber under the vent handle with the eye to the rear of the car. Push in on the vent window and rotate the clip counter clockwise. The vent handle will unlock and you can reach in to open the side window or door. This method is quick and will not damage anything.

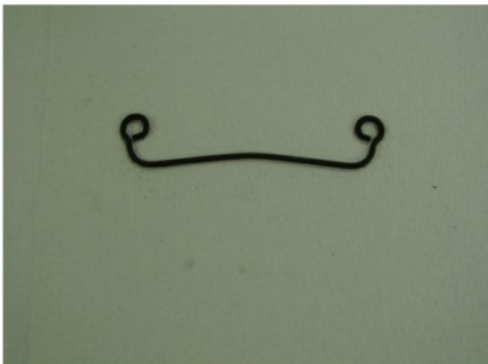
2. The wiring for the Corvair starter operation begins at the battery, travels twenty plus feet through several connectors and switches (depending on transmission) to end up only two feet from the battery where it started. To bypass all of that, run a jumper wire from the positive battery terminal to the purple wire in the two wire connector found at the left front of the engine compartment. Unplug the connector and touch the jumper wire to the purple wire that leads through the rubber grommet in the sheet metal to the starter. Anytime you make the connection, the starter will engage. The engine will only start if the key is on, so you can use this for compression checks, setting dwell, mechanical fuel pump testing etc. A commercial remote starter is a good tool to have. To actually run the engine you need the next step.

3. During normal running, the coil receives less than six volts to the + terminal because of a resistance in the wiring (1.8 ohms). Full battery voltage is supplied only during the cranking to help starting under extreme conditions. If you apply 12 volts during running, the points will quickly burn and the engine dies. To run an engine without using the ignition switch, make up a jumper as follows: cut a length of standard wire (any gauge from 12 to 20 will work) that reaches from the positive battery connection to the positive coil terminal. Attach a clamp or large clip for the battery end and a smaller clip for the coil + terminal end. Purchase a coil resistor from a parts store (1.8 ohms is a standard listing) and attach it in series anywhere in the middle of the wire. Wrap it with tape because it gets hot to the touch. You also could use the original resistance wire from another harness. Anytime this jumper is hooked up, the engine will run until you unhook it. You cannot run other accessories with this jumper, only the ignition part of the engine. Also be sure you don't lay the wire against anything that moves when the engine starts.

When I need to drive a locked car without keys, I use all three of the above.



Vent Window Tool



Resistors



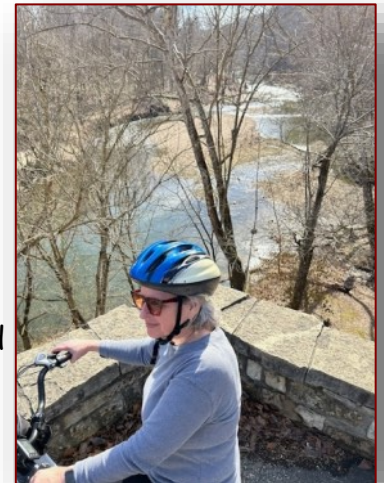
## Late Winter Ultra Travels

With several mild days in February & March we decided to load the bicycles into the Ultra Van and visit some State Parks again. Prophetstown State Park is a vast mostly prairie grass area with a rich history located near Lafayette In. and the Wabash River. Did you know prairie grass is one third above ground level and can have roots 20' deep? The Shawnee brothers Tenskwatawa and Tecumseh established their village of people there in 1808 after being "pressured" to leave Ohio by settlers. Tecumseh persuaded 14 other rival tribes to set aside their disputes and formed an alliance with them in hopes of stopping their common enemy and stay settled in that area but no way hose A. William Henry Harrison, then governor of the Indiana Territory, was alarmed by the number of Indians settling at the Prophetstown area so he moved 1,200 troops near the site. One thing led to another then on 11-7-1811 the Battle of Tippecanoe happened. We now have nice, safe bicycle trails. (sorry I digress).

Now on to Muscatatuck Park in Jennings County near the small southern town of Vernon In. With a 7000-acre wildlife refuge attached it is a bird watchers paradise. The park itself is small but was once a stone cutting quarry and boast the state's best rock-climbing area. Riding our bikes there was a challenge uphill but coasting downhill up to 30 mph with drop-offs on either side was also, glad for disk brakes on the bikes. Several nice waterfalls on the Muscatatuck River also.

These are all great places to drive your Corvair taking the back roads where you can, not too far from home and enjoy our state and your classic car or Ultra Van!

Dave & Gloria Beck #389



### FOR SALE

A towbar for a Corvair



### For Sale:

\$300. for dual exhaust

\$100. for single exhaust

Mark Syoen 317-749-3779

### For Sale:

61 coupe EZ eye (factory tinted glass) good condition- \$150 includes all glass except the windshield. One bumper mount trailer hitch for sale \$25

Dave Beck 317-409-5682



An engine stand that will fit a Corvair engine.

If you are interested in any of these three items, contact Ken Clark at [alveraken@gmail.com](mailto:alveraken@gmail.com)

A trailer hitch for a Corvair



# Pictures from the World of Wheels





P.O. Box 17325 Indianapolis, IN 46217-0325

<p>Saturday April 20th</p>	<p>Meeting will be held at Pittsboro at the Shelter house in Scamahorn Park. This will be a pitch in lunch and auction. More information will be available later. This event is the start to the club driving season.</p>
<p>Saturday April 27th</p>	<p>April 27, 2024 - (<a href="#">Plainfield, IN 46168</a>) 13th Annual Cruisin for a Cure show to be held at the Charleston Pavilion in Plainfield's Guilford Township Hummel Park 5373 S. County Rd 700 East (also known as Sugar Grove Rd). Registration begins at 11:00-2:00p with Awards Presentation at 4:00p. Please call Chris (317) 443-5583 or email us <a href="mailto:chrisanddebora@att.net">chrisanddebora@att.net</a> with any questions.</p>
<p>Saturday May 18th</p>	<p>Regular meeting at Hubler Chevrolet, Then we will take a road trip to Cammack station in Muncie for lunch!! Great place!!!!</p>
<p>Saturday June 15th</p>	<p>A tune up Day at the Dave Beck Barn in Brownsburg. The club will provide the pizza and drinks</p>
<p>Saturday July 20th</p>	<p>Regular meeting at Hubler Chevrolet with lunch at Grays Cafeteria</p>