

The Vair Fax



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From the Editor

Hello everyone,

Well.....if you didn't make it to Helen, you sure missed a great time and the beautiful weather! Numbers are listed in other articles throughout the newsletter. I want to thank Billy Cannon for presenting me with the "Clay Grant's Corvair Diner" award. There is a copy attached to the newsletter. I am still craving a Double Deck Rampside Burger.....I guess I will have to make one and see how it turns out.....I have included Frank Metasavage's article from the Atlanta club's newsletter this month. The Meeting is at noon Saturday at the Air Park off of Hwy 96 In Bonaire. Hope to see you there!

Springfest Results are attached in this email.

Clay

May Meeting
May 14th/ 12:00 Noon
Warner Robins Air Park
123 Air Park Drive
Warner Robins, GA
Please RSVP to Chuck Smith
Text 478-221-5133

The swap shop

Wanted: Want to buy: One 13" 3-bar wire wheel cover. No junk please! Good daily driver condition. Will consider a whole set if the price is right. Chuck Smith 478-221-5133. charlessm6@aol.com

Upcoming events

Corsa Convention July 12-16,2022 Atlanta, GA

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From the Prez- Chuck Smith

Hello everyone, and welcome to the May edition of the 'Vairfax. I hope you all have been doing well. Wow, it's been over two months since I have seen you guys. No April meeting, and I wasn't able to make it to Springfest. Our house was Forsyth General Hospital for a while. Mom was here recuperating from her fall back in February, Mel's sister was here recuperating from cataract surgery, and the Thursday before Springfest, Mel caught some kind of stomach bug. So, I was doctor, nurse, cook and whatever else during that time. I am sorry I couldn't be there to help. I understand that it was a great event, and everyone had a great time.

It seems like it was just yesterday that the 2022 Convention was two years away. Now, it is about nine weeks away. Much work has been put into this Convention, to make it the best ever. Numbers indicate that attendance will be off the chart. Please be aware of your duties and job assignments. If you are not on a job list, and want to help, please get with Mike Gassmann, Billy Bruce, or Lillian Law, and one of them will be happy to find something for you!

Our next meeting date, May 14th, happens to share something important with our hobby. It happens to be the date that the last Corvair was produced. On May 14th, the last Corvair, an Olympic Gold Monza, rolled off the Willow Run assembly line. The last six digits of the VIN were 706000. It was driven off the assembly line, and photographed by the news media, but not before it was slightly damaged by the lifting cradle. After the photo session with the Monza in front of the railroad car that was to take it to its assigned dealership, the car was driven away. To this day no one knows its whereabouts other than GM, and they aren't telling.

So, while plundering for parts in salvage yards, if you happen upon a '69 Monza with 706000 being the last six digits of the VIN, don't shout with excitement. Instead, quietly approach the yard owner, asking how much he wants for the derelict hulk of Corvair!

Speaking of our May meeting, please be aware that it will be held at the airplane hangar in Bonaire. (Thanks Joe!). Please RSVP to me by Friday the 13th, to let me know if you are coming. We will pick up either pizza or BBQ, let me know when you respond, whichever gets the most votes is what we will get.

Be sure and ask Clay Grant about the award he received at Springfest, for being the greatest cook in the entire Corvair hobby!

That's about it,
hope to see everyone at the hangar on the 14th.

Chuck,
your absentee President

Portions of the above article
were taken from the book
"Corvair Affair" by Mike Knepper

From Frank Metasavage

“*The Road to the Convention...*” was the theme of this year’s **Springfest** held in Helen during April. Springfest is always fun, but I felt this year’s was a little more laid back than usual. Attendance was down slightly from pre-pandemic levels with about 129 registered entrants and about 80 Corvairs in attendance. The host hotel was the Helendorf overlooking the river; a beautiful venue, but lacking in accommodations for a really good hospitality area. We will look to improve that next year.

We were very fortunate to enjoy almost perfect weather this year with highs in the 70’s and low 80’s and breezy sunshine, I thought until Saturday that we had even missed pollen season in Helen, but as soon as I washed my car for the show I found I was wrong. But we didn’t have the cold, torrential rain with threats of hail we had last year, so I was happy.

This year we made some changes and only had peoples’ choice in the show. The Autocross was replaced with a “Funkhana” where skills and driving acumen were featured rather than the more racing-oriented autocross. The autocross has always been insured by CORSA, but skyrocketing insurance costs would have made insurance for that event cost over \$1,000 making it unfeasible.

The rally this year was designed by Steve Ratcliffe and administered by Tom Constantine. Steve did a great job trying to make it a little different than in the past. This year, there were fewer answers on the rally, the route was a little shorter than usual, but at many of the clues, entrants had to get out of their cars at the stop to get the answer. The overall consensus of these changes was positive. Comments from participants included that marriage counseling should be one of the awards and it was a little too easy. (7 entrants got a perfect score, and we had to draw from a hat for the 3 winners from these seven). Next year, there will be entrants that will still be looking for clues the next day!

I counted 21 Corvair Atlanta members I knew were at the event. Unfortunately I heard there were 3 members, 2 of them new, who said they didn’t know how to locate Corvair Atlanta members they wanted to meet. We will try to make a better effort next year to make information available to those not used to the event... Sorry folks! But if you are reading this

and new, please copy the club contact list on your phone like I do, and don't hesitate to call someone in the future!

I hope I have not missed anyone this month in prayer requests other than we pray for Shirly Smith's continued improvement as well as Elanor Bruce's.

May's Meeting will be May 21. To familiarize everyone for the upcoming convention, we will meet at Crown Plaza in Peachtree City at 12:00 PM for a quick tour of property. Following is the address: 201 Aberdeen Parkway, PTC 30269. We may or may not get inside. We will review parking lots, vendor areas, and the trailer parking lot. From there we will proceed to the location for the Concours and car display, then to the museum where the welcome party will be held finally proceeding to Partners Pizza 834 Glynn St S. Fayetteville, GA 30214 for their monthly car show that starts at 3PM. We will try to arrive by 2 for a late lunch.

Onward to the convention.... Below in this newsletter is a schedule for the convention. Mike Gassman has done a superlative job coordinating the event, negotiating with the venues involved, and coordinating between the 5 clubs involved. Each club has their respective hands full finalizing details of their events. We look forward to it but there is a long way to go on the countdown to its start. Please help if and where you can to relieve some of the people working it so they can also enjoy the event. We want a convention people will remember, and this promises to be a good one!

Paying it Forward... When I arrived at the Helendorf for Springfest, I immediately spotted a spectacular 64 Spyder convertible painted what I believe is called Lagoon Aqua.



For some reason, I am somewhat partial to Turquoise colored cars (I have 2) so I introduced myself to Dave and Joyce Moore from South Carolina who were sitting in the parking lot cleaning between the spokes on their wheels, and like most of us were eager to talk about their car.

It seems Dave was always a car guy. Last year, to celebrate their wedding anniversary, they agreed with each other to try locate a 64 Spyder, the first new car they bought after they were married 55 years earlier. They located this one at an auction in Virginia and decided to go and bid on it.

They drove to Virginia and after 2 days of hovering around the car, shooing everyone away they could, and relating their reason for wanting it to the rest, it finally came up on the auction block. The bids started, and Dave jumped in. It narrowed down to two bidders; Dave and one other. As you would expect, the bid got high. This is a NICE car! It finally reached a point where Dave and Joyce looked at each other knowing they had reached their agreed limit, and reluctantly backed out. They were pretty disappointed, and it didn't matter to them that a new bidder stepped up. He bid it up \$6,500 higher than where Dave dropped out and got the car.

After signing the paperwork, the new bidder stepped up to Dave and Joyce and asked them if they wanted to buy it. They were perplexed, as he had seen Dave back out earlier. *Then the event happened that Dave doubts he will ever be able to fully pay forward.* The complete stranger told them he had heard their reason for wanting the car then offered it to them for Dave's maximum bid. Against the Moores's stunned reaction he explained he heard why they wanted it, was easily able to help them fulfill their dream, and enjoyed sharing the fruits of his success with others! The Moores were blown away with thankfulness! The anonymous stranger wouldn't even let them pay the bidder's fee of \$2,500 additional dollars that they would have had to pay had Dave's last bid been successful! They seemed prouder of this story than their beautiful Spyder!

Member news... We had several people who said they would join our group at Springfest, but we have not yet received their membership applications. We hope they come in soon. **Dan Terry** had a short stay in the hospital as did his Corsa. The Corsa got repaired, and Dan was released, both just in time for Springfest. We're glad you are ok, Dan!

New Members... **Zack Fitch** is wrestling with some brake issues on his '67 but is confident he will overcome them before the convention. If he wasn't a mechanic before he is becoming one quickly. Zack is not afraid to jump in there and give it a try. A true Corvair guy earning his stripes! **Carroll Carter** received his car and believes he is getting the keys he has been missing... hoping to find a treasure in the trunk. I talked to **James Beaty** who lives in Germany with his wife. He has a 66 or 67 that is in Nolan's long line of cars to repair and hopes to meet us and drive it on one of his regular visits home.

Over and out.... That's all I have for this month, folks. Until next month, Call someone! This is a great group of friends!

Springfest Results

Valve Cover races

Kids races:

1. Henry Harkey
2. Christopher Harkey
3. Hudson Harkey

Adults:

1. James Cheek
2. Jamie Cheek
3. Henry Harkey

