

On the Air

Newsletter of the Arkansas Corvair Club ■ CORSA Chapter 722

February 2007

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CORSA International Convention returns to Detroit for Homecoming 2007

by Bill Smith

The 2007 International Convention of the Corvair Society of America is set for July 24-28, in Detroit, Michigan. This year's convention is being billed as *Homecoming 2007*.

The host hotel for this summer's convention is the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, 48312. Sterling Heights is a Detroit suburb, located approximately 15 miles northeast of the city's downtown area.

The city of Sterling Heights and the host Best Western Sterling Inn both sound like ideal venues for our annual gathering of Corvair enthusiasts.

As described in an article titled "Where It All Started," published in the January 2007 issue of the *CORSA Communiqué*, Ken Hand reports that this year's convention "will feature a full slate of activities for the Corvair enthusiast, such as Concours d'Elegance at the GM Tech center, valve cover races, people's choice car display, tech sessions, autocross, rally and economy run, as well as group meetings and a possible guest speaker. There will be both indoor vendors and an outdoor swap meet for your Corvair shopping pleasure."

The article goes on to say that the

2007 convention also will offer a "tour [of] the Ford Rouge factory to see the auto assembly process firsthand; for the ladies, a "Spot-O-Tea" tour and shopping trip; and tours of the Henry Ford Museum, the GM Heritage Museum, the home of the last known operating Hudson dealer and the Corvair Preservation Foundation Museum; and a dinner cruise [along the Detroit River] on the *Detroit Princess*.

As to the convention location, also in the January 2007 issue of the *CORSA Communiqué*, Larry Claypool reports that "the host hotel is reasonably easy to get to, being near I-75 and 15 miles outside [of] downtown Detroit. All of the guest rooms [the committee] sampled were better, newer, and bigger than last year [Buffalo], and all of the rooms had refrigerators and wireless Internet connection. There is a small business center where you can check e-mail if you didn't bring a laptop. The indoor water park is [the hotel's] claim to fame; the kids will love it.

A big plus is adequate parking space. [Larry and company] physically counted 833 regular parking

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Tech Tip

Try soapy water when installing a Corvair padded dash

by Elvis King

Elvis suggests the following technique for installing a padded dash cover as an example as how Corvair enthusiasts can help one another by sharing knowledge and experience.

A few years ago I acquired a 1962 Monza Spyder convertible that is still going through it's second restoration. The original black vinyl padded dash was cracked in many places. So, I purchased Clark's replacement pad, secure in the knowledge that surely I would have the car ready for the pad to be replaced long before the "install before date" would be reached.

Well, three years later, when I was ready to install the dash, the supplied contact glue had long since spoiled. I think the suggested install time limit has more to do with the shelf life of the glue, rather than any change in the condition of the pad itself. To replace the original glue, I bought Weldwood contact cement at

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"Corvairs bring friends together."

Soapy water for dash *continued*

The Home Depot--the same kind that I had used when helping my dad install Formica counter tops many times. This cement works great, but it is still contact cement.

For the Spyder dash installation, I did not want to remove the windshield for all the known reasons..., but I was able remove the dash moldings and radio grille, brow trim, etc., and to prepare the metal dash and fit the new pad, by following Clark's step-by-step instructions.

Having worked with contact cement before, I recall thinking there is no way I'm going to get this pad in place where I want it, before the glue sets, especially since the windshield is still in the car.

I discussed this matter with Joe Espejo, fellow ACC member and a long-time service manager for a local RV dealership. His solution, based on work experience, was the quick reply--use soapy water.

While I always put great stock in Joe's advice, I had to make sure myself. I took four good-sized pieces of the old dash pad and glued them to a bare dash in one of my parts cars. The first piece I applied using the Weldwood procedure of coating both surfaces, letting them dry to the touch, and putting it in place.

Perfect. Next time I did the same

thing except I sprayed a solution of mildly soapy water, (dishwashing detergent) onto the adhesive on the metal dash surface. I was able to move the pad slightly for a short time, but then it stuck with all the cling of the previous procedure. At this point I must caution against applying too much of the contact cement. A few years ago, someone on the Virtual-Vairs list confessed as to how he ruined **two** new dash pads by saturating the foam underlayer with the cement until it soaked through to the dash pad's outer cover.

With my practice behind me, I was ready for the real installation. So, one Sunday afternoon, with the convertible top down, JB (my wife), Lewis (my son), and I practiced our moves a few times, and the pad went down perfectly.

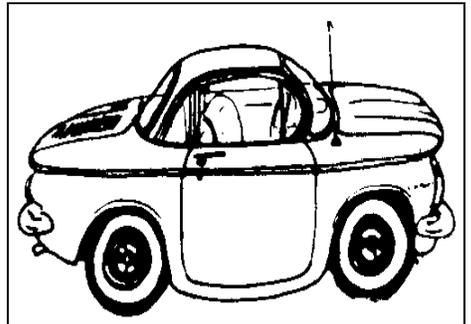
I have spoken to Cal Clark twice about this technique and he said he would have his guys look into it.

The only pitfall I can foresee is that one might get the impression that, with the soapy water, they might have more time for the slight adjustments than is really available.

By using the soapy water, you only gain extra seconds to make small adjustments in the pad's position. However, at least some movement is available, whereas with the straight contact cement bonding, not even a hundredth of an inch move-

ment is possible.

I recommend that, before attempting this method, you make sure that it will work for you, just as I did. ■



Happy Birthday
to our ACC associates
born in March.

Cindy LaCrosse
March 6

Betty Simmons
March 7

Bill Smith (60 years)
March 9

Mary Jolley
March 10

Javier "Joe" Espejo (68 yrs)
Bill MacSorley
March 13

Zack Eby
March 18

Happy Anniversary

David & Susan Carter
March 28

ACC Dues Alert

In an effort to keep everyone informed about the status of your ACC membership dues, we publish a membership *Dues Alert* in every issue of *On the Air*.

The *Dues Alert* lists names of members who are past due and those due for the current month.

Dues are **\$20.00** for regular membership and **\$15.00** for associate members. Please mail payments to: **Arkansas Corvair Club, P.O. Box 627, Little Rock, AR 72203.**

Here are the names that are **past due** and due in **March**.

Past Due David Carter
Al Embrey
Stew MacLeod
Jerald McKown
Bob Piggot

Due Mar Butch Chapman
Corey Holtz
Bill MacSorley
Harold Pearce
Mike Shroyer

Please disregard if you've already paid.
Thanks for your generous support. ■

ACC January Meeting Minutes



JB King

The Arkansas Corvair Club did not hold a regular monthly meeting in January.

However, during the annual Holiday Open House activity, hosted by Stew and Ronnie MacLeod on January 6, those attending gathered for an informal meeting.

During the informal gathering, Clyde Jones shared details about the back problems he has experienced for many years and of the surgery he will undergo on January 17. Everyone wished a successful outcome for Clyde that will bring an end to his chronic back pain and enable him to enjoy life and his love for the Corvair hobby.

Also, during the gathering JB King announced the names of members whose dues expire in January and February.

Members also talked about the fact that we have no immediate ideas or plans for a spring activity. Over the past few years, our club has planned a weekend activity in such locations as Hot Springs, Mountain View, and Texarkana. We started this practice of holding a weekend activity in April, with the occasion of our club's 10th anniversary, in 1998. For the record, our Arkansas Corvair Club will mark its 20th anniversary on February 20, 2008.

Toward the end of the informal meeting, members also talked about individual plans for the 2007 CORSA International Convention, scheduled for July 24-28, in Sterling Heights, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit.

The host hotel for the convention is the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, 48312. Phone **800 953-1400** or 586 979-1400. Also, www.sterlinginn.com.

Bill Smith

Wikipedia--the open-source Web encyclopedia features articles about the Corvair

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corvair>.

If you never have taken the time to browse through content in Wikipedia, the open-source encyclopedia on the World Wide Web, you might want to read the information about the Chevrolet Corvair published by Wikipedia contributors. Also, you can edit existing content or add new content to enhance and expand the Corvair's story.

As of February 11, the encyclopedia entry for the Corvair included six comprehensive sections covering History, (five parts), Engineering, Production Notes, Modifications (five parts), and Dune Buggies, See Also, and a list of External Links.

In addition to textual content, the Corvair content also includes many color photographs and advertising illus-

trations.

The detailed History of the Corvair section begins with a general overview of the car's birth from early concept and proceeds to describe details of each production year, including details on when specific models were introduced and when specific design modifications were implemented.

The encyclopedia even includes a link to discussion of Ralph Nader's 1965 book, *Unsafe at Any Speed*, with discussion on how the book, which wrongly indicted the Corvair, contributed to the car's eventual demise. The piece includes rebuttal of nader's claims from the report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ■

Homecoming 2007 *continued*

spots, plus 20-25 more handicapped spaces. There is a very big grassy area on the far corner of the hotel property, directly accessed from the lot and without curbs. CORSA has permission to use this area, and the plan is to put trailers or motor homes there. (As usual, this means parking, not camping.) Additionally, a large property owned by TRW is adjacent to the Best Western, and arrangements have been made to use their parking lot for trailers, if we need it (it is about a one block walk from the hotel.)

Location wise, [Larry and company] could not fault the general area. A gas station is on the corner of the hotel lot; McDonald's is one block away, a Tim Horton's [donut shop] is directly across the street; another restaurant/lounge is next to it. A Target store is within sight of the lot. Practically every major restaurant chain is represented within a mile of the hotel as well as some local fare.

An important attraction for this convention is the proximity and cooperation of the GM Tech Center. The Center is located on the same street as the hotel and just 2½ miles away. The concours and car display [will be held] on the Tech center grounds, on a mowed grass area just beyond one of the stylized ponds and the Engineering Building. We have permission to park regular cars and trailers close by."

So, make your reservations and begin planning now for what promises to be a fun, informative, and exciting CORSA Convention. For reservation with the Best Western Sterling Inn, phone **800 953-1400** or 586 979-1400. Also, visit www.sterlinginn.com.

For information or questions, contact Pete Cimballa, **810 621-9866**. ■





On the Air

Arkansas Corvair Club
370 Windwood Drive
Cabot, AR 72023-8344

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FIRST CLASS

*“Promoting the maintenance,
enjoyment, and preservation of the
Chevrolet Corvair.”*

Arkansas Corvair Club Information

Meetings

The Arkansas Corvair Club (ACC) meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month at **Just Like Mom's** Home Cooking restaurant, 3140 E. Kiehl Ave., in Sherwood.

February Meeting

The ACC will meet Tuesday, **February 20**, 7:00 p.m., at Just Like Mom's, on Kiehl Ave., in Sherwood.

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for food and fellowship prior to the meeting. The club offers an array of merchandise for sale—oil filters, gas filters, hats, decals, patches, T-shirts and more.

Officers

President: Ken Franson, 608 Ridgelea Ave., Sherwood, AR 72120, 501 835-6005.

Vice-President: Meredith Chapman, P.O. Box 243, Jacksonville, AR 72078, 501 676-6693.

Treasurer: Elvis King, 21305 N. Mill Rd., Little Rock, AR 72206, 501 888-1224 (evening).

Secretary: JB King, 21305 N. Mill Rd., Little Rock AR, 72206, 501 888-1224 (evening).

Elected Board: Allan Embrey, 501 834-5373; Ronnie MacLeod, 821-3622; Clyde Jones, 479 774-6789; Bill Smith, 501 843-8413.

Appointed Board: Pending.

Committee Chairs

Membership: Elvis King

Publicity: Bill Smith

Newsletter Editor: Bill Smith, 370 Windwood Drive, Cabot, AR 72023, 501 843-8413.

Newsletter Advertising:

Non-members and businesses:
\$100/year full page; \$60-½ page;
\$35-¼ page.

Program & Events: Open

ACC Webmaster: Ken Franson, 608 Ridgelea Ave., Sherwood, AR 72120, 501 835-6005.

Web Address

Arkansas Corvair Club Web site:
<http://corvair5.tripod.com/acc.htm>

ACC Mission: The mission of the Arkansas Corvair Club (ACC) is to promote the maintenance, enjoyment, and preservation of all types of Corvairs and related vehicles, and to advance and improve driving skills, automobile safety, and the Corvair's image.