

# THE OIL DROP

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 33, No 5

## May 2012

### THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN:

The last meeting for the month of April was held one hour before the banquet in Helen Georgia. We had good attendance in Helen from our club, eighteen I believe, most of which were at the meeting.

Billy Cannon entered the autocross and had a very good time, (I could tell his adrenalin was really flowing after)

Russ Thuleen gave a very informative tech session on rebuilding a Corvaire steering box.

Pete Wood is going to coordinate with Joan Birks about a possible trip to northern Mississippi this summer.

Al and Joan Birks early closed got first place in Concourse. Yours truly got third place in late open in People's Choice.

I assisted in the Concourse judging for engine compartment and trunk and we were one half finished when the judging was called off until after lunch because of heavy rain fall.

In spite of really bad rain showers for about two hours Saturday, the sun came out around 11:30 and it turned out to be a really nice day after all. The hospitality room had good attendance Saturday night and the mood was really festive!

A NOTE OF CAUTION: if anyone is still driving their late model Corvaire and hasn't had their rear wheel bearings taken apart and repacked, or tapped and zerk fittings installed and extra grease put in, you are playing Russian roulette every time you drive your car! Just ask our newsletter editor John Cleveland. He had one wheel bearing go bad on the freeway, lucky it was in town. He and Russ Thuleen decided the other wheel bearing needed to be replaced, so the car got two rebuilt wheel bearings with zerk fittings installed.

### Next Meeting:

Date: Friday, May 18, 2012

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Fullness Christian Fellowship  
2575 Columbiana Rd. Vestavia Hills, AL.

Bring your honey and something for the pot luck!

Send Oil Drop submissions to:

[monzajohn@charter.net](mailto:monzajohn@charter.net)

Office – 205-325-7654

Cell – 205-834-3120

**NOTE: PLEASE SEND SUBMISSIONS NO LATER THAN THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH.**

### Web Links 4 U!

If you need a new harmonic balancer try this site. Good price, cash for your core and quick service:

<http://www.damperdoctor.com/>

### **ATTENTION!! Car Show in Columbiana!!**

**We will have at least 6 Corvairs in the Shelby County School of Technology car show on Saturday, May 12. Registration is \$15 the day of the show. It starts at 9 am and runs to 1 pm. Gates open at 7 to get your car in. Lots of things for the family to do. We plan to meet at Russ' and caravan over to Columbiana, but if you want to go directly the address is 701 Hwy 70, Columbiana, AL Rain date is May 19. This is an excellent opportunity for our club to show off. Please plan to bring your Vair!**

## Upcoming Events!

### May 12, Columbiana School of Technology

701 Hiway 70, Columbiana, AL

Car Show – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Meet at Russ Thuleen's about 8:00 am to caravan over.  
\$15 fee.

### May 18-20, Virginia Vair Fair

Lexington, VA.

Howard Johnson's on Route 11 at I-81, Exit 195.  
540-463-9181. Corvair rate of \$69.96 + tax.  
Tech session, valve cover races, raffles, vendors, autocross, people's choice car show.

### July 25-28 2012 Corsa Int'l Convention in Sturbridge, Mass.

Host Hotel: Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conv. Center  
366 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA. Special room rates.  
Wednesday – Autocross, Thursday – Road Rally, Swap Meet, Friday – Valve Cover Racing, Concourse, tech sessions and seminars. Saturday – People's Choice and special events. Check it out!

<http://www.corvair.org/chapters/necc/convention/index.htm>



## Birthdays

Jessica Steckler – May 20  
Sherri Daniels – May 22  
Floyd Snider – May 25  
Molly Bacon – May 29

## Anniversaries

Chris & Molly – May 29

## April VCE Meeting Minutes

The April VCE meeting was held at Springfest in Helen, GA with 21 people in attendance.

New members Al and Joan Birks were there and won a trophy for their car, and new members Clyde Cork, son Brian and Brian's daughter also attended.

Billy Cannon brought our new small banners to hang in the hall.

We had six Corvairs at the show. Richard Stolzmann and Al Birks both won trophies.

At a later date Al and Joan would like to have a club event at their home in Corinth, MS.

Richard adjourned the meeting.

**corsa**



## **From the Editor:**

### **When Bad Things Happen to Good Corvairs:**

Let's step into my Wayback machine for a few minutes. (remember Peabody and Sherman?)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iU8TbLza3qY> This is painful to recall, but shows the benefits of belonging to a club.

We'll go back to April 7 of this year. I had the car over to Russ' to put new strut rod bushings on. Billy was there to help and the job went well. I was on my way home that afternoon.

The following Thursday, April 12, I took it to get the wheels aligned because of the new bushings and I was taking the car to Springfest. The technician in the shop twisted off one of the camber adjustment bolts and since one of the other four was already twisted off, they wouldn't complete the job. OK, I'll fix them later in the week and I headed to the office.

I got about a mile down the road and my clutch cable snapped. Since I was closer to Russ than I was to home I limped the car over to his place, called my boss to take the day off; called the wife to bring me some work clothes and we went to work putting in a new clutch cable, repairing the twisted off bolts and replacing all the bolts on both sides. We ended up twisting off another one trying to remove it, so out came the drill and the tap and the fun began.

While pulling off the freeway on the way home, as I slowed down I heard a snapping sound coming from the back of the car. It reminded me of the '69 Chevy pickup I had when I was young when it was about to throw a U-joint. I got the car home and jacked it up the next morning to investigate. It was either the outboard u-joint or the wheel bearing, I couldn't tell which. I called Russ for advice and then headed the car back over to his garage.

I had just got on I-65 when something came loose in the back end. I haven't taken the hubs apart yet, but I'm pretty sure I spun the rear wheel bearing on the passenger side. Russ came over to look and we decided to have it towed to my house, then trailered over to his. Thanks to Pete for his assistance with the trailer and the diagnosis. It sounded like something was grinding in the differential. Since Russ needed to prepare for Springfest it was decided nothing would be done to the car until after. There would be no yellow '66 convertible at Helen this year.

Fast forward to Tuesday, April 23. I had ordered new positrack plates and had a new flywheel and some other parts I had purchased a couple of years ago. Pete also dropped a clutch disk off to get resurfaced so we could do that while we were in there. Since we were going to have the drive train out anyway, what the heck?

We still didn't know about the wheel bearing for sure because while loading it up on the tow truck and trailer, plus driving it a short distance, it made absolutely no noise and seemed to drive OK. Later, when we got the strut rods and half shafts disconnected it became apparent the bearing was bad when the hub was turned by hand. A call to Richard netted me two rebuilt rear hubs with new bearings and a rebuilt backup switch, since mine had broke when we removed the connector. Thanks to Richard for keeping rebuilt spare parts around!

Russ and I worked on the car all week. The hubs went on as did the clutch disk, flywheel and a rebuilt harmonic balancer. We had opened up the differential and drained it for a visual inspection, but didn't take it apart, thinking the wheel bearing had caused the noises we heard initially. The ring and pinion were very tight together so we adjusted them correctly, put in new gear lube and put it back together. The drive train was installed on Saturday, April 28. The test drive did not go well; you could hear noise coming from the differential. We pulled the drive train back out the next day, took the differential completely apart and started making a shopping list.

On Monday, April 30, Russ bought new bearings for the differential and I bought a NOS side gear and thrust washer, plus thrust washers for the spider gears. I also got a couple of new u-joints since the mechanic that did the initial work on my car had only replaced one side. We found out why when it took us about 4 hours to press the old ones out (after cutting the bodies away from the caps with a grinding wheel) and pressing the new ones in (after honing the yokes to remove 40+ years of rust and grime).

Evenings through the week it was over to work on the car. By Saturday, May 5 it was ready to be put back in. The installation went well and the test drive even better!

This morning, May 7, it was back to the alignment shop for the alignment I tried to get last month. And my clutch cable didn't even break when I left to go to the office!

I want to thank Russ, Richard, Pete and Billy for lending a hand. I couldn't have gone through this without being a member of a club with members who are willing to step up and help another member in need.

Take care, drive safe and GET THAT CORVAIR OUT THERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- John -

## **Cruise-In Locations**

Most of these run from April through October, starting around 5 pm.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Friday**

Gadsden, AL. Broad Street, downtown

### **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday**

Alabaster, AL. DQ in Walmart shopping center

Hanceville, AL. 6-9pm; August; Across from Wallace State.

Hoover, AL. 9am to noon; Krispy Kreme

Odenville, AL. Piggly Wiggly

### **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday**

Decatur, AL. Sonic on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday**

Argo, AL. Clearbranch Church

Clanton, AL. 6-9pm, Downtown; call 205-755-3164

Hueytown, AL. Walmart

Moody, AL. Bernetti's Ice Cream Parlor 231 Moody Pkway.

Pelham, AL. 4-7pm, Pelham Town Center (Publix & Johnny Ray's); Tank Farm exit.

Pell City, AL. Jacks, near Hwy 78 and 231

McCalla, AL. Target parking lot in Colonial Promenade shopping center.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday**

Argo, AL. Drive In Theater, call 205-467-3434 for times.

Hoover, AL. 6-9pm Krispy Kreme

Pinson, AL. North Park Church on Deerfoot Prkwy

### **4<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

Sylacauga, AL. Home Depot parking lot

Fultondale, AL. Target, exit 267

Gadsden, AL. Ryan's Family Steakhouse, call 256-492-2950

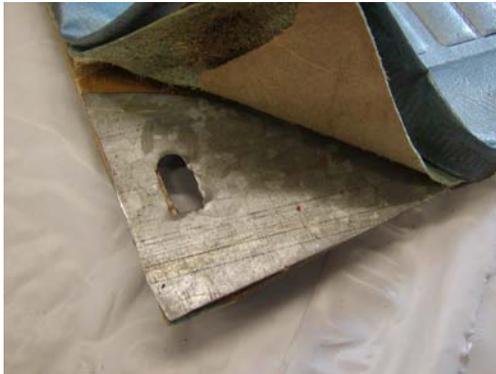
## **Springfest 2012**





What do you do when you remove a door panel carefully and it still pulls the clip out of the door panel?  
You repair it of course.

First you peel back the vinyl to expose the foam, then take a sharp knife or razor blade to get the foam padding loose. it doesn't hurt to get a thin layer of paper up with the foam.



Next take a piece of sheet metal and drill two holes next to each other for the slot that you will make. Then take a file and file the slot to make a flat on one end.

Last glue the piece of sheet metal on the cardboard in the location where the original slot has pulled out, then glue the foam over area where the metal is, then pull the vinyl around and on to the back of the card board and glue with some good weather strip adhesive. Then you can insert the metal clip on the back into the slot making sure to catch the piece of reinforcing sheet metal.

The same procedure is used where the bottom screw has pulled through the vinyl and cardboard. Only there be sure to drill the appropriate size hole for the screw.



Be sure and remove any burrs from cutting the sheet metal, and make sure to form the sheet metal so the edges curve toward the cardboard you are gluing it to, so you don't have any edges showing through the vinyl when you are done.



**Submitted by Richard Stoltzmann**

Harley Davidson of Montgomery 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Hot Rods & Harleys  
655 NE Blvd, Montgomery, AL. 36117 334-277-2540  
May 26, 2012 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

No Entry Fee, Register day of the show  
Free dash plaque, window sticker & T-Shirt w/ each entry  
50's Music

50/50 Drawing  
Free BBQ plates for each entry

*ulcan Corvair Enthusiasts, a chapter of the Corvair Society of America, is a non-profit club dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the Corvair automobile.*

*VCE dues of \$20/year pay for a family membership and 12 issues of the Oil Drop Newsletter.*

*President: Richard Stoltzmann  
205/467-6444*

*Vice President: Pete Wood  
205/956-6832*

*Secretary: Russ Thuleen  
205/678-7979*

*Newsletter: John Cleveland  
205/834-3120*

*Treasurer: Joe Doughty  
205/995-0131*

*Hospitality: Harold Hartline*

*Arrangements: Jewel Hinkle*

*Web: <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/chapter352/>*



*For all you Mom's out there  
and  
all you do for us Corvair nuts!*

**Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts**  
147 Crossbrook Dr.  
Chelsea, AL. 35043

