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# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 1

## January



## 2008

### *From the Prez*

We start the new year on a sad note. Jon Keaton passed away last week. I did not have a chance to know him as well as I would have liked, but many of you have known Jon for years. Our thoughts are with Sara and the family.

With Pigeon Forge falling on the same weekend with this month's meeting we will plan on a small gathering. Bring yourselves and your favorite dish. Please remember, it's an automobile, not yard art, so drive that Corvair.

Pete

### *From the Editor*

Well, it looks like I'll be at it again - writing the internationally acclaimed *OIL DROP*. This will be FIVE years for me and the third straight. Attempts by others to take over newsletter duties were thwarted via an intense war of literary minds in which I prevailed. However, due to impending writers cramp, I will be stepping down at year's end, so for the depressed many that lost out on 2008 duties, your chance will arise very soon - be prepared.

Russell Noble



### *Next Meeting:*

Date: Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

Bring a dish for potluck supper and drive a Corvair to the meeting with your VCE chums.

### *Cruise-In Locations*

1<sup>st</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 9:00am - Noon

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Rail Road Café – I-459 Exit 6, 8:30am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 5pm - 8pm **NEW!**

### *Calendar of Events*

Jan 18-20 Trip to Pigeon Forge

Pigeon Forge, TN

Feb 22-23 Corvair Lover's Holiday

Fort Walton Beach, FL

Apr 25-27 Springfest

Helen, GA

Jun 23-27 CORSA National Convention

Ventura, CA

### *In Memoriam*

Longtime VCE member Jon Keeton passed away recently. Jon was a former club officer and worked on many club members' cars and was always willing to offer advice and help. He will be missed and our prayers go out to his family.

- VCE

## 2008 VCE

### **\$20 DUES are DUE \$20**

Per family, per year. What a great deal, plus you get the *WORLD FAMOUS* (drum roll) *OIL DROP!*

Wa-hoo! Bring to a meeting or mail to:

John Hathaway  
438 Eaton Road  
Birmingham, AL 35242

## Local Corvairs For Sale...

CHEV. PU '55	5000 Series. R
good. Needs paint. \$3,500.	205-240-9103
<b>CORVAIR '64</b> , Conv. Drives & runs good. \$5000. Call for details 965-5343; 590-1959	4805
<b>CORVAIR '65</b> , 2dr, HT, needs running gear inst. \$1300 965-5343; 590-1959	J
<b>FORD BRONCO '77</b> 302 auto, PS. Nice. \$13,500.	Uns

From the 12/2/07 *Birmingham News*. Check 'em out!  
- Editor

## Outlet Duct Tip...

From the November '07 *Corsa Communiqué* article by Craig Nicol on details concerning 1961-69 outlet damper door optimization:

*One final hint. The sheet metal in the damper door area must be properly installed for the damper doors to open without friction or binding. Check and straighten damaged sheet metal components. Note that the lower cover over the motor mount bracket slides over the sides of the rear outlet ducts. This seemingly trivial installation detail pulls the duct's sheet metal side toward the center of the vehicle and keeps it away from the moving damper doors. Simple? Yes, but these are the little tricks that really make the damper doors work well.*

## From the Mailbag...

Bob Siemens sent me this website that has all kinds of neat data relative to a particular Zip Code. Check it out at [www.zipskinny.com](http://www.zipskinny.com)

## OIL DROP Publication Deadlines

Due to the unbelievable demand for publishing space in the *OIL DROP*, there is a hard submission deadline for articles being imposed. If you have something to submit, it must be received by **the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month** to be considered for that month's issue. *OIL DROP's* experienced Editors will rank each submitted product according to content, style, and Corvair community interest before publishing. If your article is crowded out by better work, you will be considered in the following month's issue. Thank you for your patience. On a final note, Officer monthly submittals (that is you Pete and Russ) are due by **the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.**

- Editor

## December VCE Meeting Minutes

There was no official business meeting during December, however, the VCE Christmas party was held at the regular meeting location. A collection was taken up and \$210 was donated to the Salvation Army in the name of Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts.

- Editor with input from Russ Thuleen

## Brakes, Dad Gum Brakes...Again

If you have read my *OIL DROP* articles in the past, you may recall one on my LM front brakes. The car pulled, irregularly, to the right. I finally figured out that the shoes were cracked (see 2/06 issue). Well, new shoes fixed the problem but just 1,800 miles later, another brake problem. The story goes...

Tooling along in the Vair one warm December morning a few weeks ago, I approached the bridge on Rocky Ridge Road over Little Shades Creek with typical caution as the road curves over the creek. I was less than a mile from home, so the brakes were cold. I tap the pedal and BAM, crunch, screech from the front right of the car. Uh-oh, we got problems.

Working the emergency brake to stop and turn around, I begin the limp back home...5 mph max or 'things' start making noise. Do you know how irritable people are when held to 5 mph on a busy secondary road? Geez.

Back in the shop, I pulled the drum and sure enough, trouble in there. Dad gum brakes.



Continued on Page 3....

## THE OIL DROP - Gone Electronic!

Start getting yours today via email. Drop me a line at [rtnoble@southernco.com](mailto:rtnoble@southernco.com) and join the seven nine VCE members that have dropped paper mail. The pdf file has been running only about 250-350 KB, so even dial-up web users should consider this. - Editor

## ***Brakes, Cont'd***

Well, I'm not much on bonded shoes, but that is about all you can get nowadays. I guess they just don't trust you to keep up with the wear and avoid the rivets gouging the drum. Back to the story. Seems the bonded linings let go on one shoe and whacked the other, knocking it loose. Good thing I wasn't on the interstate doing 75 mph and had to stop in a hurry. I'll let the pictures tell the story...



No linings on either shoe on the right side



The left side shows little wear as they only had 1,800 mi.



The lining face looks normal, no cracks, etc



I suspect this shoe got 'hit' by the other and gave way

Moral of the story? None. Just keep your ears open for problems. Happy Vairing!

- Editor

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## ***VCE Classifieds and Unsolicited Email Info***

**Wanted:** Contact Justin McCuley at 541-8953 if you have an EM to sell. Not sure about the area code. (8/07)

**For Sale:** 1966 Monza Conv 110hp, new interior, new top, power convertible. Four new Wolf carbs. Needs tires. Car was restored by my father, Bowes Channell, back in 2005. Car is 90% complete, needing some cosmetic work and minor mechanical to bring to 100%. \$3700. Tom Channell 256-772-1664 (11/07)

**Wanted:** VCE member Jeff McCrary is looking for a pre-'66 differential with 3.55 gears or a Saginaw 4-speed trans to complete some work he is doing. Call Jeff at (205) 451-9028 (7/07)

**FREE 1965 Corsa** - See article in the June 2007 *Oil Drop*. Call Dan (256)658-0441 (6/07)

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Vice President: Richard Stoltzmann  
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Secretary: Russ Thuleen  
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Newsletter: Russell Noble  
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Treasurer: John Hathaway  
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Hospitality: Harold Hartline

Arrangements: Jewel Hinkle

Web: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/vulcancorvair/>



Ever used these shoes? Read on...



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# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 2

## February 2008



### From the Prez

I hope all of you who went to Pigeon Forge had a great time. The January meeting was well attended considering how many of you were there.

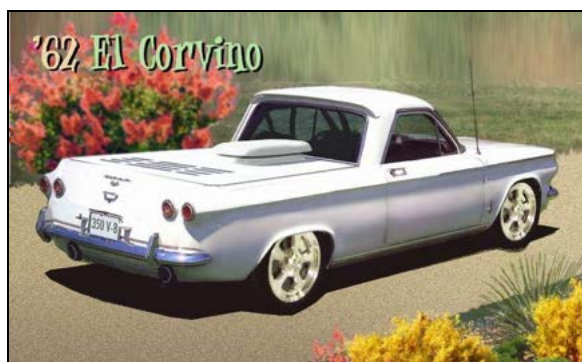
We had a new face at the meeting. John Cleveland is a new Corvaire owner and has expressed an interest in joining the club. John, we are all glad you came. The club has another new member, Don Roberts. I put a motor in Don's '64 coupe a few weekends ago. Harold was gracious enough to allow us the use of his lift for the weekend (plus a few days as it turned out). Thank you Harold and Louise for your hospitality.

I'm looking forward to Fort Walton Beach. This will be the next time you will see me as I will not be in town for the next meeting. Take care everybody, and please drive those Corvairs.

Pete

### WANT A "NEW" CORVAIR FOR \$5.00?

If you do, now is the opportunity to try your luck by trying to win the 2008 Vair Fair Raffle Car currently being prepared by the Tidewater Corvaire Club. Tickets are \$5.00 each, Call Darrin Hartzler at (301) 365-7332 or email at [dhartzler@ifc.org](mailto:dhartzler@ifc.org).



### Next Meeting:

Date: Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

Bring a dish for potluck supper and drive a Corvaire to the meeting with your VCE chums.

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### Calendar of Events

Feb 22-23 Corvaire Lover's Holiday  
Fort Walton Beach, FL

Mar 7-9 Spring Warm Up  
Myrtle Beach, SC

Mar 17-27 Spring Rally - UltraVan Coach Club  
Brooksville, FL

Apr 18-20 Heart of Texas Roundup  
Glen Rose, TX

Apr 25-27 Springfest  
Helen, GA

Jun 23-27 CORSA National Convention  
Ventura, CA

(see details for some of these events on Page 3)

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## Local Corvair For Sale...

needs paint, good body.  
\$3,000 obo 205-853-8571.

 more at al.com!

**CHEVY CORVAIR '69** 2  
door, excellent condition,  
\$2500. 205-401-3372

 more at al.com!

**CHRYSLER NEWPORT '77**  
Very good cond., 18k orig.

From the 1/5/08 *Birmingham News*. A 1969!

- Editor

## LM Turbo ID Tips

Authenticating a turbocharged Corsa: Larry Claypool, Technical Editor of the Corvair Society of America, offers the following tips on how to make sure a 1965-66 Corsa turbo came from the factory that way. "Numbers matching doesn't currently mean a lot to most Corvair owners, as their cars don't bring the big money that some other 1960s Chevrolets do," Larry says. "But if a prospective buyer is going to spend more money for a turbo, he should check to make sure he's getting the real thing."

**Serial number:** The third digit in the serial number should be a 7, which indicates that it's a Corsa. A 5 will indicate that the car is a Monza.

**Fisher Body tag:** The Fisher Body tag, located on the rear frame rail of the engine compartment, will have its lower line labeled "ACC." The letter after the number 4 should be O, which indicates the car was built with a turbo.

**Turbocharger serial number:** Because some folks have retrofitted early 150hp Spyder turbochargers to later 180hp cars, it pays to check the turbo's numbers. The last three digits will read 709.

**Engine serial number:** If the turbocharged engine is correct for a 1965 or '66 Corsa, the serial number will end with the letters RL.

*From a post on the Web - Editor*

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## January VCE Meeting Minutes

The January meeting was called to order by President Pete Wood after a delicious buffet dinner. There were 12 members in attendance at the meeting - other members attended the East Tennessee event in Pigeon Forge. We had a new member join at the meeting - John Cleveland. John and his wife moved to the Birmingham area from Albuquerque, New Mexico this past summer and he has joined the ranks of proud Corvair owners!

The December minutes were approved and Joe gave the Treasurer's Report. The club has a balance of \$358.85 in the bank. A reminder to all current members - 2008 dues are now due.

As many of you know we lost John Keeton this month. In his memory the club made a \$50 donation to the Salvation Army.

Pete started a discussion of a possible spring run and inviting the East TN & Georgia clubs. Possible locations include Dismal Park, Wiese Lake or Cheaha.

The Fort Walton, FL event is scheduled for February 22 & 23rd and SpringFest in Helen, GA will be in April.

Leslie Steckler for Russ Thuleen

## This is Definitely Unsafe at Any Speed!



Ouch. I would suggest that the Mack truck will win this battle every time. Be careful out there, folks.

## This Space has Your Name on it...

The OIL DROP staff will accept submittals for the newsletter up to the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month. If it is received by the 1<sup>st</sup>, there is a good chance it will make it to press that month. - Editor

## ***Statistics on the Introduction of Chevy's 'Small' Cars***

In this day of subcompact, compact, midsize, and fullsize passenger car offerings from Chevrolet, it's easy to forget that prior to the 1960 model year, postwar Chevrolet passenger cars (except Corvette) were based on a single platform using the same basic underskin architecture regardless of cost, model, or trim level. This one-size-fits-all situation changed with the introduction of the '60 Corvair, '62 Chevy II, and '64 Chevelle. With these additions, Chevrolet was poised to compete in the then-new compact and midsize markets.

Even though these new, smaller Chevys were popular, fullsize models continued to attract the most buyers. For example, in 1960, fullsize models accounted for 84.2% of all Chevrolet passenger car sales. The rest were Corvairs (15.1%) and Corvettes (0.6%). By 1966, fullsize Chevy's still accounted for a healthy 69.1% of all division sales. The Chevelle (15.1%), Corvair (9.9%), Chevy II (4.9%) and Corvette (1.0%) were popular, but they represented mere drops in the big bucket made possible by the 1.6 million-plus fullsize Biscaynes, Bel Airs, and Impalas that sold that same year.

12/07 *Car Craft* magazine - Editor

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## ***Some Strange Corvair Things...***

Man, the bean counters must have really scratched their heads trying to figure out ways to cut corners on the 500 model in 1967. Check out the rearview mirror mounts below - the Monza ones are chrome, and the 500 one on the left is painted silver - give me a break! Have you ever driven off with the parking brake on?

Well, I have many times. Why did they wait until 1967 to add a brake warning light???

Arrgghh!  
- Editor (pics by Mark Corbin)



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## ***Somewhat 'Local' Corvair Event Details***

February 22-23, 2008

Corvair Lovers Holiday, West Florida Corvair Club, Ramada Plaza Beach Resort, 1500 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, 850-243-9161 or 800-874-8962 East of the Gulfarium on Hwy 98. Mention the Corvair Show for special rates of \$91 to \$110 for regular rooms, poolside or gulf side rooms. Peoples Choice Car Show, Valve Cover Racing, 50/50, door prizes, trophies and more. Contact the club at [wfcc@juno.com](mailto:wfcc@juno.com) or call Mary Mierzwa at 850-994-5399.

March 7-9, 2008

11th Annual Spring Warm-up in Myrtle Beach, SC, sponsored by Central Carolina CORSA. Peoples Choice Concours car show, Bingo, Valve Cover Races, Poker Run / Rally, model / toy car show, Awards dinner. Swap meet, car coral, and Hospitality Room. Host hotel is the Sea Mist Resort, 1200 South Ocean Blvd, Myrtle Beach, SC. Call (800)732-6478 for reservations.

For information contact Carol Harris at (803) 236-2686 or email [cs1150@yahoo.com](mailto:cs1150@yahoo.com).

April 25-27, 2008

Springfest- Helen, Georgia sponsored by Corvair Atlanta and Heart of Georgia Corvairs. Join us in beautiful Helen GA for our annual show. Clarks Corvair Part, Inc will attend this year.

For information contact Lillian Law, (229) 883 4123 or [Lawjandl@aol.com](mailto:Lawjandl@aol.com).

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**Wanted:** VCE member Jeff McCrary is looking for a pre-'66 differential with 3.55 gears or a Saginaw 4-speed trans to complete some work he is doing. Call Jeff at (205) 451-9028 (7/07)

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Phil Hartline's 1964 convertible. Read a story by Phil on his car in this issue of the Hearst Journalism Award winning *OIL DROP*. Thanks for the submittal, Phil!



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# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 3

## March



# 2008

### *From the Prez*

Spring is here! Or it will be at the next meeting. We're looking forward to Saturday night cruise-in's, and a whole new summer of car shows.

I attended the Corvairsters Holiday in Ft. Walton Beach. VCE had 2 cars and six people in attendance. Everyone seemed a little surprised there were only seventeen cars in the show. Quality more than made up for quantity though. There were some very nice customs and some good-looking drivers. Harold, Phil and I took a side trip to the Naval Air Museum. It's definitely worth seeing if you're in the area.

Our next meeting is the 21st. I hope to see everyone there...in their Corvairsters.

Pete

### *Corvairsters Atlanta cookout and swap meet*

Place: Roger Smith's warehouse: 2491 Monroe Drive, Suite D; Gainesville, GA 30507

Saturday March 15, 2008 from 10:00A till about 3:00P

Directions: If traveling North on I 985, go to exit #22. This is Hwy 129 South. Go to the right off the exit ramp and turn Right at the first light, this will be Monroe Drive. Go about 1/2 mile and you will see the roof of a building on your right (Gainesville Mechanical). Turn right, then immediately back to your left. You will be going parallel to Monroe Drive. Roger's place is the fourth building on the left, (on the end). If you try to do mapquest it will give you some crazy directions. Roger recommends that you use his directions. I went there a couple of weeks ago and had no problem finding it. We will have signs out also. If anyone gets lost or needs more information, please call.

**Everyone is invited.** Raymond Paul: cell 706-506-6191

### *Next Meeting:*

Date: Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

Bring a dish for potluck supper and drive a Corvairster to the meeting with your VCE chums.

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### *Calendar of Events*

Apr 25-27 Springfest

Helen, GA

Jun 23-27 CORSA National Convention

Ventura, CA

Oct 3-4 Vairsters at the Fair

Warner Robbins, GA

### *Looking for a Corvairster...*

Ed Keller received a call (3/2/08) from a Bob Hill, who is in the Huntsville area. He has owned Vairsters in the past, and been to the Navarre Beach show, Helen GA., etc. He is looking for an early coupe, pretty much ready to go; a daily driver. Would consider a late model, but prefers early. His phone is 256-508-9589. His e-mail is [miatas@mchsi.com](mailto:miatas@mchsi.com).

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## ***Red LM Turbo...***

Well, I never shy away from posting pictures of late model Corvairs so here we go again. Here are a few shots that I forgot about of Richard Stolzmans restoration of a Corsa convertible - 180 Hp Turbo style. If you were at the VCE pool party the Stolzmans hosted back in 2006, you may recall it freshly painted and stripped. Here it is all put back together at the Helen, GA event in 2007. Photos courtesy of Phil Hartline.

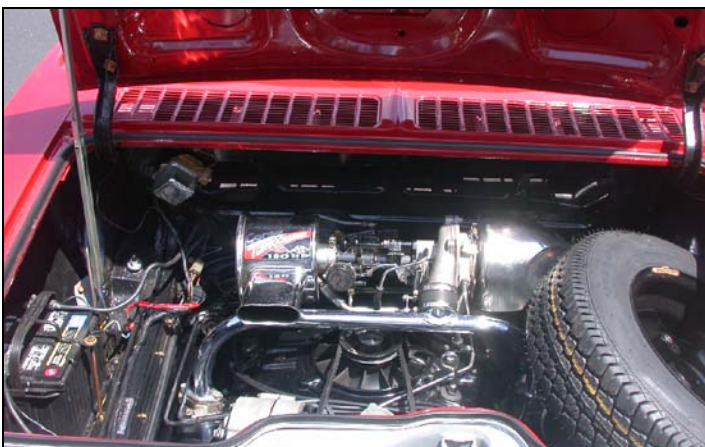
- Editor



*Richard with his latest creation...*



*Snazzy interior...*



*Mighty 180 Hp with new rubber on the spare...*

## ***February VCE Meeting Minutes***

President Pete Wood was absent this month, so VP Richard Stolzmans called the meeting to order. Eighteen people were in attendance. John Hathaway gave the Treasurer's Report and stated the club now has \$538.00 in our account.

A discussion was held regarding a road trip to Dismal Canyon this spring. This will be discussed at next months meeting as well.

There was note of 5 VCE cars going to the event in Fort Walton Beach.

There being no further business - the meeting was adjourned.

Russ Thuleen

## ***Corvair Museum Politics...***

Hello fellow Corvair Club Members, I would like to bring something to your attention to discuss in your next club meeting. The present location of the CORSA Corvair Museum located in Ypsilanti, Michigan prevents a large number of members and the general public from being able to visit it. A more centrally located area in the Eastern half of the U.S. would allow more members to visit and give a greater exposure to the general public, a place where there is room to exhibit more cars, trucks, maybe an UltraVan, collectibles and etc.

More public exposure would help CORSA with the shrinking membership problem. It is surprising but you can still find Corvair owners that know nothing about CORSA!

The area from Pigeon Forge, TN / Gatlinburg, TN to Nashville, TN has a lot of traffic from all parts of the country. Pigeon Forge Chamber of Commerce says that more than 11,000,000 tourists visit that area each year and is a days drive to two thirds of the Nation's population. How many people visit Ypsilanti, Michigan each year?

If you will please read this letter to your membership at the next meeting and print it in your newsletter. I have heard that the museum committee is presently looking at two new locations, both in the North East, not much of an improvement. The general membership needs to be aware of this and voice their opinions.

On the inside front dust cover of the February 2008 issue of the CORSA Communiqué is a member survey. At the bottom of the page is a place for comments so voice your opinion and print out extra copies for club members that are not CORSA members, they want to hear from them too, CORSA needs our input !

Thanks,  
John Howell  
Corvanatics, UltraVan and Knoxville Corvair Clubs

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## ***Zodiac Movie***

Remember the serial killer who called himself 'Zodiac' back in the late 60's and early 70's? Well, he never got caught and he is back - in the movies. I watched it the other day and the first victims were, guess what, driving a (1963?) EM Corvair. I took some pics of the movie playing on my TV and here they are...



Headed out on a simple date.



This couple is gonna get whacked by the Zodiac.



Lover's Lane is more like Dead Man's Curve.



Uh-oh, somebody is behind us...

## ***Saturday Morning Doughnut Run***

The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month brings out some cars at the Hoover Krispy Kreme. Bring an old car and get free coffee (has got to be the world's strongest) and a donut. Here are Russell Noble's LM and Ed Keller's EM raising the bar for the other metal junk that surrounds them. Go Vairs go!



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Another one of Walt Davis' photographic masterpieces relating the rather 'blimpy' Ultravan look to a railroad car - magnifico!



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# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 4

## April



## 2008

### *From the Prez*

My how time flies when you have a hundred things to do before you're ready to leave. By the time you read this Springfest at Helen will be less than two weeks away. Lots of cars, great food, maybe a swap meet find or two, hmmm...I hope everyone is ready to go.

I hope you are also thinking ahead to our day trip to the Dismals on Saturday, May 17th. Harold has offered to grill hot dogs and hamburgers. We'll finalize drinks and sides at our next meeting (April 18).

All of the regular cruise-ins are up and running for the season. It's time to show off those Corvairs.

Pete



### *Next Meeting:*

Date: Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

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3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Rail Road Café – I-459 Exit 6, 8:30am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 5pm - 8pm **NEW!**

Others: I guess 2008 regulars have started...not sure!

### *Calendar of Events*

Apr 25-27 Springfest

Helen, GA

May 3 Orphan Vehicle Celebration

Snellville, GA

Jun 23-27 CORSA National Convention

Ventura, CA

### *VCE Membership Drive Update*

Records indicate that 22 members have paid their dues. This compares with 32 paying members/families for 2007. So, if you are still around and want to retain membership please send in your dues per the instructions below.

- Editor

## 2008 VCE

## **\$20 DUES are DUE \$20**

Per family, per year. What a great deal, plus you get the *WORLD FAMOUS* (drum roll) *OIL DROP!*

Wa-hoo! Bring to a meeting or mail to:

John Hathaway  
438 Eaton Road  
Birmingham, AL 35242

## ***Drive to VCE Meeting, and... Lookie Here***

Drive your Vair and get in the *OIL DROP!* Again, LMs rule at the VCE meeting. Where are the Earlies?



Richard Stolzmann's late ('67?) coupe.



John Cleveland's 1966 convertible



Russ Thuleen's 1966 coupe



Russell Noble's 1965 convertible



Rockin' out at the February 2008 meeting

## ***March VCE Meeting Minutes***

The meeting was called to order by President Pete Wood, after a delicious potluck dinner. A Treasurer's Report was given by Russ Thuleen in the absence of John Hathaway. The club has \$624.00 in account. Dues for 2008 are now due and to date 22 memberships have been paid. There were 19 people in attendance this month.

Further discussion about the May trip to Dismals National Park took place. The date will be Saturday, May 17th. It was decided there will be no meeting the Friday (May 16th) before the trip. Harold Hartline will cook lunch with the club providing the meat.

Pete talked more about a Fall trip as well. Possibly driving the Natchez Trace or to Cheaha. This trip is possible for October and will be discussed further at meetings.

Richard Stolzmann motioned for adjournment. No tech session was held after the meeting this month.

Russ Thuleen

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## ***Wanted: LM Radio***

I forgot to ask during the (March) meeting, but I am looking for a non working radio for my 66 Monza, AM with no pushbuttons. Just the body and front will do if that is all that is available.

Thanks,

John Cleveland  
(205) 834-3120

[John.C.Cleveland@Elpaso.com](mailto:John.C.Cleveland@Elpaso.com)



Never leave the top down with a cat around...

---

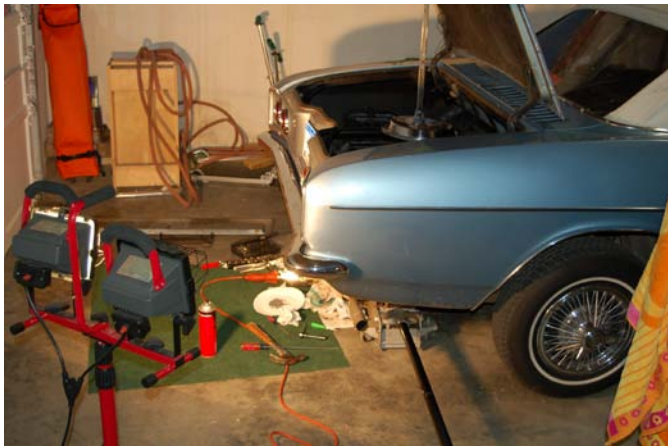
## ***THE OIL DROP - Gone Electronic!***

Start getting yours today via email. Drop me a line at [rnoble@southernco.com](mailto:rnoble@southernco.com) and join the ~~nine~~ ten VCE members that have dropped paper mail. The pdf file has been running only about 250-350 KB, so even dial-up web users should consider this. - Editor

## ***Tech Topic: That Pesky Rear Oil Leak...***

Ever really looked at the rear skid plate on your Corvair? Yes, the stamped metal plate under the rear balancer/pulley with the big bolt through the middle... behind the rear motor mount and seals the rear housing from road grime and such? Yes, the one that Corvair 'professionals' recommend that you drill several holes in it so that the inevitable oil that accumulates can drip out? That's the one. According to my personal Corvair guru now located in Coral Gables, EVERY Corvair will have oil in the skid plate. The source? Well, GM pressed a shaft into the rear housing for the oil pump idler gear to ride on - and oil, as is its nature, finds a way to seep out through the bore. Had GM not drilled all the way through and just recessed the dummy shaft bore, there would be no leak. I guess the bean counters caused this. Anyhoo, there are several ways to 'fix' this. The most effective and permanent way is to 'weld over' the shaft where it meets the housing surface. However, for us cheapo and low miles drivers, there is a nice temporary fix that can be done easily. It involves one of my favorite friends, Mr. J.B. Weld. Here goes.

Remove the rear grill. Support the engine and remove rear motor mount and skid plate. Lower engine carefully a few inches to access rear housing easily. Clean housing area where the pump shaft is bored with acetone or brake cleaner. Clean again. Mix ole' JB and slather nicely. Let cure 24 hours and reassemble. Voilá! A nice dry engine. **WARNING:** My consultant warns this will not hold on a high miles vehicle.



*Getting ready...light is good.*



*Tidy work habits are essential.*



*Engine support for lowering and access.*



*JB Weld applied over shaft bore.*

In closing, I did this fix before (credit to Frank Ranelli) and it lasted about 6 years of 1,000 miles per year driving. These were short trips...my esteemed consultant says this won't last on prolonged trips. - *Editor*

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## ***VCE Classifieds and Unsolicited Email Info***

**For Sale:** 1966 Monza Conv 110hp, new interior, new top, power convertible. Four new Wolf carbs. Needs tires. Car was restored by my father, Bowes Channell, back in 2005. Car is 90% complete, needing some cosmetic work and minor mechanical to bring to 100%. \$3700. Tom Channell 256-772-1664 (11/07)

**Wanted:** VCE member Jeff McCrary is looking for a pre-'66 differential with 3.55 gears or a Saginaw 4-speed trans to complete some work he is doing. Call Jeff at (205) 451-9028 (7/07)

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President: Pete Wood  
205/956-6832

Vice President: Richard Stoltzmann  
205/467-6444

Secretary: Russ Thuleen  
205/678-7979

Newsletter: Russell Noble  
205/822-6092

Treasurer: John Hathaway  
205/408-4063

Hospitality: Harold Hartline

Arrangements: Jewel Hinkle

Web: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/vulcancorvair/>



What the heck is this? Find out inside this issue of the Presidential Gold-Standard Literary Award winning *OIL DROP*.



**Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts**  
**PO Box 59071**  
**Birmingham, AL 35259-9071**





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# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 5

## May



## 2008

*From the Prez*

NO REPORT

### *April Meeting Minutes*

The April meeting was proceeded as always by a delicious potluck meal provided by the members. As President Pete wood was absent; VP Richard Stoltzmann called the meeting to order. In attendance were 16 members.

A Treasurer's Report was given and a total of \$649 is our latest balance. Several members have yet to pay 2008 dues and it was decided May would be the last month for those to receive the Oil Drop. Those members unpaid as of April 18th were:

Art Bolton Chris Roth

Walt Davison Pete Wood

The trip to Dismal Park was discussed and it has been noted there is an \$8 per person entrance fee. For those planning to join the trip - bring a dish and the club will provide the meat. RSVP to Jewel if you plan on attending this trip. Plans are to eat about 1pm.

Get Well cards were passed for Bob Siemens who is recovering in rehab from back surgery and Donna Thuleen who is at UAB with pneumonia.

Richard announced he has a new grandson - Congrats to the Stoltzmann family!

There being no further business; the motion was made to adjourn.

Russ Thuleen

### *Next Meeting:*

Date: **NO MEETNG**

Time: None

Place: Nowhere

**LOOK!**

No meeting this month due to VCE travel outing to Dismals the next day - Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

### *Cruise-In Locations*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 9:00am - Noon  
DQ at the Promenade - Alabaster  
Piggly Wiggly - Odenville
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat Brook Highlands - U.S. 280
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Rail Road Café – I-459 Exit 6, 8:30am
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Wal-Mart - Exit 156 in Springville  
Krispy Kreme – US31, 5pm - 8pm  
Drive-In movie - Argo
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sat Wal-Mart - Bessemer  
Wal-Mart - Sylacauga

### *Calendar of Events*

- May 17 VCE Corvair Driving Outing  
Dismals Canyon in Franklin County
- Jun 23-27 CORSA National Convention  
Ventura, CA

### *VCE Medical Update*

Bob Siemens recently underwent back surgery and is going through therapy. Donna Thuleen has been in the hospital with pneumonia. VCE wishes for speedy recoveries. If you have a medical update and want to inform VCE members, just let me know.

- Editor



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Cool intake setup from Helen...send us your Helen story!

Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts  
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# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 6

## June



## 2008

### *From the Prez: A Little Recognition*

Some of you may have seen my picture in the paper the last week of April. My fifteen minutes of fame came courtesy of Pennzoil and Russell Noble.

Pennzoil contacts local car clubs near events they attend every year to solicit nominations for a car club member who exhibits "commitment to keep their most prized possession running strong with a clean and responsive engine". Russell (who will forever more be He Who Writes With A Golden Pen) submitted my name for consideration. The result of Russell's glowing praise was a PR guy for Pennzoil calling to arrange for where to send my Talladega race passes and a time and place to display my car. Oh yeah, free synthetic oil for life...or ten years, whichever comes first. Nice.

*Continued on Page 3*

### *Next Meeting:*

Date: Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

Bring a dish for potluck supper and drive a Corvair to the meeting with your VCE chums.

### *Cruise-In Locations*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 9:00am - Noon  
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- 4<sup>th</sup> Sat Wal-Mart - Bessemer  
Wal-Mart - Sylacauga

### *Calendar of Events*

Jun 23-27 CORSA National Convention  
Ventura, CA

### *Drag your Corvair to VCE Meeting, and... Lookie Here*

Drive your Vair and get in the World Famous *OIL DROP!* No Fees! From the April meeting:



Richard Stolzmann's Corsa Turbo - Can you dig that custom wind deflector? Looks like a BMW!



John Cleveland's LM Monza Convertible

## Dismals

My trip to the Dismals didn't go as planned, let's just say I got the hard luck award. But what is a Corvair trip without a good old fashioned tech session held right there in the parking lot? What I first thought to be a dropped valve seat turned out to be a plugged up carburetor, or at least that's the latest theory. I had to leave the car there overnight, and tow it home on Sunday. I haven't had a chance to tear into it to see what all could be the trouble, hopefully it won't be anything major.

But for all those who couldn't make the trip, you missed a good one. The drive out there is perfect for a Corvair, it's hard to imagine a better cruise through the country. We had more barbeque than we could eat, and for those who thought the weather a bit warm, well it was nice and cool down in the canyon.

The Dismals is truly a special place. Several members managed to hike the entire trail. I suppose I was a bit distracted, so I want to go back some day when I have time to explore it all, because such a trip should not be rushed. The canyon offers a beautiful, unspoiled look into the past that you won't get anywhere else.

I do want to thank all those who helped diagnose my problems, and hope I didn't take too much time away from your hiking. And if you want to go back let me know. Just give me a little time to get my carb straightened out, so I can drive those back roads in style one more time on my way to celebrate how things used to be.

Phil Hartline

---

## For Sale

R. W. McGuire bought the late David Willis' Corvairs and is selling them. He brought the EM to the April VCE meeting on a trailer for all to observe. See pics of the rather solid EM. Call 205-988-8703 for details.



## May VCE Meeting Minutes

There was no meeting held for the month of May, due to the road trip up to Dismal Canyon on Saturday, May 17th. Thirteen VCE members made the drive to Dismal Canyon, which is a few miles north of Hamilton, AL.

There were five Corvair and 3 Non-Corvair vehicles that made the trip along the new I22 corridor. Pete Wood, Richard Stolzmann, Harold & Louise Hartline, Brannon Hunter, Steve, Sherry and Patrick Daniels, Phil Hartline, Russ and Donna Thuleen along with Leslie and Jessica Steckler were in attendance.

Harold furnished the BBQ with the rest of the members adding side dishes and desserts to round out the meal. It was almost as good as our regular Friday night potluck! We ate out on the General Store patio enjoying the sunny day and great Corvair company!

Several members enjoyed the hike after lunch - it was about 1 3/4 mile round trip along the creek thru the canyon. An onsite tech session on Phil's car also held after lunch.

Russ Thuleen

---

## Pennzoil Contest

VCE participated in "The Platinum Prize", presented by Pennzoil, that honors auto enthusiasts nationwide who have made the ultimate commitment to keep their most prized possession running strong with a clean and responsive engine.

In addition to the Platinum Prize, the winner also receives a lifetime supply of the new full synthetic Pennzoil Platinum motor oil, is inducted into the Platinum Hall of Fame, located at Pennzoil.com, and receives two VIP tickets to the Aaron's 499 race at Talladega Superspeedway on April 27.

VCE's nomination: Pete Wood!



Guess what? WE WON! Yes, Pete got 2 tickets to the 'Dega 500. Wow! Congratulations to Pete for beating out the many other worthy opponents for this coveted prize. Simply amazing. Corvairs really rule the good 'ole USA.

- Editor

## ***From the Prez (cont'd)***

Race day I met with the guys who run the oil display trailer and had some pictures taken. The car spent the entire morning displayed under the awning at the Pennzoil trailer. I got lots of positive feedback on the car and a little national recognition for keeping an old car running.

Pete



## ***Dismals Canyon Trip Pictures*** submitted by Pete Wood



## ***VCE Newsletter Alert!***

I will be stepping down from dreaming up, creating, improvising, writing, printing, stapling, folding, stamping, addressing, mailing, and/or emailing the literary masterpiece, *OIL DROP* come 2009. Make your plans now to pick up the ball for the January 2009 issue. Just think - you could be enshrined - just like me. - Editor

## ***VCE Classifieds and Unsolicited Email Info***

For Sale: 1966 Monza Conv 110hp, new interior, new top, power convertible. Four new Wolf carbs. Needs tires. Car was restored by my father, Bowes Channell, back in 2005. Car is 90% complete, needing some cosmetic work and minor mechanical to bring to 100%. \$3700. Tom Channell 256-772-1664 (11/07)

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Web: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/vulcancorvair/>



This solid 1964 Monza coupe is for sale. Check it out inside this month's prestigious Costa Award winning *OIL DROP*.



Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts  
PO Box 59071  
Birmingham, AL 35259-9071



THE

# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 7

## July



## 2008

### *From the Prez*

As discussed at the last meeting, planning has begun for a VCE drive on the Natchez Trace Parkway. Pete has driven a portion and is looking at the stretch between Nashville and Tupelo. He has checked out hotels and such and will report back to the club. Preliminary plans are to meet in Nashville and take off on the ride south. Target weekends are the last one in October and the first one in November. Mark your calendars and get those Vairs roadworthy.

*Russell Noble (for Pete Wood via phone call)*



### *Next Meeting:*

Date: Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

Bring a dish for potluck supper and drive a Corvair to the meeting with your VCE chums.

### *Cruise-In Locations*

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat Chelsea(?) - U.S. 280
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Krispy Kreme – US31, 5pm - 8pm  
Drive-In movie - Argo
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sat Wal-Mart - Bessemer  
Wal-Mart - Sylacauga

### *Calendar of Events*

- Oct 3-4 Vairs at the Fair  
Warner Robbins, GA
- Oct 24-26 Fall Corvair Affair  
Raleigh, NC
- Jul 13-17 2009 CORSA International Convention  
Jacksonville, FL

### *Crusie-in Update?*

I heard that the long standing cruise-in at the Brook Highlands center on US 280 has either been moved or vanished. Can anyone confirm?

- Editor

### *This Space Reserved...*

for future awards for the *OIL DROP*. There are rumors that an exciting announcement is to be made on C-SPAN about the *OIL DROP*. Maybe GW is gonna call me from the red phone???

## THE OIL DROP - *Gone Electronic!*

Start getting yours today via email. Drop me a line at [rtnoble@southernco.com](mailto:rtnoble@southernco.com) and join the ~~nine~~ ten VCE members that have dropped paper mail. The pdf file has been running only about 250-350 KB, so even dial-up web users should consider this. - Editor

### **Tech Topic for this Month**

Oops, no tech topic - too busy with work, vacation and elder family issues. Plus, the car is driving great (no jinx please), so why mess with a good thing? I do need to pull the front drums and do an intermediate mile check on the brake shoes as the last two sets have mysteriously cracked. The drums are not that worn, so I don't think I need to have the shoes indexed. Oh, well maybe next month something will break. Yikes! I didn't say that! Double jinx undo, please.

- Editor

## June VCE Meeting Minutes

The June meeting started with a pizza dinner ordered from Papa John's. Dinner this month was provided by the club. With a reasonable turnout (19 adults and 3 children); Pete Wood called the meeting to order.

A Treasurer's Report was provided by John Hathaway. There is a balance of \$649 in the account.

The only order of business was discussion regarding a fall road trip down the Natchez Trace. Possible starting spots were discussed, as well as the possibility of this being an over night trip. A tentative time frame would be during the end of October or the first of November. This matter was tabled until the next meeting. With no other business the meeting was ended. There was no tech session.

Russ Thuleen

## 2008 Membership Roster

The results are final and we have some new members and have lost some old ones....28 total paying VCE members for the current year. There are several more on the email list, plus the *OIL DROP* goes out electronically across the nation, and maybe the world! After all, it is the *World Famous OIL DROP*.

Last Name	First Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Home Phone	Email ID
Cleveland	John	2511 Grand Point Circle	Hoover	AL	35226	(205) 834-3120	John.C.Cleveland@EIPaso.com
Collier	Tom & Faye	505 Harvest Loop	Prattville	AL	36066	(334) 361-9704	tcollierpa@knology.net
Daniels	Steve & Sherri	4919 Meadow Brook Way	Birmingham	AL	35242	(205) 995-9474	sddaniel@bellsouth.net
Doughty	Joe & Rozelle	324 North Lake Road	Birmingham	AL	35242	(205) 995-0131	None
Dutton	Roy & Connie	959 Scott Cemetery Road	Carbon Hill	AL	35549	(205) 522-6354	duttoncallers2@bellsouth.net
Hartline	Phil & Caroll	905 Echo Trail	Warrior	AL	35180	(205) 590-0141	philandcaroll@att.net
Hartline	Harold & Louise	564 County Road 4210	Crane Hill	AL	35053	(256) 747-2308	louis1956@earthlink.net
Hathaway	John	438 Eaton Road	Birmingham	AL	35242	(205) 408-4063	johnhathawayjc@bellsouth.net
Hinkle	Buck & Jewell	4142 Terrace R West	Birmingham	AL	35208	(205) 780-0549	None
Hunter	Mickey & Robin	1505 State Street NW	Hartselle	AL	35640	(256) 773-1683	mdhunter1@bellsouth.net
Keller	Ed & Carol	2461 Jannebo Road	Birmingham	AL	35216	(205) 823-5424	ekps119@bellsouth.net
McCrary	Jeff	2726 Windwood Drive	Gardendale	AL	35071	(205) 451-9028	jeffmcc2@yahoo.com
Miljus	George & Ann	722 Park Ridge Circle	Birmingham	AL	35242	(205) 972-1385	george.miljus@nsbhm.com
Miller	Joyce	601 Avondale Road	Montgomery	AL	36109	(334) 272-7085	retiredcouple@juno.com
Noble	Russell & Debbie	3416 Danner Circle	Birmingham	AL	35243	(205) 822-6092	rtnoble@southernco.com
Popinski	Joe & Carol	212 Maple Trace	Hoover	AL	35244	(205) 987-1780	jpopinski3@aol.com
Robertson	Don	39 Co Rd 3815	Arley	AL	35541	(205) 544-4035	
Siemens	Bob & Wilma	1725 Buck Island Drive	Guntersville	AL	35976	(256) 582-2175	rsiemens@charter.net
Smith	Jerry & Sarah	595 Browning Road	Odenville	AL	35120	(205) 640-6952	sarah.smith7@att.net
Snider	Floyd T.	4960 Big Oak Drive	Southside	AL	35907	(256) 442-1149	
Steadman	Joe & Ann	1629 Arrowhead Road	Jasper	AL	35504	(205) 384-9576	
Steadman	Jason & Amy	76 Oak Rd.	Nauvoo	AL	35578		
Steckler	Leslie	147 Crossbrook Drive	Chelsea	AL	35043	(205) 678-2191	vairlvr@aol.com
Stolzmann	Richard & Sandy	376 Burgess Drive	Springville	AL	35146	(205) 467-6444	richeyrich43@hotmail.com
Sweet	William & Virginia	2040 Glen Eagle Ln	Birmingham	AL	35242	(205) 980-2894	
Thuleen	Russ & Donna	147 Crossbrook Drive	Chelsea	AL	35043	(205) 678-7979	rampsideruss@aol.com
Witkos	Dick & Barbara	3112 Clayburne Road	Dothan	AL	36303	(334) 792-8528	BWitkos@centurytel.net
Wood	Pete	5733 Belmont Dr.	Irondale	AL	35210	(205) 956-6832	pete455@graffiti.net





## ***The Preventative Maintenance Series* by Mike Dawson**

The following list of items to check before taking a trip are suggestions for all Corvairs in general. Remember that even long trips are usually less than the mileage between a single oil change. Serviced properly, your Corvair will cruise to all of this summer's events and back - and be happier for it!

1. Check or clean & pack all four wheel bearing assemblies, and check & lube the 2 or 4 U-joints. Check front end parts and lube the fittings.
  2. Have tires balanced and aligned if necessary. Before trips, check all five tire pressures and tighten lug nuts with the tool you use to change a tire.
  3. Check or change all fluids: oil, transmission, differential, brake fluid, washer fluid and battery level if possible. Synthetic Powerglide fluid is a very good idea.
  4. Check the oil pressure sending unit and change this inexpensive item if you do not know its history.
  5. Check the engine tune, and include cleaning the crankcase vents. Check the breaker plate in the distributor, lube the distributor cam and inspect the electrical connections such as the primary coil wires, alternator wires (no generators allowed) and multi-connectors. Check carburetor inlet nuts for leaks.
  6. Check the battery date, cable ends, ground cable mount and check the overall charging system with the lights and accessories on maximum.
  7. REMOVE the belt and check the condition of the entire length. Spin all three pulleys and lube anything questionable. Tools are available to grease the fan and idler bearing.
  8. Check all running lights, check the fuse block for rust, check the large connector in early model engine compartments, check warning light operation.
  9. If air conditioned, blow out the condenser, check the mounts and belt, check the evaporator drain, and remove the lower shrouds for better cooling.
  10. Check the harmonic balancer, and if it is original, replace it! Be sure to check the fuel pump mount, they do work loose. To be safe with the increasing ethanol additions, you should have a new Airtex pump with the green paint spot.
  11. Lube your late clutch cable ball and look for frayed cable between the two pulleys under the dash on early models - also check parking cables in the same area..
  12. Check brakes; wheel cylinders, shoes, master cylinder (push rod leak), and most important, the steel and rubber lines. Give your car the "stomp test" in the driveway. Steel lines above the gas tank and next to the transaxle are the most prone to rust, with tunnel lines next.
- Be aware of any speedometer error you may have and know your oil consumption rate. Test drive 15 minutes on the highway on a hot day, pack up and head out!
- If you have questions about the above items, call me. I have tech sheets, tools and encouragement free for the asking.
- Spares and tools? My favorites would be a belt, a new fuel pump, one rocker arm with pushrod and valve cover gasket, one 30 amp fuse, a set of points and condenser, oil as required, tools for these items, and a CORSA Travel Roster.

*Reprinted from Heart of America Corvair Owners Association's 4/08 newsletter - Editor*

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### ***VCE Newsletter Alert!***

I will be stepping down from dreaming up, creating, improvising, writing, printing, stapling, folding, stamping, addressing, mailing, and/or emailing the literary masterpiece, *OIL DROP* come 2009. Make your plans now to pick up the ball for the January 2009 issue. Just think - you could be enshrined - just like me. - Editor

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For Sale: R. W. McGuire bought the late David Willis' Corvairs and is selling them. There is an EM coupe and a 1966 Corsa coupe. Call 205-988-8703 for details (7/08)

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205/678-7979

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205/822-6092

Treasurer: John Hathaway  
205/408-4063

Hospitality: Harold Hartline

Arrangements: Jewel Hinkle

Web: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/vulcancorvair/>



Editor's stately '65 sits proudly among the 'common' cars!



Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts  
PO Box 59071  
Birmingham, AL 35259-9071



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# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 8

## August



## 2008

### *From the Prez*

I'm going to take a moment of your time to explore a bit on some appropriate and not so appropriate car guy behavior. I recently witnessed a fully-grown man throw a tantrum in full view of the public at a recent cruise-in. It would seem that said man was berating another auto enthusiast for a paint chip. I understand that having spent untold hours blocking and priming and smoothing body panels to create the perfect paint job, one now wishes to preserve it in this state. So now your beautiful car is inside your titanium alloy hermetically sealed vault, deep in your reinforced concrete bunker, never to see the harsh light of day or breathe the corrosive fresh air.

Wait a minute; this car is meant to be driven on public streets? The same streets where metal crunching accidents are so prevalent the state requires you to have insurance on your automobile?

I fail to see a man willing to risk the total destruction of his car at every four way stop being so upset about a paint chip. If you have exposed your car by placing it in a public place (parking lot) in close proximity to hazards (between two other cars), how do you reasonably expect not to suffer some dings and chips?

Parked at a cruise-in most people are very conscientious of such things. I am sure the fellow who chipped this guy's paint did so accidentally and with no malicious intent. Such a thing will hardly endear you towards this fellow, yet there was no cause to make a scene. Life happens whether you want it to or not. Sometimes bad things, sometimes

### *Next Meeting:*

Date: Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

Bring a dish for potluck supper and drive a Corvaire to the meeting with your VCE chums.

### *Cruise-In Locations*

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 9:00am - Noon  
DQ at the Promenade - Alabaster  
Piggly Wiggly - Odenville
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat Chelsea(?) - U.S. 280
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Rail Road Café – I-459 Exit 6, 8:30am
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Krispy Kreme – US31, 5pm - 8pm  
Drive-In movie - Argo
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sat Wal-Mart - Bessemer  
Wal-Mart - Sylacauga

### *Calendar of Events*

- Oct 3-4 Vairs at the Fair  
Warner Robbins, GA
- Oct 24-26 Fall Corvaire Affair  
Raleigh, NC
- Jul 13-17 2009 CORSA International Convention  
Jacksonville, FL

### *From the Prez - Cont'd*

good things, sometimes inconsequential things like paint chips. If you have caused such damage to another person's car own up to it. If the damage was done to you be gracious and accept the other party's apology. It is disturbing to me that so many car enthusiasts lose all perspective about their cars. It is not appropriate to scream at another human being over a fleck of paint on a hunk of metal.

## THE OIL DROP - *Gone Electronic!*

Start getting yours today via email. Drop me a line at [rtnoble@southernco.com](mailto:rtnoble@southernco.com) and join the ~~nine~~ ten VCE members that have dropped paper mail. The pdf file has been running only about 250-350 KB, so even dial-up web users should consider this. - Editor

## VCE Wins Again!

Wow. VCE's Mickey Hunter snagged a 2<sup>nd</sup> Place finish in the LM closed division at the Helen, GA Springfest back in April. From the CORSA mag:

### Springfest 2008

#### PEOPLE'S CHOICE

##### Early Open 1960-1964

- 1 Jerry Wells '63 aqua Spyder
- 2 Tom White '64 red Monza
- 3 Al Rich '64 red Monza
- 4 Ellis Holcomb '62 white Spyder

##### Early Closed 1960-1964

1. Greg VanDette '63 white Monza
2. Donna Garner '61 green Monza
- 3 Jim Check '63 teal Spyder

##### Late Open 1965-1969

- 1 Sam Jones '65 turquoise
- 2 Charles Storie '65 red Corsa
- 3 Jerry Lopez '65 green Corsa
- 4 Dick Moon '65 blue Monza

##### Late Closed 1965-1969

- 1 Rodney Smith '65 red 500
- 2 Mickey Hunter '66 maroon Monza
- 3 Ken Clark '65 red Corsa

##### Forward Control

- 1 Bill Rudolph '61 red Rampside

##### All Four-Doors

- 1 Cecil Triplett '61 burgundy Lakewood
- 2 Richard Jenkins '65 Mist Blue Monza
- 3 Jerry Brown '65 gold Monza

##### Specialty/Highly Modified

- 1 Joe Martinez '65 yellow Monza
- 2 Al Hilderbrand '61 red Cormeno
- 3 Bill Prichard '70 red Amante GT

##### CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE

##### Early Open 1960-1964

- 1 Timm Scott '64 aqua Spyder
- 2 Ted Worley '63 red Monza

##### Late Open 1965-1969

- 1 Marvin Crook '69 blue Monza
- 2 Steve Winebarger '66 red Monza
- 3 Gary Irwin '66 burgundy Monza

##### Late Closed 1965-1969

- 1 Keith Walker '66 blue Monza
- 2 Jesse Martin '66 red Monza
- 3 Roger Smith '69 green Monza

##### Forward Control

- 1 Harold Parkey '64 green Rampside

##### Specialty/Highly Modified

- 1 Bill Warren '65 brown Corsa coupe
- 2 Ted Fahrenthold '65 org. Monza coupe

##### Senior Class

- 1 Dick Charest '65 red Corsa coupe
- 2 Jim Allen '63 green Monza conv.
- 3 Scott Good '64 red Monza coupe

##### Senior Appreciation Awards

- Monty Beaver '66 red coupe  
James Law '63 teal Rampside  
Bill Pierson '65 red Corsa Coupe

##### Judges' Choice

- Dick & Dee Charest '65 red Corsa coupe

##### Best of Show

- (in Memory of Burnie Weddle)  
Bill Warren '65 brown Corsa coupe

##### Valve Cover Race

- 1 Tony Ellison
- 2 Bill Prichard
- 3 Adam Bujtor

##### Junior Valve Cover Race

- 1 Aiden Tetros
- 2 Abby Swiney
- 3 Sarah VanDette

##### Hard Luck

- Jim Allen

##### Longest Distance Corvair Driven

- Richard Weidner, Northampton PA

##### Longest Distance Traveled

- Jim & Norma Diell, Burlington ON Canada

##### Go-Cart Races

- Pro Division, Caleb Walston  
Novice Division, Abby Swiney

## July VCE Meeting Minutes

The July meeting was called to order by President Pete wood with 20 adults and 3 children present. John Hathaway gave a Treasurer's Report stating the club has \$467 in the bank. Two club members celebrated their birthdays with us this meeting; John Cleveland turned 52 and Robin Hunter a young 44.

Business covered Pete's July 4th pre-run of the Natchez Trace trip. Those going on this fall trip will meet in Franklin, TN on Friday night and we will move out as a group on Saturday heading towards Tupelo, MS. On Sunday the group will meet up again to head to Starksville and then head home. Russell Noble will contact the clubs in TN and GA to see if they want to join us.

Gina Wood will make t-shirts for the club. If you supply your own shirt and a picture of your Corvair she will provide the transfers and club logo. Call or see Pete for more info.

Harold Hartline plans to hold a tech session on paint soon. More info on this will be provided when definite plans are made.

Phil Hartline was nominated to replace Russell Noble to do the newsletter. We had 2 visitors this month. Don (a neighbor of Harold's) and one of his friends. Don paid his dues and became an official VCE member. We look forward to having both of them at future meetings. Russell Noble then motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Russ Thuleen



## In Case you Missed it...

A nice "thank you" for the Club from our friends in NW Florida - from the CORSA magazine...

Our annual Holiday was held on February 22-23 in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. We tried to streamline our show this year to provide a relaxing atmosphere with very little stress. We changed to a People's Choice instead of judging, provided a simpler hospitality menu, and moved registration into the hospitality room where all the action was. We succeeded in having a great Car Show. Our success was also because of all the people who helped

at our show. We thank our sister club members from the Vulcan Corvair Club in Birmingham who always help with our show each year, and all the people who helped us with hospitality, the staging of the cars, and with cleaning up after the show. We were so glad to see friends that we had not seen in years.

June Lindsay

## Pictorial of the July VCE Meeting!



The buzzards have descended on the pot luck...



John Cleveland is a rock star...



What's that chick doing at the men's table???



One yellow & three blue LMs, one EM and a Scout...



She loves Vairs so much it makes her giddy!



Are these folks kin??



### VCE Newsletter Alert!



I will be stepping down from dreaming up, creating, improvising, writing, printing, stapling, folding, stamping, addressing, mailing, and/or emailing the literary masterpiece, *OIL DROP* come 2009. Make your plans now to pick up the ball for the January 2009 issue. Just think - you could be enshrined - just like me. - Editor

### VCE Classifieds and Unsolicited Email Info

For Sale: 1965 Red with Black convertible top, restored about two years ago, PG, power top, asking price \$9850. The seller is a dealer with a very small vintage car lot in front of his house. The dealer's name is Neal Starnes phone: (256) 233-5819. Address is: 27472 Hwy 72 East, Athens 35613 (8/08)

For Sale: R. W. McGuire bought the late David Willis' Corvairs and is selling them. There is a EM coupe and a 1966 Corsa coupe. Call 205-988-8703 for details (7/08)

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What is this happy VCE guy smiling about?  
He's touching his Corvair!



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THE

# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 9

## September 2008



### From the Prez

See Natchez Trace trip details on pages 4-5.  
Looks like a fun trip. - Editor

### New Member...

Add to the member list printed in the July OIL DROP:  
John Marzette  
1712 2nd Ave N.  
Birmingham, AL 35206

### Mount Locust Historic Inn, Mississippi

Mt. Locust is one of the earliest (1780) surviving homes built in the old Natchez District. Because it was located on the Old Trace, it also served as a "stand" in the late 1700s and early 1800s.



### Next Meeting:

Date: Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

Bring a dish for potluck supper and drive a Corvaire to the meeting with your VCE chums.

### Cruise-In Locations

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 9:00am - Noon  
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Raleigh, NC
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Jacksonville, FL

### Swamp time on the Natchez Trace...



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## Movie: *Mr. Holland's Opus...*

Vairs and movies just go together. Some pictures from the Richard Dreyfuss flick:



Headed to school...



Looks like a de-badged '64. Strange emblem on deck.



Has armrests...



I wonder if they are staring at an oil leak?



## August VCE Meeting Minutes

The meeting on Friday, August 15th was called to order by Pete Wood after a delicious potluck dinner provided by the members. There were 21 in attendance. John Hathaway gave the Treasurer's Report and since last month only \$2 has been spent from the club account. The account balance stands at \$465 to date.

Russell Noble stated he had sent an email to neighboring clubs regarding the planned Natchez Trace trip. Pete hopes to finalize all trip arrangements within the next 2 weeks and will be contacting everyone with the info. Watch your email for the info!

Donna Thuleen was officially welcomed back after her recent illness and hospitalization. Pete mentioned club shirts which could be personalized with individual Corvairs. If you wish to have one you must provide the shirt and picture of your Corvair. The shirts must be as close to 100 % cotton as you can get them. Discussion about a club 35th anniversary shirt was also held. Russell Noble motioned that the club pay for any printing materials used for the shirts with each member providing their own shirt.

Miscellaneous business included a show at Pepper Place on September 6th and one at Wind Creek on September 13th.

Russell Noble motioned the meeting to adjourn.

Russ Thuleen



## VCE Takes on the Natchez Trace....

This is the Birdsong Hollow Bridge in Tennessee.



150 ft up in the air. I think it is nice. Some say it is an eyesore and ruins the scenery. Take your pick.



## Pictorial of the August VCE Meeting!



A feast! Three bird casseroles, sausage & kraut, sandwiches, cheeze taters, salad, and dessert. Yummy! More cars: Keller's EM, Wood's black knight, Noble's vert, and McCrary's strong stance LM coupe.



Girls Gone Wild!



Boys will be boys...

### VCE Newsletter Alert!



I will be stepping down from the *OIL DROP* come 2009. Make your plans now to pick up the ball in January. - Editor

### VCE Classifieds and Unsolicited Email Info

For Sale: 1965 Red with Black convertible top, restored about two years ago, PG, power top, asking price \$9850. The seller is a dealer with a very small vintage car lot in front of his house. The dealer's name is Neal Starnes phone: (256) 233-5819. Address is: 27472 Hwy 72 East, Athens 35613 (8/08)

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***Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts***  
***Natchez Trace Drive***

**October 24-26**

*\* All times are Central Daylight Time*

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Friday, October 24**

12 non-smoking rooms: ½ doubles, ½ singles

**Call for reservations:** reference is **Corvair Club**

Rate: \$62.89 plus tax

**Best Western**

1308 Murfreesboro Road

Franklin, TN 37064

**615-790-0570**

Exit I-65 at Tennessee exit 65. Turn west for about 2 miles.

**Evening meal:** there are many types of restaurants near the hotel. If you want Pete to make reservations for the group, let him know as soon as possible. Also, let him know what kind of restaurant you want, Mexican, Chinese, American, etc.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Saturday, October 25**

12 non-smoking rooms: ½ doubles, ½ singles

**Call for reservations:** reference is **Corvair Club, Confirmation Number: MS408-298068**

Rate: \$70.70 plus tax

**Comfort Inn**

1190 N. Gloster Street

Tupelo, MS 38804

**662-842-5100**

Exit Natchez Trace at McCullough Blvd.; turn left at the ramp onto McCullough Blvd.; Turn left onto N. Gloster Street.

**Evening meal: 7:00 p.m.**

**Vanelli's Greek & Italian Restaurant**

1302 N. Gloster Street

**Reservation is in Gena Wood's name**

**TUPELO AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM – Alternative Outing for those whom have seen enough of the parkway for Sunday, October, 26**

**11:30 a.m.: meet in the parking lot.** There are over 100 cars from the 1800's to the 1990's. The museum is located ½ block off Hwy 45 off Main Street (1 Otis Blvd.) Opens at noon.

## ***ITINERARY AND DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE NATCHEZ TRACE DRIVE***

The Natchez Trace drive begins in Franklin, TN. Friday night we have reservations at the Best Western just off I-65. For those of you who can come early Nashville has a host of attractions to occupy your day. A prime example is the Lane Motor Museum. Lane has a first class display of foreign autos from around the globe. Dinner Friday night is on your own. There are several major chain restaurants near the interstate and a host of local eateries in downtown Franklin.

The tour begins in the Best Western parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Please be fueled, fed, loaded, and ready to go at 8:00 a.m. Beware there is no gas on the Trace. You must leave the Trace and travel to the nearest town to gas up. Plan accordingly.

Once we are on the Trace the policy is to travel at your own pace and stop where you want. It is about 200 miles from Franklin to Tupelo. If you drive straight through you'll be there in about four hours. If you stop to look at most of the sites and roadside exhibits it will take seven to nine hours. There are NPS restroom facilities at many of the pull offs along the trace. My own experience leads me to suggest that you have your own supply of toilet paper on hand; several places along the way were out.

Saturday lunch is a picnic at the Colbert Ferry site. If you elect not to bring your own lunch it is a forty-five mile round trip into Florence, Alabama, for grub.

The last stop on the Trace for the day is the Tupelo Visitors Center. There is a small museum and gift shop there. The guides are most helpful and knowledgeable about the area. Our host hotel for the evening is the Comfort Inn. We have dinner reservations at Vanelli's Greek & Italian Restaurant at 7:00 p.m. It is within walking distance of the hotel.

Sunday morning is the same as Saturday, 8:00 a.m., and ready to go. The drive is only 80 miles to French Camp. There are not as many turnouts on this stretch. I estimate about three hours to this terminus.

Sunday lunch is tentatively planned to be in Starkville. Scheduling for lunch will be fluid to allow for traffic and crowds (home football game at Mississippi State). From Starkville you can take U.S. 82 to I-20 in Tuscaloosa.

For the official Natchez Trace map and more information go to [www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr). There are 4 downloadable maps that cover the entire road. You may write to; Natchez Trace Parkway, 2680 Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38804-9718, and you will receive them in about 2 weeks.

***NOTE: All Trace info researched and provided by Pete Wood. Thanks Pete! - Editor***



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*At the August meeting...Richard Stoltzmann's turbo. Check out the deck mounted 3<sup>rd</sup> stoplight. Cool. See more meeting cars inside...*



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# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 10

## October



## 2008

### *From the Prez*

We are all saddened by the loss of Donna Thuleen this past week. She was a vibrant soul and will be missed by us all. Our thoughts and prayers are with Russ, Leslie, and Jessica.

Pete

### **REMINDER!**

See the insert in the OIL DROP about this month's Corvaire outing down the Natchez Trace. Pete has done an exemplary job putting this together. I hope the weather is similar to this past week!

### *From the Email Bag...*

Good morning!

I wanted to get in touch with you about our annual Saturday Market at The Village of Providence in Huntsville, Alabama. We have scheduled our big car show for October 25, 2008 and would love for your car club to be involved. We are trying to get as many car clubs from this area to join. There will be prizes awarded, for each decade, style, etc. All of these will be judged by the public. We have local artists, and are hoping to have some singer/songwriters join us. It is sure to be a big event with a great turn out. Please let me know if you are interested, and I look forward to talking with you soon!

Best Regards,  
Kylie Smith  
The Village of Providence  
256.704.3333  
kylie@villageofprovidence.com

### *Next Meeting:*

Date: Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

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### *Calendar of Events*

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Raleigh, NC
- Oct 24-26 Natchez Trace Run  
Vulcan Corvaire Enthusiasts
- Jul 13-17 2009 CORSA International Convention  
Jacksonville, FL



SO, ... HOW'S YOUR DAY GOING?

## THE OIL DROP - *Gone Electronic!*

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## From the Rag "CAR CRAFT"...

A few months ago, Corvairs got some print!

# → JUNKYARD CRAWL

## NADER BAIT

By Steve Magnante / Photos: Steve Magnante

Regardless of what Ralph Nader has to say, the Chevy Corvair stands as one of General Motors' boldest engineering achievements. Think about it. When it was introduced for the '60 model year, it was an absolutely revolutionary package. With its aluminum flat-six tucked beneath the trunk lid, there simply was nothing else like it available from Detroit, nor had there been, with the exception of the postwar Tucker. Sure, the first-generation '60 to '64 cars are a little on the ugly side, but it's a good kind of ugly, dig?

So when the restyled '65 models hit the scene, the taut lines should have spelled huge sales figures. The only problem was a thing called Mustang. Not only that, but Chevy was rapidly adding new models like the compact Nova in '62, the midsize Chevelle in '64, and the Camaro in '67, all of which took the wind out of Corvair sales. Ponycars and musclecars were hot, so the poor little Corvair was quickly swept aside to make way. Yeah, Chevy continued marketing the Corvair into the '69 model year, but after 1966, all performance options were dropped and the car slowly withered on the vine.



The body-colored taillight cove tells us it's not a '65 to '66 Corsa. The Corsa, Corvair's muscle model, had an argent silver cove and a standard 140hp four-carb engine. The 180hp turbo engine was optional. Another non-Corsa giveaway is the standard three-pod instrument cluster. Corsas featured a six-gauge cluster.



The 110 badge on the decklid of this convertible identifies the base dual-carb powerplant. Did we say dual carb and base model in the same sentence? Remember, the Corvair's cylinder banks were horizontally opposed 180 degrees. The long distance between each cylinder head would have placed a single, centrally located carburetor too far away from engine heat to prevent icing in cold weather, not to mention the fuel distribution headaches. The solution was to mount a carburetor atop each head. The corporate bean counters must have gone nuts. Ironically, the only Corvair engine with a single carburetor was the '62 to '65 L87 turbocharged engine. It fed its Thompson-Ramo-Woodridge turbocharger with a solitary Carter YH sidedraft single-throat carb. The turbo cars were also equipped with a single exhaust pipe.



Giving new meaning to the term truncated, Corvair convertibles were offered in every model year except '60 and '61. Convertible production totals were: '62: 16,569; '63: 44,165; '64: 35,806; '65: 34,819; '66: 13,487; '67: 2,109; '68: 1,386; and '69: 521. Notice how output dips sharply after 1965. We can thank the Camaro for that. There isn't enough left of this '65 to '69 ragtop to nail down an exact model year.

Polar opposites, the red second-generation Monza convertible is the sexiest Corvair, while the stodgy first-generation four-door sedan is strictly for granny patrol. All Corvair passenger cars share the same 108-inch wheelbase. Chevrolet designated the '60 to '64 models as A-bodies; the '65 to '69 models were Z-bodies.



### GROOVY FACTOIDS

- In 1964, a cast magnesium cooling fan replaced the previous stamped steel fan. Scrap dealers, start hunting!
- Power steering was never offered on the Corvair. With only 40 percent of total weight on the front tires, steering was already feather light.

## September VCE Meeting Minutes

The September 19th meeting opened with a prayer prior to dinner. There were 20 people in attendance (17 adult members and 3 children).

The minutes from last month were approved as written and John Hathaway gave the Treasurer's Report. In the bank to date - the club has a balance of \$390.57. Rent for the room has been paid for the remainder of 2008.

The Christmas party started business discussion and it was noted that it is scheduled for Friday, December 5th at the Vestavia Library. The trip to Warner-Robbins is scheduled for the weekend of October 3rd and 4th.

Leslie Steckler gave a report on Donna Thuleen's condition. She is in HTICU at UAB hospital. Cards for Donna and for Joyce Miller were being circulated around the room for members to sign. Joyce's sister passed away and a sympathy card was being sent to Joyce for support.

John Hathaway stated he had some "HAPPY" news - Elsie was going to be back in town the next week. She has traveled by bus to Denver, CO to visit family and was on her way back via the bus. With several stops to make over the road - the bus trip takes several days. We will be glad to have Elsie back with us next month.

Anyone interested in getting a personal Corvair t-shirt made; email or call Pete for more information. His mother will design a transfer for each request with a picture of your own Corvair. Pic and t-shirt supplied by each person - transfer materials and ink will be purchased by the club.

The club road trip down the Natchez Trace is scheduled and info has been mailed out in previous newsletters. Pete stated he will email and/or snail mail the information again.

All business having been discussed - the meeting was adjourned.

Russ Thuleen



## SACC: Stupid Acronyms for Car Company

### CHEVROLET

Can Hear Every Valve Rap On Long Extended Trips  
Cheap, Hardly Efficient, Virtually Runs On Luck Every Time  
Cheap Heap Every Valve Rattles, Oil Leaks Every Time

### DODGE

Darn Old Dirty Gas Eater  
Design Of Diabolical German Engineer  
Drips Oil, Drops Grease Everywhere  
Damned Old Dudes Going Everywhere  
Damn Overhauls Do Get Expensive  
Dear Old Dad's Garbage Engine

### FORD

First On Recall Day  
First On Rust and Deterioration  
Fix Or Repair Daily  
Found On Road, Dead  
Fault Of R&D  
Fast Only Rolling Downhill  
For Old Retired Dutchmen

**DIXIE VINTAGE ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

The only pre-requisite for membership in this organization  
is an interest in antique automobiles.

**DIXIE VINTAGE ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB**  
dues are \$10 annually. Mail checks to:  
**DIXIE VINTAGE ANTIQUE AUTOMOBILE CLUB**  
3456 Hurricane Road  
Hoover, AL 35226

Name \_\_\_\_\_ B'day \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ B'day \_\_\_\_\_

Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

1. Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Car(s) Owned \_\_\_\_\_ Body Style \_\_\_\_\_

2. Year \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_ Body Style \_\_\_\_\_

Here is a form to join the Dixie Club here in B'ham. I was at the Saturday morning cruise-in at Krispy Kreme on Sept 13 and Dixie was hawking memberships. They are throwing in a 'free' 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary t-shirt for new members, so what the heck, I went ahead and joined. A shirt for \$10 ain't too bad. - Editor



**VCE Newsletter Alert!** ←

I will be stepping down from the *OIL DROP* come 2009. Make your plans now to pick up the ball in January. - Editor

**VCE Classifieds and Unsolicited Email Info**

For Sale: 1965 Red with Black convertible top, restored about two years ago, PG, power top, asking price \$9850. The seller is a dealer with a very small vintage car lot in front of his house. The dealer's name is Neal Starnes phone: (256) 233-5819. Address is: 27472 Hwy 72 East, Athens 35613 (8/08)

For Sale: R. W. McGuire bought the late David Willis' Corvairs and is selling them. There is a EM coupe and a 1966 Corsa coupe. Call 205-988-8703 for details (7/08)

**Start getting your *OIL DROP* via email. Drop me a line at [rt noble@southernco.com](mailto:rt noble@southernco.com)**

***Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts  
Natchez Trace Drive***

**October 24-26**

*\* All times are Central Daylight Time*

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Friday, October 24**

12 non-smoking rooms: ½ doubles, ½ singles

**Call for reservations:** reference is **Corvair Club**

Rate: \$62.89 plus tax

**Best Western**

1308 Murfreesboro Road

Franklin, TN 37064

**615-790-0570**

Exit I-65 at Tennessee exit 65. Turn west for about 2 miles.

**Evening meal:** there are many types of restaurants near the hotel. If you want Pete to make reservations for the group, let him know as soon as possible. Also, let him know what kind of restaurant you want, Mexican, Chinese, American, etc.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Saturday, October 25**

12 non-smoking rooms: ½ doubles, ½ singles

**Call for reservations:** reference is **Corvair Club, Confirmation Number: MS408-298068**

Rate: \$70.70 plus tax

**Comfort Inn**

1190 N. Gloster Street

Tupelo, MS 38804

**662-842-5100**

Exit Natchez Trace at McCullough Blvd.; turn left at the ramp onto McCullough Blvd.; Turn left onto N. Gloster Street.

**Evening meal: 7:00 p.m.**

**Vanelli's Greek & Italian Restaurant**

1302 N. Gloster Street

**Reservation is in Gena Wood's name**

**TUPELO AUTOMOBILE MUSEUM – Alternative Outing for those whom have seen enough of the parkway for Sunday, October, 26**

**11:30 a.m.: meet in the parking lot.** There are over 100 cars from the 1800's to the 1990's. The museum is located ½ block off Hwy 45 off Main Street (1 Otis Blvd.) Opens at noon.



## ***ITINERARY AND DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE NATCHEZ TRACE DRIVE***

The Natchez Trace drive begins in Franklin, TN. Friday night we have reservations at the Best Western just off I-65. For those of you who can come early Nashville has a host of attractions to occupy your day. A prime example is the Lane Motor Museum. Lane has a first class display of foreign autos from around the globe. Dinner Friday night is on your own. There are several major chain restaurants near the interstate and a host of local eateries in downtown Franklin.

The tour begins in the Best Western parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning. Please be fueled, fed, loaded, and ready to go at 8:00 a.m. Beware there is no gas on the Trace. You must leave the Trace and travel to the nearest town to gas up. Plan accordingly.

Once we are on the Trace the policy is to travel at your own pace and stop where you want. It is about 200 miles from Franklin to Tupelo. If you drive straight through you'll be there in about four hours. If you stop to look at most of the sites and roadside exhibits it will take seven to nine hours. There are NPS restroom facilities at many of the pull offs along the trace. My own experience leads me to suggest that you have your own supply of toilet paper on hand; several places along the way were out.

Saturday lunch is a picnic at the Colbert Ferry site. If you elect not to bring your own lunch it is a forty-five mile round trip into Florence, Alabama, for grub.

The last stop on the Trace for the day is the Tupelo Visitors Center. There is a small museum and gift shop there. The guides are most helpful and knowledgeable about the area. Our host hotel for the evening is the Comfort Inn. We have dinner reservations at Vanelli's Greek & Italian Restaurant at 7:00 p.m. It is within walking distance of the hotel.

Sunday morning is the same as Saturday, 8:00 a.m., and ready to go. The drive is only 80 miles to French Camp. There are not as many turnouts on this stretch. I estimate about three hours to this terminus.

Sunday lunch is tentatively planned to be in Starkville. Scheduling for lunch will be fluid to allow for traffic and crowds (home football game at Mississippi State). From Starkville you can take U.S. 82 to I-20 in Tuscaloosa.

For the official Natchez Trace map and more information go to [www.nps.gov/natr](http://www.nps.gov/natr). There are 4 downloadable maps that cover the entire road. You may write to; Natchez Trace Parkway, 2680 Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS 38804-9718, and you will receive them in about 2 weeks.

***NOTE: All Trace info researched and provided by Pete Wood. Thanks Pete! - Editor***



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*Chillin' at the Kreme on a nice Fall morning...*



**Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts**  
**PO Box 59071**  
**Birmingham, AL 35259-9071**



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E

# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 11

## November



## 2008

### *From the Prez*

Those of you who couldn't make it for the Natchez Trace missed out on a good time. Joe and Rosselle hosted a pleasant hospitality event in their room Friday night. On Saturday morning the sun rose to clear blue skies. All fourteen people and six cars (four Corvairs) were ready to go ON TIME. We stopped for our picnic lunch at the Merriweather Lewis Memorial site. I hope all of you who went on the drive had as good a time as I did. I would like to thank Richard again for letting me hitch a ride for the weekend in his turbo convertible.

This past Sunday was the Alcazar car show in Lineville. This is an open show, anything goes. As such we saw everything from a stock Model T to a 2007 Toyota Solara. This year the show had 800+ cars registered by the end of the day. There were three Corvairs. Russ's Rampside, my 66 coupe, and a LM convertible from a fellow in Georgia.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone,  
Pete

### *In Memory of...*

Vulcan Corvair Enthusiasts submitted a donation of \$50 to the University of Alabama - Birmingham in memory of Donna Thuleen.

### *Next Meeting:*

Date: Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Vestavia Hills Library on Hwy 31

Bring a dish for potluck supper and drive a Corvair to the meeting with your VCE chums.

### *Cruise-In Locations*

1<sup>st</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 8:30am - Noon

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Rail Road Café – I-459 Exit 6, 8:30am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 5pm - 8pm

### *Calendar of Events*

Nov 15-16 Drive the "Tail of the Dragon"  
Fontana Village, NC

Dec 5 VCE Christmas party  
Vestavia Hills Library

Jul 13-17 2009 CORSA International Convention  
Jacksonville, FL

### *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year...*

That's right – Christmas Party time. Mark your calendars for Friday, December 5th at the Vestavia Library (7pm??)



## **THE OIL DROP - *Gone Electronic!***

Start getting yours today via email. Drop me a line at [rtnoble@southernco.com](mailto:rtnoble@southernco.com) and join the ~~nine~~ ten VCE members that have dropped paper mail. The pdf file has been running only about 250-350 KB, so even dial-up web users should consider this. - Editor

### ***From the Email Bag...***

**From:** garry binford [mailto:gdbinford@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 06, 2008 11:43 AM  
**To:** Cleveland, John C (Birmingham)  
**Subject:** corvair parts list

HI JOHN, here is a list of some of the parts I have for sale, hope you or some of your members can use them.

2 nos carbs in orig.boxs,one was put on my car for testing, ran it about ten minutes.  
1 nos dist, with vac., non turbo, in orig. box  
new wheel well chrome, all 4 wheels  
4 nos corsa hubcaps, in orig box  
new in box bendix transistor am, push button radio, no knobs  
new lic. light complete with gasket  
new emerg.cable  
new carpet front and rear med.blue one piece  
new set of cast piston,pins,rings,030 over  
new nos left and right wiper transmissions  
new complete set of rear cove chrome trim (4pieces)  
new nos Corvair script for front or rear (1)  
new pedal covers brake and clutch  
new throttle cable  
new glove box  
2 new chrome plastic arm rest  
2 new tail light lens 1965  
2 new backup light lens 1965  
complete int.screw kit  
used 4 speed trans  
used diff. 3.27 gears  
used set of 3.55 ring and pinion gears, GREAT SHAPE  
used 2 speed wiper switch with wiring harness  
2 used 4 speed shifters  
Pass this list around, I will ship, but buyer pays the shipping cost. They can call me or email for prices as I will be listing some parts on Ebay soon.  
pictures of items will be sent on request  
Garry Binford  
205 814 0553, 205 753 0059 [gdbinford@yahoo.com](mailto:gdbinford@yahoo.com)

### ***Who is this Guy????***



Well, it is your new Editor for the 'World Famous' **OIL DROP**, that's who! Meet John Cleveland, who holds a Harvard Doctorate Magna Cum Laude in literature production. Congrats on your promotion!  
- *Lame Duck Editor*

## ***October VCE Meeting Minutes***

The October meeting was called to order by Pete Wood with Ed Keller offering the blessing before dinner. The meeting was preceded by a delicious potluck dinner provided by the members. There were 18 members (17 adults and 1 child) in attendance. John Hathaway started the business session with his Treasurer's Report. There is a balance of \$290.00 in the bank to date. There was no old business to discuss, so we jumped right into new business.

The VCE Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, December 5th at the Vestavia Library. Officers for the New Year were discussed and so far it has been decided that John Cleveland will be taking over the newsletter editor position. There was talk of a possible outing/gathering out at Barber's Motor Speedway. More discussion and info at a later date. The Natchez Trace trip was discussed and it looks like a good group will be making the trip next weekend.

Don (our newest VCE member) told of his harrowing transmission ordeal and thanked the members who helped him solve it. Harold Hartline moved that the meeting adjourn - no tech session was held this month.

Russ Thuleen




### ***For Sale...***

See details in Classifieds.



*Natchez Trace Outing Pictorial....*





THE NACHEZ TRACE—EARLY AMERICAN TRAIL

THE NACHEZ TRACE, A VERY OLD TRAIL, WAS TRAVELED BY MANY EARLY AMERICANS. CAPTAIN MERIWETHER LEWIS, LEADER OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION AND GOVERNOR OF THE UPPER LOUISIANA TERRITORY, DIED NEAR THIS POINT IN 1809 WHILE TRAVELING THE NACHEZ TRACE TO WASHINGTON, DC WITH HIS EXPEDITION JOURNALS AND ACCOUNTS. IN 1843 THE STATE OF TENNESSEE CREATED LEWIS COUNTY IN HIS HONOR, AND IN 1848 ERECTED A MONUMENT OVER HIS GRAVE.

THE NACHEZ TRACE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ITS SERVICE TO THE AMERICAN MILITARY. GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON'S TROOPS TRAVELED THE NACHEZ TRACE TO ENGAGE THE BRITISH DURING THE WAR OF 1812.

MARKER PLACED BY  
THE TENNESSEE SOCIETY  
OF  
THE NATIONAL SOCIETY  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
NOVEMBER 10, 2006



*Natchez Trace Outing Pictorial...cont'd*



## Reference: Section 32-8-87 Code of Alabama 1975, Senate Bill SB45-2008

I am writing to you about an Alabama law that directly affects all car owners in the state but most notably car owners who are most likely to repair and restore their own cars or to contract portions of that work to professionals.

In Alabama, if your vehicle is damaged so that the repairs are more than 75% of the book value your insurance company is legally required to total the car.

They are not going to ask you what you think about it. Once the car is totaled you can buy the salvage title. However that is where the problem starts. You cannot do the work yourself on a vehicle with a salvage title and get the car retitled so you can operate it on public streets unless you hold an Alabama Rebuilder's License. You can obtain a license from the state for a fee of only \$10. However it requires proof of garage liability insurance and a \$10,000 surety bond. Some insurance companies won't even write such a policy for an individual who doesn't own a garage but others will. The best price I was quoted was over \$1,000. The bond would cost another \$100.

The other option you have to is to have the repair work done by a garage that has an Alabama Rebuilder's License. The reason you need to have the work done by a licensed entity is that only someone with that license can apply for the inspection required before the salvage title can be converted into a rebuilt title.

You dare not drive the car while it is under the salvage title. If you are caught it is a class C misdemeanor and carries a \$500 fine.

What this means is that you might have, say, a 1980 El Camino or Mustang that you have restored from the ground up. You hit a deer and call your insurance agent. He comes out and looks at the repair estimate and then checks his "blue book" which only has values for the average car of that make and model. Obviously your vehicle is worth much more than that, but that is not what he is going to use in his decision. A 1980 vehicle is going to have a ridiculously low book value. He is required by law to total your vehicle.

You may be personally more qualified to work on your car than the licensed rebuilder in your area, but the law is the law. If you do the work yourself, all you can do is trailer your car from that time only.

This law is obviously flawed. Perhaps it was meant to keep rebuilt vehicles that were salvaged from the Katrina disaster or that don't have working air bags or have other serious defects from reaching the sales lots, but it also places an unreasonable burden on citizens in cases where the decision to total the vehicle was made on book value alone and not on the nature of the damage.

An attempt was made to amend this law in 2008. It passed the house and the appropriate committees in the senate. But then Senator Preuitt who was instrumental in passing the law to begin with was in a position to effectively kill the amendment by not allowing it to come to a vote this past year, and he did so. That amendment would have allowed someone who was the owner of the vehicle when it was damaged to manage the repairs and apply for the state inspection without having to have garage liability insurance and the required bond.

Attached is a copy of a letter (*not attached - Editor*) that I composed and sent to Lt. Gov. Jim Folsom. Please read it and then investigate this matter. If you agree that the law should be amended to waive the garage liability insurance and bond requirements for the individual who owned the vehicle when it was damaged then please print and sign the petition or compose a letter of your own and send to Lt. Gov. Folsom.

Thank you.  
Craig Snyder

If you wish to protest, mail or fax to: Lt. Governor Jim Folsom  
**Fax:** (334) 242-4661 11 South Union Street, Suite 725  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

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### ***VCE Classifieds and Unsolicited Email Info***

**WANTED:** I'm looking for a 1963 3:08 differential, thanks Richard Stolzmann. I can be reached at 205-329-0394 or [richeyrich43@hotmail.com](mailto:richeyrich43@hotmail.com) (11/08)

**For Sale:** 1965 Monza convertible. \$1800 Call Garry Binford at 205 814 0553, 205 753 0059  
[gdbinford@yahoo.com](mailto:gdbinford@yahoo.com) See pictures in this month's *OIL DROP*.

**For Sale:** 1965 Red with Black convertible top, restored about two years ago, PG, power top, asking price \$9850. The seller is a dealer with a very small vintage car lot in front of his house. The dealer's name is Neal Starnes phone: (256) 233-5819. Address is: 27472 Hwy 72 East, Athens 35613 (8/08)

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Hospitality: Harold Hartline

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Web: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/vulcancorvair/>



*What are these early American settlers doing in the wilderness?  
Check it out inside this month's issue of **The Oil Drop!***



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**PO Box 59071**  
**Birmingham, AL 35259-9071**





THE

# OIL DROP



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE VULCAN CORVAIR ENTHUSIASTS Vol 29, No 12

## December



## 2008

*From the Prez*

Have a Merry Christmas and see you at the Party!

Pete



### *Next Meeting:*

**Date:** No Meeting – Christmas Party on the 5th

**Time:** unknown

**Place:** nowhere

### *Cruise-In Locations*

1<sup>st</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 8:30am - Noon

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Rail Road Café – I-459 Exit 6, 8:30am

3<sup>rd</sup> Sat Krispy Kreme – US31, 5pm - 8pm

### *Calendar of Events*

Dec 5 VCE Christmas Party  
Vestavia Hills Library, 6:00

Feb 25-27 Corvaair Lovers Holiday  
Pensacola, FL

Jul 13-17 2009 CORSA International Convention  
Jacksonville, FL

### *Nice Watch, Santa!*



### *From the Outgoing Editor...*

My how time flies. Who would believe that I have been issuing the WORLD FAMOUS, never duplicated, often discussed, **OIL DROP** newsletter to the masses for the last three years? Ah, the monthly anguish of sorting the never-ending submittals to reduce content down to the USA Publisher's Guild required length of four pages. Many a good article has gone unpublished due to this little known rule, and for those that did not make the cut – I am truly sorry. Maybe John Cleveland can work your prose into the 2009 version. So with that, I pass the torch on to the new Editor...perhaps he can use it to destroy the unusable articles that seem to pile up endlessly. May your Vairs start dependably, run flawlessly, and never, ever, ever been seen on the side of the road in a broken down state. Remember, the Hood Up Club is no place for a Corvaair.

Russell Noble

## THE OIL DROP - *Gone Electronic!*

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### *From the Email Bag...FOR SALE*

I HAVE 2 CORVAIRS FOR SELL. ONE IS A 1965 2 DOOR HARDTOP. IT HAS FACTORY AIR AND AUTO TRANS. THE CAR IS A VERY SOLID CAR. IT HAS NO RUST ANYWHERE AND THE PAINT IS FAIR. ALL OF THE HUB CAPS ARE ON THE WHEELS. THE ENGINE, TRANS, AND DIFF ARE OUT OF THE CAR BUT STILL TOGETHER. THE COMPRESSOR AND CONDENSER ARE STILL HOOKED UP UNDER HOOD. I HAVE SOME EXTRA PARTS FOR CORVAIRS. THE CAR WAS PURCHASED AT TOM GLOOR CHEVROLET IN BESSEMER, ALABAMA. I HAVE THE ORIGINAL BILL OF SALE AND OWNER'S MANUAL FOR CAR. IT IS PAINTED YELLOW, THE PAINT IS IN FAIR CONDITION. I AM ASKING \$1000 FOR THIS CAR.

I ALSO HAVE A 1964 CORVAIR CONVERTIBLE. IT HAS ALL NEW COMPLETE BRAKE SYSTEM, FLOOR PANS, CARBS, FUEL PUMP, DIST, POINTS, PLUGS, CONDENSER, ROTOR, WIRES, NEW TIRES, AND GRILL BAR. THE CAR IS IN GOOD MECH CONDITION. THE CARBS NEED TO BE ADJUSTED. THE CAR DOESN'T IDLE GOOD. THE CAR NEEDS PAINT, TOP AND UPHOLSTERY. THE BODY OF THE CAR IS STRAIGHT WITH VERY LITTLE RUST. I AM ASKING \$4,000 FOR THIS CAR. MY NAME IS EARNIE BURTON 301 SHIPP ROAD HAYDEN, AL. MY HOME PHONE IS 590-1959 & CELL IS 965-5343 CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION



## November VCE Meeting Minutes

The meeting on 11/21/08 was called to order with 14 members and 3 kids attending with Pete Wood presiding. The Christmas party menu was discussed and will be held on Friday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at the Vestavia Hills library. Harold is bringing a ham and others should bring a dish. If you are confused, call Jewel Hinkle at 780-0549. Please bring a \$10 donation to be given to charity in the name of VCE.

John Hathaway reported a Club account balance of \$290.57. Discussion on a charge for advertisements in the OIL DROP was held and a fee of \$15 per year for a ¼ page ad was set.

2009 VCE officers will remain the same except for Russell Noble dropping the OIL DROP duties like a brick. Newsletter manufacturing will be taken up by John Cleveland.

Pete Wood said that t-shirts can still be made upon request with a high quality digital image.

Future Corvair trips were discussed...day trips versus multi-day, location, etc. Destinations can be submitted to Pete Wood.

Leslie Steckler  
for Russ Thuleen



## VINTAGE CAR CARE OF NORTHERN ARIZONA



*presents a Stocking Stuffer Special:*

### DEALER PROMO DVD

*featuring over 2 hours of  
1960s Corvair and other GM  
Commercials.*

*This is ready to pop in and enjoy!*

*Cost is \$24<sup>95</sup> postpaid in the U.S.*

*Send check or M.O. to:*

Mark Aksamit  
P.O. Box 361, Cottonwood AZ 86326

## From the 11/08 'Car Craft' Rag...

Here's an amazing—and tragic—pair of '62 Oldsmobile Jetfires we recently spotted at Desert Valley Auto Parts in Phoenix (DVAP). In case you're not up on your factory turbo car history, know that these amazing little critters share the stage with Chevy's '62 Corvair Monza Spyder turbos as America's first mass-produced turbo-charged passenger cars.

Unlike previous belt-driven supercharger packages from Ford, Kaiser, Packard, and Studebaker, GM's employed exhaust-driven turbochargers to boost intake tract efficiency—and power. While the Corvair relied on a blown 145-cube flat-six powerplant to get 150 hp and 210 lb-ft, Olds employed a 215ci die-cast aluminum V-8 that delivered 215 hp and an impressive 300 lb-ft. This so-called Turbo-Rocket mill was the only Oldsmobile production V-8 engine to hit the magic 1-horse-per-cubic-inch mark until the 1995 arrival of the 250hp Aurora 4.0L (244ci) V-8. Let's all whine over the sad state of this rare pair of first-year Olds turbo cars.



Though based on the F-85/Cutlass compact model line, Jetfires only came one way: turbo-charged. A total of 3,765 Jetfires were built in 1962, plus another 5,842 in 1963 before the model was canceled. These clean examples still wear their original paint and are rust-free. The turbo mill was not offered in base F-85 or Cutlass models. Pity, we'd dig a turbo F-85 two-door post-sleeper with radio and heater delete.



Talk about a rare emblem—this thing would fetch a small fortune on eBay. Jetfire owners had to keep an underhood reservoir bottle filled with Olds Turbo-Rocket fluid (distilled water spiked with alcohol to prevent freezing). Olds engineers fitted the turbocharged 215 with 10.25:1 pistons to enhance low-rpm cylinder pressure and crutch turbo lag. The water-injection system helped control detonation at the 5-psi maximum boost level.



The Turbo-Rocket 215 was only available in the Jetfire two-door hardtop model and is verified by the exclusive use of style code 3147 on the cowl tag. This unlucky pair of real-deal 3147s both have the optional (\$189.00) Hydramatic slushbox. A three-speed stick was standard until a four-speed became optional in 1963. Want to save 'em? Contact DVAP at 800/905-8024 or [dvautoparts.com](http://dvautoparts.com). Everything's for sale.



Though the turbo system is missing, the rare passenger-side turbo feed exhaust manifold is still present. The arrow points to a homemade metal block-off plate bolted over the feed hole. It was not uncommon for Jetfire owners to replace the turbo equipment with naturally aspirated two- or four-barrel carburetion induction at the first sign of trouble.

### GROOVY FACTOIDS

- In 1963, Olds redesigned the compact F-85 lineup with 4 inches of extra body length and a squared-off look, but the 112-inch wheelbase remained unchanged.
- After its discontinuation in 1963, GM sold the manufacturing rights and tooling for the 215-inch aluminum V-8 to British Leyland, which used it in Range Rover SUVs until only a few years ago.

### VCE Classifieds and Unsolicited Email Info

**For Sale:** 1965 Monza convertible. \$1800 Call Garry Binford at 205 814 0553, 205 753 0059

[gdbinford@yahoo.com](mailto:gdbinford@yahoo.com) See pictures in the Nov 08 OIL DROP.

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Web: <http://clubs.hemmings.com/vulcancorvair/>



*Look familiar? Vairs are really easy to work on. Trust me...*



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