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Next LVCC Meeting: Weds. Sept 23, 2015

Time 7:30 PM. Place: Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority Headquarters (LANta), 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 1060 Lehigh Street, Allentown, PA 18103. Latitude: 40.587607 | Longitude: -75.474405.
Feel free to bring a guest. Don’t get locked out! If you arrive late, the main door of the LANta office building may be locked. This is for security purposes. But the facility is open around the clock, so ask one of the garage employees to direct you to the second floor.

The Fifth Wheel is published monthly by the Lehigh Valley Corvair Club (LVCC), Inc. We accept articles of interest to Corvair owners for publication. Classified advertising of interest to Corvair owners is available free of charge to all persons. Commercial advertising is also available on a fee basis. For details, email our newsletter editor, Allan Lacki, at redbat01@verizon.net.

LVCC is one of the many regional chapters of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA), a non-profit organization that was incorporated to satisfy the common needs of individuals interested in the preservation, restoration, and operation of the Chevrolet Corvair. LVCC caters to Corvair people who live in and around the Lehigh Valley region of eastern Pennsylvania. This is a very special car club! LVCC dues are $10 a year for CORSA members or $15 a year for non-CORSA members.
Kool Korvair Kit Kars!

The Volkswagen Beetle pan chassis served as the platform for most dune buggies and kit cars during the 1960s. Grab an old Beetle, unbolt the heavy steel body, and replace it with a light weight fiberglass body. All of a sudden, you had a car that could accelerate fast and look cool, too.

With the little 40 horsepower Volkswagen engine, this setup worked fine. But many builders wanted more power, so they began to replace the little Volkswagen engines with Corvair engines. A number of parts houses, including Kennedy Engineered Products, Crown Manufacturing, Offenhauser, and Weiand, offered adapters for bolting Corvair engines to Volkswagen transaxles.

But with the added horsepower, some builders found the Volkswagen pan chassis to be too flexible. And the old-fashioned trailing arm front suspension and swing axle rear suspension from the Volkswagen wasn't necessarily the best. And so, kit car manufacturers began to offer stronger tube frames for buggies and kit cars. The most interesting ones, from a Corvair enthusiast's point of view, were the ones that were specifically designed for Corvair running gear - Corvair engine, Corvair front suspension, and Corvair rear suspension.

It may be hard to believe, but back in the 1960s, J.C. Whitney offered an all-Corvair dune buggy frame. You could order one from the J.C. Whitney catalog. We don't know who manufactured them for J.C. Whitney. Maybe it was Bedford Machinery Company of Erie, Michigan. Another possibility is Con-Ferr Inc. of Burbank, California, which made the frames for Meyers Manx-Vair buggies. J.C. Whitney and Con-Ferr offered frames for early and late Corvair running gear. And both were designed to fix the classic Meyers Manx-style buggy bodies of the day.

Around the same time, Fiberfab was offering its Aztec, Avenger, and Valkyrie kit cars. These were enclosed two-seater sports cars styled to resemble the famous LeMans-winning Ford GT-40 endurance racing cars. Brought to market in 1964, the Aztec was the first of the series and was the most primitive of the kits.

Underneath, the Aztec was much like a contemporary dune buggy, with Volkswagen Beetle running gear. It was followed by the Avenger GT-12, which featured improved styling but still made use of Volkswagen running gear. In 1967 came the Valkyrie, which included a tube frame for mid-engine V8 applications. The body was stretched mid-ship to accommodate the mid-engine configuration. Last but not least came the Avenger GT-15, which also featured a tube frame, but the GT-15 used Corvair running gear throughout.

The following is from the original Avenger GT-15 sales brochure:

The Avenger GT-15 is Fiberfab's latest addition to the famous Avenger line of fiberglass bodies. The GT-15 utilizes the GT-12 (three-piece) outside body shell molded over a special one-piece floor pan. This special floor pan is designed to lock in place on the GT-15 frame - a "ladder" frame constructed of large (5” x 2”) rectangular steel tubing; heliarc-welded together in a stabilizing jig.

The GT-15 frame and body combination is engineered to accept all Corvair ('65 or later) running gear -- engine, front and rear suspension, transaxle, steering, pedals, gear shift, etc. with a minimum of component modification. Because the Corvair engine/transaxle configuration in the GT-15 duplicates that of a stock Corvair, no special adapter plates or shafts are required.
An unmolested Fiberfab Avenger GT-15. The blue and white paint scheme is reminiscent of the original Ford GT-40s.

Photos of Fiberfab Avenger GT-15 frames are hard to come by. This grainy one is from Fiberfab's original sales brochure. If you look closely, you'll see the late-series Corvair rear suspension and front cross-member.

Bottom row: Two more Corvair buggy frames. The one on the left is a Turchan. The one on the right is a Con-Ferr.
The GT-15 kit includes safety glass windshield, safety glass rear window, GT bucket seats, special dashboard/console, 3-piece Avenger body with GT-15 inner panels/floor pan, and GT-15 ladder frame. Valkyrie disc brakes - front and/or rear are available as extra cost options as are complete upholstery kits and instrument sets.

GT-15 Kit.............$1295.00

The story of the Fiberfab company is colorful. Warren "Bud" Goodwin founded Fiberfab-Velocidad, Inc. in 1964 and started building street rod parts and body panels for Mustangs in Los Angeles before moving on to kit cars. By 1966, Fiberfab was grossing over $1 million in sales.

But in September 1967, Goodwin shot and killed his wife, Jamaica, when he found her with another man in their living room. Goodwin claimed he intended to simply scare the lovers by shooting a hole in the ceiling, but the gun discharged accidentally. Realizing what he had done, he quickly called the police, but he still had to go to jail. He was charged with voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. He died in jail on December 26, 1968 of a heart attack.

Fiberfab survived without Goodwin. It went on to manufacture several other kits, including a front-engine car named the "Jamaican"; apparently after Goodwin's wife.

As the kit car craze tapered off, Fiberfab went through several ownership changes. In 1971 Fiberfab became a division of Concept Design America, a California based company. Then, in 1974, Fiberfab was acquired by ATR Incorporated, a Pennsylvania corporation. In 1979, the company moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota. And in 1983, the company was sold to Classic Motor Carriages, which stopped selling Fiberfab kits but stored all the body molds.

A new company named Fiberfab US arose around 2003 for the purpose of building Valkyrie V8s using the original body molds and tube frame draw-ings. You can find Fiberfab US online at http://www.fiberfab.us/. It's questionable whether this is a going concern. The Fiberfab US website hasn't been updated since 2012.

In its hey day, Fiberfab produced hundreds if not thousands of kit cars, including the Avenger GT-15. They trade hands now and then. Like many kit cars, they are often unfinished and need a lot of work. It's a sad fact that many of the early kit cars were beyond the skills and resources of their owners. But when completed, they are a sight to behold and truly unique.

In a future issue of the Fifth Wheel, we'll discuss the greatest of the Corvair-based kit cars, the Autodynamics Deserter GS - a tube frame, mid mount racing machine. Stay tuned

Drag Racing Update, by Rich Greene

L & R Racing went to the Drag Races on Friday night, August 21st. We needed to fine tune the Holley four barrel carburetor. We did improve our times from the first run to the last but it wasn’t what we expected. We started out with a 16.017 @ 86.22 MPH on our first run and ended up with a 15.568 @ 87.55 MPH on our last run. Unfortunately, after our last run we heard noises coming from the differential. We will have to pull the motor to investigate.

Letters from the Editor, by Al Lacki

It's September 12 as I write this and I'm missing Corvair Day. It's the Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club's premier annual event in Hershey. I had planned to attend, but it's raining and the forecast calls for thunderstorms this afternoon, so I chickened-out. I'm sorry because CPCC had a lot of fun activities planned for today.

Our neighboring Corvair clubs host events that are open for anyone to attend. Corvair Day is a good example. You don't need to be a member of CPCC to participate. And often, our neighboring clubs add public events to their calendars, just like we do.

Several members of the New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts show their Corvairs every year at the All Air Cooled Gathering Car Show hosted by the Central Jersey Volkswagen Society. This show attracts more than 300 cars, mostly Volkswagens of course. Volkswagen people are fun people and many are curious about Corvairs.

Yes, there is a Corvair class at this show and prizes are awarded to Corvair owners. In fact, two years ago, the crowd voted Allen Bristow's Corvair Greenbrier camper best in show overall. Word has spread and now the Philadelphia Corvair Association has included the All Air Cooled Gathering Show in its list of activities. It's coming up on Sunday, September 20th. Why not give it a go?

The Philadelphia Corvair Association (PCA) has another event on its calendar that looks fun. It's the annual Vargo Dragway Reunion. You'll see an amazing array of street rods and dragsters at this show, but Corvairs are welcome here, too. Members of PCA attend the Vargo show every year, so they must like it. This one will take place Saturday, November 7.

Entry fees for these shows are reasonable. But it's impossible to beat the price of the Riegelsville Fall Roll Out Car Show. It's free! Like the Vargo show, it takes place early in November. Situated on the banks of the Delaware River, it's often freezing cold, but that doesn't stop car guys. Hundreds of cars show up. Did I mention, it's free!

Details about these and other events are posted in the Local Calendar of Events section in our newsletter. Check 'em out!
Bob Weideman’s newly-acquired 1961 Corvair Monza. It’s his third early sedan. We love that flying wing roof!

L&R Racing. Rich Green & Larry Asheuer go drag racing in this yellow Corvair coupe. Larry is a member of PCA.

In its hey day, Fiberfab produced hundreds if not thousands of kit cars, including the Avenger.

Showing of Corvairs at Vargo Dragway. Photo courtesy of the Vargo website at http://www.vargodragway.com/
I recently picked up a 1961 Monza sedan and, with Larry Asheuer’s help along with the carburetors, distributor and Pertronix II off my old ’62, got it running pretty well. I’ve been going through the car fixing up the little things.

One thing I noticed is that the dome light did not come on when either front door was opened. Turns out both switches worked when you manually pulled out the button, but neither were spring loaded anymore.

I checked the Clarks catalog and replacement switches were only $5.15 so I ordered two new ones. I grabbed a 7/16 socket and unscrewed the driver side switch, unplugged the wire, plugged in the new switch and started screwing it in. Could it really be that easy?

Of course not. The threads just screw into the sheet metal and there is no nut on the backside. When I screwed the new switch in, it threaded right past the threads and stayed loose. Notice in the pictures how the threads on the old switch go right up to the nut, but on the new one they stop short leaving a short shank.

I unscrewed the new switch, disconnected the wire, added a washer, and then re-installed. Problem solved. On the passenger side, I added the washer to the new switch first, then installed and it worked the first time. I guess in the end, it really was that easy.
Local Events In and Around Lehigh Valley

Saturday, September 19, 2015 :::: Cruise Night at Macungie Memorial Park

Saturday, September 19, 2015 :::: Neffsville Car Show
Location: Manheim Township Community Park, 200 Petersburg Road, Lancaster, PA 17601. Time: 9 AM to 4 PM. Price: $20 per car. Car show & picnic in a beautiful park setting. Entry fee includes lunch. Live band, food vendors, prizes. Attendance last year was over 500 classics, customs & street rods. Phone: (717) 538-3188. Email: neffscarshow@gmail.com

Saturday, September 19, 2015 :::: TSMA Car Show at Mahoning
Location: Mahoning Drive-In Theater, 635 Seneca Road, Lehighton, PA. Time: 12 PM to 6 PM. Preregister before September 1: $8. Day of Show: $10. Vendors 12x12 spot $10. Music, coloring contest, special raffle, vendors, 2 classic movies free for paying participants, else $5 to watch. Host: Tamaqua Street Machines Association. Contact Cindy at (484) 725-9035. Email: tamaquastreetmachine@gmail.com

Saturday, September 19, 2015 :::: All Air Cooled Gathering Car Show
Location: Swim and Sport Club of Flanders New Jersey, 272 Emmans Road, Flanders, NJ 07836. Time: 8 AM to 3 PM. Price: $15.00 per person, including your car. As long as it’s air-cooled, it’s welcome. Games, trophies, dash plaques, raffle prizes, on-site bar, kitchen and live music. Interested in camping overnight? Arrive anytime after 2 PM on Saturday. Phone: (973) 584-9790. Email: casey@cjvws.com. Website: http://www.allaircooledgathering.com/

Sunday, September 20, 2015 :::: Gasket Goons Hot Rod Bash
Location: Silver Creek Athletic Association, 2943 Rt 212, Springtown PA 18081 (GPS Hellertown, PA 18055). Time: 8 AM to 9 PM. Price: Registration at the gate $10.00/person, under 12 free. Open to pre-1969 hot rods, customs, antiques and classics. Five bands, food, swap meet, vendors, hot rod trophies valve cover racing, bicycle show. Full pavilion, 100 picnic tables, restrooms. Alert! Beer & Pinup Contest (cash prize). 600 show cars last year. Email: dals@comcast.net Website: https://www.facebook.com/gasket.goonspa

Sunday, September 20, 2015 :::: Cruise Big Woody’s

Sunday, September 20, 2015 :::: Cruise Night at Country Square
Location: Country Square Shopping Center, 240 S. West End Blvd. (Rt 309), Quakertown, PA. Time: 4 PM to 7 PM. No rain date. All makes, models, and years welcome. 50/50. Donations accepted for St. Isidore Food Pantry (Quakertown). Host: First Pennsylvania Mustang Club. Email: Rich rjenders@verizon.net. Phone: Roger at (215) 896-4351.

Thursday, September 24, 2015 :::: Cruise at Zinc City Motorcycle Club
Location: Zinc City Motorcycle Club Grove. 10485 Interchange Road, Kresgeville, PA 18333. Time: 6 PM to 9 PM (every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month). Host: Palmerton Pace-Makers Association. Call (610) 826-8252 or Email pacemaker@juno.com. Website: http://clubs.hemmings.com/pace-maker/

Saturday, September 26, 2015 :::: Catasauqua Fire Police Car & Motorcycle Show
Location: Catasauqua Park, 500 American Street, Catasauqua, PA 18032. Time: 10 AM to 3 PM. Rain Date 10/03. Pre-registration price: $5. Day of show price: $10. Vendor spot $10 per 10x10 ft spot. All vehicles welcome. Live band, 25 trophies; 50/50. Email cattyfp2@hotmail.com or call 484-347-0435.

Saturday, September 26, 2015 :::: Cruise Trexlertown Shopping Center
Location: Trexlertown Shopping Center, 7150 Hamilton Blvd, Trexlertown, PA 18087. Time: 4 PM to 7 PM, weather-permitting. All vehicles welcome. DJ. Host: Mopar Madness. Website: www.moparmadness.org
Local Events (continued)

Saturday, September 26, 2015 :::: Cruise Night at Sophie’s
Location: Sophie’s Eats and Treats, 7 Bridge Road, East Stroudsburg PA. Time: 5 PM to 8 PM. 50/50, door prizes, multiple awards. Host: Lost In Time Car Club. Website: www.lostintimecarclub.com

Saturday, October 3, 2015 :::: Hatfield Rocktoberfest
Location: John S. Clemens Memorial Park 500 Fairgrounds Road Hatfield, PA 1944. Time: 8:30 AM to 3 PM. Rain or shine. Preregister by September 25: $13 per car. Day of Show: $16. Hatfield Township’s autumn community festival, with music, car show, the Hatfield Speedway Reunion, booths and attractions by local community groups, breakfast and lunch fare, and children’s activities. Enjoy the spacious setting at our newest location, Clemens Park to showcase all the booths, exhibits, car show and attractions. Website: http://www.enjoyhatfield.org

Saturday, October 3, 2015 :::: Cruise Weis

Wednesday through Saturday, October 7 - 10, 2015 :::: AACA Hershey Fall Meet
Location: Hershey Park, Hershey Show Field, Hershey, PA 17033. Time: 7 AM to 11:45 PM each day. Pre-Registration for 2015 Hershey ended on February 16, but you can certainly attend as a spectator. Hershey is considered one of the largest antique automobile shows and flea markets in the United States. It consists of over 9,000 flea market spaces, over 1,000 car corral spaces, and approximately 1,500 show cars. Each year the show attracts visitors from all over the United States and many countries throughout the world. Some of the most unusual cars and parts can be found at Hershey. If you love antique cars, Hershey is the place to be. Phone: (717) 566-7720. Email: fallmeet@hersheyaca.org

Saturday and Sunday, October 10 - 11, 2015 :::: Riverfest Cruise-In at Berwick
Location: Test Track Park, South Eaton Street, Berwick, PA 18603. Time: 10 AM to 7 PM each day. Price: free. This is an open 2 day event you can come either day or both days. There are plenty of food vendors and activities. Check our face book page Berwick Riverfest for more info. Live music both days. Air boat rides on the Susquehanna River. Phone: (570) 759-3930. Email: tmetz@pa.metrocast.net. This listing is for LVCC member Curt Stone!

Saturday, October 10, 2015 :::: Cruise Trexlertown Shopping Center
Location: Trexlertown Shopping Center, 7150 Hamilton Blvd, Trexlertown, PA 18087. Time: 3 PM to 6 PM, weather-permitting. All vehicles welcome. DJ. Host: Mopar Madness. Website: www.moparmadness.org

Sunday, October 11, 2015 :::: North Catasauqua Autumnfest & Car Show

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 :::: Cruise Queen City Diner
Location: Queen City Diner, 1801 Lehigh St, Allentown, PA 18103. Time: 4 PM to 7 PM. Rain date: Following Wednesday. Price: $1 donation for Canine Partners for Life. Door prizes, 50/50, trophies. Host: Found in the 60’s. Info: Call Linda at (484) 695-3698 or Smokey at (610) 333-6395

Saturday, October 17, 2015 :::: Wheels of Time Cruise Night

Saturday, October 17, 2015 :::: Annual Pumpkin Run in Boyertown
Location: Wilcox Farms Complex, 1134 Reading Avenue, Boyertown, PA. Time: 10 AM to 2 PM. Price: $10 per vehicle. All classic cars & trucks, street rods, and modern muscle cars welcome. Special discounts from Wilcox Farm are available for their corn maze & hay rides. After the show, there will be a 5-mile cruise through Boyertown ending in Pottstown. Contact Brad Ray, Public Relations, Pottstown Classics (484)-919-3424.
Local Events (continued)

Sunday, October 18, 2015 : Octoberfest Car Show
Location: American Legion West End Memorial Post 927, Route 209 & Fairgrounds Road, Gilbert, Pa 18331. Time: 10 AM to 3 PM. Prices: Pre-registration to October 2: $10. Day of show: $12. No rain date specified. Dash plaques to first 125 entries. Complementary coffee and bagels to Noon. German music, beer garden, pig roast, cake walk, tricky tray. People's choice voting and awards. (No Corvair class). Phone: Ed (610) 657-6196. Email: ksvbet@ptd.net

Sunday, October 25, 2015 : 39th Annual Old Car Show & Flea Market at Kempton

Sunday, November 1, 2015 : 25th Annual Riegelsville Fall Roll Out Car Show
Location: Riegelsville Boro Park, RT. 611, Riegelsville, PA 18077. Time: 8 AM to 2 PM. (Arrive early!) Price: Car entries are FREE. Vintage, Antiques, Street Rods, Customs and Trucks. Automotive Flea Market. Vendor spaces are available for $25. First 475 exhibitors receive Dash Plaques. Contact info: Phone: (610) 749-2726. Email: riegelsvillefallrollout@gmail.com

Saturday November 7, 2015 : Vargo Dragway Reunion
Location: 1333 Elephant Road, Perkasie, PA 18944. Time: 8 AM to 3 PM. Awards at 2 PM. Rain Date: November 14. Show car price: $15 (No pre-registration). Spectator price: $5. Dash plaques to the first 300 show cars. All makes and models welcome. Email: info@vargodragway.com Website: www.vargodragway.com

LVCC Club Officers:
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If you did not get our latest catalog in 2013 or 2014, you can get one free on your first $50 order during 2015. (Additional catalogs $3 with an order)

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LVCC Classified Ads!

**FOR SALE:** 1965 Corvair 500 Coupe. 110 hp engine. Powerglide. 45,156 original miles. Good solid car; no dents, no rust. 14 inch Rally wheels, Pioneer stereo with CD player, Legacy 400 watt speakers. $5,500 or best offer. Will deliver in 75 mile radius of Mohrsville, PA. Being offered by LVCC President Dennis Stamm. Call (610) 926-4723 (home) or (484) 336-3466 (cell) or email dmstamm@comcast.net

**FOR SALE:** 1966 Chevrolet Corvair Monza Sport Coupe. 110/PG. Very original car. Nice patina (mostly original paint). 34K original miles. Window sticker and POP. Second owner. Very solid car. Artesian turquoise with black interior. Unusual AM radio/rear seat speaker. Car was a dealer demo for Ray Mills Chevrolet in Doylestown, PA. No leaks and clean heat. Only mods from original are battery, halogen headlights, seat track extenders and Ignitor II ignition. Runs and drives very well. Recent brake overhaul. Also comes with original wheel covers with NOS centers installed. Car is located in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. Price of $8,500.00 is negotiable; but the car must go to a good home. Contact Ron Peles by phone at 908-479-1777 or by email at ronaldpeleslaw@gmail.com

**FOR SALE:** Corvair fiberglass dune buggy with Corvair 110 hp engine, 4 speed transmission and a 3.55 posi differential. The body is believed to be a “Sears Rascal”. The frame is a J.C. Whitney unit that makes use of late model Corvair suspension all around. The buggy still needs to be finished, but much work has been completed since the photo was taken. All new brakes, hoses, lines, hardware, master cylinder, etc. The suspension was rebuilt with all new bushings, shocks, Crown lower bracket, new front and rear seats, new windshield, new gas tank, and rack and pinion steering. The car still needs to be finished. $2,500 or best offer. Lansdale, PA. Contact Larry Asheuer. Phone: (267) 994-1569. Email: a-lcorvair@msn.com

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2015