

50

CIRCLE CITY CORVAIRS  
Indianapolis, Indiana

January 2024

Volume 50, Issue 1

# Years VALVE CLATTER

*May this holiday season bring you the warmth and comfort  
of family and friends  
...and the gift of air-cooled, rear-engine traction*



A new years wish from your club officers....

This is the start to a new year, the 50th year of the clubs founding in 1974. It would be great if our club brothers and sisters could join us for at least one club event this year. Not every event or meeting will excite you but hopefully you will find something to share with us. We don't know what you want from the club so come and join us and we can talk about what you want. We are a friendly group that is very much family oriented with our spouses being very active...

Looking forward to seeing you all this year

# The President Speaks

Welcome to 2024 and another year of events just waiting for us to enjoy. Our first board meeting this year has set the stage for us to meet new people and have fun with our cars/trucks or vans.



With an already full schedule of things planned for the year, we will try for at least one tech session mid-year when you will be able to get some help with any issues on your car and take a look underneath on a lift at my home in Brownsburg. Actually, anyone who would like to schedule a time to bring your car over to use the lift please give me a call. (317-409-5682).

Personally, I like our change of seasons here in Indiana, the winter gives us the opportunity to slow down some and the anticipation of spring is almost like a child waiting to open a Christmas gift to me.

Please make an attempt to attend our first club meeting of the year at Hubler Chevy on 1-20-24 10 a.m. We will follow with lunch at a Mexican restaurant nearby. Even if you do not have a running Corvair or any Corvair at all we have a good group to hang around with and always find interesting places to go and things to do. As an example, Jean Allen has introduced Gloria and me to the Indiana Historical Society & Museum. This is something we would not normally have been interested in but with their ever-changing exhibits and easy access to parking etc. we look forward to going and taking grandkids on a regular basis. Of course, this rarely has anything to do with Corvairs, but is just another way to expand our interest. Thank you, Jean!

Pres. Dave Beck

*Valve Clatter* is the monthly newsletter of the Circle City Corvairs, a Chapter of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). We welcome story ideas and articles for publication. Advertisements for cars and car parts, either wanted or for sale, are free. Send information to newsletter editor Tom Miller.

## 2023 Club Officers

President: Dave Beck  
Vice President: Todd Stires  
Secretary: John Shull  
Treasurer: Rod Lasley  
Activity Coordinator: Ron and Anita Bunten  
Directors: Dan Brizendine  
Dale Smiley  
Carlton Smith  
Newsletter: Tom Miller  
Technical Advisors: Paul Fox  
Dan Brizendine  
Web Master: Rod Lasley

Visit our web site: <http://www.circlecitycorvairs.org>

Ph. 317-409-5682  
Ph. 317-205-5900  
Ph. 765-620-4615  
Ph. 317-294-2871  
Ph. 317-590-2056  
Ph: 317-862-3550  
Ph. 317-742-7643  
Ph. 317-697-0318  
Ph. 317-504-4624  
Ph. 317-605-0724  
Ph. 317 862-3550  
Ph. 317-294-2871

## **From Your Vee Pea.....by Todd Stires**

**Happy New Year 2024 – year of the Dragon!**

*A few thoughts as we wait for that first winter storm to arrive, at the time of this writing. We have consumed too many rum balls and have now tucked away the holiday décor and gotten out the Groundhog Day decorations, right? Ok, maybe the Valentine hearts!*

*I am a few days deep into streaming the Mecum Kissimmee Car Auction in anticipation of a good variety of Corvairs being offered. I counted 13 total Corvairs with 2 Rampside's, 2 Greenbriar's and quite a few '64 Verts crossing the block this year.*



*Even saw a 1947 Crosley*

*sell for \$12,000 that Jean Allen could have had with one more bid! Word on the street is that fellow CCC member & past president Jan Bradley couldn't wait for the auction and apparently has made another Corvair purchase! I guess that president position pays better than I thought! Tell us about that showroom quality, new-to-you EM convertible Jan!*

*Meanwhile, over the holidays I found myself researching “toys”—in particular what toys were popular the year I was born. We all know the Corvair was produced from 1960-69, but look at this impressive list of toys that came before the Chevrolet Corvair.*

*1921 Lincoln Logs 1922 Tinker-toys 1923 Chemistry Set 1924 Erector Set 1925 Teddy Bear  
1926 Crayons, '27 Radio-Flyer Wagon, '28 Yo-yo, 1929 PopUpBook, 1930 Mickey Mouse Doll*

*Wow, the 1920's was a great decade for toys! And it gets better.....*

*1940 Red Ryder BB Gun 1945 Slinky 1950 Magic 8 Ball 1953 Matchbox Cars  
1955 Silly Putty 1959 Barbie 1960 Etch A Sketch 1965 Frisbee*

*1968 Hot Wheels 1969 Lego's 1975 Pet Rock 1980 Rubik's Cube*

*1985 Teddy Ruxpin 1990 Ninja Turtle's 1995 Beanie Babies 2000 Play Station 2  
Just like the iconic Chevrolet Corvair, even some of these toys are still popular today!!*

*Ok, all those who had a Pet Rock.....and still have it..... please stand up!*

## **Circle City Corvair Club Board Meeting Minutes 12/05/2023**

6:05pm to 7:15pm at Carlton's Shop

Dave Beck presiding, John Shull recording minutes.

Board Attendance: John Shull, Tom Miller, Dave Beck, Rod Lasley, Todd Stires, Carlton Smith, Dan Brizendine, Dale Smiley, Jan Bradley

Treasurer's report – month of November \$6186.92 to \$6251.31

Memberships, Christmas Party, misc expenses

Newsletter Update – Tom

No new updates

New member Andy Fiest from Indianapolis with a 1965 500

World of Wheels registrations have been submitted

Activities

World of Wheels – March 22-24

DACC Homecoming – June

Corsa Convention in Dayton OH – July 21-26

Somerset KY Cruise-in, need to pick a month to go

Potential trip to Knightstown to visit school from Hoosier movie

Next board meeting will be January 2<sup>nd</sup> at Carlton's shop

Next club meeting will be January 20<sup>th</sup> at Hubler

Possible tech session at Dave's shop in May

Discussion about potential novelty item for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CCC

Motion to keep budget for promo items and banners under \$1000

John motioned and Tom seconded, motion passed unanimously

Todd will work on quoting rulers with custom artwork

Carlton will work on sourcing banner and feathers

Rod will contact Bill Oates about contacting founding members to come out for anniversary celebration in April

Need to look at ideas to raise money for club

Look for cost savings on the Christmas party

Meeting Adjourned

# 2023 Club Service Directory

**Corvair Repair Work** Carry-in component rebuilding. Some NOS and used parts.  
 Dan Brizendine 317-862-3550 [debrizo@comcast.net](mailto:debrizo@comcast.net)

**Corvair Repair Work** Mike McKeel 765-358-3930

**Corvair Repair Work and Parts** Paul Fox 317-847-7913

**Printing Services, Embroidery, Screen Printing** KC Designs Karl Clark  
 812-876-4020

## Circle City Corvair Club

### Treasurers Report

Month:

Year End\_2023

#### Beginning Balances

Checking Account: \$ 6,257.39

Flex Account:

Cash On-Hand: \$ 872.37 \*Includes Cash, Coin and Uncashed Checks

**TOTAL: \$ 7,129.76**

#### Receipts

Memberships: \$ 1,804.40

Other Miscellaneous Receipts: \$ 754.00

Interest Earned: \$ 101.77

50/50 Drawing Income: \$ 412.00

**TOTAL: \$ 3,072.17**

#### Expenditures

Newsletter Printing & Postage: \$ 373.28

Reservation: \$ 125.00

Membership Postage & Paper: \$ 81.00

Other Miscellaneous Expenses: \$ 3,350.20

Website Expenses: \$ 163.95

CFP Contribution: \$ 500.00

Gifts/Flowers/Contributions: \$ 289.50

**TOTAL: \$ 4,882.93**

#### Ending Balance

**\$ 5,319.00**

(Balance Month-To-Date)

#### Net Income

**\$ (1,810.76)**

(For the year)

# Just One More Car

by Scott Walker

In July of 2022 I found myself browsing Facebook Marketplace, looking at ads for old cars. I can't explain why, since I was absolutely not in the market for another old car. I had three in my garage already. Suffice it to say I just really like looking at pictures of old cars. I'm pretty sure every reader of this newsletter can relate.

I've been fascinated by old cars ever since I can remember. This pre-occupation probably arose from the happy memories our family made visiting my grandparents in North Carolina when my brothers and I were growing up in Indiana. My grandfather was an engineer for Westinghouse, and when I knew him he was the manager of an electric meter plant in Raleigh, from which he retired in 1976. His name was Fred Reiber, and he had an old car.

Fred, who we called "Pa", was born in 1910, and could tell many stories of growing up riding in and driving cars like the Ford Model T. In the early 60s, he saw a somewhat neglected 1913 Model T Touring sitting in the parking lot of a dry-cleaning business in Huntingdon, PA, where he had a small lake cottage. He bought the car and restored it himself in the ensuing years. When I knew the car it was in impeccable condition. In the 1970s we would visit every spring break, and I remember my brothers and I being tasked with carefully polishing the brass components on the car, like the radiator and huge acetylene gas headlights. I loved that car, and I loved Pa. Sadly, he developed lung cancer and sold the car in 1984 to get his affairs in order. He died that year. Although I much later was able to track the car to an owner who had the car as late as 2005, he had sold it by the time I reached him and it remains lost to me. Maybe someday I'll find it.



Anyway, my fate as an old car nut was sealed. My first collector car was a 1966 Mustang convertible I bought in 1986, which was my daily driver in college and which remains with me to this day. Later I acquired an untouched 1967 Chrysler Imperial Crown four-door hardtop I found on a used car lot in 1993. My little collection grew in 2020 when I bought a frame-off restored early 1963 MGB roadster advertised on Hemmings. So, at that point I had a driver, a survivor, and a show car. Also, a Ford, a Chrysler, and a European car. What was missing? A project car from GM of course! Maybe that's why last summer, when I saw the Facebook Marketplace ad for a severely rusted red 1963 Corvair Spyder convertible that had been parked without running since 1975, I knew I had to have it. It wasn't far away either,

resting (and rusting) just up the way in Kokomo. The odometer showed 79,000 miles, and the price seemed reasonable: \$3000. Too much? I'm beginning to wonder. It was complete, but it certainly had its problems. Non-running engine, rust everywhere, interior moldy and mildewed, no brakes. But sometimes you have to take a leap and see where it takes you.

Where has this car taken me? Physically, pretty much nowhere. It had to be trailered from its long-time garage spot to my own garage. The first challenge I took on was just getting it running again, even though I knew it was going to need a lot more to be road-worthy. Like me, I'm sure many of you enjoy watching those YouTube "Will it Run?" videos where somebody takes a long-dormant car and tries to get it going again. I thought I'd make one of those videos too, with my Corvair. Thus began my journey as not only a car restoration hobbyist (something I've barely dabbled in despite being a long-time old car owner), but also a YouTuber. I launched a channel I call "[Lost Wrench Garage](#)" and made my first video, a walk-around tour of the car.





Then I spent about two months, off and on, working on the car to get it to run, all the while videoing my efforts. It was a struggle considering my lack of experience. But on New Year's Day the car finally sputtered back to life. The resultant video has garnered over a hundred thousand views. I was thoroughly hooked on the project, and excited to keep it going.

Next, I decided to see if I could get it moving under its own power again, and maybe even take it out for a drive. The discovery of a shot master cylinder and blocked brake lines/hoses that would have required a total brake system rebuild quashed the idea of street driving, so I settled for several (very) low-speed laps around my driveway circle. Having gotten a taste of driving the car, however brief, I

knew it was time to start the restoration process in earnest. In the next few weeks and months, I removed the engine, completely disassembled it, and removed the interior. As of this writing the cylinder heads are in a machine shop, and the crankshaft has been polished (no grind needed!). I have started to disassemble the body, and have torn into some of the most rusted areas of the car, with much of the damage focused on the floors, front panel, and wheel opening surrounds. Of particular concern is the structural integrity of the car. As I remove rusted underbody components, I discover more and more areas of material loss due to corrosion. I have come to believe this convertible must have spent some time sitting outdoors, with rainwater penetration down from the rear sail panels of the top and into the rear floors, and where the rear frame rails meet the inner rockers. It's obvious these areas will require reinforcement to return the car to roadworthy condition. For this reason, I have just enrolled in welding classes at a downtown Indy business called Sutton-Garten. Hopefully, I can acquire enough skill to do these repairs myself. Hiring it out would probably result in a cost far exceeding the value of the car. Besides, what's the fun in that?

For me this car is really a learning laboratory. It gives me a chance to learn all the things I didn't before, when life was taking me other places. Old car restoration as a hobby has always been a dream of mine. This old Corvair is, I think, the perfect "vehicle" for me to pursue this dream. These cars are not particularly rare, and don't cost that much to acquire (yet!), so if I screw it up it won't be a financial disaster. Also, these cars have such a robust support system in the form of societies like ours, and there are plentiful resources available to the Corvair restorer. And how *interesting* is this car? An air-cooled, rear-engine car from GM? An early 60s red convertible? With four-on-the-floor? Oh, and by the way, it's TURBOCHARGED!

So, while this car hasn't yet taken me anywhere but my own garage and driveway, it has, in a way, started me on a long and fascinating journey. I come home from my "day job" with great anticipation, excited to get back in the garage and spend time working and learning, making mistakes, making progress, moving backwards, moving forwards again, getting frustrated, figuring it out, and moving on. I don't know yet where this project will go, but it really doesn't matter. I'm already having the time of my life.



# Notes and news

Saturday January 20th	Regular meeting at Hubler Chevrolet in Greenwood, 10:00 am, lunch will be at Mi Abuelito Mexican Restaurant #2
Saturday February 17th	Regular meeting at Hubler Chevrolet, lunch will be at "The Magnificent Wein" in Mooresville
Saturday March 16th	Regular meeting at Hubler Chevrolet, lunch location to be announced
Saturday April 20th	Meeting will be held at Pittsboro at the Shelter house in Scamahorn Park. This will be a pitch in lunch and auction. More information will be available later. This event is the start to the club driving season.
Saturday May 18th	Regular meeting at Hubler Chevrolet,

## For Sale:

\$300. for dual exhaust

\$100. for single exhaust

Mark Syoen 317-749-3779



## For Sale

Yes! it's a rare 1964 engine lid latch in great condition and one factory 64 Monza brake drum with head dissipating flanges. The drum is rusty but hasn't been turned and needs cleaned up but serviceable. Only one in stock. HURRY. Call Jan or Dave for pricing. Dave Beck 317-409-5682



## For Sale:

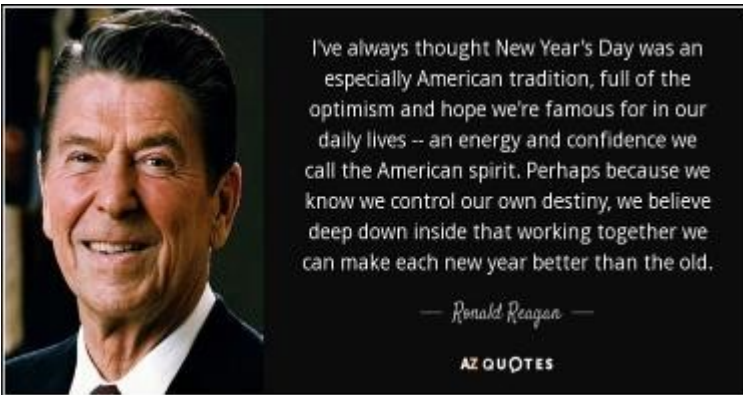
Rebuilt Corvair fuel pumps - \$60 with exchange pump. Dan Brizendine, [de-brizo@comcast.net](mailto:de-brizo@comcast.net) 317-615-9237

## For Sale:

61 coupe EZ eye (factory tinted glass) good condition- \$150 includes all glass except the windshield. One bumper mount trailer hitch for sale \$25  
Dave Beck 317-409-5682



P.O. Box 17325 Indianapolis, IN 46217-0325



*Time to pay your yearly dues.*  
Your dues are now due. You should have received an email with a renewal form . Please attend to this matter sooner rather than later. Pay by check or paypal....  
Mail to:  
Circle City Corvair Club  
P O Box 17325  
Indpls. IN  
46217-0325