



Vair Views

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Greetings Everyone,

Joy, sadness, and gratitude. I have all of these feelings this Father's Day Sunday evening. Joy from the time spent with the 19 guests that came over for our annual Father's Day gathering. Sadness having just learned of the passing of Doug Riser, long-time SMCC member and friend to many. Gratitude for the family and friends, including our SMCC members, that I'm blessed to enjoy life with.

Regarding Doug's passing, I encourage those of you who were friends with Doug to attend his visitation this Wednesday, June 24, from 4-8 pm at Hutchens Mortuary in Florissant. I unfortunately will be out of town and unable to attend. The Club will make a bereavement donation in his memory to Old St. Ferdinand Shrine, where Doug volunteered and hosted a Club meeting last year. Let's pray that his wife, Tammy, and his entire family are comforted during this difficult time.

On a happier note, the trip to Meramec Caverns on June 13th was a lot of fun. Such a neat and interesting place, and a fun drive getting there. Also, I'm happy to say that Mark Moyer, Trevor and I survived the high performance driving event earlier this month at Putnam Park in Indiana. Mark decided to take me for an off-road excursion in his C4 Vette at turn 5, but after mowing the grass for 150 yards or so, we made our way back to the track and drove to the penalty box for a brief conversation with the chief driving instructor about the learning experience.

Let's all get out and drive our cars this summer (preferably on the pavement!).

Kent

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No matter what Ralph Nader claimed, we know Corvairs handle well, especially for a car built in the 1960s. But wouldn't you like to open your mail one day and receive a letter that says this:

From the NHTSA. "We have concluded that the handling and stability of the 1960-63 Corvair does not result in an abnormal potential for loss of control or rollover and that the handling and stability performance is at least as good as the performance of some other contemporary vehicles both foreign and domestic."

"The GM test films which Mr. Nader alleged showed Corvairs being rolled over at speeds from 28 to 30 mph in fact showed that these vehicles were being deliberately rolled over by experienced test drivers for experimental purposes.....Such drivers could turn over other cars under similar developmental testing."

See page 6 for the rest of this story. And your copy of the letter.



Ralph Nader. "Oops, guess I was wrong, huh? Those guys at Ford musta' tricked me."

Stephen Blakely Member Profile



Stephen Blakely is the proud owner of a running 1966 140 Corsa Coupe in yellow, and shown in the photos here. He says he had always wanted a Corsa model and bought this one in 2016. He most admires the benefits and engineering of the air-cooled flat-six engine and independent rear suspension.

Stephen obviously likes his current Corvair but says his dream is to own a 1965 black Corsa turbo coupe. If you see one for sale let him know.



Stephen has performed work on his yellow Corsa and tells us the maintenance job he hates most is replacing the pushrod o-ring seals, an especially hard job if you have to perform it while lying on the garage floor. He also reports that he has unfortunately thrown a Corvair fanbelt. Sorry to hear that.

Other than a Corvair Stephen's dream car is another rear-engine beauty, the Porsche 912. Obviously, he has good taste in cars. If he could have any of his past cars back it would be his 1991 Miata Special Edition. Another good choice and we sense a theme here, small sporty cars with great handling.



Stephen's dream car, the Porsche 912



Not sure if his was green, but Stephen would like his Miata Special Edition like this one back again.

Pawnee Prairie Days Year Two

Our Pawnee Prairie Days trip was successful again this year. Kent Goddard, Mark Moyer, Trevor Monninger, Kurt Arthur, and Jack Hollahan and a pal made the trip to Pawnee and connected with members of the Prairie Capital Corvair Association Including our own member Mike Hall. Kent brought home the First Place Award in the Corvair class, beating out even the fine cars displayed by the PCCA members. Enjoy the photos.



Above: Kent and his First Place award. But that is definitely not his car in the background. His car is at the right in the photo just below.



Caverns and Corvairs

Story and photos by
Brett Starostki and Kent Goddard



Enjoy some photos from the recent SMCC meeting at Meramec Caverns in Stanton, MO. Thanks to long time member Brett for organizing the meeting and coordinating the events. Brett noted that although there was some concern with the weather it turned out to be a nice cool day with just barely a drizzle of rain.

The event was Attended by Brett Starostki, Bill Hutchens, Steve Dodson, Mike and Anita Kost, Phillip and Maggie Kost and Kent Goddard. Bill's Corvair and Kent's Corsa made the trip with the group meeting in Wildwood and taking Historic Route '66 all the way to the Caverns thanks to excellent navigation by Phillip and Maggie driving Maggie's MX5 Miata. There was slight rain on the way down.

The group enjoyed and excellent narrated 1.2 mile walking tour through the caverns and saw the fantastic formations finalized by the God Bless America light show production projected on the cave walls and honoring members of our armed forces and emergency responders. Then the group enjoyed a tasty lunch at the Caverns Café after the tour. When the tour was over the members enjoyed a rain free drive to Hoffman's Drive-In in Pacific for frozen custard treats on the way home.



>>>>more photos next page



Left: Rumor has it that Bill Hutchens was the inspiration for the original Fred Flintstone character. Can you say, Yabadabadoo?



Above: Members of the group taking in some Missouri history.



Chow time.



Above: Legend is these are descendants of the famous James Gang, known to hide out in the Caverns.

The Letter Begins—“Dear Corvair Owner”

By Mark Moyer

We all know that Ralph Nader was wrong. I knew in 1970 when I got my first Corvair, a '65 140 Corsa I bought from my father. I drove that car like I stole it and proved it was never going to flip over even with a teenager behind the wheel. It would win donut contests in parking lots all across North County without once lifting a tire in the air and handled the backroads like a race car, leaving my friend's high horsepower cars in the dust until they would finally catch up to me in a straight stretch of road.

I can be patient with the people that tell me my car throws fan belts and leaks oil. After all, most cars in the 60s leaked oil and a lost fan belt was a common occurrence on any car in those days. It's the know-it-alls that tell me my car is unsafe to drive, flips over or was one of the worst handling cars ever to come out of Detroit that test my patience. I got so tired of the poor handling claims that I did some research and kept copies of my findings in my glove compartment to offer to the uninformed who think they are going to save my life by telling me something I don't know. Thanks to a May 2015 CORSA Communique article by Mike McGowan I discovered an August 12, 1972 Department of Transportation press release publicizing a letter being sent to owners of 1960-63 Corvairs informing them of the favorable result of National Highway Traffic Safety Administration investigation of the Corvair covering both early and late models. The seemingly fictitious quotes at the bottom of the first page of this newsletter are taken directly from that press release and letter.

Surprised?

Most Corvair owners know that the federal government tested the Corvair and proved Ralph wrong but they don't know much about the results, or the letter. At the recent Pawnee Prairie Days car show I showed it to some fellow Corvair owners who said they were unaware of it and would love to have a copy. Attached to the email distributing this newsletter is a PDF copy of that press release and letter

to Corvair owners. You might want to print a copy and keep it in your glove compartment as I do. I sometimes place it under my wiper blades at a car show for the curious visitor to read and to have it handy when a Ralph fan comes by to educate me. I suggest we have a display poster made to display at shows, quoting some of the more impressive statements in the letter.



>>>Continued on next page

The Letter Begins, continued

You will find more interesting statements in the press release and letter attached to the email. To read the May 2015 Communique article visit the Corsa website at [CORSA Welcomes You!](#), navigate to the publication archives and you will find the original article. To download a copy of the actual NHTSA report visit [DOT HS-820 198.pdf](#) {try holding Control and click on your mouse if the link does not work}. Beginning on page 40 you can read an analysis of the 1960 Falcon—Corvaair handling comparison film. The analysis indicates that during the test the Corvaair front tires were overinflated, the driver consistently turned the steering wheel into the corners at an unnecessary input level causing oversteer and apparently sliding the rear of the car to the outside and off the track, and that the test driver was not wearing a helmet or other safety gear. So much for being concerned with flipping over, huh?.

Final note: I think Ralph fell victim to Ford's trickery. Ford led Ralph to believe their testing and film were legitimate and he foolishly helped them not only kill a great car, but hampered the pace of innovation in the auto industry for years to come.

SMCC Officers and Advisors

Officers & Board Members

President – Kent Goddard

Vice President – Phillip Kost

Treasurer – Don Hemwall

Secretary – Suzanne Cavagna

Additional Board Members

Past President – Bob Bauer

Elected from membership:

Bill Hutchens and Charlie Geiler

Advisors

Newsletter Editor – Mark Moyer

Historian – Tom James

Membership Chairman - Trevor Monninger

Facebook Page Manager – Nick Raeber

Check out the website below for info on the annual CORSA convention next week in Gettysburg, PA. Some of our members will be attending and will hopefully bring us back some photos and stories. 2026corsaconvention.com



www.CORVAIR.org

SMCC 2026 Calendar of Events

Some events and times are tentative. Other events, and options to those listed, are still in consideration.
See the meeting minutes distributed by Suzanne Cavagna.

Date	Event	Coordinator
June 22-26	CORSA Convention in Gettysburg, PA	
July 4	America's Birthday Parade, downtown St. Louis	Tom James
July 11	Cars and Coffee at Fast Lane Classic Cars in St. Charles	Dean Meyer
August 7	Memories Car Club show at Faith Church Sunset Hills	TBD
August 22	General meeting and bowling. Location TBD	Suzanne Cavagna
September Date TBD	All Chevy Car Show – sponsored by Fabulous Fifties Chevy Club at Museum of Transportation	Don Hemwall
September 26	Chuck-A-Burger lunch and meeting. May coordinate with one of the Corvette clubs	TBD
October Date TBD	Cruise the river road to Grafton with lunch at Fast Eddies or other location	Charlie Geiler
October 24	Tech Session at Goddard's Temple of Zoom	Kent and Kris Goddard
November 21 Date tentative	Ameren Thanks for Giving Day Parade, downtown St. Louis	Tom James
December 5 Noon—4pm	SMCC Christmas Luncheon and Celebration at Rich and Charlie's	Suzanne Cavagna, Kris Goddard

All activities, including monthly meetings, are subject to postponement or cancellation

2026 Car Cruises

Every Fri. Apr -Oct ~ 1980& older~ 3889 Veterans Memorial Parkway	O'Fallon, MO
Every Fri Apr - Sept ~ Sonic Restaurant, 1002 S. Kirkwood Rd.	Kirkwood, MO
1 st Fri Memories Car Club Cruise~ 4 to 9 pm~ 1979 & Older ~ 417-700103	Fenton, MO
@ Faith Church, Corner of Hwy 30 & Rahning Rd. ~	
1 st Sat-St Martins Church Cruise-in~	Dittmer, MO
1 st Sat-Emmanuel Lutheran Church Cruise-in~ 5 th & Jefferson	Washington, MO
2 nd Fri Hardy's Restaurant~ 2850 Lemay Ferry Rd.	St. Louis, MO
2 nd Fri April-Sept-Hotshots Bar-1239 S. Laclede Station Rd. 314-755-1550	Webster Groves, MO
2 nd Sat. Rolla Cruise-In ~Big Lots Parking Lot, 1001 S Bishop~ 573-634-0865	Rolla, MO
2 nd Sat Apr-Oct JJ's ~1215 S. Duchesne~ 636-946-3500~	St. Charles, MO
2 nd Sat Apr-Oct~MO Moonshiners Cruise-in~Thriftway Parking Lot 5-8PM	Linn, MO
2 nd Sat Apr-Oct~Owensville Cruisers,meet @ Snowensville @4PM,573-999-7998	Owensville, MO
3 rd Sat-May-Oct ~ (new)Cloverleaf Sports Bar- 6070 Telegraph Rd., 314-293-1815	Oakville, MO
3 rd Sat-May-Sept Gearheads Cruise-in~ 5-9PM, downtown Ste Genevieve	Ste. Genevieve, MO
4 th Sun-Rides & Coffee~ Detail Garage, 70 Meramec Valley Plaza, 1-3, dogs & coffee	Valley Park, MO
Last Sat- Apr-Oct ~ Bobby's Place- 5PM-9PM, 108 Meramec Valley Plaza, 141 & Marshall Valley Park, MO	
Last Sat- Raisin' Canes, 5PM-9PM, DJ Don,1163 Jeffco Blvd ½ mi S of 141	Arnold, MO
Last Sat. JJ's ~ Apr-Aug.~ 200 Fort Zumwalt Sq. ~636-978-1737~ 10:30 am-3 pm	O'Fallon, MO
Last Sat ~ Caffeine & Chrome ~Feb-Nov~Gateway Classics 1237 Central Park Dr	O'Fallon, IL
Last Sat ~Capital Mall Cruise-in, 3-7 PM at Capital Mall (New time)	Jefferson City, MO
Select Sats-Red Cedar Mini-Cruise-in~ 10AM-1, free, Red Cedar Inn Visitor Center lot	Pacific, MO

2026 "Come Join Us"

1 st Wed every month- 7 PM, First Capitol Classics Auto Club meeting, Sports Café, 3579 Pennridge Dr., Bridgeton, MO 63044 firstcapitolclassics@yahoo.com	Bridgeton, MO
1 st Thurs every month- 7 PM, Rt. 66 Car Club meeting, St. Clair Elks Lodge 35 E. North St. (Frontage on N. Commercial St.)	St. Clair, MO
1 st Thurs every month- 7 PM, Gateway GTO Assoc. meeting, Ginghams Restaurant 1566 Country Club Plaza Dr. St. Charles, MO 63303 chriswinslow@charter.net	St. Charles, MO
1 st Thurs every month- 7:30PM STL S/R Assoc. meeting, Location TBD Barry Gan, 314-315-1712 or 636-244-0316 after 5. St.louisstreetrods@gmail.com	Wildwood, MO
1 st Thurs every month- 7PM,Rt 66 Corvette Club meeting,Old Hickory Golf Club	St. Peters, MO
1 st Sat every month-Cars-n-Coffee,Immanuel Lutheran Church,214 W.5 th ,8am-10am	Washington, MO
2 nd Tuesday every month-7PM, Archway Olds meeting, Sports Café, 3579 Pennridge Dr. Bridgeton archwayoldclub.org	Bridgeton, MO
2 nd Tuesday every month-7PM, Original Corvette Club meeting, Dogwood Social House, 15682 Manchester Rd.63011	Ballwin, MO

2026 Car Events

- 2nd Sunday every month**-5:30 PM, Gateway AMC, Bandanas, 11750 Gravois Sunset Hills, MO
- 3rd Wed**-AACA, 7PM, Sports Café, 3579Pennridge Dr, gharris7.wixsite.com/gateway Bridgeton, MO
- 3rd Fri**-HCCMO- 7PM, Shrine Center,12545 Fee Fee Rd., HCCMO.COM, jhartm101@att.net 63146, MO
- 4th Thurs every month**-6 PM, Mid-Mo Old Car Club, location varies ck midmooldcar.club Jefferson City, MO
- 4th Fri every month**-7:30 PM VCCA(GMC also),WestCtyEMS, 223 Henry Ave,VCCA.ORG Manchester, MO
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- April 25-Springfest on Main Street**~GTA, 8AM-4, food, music, rain date 4/26 Owensville, MO
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- May 1-2-Magic Dragon Car Show**~ Lake Ozark, MO
- May 2-Union Band Boosters Car Show**~ Union High School Union, MO
- May 3-Model T Swap Meet**~ GCS Grizzly Stadium, 6AM -4 East St Louis, IL
- May 9-Salute to the Troops Corvette Show**~Poage Chevy,8-10 reg.,bene USO Wentzville, MO
- May 9-Festus Car Show**~1036 St. Pius Dr., 9-3, St Pius X High School Festus, MO
- May 9- Loafers Car Show**~ Reg 8-12, \$35,Downtown Hannibal, MO
- May 15-17-Heritage Park Car Show**~Sat evening cruise, 2 free meals 870-324-3270 Piggott, AR
- May 17- Misfits for Jesus Car Show** Warrenton, MO
- May 30-Wheels in Motion Car Show**~9-2, Church on the Rock, 900 Birdie Hills Rd. St. Peters, MO
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- June 6-Union Founders Day Parade & Car Show**~Union City Park Union, MO
- June 6-Rt. 66 Summerfest Car Show**~ 9-12,entry \$25, Downtown on Pine St Rolla, MO
- June 7-White Rose Cruiz-N-66 Display**~ 208 E.Main St.,12PM-???. Free Union, MO
- June 13-St Clair Historic Assoc Cruise in and Display**~10-2, museum parking lot St Clair, MO
- June 14-Shriners Car Show**~2002 Arena Pkwy,reg 9-11, \$25,moolahyomo@yahoo St. Charles, MO
- June 20-Great American Race**~ overnight stop and display, Main Street, downtown Collinsville, MO
- June 20-Donnie Wehmeyer Mem Car Show**- GTA, reg 8-12,City Park Rosebud, MO
- June 21- Rt 66 Car Show in the Park**~ Reg 8-12, food vendors,29 classes,\$20 St. Clair, MO
- June 26-27-28-Cave State Cruisers Car Show in the Park**~W. City Park Waynesville, MO
- June 27-Pacific Car Show**~8 AM-12 reg.,food, dyno, Pacific, MO
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- July 17-19-Ames Performance Nationals**~ Car show Sat-\$60,Pontiacnationals. Norwalk, OH
- July 22-25-National Oldsmobile Club Meet**~Wyndham Hotel Indianapolis, IN

SMCC Member Profile:

Member Name:

Corvairs you currently own:

Year, color, body style, drivetrain, running or non-running, how often do you drive it?

Send in your member profile so your fellow members can get to know you better. You will find a copy of the profile form at the end of this newsletter. Send the completed form to markmoyer1@gmail.com and your profile can be in the next issue. Or mail it to: Mark Moyer 2220 Edge Wood Manor Ln. Wildwood, MO 63011

When and why did you buy it (them)?

What is it that you like most about Corvairs?

Any interesting story about your Corvair, or others you have owned:

Describe your dream Corvair:

Corvair job you hate most (e.g. brakes, upholstery, oil change, etc.):

Have you ever thrown a fanbelt?

Other than a Corvair, and assuming money is no object, what classic domestic or foreign car or truck would you most like to own and why? What car or truck would be a close second?

Name one car you'd most like to have back, including cars from your childhood to today.

Fondest car-centered memory ("G" rated version). (first date, parade, best compliment you received, etc.)

Do you/have you owned any other classic cars, and what are they?

Other hobbies or activities you participate in: