



2/15/2007

## Head of the Lakes Corvair Association Newsletter



# Dan Rutka's Story

It all started with my dad, (Robert Rutka), when we went up to Cloquet to buy dad's first Corvair to restore. I think he paid \$500.00 for it. I helped my dad with the wiring to get it running that summer. In the fall of 1985 I would sneak it out and drive it to school. It worked out great because I would get home from school at 3:30 and dad came home from work at 3:35 just like clockwork. It was a Corvair Rampside Pick-up and I would always get into arguments at school with the other students who said it was a VW pick up because Chevy never made anything like it. I proved them all wrong by bringing in the title and showing them it and the shop manuals. It would be another 21 yrs before I would own a Corvair. After getting out of the Army and settling down in the Duluth area my dad tested positive for cancer. So to make him fight thru any way I would look for any old car, so maybe he would be able to help me work on it like I helped him. Looking in the paper I found a 1960 2 door 900 Corvair for sale for \$75.00. Yes, I had trouble working on it to get it running, but like my dad told me, remember it's old and if it breaks down now, it's better than breaking down on the road. He also told me to get ahold of Ed Lampi and Pete Prudden. In 1992 I was working on getting the little red Corvair to run and had a hard time figuring it out without Dad. I called Pete Prudden for some advice and he said to come over to his place to get a starter to replace the one I had that was shot. When I pulled into his drive I saw the Black 4 door. I picked up the starter and went home to work on the red monster. About 2 weeks later Pete pulled up in my driveway with the Black Beauty on a trailer. I had told Pete where I lived before and he came to see what I had. I asked Pete how much he wanted for the Black beauty and his reply was "Where do you want it, so you can restore it and have fun with it. I couldn't believe he was giving it to me to restore. Then Tammy, my wife, came outside and asked how much is this going to cost? I said it was free, then she said ok and went back in the house.

Now the adventure begins, but before I get started I need to say a few things. When I was trying to get it running I would get stumped on the engine, and would want to call my Dad up to ask him but he was gone. I'd hear dad say "Look in the Manuals, the answers are there." Sure enough I'd find the answer. I tried but could never get the carbs right. It was running so bad the neighbor across the street came over and told me his house was vibrating and he thought his furnace blew up. I got it somewhat fixed and drove it to Two Harbors with fingers crossed to a car show, hoping I'd make it back home. I had to get the Ford Taurus to push me home, How embarrassing.

Then there's the time I met Ron and Ed at the Spirit Valley Day Car show. I was like a kid in a candy store. Finally my questions can be answered!!! I explained to them what I had and seen them again at the Downtown Duluth Car show on Superior street they got to see my Black Beauty.

-From page 1-

They got to see what I had when I left, I revved it up and dropped it into drive and off we went leaking tranny fluid the whole way. The fluid was leaking onto the manifolds so it was a rolling smoke bomb. I did fine until I went up the hill to get home, the wife had to push me so I could make it up the hill. Ed and Ron said he needs help and then they showed up at my house and said the came to tune up my car which they did. After they were done I don't know who was happier, them or me. By the way, Thanks again Pete, Ron , and Ed for getting me started. The 2nd time I went to the Spirit Valley Day Car Show we had a rain storm come thru so I packed up and left for home. My wife was behind me in the Ford and when we drove past the Goal Post at Denfield, my left rear hub cap popped off and in the downpour my wife stopped and chased down the hubcap. It looked like it was rolling for a touchdown.

And now last but not least the road trip I learned about the cooling system of a Corvair.

Hinkley Log:

Meet at Thompson Hill 07:00

Leave Duluth 07:30

Pit Stop, fuel pump vapor locks at the rest stop 5 min delay

At the Rest stop before Hinkley It vapor locks again, Ron changes the fuel Pump but The shaft is too long. Cool down again with ice.

We all get to Cassidy's

Leave Cassidy's I got lost but found the park

Had a blast until it was time to leave and the starter dies. We pull started it with Jumper cables. It almost stalled 3 more times on the way home. We cooled it down with ice and off we went again. After I got home I repaired some bad seals around the engine so I should be ok Now. I HOPE!!!

*Dan Rutka*



# Corvair Problems Restoration and, Maintenance

There are two schools of thought on problems related to the up-keep, restoration, and maintenance of your Corvair or any old car or truck. You want to bring out the best in your older vehicle. There are those who will go to any expense to take care of problems, without any thought, and others that can see through these problems, and will repair and resolve these problems with simple solutions. You have to judge a lot of these problems by the availability of parts, both new, used, and remanufactured. In many cases a lot of the parts can be repaired with a little mechanical ability, by yourself and save time and money. A way to think about this would be "If it ain't broke, don't fix it.", and if it is try to make these repairs in the most economical way. Ask a club member or more experienced Corvair owner the best way to fix your problem. Don't be afraid to ask questions, There are no stupid questions just stupid answers. Part of owning a classic car is getting your hands dirty and cruising around in a car knowing that you repaired yourself.

*Ed Lampi*



**Sold on Barrett-Jackson**

**\$11,550.00**

## Vehicle Details

### 1968 CHEVROLET CORVAIR CONVERTIBLE

Lot Number: 303

#### Options

Engine:	140
Transmission Type:	4-SPEED
Horsepower:	95
Cylinders:	6
Exterior Color:	BLACK
Interior Color:	RED

#### Description

The car came out of Colorado. It was purchased by a Northwest Airline mechanic who was stationed in Duluth, MN, He sold it to us when he was transferred to Chicago. We completely re-did the interior and exterior.

The car was green inside and outside with a white top. We put on new radial tires- complete overhaul of engine.

## About the Newsletter

The newsletter is in need of articles and stories. If you have a Corvair story jot it down and send it to me. Also if you have any interesting Corvair pictures get them to me and I'll get them in the newsletter. I'm running out of articles so help me out here. I need a Corvair biography from all members!!!!!! Also at our last meeting it was approved that the newsletter Editor will be paid \$30.00 a month for printing the newsletter. This will cover Paper and ink Cartridges. This is **your** newsletter so help me fill it up.

*Ron Thompson*  
Editor

## Birthdays

**March 2** Mike Wortruba  
**March 16** Ryan Verthein  
**April 21** Patty Prudden

## Treasurers Report

Nov Beginning	\$732.27
Income	
50/50	18.00
Dues	
Dale & jeannette Olson	20.00
Ryan Yax	20.00
KC & jim Linder	15.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Nov Newsletter (Ron)</b>	<b>30.00</b>
Nov Ending Bal	\$775.27
Dec Beginning	\$775.27
Income	
Dues	
Richard & Pauline Dee	\$20.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Dec newsletter (Ron)</b>	<b>30.00</b>
Dec Ending Balance	\$765.27

*Jim Linder*  
*Treasurer*

## Vendor List

Corvair Underground  
503-434-1648  
[www.corvairunderground.com](http://www.corvairunderground.com)

The Source Inc.  
[source@andc.com](mailto:source@andc.com)  
858-259-3843  
<http://www.thesourceparts.com>

Larry's Corvair Parts  
[K6RO@Earthlink.net](mailto:K6RO@Earthlink.net)  
310-070-9851  
[www.larryscorvair.com](http://www.larryscorvair.com)

Clarks Corvair Parts Inc.  
[clarks@corvair.com](mailto:clarks@corvair.com)  
413-625-9776  
[www.corvair.com](http://www.corvair.com)

California Corvairs  
[CACorvairs@aol.com](mailto:CACorvairs@aol.com)  
323 223-2775  
<http://www.californiacorvairparts.com>

Dale Manufacturing  
3425 Fairhaven Ave N.E.  
Salem, Oregon 97303  
503-364-8685  
[WWW.DaleMfg.com](http://WWW.DaleMfg.com)

## Activities and Events

Feb 6 Committee meeting at the Pruddens 7pm  
Feb 27 Monthly meeting Perkins London Rd Duluth dinner 6PM 7PM Meeting  
March 6th committee meeting At Pete Pruddens  
March 22nd World of Wheels Car Show Duluth Arena



The Corvair Cavalry was on the road again Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. Ron, Ed, Art, and Jason drove down to Dick Dee's in Moose Lake and pulled the engine on his 68 convertible. The usual banter was the plan of the day. The engine came out pretty easy. With 6 hands turning wrenches it was out in about an hour and a half. Now the plan is to dis-assemble it and clean it up, paint the tin, re-seal it, and replace what's needed. Then put it back in and get it running.



**Sold on Barrett-Jackson**

**\$24,200.00**

## **Vehicle Details**



## **1969 CHEVROLET CORVAIR 2 DOOR HARDTOP**

Lot Number: 636

### **Options**

Engine:	120
Transmission Type:	3-SPEED
Horsepower:	90
Cylinders:	6
Exterior Color:	BLUE
Interior Color:	BLUE

### **Description**

A (14) mile 1969 Corvair! Stored in climate controlled environment since new. Original window sticker on window. Dealer prep sheet and Protect-O-Plate still new - never issued. Original paint, tires, belts, hoses, filters, shocks, etc... One of the lowest 1969 Chevrolets in existence. Last model year for Corvair



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# Corvair Classifieds



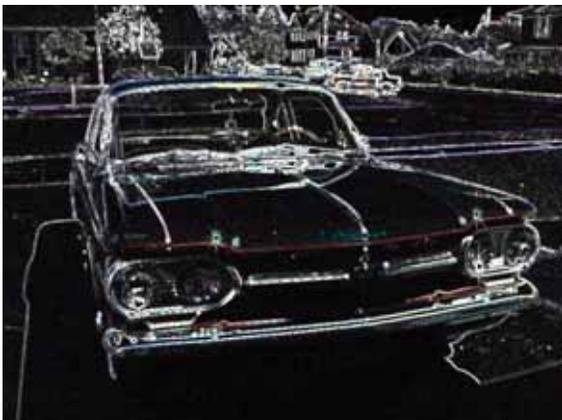
**For Sale:** 1965 Corsa Coupe. Very solid body, originally Turbocharged. Perfect Glass, POR-15'd interior and engine compartment. All new brakes and Duel Master Cylinder kit installed. 1986 Toyota Celica GT Fully adjustable Bucket seats included. Need to be fitted. Could be re-engined and driven. Call Ryan at 218-244-0247

**For Sale:** Two Kelly Charger 195/60R/15 Tires. Lots of tread left. Fit my early model great on 15" Nissan rims, and would be swell on a late model with 15" rims too. Can't beat the price, FREE! Pick 'em up in Bovey, or could bring 'em to a meeting. Call Tim at 218-245-1782 or e-mail: [minoxphotograher@yahoo.com](mailto:minoxphotograher@yahoo.com)

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**For Sale:**  
 1964 Corvair Coupe  
 1966 110 Engine Runs Great!!  
 4 Speed Transmission  
 Wheel Cylinders rebuilt and all new brakes. New master cylinder, New Floors, AM Radio  
 This is a complete car with all the parts. The car has been dismantled and stripped to bare metal and all body work has been done. All that's left is paint. For pictures contact: [corvaid50@aol.com](mailto:corvaid50@aol.com)  
 If interested in this car contact:  
 Vern Rubesh  
 344 8th ST.  
 Cloquet, Minn 55720  
 218-879-8234

**List your parts or car for sale here. Free to members and \$7.50 to non Members. Just send all the information and I will get your ad in here. Send all ads to: Ron Thompson 3932 E 8th ST Superior, Wisc 54880 or [corvaid50@aol.com](mailto:corvaid50@aol.com)**





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With springtime just around the corner It's time to think about the spring tune-up. The following is a list of parts from different companies that will fit our Corvairs.

**Air Filter for 64-69 110 & 140 HP**

AC	178CW
Fram	CA192
K & N	E-1150
Purolator	AFP67
Autolite/Motorcraft	FA31R

**Belts**

Gates	3VX560
Napa	7565
Dayco	15560

**Air filter for 62-63 102 HP**

Deutsch	AF-120
K & N	E-0900
Purolator	A20055
AC	A170CW
Fram	CA169PL2
Motorcraft	FA-29
Wix	42087

**Spark Plugs**

AC	R44FF	R44F
AC	44F	44FF
Bosch	W8AC	
Bosch	7502	
Autolite	425	
NGK	BR6HS	
NGK	BR8HS	

**Oil filters**

AC	PF-4
NAPA	1038
Purolator	L20014
Fram	PH-4
WIX	51038
Autolite/Motorcraft	FL-8
Carquest	80538



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# How NOT to Replace Vent Door Gaskets

By Glenn Lemke

Noticing that I had air coming from the right hand vent with the vent door closed, I assumed the vent gasket was bad. What usually starts out to be a simple job becomes a major project. As I was ordering parts from Clarks anyway, I added the vent door kit also.

In the meantime I removed the vent grill and found the door was in fact not in the right place. The lower pin was not in the pivot hole as the hole was full of sand, etc. The gasket still needed to be replaced so after grinding out the old rivets and removing the gasket, I was ready to put everything back together.

This is where everything started going wrong. First the replacement gasket did not have locating holes and the supplied rivets were similar to production. Clarks instructions were to center the gasket and install rivets by pushing with a Phillips screwdriver and finish by smashing with a hammer. A rivet setting tool does a much better job.

After everything was back together it look pretty good except for the grinder marks and some light rust on the outside of the door. No problem – we will just tape off the foam and paint.

Everybody knows if you want tape to stick it won't and when you don't want it to stick it will! The latter was what happened. The tape stuck to the foam so tight that it tore the foam as I was trying to remove it. All of the work for nothing – I had no choice but to take it all apart and start all over. My second attempt went much smoother and I would suggest this method for anyone who needs to replace these gaskets.

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| Step I   | Remove old rivets and disassemble parts                             |
| Step II  | Clean and paint parts first   |
| Step III | Reassemble and rivet together with stainless steel blind pop rivets |

This second attempt was a piece of cake and the whole job took about 15 minutes (not counting cleaning and painting).

Head of the Lakes Corvair Association  
Meeting minutes Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Patti Prudden. There were 8 members in attendance.

There were no minutes read since we didn't have a meeting in December and Kathy Thompson was asked to take the minutes for January meeting in Jeannette's absence.

Jim was not present for the Treasurer report so Ron Thompson read a report and there was a discussion about keeping the treasury information up to date.  
The report and discussion was accepted as read.

The Corvair Calvary is still getting with anyone that needs their help. Pat Murphy is still in need of heads and Dick Dee has an engine to work on. The Calvary will be getting with these people and working on their projects.

There was a discussion on how to deal with the engine and there is a list for anyone wanting to go along on a Calvary ride. Ron Thompson has purchased a new tool box set up for the Calvary that will make the fixing easier.

Pete Prudden will be placing an order soon for parts so if you have any needs be sure to get with him.

Ron Thompson still would like to see more articles submitted for the newsletter and he still plans on a video interview of Vic Blazevic.

The post holiday bowling party was fun. Twelve people attended and exchanged gifts, ate pizza and had a great time.

Tours and Events:

CAF tour, Pete is working on this and we are tentatively planning on May and holding the meeting there with a possible potluck.

Fire and Ice, this takes place in Iowa and will be a fairly large event that isn't too far for us to take part in. No date has been pinned down yet but word is that it is usually in the summer.

Pete Prudden Garage Extravaganza, Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, starts at 1pm everyone is invited.

GM Show, this big car show will be coming up in June, it is not too far off so start your planning to attend the fun.

World of Wheels, this event is in March on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. We can have a portion of area in the event, the price is 50\$ for the first two cars then 15\$ for each additional car. There was a motion made that the club pay from the Treasury the 70\$ for the first two cars with the remaining 30\$ coming from club members that are participating. If you have any questions on this be sure to come to the February meeting at Perkins.

We discussed the Club Flag (banner) what we have or need to display.

Kathy Thompson won the 50/50 raffle, 9.00 for Kathy and 9.00 for the club.

After the general meeting there was a short meeting of the Board. Several items were discussed including insurance for events, fundraisers, signs for cars, car shows, weenie wagon and car sales. Come to the February meeting at Perkins if you have any addition input or questions. Come anyway and enjoy dinner out and good company.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

*Kathy Thompson*

**2006-07**

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