

# Fanbelt Flyer

*The Monthly Newsletter of the Oldest Continuous  
Corvair Club in the World!*

April 2017



Volume: 54, Issue: 4

## From the President's Garage - By David Dean

Greetings to Spring, Easter Bunnies, candy, and of course... Corvairs! This is the time of year most clubs north and east of us are salivating to get their cars out of winter storage; while we get chamber-of-commerce weather to enjoy our cars. March was a busy moth with our club represented at three shows. April is shaping up the same way as we venture our cars to Tucson on April 8<sup>th</sup> and wind up at the Pavilions after our all-Corvair picnic in Scottsdale, April 22nd. We invite club members and other Corvair owners to join us for this annual Spring event (more information on the Club website). Bring a side dish or dessert to share and come enjoy a beautiful day at the park with your car.

I am pleased to say that our membership renewals have been going very well. We are just over 30 active members with new additions each month. We have several new folks join (re-join) so please make them feel welcome.

In our travels we often find quirky or odd items that represent our hobby. Most recently I stumbled upon these Corvair USB memory sticks. Each memory stick (flash drive) comes in your choice of 15 Corvair colors and 4GB, 16GB, or 64GB sizes; and are priced from \$15-\$45. They are manufactured by Steve H of the Corvair Forum and are available at <http://www.classiccarusb.com/>.



Speaking of memory, everywhere we go with our cars someone comes up and shares a memory of their experience with Corvairs. I was at Costco on a very busy Saturday afternoon once filling up Belle, when not one but three different people came over and shared a memory "my dad owned one of these" or "I had a girlfriend who drove a Corvair..." One person in particular shared how her and her roommate traveled from Chicago to Dallas in her 64 Spyder going home from college. When people have fond memories of our cars, it inspires me to show them what great little vehicles they really are.

I am also interested in your memories of great club events, or times spent with Corvairs. I appreciate some of members who can recount the club's past history; but I like your story too. Why do you have a Corvair? What do you enjoy about these cars? Anyone can own a classic car, and show off their work or money spent restoring their cars. However, Corvairs always come with a story. How it was acquired... who owned it before... where has it been... your car, and you, have a story. I invite you to share those stories with everyone – including through the newsletter. So feel free to write your story and sent it in to me or Marian at [marian777@cox.net](mailto:marian777@cox.net). Add a pic or two and we will share it your story with everyone. Or, we can go have a coffee and you can tell me your story. I'm happy to listen and take a pic or two of your car.

Finally, a word of thanks goes out to several club members this month. Thank you to Nancy, Joe, and Dave for submitting reports on our outings. Also, thanks to Dave and Joe for taking the lead on forging new relationships for our club. Everywhere we can be makes is that much stronger.

Happy motoring,  
David "Doc" Dean

### **Secretary's Report by David Dean (substituting for Dave Wenzlick): Cactus Corvair Club Meeting March 1st 2017**

The meeting was opened at 7 PM by club president David Dean.

Miner moved that we accept the January secretary's report as published in the February newsletter. Gary S. seconded the motion and it was approved by members. Joe L. presented the Treasurer's Report that. We began the month with a balance of \$2805.91. After deducting for the cost of a club banner and the park rental fee, and adding membership renewals we ended the month with a balance of \$2795.91. Gary S. made a motion for approval, Bob R. seconded the motion and it was approved.

#### **Old Business**

We discussed the Caliente Clowns Car Show. The date was moved from February 18 to March 4 due to rain delay. The club discussed the details of the caravan to Florence from the Apache Junction area meeting at the Basha's grocery at Kings Ranch Road and US 60 at 7 AM. The caravan will roll out by 7:30 so that they will arrive at the show around 8 AM. A show of hands indicated we would have at least 5 members attending.

Next the club discussed the All Chevy Showdown show in Tucson April 8. This is a joint effort on the part of our club and Tucson Corvair Club to have as many Corvairs as possible there. Since they have made strong efforts to attend event in our area over the last few years, this is a good opportunity to exercise our cars and fellowship with their club on their 'turf.' Several members expressed interest in attending.

Eldorado Park Picnic and Run April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The group discussed more of the details of the Spring picnic event. Included in the festivities will be an afternoon visit to McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale and then caravan on to the Pavilions for their Saturday night Rock and Roll Cruise In. A sign-up-sheet for the potluck will be distributed at the April 5 meeting. The club will provide hamburger/hotdogs for grilling.

Old business concluded with a discussion of the 1984 Corsa Convention hosted by the Cactus Corvair Club, David D brought a copy of the program (loaned to him by John S). Linda added her reflections on the even and other Corsa annual conventions.

### **New Business**

David D brought a copy of the latest Haggerty Insurance magazine featuring a cover story on the Corvair and its safety record. The insurance company brought in experts and qualified drivers to recreate the conditions listed as hazards for early model Corvairs. The article affirmed later NTSB findings that the Corvair is indeed a safe car to drive. Several members asked for copies of the article. (Editor's note: *The Communique* ran a reprint of the article in their latest issue. Some members may have already seen it.)

Dave D requested club approval to extend advertising space in the Fanbelt Flyer to longtime members John S and Gary S. to promote their services. Since there are no formal advertising rates for ad space in the newsletter, and these are modest pieces, no charge will be applied. The proposal was adopted unanimously by acclamation.

The committee formed to handle the Larry Aldridge Memorial Fund reported back on their efforts. The original idea for a commemorative glass panel at the airport has fallen through. Airport plans for that dedication area have been revised and this option is no longer available. The committee discussed option for donating the funds to an automotive scholarship program that promotes students gaining the skills for restoring classic cars. RPM Foundation and The Corvair Preservation Foundation. Both award scholarships to students attending college and cultivate the next generation of skilled craftsmen on the art of automotive restoration and preservation. John S made a motion that funds should go in Larry's name to the RPM Foundation. Since the largest portion of donations came from online forum donors across the country, the proposal was amended to reflect that it was subject to their wishes since the expectations of these monies had gone through several iterations. (Originally the funds raised were for recovery of Larry's remains and funeral expenses, then shifted to the memorial, and now a scholarship donation.) Gary S. Seconded the motion as amended and it was approved unanimously. A follow-up report will be made at the April meeting.

Joe L brought several items for informative purposes. He showed a music CD *Unsafe at Any Speed* by the AquaTones. Joe also showed off a 50 anniversary commemorative coin he found on e-bay. Joe also discussed to owner's manual protecto places. These are the original metal plates identifying cars and their owners. Joe discussed the task of searching for these original owners and mating them with the whereabouts of their car today.

Joe also showed an engine cradle designed for the Harbor Freight transmission jack. These are made by Corvair enthusiast, davemotohead (corvairforum.com) in California where Joe acquired his sample at the Palm Springs Fanbelt Toss last October.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Richard. The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

-David "Doc" Dean

## Treasurer's Report February 2017 (Updated) by Joe Lewis

Beginning Balance as of	12/31/2016	\$2,805.91
<b>INCOME</b>		
	50-50	\$25.00
	RENEWALS	\$75.00
	NEW MEMBERS	\$15.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	Banner	\$(15.00)
	Park Fee	\$(110.00)
ENDING BALANCE	2/28/2017	\$2,795.91
PENDING CHECKS		
Pending Deposits		
BOOK BALANCE	2/28/2017	\$2,795.91

## Just Clownin' Around - Caliente Clowns Car Show – Florence, AZ (March 4, 2017) by Nancy P.

It's Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anxious to escape the second day of constant banging overhead as we have our house re-roofed, I decide to take "Duane" out of the garage and put him on the driveway to prep him for the next day's Caliente Clowns Car show in Florence, AZ.

Yes, my car's name is Duane. Full name:  
Duane DeBanque-Account.

He starts, with some coaxing, and moves the 10 feet onto the driveway. I get out the Heaviest Hose on Earth and meticulously wash him. In full sun. Because in Arizona, you don't have much choice. This leaves visible streaks, which I try repeatedly to eliminate, to no avail. My enthusiasm waning, I move on to a quick-wax. I then vacuum and recondition the interior. Stepping back to admire my work, pitted chrome bumpers beg for attention like a dog at the dinner table, but as my own dog will tell you, I



*"Duane" in all his glory*

am not that soft-hearted. Duane is as good as he's going to get, and back into the garage he goes, to rest up for the early-morning meetup at Bashas' in Gold Canyon.

We happen to have an out-of-state houseguest for the weekend. On Saturday morning, the day of the show, it's a Feat of Epic Proportions getting everyone ready to leave the house on time in the pre-dawn hours. But we manage—after all, we are Corvair owners...and Corvair owners are not quitters.

Duane must be excited to go to the show; after all, he hasn't been to one in 30 years. He



*Muster site*

starts without any coaxing whatsoever. We arrive at the meetup point to find only one other 'Vair there, making us wonder whether or not we were at the right Bashas'. But as the sun winked over the Superstition Mountains, promising another glorious Arizona spring day, others began to arrive, quenching our fears.

Except for the fears that our cars wouldn't make it from Gold Canyon to Florence!

But make it they did--and at a pretty good clip, too!--and we moved into position to park for the show.

Duane parks next to the '66 Corsa-bodied 455 cu. in. mid-engine conversion owned by Dave and Cathy Winslet, looking a bit like Don Knotts standing beside Arnold Schwarzenegger. Al Briggs is there, his maroon '63 convertible dressed for the occasion in a brand-new exhaust from Clark's Corvair Parts. Chris Slonecker is beaming with pride; this is the furthest his maroon '66, 110 has been away from its garage!

Greg and Ginger Schupfer brought The Little Engine That Could; their '61, 500 they have owned since 1971. Jim and Loretta Johnson were there with their "AAA Frequent Flyer," a red '63 convertible that Jim confesses is a bottomless money-pit.



*The Johnsons' Money Pit*

And Miner. Miner, Miner, Miner. Must you shame the rest of us with your



*Miner's Gorgeous Rampside*



pristine and spotless Corvair renditions! Miner's '66 Corsa, shown with CCC (the Oldest Continuously Operating...you know), and a '62 Rampside also on-site (shown with a different club I won't mention here) were nothing short of Corvair Perfection. With St. Patrick's day on the way, we were all green.....with envy.

Good sports Manny and Dollie Brizar, who had intended to bring their car but could not because it was still out having upholstery done, came along anyway, lending moral support to the club and dropping off their donation to the Foster Children of Pinal County, the charity benefiting from this show. We saw several cart-loads of donations of socks, underwear, and pajamas collected by the Caliente Clowns so the event looked to be an overwhelming success. Thank you everyone for your participation and your donation, and to the 'Clowns for hosting this fun event!

No one from the club won any awards or even any of the raffle items, but as I walked back to Duane after the raffle behind the line of parked Corvairs, I wryly noted that if there had been an award for Largest Oil Puddle Under a Car, Duane would have taken the prize, hands-down. But what do you expect from a car that holds the record for the absolute lowest score ever awarded at a CORSA concourse function??



*Pretty Maids All in a Row*

As the show came to a close, we motored home, reflecting pleasantly on the day of fun and friendship in the Arizona sun, and are looking forward to attending a couple more shows coming up later in the month of March. Hope to see you there!





**Three Corvair Bumpers from the 1960's and one Tow Bar.** I would like to sell them as a Package for \$ 40.00. (\$ 10.00 for each item ) The Tow Bar is great for moving the cars. My home is near crossroads, 51st Ave and Butler. Contact Steve at (623) 931-1832 .





## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Catch-a-Wave Car Show @Kiwanis Park (March 18, 2017)

By Dave W.

We had one early model and four late model Corvairs entered in the show plus there was a 140 HP Corvair-powered Manx dune buggy. Manny and Dollie arrived later in the morning with their early model (sporting new upholstery) but they did not enter the show.

It was a bit warm for mid-March but there was good shade nearby and since we were parked on the grass it was not too bad until after lunch. Joe brought both of his restored Huffy Corvair bicycles to the show towed behind his 65 Corsa convertible. Richard attended again this year with his beautiful 65 Corsa turbo convertible. He was showing off his new Digital Dakota gauges. Darin entered the only early model in the event, a very nice 64 convertible. Nancy and Braden were also there with her 65 Monza. Dave and Cathy were there with her 65 Sport Sedan.

The show stewards allowed us to save some spots for the Corvair entries so we were all able to park together not too far from the trees. As usual, we had lots of questions about our favorite cars.

A few members of the club got together and made a combined donation of \$250 on behalf of the Cactus Corvair Club. Up on the main stage, Joe presented the donation check to celebrity emcee, Rick DeBruhl. Rick had some very kind words to say about Corvairs and our club participation. The donation will benefit the Kiwanis Tempe Nuevo organization.

Thanks to all who came out. Hope you had a great time!







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## Cruiz'n to the Lakes – Goodyear, AZ (March 25, 2017) By Joe L.

It started out with a cold ride over to Goodyear AZ on a early Saturday morning, but the ride was worth it. This was the first car show for the Estrella Mountain Car Club so they did not know how many cars would be showing up. I left my house at 7:00 am as the registration was at 8:00 and the show was starting at 9:00. To my surprise when I arrived at 7:45 there were well over 100 cars and by the end of everyone staging I think the count was between 225 and 250 cars! What a great turnout for a first show. I asked one of the club members when people started to show up and he said "before 6 AM". People just wanted to get a great spot surrounding the lakes at Estrella. Even arriving at my time I was able to park on the lawn overlooking the lake. I was the only Corvair at the show and had many people looking over the car and asking questions. I was also lucky with the raffle prizes as I won three of them, but one was an oil change from a local show so I gave it to the truck next to me. I would like to see if a few of us can make the show next year as I really enjoyed it. I had a good laugh at one of the cars as he had proof of more then 12 free batteries due to the warranty from one of the local shops. I guess they gave out good warranties in the 70's.



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## About Us:

While a salesman at Rudolph Chevrolet in Phoenix Arizona, Lou Grubb decided there were possibilities in an inexpensive, economy car produced by the Chevrolet Division, the Corvair. He sent letters to recent Corvair buyers and devotees alike inviting them to a social dedicated to appreciation of the car. With a promising response, discussion turned to organizing a new sports car club. With hasty planning, the first event was an economy run put together by a group of rookie enthusiasts who later became the first members of Cactus Corvair Club after its Constitution was signed in October 2, 1963. We are the oldest, continually active, Corvair club in the world!

As part of the Phoenix Chapter of CORSA (Corvair Society of America) we hosted our first regional mini-convention in April of 1976. People from all over the country came, with an estimated 90 cars and 150 people attendees. The event included autocross, a concours show, driving tour of the Valley of the Sun, and a "Fiesta banquet.

The Cactus Corvair Club hosts an annual All-Corvair show in early October, participates in classic car shows throughout the year (usually benefitting local charities), and supports classic car events, museums, and organizations dedicated to the preservation and public education of our automotive history. We are a community of car enthusiasts; all our events are family oriented and we are excited to meet you.

Club Officers		Board Members:
<b>President</b>	<b>David Dean</b> <a href="mailto:dr.dean@cox.net">dr.dean@cox.net</a>	<b>John Seamen</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>	<b>Mary Seaman</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Joe Lewis</b>	<b>Miner Fleming</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Dave Wenzlick</b>	<b>Gary Sudbeck</b>

Webmaster Dave W. [dave@rcaz.com](mailto:dave@rcaz.com)

Newsletter Editor Marian Dean. [marian777@cox.net](mailto:marian777@cox.net)

Librarian Miner Fleming

### Membership Dues:

Cactus Corvair Club  
c/o Treas. Joe Lewis  
5811 W Park Ave  
Chandler, AZ 85226

### Arizona Corvair Gatherings



CORSA Chapter  
#850

### Meeting room generously provided by:

Earnhardt Chevrolet  
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Chandler, AZ 85225



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 5                      Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet
- April 8                      [32nd Annual Chevy Showdown in Tucson.](#)
- April 22                     [Spring Corvair Picnic @ Eldorado Park](#)
- June 2-4                    [33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tri-State Corvair Meet, Taos NM](#)
- June 27-July 1            [Corsa International Convention, Independence MO](#)



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[www.cactuscorvairclub.com](http://www.cactuscorvairclub.com)

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### *Monthly Meetings*

*Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month  
(except for June, July and August)*

*Location is at [Earnhardt Chevrolet 2121 N. Arizona Ave -  
Chandler AZ 85225](#)*

*Meetings start at 7PM. Driving a Corvair is encouraged  
but not required.*

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**Cactus Corvair Club**  
**5811 W. Park Ave**  
**Chandler, AZ 85226**



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