

# Fanbelt Flyer

The Monthly Newsletter of the Oldest Continuous  
Corvaair Club in the World!

November 2019



Volume: 56, Issue: 8

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

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."* John F. Kennedy, 1963.

November is a time when we reflect on the year and make a point to be thankful for our blessings and riches...Family, Friends, Corvaairs,... Our cars give us, and those who see them, a nostalgia for a time when being thankful meant showing our gratitude to those that have been the author or enabler of our blessings. November gives me pause to be thankful and express my gratitude for the Cactus Corvaair Club and all its members and supporters.

At the last meeting, I was once again humbled to be acclaimed president for now a fourth year. This is a role and a responsibility that I enjoy doing, and strive for the best interests of the club. Over the last four years, our club has worked through challenges, donated generously to charities, made old activities new, and introduced new ways to enjoy our cars, seen members come and go, and helped each other along the way. I am reminded that the best of our club doesn't have four wheels and an air-cooled motor; rather it's you, the members, and your big hearts that that makes this club go.

I am also very thankful for a terrific team that helps us accomplish an aggressive schedule and the operational aspects of our club smoothly and efficiently. Dave W, Joe L, and new secretary Nancy P, never miss a beat, drop the ball, or let go of their commitment to the club. You have my deepest gratitude for all you do. Also, board members this past year, Chris S, Miner F, and Gary S have shared the workload of the club, helped out when called, and provided perspective and guidance navigating some the challenges that go with any organization. I have appreciated the time I get to spend with you and thank you for your service.

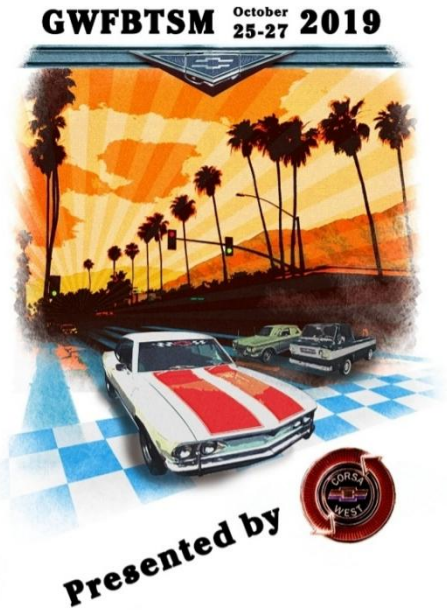
Finally, I am thankful for the members and their families who bring enthusiasm for our hobby, glee when for our gatherings, and resources to bear on all that we do. You are the most generous, hardest-working, supportive people I've ever known. I am grateful for all of you, and all that you do for those touched in some way by our club. I learn more each day, and continuously seek ways to keep moving our club forward. Thank you for answering my questions, helping in my garage, bringing us new ideas, and supporting our club. November reminds me that on the ledger of gratitude, I owe so many much you more than I can express here.



With humble gratitude,  
David "Doc" Dean

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Great Western Fan Belt Toss & Swap Meet – Palm Springs CA, October 26-28, 2019.

It was another warm, but excellent, weekend in Palm Springs for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Great Western Fan Belt Toss. For fifty years southwest Corvair enthusiasts have been gathering to show cars, buy-sell-trade parts, and exchange their experiences, This year’s event, hosted by the Corsa West Corvair Club, started with a well-attended Friday night welcome party at the host hotel pool (including a chili bar!), lots of swap meet vendors, great cars in the Saturday car show, and a Saturday night banquet featuring Pete Borchert discussing the Lambrecht Corvair he owns. Club members Dave W and Kathy, Bob K, Joe L, Gary S, and David D and Marian joined Mike L., Ron B, and Frank P of the Tucson club spent the day catching up with old friends, talking tech, buying and selling parts, enjoying terrific food together. Here are some photo highlights of the weekend.



NOTE: Online registration only: [greatwesternfanbelttoss.com](http://greatwesternfanbelttoss.com).





Met up with former Cactus Corvair Club member Jack Pinard, now living in Port Hueneme California, and a member of the Corsa West club. Jack let us acquire a polo shirt from the 2002 National Corsa Convention - *A CoolVair Affair* - hosted by our club in Flagstaff AZ. Here he is pictured with his 1966 Corsa Convertible. It was good to catch up with Jack!



Daniel's Car - New Club Member-

## Mark Your Calendars!!

The 2020 National Corsa Convention will be a terrific opportunity for our club and our members.

Scheduled July 6-11<sup>th</sup>, the San Diego Corvair Club is putting together an event that will bring all of the features of the national convention to our back yard, and showcase the best of San Diego during one of the most beautiful times of the year.

After meeting with the organizers from the San Diego Corvair Club, they have asked that our club help share some of the workload hosting the convention. They would like is to help with the following events:

July 6 – Monday - Opening Night Ice Cream Social.

This is a welcome social event for all convention attendees. They would like at least 4 of our club members to help set-up, serve ice cream, and stay for the clean up afterwards. Total commitment: 4 hours.


July 7-11 – Tuesday through Saturday Hospitality Room. This is a room at the host hotel where convention attendees can stop in and grab a refreshment and snack, meet up with others, and get out of the weather.

The San Diego Corvair Club will set this up and operate it throughout the week (generally 8-9AM to 4-5PM). They have asked for us to provide 2 people each day from 11-1 (or 10-noon, or noon to 2 depending on other happenings) to relieve their members and staff the room. This will give their folks a chance to take a break, enjoy the convention also, without closing the Hospitality Room. Our members will greet people and distribute water, soft drinks, and snacks. As part of this responsibility, convention organizers have asked that we contribute some snacks and bottled water. Total commitment: 2 hours per day, plus some bulk snacks and bottled water.

Finally, the organizing committee has asked that we be available “here and there” around the convention to fill in where needed. If members are not participating in the Economy Run, the Autocross, or the Concourse Show; or off on one of the excursions to the U.S. Midway, Balboa Park or the Beach,; or participating in the other convention activities, please feel free to donate a few hours to help at the registration table, support an event or fill in wherever is needed. Let’s do our part to help make this a successful convention!

Your Cactus Corvair Club will also have our own vendor space/booth. We will use this as our “convention headquarters,” to promote our club and provide a place for our club members to rest, connect and coordinate their activities, and check in before helping at other convention tasks. We will need members to help “staff” the booth in shifts. This is all in the early stages of planning; but start thinking about your trip to San Diego next July!

**San Diego Corvair Club**  
presents...



**San Diego, CA July 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2020**

## Concept Car – The Corvair Forcasta!

1960 Chevrolet Corvair  
Monza Bubble Top  
Custom built by legendary  
show car builder Darryl  
Starbird of Wichita,  
Kansas in 1961. Darryl  
designed and built the car  
for Chuck Miller of  
Columbus, Ohio. The  
build started just after  
Darryl had completed his  
first full-blown show car,  
the Predicta. About the



development of the Forcasta, Darryl said that he wanted something with a very low hood which meant that the radiator couldn't be up front. Before he began the build he was actually looking at using a Volkswagen, but he decided that it was too small for what he had in mind. Then the all-new Corvair was introduced and Darryl found his perfect donor car. He bought a very clean low-mileage Corvair from a used car lot in Wichita and the build could begin.



Darryl stripped the stock body down leaving only two door pillars and the hinges, the rocker panels and the flooring.

He started with a pair of 1960 Cadillac rear quarters which he modified heavily. The fins were repositioned, angled outward, and had extensions added to lengthen them. New doors were hand-formed to match the contour of the rear quarters. 20 gauge sheet metal was hand-formed to give the side panels their space age styling. The rear deck was replaced and round rods gave rigidity to the cut out areas. Up front new fenders were shaped. The hood panel was highly modified which gave the car the convex shape Starbird sought from the beginning. New rolled edges were welded in place to create a peaked effect. The front fenders were rolled and hand formed in the same way as the rest of the body.

The front and rear grilles were formed in a V from 2 inch streamlined chrome plated tubing. With the body shaped, patterns were made for the bubble top and the bullet shaped headlight and taillight lenses. These patterns were sent to Ray Plastics, the company that had blown the bubble top for the Predicta. The bubble top was split at the door line, and the front half was raised hydraulically for entry and exit.

The interior of the car consumed 500 man hours before it was completed. It was finished in hand tufted white pearl Naugahyde and Fuschia frieze. The car featured four bucket seats that were contour formed

from head rest down to the pedals. Up front the bullet shaped console concealed an electronic brain and manual control switches. The instrument cluster swiveled to both sides so the car could be operated from both right or left and the steering was operated by a central stick. The car also featured air conditioning and an intercom. The rear console of the car included a small TV and radio. A remote control operates the top, turns the wheels, raises the trunk, starts and revs the engine, turns the TV and radio on and off and opens the doors without the driver having to touch the car. The interior styling was done by Paul Matz of Wichita. All of the electronics were installed by Jim Patton, also from Wichita.



Every movable part on the original Monza engine were triple-plated and highly polished by American Plating Company. The firewall and inner panels were louvered and chromed, as were all of the suspension system components. The body received 10 coats of hand rubbed Grape lacquer.

During the years, the Forcasta has been restyled at least twice. On a photo of the second version of the car at an indoor car show, Frank Koss is listed as the current owner. Starbird has stated that he would not attempt a restoration; instead he'd build a brand new Forcasta using fresh sheet metal.

## Alex's 62 Project (Part 5)



and the motor is starting the rebuild process.

Progress continues on Alex's 1962 Sedan. Parts continue to get sorted, and cleaned, boxes of new parts unpacked and catalogued, the engine compartment prep is nearly finished,



As the school year goes forward, homework and responsibilities always come first, but that doesn't keep Alex from studying more about Corvairs and attending club meetings. Everyone is generously teaching him as much as they can about his car.



**EARNHARDT**  
"NO BULL" SINCE 1951



Thorobred Chevrolet is Now

**EARNHARDT CHEVROLET**

Sales: (602) 626-9500

Service: (602) 635-9157



## Cactus Corvair Club Meeting October 2, 2019 Secretary's Report by Nancy P:

The Cactus Corvair Club was called to order at 6:59 PM on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 by club president David D. The legendary Charlie D. was in attendance, on his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday!

### Old Business

The September meeting minutes were accepted.

The September Treasurer's Report was reviewed and accepted.

David D. had forms for upcoming shows for anyone planning to attend and desiring to register in advance. The Corvair Cruise-In at the Pavillions in Scottsdale on November 9<sup>th</sup> was confirmed for 1-4 PM. The Rock 'n' roll Cruise-In will continue at that location until 8 PM. The club is still looking for donations for goodie bags and raffles.

The November CCC Meeting will be held at the above-mentioned Corvair Cruise-In on November 9<sup>th</sup> and not at Earnhardt Chevrolet on the usual first Wednesday of the month.

The club's Christmas Party is confirmed for December 14<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 2 PM at Chris S.'s house in Chandler. There will be a gift exchange and a potluck lunch.

Our meeting host, Earnhardt Chevrolet, has an exhibit board in its showroom and we will be working toward putting something from our club on it.

### New Business

The Treasurer is collecting dues for 2020 Membership (\$15.00) from now until the end of 2019.

The club nominated Officers and Board Members for the year 2020, which will be voted on at the November meeting. Nominations are as follows:

#### Club Officers:

President: David D.  
VP: Dave W.  
Secretary: Nancy P.  
Treasurer: Joe L.

#### Board Members:

Chris S.  
Miner F.  
John S.  
Bob K.

There is a Fun Run being planned for November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will drive to McAlpine's for lunch and on to the Martin Auto Museum.

For the convenience of our West Valley members, we will support a Cruise-In at Mixteca in Glendale on December 7<sup>th</sup>.from 5-9 PM.

The club voted in favor of using club money that would otherwise have been spent on trophies to purchase some better raffle items for the November 9<sup>th</sup> Corvair Cruise-In.

We were reminded to check AZ Corvair Gatherings and the Cactus Corvair Club's Facebook page for shows, Cruise-Ins, Fun Runs, and other opportunities to get together and drive our Corvairs as we are coming into prime driving season here in Arizona.

**Tech Talk**

David D. talked about a steering box and carburetor rebuild. He also talked about a small E-clip that was missing from his transmission which was causing it to not shift into high gear. He located the E-clip inside with a magnet and it is now fixed.

Alex's car is ready to be put back together. His dad advised us that anyone looking for touch-up paint can go to Express Painting; they have every GM color there ever was.

Miner is adding dual exhaust to one of his Corvairs, but the Clark's kit did not fit well and the project has been a nightmare. Apache Muffler was recommended to help.

A new member bought a Corvair at a show and is now having all sorts of issues...oil leaks, missing motor mounts, etc. Club members gave advice.

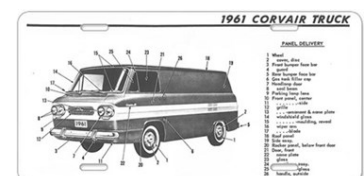
**Closing Thoughts**

Braden P. won the 50/50 raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

**Treasurer's Report: October 2019 by Joe Lewis**

<b>Beginning Balance as of</b>	<b>10/1/2019</b>	<b>\$11,067.99</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
	<b>50-50</b>	<b>\$28.00</b>
	<b>NEW MEMBER</b>	<b>\$</b>
	<b>RENEWALS</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
	<b>Prizes</b>	<b>(-90.00)</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>10/31/2019</b>	<b>\$11,080.99</b>
<b>PENDING CHECKS</b>		
<b>Pending Deposits</b>		
<b>BOOK BALANCE</b>	<b>10/31/2019</b>	<b>\$11,080.99</b>







## The Corvair Museum is Moving!

The Corvair Museum, currently located in Decatur, Illinois since its inception two years ago, is relocating. The museum will close on November 20, giving us time to move our collection to our new site on Route 66, south of Springfield, Illinois. We will reopen the Corvair Museum on December 1 at its new location, 10041 Palm Road - a.k.a. Route 66 - in Glenarm, Illinois.

In addition to being much less expensive for us to operate, our new modern facility is expected to draw many more visitors because of its close proximity to popular tourist destinations in the Springfield area. Attractions include the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, Lincoln's Tomb and War Memorial State Historic and more – all just minutes away.

The Springfield area is served by Allegiant, American and United Airlines with multiple daily flights connecting to Chicago, Dallas / Fort Worth, and Punta Gorda Airport.

The museum's new location also has the benefit of being easily accessible from Interstate 55 - the main corridor between Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans.

Thanks to all who have visited. As we said when we started the Corvair Museum, it will be ever changing!

Mike Hall, President  
Corvair Preservation Foundation



**Clark's**  
Corvair Parts®

Site of the World's Largest  
**Corvair Parts Supplier**  
Since 1973



**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:
President	<b>David Dean</b> <a href="mailto:dr.dean@cox.net">dr.dean@cox.net</a>	<b>Miner Fleming</b>
Vice President	<b>Dave Wenzlick</b>	<b>Chris Slonecker</b>
Treasurer	<b>Joe Lewis</b>	<b>Gary Sudbeck</b>
Secretary	<b>Nancy Pastore</b>	

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

**Membership Dues:**

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



**Meeting room generously provided by:**

Earnhardt Chevrolet  
 2121 N. Arizona Ave.  
 Chandler, AZ 85225

Find us on Facebook

Cactus Corvair Club  
Arizona Corvair Gatherings

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=arizona%20corvair%20gatherings>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/239893616189038/>

THIS PAGE  
INTENTIONALLY  
LEFT BLANK,

**UPCOMING Club Meetings:**

- November 9                    Corvair Cruise-In (Regular Club Meeting) - Pavillions
- November 15-17            Goodguys Speedway Motors Southwest Nationals
- November 23                Fun Run to McAlpines and the Martin Auto Museum
- December 7                 Westside Cruise-In & Club Gathering @ Mixteca 5-9PM
- December 14                Club Holiday Party 11-2PM at Chris S' House Chandler
- January 8                    Regular Club Meeting @ Earnhardt Chevrolet 7PM



Preserving Chevy's Rear Engine Fun Car

---

*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

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

---

***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.*

---

---

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



Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code

---