

# Fanbelt Flyer

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



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January 2017

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

It's January and that time of year when we look forward to 2017. I am pleased to report that in 2016 we had 52 members in our club, many of which have enjoyed our socials, shows, and community throughout the year. Highlights of 2016 include the Caliente Clown Car show in Florence, the Annual Spring Cookout at Lost Dutchman State Park, and the All Corvair Car Show held at Earnhardt Chevrolet celebrating the 1967 model year. The coming year brings more opportunities to socialize and enjoy our cars. Your new officers and directors are excited to continue to grow the club and share our passion for Corvairs with as many as possible.

Over the past few months I have learned about our club, its members, and history. I really appreciate the stories and the sources everyone has shared with me. One of the questions that I've pondered, is "What is the benefit of the Cactus Corvair Club for its members?" Aside from the usual responses of fellowship, support, and preservation, I believe this question needs serious consideration.

First, the purpose of our club, per our original charter, is "to bring together, for their common benefit, people with an appreciation for the unique qualities and advantages of the Corvair."<sup>1</sup> It goes on to say, "the club will maintain a schedule of events and meetings to provide an outlet for the members to further enjoy their Corvair.... The club is to plan trips, events, and social activities for members, provide and regulate events and exhibitions of the Corvair, and encourage skillful driving. Our meetings are to provide a forum for the transaction of club business, present programs of interest to club members, and the opportunity to fellowship with other Corvair enthusiasts. I strongly believe the club has, and will continue to meet these purposes.

Secondly, I believe a significant purpose for our club is technical support to keep our cars on the road. From advising a new Corvair owner, to providing hands-on know-how, our club, like so many other car clubs, is a tremendous resource for our mutual passion for these cars. Be it roadside assistance, or mechanical advice, or simply encouraging one another with the exchange of information, experiences, and material resources, our club provides a service, a network, that benefits each of us in many ways.

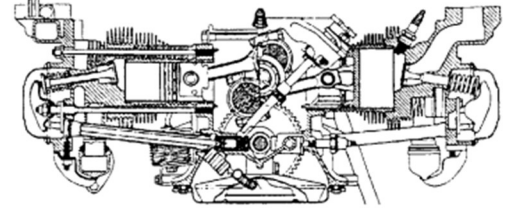
Finally, the purpose of our club comes from our incorporation documents: non-profit. Our purpose is to do good work in our community. We can educate others as we have at the GM IT Innovations Center in Chandler; but perhaps the most important contribution we make is through the generosity of our members towards the charities we support. Through your donations, families in times of need have food

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<sup>1</sup> Cactus Corvair Club, *Constitution*, October 2, 1963. Phoenix, Arizona.

on their tables, children in times of upheaval have a toy for comfort or fresh toiletries/clothes, and charities serving others know they can count on our club to pitch-in with help.

So how does our club benefit you? I would hope as you consider renewing your membership, a very affordable \$15, you'd consider these things I've mentioned: our charter, our network, and our charity. For me personally, I have appreciated everything the club has done for me since I received good advice on purchasing my first Corvair to the enduring friendships I've made with my Corvair comrades.



Cheers,  
David "Doc" Dean

## **Secretary's Report by Dave Wenzlick:**

### **Cactus Corvair Club Secretary's Report December 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, 2016**

Note: The regular December club meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Christmas party on Saturday December 3<sup>rd</sup> instead of on Wednesday Dec 7th.

The meeting was called to order by the new club president, David Dean, at 8:36 PM. David welcomed and thanked all who were in attendance at the Christmas party. He also thanked everyone for their generosity in bringing plenty of toys and food items. All donations will be handed out to local charities in Apache Junction.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

David offered free business card magnets left over from the October car show. He also handed out similar magnetic cards that promote the club website. These are great to hand out to any interested persons who you encounter in your travels.

The December Treasurer's Report was read by Joe Lewis. Chris moved for approval, Miner seconded and it passed after member voting. It was moved to accept the Secretary's Report from the last meeting as it was published in the December newsletter. The motion was seconded and approved by voting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Caliente Clowns Car Show was announced to be held on Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. Entry fee will be a donation of pajamas, socks or underwear for the foster children of Pinal County. Forms were available at the dinner and also online on the club website. Please register before Feb 11<sup>th</sup> so they can plan the correct number of lunches for the drivers. There will be a Corvair caravan planned like in previous years. We will meet at the Gold Canyon Basha's between 7:30-7:45AM and then drive down together from there. More details, entry forms and maps are on the website.

John Seaman and Gary Sudbeck are looking for photos of Corvairs similar to Larry Aldrich's vehicles for his memorial plaque project to be displayed at the Sky Harbor Terminal 4. They need pictures of EM convertibles and Rampsides. Jim Johnson volunteered photos of his early model. Larry worked many years at the airport and a memorial plaque on display there will be a nice way for him to be remembered. The club collected funds last February to pay for the project.

After the dinner, club president David Dean presented outgoing president John Seaman with a "President-to-President" gift of a folding pocket knife. John served six years as club president. John said a few words as well

to the group and thanked the club members for helping him keep the club active and for increasing the membership count.

Dinner attendees thanked David and Marian Dean for coordinating the party and for all the handmade decorations. There were centerpieces with candles and also candy boxes printed with Corvair club logos and Corvairs.

#### TECH TOPIC

No tech topic was presented during the Christmas Party.

The next club meeting is at Earnhardt Chevrolet on Jan 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM

The meeting was closed at 8:50

-Dave Wenzlick

### Treasurer's Report by Joe Lewis:

CACTUS CORVAIR CLUB Treasurer's Report December 2016		
Beginning Balance as of	11/30/2016	\$2,720.71
<b>INCOME</b>		
50-50		
RENEWALS		\$ 45.00
NEW MEMBERS		
		<u>\$ -</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Corporation commission		\$ (25.00)
Corvair Society of America		\$ (105.00)
		<u>\$ -</u>
ENDING BALANCE	12/31/2016	<u>\$2,635.71</u>
PENDING CHECKS		
Pending Deposits		
BOOK BALANCE	12/31/2016	<u>\$2,635.71</u>



## Christmas Party Dec 3rd

We had 19 members gather at Floridino's Pizza and Pasta for our annual Christmas Dinner on Saturday night, Dec 3rd. The tables were decorated with lots of holiday cheer, thanks to David and Marian Dean's time and talents. The gift boxes were adorned with Cactus Corvair Club logos as well as Corvair images, snowmen and such. Inside was a tasty selection of chocolate treats.



We had 19 in attendance including long time members Charlie Dye and Linda Casey who always have a story from way back in the history of the club. The dinner was a buffet style with several entrees including lasagna, chicken alfredo, and ziti pasta with red sauce. There was more than enough food and several members shared taking home the extras.

We held a short December club meeting after we ate and incoming President, David Dean, presented John Seaman with a president-to-president gift in thanks for his hard work as the club president for so many years.

The toy and food donations this year were almost too much to fit inside just one vehicle but with some creative packing, John managed to get them loaded for delivery to local charities before Christmas arrives. Toy donations went to the Apache Junction Police Department while the generous non-perishable food donations went to a local church pantry for distribution to those in need. For more picture, please visit the Cactus Corvair Club website:

<http://www.cactuscorvairclub.com/2016-photos.html>

Thanks to everyone for another great year and hope to see you all in 2017.



**Tech Tip**

While some may find this tech talk elementary, it is an important lesson I had to learn as a new Corvair owner. I under took one engine rebuild this past year and have plans for another. Most engines manufactured in the 1960s were made from steel and cast iron. As we know, Corvairs were different. Most of the engine is constructed from aluminum castings. Since this material is relatively soft and fragile when compared to the normal materials used in engines, working Corvair engine blocks and heads requires some different techniques. Here are a few tips from Brad Bodie posted on CorvairForum.com:

**ALUMINUM** - Dealing With A Significant Difference In Corvair Engines

When assembling a Corvair engine, always be careful when you are screwing a bolt into aluminum. It is easy to cross-thread a bolt and damage the soft aluminum threads. Screw the bolt in by hand, and then finish by tightening carefully with a wrench. Use of anti-seize compound on the threads will help in later removal of bolts from aluminum. Use a torque wrench and torque to the proper value listed in the factory service manual whenever possible, to avoid over-tightening the bolt and possibly damaging the soft aluminum threads

By the way, using anti-seize compound on spark plugs to protect the soft aluminum threads in the cylinder heads is probably NOT a good idea. The anti-seize compound may act like an insulating material between the spark plug and the head, causing the spark plug to run hotter than its designed temperature rating. Just carefully screw each spark plug into the head by hand, using the spark plug socket and extension only. Once the spark plug "bottoms out", then add a torque wrench and tighten to the proper torque, using caution not to strip the cylinder head spark plug threads.

This topic is debatable, however. The dissimilar metal contact between steel (spark plug) and aluminum (head) can be a problem. Damage to the head can occur when removing the plug from an aluminum head, and many mechanics swear by the practice of using anti-seize compound with spark plugs in aluminum heads. The recommendation seems to be to use just a trace on the threads.

**Permatex 80078 Anti-Seize Lubricant with Brush Top Bottle, 8 oz.****Product Features:**

- Highly refined blend of aluminum, copper and graphite lubricants
- Salt, corrosion and moisture resistant, this lubricant is ideal for marine use
- Prevents galling, corrosion and seizing and to assure easier disassembly
- Suggested Applications: For easy removal of spark plugs, cylinder head and exhaust head bolts
- Temperature range: -60F to 1600F

		<p>Thorobred Chevrolet is Now</p> <p><b>EARNHARDT CHEVROLET</b></p> <p>Sales: (602) 626-9500    Service: (602) 635-9157</p>	
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**However, here is some additional spark plug info from NGK, for your consideration:**

**NGK Spark Plugs (U.S.A.), Inc. – Aftermarket Division 46929 Magellan Drive - Wixom, Michigan 48393**

***Tech Bulletin –***

***Anti-Seize Compounds on Spark Plug Threads***

Topic: The use of anti-seize compounds on spark plug threads that have a metal shell plating (i.e. Zinc or Nickel plating).

Issue: Applying anti-seize to the threads of spark plugs that have a metal plating allows the installer to mistakenly over-tighten the spark plug in the cylinder head; this stretches and fatigues the threads of the spark plugs, causing a much higher probability that the plug will break during installation or in some cases upon removal.

Solution: For spark plugs with special metal plating simply do not use anti-seize on initial installation; All NGK Spark Plugs are manufactured with a special trivalent zinc-chromate shell plating that is designed to prevent both corrosion and seizure to the cylinder head; thus eliminating the need for any thread compounds or lubricants.

Additional Information: NGK recommends only using spark plugs with metal plating on all aluminum head applications to prevent damage to the head and plug. Metal shell plating acts as a “lubricant” which breaks away from the main body of the spark plug during removal, preventing damage to the spark plug and or threads in the cylinder head.

Summary: All spark plugs that have a blackened or dull appearance on the metal body offer no protection against seizing or bonding to the cylinder head and so it is with these spark plugs that anti-seize would be required. A spark plug that has a shiny silver appearance on the metal body usually indicates that the plug is manufactured with metal shell plating and therefore will not require anti-seize.

## Membership Dues Reminder

January is Membership renewal month. Annual dues are \$15. Please bring cash or check to the meeting, or mail your renewal to Joe Lewis.

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



## 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)

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

Librarian Miner Fleming

### Fanbelt Flyer

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

Meeting room generously provided by:

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



CORSA Chapter  
#850

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 4      Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet  
2121 N. Arizona Ave - Chandler AZ 85225

February 1      Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet

February 18      4th Annual Caliente Clowns Car Show in Florence

March 1      Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet

March 18      13th Annual Catch-a-Wave Car Show in Tempe

April 5      Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet



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*We're on the Web!*

*Visit us at:*

[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**



Customer Name  
Street Address  
City, ST ZIP Code

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