

Fanbelt Flyer

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



January 2018

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From the President's Garage - By David Dean

Happy New Year!! We ring in 2018 and celebrate another year of the Cactus Corvair Club! For most, January represents a new beginning. For our club, it marks the halfway point of our active 'season.' Looking back, 2017 was a significant year. We moved the venue for two of our signature events, the Spring picnic and the Anniversary Car Show, with great success. We've added new members, and participated in more events than ever. At the same time, we continued with our tradition of charitable activities like the Annual Christmas Toy Drive and the Caliente Clown Car Show; and our return to the Great Western Fan Belt Toss in Palm Springs. We've also continued to connect with our friends in the Tucson Corvair Association. The coming year promises more of the same - in a sense. We will continue to serve our community, raise awareness about the Corvair, advocate for our hobby, and make new connections that broaden both the appeal and reach of our club. We will also continue to explore new ideas for events and activities, new methods for reaching members and enthusiasts, and new opportunities to serve our communities.

So, as we celebrate the new year, start marking your calendars for some terrific events. In January we will try and meet up with the Air-cooledAz Cars-n-Coffee (Jan 14), and the Agri-Country Bluegrass Festival in Casa Grande (Jan 27). In February we are looking forward to the Caliente Clowns Car Show in Florence (Feb 17) and the Sweetheart All Chevy show the following day (Feb 18) in Scottsdale. In March, we have multiple opportunities including the Chandler Ostrich Festival, Catch-a-Wave Car Show in Tempe, Cruiz'n to the Lakes in Goodyear, and the Sands Chevrolet Car show in the West Valley. We've scheduled our picnic for April 7th at El-Dorado Park in Scottsdale, and are committed to the Chevy Showdown in Tucson April 28. In addition to the car shows, there will be other opportunities for us to gather and show our cars, and enjoy each other's company. Please keep checking the club website events page, or subscribe to our facebook group: Arizona Corvair Gatherings. Also, don't forget our regular club meetings at Earnhardt Chevrolet on the first Wednesdays of each month. Our next meeting is Jan 3rd at 7PM. Feel free to arrive early to talk cars and stay after as we finish off the evening at Culver's nearby.

I am excited about 2018 as we continue our 'season' before the hot weather of summer arrives. Although we may be busy, we are never too busy to lend a tool, offer a helping hand, or connect you with the information you need to get some project on your car completed. We, your club officers and board members are happy to provide whatever support we can to keep your Corvair on the road. Please don't hesitate to reach out and we look forward to seeing you all this month.

Happy motoring,
David "Doc" Dean

Good Friends, Good Food, and a Good Cause! – The Annual Christmas Party – December 6, 2017 – La Familia, Mesa AZ.

This year, the Cactus Corvair Club held our annual Christmas party at La Familia Italian Pizza & Pasta. It certainly was good friends, good food, and all for a good cause! Members of the club gathered on a beautiful Saturday morning for great pasta, meatballs, and lasagna as we dined to holiday classics in the background. After lunch, we held our annual Yankee gift exchange. Large boxes of candy were very popular, and no one ended up with a lump of coal! The day was capped off with our charity toy and food drive.

Thank you to all who brought toys and non-perishable food items. We were able to donate nearly fifty toys to the Chandler Fire Department for their Chandler CARE Center, where they were distributed to families in need identified through the staff at each Chandler Unified School District elementary school. We've been invited next year to "drive" our toy donations to the he Holiday Toy Ride from 2-8 p.m. (held the same day as our Christmas Party) at Chandler Fashion Center. Anyone who donates a new, unwrapped toy during the Holiday Toy Ride will receive a ride in a Chandler fire engine. We can show our cars as part of the event. Additionally, Paz-de-Christo appreciated the more than 100lbs of food donated to their efforts serving homeless, unemployed, working poor and senior citizens in Mesa. In addition to providing over 50,000 meals per month, they offer a variety of empowerment programs including help with job searches, bus passes, and hygiene services. Both charities greatly appreciated your generosity.



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2017 Christmas Party



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December 10, 2017 – Aircooled Arizona Cars and Coffee – Biltmore Fashion Park, Phoenix.

On the second Sunday of the month, air-cooled car enthusiasts gather at the Biltmore Fashion Park at 24th Street and Camelback for a cars and coffee event. Chris, S. David D. John H. and Miner F. brought their Corvairs to the drop-in gathering of mostly VW and Porsche cars. Coffee, bakery items, and breakfast sandwiches are easily acquired at nearby Paradise Bakery & Café.



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New to the Club – Jeff M and his 1966 Corsa. (Jeff M.)

New club member, Jeff M, recently purchased a 1966 Corsa from a seller in Iowa. The car arrived and is in terrific shape. Jeff, writes: "My first car was a 1966 Corvair 500 sedan, Power Glide, 95HP bench seats, Aztec bronze... Loved her but I always made sure to carry an extra belt and oil and tools... It was 1971 and got her for \$200 bucks... and of course being young and stupid and poor, I immediately tricked her out... Road Hugger 60 series all around, painted the white walls red with the Checker Auto crayon, homemade "wooden" gull wing spoiler (which would "wobble" over 60 mph), wooden speaker boxes (kick panels and rear deck) and an 8 track in the glove box... Oh and I can't forget the organ light on top of the dash... A regular "party" machine. She seemed bullet proof... just kept going. I loved her and wish I'd never sold her."

Jeff took delivery of his Corsa in December 2017. "She's not perfect but she's got good bones..." Jeff pines, "no rust to speak of... (A small spot on the rear quarter panel (due to left debris). She's pretty much original (except exterior paint) a "creamy" white. The only gauge that works is the tach and the vacuum... (It will work out)... and to paraphrase a quote from "Apocalypse Now" ... I love the smell of gasoline in the garage in the morning..."



Jeff joined the club in November and was already in the hunt for a new machine. After a disappointing bid for a car from Oregon, the Corvair network brought this white Corsa to his attention. “Time travel 47 years... Now I’m old and still stupid but I couldn’t resist... My new/old baby is a 1966 Corsa coupe, 4 speed, white exterior black interior. She was born on December 1965 in California... the chart-topping songs back then were “Back in My Arms Again” the Supremes and “I Can’t Help Myself” the Four Tops... very appropriate...” Jeff concludes, “To the Members of Cactus Corvair Club... It’s been probably 30 years since I’ve gotten grease under my nails... Need to get all of the old stuff I got rid of... jacks, ramps, timing lights, etc... Wish me luck and...HELP!!!” Welcome to the Club Jeff!

The Corvair sport coupe that never was – the 1968 Molzon Corvair

In 1963, GM designer William “Bill” Molzon set out to build a car, with some rather ambitious goals: it would accelerate faster than a Corvette, be as frugal as a Corvair, and out-handle a Lotus. The resulting one-off vehicle, the 1968 Molzon Corvair not only met these goals but did so on a build budget of \$2,000. Molzon’s remarkable creation crosses the auction block at the Bonhams’s January 2018 Scottsdale sale.

By the time Molzon began working on his creation, he’d amassed some impressive accolades. While attending the General



Motors Institute, where he studied mechanical engineering, Molzon won a second-place national scholarship in the 1959 Fisher Body Craftsman’s Guild competition. The \$4,000 prize money fostered the opportunity to attend the Art Center College of Design in California, and in 1963, he graduated with a degree in industrial design. Molzon joined GM as a designer the same year, where he’d eventually worked on exterior styling for Chevrolet models such as the 1968 Nova, the 1970 Camaro, and the 1971 Vega. It was during his time at GM that he began work on his Molzon Corvair.



Molzon's fiberglass coupe body was built around the windshield, cut down from a donor GM B-body applied with styrofoam blocks. These were trimmed to form the 3D model and the base mold for the car. Molzon's obtained a highly modified Chevrolet flat-six engine from noted Corvair racer Don Eichstaedt, built to his specifications for maximum performance and reportedly good for around 200 horsepower in naturally aspirated form. Molzon added a five-speed Porsche 911 transmission and transaxle to complete the powertrain.



Given that the entire package weighed just 1,220 pounds, Molzon's coupe used four-wheel independent suspension, with the wheels and tires pushed to the very edge of the car's 62-inch wide body. From front to back, the car measured just 136-inches, with a 90-inch wheelbase, and an overall height of 38.5 inches.



The car was finished in September 1969, and registered as an "assembled vehicle" in Michigan in 1970. "The car was better suited to driving on a track than on the road," Molzon explains, calling it "unnerving" to pilot in traffic due to its small size and low height." Molzon accumulated roughly 950 miles mostly on country roads, though he did autocross the car once in Southern California. "I didn't have any autocross experience then," he said, "but the car still finished in the middle of the Corvettes running that day."

Molzon's garaged his Corvair for the next four decades, until in early 2017. He concluded that, at age 78, he wasn't going to do anything more with the car. His intention was to donate it to a museum, and the car was sold to a buyer for a token amount with that understanding. Instead, the car's new owner sold it soon after the transaction. Molzon understands that he no longer has ownership of the car, but as its creator he'd still like to see it preserved in a museum, perhaps the best role for a car designed and built by hand some 50 years ago.

Placing a value on this car is difficult, and will be offered in a no-reserve sale at the upcoming auction. It is equal parts sports car and sculpture, built by a designer with ties to GM and the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild. It is guaranteed to be the only such example at any show entered. The Bonhams Auction takes place on January 18, 2018, at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona.



Cactus Corvair Club Meeting December 9, 2017 Secretary's Report by Dave W:

Note: An abbreviated meeting was held in December during the Christmas Party on Dec 9th.

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 PM by President David Dean.

A motion was made by Miner F. to accept the November meeting minutes as published in the latest newsletter. John H. seconded and the motion passed. A motion was made by Jim J. and seconded by Chris S. to accept the Treasurer's Report as published in the latest newsletter. Ending balance of \$2119.80 was reported by Joe L. and the motion was approved.

David reminded everyone that the next official club function is the January meeting on Jan 3rd at Earnhardt Chevrolet but to watch the website for other informal Corvair events or last minute changes.

John H. discussed the possibility of a club function to see the play "Cabaret" at the Spotlight Youth Theatre in Phoenix. <http://www.spotlightyouththeatre.org/>. John will bring more info to the January meeting.

David suggested that the club might want to attend the air-cooledaz 2nd Sunday Cars-n-Coffee event at Biltmore Fashion Park on Jan 14th from 8-10 AM. He also mentioned that several people planned to go to the Scottsdale Pavilions after the Christmas party at around 4:00 PM and also to the air-cooledaz event the next morning on Dec 10th.

David W. announced he and Cathy would be showing the 1966 Cutaway Corvair at the Scottsdale Pavilions on Saturday Dec 30th and asked for others to join them for an informal Corvair gathering at the cruise-in.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1522617288039006/events/>

David D. reminded everyone about the Caliente Clowns Charity Car Show on Feb 17th in Florence and about another car show in Chandler on March 3rd that kicks off the Ostrich Festival week. There is a possibility to have your car chosen to be in the parade if you contact them early.

<https://ostrichfestival.com/chandler-classic-car-show/>

Miner F. mentioned a classic car show coming up on Jan 27th at 11-Mile Corner in conjunction with a Blue Grass music festival in Pinal County. More info here: <http://www.pinalfairgrounds.com/Agri-country-bluegrass-festival.htm>

Phil's Filling Station in Fountain Hills was mentioned as a popular gathering spot for classic cars on Sunday mornings. David D. suggested that would be a good place to meet in late Feb or early March for a breakfast and then a run out to Tortilla Flat. <http://www.philsfillingstationgrill.com/>

David D. reminded all members to review the bylaw changes either in the newsletter or on the website and be ready to vote at the Jan meeting. David D. announced that all of the food gathered at the Christmas party would go to Paz de Cristo in Mesa and that the toys will go to the Chandler Fire Department Toy Drive. David D. thanked his wife Marian for all of her help in setting up the party and the decorations. She received a big round of applause from everyone.

A motion was made to close the meeting and at we adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Submitted by Dave Wenzlick

Treasurer's Report December 2017 by Joe Lewis

Beginning Balance as of	11/30/2017	\$2119.80
INCOME		
	50-50	
	RENEWALS	15.00
	NEW MEMBER	15.00
	DONATION	
EXPENSES		
	X-mas Party	361.81
	Show Prizes	37.00
	Show Trophy	70.94
ENDING BALANCE	112/31/2017	\$1680.05
PENDING CHECKS		
Pending Deposits		
BOOK BALANCE	12/31/2017	\$1680.05

Upcoming Events

Jan 3rd	Regular club meeting night at Earnhardt Chevrolet 7 PM
Jan 14th	Air-cooledaz Cars-n-Coffee
Jan 27th	Agri-Country Bluegrass Festival at Casa Grande / Pinal County Fairgrounds
Feb 17th	5th Annual Caliente Clowns Car Show DETAILS and ENTRY FORM
Feb 18th	Sweetheart All Chevy Car Show at Scottsdale Pavilions DETAILS
Mar 3rd	Classic Car Show Chandler Ostrich Festival DETAILS
Mar 7th	Regular club meeting night at Earnhardt Chevrolet 7 PM
Mar 17th	Catch-a-Wave Car Show in Tempe DETAILS
Mar 17th	Cruiz'n to the Lakes in Goodyear DETAILS
Mar 18th	9th Annual All American Car Show at Sands Chevrolet DETAILS
April 7th	Annual Club Picnic Day at Eldorado Park
April 28th	Chevy Showdown in Tucson

Club Officers		Board Members:
President	David Dean dr.dean@cox.net	Miner Fleming
Vice President	John Hamel	Chris Slonecker
Treasurer	Joe Lewis	Gary Sudbeck
Secretary	Dave Wenzlick	

Webmaster Dave W. dave@rcaz.com

Librarian Miner Fleming

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.
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CORSA Chapter
#850

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

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.

UPCOMING Club Meetings:

January 3 Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet – 7PM

February 7 Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet – 7PM

March 7 Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet – 7PM

April 4 Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet – 7PM

May 2 Regular Club Meeting - Earnhardt Chevrolet – 7PM



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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
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City, ST ZIP Code
