



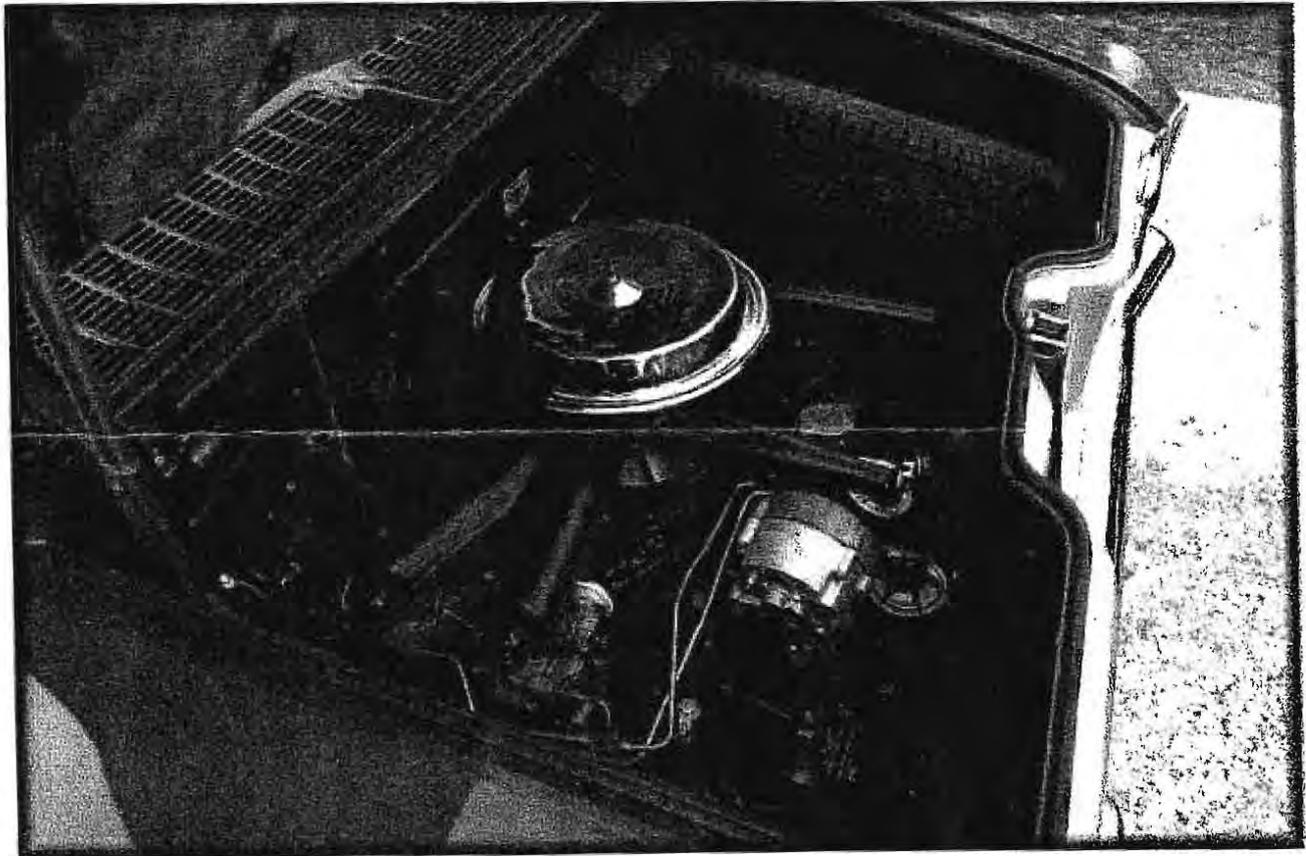
Corvairsation

www.corvairs.org

Tucson Corvair Association
Volume 28, Number 2

Tucson, Arizona
July 2003

One Hundred Forty Horse Power



POOL PARTY SATURDAY, JULY 19

DETAILS INSIDE

Tucson Corvair Association
Established 1975

Corvairsation is a monthly publication of the Tucson Corvair Association, which is dedicated to the preservation of the Corvair model of the Chevrolet Motor Division of General Motors. The Tucson Corvair Association is a chartered member of the Corvair Society of American (CORSA), Chapter 857.

Monthly Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, except December. One technical/social event is planned for each month except July and August.

Membership Dues are \$15 per year for singles and \$18 per year for families. Initial dues are \$15 for singles and \$22 for families (includes name tags). Make checks payable to Tucson Corvair Association.

Change of Address: Report any change of address or phone number to the Membership Chairperson. Do not report such changes to the Corvairsation Editor.

CORSA Membership Dues are \$30 per year (\$70 for 26 months) and include a subscription to the CORSA Communique, a monthly publication. CORSA membership is not required for membership in the TCA, but is highly recommended. See any TCA officer for more information.

Classified Ads are free to members and \$3.00 per 4-line ad to all others.
Deadline for materials submitted for publication in the Corvairsation is the 10th of month to the Editor.

BUSINESS MAIL ADDRESS: 2044 W. Shalimar Way, Tucson, AZ 85704

WEB SITE: www.corvairs.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Chris Cunningham, 1026 So. 7th Ave. Tucson, AZ 85701-3010 Ph. (520) 670-9676
e-mail arizaim@hotmail.com

Vice-President: John Torpey, 9165 N. Desert Ironwood Place, Tucson, AZ 85742

Treasurer: Allen Elvick, 4210 S. Preston, Tucson, AZ 85735 Ph. (520) 883-4337
e-mail allen.elvick@med.va.gov

Recording Secretary: Sandy Dutcher, 5249 S. Fox Trot Dr., Tucson, AZ 85746-1115

Board Member-at-Large: Barry Cunningham, 362 N. Bull Run Dr. Tucson, AZ (520) 733-7387; 312-4514

Membership Chair: Paul Dunn, 811 N. Igo Way, Tucson, AZ 85710 Ph. (520) 241-9830
e-mail: paul@corvairs.org

Corvairsation Editor: Don Robinson, 2044 W. Shalimar Way, Tucson, AZ 85704 Ph. (520) 297-1356
e-mail: fourcorvairs@hotmail.com

Immediate Past Pres.: Barry Cunningham

Wheels & Spokes:

Assistant Editor: Van Pershing, 4842 W. Paseo de las Colinas, Tucson, AZ 85745 Ph. (520) 743-9185
e-mail: vpersh@yahoo.com

Librarian: Lance Gillingham, 8741 Saddleback Dr. Tucson, AZ 85749-9646
Phone (520) 749-4951

Webmaster: Paul Dunn, 811 N. Igo Way, Tucson AZ 85710 (520) 241-9830
e-mail: Paul@corvairs.org

Merchandise Chairman: Don Robinson



June 24 2003, meeting called to order at 7:20 and was adjourned at 8:00.

Members present: *Chris Cunningham, *Barry Cunningham, *Don & Sue Robinson, Paul Dunn, Art Dunn, Bill Maynard & guess Lynn, Lance Gillingham, Chris & Frank Sharp, Dean & Sandy Dutcher, Guess Bill Bibbs and wife Diana

* Members that drove their cars to the meeting.

Greeting of the guess by all.

Talked about the emission issues, we are still waiting a follow up from Phoenix.

Insurance info for classic cars was discussed that you should check around for the best price for you, each one has a little different.

Chris covered a few of the things we do a club, Casa Car Show, tune-up clinics, other car shows.

Chris, Dean and Sandy had their cars at the Little Anthony Car Show on June 14th. There where a lot of questions about the cars. Paul & Nell Dunn, Art Dunn, John & Amt Torpey showed up for support.

July's mid month activity is the part at Don's housing area clubhouse, July 19th. Pot luck, come early for the shade tree.

Dead line for the Corvairsation is the 10th of the month.

July and Aug no board meeting. Aug no mid month activity.

Set 13 is projected date for the Fort Huachuca Museum trip. More info to come.

There have been a few corvairs seen in town that are not members, keep and eye out and see if we can recruit new members. One address is 3755 N. Runway, Mckee Motors Sports may be the owners.

Barry has parts, contact him before they go to the scrape yard.

Lance brought in VHS tapes from the library for everyone to look to see if they might help, he also received a printed copy of the Front Suspension CD that Chet Reed sent up form San Diego. Contact him for the copy or the CD to download.

\$8.00 was raised with the raffle tickets. Thanks to Heather Dutcher for helping out.

Chris brought his prize that was a Vintage Ad for 1959 release of the new 1960 Corvair, new owner is Art.

NEXT MONTH PRIZES: Don owes 2 and Herb is up to 4 (reminders if you promise to bring a prize please do so or we add one for each month you do not bring one.)



A Letter from the President

It's cool-down time for the Tucson Corvair Association. During the summer we like to stand down and meet only once during the hot months of July and August. This gives everybody living in Tucson a break, hopefully to go somewhere where there is cooler weather. Carlisle, PA might do it. I just wish I was with Gordon Cauble, Ed Segerstrom and Herb Berkman because that's where they went. They will attend the *2003 CORSA International Convention* and represent the TCA by displaying our Club's banner. Thanks guys!

For those not going to Carlisle, there is the annual *Pool Party and Potluck* on Saturday July 19. Look for details in the TCA Events at a Glance calendar in the box on the right. Oracle Heights is the coolest spot to be and the best place to sport your cool looking Corvair. See you there!

Happy motoring!



Berry on Cars

Dave Berry, the humor columnist for the *Miami Herald*, wrote an interesting article about old cars that was published in the *Arizona Daily Star* June 30th. It was funny too, but it also had an earnest tone to it. It's one I'm sure we have all heard before: he said "today's cars are just not exciting." In fact, he called his current car an actuary. An actuary is an old word that describes a "clerk, or someone who calculates insurance and annuity premiums..." according to Webster's Tenth. That sure sounds like a fitting name for some of today's cars. He went on to express his desire to own a cool looking old car; one that would draw admiration from the people in the car next to him at a stoplight.

For me, when I'm out driving around Tucson in my 1964 Corvair Monza, I experience this all the time (but not as often as my pretty wife does when she drives it). Actually, it did not happen as much during the first twenty years I had the Corvair. I think the gray primer had something to do with it. I can thank GM for taking a risk by designing a car that is different from the ground up. I even feel different when I drive it. I feel like I did when I was a teenager; carefree, cruising with the top down, easy

TCA Events at a Glance

JULY 2003

- 4 FRI Independence Day
- 15-19 T-SAT *2003 CORSA International Convention*, Carlisle, PA
- 19 SAT *Oracle Heights Pool Party and Potluck* 2045 W. Omar Dr.
3pm-6pm
- 23 WED Regular monthly meeting - 6pm.
Optional dinner at 6:20, meeting starts at 7pm. Mountain View Restaurant 1220 E. Prince Road.

AUGUST 2003

- 27 WED Regular monthly meeting - 6pm.
Optional dinner at 6:20, meeting starts at 7pm. Mountain View Restaurant 1220 E. Prince Road

NOTE: No Board Meetings in July and August. No Mid-Month Activity in August.

three-finger steering, am radio blasting rock and roll—oh! those were the days.

The Corvair has an appeal that makes young people today turn their heads and say "what is that?" Most do not even recognize it as a Chevrolet. When they see that I can shift gears by moving a lever on the dash, they freak out. When I tell them all the things that make the car special: it's a rear engine car, first car in US to come from the factory with a turbo, first car with 4-wheel independent suspension, first air-cooled car built in US, etc., it blows their minds.

Car makers today do not want to take risks anymore. They force everybody to conform to the same designs. But not me! I like to be different, that's why I have driven the same car for 28 years. Eat your heart out Dave!

Corvair Corsa w/ 4 Carbs = 140 Horse Power

From www.corvaircorsa.com

Standard equipment on the Corvair Corsa and available at extra cost on both the Monza and Corvair 500 series, the 140 engine (140 HP @ 5200 RPM) was fitted with a normally aspirated induction system with four individual single-barrel Rochester carburetors breathing through a dual-snorkel air-cleaner.

The engine also featured high performance cylinder heads (yielding a higher compression ratio) and discrete dual exhaust (no crossover pipe). It's interesting to note that the 140 horsepower engine, when mated to the Powerglide transmission, used the same camshaft as the 95 hp engine, and when mated to a manual transmission, it was equipped with the same cam as the 110 hp engine. When ordering the 140 in a Corsa with a 4-speed manual transmission, you also got a short-throw shifter.

Of course, we'd never condone stoplight racing, but it's a fact, in the mid-60s, the combination of a 2400 pound Corvair with a properly set up 140 could easily get the jump on a wheel-spinning muscle car at the lights. This was due to excellent weight transfer to the rear wheels.

Over the years the 140 Corvair engine has picked up somewhat of a reputation for dropped valve seats. Corvair cylinder heads are aluminum, so the seats, which have to be of a harder material, are pressed in.

According to Bob Galli, of the Virtual 'Vairs (VV) Internet e-mail discussion group, using valve seats that are stepped on the outside diameter (OD) might be a sure cure for 140s. They were recommended to him by Corvair engine guru Richard Finch. A company that makes custom stepped valve seats is the Tucker Valve Seat Company. Tucker Valve Seat Company can be contacted at 1-800-362-7321 or www.tuckervalveseat.com.

Another knowledgeable contributor to Virtual 'Vairs, Ed Corson of Corson's Classic Corvairs, believes a permanent fix for dropped valve seats involves taking your heads to a good aluminum head shop to have all the valve seats replaced with deep seats, and he points out that these same seats are used in Porsche heads and some VW heads.

Ed recommends Fumio Fukaya Enterprises, 4000 Alamo Street, Riverside, CA 92501 (909) 784-1251, who he's been doing business with for at least 23 years.

According to Ed, Fumio Fukaya arrived at California's Riverside Race Track about 30 years ago with a Japanese race team that raced a car with an all aluminum

engine. When the team folded, he opened a shop in Riverside, where he would build/repair only aluminum head engines.

"He is so good and well known around the country and in racing circles," Ed told me, "that heads are sent to him for repair or remanufacture from all over the U.S. and Canada. I feel very fortunate to be located here where I was able to learn of him and get to know him. We have become very good friends and business acquaintances. I highly recommend him for Corvair heads. You can call him or send heads to him at the address and number listed, or if you would rather send them through me, contact me at Corson's Classic Corvairs."

"A set of heads usually takes about 3 weeks to be completely redone with new deep seats and silicon/bronze valve guides. I recommend you disassemble the heads and clean them yourself, which will save you about \$50.00. I also recommend that you not send him your valves, but replace them with new ones. After all if you are going to put that much effort into a set of heads you might just as well do it right."

-----O-----

from the editor.....

Are you ready! Our picnic/ pool party is Saturday and is a great way to cool off. Bring the whole family; there will be a lifeguard on hand and we will have plenty to eat. See below for the details and directions for the easy way to get there. Of course you can bring your Corvair!

There is a great mid-month planned for September. We will visit the Fort Huachuca Museum, which, I'm told, is really great even if you are not a big history buff. Much more on this trip in the August *Corvairsation*.

Thanks, Van, for the article on the 140. Enjoy!

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PICNIC AND POOL PARTY

Saturday, July 19, 3 to 6 pm

Oracle Heights pool, 2045 W. Omar Dr.

TCA will provide and cook hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings
Plastic dinnerware, utensils and sodas will be provided.

Just bring your swim suit, the family and a dish to pass and share.

Directions: from Ina Rd and La Cholla, go south to the traffic light at Omar turn left (east) go one block and stop where the Corvairs are parked.

- from Orange Grove and La Cholla, go north on La Cholla to the traffic light at Omar, turn right and go one block 'til you see those Corvairs.

Spares & Vairs

For Sale: 1962 4-Door Monza, automatic, factory air conditioning (it works), 85K original miles. 102 hp, Original white Paint and beautiful original interior with front bucket seats. Now reduced to only \$2250. Drive anywhere! Call Dick (520) 299-4723.

For Sale: Corvair parts - Large outdoor yard full of Corvairs of every model. Call Barry Cunningham (520) 733-7387.

For Sale: 1966 110 hp Corvair engine. Ran fine until teeth stripped off of the cam gear. Sitting more than 10 years. Originally equipped for California smog req. No carbs or alternator. \$150 or offer. Call Herb (520) 751-9500.

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