



# Corvairsation

*www.corvairs.org*

February 2005

Volume 29, Number 9

## Corvair Club Tours Franklin Museum

Tucson Corvair Association members received a warm welcome last Sunday from the Franklin Museum. Director Bourke Runtun hosted the club along with many Corvairs to a delightful tour of the museum collection.

Built in Syracuse, New York from 1902 to 1934, the Franklin sports an air-cooled engine mounted in the front. Thomas H. Hubbard, who restored several Franklins for William Harrah's famous casinos in Nevada, amassed a very impressive collection of his own. Upon his death in 1993, Hubbard left the entire Tucson collection, his home, and the museum site to the Franklin Foundation and created an endowment for the preservation of his dream.

Club President Bill Maynard remembers Tom Hubbard well. In fact, Bill spent some time with Mr. Hubbard and worked on several of the cars in the collection. Ed Segerstrom first met Mr. Hubbard in 1968. Ed paid tribute on Sunday to Mr. Hubbard by driving his 1932 Chevrolet Confederate Rumble Seat Coupe to the event.

Vice President Barry Cunningham fulfilled his leadership responsibilities by grilling up everything fit to grill for the event, including Don Robinson's portable gas grill. The remains were donated to the museum. Tasty treats



Museum Director Bourke Runtun holds court in the Main Room at the Franklin Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

were served for dessert that included pecan pie, rhubarb pie and a coconut cream pie. Delicious!

Bourke Runtun pointed out that no timetable has been set for the museum moving to New York. "It won't happen any time soon, he said, the Board of Trustees haven't raised any funds for construction in New York." Everyone seemed a little relieved after hearing that. It was also noted that any move away from the current location would go against Mr. Hubbard's wishes.

"The museum was started by Thomas Hubbard as a means to continue beyond his lifetime the collection of classic Franklins he had acquired and restored from 1952 to 1992 and to provide an opportunity to develop a comprehensive Franklin Museum covering all years of the company's production." The Franklin Car Web site (<http://www.franklincar.org/body.htm>) further states that "Thomas has given his entire automobile collection and the home/museum site at 1405 East Kleindale Road, Tucson, Arizona which houses it, along with an endowment sufficient to maintain and preserve the facility in the future. The intention is to preserve the historic adobe home and existing buildings, with future expansion planned to be complementary to the established southwestern site and architecture.

The current location has reached its limit and is in need of an expansion. There is plenty of space on site, however, the powers that be in our local government are unaware of just how important the Museum is to Tucson and how perfectly it represents life in old Tucson as Tom Hubbard - and many others - realized it. The plans to enlarge the existing facility are in jeopardy due to a body of nonelected government officials, most likely from somewhere else, who can not see beyond the tip of their Ford Fairmonts and Chevrolet Caprices.

Through generous donations from friends of the Foundation, the collection has grown to over twenty Franklins. Examples from all of Franklin production are represented in Tucson. The exception is a 1908 Model J Truck; the only Franklin truck known according to the latest Franklin "News Flash" dated February 11, 2005. The Foundation Board of Trustees recently purchased the truck from Harold Sharon and consider it an important part of the center of Franklin history.

But, don't expect to see the truck in Tucson with the other "center" of Franklin history, the museum that Mr. Hubbard started in 1993. The decision was made to keep the truck in New York until it can be displayed in a new museum sometime in the future.

*See Franklin page 3*

## 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 America (COSA) chapter 857.

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

**Membership Dues** are \$15 for individuals and \$18 for families. Initial dues are \$19 for individuals and \$22 for families (includes name tags). Make checks payable to Tucson Corvair Association.

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

**\*COSA Membership Dues** are \$35 per year (\$70 for 26 months) and include subscription to the COSA Communique, a monthly publication. COSA 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 per 4-line ad to non-members. Deadline for materials submitted for publication in the Corvairsation is the 10th of the month.

**Business Mail Address:** 1026 South 7th Avenue, Tucson, AZ, 85701-3010.

**Web Site Address:** [www.corvairs.org](http://www.corvairs.org)

## Franklin Museum *continued from page 1*

Recent additions to the collection are: a 1910 Model G touring car, a 1919 Series 9 touring car, a 1925 Series 10-C, 1929 Series 135, a 1920 touring car, and a 1927 Series 11A with 33,000 miles (the last car Mr. H. H. Franklin rode in before his death).

Tom Hubbard would be 79 years old today. If he were alive, what would he do if he knew that a portion of his endowment was used to purchase one of the rarest of all Franklins, the 1908 Model J truck, and the museum he created in Tucson would not be its home.

The Franklin Museum preserves more than the legacy of a great American luxury car, it preserves a slice of Southern Arizona's amazing past, its scenic beauty and grandeur, its sunshine, its pleasant hot summer nights (especially while perched in an open Franklin), its desert architecture, and a distinct vision started over fifty years ago.

Is expansion in Tucson impossible? Or can we proclaim H.H. Franklin's motto: "It Can Be Done."

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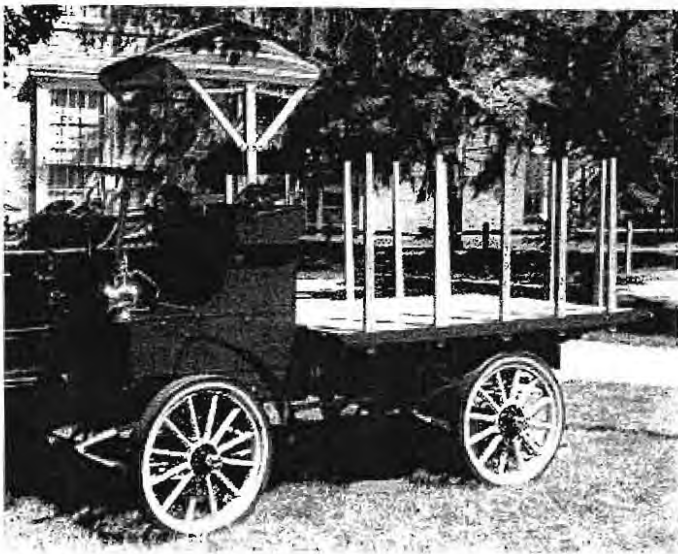
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1908 Franklin Model J Truck



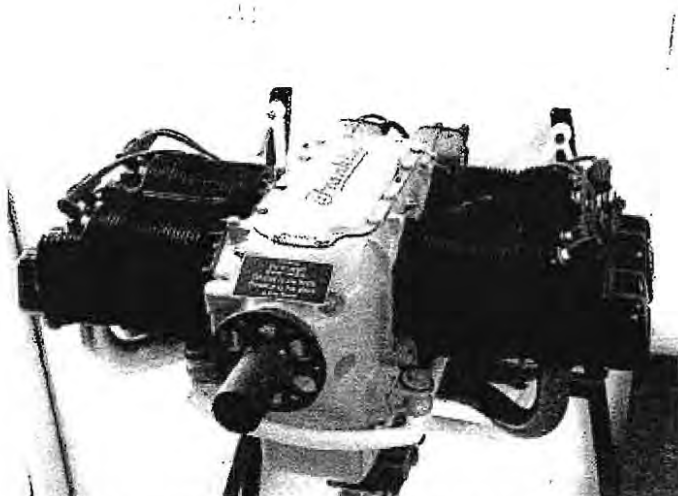
Barry and Cassidy Cunningham and the sought after Corvair



Jack Cunningham, Bourke Runton, and Don Robinson discuss the subtle differences between the various headlamp lense designs used on the Franklin car.



Ed Segerstrom's '32 Chev Confederate Rumble Seat Coupe draws a big crowd.



1946 Franklin 75 HP aircraft engine from a Bell helicopter.



Sue Robinson was afraid of straying too far from the van for fear that her husband Don would sell it to Bob Rhodes, the man who bought Don's classic orange and yellow Ramside pictured in the background.



# November 2004 General Membership Minutes

January 26, 2005

**Members Present:** Bill Maynard, Lynn Marrs, Dave Lynch, Dave Baker, Nancy Goodman, Dave Martin, Jerry and Midge Roethlisberger, Chris Cunningham, Don Robinson, Allen Elvick, Barry Cunningham, John and Amy Young. **Guest:** Ken Brown

President Bill Maynard called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

**Approval of the Minutes for December:** No Minutes were taken at the Christmas Party.

**Presidents Report:** Bill Maynard talked about going to the Tubac Car Show. He reported that four of the Tucson Corvair Club members showed up in their cars. The cars at the show were outstanding.

**Vice-Presidents Report:** Barry Cunningham also noted that the cars were very beautiful and everyone should plan to attend next year.

Barry Cunningham reported on the upcoming event on February 13, 2005 to the Franklin Museum. We shall cook out and have a picnic at the Museum. This event will start at 12pm on Sunday. Barry Cunningham will bring the charcoal and the meat. Everyone else will bring their service and a dish to share with others.

**Election of Officers:** The nominating committee selected the following to nominate: President - Bill Maynard, V.P.- Barry Cunningham, Treasurer - Allen Elvick, Member at Large - Dave Lynch.

**Raffle:** No regular raffle tonight. 50/50 raffle instead, winner was Amy Young. Volunteers to bring gifts for next meeting raffle: Don Robinson, Ken Brown, John Young, Dave Baker, Allen Elvick, Chris Cunningham, and Bill Maynard.

**New Business:** A Tune-up clinic is planned for March at the home of Bill Maynard at 3605 N. Vine off of Prince Rd. just West of Campbell. 10am to 4pm with a potluck lunch. Bring a dish to pass.

**Corvair Talk:** Don Robinson spoke of his '62 Corvair, DMV sent him a title for a 1999 Nissan Centra, after some difficulty, he received the correct title for the '62 Corvair.

Ed Segerstrom took wonderful pictures at the Tubac Car Show and passed them around for all to see. Dave Lynch shared the fact that he had done an alternator conversion and it really is working well.

Jerry Roethlisberger said he has a set of wire spoked hubcaps for sale and he would take \$200 for them. They show only a little wear. Read more in the Spares and Vairs classified section of this newsletter.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:10pm by Ken Brown and seconded by Don Robinson. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Marrs  
Recording Secretary

# TCA 2005 Events at a Glance

## FEB

9 WED TCA Board Mtg, Mimi's Cafe, 4420 N. Oracle Rd., 6:30pm

13 SUN Franklin Museum Lunch/Tour 12pm-3pm, 1405 E. Kleindale, 326-8038.

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

## MAR

9 WED TCA Board Mtg. Wildcat House 6:30pm  
20 SUN Corvair Tune-Up Clinic at Bill Maynard's 10am-4pm, 3605 N. Vine 325-8497.

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

## APRIL

9 SAT Boyce Thompson Arboretum Herb Festival 11am-3pm. The fragrant and charming Wing Memorial Herb Garden is the setting for this festival. Live music, live culinary demonstrations of herbal cuisine, children's games, crafts, and exhibits by local herbalists - fun for the whole family! Herbs for sale.

13 WED TCA Board Mtg. Monkey Box, 100 N. Stone Ave., 6:30pm

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

29 FRI-SUN 12th Annual Beeline Cruise-In and Charity Car Show Payson, AZ Sponsored by the Rim Country Classic Auto Club. Information: Larry Bertram, 928-472-7769.

# Spares and Vairs



**FOR SALE:** 1960 Corvair 4-dr parts car. O'Reilly Chevrolet/Tucson car. Rough but complete. Call Allen 883-4337 or Chris at 670-9676.

**FOR SALE:** '62 4-dr 700, 53,000 orig miles, nice Tucson car. '62 Greenbrier, 6-dr, 4sp. very orig., '64 Monza conv. yellow/tan 110-4-sp., '64 Monza conv. white/aqua 110-4-sp. restored in 2003, '64 Monza coupe white/aqua 95hp auto, air conditioning, '65 Monza coupe blue/blk 110 4-sp. ALSO '76 Alfa Romeo Alfetta GTV, '85 Saab 900 Turbo 3-dr. Don Robinson, 2044 W. Shalimar Way, Tucson, AZ 85704, 520-297-1356 or fourcorvairs@hotmail.com



**FOR SALE:** Set of four '65 wire wheel covers (3-prong spinners) in gd cond.: \$250 OBO. '65 GM Owner's Manual, soiled cover, but otherwise in gd shape. FREE! Jerry Rothlisberger 520-741-7582.

**FOR SALE:** '63 Corvair 2-dr 80hp. 33yrs same owner. Complete; needing restoration. \$300. Elliott: 520-742-3055.

**FOR SALE:** LM Arm Rest Bases, (2) Clark's Repros, new. \$20, Dave: 574-3135.

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# Tucson Corvair Association Corvair Society of America Chapter 857

Regular Monthly Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

November meeting is on the third Wednesday.

The December meeting is an annual Holiday Party.

Meeting Place: Mountain View Restaurant, 1220 East Prince Road, 293-0375

Parking Lot Bull Session: 6pm - Dinner: 6:20pm (optional)

Meeting: 7pm.

Volunteers to bring gifts for FEB meeting raffle: Don Robinson, Ken Brown, John Young, Dave Baker, Allen Elvick, Chris Cuninghame, and Bill Maynard.

## Upcoming Events:

*Sunday, March 20 Corvair Tune-Up Clinic* at Bill Maynard's  
10am-4pm, 3605 N. Vine, 325-8497.



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**Tom Hubbard's Vision in Jeopardy!**  
**Franklin Museum in Danger of Moving to**  
**New York, page 1.**



**First Class Mail**

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