

October 2015

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I attended the Cactus Corvair show at Thorobred Chevrolet with fellow club members Bill and Ron. There was 27 total Corvairs in attendance at any given time, but one caught our attention. It was a late model coupe with a direct air duct from the top of the fan housing to the firewall air intakes. This was a sealed unit which drew in only outside air as the rest of the air intake vents were sealed. The owner said that only 600 Corvairs were produced that way. This car also had the oil bath air cleaner assembly. Billy and Ron had never seen one. Rare indeed, as both those guys are old enough to have changed wooden wheels on Roman chariots. You would have thought they would have seen one before! It would be a pretty nice option to have on your cars out here in this hot weather. I wonder how many are left today?

By Mike Lake





TUCSON CORVAIR ASSOCIATION

Established 1975

The 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 (CORSA) as Chapter 357.

Membership dues are \$15 per year for individuals and \$18 for families. Initial dues are \$19 for individuals and \$22 for families (includes name tags) for members of CORSA. Add \$3 per person for non-CORSA members. Make checks payable to the Tucson Corvair Association.

Change of Address: Report any change of address or phone number to the Membership Chairperson.

CORSA membership dues are \$45 per year (\$90 for 26 months) and include a subscription to the CORSA Communiqué, a bi-monthly publication. CORSA memberships is not required for membership in the Tucson Corvair Association, but is highly recommended. See any TCA officer for more information. Business Mailing Address: 5545 Camino del Celador, Tucson, Arizona 85750. Website address: www.corvairs.org. Email address: tucsoncor-

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TCA 2015 Events at a Glance

Oct 23-25th

Great Western Fan Belt Toss & Swap Meet

October 23-25, 2015
Palm Springs, California
Good time to buy from Clark's and get a discount.

Nov 28-29th

Pomona Swap Meet in Phoenix @ Arizona State Fairgrounds. Corvair Cruise???

Dec 9th

TCA Christmas party Golden Corral 22nd/Alvernon. 6 to 9pm



A good weekend for some of the TCA members goes like this....Meet at Mike's contact where we remove a sweet 140 with all the works. Just then Bill drives by in a fantastic early maroon four door. Drop that off at Bill's and then head over to Mike's to drop off his truck holding the new 140. We head over to Ryan Field to get donated parts from John to sell at the Belt Toss in Palm Springs. Take those to the Last Chance Garage, then drop off one of our young club members somewhere in the Foothills....take a deep breath then head over to WHATABURGER—drive thru of course.



as we head over to Picture Rocks to pick up some tires for the 68 as it slowly comes to life. Drop those off at the last chance garage.. Then head over to the local parts-pull, where we lost Bill Maynard— but then found him. There we pulled some Mazda 626 seats for one of my ongoing projects. Lastly we drive back to Mike's house to unload the 140 with the transaxle into his garage!!!! Shazam That's a great day for our Corvairs and us!

September Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 7:10 Thomas, Justin, Ron, Mike, Sam, Allen, Jim, Bill, Aileen, Frank Mckenna, Don, Frank, Gloria, Mike

Old Business- Wilcox run to Annie's Orchard was a good time. Bill, Aileen, Ron, Mike, Thomas and Frank made the trip. Old Tucson Studio's show was good. Sam and Mike were there. Mike took Best of Class. Engine clinic at "Last Chance Garage" aka Bill's house is on gathering parts now and plans being assembled. Several projects under way from several member, most at Last Chance Garage.

.New Business-Fred Nunez called and club canopy was ruined-he is replacing. October 3rd Cactus Corvair Club show in Chandler, Az. Folks going will meet at Denny's on Oracle and River at 8:30. St. Gregory Show on October 17th. Great Western Belt Toss in Palm Springs October 23 to 25th. O'Reilly's show Speedway/Silverbell on November 7th. Cruise down Speedway on November 14th. Renaming of "Last Chance Garage" to "Corvairs on the Vine" Board meeting at 6pm, next meeting. Meeting at Bill Maynard's place, "Corvairs on the Vine" to take place in the future. White elephant, silent auction at Christmas party taking place at Golden Corral on 22nd, between Swan and Alvernon from 6 to 9 PM on the 9th of December.

Tech session/update: Ron's '66 convertible coming along well, Kudos to Mike's skills and work. Oil Pressure sending units where seal is crimped, is a common leaking problem. Niehoff makes a better one.. Sam's Van has a toilet paper oil filter. Jim Kaple's estate selling off his cars.

Editor's Corner

Hola, I am Frank Trejo. I have met many members, but don't really know many of you. My car experience has been driving them and buying them up to 3 years ago when I jumped head first into the Corvair world. I don't really have any historic stories to share, but I know that I already have created many with my family and some of our members. I have to give credit to Van. Putting this newsletter together with little input is a pain in the Keester! I would like to say I have enjoyed it, but I wouldn't mind if one of you took it over. I know Van is taking it back when he returns in about 1 year but as for now I would ask that if you read this, send a picture and a story or just a story. That helps. My email is on pg 2.

President's Message

It seems as though I just wrote a Presidents message last week. Boy is time flying by.

This past weekend several of the club members had the opportunity to meet with Gary DeMass. Gary is the President of the Friends of Corvair club from Ohio. He was in town visiting friends and wanted to meet with us. We had a great time telling Corvair stories and sharing pictures. He is an outstanding individual and someone I look forward to seeing again next year when he is in town.



There has been a great deal of progress made on many of the Corvair projects now in the works. It won't be long until we see some new wheels cruising the streets of Tucson. Keep up the good work!

The time is upon us to form a nominating committee to prospect candidates for club officers. Please consider taking a position, it only hurts for a year. Well in my case 3 years. lol This up coming year I will be stepping down from the Presidents position as I need a break. I would be open to another position. I feel it's time someone else took the reins with some fresh ideas.

I would like to thank John Seeman and the Cactus Corvair Club for putting on a very nice show and for providing us with lunch. They had a nice turn out of quality cars and everyone had a great time.

I spoke with Jim Mills tonight and he told me that Ken's condition has taken a turn for the worst. Please keep Ken and Heidi in your prayers.

The club meeting is Oct 28th looking to see you all there. Also board members, don't forget we have a board meeting at 6:00 PM.

Take care and stay safe, Mike

JAMES "JIM" KAPLE

In memoriam

It is with sorrow that the Corvair Club notes the passing of one of its newest members, Jim Kaple. Jim had collected and restored Corvairs and other classics in his Tucson, Arizona shop for nearly 15 years and had earned a reputation for meticulous attention to detail in his works. Jim passed away on August 5 at the age of 71. His effervescent personality and never ending smile will be forever missed by all his pals. He's probably in a Spider convertible somewhere laughing it up with St. Peter.

Corvairs in the Frontier Wilderness of Africa

by Van Pershing



What do you do when you're ten thousand miles away from any Corvair parts, there are no Corvairs in the wrecking yards, there are only a handful of Corvairs in the entire country, and you're in love with Corvairs? If you're in South Africa, you make sure Gary Du Plessis is your best friend.

Gary is a fitter machinist who lives in the ZwaZulu-Natal province of the Republic of South Africa. Gary was actually born in Rhodesia (which is now Zimbabwe) and moved with his parents to South Africa in 1980 when he was 19 years old. He had just finished building a 4-door 500 using parts from a 700.

His first modification to the car was installing a Citroen DS21 5-speed gearbox which took a lot of modifying but Gary calls it a "fairly straightforward" conversion. It was a great swap because it was just like having a close-ratio transmission with 5 speeds - no overdrive. He then did a 4-carb conversion on the heads. By then he decided more displacement was in order, so the cylinders were bored. As luck would have it, he found a worn-out '61 motor and he was able to use the pistons in his freshly bored cylinders. That put him at about 2.4 liters. He was able to get rings and bearings from Corvair Underground along with an Isky 260 cam. He reckons the engine was at about 100hp. He drove the car like that for a good 10 years. He then sold it to a guy in Durban who completely rebuilt it. Using the money from the 4-door, he started building an off-road racer with a 140 motor that he found in a million pieces. He raced it

for 6 years with his dad as his chief mechanic. Gary's dad's '60 4-door Corvair was used to tow the race car all over the province. That's when they figured out that PowerGlides weren't very good for towing. They went through three torque converters in 6 years. They were about to change to a manual 4-speed from a scrapped '61, but children started coming and that ended Gary's racing days for a while.

He then bought another '60 4-door 700 in pieces and put it back together, took out the back seat, and used it for about 5 years as his work car when he was doing contract work and then sold it to the same guy in Durban that bought his first Corvair.

Ten Corvairless years passed for Gary but he was always in touch with other Corvair people around the country helping them with their issues. Then he found the Corvair of his dreams, a '60 700 coupe. It had been sitting on the ground for many, many years and was completely rotted out from the bottom sills down. He found a '60 4-door in good condition and proceeded to cut the rear end off the coupe and graft onto the 4-door chassis. He did a professional job undoing all the spot welds and matching the new welds to the coupe's spot welds. Grafting the two '60s together was a good match since the parcel areas behind the back seat are the same level. When the engineers added the engine air heater box and the fan unit on the later cars, that level changed. From the windshield forward, including the door hinges, the coupe and the 4-door are the same. Gary never got to finish the project. Another South African Corvair owner couldn't live without it and he gave in and let it go. He still dreams about it and wonders if some day he should try to get it back.

Next time we'll tell you how to make a 3 liter plus motor out of South African parts. Stay tuned. *(continued on next Corvairsation)*



Gary, right, with his dad and his '60 4-door. Gary's dad passed away and Gary treasures the car as a family gem and will keep it forever..

Jesus Rivera has a barbecue made out of what is believed to be a 65 or 66 Corvair front end that he would like to sell, asking \$1,500 for it. It lives in Phoenix Arizona. It has a tow hitch that detaches. There are no plates for it, but the DMV told him it didn't need plates (do your due diligence). He could get it plated if someone's interested and he would probably meet them halfway like in Casa Grande. He can be reached at 623 329 7696



Cool seasonal pictures I found surfing the web! Kudos to their owners Happy Halloween!!!!



Community Wants

Frank Trejo has his 62 Yellow Coupe for sale. This is an A/C 4 speed, 95heads on a 110 block coupe. The Engine has 2000 miles. Asking 10, 500.



Do you know this kid?





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Regular Monthly Meetings are held on the Fourth Wednesday of every month with a bull session starting at 6:30pm with the meeting starting at 7:00pm.

The November meeting is generally held on the third Wednesday. The December meeting is our annual Christmas party with the time and place to be announced.

MEETING PLACE:

Kettle Restaurant, 748 W Starr Pass (I-10 and 22nd), Tucson, Arizona.



Board of Director meetings are held at 5:30pm before the regular monthly meeting at the same location in the months of January, April, July, and October. All members are welcome to attend.

This newsletter can also be accessed at www.corvairs.org



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