

Chassis & Steering Clinic

On Saturday morning on March 10, Jim Mills hosted a suspension and steering clinic at his shop on Tucson's west side. Coffee and doughnuts were the fare. In attendance were Ken Farr, Fred Nuñez, Ron Bloom, Don Green and Mike Strong.

Jim spent some time in the classroom teaching the basics of front and rear end suspension and gave the details of the Corvair steering system.

John Nicholson's car was on the rack so the class was able to see first hand all the suspension and steering components in their proper place.

Jim then gave a demonstration of how to use some rudimentary tools to perform wheel alignments. It was refreshing to see that a wheel alignment can be done at home without a \$50,000 machine.

Jim also gave the class a tour of his parts storage area and invited all club TCA members to take advantage of local Corvair parts availability.

Jim finishes up his demonstration of wheel alignments with (left to right) Fred Nuñez, Ron Bloom, Charlie Evans and Don Green looking on.



Jim Mills (left) gives expert instructions to the class (below).



A show-and-tell table had everything from ball joints to wheel bearing to alignment equipment. (left)



The class gathered around the display table as Jim explained some of the items.

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 Communique, 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.

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TCA 2012 Events at a Glance

Wed, Apr 25

Regular Monthly Meeting. Parking Lot Bull Session at 6:30 pm. Meeting starts at 7:00pm. Golden Corral, 6865 N Thornydale Road (just south of Ina).

Sat, Apr 28

Chevy Showdown. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Catalina Foothills High School, 4300 E Sunrise Dr, Tucson. See our website for registration forms and more details.

Sat, May 12

Cruise to Tombstone. Mark your calendars. Details to follow.

Sat, Jun 16

Breakfast at Ryan Field. We'll meet at the El Rio Golf Course parking lot and cruise as a group to Todd's for breakfast.

Sat, Jul 14

Picnic at Madera Canyon. Details soon.

Jul 25 - 28

CORSA International Convention. Sturbridge, Massachusetts

Jul & Aug

Cruise Nights to Sonic Drive-In. We'll pick a couple of nights and cruise for a refreshing beverage and show off our Corvairs.

Aug 2012

Kitt Peak Adventure. A cool day with an insider's tour!

Sat, Sep 15

BBQ at the Elvicks. We'll spend an afternoon with good food and good people.

Sat, Oct 13

Tucson Classics Car Show. St. Gregory College Preparatory School, 3231 N. Craycroft, Tucson

Oct 2012

Cars in the Park Car Show. Presented by the Sierra Vista Car Club, Sierra Vista, Arizona.

Nov 2012

Tech Session

Dec 2012

Annual TCA Christmas Dinner.

Jan 2013

Tubac Car Show.

Feb 2013

Tech Session

March Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the monthly meeting held March 28, 2012 at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 6865 N. Thornydale, Tucson Arizona.

The meeting opened at 7:07 P.M. with our new president Lynn Marrs conducting.

Lynn introduced the visitors: Marty Boehme and his daughter Donya Wiland.

Marty spoke of the Franklin museum and his visit to the Fords on Forth Car Show.

Lynn asked for board member reports:

Treasurer: Allen had a full report and handed out the latest treasurer's report.

Vice President: Charlie Evans had no report but was pleased to be able to serve.

Merchandise: Don Robinson was not in attendance.

Corvairsation editor: Van Pershing Passed around a sign-up sheet for the Chevy Showdown Car Show volunteers to help with judging and parking. If anyone would like to help please contact Mr. Pershing.

Mr. Farr announced the Veterans Parade to be held on March 31. The parade is to honor those have who served in the military. Seven Corvairs have committed to being the parade. For further information contact Mr. Farr.

A list of mid-month activities will be available soon. It will be published in the April *Corvairsation*.

The mid-moth activity for April will be the Chevy Showdown on April 28. The activity for may will be a cruise to Tombstone on the 12th.

Raffle prize winners were Donya Wiland, Jim Mills and Fred Nuñez.

Tech Talk: Jim Mills brought a good example of an almost new clutch disc that was oil-soaked and ruined because the main engine seal failed and was not repaired in a timely manner. He also discussed the importance of keeping the transmission input shaft seal in good repair for the same reason.

Jim announced that there will be a barbecue at his home immediately after the Chevy Showdown Car Show. Lynn Marrs, Lynn Bloom and Leah Proud volunteered at assist Terry prepare the event. Bring a side dish the Mills' will provide the steak. Be sure to RSVP so they'll know how much meat to have on hand. Jim also mentioned that the Classic Chevy Club of Tucson members will also be invited to join us. For more information contact Mr. Mills.

Jim also wants to try smaller one-on-one type tech sessions. He will be doing one on generator rebuild and asked if anyone would be interested.

In attendance at the meeting were Lynn Marrs, Heidi Farr, Fred Nuñez, Ken and Heidi Farr with their granddaughter Lydia, Ed Segerstrom, Marty Boehme and his daughter Donya Wiland, Ron and Lynn Bloom, Jim Mills, Charlie Evens, John and Amy Young, Leah Proud, Donald Green, Mike Strong, Van Pershing, Max and Nancy Peoples, and Allen Elvick.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Submitted by Lynn Bloom

President's Message

Greetings to you:

It was great to see so many of you at the last meeting.

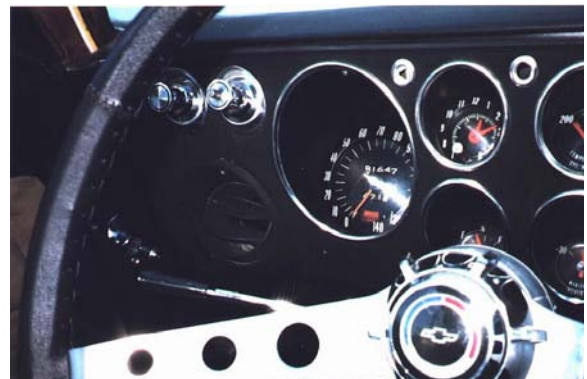
While the Board has planned most of the outings for the year, we always are happy to collect any suggestions you may have and tell us about them. It is always fun to try something new.

If any of you have a question or a part you want to talk about or ask a question about, please bring it to the meeting. At the last meeting Jim Mills did a wonderful job of show and tell and why one part goes whrrr and the other part goes buzz. We learned a lot from him.

Hope you are all attending the car shows and getting our club out there in front of faces. The Veteran's Parade looked wonderful with all the cars.

As always, I am honored to be your President. Have a wonderful week.

Lynn



Look closely and you'll see this is a Corsa with factory air.

Customized Tech Sessions

Imagine having a tech session with a Corvair expert and just you and maybe one other person there. That's what Jim Mills is going offer over the next few months. He will announce at the monthly meetings what the subject will be an then ask for participants. For example, at the March meeting has announced the he will be doing generators. A couple of people were interested in the topic, so Jim will arrange a time with them and do a hands-on session on rebuilding/refurbishing generators. He will only take a couple of people for each session so that each person and get the full experience. If more want to attend he will schedule more sessions.

Topics will include many different items depending on what components Jim is working on.

This is a great opportunity to learn the details of things like carburetors, alternators, etc. So, attend the monthly Club meeting and maybe that thing you've always wanted to learn about will come up and you can enjoy a session of technical bliss.

Arkansas Corvair Club's Gary Walker acquires a rare accessory to "top off" his Spyder convertible

In November of last year, ACC member Gary Walker, of the Pearcy community (outside of Hot Springs)) took delivery of a Bahama Green 1964 Corvair Monza Spyder convertible. Gary had searched the Internet and located the 64 Spyder (offered for sale) in Georgia.

Finding and purchasing the "early model" Corvair had been a fervent dream that Gary nurtured since his high school and college years.

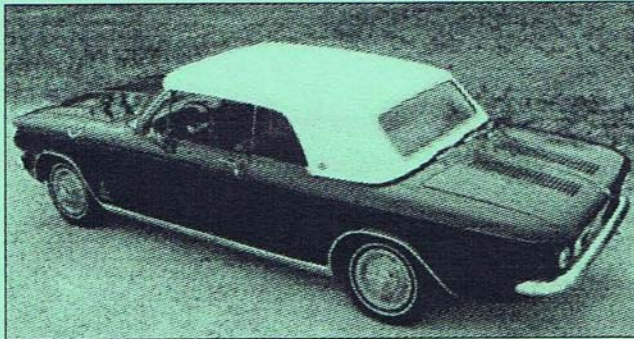
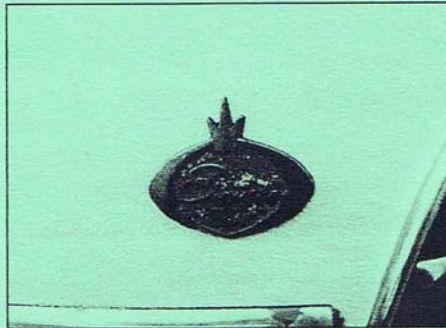
In the short time that Gary has owned the sporty Monza convertible, he has been diligently taking steps to improve the car's appearance and enhance its classic design appeal.

In February, while searching the Internet, Gary found a "for sale" listing for an aftermarket hardtop manufactured to fit the 1963 and 64 Corvair convertible models. The seller happened to be nearby, in Memphis.

In early March, Gary purchased the hardtop, seen pictured at the right. The hardtop is branded with the name "Esquire." Re-

search reveals that the rare molded hardtop was manufactured by a company named Rivera. Rivera made hardtops for all 1961, 62, and 63 GM convertible models

You can read Gary's Monza Spyder story in the April issue of the *CORSA Communiqué* magazine. ■



This article comes from the March 2012 *On The Air*, the monthly newsletter of the Arkansas Corvair Club.

Gary has written a more detailed article about his '64 Spyder convertible that appears in the April 2012 *CORSA Communiqué*. If you are not a member of CORSA, you are missing out on a great publication that contains the latest CORSA news as well as excellent Corvair-related articles and technical information. Consider joining. For complete information of joining, go to the Club website, www.corvairs.org, and click on the CORSA logo.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Ken and Heidi Farr represented the Club in this year's Saint Patrick's Day parade in downtown Tucson on March 17, 2012. They had the honor of escorting Miss Pima County 2012, Avery Wagner, and her mother. Tweety was the only Corvair for miles around and was a great hit or was it Miss Pima County?



PSE Car Show

Precision Shooting Equipment sponsored a car show hosted by the Door Slammers Car Club on March 17, 2012. There were Chevrolet orphans in attendance: a 1972 Cosworth Vega and Van Pershing's Yenko Stinger. The proceeds from the show went to a breast cancer organization.



My First Car

by Chris Cunningham

My first car was a Corvair. My second car was a Corvair. Although, technically the car I am about to tell you about was my second, I have always considered it my first car. I am solely responsible for the selection and purchase of it. I have owned it since 1974. The reason I don't count the first Corvair I had as my first car is because I co-owned it with my older brother. It was "supposed" to be a present for me on my 16th birthday. For me, it was more like an experience in brotherly love and weekend auto mechanics than a birthday present. Was I ever flabbergasted when my father told me I had to share the car with my brother.



Chris with his car in 1976

Although the co-ownership didn't last long, my interest in Corvairs did.

After a few months, I started to look around for another Corvair of my own. By that time, I had gained a lot of mechanical experience on that co-owned car; it was down for repairs more often than



Chris in 1994

not. I was also on a first-name basis with Jay's Day-Nite auto parts on Grant road. Jay's was open until midnight.

Then, right under my nose, I found a deal too good to pass up. A classmate of mine, who also drove a Corvair, informed me that his car, a 1964 Monza convertible, 110hp, automatic, with 52,000 original miles, was broken down and he wanted to sell it.

Right about this time the formation of the club, Tucson Corvair Association, was taking place and I was fortunate to be involved. With a new car of my very own on the way and the support of lots of good people willing to help, I felt like I was doing the right thing. All I needed was the money.

The seller and I had agreed on a price of \$250. My father, who was a second generation car salesman/dealer had intentions of negotiating a lower price. After all, the car didn't run, and probably would need a complete engine overhaul.

I pleaded with him to let me handle it. I told him that the Kelsey Hayes knockoff wire wheels were worth double the asking price and that this was the only complete set in the whole state as far as I knew. The sellers must have known too because they didn't budge on the price. For the next few weeks, I gathered my dollars, quarters, and dimes, and took my change to school to make installment payments in the school library.

Once I got the car home, it was obvious it needed a new engine. I took it over to the best known Corvair shop in town at the time, Barney's Auto Service. Barney was retired from O'Rielly Chevrolet and had a crack team of mechanics capable of

doing all machine work and complete rebuilds on Corvairs. I spent about \$600 to

have the Super Turbo Air engine completely rebuilt. Bob Reed did most of the work. Frank McKenna, and retired Brigadier General Gordon Cauble, the Corvair Consultant, supplied many of the parts.

Over the years, I continued to replace, paint, rebuild, and restore everything on the car. Today, it still has

the original red buckets, rear seats, the Kelsey Hayes knockoffs, and the rebuilt engine done at Barney's over 37 years ago. The odometer turned 100,000 miles about eighteen months ago.



In traffic in 2008



Flagstaff Convention in 2002



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

MEETING PLACE:

Golden Corral, 6865 N Thornydale Road (just south of Ina), Tucson, Arizona.

Board of Director meetings are held at 5:30 PM before the regular monthly meeting at the same location. Any general member is welcome to attend.

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



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Chevy Showdown · Saturday, April 28