

Arizona Centennial Auto Display

As part of the Arizona Centennial celebrations, automobiles from every decade since 1912 were on display in downtown Tucson on Saturday, February 11, 2012.

Our own Ron Bloom was asked to display the 1962 automobile for the show. The cars on display were a 1912 Packard, a 1922 Ford Model T, a 1932 Franklin (which was actually a 1933, since a '32 wasn't available), a 1942 Cadillac, a 1942 Ford Jeep GPW, a 1952 Buick, a 1962 Corvair Greenbrier, a 1972 Mercury, a 1982 Lincoln Mark IV, a 1992 Corvette, a 2002 PT Cruiser and a 2012 Ford Mustang.

Also in attendance was the current Miss Arizona, Jennifer Sedler.

What did the cars cost when purchased new?

- 1912 Packard: \$5,500
- 1922 Model T: \$548
- 1932 Franklin: \$1,500
- 1942 Cadillac: \$2,589
- 1942 Jeep: \$1,001
- 1952 Buick: \$2,478
- 1962 Corvair Greenbrier: \$2,385
- 1972 Mercury: \$5,980
- 1982 Lincoln Mark IV: \$23,961
- 1992 Corvette: \$37,644
- 2002 PT Cruiser: \$17,075
- 2012 Mustang: \$36,285



Ron Bloom's 1962 Greenbrier (above) and a 1942 Ford Jeep (below)



Ron Bloom and Miss Arizona, Jennifer Sedler



This yellow Buick was the pick for 1952.



There were 9,540 Model 30 Packards (above) built between 1906 and 1912. Compare that with the 1,301,067 Ford Model Ts (right) manufactured in 1922 alone. Both cars were built in Detroit.



A Cadillac was one of two cars to represent 1942

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.

Classified ads are free to members and \$3 per 4-line ad for non-members. Deadline for materials submitted for publication is the 10th of the month.

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TCA 2012 Events at a Glance

Wed, Mar 28

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.

Jul 25 - 28

CORSA International Convention. Sturbridge, Massachusetts

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.

1. Corvair Monza Club Coupe

2. Corvair Lakewood 500 Station Wagon

3. Corvair 500 4-Door Sedan

Three thrifty ways to go wandering

Well, who wouldn't like to get away from it all in cars like Corvair? Especially when it costs you so little. (Corvair's not only priced 'way down, every model keeps right on saving with quicker cold-start warmup, no antifreeze-buying blues, and lots of other ways your dealer will tell you about.) What's more, Corvair gives you your money's worth of riding comfort and handling ease. Make the first leg of your vacation trip a jaunt to your Chevrolet dealer's. Bon voyage! . . . Chevrolet Division of General Motors, Detroit 2, Michigan.

1. *Monza* - Wouldn't you look dashing, driving a Monza Club Coupe with its handsome bucket-type front seats!

2. *Lakewood* - Corvair's rear-engined station wagon gives you up to 68 cubic feet of space, 10 of it under that lockable bonnet.

3. *500 4-Door Sedan* - Nearly 12% more luggage space up front this year, but no change in Corvair's brisk handling.

'61 CHEVY CORVAIR

President's Message

Greeting to everyone:

It was so great to see so many members and friends of the Tucson Corvair association. It was an honor to be voted in as your President.

We would like to plan the events for 2012 a year ahead so that you will be able to consult your calendar and know what is on the agenda so you can plan to attend.

I realize that we have a Car Tech session coming up shortly at Jim Mills' on March 10th at 9:00 A.M. I would like to commend Jim Mills for providing his place, information, and directions for working on our cars

For more events please check your newsletter or check the website.

Please write down your ideas for activities and pass them along to me or any of the Board Members so we can map out this coming year.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting on March 21, 2012. Board meeting starts at 5:30 and the regular meeting is at 7:00 P.M. Come at 6:30 to get started eating.

Hope we have a wonderful 2012!

Lynn



Dave Lynch wishing he was rich as he rests his hand on a brand new Camaro at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the introduction of the Corvair held at O'Reilly Chevrolet in October 2, 2009.

February Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the monthly meeting held February 22, 2012 at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 6865 N. Thornydale, Tucson Arizona.

The meeting called to order by President Ron Bloom at 7:00 PM. In attendance were Jim Mills, Ken Farr, Ron Bloom, Lynn Bloom, Don Green, Leah Proud, Van Pershing, Lynn Marrs, Fred Nuñez, Mike Strong, and whole bunch of others that I can't remember! (The notes taken were incomplete - sorry.)

General announcements: a suspension clinic sponsored by Jim Mills will be held on March 10. Good Guys Car Show coming up on March 9 - 12 in Scottsdale. Cactus Corvairs is having a Route 66 Run on March 10 - 11. Convertibles are needed for the St. Patrick Day's parade.

The amendments to the bylaws published in the February *Corvairsation* we unanimously approved by the Club members present.

Van Pershing reported that the Classic Chevy Club of Tucson has requested 3 people to judge cars and 3 people to help with parking at the upcoming Chevy Showdown. John Young and Van Pershing volunteered to help with judging. A sign up sheet will be passed around at the next meeting. The Showdown will be held on April 28, 2012 at the Catalina Foothills High School.

The raffle was held with only one prize: an old cast metal Tucson Corvair Association license plate frame. The winner was Jim Mills.

After the break, slate of officers was unanimously approved by the Club members present. The new President will be Lynn Marrs; Vice President, Charlie Evans, Recording Secretary, Lynn Bloom; Treasurer, Allen Elvick; Board Members-at-Large, Fred Nuñez and Don Green; Ron Bloom, Membership Chairman; Van Pershing, *Corvairsation* Editor and Webmaster. As a side note: Don Robinson will continue as Merchandise Chairman, Chris Cunningham as Assistant *Corvairsation* Editor, and Bill Maynard as Librarian.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by Van Pershing



Corvairs at the Sonic Drive-In on 1st Avenue on a cruise night in July 2007.

New Officers for 2012

2012 brings a new crop of officers to the helm of the Tucson Corvair Association. The officers and members of the Board of Directors serve as the crew that keep the Club functioning and are responsible for its well being.

At the February meeting, Lynn Marrs was elected President. She is no stranger to this venue: she served as President once before in 2009. She has been an active club member for years even though she does not have the privilege of owning a Corvair.

The new Vice President is Charlie Evans. Charlie shows his blue small block-powered '65 Monza regularly at the Chevy Showdown. In 2010, the Club showed up in force for the first time at the Showdown. Show officials parked us all together with Charlie. He joined TCA shortly thereafter and has been going strong ever since.

Lynn Bloom was elected as the new Recording Secretary. She served as TCA President in 1996 and is plenty familiar to the workings of the Club.

Allen Elvick was appointed to replace Barry Cunningham as Treasurer in November of last year and will continue for this year. Allen has served as treasurer in 12 previous years and is well qualified to handle the Club's finances.

For the first time in Club history there will be two Board Members-at-Large. Fred Nuñez and Don Green were elected to serve on the Board of Directors. They are relatively new members of the Club and will be able to contribute some fresh ideas and direction.

Ron Bloom will assume the duties of Membership Chairman. He promises to make a concentrated effort to increase and maintain our numbers. He has been instrumental in the past in bringing new folks into the Corvair society here in Tucson.

Van Pershing will remain the editor of the *Corvairsation* and Webmaster of www.corvairs.org. Van served as editor for many years in the late 1980s and early 1990s and in his latest term, since 2009. The Webmaster position was added to the Board this past year and Van has been doing webmaster duties since the site started in 2009.

Ron Bloom and Ken Farr are also members of the Board of Directors as Past Presidents.

To round out the TCA staff, Chris Cunningham continues as Assistant *Corvairsation* Editor, Don Robinson as Merchandise Chairman, and Bill Maynard as the Librarian.



President Lynn Marrs



Vice President Charlie Evans

Top Gear USA plays with 3 of the World's Most Dangerous Cars

You may have had the chance to see a recent episode of *Top Gear USA* on television that put the three hosts, Tanner Faust, Adam Ferrara, and Rutledge Wood behind the wheel of three of the world's most dangerous cars: a Fort Pinto, a Chevrolet Corvair and a Suzuki Samurai.

The hosts put the cars through several "tests" all designed to make the cars look totally unsafe. Tanner, an accomplished race care driver drove the Samurai through a road course at speeds way faster than the car was designed and, of course, rolled it. Adam drove the Pinto around the course at a decent speed just fine without the car exploding into flames. Rut-



ledge couldn't make a single corner in the '62 Monza without spinning out. To fix the problems, Tanner put some tires attached to brackets to catch the Samurai when it tried to roll, Adam attach a piece of guard railing to the rear bumper so the Pinto wouldn't

explode when hit in the rear, and Rutledge added 4 extra wheels and tires to the rear axles of the Corvair so it looked like a dually - only with three wheels per side.

The program was totally unscientific, but it was hilarious to watch them play with these three UNSAFE cars.

Van Pershing

What was your First Car?

What was your first car? We'd like to hear about it. Send details and pictures to tucsoncorvairs@yahoo.com

Jim Mills

It was possibly Jim Mills misfortune, but his first car was *not* a Corvair. They weren't born yet! It was fall 1958 when he came upon a 1949 Ford rag top. There wasn't much top left and the body showed signs of years of neglect in Vermont. He had to wait till June of the following year to cruise the highways. With the top down it did not look bad with its masking tape patch up and hand-brushed red paint job. It ran real well after he and his dad fixed things like the carburetor and water pump. It was quite awkward when it rained as he never quite got around to fixing the top. You can't beat a V8 smooth runner; a great looking driver (with top down, of course) and only \$80 cash money.



This is a picture of a 1949 Ford convertible. Except for the top and a few other minor details, this is what Jim's car looked like.

Bruce Levitch

Bruce's first car was a brand new 1972 Plymouth Barracuda. It was special ordered where he grew up in upstate New York. It was ordered by his older brother and mother since he had to work and could not get off. He was a senior in high school at the time.

It was ordered out of Chrysler of Canada and was received via train from Canada in mid-February 1972. It had Plymouth custom mag wheels with custom gold metallic paint and gold interior. It was an automatic slap stick with AM radio and a 318 with a 4-barrel. The trunk had the miniature blowup spare at the time. It was equipped with tinted windows, adjustable

seats, rear speaker, Goodrich raised white letter tires, but no air-conditioning.

At 117,000 miles the timing chain fell apart, ruining the engine. A college buddy's father had a dealership and put a new engine in it. He sold it in 1981.

He was always getting stopped by the New York State Police because the car stood out in a crowd.



Bruce Levitch's car was similar to this 1972 Plymouth Barracuda

Allen Elvick

Allen remembers his first car just like it was yesterday - and he can't usually remember what he had for lunch. It was a 1947 Ford 2-door.

He paid Walt Belkowski \$125 for the car from money he made mowing lawns and doing yard work. He was 15 years old at the time. He painted the car forest green with a paint brush outside in the shade of a tree. He says he really had a hard time learning to drive the car. It was a 3 speed on the column and he just couldn't seem to get the coordination of giving it the gas and letting out on the clutch to make a smooth starts. After considerable frustration between him and his dad, he finally mastered it and never looked back.

He finally blew out the rear end trying to race someone. He thinks maybe the engine was revved too high when he popped the clutch. He traded it for a cool '49 Ford coupe.



Volunteers needed for the Chevy Showdown

The Chevy Showdown is coming up on April 28 and will be held at the Catalina Foothills High School.

We are looking for a few people to help out with staffing for the show this year. We need three volunteers to help with the judging, and three volunteers to help with parking the cars and directing traffic before the show starts.

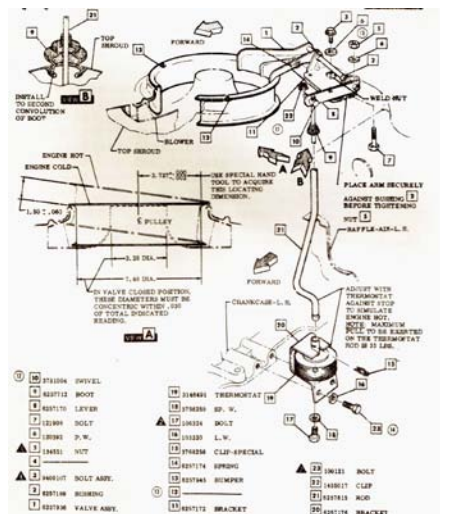
If you are interested in helping out, contact Van Pershing or there will be a sign-up sheet at the March meeting.

By-Laws Amended

New amendments to the By-Laws of the Tucson Corvair Association were ratified at the February meeting.

Now, in the case that a person holds more than one position on the Board of Directors, that person shall have only one vote. The other change that is now in effect is that an officer or member of the Board of Directors can be removed for any reason whatsoever by a two-thirds majority vote of all members of the Board of Directors.

A copy of the complete By-Laws can be found on the Club website: www.corvairs.org. Click on the By-Laws menu selection.



Perhaps one of the most complicated and unusual features of the 1960 Corvair model was the thermostat system. It was a great day for thermostats when the 1961 model was introduced.



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Corvair Society of America Chapter 857



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.



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Chevy Showdown · Saturday, April 28