

Nam Jam not so jammy!

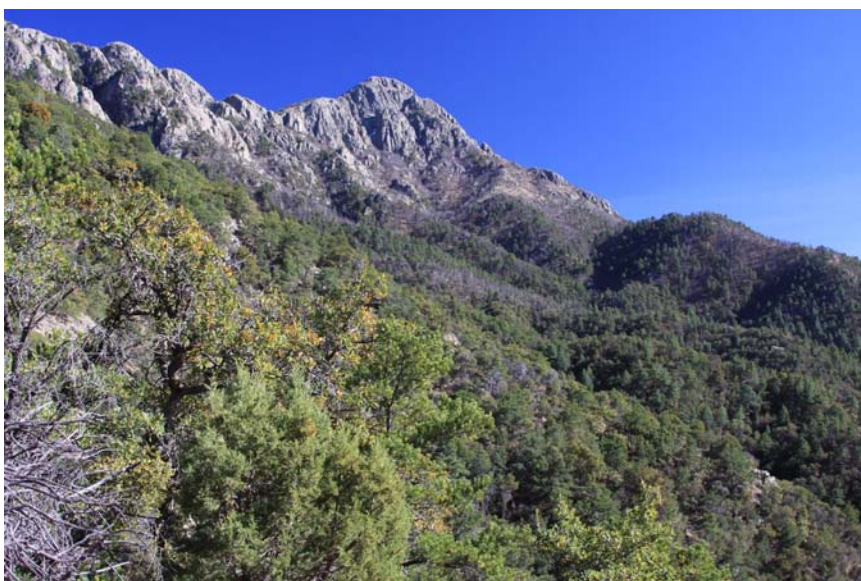
It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon on September 20, 2014, but apparently not nice enough for the Corvair crew to make a showing at the 2014 Nam Jam Car Show held at Chuy's on east 22nd Street in Tucson. John and Amy Young were the only representatives of the Corvair society at the meet. The Corvair class as well the air-cooled class were pretty scant. The only other air-cooled car at the show was a Volkswagen that was registered in the British/European class.

As the day progressed things didn't get any better. Finally Amy decided she's had enough and so John took her home before the awards were presented. It is not know who won first place in the Corvair class this year. We suspect that it might have been John and Amy might have won the First Place Torphy....but we'll never know for sure!

The Nam Jam Benefit Car show is sponsored by the Viet Nam Veterans of America, Chapter 106 which has put on this show every



Madera Canyon Picnic - A Real Treat



On Saturday, September 27, we all meet up at Irvington and I-19 and caravanned our way to Madera Canyon. The trip was uneventful as no tires blew out this time. We met up with John and Amy and they guided us to a great spot complete with a ramada. For lunch we dined on some steak and many side dishes provided by the attending club members. I think we all agree that the food and our surroundings made for a great day. The weather held out long enough for us to relax and share some great conversation.

In attendance were, John and Amy Young, Ron and Lynn Bloom, Bill Maynard and Allison, Jim Mills, Frank and Gloria Trejo with sons in tow, Ed Segerstrom, someone who claims to be my Mom and myself.

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 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.

Business Mailing Address: 4842 W Paseo de las Colinas, Tucson, Arizona 85745. Website address: www.corvairs.org. Email address: tucsoncorvairs@yahoo.com

TCA 2014 Events at a Glance

Oct 22, Wed

Regular Monthly Meeting. Parking Lot Bull Session at 6:30pm. Meeting starts at 7:00pm. Kettle Restaurant, 748 W Starr Pass, I-10 & 22nd.

Oct 18, Sat

8th Annual Tucson Classics Car Show. 10am to 4pm. Register online at www.RotaryTCCS.com. Dealine: Oct 10.

Oct 24-26

The Toss. Great Western Fan Belt Toss & Swap Meet. Palms Springs, CA

Dec 6, Sat

Annual TCA Christmas Party. Cody's Beef 'n Beans, 2708 E ft Lowell, Tucson. Details to follow.

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The San Diego Corvair Club Hosts
the 2014
Toss
37th
Great Western Fan Belt Toss
& Swap Meet
October 24-26, 2014 Palm Springs



September Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the monthly meeting held September 24, 2014 at Kettle Restaurant, 748 W. Starr Pass Blvd, Tucson, Arizona.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09pm by President Mike Lake. In attendance were John and Amy Young, Jim Mills, Ron and Lynn Bloom, Mike Lake, Van Pershing, Don Robinson, Jan Lake, and Bill Maynard.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Mike Lake reported that Ken Farr is experiencing some health issues and would not be at the meeting and he and Heidi would probably not be at the Madera Canyon picnic this weekend. He has a 140 engine with a 4-barrel for sale for \$1500 and is also selling his lift for \$2000.

John Young reported that the Nam Jam Car Show was held last weekend. His was the only Corvair in attendance.

Frank Trejo had a visit from the president of the Heart of Georgia Corvair Club and his wife.

A reminder that this Saturday we'll meet at the Home Depot on Irvington and I-19 at 9:00am to caravan to the picnic area in Madera Canyon.

The All Corvair show sponsored by the Cactus Corvair Club will be on Saturday, October 4. A discussion was held about meeting the Jack in the Box on I-10 and Ruthrauff but many of those planning to attend will be going up the night before. The show starts at 8:00am.

Cars in the Park in Sierra Vista will be October 11. Jim Mills is going to be there with 3 vehicles. One Corvair, a Cadillac, and his newly painted car carrier. The Youngs might also be attending also.

The Tucson Classics show will be on October 18. The Fan Belt Toss in Palms Springs will be on October 24 through 26.

The O'Reilly's Auto Parts store on Silverbell and Speedway has invited our Corvairs to attend a car show at the store on November 7. No other details were available.

It was suggested that instead of giving gifts to each other at the Christmas party that we make donations to a charity. President Lake is looking for suggestions.

There will be a board meeting immediately before next month's meeting.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the outing to the Gaslight Theater and so another theater outing is being considered. Maybe for the Christmas play later in the year.

Treasurer's Report: Beginning balance August 1 was \$2,271.94 with an ending balance for the month of \$2,316.94.

Editor's Report: Van Pershing said the newsletter is good and website is functioning well.

Merchandise Report: Don Robinson has oil filters for sale as well as a couple of T-shirts left.

Van Passed out raffle tickets and flyers for this year's Fan Belt Toss in Palm Springs.

After the break the raffle was held. The winners were John Young, Bill Maynard, Lynn Bloom, and Jan Lake - twice. Prizes for next month will be provided by Jan Lake, Mike Lake, Lynn Bloom, Jim Mills, and John Young.

Tech Talk: Ron Bloom presented a problem he is having with dimmer switch on his Greenbrier. Several suggestions came from Club members. Van Pershing talked about quality issues he

President's Message

Unfortunately, I am forced to move the meeting location to the TCC, as it is the only location with double doors big enough to fit Van's head through. :) For those who don't know, Van's awesome restoration of the 65 convertible took first in class and best in show. Way to go Van, all that hard work paid off. It certainly didn't hurt to slip the judges \$25,000. Seriously though, Congratulations!!!!



For those who ventured up to the Cactus Corvair Club event in Chandler, you must agree that it was a real good time. To the Cactus Corvair Club members, thank you so very much for your hospitality and the great event you put on. We all enjoyed it. I got to meet some really nice people who share a common interest. I learned a lot from the folks I spoke with, and hopefully helped with some of the information I was able to provide. To me, that's what makes being in a car club so much fun. It's about the people, the cars are just the catalyst that bonds us together. (Boy, that was deep).

Before I start writing poetry or something, I look forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday the 22nd for the meeting. Don't forget board members we have a board meeting this time at 6:00pm.

Take care,

Mike

Dick Thomson Dies

Legendary American road racer Dr. Dick Thompson, known to generations of fans as "The Flying Dentist", passed away on September 14, 2014 from natural causes at the age of 94. In between driving the Ford-powered machines, such as Trans Am Mustangs, GT40s and Cobra roadsters, Dick found time to wheel a Yenko Corvair Stinger to the 1966 D-Production national championship.

Meeting Minutes (continued)

had with Clark's window weather seals and an upholstery set. He advised everyone to check items before they are installed to save the labor, and let Clark's know. They are very good at taking care of the problem quickly. They stand behind their stuff. Van also showed a very rare gauge set used for adjusting the YH carburetors used on turbocharged engines. Ron showed an example of what happens to a late model rear axle when the lubrication has completely dried up and you try to drive the car cross country at high speeds. It turns out that it gets red hot and breaks allowing the wheel to separate itself from the car.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

submitted by Van Pershing

Jonni Berkman and the Tacoma Convention

Jonni Berkman's Tacoma Convention diary was recently published in the Denvair News. Here's how the story went:

Jonni recently purchased a new '65 Corsa convertible. Since her late husband, Herb, built the beautiful Yenko Stinger named CorsaX, it was only appropriate that her new car had a name too. She thought of several ideas but none really struck the mark. After all, it had to be something that would look good on the license plate. Finally, her daughter Jamia and her friends came up with the fact that is a Corsa, of course, and so the name OFCORSAX was to be the name of the car.

Jonni was determined to drive OFCORSAX from here home in the Denver area to Tacoma, Washington for 2014 CORSA Convention, a total distance of

1,315 miles each way. A good friend of the Berkmans for their California days, JC Salazar, volunteered to fly to Denver and join her for the drive to help out in case there were any problems.

They left Denver on Friday, July 18 with a goal of driving 435 miles per day. All went well until mid afternoon of day 2. OFCORSAX was running really hot. They stopped in Boise for dinner to allow some cool-down time and then drove another 110 miles to LeGrande, Oregon where they spent the night.

On Sunday, Day 3, they wiped the bugs of the windshield and headed out. After about 20 minutes OFCORSAX started missing really badly. JC saved the day with an adjustment to the points and they continued on the Yakama, Washington for a visit with some of Jonni's family. With Tacoma only 170 miles away, they left about 5:30pm with the intention of arriving at their hotel in Tacoma that evening. A few miles down the road OFCORSAX got very tired and hot and decided to stop with a big backfire. The tow truck arrived about 8:30pm and they made it to the hotel at about midnight carefully placing OFCORSAX in the hotel parking lot.

By 10:00 the next morning they were on their way to enjoy the Convention. Herb's CORSA was on display in the hotel lobby. Jonni had sold the car Craig Nichol shortly after Herb's death and it had changed hands a couple more time. It is now owned by Gary King. Gary and Dan Morsk had a look at OFCORSAX and decided that it had drooped a valve seat. Jonni found a couple of heads at the swap meet and was advised to buy both heads even though she only needed one. Gary and Dan offered to replace the bad head after the Convention.

On Friday with Convention nearing its end, Gary and Dan got the new head installed on OFCORSAX. At the closing banquet Jonni was presented with the Hard Luck Award and received a well-needed gift certificate from Clark's Corvair. OFCORSAX scored 84.7 points in her first Concours appearance.

Craig Nichol asked Jonni to bring OFCORSAX to his place in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho on her way home so he could do a little work on OFCORSAX. They arrived at Craig's right at dinner time with no problems. Craig fixed a heater hose that had come loose, a gas leak, removed the lower shrouds, fix a broken heater flap, and several other items. Jonni and JC made the ride back to Denver with OFCORSAX running much cooler and with smiles on their faces.

VP



Herb's CORSA was on display in the hotel lobby at the 2014 CORSA Convention.

Jonni's OFCORSAX getting the repair work done by Gary King and Dan Morsk so she could make it home to Denver.



January 13...

On this day in 1962, Ernie Kovacs, a comedian who hosted his own television shows during the 1950s and is said to have influenced such TV hosts as Johnny Carson and David Letterman, dies at the age of 42 after crashing his Chevrolet Corvair into a telephone pole in Los Angeles, California, while driving in a rainstorm. Kovacs, who often appeared on camera with his trademark cigar, was found by police with an unlit cigar, leading to speculation that he had been reaching for the cigar and lost control of his vehicle. The Corvair was later made infamous by Ralph Nader's groundbreaking 1965 book "Unsafe at Any Speed: The Designed-In Dangers of the American Automobile," about unsafe practices in the auto industry.

Ralph Nader, who was born in 1934 and graduated from Princeton University and Harvard Law School, published "Unsafe at Any Speed" at a time when U.S. automakers were still largely unregulated. His book accused car companies of designing vehicles with an emphasis on style and power at the expense of consumer safety. One chapter of "Unsafe at Any Speed" focused on handling problems with the Chevrolet Corvair, a car produced by auto giant General Motors (GM). In February 1966, Nader testified before the U.S. Congress about some of the issues in his book. Shortly after Nader's congressional testimony, the news media reported that Nader had been followed by detectives. It was later determined that GM had sent investigators to spy on Nader and look into his personal life in an effort to discredit him. Nader sued GM for harassment and invasion of privacy and won a settlement. The publicity surrounding GM's actions helped make "Unsafe at Any Speed" a best-seller and turn Ralph Nader a household name. Nader's public advocacy on auto-safety issues helped lead to the passage of the 1966 National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act, which sought to reduce the rising number of injuries and deaths from road accidents by establishing federal safety standards for every American-made vehicle, including safety belts for all passengers. The Corvair, which suffered from slumping sales due in part to the negative publicity from Nader's book as well as to consumer lawsuits (the car's suspension system was

blamed for rollovers), was discontinued by GM in 1969.

In addition to auto safety, Nader went on to advocate on behalf of a long list of other consumer causes, including food and drug safety. He also made several unsuccessful runs for the U.S. presidency as a third-party candidate.

In a bitter coincidence, one of Kovacs's three children was later killed in an auto accident. (No mention is made of the make of the vehicle.)

from "This Day in History" website





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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 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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