

## Monza SS? Almost!

Here's a project that someone who is not faint of heart might like to try. Mel Francis, whose chosen profession was an automotive prototype designer/builder, took on the task of building a '65 convertible-based sport car with the Monza SS as his inspiration. Of course the original Monza SS is not available at any price, so Mel decided to take matters into his own hands. He has long had a not-so-secret love affair with the Monza prototype cars that Chevrolet built in the 60s.

In order to fit the late model track width and stay in proportion, the entire body was sized 6% larger than the



*The project started life with this '65 convertible that had survived a barn fire that Mel got for free (left). Body panels were cut away but would be structurally reinforced with tubing (below).*



*The chassis was shortened from a 108-inch to a 93-inch wheelbase (above). The foam body plug forming began and the car started to take the shape. The front and rear clips would be removable (right). The roll bar will be a separate piece.*



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# TCA 2016 Events at a Glance

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 one name tag) Make checks payable to the Tucson Corvair Association and mail to the TCA Treasurer.

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

**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.

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**Sep 17, Sat**

**Nam Jam Car Show.** 10am –3pm at Chuy's, 22nd and Kolb. [More Information.](#)

**Sep 24, Wed**

**Breakfast with John and Amy Young:** Green Valley. Please note the date may be moved up.

**Sep 28, Wed**

**Regular Monthly Meeting.** Parking Lot Bull Session at 6:30pm. Meeting starts at 7:00pm. Pizza Hut, 2943 N Campbell, Tucson, Arizona.

**Oct 15, Sat**

**10th Annual Tucson Classic Car Show,** The Gregory School, 3231 N Craycroft, Tucson. 10am-4pm

**Oct 28 - 30**

**GWFBT&SM,** Sunrise Field, Palm Springs, California

**Nov 5, Sat**

**Cops and Rodders Car Show,** Kino Sports Complex, 2500 E Ajo Way, Tucson, Arizona. 8am to 4pm.

**Nov 12, Sat**

**A Visit to a private automobile collection.** Details to follow.

**Dec 17, Sat**

**TCA Christmas Party.** Rusty's Grill, 2075 W Grant Road. 6pm to 9pm. There will be a silent auction and a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a gift to trade. \$20 maximum limit.



*The Monza SS is a Corvair-based concept car that was built by Chevrolet in 1963.*

## August Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the monthly meeting held August 24, 2016 at Pizza Hut, 2943 N Campbell, Tucson, Arizona.

The meeting was called to order at 7pm. In attendance were Barry Cunningham, Chris Cunningham, Sam Pernu and his nephew Josh Pernu, Don Robinson, Bill Maynard, Dean Hawley, Allen Elvick, Mike Lake, Frank Trejo, Dave Lynch, and Ron Bloom.

Minutes from the July meeting were approved.

Treasurer's report by Allen Elvick: bank account balance as of July 1: \$1,732.74. Balance as of July 31: \$2,920.51.

Merchandise report: Don Robinson has oil filters and T-shirts available for purchase.

The breakfast outing to Todd's at Ryan Airfield was a great success. There was a good turnout and the food was great. All the Corvairs made the trip well with only a couple a late model cars having vapor lock problems. There was a side trip to Mike Lake's house to see the good progress on Franks Trejo's Corvino.

### Upcoming Activities:

- September 17: Nam Jam at Chuy's on 22nd and Kolb
- September 24: Breakfast with John and Amy Young in Green Valley. Date may be moved up.
- October 15: Tucson Classics Car Show at the Gregory School on Craycroft.
- October 28-10: GWFBT&SW in Palm Springs
- November 5: Cops and Rodders Car Show at Kino Sports Complex.
- November 22: Visit to the car museum on 22nd and Cherry.
- December 17: TCA Christmas Party at Rusty's Sport Bar and Grill. 6p to 9p. There will be a silent auction and a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a gift to trade. \$20 maximum limit.

### Break

### Tech Session:

- Some of Ken Farr's cars are for sale on the Phoenix Craigslist.
- Barry replaced the clutch in his car using only a few hand tools and a small hydraulic jack!
- Someone brought a '63 coupe to Bill Maynard's for repair. The problem: "KENARDLY RUN!" More info to follow.
- The Corvino body modifications include louvers spliced into the nose.
- Both of Frank's '62s (the Corvy and the gray/blue) are going up for sale. The 140hp in the blue/gray which was partially rebuilt by Jet and Bill Maynard is running well.
- The blower fan on Dave's late model sounds like a turbo until it warms up. He now leaves the hood down so no one can verify or dispute that he in fact does not have a turbo.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45p

*Submitted by Frank Trejo*

## Todd's at Ryan Field for Breakfast

TCA had a great run to Todd's for breakfast at Ryan Airfield on Saturday August 20. Present for the gala event were John Young, Allen and Marianne Elvick, Bill Maynard, Aileen Hurtado, Sam Pernu, Mike Lake, Ron Bloom, Frank and Gloria Trejo, and Thomas Trejo.



*From left to right: Mike Lake's Corsa, Ron Bloom's '66 convertible, Gloria Trejo's '69 convertible, and Frank Trejo's IH crewcab Corvair hauler.*



*Front to back: Gloria's '69, Mike's Corsa, Ron's convertible, Sam Pernu's convertible and John Young white coupe.*

## CORRECTION:

In last month's *Corvairsation*, we publish what we thought was a comprehensive list of the different ways Corvair owners power their Corvair cars and trucks. Unfortunately, we overlooked one of the most common ways, at least for one of our club members. Please accept our apologies for this oversight.



# Car Talk: Our Own Automotive Stamp Collection

RAY MAGLIOZZI

You may have seen that the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a new series of stamps honoring classic American trucks. The stamps portray some real beauties.

But that got us thinking shouldn't there be stamps for the vehicles that you and I have actually had to drive? Shouldn't there be a set of stamps for cars on whose dashboards we've pounded our fists in frustration? You know, as Lady Liberty says, "Give me your scratched, your dented, your heap with a dead battery yearning for a tow truck in this thunderstorm."

So we asked our pals at BestRide to help us create our own set of Car Talk automotive stamps. These stamps might never be canceled by a U.S. postal worker, but we feel confident in saying that the cars they honor probably should've been canceled by their manufacturers.

## The Car Talk Automotive Stamp Collection:

- 2001 Pontiac Aztek: If you asked 100 people on the street to name the ugliest automobile ever produced, 99 of them would say the Aztek. And the 100th guy would turn out to be visually impaired. Its only redeeming quality was its ironic appearance on "Breaking Bad," as the perfect car for a high-school science teacher hitting rock bottom.
- 1970 Chevy Vega: According to one reviewer, the Vega featured "slothful performance, woeful reliability, and build quality that gave the Vega the permanent falling-apart-at-the-seams appearance of an abandoned shack."
- 1995 Ford Explorer: The Explorer made up for its high center of gravity with tires prone to exploding at random. Add to that drivers disinclined to check tire pressure, and the results usually involved a high-speed visit to a highway ditch.
- 1960 Chevrolet Corvair: A name synonymous with "automotive scandal," the Corvair



singlehandedly shook America's faith in car companies and gave birth to finger-wagging consumer advocates nationwide.

- 1982 Audi 5000: The Audi 5000 was at the cutting edge of design in 1982, when "60 Minutes" ran an expose on its willingness to take off on its own, usually through the garage door.
- 1988 Suzuki Samurai: If a topless, doorless, Jeep CJ-7 seemed too safe, there was always the Suzuki Samurai, which looked like a third-generation Xerox copy of the Jeep, with the added ability to end up on its roof at any given moment.
- 1980 Ford Pinto: One of the most infamous and conflagration-prone vehicles ever manufactured, the Pinto actually wasn't too bad. It only exploded when its rear bumper came into contact with other cars, leaves or a light breeze.

If these cars are any indication, putting its stamp on a letter would virtually assure that letter would never reach its destination.



# Monza SS (continued from page 1)



original Monza SS giving a 93" wheelbase. As a bonus, the interior will fit a full-sized adult nicely, unlike the original.

The final results are something to behold. The car has the old school look of the original Monza SS but with some modern touches that bring in into the 21st century.

Mel is working on a Monza GT tribute car which will be mid-engine Corvair powered. You can see more detail of the Monza SS and some progress photos of the Monza GT at <http://www.deansgarage.com/2013/monza-ss-tribute/>.

vp

*The final body shape complete. The windshield plug was to be used to make a Plexiglas full windshield as well as a cut-down version. Changing to 17" wheels give the car a nice look (above).*

*The project nears completion with seats installed and running gear ready to go including disc brakes (right).*



*The finished product is a beautiful piece of workmanship. There are some visible differences other than size between this car and the Monza SS: the fiberglass roll bar cover was not used but roll bars instead; additional head lighting was added to the fenders; and the wheels, of course, are a different size and style. The design was altered to accommodate a windshield from an Opel GT which is much more practical than the Plexiglas that was planned for originally.*





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

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

### MEETING PLACE:

Pizza Hut, 2943 N Campbell, 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.

Read this newsletter on line at [www.corvairs.org](http://www.corvairs.org)



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*The silver Monza GT, shown here with the SS, was similar in design to the SS but with a mid-engine. Mel Francis is in the process of building a GT tribute.*