

## Why Is The Chevrolet Corvair Such An Overlooked Classic?



By Andrew Golseth  
[petrolisious.com](http://petrolisious.com)

The topic of affordable classics seems to be a popular discussion here at *Petrolisious*. With the current automotive bubble—which could be on the verge of rupturing—it seems the demand for desirable classics is at an all-time high across the board. From Italian supercars, to German sports cars, to American muscle cars, everyone seemingly wants a slice of the pie—which isn't helping affordability for the average enthusiast.

Here's the thing: there are still plenty of great looking and reasonably-priced classics out there. Take this 1965 Chevrolet Corvair Monza Sport Coupe, for example. No, it's not a muscle car... or a sports car. It's not something you want to take to the drag strip or track in stock trim, but it does have style—in spades.

The second generation Corvair debuted in 1965, and the design was unlike anything on the road. It also popularized a styling cue that was later adopted by everyone [from Land Rover to Lamborghini](#): a sculpted "character" line in its fenders, doors, and fascias that wraps around the entire car. So the looks were there; the muscle car phenomenon was

just picking up, so perhaps that's why enthusiasts overlooked the Corvair? Negative publicity [thanks to \*Unsafe At Any Speed\*](#) probably didn't help, either. From a styling perspective, the second-generation Corvair is a brilliant runabout car that features a number of improvements over the early model.

This '65 Corvair Monza Coupe features coil-spring independent suspension, Chevelle brakes, a Delco AM radio, red leather interior, and is noted as being only repainted once in its original black. Under the rear lid lies a factory flat-six cylinder engine mated to a Powerglide two-speed automatic transmission. The pairing is good for around 95 horsepower, so while the Corvair won't give you tunnel vision when accelerating, its rear-engine, rear-wheel-drive layout will provide for a unique drive through some curvaceous back roads.

This hardtop example looks great in Tuxedo Black with bright red upholstery—

the Sport Coupe special—but with only 13,000 miles on the odometer, your biggest problem will be completing its decades-long break-in.

Sheer speed was not the goal behind the Corvair—breaking the General Motors mold was, and it accomplished that task. That's not to say they *can't* be tuned—they've been modified to compete and win in many different disciplines.

If you're in the market for a classic car and have a moderate budget, why not give this pretty, pillar-less coupe a shot? It's got sleek Coke-bottle looks, a boxer engine out back, and you won't break the piggy bank to afford it. Remember, there are classics other than the E30 BMW M3 and air-cooled Porsche 911s—and a lot more out there for less than \$20,000.





**TUCSON CORVAIR ASSOCIATION**  
Established 1975

# TCA 2017 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.

**Business Mailing Address:** 4842 W Paseo de las Colinas, Tucson, Arizona 85745

**Website:** [www.corvairs.org](http://www.corvairs.org). Email address: [tucsoncorvairs@yahoo.com](mailto:tucsoncorvairs@yahoo.com)

<b>Nov 4, Sat</b>	<b>Cops and Rodders Car Show.</b> Kino Sports Park, 2500 E Ajo Way.
<b>Nov 15, Wed</b>	<b>Regular Monthly Meeting.</b> Parking Lot Bull Session at 6:30pm. Meeting starts at 7:00pm. Golden Corral, 4380 E 22nd St, Tucson, Arizona (near Columbus).
<b>Nov 18, Sat</b>	<b>CCT Wine Tasting Tour.</b> A cruise to Sonoita and Patagonia for wine tasting and lunch.
<b>Dec 6, Wed</b>	<b>TCA Christmas Party.</b> Golden Corral, 4380 E 22nd, 6pm to 9pm

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## October Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the monthly meeting of the Tucson Corvair Association held October 25, 2017 at Golden Corral, 4380 E 22nd Street, Tucson, Arizona.

President Dave Lynch brought the meeting to order at 7:02pm. In attendance were Dave Lynch, Doug Scott, Ron Bloom, Mike Lake, Allen Elvick, John Young, and Van Pershing.

Treasurer Allen Elvick report that the opening balance of the Club check book for the month of October was \$2,548.46 with a month end balance of \$2, 550.96.

Vice President Mike Lake reported that the Classic Chevy Club's drive in movie activity was a great hit. Mike and Ron attended and had a great time. He reported on the Great Western Fan Belt Toss and Swap Meet. Ron, Mike, Frank, and Doug attended. The swap meet went well for the Tucson people with many items sold and many items purchased. The car show was okay and the banquet was sub-par with the keynote speaker not showing up, the venue changed at the last minute and the food not being all that great.

It was suggested that outing to the Freddy's car gathering become

a regular part of the TCA's activities; perhaps even as often as once a month and perhaps at different Freddy's locations.

The Christmas party will be held on December 6 from 6pm to 9pm at the Golden Corral on 22nd and Columbus. The Cops and Rodders Show will be on November 4 at the Kino Sports Park. The CCCT will go on a wine tasting run to Patagonia on November 18.

A get well card for Jim Mills was passed around for everyone's signature.

There is a '65 Monza convertible being stored at Bill Maynard's house that is pretty much just a shell but has some good parts left. Ron Bloom has the title in hand for anybody who wants to haul it away.

Mike Lake has a variable ratio fan pulley available. He also reported on the progress of his '66 Monza.

Van Pershing gave a brief show-and-tell on the C4 Corvette rear strut rods that fit nice on the late model Corvair rear suspension.

The meet adjourned at 8:10pm

*Submitted by Van Pershing*



*Mike Lake's '65 at Little Anthony's*



# A Great Night at Freddy's

On Thursday night, September 28, at the Freddy's Steakburger parking lot on Orange Grove and Thornydale, the Corvairs from the Tucson Corvair Association made a good showing with five cars in attendance. Every Thursday night at this location there is an informal gathering of cars from all corners of the city. Usually 80 to 130 vehicle gather in all stages of restoration. Some are 95-point show cars and some are in their first stages of restoration and/or modification with everything else in between. There is no judging and no prizes given just a lot of great cars guys socializing and enjoying the hobby.

The TCA was represented by John Young's '66 Corsa, Ron Bloom's Greenbrier, Mike Lake's red turbo car, Dave Lynch's blue Monza, and Van Pershing's Stinger.





# TCA BUSINESS CARD ORDER FORM

A picture of your car or choose one of the pictures below.



Your name and contact information

To order your personalized TCA business cards, please fill out the information that you want to appear on your cards below. The cards are only available in lots of 10 at \$1.00 per lot.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, state and zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal website: \_\_\_\_\_

Picture:

I will provide my own picture. (email to [tucsoncorvairs@yahoo.com](mailto:tucsoncorvairs@yahoo.com))

Use one of the stock pictures. Check picture.

Quantity:

10 cards     20 cards     30

40 cards     50 cards

Turn form into Van Pershing along with \$1.00 per 10 cards.



Orders can be emailed to [tucsoncorvairs@yahoo.com](mailto:tucsoncorvairs@yahoo.com). Be sure to include the picture you'd like to use,



*1961 Chevrolet Factory Photo  
Yes, the ladies always wore dresses on fishing trips!*



**Monthly Newsletter - November 2017 - Vol. 42, No. 5  
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 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:** Golden Corral  
4380 E 22nd Street, Tucson, Arizona

**November Meeting Date Reminder  
Wednesday, November 15**

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