

It's been over 67 years since the Corvair 95 was introduced by Chevrolet. There are still many of them being used as daily driver and vacation vehicles. Some left as they were made in the factory and others modified to suit the tastes of their owners.





# TCA 2018 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 monthly publication. Rates are \$37 per year and \$74 for 26 months for a "virtual" membership. 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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**Oct 24 Wed**

**Regular Monthly Meeting.** Parking Meeting starts at 7:00pm. Come a little early if you're going to have dinner. Golden Corral, 4380 E 22nd St, Tucson, Arizona (near Columbus).

**Oct 26-28**

**Great Western Fan Belt Toss and Swap Meet.** Sunrise Park, Palm Spring, California

**Nov 3 Sat**

**Cops and Rodders Car Show,** 8a to 4p, Kino Sports Park, 2500 E Ajo Way, Tucson. More info at <https://soazlef.org/cops-rodders-car-show/>

**Nov 4 Sun**

**Arizona National Guard Family Day Celebration,** 7:30a to 2p. Arizona Nation Guard Base, E Valencica just east of Park at the Tucson International Airport More Info at <http://corvairs.org/Events/>



## September Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the monthly meeting of the Tucson Corvair Association held September 26, 2018 at Golden Corral, 4380 E 22nd Street, Tucson, Arizona.

The meeting was called to order at 6:58pm by President Mike Lake. In attendance were Allen Elvick, Frank Pella, Sam Pernu, Mike Lake, Ron Bloom, Doug Scott, John Young, Fred Nuñez, and Van Pershing.

Allen Elvick gave a treasurer's report: Opening balance as of August 1 was \$2,311.08 with a closing balance for the end of the month of \$2,329.08.

Minutes of the August meeting were unanimously approved.

Merchandise chairman Doug Scott report that there are plenty of oil filters available. He suggest that do something to reduce our inventory of old Club T-shirts.

Travel details for the upcoming Great Western Fan Belt Toss and Swap Meet were discussed among the several Club member who will make the trek. A dinner is planned at the Meet with the Cactus Club members in attendance. It was also announced that there will be a practice concours held for those who wish to be trained a judges for future national conventions.

The Cactus Club has suggested a joint activity sometime between now and the GWFBT&SM possibly a tour of the dwarf car museum in Maricopa. More details as they are available.

The Gregory School Car Show will be on October 10, Cops and Rodders Show on November 3, and the Arizona National Guard Family Day Celebration on November 3.

President Lake suggested we purchase a banner flay for the Club that might read "Tucson Corvairs".

The Christmas Party is set for Saturday, December 8 at Raggazi's Italian Restaurant in Oro Valley.

Van Pershing passed around a picture list of the Club tools that were collected from the past librarian and ask everyone to help identify the tools and what their specific use might be.

Vice President Frank Pella spent some time explaining the details of the upcoming Arizona National Guard Family Day Celebration. It will be much more than a car show and all are invited to come and bring the entire family for a full day of great activities.

After a brief intermission, Mike Lake gave an excellent presentation on the ins and outs of doing sheet metal repair on car bodies. He explained the use of many of the simple tools that are available for the do-it-yourselfer and he made it look easy.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

*Submitted by Van Pershing*



## The Trio

Back in the 60s every one of the Big Three auto makers tried their hand a forward control pickup truck and a forward control van. Pictured below are the Dodge A100, the Ford Econoline, and the Chevrolet Corvair Rampside. None were very successful in sales but all three attract plenty of attention at car shows today. The Rampside seems to be more commonly seen than the other two.



# Thomas Crown Affair Dune Buggy

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Steve McQueen's "The Thomas Crown Affair" In it, he played a bored millionaire who masterminds a bank heist and becomes romantically involved with the insurance investigator, played by Faye Dunaway, sent to catch the criminals behind it.

"Crown" featured a 1960's Meyers Manx dune buggy in a scene shot on a Massachusetts beach, where McQueen and Dunaway blasted around in it on the dunes. Its whereabouts had been unknown for decades. Until now.

After filming was complete, the red Manx was shipped to California and stored at United



Artists, the production company behind the film. "Movie cars" weren't so much of a thing back then and it wasn't considered to be much more than an old prop.

It did catch the eye of one enthusiast in Hawaii named Jimmy Pflueger. He's famous himself for opening the first Honda car dealership in the United States, but spent the last years of his life dealing with the legal aftermath of a controversial dam collapse on a property he owned that resulted in seven fatalities. He died last year at age 91.

Pflueger saw the movie and liked the car so much that he called the company, made an offer, and the next thing he knew it was on a PanAm flight to Hawaii, still full of salt and sand from Crane Beach. But he didn't buy it to put into a museum.



Instead, he sent it to his mechanic, Lance Richards, and asked him to prep it for some dirt track racing. And what Richards did to it might give a preservationist a heart attack. The VW Beetle-based buggy had been customized for the film by Con-Ferr Manufacturing, an off-road accessories company in Burbank that installed a Chevy Corvair flat-six, added chrome racks and bumpers, and gave it a snazzy Naugahyde-upholstered interior that was fitting of the swinging sixties.

Richards was having none of that. He stripped out the fancy trim to lighten it up, took off the body, sandblasted the chassis and swapped in a VW 2180 racing motor. Then he took it to a track where it won its first race and pretty much every one after it, if

# Thomas Crown Affair Dune Buggy

continued

Pflueger's recollections can be believed.

Eventually, Pflueger found other toys to play with and traded the Manx for a 1966 Mini Cooper S and a shotgun to another collector, who kept it in storage for many years. And that's where the new owner comes in.

He and a friend had known about "The Red Car" since they were kids, and dreamed of buying it one day. So when an opportunity to do that presented itself, he jumped at the chance. As is often the case with project cars, however, he put it away in the mid-1990s, and left it there until last year, when the approaching anniversary of the film inspired him and his buddy to finally get it back to its on screen glory.

Bruce Meyers, the man who created the Manx, has recently seen the car in person and he confirmed through that it's the genuine article.

Still, naysayers will always exist, and the hunt continues for documentation, but the project is moving ahead with or without it. If all goes well, you'll be able to judge its authenticity for yourself when its unveiled to the public this fall.





*Lost Puppy*



Monthly Newsletter - October 2018 - Vol. 43, No. 4  
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

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