

**The Official Publication of the
San Francisco Bay Area
Chapter of the Corvair Society
of America --- Chapter 947**

Dedicated to the enjoyment, history and preservation of the **Chevrolet Corvair** produced from 1960 through 1969. This unique, rear-engine, air-cooled automobile grabs as much attention today as it did 60 years ago!



VOLUME 389

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Look for us on the Web!
<https://www.SFBACorsa.com>

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**Exquisitely Restored
Classics!**

**Next SFBA Zoom Meeting Thursday, Feb 5th
@7:00PM (#243 888 8339)**

Letter From the Editor

I hope you were able to attend our last meeting. By my count we had 8 SFBA members. There were no guests this evening. It was interesting to hear from Gabe Lopez (of Sterling Restorations) and how they are now coming out with their own restoration products, polishes, waxes, etc. This is what they have been using so you know they work well!

Now that 2026 has arrived, it's time to renew your SFBA membership. There may be a little confusion as to where to send checks or how to renew. On the Club's web site (sfbacorsa.com) there are buttons to renew via Visa or PayPal. Or you can send a check to Buck Jones (see list of Current SFBA Officers address above) made out to SFBA CORSA. Or send it to any Board members and it will be forwarded. The cost \$25/yr for full membership and \$15/yr for a newsletter only membership. Note that the Club tries to keep everyone's renewal date on Jan 1, so if you join in the middle of a year, consider prorating the cost at \$2/month. Enough said.

Ed Thompson ran across an article titled "Great Old Gas Station" on Hagerty's web site. It's an interesting account that he thought others would appreciate. I included the story and pictures on page 5. Thanks to Hagerty for this!

I received the following email from Allan Lacki "Hi Clark, I enjoyed the shoulder harness video! I installed 3-point harnesses like that in my '66 Corvair several years ago, so it's nice to see how other people have done it." Allan is referring to the tech tip "3 Point (shoulder) Seat Belt Installation for 66-69 Corvair" that appears on the Club's web site. See list of topics on page 6.

Remember, if you work on your Corvair (even if it's

Current SFBA Corsa Officers

President	Ray Welter , 5240 Belvedere St, Oakland CA 94601 - Ray.Welter@gmail.com
Vice-President	Peter Tachis ptachis@gmail.com
Secretary	Clark Calkins , 1907 Alvarado Ave., Walnut Creek, CA 94597 - (925)478-8909 CaCalkins@astound.net
Treasurer	Buck Jones , bjonestranscon@outlook.com PO BX 444, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

Committees

Membership	Joshua Deitcher , 375 Harris Ave, Rodeo CA 94572 (510)388-4986 SFBACorsa@gmail.com
Library	Dave Newell , 1481 Hamrick Lane, Hayward, CA 94544 - (510)782-4265 chevrobia@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Clark Calkins (address above)
Internet/Web	<i>email</i> : CaCalkins@astound.net https://www.sfbacorsa.com https://www.instagram.com/sfbacorsa/ https://www.facebook.com/groups/bayareacorvairs/ https://facebook.com/CORSA-San-Francisco-Bay-Area-Chapter-579950135376455/
Merchandise	https://sfbacorsa.com/sfba-club-merchandise/

only to change plugs or adjust the brakes), take pictures and send them in to me. When we see others working on their cars it gives us

(see *Letter...* on page 10)

On The Cover: Here is a nice picture of the classic cars that Sterling Restoration has worked on. A beautiful '63 Chevy II (with a beautifully installed non-stock V8), a Ford Mustang, a Corvette convertible ('65?), and Paul's '63 Corvair Spyder convertible.

The Spyder Web is published twelve times a year by SFBA Corsa, Chapter 947 of the Corvair Society Of America (CORSA). The group meets monthly on Zoom on the first Thursday at 7:00 PM of each month. Details are included in the newsletters. Membership costs \$25/yr (membership in CORSA, \$38/yr, is encouraged). An associate membership (newsletter only) is available for \$15/yr. Memberships begin on January 1 of each year (first year is prorated at \$2 per month).

Advertising space in the Spyder Web is available for \$50/yr (1/4 page), \$75/yr (1/2 page), and \$100/yr (full page). Business card size ads are \$25/yr but do not include a subscription to the newsletter. All material should be sent to the editor (address above) or emailed to CaCalkins@astound.net. Material must be received at least two weeks prior to the next meeting date.

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Minutes of the Last Meeting

Jan 1, 2026

Josh got the regular meeting started around 7:00 PM following a short Board meeting. When the room was opened, Josh, Buck and I were quickly joined by Seth, Joe, Christy, Chris, and Gabe. I hope I included everyone.

Treasury Report: Buck said he was in the process of stepping into Harry's shoes as club Treasurer. Harry passed on a whole backpack of material that he is going through. Enough blank checks to last us a lifetime. The bank balance currently stands at \$3196.98. Josh has received some renewals and will pass these on to Buck

Membership: Josh did not report any new members this month.

Old Business: Josh received the go-ahead last month to update the Club's web site. Josh receives newsletters from many other Corvair clubs and when he finds something interesting, he will post a note on our web site. He reported we had 220 people that subscribed to our web site. Josh is looking into setting up our own Forum where we can post questions and get information and help locally. Hopefully the Forum will run itself so he doesn't have to be fully involved.

New Business: Josh said the next Convention will be in Gettysburg, and the following one in Tennessee. It's not too early to start making your plans.

Events: The annual SFBA Holiday Luncheon at Lisa's Fine Dining in Richmond was very enjoyable. 20 people and 3 Corvairs showed up. Peter made all of the arrangements and we had a small room to ourselves which allowed us to converse among ourselves without disturbing others (or being disturbed). The food was very good and the service was outstanding. And there were Corvairs in the parking lot this year! For next year's Holiday Luncheon, Mike Lewis suggested Casa Orinda in Orinda. He knows the owner and will spear-head the arrangements. Years ago SFBA used to meet in Orinda, first at the old library, then the new library, and a few times at a Hofbrau there.

Tech: Josh mentioned that Scott Lyon needed a new clutch assembly. The old disk was completely gone and the fly-wheel rivets had been welded and needed to be replaced. Also the pressure plate fingers were bent. Josh had an extra assembly (the whole shebang) that he sold Scott at a reasonable price. Scott had Mel do the installation.

Gabe joined us tonight and mentioned that Sterling Restorations is now selling their own brand of car care products. These are what they use in their shop. Josh has tried the Metal Polish on his Yellow '64 and can vouch for it. The current line of products is Metal Polish, Body Wax, Wash and Wax, Thick RVP Dressing, and Ceramic Spray. Check out their web site.



And of course they have T-shirts.

Gabe is interested in buying a Corvair to drive to and from work. He lives in Calistoga and the shop is in Fairfield (about a 100 mile round trip). Gabe asked how the Corvair drove in the Winter vs. the Summer. Josh said they ran great all the time. In the Winter months they don't freeze and they don't overheat in the Summer as the fan provides adequate cooling. Christy said when he added a Nash Fan to his Ultravan, the engine temperature dropped 40 degrees with additional power! Buck said when he was driving between SF and Fresno in the Summer time, his Corvair started to overheat (he had no issues when driving along the coast). He found lots of junk clogging the air passages. He used a long 1/4" drill bit to get rid of the junk and de-flash the cylinders. The car ran 40 deg cooler after that. Buck suggested it was a good idea to check your engine every 4 or 5 years. Gabe asked how easy that was to do? Christy said 1) remove carbs, 2) remove the fan belt, 3) remove engine cover (lots of small bolts). Gabe asked who else drove theirs regularly? Christy said he drove his '67 regularly. He drove his Rampside

(See *Minutes..* on page 7)

Coming Events in 2026...

Feb 5th	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Mar 5th	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Apr 2nd	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
June 22-26th	2026 CORSA International Convention, Gettysburg, PA, Host hotel Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325-8397
June 26-28th	VairFest, Heritage Park, Arroyo Grande, CA

SFBA CORSA Meeting Schedule 2026

Thursday Jan 1, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Feb 5, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Mar 5, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Apr 2, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday May 7, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Jun 4, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Jul 2, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Aug 6, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Sep 3, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Oct 1, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Nov 5, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Thursday Dec 3, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

A Great Old Gas Station

- Hagerty.com

There isn't much to see, but every time I drive an old car on my favorite route between Michigan and Kansas, I end up at this old Sinclair station. It's been shutdown for years, and now the old service trucks aren't even there anymore. Regardless, it makes for fun photos and a great excuse to get out of the car and pretend to be in a different time for a few minutes. — Kyle Smith



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SFBA Web Site Tech Topics This Month

Date Posted =====	Subject =====
Jan 23	On The Road
Jan 22	Upcoming Weekend Events
Jan 15	Upcoming Weekend Events
Jan 12	Corvair Hot Air ~ By Dave Newell
Jan 5	Tech Tip ~ 3 Point (shoulder) Seat Belt Installation for 66-69 Corvair
Dec 31	Happy New Year, Jan 2026 Newsletter & Club Meeting
Dec 26	Why Corvairs (or) Why Me?!
Dec 24	Happy Holidays from SFBA



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Minutes...

to Palm Springs and his Ultravan to San Luis Obispo. Just don't be afraid, keep your car running well and your insurance (with towing) up to date and go. At times he has had trouble, but manages to get home. Gabe also asked about mileage. Josh said he gets 23-25 mpg on his 110 A/T and about 20 mp on his 140. Christy said in his Ramp ide he gets 20 "on the road". Seth said - anything other than the 95 hp engines ill need premium gas. Gabe then a ked about additives. Seth said you don't need lead additives for Corvairs but octane boosters may help prevent ping-ing. Josh said he uses Lucas Octane Booster, about 1/2 bottle per tank. Oth- erwise he notices some pinging in the Rodeo hills. Christy said you can buy Techron additive or go to a Chevron station.



Gabe asked what transmissions were available? Seth said besides the 2 speed automatic, there was a 3 and a 4 speed. The 3 speed is less common as it does not have syncros in first gear. Joe said that if he were to drive his Corvair 100 miles per day, he would install better seats. There are many available that bolt right in. Joe said some BMW E30 seats look period, but he favors the Recaro seats.



Chris said his car is running very well. He has now put it away for the Winter. Because he hasn't connected up the heater ducks and it's a convertible, it's a bit chilly. But his back is a lot better so he plans to get back on the road soon.

Buck said that Gabe's welding class was very good. He learned how to spot weld in replacement panels and do the final welding. To grind down the welds, Gabe used three different grads of grinding disks. The grinding steps, without getting into the base metal, take most of the time (and are the most rewarding). Joe asked how many participants per class was ideal? Gabe said 6-8 was good but no more. He has had some classes with only 3 which actually works well as they get more hands-on time.

Joe said he was running his motorcycle at Sears Point when he hit a false neutral on one of the downturns and the front wheel tucked in. He said he was conscious when he went end over end several times. Will this ever stop, he wondered? The paramedics got him back to his truck where he was able, with help, to get the motorcycle loaded and to make it home. He has now broken 9 bones in two years. He had air bags under his suit and a very good \$900 helmet. Seth said that helmet saved him a

lot more than \$900!. His doctor said "are you hear again?". It may be time to hand up the bike

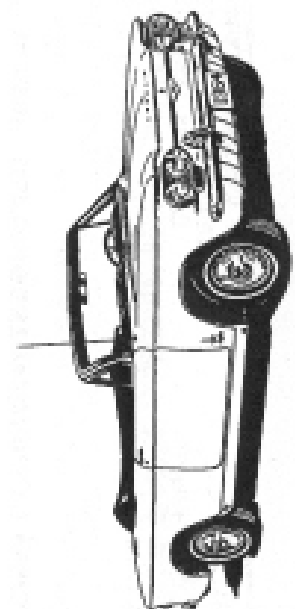
Seth said he will have Gabe look at this '67 convertible. It's a Chicago car and has some rust issues. He just got the top replaced (from Clark's) and now the rear windows don't line up properly. Thers is a 1/2" gap which he seals with tape if it has to sit outside. It's a real pain to work on the rear windows as you have to remove the rear seat and door cards. Make sure your Tetanus shots are up to date. Seth said he didn't want a full restoration but wants to get the body fixed and decent paint.

Swap & Sell: Nothing specifically mentioned.

Meeting adjourned about 8:21 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Clark Calkins, secretary



VairFest 2026 - June 26-28th

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Welcome to

Central Coast CORSA

We are a car club dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the
Chevrolet Corvair

Located on the Central California Coast in San Luis Obispo and
Northern Santa Barbara Counties
Join us for outings, tech sessions, and our annual

VairFest Corvair Car Show

All Corvair enthusiasts are welcome (whether or not you own a Corvair)

Since 1975 Central Coast CORSA #934 has been a chapter of CORSA,
Inc., (Corvair Society of America, Inc.) a non profit organization for the
preservation and collection of the Chevrolet Corvair Automobile



VairFest Corvair Car Show

Three-day event held every June
Click the **VairFest & More** button at the top for
location, details & registration form

[Click here to follow us on Facebook](#)

SFBA Renewals for 2026

Here is an update of dues received so far for 2026. We are off to a good start! Remember you can either by check or by PayPal or Visa on the Club's web site. If you choose PayPal, please select "Personal" to avoid the Commercial service charge.

Barden, Christy
Calkins, Clark
Deitcher, Henry
Deitcher, Josh
Heiser, John

Jones, Buck
Jones, Laurence
Lamb, Roger
Lyon, Scott (2yrs 2026/2027)
Massari, Rob (pre-paid thru 2027)
Nourma, Ben
Romero, Carlos
Smith, Alan (2025/2026)
Thompson, Ed
Vargas, Greg
Welter, Ray
Wimmer, Herb (pre-paid thru 2027)



June 22-26, 2026

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

2026 CORSA International Convention

Location: Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325-8397.

Reservations: Phone the hotel at **717-339-0020** and use the name CORSA National Convention for the convention rate.

Tentative schedule of events: Monday June 22: Concours Meetings, Cole Participant Meetings, Model Car Set up, Convention Kickoff, Car Show, Valve Cover Builder Workshop + Racing. Tuesday June 23: Concours d'Elegance, Battlefield Tour Bus with Guide, Rally Participants Meeting. Wednesday June 24: Rally, Pre-Auto Cross Tech Inspection. Thursday June 25: Autocross, Banquet Table Assignments. **Friday June 26:** Econo Run, Driving Tour, Battlefield Tour Bus with Guide, Banquet. Information: Please refer to upcoming issues of the Communique for convention previews and also check our website, www.corvair.org for further updates and online hotel reservation links.

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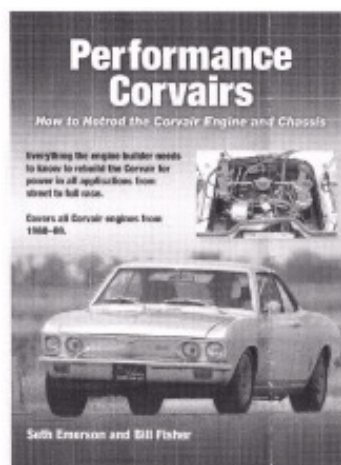
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Letter...

the incentive to do the same!

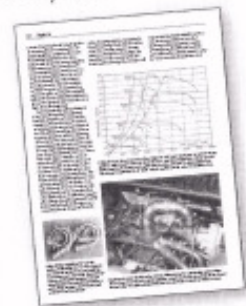
Our next Zoom meeting will be Thursday, Feb 5th starting at 7:00 PM. Remember our permanent meeting ID# is 243 888 8339. A reminder email will be sent a few days before containing a link to the meeting making it easy to join.



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From Seth Emerson, successful Corvair racer and technical guru, here is a full and complete revision to the original *How to Hotrod Corvair Engines* by Bill Fisher. Everything the engine builder needs to know to rebuild the Corvair for power in all applications from street to full race. Covers all Corvair engines and chassis from 1960-69.



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(CA residents add \$2.50 sales tax)

Seth Emerson
3462 Kirkwood Dr.
San Jose, CA 95117

Corvair Classifieds

CORVAIRS FOR SALE

'62 Rampside,, in process of being re-stored. Runs & drives but needs brakes. Pink in hand, registered non-op. Many details on SFBACORSA.COM web site. Asking \$1,500 firm. If interested, send an email to sfbacorsa@gmail.com and we will give you the sellers contact info (08/25).

CORVAIR PARTS FOR SALE

Set of 4 two-pronged wire wheel covers, for 13" wheels, used but would clean up nicely. Broken spot



weld on one is repairable. Asking \$250 OBO. Contact Ken Bartlett kfbartlett@gmail.com, (925)519-3795. Located in Alameda, CA (11/25)

The Sacramento club is selling two turn key engines.

1962/1963 102 hp engine \$1500

1962/1963 80 hp engine \$1000

interested persons should email sfbacorsa@gmail.com

Skip Polacchi has the following parts for sale. Best to call evenings (530)474-4227.

1 Pair Late 110 rebuilt heads - \$250

1 Pair Big Valve Heads, Bill Thomas.all new parts, angle port exhaust, rotated manifold, w/mod carbs, linkage - \$1700 firm

1 New complete Clark's Ultimate 140 carb kit, linkage & air filter - \$700

1 All New Parts for an early 102 hp NOS crank, cam, 0.030 pistons & barrels+heads etc. You assemble - \$700 We still have other misc items

CORVAIR MECHANICS

David Gray: Fairfield - Retired GM/Corvair Mechanic. Can do minor repairs, engine rebuilds, tune-ups. Located in Fairfield but can travel. Also has parts for sale. (916)531-0905 (corvaiguru@gmail.com)

Brian Dowdey - Classic Car mechanic and Corvair specialist. Everything from tuneups to engine rebuilds. Good rates. Located in Winters, Ca. (530) 520-1414 briandowdy53@gmail.com

CORVAIRS WANTED

Early Model Hardtop in good driving condition, original paint. Contact Ben Nourma at bennourma@gmail.com. (02/26)

Late Model convertible, preferably a Turbo. Must be driveable and in showable condition. Contact John Muhlner via email at jbmuhlner@earthlink.net. St. Helena area. (05/25)

Treasurers Report - Buck Jones

January 2026

Date	Activity	Check #	Credit	Debit	Balance	Status
01/01/2026	Beginning Balance				\$3,196.98	
01/23/2026	SFBA Renewals		355.00		3,551.98	
01/26/2026	Apr-Jan newsletters			(263.83)	3,288.15	
01/26/2026	Aug BBQ			(63.06)	3,225.09	
01/30/2026	One time adjustment			(188.11)	3,036.98	**
01/30/2026	Ending Balance		\$355.00	(\$326.89)	\$3,036.98	

** One time adjustment to get the T-Report to agree with the bank statement. Bank balance shows \$3,036.98

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