

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-engined, air-cooled automobile grabs as much attention today as it did 60 years ago!



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

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Owls Head Museum in Maine

**Next SFBA Zoom Meeting Thursday, Apr 2nd
@7:00PM (#243 888 8339)**

Letter From the Editor

I hope you were able to attend our last meeting. By my count we had 14 SFBA members. There were no guests this evening. We have a new member, Jerermy Thoraness, attending this evening. Welcome!

Lots going on in June. There's the Classic Car show in St Halena, the Vairfest in Arroyo Grande, and of course the CORSA International Convention in Gettysburg. SFBA member, John Muhlner is running the St Halena car show and wants to feature Corvairs this year. What a venue! Last year there were 200+ cars and 4000 visitors. So if you are in the area, be sure to stop by and bring your Corvair!

This month Pete sent in an update on his Corvair project. For the past few months he has been sanding and prepping his car for new paint. Now he is tackling the engine. He wants a few more HP out of it (don't we all?). See his story on page 5.

Last month I put in a blurb about my 30th anniversary as Newsletter Editor. This was primarily intended to be a filler piece as the page was looking pretty empty and I couldn't think of anything more interesting. I am sure everyone gets tired of reading what I have to write, so please send in material for me to use. Sometimes I have more than I can fit in the 12 pages I have available, but that's better than sending out a shortened newsletter. I depend on your contributions for an interesting Club newsletter!

Remember, if you work on your Corvair (even if it's 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 the incentive to do the same!

Our next Zoom meeting will be Thursday, April 2nd start-

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

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 chevrobilia@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Clark Calkins (address above)
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Merchandise	https://sfbacorsa.com/sfba-club-merchandise/

ing at 7:00 PM. Remember our permanent meeting ID# is 243 888 8339. A reminder email will be sent containing a link to the meeting making it easy to join.

On The Cover: At this month's meeting Ray mentioned that the Owls Head Transportation Museum in Owls Head, Maine was a fantastic place to visit and it has its own airport runway. Online it looks like a fascinating place! See <https://owlshead.org>

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

March 5, 2026

Josh got the regular meeting started around 6:42, a bit early but others were already checking in. When the room was opened, Josh, Peter, Ray and I were quickly joined by Seth, Don, Christy, Chris, Jeffrey, Carl, Bruce, Lane, Scott, and new member Jeremy Thoranes I hope I included everyone.

Treasury Report: Buck was not present at the meeting but the last reported bank balance was \$3036.98. We are still ironing out the details as Buck has taken over the Treasurer's duties. When Josh sends Buck a note about a new deposit (say \$25), only \$23.75 is actually deposited as the credit card company takes a cut. Hopefully the next Spyder Web will have a more accurate Treasurer's Report..

Membership: Josh said we had one new member, Jerermy Thoranes. Welcome! Also the new credit car processing button on the Club's web site is working great. Many people have already used it. We currently have 81 members! This is the most in 20+ years.

Old Business: Nothing specifically mentioned.

New Business: Josh said he has updated the Club Calendar on the SFBA web site. This shows car events from Central to Northern California. Seth said he heard the Corsa Nation Convention web site was up and running. Josh said on the Corvair Forum there is an SFBA Private Forum link. If you

don't see this, let Josh know and he will have your name added. Josh will also let Valley and CCRC members know that they are welcome also.



Phil's Corvair Update: Don gave an update on our progress. We got the rear seat frame cleaned and painted. Now we need to install the seat covering. An issue popped up with the junction of the rear carpeting, seat, and door card. We were not sure how this was suppose to look. Lane went o look at Scott's late model coupe. He found that an Aluminum piece covered the joint.



Don will look to see if we have these pieces or not. If not, they are available. Josh said we can call Steve Morton in Idaho who probably has them. We are also missing the ash tray assemblies. Josh will look to see if he has them. If not, they are available repro for \$60 or used for \$10. Jeffrey said that Mel had

ash tray. There are also a couple of plastic pieces that go on top of the read door panels. Seth gave them to Don a while back, so he has them someplace.

Events: The date for the next Napa Vault event has not been finalized, Bruce is looking at early September.

Tech: Ray said he has moved his Corvair from one storage place to another as the original place raised the rent 75%. While driving it to its new home, the car started to loose power and he had to pull off the highway. Checking the engine, he found the linkage to the Turbo carb had come loose. Somehow the retaining nut fell off. Not having anything to help retain the link, not even any electrical tape, he looked around the side of the road and found a small piece of Nylon with a small hole in it and fastened it into a make-shift nut. This held long enough to get him to the new place. MacGyver would be proud!

Chris said he found the passengers side brake assembly had an offset spring which belonged on the other side. This spring holds the adjuster in place. He has the correct parts on order. Maybe this mix up contributed to the driver's side brake shoe freezing up (as reported last month)? He is not sure but has not let his car sit with the parking brake set since. He uses a wheel chuck instead. Seth said the rule #1 while working on brakes, is to take lots of pictures so you know how to reassemble.

(See *Minutes..* on page 9)

Coming Events in 2026...

Apr 2nd	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Apr 25th	Cars & Coffee hosted by Sterling Restorations, 1076 Horizon Dr #5, Fairfield, CA. Continuing on the last Saturday of the month.
May 7th	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Jun 4th	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Jun 21st	Rianda House 12th annual Classic Car show. Adams St & Library Ln, St. Helena, CA. They want to feature Corvairs this year!
Jun 22-26th	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"

Miss P., My '65 Goes Under the Knife

*(Actually not a knife. a ratchet and a bunch of other tools)
continued - Pete*

The body work continues but at a slower pace. My brother is doing the skilled bodywork, hammering and filling and I'm doing the grunt work, as in sanding, sanding and sanding. My wife calls him "Bondo Don".



Here's a picture of "Bondo Don":

Anyway, Bondo has been traveling a lot lately so I'm keeping busy doing stuff like straightening out chrome and cleaning the engine compartment. A lot of dirt filled the lower rocker panels. Fortunately the cleaning only revealed some surface rust. While waiting on the body work I've decided to start on the drivetrain.



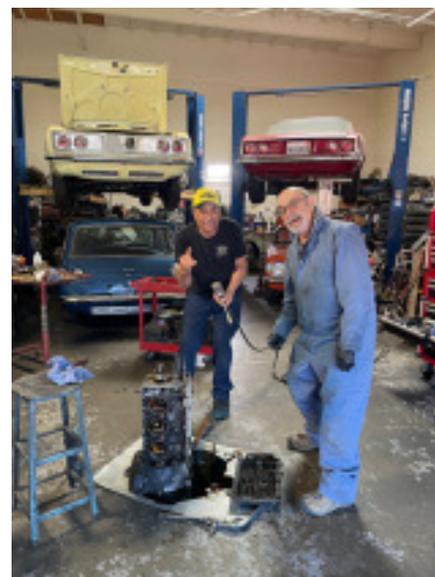
The engine is well past due for a rebuild which is now underway. Mel Raven is doing the rebuild and he has kindly agreed to let me help.

Mel makes em go fast and that's what we're gonna do. My goals are:

- Add more ponies
- Improve reliability
- Maintain good drivability

And most importantly I hope to have everything done in time for The Old Car Picnic in October.

I'm really enjoying getting my hands



dirty at the shop. Mel is so well known in the Corvair community there's no shortage of folks coming by to say hi and talk Vairs which makes things, and I'm gonna use the "F" word here, FUN. Visiting Saturday was SFBA CORSA member Scott Lyon who took the picture of Mel and I but a bunch more. It was great to meet him in person and have look at his car. It's very nice. Hood up he shared some useful tips engine tips.

More updates soon.

Dan Grommisch's '63 Spyder + Parts For Sale

Vince Petrie sent in this information on Dan Grommisch Spyder.

Sadly, our Central Coast CORSA chapter member, Dan Grommisch, passed away recently. His left behind a '63 Corvair Spyder and many parts.

Dan's nephew Steve is trying to find a home for the Corvair and parts. If you're interested, please contact Steve (see message below). I believe it's all located in Murrieta, CA.

"Hello Vince,

I realized I hadn't sent you this information or pictures. Unfortunately Dan passed away last week after battling ALS for the last year. He knew that the Corvair isn't as highly sought after as some other cars but he wanted me to see if I could find a good home for it. In my estimation the car is about 85-90% complete, with most of the parts accounted for. Dan had a

problem with oil blowby and from what I remember he thought it had to do with the manifold in Pic 12. That said, he couldn't remember 100% since he hadn't driven the car since about 1990.

If you know of anyone interested please pass this along with my information, we're looking to try and get \$5,000 to \$6,000 for everything but are open to offers."

Turbo, Calif car, no rust, same owner since 1977, garaged until 2002, in storage to present no front seats.
new clark's carpet
Otto Parts cam,pan, valve covers, Posi,4 speed,
short throw shift.

Clean title/ non op
NOS 13" wheel covers
Extras:1 rear glass,1windsheild
cylinder barrels .pressure plate
turbo shield.emblems,script,
64 axles, trans axle with 81,470
original on all 64 parts ,64 dash,
Distributors
3 pairs of heads

2 cases, 3 cams, 3 cranks pressure
plate, starters, oil coolers,downdraft
carbs,
65 front drums, quick steering arms,

Thank you, Steve Orellana
951-541-3523 or
sorellana2588@gmail.com



see Photos... on page 7

Vairfest 2026 - June 26th - 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

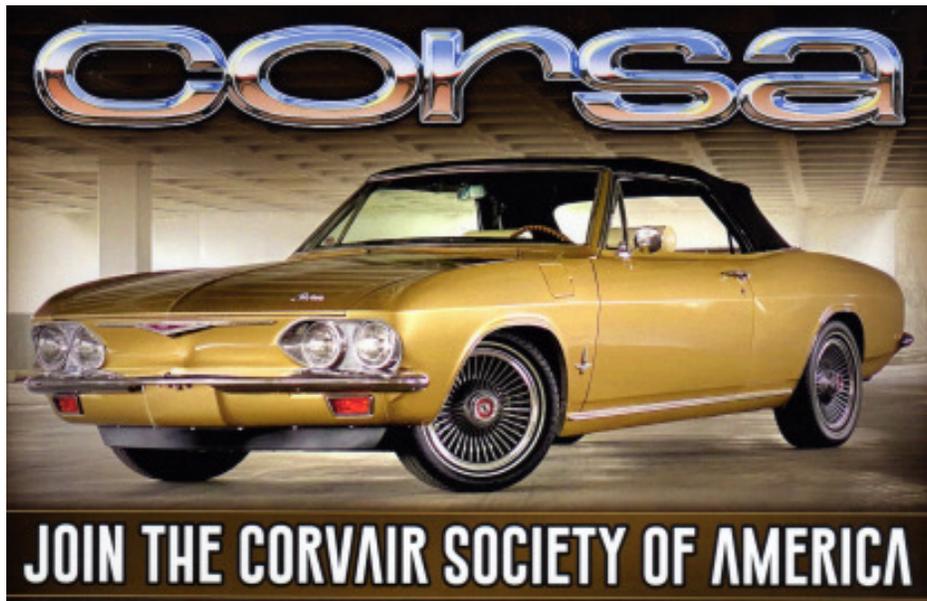
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Photos...



SFBA Web Site Tech Topics This Month

Date Posted	Subject
=====	=====
Mar 21, 2026	Tech Tip~ Electric Fuel Pump Conversion
Mar 20, 2026	Miss P. (aka my 65) goes under the knife continued...
Mar 19, 2026	Upcoming Weekend Events
Mar 18, 2026	Revisiting Great Articles ~ "Rooster Tails" Hot Rod Magazine, Sept 1964
Mar 17, 2026	Tech Tip ~ Vairtrix LM Tachometer Upgrade
Mar 15, 2026	Yenko Stinger For Sale
Mar 14, 2026	Open Discussion ~ Lets hear from you
Mar 13, 2026	6 Dangerous but common DIY mistakes
Mar 12, 2026	Upcoming Weekend Events
Mar 11, 2026	Tech Tip ~ Preparing your Corvaair for driving season
Mar 7, 2026	The Romantic and the Stinger
Mar 6, 2026	Upcoming Weekend Events
Mar 5, 2026	Tech Tip ~ Early Glovebox Door Fix
Mar 4, 2026	SFBA Monthly Zoom Meeting Thursday & Other Notes
Mar 1, 2026	March 2026 Spyder Web Newsletter and new Events Calendar
Feb 28, 2026	Owl's Head Transportation Museum, CPF & The Great Race
Feb 27, 2026	1961 Lakewood Wagon For Sale
Feb 26, 2026	Upcoming Weekend Events
Feb 25, 2026	9 COMMON BEGINNER MECHANIC MISTAKES
Feb 24, 2026	This 200-hp Corvaair runs with the big dogs at Laguna Seca



Minutes...

Scott said the Napa Auto Zone in Pleasanton had a couple of Corvair engines that the owner needed to get rid of. There is a 140 and a 150 Turbo. Scott reported he was having problems with his engine at higher rpms. It ran very rough above 3000. He replaced the Pertronix I ignition with a newer setup from California Corvairs and he installed a new coil. Now the engine runs much better. 5500 rpm is no problem and is now fun to drive. He also worked on the electrical grounds and his lights, both low and high beams, are working properly.

Jeremy, a new member, just purchased a '63, Corvair 95 Passenger Wagon



He is in the process of getting it running. It was his grandfather's and has been sitting for 40+ years. The differential went out in '81. This will be his 2nd Corvair. First was a '63 Monza Coupe. Now he is fighting the DMV. Seth suggested he look for someone who will help with the title. Josh said he found a vin verifier who just needed a piece of paper with the vin number, Josh had an old insurance card. The verifier just needed something to check. Josh will dig up his phone # for Jeremy. Carl said for his Corvair, the title was only needed to export the car to Australia, it was not needed for import.

Carl said he and Arlette would be hosting another CORSA member couple next week. Duane and Bonnie Wentlandt. They are on vacation from Portland. Carl and Arlette will take them on a 500 mile road trip back to Sidney taking several days to see the country. What fun! Josh said that Bruce was trying to get Duane to come down to the Napa Vault event as a special guest speaker. Carl said his engine is not running yet. It is taking longer to install the custom stud inserts than expected. Other than that, it is ready for assembly.

Josh said at last year's Great Race event, a group of kinds from Owls Head Maine raced a '66 Corsa Cvrt and finished third. This year CORSA and CPF are sponsoring them. If you follow the Great Race, keep an eye out for a White '66 Corsa Cvrt. Ray said that Owls Head had a great transportation museum!

Jeffrey said he signed up for this year's Breakfast Rally. The theme is "Air Cooled". It goes from Calistoga to Healdsburg via some, not yet disclosed, route. Josh and Bruce may also go. Jeffrey will be checking the engine compression shortly on his rebuild project. If all goes well he can install the carbs. He got the 140 linkage from Seth.

Peter will rebuild his engine (with Mel's help). He is looking for some extra performance and will .060 over pistons and a 270 cam from Clark's. He will stick with 4 carbs as recommended in Performance Corvairs. Josh said the

jugs are pretty thick and since he will not be racing it, it should be fine. For rebuilding the carbs, Bruce suggested Bob Coffin (sp?). Peter asked about used parts. Josh mentioned that Mike's Corvair, in Southern CA, was a bit cheaper and he comes up this way every so often and can bring parts, saving the shipping costs.

Bruce said on his Burgandy Turbo Corvair he still has to get it aligned. Just has not had time. And on the Blue '69 coupe there is a strange electrical issue. When the car is put in reverse, the dash lights up rather than the backup lights. He and Josh spent an afternoon going through the schematics trying to track down the problem but found nothing wrong. Carl said he also has an issue with the backup light switch. Since his it is an RHD Corvair and A/T, there is very little room for the switch, making it difficult to work on.

Swap & Sell: Christy said he will be selling his '67 Corvair A/T with 87k miles. A former Fred Bebee (sp?) car. It's been his daily driver, and is a good runner, \$2500.

Meeting adjourned about 8:23 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Clark Calkins, secretary

New 2019-2025 Clark's Corvair Parts Catalog!

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International - you pay the actual shipping (starting at approximately \$30 shipping)

Check the website - Many Improvements!

Catalog pages much "sharper"

Index takes you right to the page

Ordering a part with color options?

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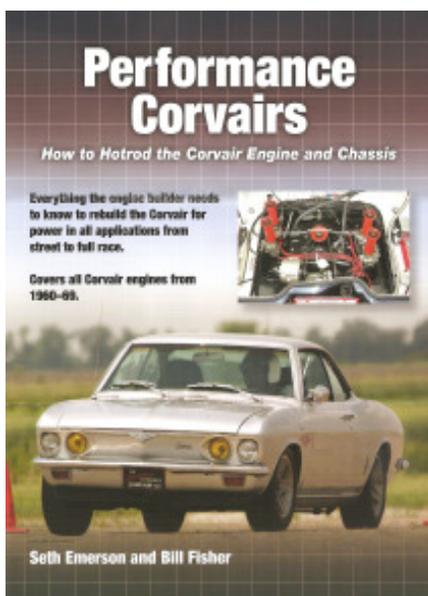
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Corvair Classifieds

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 briandowdey53@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

March 2026

Date	Activity	Check #	Credit	Debit	Balance	Status
03/01/2026	Beginning Balance				\$3,828.19	
02/13/2026	Past newsletters			(\$326.89)	3,501.30	
02/28/2026	Renewal - PayPal		109.27		3,610.57	
03/05/2026	Renewal - check		25.00		3,635.57	
03/11/2026	Renewal - Stripe		74.86		3,710.43	
03/26/2026	March newsletter (stamps)			(12.41)	3,698.02	**
03/31/2026	Ending Balance		\$209.13	(\$348.30)	\$3,698.02	

** Expense or Credit that has not been turned in yet. Bank balance shows \$3,710.43

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