

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!



VOLUME 392

MAY 2026

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

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*Paul's '63 Spyder at Gabe's  
Cars & Coffee*

**Next SFBA Zoom Meeting Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>  
@7:00PM (#243 888 8339)**

## Letter From the Editor

I hope you were able to attend our last meeting. By my count we had 9 SFBA members and no guests this evening. About average turnout I would guess.

The exciting news this month is that CORSA had chosen Sacramento for the site of the 2028 National Convention! The host hotel is expected to be The Hilton Arden West on 2200 Harvard St. The local clubs, including SFBA, are gearing up and will be looking for volunteers (as we did for the SLO Convention) There will certainly be more details in the coming months. Even though this is two years out, it's not too soon to begin thinking about the details. See page 7 for Official Announcement.

I received a note from Central Coast Corsa regarding special room rates they have arranged for VairFest this year. Call the numbers listed by June 5 and mention "VairFest 2026". The three hotels with lower rates are The Agrarian 325 E. Branch St. (\$199 Thurs & Sunday, \$279 Fri & Sat) (805)574-6040, The Hampton Inn & Suites 1400 W. Branch St. (\$239 1 King, \$249 2 Queens) (805)202-2110, and the Best Western Casa Grande Inn 850 N. Oak Park Blvd. (\$179 Fri, \$229 Sat 1 King, \$225 Fri, \$245 Sat 2 Queens) (800)780-7234. I had previously booked a room, but when I saw these rates I called the hotel and got the special price. Saved \$100. Thanks!

Last Saturday, I went to Gabe's Cars & Coffee event held at his shop in Fairfield. There were two Corvairs among the many muscle cars. Paul took his '63 Spyder and Gabe showed off his newest car, a late model Corvair with a 110 which he had previously worked on the body. The engine and power train are next on the agenda. Also showing up was Tony Richards, one of the SFBA Founders. He thought about driving his Corvair, but at the last minute thought it would be too far from Petaluma. Gabe expects

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**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

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/bayareacorvairs/>  
<https://facebook.com/CORSA-San-Francisco-Bay-Area-Chapter-579950135376455/>

**Merchandise** <https://sfbacorsa.com/sfba-club-merchandise/>

this to be a monthly affair so keep open the last Saturday of the month open!

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

**On The Cover:** Gabe started having monthly Cars & Coffee events at his shop in Fairfield. Over coffee and donuts the many attendees discussed the intricacies of some of these high performance cars. There were two Corvairs, Paul drove his '63 Spyder and Gabe showed off his newest purchase, a late model coupe beautifully painted. See photos on page 5 & 6.

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

April 2, 2026

Josh got the regular meeting started around 6:53 a bit early but others were already checking in. When the room was opened, Josh, Peter and I were quickly joined by Lane, Herb, Seth, Don, Christy, and Scott. I hope I included everyone.

**Treasury Report:** Buck was absent this evening, but the bank balance in the last Newsletter was \$3036.98. The Club's cost for joining CORSA (\$35) was paid and Clark sent in the paper work.

**Membership:** Josh did not report any new members this month. The Club's roster shows we have 75+ active members. Fantastic!

**Old Business:** Nothing discussed.

**New Business:** Nothing specifically discussed.

**Events:** Our next Work Day for us to work on Phil's Corvair has been scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. at Don's house in Antioch.

Vairfest is on the schedule for June 26-28th this year and registration is now open. This year the organizers have made special room rate deals with several local hotels. See the list elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Fan Belt Toss is coming up (the date has been set for Oct 23-25, 2026). It will be at the same hotel as last year but the price may be a little higher. Lane

said that last year's event was the best he has been to. Others also said how nice the venue was. Seth asked if this year the outdoor vendors could use a grass area as the asphalt gets very hot. Christy said the grass area might not be hotel property so it would not be reservable.

Gabe is having a Cars & Coffee on April 25th at his shop in Fairfield.. This is planned for the last Saturday of each month. It will be great to see his latest project cars.

Josh said the Air Cooled Affair was next Saturday. Cars will start in St Helena and take the back roads to Windsor. There will be Porsches, VWs, and at least 2 Corvairs have signed up. Bruce will bring one but probably not the Yenko and Jeffrey will take his '61 Monza raffle car. If you feel like joining them, a link is on the Club's web page. Josh wasn't sure if he would go. It might be a bit too far for him, or as Lane said a long day in the seat.

Scott went to Good Guys. Josh said Mike Lewis took his Brown Spyder.

A date for the Napa Vault event has been set yet. Bruce is thinking September some time. It will be after Car Week and before the Fan Belt Toss.

**Phil's '66 Corsa:** Don gave an update on this Club project. We couldn't find the rear ash trays so Don reached out to Steve Morton in Idaho who had some in good shape for \$29 . Also Don was able to locate the chrome channel covers that join the rear carpet to the side door cards. Josh said we purchased an

interior screw set, so we should be good there. We still have a bit of work to do and Don set the next Work Day for May 2nd to avoid Gabe's event and VairFest. Work will start around 10:00 AM as usual.

**Tech:** Herb commented on the monthly newsletter and how much useful information it contained. Christy agreed. Herb talked about his days at Chevron when he worked in the Additives Division. When the US was considering eliminating Lead from gasoline, they did lots of testing. They would put cars and engines on a dyno and run them constantly simulating highway driving up a 6% grade in all kinds of weather. They noticed that as the values would recede, due to the lack of lead cushioning, the speeds would diminish because of lower fuel intake. Seth said this was more of an issue with cast iron blocks rather than our aluminum heads. A question about storing gas came up and Herb said he never fills his gas tanks more than 1/3 full. And when gas has been sitting a year or so, he drains the tank and uses the old gas in his lawn mower, tractor, etc. He has an electric fuel pump that he uses to drain the tanks. Seth said he also has an electric fuel pump he uses for the same reason.

Seth said he had a fuel leak on his V-6 Corvair. He traced it to a hose connection that wasn't tight. Now he uses screw type hose clamps and is careful to tighten them. Seth still has an engine starting issue on the V-6. If he uses spray starting fluid, it starts right

(See *Minutes..* on page 9 )

## *Coming Events in 2026...*

<b>May 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"</b>
<b>June 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"</b>
<b>June 22-26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>CORSA International Convention, Gettysburg, PA, Host hotel Wyndham Gettysburg, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA 17325-8397</b>
<b>June 26-28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>VairFest, Heritage Park, Arroyo Grande, CA</b>
<b>Oct 23-25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Great Western Fan Belt Toss &amp; Swap Meet, at the Double Tree by Hilton Golf Resort</b>

## *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"

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# *Cars & Coffee - April 25, 2026 at Sterling Restorations*



A nice assortment of very nice cars!



One of many super-charged sleepers here today.



Gabe just purchaed this late model coupe. Beautiful paint!



Next up for Gabe is to get the engine cleaned up.



(See *Cars & Coffee..* on page 6)

## Cars & Coffee...

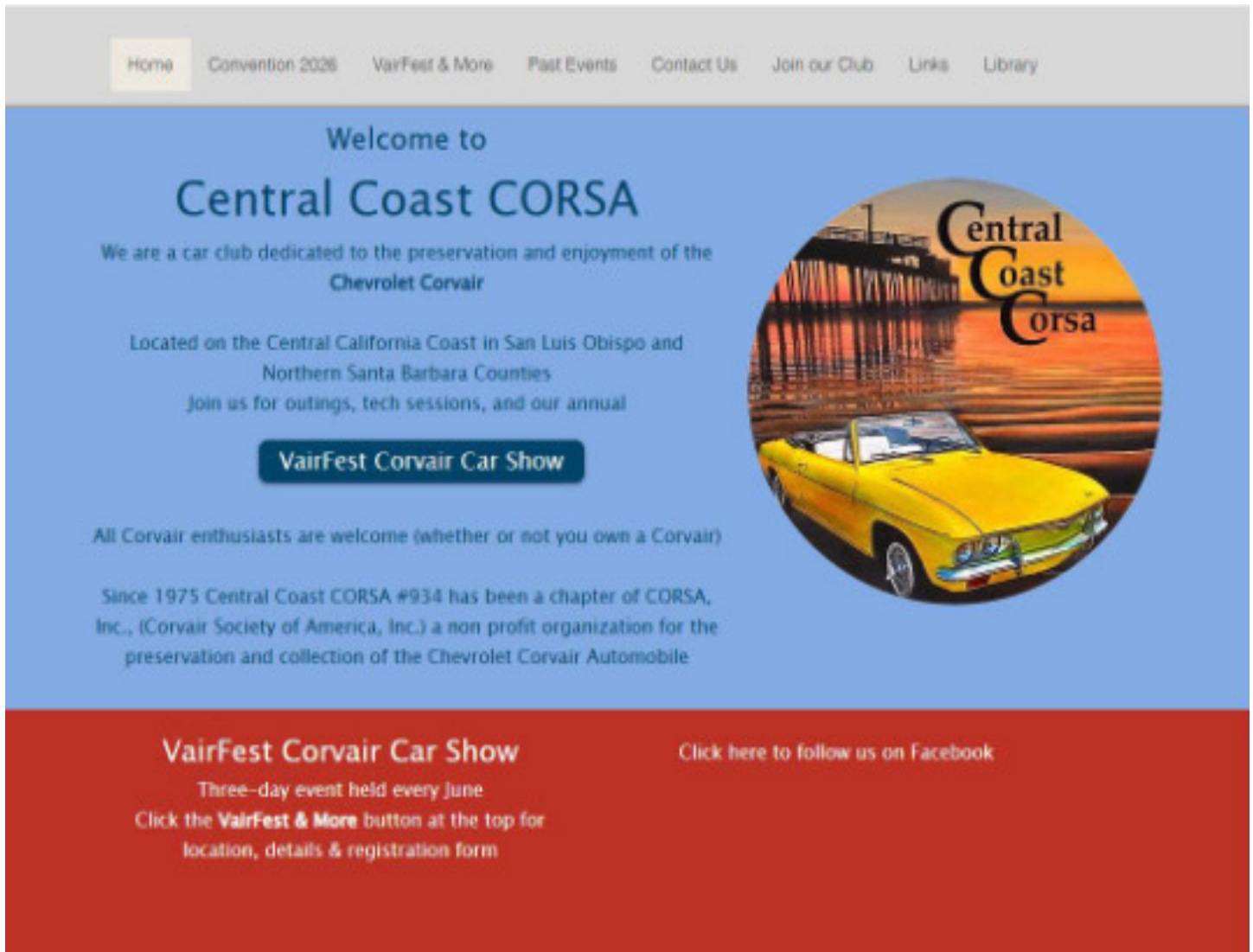


This is Gabe's pretty Lotus. I am sure it's fun to drive!



Sterling Restorations product line displayed in the lobby.

# Vairfest 2026 - June 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>



Home Convention 2026 VairFest & More Past Events Contact Us Join our Club Links Library

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

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

## 2028 CORSA Convention Announcement

Greetings CORSA western division chapter presidents & representatives,

We're excited to share that the 2028 CORSA National Convention will be in Sacramento, California. The Hilton Arden West in Sacramento, California, will be our host hotel for the week of May 14, 2028.

- We know putting on a big national convention can be a lot for one chapter to take on. So, with help from

chapter representatives, we looked at several cities to find a spot that works well. We also talked with the Sacramento and Central Coast Chapter presidents. When we zeroed in on Sacramento, I made the drive out to scout a few locations to see who could best accommodate us and report back to the convention committee. The Hilton was the most receptive to our needs, worked with our budget and seemed genuinely interested in hosting us!

- You're some of the first folks to hear this. We're really looking forward to bringing the event back West—especially after how much fun everyone had at the 2025 Convention in San Luis Obispo. Sacramento also makes a great home base, with easy egress and lots to see and do nearby.

*(see 2028 Convention on page 8)*

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# SFBA Web Site Tech Topics This Month

Date Posted	Subject
=====	=====
Apr 23, 2026	Upcoming Weekend Events
Apr 20, 2026	From the CPF Archive: Introduction of the Monza 4 Door Sedan
Apr 17, 2026	Unreal at Any Speed ~ John Black's 1966 Chevy Corvair
Apr 16, 2026	Upcoming Weekend Events
Apr 12, 2026	Corvair Racing Memories At Candlestick & Upcoming Vintage Race At Sears Point
Apr 11, 2026	Tech Tip ~ Late Model Powertrain Installation
Apr 9, 2026	Upcoming Weekend Events
Apr 8, 2026	The Dennis Hopper Photograph That Caught Los Angeles
Apr 4, 2026	Happy Easter From SFBA CORSA
Apr 3, 2026	Upcoming Weekend Events
Apr 1, 2026	SFBA Monthly Zoom Meeting Tomorrow 4/2
Mar 31, 2026	Tech Tips ~ The Preventive Maintenance Series ~ Spring Maintenance
Mar 29, 2026	1964 Corvair Spyder Convertible Project For Sale
Mar 28, 2026	Corvair Myths
Mar 25, 2026	From 1965...
Mar 24, 2026	April 2026 Spyder Web Newsletter
Mar 22, 2026	Revisiting great articles ~ Buying A Corvair Wasn't The Plan
Mar 21, 2026	Tech Tip~ Electric Fuel Pump Conversion

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## 2028 Convention

• Now that we're getting the planning rolling, we'd love for chapters to think about volunteering again similar to what we did in SLO in 2025. We're aiming to spread the work out across a shared team so it's easier for everyone.

• Since we're a little over two years out, we're not asking anyone to commit to anything big yet—we just want to know who might be willing to share ideas and lend a hand. We'll need help with things like the registration table, parking, and the hospitality room, plus the Welcome Gathering, Car Show, and Valve Cover Racing. And if you've

got ideas for places to visit or activities to include, we'd love to hear them.

• We hope your chapter (and your members) are excited to team up with us and help make this a great week in the West as we did in 2025. Please share this update at your next chapter meeting and please reach out. We welcome your thoughts.

Best Regards,

Josh Dietcher  
CORSA Vice President / Western Division Director

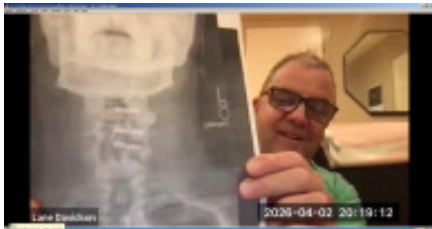
and the CORSA Convention Planning Team

Jeannette Alberte – jalberte@att.net  
847-254-1399  
Larry Claypool – vairshop@gmail.com  
815-603-8556  
Paul Sergeant – paulsgt@earthlink.net  
612-940-2854  
Josh Deitcher - vondeitch@gmail.com  
510-388-4986

## Minutes...

up and runs great. But if he doesn't it's hard to start. He said there is lots of info on-line for this engine and when he gets the time tackle this.

Lane said he also had issues with his Corvaire 140. When driving down the road it would loose power. He barely made it home. Initially he thought it was an ignition issue and swapped in an old setup. No change. Next he checked the carburetors and found one where the valve seat was starting to unscrew. This was raising the seat effectively shutting off the fuel supply.. He tightened the valve seat and the engine runs fine again. Seth said, "of course you checked the other carbs, right?". Well, when he gets a chance he will. Lane said his back was getting better and he hopes to be able to drive in a couple of weeks. He showed xrays of his neck and the added screws that hold the vertebrates aligned.



Hopefully it's not too much metal so he gets stopped by TSA!

Peter has his Corvaire down at Mel's working on the engine. He decided to go with .060" over pistons and a slightly more aggressive cam (Auto 10?). Josh said he had this same cam and said Peter will notice the difference. It's more aggressive but not so much so the engine stalls when you come to a stop light. Peter also asked for electric fuel

pump recommendations. Josh said a while back he made a video on this but the parts he used are no longer available. But Craig Nickels sells a kit (he was at the Convention last year). Josh said he has heard good things about it. See Racers Inc. Corvaire Center did a review of this kit, see "<https://corvairecenter.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=1183978>". Seth said with his unit you didn't have to run a new wire from the rear of the engine (oil pressure switch). It monitors the Tachometer signal to shut off the fuel if the engine quits. Lane said on his engine, he ran the fuel cross over line on the front side rather than the rear.

Josh said that California was talking about going to 15% alcohol content to alleviate the rising cost of gasoline. This might be detrimental to our classic cars. Lane wondered if you could get any gasoline with out alcohol? Seth said not in California. Peter asked if alcohol is so bad for engines, why do top fuel dragsters run it? Lane said they run much higher compression ratios (13 or 14:1), are not concerned with economy, and they rebuild the engines very often. Josh said that alcohol was very bad on rubber components.

Scott said that Haggerty had jacked up his rate this year. They changed his allowed miles from 1500 to 3500 without telling him. Seems automatic if you don't tell them different. He will call and get this value back down to what it should be for him. Also, when he was down at Mel's, he spoke with a couple of potential SFBA or Valley new members. Peter wondered if the Club had any handouts that Scott could have passed on. Josh said he did have some business card made a few years back, but the info has changed. Clark said that if Josh could update the card image, he could publish it in the Spyder Web and people could make their own copies. Josh will look into this.

**Swap & Sell:** Nothing specifically mentioned.

Meeting adjourned about 8:20 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Clark Calkins, secretary



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## Letter...

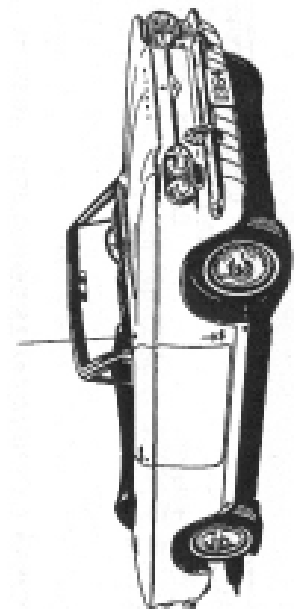
I have started my move to Fairfield and I am about 1/2 moved in. I intend to keep the Walnut Creek house for a while but sell the Clearlake house. The Clearlake house is pretty well cleaned out now but I still have to work on the garage. I have to move my Corvair and all of my tools. I intend to have Gabe tackle the body and David Gray get the engine and trans in good order. I have a lot of work ahead of me. Retirement can wait until the bills get paid!

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, May 7<sup>th</sup> starting 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. If the link does not work (as has happened in the past), you can go to <https://www.zoom.com>, click on "Meet" and then "Join a Meeting". Enter our permanent meeting number (above).

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# Corvair Classifieds

## CORVAIRS FOR SALE

'65 Corsa 140 Convertible, kept in garage, great shape, mileage uncertain (speedo not working) . Asking \$12,000 OBO. Harrison Alter, doctordad@gmail.com (05/26)



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](mailto: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 ex-

haust, 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 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](mailto:kfbartlett@gmail.com), (925)519-3795. Located in Alameda, CA (11/25)

## 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 ([corvaireguru@gmail.com](mailto:corvaireguru@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](mailto:briandowdy53@gmail.com)

## Treasurers Report - Buck Jones

April 2026

Date	Activity	Check #	Credit	Debit	Balance	Status
02/01/2026	Beginning Balance				\$3,042.16	
02/20/2026	CORSA Membership			(35.00)	3,007.16	
02/26/2026	Apr newsletter (stamps)			(12.41)	2,994.75	**
02/28/2026	Ending Balance			(\$47.41)	<b>\$2,994.75</b>	

\*\* Expense or Credit that has not been turned in yet. Bank balance shows \$3,910.84  
 (\*) There are more deposits but I don't have a breakdown at time of this writing.

## CORVAIRS WANTED

**Early Model Hardtop** in good driving condition, original paint. Contact Ben Nourma at [bennourma@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jbmuhlner@earthlink.net). St. Helena area. (05/25)

# SFBA CORSA

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