

# Corvair Chatter



## Meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays)

### Next meeting:

- Thursday, March 26, 2026
- 5:30pm Social / 7:00 pm Meeting
- Brookfields Restaurant  
4343 Madison Ave.,  
Sacramento, CA (at Highway 80)

## Membership Dues 2026:

Membership Dues of \$20 are due annually in January.

Venmo:



**Cash/Checks:** Send to Dean James  
Make checks payable to CCRC

Please contact CCRC Treasurer Jim Kindley for additional questions.

## Features

1. Message From the President
- 2-3. Latest CCRC News – Mtg Minutes
4. Information
5. Events & Activities
- 6-8. Article

## Board Members

<b>President</b> .....	John Heiser
<b>Vice President</b> .....	Chris Medeiros
<b>Secretary</b> .....	Laurie Daniels
<b>Membership / Web</b>	Dean James
<b>Treasurer</b> .....	Jim Kindley
<b>Sales &amp; Acquisition</b>	Wes Nicholas
<b>Newsletter Editor</b> ...	Laurie Daniels
<b>Historian/Photos</b> ....	Michael Nyberg

## Finding Us

[www.northern-california-corvairs.com](http://www.northern-california-corvairs.com)

Facebook; [Classic Corvairs of River City](#)

Instagram; [classiccovairs\\_rivercity](#)

(Maintained by: Dean James)



**WEBSITE QR CODE**

## Message From The CCRC President

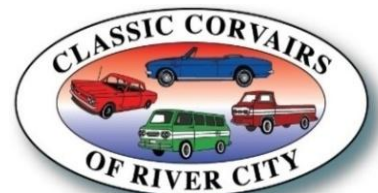
Greetings fellow Club members and friends: Hope everyone is doing well and hope everyone is looking forward to this years Club activities, tours and events. The recent tour around Folsom Lake was a blast. A quick diversion to Hart 2 Hart Winery was added, followed up with lunch at the River Shack Deli. What a fun tour! The next upcoming events include the Air Cooled Java Cruisers Dairy Queen meet up on April 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 6pm 9295 Greenback Ln. April 11<sup>th</sup> Empire State Mine Tour with a few club members arriving early to check out the Grass Valley C&C and after the tour head over to Christy's place for lunch. May 11<sup>th</sup>, ARC JC Auto Tech BBQ event. Please arrive around 2:30 pm to bring out our Corvairs to show off. More events coming up plus the Clubs annual picnic.

The March 26<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting will be the deadline to turn in your Cal Expo Auto Rama application form with fees and photos of your Corvair if you plan on entering the Ed Gardner Club House.

I will briefly go over this years activities, events and tours at the club meeting on March 26th with Chris providing details on the events and tours.

Cheers and see you at the club meeting on the 26th.

John



# Latest CCRC News

## Meeting Minutes: February 26, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President, John Heiser.

Minutes of meeting on January 22, 2026, as presented in the newsletter, were unanimously approved.

**President's report** by President John Heiser:

- Club shirts and hats available for purchase at cost before and after the meeting from John Heiser.

**Treasurer's report** by Jim Kindley for January, 2026.

**Sales and acquisitions report** by Wes Nicholas. No activity in January. CCRC website has inventory of parts for sale.

**Membership report** by Dean James: 29 members paid to date for 2026. Please pay dues ASAP.

**Vice-President's report** by Chris Medeiros:

- March 14 – CCRC Cruise around Folsom Lake will be in 2 weeks. Meet at Susie's Breakfast Café in Folsom, then up Auburn Folsom Road to Auburn and around the lake, lunch at deli en route. Please sign up at meeting or notify Chris you'll be able to make it. Additional information will be sent out in email blast.
- May 1-3 is Autorama at CalExpo. We will move cars in on Wednesday or Thursday for the event, where cars will remain for the duration. Contact Chris for an application. The deadline for submitting applications is April 1. Please bring your application to the March 26th meeting. If you intend to enter your car in the show, it will cost extra money after April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Chris proposed that the club make up a Cars & Coffee brochure to list the events our members regularly attend. Several members suggested that we include additional Cars & Coffee events such as Grass Valley (weekly on Saturdays, 7 to 10 am) and Jackson.

**New Activities and Events: See pages 5**

**Club elections:** Positions are open for anyone who is interested in joining the Board, and members are encouraged to contact the Board or speak up at the next meeting. Otherwise, current Board members are willing to continue serving for another 2 -year term. President's term limit is two 2-years.

# **Latest CCRC News (cont.)**

## **Ongoing events:**

- Sacramento Hollywood Park Auto Club-Classis Cars meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 10:00 am at Leonardo Da Vinci School, 4701 Joaquin Wy, Sacramento.
- Carmichael Bel Air Sunday Cars N Coffee, meets every Sunday, 7:00 am to 10:00 am at 4005 Manzanita Ave., at the intersection of Fair Oaks Blvd. and Manzanita Ave., and near the corner of Cypress
- Folsom Cars and Coffee meets Saturdays from 7:00 am to 9:30 am, at the El Dorado Town Center, 2101 Vine St, El Dorado Hills, CA
- Red Bus Brewery hosts an air-cooled drive-in gathering on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm on Reading St. in Folsom, providing specials on beverages and pizza

**Old Business:** none

## **New Business:**

- Christy Barden announced that because of his age and how remotely he lives, he has signed up to buy a new Tesla self-driving car and will be selling several of his cars including a '67 4-door, '63 coupe, '64 coupe, and Greenbriar.
- Larry Forman bought a brush to clean cylinders from Summit Racing for \$100. He explained that when you hone cylinders and leave grooves, ring friction will cause debris to get into the engine. Using the brush to smooth the cylinders and prevent debris chips from getting into the oil may significantly extend the life of the engine.
- Larry Forman also gave us a PSA that 2/27 is Anosmia Recognition Day. Larry explained that anosmia is a medical condition (which he has) that is a lack of the sense of smell. It can be congenital or acquired from illness or injury, and he described how it affects his eating habits and his life. Members thanked him for his candor about this little-known condition.
- John Hafkenschiel described how he restored a late model dashboard, explained the multi-step process, and admitted that he forgot that it needs to be cured in the oven.
- John Hafkenschiel bought a lot of Corvair related books and magazines from a woman selling her late husband's collection. He gave some to Dean and has some magazines for anyone else who wants them.
- Roy donated '65 and '66 Corvair shop manuals to the club. They are available on a thumb drive which he brought with him today.
- John Heiser proposed that members (such as Carl) reaching a certain age be offered "ornery" honorary member status. After a discussion about who would qualify based on age and activity, and whether an award for service to the club may be appropriate, the matter was tabled for further consideration by the Board. The Board will also consider how to get younger people involved in the club.

**Tech Presentation:** Chris Medeiros brought a late model shifter and demonstrated how the springs need to be properly seated, with the bottom spring locked into place, in order for the shifter to smoothly move into gear.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

# Information

## Corvair Resources (Online)

Q&A - [www.corvaircenter.com](http://www.corvaircenter.com)  
[www.corvairforum.com](http://www.corvairforum.com)  
Parts - [www.corvair.com](http://www.corvair.com) (Clark's)  
[www.californiacorvairparts.com](http://www.californiacorvairparts.com)  
[www.mikescorvairparts.com](http://www.mikescorvairparts.com)  
[www.rockauto.com](http://www.rockauto.com)  
Sale - [www.jaxed.com](http://www.jaxed.com)  
[www.corvairtrader.com](http://www.corvairtrader.com) (Parts & Sales)

Resources –

<https://www.corvair.org/chapters/corvanatics>

Car Building – <http://autoexer.skiblack.com>

Fun-[www.youtube.com/user/davemotohead1](http://www.youtube.com/user/davemotohead1) /  
[www.deansgarage.com](http://www.deansgarage.com)

## CCRC CLUB MEMBER ASSISTANCE:

In order to get more cars on the road, the club leadership is offering assistance to members who have Corvairs that need help to get them running. This help will be in the form of technical expertise, mechanic labor, and possible financial assistance. If you have a Corvair that needs work, **contact the Corvair Club at [ClassicCorvairs@gmail.com](mailto:ClassicCorvairs@gmail.com)** and give details on what you require in the way of assistance.

**\*A committee will review the requests and select the best candidates. Remember the goal is to get more Corvairs at our club events. Those chosen will be expected to participate and help the club increase the number of cars that we put on display.**

## LET US HEAR FROM YOU:

**CORVAIR CHATTER Newsletter** - Members can write articles and send photos and articles they wish to have included in the newsletter. Email to Laurie Daniels at [lauriedanielsca@att.net](mailto:lauriedanielsca@att.net) or Wes Nicholas at [Nicholas.tds@gmail.com](mailto:Nicholas.tds@gmail.com)

**Club Activities** - You may have some great ideas for club activities. We want to hear them! Better yet, we'd like you to participate in the planning of your activity idea. Email ideas to Chris Medeiros at [cmedeiros@mac.com](mailto:cmedeiros@mac.com)

**Club T-Shirts & Hats** - Members attending 2 meetings receive 2 shirts for free. T-shirts and hats are also for sale \$21/shirt (\$23/shirt tall sizes) (Henley shirts are \$29). Hats are \$16.

## CLASSIFIED – Corvair Parts for Sale



-or- Click Here: [CCRC - Classified \(northern-california-corvairs.com\)](http://CCRC-Classified(northern-california-corvairs.com))

## Welcome New Members

### Birthdays (Current & Upcoming)

#### March Birthdays:

Nelson Black Jim Kindley Jon Von Kahle  
Melissa Francis Kathy Lander Linda Lewis

#### April Birthdays:

Casey Cockrell Laurie Daniels  
John Hafkenschiel John Heiser Robert Miller  
Chris Myers Jeanne Aguirre Cindy Arimoto  
Jana Bird Nancy McCormick

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# Events & Activities

Full Calendar of Events available on <http://northern-california-corvairs.com>

## Ongoing Events:

**Sacramento Hollywood Park Auto Club -Classic Cars:** Meets every 3rd Sunday 10:00 am at Leonardo DaVinci School. CCRC Club Member started this gathering, so let's join in.

**Carmichael Bel Air Sunday Cars and Coffee.** 4005 Manzanita Avenue at the intersection of Fair Oaks Blvd and Manzanita Avenue near the corner of Cypress. Time: 7:30am to 10:00am.

**Folsom Cars and Coffee:** Saturdays -Town Center, El Dorado Hills. 7:00 am – 9:30 am.

**Red Bus Brewery:** Air-cooled drive-in gathering at Red Bus Brewery on Reading Street in Folsom –2nd Thursday of each month at 6pm. There will be specials on beverages and pizza.

**California Auto Museum:** See Jim Kindley-**FREE** tickets for members (1<sup>st</sup> come/1<sup>st</sup> serve-until gone).

## Current & Upcoming Events:

**APRIL** 11 – CCRC Cruise - Empire Mine –Christie will open his barn for the club.  
18 – Vintage Races in Sonoma – FREE parking and racing.

**MAY** 1-3 – CAL-EXPO AUTORAMA – 3 day commitment. Registration deadline is March 26.  
8 – Auburn Cruise nights begin for the season – meet at In/Out Burger, Rocklin  
11 – ARC JC: Auto Tech BBQ event. 2:30 – 5 pm. 5116 Myrtle Ave, Sacramento, CA.  
16 – CCRC Cruise – Delta River Tour

**JUNE** 6 – CCRC BBQ/PICNIC – need volunteers for planning committee  
12 – Auburn Cruise Night – meet at In/Out Burger, Rocklin  
13-14 – Classic Car races at Laguna Seca  
20 – CCRC Cruise – Cooper Winery

**JULY** TBD – California State Fair – CCRC Club Day

**AUGUST** 15 – Auburn Cruise Night – meet at In/Out Burger, Rocklin  
22 – CCRC Cruise – Cool Stop on Hot Night – evening at an ice cream shop  
TBD – SFBA/Valley Picnic at the Quarry in Fremont  
TBD – Vairs at The Vault – Napa – great food, wine and speakers

**SEPTEMBER** 11 – Auburn Cruise Night – meet at In/Our Burger, Rocklin  
12 – CCRC Cruise – Econo-Run  
26 – Ironstone Concours d'Elegance at Murphys, CA

**OCTOBER** 17 – CCRC Cruise – Sutter Creek, to include a scavenger hunt.  
23-25th – Friday to Sunday: Great Western Fan Belt Toss & Swap Meet. Palm Springs

**NOVEMBER** 7 – CCRC Cruise – Care/Nursing Homes  
28 – CCRC Cruise – Apple Hill Tour

**DECEMBER** 6 – Christmas Dinner

**AND ADDITIONAL POP-UP EVENTS** on the spur of the moment by members – notify membership by email blast, and by putting the event on the website calendar!

# A Brief History About the Chevrolet Corvair

By Robert Tate, Automotive Historian and Researcher



When you take a look back at our history of our most iconic American automobiles, the Corvair models by Chevrolet would be near the top of that list.

The Chevrolet Corvair was introduced to the automotive market as a compact car that featured a lot of new innovations including a 6-cylinder rear mounted air-cooled engine combined with a transmission differential unit and independent all-wheel suspension. With the introduction of the first Corvair also came what was called the “Unipak”

During the introduction for the Corvair models, Chief Engineer Mr. H.F. Barr said this about the Chevrolet Corvair production cars. “The Corvair represents a breakthrough in compact car designs by starting with a clean slate, taking advantage of recent technological advances in automotive and allied fields. Chevrolet engineers have designed a new kind of car that meets a combination of requirements that as recently as five years ago would have been impossible to satisfy”.



The Corvair was the product of a nine-year research and development program aimed at designing a compact car which was low in initial cost. The Corvair models offered the consumer stainless steel hub caps with a circular depressed center area with the name Chevrolet on the hubcap which looked great for the consumer market. Horizontal inlet louvers on the engine compartment lid would admit the cooling air to the engine and also added design interest for the customer as well.

The Chevrolet nameplate was located on the rear deck beginning with the earlier Corvair models. The letters were highlighted in bright block letters that provided a vehicle identification for its models. Another advantage that the Corvair models offered was the luggage compartment located in the front of the vehicle. This area provided more than 15.6 cubic feet of space along with an optional folding rear seat that could be used by the passenger as well as the driver.



The Corvair models retained a similar body style from 1960-1964. Chevrolet also introduced a Corvair Monza 900 Club Coupe model that sold for \$2,238. In 1965, Chevrolet updated its house design for the consumer market. I always thought as an automotive historian that the 1965 General Motors line offered impeccable styling which many consumers thoroughly had enjoyed.

The 1965 Corvair models were introduced to the public on Sept. 16, 1964. They were longer, wider and lower while offering increased engine power. A new top-of-the-line series, called the

Corsa, became popular among consumers and was manufactured in both convertible and a sports coupe which had replaced the Corvair Spyder.



The newly designed Corvair models also gave more increased shoulder room and entrance height plus more leg room in the rear seat of sports sedan models. The convertible models also offered all-electric top mechanisms for 1965. The Corvair Greenbrier sports wagons rounded out the 1965 model line.

The popularity of the model led to increased

manufacturing and sales for 1965. Chevy dealers sold 237,056 Corvairs that year.

By 1967, however, the Corvair line was not showing an advantage in automotive sales and just over 27,000 cars were produced. The eventual phasing out of the Corvair was also aided by consumer advocate Ralph Nader who included a chapter on the rear-engine car in his now famous book, "Unsafe at any Speed."

The year 1969 marked the last year that Corvair models were assembled and as could be expected the Corvair name plate was dropped from General Motors.



A special thanks to Robert Tate, Automotive Historian and Researcher, for contributing this story to the Motor Cities Story of the Week Program.