

# Corvair Chatter



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

### Next meeting:

- Thursday, May 28, 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 Delta cruise was fun, a few brave club members attended this tour on a very nice day! Thank you for those that attended the cruise greatly appreciated! On May 11<sup>th</sup>, ARC JC Auto Tech BBQ Awards event was really nice and amazed on how many folks were present. CCRC club members attended with their Corvairs as well as the Sacramento British Sports Club and a few other cars. Ben provided a really nice tour of the facility and received a 20 year recognition award for teaching the Auto Tech classes at ARC JC. Congratulations Ben!

Both Chris Medeiros and I will briefly go over the next several months of activities, events and tours at the club meeting on May 28th.

For those that like to have their birthday announced in the Club newsletter, Please let us know the month and day. Our membership roster has missing dates.

For those that we didn't list in the previous newsletters,

## **Happy Birthday!**

Cheers and see you at the club meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>..

John



# Latest CCRC News

## Meeting Minutes: April 23, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 6:44 pm by President, John Heiser.

Minutes of meeting on April 26, 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. Members receive 2 free T-shirts after attending 2 meetings. Cost for items is as follows:
  - T-shirts \$21
  - Henley shirts \$29
  - Crew neck shirts \$23
  - Hats \$16

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

**Sales and acquisitions report** by Wes Nicholas. CCRC website has inventory of parts for sale.

**Membership report** by Dean James: April 2026, 38 members paid to date. Please pay dues ASAP. For those that have renewed their memberships, thank you very much and greatly appreciated!

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

5/1 – 5/3 Cal-Expo AutoRama at Butch Gardner Clubhouse

5/11 American River College (ARC) – Auto Tech Center Annual BBQ – 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. – fundraiser for students who will use proceeds for a project car.

May 2028 CORSA is having the 2028 Convention in Sacramento

September 25-26<sup>th</sup> Ironstone Concours d'Elegance. Entry deadline is August 28, 2026. Vehicle entry fee for Saturday's show is \$125.00 includes 2 admission & 2 lunch tickets.

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

### **Ongoing events:**

#### **LOCAL CARS & COFFEE 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
- Bridgeway Church, 8150 Industrial Ave., Roseville
- Grass Valley Cars and Coffee, Saturdays 7:00 am to 10:00 am, Target parking lot, West McKnight Way and Highway 49

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

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** For May 28<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting

- June 6<sup>th</sup> Pop Up Picnic Event: Miller Park Disc Golf Course. Sunset Avenue and Kenneth Avenue, Fair Oaks. Bring your own Picnic.
- Tours and Rally's with the Sacramento Valley Region Porsche Club.
- September 25-26<sup>th</sup> Ironstone Concours d'Elegance. Entry deadline is August 28, 2026. Vehicle entry fee for Saturday's show is \$125.00 includes 2 admission & 2 lunch tickets
- Website additions/corrections

**Tech Presentation:**

Meeting adjourned at 7.48 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://northern-california-corvairs.com)

## Welcome New Members

### Birthdays (Current & Upcoming)

#### May Birthdays:

Scott Bird      Kari Emery-Cotner  
Nelson Sparks      Cyndi James

#### June Birthdays:

Joe Aguirre      Michael Brassil      Russ Magee  
Paula Alves      Catherine Eastburn  
Marie Higley      Susan Peterson      Susan Shoen

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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.

**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:

**JUNE** 6 – CCRC BBQ/PICNIC – location TBD, 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.  
TBD – Friday to Sunday – Great Western Fan Belt Toss & Swap Meet

**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 Detailed Look Back at The Chevrolet Corvair Monza

BY ARUN SINGH PUNDIR

PUBLISHED DEC 13, 2020

Here's a look back at all that the Chevrolet Corvair Monza was, and wasn't.

## A Detailed Look Back at The Chevrolet Corvair Monza



The Chevrolet Corvair Monza high sales and then eventual slow death is a classic example of an automobile being ruined because it was ahead of its time, misunderstood and ruined by the words of a man who was considered an expert on cars.

Was the car flawed? Sure, but then again, there is no perfect car, the same way there is no perfect driver. But not all that

was said about it held. For the people who bought the Corvair and the Corvair Monza, they were basically good cars that had their quirks.

Today, the Corvairs and the Corvair Monza, in particular, are greatly prized by a niche set of people who truly know what the car is worth and what all it can be coaxed to do.

Sadly, the bad press that the Corvair got sealed the Corvair Monza's fate as well, and despite a keen interest in it, by 1969 it too had wrapped up.

Here's a look back at what the Chevrolet Corvair Monza was, and wasn't.

## The Corvair, and the Corvair Monza

The Corvair Monza Began Life In 1960 Itself as A Two-Door Club Coupe with Bucket Seats and The Fast Uptake of The Car Made Chevy Realize Its True Potential.

The Corvair was a step-forward from the cars made by the Detroit three. This was GM's first unibody vehicle made in the US for mass production and actually beat the Corvette by being the first American post-war car to have independent front and rear suspensions. Another of its firsts was that it was the first mass-made American car to carry a rear-mounted air-cooled engine. The move was right, the Corvair was a compact car that fit in perfectly, with the growing demand for compact cars for all those who could not or did not want to get into the muscle car territory.

At the start itself, it came in third in sales, behind the Ford Falcon and the AMC Rambler. Further diversified into van and pickup truck platforms that went by the Greenbrier and Corvan names, the Corvair was now a car that could do a lot. It

was a daily driver, or a versatile side or rear-loading truck, it could be a van and for the sport-minded, it was a sporty coupe that went by the name, Corvair Monza.



The Corvair Monza began life in 1960 itself as a two-door club coupe with bucket seats and the fast uptake of the car made Chevy realize its true potential. By 1961, the Monza trim was added to the four-door sedans as well.

The coolness of the car with its imitable style led fans to call it the "Poor Man's Porsche", and by 1961, half of all Corvairs sold were Corvair Monza's. In 1962, a Chevrolet Corvair Monza wagon also came to the fore. At the same time, Chevrolet decided to up the sporty game by introducing the Chevrolet Corvair Monza Spyder, a coupe and convertible with a turbocharged engine that made 150 horses – giving a respectable performance for little monies.

By 1963, 80% of all Corvairs sold were a Corvair Monza, and out of these 20% were Monza convertibles. By 1964, Plymouth came with the Barracuda, and on its heels came the Corvair killer, the Ford Mustang. Sales dropped and adding to the spinning loss was the book "Unsafe At Any Speed".

## The Takedown of The Corvair

Chevrolet Decided to up the Sporty Game by Introducing the Chevrolet Corvair Monza Spyder, A Convertible with A Turbocharged Engine That Made 150 Horses – Giving A Respectable Performance for little monies.



In 1965, consumer advocate and political activist Ralph Nader published his take on the ditzy world of American automobiles, "Unsafe at any Speed". He claimed that the Corvair was "the most dangerous automobile on the road" in the '60s and dubbed it a "one-car accident".

The reasoning behind his declaration was that the Corvair had a swing-axle suspension that needed different front and rear tire pressures for perfect functioning, something Corvair owners often did not heed. The rear engine meant the Corvair could spin-out at high speeds and it came minus a roll bar, thus putting passengers at risk in case of a rollover. The single-piece steering column was considered to be another impact hazard.

In response to all that bad press, GM in 1965 redesigned the suspension of the Corvair but sales continued to spiral down, enough for GM to retire the Corvair nameplate in 1969. The NHTSA denounced Nader's findings of the Corvair in 1972, calling it a fairly stable and safe car. But the damage to the Corvair's name had been done and it stayed sullied for many a year to come.

## Enthusiasts Keep the Corvair Monza Alive



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By all accounts, the Corvair and the Corvair Monza are no more unsafe than is any other car on the road. The engine did have its quirks and critics were quick to note that it was prone to oil leakage, while the heating system spread toxic fumes in the cabin at the times. The shiny dashboard was another issue because it caught the sun and blinded the driver at times for a few moments.

But it remains a cool car, and a classic whose prices are on the rise. While just a few years ago you could get a Chevy Corvair Monza for less than \$5,000, prices have now crossed \$10,000 for a viable model. Clearly, Corvair Monza's day has come...