



Corvair Chatter



Message From The CCRC President

Greetings fellow Club members and friends: Hope everyone is doing well and hope everyone is looking forward to the upcoming events. Air Cooled Java Cruisers - Dairy Queen September 23rd, Ironstone Concours d' Elegance is on September 26th. Those that are caravanning from the Jackson meet up location, we will need to be parked on the Ironstone grounds by 8:30 am. On October 3rd is the Club's BBQ-Picnic at Black Miners Bar. Group Site "A" 11am-3pm. On October 10, is the Sutter Creek tour and Knights Foundry. On October 11th, at Sonoma Raceway is the CSRG Sears Point Challenge – Historic races. Note this is a Free event. On October 18th, is Christy Barden's Birthday. The Birthday flyer was emailed out to Club members. These events and more will be discussed at the Club meeting on September 24th including email blasts.

David Oyler is selling his Greenbrier camper van. Please contact David at (925) 381-2333 for more information. I sent an email blast out in August with pictures of the camper van.

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

Happy Birthday!

Cheers and see you at the club mmeeting on the 24th.

John



Meetings (4th Thursdays)

Next meeting:

- **Thursday, September 24, 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/Pictures

Board Members

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

Finding Us

www.northern-california-corvairs.com

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

Instagram; [classiccorvairs_rivercity](#)

(Maintained by: Dean James)



WEBSITE QR CODE

Latest CCRC News

Meeting Minutes: July 23, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President, John Heiser. 25 members, 0 guests

Minutes of meeting on June 25, 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 May, 2026.

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

Membership report by Dean James: **51** members in good standing. paid to date for 2026.

Vice-President's report by Chris Medieros:

7/18 – Econo-Run consisted of 6 Corvair. Wes's 140 won 1st place with 27 MPG (same as last year). 2nd place went to Rick's power glide 4 speed with 23 MPG. Dean's "rolling refrigerator" Greenbriar came in at 13 MPG.

8/2 – California State Fair – meet at Black Bear Diner at 9:15 am to caravan to Cal-Expo.

8/22 – Ice Cream Social – email blast for details

8/28 – Iron Stone – send application with picture to Chris for group submission

10/3 – Club Picnic – Black Miners (Negro) Bar. – entrance fee \$10 or for age 62+ \$9. Park opens at 9 am. Picnic starts at 11 am to 3pm. Club will provide steaks and salmon; sign up sheet for appetizers, side dishes, desserts. Email to be sent for members not attending club meeting.

No information on Vans in the Vault – don't think it's happening this year.

Tech Presentations: Wes – report regarding Ken Edwards engine – issue regarding push rods – years '60, '61 and '62 are listed as having same parts # and later models, but have a must smaller hole.

Therefore, if refurbishing engine, check push rods. Engine has all new lifters, new pistons, shifts OK..

Ken – advised re: variance in rotors – Delco have smaller diameter – outside measurement the same but inside is smaller.

Ben – show and tell re: flex tool to hone and polish cylinder. He has a tool to measure cylinder. If using soft ring, want smoother finish; if using hard ring, want rougher finish. John Heiser has a two sets of engine cylinders to test. One set, machined bored and honed and one set non machined honed.

Dean – show and tell – Clark's modern fuse box \$175 – has extra fuses (Corvair has 5 circuits), including flashers @ 20 amp slot

Michael Brassil – daughter gift of hand-made print-stamp on linoleum image of his car.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm

Latest CCRC News (cont.)

Meeting Minutes: August 27, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 6:25 pm by President, John Heiser. 19 members, 1 guest
No minutes as no newsletter.

President's report by 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
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Treasurer's report by Jim Kindley for July, 2026.

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

Membership report by Dean James: **51** members paid to date for 2026. Newest member is Gary Powell (former member, back in the fold) with a Rampside.

Vice-President's report by Chris Medieros: Thanks to everyone who attended Ice Cream social at Taylor's in Loomis. Wes invited participants to his new shop, a mile from Taylor's.

Ongoing Events and New Activities and Events: See pages 5

Old Business: Wes brought evidence of validity of his 1st place standing with 23 mpg (in case anyone suspected he may have cheated at the Econo-Run), in the form of a winners log sheet of 140's Econo-Run at 36.7 mpg and 36.4 mpg.

New Business:

Local Porche club has invited us its Rallys and Tours.

Saturday, 10/3 @ 11:00 am – Black Miners (Negro) Bar – club BBQ/Picnic – Bonnie is coordinating potluck. Need volunteers to get there early to hold BBQs.

Saturday, 10/28 @ 9:00 am to 4:00 pm – Ironstone Concours d'Elegance – application deadline tomorrow. We have 5 cars submitted to Chris, Christy sent separately.

Saturday, 10/10 – Sutter Creek Tour & Knight Foundry – park in lot across from pizza parlor. Car show on 10/11. Further information to follow.

Sunday, 10/18 @ 1 pm to 5 pm – Christy is hosting his 90th Birthday Party with food, ice cream and cake at the Big Yellow Barn. Bring your Corvair and park near the barn.

Tech Presentation: Wes discussed benefit of changing out headlights/high beams to LED for much better visibility. Check Ebay for "Corvair lights" and "LED Conversion Kit."

Chris discussed various modifications of his car to enhance function of lights, 3rd brake light with backup camera (replaces the rearview mirror).

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Information

Corvair Resources (Online)

Q&A - www.corvaircenter.com
www.corvairforum.com
Parts - www.corvair.com (Clark's)
www.californiacorvairparts.com
www.mikescorvairparts.com
www.rockauto.com
Sale - www.jaxed.com
www.corvairtrader.com (Parts & Sales)
Resources –
<https://www.corvair.org/chapters/corvanatics>
Car Building – <http://autoexer.skiblack.com>
Fun-www.youtube.com/user/davemotohead1 /
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** 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 or Wes Nicholas at 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

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)

September Birthdays:

Derek Treon Maria Castellanos Edie Durham
Char Gray Deb Oylar

October Birthdays:

Christy Barden Michael Deklotz Bob Florence
Carl Funk Shawn Holmes Howard Hutchison
Dean James Howard James Hector Lozano
Michael Nyberg Jay Schumaker
Mariam Byerhoff

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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 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 – Town Center, El Dorado Hills, 7:00 am to 9:30 am
- Grass Valley Cars & Coffee, 7:00 am to 10:00 am, Saturdays at Daily Donuts in Target parking lot, 117 West McKnight Way @ Highway 49
- Delta Shores Cars 'n Coffee – 8270 Delta Shores Circle – 1st Sunday of the month 8:00 to 10:00 am – South Sacramento exit Highway 5 at Consumnes River Blvd.
- Bridgeway Church – 8150 Industrial Ave., Roseville – 1st Saturday of the month

Current & Upcoming Events:

SEPTEMBER 11 – Auburn Cruise Night – meet at In & Our Burger, Rocklin
26 – Ironstone Concours d'Elegance – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Ironstone Vineyards, 1894 Six Mile Road, Murphys, CA. Registration fee is \$125.00 which includes entrance and lunch tickets for 2. CCRC will reimburse \$75.00 per car that shows up.

OCTOBER 3 – Black Miners (Negro) Bar – club BBQ/Picnic. Group Site A 11am-3pm.
10 – CCRC Cruise – Sutter Creek, to include a scavenger hunt. and Knights Foundry
11 – Sonoma Raceway: Historic Races, Free entry and parking
18 – Christy Barden Birthday Party
23-25 – 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...