

**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-engine, 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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**Carl's Engine Down
Under!**

**Next SFBA Zoom Meeting Thursday, Oct 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 11 SFBA members and no guests this evening. A fair turnout this month.

As was mentioned last month, we are looking for a replacement Treasurer and Club VP as Harry, who was performing these tasks, is stepping down. He will keep helping out for a little while until we find a replacement. His house in Dublin is currently up for sale and he will be moving to Santa Cruz. Harry said the VP job isn't much and the Treasurer only deposits a couple of checks per month and he writes only a handful of checks per year. All of the deposits are via his phone, he doesn't have to go into the bank at all. Just takes a picture of the check and send this in. He does provide a monthly summary for the newsletter.

It's a good time to remind our members that the Club runs on volunteers. By spreading the work among several individuals, there is a minimal burden on anyone and the Club becomes more vibrant and open to change. You would be involved in the Club's day-to-day activities as well as future planning plus it's a great way to learn about Corvairs. If you would like to help out, please let Ray, Josh, or myself know.

I just received an email from Josh, he mentioned that SFBA just received 4 new members! There's Laura Crosby, Mark Edwards, and Gregory Davis from San Francisco and Jim Pennell from Arroyo Grande. Welcome!

Our 2025 Holiday Dinner is coming up. The exact date has not been determined but December 6th or 13th would be most likely. This year we are looking for a different location. The last two years we have been The Blackhawk Grill with a Museum tour afterwards. Put on your thinking

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

Merchandise <https://www.etsy.com/listing/1163514879/san-francisco-bay-area-corvair-club>

caps and bring your ideas to the next meeting.

Following the last meeting, Carl passed on some disturbing news. When he and Arlette came to the US last year, the customs people
(see *Letter...* on page 7)

On The Cover: Carl has pulled the power train from his RHD Corvair. He used a pretty neat looking jack to hold the engine and trans. Sure beats trying to use a floor jack! He is going to do a complete rebuild.

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).

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Minutes of the Last Meeting

Sep 4, 2025

Josh got the regular meeting started around 7:00 PM following a short Board meeting. When the room was opened, Josh, Harry and I were quickly joined by Peter, Seth, Don, Herb, Carl, Lane, Joe, and Buck. I hope I included everyone.

Treasury Report: Harry is still filling in as Club Treasurer until a replacement steps up. The bank balance, as reported in the last newsletter, was \$3,146.98.

Membership: Josh did not report any new members this month, there are a couple of hopeful prospects.

Old Business: Nothing specifically mentioned.

New Business: Josh said there were several Cars n Coffee type events coming up. He will put a list on the SFBA web site.

Events: The Oakland Aviation Museum is having a Corvair Cockpit Day on Sunday, September 7th at their facility off Doolittle. Lane asked how many were expected to drive a Corvair? Josh said he had heard back from 5 or 6 that intended to go. But there are always stragglers that show up at the last minute.

Gabe is planning on having another Open House. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept 20th at Sterling Restorations in Fairfield, CA. Same place as before.

Don't forget the Fan Belt Toss is coming up Oct 24-26th. This will be at a new location this year. See flyer.

The next VairFest is scheduled for June 27, 2026 at Heritage Park in Arroyo Grande again.

Phil's '66 Corsa: Don said he solved the issue with the plastic pillar pieces that did not fit (even the new ones from Clark's). There was a lip that was too large. After he filed it down it fit perfectly and all holes lined up. He ordered some screws for the rear door cards that were missing. There is still a problem with the rear window. It only rolls down a certain amount and then becomes very hard. Don tried grease, oil spray, etc. These helped but the snag is still there. Carl thought the window channels were out of adjustment. It's a lot of work to fix those. Clark suggested using a bore scope to determine the cause. Maybe you can see if the tracks are not lining up. Don thought that was a good idea and said he had one and will give it a try.

Don said the seats aren't done yet. Hopefully in the next week or two. When they are done he will setup another Work Day for us to install these and get other work done.

Tech: Josh said he heard there was a Corvair mechanic near Winters. Herb, who lives in Winters, said he didn't know of them. Josh will check with CCRC for more details.

Herb said years ago (1972), he was in Yuma, AZ at an Army base and they had several articulated vehicles that were Corvair powered. They were being evaluated. Seth recalled there used to be a vehicle powered by twin Corvair 140 engines called the twister (Lockheed

Twister? They made several variations with different power plants.).



Harry said he heard that the proposed "Leno Law" was shot down. This would have exempted some older cars (1976-1984?) from smog tests. Seth said when the state looked at the financial impact of this law, they didn't want to lose that much revenue. In addition ALL of the environmental groups opposed it. And that did it in. This makes it harder to get 1976 to 1984 cars smog checked and of course it will be more expensive. Josh said some people get around this by registering their cars in Montana.

Peter said he was watching a YouTube video (Auto Line network) on electric vehicles and cars only contribute 16% of the pollution problem. But they are easy to pick on. He asked if the Corsa emblems would pull out or were there captive nuts on the back side? Seth said he wasn't sure. GM has done it both ways. But try using a butter knife (or similar tool) and see if they can be pried off. But not too hard, you don't want to break anything. If the emblems do not budge, you will have to access the back by pulling the rear door panels. Seth suggested asking the Corvair Owner's group on Facebook. You will get answers quickly.

(See *Minutes..* on page 7)

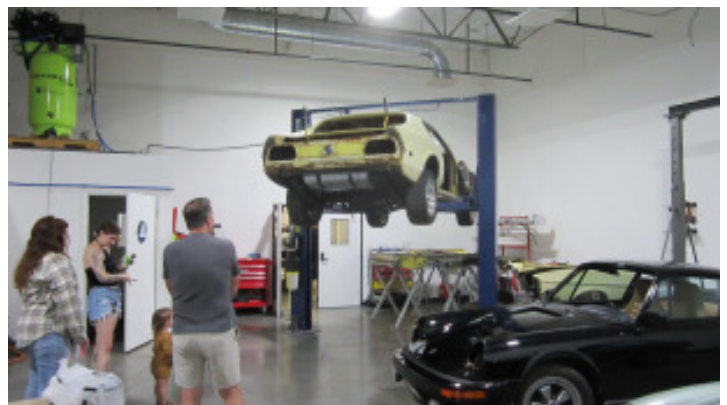
Coming Events in 2025...

Oct 2nd	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Oct 18th	Welding 101 Work Shop, Sterling Restorations, 1076 Horizon Dr Suite 5, Fairfield, CA 94533
Oct 18th	San Francisco Old Car picnic is at Golden Gate Park. A really fun event. Here's the link https://www.sfcarpicnic.com/
Oct 24-26th	Great Western Fan Belt Toss and Swap Meet, host hotel is the Double Tree by Hilton Golf Resort Palm Springs, in Cathedral City, CA
Nov 6th	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Dec 4th	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Dec 6th or 13th	SFBA Holiday Dinner. Date and location to be determined.

SFBA CORSA Meeting Schedule 2025

Thursday Jan 2, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday Feb 6, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday Mar 6, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday Apr 3, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday May 1, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday Jun 5, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday Jul 3, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday Aug 7, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday Sep 4, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday Oct 2, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"	
Thursday Nov 6, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"
Thursday Dec 4, 7:00 PM	SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

Sterling Restorations Open House



SFBA Web Site Tech Topics This Month

Date Posted	Subject
=====	=====
Sep 22, 2025	Vairs at the Vault Update
Sep 21, 2025	A few Corvairs from recent events
Sep 20, 2025	Do you know the story of the Corvairs crossing the Darien Gap?
Sep 18, 2025	Upcoming Weekend Events
Sep 17, 2025	Another happy Corvair owner... and another one!
Sep 15, 2025	From the Corsa Archives
Sep 13, 2025	25 Things You Didn't Know About The Corvair
Sep 11, 2025	Upcoming Weekend Events
Sep 9, 2025	The 55 year old part that brought a dead Corvair back to life
Sep 8, 2025	For Sale ~ Everything must go!
Sep 6, 2025	Down under engine rebuild
Sep 5, 2025	It's a 60 year old car!

Blooper Update - Bruce Mooers

I finally had some time to finish up a few more fine points on the Blooper! I was able to add a layer of undercoat to the wheel wells following the look of the original application which was kind of random.

At the same time I fully adjusted all of the brakes and lubricated the new front suspension.

Now I am ready to add a few miles to the odometer and shake it all down.

I do have a persistent electrical bug around the back up lights, right turn signal, and the dash warning lights. Odd as these are all new harnesses and they only plug in one way!

Paolo Galli has Brodies engine for his 1964 and we are waiting on that to get his car wrapped up!

Details to follow when we have more news.



Minutes...

Carl said he now has the engine out of his Corvair. He has found a local mechanic that will go through the engine. Carl hasn't found the source of the mechanical noise he was hearing but has decided on a complete rebuild anyway. He has bought all of the parts from Clark's. Carl said with the plugs out, the engine turns over easily to a point where it binds. But once passed this resistance, it turns easily again. The resistance is on every revolution, not every other revolution. So it's crank related and not cam related. Herb advised that every time you take something off the engine, check to see if that affected the issue. You don't want to take the whole engine apart and not know what the real cause was. Seth said, if all of the push rods are removed and the problem still exists, this will eliminate a lot of things. Seth also said to mark where on the crank rotation the binding occurs, and then see which pistons are approaching TDC. Herb asked if the oil was clean when he drained it. Yes, Carl check the oil thoroughly with strainers and filters

and found nothing but slightly dirty oil. Herb suggested to try using a long screwdriver as a stethoscope to local any noise. Carl said he was fortunate as his mechanic doesn't mind him helping out. He will be taking lots of pictures. Buck asked if Carl had pulled the oil pan to see the bottom end looked okay. Carl said "no". He has taken off the top plate but not the bottom pan. From the top everything looks fine. But now that it's on an engine stand, he could easily do that. Buck said he had an issue where a broken oil ring had lodged a piece in the gears. Carl said he didn't think that was the issue as the engine did run, but with a metallic clanking sound. On a side note, Carl said he just learned that 110 hp Corvair motors with AC had 95 hp heads. Interesting. Carl asked if he might have damaged the rear motor mount when he dropped the engine? Don said it was not likely. You could possibly dent the oil pan, but even that is not likely. Seth said if the rear motor mount was damaged it's an easy part to replace. To lift the body off the power train, Carl made

some wood wedges that just fit in the triangular openings by the rear wheels. Others have done the same. Joe showed some wedge pads he had used on his sail boat, where he cut a groove that fit over the pinch welds. These are hard rubber and work well.



Seth said these triangular area were the tie-down points the DOT requires for shipping vehicles and are very strong.

Swap & Sell: Nothing specifically mentioned.

Meeting adjourned about 8:10 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Clark Calkins, secretary

Letter...

treated them very roughly. They were harsh and very aggressive. He didn't know why. In making his vacation plans for the coming year, they intended to travel to Europe with a lay-over in the US (at Convention time). This would break up the otherwise 30 hour flight to Europe. However, the latest price he received was double what he paid last year! About \$16,000 each for Qantas business class. They have booked their flights to Europe but the US is still up in the air. Carl is hoping the prices will come down in the next month or two. He asked Qantas why and they said there is too much risk in dealing with the US right now.

The Sterling Restorations Open House was last Saturday, September 20th.

There were probably 30 people in attendance and 10 were from SFBA. At the Open House Gabe announced he is having another Welding Work Shop. If you are interested in learning this skill, you won't want to miss this!. See the flyer on page 8.



I ran into this one picture of the Oakland Air Museum/Corvair Day. I am hoping to get a full report for next months Spyder Web.

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, Oct 2nd 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.



Welding 101 Work Shop

**October 18, 2025
8:00am - 3:00pm**

Course Summery

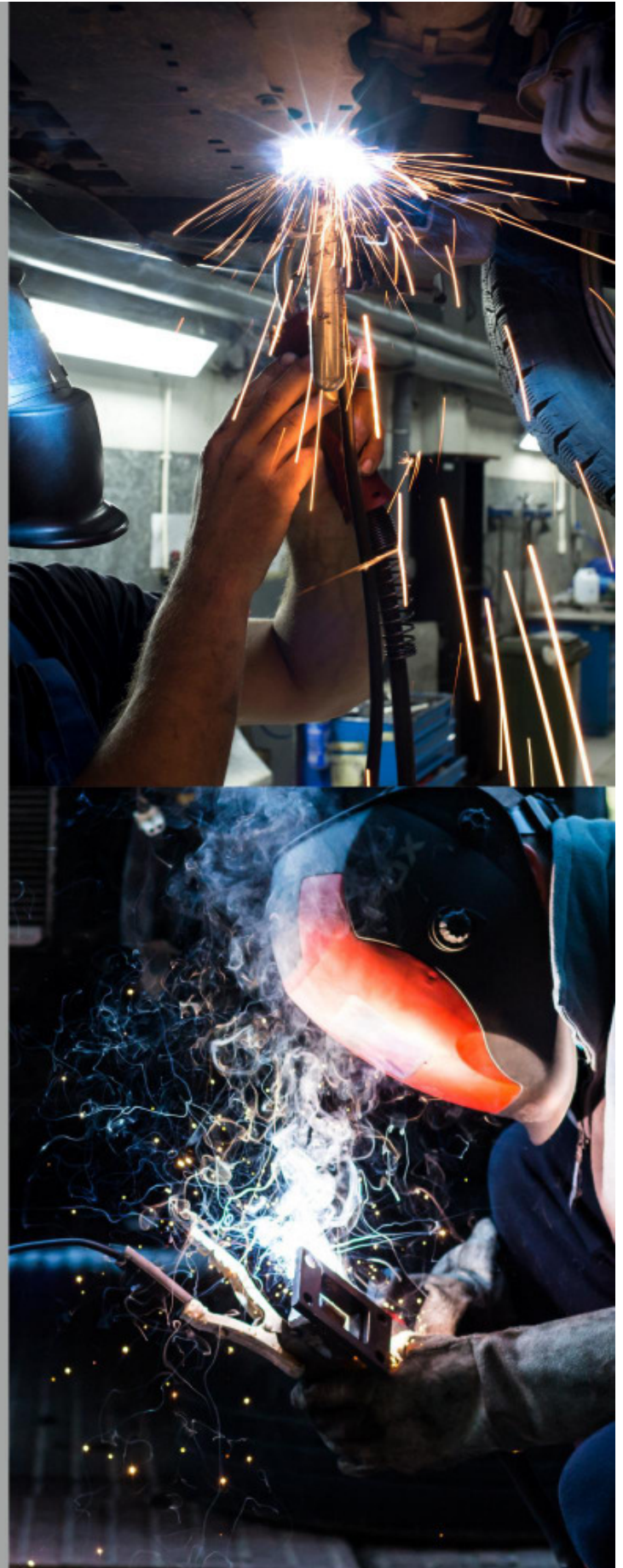
Classic Car Welding 101 is an introductory course for vintage car enthusiasts and aspiring restorers. You'll learn essential welding techniques specifically for classic car bodywork and frame repair.

The class covers safety, metal identification, basic MIG welding, patch panel fabrication, and common welding challenges unique to vintage vehicles. No prior welding experience is needed.

How to Book

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A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required to confirm your enrollment.





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Vairs at the Vault Update - SFBA Corsa

We have been receiving messages from chapter members and Corvair owners asking about a date for Vairs at the Vault.

We are sad to report that we will not be having the Vault event this year. This event is put together by a very small group. With the CORSA convention, big life events, intense work schedules and everything else going on, time just flew by this year.

We collectively agreed that "forcing or rushing" the event may cheapen the experience and that was the reasoning

behind postponing until next year.

The good news is that we have lots of time to plan for an even better event for 2026 and will set the date early so you all have time to plan and attend.

We also need another volunteer or two to help us out. If you are in the North Bay or Napa area and want to help, we'd love to hear from you. If you are out of area and want to help, that works too!

For those who are not familiar with Vairs at the Vault, the event was started

in 2022 by Bruce Mooers with help from Eric Vanderburgt and Josh Deitcher. There are countless car shows out there, so they wanted something different. To celebrate the history of the Corvair, CORSA, SFBA and people who have championed and cared for these cars for the last 60+ years.

As the first event also was the 50th Anniversary of SFBA, it was even more fitting to celebrate the club. Co-founders Dave Newell and Tony Richards were in attendance for this event with Dave giving a presentation on the 1969 Corvair and Tony docu-

(See **Vault...** on page 11)

Corvair Classifieds

CORVAIRS FOR SALE

'66 Corsa 140 Runs excellent. Starts first try. New exhaust, electronic ignition, electric fuel pump. 4 carbs rebuilt.



I have a list of everything that has been done. Brakes need work, light rust at bottom of windshield. \$10k firm. SFBA member Jamie Torres jamie@gritsf.com. (3/25)

'62 Rampside, in process of being restored. 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

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)

CORVAIRS WANTED

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 - Harry Kypreos

September 2025

Date	Activity	Check #	Credit	Debit	Balance	Status
09/01/2025	Beginning Balance				\$3,028.57	
08/26/2025	Sept newsletter (stamps)			(12.41)	3,016.16	**
09/15/2025	SFBA Renewals via check		25.00		3,041.16	
09/15/2025	SFBA Renewals via Paypal		40.00		3,081.16	
09/30/2025	Ending Balance		65.00	(\$12.41)	\$3,081.16	

** Expense or Credit that has not been turned in yet. Bank balance shows \$3,211.98

Vault...

menting the event for his YouTube Channel.

Since we aren't having the in-person event this year, we wanted to share with you a collection of photos from previous Vairs at the Vault to motivate you to get ready for 2026!

To learn more about the Napa Vault, visit <https://SFBACorsa.com>.


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