

**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!



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

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**Next SFBA Zoom Meeting Thursday, Dec 4th
@7:00PM (#243 888 8339)**

Letter From the Editor

I hope you were able to attend our last meeting. By my count we had 13 SFBA members, including one new member – Scott Lyon, and no guests this evening. A good turnout this month. I guess Summer vacations are over.

As we have been mentioning for a few months, SFBA was looking for a new Treasurer to take over for Harry. Well Buck Jones stepped up and will be assuming these duties. Turns out there is a Comerica Bank near him in Monterey. Thanks Buck, this helps a lot!

We are happy to report that this year's location for the annual SFBA CORSA Holiday Lunch has been booked for **Lara's Fine Dining** at the Richmond Marina on Sat, Dec 6th at 1pm (see menu at <https://larasfinedining.com>). The location came with high praise by VP Pete Tachis. Josh went out to explore it and confirmed that the location, staff and food were all excellent. We hope you can join us! There is a large variety of food choices available. With us seating at 1pm, you may even have an option for brunch choices. They also have a full bar in the event you want to enjoy your lunch with a beer or cocktail. If the weather is favorable, please drive your Corvair! There are many great photo opportunities in this area. There is a map and directions on page 7. If possible, please drop Josh or myself a note indicating how many will be coming so we can alert the restaurant.

This month we have a report on the Welding 101 class held at Sterling Restorations in Fairfield SFBA members Buck and Paul attended and indicated that they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learned a lot. See page 5 for more info. What a wonderful contribution to the car restoration hobby!

Current SFBA Corsa Officers

President	Ray Welter , 5240 Belvedere St, Oakland CA 94601 - Ray.Welter@gmail.com
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
Library	Dave Newell , 1481 Hamrick Lane, Hayward, CA 94544 - (510)782-4265 chevrobia@yahoo.com
Newsletter	Clark Calkins (address above)
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Merchandise	https://sfbacorsa.com/sfba-club-merchandise/

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.

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

On The Cover: Sterling held their Welding 101 Workshop last month. This provided hands-on experience to the important car restoration task. SFBA mebers Buck and Paul attended. Both felt that Gabe did a comendable job and highly recommend this to anyone interested in learning this task. See their stories on page 5.

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 avialable 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

Nov 6, 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, Carl, Lane, Buck, Jim Pennell, Jeffrey, Laura, and new member Scott Lyon. I hope I included everyone.

Treasury Report: Harry is still filling in as Club Treasurer. The bank balance, as reported in the last newsletter, was \$3236.98. Of significant note is that Buck Jones, out of Pebble Beach, volunteered to take over the Treasurer's position. He happens to have a Comerica branch close by in Monterey. Thanks Buck!

Membership: Josh reported that we had one new member this month, Scott Lyon from Pleasanton. Welcome!

Old Business: Nothing specifically mentioned.

New Business: Josh said it was suggested that SFBA start up its own Forum on the web site. Josh looked into this and the cost would be around \$12/month. The main work would be on the moderator (Josh) to keep things up to date and spam free. Most thought this was a good idea (at least to try) and by show of hands it was agreed to. Josh will have more details in the coming weeks.

Annual Holiday Dinner: Two possible locations were mentioned, one

was Lara's Fine Dining in Marina Bay, Richmond, and the other was The Dead Fish in Crocket. Josh will look into these and get back to us shortly. Time is running out and we need to make a decision before it is too late (find more info elsewhere in this newsletter).

Fan Belt Toss: The Fan Belt Toss just completed. From our group Lane, Peter, Jeffrey, Seth, Eric, and Jim Penell went. Most towed their Corvairs or took other transportation. As Josh and others said "that's a long way to drive in a 60-year-old car!". They had lots of cars and lots of people. There were two 4-wheel drive Corvairs. The event was well organized. Both Josh and Lane said that Sasha (Val's wife?) did an outstanding job. The Banquet was especially good, like a regular Convention. Seth, as an inside vendor, said he enjoyed it very much. The outside vendors were in the parking lot where it was fairly hot (mid 90s). Most had popup canopies. Jeffrey felt the "Cruise Through the City" was especially good. People at the restaurants and on balconies were taking pictures and pointing at the Corvairs. He thinks this should have been better publicized. Jeffrey felt the organizers could have compacted the schedule a bit. He felt there was too much time between events. Seth said to let them know, they are currently looking for feedback. Josh said they had to deal with other time constraints, like the Dyno was only available for a short time on Friday. Seth said this FBT was quite successful and they have already booked it for the same location next year.

Phil's '66 Corsa: Don said that Johnny finished recovering the front bucket seats. Initially we thought that we would tackle this but it became apparent that this would be too much for us. But Don's neighbor, Johnny (a retired upholsterer) helped us out at a very reasonable price of \$325 for both. And they came out great! See the November 2025 Spyder Web for more info and photos. Harry will send Don a check to cover this.

Events: Gabe's "Welding 101" class at Sterling Restorations was a great success. In total there were 6 attendees including Paul and Buck from SFBA. Gabe and one of his workers were the instructors. See their stories and photos on page 5.

Jim Pennell mentioned that the next VairFest is scheduled for June 27, 2026, at Heritage Park in Arroyo Grande again. This is always a very nice event, and so close.

The next Convention will be in Gettysburg, and the following one in Tennessee. The 2028 Convention is due to be held on the West Coast again. CORSA is looking at all options.

Josh and Laurance went to the Old Car Picnic in Golden Gate Park. They had 2 or 3000 cars! They parked next to a '65 Corvette. Everybody walked by the Vett and stopped to talk with them. It always happens!

Tech: Scott Lyon, new SFBA member, just picked up a nice '67 Monza

(See *Minutes..* on page 9)

Coming Events in 2025...

Dec 4th	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Dec 6th	SFBA Holiday Dinner/Luncheon, 1:00 PM at Lara's Fine Food, 1900 Esplanade Dr, Richmond, CA 94804 (510)234-1860.
Jan 1st 2026	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Feb 5th 2026	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
June 27-29th	VairFest, Heritage Park, Arroyo Grande, CA

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 Welding 101

Buck & Paul

Hi Clark, The welding class was really well done. Gabe went through the safety procedures and then the steps to cut out bad panel segments, cut out a patch, then MIG tack the patch back into the cutout. He had some bad doors that they could not use for a resto job and those were the ones we practiced on. Everybody - about 9 of us - got the opportunity to do all the steps. It showed my why bodywork is so expensive. Its very critical once you cut out the bad piece to match the patch as closely as possible, and make sure you have no sharp corners at the edges because the path will quickly melt, The gap needs to be 1/32 Or 1/16th gap all around so you don't have to use much filler. The piece I cut out of the door was actually a sandwich of bad material, the first layer was the original sheet metal, then bondo, then a second layer of metal (a patch piece) and more bondo, so I had to enlarge the hole in order to get to some decent material of the original door. Once cutting out and fitting the patch material, using small magnets to fix it in place, as the patch was on the main door surface, start tacking, only do one tack then move opposite for the second, then space the next tack away from the first one, going very slowly not to overheat the original door. Then you have to go back and tack adjacent to the first tacks to fill in the gap. I went too fast and had a bit of a warp when done. Then grind down the tacks to match the original surface with three different grits, this being the really careful step, so as not to damage the original panel surface. I learned the basics and that there is no way i'm going into the body business. Really takes a lot of skill and TIME! No wonder it costs what it does. - **Buck Jones**

Hi Clark, The welding class was great! It focused solely on MIG welding with automotive gauge sheet metal, exactly the skills needed for our cars. Most of the class time was hands-on experience. Gabe had a couple vintage truck doors on stands for everyone to practice filling holes, cutting out rust and making patch panels, grinding/sanding welds, etc., so the students could practice while Gabe gave tips on improving their welds. - **Paul Beers**



(See **Welding 101** on page 6)

Welding 101...



SFBA Holiday Dinner/Luncheon

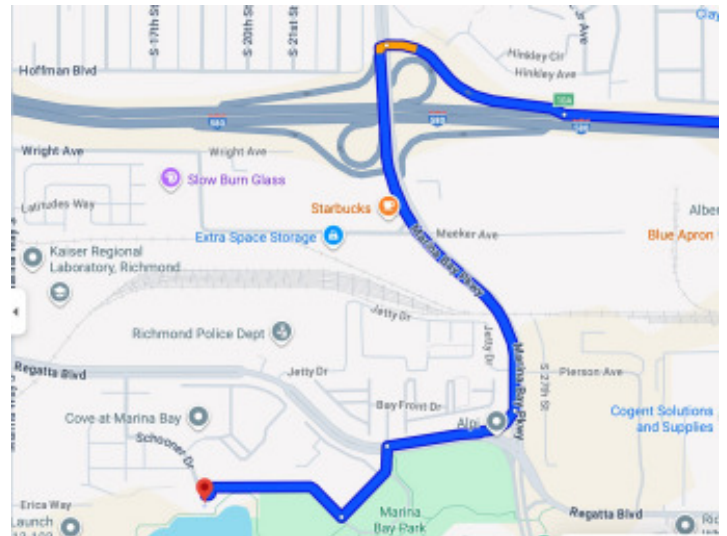
- Map and Directions -



Finding Lara's Fine Dining can be a little tricky for those not familiar with the area, so here are a couple of maps depending on which side of the bay you are coming in from. For you GPSers the final address 1900 Esplanade Dr, Richmond, CA 94804 and the phone number is (510)234-1860. **The date is Saturday, December 6th and the time is 1:00 PM.**

When coming from the East, North, or South Bay, or SF/ Peninsula on Hwy 80/101...

- Take 80 to 580 going West to the San Rafael Bridge
- Take exit 10A S 23rd St / Marina Bay Pkwy
- Turn left on Marina Bay Pkwy
- Turn right on Regatta Blvd
- Turn left on Melville Square
- Turn right on Esplanade Dr
- Lara's will be on your left next to a Vietnamese restaurant



(see Holiday Luncheon... on Page 8)

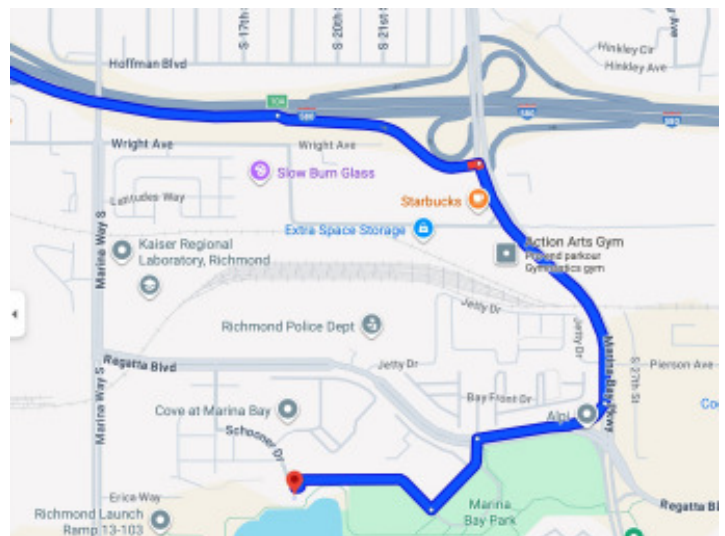
SFBA Web Site Tech Topics This Month

Date Posted	Subject
=====	=====
Nov 22	Doug Hargrove's V8 Corvair
Nov 21	Upcoming Weekend Events
Nov 20	SFBA Holiday Lunch Dec 6th 1pm
Nov 18	1966 Corvair Monza For Sale
Nov 15	A Little About The Corvair Engine
Nov 13	Upcoming Weekend Events
Nov 11	Thank You Veterans
Nov 10	Corvairs in the wild
Nov 8	An El Corvino Story
Nov 7	Updates From Yesterday's SFBA Zoom Meeting
Nov 6	SFBA Zoom Meeting Tonight & Upcoming Weekend Events
Nov 5	7 Budgeting Rules For Your Project Corvair
Nov 4	November 2025 Spyder Web Newsletter
Nov 1	Member / Subscriber Poll
Oct 31	Happy Halloween!
Oct 30	Upcoming Weekend Events
Oct 27	Tech Tip ~ Fan Belt Maintenance
Oct 26	Dispatch from the Great Western Fan Belt Toss

Holiday Luncheon...

When coming from the North Bay/San Rafael on Hwy 101...

- Take 101 to 580 going East from the San Rafael Bridge
- Take exit 10A S 23rd St / Marina Bay Pkwy
- Turn right on Marina Bay Pkwy
- Turn right on Regatta Blvd
- Turn left on Melville Square
- Turn right on Esplanade Dr
- Lara's will be on your left next to a Vietnamese restaurant
-



Minutes...

coupe from Chris Shade (sp?) in Nebraska in June. He had it shipped out here. This is a Marina Blue, 110 4-speed.



He has put about 1000 miles on it so far and now the clutch is slipping. He took the car to Lane's house in Castro Valley, and they worked on some adjustments. It's better but still slips so it needs to be replaced. Scott asked if the disk can be replaced without taking out the whole engine and trans? Unfortunately, the answer is "no". However, removing the engine is not that daunting a task. It seems the hardest part is getting the rubber seal attached when the engine is reinstalled. Scott also notices a minor squeal from the blower bearing. He purchased a replacement from Clark's but was wondering if the bearing can be repacked with grease. Josh said he has tool for doing that and it worked for him. He will send it to Scott so he can try it. To use the bearing that Scott did buy, he will have to press out the old bearing and press in the new. He asked if he would have to remove both carbs? Seth said he can do it with only one carb removed but it might be difficult to measure the bearing height. This has to be installed such that the fan barely misses the top shroud.

Seth suggested Scott obtain a copy of "Corvair Basics", this comes with a membership to CORSA which he should also definitely join, and also "How to Keep Your Corvair Alive". These books cover the basics for new Corvair owners that intend to work

on their cars themselves and don't have access to a complete shop.

Scott asked if the Club had any QR codes that can be displayed to let others conveniently access the Club's web site. Josh said we use to, but these have not been updated. It's a good idea and he will check into it. Maybe two sided to share with Valley Corsa. Scott said he took his Corvair to Good Guys in Pleasanton and was parked between some nice Corvettes. He got more attention than the \$80k neighbors!

Carl said that his engine, that he had taken to a mechanic to rebuild, was still sitting there. It has become apparent that this shop will not get to it any time soon. He has decided to take the engine to another place that specializes in Porche and VW engines. They are familiar with Corvairs but haven't worked on them. As soon as the heads come off, Carl thinks he will know the cause of the problems. Carl talked (emailed?) with Larry Claypool about his engine noise and Larry thought it might be a small item, like a washer, that has gotten into a cylinder. Carl has planned on a complete rebuild and asked about replacing the crank. Lane said he wouldn't replace the crank unless it was absolutely necessary. Because it's a 110 engine and the crank is not nitrided, the journals can be ground a few mills without losing hardness if needed. Lane and Peter felt the original parts were made better than today's replacements. Carl thinks that by looking at the car's condition, the engine has 133k miles on it (not just the 33k miles on the odometer). Seth said the "water shed" moment while working on a Corvair motor is when the block gets split. Before this, it's a regular engine (lifters, valves, rings, pistons, etc.) but splitting the block brings a lot more things into play.

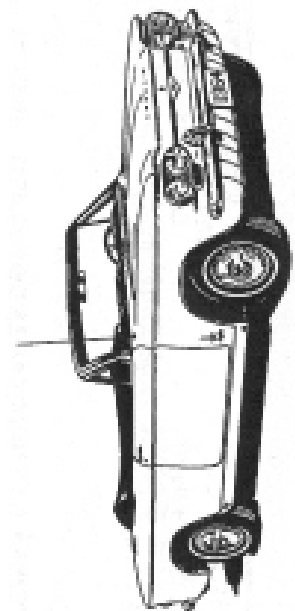
Jeffrey said in his neighborhood they have an Eichler Home Tour and the organizers wanted him to park his '67 Corvair our front as a "period" piece. Jeffrey was wondering for "Modernism Week", the week before the Fan Belt Toss in Palm Springs, the organizers could arrange for some to bring their Corvairs out early for the publicity. Josh will bring this up with CORSA as it applies with Conventions also.

Swap & Sell: Nothing specifically mentioned.

Meeting adjourned about 8:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Clark Calkins, secretary



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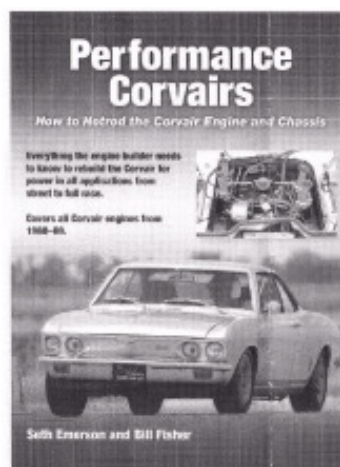
www.corvair.com email: clarks@corvair.com



Letter...

When we see others working on their cars it gives us the incentive to do the same!

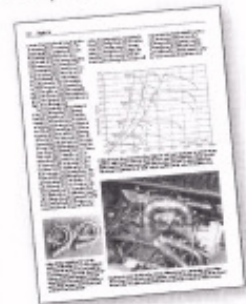
Our next Zoom meeting will be Thursday, Dec 4th starting at 7:00 PM. Remember our permanent meeting ID# is 243 888 8339. A reminder email will be sent containing a link to the meeting making it easy to join.



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Seth Emerson
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San Jose, CA 95117

Corvair Classifieds

CORVAIRS FOR SALE

'62 Rampside,, in process of being re-stored. 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

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, (925)519-3795. Located in Alameda, CA (11/25)

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)

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

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

November 2025

Date	Activity	Check #	Credit	Debit	Balance	Status
11/01/2025	Beginning Balance				\$3,050.63	
10/26/2025	Nov newsletter (stamps)			(12.41)	3,038.22	**
10/31/2025	One time adjustment			(40.00)	2,998.22	
10/31/2025	Ending Balance			(\$52.41)	\$2,998.22	

** Expense or Credit that has not been turned in yet. Bank balance shows \$3,196.98


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