

**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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<https://www.SFBACorsa.com>

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**Merry Christmas and
Happy New Years!**

**Next SFBA Zoom Meeting Thursday, Jan 1st
@7:00PM (#243 888 8339)**

Letter From the Editor

I hope you were able to attend our last meeting. By my count we had 14 SFBA members and no guests this evening. A pretty good turnout I believe.

The day following the meeting Harry, Buck, and I met at Comerica Bank in San Ramon. We got the paperwork completed to remove Harry from the SFBA account signature list and add in Buck. The bank wanted something "official" to acknowledge that Buck would be the new Treasurer, so Harry and I brought copies of the Spyder Web where this was announced and Ray wrote a nice welcoming letter that had an "official" look to it. After about an hour or so the bank got the paperwork all setup and we were on our way. Hopefully we won't have to do this again for a few years.

Our annual Holiday Dinner was held at Lara's Fine Dining in Marina Bay in Richmond this year. I wish to thank Josh for checking out the restaurant and making the reservations, and Peter for the initial suggestion. From what I heard everybody enjoyed their food and we had our own private room with good Bay views. The staff took care of us quite well I thought. There are a few pictures of the gathering on page 5. On leaving I noticed there were 3 or 4 Corvairs in the parking lot. Thanks to all those who drove theirs!

As I write this letter I am in the planning stages of moving to a retirement community in Fairfield. Details have not been finalized but we are looking at a two bedroom + den duplex with a garage (for my Corvair of course!). Once there I will be much closer to Gabe and David Gray (maybe two miles away) which will be dangerous! The effort to maintain two houses is taking a toll. It's time to let somebody else do all of the work. The transition will be slow. We intend to maintain our Walnut Creek

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 PO BX 444, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

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)
Internet/Web	email : CaCalkins@astound.net https://www.sfbacorsa.com https://www.instagram.com/sfbacorsa/ https://www.facebook.com/groups/bayareacorvairs/ https://facebook.com/CORSA-San-Francisco-Bay-Area-Chapter-579950135376455/
Merchandise	https://sfbacorsa.com/sfba-club-merchandise/

house for a while just in case we find that we don't like Fairfield. And for now, I intend to keep working but for how long I don't know.

(see *Letter...* on page 8)

On The Cover: This Christmas drawing was contributed to the Spyder Web by Lu Goni many years ago. We never forget Lu!

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).

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

Dec 4, 2025

Josh got the regular meeting started around 6:55 PM following a short Board meeting. When the room was opened, Josh, Ray, Harry, Peter, Buck and I were quickly joined by Seth, Don, Carl, Lane, Christy, Chris, Scott Lyon and Paul. 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 \$2298.22. Buck Jones will be taking over the Treasurer. A meeting with the bank is scheduled for Friday morning. Ray wrote up an official looking notice that the bank asked for, and they also wanted a copy of the Minutes showing where he was "elected".

Membership: Josh did not report any new members this month.

Old Business: Nothing specifically mentioned.

New Business: Josh said the next Convention will be in Gettysburg, and the following one in Tennessee. It's not too early to start making your plans.

Annual Holiday Dinner: This year's Holiday Dinner has been scheduled for December 6th at Lara's Fine Dining in Marina Bay, Richmond. Josh has 20 confirmed attendees. Should be a great time.

Phil's '66 Corsa: Don has installed the rear and front door cards after making some repairs. Clark worked on these a few months ago to repair spots

where the attachment tabs had pulled out. Apparently, these need some additional work. Another Work Day will be scheduled shortly in the new year. What's left is to finish the rear seat, install the new carpets and then install the front seats. Josh said we still had to check the brake lines and shoes. We will check the rubber mounts to be sure they are acceptable.

Events: The 2028 Convention is due to be held on the West Coast again. CORSA is looking at all options. Buck suggested starting the conversations with other clubs sooner rather than later. To ease the financial burden on attendees, maybe the clubs can pony up some dollars to help offset the high California room rates. Maybe being able to offer artificially low rates in some way. It's not too early to start thinking about this. Josh thought Napa would be a good local, and attract lots of attendees, if the costs were reasonable. He will talk with Bruce about possible venues as his wife is in Napa hospitality in some way. Josh said CORSA has an individual whose job it is to arrange events. This should take a lot of the burden off local clubs when it comes to Convention planning. Volunteers will still be needed but there will be less to do.

At the last Convention, CORSA offered a special 6-month membership to non-CORSA members who wanted to attend. Interestingly when this expired, none of the new members renewed. However, this was still beneficial as the final tally of 300 attendees showed. Seth asked if CORSA membership was required for all SFBA

members? Josh said that membership was encouraged but not required. The benefits of CORSA membership should be made known, like reduced Hagerty's Insurance cost and the Conventions which clubs could not put on without CORSA's help.

Tech: Carl reported that he found the issue with his engine. You may recall that when he was driving, he heard a loud mechanical noise and had the car towed home. The engine would turn over but there was a resistance at one point. Removing the heads reviled a small washer stuck in one of the cylinders. It looked like a carburetor washer, but he doesn't think he dropped this in the intake manifold, but he is not certain. In any case this did minor damage to the heads which should be repairable. He decided to go ahead with the complete rebuild as he wants to end up with a very reliable car. Carl has ordered lots of new parts from Clark's. Carl said because Australia has a special 10% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on imported items over \$1000 AUD, Clark's will break up the order in several packages.

Carl said he has taken his engine to a different mechanic. The other mechanic has had the engine for a few months and hadn't started to work on it. The new mechanic is a Porsche and VW specialist that's only 20 minutes away. He has already taken the engine apart (and split the case) and thought the head studs were corroded too much so they will be replaced. Some will need Helicoil inserts. He indicated he would

(See *Minutes..* on page 7)

Coming Events in 2026...

Jan 1st 2026	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Feb 5th	Regular SFBA meeting at 7:00PM via Zoom, ID = "243 888 8339"
Mar 5th	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 2026

Thursday Jan 1, 7:00 PM SFBA Regular Zoom meeting, ID = "243 888 8339"

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

SFBA Holiday Dinner/Luncheon

Our annual Holiday Dinner was held at Lara's Fine Dining in Richmond this year. A very nice Italian Restaurant with excellent views of the Bay. This year we had 17 SFBA members and significant others show up. A few people (I forget who) couldn't make it. Hopefully it wasn't for the lack of good directions. I tried to recall the names of those attending (with Josh's help). I hope these are correct.



From left to right here are Paul, Toni, Mike, and myself.



In another view we have Toni, Mike, myself, and Carol



At this last table we have Harrison, Ray, Lane, Hank, and Gigi.



At another table we have Jeanette, Peter, and Chris



Lastly at this table we have Eugenia, Buck, Seth, and Josh.

SFBA Web Site Tech Topics This Month

Date Posted =====	Subject =====
Dec 15	Welcome new member & a small dose of SFBA news
Dec 9	Revisiting Great Articles ~ The other lasting legacy of the Chevrolet Corvair, Hagerty Media 2018
Dec 7	Tires!
Dec 4	SFBA Monthly Zoom Meeting Tonight & Holiday Lunch This Saturday
Dec 3	Yenko Stingers at the MCACN
Nov 30	December 2025 Spyder Web Newsletter and club reminders
Nov 29	Chevrolet's Air~Cooled Flat~Six Was Influenced By The Volkswagen Flat~Four And Horizontally~Opposed Aircraft And Tank Engines
Nov 27	6-Day Wonder: Sterling's Stealth '64 Corvair Full Respray
Nov 26	Upcoming Weekend Events & A Message From CORSA



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Minutes...

use standard size studs although over-size studs are available. Seth said that the studs were not meant to thread into Helicoils and would have to be re-threaded (or de-threaded?), but the mechanic should know all about this. The mechanic felt the old crankshaft should be reused as it didn't look like it had had a hard life. Carl has decided to install an Aluminum oil pan (from Clark's and not Otto Parts). Lane said he had trouble getting his Al oil pan to seal. He ended up ditching the gasket and just using lots of Silicon RTV sealant. Carl said he found a crack in the oil filter adapter housing and was looking for another.



He found one only two hours away. Another individual who had several Corvairs in a nearby town, had an extra. What luck!

Peter said he has been working on the body of his Corvair. Now he is getting ready for paint. He is doing all of the body work himself. He will change the color to Gold Wood Yellow. Just like Josh's '64 Convertible.

Seth said he has been working on his Corvair. He has had the convertible top replaced, now the windows don't line up properly, but the Clark's top looks great. They are getting expensive (parts + installation). Now he has to tackle the paint. He plans to talk with Gabe about getting it painted. He wants a good job but short of perfection. Similar to what Gabe did for Bruce's son's Corvair. Josh said at the last Open House, Gabe was doing a Continental with a quick sanding and spray. Not a full-blown restoration. He didn't even take off all of the trim pieces, just masked over the hard to remove ones.

Last month Scott mentioned that the blower bearing on his Corvair was making a squealing noise. Josh lent him a tool for re-greasing the bearing and he said it worked very well. He pumped the unit until there was some resistance and then just a bit more as the bearing does not

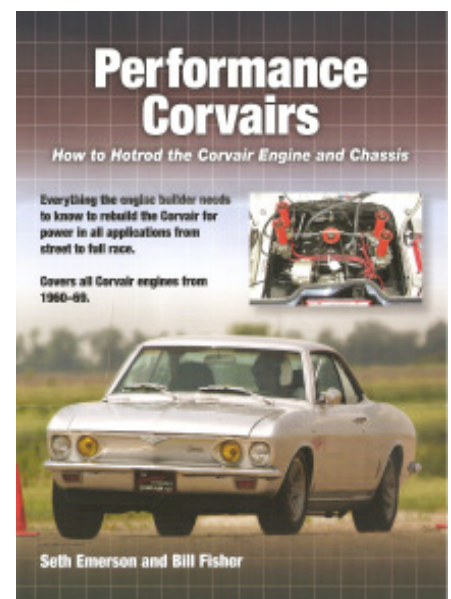
need very much grease. He said he found a stripped valve cover thread. Lane helped him install a Helicoil insert. He has purchased new throttle linkage from California Corvairs (same as Roger Parent linkage?) for his 110 engine. He will install it this weekend. Josh and Peter said the 4 carburetor linkage was much harder to install. There is very little clearance on the driver's side, rear carburetor. Lane said on his engine he had to grind down the spherical rod-end and replace a carburetor bolt with an Allen screw to get everything to fit. It's really tight! Carl said he installed Roger Parent linkage on his 110 and it installed easily so Scott should have little trouble.

Swap & Sell: Nothing specifically mentioned.

Meeting adjourned about 8:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Clark Calkins, secretary



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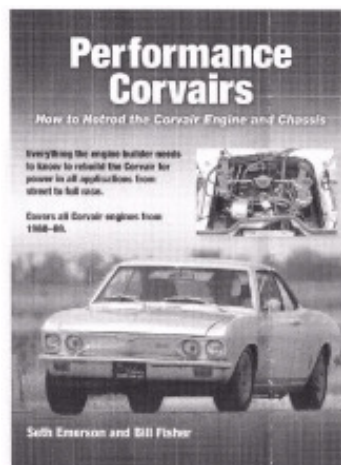
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Letter...

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!

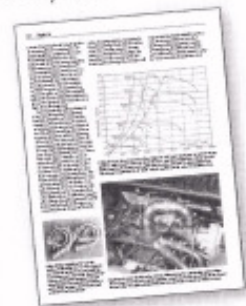
Our next Zoom meeting will be Thursday, Jan 1st starting at 7:00 PM. Remember our permanent meeting ID# is 243 888 8339. A reminder email will be sent containing a link to make it easy to join.



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Seth Emerson
3462 Kirkwood Dr.
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 - Buck Jones

December 2025

Date	Activity	Check #	Credit	Debit	Balance	Status
12/01/2025	Beginning Balance				\$2,998.22	
11/26/2026	Nov newsletter (copies)			(53.49)	2,944.73	**
11/26/2025	Nov newsletter (stamps)			(12.41)	2,932.32	**
11/30/2025	Ending Balance			(\$65.90)	\$2,932.32	

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


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