

Corvair Chatter



Meetings (4th Thursdays)

Next meeting:

- Thursday, July 24, 2025
- 5:30pm Social / 6:45pm Meeting
- Brookfields Restaurant
4343 Madison Ave.,
Sacramento, CA (at Highway 80)

Membership Dues 2025:

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. Fitch Sprint Article

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; [classiccovairs_rivercity](#)

(Maintained by: Dean James)



WEBSITE QR CODE

Message From The CCRC President

Hello Classic Corvairs of River City Members:
I hope everyone had a wonderful 4th of July!

For those that are curious about John Fitch’s “Sprint” Corvairs, look for a few articles about Fitch Sprints in the next several newsletters.

The Club’s Picnic is being planned and looking at August 9th at Beal’s Point, Folsom Lake. The Picnic Flyers are getting ready to be sent out and will discuss the caterer and the picnic at the July 24th Club meeting.

Reminder, the CCRC event calendar, club event photos, club Corvair parts and reference documents are available on the club’s website.

Cheers and see you at the July meeting.

John Heiser, President



Latest CCRC News

Meeting Minutes: June 26, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 6:28 pm by President, John Heiser.

Minutes of meeting on May 22, 2025, as presented in the newsletter, were unanimously approved.

President's report by President John Heiser:

- Welcome to new members Ben and Clarisa French, and Mike and Amanda Brashear
- The CORSA Convention held in San Luis Obispo May 19-23 attracted more than 300 cars from the United States, Europe (Austria/Switzerland), and Australia, and included CCRC members Leo and Maria, John Heiser, John Hafkenschiel, and Chris Medeiros, with John Hafkenschiel honored with a prize for his treasured Corvair.
- Club shirts and hats available for purchase at cost before and after the meeting from Kari and Danita.

Treasurer's report by Jim Kindley for June, 2025.

Sales and acquisitions report: Wes was on vacation and no report.

Membership report by Dean James: 53 members paid to date for 2025. The cut off for payment of annual dues was end of February. We had 66 paid members last year. Dean will continue to encourage former members to rejoin this year.

Vice-President's report by Chris Medeiros:

- The Plymouth Wine Tour was held on June 21, 2025, beginning at Brookfields in Rancho Cordova, with 8 vehicles – 7 Corvairs and 1 Greenbriar. We traveled down Sunrise Blvd. to Highway 16, into the foothills to Shenandoah Rd., ending at Cooper Winery where we enjoyed a generous tasting of estate wines. Afterwards we enjoyed a hearty lunch at Marlene and Glen's Dead Fly Diner, before heading out to the Amador Flower Farm to enjoy the daylilies and more wine tasting
- A reminder that we have passes for free entrance to the California Automobile Museum.

Activities report by Chris Medeiros: Upcoming cruises/events are as follows:

New Events:

July 4	Carmichael 4 th of July Parade – FREE
July 12	California State Fair – All Day Event – FREE for classic cars
TBD	CCRC Picnic
Sept. 26-27	Ironstone Concourse d'Elegance - \$125 with \$75 rebate, supports 4H club
October 12	Sutter Creek Car Show - \$25 registration fee

Latest CCRC News (cont.)

Ongoing events:

- Sacramento Hollywood Park Auto Club-Classis 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 meets Saturdays from 7:00 am to 9:30 am, at the El Dorado Town Center, 2101 Vine St, El Dorado Hills, CA
- Red Bus Brewery hosts an air-cooled drive-in gathering on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:00 pm on Reading St. in Folsom, providing specials on beverages and pizza

Old Business:

- The Board will review suggested board member definitions/duties at next business meeting.

New Business:

- Summer Picnic discussion tabled until next meeting with information to be sent in separate email.
- New members _____ encourage CCRC to support the American River College auto program which is interested in working on classic cars. Some funding for the program may be directed through the Booster Club – further discussion needed.

Tech Presentation: Chris Medeiros led a discussion about the tech article on OEM castle nuts for the front tie rods on Corvairs and the difference with aftermarket castle nuts. The aftermarket castle nuts may not work well with the cotter pin and aligning the cotter pin hole and castle nut. Best to use OEM castle nuts on Corvairs.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 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

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 your 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://CCRC-Classified(northern-california-corvairs.com))

Welcome New Members

Ben and Clarisa French
Mike and Amanda Brashear

Birthdays (Current & Upcoming)

June Birthdays:

Joe Aguirre Michael Brassil
Russ Magee Susan Peterson
Susan Shoen

July Birthdays:

Dee Smirlis

PROTECT YOUR SPECIAL CAR WITH OYLER INSURANCE AND HAGERTY

Classic car insurance offers some key benefits compared to daily driver or "regular" insurance



#1 LOWER PREMIUMS

Up to 39% lower on premiums, with an average savings of \$276 less than standard auto insurance!*

#2 GUARANTEED VALUE ! AGREED MEANS GUARNTEED!

Regular insurance companies offer depreciated coverage called Actual Cash Value or Stated Value. These are not the same. Fix the value **now** on your car with Oyler and Hagerty Agreed Value Coverage.

#3 NO FIXED MILEAGE

Our policy allows you flexible use and no fixed mileage limit.



License #0777239

CALL US TODAY!

2933 Gold Pan Court, Suite E
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

916.635.0444 or 800.490.9744

Events & Activities

Full Calendar of Events available on <http://northern-california-corvairs.com>

Current & Upcoming Events:

July 4	Carmichael 4 th of July Parade – FREE
July 12	California State Fair – Car show
TBD	CCRC Picnic
Sept	Vairs at the Vault. Napa Date of event to be announced soon. SFBA member Bruce Mooers has secured a space at the beautiful Vault in Napa to house his even more beautiful collection of Corvairs. With this location, Bruce has graciously volunteered to host an open house for CORSA members, SFBA members as well as Valley and CCRC members to attend this event, look at Corvairs, talk Corvairs and spend a great day together in the Napa Valley.
Sept. 26-27	Ironstone Concourse d'Elegance - \$125 with \$75 rebate, supports 4H club
October 12	Sutter Creek Car Show - \$25 registration fee

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. There will be specials on beverages and pizza.

California Auto Museum: See Jim Kindley-**FREE** tickets for members (1st come/1st serve-until gone).

REMINDER

MEETING LOCATION:
BROOKFIELDS RESTAURANT
4343 MADISON AVE.,
SACRAMENTO, CA 95842
(Madison Ave. & Highway 80)
5:30 pm Social/6:45 pm Meeting

Fitch Sprint Corvair



<https://www.corvaircorsa.com/>

Author: Gary Aubé

Here's a Corvair Corsa modified by John Fitch & Co. Inc., Falls Village, Connecticut. During the Sixties, the Fitch "Sprint" Corvair was marketed in various stages of tune. The power train, suspension and steering were modified to turn the car into a grand touring machine. There were also cosmetic changes including a unique "Ventop" add-on, which became a signature Sprint item.

Fitch modifications to the '65 model enhanced the stock 140 horsepower Corsa into a more spirited car. Changes in the engine compartment included individual air cleaners for the 4 carburetors, an upgraded crankcase breather and 3 degrees of additional ignition advance. Advertised horsepower was 155.

A GT suspension package added progressive rate, auxiliary rubber springs and a pair of adjustable Gabriel shocks on the rear. Rear camber was set to one and a half degrees negative. Front suspension was set at four degrees positive caster with a quarter-degree of positive camber. Heat-treated and Magnafluxed short steering arms took the steering ratio down from the stock 23:1 to 15:1. Also available was a Delco steering damper unit from the Corvette parts bin. It was mounted using special brackets.

Other touches included available Hands aluminum wheels, a tempered aluminum, wood-rimmed steering wheel and a Lucas Flamethrower driving light mounted in the driver's side high beam position.



1966 Fitch Sprint at the 2025 CORSA convention. One of estimated 10-12 late model Sprint Convertibles.

The Fitch Sprint in *CAR and DRIVER*

"It's real grand touring on a shoestring, thanks to the old pro, John Fitch" - *Car and Driver*, September, 1965

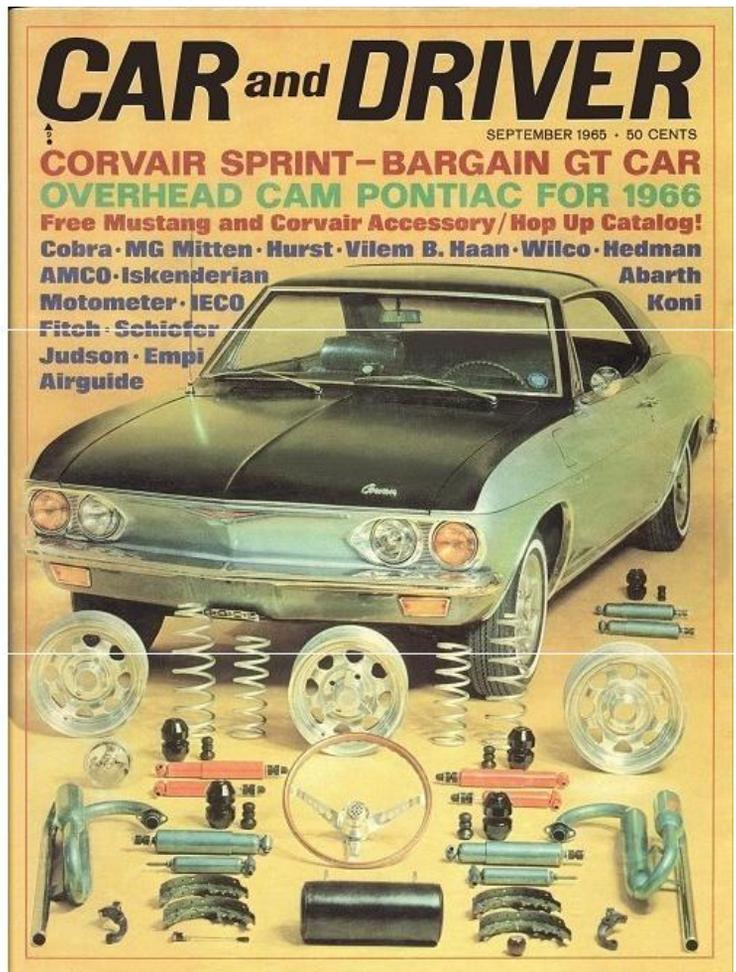
Please keep in mind as you read the following article, that it was written in 1965. Otherwise, when you see the prices mentioned, you'll be tripping over things to get to the phone to place a call to John Fitch.

Some things don't change; you can still buy a late model Corvair without going broke, and the modifications mentioned in the article are valid even today, thirty-something years later.

I'd like to name the writer for you, but unfortunately, when I checked with the *CAR and DRIVER* corporate offices, I was informed no records exist of the writer's name. This won't get in the way of your enjoyment, though, so let's move on to a professional's opinion of the Fitch Sprint, and photographs by Tom Burnside.

John Fitch has the sort of wispy gentleness more often associated with a high school English teacher than a great racing driver. He's tall and slightly round-shouldered, with a shock of thinning hair and the brand of articulate good manners that makes it difficult to accept his credentials as one of the finest road racing drivers ever produced in the United States.

The passing years and the press of business have ended Fitch's racing, but nevertheless he still drives superbly, with the same effortless, almost casual style that made him so successful with the Cunningham and Mercedes-Benz teams. Should you ever be driving through the rolling country of northeastern Connecticut, with its monotonously picturesque white clapboard colonial houses, you might be overtaken by a nasty-sounding Corvair with a flat black deck-lid and a rakish roof line. Don't bother trying to keep up, because it may be John Fitch out running in a Corvair Sprint—one of the nicest custom styling and performance packages available in today's growing automotive accessory market.



The Fitch Sprint in *CAR and DRIVER*

Fitch produces the Sprint in a nondescript four-bay garage in the tiny community of Falls Village, a few miles from the Lime Rock race track. He's been in the business several years now, and the demand for both separate components and completely outfitted cars has reached a point where a small but active staff is being supplemented by a dozen special suppliers in both the United States and Great Britain.

Operating on the thesis that the already-impressive Corvair makes the basis for an outstanding American tourer, Fitch markets a line of nearly 40 special options designed to make the car run faster, corner better, stop more efficiently and look racier. These devices can be purchased individually for any Corvair, but they are specifically intended as the parts of a whole package that transforms a standard 140-hp Corsa two-door coupe into a Corvair Sprint.

Eleven items make up the basic Sprint package. They range from a \$24.00 engine modification job, which adds about 15 horsepower, to a free pair of spiffy polished aluminum nameplates. It all costs \$383.65 installed, \$306.40 if you want to do it yourself.

The engine modifications are simple and effective. Four small air cleaners and a slightly altered crankcase breather are the basic components, though the three degrees of ignition advance which Fitch & Co. add doubtlessly contributes to the increased poke.

The GT suspension—at \$56.00 installed—really works. Included for the front and rear suspension are four progressive-rate, auxiliary rubber springs similar to the AEON units used on some Ferraris, and a pair of adjustable Gabriel shock absorbers for the rear. The front suspension is set at four degrees positive caster and a quarter-degree positive camber. The rear camber is reset at one and a half degrees negative.

Special, shorter steering arms that have been heat-treated and Magnufluxed come with the Sprint package for \$46.00. They cut the ratio to 15:1 (from 23:1) and, when utilized with the optional steering damper (\$29.50), turn the Corvair steering into a thing of beauty. The damper is the Delco unit employed on the Sting Ray, with special mounting brackets. Should you desire both the damper and the special steering arms, they can be purchased at a unit cost of \$59.00, installed. Everybody knows that GT cars *have* to have wood-rim steering wheels, and John Fitch makes one available with holes in the tempered aluminum spokes and everything. It will cost you \$59.00 and, though it isn't going to make you a Jim Clark (he uses a leather-covered wheel—Fitch sells those too, for \$9.95) it will do wonders for the interior of your Corsa.

Another \$9.95 will get you a Lucas Flamethrower driving light installed in place of the regular left-handed high-beam unit. Our test car had a pair of Flamethrowers painted with Holt's "Fog Cote" yellow dye for continental driving and the tint added an extremely distinctive note to the front of the car.

Stay tuned for part II.