

# Corvair Chatter



## Meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays)

### Next meeting:

- Thursday, August 28, 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

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

## Finding Us

[www.northern-california-corvairs.com](http://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 is enjoying this August.

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 an October date and location. Continued discussions on the caterer and the picnic at the August 28<sup>th</sup> Club meeting.

The 2025 CCRC Christmas party and planning will also be discussed at the August 28<sup>th</sup> club meeting.

Reminder for those attending Ironstone Concours d’ Elegance this year, to bring your registration forms, checks and photos of your Corvair to the August 28<sup>th</sup> 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 August meeting.

John Heiser, President



# Latest CCRC News

## Meeting Minutes: July 24, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 6:47 pm by President, John Heiser.

Minutes of meeting on June 26, 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 Brashear.

Welcome guests Reggie, Cliff, and Amanda.

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 July, 2025.

**Sales and acquisitions report:** The club engine was sold to John Paley for \$2,450. The CCRC project van (previously sold by the club) is back on Facebook, listed for sale at \$7,000. Next work party at Leo's is on Saturday, August 9.

**Membership report** by Dean James: 55 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 Greenbrier. 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:**

August 8	Auburn Old Town car show –at 3 pm from In/Out Burger (Sierra College @ Hwy 80) to Auburn
Sept 12	Auburn Old Town car show – as above
Sept. TBD	Vairs in the Vault in Napa to be hosted by SFBA Chapter, featuring Bruce Mooers collection, raffle, food, wine.
Sept. 26-27	Ironstone Concourse d'Elegance - \$125 with \$75 rebate, supports 4H club
<b>October 4</b>	<b>CCRC Picnic/BBQ</b> – location TBD
October 12	Sutter Creek Car Show - \$25 registration fee

# **Latest CCRC News (cont.)**

## **Ongoing events:**

- Sacramento Hollywood Park Auto Club-Classis Cars meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

The CCRC Picnic/BBQ will be postponed from August 9 to October 4 in consideration of the high temperatures projected for early and mid August. Location, food and price TBD.

## **New Business:**

The CCRC Picnic/BBQ to be held on October 4 – Location, food and price TBD. Further discussion at next monthly meeting.

## **Tech Presentation:**

Ken Edwards brought a polished cylinder and new pistons for show and tell. These new parts are for his 140 hp engine rebuild.

Chris Medeiros gave a presentation featuring a new adapter for the Corvair tail light assembly by Auto Anatomy to make the tail lights brighter. LED bulbs also available on Amazon.



Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

# Information

## Corvair Resources (Online)

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

## Birthdays (Current & Upcoming)

### August Birthdays:

Gina Dominguez-Gadson  
Larry Forman Jim Lewis  
Rick Peterson

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# Events & Activities

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

## Current & Upcoming Events:

TBD	CCRC Picnic
Sept TBD	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 TBD	CCRC Picnic/BBQ – location TBD
October 12	Sutter Creek Car Show - \$25 registration fee
December 2025	CCRC Christmas Party

## 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 (1<sup>st</sup> come/1<sup>st</sup> 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 Part II



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

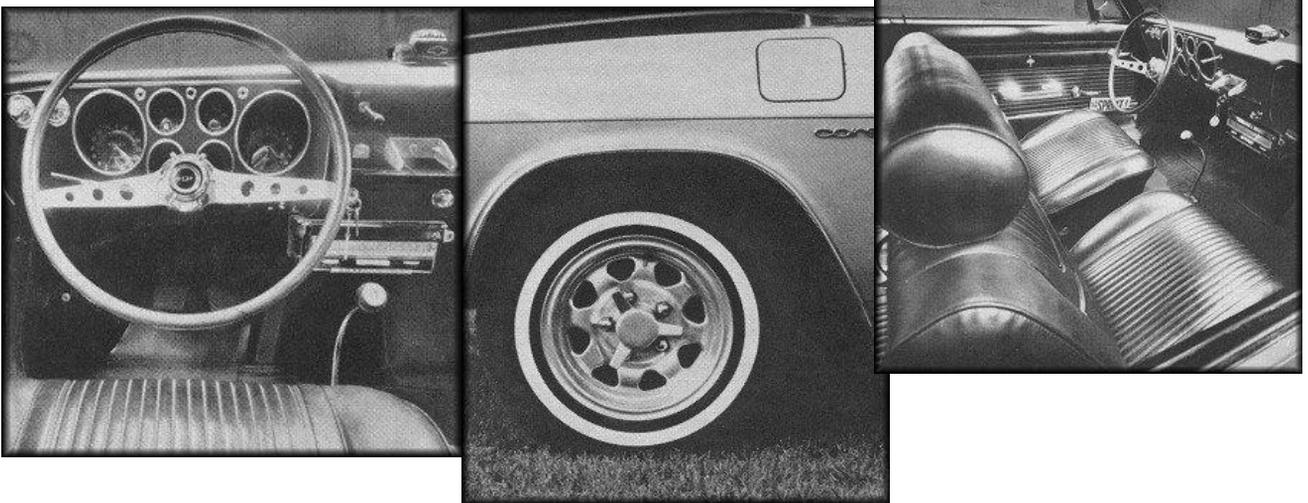
### The Fitch Sprint in *CAR and DRIVER*

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

When anybody starts to grump about the Corvair, they sooner or later get around to the rather shabby interior appointments, and Fitch has taken several steps to cure this deficiency. The wood-rim wheel, coupled with the fairly adequate Corsa instrument panel (entirely visible tachometer, but no oil pressure gauge or ammeter) takes care of the driver's seat quite nicely, but the back compartment remains a bit stark. He offers, for \$21.95 installed, deep-pile carpeting for the back of the folding rear seat and the exposed rear panel. In addition to adding a note of elegance, Fitch claims some sound damping is provided, while the rug's surface prevents objects from sliding around during heavy cornering.

A neighbor of Fitch's, and a fellow car nut, the famous and successful illustrator, Coby Whitmore, assisted in the design of the "Sprint Fastback 904 Ventop" which costs \$102.00 installed and painted in black satin. The single most expensive item in the Sprint package, the "Ventop" or whatever you want to call it, makes for a striking change in the car's appearance. While it in no way interferes with visibility or aerodynamics, the top gives the car a hunched, mean-looking contour that we think is a real gas.

Add to this milieu of go and show items a \$3.75 Sprint gear shift knob of genuine "rich Brazilian Rosewood" and you've got the basic Sprint ensemble. You can buy another 20 or so items; everything from rear-seat sound insulation at \$4.50 to a \$184.00 special racing suspension. The car we tested had the regular Sprint equipment plus a passenger seat headrest (\$18.95); a \$5.95 headlight flasher; \$35.00 worth of flat-black front-deck paint; a \$12.95 seat bracket to give tall drivers more foot room and a set of four 13 x 5-inch Hands aluminum wheels (\$198.00).



## The Fitch Sprint in *CAR and DRIVER*

We liked the looks of our Sprint from the start. It was silver, and with the flat-black trim, plus the Hands wheels and the tinted driving lamps, it snared second glances wherever we took it. It had 9500 miles on the clock, much of it rugged test driving—including Denise McCluggage's round trip to the Bristol Drags (for *CAR and DRIVER*)—yet we were impressed with the general tightness of the components.

You know right away that this isn't a stock Corvair. The steering, which requires some huffing and puffing at low speeds, is an immediate giveaway. We were also convinced John had done some extensive monkeying with the shift linkage to make it so positive, but he informed us later that a few minutes of simple aligning and tightening make the difference. The cost of the operation is so negligible he does it on all of his conversions for free.

The cornering efficiency is considerably better than the stock Corsa, though the stiffer suspension injects a harshness into the ride that we really didn't expect. As in the production version, oversteer is practically undetectable, and we were able to fling the Sprint around corners with nothing more than faint evidences of understeer. The car had an irritating weakness for road seams, bumps and expansion joints, and contact with any rifts in the highway would cause it to veer off course. Fitch claims that the as delivered tires bear the full guilt for this ugly habit and recommends the installation of Michelin X or Pirelli Sempione rubber as an instantaneous cure. The brakes were stock, without the optional \$47.00 metallic linings. They seemed to work fine, snubbing the car down from its effortless 70-80 mph cruising speeds without fade or pull. Our only complaint centered on a slight pause between the time the pedal was pushed and the brakes took hold. Fitch claims the problem existed only on our test car (possibly a faulty master cylinder), and, being something less than the optimum, was therefore unsatisfactory to Fitch on principle—and he's taking steps to insure that the problem won't recur.

The 15 extra claimed horsepower were maybe the most amazing additions to the entire Sprint package. They gave the little GT machine tremendous flexibility throughout the rev range and we found the engine capable of healthy acceleration from 2000 rpm in fourth gear. The power is most appreciated in the 50-70 mph range, where a downshift is required for safe passing with the stock version. The Sprint had plenty of steam from 45 mph in fourth up to its top speed of 110-115 mph. Acceleration is more than adequate, and 0-60 times in the high nine-second bracket are within the car's potential. This is impressive, especially when it is recalled that the turbocharged Corsa available from the factory at considerably higher cost won't do any better. The beauty of the Fitch package is its reliability at high revs—in marked contrast to the turbocharged setup, which isn't noted for peak rpm strength.

## **The Fitch Sprint in *CAR and DRIVER***

John Fitch set out to create a distinctive driveable GT car from the Corvair and he has succeeded without letting the price get out of hand. Obviously, the appeal of the Sprint increases in direct proportion to the quantity of accessories that are added, but the basic package is a tempting bargain. We would probably go for the optional tires, but otherwise the Sprint in the form that we tested it is perfectly suited for high-speed touring and is utterly deserving of the appellation "GT car."

We can't think of anything within \$1000 of the Sprint's price range that will do what it will do with comparable handling, silence, maneuverability, economy and comfort. As far as the stock Corvair Corsa is concerned, take it from the quiet gentleman from Falls Village, Connecticut; you most certainly *can* gild the lily. **C/D**



**Stay tuned for part III.**