

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / January 2024—Volume 50—Number 1—Issue 580



CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / January 2024—Volume 50—Number 1—Issue 580

**Next Meeting: Regular Meeting: Saturday, January 6, 2024 10:00 AM
Highland Senior Center , 131 Monroe St NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108**

This Month:	
President's Letter.....	Greg Nelson
Treasurer's Report.....	Steve Gongora
Meeting Notes.....	Dave Huntoon
Program Director.....	Brenda Stickler
Board Meeting.....	Steve Gongora
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	Membership
Calendar of Events.....	Board of Directors
The Pittman's Greetings.....	Jim and Heula
Dues Due.....	Membership Committee
Corvair Request.....	Charles Lee
Las Vegas - Plaza Hotel.....	Tri-State
Registration.....	Tri-State
Weatherstrip Install (pages 10-13)....	Westwind Corvair Club
Christmas Photos.....	Membership



Thursday
14 Dec 2023

Hi Steve + Rita,

I don't do Christmas Cards, but here is one you may like!

I had years of friendship with Robyn and the other folks at ABQ Grafix!

Happy Happy
Jim and Heula

Robyn Joseph

Thank you for trusting us with your business! Cassie

We appreciate you!

Christina Kari

On the Cover: Steve and Rita's 66 Corsa showing off in the snow!



Pres -	Greg Nelson	505-400-8670	fesedu@comcast.net
VP -	Robert Gold	505-856-6993	beisbol30@msn.com
Sect -	David Huntoon	505-281-9616	corvair66@aol.com
Treas -	Steve Gongora	505-220-7401	stevegongora@msn.com
Mmbrshp-	Lupe Arellanes	505-515-9897	ispeakmedicare505@gmail.com
Programs	Brenda Stickler	505-344-2039	tounce66@msn.com

CNM January 2024 Newsletter Articles

Start of a New Year

This will be a big year for CNM. Our club-sponsored Tri-State is in five months. On December 21st my sister-in-law informed me that my niece’s graduation ceremony, originally scheduled for May 16th, has been pushed a day to Friday the 17th. Apparently, the Country Music Awards will be held at the Cowboy’s Center. I’ll still be able to attend the Tri-State, but I won’t be there until late Saturday morning.

Brenda has a list of social events planned for the year. First up will be a visit to the Harvey House in Belen with brunch across the street at Pete’s Restaurant (check the calendar section below for the date and time). I visit the Harvey House at least twice a year. I enjoy the new exhibits and spend some time in the yard watching the trains pass by.

’63 & ’64 Monza Update

I think Maaco did a good job painting the front and rear trunk hoods on my ’64. Recall I picked up a ’64 front hood from Alex Johnson (our newest club member). I managed to squeeze all three hoods into the back of my Mazda 3. This includes the ’61 hood so they could color match as best as possible.

Continued on page 3

Report for CNM Treasury

Account for December 2023

Date	Check	Amount	Payee	Description	Balance	Running Balance
2-Dec-23						\$3,677.78
2-Dec-23	2596	-44.30	Lupe Arellanes - Banquet Centerpieces		-44.30	\$3,633.48
5-Dec-23	4461	25.00	David Huntoon - CNM dues 1 year		25.00	\$3,658.48
5-Dec-23	Cash	50.00	Larry Blair - CNM 26 months renewal		50.00	\$3,708.48
5-Dec-23	Cash	80.00	Greg Nelson - Banquet & Shirt - Tri-State Las Vegas '24		80.00	\$3,788.48
6-Dec-23	664	50.00	Curtis Shimp - Banquet - Tri-State Las Vegas '24		50.00	\$3,838.48
13-Dec-23	Cash	25.00	Alex Johnson - CNM dues 1 year		25.00	\$3,863.48

Meeting Notes December 2, 2023 : Dave Huntoon

12 members attended

Treasurer reports \$3677.78. Robert Gold made his reservations for our TriState in May.

The host hotel has made some management changes but with no issues concerning our event.

Maggie and Bob will be staying at the Castenada Hotel next week for her 80th birthday

She will let us know how the restaurant is.

Lupe gave a TriState update. Always looking for more advance help from members as the event draws nearer, sign up! Kay is working on the trophy awards

T shirt logos still in planing stage with several options previewed. Greg Nelson is working on the advertising.

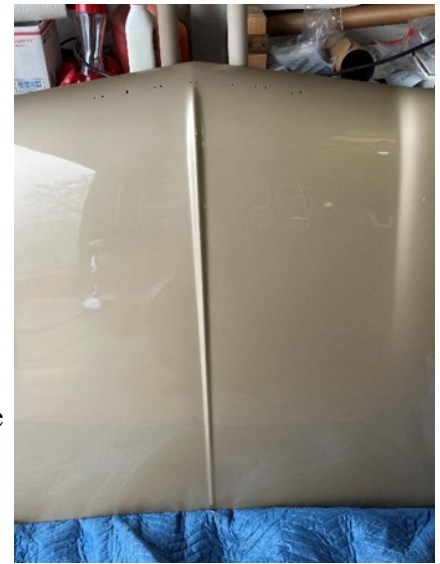
Continued on page 4

President's Message continued from page 2:

I'll put the engine hood back on immediately. The front hood will go back on after I get the trunk painted with POR-15 and Clark's Grey and White Reconditioning Paint. Much easier to paint and tape with the hood removed. This also means I'll be placing an order with Eastwood for masking tape and paper.

'63 Spyder

A couple of months back I messaged Maxxis Tires for an estimate of when their MA-1 tires would be back in stock – "Sometime around December". I checked Priority tires this week and they are back in stock. I'll have to wait until after Xmas to order them though. I don't want them sitting outside my gate while I'm out of town. I've already had one porch pirate steal an Amazon order (\$50). Five tires are considerably more (\$662). I plan to paint the '63 but probably not until 2025. It needs a bit more TLC than my 2007 MazdaSpeed3 (also painted by Maaco) and I anticipate a much larger price tag. After the New Year I also plan to get the driver seat fitted with new foam. The seat is a bit weak on the right side so my butt sits at an odd angle. And since I'm officially retired and over 60 years old, I can access my 401k funds. Over the holiday I'll make my big \$\$\$ purchase from Clark's to finish rebuilding the turbo engine. Finally!!!



Route 66 Cleanup

Just kidding. We won't start this year's cleanup until March. But I encourage you to join in the 'fun'. We only stay out for just an hour and then we head over to the Roots Farm Café for coffee or tea and socializing.

See you all at the January Meeting.

Cheers
Greg Nelson
CNM President
(Trivia question - recognize the font?)

Programs Director — Brenda Stickler

As we welcome a new year with our CNM family, I want to thank each of you that attended some of our great outings. It was gracious that long time members helped with transportation. We also have members great at creating maps and sending out directions. We broke a record in attendance at our Christmas Party at the end of the year. Maggie Kitts provided our table decorations, Rita provided white table clothes and picked up the two cakes. We learned at this function that some restaurants want four customers to each card... Or just bring cash for the meals.

Our first event for 2024 will be the fourth Saturday in Belen ***The Harvey House Museum*** opens at noon. Cover charge is \$5.00. There is a great restaurant right next to the Harvey House Museum. It is called Pete's so it would be fun if we planned to have brunch there around 11AM (or just coffee) and then we could head next door to 104 Fourth Street in Belen to our tour. This event will be the ***4th Saturday, Jan 27th, 2024.*** (see calendar for more information)

I welcome Bob Gold as our Vice President. We all need to pitch in and personally contact Lupe for our Tri-State in May of 2024 in Las Vegas, NM. Be careful there are some deadlines for the Tri-State payments and reservations. Thanks for your support. You are an amazing Car Family.

Meeting Notes from Dave Huntoon continued from page 2:

Thinking about a self guide tour of historic homes in Las Vegas.

All within an easy, short distance from our event. Car show will need a table and awning as a setup area.

Rita Gongora is working on the Silent Auction.

Finally Larry Blair recounted his adventures at the latest Fan Belt Toss in Palm Springs, California. It took him 5 hours to get to highway junction 6 outside of Albuquerque. Construction will slow you down with a busy Interstate and a whole lot of truckers. He stated the heat of the day (108 degrees) and some water issues at his motel were some of the challenges. Larry rented the last spot #60. A reminder for anyone selling that you better bring a pop-up tent. One vendor set up a Dynamometer. For \$25.00 you could find out what your car was capable of. Larry was able to talk with a long time Corvair vender out of Prescott, Arizona, Mr. Mark Aksamit. He also had some termisters stolen. What trip ever goes as planned? None it seems.... David

CNM Zoom Board Meeting 7:00 PM —December 20, 2024

Greg Nelson is waiting for a response on the T-shirts for design for the Tri-State.

The meetings are great for videos with the new large monitors.

Upcoming Activities – **January 27 at 11:00 AM Belen Harvey House Museum/ 104 N 1st St, Belen, NM**

Alex Johnson, (son of Geoff, and grandson to Carl, one of the founding members of CNM) joined and it was voted to honor him as a lifetime member by the board.

Brenda Stickler has printed calendars for 2024

David Huntoon has CNM 50th Anniversary Stickers for members

Member Gordon Johnson has taken a fall and is now in private care.



Belated birthdays to:

Mike Piper—Dec 6

Greg Nelson—Dec 17

January Birthdays:

Troy Ward—Jan 6

Steve Gongora—Jan 11

Silent Auction Baskets for Tri-State 2024

Contact Rita Gongora if you have any items to contribute to the Silent Auction for our Tri-State get together in Las Vegas, New Mexico. There will be baskets assembled for the Silent Auction as we have done in the past. The photo on the right are some of the items Brenda Stickler has assembled for donation.



CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

January 2024							February 2024							March 2024						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
31	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

Saturday, January 6, 2024	10:00 AM	Meeting—Highland Senior Center , 131 Monroe St NE, Alb. NM 87108
Wednesday, January 17, 2024	7:00 PM	Board Meeting—3rd Wednesday via Zoom
Wednesday, January 24, 2024	7:00 PM	Car Council Meeting – 4 th Wednesday Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
Saturday, January 27, 2024	11:00 AM	<i>The Harvey House Museum, 104 N 1st St, Belen, NM 87002 (\$5 entry)</i> <i>Brunch at Pete’s Café, 105 N 1st St, Belen, NM 87002</i>
Friday, January 28, 2024	9:00 PM	Deadline for Newsletter
Sunday, January 29, 2024	*****	Target completion of newsletter
Saturday, February 3, 2024	10:00 AM	Meeting—Highland Senior Center , 131 Monroe St NE, Alb. NM 87108
Wednesday, February 21, 2024	7:00 PM	Board Meeting—3rd Wednesday via Zoom
Friday, February 23, 2024	9:00 PM	Deadline for Newsletter
Monday, February 26, 2024	*****	Target completion of newsletter
Wednesday, February 28, 2024	7:00 PM	Car Council Meeting – 4 th Wednesday Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
Saturday, March 2, 2024	10:00 AM	Meeting—Highland Senior Center 131 Monroe St NE, Alb. NM 87108
Saturday, March 9, 2024	9:00 AM	<i>CNM Route 66 Clean-up—Roots Farm Café after clean-up</i>
Wednesday, March 20, 2024	7:00 PM	Board Meeting—3rd Wednesday via Zoom
Friday, March 29, 2024	9:00 PM	Deadline for Newsletter
Wednesday, March 27, 2024	7:00 PM	Car Council Meeting – 4 th Wednesday Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
Monday, April 1, 2024	*****	Target completion of newsletter

It was several Tri-States trying to put this particular shot together. It finally came together at the Red River Tri-State in 1995





Long ago in a galaxy far away, molecules came together and followed their assigned DNA blueprint and the result was a particular new human. Soon thereafter other DNA instructions were followed to produce another particular new human. The planet on which the two new humans found themselves rotated around its star for several turns and eventually the two met. Can we say, **“The Rest Is History”**?

Meanwhile the planet has continued to roll around its orbit for 30, 40, 50, 60 or maybe even more times to arrive at the extraordinary and unique day of **today!**

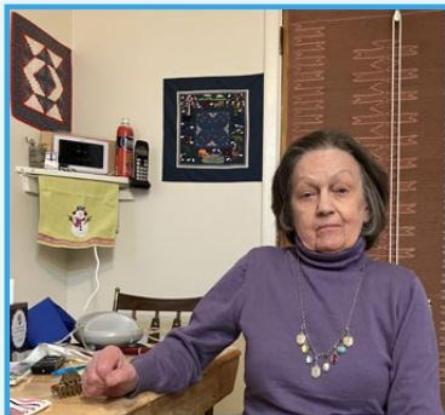
To celebrate this special day we two humans have put together a **“Merry Christmas Card”** of sorts, to be electronically mailed to a few of our friends.

Four photographs from events of the year are included. Why only four? Because we, having counted many revolutions of our planet around its star, have found in recent revolutions that our activity levels have been considerably diminished and we are finding that occasions for **festive photographs** are getting to be few and far between.

The four photos may be described in this fashion:

(1) Over the years the person known as “Jim” has spent many hours at his computer, producing newsletters for the **Corvair Club**. Here he is, tweaking some item for the February 2023 issue. Sad to say, he retired after completing the August 2023 issue. (2) Members of the Corvair Club, celebrating **forty-five-plus** years of Jim’s monthly newsletter editing, graciously presented him with a unique memento. The mask is an artifact left over from the Great 2020 Covid Pandemic, which we lived through and which many now believe to be over. (3) Back in January this photo shows Heula getting ready to head out to a **doctor’s appointment**, one of her favorite pastimes. (4) For years Heula has enjoyed exchanging texts and especially photos with her granddaughter and her great-grandchildren. In the photo she has just opened a package from Jordan, Sean, Brooks and Nora. The package turned out to be full of **holiday goodies**. Among the contents were items made of Chocolate, a substance guaranteed to delight us!

So today, we print out this **“Merry Christmas”** card that we plan to send to you, and you, and you, and maybe to a few others. It expresses our gratitude for your friendship over many revolutions of our planet, and congratulations for lasting through the Pandemic Years of 2020-2021-2022-2023. And we wish you a **“Happy New Year”** ---- may it be a joyful non-pandemic year and a year filled with good experiences!



Dues Due

send your Dues to:
CNM Treasurer
Steve Gongora
 8419 Palo Duro Ave NE
 Albuquerque, NM 87111-3238

Due in January
 Tracey & John McMahan - inactive as of Feb 2024

Due in February
 Lupe & Jim Arellanes - inactive as of March 2024
 Phil Finch - inactive as of March 2024
 Pat Hall - inactive as of March 2024
 Curtis Shimp - inactive as of March 2024

Due in March
 Steve & Rita Gongora - inactive as of April 2024
 Gordon & Barbara Johnson - inactive as of April 2024
 Mark Morgan - inactive as of April 2024

Due in April
 John Dinsdale - inactive as of May 2024
 Art Gold - inactive as of May 2024
 Terry Hall - inactive as of May 2024

Inactive:
 LeRoy Rogers as of June 2023
 Lube Lubert as of Aug 2023
 Irv Broc as of Sept 2023
 Dave & Jan Allin as of Sept 2023
 Clifton & Katie Trujillo as of Sept 2023
 Troy Ward as of Oct 2023
 William Heil as of Nov 2023

Schedule of Dues: CNM: 12 months = \$25.00 or 26 months = \$50.00 - CORSA: 12 months = \$45.00 or 26 months = \$90.00
 If you want to pay CNM and CORSA to Treasurer: Both memberships 12 months = \$70.00 or 26 months = \$140.00

Request from CORSA member - Charles Lee emailed Jim Pittman

- > On Dec 19, 2023, at 14:32, Charles Lee <sircharlz2012@gmail.com> wrote:
- > Hello Jim,
- > I'm looking for the owner of a 1969 Corvair whose engine "9W703980" was found in a 1965 Corvair locally.
- > Can your members find the owner, or if the car still exists?
- > I checked the roster and it shows that 3980 was last seen in New Mexico.
- > Now to find the owner if the car still exists?
- > My neighbor, who knows ZILCH, NADA, about Corvairs, says he paid \$10K for the '65 Monza convertible bought it without telling me first).
- > My neighbor says he won't sell it for less than \$12K.
- > The car is OK and has tinted side glass and the body looks straight, but the AC and power top have been removed.
- > The engine runs OK, but the wiring and fuel lines are a mess.
- > What would this be worth to the owner of '69 Monza #3980, to swap that engine out?
- > My neighbor may sell it if someone, ANYONE, gives him the \$12K, so I want to find the owner, if possible, ASAP!
- > Thanks for looking!
- > Charles Lee
- > CORSA Member since 1969
- > Former NY CORSA Director



MY GOSH!! 201!
 THE DRAIN PLUG

Searching for Owner of 1969 Corvair Monza #3980

VIN	MODEL#	BODY#	DATE	INTERIOR	EXTERIOR	INTERIOR	ENGINE	TRANS	LOCATION
3980	10537	311981	03A	A	SPECIAL	701	140	PG	NM

140 PG Drive Train FOUND!

Found in 1965 Monza Convertible

A Little History



In the 1880's Las Vegas NM was the big town, bigger and richer than Santa Fe or Albuquerque. There are nearly 1000 buildings here on the National Register of Historic Places! The heart of the City was beautiful Plaza Park – still the prettiest plaza in the Southwest. And presiding over the park was the Plaza Hotel, the finest in New Mexico Territory – until the astounding Montezuma Resort was built a few miles west at the hot springs. The hotel looks just like it did when built – a grand Victorian façade with three floors of 14' ceilings and huge windows overlooking the Plaza, topped like a wedding cake with fanciful scrolls. Originally there were 37 guest rooms, a saloon, dance hall and restaurant. Matching walnut staircases wind elegantly from the lobby to all floors. Then and now everyone stayed here, from Doc Holiday to Tommy Lee Jones. The Plaza Hotel has starred in movies and TV from Tom Mix silent pictures to Longmire, Easy Rider and No Country for Old Men. The Plaza Hotel had an award winning million-dollar renovation in 1982.



While the Plaza Hotel was going up Charles Ifeld began building Ifeld's Department Store next door. Business was so good that in 1891 Ifeld added on, tripling the size of his Italianate masterpiece. This was the biggest department store in the Southwest, renowned as the Grand Emporium. In 2006 the Ifeld building was added to the Plaza Hotel with a \$5 million renovation. The new addition provided 35 additional guest rooms with a grand Ballroom and meeting space, making the Plaza Hotel the ideal choice for receptions, reunions and conferences in northeast New Mexico.

In 2014 the Plaza and Ifeld buildings were purchased by Allan Affeldt, who with his team restored the legendary La Posada Hotel in Winslow AZ. Allan also bought the Castaneda Hotel across town, and the Ifeld office building on the Plaza. Already they have put another \$1 million into improvements at the Plaza and completed plans for the Castaneda, in what is one of the most highly anticipated restorations in New Mexico. Says Allan:

“We plan to work our way through the Plaza Hotel and then the Castaneda – room by room to create a treasure house of New Mexico art and history. Already we have expanded the ballroom, doubled the bar, brought in historic furniture from La Fonda in Santa Fe, replaced the linens and beds, and rebuilt the front desk, kitchen and dining room. We have a lot to do, but we promise it will be a little better, every time you come. Your visits will help us restore these wonderful buildings and this remarkable town. We hope to earn your repeat business, and to see you soon!”

A Story of Revival



In the 1870's Las Vegas was the biggest city in New Mexico territory, and growing fast! Land baron Benigno Romero and his friends decided Las Vegas needed a first-class hotel, so in 1881 they rounded up the cash and built the Plaza Hotel. It was a partnership of Spanish Catholic merchants, French Protestant traders and German Jewish immigrants – a good model for our times! In the 1880's the dining room was where the bar is now, north of the lobby overlooking the Plaza Park. It was called 'The Plaza Supper Club'. The kitchen was on the north side of the hotel where the La Fonda headboards are on the walls now. The hallway leading to the Ifeld wing was just a door out to an alley between the buildings. The current dining room was originally two retail spaces divided by a wall where the columns are now, with big doors and windows on to the Plaza. Behind this to the south – now the kitchen – was a huge dance hall. In the 1970's most of the Plaza and Bridge Street was abandoned. In the 1980's Wid Slick and his partners bought the Plaza Hotel and renovated all of the public spaces. They put the dining room and bar where they are now and built a new kitchen where the old dance hall was. The cast iron columns – 800 pounds each!- were moved here from the original dance hall.

The Plaza dining room and Saloon were restored in 2014-2015. Jorden Grimm and his crew are responsible for the beautiful room. The golden Venetian Plaster walls were done by Alex Darley – this is the only Venetian Plaster dining room we know of in the USA. Bob Black did all the wood paneling. Prices Furniture down on Douglas provided the dining room floor. Steve's Woodworking handcrafted our front desk and bar. In the bar the wood floor is original, and Burt Bazan laid the true Victorian Encaustic tile floor and wainscot. The wall hangings are all real Navajo rugs woven here in New Mexico. Richard Cousins did all of the upholstery. The Santos were made by Margarito Mondragon & Peter Lopez. The lobby floor was milled right here in Vegas by Old Wood wood products of native fir. All of these people live and work in Las Vegas, New Mexico. By staying, dining and drinking here you are helping to support local artists and craftspeople. Thank you!

Tri-State Registration: Here is a registration you can fill and send for the Las Vegas, NM Meet.



All are Welcome to our 39th Corvair Tri-State May 17, 18, 19, 2024 in Historic Las Vegas, New Mexico

Accommodations:

The Castaneda &
The Plaza Hotel

Car Show Hotel:

The Castaneda Hotel

Banquet Hotel:

The Historic El Fidel Hotel

The Castaneda Hotel, a historic Fred Harvey House has 18 rooms reserved for out-of-state attendees with a 2-night minimum. Overflow attendees will be directed to the historic Plaza Hotel.

Phone Calls ONLY for Reservations: (505) 425-3591 for both hotels; mention "Corvair Tri-State" for our negotiated 15% discount; prices per night range from \$84 to \$143/night; payment collected upon reservation.

Registrant 1> _____ @ \$50/\$65 →

COSTS:

\$ _____

Registrant 2> _____ @ \$50/\$65 →

\$ _____

Address/City & State: _____

Club Affiliation: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Order your Event T-Shirt/Crew Neck: @ \$30 ea. →

\$ _____

Car Show Entry: (S,M,L,XL,XXL,XXXL ...): _____

Grand Total

\$

1> Car Year: _____ Car Body Style: _____ Car Color: _____

Car Points Interest: _____

2> Car Year: _____ Car Body Style: _____ Car Color: _____

Car Points Interest: _____

Banquet & Car Show Cost: Early Bird \$50 Adult; price increase after March 1, 2024 → \$65.

Send this form and a check payable to: "Corvairs of NM"; mail % Steve Gongora, 8419 Palo Duro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111; Email questions to: tristatecorvairs@gmail.com

Visit our website *Virtual Visitors' Center* to view excursion ideas: www.tristatecorvairs.com

2024 Tri-State News

... by Lupe Arellanes

City Selection: Las Vegas, New Mexico; **Dates:** May 17th-18th-19th 2024.

Host Hotels:

Banquet Hotel: The El Fidel Hotel.

Accommodations: The Castaneda Hotel & The Plaza Hotel.

Car Show Hotel: The Castaneda Hotel.

The Castaneda Hotel, a historical Fred Harvey House, has 18 rooms reserved for out-of-state attendees with a 2-night minimum. Overflow attendees will be directed to the historic Plaza Hotel. Call for Reservations: (505) 425-3591 for both hotels; mention "Corvair Tri-State" for our negotiated 15% discount; prices per night range from \$84 to \$143/night; payment collected upon reservation.

Banquet/Show Cost: Early Bird \$50 Adult; Price Increase after March 1, 2024 → \$65.

Seeking Silent Auction Donations. Members can bring items to any monthly meeting. Asking for items valued at \$20+. Rita & Steve Gongora will create 5 large basket auction items from donations and additionally purchased items.

Seeking Keynote Speaker Ideas. Should you have any connections with someone who you would like to see speak at our event, please email us tristatecorvairs@gmail.com

Seeking T-Shirt Design Ideas. Send us your rough ideas whether it be a drawing or a picture of other shirts. If your inspiration idea is selected, you will WIN a FREE Shirt. Your winning inspiration will be forwarded to our graphic artist to develop further. Please email your ideas to: tristatecorvairs@gmail.com

While in Las Vegas, NM for the 2024 Tri-State, Visit... **HISTORIC TRAILS**



1965-69 Corvair Trunk or Engine Compartment Weather Strip Installation.

By Bob Nichols

*article from the
Westwind Newsletter*

Effective November 25, 2023

Replacing the old trunk and engine compartments weatherstrip is a nice improvement to your Corvair. The old rubber weather strip seal around the trunk or engine opening fails and can allow dirt and water to enter. A deteriorated seal is unsightly and negatively impacts your Corvair's appearance. Several vendors sell reproduction Corvair weatherstrip seals.

Before installing a new seal, the old seal must be removed. There are different methods to remove the old rubber seal and adhesive. If the car is going to be repainted then a small wire wheel on an electric drill effectively removes old weather strip and adhesive down to bare metal before it is painted. Other less aggressive methods can be used to leave the paint intact.

This article will discuss and illustrate weatherstrip installation problems encountered over the years by Corvair owners. The improper installation of the seal can result in difficulty closing the trunk lid or engine lid and can cause the trunk lid to bulge above the fender surface when closed.

During installation of either the trunk or engine compartment weatherstrips they must be; correctly orientated, formed around corners, and properly set in the metal channel. The weatherstrip ends must be mated to each other after the proper length is determined.

Were to glue the weatherstrip ends together – A starting position for one end of the weatherstrip seal should be selected. Years of observation indicate the weatherstrip ends are never joined in the channel along the fender on either side of the car.

Trunk compartment - The 1965 Corvair Body Service Manual states *“trim ends of weatherstrip to form a butt joint at front center of opening.”* Some prefer the butt joint to be placed in the center of the channel closest to the windshield. Either orientation works.

Engine compartment – The 1965 Corvair Body Service Manual states *“trim end of weatherstrip to form a butt joint at rear center of opening.”* The Body Service Manual

Figure 5F10 has a picture of the Corvair engine compartment with the butt joint in the license plate area of the rear panel channel. The channel in this area curves and some prefer to join the weatherstrip on the long straight channel closest to the rear window. Either orientation works.

Fitting the weather strip into the metal channel – The weatherstrip is elastic. Care must be taken to prevent stretching the weatherstrip while fitting it into the channel. Stretching a new weatherstrip will result in problems due to shrinkage as it ages. It is recommended that the weatherstrip be trial fitted WITHOUT adhesive. This will provide you with fitting experience and allow you to refine your technique. One area of concern is the corners. The weather strip is molded in a straight piece and must be formed around the channel corners. If the weatherstrip is pulled too tight at a corner, the outer radius will tend to pull up and out of the channel causing a poor fit. It is better to allow the seal inner radius to pucker with excess seal material. Once you are confident with the fitting process, remove the seal from the channel and select a starting point for the end of the weather strip seal. Apply adhesive (typically adhesive is applied in the metal channel) to a short area of six to twelve inches and insert the weather strip in the channel, then do the next adjoining section. Use caution as the adhesive can damage painted surfaces. When you reach the other end of the weatherstrip, you must determine the weatherstrip length.

Determining weatherstrip length – DO NOT cut off the excess weather strip length until after the majority of the weatherstrip is glued in place to compensate for the weather strip is elasticity. After the majority of the weatherstrip is glued in, then then cut off the excess seal length and apply a small amount of adhesive to the ends and connect the ends to each other. NOTE: The weather strip will shrink with age. Trim the weather strip length about a half-inch longer and compress the weather strip to fit. When you get a satisfactory fit, then glue the ends together.

Adhesive Type - The 1965 Corvair Body Service Manual recommends using a black weatherstrip adhesive that is compatible with neoprene rubber. **CAUTION:** Weatherstrip adhesives can soften or damage paint. Only apply the adhesive to the area were the weatherstrip contacts the painted channel. DO NOT apply excessive adhesive. The adhesive might dry fast. Only apply adhesive to short lengths before inserting the weatherstrip. The same adhesive is used to glue the seal ends together in a butt joint.

Trunk compartment – Except for the corners, the trunk opening weatherstrip channel shape is the same around the trunk opening. Sometimes after installing a new weatherstrip seal folks

comment that the trunk lid is difficult to close, or when closed the lid bulges above the fender edges. The problem is usually the result of an incorrect weatherstrip seal installation. Three issues have been identified:

1. Remnants of the old weatherstrip and adhesive are not completely removed preventing the weatherstrip from seating completely into the metal channel.
2. The weatherstrip is not fully seated into the channel. Pushing the seal lip below the metal flange requires the careful use of a putty knife or tool that has no sharp edges. See Figure 1.
3. The weatherstrip is installed with the top curved surface incorrectly pointed inward toward the trunk opening instead of pointing outward. See Figure 2.

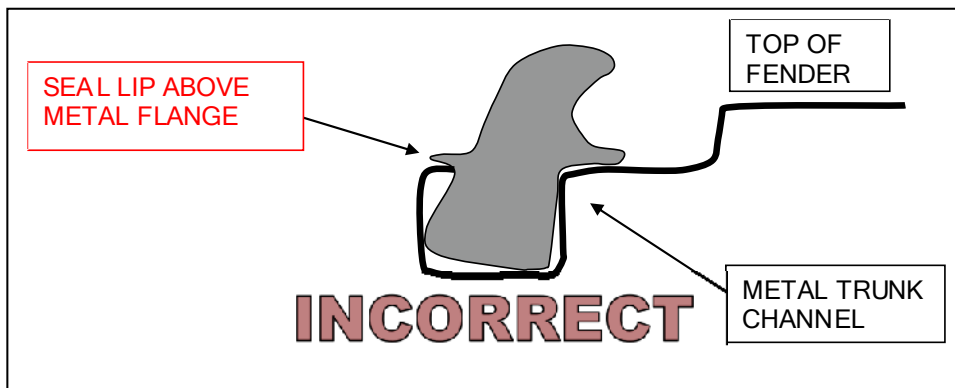


FIGURE 1. - Weatherstrip not seated below flange.

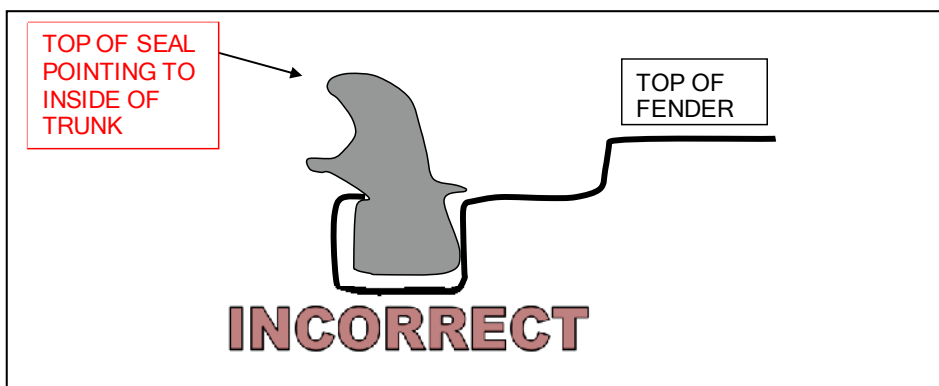
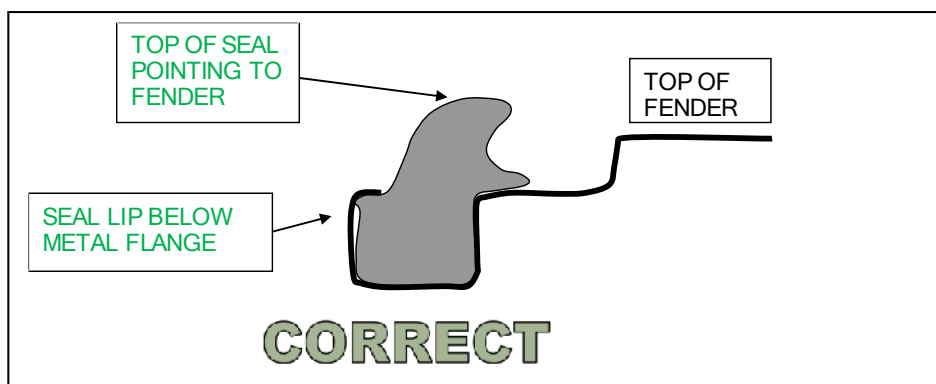


FIGURE 2. - Weatherstrip incorrectly oriented.



Engine compartment – The engine compartment weatherstrip seal is similar, but not the same as the trunk weatherstrip. The weatherstrip body channel does not have an inner flange on the channel along the rear fenders. Three installation issues have been identified:

1. Remnants of the old weatherstrip and adhesive are not completely removed preventing the weatherstrip from seating completely into the metal channel.
2. The weatherstrip is not fully seated into the channel. NOTE: The weatherstrip channel only has a metal flange to fit the seal under along the side toward the rear window/air inlet and the side along the taillight panel. Seating the weatherstrip requires the careful use of a putty knife or blade that has no sharp edges. See Figure 1. and 2.
3. The weatherstrip is installed with the top curved surface pointed inward toward the engine compartment opening instead of pointing outward. See Figure 3.

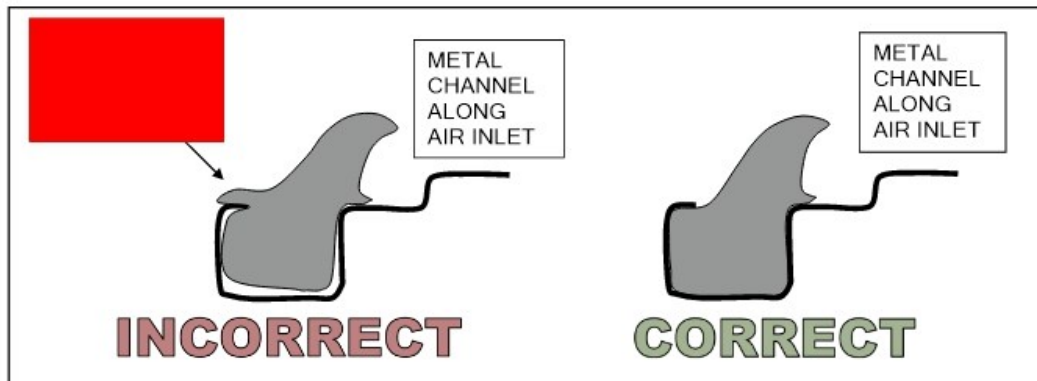


FIGURE 1. - Weatherstrip along air inlet side.

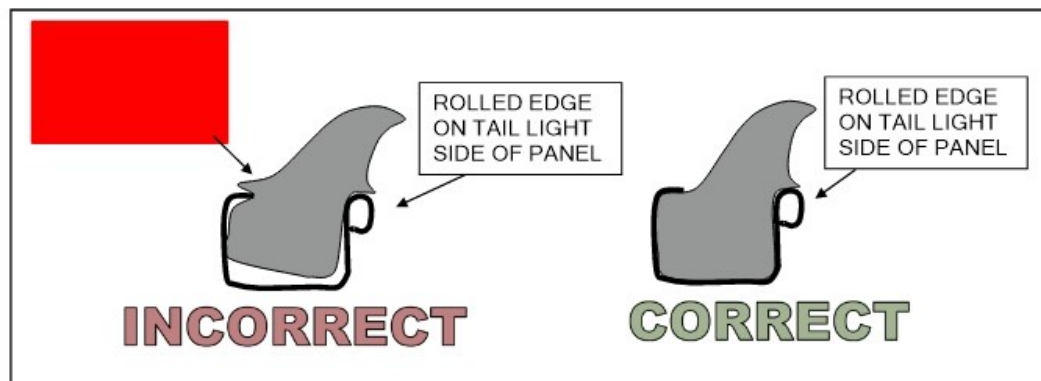


FIGURE 2. - Weatherstrip along taillight panel.

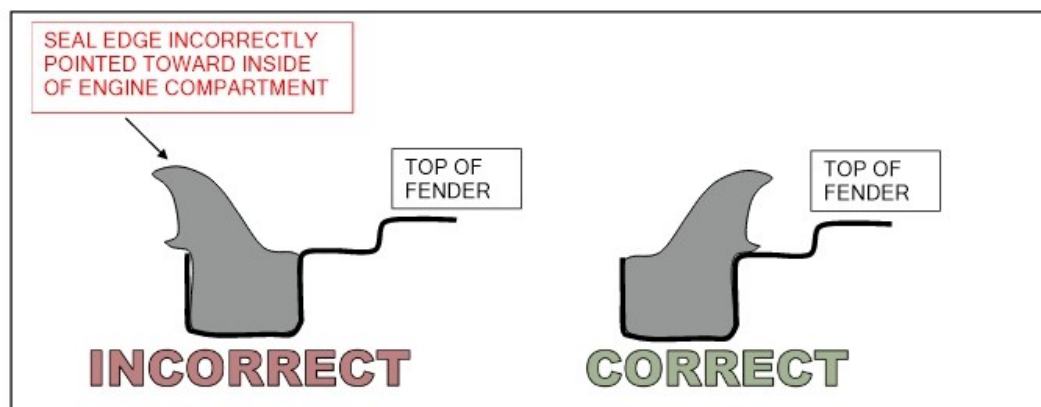


FIGURE 3. - Weatherstrip orientation.

Christmas Dinner—Sal's Restaurant—December 9, 2023



A glimpse of the coming snow of the season from David Huntoon's home.

