

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / June 2026—Volume 52—Number 6—Issue 609



Enchanted Corvairs Newsletter

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / June2026—Volume 52—Number 6—Issue 609

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting: Saturday, August 1, 2026 10:00 AM (June/July cancelled)

North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center , 7521 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113

This Month:

President’s Letter.....	Greg Nelson
Treasurer’s Report.....	Jim Arellanes
Calendar of Events.....	Lupe Arellanes
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	Lupe Arellanes
Corvair Visitors in Santa Fe.....	Kay Sutt
Heula Pittman.....	Jim Pittman
Meeting Notes.....	Dave Huntoon
Dues Due.....	Membership Committee
Tri-State in Montrose 2026.....	Kathy Green
Message for Utah Tri-State.....	Nathan King
Board Meeting.....	Steve Gongora
Heula’s Tree Dedication.....	Lupe Arellanes
Corvair Capacity.....	Steve Gongora
CNM Route 66 Clean-Up.....	Lupe Arellanes
Rusty Vair in Santa Fe	Val & Sasha Doppenberg
Museum Car Show Photos.....	David Huntoon



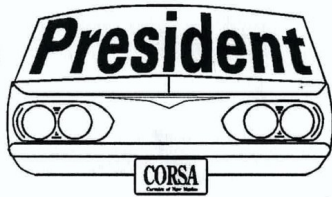
Heula Mitcham Pittman
June 1943—April 2026

On the Cover: How Many People Can You Fit in a Corvair?

Our Beloved Heula Pittman (lower right)

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

From the
Greg Nelson



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CNM June 2026 Newsletter Articles—Greg Nelson

No Meetings

There will be no meetings in June and July this year. We will be at Tri-State the first weekend in June and the Fourth of July lands on the first Saturday and Domingo Baca will be closed. Hope to see you all in August.

Tri-State

It is finally here. There are two convoys headed to Montrose. The first is on Thursday, June 4th and they are meeting in the Santa Ana Casino parking lot that morning. Contact Steve Gongora or Tarmo Sutt for the exact departure time. The second convoy leaves on Friday June 5th and is meeting in the Sandia Casino Gas Station parking lot. Departure time is 9:00am.



Wheels Museum

A few of us stopped by the Wheels Museum on May 6th to see the Route 66 traveling exhibition. It was a series of 22 banners summarizing the 100-year history of the Mother Road. As you can see from the photos below, Robert W. and Dave H. also attended.



Dave's excellent convertible



Robert W's late model convertible (Oops, I did not center the picture very well)

Continued on page 3

Report for CNM Treasury
Account for May 2026

Date	Check	Amount	Payee	Description	Balance	Running Balance
7-May-26						\$6,441.00

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Continued from Page 2— President's Letter

Museum Car Show

Once again Corvairs were well represented at the 2026 Museum car show. The show was sold out, and they had to wave away more than 30 cars. The total came out to approximately 340 cars. I say approximately because the Council treasurer has not yet tallied the gate fees and expenses.



Museum Show Corvair alley



Museum Show Corvair alley

A Visit to Robert W's Shop and Pat Hall

Robert Gold and I paid Robert Weinberg's shop a visit prior to heading down to Los Lunas to see how Pat is doing. Robert is still a working mechanic, and I asked him to put my Mazda in the work queue. Robert W.



Robert W. in his home auto shop



Pat is doing some Corvair shuffling

volunteered to drive the three of us down to Pat's place. You may recall he was injured a few months back, but he is back on his feet. Oh, and Robert W. was overwhelmed with Pat's inventory.

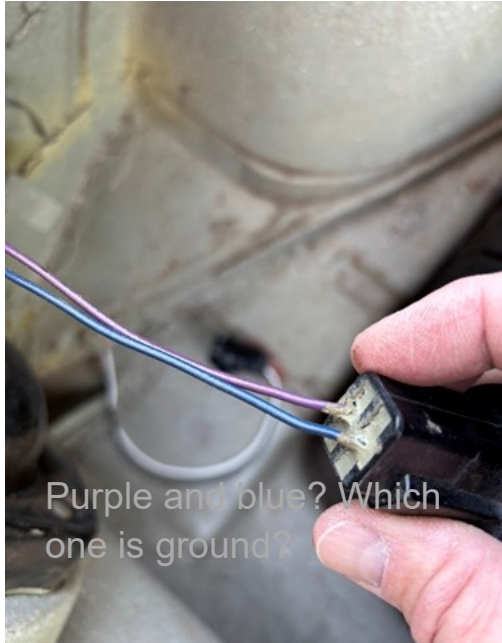
Continued on page 4

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Continued from Page 3— President's Letter

'64 Corvair

There were several items I wanted to repair prior to the Museum car show: flip the steering wheel to right-side up, fix the malfunctioning front, right turn signal, replace both turn signal plastic lenses and add a special feature my sister picked up in Hawaii. There are several items being replaced/repaired post Museum show and they are: replace the gas filter inlet on the carburetors, replace some loose linkage parts and replace the upholstery. The Clarks order has been placed, and those repairs will wait until after Tri-State. Val (recall we met Val and Sasha at Sawmill Market as they passed through on Route 66) said my steering wheel was upside down. It was like this since I bought it in August 2020. It is fixed now.



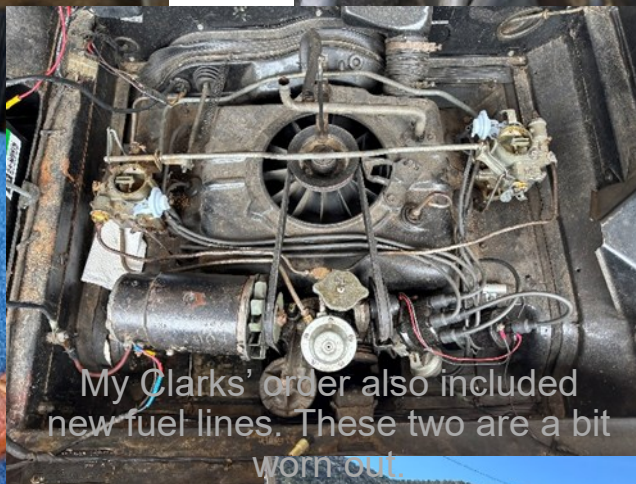
CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO



Steve Gongora's steering wheel puller.



One of the loose carburetor parts that have worn loose over time



My Clarks' order also included new fuel lines. These two are a bit worn out.

Trash Day

My niece graduated from University of North Texas the same weekend, but we still had a robust crew volunteer. Unfortunately, I will be out of town for the June pickup but will pass on the new labeled safety vests to Dave Huntuon on the 30th. Thank you Steve G for transferring the CNM patches.



University Reunion

School Reunion

While in Texas for my niece's graduation I contacted my university office mate - Dr. Steve Balog. He got his Ph.D. studying black holes. We have not seen each other since the physics department's 1999's reunion. He is on the left with the Santa Claus beard. On his left is Steve's college roommate - Dr. John Moore from the biology department. The three of us, plus others, were members of the BBC - the Biology Bachelors Club.

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Schedule of Events

Club Matters	June 6 *Cancelled *	10:00 AM	Members' Meeting--1 st Saturday, 10am: North Domingo Baca Center, 7521 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113, Room 7
Tri-State	June 5-7		50th Anniversary Tri-State , June 5-7, in beautiful Montrose, CO https://pikespeakcorvair.org/2026-tri-state-final/
Club Matters	Saturday, June 13,	8:30 AM	TRASH-PICK UP on Route 66; meet at Cider Bar; 340-364 NM-33; frontage parking lot
Club Matters	Wednesday, June 17,	7:00 PM	Board Meeting--3 rd Wednesday via Zoom, 7pm
Car Show Invite	Saturday, June 20,	8:30 AM	Route 66 Car Show Series; Sandia Peak Tramway; 30 Tramway Rd Albuquerque, NM 87122;
Car Show Invite	Sunday, June 21,	~ 9am	Fathers' Day Car Show in Edgewood; meet at Wal-Mart
Club Matters	Wednesday, June 24,	6:30 PM	Car Council Meeting - 4 th Wednesday, 6:30 PM; Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
Club Matters	Friday, June 26,	--	Deadline for Newsletter -4 th Friday
Club Matters	Saturday, July 4, **TBD**	10:00 AM	Members' Meeting--1 st Saturday, 10am: North Domingo Baca Center, 7521 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113, Room 7
Club Matters	Saturday, July 11,	8:30 AM	TRASH-PICK UP on Route 66; meet at Cider Bar; 340-364 NM-33; frontage parking lot
Club Matters	Wednesday, July 15,	7:00 PM	Board Meeting--3 rd Wednesday via Zoom, 7pm
Club Matters	Wednesday, July 15,	6:30 PM	Car Council Meeting - 4 th Wednesday, 6:30 PM; Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
Car Show Invite	Saturday, July 18,	8:30 AM	Route 66 Car Show Series; Sandia Peak Tramway; 30 Tramway Rd Albuquerque, NM 87122;
Club Matters	Friday, July 24,	--	Deadline for Newsletter -4 th Friday
Club Matters	Saturday, August 1,	10:00 AM	Members' Meeting--1 st Saturday, 10am: North Domingo Baca Center, 7521 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113, Room 7
Club Matters	Saturday, August 8,	8:30 AM	TRASH-PICK UP on Route 66; meet at Cider Bar; 340-364 NM-33; frontage parking lot
Car Show Invite	Saturday, August 15,	8:30 AM	Route 66 Car Show Series; Sandia Peak Tramway; 30 Tramway Rd Albuquerque, NM 87122;
Social	Saturday, August 15,	TBD	Origami Park - Group trip North Tijeras; South Santa Fe
Club Matters	Wednesday, August 19,	7:00 PM	Board Meeting--3 rd Wednesday via Zoom, 7pm
Club Matters	Wednesday, August 26,	6:30 PM	Car Council Meeting - 4 th Wednesday, 6:30 PM; Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
Club Matters	Friday, August 28,	--	Deadline for Newsletter -4 th Friday
Social	Sunday, September 20,	TBD	State Fair Car Show
Social	Sunday, October 11,	TBD	Balloon Fiesta Car Show



Happy Birthday

Tony Lawler 6-16
Bianca Arellanes 6-22
Rita Gongora 6-24
Robert Gold 6-30



James Richard & Mary Zelle 6-10
Tery & Sarah Price 6-26

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CORSA members visiting the Land of Enchantment—Kay Sutt

Ed and Sandra McClintock were traveling through Santa Fe on their transit of Route 66 for its 100-year anniversary in their red '63 Monza Convertible. They located us, Tarmo and Kay, in the CORSA roster and called to see if we could meet to share Corvair fellowship.

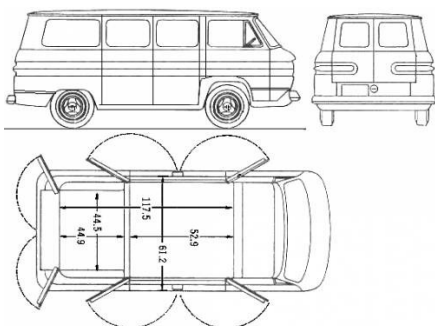
We met them for dinner on Friday, May 8, at Casa de Chimayo for dinner, which is located just across the street from their hotel, and we spent two pleasant hours visiting and sharing a wonderful New Mexican dinner.

Ed and Sandra live in Tennessee and this is their second Routh 66 trip (east to west this this time). They have visited Santa Fe for many years. Their honeymoon was spent here 51 years ago, and they have visited many times since, so they are very comfortable with our city and the heat of NM food. They are three weeks into their trip, and have another two weeks to go until they reach the end of the road in Santa Monica, CA. and they will spend a couple of weeks returning home via a more southerly route, visiting friends and family along the way. Ed and Sandra have met numerous Corvair owners along the way and have researched Corvair meets and rallies along the route as time allows. They love traveling, and Ed is the research specialist in the family, parsing out places to visit and opportunities to share Corvair talk along the way. Their stop Thursday was in Tucumcari, and they are traveling on west from Santa Fe, seeking out the remaining strips of Route 66 along the way.

Ed reported the car has run well during the trip, with just a change of spark plugs needed early in the trip. He said the elevation in Santa Fe has affected the way the car operates, but it still runs fine, and he has learned to accommodate the impact of elevation on the engine operation. He doesn't expect to have to make any more modifications, since "it's all downhill" from here.

We parted company after dinner, and wished them a safe and enjoyable trip on their continuing commemorative journey down the Mother Road.

If you want to follow their trip, search for his Facebook page.



Heula Mitcham Pittman

Heula was born on June 24th, 1943 in Shreveport, Louisiana to Eula Pigott and Hubert Mitcham. Eula's home was Knoxo, Mississippi and Hubert's was in Evans, Louisiana. Heula had two older sisters, an older brother and a younger sister. They are all gone now.

Due to her father's profession, her family moved often, mostly to small communities in Louisiana, so growing up she attended several rural schools. At the age of seven she became ill and the diagnosis was poliomyelitis. Her family exerted every effort to get her the treatment she needed. Most of the treatments were at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. In the 1950s knowledge of polio was limited, there was no prevention, and treatments were theoretical. One treatment was wrapping limbs with hot cloths. Another was hot water baths. Another was massage of the muscles of the affected limbs. Heula's breathing muscles were weakened to the point that she had to spend months in an iron lung. She never cared to remember or recount any details of the treatments she had to endure.



After surgeries to stabilize her right ankle and retard the growth of her left leg, with the help of crutches and special shoes with heavy metal braces, she was finally able to walk again. By the age of 12 medical science had done as much as it could do. Slowly she gained strength and was able to walk without the braces and then without the crutches. For many years she lived an essentially normal life, despite having a barely functional right leg. She graduated high school, went to college, was employed as a clerk by the city of Pineville, and served as secretary for a Baptist church where she played piano at services. Her interests included classical music, playing the piano and organ, singing in church choirs and singing in productions of Handel's "Messiah" with her older sister. She got married and raised three daughters. When times were bad, she kept the family going by starting a child-care business in her home.

Heula Mitcham and James Pittman had met years before as teen-agers. As they got to know each other, they formed a bond and believed they were meant to be together forever. Jim was impressed with her determination not to let her disability ruin her life. He assured her that she'd be able to own and drive a car. To prove it, he took her for a test drive in his 1952 Ford with automatic transmission. It was a success, and ever afterward Heula was able to drive her own car using her left foot.

As Jim and Heula went in separate ways (as they thought, temporarily) their bond faded. Jim went away to distant Air Force bases and Heula went away to college. Life had intervened to keep them apart. Jim never married, but Heula did. Many years later a chance encounter -- Jim was visiting his

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Continued from Page 7— Heula Pittman

parents in a nearby community -- brought them together again. By now Heula's daughters had started their own families, she had divorced her husband, she was selling her house, her child care business had come to an end, and her future was uncertain. They renewed their friendship and their belief that they were meant for each other. She moved to Albuquerque. They married and lived "happily ever after" as Jim worked at the University of New Mexico Computing Center and Heula worked as a teacher at Coronado Child Care Center. Heula loved working with and teaching children. They owned their house and Heula loved growing plants, both vegetables and flowers. Eventually they both retired.

In 1974 Jim had helped found "Corvairs of New Mexico" as a car club. After she arrived in 1990 Heula became an enthusiastic member of the club. She attended club meetings, made life-long friends and devoted hours of planning and effort to many of the club's activities. The club's Tri-State get-togethers expanded her circle of friends to include members from Colorado Springs and Denver as well as Albuquerque and Santa Fe, and she worked many long hours with other Corvair Club members on many of the club's events.

Jim and Heula began a yearly routine of driving, at Thanksgiving, to visit her sister in Shreveport, Jim's parents in Mississippi and her daughters in Baton Rouge. They made some twenty-five of these annual Thanksgiving trips. It's a long drive from Albuquerque to Shreveport and a longer one from Baton Rouge back to Albuquerque. Usually, they'd stop overnight in Sweetwater or Abeline. Sometimes they'd make these drives non-stop. When you leave Baton Rouge early before the sun comes up, then drive all day across the Texas plains, there's nothing quite like coming up the long grade to Tucumcari and seeing the Sandias in the distance. You'd think "We're home!" but then have to drive on for seemingly endless hours before you get to Tijeras Canyon.

Over the years the painful and weakening effects of "post-polio syndrome" and unbalanced walking impinged more and more on Heula's health, especially causing back pain and muscle debilitation. She had other ailments such as ulcers, gallbladder problems, a broken kneecap, torn rotator cuffs, and breast cancer that fortunately was caught early and cured. In 2017 she was diagnosed with Eosinophilic Pneumonia which resulted in years of daily doses of prednisone, difficulty breathing and increasing weakness. Occasional falls further damaged her health. Visits to her various doctors or to the ER or to hospitals or rehabilitation faculties became more difficult and took their toll. She gradually had to give up driving. It became more difficult to move around the house or to go anywhere by car.

We all age. By 2024 Heula and Jim were no longer young. They had to face the necessity to give up their house for an assisted living community. After a search they focused on La Vida Llena. With the help of friends, they downsized and moved in January 2025. It was a difficult and life-changing event for both of them. Daily life changed profoundly. Some changes were for the better, some not so much. Health problems became worse, traumas and hospital stays came more often. Finally in April 2026 Heula lost the fight and passed from this life. It is not an exaggeration to describe her life, in many ways, as heroic.

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Membership meeting—David Huntoon

May 2, 2026

12 members present

First item concerns a conflict of the Tri-State dates and our June meeting. It was decided to forego the June club meeting. So no meeting June. July meeting also cancelled as it falls on 4th July holiday.

Our next Rt 66 cleanup is May 9th and we work the first third starting at 8:30. June cleanup is June 13th at 8:30 and July will be 11th also at 8:30. The upper third will be the work area. The upper area in July.

Tri-State convoys are Thursday and Friday with meeting spot at the gas station across from Sandia Casino.

Museum show is May 24.

No report from Treasurer.

There will be a remembrance service for Heula Pittman later this month at La Vida Llana. May 21, 2026 at 10:00 AM in the Game Room.

Dues Due

Makes Checks Payable to: CNM or Corvairs of New Mexico

Schedule of Dues:

CNM: 12 months = \$25.00 or 26 months = \$50.00 -

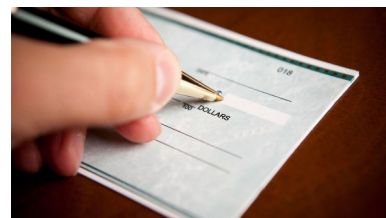
CORSA: 12 months = \$60.00 or 26 months = \$120.00

If you want to pay CNM and CORSA to Treasurer: Both memberships 12 months = \$85.00 or 26 months = \$170.00

Alex		Johnson	December-24	Due
John		Lawrence	December-25	Due
Curtis		Shimp	February-26	Due
Mark	Kelli Pogue	Morgan	March-26	Due
Steve	Rita	Gongora	April-26	Due
Pat		Hall	April-26	Due
Lube		Lubert	April-26	Due
John		Dinsdale	April-26	Due
Lupe	Jim	Arellanes	June-26	Due
Jim		Arellanes	June-26	Due
Joel	Valerie Nye	Yelich	July-26	Soon
Robert		Weinberg	July-26	Soon

send your Dues to:

**CNM Treasurer
Jim Arellanes
57 Granny Trail
Tijeras, NM 87059**



That's right!! Less than one week from today a bevy of Corvairs with their proud owners, along with many other enthusiasts, will converge on Montrose, Colorado. We have over 100 people registered from five different states! We're currently anticipating that ~50 cars, vans, pickups, wagons and specialty vehicles will be on display in beautiful Cerise Park.

Don't forget we'll have a Show & Shine, Road Rally and Awards Dinner, along with lots of time to hang out with other Corvair enthusiasts. The weather forecast says that the temperature in Montrose will be in the upper 80's, so plan to dress cool and casually. And don't forget your hat and sunblock!

My first Tri-State was 10 years ago, and I remember not having a clue about what would happen, "dress codes", etc. What I found was a warm and welcoming group of people who were just glad I was there. There is no dress code - wear what is comfortable (especially at the banquet - you don't have to dress up, but you certainly can if you'd like).

If you have volunteered to help with this year's event, please ask at the registration/check-in desk where we'd like to have you assist, and thank you in advance!

Even though it's late, you can still register and get your car in the Show & Shine. Please sign up on our [web-site](#). If you have questions, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). We're looking forward to a memorable event, and we are so excited about the opportunity to connect with friends old and new (that means YOU)!

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Message for Tri-State Clubs from Nathan King

CNM Officers, Utah club needs help with 2027 Tri-State

As our club begins discussing hosting the Tri-State event, I wanted to reach out to gather some input from clubs that have hosted or helped organize the event in the past.

Could you share what your club typically plans when hosting the Tri-State? For example, what types of activities or events you usually organize throughout the day or weekend.

I'd also appreciate any insight into what it typically costs your club to host the event, as well as what you usually charge attendees for registration or participation.

Another thing we're trying to understand is the amount of manpower needed. About how many volunteers does it usually take to run the event successfully?

When hosting do you typically use CORSA's insurance for the venue, or do you go a different route for event coverage?

Finally, moving forward with hosting, would there be anyone in your club who might be willing to help or assist during the event? As our club is really small we only have 5-10 active members

Any advice or lessons learned from your experiences would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and for helping us plan a great event for the Corvair community.

Best regards,

Nathan King President—Bonneville Corvair Club—Chapter 840

Board Meeting—May17, 2026 / 7:00 PM—Greg Nelson

Topics discussed:

Heula's memorial service and who plans on attending.

Tri-State convoy on Friday; Robert Gold will be in Florida.

Successful Museum Car Show: >340 cars, 7 Corvairs

Repeating that no meeting June or July but Huntoon suggested a breakfast at Monroe's in June and another one in July. No dates set.

California Corvairs says it is not economically viable for them to travel to Pat Hall's place to possibly acquire his inventory.

Cheers

Greg



CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

From: HCCW Wahiawa <hccwahiawa@gmail.com>
Subject: 1000 Native Trees for Kūkaniloko
Date: May 18, 2026 at 2:23:18 PM MDT
To: Lupelani Arellanes <guadalupe.arellanes@icloud.com>

May 18th, 2026
Welina me kealoha Lupelani & the Corvairs of New Mexico Car Club...

The Hawaiian Civic Club of Wahiawā (HCCW) is grateful for your support of the planting of native trees for Kūkaniloko (TFK). HCCW launched the first increment of 1,000 trees on our 61st Anniversary on November 10, 2021 in celebration of our HCCW Kūpuna of 1960. On November 10th, 2026, we will celebrate our 66th Anniversary as HCCW and 101 years of lineal and cultural descendants and their families of Wahiawā and her surrounding communities, who have maintained and cared for Kūkaniloko Birth Site. For 25 years, we shared this responsibility as sister clubs as Waialua-Wahiawā Hawaiian Civic Club, (W-WHCC). On November 10, 1960, reorganization of Wahiawā Hawaiian Civic Club (WHCC) established the Hawaiian Civic Club of Wahiawā (HCCW) with the primary purpose "To protect, preserve and perpetuate the privileges of the piko, Kūkaniloko, and all things Hawaiian, seen and unseen..." and on September 28, 2014, HCCW incorporated once again as a Nonprofit Organization.

Since its inception, HCCW has embraced all responsibilities relating to the care and maintenance of Kūkaniloko and the preservation and sharing of the mo'olelo - traditional comprehension - of the 36,000 acres of Kapuahuawa Pu`uhonua Kūkaniloko, kalana Lihu`e, Wahiawā, Halemano... Our efforts continue to thrive today with the generous contributions of our members and the local, national and international communities who selflessly volunteer their time and monetary support to care for our precious wahi kapu.

We truly appreciate your sponsorship of the planting of a Native Koa Tree at Kūkaniloko through our TFK Initiative, Ka Ulu La`au O Kūkaniloko - The Forest Begins.... Your Commemorative Digital Certificate acknowledging your kind sponsorship In Memory Of Heula Mitcham Pittman as Honoree, is attached. Please let us know if there are any errors in our presentation of your Certificate and we will be happy to correct and reissue them.

Mahalo nunui. Eō mai la. Ke Akua Pū.

"e kūka'awe i nā kapu o Kūkaniloko no ka mea aloha nō ho'i kākou iā lākou i nā kau a kau..."



CERTIFICATE OF COMMEMORATION

As part of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Wahiawa Trees for Kūkaniloko initiative, a native tree will be planted at Kūkaniloko in Wahiawā, Hawaii

In Memory of

Heula Mitcham Pittman

This gift was made possible by
Corvairs of New Mexico Car Club

May 18, 2026
Date of Contribution

*E kūka'awe i nā kapu o Kūkaniloko
nō ka mea aloha nō ho'i kākou iā lākou i nā kau a kau.
To guard the kapu of Kūkaniloko
because we love them for all time.*

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Corvair Capacity—Steve Gongora



Our goddaughter graduated from her masters at UNM and celebrated. I gave her friends a tour of the “Supervan” and we thought this would be a great shot. I shared this photo with Val from Valvairworks and he researched to find the answer. He provided me with this pamphlet page to show me a Corvair held 31 children and two clowns.



Here are the dates for the next two clean-ups.

Help us keep our club mile marker clean!



Join us for any of the following dates:

Saturday, June 13

Saturday, July 11

Let's meet at Cider Bar frontage parking lot; 340-364 NM-33; at 8:30 AM

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Photos from April 27, 2026—Rusty Vair and Family Visit in Santa Fe
Tarmo & Kay Sutt—photos Val and Sasha Doppenberg



Photos from May 24, 2026—Museum Car Show

Photos by David Huntoon

