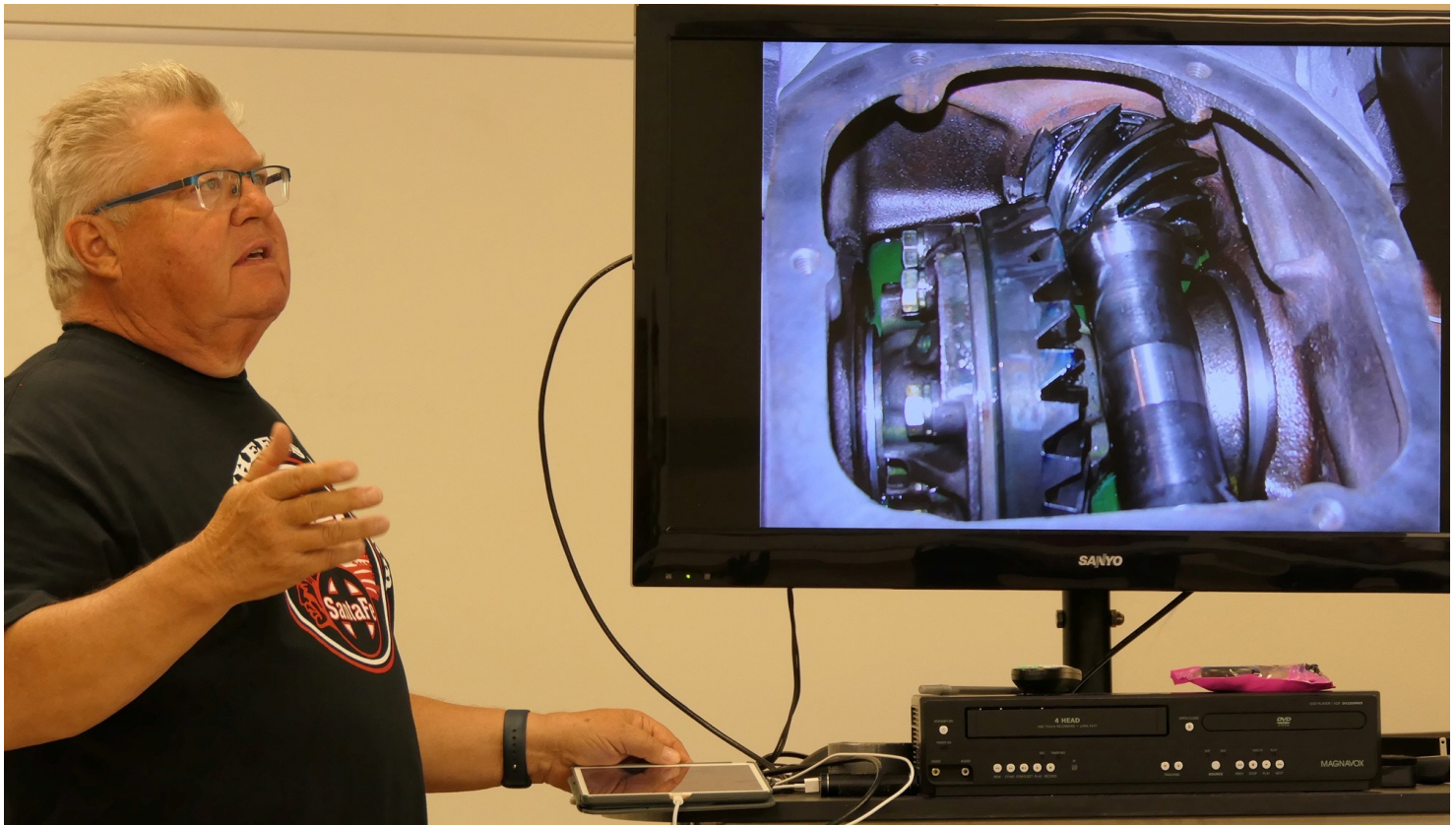




# CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / November 2023—Volume 49—Number 11—Issue 578



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## This Month

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Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	Membership
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Board Meeting Notes.....	Steve Gongora
Dues Due Dates.....	Membership
Eclipse.....	Jim Pittman
Ft. Union.....	Las Vegas
Las Vegas Tri-State.....	Lupe Arellanes

Cover: Tarmo Sutt's Restoration of his 66 Corvair



A Sheared Axle on the Super Van





Pres -	Greg Nelson	505-400-8670	fesedu@comcast.net
VP -	Robert Gold	505-268-6878	beisbol30@msn.com
Sect -	David Huntoon	505-281-9616	corvair66@aol.com
Treas -	Steve Gongora	505-220-7401	stevegongora@msn.com

Program

Not an in-depth program this month but I'll show some designs of next year's Tri-State T-Shirt design, and I'd like comments and suggestions (positive and negative) on its layout. The picture below is just one example. The base picture is the Castenada Hotel.

Los Luceros Historic Site

We made our second annual trip to Los Luceros Historic Site and once again it did not disappoint. We were joined this year by Tony and Linda (great to see them), Dave Huntoon (he and Tarmo drove their Corvairs) and the Gongoras brought along a guest (Ted) who was very impressed. Thanks to Steve and Rita for bringing the picnic basket. We also helped Linda gather crabapples for canning. We might have gathered enough for a jar or two because they aren't very big. Apparently, they did not plant any blue corn this year. It was pointed *(continued on page 4)*



Report for CNM Treasury  
Account for October 2023

Date	Check	Amount	Payee	Description	Balance	Running Balance
2-Oct-23						\$3,272.78
2-Oct-23		7069	25.00 Jon & Debra Anderson - CNM 1 year renewal		25.00	\$3,297.78
30-Oct-23		249	50.00 Doak, Thomas - Banquet for Tri-State Las Vegas 2024		50.00	\$3,347.78
30-Oct-23		7549	75.00 Gold, Robert & Anne Mae - 26 month CNM Membership		50.00	\$3,397.78
30-Oct-23			Nelson, Gregory - 1 year membership - <i>donated by the Golds</i>		25.00	\$3,422.78

**Meeting Notes: Steve Gongora**

October 7, 2023

CNM Meeting

14 members in attendance

Meeting started at 10:15 AM - called to order by Greg Nelson

Pat's guest - Rene

Elections -

Greg Nelson - President

Robert Gold - Vice-President

Dave Huntoon - Secretary

Brenda Stickler - Events Co-Ordinator

Lupe Arellanes - Membership chair

Steve to help Greg to transition to newsletter

Treasurer Report - \$3297.78



## CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Lupe - tell people to register early for Tri-State  
The hotel is raising the rates after December 2023

Brenda— Things to do

J&R Vintage Museum - closed

Wheels Museum

Route 66 Visitor Center - Event going on - wants participation

Los Luceros - October 21 at 9:00 AM at Buffalo Thunder - map available to those who can't make it on time

Bring a light lunch

Nuclear Museum on Eubank and Central / Tinkertown Museum

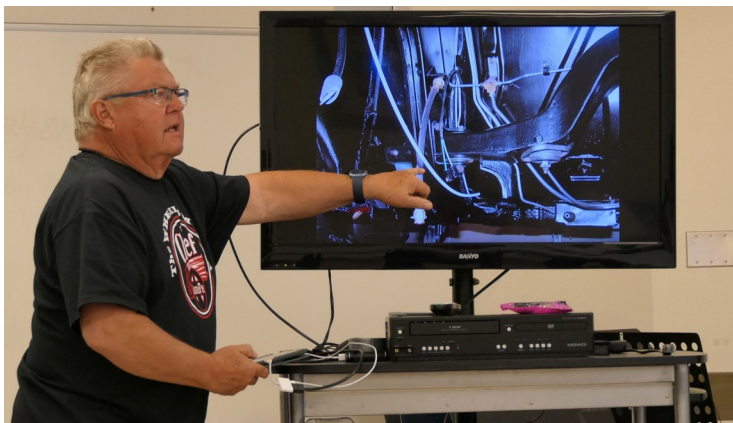
Stranger Factory in Alamogordo / David Huntoon - Suggestion - Moriarity Museum to visit - large vehicles on display / Also suggests to visit the sail planes nearby / Robert Gold - trip to Santa Fe to support Tarmo with an event - Santa Fe Bite / Christmas - Sal's Restaurant for Christmas Dinner / Robert Gold - State Fair Car Show / Needs more Corvairs for next event.

Alex - Geoff Johnson's son will try to transition to help with the State Fair Car Show / Trash clean-up on Saturday October 14, 2023 - 8:00 AM - Solar eclipse at 9:17 AM

Announced Sharon Heil passed away on September 7, 2023 - Greg is sending a sympathy card.

Tarmo was able to visit with Bill & Betty Lawless - He lives in Prescott, Arizona

Bob Kitts - Van is leaking gas on van - Needs some attention - plans to be made to re-attend and repair the problem



Tarmo - presentation - Part II of restoration of his 1966 Corvair Turbo Convertible

Sold an extra chrome moulding - factory bucket seats with headrests

Fully optioned vehicle / Few cars were made / Sandblasted all the suspension parts / Bushings were pressed out / Front Suspension spring has to be cut to level the car / All bolts were anodized to black color / POR 54 - was used to paint the entire bottom of the car / Saginaw Transmission - was an improvement over the 1965 transmission / Sandblasted any part that needed cleaning / Exchange Students were very helpful in taking care of this process / Suspension was assembled and reinstalled / Quick steering shaft was installed / Convertible top was completely taken apart, painted and reassembled / Car was taken to House of Covers and all parts were shipped to have on hand / Insulation installed in the engine compartment / New tacking strips were installed on the top frame / Window came from France Boydston to Jim Pittman to Tarmo Sutt / Trunk was painted like factory with a splatter effect / Top has never been put down since it was installed / Top was entered at the Corsa Convention in June 2011 / About 40 cars were inspected at the time



Update on Title for Rampside - Tarmo was sent a packet with request for a higher bond - value of Rampside was set between \$30,000 to \$50,000

Was advised to get an appraisal. Tarmo found one in Santa Fe

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM



(continued from page 2) out that perhaps the field must lay fallow for a year. If that's the case, that's certainly motivation to return next year.



## Mecum Auctions

There are three Mecum Auctions coming up and each has a few Corvairs on the block [Las Vegas – 2, Kansas City – 1, and Kissimmee – 5]. I'll comment in Future newsletters what the gavel price was for each of them. The sell price is relevant to us. As an example, Tarmo is refurbishing a Rampside without a title and the State wants a bond that is twice the NADA estimate which in his case was \$54,000, so the bond needs to be \$108,000. What? That's sounds like the gavel price for a fully restored Rampside at auction, not a rust-bucket fresh out of the field. Once Tarmo finally gets a title perhaps he can take us through the process at a future meeting – sometime next year?????

## Trash Day Eclipse

Our last trash day of the year also coincided with an annular eclipse in which Albuquerque was in the 100% totality path. I brought extra eclipse glasses for our usual post-pick-up visit to the Roots Farm Café. We all sat outside on the west edge of the patio to watch the beginning of the eclipse to just past totality. The light did change (but not totally dark), and it did cool down enough that I had to fetch a sweater from the car. I'll be traveling to Frisco, Tx next April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for a total eclipse. My whole family lives right in the path of totality. If the weather holds, then next year's event will be my second total eclipse.

## Tires

In July 2021 I purchased five Maxxis tires for the '64 Monza. There were \$118 each with free shipping from Priority Tire (online). I would like to add a new set to the '63 Spyder for the simple fact there is no date code on the tire which means it was made prior to 2000. The tires still have lots of tread and could

run forever but let's not tempt fate. Priority Tire, and everyone else, is currently out of stock, and the price has jumped to \$183, with free shipping. I sent a message to MAXXIS Tire asking if they still manufacture this tire, and they replied the tires I want should be back in stock in 3-5 weeks. Fingers crossed.

## Xmas Party

We'll get an update on our Xmas Party plans, but I believe we are going to Sal's. Details to follow at the November meeting. We should also begin making plans for CNM's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.





# CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

As We get close to ending our CNM Year 2023- Brenda Stickler

Our attendance to Los Luceros doubled from last year. Every group that has gone has really appreciated the rich history, and the fact that it is actually a plantation from the 1700's in Northern New Mexico. We are going to meet up for breakfast after our November's Saturday Morning Club meeting. Bring your ideas where we can enjoy a breakfast together, near our Senior Center.

We also will close our year with our annual Christmas Celebration Meal. Rita has found us a great restaurant on the Westside, that their family recommends. Hopefully, someone can submit what charity we should support and collect for, so all can bring their donation to our final event of 2023.

I would like to thank our elected new officers. Our club is fortunate to have dedicated people.

I want to thank all who supported me for my terms as Vice President. Also, it was such a gift for Steve Gongora has taken over our CNM monthly newsletter. Our Club will be forever grateful for Jim Pittman's dedication over the decades, as editor. We always have cherished the amazing "classic touches" that Heula has made over those same years for many of our club events. What an awesome CNM Couple!

As our "Vairs" keep on Roaring in New Mexico.- see you soon, Brenda



Jim Pittman Nov 13  
Anne Johnson Nov 21  
Anne Wiker Nov 6

Happy Anniversary!

Brenda Stickler Nov 21



# CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

November 2023							December 2023							January 2024						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
			1	2	3	4	26	27	28	29	30	1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
							31							4	5	6	7	8	9	10

## *Schedule of Events*

Saturday, Nov 4, 2023	10:00 AM	Meeting – Highland Senior Center ph 505-767-5210 131 Monroe St NE, Alb., NM 87108
Saturday, Nov 4, 2023	11:30 AM	<b>Possible brunch after meeting – location to be discussed</b>
Wednesday, Nov 15, 2023	7:00 PM	Board Meeting – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday via Zoom
Friday, Nov 24, 2023	9:00 PM	Deadline for Newsletter
Monday, Nov 27, 2023	*****	Target completion of newsletter
Saturday, Dec 2, 2023	10:00 AM	Meeting – Highland Senior Center ph 505-767-5210 131 Monroe St NE, Alb., NM 87108
Saturday, Dec 9, 2023	11:00 AM	CNM Christmas Dinner – Sal’s Ristorante—Coors and Sequoia
Wednesday, Dec 20, 2023	7:00 PM	Board Meeting – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday via Zoom
Friday, Dec 22, 2023	9:00 PM	Deadline for Newsletter
Monday, Dec 25, 2023	*****	Target completion of newsletter
Saturday, January 6, 2024	10:00 AM	Meeting—Highland Senior Center ph 505-767-5210 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 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday Manzano Mesa Senior Center ph 505-275-8731 501 Elizabeth St SE Alb, NM 87123
Friday, January 26, 2024	9:00 PM	Deadline for Newsletter
Monday, January 29, 2024	*****	Target completion of newsletter





## The Super Van—Steve Gongora

Most people know about my van. The short story is that I've been connected to this van for a long time. The first encounter was in 1975. A gas station did some repairs on the van and the owners never picked it up. He titled the van under a mechanics lien and my dad bought it. We worked out a trade with Jerry Goffe for a Greenbriar for the Corvan. He rebuilt the motor and used it for several years. When my dad was recalled to active duty in 1982, I wanted a commercial vehicle for House of Covers and Jerry's van was the perfect fit. The motor lasted 26 years before a new one was rebuilt by Dave Langlois. I drive the van on a daily basis and it serves me well. There aren't too many vehicles that will fit a 9 foot couch. You can't find a better vehicle to transport items because everything is protected from the elements. Rita and I were delivering an upholstered chair for my nephew, Jake who now owns House of Covers. We took the chair to Bernalillo near the National Guard. I travel often on the freeway with speeds up to or exceeding 70 miles an hour on a regular



basis. I also cleared my shed of wood,

which I thought I was going to use but haven't. It went to a person who is an artist with creative wood furnishings. Rita and I delivered the wood to Rio Rancho then traveled to Bernalillo to meet some friends. This was a couple of weeks ago. This reinforces my confidence in these fine machines. There have been a couple of times where the axle has worn through the u-joints and has left me stranded. The solution was to replace the axle and be on my way.

I teach a Spin class three times a week and drive my van to the gym regularly. I drove from my class to home on a Sunday, as

usual, and made a right turn going approximately 1 to 2 miles an hour and all of the sudden my right rear corner collapses. I get out of the car and my tire is separated from the axle. I've never seen this happen before. On closer inspection, it seems that this was inevitable on this particular axle. There is a very small portion of the axle that was showing a new break. Needless to say, I was taking a lot of deep breaths on that Sunday knowing that the possibility of some tragic event could have occurred.

Thanks for the trusty cell phone of calling a tow company to pick up the van and a trusty Dave Langlois to have a place where the van could go and get the tender loving care that he always gives it. Thank you Dave.





## **Board Meeting Notes—October 18, 2023**

The meeting conducted by Greg Nelson on Zoom started at 7:00 PM. Members participating besides, Greg were Robert Gold, Brenda Stickler, Lupe Arellanes and Steve Gongora.

Greg was looking for a particular font for the Las Vegas Tri-State logo that would accept photos within the letter. Lupe was to take a trip to Las Vegas, NM to check in.

We confirmed the trip to Los Luceros at 9:00 AM meeting at the parking lot of Buffalo Thunder.

The last clean-up of the year was on October 14 which was the same day as the annular eclipse.

We discussed the possibility of mailing a copy of the newsletter to all members.

Christmas Dinner was to be confirmed at Sal's Ristorante on Coors and Sequoia on December 9th at 11:00 AM.

Robert Gold will be writing a story on a particular 4-door Corvair that has been owned by several CNM members.



A

Membership list was assembled to be available to all members.

Steve Gongora called LeRoy Rogers to check in. LeRoy has sold all his Corvairs and other collectibles. He kept one car, his Imperial.

There was rumor that Gordon Johnson was not in good health. Gordon and Barbara Johnson are long-time CNM members.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM



**Welcome our newest members:**

**Corbett & Erin Battaile with their 1964 Corvair Convertible**

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

Dues Due

**Due in October**

William & Sharon Heil - inactive as of Nov 2023

**Due in November**

Linda & Dick Cochran - inactive as of Dec 2023

**Due in December**

Larry Blair - inactive as of Jan 2024

David Huntoon - inactive as of Jan 2024

Anne Johnson - inactive as of Jan 2024

**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

Curtis Shimp - inactive as of March 2024

**Inactive:**

LeRoy Rogers - inactive as of June 2023

Lube Lubert - inactive as of Aug 2023

Dave & Jan Alin - inactive as of Sept 2023

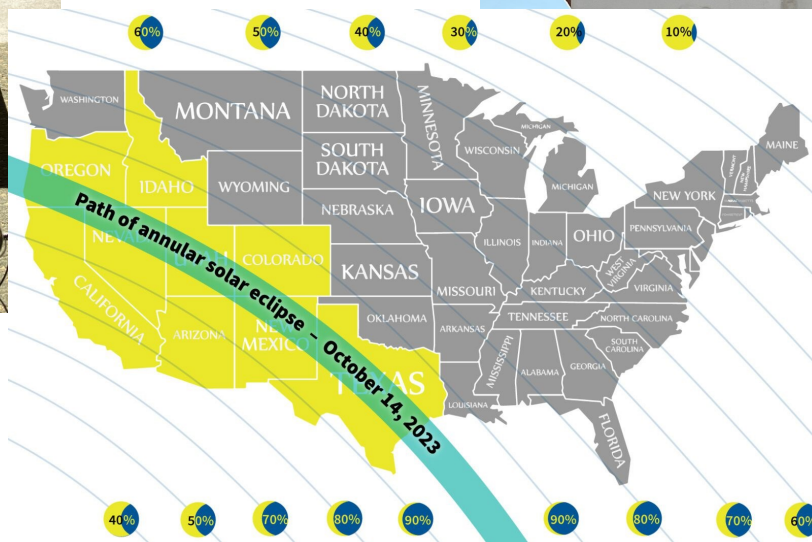
Clifton & Katie Trujillo - inactive as of Sept 2023

*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



On October 14, 2023, an annular eclipse was visible in the continental United States. In the morning, the moon covered the face of the Sun, so that the Sun appeared in the sky as a single ring of light, known as the ring of fire. Our state of New Mexico was fortunate to experience this first-hand, if you lived or visited the path. One of our CNM members created an ingenious way to observe the event on his garage door. That was none other than Mr. Jim Pittman.







**Fort Union National Monument** is a unit of the [National Park Service](#) of the United States, and is located north of [Watrous](#) in [Mora County, New Mexico](#). The [national monument](#) was founded on June 28, 1954.

The site preserves the second of three forts constructed on the site beginning in 1851, as well as the ruins of the third. Also visible is a network of ruts from the Mountain and Cimarron Branches of the old [Santa Fe Trail](#).

There is a visitor center with exhibits about the fort and a film about the [Santa Fe Trail](#). The altitude of the Visitor Center is 6760 feet (2060 m). A 1.2-mile (1.9-kilometre) trail winds through the fort's [adobe](#) ruins.

## Description by William Davis

Santa Fe trader and author William Davis gave his first impression of the fort in the year 1857:

Fort Union, a hundred and ten miles from Santa Fé, is situated in the pleasant valley of the Moro. It is an open post, without either stockades or breastworks of any kind, and, barring the officers and soldiers who are seen about, it has much more the appearance of a quiet frontier village than that of a military station. It is laid out with broad and straight streets crossing each other at right angles. The huts are built of pine logs, obtained from the neighboring mountains, and the quarters of both officers and men wore a neat and comfortable appearance.

## History of the fort

The fort was established in the [New Mexico Territory](#), on the [Santa Fe Trail](#). It was provisioned in large part by farmers and ranchers of what is now [Mora County](#) (formally created in 1860), including the town of Mora, where the [grist mill](#) established by [Ceran St. Vrain](#) in 1855 produced most of the flour used at the fort.

The fort served as the headquarters of the [8th Cavalry](#) in the early 1870s and as the headquarters of the [9th Cavalry](#) in the late 1870s during the [Apache Wars](#).

F. Stanley wrote and published a book titled *Fort Union New Mexico* in 1953, giving a colorful history of this fort and individuals such as [Davey Crockett](#).

## Land ownership


In its forty years (1851–1891) as a frontier post, Fort Union had to defend itself in the courtroom as well as on the battlefield. When the United States Army built Fort Union in the Mora Valley in 1851, the soldiers were unaware that they had encroached on private property, which was part of the Mora Grant. The following year Colonel [Edwin Vose Sumner](#) expanded the fort to an area of eight square miles by claiming the site as a military reservation. In 1868, President [Andrew Johnson](#) declared a timber reservation, encompassing the entire range of the [Turkey Mountains](#) (part of the [Sangre de Cristo range](#)) and comprising an area of fifty-three square miles, as part of the fort.<sup>[10]</sup>



The claimants of the Mora Grant immediately challenged the government squatters and took the case to court. By the mid-1850s, the case reached Congress. In the next two decades, the government did not give any favorable decision to the claimants, until 1876 when the Surveyor-General of New Mexico reported that Fort Union was "no doubt" located in the Mora Grant. But the army was unwilling to move to another place or to compensate the claimants because of the cost. The Secretary of War took "a prudential measure", protesting the decision of the acting commissioner of the General Land Office. He argued that the military had improved the area and should not give it up without compensation.<sup>[10]</sup> This stalling tactic worked; the army stayed at the fort until its demise in 1891, not paying a single penny to legitimate owners.



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



**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.

## All are Welcome to our 39th Corvair Tri-State

### May 17, 18, 19, 2024 in Historic Las Vegas, New Mexico

**COSTS:**

Registrant 1> \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50/\$65 → \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto:tristatecorvairs@gmail.com)  
Visit our website *Virtual Visitors' Center* to view excursion ideas: [www.tristatecorvairs.com](http://www.tristatecorvairs.com)

## 2024 Tri-State News

... by Lupe Arellanes

**City Selection:** Las Vegas, New Mexico; **Dates:** May 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 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.

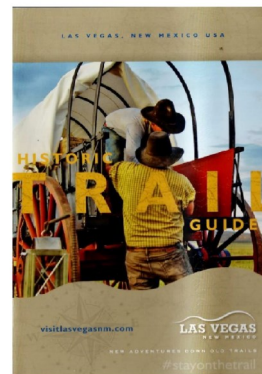
**Banquet/Show Cost:** Early Bird \$50 Adult; Price Increase after March 1, 2024 → \$65.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:tristatecorvairs@gmail.com)

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





**CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO**

