CORVAIRS *of* NEW MEXICO

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / November 2026—Volume 52—Number 11—Issue 614



Enchanted Corvairs Newsletter

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / November 2026—Volume 52—Number 11—Issue 614

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting: Saturday, November 7, 2026—10:00 AM

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
CNM Meeting Notes.....David Huntoon
Photos of Meeting.....Steve Gongora
Board Meeting.....Steve Gongora
Origami in the Garden Photos.....Steve Gongora
Origami in the Garden Tour.....Steve Gongora
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....Lupe Arellanes
Dues Due.....Membership Committee
Powerglides.....Jim Pittman
Message & Info. for Utah Tri-State.....Nathan King
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....Lupe Arellanes
Los Luceros Tour.....Steve Gongora
Los Luceros Photos.....Steve Gongora



On the Cover: A Corvair with Thanksgiving Wishes

***Adventurers at the Origami in the Garden** (lower right)*

From the President Greg Nelson

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Secretary - David Huntoon	505-281-9616	corvair66@aol.com
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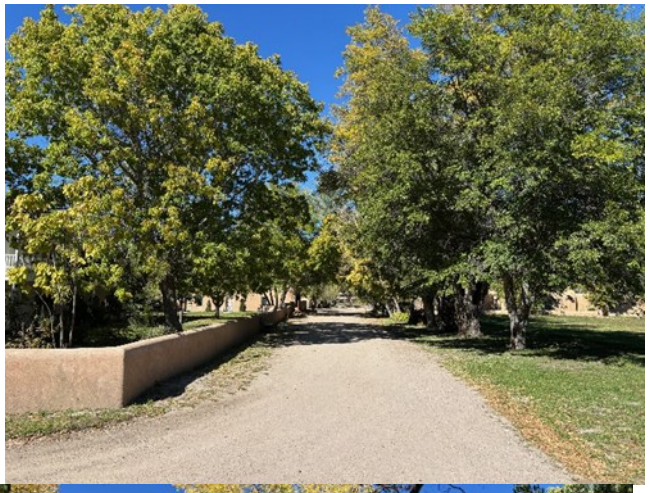
CNM November 2026
Newsletter Articles—Greg Nelson



Elections
Next year's officers are:
President: Dave Huntoon
Vice President: Tarmo Sutt
Treasurer: Jim Arellanes
Secretary: Gregory Nelson
Newsletter Editor: Steve Gongora
Social Coordinator: Lupe Arellanes

Thank you everyone, starting next year, I get to sit behind the tables.

Los Luceros Tradición
This was our fifth year making the pilgrimage to the Los Luceros Historic Site and the weather did not disappoint – sunny and cool. As usual we met in the Buffalo Thunder parking lot and then Tarmo led the way in his beautiful late model through the scenic east side of Española. After the hike we had lunch in the shade on the picnic tables. Upon departure Steve and Rita took their guests into Santa Fe, and I volunteered to take Brenda back to her car at Steve and Rita's house.







Continued on page 3

Continued from Page 2— President's Letter

Brunch With Pat



November 14, 2026
10:00am

El Rancho Grill
3513 NM-47, Los Lunas, NM 87031

Brunch

We are having brunch with Pat Hall on November 14th at 10:00am at the El Rancho Grill in Los Lunas. Be sure to grab a reminder flyer at the meeting. It is located at the intersection on NM-47 and Valencia Drive. It is conveniently just down the street from Pat's house.

Xmas Lunch

The club Xmas lunch returns to Mimi's Café. The date is December 12th at 1:00pm (12/12 @1300). Please RSVP so we can plan for the correct seating. I said there would be twenty-five of us but the more the merrier.

CORSA Membership Mystery Resolved

I emailed the CORSA Secretary and received a link to CORSA's Operating Policy. Briefly we need "at least 10 CORSA members and the CORSA members must account for at least half the members of the chartered club". Additionally, "a majority of the club officers must be CORSA members."

Bingo Fundraiser Discussion

I filled out a reservation application for our Bingo fundraiser, but all the rooms are full the weekend before Thanksgiving. Another club which I am a member of had to move the monthly meeting from North Domingo Baca to Manzano Mesa for the same reason. At the meeting we can discuss our options.



'63 & '64

I stopped by Dave Langlois' shop to check on my 1963 Spyder. Dave reassembled the car but unfortunately he found an issue with the differential. So, it will be a tad bit longer before I get it back.



After removing the rear seat in the '64 and discovering simple plastic wrap and masking tape behind the rear panels I decided to do it properly and use Clark's brown/black door paper. I have cut the templates so now it is simply a matter of finding time to squeeze into the rear of the car and glue them in. However, I have taken the car for a drive with the new carburetor parts and it runs great.

Report for CNM Treasury
Account for October 2026

Date	Check	Amount	Payee	Description	Balance	Running Balance
8-Sep-26						$6,712.28
8-Sep-26		25.00	Anderson, Jon & Debbie - CNM Dues - 1 year exp 10-27		25.00	$6,737.28

Schedule of Events

TYPE	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Club Matters	Saturday, November 7,	10:00 AM	Members' Meeting--1 st Saturday, 10am: North Domingo Baca MultiGenerational Center - 7521 Carmel Ave NE, Alb, NM 87113
Social	**Saturday, November 14,**	**10:00 AM**	**Breakfast in Los Lunas – El Rancho Grill, 3513 NM-47 Ste B, Los Lunas, NM 87031**
Club Matters	Wednesday, November 18,	7:00 PM	Board Meeting—3 rd Wednesday via Zoom, 7pm
Club Matters	Wednesday, November 25,	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, November 27,		Deadline for Newsletter -4 th Friday
Club Matters	Saturday, December 5,	10:00 AM	Members' Meeting--1 st Saturday, 10am: North Domingo Baca MultiGenerational Center - 7521 Carmel Ave NE, Alb, NM 87113
Social	**Saturday, December 12,**	**1:00 PM**	**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON Mimi's Cafe, 4316 The 25 Way, Albuquerque**
Club Matters	Wednesday, December 16,	7:00 PM	Board Meeting—3 rd Wednesday via Zoom, 7pm
Club Matters	Wednesday, December 23,	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, December 25,		Deadline for Newsletter -4 th Friday
Club Matters	Saturday, January 2,	10:00 AM	Members' Meeting--1 st Saturday, 10am: North Domingo Baca MultiGenerational Center - 7521 Carmel Ave NE, Alb, NM 87113
Club Matters	Wednesday, January 20,	7:00 PM	Board Meeting—3 rd Wednesday via Zoom, 7pm
Club Matters	Wednesday, January 27,	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			Deadline for Newsletter -4 th Friday

October 3, 2026 Meeting Photos—Steve Gongora









Board meeting October 21, 2026 at 7:00 PM – Steve Gongora

President Greg Nelson, Jim, Pittman, Steve Gongora, and Jim and Lupe Arellanes joined a zoom meeting.

First topic was to discuss our trip to the origami in the garden at 9:00 a.m. to meet at the Shell station at the top of the hill at the intersection of Frost Road and NM 14

We talked about conducting a bingo auction/potluck at the north Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center. Greg Nelson will follow up and let us know if the place is available.

We will be meeting on November 14 at 10:00 AM at the El Rancho Grill in Los Lunas. The address is: 3513 NM-47, Los Lunas, NM. 87031. We will be meeting up with Pat Hall. Try to get out your Corvair and join us. Pat is always coming up to Albuquerque joining us for all of our events. It would be nice to support Pat in joining him in his own backyard.

Our Christmas dinner will be held at Mimi's Cafe. It will be on December 12, 2026 at 1:00 PM. The address for Mimi's Café is 4316 the 25 Way, Albuquerque, NM 87109

We were discussing Corsa policy on CNM members belonging to the national organization. Greg Nelson researched the question and found out that we need at least 10 members and all officers should be Corsa members. We qualify to be a registered member of Corsa based on the bylaws.

Jim Pittman discussed security issues when we share financial information over emails. It is best not to send any copies of checks or anything that might be compromised.

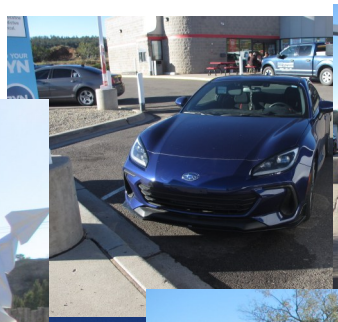
Jon Anderson renewed his membership bringing our bank total to $6747.28

Lupe and Jim Arellanes, we're trying to connect with the Utah Club via a Google meeting. They were unsuccessful in trying to get connected with the club. We are trying to find out the details for the Tri-State which will be held in Moab, Utah next year.

We found out at least one of our CNM members, Curtis Shimp was headed to the Fan Belt Toss in Palm Springs, CA. He was able to catch up with Val & Sasha Doppenberg. It was a very nice event, unfortunately, it was interrupted by rain.

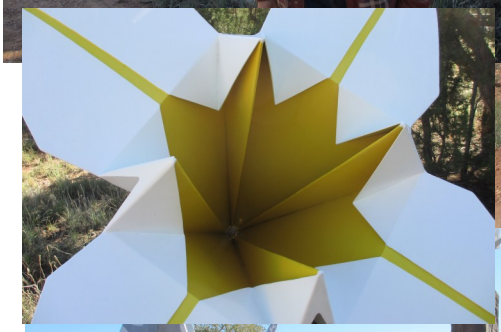
Greg Nelson was checking up on his car. It is being repaired by Dave Langlois. Dave had to undergo surgery so it will be a delay in getting his car back. Best wishes to Dave on his recovery.

Origami in the Garden October 27, 2026














Origami in the Garden - October 27, 2026 – Steve Gongora

Rita and I along with our friend Mary waited at the Shell parking lot up at Frost Road and New Mexico 14. Greg Nelson was getting his oil changed on his Subaru and texted me when he was coming up. He met us around 9 o'clock. Then Jim and Lupe Arellanes also joined us at the Shell parking lot.

We caravaned north passing Madrid, and headed into Cerrillos. We arrived at the parking lot, at the Origami in the Garden, paid our dues and promptly found a place where we could have a photo shot.

It was a great time to walk in this garden. The weather was perfect. The paths were nice and clean and very easy to navigate. The amount of work put into each particular art was amazing. It's hard to believe that it is the same method that would be used in folding paper, but transformed into something much larger and much harder to work with.

There were great opportunities to take pictures of each piece of art, and to get some pictures of the Art and us in our adventure. We were able to stop in the gift shop and see all the wonderful work for sale. This included T-shirts if you wanted one. After we were done with the Origami in the Garden, we caravaned to the Mineshaft Tavern in Madrid.

The timing was perfect for lunch. We only had to wait a few minutes before they opened and they were able to not only seat us but give us good service. It is an amazing place. Very rustic with great food.

We made it under the wire to visit this wonderful place. They close down on the last week of October. They are only open during the week and we knew that a lot of the Corvair members are retired and can visit these places on a weekday.

After reviewing the photos in this newsletter on page 6, make sure that you put it on your calendar for our next time that we visit this place. You don't want to miss it.

Dues Due

Makes Checks Payable to: CNM or Corvairs of New Mexico

Schedule of Dues:

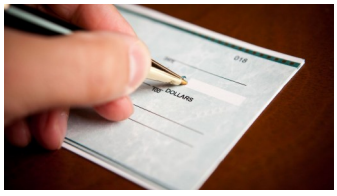
CNM: 12 months = $25.00 or 26 months = $50.00 -

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 OVER DUE
Lube Lubert April-26 OVER DUE
Joel Yelich July-26 OVER DUE
Dick Cochran November-26 OVER DUE
Robert Gold November-26 OVER DUE
Art Gold December-26 Due Soon
David Huntoon December-26 Due Soon
John Lawrence December-26 Due Soon
Greg Nelson December-26 Due Soon

send your Dues to:
CNM Treasurer
Jim Arellanes
57 Granny Trail
Tijeras, NM 87059



POWERGLIDES

Jim Pittman

Check this video on YouTube ... `https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eeeodBkzMKo`

The video tells how Chevrolet's engineers designed a low-cost automatic transmission in the early 1950s. They were available in 1950s Chevrolets, the original 1953 Corvette and from 1959 to 1969 in Corvairs. Engineers had a single goal: keep it simple. By the time the Corvair came along that goal had given the Powerglide two forward gears and fewer but more robust parts than more expensive automatics. It's a fascinating story of engineering excellence!

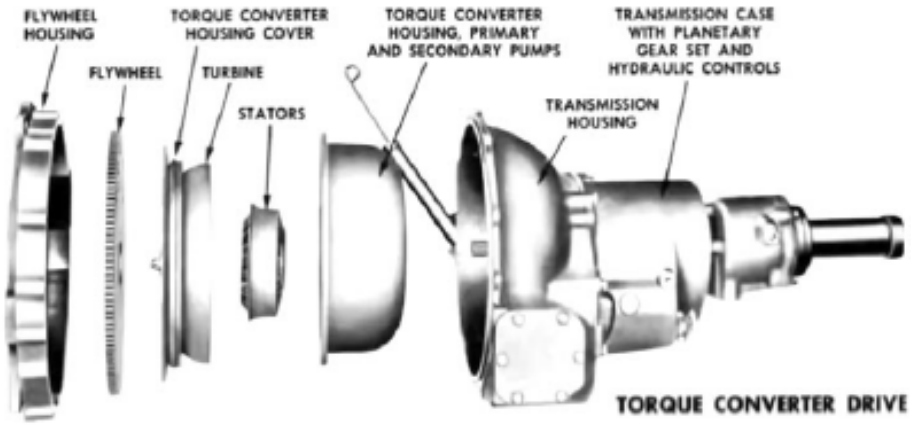
I'm not an automatic guy but several years ago I joined many of our members in attending a Garage Tour at Pat Hall's place in Los Lunas where Alan Gold gave us a demonstration of a disassembled Corvair Powerglide. That demonstration focused on repairing them but gave hints on how they worked. I thought Alan did an outstanding presentation. But I never drove Corvairs with Powerglides and it was easy for me to ignore them.

I did learn a little about automatics, though. My first car was a 1952 Ford with "Ford-O-Matic" that had three forward speeds. It normally started in second then shifted to third, but the driver could select "L" to start in first gear, then move the lever to "D" for Drive and it would shift to second or third, depending on car speed. Yes, I would sometimes use the "L" setting for starting, or for driving on hills or slippery road surfaces.

The first car that I bought new was a 1962 Ford Fairlane. It had an automatic that only had two forward speeds. If you selected "L" it just stayed in Low gear. For me as a naïve American driver it worked fine and I did not really miss a "lower" gear.

In April 1964, like many another red-blooded American boy, I was hit with Mustang fever. I planned to save my money and buy a new Mustang. But, should it be convertible or hardtop? Should it be automatic or 4-speed? Well, I never bought my Mustang so those questions remained unanswered. Instead, on a vacation trip to Europe, I bought a British sports car. It was a 1964 Austin-Healey 3000 Mk III.

Before my trip I ordered the car from a dealer in Dayton and it was to be delivered at a British Motor Corporation dealer in London. I drove it in England and France and shipped it back to the states from Amsterdam. That car marked the end of my automatic transmission mentality. The Healey had a 4-speed with overdrive. I bought Michelin tires for it and set out to learn proper use of the transmission and the car's impressive, if somewhat challenging, handling ability. I got to be fairly skillful at operating a manual transmission sports car. After that, I never wanted to get another car with automatic.



TORQUE CONVERTER DRIVE



My next new car was a 1966 Corvair Corsa with turbo and of course it had a 4-speed. Later I bought a used MG-B with 4-speed. I bought several used Corvairs, all with 4-speeds. Still later I bought my first Japanese car, a 1990 Honda Civic that had a 5-speed. Still later I bought my beloved 1996 Miata, also with a 5-speed.

In summary, in all the years since 1964 I have been very much at ease owning and driving clutch-transmission cars.

In 1990 we needed a car with automatic for Heula. We got a 1991 Honda Civic and it had four forward speeds -- the top gear was an overdrive -- and of course being an automatic you just drove it and it just worked. The 2003 Honda Civic we later bought was much the same. It just worked.

When we thought we needed a 2013 Honda Civic, guess what, it did not have an automatic with real gears, it had the belt drive "CVT" constant-velocity transmission. I had read about them and did not much care for the idea, but hey, if Honda put them in their cars, well, they must be okay.

The car ran adequately, I suppose, but I never developed any love for the CVT belt drive. In particular, it bothered me that the computer-controlled shifting put in fake "shifts" as you sped up, so the car felt like a regular automatic that shifted gears. I did not like that at all.

A few years later we again needed a new Civic and we bought a 2016. It also had the belt drive CVT transmission. It worked okay, but for me there was one serious problem.

When driving on hilly roads, you used to be able to downshift an automatic by putting it in "L" instead of "D" for Drive to save the brakes going down hills. On some transmissions, you could even select either "2" or "1" for steeper hills. Well, the 2016 Civic CVT had an "L" setting for Low, but it was NOT effective on a steep hill! You'd still need to stand on the brakes! Why Honda made it this way I have no idea. Well, I do have an idea: durability of the CVT belts.

When it was time for us to think about getting a new Civic, I made a casual visit to the Mazda dealer. I had only driven a Mazda3 once, long ago when they were much smaller cars. I just wanted to try the new one and see what it felt like. I found the new Mazda3 a much more pleasant car to drive than the 2016 Civic. So instead of getting a 2018 Civic I bought a 2018 Mazda3. And guess what, it has an automatic with real gears! Six forward speeds. You can select "D" and drive in fully automatic mode, or you can select Manual mode and pick any gear you want: first, second, third -- subject to engine speed and road speed, of course.

Over the years in the Corvair club I have heard a lot of talk about the Powerglide transmission. Not many comments have been "Too few speeds!" while many comments have been about its amazing durability or its ease of driving. I guess those 1950s General Motors engineers did a super job designing an automatic for inexpensive Chevrolets. And some of our club members are driving around in cars with these transmissions today! Seventy-six-year-old technology! I love it.



Message for Tri-State Clubs from Nathan King

CNM Officers, Utah club needs help with 2027

Tri-State—Moab, Utah

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, https://www.corvair.org/chapters/chapter871/tri-state.html

Nathan King President—Bonneville Corvair Club—Chapter 840



BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

Mary Zelle 11/7

Jim Pittman 11/13

Autumn Colors and History at Los Luceros

October 17, 2026

By Steve Gongora

It has become an annual tradition for our Corvair club to head north in October to enjoy the splendor of autumn and the changing colors of the trees. This year's day trip did not disappoint! Many of the trees were beginning to show their fall colors, with brilliant shades of yellow standing out against the remaining greens and browns.
Our adventure began at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning when Brenda Stickler met us at our home. Our friends Eva and Suzanne joined us, completing our carpool for the trip to the Buffalo Thunder parking lot, where we met up with Greg Nelson. Tarmo had texted to let me know he would be arriving a little late, but once he joined us, we were ready to head north.

Following Tarmo, we took a scenic route toward Española, turning near the movie theaters and bypassing the main thoroughfare. We wound our way along McCurdy Road before continuing north past the Ohkay Casino area. Our destination, the historic Los Luceros Historic Site, lies just a few miles north of Española, near the Rio Grande. The signs made it easy to find our way to this special destination.
Upon arrival, we headed to the main area to purchase our tickets and begin the tour. During our previous visit, the mansion had been closed for renovations, so we were especially pleased to find it open this time. One welcome improvement was the installation of additional heaters. On our last visit, the interior was quite chilly, but now visitors can comfortably explore this treasured piece of New Mexico history without needing to bundle up in a jacket.

The grounds were beautifully maintained, and the freshly painted and upgraded doors added to the site's charm. Everywhere we looked, there was something to appreciate. Los Luceros is truly a wonderful place to experience New Mexico's rich history and architectural heritage.

We continued our walk toward the Rio Grande, where we were greeted by the wonderful sound of flowing water. There was a substantial amount of water moving through the river, and it was a welcome sight, especially at a time when drought conditions are so often a concern throughout New Mexico. Seeing the river flowing so freely was a highlight of the day.

Another memorable part of our excursion was enjoying lunch outdoors in absolutely beautiful weather. The sunshine, autumn scenery, good company, and opportunity to explore a historic New Mexico landmark made for a perfect club outing.

All in all, it was a wonderful day filled with friendship, history, and the beauty of the season. If you have never visited Los Luceros, I highly recommend adding it to your list. And when our Corvair club makes another trip north, I encourage you to join us. It is an outing well worth repeating

Los Luceros, October 17, 2026—Steve Gongora







