



# CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Corvair Society of America—COSA—Chapter 871 / September 2025—Volume 51—Number 9—Issue 600



## CorvaiRod



*Gary Compesi*  
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## Enchanted Corvairs Newsletter

Corvair Society of America—COSA—Chapter 871 / September 2025—Volume 51—Number 9—Issue 600

**Next Meeting: Regular Meeting: Saturday, September 6, 2025 10:00 AM**

**Palo Duro Senior Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110**

### *This Month:*

President's Letter.....	Greg Nelson
Treasurer's Report.....	Steve Gongora
Meeting Notes.....	Steve Gongora
Calendar of Events.....	Lupe Arellanes
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	Lupe Arellanes
Dues Due.....	Membership Committee
State Fair Car Show.....	Robert Gold
100 Point Car.....	Robert Gold
Photos of 100 Point Car.....	Tarmo Sutt & Jim Pittman
Meeting Photos.....	Jim Pittman
Engine Decals.....	Steve Gongora



**On the Cover: Gary Compesi's Early Model Concept Hot Rod**

**Steve Gongora receives Rampside from Tarmo Sutt (lower right)**



President - Greg Nelson	505-400-8670	<a href="mailto:fesedu@comcast.net">fesedu@comcast.net</a>
Vice-Pres - Robert Gold	505-856-6993	<a href="mailto:beisbol30@msn.com">beisbol30@msn.com</a>
Secretary - David Huntoon	505-281-9616	<a href="mailto:corvair66@aol.com">corvair66@aol.com</a>
Treasurer - Steve Gongora	505-220-7401	<a href="mailto:stevegongora@msn.com">stevegongora@msn.com</a>
Membership - Lupe Arellanes	505-515-9897	<a href="mailto:guadalupe.arellanes@icloud.com">guadalupe.arellanes@icloud.com</a>
Programs - Brenda Stickler	505-344-2039	<a href="mailto:tounce66@msn.com">tounce66@msn.com</a>
Newsletter - Steve Gongora	505-220-7401	<a href="mailto:stevegongora@msn.com">stevegongora@msn.com</a>
Webmaster - Steve Gongora	505-220-7401	<a href="mailto:stevegongora@msn.com">stevegongora@msn.com</a>

## CNM September 2025 Newsletter Articles—Greg Nelson

### Program

No official program this month as we have lots to discuss concerning the upcoming events in September and October.

### State Fair Car Show

It is that time of the year again for Corvairs at the State Fair. The date is Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>, and the time is 7:00am in the Mercado parking lot, southwest corner of Central and San Pedro. When you pull into the parking lot on San Pedro veer to the left and park. GTOs will veer left. We will take a group photo and then we will follow the VP onto the Fair Grounds. Bring lunch, lawn chair, umbrella but no pop-up tents. Our parking area has plenty of shade.

### Picnic at Joel's

On Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> we have been invited to Joel's house for a potluck lunch from 11:30am-1:30pm. See Lupe's social calendar below for additional details which we will discuss at the meeting. Unfortunately, the origami garden is closed on weekends.

### Los Luceros

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual trip to the Los Luceros plantation is next month. One of the things we should discuss is which weekend the members prefer: the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday. I did mention at the August meeting that in the first three years we visited the third Saturday, but we can change the date if it results in greater attendance. We will discuss the prospects of another picnic lunch. In 2024 the lunch was rained out.



*Continued on page 3*

Report for CNM Treasury						
Account for August 2025						
Date	Check	Amount	Payee	Description	Balance	Running Balance
13-Aug-25						\$5,866.00
13-Aug-25	7897	50.00	Sutt, Tarmo & Kay	26 Months Dues CNM - exp September 27	50.00	\$5,916.00



### Trash Day

So, if we happen to visit Los Luceros on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday, we can either change the Trash Day date or outright cancel it. I am betting we will shift it to later in the month. Regardless, it will be our last pick up for the year



### 63 Spyder

I have made an appointment with Dave Langlois to service the '63 Spyder. He will fix the flywheel, clutch and install Clark's Ultimate Suspension Kit. Since I plan on taking the '64 Monza to the State Fair there is no rush and since the days will start cooling it should be a little easier to repair if he must do much of the work outside.

### 64 Monza

I installed the rocker panel and doglegs just in time for the State Fair. I did one side at a time by placing a jack under the front suspension: a wood block under the tire and a jackstand in front of the rear tire for safety reasons. Now, do not look too closely, I do not profess to be a body mechanic. It is still pretty good though.

The next task is to install a new glove box. Unfortunately, I cannot get the new one to fit because the defrost tube is too short. And it appears to be covered in duct tape. So, another Clark's order is due soon and will also include a few cosmetic parts for the '63 Spyder.



## CNM Meeting - Steve Gongora

August 2, 2025

15 members

Bank Balance \$5866.00

Pat Hall, Brenda Stickler, Terry Price, Jim & Lupe Arellanes, Maggie Kitts, Robert Gold, Anne Wiker, James Richardson, Jim Pittman, Rita Gongora, Tarmo Sutt, Robert Weinberg, Steve Gongora, Greg Nelson

Robert bought a 1963 Turbo from Dave Langlois.

Curtis Kitts phone 505-401-2173. Curtis has taken over the 1962 Corvair van.

Wheels Museum -Maggie reports a fund raiser (Dinner – 4 course dinner and Silent Auction) on October 24, 2025. (\$50.00) The location St Johns Methodist at 2626 Arizona NE near San Pedro and Menaul. Print the tickets below to register:



Robert bought a 1963 Turbo from Dave Langlois.

Please fill out this form & mail check and order form to:  
**WHEELS Museum**  
 PO Box 95438  
 Albuquerque NM 87199

# \_\_\_\_\_ Guest(s) x \$50 per person (open seating) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$1000 Conductor Sponsor:** Table of 10 & listing on plaque \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$2500 Engineer:** 2 Tables, plaque listing & ad in program \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$5000 Pilot Sponsor:** 3 Tables, 30 vouchers for WHEELS t-shirts, plaque listing & ad in program \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\$10,000 Captain Sponsor:** 4 Tables, 40 WHEELS annual memberships, 40 vouchers for WHEELS t-shirts, plaque listing & ad in program \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

WHEELSMuseum.org EIN: 85-0460925 Donations tax deductible.

Maggie was encouraged to join the Cadillac club. Her car is a 2010.

Car Appreciation Car Show – brought her Clarissa 59 Pink Cadillac

August 10, 2025 Oak Flats – All Council Picnic – Sunday – bring bug spray

Bring your own lunch and drinks

State Fair car show – be there at 7:00 AM at the San Pedro Parking lot.

Secondary car show – You need to sign up in advance. The show is on the first Friday, Sept.5th from 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Get in with a yellow sheet – Meet at the Parking lot at 3:30 PM so everyone will go in at the same time – show your yellow entry slip.

Trash day might be rescheduled to 18 or cancelled for October. It will be the last pickup of the year.

Los Luceros October 11, 2025 (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday)– meet at Buffalo Thunder at 10:00 AM and follow Tarmo to lead us to the plantation.

Joel Yelich offered his garage for a tour – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday on September 20, 2025.

Mecum slideshow – Corvairs selling between \$20 to \$40 thousand

Vans and early model Spyders are popular.

Robert Gold found a painter in the south valley. The low rider community steered Robert to this shop.

Steve Anderson knows a lot about Corvairs – Lives in Española.

Rita discussed the low turnout at the events – Origami garden – a possible Corvair event in Cerrillos. – check the hours. Sign up sheets?

## CLUB EVENTS:

We aim to create fun and engaging events for our members. We hope to entice you to join us for one or two fun events where we can socialize and *talk car*. We are hoping to schedule a visit to the origami park in Santa Fe soon. We would like suggestions on our Christmas Luncheon location. Last time we had a great showing at Cracker Barrel in ABQ. Email any suggestions: [tristatecorvairs@gmail.com](mailto:tristatecorvairs@gmail.com)

	DATE	TIME	EVENT
CAR SHOW	Sunday, Sept 14, 2025	7:00 AM	State Fair Car Show; meet at the Mercado Parking lot
SOCIAL	Saturday, Sept 20, 2025	11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Picnic at Joel's; meet up at <u>(to be announce by email)</u>
SOCIAL	OCTOBER	(details by email)	Los Luceros; meet at Buffalo Thunder Parking Lot
CLUB MATTERS			Members' Meeting—1 st Saturday, 10am: Palo Duro Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Alb, NM 87110
CLUB MATTERS			Board Meeting—3 rd Wednesday via Zoom, 7pm
CLUB MATTERS			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



### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Larry Blair's anniversary September 8  
Joel Yelich's anniversary September 9  
Curtis Shimp's birthday September 13  
David Huntoon's birthday September 17  
Lupe Arellanes's anniversary September 20  
Tarmo Sutt's anniversary September 24



images from Tri-State in LV & Stella Gallegos Arellanes (Center) by her ol' ride.

# ***Dues Due***

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

***Makes Checks Payable to: CNM or Corvairs of New Mexico***

## ***Due in November 2024***

Maggi Kitts inactive as of Dec 2024

## ***Due in December 2024***

Alex Johnson inactive as of Jan 2025

## ***Due in January 2025***

Anne Wiker inactive as of Feb 2025

Lilian Shortle inactive as of Feb 2025

## ***Due in March 2025***

William Heil inactive as of April 2025

## ***Due in April 2025***

Art Gold inactive as of May 2025

## ***Due in May 2025***

Fred & Brenda Edeskuty inactive as of June 2025

## ***Due in July 2025***

Mike & Karen Piper inactive as of August 2025

## ***Due in October 2025***

Jon & Debbie Anderson inactive as of Nov 2025

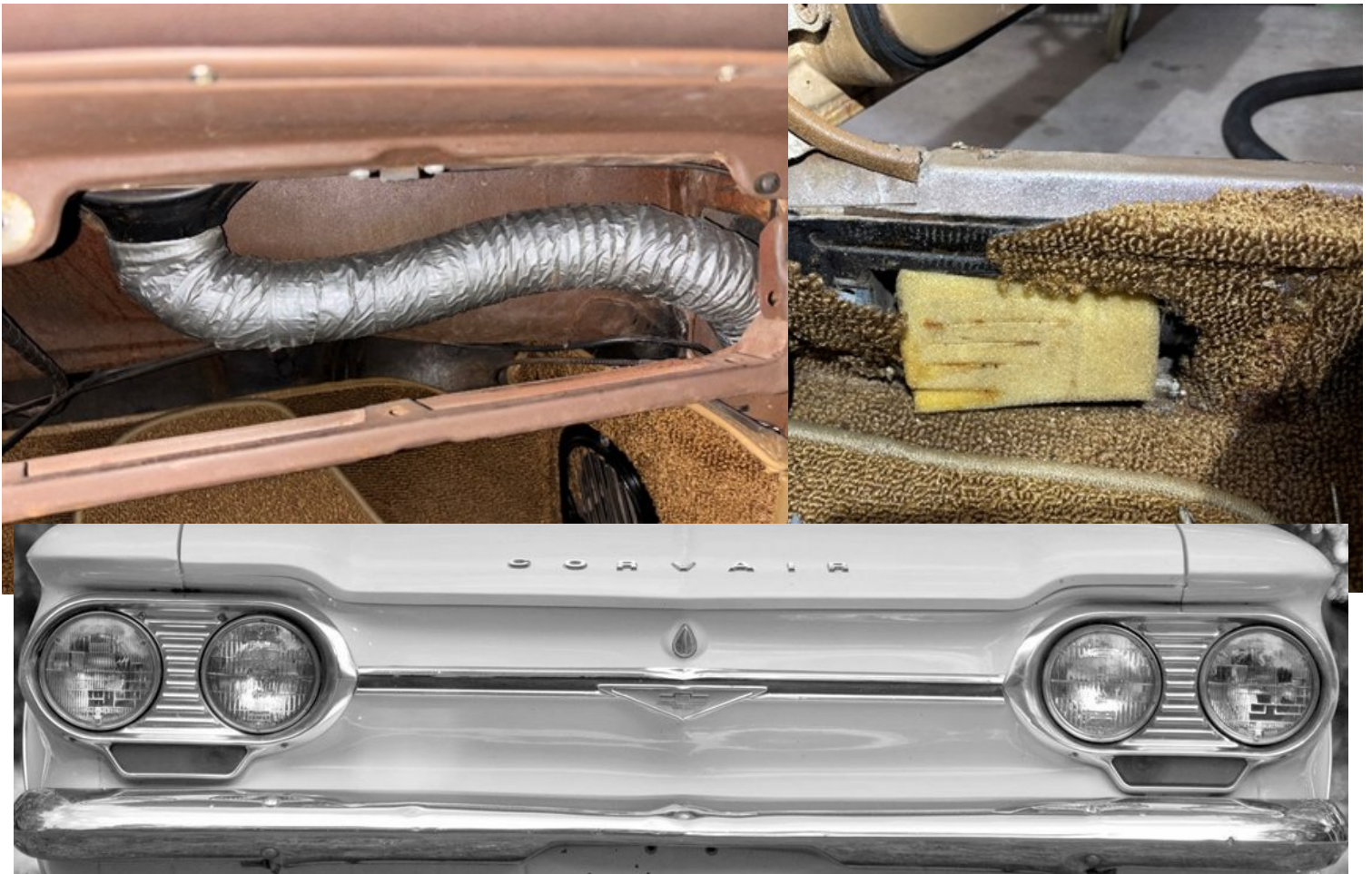
Brenda Stickler inactive as of Nov 2025

*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

*Continued on from page 3 - President's Letter*

It appears someone, a past owner perhaps, has plugged up the heater vent on both sides. Behind the foam is the defrost baffle which still moves. I have not tested if the actual defroster works. That is for the future.



Continued on from page 5 - President's Letter

## Corvair Field Queens

My friend and now- retired work colleague, Steve mentioned he saw 'a few' Corvairs in a field near his home. He lives just southeast of the Belen Railyard (he needed some space for his 55 cars. That was not a typo - 55 cars).

There were 14 Corvairs in this field. And two Nash Metropolitans. However, as you can see, they are quite weathered. I told the proprietor, the granddaughter of the owner, that I would mention the cars in our newsletter but cautioned her on any positive responses.



## CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

*A Chartered Chapter of "CORSA" (Corvair Society of America)*

## I've Lost Count!—The 2025 State Fair Car Show -Robert Gold



Years and years ago I volunteered to head up the CNM car show at the State Fair. My problem is that I've lost track of how many years that was. I know it's around 30. Thirty years! Amazing.

Fellow CNMer's, here's your chance to participate in one of the longest running Corvair events in New Mexico. I want to remind you that our next annual State Fair Car Show is going to happen on Sunday, September 14th.

This show is your chance to display your ride in front of people from all over our State. We have only one rule for this. **Your car must be running.** It can be ready for a concours or has too much patina, WE WANT YOU. Just ask Larry Blair, who laid down a blue cloud when he arrived one year in his turbo, and STILL won an award of excellence.

Also keep in mind if you bring your car you get into the fair for FREE! In addition, you'll park in the middle of the fair with anything you want to bring in with you. Just make sure you don't violate any laws please. I guarantee from the time you enter to the time you leave you're going to have a heck of a time, just ask anyone who attended in the past. Oh yes, I forgot to mention every car receives a ribbon.

To attend, all you need to do is to get up early and join us at the large strip mall located on the southwest corner of Central and San Pedro before 7:00 am. Everyone will then pose for a group photo and leave around 7:15 to enter the Fairgrounds through gate 3. This is the farthest gate to the south on San Pedro. We will be parking on Heritage Ave just south of the Manual Lujan Building.

So get that polish out and spruce up your Corvair beauty and get ready for the show. As I told you before, this is the chance for our club to show all New Mexico how special our cars really are. Questions? Drop me a line at [beisbol30@msn.com](mailto:beisbol30@msn.com). See you there! -- Robert Gold

Robert L. Gold, PE  
1301 Valencia Dr NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110  
Email2- [beisbol30@msn.com](mailto:beisbol30@msn.com)  
Phone- 505-268-6878

## ***Have you met a 100 point car?—I HAVE!!***

***With all the wonderful classic cars in New Mexico it is still rare to find a true 100 point car. Check out the story about this one:***

Let's begin this tale with a bit of a teaching moment. Most car groups have a standard of perfection for their cars. For Corvairs judging may occur at one of many events that are scheduled throughout the year. For the Corvair faithful the peak is the judging that takes place at the yearly National Convention. The rules for this effort are codified in the CORSA Concours d'Elegance rules which, in part, state, "A consistent and standardized judging and scoring technique is used to assess the quality of the Concours d'Elegance vehicles. They are: (1) paint and bodywork, (2) trim and trunk or cargo area, (3) wheels, tires, and glass, (4) undercarriage, (5) engine, (6) operations, and (7) interior.



Keeping all this in mind, my story is about Tarmo Sutt's effort to create what is indisputably the finest Corvair in the Land of Enchantment. I am pleased to say I was around to see the moment of glory for Tarmo's creation, a 1966 Corvair Corsa. My conversations with Tarmo have taught me one big thing. If you start on the road to a "perfect" classic car you had better be committed. You can't just make it look pretty on the surface it, has to be perfect all the way through. One thing for sure, those guys who judge classic cars on a world class level have NO sense of humor when it comes to what a car should look like. It can't be "close enough for government work." That's part of the reason that I feel that the story of his 1966 Corvair Corsa convertible is worthy of retelling. Let's begin at the beginning. Tarmo's project began with locating a suitable candidate. As you know, classic cars can be found in all sorts of places. I'm sure all of us have had the experience of having a friend tell you that they know about a car you should buy. That's how I wound up with my fleet. Instead Tarmo took some time in determining the model and year he wanted to transform. This was a good and bad process. The good was that his selection of the type of car was pretty easy. A high performance (for Corvairs) convertible was almost a no brainer. The rub was the specific car he wanted resided in Kansas and was owned by a person who wasn't ready to sell his ride. Personally, I have a car that took me 20 years to pry away from its owner.

*Continued on page 10*

*Continued on from page 9 - 100 Point Car*



Luckily for Tarmo it didn't take that long, but it did take some time. To be kind, I won't reveal what he had to spend, but it was substantial. The result was he had his project car and like the dog that finally caught up with the car it was chasing, what should he need to do next? The answer was that the "next" was years of work to do all the things required to make those judges with their white gloves happy.

I asked Tarmo which detail in his restoration stands out to him. It surprised me that all the engineering challenges didn't compare with

the challenges he and his car faced at the hands of the group in charge of the judging. I'll talk more about that later. Suffice it to say he faced a number of technical challenges in his journey to perfection. Happily, he was able to climb that mountain of technical detail and he felt he was nearing perfection. That became clear in 2011, when Tarmo trailered his freshly minted car to Denver for the Corvair National Convention. Oh yes, I forgot to mention he bought a trailer for his car. One more thing he had to do...

I was on hand for the judging of Tarmo's car. The judges checked EVERYTHING. One example—They counted the number of clicks when they pulled on the E-brake! After the judging we had to wait several hours for the results. I was sitting next to Tarmo at the banquet when the results were announced. 98.5!! Pretty darn close to perfection. I realized I was sitting next to the owner of the most perfect Corvair to come out of New Mexico! Surprisingly, that lofty score came with a dark side.

As I mentioned before the judges counted the clicks for the E-brake. It turns out they miscounted! The result was a lower score that allowed another entrant to win the show. One funny thing, the judges appeared to be more than just friendly with the owner of the other car. Did all this affect the judges' results? Maybe, because after the convention his car's score was revised upward, but too late to impact who won. I know one thing, to me Tarmo was the winner no matter what those "guys" doing the judging said.

So congrats to Tarmo. You can be content with the fact that your Corvair is, without question, the finest in our state, and most probably, the best at our 2011 National Convention. Thanks, Tarmo for all your efforts! You're my hero.—Robert Gold, Editor



**Photos of Tarmo Sutt's Restoration and Judging at CORSA National Convention**

**Photos provided by Tarmo Sutt and Jim Pittman**



Photos from our Meeting August 2, 2025

Photos provided by Jim Pittman



## Tech Department

### Sticker Decals for Engine Compartment—Steve Gongora

If you want your engine compartment to look clean and ready for shows, you probably want to add to the original decals the air cleaners and fan cover to show it off. This adds to the authenticity of the car and it finishes off the engine. I ordered the air cleaner decals for my 1964 Corvan and even painted the air cleaner containers before I applied the decals. It looked great.



When I took my van to the Father's Day Show at La Vida Llena, I wanted to show off the engine compartment. When I opened the deck lid, number one the engine was too dusty to show and number two, one decal was missing. I looked and couldn't find it in the compartment.

Our former CNM member Dennis Pleau shared his story about a Corvair he owned that used to house a turbo. It was converted to a regular engine but the cowlings had the opening for the turbo exhaust. He covered the opening with duct tape knowing that this would force the cooling air over the center fan. He also looked later, as I did, in his engine compartment and the duct tape was missing. What happened to the pieces? As you must have guessed, they were sucked into the fan housing and lodged over the pistons.

The decal on my car must have had adhesive that was too old of not sticky enough. I **would advise** you add extra glue if you were to add decals to any engine rebuild or clean up.

I **would not advise** to use any duct tape to close any gaps in the engine compartment. I was lucky as I found my decal on the left side of the engine



and extracted it with duct tape and fish tape. Dennis was not so lucky as the duct tape

lodged over piston number one and prevented any cooling air to pass over the piston and it burned up the piston.

