

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / March 2025—Volume 51—Number 3—Issue 594



Enchanted Corvairs Newsletter

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / March 2025—Volume 51—Number 3—Issue 594

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting: Saturday, February 1, 2025 10:00 AM

Palo Duro Senior Center, 8221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

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|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| This Month: | |
| President's Letter..... | Greg Nelson |
| Treasurer's Report..... | Steve Gongora |
| Meeting Notes..... | David Huntoon |
| Birthdays and Anniversaries..... | Membership |
| Calendar of Events..... | Board of Directors |
| Tri-State 2025 Trinidad..... | Rocky Mountain CORSA |
| Dues Due..... | Membership Committee |
| Lupe's Tri-State Photos..... | Lupe Arellanes |
| Dr. Kildare..... | Robert Gold |
| National Museum of Nuclear Science.. | Steve Gongora |
| Museum Photos..... | Jim Pittman & Steve Gongora |
| Super Van..... | Steve Gongora |
| Bob Kitts Obituary..... | French Mortuary |



On the Cover: Super Van at Nuclear Museum (top)

Map of our Monthly 2025 Meeting Location (right)



| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| President - Greg Nelson | 505-400-8670 | fesedu@comcast.net |
| Vice-Pres - Robert Gold | 505-856-6993 | beisbol30@msn.com |
| Secretary - David Huntoon | 505-281-9616 | corvair66@aol.com |
| Treasurer - Steve Gongora | 505-220-7401 | stevegongora@msn.com |
| Membership - Lupe Arellanes | 505-515-9897 | guadalupe.arellanes@icloud.com |
| Programs - Brenda Stickler | 505-344-2039 | tounce66@msn.com |
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**CNM March 2025 Newsletter Articles—
Greg Nelson**

With Sadness

It is with deep sadness to announce that Bob Kitts passed away in early February. Bob and Maggi are regulars at the monthly meeting, and I will surely miss his presence. Our prayers and thoughts are with Maggi and the family. *(photos courtesy of Jim Pittman)*



Field Trip

We had quite the crowd for CNM's first social event of the year with a visit to the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History. This is my 5th trip to the museum at this location. My first visit was most likely in 1995 while it was still on Kirtland Air Force Base. Oh, almost forgot, I got to pay the senior (60+) price. Harrumph.

Continued on page 3

**Report for CNM Treasury
Account for February 2025**

| Date | Check | Amount | Payee | Description | Balance | Running Balance |
|-----------|-------|--------|--|-------------|---------|-----------------|
| 1-Feb-25 | | | | | | \$5,386.25 |
| 1-Feb-25 | 1547 | 75.00 | Price, Terry - CORSA & CNM - 1 yr - \$5.00 Donation exp 9-26 | | 75.00 | \$5,461.25 |
| 1-Feb-25 | Cash | 25.00 | Yoffee, Larry - CNM Membership - 1 yr - exp 2-26 | | 25.00 | \$5,486.25 |
| 1-Feb-25 | Cash | 70.00 | McDuffie, Russ - CORSA & CNM 1 yr - exp 2-26 | | 70.00 | \$5,556.25 |
| 23-Feb-25 | 2615 | -90.00 | CORSA - Membership for Terry Price & Russ McDuffie | | -90.00 | \$5,466.25 |



1955 L'Universelle





TriState 2025

The clock is ticking and the Tri-State is only 14 weeks away. Be sure to register and call the host hotel for the special rate. Unfortunately, I won't be taking a Corvair, but I do get to drive the new Subaru on a my first 'long' distance trip.



Trash Pick Up

It's that time of year again. March 8th will be our first Route 66 trash pickup for 2025. We'll start at the bottom and park in front of the Rock Canyon Cider bar. We meet at 8:30 am and work for an hour. After that we head to the Roots Farm Café for coffee and tea. Hope to see you all there.

Annual Treat

Something special happens at the March meeting. If you don't recall, be sure to be there on March 1st. You won't be disappointed.

Test Drive Delay

I was hoping to test drive both cars, but our street is getting fiber optic cable installed. As such, the public easement section of our yards is dug up. They had the Ditch Witch trencher in my driveway just feet from my 63 Spyder and new Subaru. They were careful but I covered both cars just in case. Hopefully I can do the test drives soon.

CNM Meeting – February 1, 2025—Dave Huntoon

Greg Nelson, Brenda Stickler, Jim & Lupe Arellanes, Robert & Anne Mae Gold, Tarmo Sutt, Larry Yoffee, Russ McDuffie, James Richardson, Dick Cochran, Terry Price, Rita & Steve Gongora, David Huntoon, Pat Hall

Treasurers Report \$5386.25 with new funds added (Larry Yoffee, Russ McDuffie & Terry Price – membership)

Robert Gold – Museum Car Show – Please show your Corvair – most of the time there has been a conflict with the Tri-State. This year there is no conflict. We can organize at 6:30 AM at Hotel Chaco with a \$10.00 fee. – Plenty of places to explore with Old Town and the Museum. Lupe will send an email reminder to help out with participation.

Lupe is keeping up with events and reminding the club members.

Nuclear Museum, February 15, 2025 at 12:00 PM – great exhibits and very entertaining.

Patches, key chains, magnetic emblem. Free for members—courtesy of David Huntoon

Make sure to register for the Tri-State in Trinidad

CORSA needed help for expenses – change of venue prompted the reaching out to all Corvair clubs.

Anniversary Dinner – Cracker Barrel—March 22, 2025 @ Cracker Barrel—1:00 PM

Bingo Set—April 12, 2025 @ 10:00 AM at Palo Duro Senior Center

Upton Ethelbah May 10th—for the first 10 people to sign up due to his smaller studio.

Father's Day – Car Show? La Vida Llena – still waiting for confirmation

Tinkertown Museum – We are set for an excursion in July

Car Council Events—check the link page on the CNM website for the latest events

Tosh Gregg – Try to get him to a meeting or event

Greg showed the Auction photos

Steve showed a video comparing of a Ford Econoline Truck vs. the Corvair Rampside

Birthdays in March



Linda Cochran 3/9
John McMahon 3/13
Lupe Arellanes 3/21
Joel Yelich 3/23
Brenda Stickler 3/26
Lloyd Piatt 3/27
Art Gold 3/29
David Allin 3/31



***Anniversaries
in March***

Mike & Karen Piper 3/8

CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

MARCH 2025

APRIL 2025

MAY 2025

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 1 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- Saturday, March 1, 2025 10:00 AM **Meeting—Palo Duro Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Alb, NM 87110**
- Wednesday, March 19, 2025 7:00 PM Board Meeting—3rd Wednesday via Zoom
- Saturday, March 22, 2025 1:00 PM CNM Anniversary Dinner—Cracker Barrel - 5200 San Antonio, NE, Alb, NM 87109**
- Wednesday, March 26, 2025 6:30 PM Car Council Meeting – 4th Wednesday
Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
- Friday, March 28, 2025 9:00 PM Deadline for Newsletter
- Monday, March 31, 2025 ***** Target completion of newsletter
- Saturday, Apr 5, 2025 10:00 AM **Meeting—Palo Duro Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Alb, NM 87110**
- Saturday, April 12, 2025 10:00 AM Bingo / Pot Luck—Palo Duro Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Alb, NM 87110**
- Wednesday, Apr 16, 2025 7:00 PM Board Meeting—3rd Wednesday via Zoom
- Wednesday, Apr 23, 2025 6:30 PM Car Council Meeting – 4th Wednesday
Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
- Friday, Apr 25, 2025 9:00 PM Deadline for Newsletter
- Monday, Apr 28, 2025 ***** Target completion of newsletter
- Saturday, May 3, 2025 10:00 AM **Meeting—Palo Duro Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Alb, NM 87110**
- Saturday, May 10, 2025 1:00 PM Tour of Upton Ethebah’s Art Studio (limited to the first 10 people)**
- Wed-Fri, May 20—23, 2025 4 days CORSA International Convention—San Luis Obispo, CA**
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025 6:30 PM Car Council Meeting – 4th Wednesday
Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
- Fri-Sun, May 30-June1, 2025 3 Days 40th Annual Tri-State—Trinidad, Colorado**
- Friday, May 30, 2025 9:00 PM Deadline for Newsletter
- Monday, June 2, 2025 ***** Target completion of newsletter

Tri-State 2025 in Trinidad, Colorado—The link is below or go to the CNM website and go to the Tri-State page: <https://www.rockymountaincorsa.org/upcomingevents/rmc-tri-state/>

Greg Nelson our CNM president has already made his reservation. Information will be on the Tri-State link. Trinidad is a great historic town with a lot to offer and you get to swap stories with all of your Corvair friends and family.



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

Bob & Maggie Kitts inactive as of Dec 2024

Due in December 2024

David Huntoon inactive as of Jan 2025

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 February 2025

Tony & Diane Lawler inactive as of March 2025

Due in March 2025

William Heil inactive as of April 2025

Mark Morgan inactive as of April 2025

Due in April 2025

John Dinsdale inactive as of May 2025

Art Gold inactive as of May 2025

Welcome Larry Yoffee and Russ McDuffie

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

If you have a story and photos to share please email them to me at stevegongora@msn.com



Lupe Arellanes—Tri-State 2024—May 17, 18, and 19 in Las Vegas, NM

Lupe has made available her photos from the Tri-State earlier this year. The links are below and you can find them on the Tri-State page on the CNM website or the Google page.

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

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oOfUTL45iZUZrEQVFFALQTrotMbNvfwg?usp=sharing>

Below are a few examples of the shots.



Thank you, Dr. Kildare (aka Dave Langlois)! By Robert Gold

Here's some advice from someone who knows—don't have a fire in an engine compartment of your early 'Vair. This happened to the shiny lime-green 64 "Early Model" I gave my daughter, Sara. It gave me quite a start when I stood and watched flames come out from under the air conditioning compressor on her baby. But I'll make you wait a bit with my story so I can describe my view of the air conditioning system on early Corvairs.



You folks who haven't seen an air conditioned early Corvair would be surprised at its complexity. I should mention that I was honored to ride regularly in an air-conditioned Oldsmobile when I was a child. The 53, 88 Olds kept my family comfortable. This came at the expense of much of the car's interior space. Specifically, the air conditioning compressor took up a large amount of trunk space in that Olds. My daughter's 64 wasn't that bad, but the area over the engine was designed to hold a VERY large air condenser.



The condenser, along with other assorted parts did a good job of covering up the engine. That compressor also had the added distinction of being bolted down to the engine so you couldn't easily take it off in case, say, flames started coming up into your face. Sadly, that's what happened, and guess what I didn't have in the garage—A FIRE EXTINGUISHER. Luckily, I'm a cat lover and I used a large amount of cat litter to smother the flames. The worst thing about what I did was the amount of vacuuming it took to get all those little grains of clay out of the engine.

The question after all the vacuuming was, "Why did it catch on fire and what should I do next?" Thanks to "Dr Kildare" I now have the answer. DA GAS! Yep, I forgot to tell you that my daughter loves her car that she named Bob Saggett, but she doesn't drive it much. So, I guess it stayed in the garage too long and the gas went bad and one of the carbs cratered and put a bit of gas on the engine. It was now "barbeque time" at the Gold household! To avoid this in the future I have added stabilizer to the gas in the cars in my fleet. I also told Sara she needs to drive her ride more often. Alas, hope springs eternal...



So you might be asking, what about the Dr. Kildare thing? As some of you might know Dr. Kildare was a successful film franchise in the 1940's, followed by a TV show. The doctor always figured things out. All his patients survived and went on to live happy lives. Just like the guy on the screen, the Corvair community is lucky enough to have such an individual fixing our cars, Dave Langlois. He is a master at tracking down problems I refer to as "head scratchers". After I surveyed the damage I contacted Dave and, happily, he has just finished up the car.

All the air conditioning equipment is now gone. Thanks to Dave there is "good" gas in the tank, it's got new carbs, and the wiring no longer has any gaps. To sum things up, Dave got it working again and in record time. I also bought a couple of fire extinguishers, just in case. Thanks, Dave, for solving my Corvair problems!!—Robert Gold

Nuclear Museum Tour Saturday, February 15, 2023—Steve Gongora

It was a great day for CNM members to tour the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History. This is a fantastic museum that takes you through the creation of the atom bomb and how it has changed history. This museum is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institute and it shows with its professional and educational displays. If you have kids, there is an extra bonus for them to learn and enjoy. They have a fantastic gift shop to treasure your memories of the place.

There are many exhibits showcasing the development of the bomb and the support given by Los Alamos and the sharing of Sandia Base. My friend Donnie Marchi was born in Los Alamos and his parents used to babysit the Oppenheimer children. You can find Donnie's picture on the cover of a book named "The children of Los Alamos". Donnie's father was brought to Los Alamos by General Groves to become the head chef for the lodge. My uncle,



Gilbert Fuentes, lived in Truchas and started guarding the entrance to Los Alamos. The road to Los Alamos from Truchas was treacherous in the winter. They had an apartment in Los Alamos for the winter months. He retired as a precious metal curator from the labs. Most of his children ended up working at the labs. A few of our Corvair members have worked and retired out of the Labs, such as Mark Domzalski and Fred Edeskuty. Mark commuted on a daily basis from Placitas to Los Alamos on the back roads through the Jemez with his 1962 Rampside which he drove from Oregon to New Mexico. That '62 truck later belonged to me for at least 9 years and now resides in a museum in Covington, Kentucky.



The museum is located on south Eubank, a famous stretch of road that was used for drag racing in the seventies. There was even an oval race track nearby where I saw a 16 year-old Al Unser Jr. race on this dirt track. Now the road is filled with commerce, housing, and the main entrance to Kirtland Air Force Base. It still maintains a magnificent view of the Sandias. Early in the club's existence, we had a member that was a State Police Officer. Dale Housley was one of the founding members of the Corvairs of New Mexico. He secured a radar gun and we conducted a workshop to test the accuracy of our speedometers. Bill Reider and Sylvan Zuercher had a Corvair repair shop close by on Trumbell and provided the necessary support for the event. This was before south Eubank was developed. How things have changed.



Photos from our Museum Tour on February 15, 2025

Photos provided by Jim Pittman & Steve Gongora



Photos from our Museum Tour on February 15, 2025

Photos provided by Jim Pittman & Steve Gongora



Super Van—Steve Gongora

I have owned and driven this van continually since 1982 and I truly enjoy what it has to offer in not only transportation but its cargo capacity. I've had to transport lumber, sofas, equipment and move a few households along the way and the van never fails to disappoint. This includes moving several 9 foot couches and being able to close the back doors.



Recently Rita and I helped Jim and Heula Pittman move to their new quarters and the van was the ideal vehicle to transport delicate items and items you don't want the movers to touch. If anyone has been to Jim and Heula's home, you know about the tight quarters in his backyard for going in and

out. I drove forward into the backyard and discovered that I couldn't drive under his carport area in the van.



I had to turn the Super Van completely around to exit in this small area. Since it has a 92 inch wheelbase, it was able to accomplish this task.

It is with sadness that we announce our member and great friend's passing. Bob & Maggi joined CNM in 2018. Bob owned a local lumber supply for many years on Edith. He owned a Greenbrier that he used for the business. He bought it from Raby's Carpet and he used it for his lumber business and he used to tow a boat to Elephant Butte, NM for recreation. In recent years his daughter, Lesha sparked the interest to rekindle those good times and he pursued finding a Greenbrier to restore. The Greenbrier he chose once belonged to Jerry Goffe and later to Mike and Brenda Stickler. This van has a lot of history. Once Jerry was sent to pick up Mary Travers, (of the famed Peter, Paul and Mary folk singing trio) from the airport. She was not expecting to be chauffeured an old odd vehicle such as a Greenbrier.

Bob put a lot of energy into this beautiful van with a two tone green exterior and updated upholstery. The beauty rings and center caps finish off this show car.

Bob Kitts Obituary

Bob D. Kitts

Bobbie Dean Kitts, born on February 23, 1940 in Clayton, New Mexico, passed away on February 8, 2025. He is survived by the second of two lucky women, Barbie and Maggi and two blessed children, Curtis and Lesha. His 85 years were spent in the lumber industry and land development. He was a Methodist, a Rotarian, an alumni of Clayton Elementary Schools and Valley High School, a car-guy (Corvettes and Corvairs), a history buff, and loyal friend and a great neighbor.

Bob's memorial will be held at Grace United Methodist Church on March 14, 2025 at 2 pm with a reception following. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Guillain-Barre Syndrome at the GBS/CIDP Foundation International, 375 East Elm Street, Suite 101, Conshohocken, PA 19428. May his memory be a blessing. Please visit our online guestbook for Bob at:



www.FrenchFunerals.com.

March 14, 2025

Memorial service

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church (Harwood)