Central Oklahoma Corvair Association Newsletter

March 2026

The Prez Sez March 2026

Well, here goes my first official correspondence as the new COCA president. First, I want to thank you all for the trust you've placed in me to lead this fine group of Corvair aficionados. It's quite an honor to serve the Central Oklahoma Corvair Association and I will do my very best to live up to your expectations. For those of you who don't know me well, let me give you a little bit of my background.

I was born in Texas, raised in Kansas, and married my high school sweetheart, Michaela, before joining the Air Force in 1983. We raised two fine children and traveled the world during our time serving in the Air Force but remained here in Oklahoma after my military retirement. I then worked for over twenty years as an Air Force civilian employee at Tinker and retired from Civil Service in December of 2024.

I would like to share a couple of goals for myself and our club as I take the reins as club president. For me, I want to get at least one of my Corvairs back on the road ASAP and I'm very close to doing so. Thanks to several of our members who have given me some great advice and guidance in my own Corvair journey. I would like to challenge all of you to get those "garage queen" cars back on the road so we can all enjoy them together. For our club as a whole, I would like to see our membership grow. There are local Corvair owners out there who we know who aren't COCA members. We need to do our best to encourage those folks to join our great organization. I also believe that it's important to get our Corvairs out there for the general public to see and to perhaps generate interest in our cars and COCA itself. Whether it's cruises, car shows, or daily driving, we need to expose a whole generation of people who have no idea of what a Corvair is, how unique they are, and how much fun they are to drive. I would also like to see more club gatherings other than just our monthly meetings. I have some ideas but would love to have your input on activities we can participate in. My phone number and email are below so feel free to contact me anytime.

One order of business we need to take care of in our March meeting is the election of a new board member to take my place. So, be thinking of who you would like to see in the role and who's willing to fill the position. I look forward to serving you for the next couple of years!

See you on the 28th!

Harvey "Red" Williams, COCA President

harveywilliams637982@gmail.com / 405.834.5719

COCA Minutes February 28, 2026

President Jim Gailey called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM on February 28, 2026. The meeting was held at C.E. Page Building at Wiley Post Airport.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A quorum was determined to be present.

President Gailey welcomed the group, made introductory remarks and acknowledged the attendance of one visitor.

Minutes:
Larry Duvall made a Motion to accept the November meeting minutes as published. Second by Dave Castiaux. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:
President Gailey read the Treasurer's report as prepared by Treasurer Ken Drye. Dave Castiaux made a Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, with a Second by David Allin. Motion passed.

Elections:
The slate of nominees was read aloud to the Membership by President Gailey as follows:

President: David Allin and Red Williams
Vice President: Rex Johnston
Secretary: Donna Law

Ballots were placed at each table for voting and were collected when completed by Delia Silver and Cina Gailey.

While Delia and Cina were tallying the votes, Dave Castiaux officially presented the Capron/Dekker Award to Bob and Jan Welch. Congratulations and many thanks to them for all that they do for the Club!

Following Dave's presentation, President Gailey announced that Red Williams had been chosen as President for the next two years, along with Rex Johnston as Vice President and Donna Law as Secretary. Ken Drye remains as Treasurer.

Old Business:

James Ergenbright reported on the Swap Meet. Because he currently has other priorities with family right now, he is canceling the Meet for now, but must pass the baton to someone else who would be willing to coordinate the event. His suggestion that if someone were to take the event over, perhaps hold it later in the year.

President Gailey thanked all of the members who had participated in the rent collection for this next year. The entire year of rent has now been paid.

New Business:
President Gailey announced the Arkansas Corvair Club is hosting the 2026 Great Plains Roundup on September 10-13. It will be held at the NWA Convention Center in Springdale, Arkansas. More information to come.

The Heart of Texas (HOT) event will be in Huntsville, Texas this year on April 9 through 12. Several members showed interest in attending.

The Tulsa Route 66 Capital Cruise will be held on May 30. Over 1,000 cars had already been registered for the event. The goal is to have a world record number of 3,000 entrants. Registration is available now online for $15 per car. The parade route of cars will be a 5.5 mile drive through Tulsa city limits.

Announcements:
President Gailey announced that he is still working on the shirt order but got sidelined by health issues over the last two months. He will continue to work on it.

President Gailey mentioned that he had gotten Christine out of the storage a few nights ago only to discover that only one headlight was working. He went to the parts store to get two new replacements, but found they had to be ordered because they were not in stock.

James Ergenbright informed the group that he was getting ready to order carburetor kits from John Sweet at $20 per kit. These usually go for up to $40 each, but he needs to order 40 or more kits to make it worth it to John. Let him know if you need some and he will add it to his order.

James Ergenbright said that he had spoken with Tom Wright regarding the next Heritage Days event in Texas. It is scheduled for October 22-25 in Mineral Wells, Texas. There will be a car show and autocross. James asked Tom about the possibility of holding Valve Cover Races in the middle of the car show street and the inquiry was met with optimism.

James also talked about trying to come up with a good Mystery Cruise destination. He and Ann had taken a drive northwest to Watonga only to discover that not only had the cheese factory closed down, but that there was just not much to see in that vicinity. The only thing that they found was a decent place to eat. James said he needs some suggestions to check out. President Gailey mentioned a private race car collection, the Hajek Motorsports Museum, in Ames, Oklahoma. Krebs, Oklahoma was also mentioned as a possible destination.

The FountainBrook Assisted Living community in Midwest City is holding a Father's Day car show on their grounds. They invited COCA to bring cars and attend the show.

James also mentioned the Route 66 Gas Station in El Reno is an interesting stop along Route 66. He explained how they put two classic cars in their exhibit bays each month. He thought that would be a great place to have two Corvairs displayed during the Route 66 Capital Cruise event.

President Gailey announced that the Hefner Mansions would be putting on their annual car show June 20 from 10 am to 2 pm. They always have great food and ice cream.

David Clamp announced three upcoming Swap Meets:
Shawnee on March 20-21
Duncan on March 26-28
Kellyvillle on April 17-18

James Ergenbright mentioned that COCA member Tom Milam was experiencing some issues that were keeping him from being active and thought that he might appreciate some phone calls from members to keep up to date on events.

James also announced that Dwight Brown had purchased a 1969 convertible in Iowa for Lisa. They are currently out looking for other cars to purchase. Dwight made mention that he was potentially going to have to build a new storage facility.

Melinda Duvall asked the group if there was a centralized place to find service or parts vendors. James Ergenbright mentioned that he has a pretty big list of placed to order parts or have specific services done. He said he will try to get them posted to the FaceBook page for other club members to use.

There being no further discussion, Liz Capron made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Bob Welch. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Updates from Coffee and Cows at Kens

working under the dash

Cal Clark's Love of Corvairs Turned into a Lifelong Business

Jim Travers The Hagerty Group, LLC © 1996 – 2026

26 February 2026

Cal Clark

Cal Clark, Jr. was first introduced to the Chevrolet Corvair by his early-adopter parents, who showed up one day with a new 1961 four-door sedan in base 700 trim. But it wasn't until he found another Corvair poking out of a snow bank several years later that he really caught the bug. He paid all of $50. It turned out to be a 1964 Spyder turbo, a model prized by Corvair enthusiasts today.

"Some of my friends had Fords, '57 Chevys, muscle cars," says Cal with a smile. "They couldn't keep up in turns. As long as I could get in front of the others before the corners, I could lose them."

Joseph Ranker

The Corvair's nimble handling and agile feel not only made Cal a believer but also led to a life-changing decision to start his own business with his wife, Joan, in 1973. More than half a century later, Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts-based Clark's Corvairs is the largest and best-known supplier of Corvair parts and components in the world.

"Once it started to grow, it took on a life of its own. I guess you could say it was a combination of work and good luck," says Cal.

Like many passion projects, the business got its start almost by accident. A fellow enthusiast asked about buying some leftover exhaust system components from one of the Clarks' first restorations, and they negotiated a price.

"I think I made five dollars," he shares.

Nonetheless, Clark's Corvair Parts was off to the races. Ads were placed, swap meets attended, and the business quickly grew as the word got out. In the early days, the young couple shared their three-room apartment with boxes of inventory stacked on 20 rows of shelving. Free time was a thing of the past, as the Clarks divided their time between growing the business and continuing with their day jobs.

"We'd come home, have a nap, and take orders until midnight," says Clark.

Within a year, the apartment had been replaced with a three-bedroom home housing the Clarks, the business, and a workspace for as many as a dozen employees.

Joseph Ranker

By 1979, the business desperately needed its own home, as did the Clarks. Company employees assembled the first of several Quonset huts that would become the new home of Clark's Corvair Parts. As soon as the first one was completed, they started the second. The third one went up immediately after that. Today, there are about a half dozen buildings spread over nine acres, all powered by solar panels and encompassing more than 60,000

square feet of space. Every inch is packed to the ceiling with 14,000 separate part numbers, including new, used, NOS, and reproduction Corvair components.

“We finally computerized in 1988, and that was a game changer,” said Cal, explaining that a lack of off-the-shelf software left them no alternative but to create their own with a local supplier.

“I hope he never retires,” said Cal.

It was during this phase that Cal and Joan quit their day jobs to devote all their working hours to Clark’s Corvair Parts. Buying trips led to more inventory as the Clarks bought out collections and unsold NOS (new-old-stock) inventory from dealers. The Clarks continued to take their act on the road, bringing trailer loads of inventory to club meets, shows, and events.

joseph Ranker

Joseph Ranker

An increasing demand for unavailable components led the Clarks to get into manufacturing a wide variety of mechanical components, interior pieces, and upholstery. Racks full of giant rolls of fabric in a variety of original colors dominate one room, waiting to be transformed into door panels and seat reupholstery kits. An assortment of dies can be used to create exact matches for any Corvair year or model, right down to simulated stitching that matches the look of original factory panels. A team of craftspeople transforms other fabrics into seat kits, cut and assembled to be indistinguishable from the original.

Joseph Ranker

“We also do all of our own rebuilding of carburetors, starters, generators. We started doing that 30 years ago because we just couldn’t get consistent quality elsewhere.”

Joseph Ranker

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Joseph Ranker

In spite of the long hours and everything else that goes along with running a business, the Clarks remain avid restorers and tinkerers. A walk around the property revealed three prized examples on display, including a lovingly restored Rampside pickup truck that first served as a company work vehicle for years, a 1964 turbocharged Spyder convertible purchased from the original owners, and a 1960 coupe with just 25,000 original miles. The Clarks are also working on something that, at least on its surface, is decidedly un-Corvair-like.

Cord Meets Corvair

Cal Clark

Tucked in a corner of the Clarks' shop is a Cord 8/10. Much like the Corvair, the Cord Corporation was known for innovation and groundbreaking designs. Long, low, and with a far sleeker profile than its 1930s competitors, Cord introduced front-wheel drive to the American car-buying public. Other novel features included hidden headlights and the elimination of running boards for a smoother look.

So when Oklahoma schoolteacher and Cord enthusiast Glenn Pray decided the world was ready for a re-envisioned Cord in the mid-1960s, a Corvair powertrain was the natural choice. Pray wanted his car to retain the front-wheel drive layout pioneered by Cord, and the Corvair provided the perfect solution. All he had to do was relocate the whole powertrain to the front, and voila! The flat-six helped keep the center of gravity low for

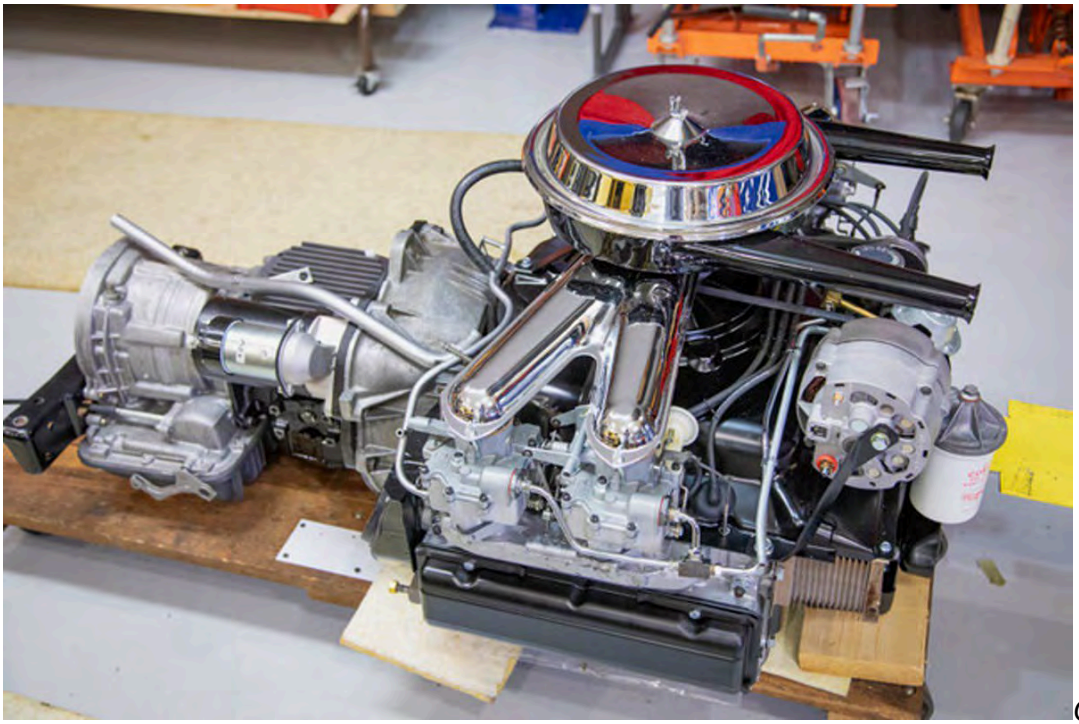
improved handling and provided more than enough power, especially with the Corvair's available turbocharger.

Cal Clark

Cal Clark

Dubbed the 8/10 in homage to the Cord 810 while also offering a nod to the new Cord being eight-tenths the size of the original, the 8/10 used a body made from a new, ABS sandwich material that was lighter, stronger, and easier to work with than steel. The result was a replica that combined the look of the original with a modern powertrain and easier-to-handle compact dimensions.

Like so many automotive startups, the Cord 8/10 struggled from the start. Just 97 cars were built before the fledgling company filed for bankruptcy. Clark embarked on a long search that led him to find this example in Los Angeles in 1985. He and Joan then flew out to drive their purchase home.



Cal Clark

“It only took 100 miles to realize it was leaking oil like mad,” recalls Cal.

“Other than that, it ran great. As long as we kept a case of oil on board, we were fine. We turned it into a sightseeing trip.”

Other obligations kept the Clark’s Cord on a back burner until 2016, when a thorough nut-and-bolt restoration began. Now nearing completion, it is safe to say this example is better than it left the factory. Especially now that the oil leak has been fixed.

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See you all at the meeting

The Corvair Houston will host the Heart of Texas Corvair reunion this April 9-12, 2026. Additional information may be found at our website: www.CorvairHouston.com. Special rate for the hotel expires March 9th. Our itinerary is on our website. If you should have any questions, please let me know.
I hope we will see our fellow Oklahoma Corvair members at the event.

Greg Wrobleske
Heart of Texas, Founder
Corvair Houston, President 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2026 CORSA Convention is being presented by four clubs:

- *Mid-Maryland Corvair Club*
- *Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club*
- *Group Corvair*
- *Northern Virginia Corvairs*

We hope that you will join us for what is gearing up to be the biggest and best convention to be held on the East Coast! Come join in the fun and the history of Gettysburg- tour the battlefields, take a ghost tour, and dine at historic restaurants!

You can even visit wineries, tour car museums, and even spend time at the world-famous Hershey chocolate factory and the fun-filled HersheyPark.

Like the country life? Gettysburg is a short hour drive from the heart of the Amish communities in Lancaster PA where you'll find fantastic dining and shopping.

What's the schedule of events? Take a look at what we have planned:

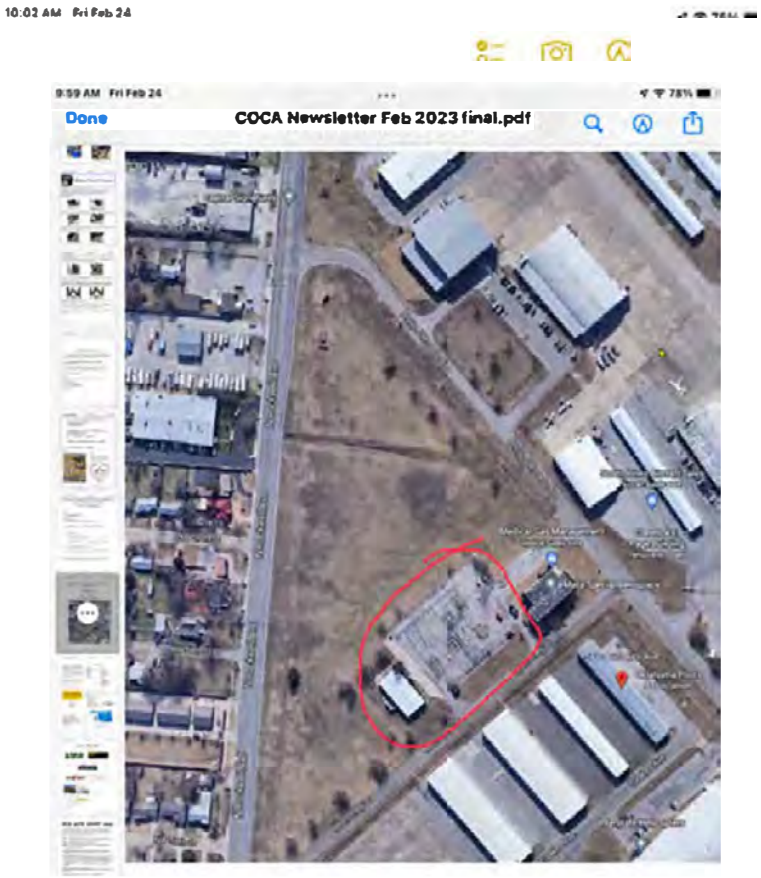
- *Monday, June 22nd: Welcome Party*
- *Tuesday, June 23rd: Concourse*
- *Wednesday, June 24th: Road Rally*
- *Thursday, June 25th: Autocross*
- *Friday, June 26th: Econo-Run*
- *Friday, June 26th: Banquet and Awards*

Tours, technical sessions, and other fun and exciting activities and events are in the works!

Mark your calendars and start planning to

"See You There in Your 'Vair!"

Monthly Meeting Saturday
March 28 2026,
10:00 AM
CE Page Building 5810
Tulakes Ave Bethany, Ok
73008
Jim Gailey / 405.615.7554
jcgailey@cox.net



The Central Oklahoma Corvair Club Monthly News is a monthly publication of the Central Oklahoma Corvair Association, INC. C.O.C.A is Chapter 731 of the Corvair Society of America. It is provided to all current members. Guests and nonmembers receive a complimentary copy upon request, and are welcome to attend our monthly meetings held the second Thursday of each month. The location will be listed on the front page of the newsletter. Membership is open to anyone with an interest in the Corvair Automobile. Dues are $15 per year

MAILING ADDRESSES: All business mail, with the exception of the newsletter items, should be sent to the address of the club president.

Newsletter items must be sent to the editor and received by the 25th of the month for it to be included that month's issue. Email newslettercoca@gmail.com with your submissions

WE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN CORSA, ASK ANY OFFICER FOR AN APPLICATION. The Dues are $45.00 for 12 months or $90.00 for 26 months. This entitles you to the monthly publication of the CORSA "Communique", and other benefits.

OFFICERS:

President:
Harvey Red Williams
harveywilliams637982@gmail.com

Vice President:
Rex Johnston
rexpilot@gmail.com

Secretary:
Donna Law

Treasurer:
Ken Drye
kdrye84370@aol.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Donna Law, Ken Drye, Dave Castiaux, Richard Law, Rex Johnston, Red Williams and Scott Law.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR:

newslettercoca@gmail.com

Club Stats:

NUMBER OF MEMBERS	64
NUMBER AT LAST MEETING	24
NUMBER OF CORVAIRS DRIVEN	5
NUMBER OF GUESTS AT LAST MEETING	0
NEW MEMBERS	0

C.O.C.A WEBSITE:

http://cokcca.org/

Some Vendor Cards

TIKI AUTO GLASS
405-455-1271

John's Corvair Parts
NOS, New Repro and Used Parts
http://johnscorvairparts.vpweb.com
John Sweet
1264 Walnut St.
Stoneboro, PA 16153
814-336-9033

SEND $10.00 FOR CATALOG
PARTS & REPAIR
CALIFORNIA CORVAIRS
(951) 284-3555
15090 LA PALMA DRIVE · CHINO, CA 91710

americanheads.com
american
Corvair Performance Heads
412 S Vandiver
San Antonio, TX 78209
phone
210.823.2879
Tom Knoblauch

Custom Cams
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(405) 681-0667
David Willhoite
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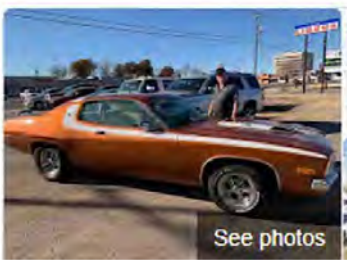
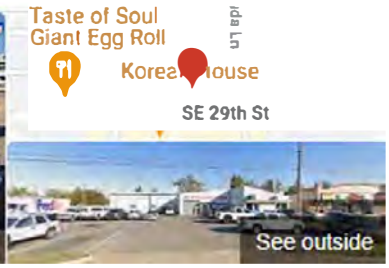
willhoitecams@coxinet.net
2900 SW 13th
Oklahoma City OK 73108





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Phone: (405) 677-7454

COCA Monthly Event Calendar

2026

Important Dates

Day	Describe Your Event	Event Type
24 January 2026	*CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie post Airport Meeting starts at 10:00 am*	*Monthly Meeting*
28 February 2026	*CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie post Airport Meeting starts at 10:00 am*	*Monthly Meeting*
28 March 2026	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie post Airport Meeting starts at 10:00 am	*Monthly Meeting*
25 April 2026	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie post Airport Meeting starts at 10:00 am	*Monthly Meeting*
23 May 2026	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie post Airport Meeting starts at 10:00 am	*Monthly Meeting*
27 June 2026	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie post Airport Meeting starts at 10:00 am	*Monthly Meeting*
25 July 2026	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie post Airport Meeting starts at 10:00 am	*Monthly Meeting*
22 August 2026	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie post Airport Meeting starts at 10:00 am	*Monthly Meeting*
26 September 2026	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie post Airport Meeting starts at 10:00 am	*Monthly Meeting*
24 October 2026	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie	*Monthly Meeting*
28 November 2026	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie	*Monthly Meeting*
	CE Page Building 5810 Tulakes Ave. Bethany, Ok 73008. Wylie	*Monthly Meeting*
	Every Wednesday and Sunday Coffee and Cows at Kens	
	Coffee and Cows at Kens	*Car Garage days*