

# Group UltraVan



This UltraVan is #364 owned by Dan Shelby

This UltraVan sat in the California Desert for many years before Dan retrieved it and began a lengthy restoration.

The story is within

## GROUP ULTRAVAN

5000 Cascabel Rd. Atascadero, CA 93422

FIRST CLASS Mail

### PRESIDENT

Bob Galli #504  
5000 Cascabel Rd.  
Atascadero, CA. 93422  
(805) 466-2737  
rdgalli@tcsn.net

### TREASURER

Diane Galli #504  
5000 Cascabel Rd.  
Atascadero, CA. 93422  
(805) 466-2737  
rdgalli@tcsn.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

Graham Dell #292  
4332 157th Ave SE  
Bellevue, WA. 98006  
(206) 641-1570  
grahamdell@msn.net

### EDITOR

Jim Isbell #256  
P.O. Box 783  
Ingleside, TX 78362  
(361) 776-7884  
Jim.Isbell@gmail.com

### SECRETARY

Roy Davis #388  
312 Butterworth Road  
Murry, KY 42071-8241  
jld@wk.net

### DIRECTORS

#### Eastern

James Davis #388  
312 Butterworth Road  
Murry, KY 42071-8241  
(270) 435-4572  
jld@wk.net

#### Western

Howard Boso  
1536 W. Roundup St.  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220  
(480) 288-2636  
hamboso@juno.com

**E-Mail Guy:** Ken Wildman #338, 419 North Johnson Street, Ada, OH, 45810 Phone: (419) 634-4874. E-mail: [k-wildman@onu.edu](mailto:k-wildman@onu.edu)  
Web Site: <http://www2.onu.edu/~kwildman/ultraVan.html>

WHALES ON WHEELS is a quarterly publication of GROUP ULTRA VAN, a CORSA chapter. It is dedicated to the preservation and use of the ULTRA VAN. This 22 foot unique motor home was designed by David Peterson and built in Kansas until 1970. About 365 units were built. Dues are \$8.00 annually, please remit to the Treasurer, Diane Galli. Make checks payable to Group UltraVan. Send submissions to WOW by Email to the Editor, Jim Isbell (digital submissions are preferred but even handwritten are acceptable)

TO:

# Whales On Wheels

**Volume XXVI**

**Number 3 July 1st 2005**

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**Your UltraVan on the Cover of WOW**

Would you like to see a picture of your UltraVan on the cover of Whales on Wheels? Then send a photo with a short..or long...story. The photo should have some artistic value...or not..showing the UltraVan in a scenic location. Send your photos and story to the Editor and have your UltraVan be a star. Your 15 minutes of fame are now available right here in WOW!!

## Prez Sez

**Just want to let you all know that Lew Young, Prez of UVMCC, and I are working out the details of the proposed merger of the two clubs. This will be discussed at the GUV and UVMCC meetings at the CORSA NATIONAL at Portland. We will make the final plans at the UVMCC National at Custer. Make your plans to be there.**

Bob

**F.E. "Chance" Fitzgerald.**  
**Arrived Sept 27, 1913.**  
**Departed April 12, 2005.**

Many of our current members never had the opportunity to know "Chance". Their loss. Like all those of his time frame, he lived through an era that saw changes in our society that will never be repeated. His work life ran from the WPA. .to driving a truck for road work at \$1.65 a DAY. .working in his Fathers garage. .Dad taught him well. .ran an airport. .taught flying to many.. worked on countless airplanes. ..at eighteen, built his own violin.. think about that he BUILT a violin. He came to the world of Ultra like most of us. .knowing nothing about Corvairs. .and ended up being a rich source of knowledge which he willingly shared with anybody who was interested. His sheet metal work endeared him to many.. check out #328s main door and rear hatch.. same for Stantons #392. #366 (my unit) was enriched in MANY ways. .hatch/door etc. Stop at the Lane's Auto Museum in Nashville and check out #101..yep, a Chance built door/rear hatch. His wife Margaret left us in '93. I have many memories of Margaret at the piano and Chance with his "fiddle"...and the music/good times rolled. As I get older I can remember my father saying. .in his latter years.. "All my friends are dead".

I'm beginning to understand what he meant.

Respectfully Walt #366.

**The 2005 CORSA International Convention  
Portland, Oregon, USA**



If you would like more information about the convention,  
please contact:  
[convention2005@corsaoregon.com](mailto:convention2005@corsaoregon.com)

## **The Resurrection of #364**

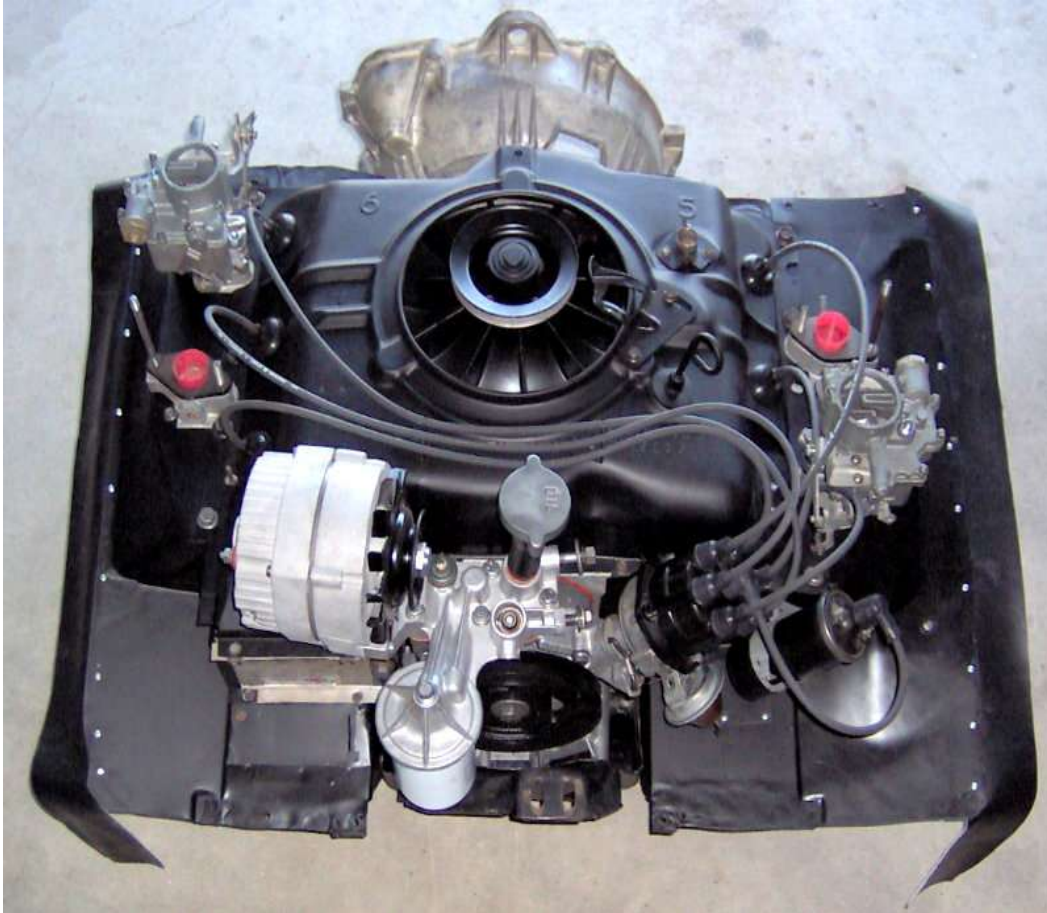
My name is Dan Shelby. I live in Yucca Valley Ca. I am 29 and I have been around Corvairs all my life. My grandfather and father used Corvairs as plumbing trucks when I was growing up. At age 13 I had an interest in cars already and started building my first Corvair. I still have that '62 coupe today. When I got my driver's license at age 16, I was already familiar with servicing Corvairs. When I was 19 I went to work as a mechanic at a Corvair shop in southern Ca. I restored and serviced Corvairs full time for 6 years. 5 of which were at Corvair Doctor in Hawthorne. In that time I had many Corvairs come and go, but now I own 9 Corvairs and an Ultra. Later, I moved away from the big city life of LA and started a new career in the construction field. I still have a lot of experience in service and restoration. I was always interested in UltraVans at shows and conventions. I finally acquired one in 1999. I was too busy to put a wrench on it since I got it home, but I am finally working on it. I love my Ultra and I am so anxious to take it camping!!



**This is UV 364. It is a 1968 model, powered by a Corvair engine. It has been safely stored for 6 years in the California desert. When first acquired, the odometer read 53K miles. As I was driving it home, the #5 rod bearing failed and ruined the original 1968 110 HP**



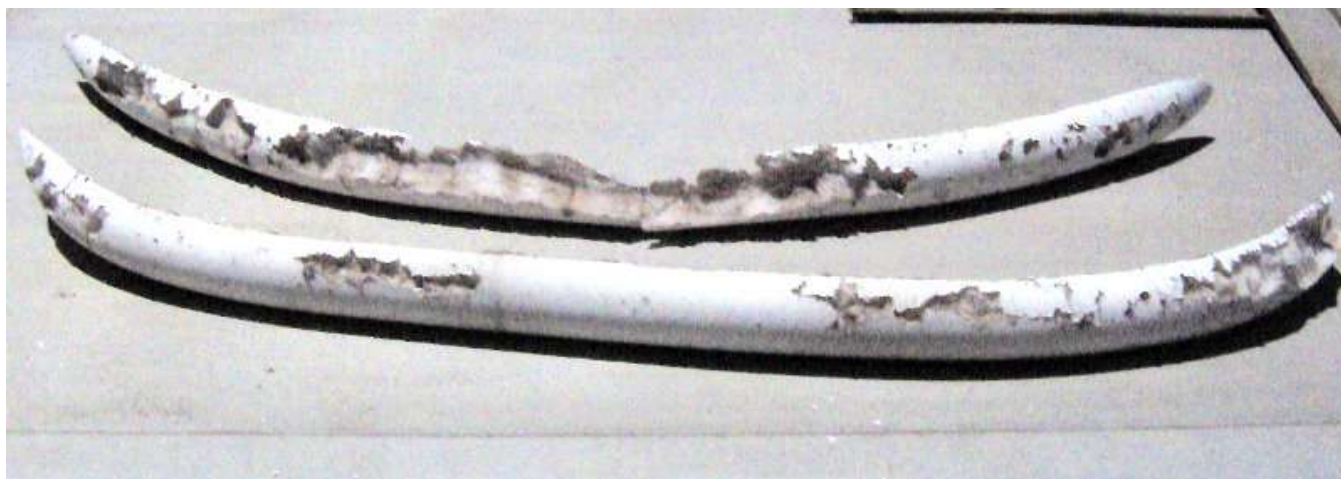
engine. A used 102 HP was installed so that it could be moved, but it was parked most of the time. It had many electrical problems to repair. Occasionally the starter motor would engage while driving, and not stop until the battery was disconnected. None of the dash instruments worked except for the speedometer and the ignition key. None of the tail lights worked either. Repair began in May '05.



The spare 102 HP was removed and a 140 HP was built for it. The new 140 has all four carbs and 1965 linkage. I did not use a 4 degree retarded timing gear as used in factory 140 HP automatics. I used a factory 95 HP cam for good idle and low RPM power. (The differential is a 3.55:1) A finned aluminum 7 qt. oil pan was used with a modified oil pick-up. An OTTO parts high volume oil pump was added as well. Strangely, the old 110 HP had one exhaust manifold off of a 140 HP... The new engine required 2 "long" 140 HP exhaust manifolds. Engine dust seals were fabricated with black synthetic leather material. The engine bay looked dull, so I used "cast aluminum" engine paint on it. Here is the engine just before it was installed.



From the day I started working on this UV, I was tired of the old weathered bumpers. I went out and bought some pool noodles from wal-mart and replaced the old bumpers. Later, I saw some pictures posted on the Internet by member 292. This bumper change has been done on a couple other UV's. Jim Craig (#604) had a special tool he designed for cutting the original bumpers to fit on UltraVans. I borrowed it one afternoon and made my bumper(s). It looks much better, thanks Jim Craig! I tried the old white paint, but wanted something different. The contrast of the brown on the tan coach looks nice.



**Old Bumpers**



**New Bumpers  
before and  
after  
painting.**







**New Bumpers Installed**

When I was in the bathroom to repair the plumbing, I decided to repaint this moldy old lime green shower with gloss ivory white for more lighting ambiance.



Every seam in the bathroom was re caulked using silicone based printable caulking. Then 3 coats of gloss rustoleum paint were applied. All towel bars were restored as well.

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**LAST MINUTE ENTRY, NOTE!!!!**

UV # UV #488 in Sechelt, BC , Canada is for sale, price \$3500.

Contact: Peter Hemstreet [Hemstreet@dccnet.com](mailto:Hemstreet@dccnet.com)



# UVMCC

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### CUSTER, SD

#### SUNDAY, September 11, 2005

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM      Arrival, set up, late registration and T-shirt distribution.

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM      Dinner, furnished by Host

6:30 PM – 7:00 PM      Announcements

#### Monday, September 12, 2005

9:00 AM      Coffee, goodies and announcements  
Start of SILENT AUCTION

1:00 PM      Free time  
Tour of Crazy Horse Memorial

Dinner on your own.

6:30 PM      ULTRA BINGO

#### Tuesday, September 13, 2005

9:00 AM      Coffee, goodies and announcements

10:00 AM      Tour of coaches

Lunch on your own

1:00 PM      Tech and Craft Sessions

5:00 PM      Pot Luck

7:00 PM      Campfire

#### Wednesday, September 14, 2005

9:00 AM      Coffee, goodies and announcements

10:30 AM Tour of Mt. Rushmore. Pack your lunch or use restaurants at Mt. Rushmore. Entrance to Mt. Rushmore is free, however, parking fees do apply.

7:00 PM Local entertainment

Thursday, September 15, 2005

9:00 AM Coffee, goodies and announcements

10:00 AM Business meeting. Will include discussion of By-Law changes and combining of clubs

Lunch on your own

1:00 PM Tech and Craft sessions

5:00 PM Pot Luck

6:30 PM Yankee Swap meet

Friday, September 16, 2005

9:00 AM Coffee, goodies and announcements

Free day Transportation will be available for small groups to visit their favorite sites, ie returning to Crazy Horse or Mt. Rushmore. There is an 1880 Train at Hill City, Rushmore Cave, Wind Cave, Big Thunder Gold mine, Sitting Buss Crystal Caverns, Needles Eye and many others.

Dinner on your own.

Saturday, September 17, 2005

9:00 AM Coffee, goodies and announcements

End of Silent Auction

Lunch on your own.

6:00 PM BANQUET, Bavarian Restaurant

The banquet is a buffet. The menu will include Rouladen (round steak stuffed with onion and bacon), Honey Baked Ham, Corn, Ragtime veggies, Garden green salad, Fruit salad, Three-bean salad and dessert.

UVMCC NATIONAL RALLY  
September 11-17, 2005  
CUSTER, SOUTH DAKOTA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print your name as well as others attending in your family)  
STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_, STATE \_\_\_\_\_, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

	Quantity	Pre-registration	On-Site	Total
Individual Registration _____		\$10.00	\$15.00	\$ _____
Banquet (per Adult) _____		\$15.00	\$20.00	\$ _____
T-Shirts _____		\$15.00	\$18.00	\$ _____

Indicate size M \_\_\_\_\_, L \_\_\_\_\_, XL \_\_\_\_\_, add \$2.00 for XXL \_\_\_\_\_,  
And XXXL \_\_\_\_\_.

PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY August 15, 2005-05-14  
SEND REGISTRATION TO LEW YOUNG

1280 MICHAEL TIN CT.  
MANTECA, CA 95336

QUESTIONS? CALL LEW AT 1-209-823-6293 OR 1-209-639-6293.

RESERVATIONS AT BEAVER LAKE CAMPGROUND, 1-800-345-4383. MENTION ULTRA VANS FOR THE \$20.00/NIGHT RATE.

*NOTE - "DO NOT" MAIL WITH 2005 BALLOT.*



### Ultra Van For sale. #492:

This is a very much modified Ultra with many improvements. 110 HP 164 cu in engine with Powerglide, Positraction and Transmission cooler. The interior is original.

Engine was completely rebuilt and compression ratio reduced to 8.3:1. Fins on cylinders have been cleaned of flashings. Cruise Control. Carter Knock Eliminator. Radial tires. Repainted exterior. Three High Backed seats (adjustable). Armor Flex bumpers. 70" couch with four drawer. Cyl Head temp and Oil pressure gages.

Many other improvements. I have a list of them if you will contact me.

Contact: ..oops, your editor screwed up and lost this address. If you are interested in this one, contact the editor and I will forward the inquiry's to the owner. ...a soon as he/she contacts me with an email address. If you know this owner, please contact me with the information. ..please, pretty please.

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### Ultra Van for sale. #521:

Chevy V8 engine Runs Good Brand new exhaust pipes and muffler, much recent brake work. Body has some corrosion and interior need s work. \$2500 OBO

Contact Pete Evans, 2040 Rachel St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
Phone 805 215 1551  
ixnay@compuserve.com

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### Ultra Van for Sale #302:

Body in excellent shape. been gutted for remodel, but have all original insides (makes good templates). Shower, toiler, stove. 400 hp Olds engine. sell as is



Norm or Shelly Lamm (702) 870-5951