



# Whales on Wheels

**2023**

**Number 4**

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**UVMCC was incorporated in October 1967 for all who are interested in Ultra Vans CORSA Chapter #008**



**WE NEED YOU!**



**There Are Still No 2024 National Rally Hosts**

It is a bit shocking that no one has stepped up to be a host for the rally. The National Rally is the big annual event for Ultra Vans that happens every year and it is imperative that it does happen.

Being a host is really not difficult and you do not need to do it alone. You can pair up with someone else and it really is a great deal of fun. We have already had volunteers scout out possible locations near the 2024 CORSA Convention in Dayton, OH, if you choose to coordinate with the Convention. Location s usually the most difficult part and now you just need to pick one and arrange for a block of sites either before or after the convention.

You are never alone as there are former hosts that will answer your questions and provide all of the guidance that you may want. You don't even need to live near the location since planning can be done from the comfort of your home. We really need to have hosts confirmed soon since per the bylaws the dates and location need to be announced in the next month or so. Please help your club!

Contact either Pat, our President, [patjenningsdrums@gmail.com](mailto:patjenningsdrums@gmail.com) or Molly, the Secretary, [uvmcc\\_membership@yahoo.com](mailto:uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com) o volunteer or with any questions.





# News From the Prez

Hi everyone!

Fall is here and the season is changing. Hopefully, you got to spend some time with your Ultra Van this summer. Either enjoying it or making it better. 😊 This has been the first summer that we haven't had to do anything major to the Ultra. We completed the solar and lithium-ion battery & inverter permanent installation, and it has been working fantastically. It freed space in the generator compartment and lightened the load for sure!

Marisa and I are at the Western UV Rally in Moss Landing on the central coast of California as I write this with three other UV's and are having a good time with the gang. Tons of food, lots of great Tech Tips and seeing the progress on coaches is always a treat. All four coaches in attendance have 12vdc to 115 vac power inverters, and three of the four are using solar power to recharge their batteries! Seeing old and new technology coming together is pretty cool in my opinion. (see more photos below and on [page 3](#))

The 2024 Ultra Van National Rally needs a host or group of hosts to make it a reality. As I've stated before, hosting a rally isn't a task that has to be done by a single person. It can really be fun doing it as a group. Please reach out to Molly or me if you have interest in hosting the national rally.

Windshield pricing is coming to the group after we have a board meeting. We have them also agreeing to individually box and ship the orders to each party for approximately \$300.00, which wasn't part of the agreement at first.

Pat Jennings

## Ultra Van Western Regional Rally, Moss Landing Beach October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023



*Continued on page 3*



# Ultra Van Western Regional Rally





# WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

## California

**Greg & Christine Abrams #434**

## Ontario Canada

**David Wilfong #222**



David posted this on Facebook after his purchase.

**UVMCC currently has 119 members**





# \$\$\$\$ Dues Are Due by the end of December \$\$\$\$

According to the club's bylaws, annual membership dues are due each year at the end of the year. Dues are \$10 a year for an emailed newsletter and \$25 a year for a mailed newsletter.

The website is configured for capturing your renewal information and also provides you ways to pay using either a check or money order sent to the Treasurer, or Credit Card or PayPal payment. Just click the following link, <https://ultravan.org/renew-online/> and complete the online membership form or you can download the membership form from the same page to mail with your dues payment. Completing the membership form helps keep the roster information current plus online is the preferred way to renew. Payments links and mailing information are available on the checkout page. Please complete the whole process regardless of how you plan to renew. You can also mail a check to: UVMCC, 5425 Morrow Rd., Gladwin, MI 48624

**You can avoid having to do this yearly by paying for more years than just the coming one.**

**Attention recent new members:** If you wonder why your name is on the list and you recently paid, you were only charged for the remainder of 2023, which was half price. Doing it this way allows for synchronizing you with our annual dues cycle expiring at the end of the year. From this point on, your membership period will be January through December.

**These members' dues will expire at the end of this year:**

Olga Anderson

Andrew Baca & Melissa Gattine

Phil & Margaret Bartholomew

Bob & Agnes Brown

Ross Converse & Diane Shockley

Doug Daniels

Derek & Nicki Farrell

Phil Finch

Ray & Mary Lou Fuenzalida

Tosh & Annie Gregg

Joseph & Israel Hofmann

Chuck Hoppe

Al & Lori Kidd

Daniel & Synde Kling

Robert W. Langdon

Kurt Languirand

Damian Lee & Christine Tulk

Ed & June Lindsay

Theodore & Pat Malo

Taylor O'Sullivan & Timothy Sekiguchi

Deryk & Shannon Peters

Carter Pure

Joseph & Cheryl Rindosh

Joe & Janet Scalet

Mike & Tracey Scott

Greg Shaw & Sandy Warren-Shaw

Joseph & Irina Shiller

Pete Smith

Jérôme Stevens

Owen & Lori Strawn

Tim Verschuyt

Gabriel Villagran & Madeleine Bartholomew

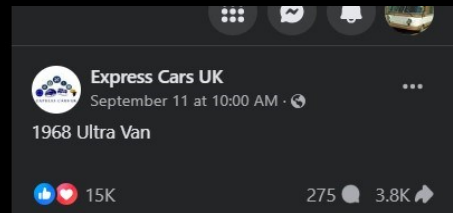




# Miscellaneous Ultra Van items

## WOW!!

Over 15,000 Likes, 275 comments, and over 3,800 shares in just a few weeks.



More numbers.  
Pat Jennings counted the number of visitors viewing #409 at a recent car show.



## Instagram

Log in

Open app

newport beach, California

Since January 2021, OC Register photographer Jeff Gritchen has captured more than 1,000 miles of Orange County streets by going on daily 30 minute walks.



Continued on page 7



The Corsa Convention at Lake Tahoe was held June 15-19, 1999. Left to right are #163 (Robert Craig), #413 (Forrest Gist), #604 (James & Marlene Craig), unknown, unknown, #468 (Dan Davis)



The cover of the Communique that better shows #468 & #443. Not sure of the one on the left though.





# Short Reports

Bits of information from our members



## Chris Brown and Molly Bacon #328

Finally, Turkel is road worthy. Chris has worked hard through so many problems and gremlins over the last two years; a severe body tear, rebuilding the differential twice and a **zillion little issues**. There were leaks, ignition switch quitting, more leaks, a new instrument cluster plus custom hubcap centers and horn button (see some of the creative things that can be done with Ultra Van merchandise (charm and key fob medallion).



Even then, on our first trip Turkel didn't like one of Clark's expensive premium fan belts and threw it on I-94 only 15 miles from our destination which was the Detroit Area Corvair Club's Homecoming event in July. No, it couldn't just come off. It had to wrap itself around the balancer, which took two hours for Chris to unwind. Nothing like working in mid-July bent over in a hot engine compartment on the side of a busy southern Michigan interstate. Since then, we have made a trip

across the state to a campground on Lake Michigan for a Tin Can Tourist vintage trailer rally.

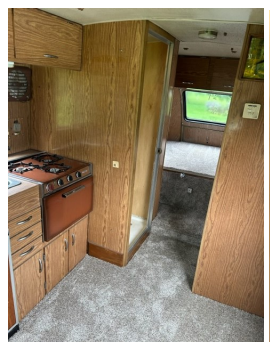


Please keep your fingers crossed so it all stays playing nice.

## Jay & Peggy Reed #514

My Ultra Van is now driving as of 9/24. The inside is now redone with new seats, carpet, and the bathroom has been redone. I have almost all the lights working. When they are all working, I will be ready to take it in for the Illinois State Safety Inspection and ultimately get it registered in Illinois.

The brakes have been serviced, new fuel pump, new tires, and new side view mirrors. I have done extensive caulking around the windshield and rear window to seal leaks from rain. I made new plywood removable engine covers and carpet. Next, I will have a foam bed mattress made to fit. I have installed new keyed locks for the gas cap and other exterior access points. This Sunday I plan to do a test drive of about 30 miles and see how it performs.



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(Continued from page 8)

## Mark Chaney #382

On August 1st, #382 was purchased from the Falls family. They were sad to see #382 go but needed room for more Manx dune buggies. Named, "Wyatt's Whale", in memory of a high school friend who introduced me to the adventure of all [things mechanical](#). This led to a Hudson auto, Ercoupe plane, Chris Craft boat, Travco RV & now an Ultra Van. The decision to ship or drive Wyatt's Whale home was easy. With a daunting crossing of the LA Basin required & temperatures of 115°+ in the Coachella Valley, I chose shipping!



Thanks to [all of the previous caretakers](#) for the last 55 years as #382 starts, drives & best of

all stops! Soon lower temps in the desert will allow work to begin. Replacing oil seals, is it possible to have a drip-free Corvair engine? Replacing rubber suspension & steering parts are on the list. As are most of the flat glass windows, but thankfully the windshield is in good shape. Electrical systems need an update and returning Wyatt's Whale to a reliable, functional Class A RV is the goal.



## Carl and Fran Jones #400

Just in case anyone is wondering, this is the bottom of your shower pan. If you have an original one, the top left-hand side of the picture is the underside of the toilet. The second picture is one looking at the pan from the bottom side of the pan as you can see the wood pieces graduate outward to be taller than they are in the center of the pan therefore, allowing water to weep towards the shower pan drain.

As you can see from the first picture, there is a bit of rot on a few of the pieces of wood. I replaced the ones on the outside that I felt needed to be replaced and I am replacing the corner piece where the toilet will set as it was rotted out completely.



## Larry Forman & Rosie Walker #497

Ultra Van #497 has new flooring.

The good news is that the special linoleum that Rosie ordered from the UK has been installed. The carpet that she selected to go with it was destroyed by water at the shop where we were getting it. Now we need to select another carpet and wait for it to arrive. The bad news is that the newly installed and used tranny is slipping after about 4 miles when up shifting. That likely means I need to remove it and install another tranny. I am redoing the galley cabinet now since we decided we would like to have that raised about 5 inches to match the level of the galley window. It also allows for more storage and can accept all the 100% electric appliances, like the 4-way microwave, induction cooktop and water heater.



Unfortunately, the tranny problem means we will miss the Western Division Rally at the Monterey area. Major bummer for us. I included a photo of the linoleum that Rosie selected. It is Mid-Century Modern, and we really love it. Rosie changed the size of the pattern of the fireworks so it better fit the Ultra Van floor area and they custom printed it for us so there is nothing else like it anywhere.

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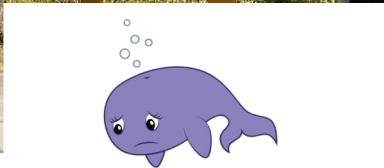
(Continued from page 9)

### Michael Scott #396

Hello all! I retired in February and have been so busy helping others that I have not done much with our #396. Although I am currently working on the front suspension, I am going to replace all the bushings along with the brakes and hopefully find an air suspension kit that will work all the way around. I also will be starting on the bodywork which will consist of wiping it down with Bondo so I can get it into primer! I should have stayed working-I had more time!! 😞

### Joe and Cheryl Rindosh

From the last hurricane in August, both the Corvair and the Hudson were totaled from three feet of saltwater in the garage. Cheryl lost her car, and I also lost my motorcycle. I was in Pennsylvania and didn't make it home. Thank God I have collectable insurance but so far, they haven't paid. We are playing the notary game. I am completely rebuilding parts of my house. I am so busy and insurance on the house flood is useless.



### Owen Strawn #500

A bit of historical information

Shown is the only surviving photo of Ultra Van #210, parked at Jim Carini's registered address in Oakland CA. Records show that Jim took delivery of the coach in October 1965, just two months after the agreement to move production to Kansas was signed. Of particular note is the front-mounted trailer hitch, a boat launching accessory which was only implemented on three other Ultra Vans: #101, #200, and #106. Later owned by Noel Koller, Ultra Van #210 was eventually converted to use a Dodge truck chassis & engine and was last seen on a used RV lot in Santa Ana CA in the mid-80s.



## #389 Ultra Weekend

After installing new rear shocks, a rebuilt 65-amp alternator, and some new deep cycle batteries, Gloria and I decided to drive the Ultra Van to our Saturday Corvair meeting and then about 60 miles farther south to [Springmill](#) State Park near Mitchell, IN. It was a good opportunity to see how the gas shocks compared to the worn-out air shocks and see all the vintage campers that were at the state park for the weekend.

It was a sold-out 9th annual 3-day rally that was for anything vintage. We arrived at 3 p.m. and had to park outside the camping area because not only was it full but also closed to all but foot traffic until 6 p.m. so the public could walk around and see inside the open coaches. The two ladies at the gate assured us there were no vacancies or cancellations to camp overnight so we walked in to see hundreds of VW busses, tear-drop trailers and even a 1947 Greyhound bus that was nicely converted complete with the original driver's cap! Many of the trailers were pulled with vintage trucks and cars and it was a walk back in time with every brand and year you could imagine. There also was a Ranger pop up camper, one of only 200 ever made between 1954-1956. It was the first fiberglass crank up unit and very well built. The cost of \$1,500 put an end to the manufacture of them unfortunately.

To our surprise, within an hour of the Ultra Van being spotted, we were tracked down and then escorted in by the park manager to a nice campsite for the night and had a meal of ham & beans and dessert, all compliments of the rally group! Few people could imagine a Corvair powered class A motorhome. By the end of the evening, we were part of a parade driving through every section of the 1,358-acre park and made friends with one of the gate keepers who came to see us after her shift.

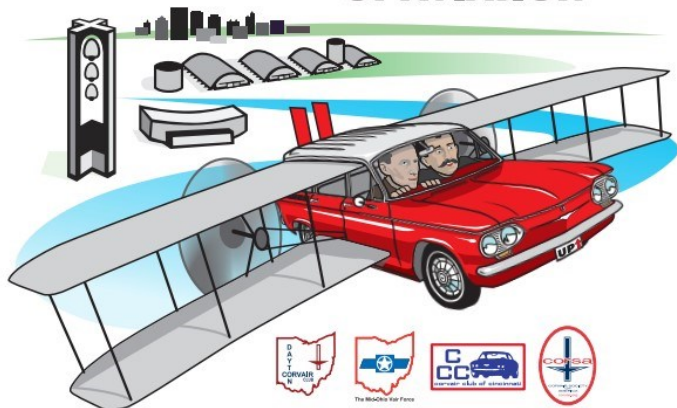
Gloria said this was one of the best unplanned weekends we have had in quite a while. We met nice people and saw many interesting things. So, take a drive in your Corvair or another vintage vehicle and bring a smile to someone. Dave & Gloria Beck Brownsburg, IN #389





# CORVAIR AIRBORNE!

DAYTON OHIO  
THE BIRTHPLACE  
OF AVIATION



2024 INTERNATIONAL  
CORVAIR CONVENTION  
JULY 21-26

## 2024 CORSA International Convention

Marriott Hotel at the University of  
Dayton

1414 S Patterson Blvd  
Dayton, OH 45409



### New Sticker—\$1



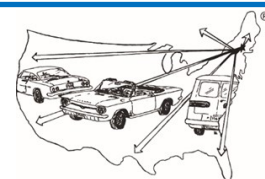
Buy in the website shop, <https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-club-merchandise-shop/glitter-ultra-van-sticker-3-x-1-1-2/>

### Index of Tech Tips published after the 2015 Tech Tips document

31 tech tips have been published since 2015. Work is being done to create a new updated comprehensive document. Until that time, you can use this index to supplement. The newsletter volume listed will be a link to that newsletter on the website.

It is accessible here, <https://ultravan.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Tech-Tips-unpublished-index.pdf>

### CLARK'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Thanks to the support of 1,000's of Corvair owners over the last 50 years. We continue to grow and reproduce more parts every year. Have a great year and enjoy our monthly sales and specials all year - Joan & Cal Clark

**SPECIAL SALES EVERY MONTH** - we'll send a list by email (if you have signed up) or check our website sale section

**FREE 50th MEMENTO GIFTS** with your first order in 2023

#### LIST YOUR CORVAIR OR SPARES FOR SALE

For all of 2023 we will list it on our website at **NO CHARGE**- check website (Corvairs For Sale)

**CLARKS CAR SHOW & PARTS SALES** - See our 2023 supplement or website for more details. Tours including the Upholstery Dept and a slide show by Cal. Parts on sale!  
**SEPT 16, 2023 - rain or shine**

**2023 SUPPLEMENT**- On our website or as a hard copy - many new repros & updates.

**CATALOG**-over 450 pages, \$8 postpaid USA, free with an order

Clark's Corvair Parts®, 400 Mohawk Tr, Sherburne, MA 01370  
413-625-9776, Fax: 413-625-8498

[www.corvair.com](http://www.corvair.com)

email: [clarks@corvair.com](mailto:clarks@corvair.com)



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**ULTRA  
 MERCHANDISE**

Purchase at the club website  
 merchandise shop,

<https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-club-merchandise-shop/>

Call or e-mail either of us.

Better yet come shop at the next rally!

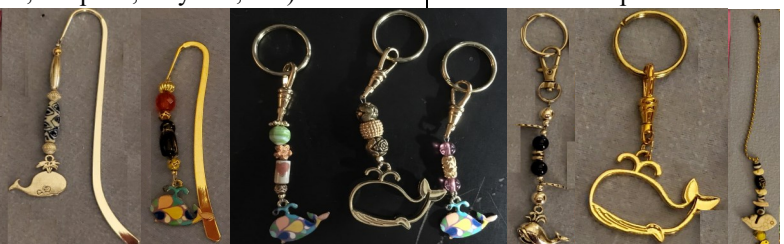
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Patty Mello, 541-926-2631, [nanapatty1951@hotmail.com](mailto:nanapatty1951@hotmail.com)



Item	Price
Club badges	1st one <i>free</i> at a rally or \$2.00 for a replacement
Miniature Cloisonné Ultra pins	\$5.00
Cloisonné Ultra earring set (post & wire)	\$7.00
Cloisonné Ultra charm	\$3.50
Ultra Van Coasters—2 designs	\$1.00
"Corvaire Powered" bumper stickers	\$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00
VIN # plates (blank)	\$3.50
Ultra Van Magnets (two designs)	\$1.00
Ultra Van Stickers (multiple styles)	\$1.00
3 ½" X 4 ½" Stitched patches w/ Ultra on US map & flag	\$3.00
Tech tips 1960-2015 PDF on CD	\$5.00
Club Roster (printed)	\$4.00
Window decals UVMCC with Ultra	\$1.00
100,000 Miles Club plaque	<i>Award</i>
Postcards and note cards	Various prices
<b>Available while supply lasts:</b> Tombstone Rally magnets	<b>Big Sale</b> \$.50
NOS Factory Ultra Van replacement parts	Various prices
Hand-made Specialty Whale items (keychains, bookmarks, fan pulls, lanyards, etc.)	Various prices

samples





# UVMCC Membership

Go to the website membership page:  
<https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-motor-coach-club/>

or

email the Treasurer at:  
[uvmcc\\_membership@yahoo.com](mailto:uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com)

**Join Today!**

# Whales on Wheels (WOW)



is the quarterly publication of the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club, Inc. (UVMCC), a chartered chapter (#008) of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). Incorporated in 1967, UVMCC is dedicated to the preservation, enjoyment, and use of the Ultra Van, a 22 foot, unique motor home, which was designed by David

Peterson and built in Kansas until 1970. About 365 units were built.

UVMCC is open to anyone with an interest in Ultra Vans. Annual dues are \$5 for an emailed newsletter and \$15 for a mailed newsletter. Application and payment can either be make online with PayPal at <https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-motor-coach-club/> or make checks payable to Ultra Van Motor Coach Club and mail to the treasurer at:

UVMCC, 5425 Morrow Rd., Gladwin, MI 48624

Stories, articles, photos, memorabilia, or any other item for publication should be sent to the editor by the 15th of March, June, Sept, and Dec. Send newsletter submissions to WOW by email to the Editor, Molly Bacon, [uvmcc\\_membership@yahoo.com](mailto:uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com)

Digital submissions are preferred, but even hand written are acceptable. Mail to: UVMCC, 5425 Morrow Road, Gladwin, MI 48624

Authors are asked to submit at least a photograph of themselves for the article with any other relevant photos.

Technical material will be sent to the Technical Coordinator for review.

Website: <https://ultravan.org/>

### Awards

Golden Quill Award - 2022, 2021, 2003, 1999, 1997, & 1995

CORSA Chapter Newsletter Award - 2019 - 3rd place & 2014 - 3rd place.

Founded in 1969, **CORSA** is group of automobile enthusiasts working to satisfy the common needs of individuals interested in the preservation, restoration, and operation of the Corvair.



CORSA's long range goal is to promote reproduction of parts and render technical assistance to increase your enjoyment of the Corvair, and to

further the general public's appreciation of the car.

UVMCC encourages membership in CORSA.

Visit their website, [www.corvair.org](http://www.corvair.org)



### Profit and Loss

#### Ultra Fiscal Year 2022

Income—\$3144.92, Expenses—\$2118.07

#### Fiscal Year 2023 - Qtr 1 - Jul 1 –Sep 30

Income—\$4852.15, Expenses—\$237.00  
(includes the sale of UV #218)

### Available:

#### Ryerson Manual (Ultra Coach Owner's Manual)

The Ryerson is available in two forms, Printed and on a searchable CD.

Printed Manual \$60 plus shipping

Printed Manual and CD \$70 plus shipping.

CD \$17 postage paid to the contiguous U. S. Shipping is based on your choice of shipping options. Please send me your address and I will let you know what postage will be.

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