

The Denvair News

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Tony Lawler's new car is a star! And a barn find too. See the story inside.

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Rocky Mountain Corsa Presidents Message

I want to start by thanking Jim Reich for hosting the last RMC meeting I up north at his garage condo. It was especially nice to see some folks we don't normally see at our normal meeting place, John Elway Chevrolet including our newest member Dylan Berichon. We started by letting everyone know that the 2024 CORSA convention is now back on in San Diego, CA, and in deference to the SoCal clubs, RMC has decided to drop our bid for the 2024 convention. I'm fairly certain we will be asked at some time in the future to host another convention.



In other news, Tony gave an update on planning for the 2022 Tri-State in Glenwood Springs. The hotel is locked in along with the venue for the show and shine and banquet. Hate to keep everyone in suspense, but details will be provided at the Albuquerque Tri-State. Hope to see everyone there! Speaking of Tri-State, we will be looking for t-shirt designs. Hopefully, incorporating an image of Christine Kimberly's Corvair sitting on a compass rose taken after the Wings over the Rockies event at Centennial Airport.

Kory Levin also gave an update on the date and location for the upcoming Christmas party being held at the Littleton Café at 3PM December 11th. The location will be the Littleton Café at 1409 West Littleton Blvd. We will have the entire restaurant so space won't be a problem.

Well, that's it for now, I've got to get back to recovering from a computer crash, so I look forward seeing everyone at the next meeting on October 1st at 7PM. The usual place, John Elway Chevrolet.

Rick



Rocky Mountain Corsa Club News

The September RMC meeting was held in Longmont on Saturday Sept. 11th. The place was Jim Reich's garage, not his home's garage but one located in a row of garages that Jim purchased earlier. Our president Rick Beets wanted to shake things up a bit and perhaps provide easier access to our northern dwelling members. Well it did just that; 19 members attended. Northern folk were represented by Jim Reich (of course), John and Sandy Drage, and Marcus Miller. Some other attendees were Larry and Sheryl Shubert, Kory Levin, Mike Piper, Ken Schiffner, Charlie Beets and Rob Brereton. A new member Dylan Berichon joined the club. It was a good meeting; much club business was covered (see the minutes) and afterward the group left for a barbeque lunch at Georgia Boys in Frederick.

The meeting crew at Jim Reich's garage in Longmont



Friday—Sunday, October 15-17, Tri-State Meet: Corvairs of New Mexico is welcoming all Corvair enthusiasts to the annual meet on October 15-17, 2021, sponsored by Corvairs New Mexico. Rocky Mountain Corsa and Pikes Peak Corvair Clubs. Every year we get together to celebrate the unique automobile that is the Corvair. We show our cars, meet new people, renew acquaintances, exchange tips, and just have fun. CNM have been planning this event for over a year and hope everyone who attends will enjoy the meet itself, as well as the many attractions Albuquerque has to offer. There still time to register. Check out www.tristatecorvairs.com for registration.

Don't Forget: Club meeting at John Elways, 6200 S. Broadway. 7;00 pm Oct. 1.

Information on the Xmas party, New Years brunch and national convention status follow; Many thanks to Kory and Gail Levin for their work on the party.

Christmas Party Saturday, December 11, 2021 3:00 PM
The Littleton Café 1409 West Littleton Blvd, Littleton, Co 80120

The Christmas party venue has been secured! After much searching and many disappointments, we have a reservation made for the RMC annual Christmas party. Save the date, and be prepared to RSVP by a week before the party so that our host restaurant can prepare. As always, we invite our friends from PPCC!

Here's the scoop! Some of this may sound familiar to you since we had planned on this venue last year before restaurants were closed due to Covid 19. Fortunately for us, The Littleton Cafe is again doing private events. The restaurant closes to the public in the early afternoon. They will clean, have their small staff on board, and open for us at 3:00 p.m. for a private event. Only our group will be in the building with the staff. The menu is casual and extensive with offerings from breakfast meals to sandwiches and entrees. We will order from the full menu. There is a full bar!

RMC will provide both the appetizers before our meal and our first drink, either alcohol or soda pop, etc. We will have the usual gift exchange after our meal. Keep the gift cost from \$15 - \$20. Mark the gift for "guys", "gals" or "either".

Although we have not yet reached the staff at Toys for Tots, we have the gift collection box that we were not able to use at a party last year. We thank the Breretons for collecting gifts and delivering them for distribution in 2020. If you would like to provide a toy/toys for underprivileged children and teens, please bring new/UNwrapped toys to our party, and we will deliver them to Toys for Tots. Thank you in advance for your generosity in these most difficult times!

We will reach out again after Thanksgiving with a reminder and a request for your RSVP so that Becky and Dave at The Littleton Cafe can take good care of us. As a smaller, family owned restaurant, the cafe has a loyal staff that stuck with them through closures and were happy to get back to work. That is not the case at many restaurants, thus the difficulty in finding a place who can accommodate a group. We are grateful to Becky, Dave and their staff for their willingness to work hard!

NEW YEAR'S DAY BRUNCH We have not yet found a venue for New Year's Day. We have spoken to locations in both Estes Park and Idaho Springs, but no success. The problem is the lack of staff to serve a group. Most restaurants barely have enough staff to serve their individual customers. They simply cannot commit to serving a group. We are still hoping this situation might loosen up, but nothing so far. We are continuing to search for a location. Please help us out by providing ideas you may have. Perhaps you have a neighborhood Club House that can be reserved for January 1? We can certainly talk about having the event catered in a private space. Please contact Kory and Gail. gjscorpiostar@gmail.co

An Update on the National Convention

It has been said that you measure a person not by how many times they get knocked down but by how many times they get back up. That could also be said of car clubs.

As we know, COVID hit the San Diego Corvair Club (SDCC) in the jaw, particularly regarding their attempt at coordinating a CORSA International Convention in the Western Region. SDCC had worked diligently in planning and organizing a potentially awesome Convention. Then COVID struck. No Convention. It was a blow to SDCC,

CORSA and membership. In the meantime, CORSA had no other chapter offering a Convention bid. At the Mini- Convention in Springfield, CORSA asked people from the Colorado chapters if, perhaps, Colorado could bid. As a result, that possibility was explored. Locations in both the Denver area and Colorado Springs were searched. Garrie Fox recommended a hotel in Colorado Springs that had hosted many such gatherings. Rick Beets, Garrie, and the undersigned of Rocky Mountain CORSA (RMC) went there and got the hotel to pencil CORSA in dates in June of 2024 for a convention. RMC was prepared to put to a membership vote the offer to bid in case SDCC or no other regional club did so.

But SDCC, not surprisingly, got back up.

As a result of recent meetings and discussions, SDCC held a vote. The result as reported by their president Bruce St. Gean, "Upon a motion and second, the members present voted unanimously to commit to a bid for the 2024 CORSA International Convention"

Well done SDCC!

Current status is in case other factors come into play in San Diego, RMC's dates are being held until the end of the year. CORSA Conventions are held by CORSA members to perpetuate and sustain the Corvair "hobby" in its many facets, social, educational, and historic to name a few. Sometimes, things beyond its control, hit hard. That is when we, like SDCC, get back up.

Ken Schiffner

The RMC cars at Jim Riech's garage



A barn find, really?

You may have read about the so called barn finds from time to time; the Corvairs found in a field in Nebraska left over from a car dealership, the derelict French cars found in a barn in France, an old fifties VW van rescued from an Alpine mountain. Most of these cars had really been abandoned, had remained hidden for years and required an infinite amount of work to restore them. Tony Lawler's recent find of a 1966 Corvair Corsa convertible was in some ways similar to those previous barn finds. It had been locked away for 35 years, but it was never in a barn, it was never abandoned, and it emerged in pristine condition.

The story starts in 1979. Jim Reich was driving to or from work in Longmont when he spotted an ragtag Corsa convertible parked on a curb in front of a home. After seeing it had not moved in weeks he approached the owner with an offer to buy the car. Jim said he paid \$400 for it. The car had been painted a lime green and the top was badly worn. Jim had the car repainted to the original color, replaced the top and performed the necessary mechanical work to restore the car. He drove it the 1981 Denver National Convention. Afterward he drove the car for several years through the early 80's. Then other Corvair interests took over and Jim drove the car less often but he couldn't part with it. He put the car under a cover in his garage and there it sat for 35 years.



Enter Tony Lawler, Corvair buff extraordinaire. Tony joined our club a few years ago and has been very active Corvair collector ever since. He has a 1963 Spyder coupe and just recently restored a 1962 Rampside to a like new condition. Previously he had a very nice 1966 convertible. Some how about 3 years ago he found Jim Reich's garage and saw this beautiful Corsa sitting under a tarp. Tony said it took him 3 years to persuade Jim to sell him this car. Jim has just recently acquired an 8 door Corvair van and Tony convinced him the car needed to be shown. Purchase price is undisclosed.



The car is absolutely gorgeous. The paint is better than new as is the convertible top. The interior is original but in very good condition. The car is heavily optioned with A telescopic steering column and positraction differential. The engine is the 140hp 4 carb with the 4 speed transmission. Tony said the car needed the brakes redone and the carbs rebuilt, and a detailing. That's it. Well, maybe the tires really should be replaced.

The Preventive Maintenance Series

Trip Check List

Mike Dawson

This article has been printed and reprinted many times but it still is appropriate especially since some of our members are traveling to Albuquerque later this month. Don't say you weren't told.

The following is a list of items I suggest checking before taking a trip (or after buying a car). Remember that even long trips are usually less than the mileage between a single oil change. Serviced properly, your Corvair will cruise to all of this summer's events and back - and be happier for it!

1. All Corvairs roll on four sets of wheel bearings and they all can be repacked. Check & lube the 2 or 4 U-joints. Check front end parts and lube the fittings (install missing ones).
2. Have tires balanced and aligned if necessary. Before trips, check all five tire pressures and tighten lug nuts with the tool you use to change a tire.
3. Check or change all fluids: oil, transmission, differential, brake fluid, washer fluid and battery level (if possible). Synthetic Powerglide fluid is a very good idea, and with regard to oil, remember that our air cooled engines run hotter and have greater tolerances than newer cars. A higher number viscosity oil such as 20W50 or SAE30 is recommended.
4. Check the oil pressure sending unit and change this inexpensive item if you do not know its history.
5. Check the engine tune, and include cleaning the crankcase vents. Check the breaker plate in the distributor, lube the distributor cam and inspect the electrical connections such as the primary coil wires, alternator wires (no generators allowed) and multi-connectors. Check carburetor inlet nuts for leaks.
6. Check the battery date, cable ends, ground cable mount and check the overall charging system with the lights and accessories on maximum.
7. REMOVE the belt and check the condition of the entire length. Spin all three pulleys and lube anything questionable. Tools are available to grease the fan and idler bearing.
8. Check all running lights, check the fuse block for rust, check the large multi connector in early model engine compartments on the left side (by-pass the 10 gage wire), and check warning light operation.
9. If air conditioned, blow out the condenser, check the mounts, the belt, check the evaporator drain. Remove the lower shrouds for better cooling.

Trip Check List

Continued previous page

10. Check the harmonic balancer, and if it is original, replace it! Be sure to check the fuel pump mount, it can work loose. To be safe with the increasing ethanol addition you should have a new version of the mechanical pump or an electric pump. If you already have an electric pump, check the pre-filter.
11. Lube your late clutch cable ball and look for frayed cable between the two pulleys under the dash on early models – also check parking cables in the same area.
12. Check brakes; wheel cylinders, shoes, master cylinder (push rod leak under the dash), and most important, the steel and rubber lines. Give your car the “stomp test” in the driveway. Steel lines above the gas tank and next to the transaxle are the most prone to rust, with tunnel lines next.
13. Be aware of any speedometer error you may have and know your oil consumption rate. Test drive 15 minutes on the highway on a hot day, pack up and head out!

Spares and tools? My favorites would be a belt, a new fuel pump, one rocker arm with pushrod and valve cover gasket, one 30 amp fuse, a set of points and condenser, oil as required, tools for these items, and a CORSA Travel Roster (Cellphone and credit card are assumed to be permanent contemporary companions). There are other tech articles in this series that could help you address many of the above

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The Dynatrac

Submitted by Ken Schiffner

One was at the Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, a few years ago. There, in the parking lot was a Corvair powered Dynatrac. That memory triggered the search for the file. I found it.

The Canadair Dynatrac was a U.S. Army all terrain, all purpose, vehicle (XM-571) from the mid-1960's. Sitting on tracks like tank rather than on wheels, it was used as a personnel and cargo carrier, ambulance, radio command post, and general-purpose vehicle. It may even have been used to get groceries. Powered by a Corvair engine, the design included an articulated driveline that enabled the power unit to be coupled with and drive up to three (3) similar



tracked "rear units". "The Dynatrac is light enough to be transported, with a 2000-pound payload or 10 fully equipped soldiers, by medium helicopter or transport aircraft into areas which are otherwise inaccessible", according to the Canadair literature. In full three (3) unit configuration it was claimed that the payload capacity was 5000 lbs.

If the power unit was used by itself, it was steered using a clutch and brake system as used in tanks. When coupled with a rear unit, hydraulic actuators were used. It must have been interesting to see it in operation.

In cold conditions, the front "powered" unit used the engine hot air for "comfort" and removable "artic cabs" protected the passengers and cargo. Heaters were reportedly provided for the "rear units".

It was designed to operate at temperature extremes of -65 deg. F to 115 deg. F. And like Ivory soap, it floats. It could swim at a breathtaking "2 mph" (I guess if the current is still or going at 2 mph in the same direction). Top speed was listed at 30 mph.



So, there it was. Sitting in the parking lot. A Convention surprise and fond memory.

Rocky Mountain Corsa Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: September 11, 2021

Called to Order: 10:26 am

Location: Jim Reich's shop condo, Frederick CO **# Present:** 19, 0 on Zoom due to technical difficulties.

Moment of silence for 9/11 victims and family. Mike Piper shared about his time searching for victims and the search dogs.

Guests, long distance, new members: Dylan & Monique Berichon recently moved from Oregon with a '63 Greenbrier and faced a few challenges along the way.

Standard Business:

Minutes of last meeting: August minutes were reviewed and approved.

Treasury report: The end of August balance was \$6,111.94. The Treasurer's report was approved.

Mailbag: None.

Old Business:

- Thanks Paul for a great newsletter. He is still looking for a replacement so he can retire from this role. He appreciates all the contributions. Please join him, work with him on a newsletter.
- Membership: Welcome new members Cheryl and Vernon Hoppes. Tony understands that Bart Victor of Glenwood Springs plans to join. He owns the Vicco's Charcoalburger Drive In in Glenwood Springs, has 3 Corvairs.
- There was discussion with PPCC possibly being primary Convention Host in Colorado Springs for 2024 with RMC as a supporting club. Colorado Springs turned down the opportunity. San Diego was out due to involved members passing away or having health problems. There is a possibility we could be called upon as the backup location if San Diego falls through. Ken reminded us that the Convention is run by CORSA with local legwork, as compared to Tri-State or similar run by local club. There was interest in pushing for a June date to avoid hot un-air-conditioned runs across the desert on way to CA.
- The CCCC Airshow at Rocky Mountain Airport was a success, it made some money for CCCC. Rick and others reported that it was a very smoky day and pilots were on instruments. Attended by Rick, Mike, Ken, Jim, Jerry, and Charlie. Samantha Baker is the owner of Car Shows Inc which manages the show. She approached us for a special club focused area and our own awards next year. We would need to provide those awards. This will be discussed as the event gets closer.
- The 2022 Tri-State was discussed. Date is planned for 5/20 - 5/23 and location will be disclosed at the Tri-State in Albuquerque. Specifics have been withheld at request of the event committee until the official announcement. Accommodations, welcome / registration, room rates including before and after days at event rate have been lined up in a newly remodeled hotel with pool, jacuzzi, continental breakfast, and adequate parking. A banquet location has been selected and menus are being reviewed. There is much available in the immediate area. A seasoned car show person has lined up a venue for a car show. A scenic drive is planned after the car show.

New Business:

- Saturday December 11 will be our Holiday Party at the Littleton Café, featuring a full menu. Event will be 2-5pm. There will be the traditional gift exchange and collection for Toys for Tots. There is plenty of parking. The club will pay for the first round of drinks and for appetizers.
- A question was asked about the New Years Brunch? Caron got a referral for a restaurant in Idaho Springs but nothing is settled yet. For many restaurants, the big challenge is finding enough staff to be fully open and handle events.

Upcoming events:

- Fri Oct 1st Meeting, 7pm, Elway Chevrolet upstairs.
- Sun Sept 12 Concours at ACC 9-3, Santa Fe and Church Street. \$50 registration, fundraiser for Ability Connection Colorado. 12 spaces are already filled with a variety of models.

- CANCELLED: Sat Sept 18, St. Jude Concourse at Landmark Lincoln on Broadway. Flyer on table up front, 100% of proceeds to St Jude Foundation.
- Sat Sept 18, 10-4, 7203293138. Guffey Car Show, All day, sponsored by Ryan's Rod Service and Guffey Garage.
- Sat Oct 9, 10-2, Lou Jahde Memorial Car Show, Gaylord of the Rockies. Flyer on table. \$25 per car, waived for Veterans, Benefit for Colorado Veteran Project.
- Oct 15-17, Tri State, Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid N near Tramway. Registration form online. Pay for banquet up front.

For Sale or Wanted, Recently Purchased, Projects

- Cory Levin experienced a shredded fanbelt along with the northbound Corvair pack, just off highway near the meeting.
- Marcus Miller asked about exhaust backfire, and popping on deceleration. Group pointed to exhaust leak, and recommended he look for soot, feel for exhaust gas leak after starting (without touching the hot stuff!)
- John Drage discussed his '27 Model T Touring with Corvair reversed motor behind the seat. He had to remount the seats for more leg room. He got some help with wiring. He is working through detail such as bleeding brakes and new grille fabrication.

50/50 Raffle: At Georgia Boys BBQ post-meeting. \$45 to Club, \$45 to Ken Schiffner, who gifted this back to RMC treasury.

Snacks Volunteers: Thanks to Caron Wetter for bringing today's snacks.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am followed by BBQ lunch. **Respectfully submitted** by Rob Brereton.



Lifted Chevy Corvair Wagon Built for Off-Road Recoveries Is Finally Finished (thedrive.com). Our vote for the bad-est Lakewood ever!

RMC Club Page

Rocky Mountain Corsa (RMC) has been a chartered chapter (#802) of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA) since October 1974 and is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of Corvair automobiles.

The Denvair News is a monthly publication for members and affiliates of Rocky Mountain Corsa.

Editorial Contributions We encourage your participation! Please forward stories, ideas, jokes, recipes, and/or photos to the Editor. Content must be received by the 15th of the month prior to the desired publication month. Electronic files are *mucho* preferred.

Classified Ads Individual RMC member ads are free. Classified ads are limited to 25 words and may include a photo. All ads will run for three issues. Non-members may advertise for \$10.00. Please submit ads to the Editor, with payment due in advance to the Treasurer. Please make checks out to RMC.

Business Advertising Commercial advertisers are welcome. The following per-issue rates apply:
Business card size – \$2.50 ¼ page – \$5.00 ½ page – \$10.00 Full page – \$20.00

RMC Mailing Address

Correspondence, ads, & articles may be snail-mailed to:
RMC PO Box 27058 Lakewood, CO 80227-0058

Web Site: www.rockymountaincorsa.org

Membership & Dues

Rocky Mountain Corsa annual dues are \$25.00, due each year by February 28. Checks should be payable to RMC, mailed to: *RMC, c/o John Dinsdale, 3240 Billings St., Aurora, CO 80011-2231*

Monthly Meeting

RMC typically holds meetings the 1st Friday of each month at our host dealership, Elway Chevrolet, 5200 South Broadway in Englewood. Join us at 7:00 PM in the upstairs meeting room.

RMC Officers

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| President: | Rick Beets | prez@rockymountaincorsa.org |
| Vice President: | Michael Timmons | veep@rockymountaincorsa.org |
| Secretary: | Rob Brereton | sec@rockymountaincorsa.org |
| Treasurer: | John Dinsdale | treas@rockymountaincorsa.org |
| Member at large | Ken Schiffner | m.a.l@rockymountaincorsa.org |
| Past president | Ed Halpin | |

Appointed Chairpersons

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--|
| Activities Chair: | Caron Wetter | activity@rockymountaincorsa.org |
| Auditor: | John Dawson | auditor@rockymountaincorsa.org |
| CCCC Rep: | Rick Beets | cccc-rep@rockymountaincorsa.org |
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