

The Denvair News

2026

January

The Official Publication of Rocky Mountain Corsa ↔ Volume 51, Issue 1



Grinning John Dinsdale is free of the RMC Treasurer tag for the first time in decades, and appears very disappointed, as Tony and Diane Lawlor study the unique menus.

Below, excellent hostess Gail Levin checks in as guests occupying the Brereton/Beets three-generation guest table consult the latest Black Bear food newspapers.



Christmas Par-Tay!

Below, Christine is disappointed to see that photographer is not the waiter bearing a plate of onion rings, while Dale and Linae appear pleased to have their beer.

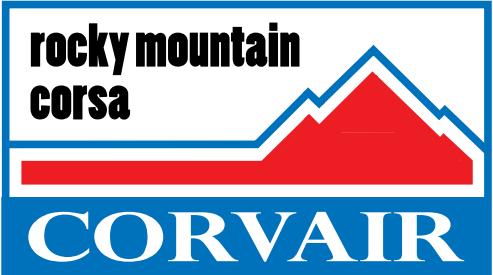


New Year's Brunch!

Big Horn Restaurant in Estes Park,

11:00am Thursday 1/1/26!

If you didn't RSVP, you're still welcome to wing it,
but might be separated from the RMC group...



...more Christmas Par-Tay!



Left, smiling RMC Prez Mike Piper enjoys a quiet moment with his tolerant First Lady, Karen. Or perhaps that's the other way around with Karen enjoying the quiet moment?

Below, the party's Gift Area, where many wrapped packages were shaken, evaluated for heft, and otherwise studied and/or molested prior to the gift exchange.



Left, Chris Jackson and his smiling family keep Ken Schiffner company as they wait for food orders to be taken.

Below, colorfully-shirted Dylan Bercheron once again served as the Master of Ceremonies for the Gift Exchange. He's flanked by past Prez John Dawson, and trading tall tales across the table with Rick Beets as they wait for their drinks.



Rocky Mountain Corsa Official BS & Contacts

Rocky Mountain Corsa (RMC) has been a chartered chapter (#802) of the Corvair Society of America (COSA) 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 20th of the month prior to the desired publication month. Electronic files are preferred, pictures are awesome, but please include descriptions!

Classified Ads

I don't recall RMC doing paid ads in this fine newsletter since the Reagan Administration. Should this section be updated or eliminated now that RMC has a well-maintained web site?

Business Advertising

Ditto Editor rant above - much the same applies.

RMC Mailing Address

Correspondence, ads, & articles may be snail-mailed to:

RMC
PO Box 27058
Lakewood, CO 80227-0058

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**. Dues may also be paid online via PayPal at this link: www.rockymountaincorsa.org/dues

Monthly Meeting

RMC 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 (above Parts Department).

RMC Officers & Appointees

President: Mike Piper
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RMC Corvair Happenings!

- Thursday, January 1, 2026 — New Years' Brunch, 11:00 am @ Big Horn Restaurant, Estes Park
- **NOTE! — There will NOT be a January RMC meeting! See y'all in February!**
- Friday, Feb 6, 2026, 6:30 pm — RMC meeting @ Elway Chevrolet
- Whenever, 24/7 — Check www.rockymountaincorsa.org for the latest and greatest!

President's Letter, January 2026!

Howdy all!

Back to my old habits by holding up Eric's newsletter publication... And yippee, we've made it past the shortest day of the year!

As Eric noted in recent emails to me, there has been a very low level of activity in Corvairdom, but he'll have this in his "hands" about 2 days before the New Year's Day brunch in Estes Park. I hope to see some of you there, particularly the Northern Colorado folks. I called an audible to NOT have a meeting on 1/2/26 since we'll have brunch the day before. If we want to have a meeting on 1/9/26, let me know and I'll let Elway Chevrolet know. (*Since Mike wrote these words, RMC's board decided to drop the January meeting; the next RMC meeting is now planned for Friday, February 6, 2026, 6:30pm at Elway Chevrolet. That's subject to change as well, if an alternate location/time becomes viable in the interim, so watch the web site and the DenVair News!*)

I'm also aware that Eric & Rob are consolidating results of the future meetings survey. (*See results and quick summary, last 3 pages*) There was discussion that we will let folks know the results via an RMC-List email and we can discuss the results at the next meeting also.

Rick Beets is taking over the Treasurer duties. As I noted in an email, we have updated the bank account (that ended up being quite a historical account) along with getting Rick's and my name on the signature card, while Rick has the only new debit card. I suspect that by now Rick has sorted out the PayPal thing and will be active in maintaining the roster. 'Tis Membership dues season, everybody!

Meanwhile, it's been busy holiday-wise for us. All of our family members live in the vicinity, so we had dinner with the whole bunch, including two large dogs that like to wrestle. Generally the dog interaction is pretty funny but there was a lot of crashing and banging, and a growl or two.

This year, as we all know, is finishing up with unusually warm weather. I must say I've never thought I'd need to (I missed the correct application time for winter fertilizer) water my lawn on December 26 when it was 70 degrees outside. We'd hate to lose the new sod we put in due to lack of precipitation. The dog is predictably chewing up the back yard by galloping around, but that's a different problem. We also forgot to plant some fall bulbs back in October so we're going to take care of that the next warm day after the current cold snap. Hopefully they survive. I've also detected other plant and bird confusion.

An automotive Christmas present (a dash cam for my daughter) led to a borderline demand for me to install it in her VW. That would be the fourth time I've done that in a Mazda, an Audi, and two VWs so I guess I can manage. There were also battery installations and set-up tasks for some toys, dead batteries in house alarm devices, etc. I've also been catching up on some drywall repairs to avoid our snoopy cat from getting trapped someplace. So far, pretty good; these repairs have been related to various unfortunate water leaks. Then there's the sorting, gathering and consolidation of various places in the house that have collected possessions of various family members. As you might expect, this relates to Corvair parts...

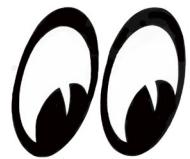
One weather note, we got some mid-teens weather and about an inch of snow. My daughters both washed their cars the day before and I watered my lawn. I know of no better ways to get precipitation to happen, but we could have used more. I have my red Corvair back from the body shop as I've previously noted, and reassembly is done except for the rear grill. That will allow me to focus on an oil leak investigation which I should have done during our warm spell, but there were a lot of distractions with the holidays afoot. The forecast appears to be for warmer weather returning on or about the 29th.

Here is my "gee, this ended up longer than I planned" line. I hope the rest of you are doing things you like and maybe getting the cars ready for spring. As always be safe and have as much fun as you can with your Corvairs and please enjoy the season.

- Mike

Editorial Ramblings

- Eric Schakel



A New Year, with a dab of cold weather to add at least a touch of seasonal feel, and we're all staring at the fresh slate of CE 2026. I've always thought it odd that turning over the 12th calendar page has such an outsized impact on a large swath of humanity. Health club memberships soar, resolutions are dredged and pledged, and Corvair owners begin to think about what they're going to do with their cars when the "Season" opens up.

I'd like to believe I've somehow matured over the years and that I'm no longer influenced by all the New Year hubbub, yet I've found myself out in the shop working on the Ringer for the upcoming RMVR race season. Functional shoulders are super handy tools, and I can once more get up from the floor after scooting around beneath the still-under-construction race car that languished for a year. Building a wiring harness from scratch for a never-to-be-street-driven race vehicle requires a total of 10 wires to the engine, and most of those are for instrument senders (tach, left and right cylinder head temps, oil pressure, oil temp) and those pesky ignition coil things.

The Stinger's fresh engine still sits, cold and quiet, at this point no more than a classic monument to human belligerence. But I'm conjuring up a fixture plate to bench test complete ignition systems from coil to plug outside the car. That should allow me to bypass the voodoo curse, right? After all, 2026 marks the 60th year of the Yenko Stinger!

And, as always, the faithful Maroon Car (formerly Pig) gives my Corvair spirit a lift whenever I need it, always starting and smoothly hauling Linne and me around the neighborhood for a fix of partially-burned hydrocarbons seasoned with a whiff of hot oil...

Okay, another year. Let's do this.

Stay Functional, My Friends!



Rocky Mountain Corsa Meeting Minutes

A brief spontaneous vote of the teeming RMC throng at the Christmas Party unanimously confirmed Rick Beets as the new RMC Treasurer. He's taking over from John Dinsdale, who is vacating the role after many decades of service.

Otherwise, no meeting, no minutes, no harm, no foul!

Whither Goest RMC?

The survey is in. Twenty-three members have returned responses since our informal survey appeared in the October issue of the Denvair News. The results are tabulated in **red print** on the following survey pages by line item. Many thoughtful written notes were also returned, which are difficult to summarize accurately, but I'm going out on a fairly sturdy limb with a short list of initial conclusions:

- 1) Monthly club meetings are preferred;
- 2) The current Friday evening time slot is definitely NOT preferred;
- 3) Meeting location and venue preference lean to "variable", with Saturday morning getting 8 votes;
- 4) There's little desire to change the current list of annual activities;
- 5) The prevailing message seems to be: 'When in doubt, maintain the status quo'.

So, will RMC be leaving Elway Chevy on first Fridays?

That seems to be the direction RMC wants to go, but there are some fairly serious challenges to altering the current meeting status quo. First and foremost, identifying, contacting, and interacting with regularly-shifting meeting locations will require a good deal of consistent administrative attention. We should also be aware that dedicated meeting rooms typically require a 'head count' in advance for their own planning purposes, and RMC will be on the hook for food and beverage charges when attendee count and purchases don't meet pre-established minimums.

Personal notes added by roughly a third of the survey respondents showed a strong yearning for the days when we parked in open lots and chatted around the cars before the meetings. That was a regular thing at Elway (and Burt, originally!) Chevrolet a decade or two back, but times are changing. The Internet and trend to leasing have disrupted showroom sales, and instantaneous communication and AI may be delivering knock-out hits to traditional automotive dealerships soon...

Keep It Going

It was gratifying to see that the "Heck With It!" strategy was pretty much panned. RMC remains a viable club, and we even have a handful of youngsters (which I define as People Under 50 Years!) to replace the fan belts in the future. Let's talk at the next meeting, RMC members, to figure out how to keep it going!

Whither Goest RMC?

Member Survey

As noted in the 7/25 Denvair News, RMC remains a very viable club. Meeting and event attendance, though, has declined notably in recent years. This survey asks a simple question: What changes can RMC make now to remain viable for Corvair Kids and Collectors into the next decade?

Please make your selections, and bring the form to the next RMC meeting. Alternately, select, scan, and email to a Board member. Legible jpeg images are also acceptable. ONE copy per member, please!

!! Please check only ONE box under each heading !!

I. Club Meetings

A. Member Meeting Purpose

- General, both Board & Members (current RMC practice). **12**
- Board meetings only, no Member meetings needed.
- Board and General meetings should be held separately. **11**
- Forget meetings, not needed.

B. Member Meeting frequency

- Monthly **17**
- Bi-Monthly **4**
- Quarterly **2**
- No Regular Meetings

C. Meeting time slot

- Saturday morning **8**
- Saturday afternoon **4**
- Sunday morning
- Sunday afternoon **1**
- Weekday evening _____ (specify day) **3 Fri Eve; 1 2nd Wed; 5 no date**

D. Meeting location (in relation to Denver)

- North (think Northglenn) **1**
- South (think Lone Tree) **3**
- East (think Aurora) **1**
- Denver Central **8**
- Variable **10**

E. Meeting Venue

- Dedicated meeting room **8**
- Eatery **4**
- Variable **9**
- Online only **1**

(Continued on back)

II. Annual Club Activities

A. New Years Brunch	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep it 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Lose it	<input type="checkbox"/> Change it 4
B. Tri-State Tune-Up	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep it 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Lose it 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Change it 1
C. Tri-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep it 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Lose it	<input type="checkbox"/> Change it 1
D. Wilshire Memorial Picnic	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep it 23	<input type="checkbox"/> Lose it	<input type="checkbox"/> Change it
E. Christmas Party	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep it 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Lose it	<input type="checkbox"/> Change it 3
F. New Activity?	3 (one suggested economy run)	(describe)	

III. “Heck With It!” Strategy

If this survey proves inconclusive, shall RMC throw a big party, blow our remaining treasury money, and simply shut down RMC as a formal chapter of CORSA over the next year?

Yes **1** No **16** More detail needed **5**

IV. “Status Quo” Strategy

Or, if this survey proves inconclusive, shall RMC simply continue down the current path, letting time and inertia run their course, and reacting and/or making changes as needed?

Yes **14** No More detail needed **7**

(Please add your comments below. Contact info is optional)

RMC Member Name _____