

The Denvair News

Volume 44, Issue 5

May 2018



School of Mines Car show

Several times each year, the Pikes Peak Corvair Club and Rocky Mountain Corsa plan several events together. Saturday was one of those days which kicked off the beginning of car show season: The E-Days School of Mines Car Show in Golden. Both clubs met early and all drove into the show grounds together. It was a fun and relaxing day sharing stories and admiring each others' cars, as well as checking out all the other cars at the show. This year we had 14 cars attend the show between the two clubs. The weather was clear and crisp and gradually warmed up to be very comfortable. Great music played as everyone wandered around the cars voting for their favorites in various categories.

Some cars of note were Laura Wilshire's 1961 Lakewood wagon. Laura said she was starting a restoration and will write an article about it down the road. Kathy Green also had a Lakewood wagon there. The Lakewood is a fairly rare car these days and it's nice to see the club has a pair of them. Make that three. Kory Levin reported they just purchased a Lakewood for refurbishing. Another noteworthy Corvair was Chris Kimberly's 64 Monza Convertible. Chris has been doing a lot

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Car Culture

It all started innocently enough. On weekends, Linae and I developed the habit of sitting in the open garage door of the workshop to relax. Comfortably seated in folding chairs, we have a morning drink of some sort, with the warm sun on our bodies, but far enough back that our faces are shaded. The preferred snack is peanuts, lightly salted in the shell. We park the trash can between us, crack peanuts open, and chat about life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness in shaded comfort. Peanut shells inevitably litter the concrete floors, but if it's good enough for steak houses, hey, we're good with it.

Last fall, after a happy summer of peanut-crunching, the blustery conditions and reduced sunshine began to threaten our pleasant interludes in the shop. I don't remember which of us suggested it, but one morning we ended up sitting in the poor maroon (marooned, almost!) Corsa, windows up, to evade the biting wind that was lofting our peanut shell debris far and wide. The Corvair is equipped with old but comfortable reclining cloth seats from some long-dead Subaru, and has enough glass to satisfy most aquarium enthusiasts. Facing south, as it usually sits next to

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of work on her car; just repainted it with pin stripes, repaired the top mechanism and had Dave Feasel go through the engine to repair the oil leaks. Her car really shows well.

One of the notable models of other make was a 1946 Chevy woody wagon. It was non restored but in original well maintained condition. This car had been in the family since new. There were many Tri- Five Chevys and several late-sixties Camaros. Some of these had books displaying the impressive amount of work involved in their restoration.

Gary Hoffman drove his 1946 Jeep to the show. One of the award categories was 'Best Off Road Vehicle'. And that award went to Gary for his well restored Jeep! Congratulations!! The Jeep is a beauty and a true classic beating out a pair of monster off roaders.

This year there was a new category; 'Best Represented Club'. And the award went to both the RMC and PPCC for our 14 Corvairs! We should all be very proud of our clubs and how we work to build interest in keeping the hobby alive, and our Corvairs on the road!

I like going out to the School of Mines show every year. I enjoy meeting and talking with the students that wander through the show. They are bright and well grounded. I leave with a good feeling our future is in good hands.



Gary Hoffman's award winning jeep



Chris Kimberly's 64 Monza



Late model (mostly) row



Laura Wilshire's Lakewood wagon

April Club Dues

The Dues due list reflects the local club dues. CORSA notifies the member when national dues are due. John Dinsdale requests that you pay the local club dues to him and pay the national dues to CORSA by check or online. If your name appears on the overdue list and your dues are not paid by the following month you will be dropped from the roster.

Gone	Dexter Norris
Overdue	Paul Jarrett
April	Mark Miller
	Jim Reich
May	Darrell Jackson
	Jeff Golden
	Chad Church
	Jim Depres
	Dusty Dodge
	Garrie Fox
June	Rich Beets
	John Dinsdale
	Bud Duncan
	Patrick Robben
	Jean Olwine
	Joan Wilshire
	Garrie Fox



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the shop, we were surrounded in quiet warmth as the wind blew tree branches and small animals past us. Since the car is not a spit-and-polish show piece, we allowed ourselves the liberty of continuing the peanut consumption, tossing the shells between the seats. Hey, the mice have to eat, too. No, no, a quick whisk with the shop vac actually restores the worn interior to nut-free condition in no time.

After a winter of regular visits to our General Motors motorized gazebo, I can report that the habit has become institutionalized, as perhaps we should be... But seriously, we have easily adjustable ventilation, a multi-input entertainment system, and notable comfort all in one convenient location. Like the Ronco Pocket Fisherman commercial, though: Wait, there's more! Late this morning we were enjoying a picnic in the car (that's more formal than peanuts – we generally have sandwiches, or crackers, cheese, apples. You know, a bit upscale) when a massive black steer came sauntering into our yard through the gate from the creek that runs behind the property. Linae is a very quick study on things like this, and pointed, "That's a cow!" Being equally astute in some rare cases, I responded, "Let's herd it back down through the fence". Before she could respond, I fired up the Corvair and motored straight at the big steer 50 yards away. The cow's reaction was clearly amazement, as it ran in a quick circle, then through the fence opening and down the steep hill to the creek. The Corvair stopped three feet from the fence, and we jumped out and put the actual gate back in place. The cow was crashing through underbrush, and we congratulated ourselves on finding yet another use for our Corvair.

As I write my last Prez column, it's reassuring to report that 53 years after the Corsa was built, it is still possible to find new and useful things to do with it. Corvairs are remarkably versatile – drive yours, picnic in yours, or herd cows. They're good friends!

Eric Schakel, Interim Prez

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34th Tri-State Corvair Meet

Now that it's springtime, the second weekend of June is right around the corner. If you are planning on joining us in beautiful Crested Butte Colorado for the 34th Tri-State presented by Rocky Mountain CORSA, please register soon to make sure you get a room! We will need to get a head count to the caterers by early to mid May, so if you haven't done so, please go to <http://www.rockymountaincorsa.org/2018-tristate-registration/> to register. Also, we will be closing the order form for commemorative shirts on April 25th, so if you want shirts, please place your order at <http://www.rockymountaincorsa.org/2018-tristate-t-shirt-order/> now!

Sign in and welcome gathering at host hotel Friday afternoon and evening.

Saturday's car show will be held along historic Elk Avenue in the town of Crested Butte. Our goal is to have downtown Crested Butte awash on Corvairs so make your plans to bring out your favorite ride and join us and the PPCC cut-a-way Corvair!

The chair lifts will be running for hiking and biking (single ride lift ticket are part of the room package). Gunnison, the scenic Black canyon and Blue Mesa reservoir are a short drive from the hotel. The special \$99 event rate is available up to 3 days before and after the event weekend so bring the family and make it a vacation to remember.

Hotel Info:

The Grand Lodge at Crested Butte Resort sits at the base of the world famous Crested Butte Ski resort. Shops, pubs and other family activities around the hotel are in abundance, and the town of Crested Butte is a short drive or shuttle away for more shopping and eating along historic Elk Ave.

Two room options are available at the special rate. The King Suite has a king sized bed and a queen pull out in the sitting area, and the Emmons Suite which has a king bed and a king sized Murphy bed in the sitting area. All rooms are equipped with a kitchenette, flat panel HDTV's. Each room will also come with a single ride lift ticket for each registered guest per day.

Call 888-443-6715 for reservations. Use the code phrase "**Rocky Mountain CORSA Tri-State Rally**" to get the special rate. Reservation agents are available to guide you with bookings of other activities.

Book online at <http://www.skicb.com/mygroup> use booking code: 10249. (standard room choice is the King Suite. Emmons Suite is also available at the \$99 rate)

When: June 8-10, 2018

Where: Grand Lodge at Crested Butte, 500 Gothic Rd, Mt Crested Butte, CO 81225

Rick Beets Event chair



News you can Use May 2018

Sunday, April 29, at 1:30 PM, Kathy Green is organizing a Corvair Therapy visit at a couple of Assisted Living / Memory Care Center's in Castle Rock weather permitting. If you might be interested in bringing out a car, please drop her a note (karmknecht@msn.com).

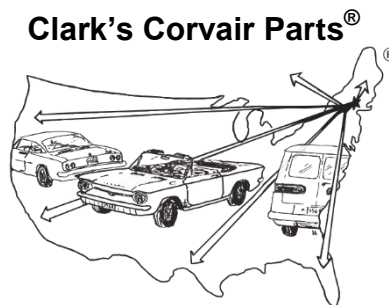
Friday May 4th: ----RMC meeting at Burt/Elway Chevrolet starting at 1900hrs. The program after the meeting show n tell of any cosmetic items you are taking to TRI-STATE in Crested Butte i n June. Included are jewelry/belt buckles/hats/T-shirts/car signs/lapel pins any other decorative items.

.Sunday, May 20th: Tri- State Tune-up at the Schakel spread. This is one of our premium events hosted by Eric and Linae Schakel. Great food and great company. Let's see if we can break the record for the number of RMC Corvairs at one event. The address is 7082 Piute Dr., Sedalia, CO 80135. Check it out on Google maps.

June 8 10 (Fri-Sun): the 2018 TTri-State Meet at Crested Butte, CO. See Rick Beet's update later in this newsletter. You really don't want to miss this event. A great weekend get-together after a scenic drive in the mountains.

Sunday, August 12th: The club has made reservations for the summer Dale Wilshire Memorial Picnic at Bear Creek Lake Park in Lakewood. Keep this date open.

Saturday August 18th: Holy Rollers Charity Car Show in Broomfield. Finally, a car show for the northern folk. It will be held at South Midway park. The inaugural show hosted over 120 cars, hundreds of spectators, and raised nearly \$6000 for the Society of St. Vincent de Pau. See www.holyrollerscarshow.com for more information.



Our catalog lists over 15,000 parts for your Corvair. We carry engine parts, body panels, upholstery and much more! There are 1,000's of reproduced items available, pages of technical information and lots of other helpful hints. Check us out at www.corvair.com or call today to order a copy of our printed catalog. You will quickly see why we are the world's largest supplier of parts and all your other Corvair needs. Clark's - More than Parts!

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Things I don't understand (first of a series),

by Ken Schiffner

Among the many things I don't understand is why the steering wheels on the Corvair (and other steering wheels of that vintage) are so thin. Look at the photo below. Thin! I can understand the need for the larger diameter (to make it easier to turn the wheel without power steering) but what about the thickness? At car shows, folks notice the steering wheel and often ask about the thickness. "Gee, the steering wheel on my _____ SUV is much thicker". Were hands smaller then than now? What gives?



Corvair Steering Wheel

Just look at the wheels of vintage vehicles. The following is a photo of a Model T steering wheel. Thick enough for ya?

From the teens and twenties, the wheels were massive in thickness. Was this perhaps that the wheels were made from laminated wood and strength dictated the thickness? Seems logical to me. But when Ford made the wheels for the Model A (picture below) out of plastic, the wheels were thicker than the wheels of the Corvair era. If I recall correctly, the steering wheel on my Dad's '48 Chevy was thicker than on my '64. Yes, what gives?



Ford Model T Steering Wheel

And the Europeans? I owned a Triumph TR-4. It also had a thinner steering wheel. It didn't feel good so I wrapped the wheel with a sewn-on cover. (That was cheaper than buying leather driving gloves). So, the British were also using thinner steering wheels. Were we following them or them, us? I'm told the Corvair wheels were purposely designed thinner to suit female drivers. Smaller ("dainty") hands. OK...maybe so. But how does one explain the larger thickness steering wheels today? Have ladies hands gotten bigger? I don't think so.

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In pre-power steering years, one might assume that a thicker wheel would provide a better grip. Such a grip would be needed to apply greater turning force. This might explain the thickness of the early, early, steering wheels and the generally greater wheel diameter. But the Corvair had no power steering. If grip was really an issue, why not thicker? Cost? Perhaps.



Ford Model A Steering Wheel

Why the thin steering wheel? More bumps, less thickness?

And then there are gloves. Was it assumed that many drivers wore gloves when driving (at least in the winter) thus more room was needed for a gloved hand to wrap around the wheel? Perhaps. But I doubt it.

Another explanation (or was it just a guess) is that the early Corvairs had a solid steering column (not collapsible) pointed at the driver's chest. This posed a problem. Was the steering wheel therefore made thinner on purpose so the wheel could deform in the event of a collision for driver protection (at least a little bit)?

Where the late model wheels of similar thickness for the same reason ...though in addition the steering column could also collapse? Heck, if the cars are selling why change? Certainly there would be manufacturing savings if the wheel stayed similar and just the horn ring and center was changed for marketing purposes.

Today, we have air bags, power steering, collapsible steering columns, collision warnings and even automatic braking, side scanning lane change detectors, dashboard distracting displays, and texting drivers who are drunk and/or on drugs. Perhaps that is the answer. For today's vehicles, given the above, we simply need to "get a (better) grip".



TR-4 steering wheel (thin)

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Rocky Mountain Corsa (RMC) has been a chartered chapter 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. The Denvair News is now available as a PDF by request to the Editor.

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 Merchandise

Past event t-shirts, RMC name badges and other merchandise are available. Please contact Earl Nelson for a current list of goodies.

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, Corvair Society of America (CORSA) annual dues are \$45.00, which includes a subscription to the Corsa Communique, an award-winning monthly magazine. Combined dues are \$70.00 annually. Checks should be payable to RMC, mailed to: *RMC, c/o John Dinsdale, 3240 Billings St., Aurora, CO 80011-2231*

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.

RMC Officers

President: Eric Schakel	prez@rockymountaincorsa.org	(303) 319-0788
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Rocky Mountain CORSA Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 6, 2018 **Called to Order:** 7:05 pm
Location: Elway Chevrolet **# Present:** 26

Guests, long distance, and new members: John Bigly from Missoula MT 66 beige convertible. Here through May for work.

Standard Business:

Minutes from past meeting: The March minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: End of March balance was \$5,168.41. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Mailbag:

Colorado Flatlanders, 26th Ann. Rod Run in the Park, July 6-8, Pioneer Park in Sterling CO. Flyer displayed up front .
Colonel Crawford HS Athletic Club in Galeon, OH is raffling a 67 Stingray Roadster. Flyer displayed up front at break.

Old Business:

- Tri-State update. The City of Crested Butte has a contract to review and sign for use of the park and possibly for road closure. They charge for a number of services that we don't typically pay for. The contract needs reviewed and signed 45 days ahead. After discussion those present agreed to fees up to \$300, but with an effort to minimize them. Rick Beets reported that there have been a lot of registrations but none yet from CNM. Karen gave him a list of steps we should be taking based on past events. Mike Piper brought a table centerpiece that Karen prepared (she was not present.) They cost \$8.33 ea, and consist of a glass cylinder with battery powered light set and a velum insert with the printed logo content. There was a discussion of car show awards at an estimate of 12 trophies, ~\$200. There was a discussion of signage for the hotel location (ski mountain) as it is more difficult to spot than most hotels and does not have posts or a fence we would normally use for our banner. The possibility of a feather flag was discussed.

New Business:

- Presidential candidates needed. Eric Schakel will be stepping down in May. He will serve as interim president next month and not be available the following month due to other commitments. Please thank Eric for his service, and consider stepping up your leadership. The Schakels are making the change due to retirement and other activities in life after a number of years in the role as well as serving as newsletter editor and Convention Chair. They plan to remain very involved with the club.
- Steve Goodman shared about a Nursing Home visit arranged by Kathy Green. Sunday April 29th will be an event at a Castle Rock at 1:30. Watch for details on the RMC list.
- Melissa Klomp (our newsletter creator with Paul Seyforth) works as a teacher in Bennett, and is planning a Corvair event at a local restaurant there with students on a Sunday. Stay tuned for more details, share your Corvair love with young people!
- RMVR Vintage driving school is on the weekend of April 27-29 at PPIR. Train with professional drivers!
- Chris Kimberley discussed the Florence Merchants Car Show, May 20. Her convertible is the featured car on the flyer.
- Colorado City is restarting their annual car show event, this year on August 19. Flyers available to be picked up from table.

Upcoming Events:

April 14	E Days Car Show, School of Mines
April 29	Event at Nursing Home, details to follow
May 20 (Sun)	Tri-State Tune Up, also Florence Car Show
June 8-10	Tri-State Corvair Meet, Crested Butte
July 6-8	CO Flatlanders Rod Run in the Park, Sterling
July 23-28	CORSA Convention, Pittsburgh
July 28	Longmont Cruise. More details to follow.
August 12	Dale Wilshire Memorial Picnic
August 12	Colorado City Car Show

Break Time:

Refreshments Tonight: Caron Wetter

May: Karen Piper June: Gail Levin July: Linda Duncan August: Linae Schakel

Entertainment: Shared stories about Tri-State events including breakdowns and working together on repairs, relaxing times, twisty roads, beautiful scenery, fun events, exploding tires and side trip explorations. John Dinsdale shared trivia about past locations.

May Entertainment: Trinkets to bring to Tri-State.

50/50 Raffle: Amount to Club: \$29 To Winner: \$29 Winner: Rick Beets

Adjourned: 8:47 pm **Respectfully Submitted by:** Rob Brereton