

# *The Denvair News*

*Volume 46 Issue 11*

*November/December 2020*



Two dandies waiting at the staging area for the Jonni Berkman Drive-by. Steve Goodman's 68 Monza, left and Larry Yoder's 66 Corsa, right

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## Presidents Message for November 2020

Like many of you, I am starting to experience a major case of Pandemic fatigue. But with the recent news that the numbers (I watch the infection rates, and hospitalization rate) are certainly going in the wrong directions as we move into fall and winter. An email from my congressperson the other day included updated info on indoor meetings that are limiting gatherings to 10 people. I also reached out to A.J. over at Elway Chevy the other day about the availability of the meeting room, but I have not heard back from him, so I am taking no news, as bad news. As much as I would love seeing all of you in person, with all that is going on right now, I just don't think a regular Friday meeting at John Elway is in the cards.



So, we will plan on gathering on Zoom at 7pm Friday November 6, 2020. Might be short notice, but if there is a chance the weather would be good enough, I am considering holding the meeting at my place either Saturday or Sunday. Zoom details to follow on the email list along with a handful of other items to be discussed. The floor will be open for nominations for the board of directors, followed by a vote being taken at the Christmas party.

Hopefully, the world can get a handle on the virus outbreaks, and we'll be able to resume some sort of normalcy for meetings after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. I certainly look forward to a better 2021. Only time will tell on that though. In other news, we are anticipating a strong turnout for the annual Christmas Party. Look for information later in this newsletter, or on the website @ [rockymountaincorsa.org](http://rockymountaincorsa.org).

At the last meeting, we discussed the possibility of being able to hold the annual New Year's brunch in Estes Park, and Caron Wetter just got back to me with an update, and the news is good. We are booked for Friday January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at the Dunraven Inn, Estes Park, CO starting at 10:30. We are booked for 40 people at this time and will need a more accurate headcount by mid December. Please RSVP to me, at [prez@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:prez@rockymountaincorsa.org). More details to follow in this newsletter, and online.

It's been a crazy year, but I've managed to get a ton of work done on my ride in preparation for an awesome 2021.

Don't forget we are looking for a volunteer for newsletter editor. Paul is retiring at the end of the year.

One last thing. Please renew your membership to RMC for 2021. The club needs each and everyone's support!

Be well my friends,

Rick

This year has been a bit frustrating, filled with cancellations and postponed meetings. However, in keeping with RMC tradition the club is going ahead to host the year end get-togethers; the Christmas party and the New Year's Brunch in Estes Park.

**The Rocky Mountain Corsa Christmas Party** will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2020 at Littleton Cafe. The location is 1409 West Littleton Blvd, Littleton CO. The party will begin at 4:00 p.m. This location is about a mile from John Elway Chevy where the RMC meetings are normally held. All PPCC members are invited. RMC will reach out with an invitation.

Littleton Cafe will close for regular business at 2:00. They will clean and be ready for our party at 4:00. Other than a small staff, our group will be the only people in the restaurant. This is favorable for keeping safe in a group setting. Out of great respect for each other, we should wear masks other than when eating and drinking. Because this is a private event, we will be free to move about the restaurant to visit with each other. We can also distance as desired with our seating in booths or at tables.

By vote of the attendees of the October RMC meeting, we will order from the big menu. The menu includes everything from breakfast items to pasta to salad to chicken fried steak to Mexican fare to sandwiches and more. We're pretty sure everyone will be really happy with this menu. For Vegan and Gluten Free: Littleton Cafe is a grill-type venue. Their menu may not offer what you may need. The owners want to take good care of us, so let's talk about what they can prepare for you. Please notify Gail about any special menu needs. [gjscorpiostar@gmail.com](mailto:gjscorpiostar@gmail.com).

RMC will treat us to some appetizers and to our first drink! Drinks at Littleton Cafe are two-for-one. Don't forget to get your drink ticket from Kory and Gail when you arrive. Give that ticket to your server for your drink, and it looks like that ticket will get us two drinks this year! Littleton Cafe has a full liquor license. We will get separate checks for our meals. Desserts are available and are super-reasonably priced. Also upon arrival, get your number for the gift exchange. Gifts for exchange should be no more than about \$25.00. Mark the gift for "guys", "gals", or "anyone". The gift exchange is always good for some laughs, so have fun when shopping for the event!

We will have a box for your generous donations to **Toys for Tots**. These gifts are for very young kiddos through teenagers. The Toys for Tots group must be able to see each gift so that they can distribute everything correctly. **This must be a new, packaged, unwrapped gift (s)**. Gail and Kory will deliver the toys to

Toys for Tots Aurora Warehouse. The organization very much appreciates our taking part in this program.

Something different this year is that we have to give a very close head-count to the cafe so that they can arrange for staff and food for a special event. Please RSVP no later than November 23. Please say the number of attendees in your family or party.

We think it is especially great that for this party, we will have the restaurant to ourselves. We hope that all who feel comfortable will come out and have a good time!

Gail Levin

**New Year's Day Brunch in Estes Park** is set for Fri. Jan. 1, 2021 at Dunraven Inn at 1700 Big Thompson Ave. Estes Park, Co . It will be \$20.00 a person for the buffet for the menu of: scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage Links, breakfast potatoes, assorted pastries, fresh fruit. Drinks are; coffee, hot tea, orange juice, and apple juice. There is another menu price of \$28.00 a plate with liquor drinks. The reservation is for 40 and set it for 10:30AM. If we run late we can call 970-586-6409. The club is recommending RSVP for those who plan to attend. Details will be discussed and decided at the November RMC meeting. This is a great venue and a marvelous way to kick off the new year.

Caron Wetter

**RMC club meeting Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>** Rick would like to hold the November meeting at his home (back yard) in Centennial on Saturday morning Nov.7<sup>th</sup> weather permitting. (the weather report predicts sixties). A fall back is planned for zoom on Friday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>. 7:00PM. Stay tuned to RMC-list for further information.

## **Hey, It's time to pay the club dues**

Last year the club converted the dues payment schedule from our member's anniversary month to an inclusive first month of the year. So the 2021 club dues of \$25 are due in month of January for everyone. So please, make out a check to RMC for \$25 and mail it to John Dinsdale, 3240 Billings St., Aurora, CO . We hope this goes better than last year. It was June before all the dues were in. It raised havoc with our roster.

**This month is RMC officer nomination time. Please try to attend the November meeting scheduled for November 6<sup>th</sup> . Offices to be decided are president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary.**

## TRANSMISSION SWAP Submitted By Randy Karl

This article appeared in the October 2020 Dripline. It's well worth reprinting here.

This project started earlier this summer when Dave Feasel acquired eleven Corvairs from a local storage yard. Among the cars was what remained of a 65 CORSA 4 speed. He knew I had been thinking about swapping my PowerGlide for a 4 speed and this swap had been suggested to me long ago by Steve Goodman. After many trips through the Colorado mountain passes behind a two speed PowerGlide, I was sure this is something I wanted to do someday. So, a deal was made and I started planning the work ahead.



From the 68 Assembly Manual, CORSA Tech Guide, Clark's catalog and other sources, I started a list of what I had and what was missing. Turns out the "missing" was more than the "had". I sent out a request to the PPCC group to see who had some of the missing parts they could share. See the Credits below for those who contributed this project.

The 65 had no engine and the tranny was hanging by a chain so I started in July to pull the parts from the donor. First thing I saw was a gapping cutout in the cross member that did not look natural (photo 1). Add one Cross-member to the parts list.

Collecting the 4speed, shift tube, pedals and associated parts were already on my list. Once the transmission was out it went to Rear Engine Specialists for checkout and refurbishment. Within minutes, we (Steve) saw the pinion bearing was bad. The end of the shift rod was bent so the list grew.



You learn a lot about the differences between the years when you do a project like this. To set the stage, I have a 68 Monza PG. The donor is a 65 CORSA 4speed. The 68 has a telescoping steering column, the 65 does not. I knew this but didn't know it affected the shape of the clutch pedal. After Steve explained this to me, I needed to find a 67 or later with a 4speed/telescoping column.

## Transmission Swap continued

With Duane Hayes' help we found a 67 donor in his lot. I got the pedals and cross shaft from this car and a straight shift rod/tube and a clutch cable from another.

Back to the clutch pedal. I didn't quite understand the difference until I saw pictures on Corvair Center. To accommodate the thicker (collapsible) steering column (67 and up), the cross-shaft extends further to the left and the clutch pedal has an opposite bend to the right to bring it back into position.



I also discovered the 67 cross-shaft has itty-bitty snap rings to hold it in position. For anyone who has worked under your dash you can imagine the fun I had removing these.



By August I had gathered or had on order most of the parts need and started cleaning/painting these parts. I tried Dave "Motohead" Watson's solution for the bronze bushings at the ends of the shift tube and found the "Flange Bearings on Amazon (The Hillman Group 58105 Flange Bearing, Bronze 3/4 X 7/8 X 1-1/8 X 3/4-Inch, 4-Pack). The outside diameter is perfect, the inside diameter does need to be opened up some to slide easily over the shift tube.

## Transmission Swap continued

With a few more parts on order and working weekends, I hope to have everything installed by the end of the month. Look for the conclusion (at least part 2) to this project next month.

### Credits:

Dave Feasel: 1965 CORSA 4 speed transmission, crossmember

John Dawson: input shaft

Duane Hayes: shift tube, clutch cable, pedals

Jerry Peevyhouse: bell housing

Steve Goodman: flywheel, trans rebuild

The second part of this article will be reprinted in the January 2021 issue of the Denver News. For those who can not wait to get started on this project the conclusion is available in the November 2020 issue of the Dripline. (Ed.)



### REAR-ENGINE SPECIALISTS

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## Winning: The Racing Life of Paul Newman

Movie Review - Jim Pittman

For all of us who are car enthusiasts (and what member of Corvairs of New Mexico is not?) and for those of us who are really really tired of this COVID pandemic (and you know that all of us are tired of it) it has been a chore to occupy all our time for the last half year staying at home, avoiding crowds, missing out on car shows and suiting up in a mask, a six-foot avoidance bubble and an anxiety level cranked up to 11 whenever we venture out. We drive our cars occasionally (they need to be driven regularly) but we can't go to stores (closed) or restaurants (closed) or to visit friends -- we may get (or give, who knows) the dreaded virus. But we yearn for the good old days of January or February when we had no pandemic worries and our plans for many events for the year 2020 looked promising.

So while the Pandemic months tick along with no end in sight, we while away the time with streamed movies or sports events, or we pretend we are having visits (hey, it's better than nothing) with friends and family members via Skype or Zoom.

So! I want to tell you about a great racing movie that we recently saw courtesy of Netflix. It was a documentary about something that, I am chagrined to admit, I knew nothing about: the auto racing career of Paul Newman.

The last time I was at a car racing event (with Richard Finch and his SAAB racer, Riverside, California) was in 1968 and in the years since then the closest I have been to car racing were club tours to Galles/Kraco Racing and a couple of visits to the Unser Museum in Albuquerque. Somehow I didn't know that movie star Paul Newman was an accomplished race car driver and a successful racing team owner. This included his team finishing second at Le Mans in 1979. For whatever reasons, I just was not paying attention to car racing.



Paul Newman: A Star Who Kept on Racing Until His 80s | Celebrities Racing

In recent years and months we have watched several movies about cars or racing or car people, including: "TUCKER"; "FORD V FERRARI"; "DRIVEN" about John Z DeLorean; "1" about Formula One; "GRAND PRIX" with James Garner; "LE MANS" with Steve McQueen. And most recently, a documentary "WINNING: THE RACING LIFE OF PAUL NEWMAN."

This action-filled movie told us things about Paul Newman that I never would have suspected. His interest in motor racing started with the 1969 movie "WINNING" when he was 44 years old. The documentary emphasized how "P. L. Newman" started at the bottom, learning to race in cars like Datsun 510s and Datsun 1600s. He totally concentrated on racing, learning, practicing and perfecting basic skills and working up to the ultimate, co-driving in the Twenty-Four Hours of Le Mans, perhaps the world's most demanding race. The documentary is full of interviews with racing greats and celebrities such as Mario Andretti, Sam Posey, Bob Bondurant, Willy T Ribbs, Robert Redford and Jay Leno, just to name a few.

For Corvair fans who are interesting in racing, or for movie fans who think of Paul Newman only as a highly respected actor, this documentary is a must-see. I highly recommend it.

# RMC meeting minutes

**Meeting Date:** October 3, 2020      **Called to Order:** 10:17am

**Location:** Rick Beet's shady backyard and via Zoom Meeting, Anywhere, USA    **# Present:** 15 +1 Zoom.

- **Guests, long distance, new members:** Greg Cerza has paid and is now an official member.
- **Standard Business:**
  - Minutes of last meeting: September minutes were approved.
  - Treasury report: The end of September balance was \$5,543.10. Treasurer's report was approved.

**Mailbag:** Nothing, unless you want to work for the post office.

## **Old Business:**

- **Membership**—No new members last month. 2 new CORSA members (not RMC) were reported.
- **Newsletter**— Another great newsletter. Thanks Paul. See the story about parade for Jonni. Paul is retiring from newsletter so an Editor volunteer is needed.
- **Elections**—Nominations at Nov meeting, election at Holiday Party Dec. Pres, Sec, Treas willing to remain. VP was not present to comment.
- **Holiday Party Cory and Gail**—party Dec 5, 4pm, at the Littleton Café, 1409 W Littleton Blvd. The goal is 25-30 people. Invite will be extended to PPCC, which is not holding a Holiday Party. Need count by Nov 23. We voted on whether to have a Mexican or Italian buffet or order off the menu. Ordering from menu won by large margin. Masks are required except when eating. Distancing rules are up to the club. After discussion, consensus is that those present want to hold the gift exchange. Toys for Tots donation box will be available for unwrapped toys.
- **Parade for Jonni**—well attended, well received by residents and director. 20 cars, 30 people.
- **PPCC Fall Tour**—Chris. Met at Rudy's, 10 Corvairs and a chase car. The leaves and weather were great with a few picture stops and meeting the Model A club several times. The Victor Mining Museum opened just for club with demonstrations by volunteers, followed by a picnic in a park.

## **New Business:**

- **RMVR race** was in Pueblo Sept 19-20. Jon Whiteley ran well all weekend. Eric Schakel ran first day, lost fuel pressure or flow on day 2.
- **Rob** asked about the New Year's Day Brunch. Caron will look into holding a New Year's Brunch. Last year's we met at Estes Park Resort.

## **Upcoming events:**

- **Nov meeting location** is Elway Chevrolet Friday 11/6, 7pm and Greg Cerza will bring snacks if we can get access. Plan B is a Zoom meeting.

## **For Sale or Wanted, Recently Purchased, Projects**

- **Rick Beets** discussed troubles replacing a 7127 alternator (Internal regulated later model). The alternator series is not all made the same, with variations of internal, external regulated, 1 wire, etc. It took him 3 to get it right. Others chimed in. There was agreement that this sounds like fodder for a good newsletter article.
- **Greg Cerza** mentioned that there are 3 Corvairs on the upcoming Mecum auction.
- **Charlie Beets** is nearly ready with the white Ford Ranger for sale, belonging to his grandfather.
- **Tony** has a new (rusty, possibly beater) '65 Corsa to autocross. He also wore out a pair of tires due to no rubber in the rear bushings.
- **Garrie Fox** on Zoom indicated he has an old school CO only exhaust analyzer and needs a few more tubes to make it work. We hope they are rubber tubes and not electronic vacuum tubes!
- **Rob Brereton** brought the internal parts of a remote driver's mirror to show they are clearly not correct bits. A plastic mirror "glass", foam rubber and abundant silicone caulk gave it away. He persists in getting it together right. Plastic hub of ball with mounting screw was glued to back of plastic "glass" and the screw loosened leaving a wobbler that could have fallen off.

**50/50 Raffle:** \$55 total was collected. \$27 went to the club and \$28 went to winner Greg Cerza.

**Meeting adjourned** at 11:14am.

**Respectfully submitted** by Rob Brereton

## 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](http://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	<a href="mailto:prez@rockymountaincorsa.org">prez@rockymountaincorsa.org</a>
Vice President:	Michael Timmons	<a href="mailto:veep@rockymountaincorsa.org">veep@rockymountaincorsa.org</a>
Secretary:	Rob Brereton	<a href="mailto:sec@rockymountaincorsa.org">sec@rockymountaincorsa.org</a>
Treasurer:	John Dinsdale	<a href="mailto:treas@rockymountaincorsa.org">treas@rockymountaincorsa.org</a>
Member at large	Ken Schiffner	<a href="mailto:m.a.l@rockymountaincorsa.org">m.a.l@rockymountaincorsa.org</a>
Past president	Ed Halpin	

### **Appointed Chairpersons**

Activities Chair:	Caron Wetter	<a href="mailto:activity@rockymountaincorsa.org">activity@rockymountaincorsa.org</a>
Auditor:	Jonni Berkman	<a href="mailto:auditor@rockymountaincorsa.org">auditor@rockymountaincorsa.org</a>
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