

# The Denver News

February 2024

The Official Publication of Rocky Mountain Corsa ↔ Volume 49, Issue 2



## Corvairs Invade Estes Park On the First Day of 2024!

While “invade” may be a tad overly-dramatic, it's a long-standing tradition for RMC to make the New Year's trek to Estes Park, and a band of Corvair enthusiasts kept the tradition alive to usher in 2024. Who'd a thunk, sixty-four years after the first Corvair model year, and we're still chugging along!

Gail and Kory Levin did the legwork for the club, arranging a tight but comfortable brunch room at the Big Horn Restaurant. Food was off the menu rather than a buffet, but our dedicated young waitress never missed a beat.



*Above, a trio of Corvairs, with two clean 'normal' late models framing the ultra-rare early Corvair Gremlin! No, not really, but Jim Reich's one-off is neatly detailed and certainly draws attention.*

*Below, when your Corvair is not quite up to the trip, do what Doug and Cathy Dumler did: Fire up the classic family Buick Dynaflow for the cruise to Estes Park. Both images courtesy Dave Olwine.*



We counted 27 hardy souls, many of them long-termers with the club, but also two grand-kids being introduced to our hobby.

Good weather, good food, good company, and a great start to 2024 for Rocky Mountain Corsa.

### Do You Have Due Dues?

It's that time of year! For a reasonable turnaround, make your \$25/member check payable to RMC and mail it to:  
**RMC, c/o John Dinsdale, 3240 Billings St., Aurora, CO 80011-2231.** Or, if you're one of those hi-tech rascals who use computer stuff, try the online payment stuff at the RMC Paypal link, [www.rockymountaincorsa.org/dues](http://www.rockymountaincorsa.org/dues).





*Upper left: Plaid flannel is in.*

*Above: Mike is standing much closer to camera, Rick is not quite that short...*

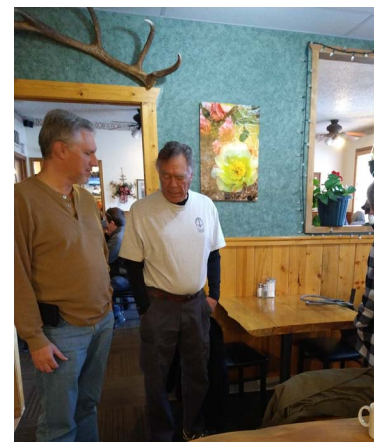
*Above right: Female tech group indoctrinating youngest member in flat six balance dynamics.*

*Left: Chuck and Karen Riblett didn't get the plaid flannel memo, but had a good time anyway.*

*Right: Rob Brereton and Jim Reich discussing appropriate Corvair footwear.*

*Lower left: Corvair apprentice being given a pop quiz on carb synchronization.*

*Lower right: Flannel memo success story! (all images courtesy Gail Levin)*



**2024 New Years Brunch, Where A Good Time Seemed to be Had By All...**

## Rocky Mountain Corsa Boilerplate & Contacts

---

**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 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](http://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

[prez@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:prez@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Vice President: Ken Schiffner

[veep@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:veep@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Secretary: Rob Brereton

[sec@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:sec@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Treasurer: John Dinsdale

[treas@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:treas@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Member At Large: Tony Lawler

[m.a.l@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:m.a.l@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Past President: Rick Beets

[void@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:void@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Activities Chair: **your name here - help us out!**

[activity@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:activity@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Auditor/Trustee: John Dawson

[auditor@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:auditor@rockymountaincorsa.org)

CCCC Rep: Rick Beets

[cccc-rep@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:cccc-rep@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Historian: Steve Goodman

[history@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:history@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Membership Chair: Tony Lawler

[membership@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:membership@rockymountaincorsa.org)

Newsletter Editor: Eric Schakel

[news@rockymountaincorsa.org](mailto:news@rockymountaincorsa.org)

---

## RMC Corvair Happenings!

- Friday, **February 2, 2024** — RMC Meeting at Elway Chevrolet on Broadway, 7:00pm
- Friday, March 1, 2024 — RMC Meeting at Elway Chevrolet on Broadway, 7:00pm
- Sunday, April 28, 2024 — Tri-State Tune-Up at Schakey Acres
- Friday, May 17-19, 2024 — Annual Tri-State Meeting, Las Vegas, New Mexico
- Monday, July 22- 17-25, 2024 — CORSA National Convention, Dayton, Ohio

## President's Letter, February 2024

Hi all!

Still working on my mental transition from PPCC to RMC with some success...

It is interesting how RMC and PPCC are different in terms of "personality". Rex Harrison is the new president of PPCC and he and I talked about how we can bring the two clubs closer together, mostly because the centers of both are not that far apart geographically and our interests in Corvairs makes us similar. Particularly when it's cold as it has been lately, I'm looking for reasons not to lie on the cold garage floor messing with my fuel tank and pilot bushing, so why not ponder other mysteries indoors where it is warmer?

A couple of issues that have our attention and I think concern both clubs are a decrease in membership and fewer participants in outside events as well as club meetings. I've seen the same issues come up within the larger Colorado Collector Car Council meeting minutes. I'm not sure of the answers but recruiting younger members has come up from time to time. I'm sure this and other ideas will come up and we welcome any suggestions. I'm sure we've all noticed that many people we encounter in the world have Corvair experiences or stories and when we attend gatherings or shows it improves our exposure. The challenge is that many of us don't have the time or desire to spend several hours hanging out at shows beyond something like the Tri-State meets. I'm not particularly good about this but if someone is interested in Corvairs or wants to obtain one, send them to the club web page.

A couple of other things I've thought about which are not new, are how do we keep our spouses interested in coming to events, and how do we engage others in our club that don't live close to our meeting place or don't want to drive to a meeting on a Friday night after dark. We have members that live to the north (really in all directions) and I've already spoken with a couple of them about having events to the north or on a weekend day to engage them as well. Not everybody wants to brave Denver traffic at night on a Friday, so daytime events would be welcome.

Despite the cold temperature blast last week, we will be headed into warmer weather pretty soon. My mental calendar has been most of the nasty cold is over by the end of February, then we can prepare for heavy snow in March through April followed by hail season in June and July... Not to be overly pessimistic but the weather will unfortunately impact our event planning. We don't yet have an event coordinator but at the very minimum if we can get events listed in the newsletter and if someone is following the event, please give Eric the information you have. Where possible we can do events with PPCC since we have many dual members and there are events in Colorado Springs and Denver that may overlap.

As I type this I'm also reminded it is dues season so please pay your dues. I don't know that we do a lot of public shaming about not paying dues but we may make an effort to provide persistent reminders. The club dues help us to pay some fees or for refreshments at events, and the dues help us to pay for the PO Box and CORSA national dues, and the occasional donations for good causes.

RMC has had infrequent board meetings, and I'm not sure when the last one was, but we should have one soon to hash out any questions or address any policy issues that might be outstanding. It is a bit late so I must admit I don't have any issues to offer here, but if anybody has an issue or concern, please let me, Ken Schiffner, Rick Beets, Rob Brereton or John Dinsdale know.

I'll put in a plug for Eric to remind everybody to pass along articles and content for the Denvair News. I have articles in mind but it has been weirdly busy for me lately (my standard excuse). If anybody has technical articles, event info or photos to share, historical notes, funny "stuff" for Eric, please pass it along. *[Yup, what he says! - Ed.]*

I have again failed to keep this to one page typed *[No problem, it's what an editor does! - Ed.]*. I'll keep trying. Meanwhile, be safe, stay warm and I'll hope to see you all at the next meeting.

- Mike

# Rocky Mountain CORSA Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** January 5, 2024 **Called to Order:** 7:06 pm **Location:** John Elway Chevrolet, Englewood CO **# Present:** 16 on site, 4 on Zoom  
**Guests, long distance, new members:** None.

## Standard Business:

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes from December meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasury report: The end of December balance and year end balance was \$6,193.95. Treasurer's Report was approved.

**Mailbag:** PO Box Renewal notice. See discussion below.

## Old Business:

- Elections discussion. All positions stayed the same except for Rick passing off the Presidency to Mike Piper. There was to have been an election at the Holiday Party but with Rick ill, elections were deferred to the January meeting. However since there was only one candidate, a handoff was made at the New Year's Brunch.
- Appointed Positions:
  - Eric has agreed to take the Newsletter Editor position. Please send him the content. Thanks, Paul, for preparing a final newsletter.
  - There continues to be an opening for an activities chair.
- Holiday Party was on Dec 16, Black Bear Cafe, 2pm. It was well attended. A large box of toys was collected for Toys for Tots. The gift exchange was fun for all. Thanks Gail and Cory!
- New Years Brunch was at the Bighorn Restaurant in Estes Park at 11am. There was a good turnout, great weather, and great food. Thanks Cory and Gail!
- The Tri-State for 2025 needs planning as soon as possible, as we need to share event details in May. We need a coordinator or committee. Pagosa Springs, Durango, Gunnison, Lake City, and Pueblo were mentioned. Ken Schiffner is willing to participate. He suggests taking trips and seeing and discussing locations. It was discussed that the National Convention in May 19-23 in Santa Maria CA, so we should avoid competing with that. A number of members are planning to attend the National Convention.

## New Business:

- There was discussion of the value of continuing to maintain the PO Box, which currently costs \$210 per year. We do not receive a lot of mail at that address. However, the website lists this address. Further, it is useful to have a physical address for the Tri-State in 2025. The alternative is to give a member's address as the club address. Given our financial position, the cost is not a burden. A vote was held and those present voted to maintain the PO Box.
- No snacks tonight. Rick will cover February and Dale has March.
- Dues are now due for 2024. 10 or so members have paid on Paypal so far and a number of members paid with cash or check tonight, no total is available. Cost is \$25 by check or cash or \$26 on Paypal.
- Events Suggestion Discussion:
  - The Golden Super Cruise is held first Saturdays officially March to September and unofficially year-round, so it is unofficially tomorrow.
  - The Forney Museum has a "See the USA in a Chevrolet" display until Jan 29. A possible group visit was discussed planned.
  - A visit to the Cussler Museum was discussed. They are closed until May, with no schedule posted at this time.
  - The Tri-State Tune-Up dates suggested by the Schakels was April 21 or 28. The group selected April 28.
  - School of Mines Engineering Days (E-Days) is April 11-14, with the car show likely on Sat 4/13.
  - Jim Reich suggested a northern trip to his place and possibly John Drages. In the past this included a stop at Cracker Barrel.
  - Doug Dumler from Ft Collins also suggested a northern event. One suggestion is the Tebo Car Collection, in Boulder County.
  - Laura Wilshire has attempted to arrange outings in the past and may be willing to do so again if a decent turnout is assured.

## Activities:

- Feb 2 (Fri) Monthly Meeting, 7pm, Elway Chevrolet

## For Sale or Wanted, Recently Purchased, Projects

- Ken asked what happened with Dylan's clutch which chattered when hot. John Dawson noted that Dylan said he used the Vega clutch. Dylan was not present so no update.
- John Dawson said he sold his '66 coupe to a friend, and it is waiting to go into body shop. John spent time working out leaks before selling. He now has John Green's wagon and has added halogen headlights and wiring updates and replaced seatbelts with period correct and changed trans fluid. John also has Joe White's '62 Sedan, with a transmission problem, so he is working on it.
- Mike Piper had a persistent squeak in front end of red convertible, so he, pulled the tank and found questions related to the placement of the anti-squeak strips. On the other end, the pilot bushing is wearing, and though there is more to take apart it may be the easier job. He ordered Clark's tach module to replace non-working tach with improved modern circuit board and will change the bulbs at same time.
- John Green had previously shared a question on '68 weatherstripping in rubber on the list. Dale used them from JC Whitney but they are discontinued. They are like a squeegee on the outside.
- Rick Beets bought Ed's 62 Monza 900 wagon. Interior is out, has Subaru Impreza seats. Needs to raise rear height, as car sits low at rear.

**50/50 Raffle:** To Club: \$28; to Winner: \$27 Winner: Chris Kimberley

**Meeting adjourned 8:26 pm**

**Respectfully by Rob Brereton**

## Tri-State History

- Steve Goodman

When the 1976 CORSA national convention location was announced it was not necessarily the place of choice for some members and clubs. It was Philadelphia, PA in July 1976. Not only a long hot drive across Kansas and places east but July 1976 was a birthday year, the bi-centennial celebration of the USA and Philadelphia was a center point of much of that. That meant costs would be greater for food, lodging, etc.

Rocky Mountain Corsa (RMC), Corvairs of New Mexico (CNM), and Bonneville Corvair Club (BCC) in Salt Lake City got together and decided to do a mini-convention for us and anyone else who would rather be in the Rocky Mountain high country in July instead of traveling across country. It was dubbed "Tri-State Corvair meet". When the insurance request and article for the COMMUNIQUE were submitted to CORSA the three clubs received a letter of admonishment from CORSA but they did honor the insurance. (Sylvan Zuecher kept the CNM copy and hopefully it is still in the club archives.)

The location was Montrose, Colorado, which was fairly equal distance between the three clubs. It was the typical three day weekend: Drive in on Friday, events and evening banquet Saturday, followed by breakfast and goodbyes to new found friends and before heading home Sunday. The event that year was a drive to Ouray Falls and show 'n shine on Saturday, with some sightseeing adventures for all. Now, remember please, this was intended to be a *one time* event. Attendance was good, all had fun, and lots of Corvairs filled the streets of Montrose.

Now let's go forward to 1985 and the CORSA convention in Houston. CNM members had hatched a plan to resurrect the event and pass hosting each year between the three states in the same manner as the Fan Belt Toss in Palm Springs. Leroy Rogers and a couple other CNM members caught up with me in Houston and outlined the plan and I kinda volunteered RMC without asking for club approval. CNM host city choice again was Montrose due to equal driving times. Luckily, when I outlined the CNM plan at the next RMC meeting everyone thought it was good so no lynching occurred.

The time of year selected was late May due to the fact the tourist season hadn't begun so the town was fairly empty and the businesses looked forward to having 100 or more visitors. Sadly, the Bonneville club showed little interest, BUT Pikes Peak Corvair Club (PPCC) in Colorado Springs had formed and there were numerous PPCC members in attendance. The name 'Tri-State' however was retained on hopes SLC would come back into the group.

For 1987 RMC took a turn, in Ouray, CO, but again no interest from the Bonneville club. PPCC didn't hide however, and in 1988 stepped into line and the three clubs have rotated since. While Bonneville members have occasionally attended, they have never gotten enough interest within their club to host a year.

The locations have always typically been in Southern Colorado or northern New Mexico. Obviously, this keeps driving times fairly equal and supports small mountain towns, plus offering scenery and attractions for those who rarely see mountains. The towns not only get the dollars, but local residents get to see the Corvairs, too.

Once the event was held in Grand Junction as a tempting gesture to Bonneville members, and once in the past it was in Albuquerque due to a large car event taking place at the same time. To view every location, check out the CNM website. Jim Pittman has kept track of every event and has records of attendance, down to years and models of all Corvairs registered. Thank you, Jim, for your dedication!

Through the years Corvairs have regularly shown up from Kansas, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Arizona, Iowa, and even California and Washington state. One other insider note: Montrose is a host city tradition since the beginning in years ending with 6. (1976, 1986, 1996, 2006, 2006, 2016)

The original vision of CNM members such as Sylvan Zuecher/Bill Reider/Francis Boydston was to have a very relaxed weekend with minimal events and lots of time to look at the Corvairs and look at mountain scenery and visit with each other and make new friends plus chat with the local residents about their

Corvair experiences too because every town has had Corvairs 'back in the day'.

Things went slightly awry in 2020 with a shutdown of any and everything social. It was CNM's turn to host and by the end of 2019 and very early in 2020 everything was in place. CNM found a hotel in the north end of Albuquerque then the bottom fell out. It was decided to move the event to May 2021 and all was again getting in order when the date had to be changed again due to problems with the host hotel being able to operate. The date was moved to October and the weekend was very good and surprisingly well attended considering what all of us as a country had endured.

It was back to RMC to host 2022 and May worked although weather/road conditions were not the best since the host city was Glenwood Springs. High in the mountains showed everyone that winter-time was not quite over, but even though it snowed a bit on Friday, Saturday's show 'n shine enjoyed very nice weather, and road conditions were good on Sunday for homeward bound drivers. I can remember snow during the very first Ouray event, and cold temps and wind in Alamosa several years ago. But other than those outliers, Tri-State events have experienced very good weather.

Last year (2023) PPCC took us back to Salida and everything about the weekend was good for both Corvairs and the town. Attendance was healthy, with Utah represented, along with Wyoming and Kansas.

Now, in 2024, CNM will host the Tri-State meet in Las Vegas, NM, May 17-19. Hopefully the weather will cooperate, and there are even early rumors that the Bonneville Club will be represented. The first time in Las Vegas NM was a good time, and 2024 promises to be another great Tri-State event.

Hope to see you all in Las Vegas, New Mexico!

## Editorial Ramblings

- Eric Schakel

The last time I put together an issue of The Denvair News was January of 2010. In the 14 years since, Paul Seyforth has diligently kept the pages flowing, and kept **The Denvair News** relevant. He also handles the annual Wilshire Picnic details. I believe a toast is in order, and I'm hoisting my 2% milk and having a couple of Chips Ahoy cookies in his honor. Awesome performance, and a true RMC hero!

Another RMC hero is Dale Nielsen. He's the 'man behind the curtain' who makes [www.rockymountain-corsa.org](http://www.rockymountain-corsa.org) run. He's the guy who repairs the clunky CORSA mail lists, a technology developed when we were using 300 baud modems. He's the guy who literally produces an electronic monthly Denvair News, with event images and captions, lists of For Sale/Wanted stuff, calendar of stuff coming, and more. A Corvair person might say he's managing an all-purpose electronic salvage yard, making sure none of the really good stuff gets tossed. For Dale's toast, I believe a margarita is in order, followed by chips with salsa taquera.

We also can't ignore the efforts of Gail and Kory Levin, our unofficial

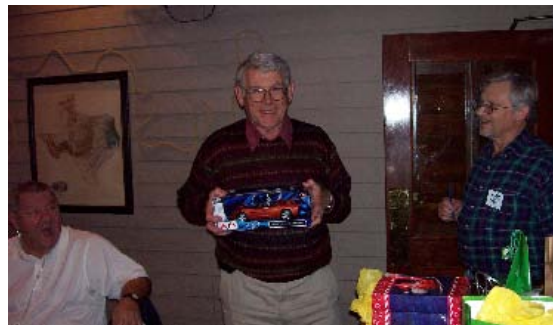
Holiday Activity Chair couple. It takes a lot of work to pull these parties off, and I'm back on the 2% milk and cookies for this toast.

There are many others, of course, who keep RMC's belt in the pulleys, and I'd use up the whole edition trying to list them all. Steve Goodman has been an anchor of RMC since the beginning, and remembers things that happened two decades before he was born. John Dinsdale has been Treasurer since the Eisenhower administration, and John Dawson has held every position in the club three or four times. And we can't slight Rob Brereton, our excellent scribe, and his Corvair family.

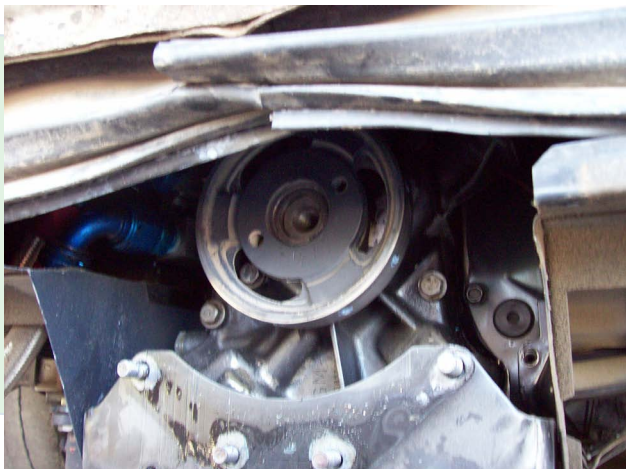
And we must honor Rick Beets, who is likely toasting Mike Piper for relieving him as President. Each deserves a classic hat tip, with a sweep of the brim across the toes, but don't try that without adult supervision...

Many others who were instrumental in RMC's long history are no longer with us, or are no longer able to participate due to age, infirmity, or both. This unique band of brethren and sistren has kept RMC going for almost 50 years. Those of us who are reading this today should honor them and smile, and make a pledge to see how long we can keep the flat sixes running!

## Old Faces, New Roles, Many Thanks!



*Paul Seyforth and I go way back! Here, he happily but briefly possesses Corvette roadster gift. Paul later un-endeared himself to Your Humble New Editor by scarfing up nice Corvair book collection (scarfed up from Jim Rushton earlier?). He accepted the Editor role to allow me to serve as Chair of the 2011 National Convention.*



### Tech Corner

*For a quick horsepower boost to your high performance Corvair engine, simply remove the outer ring of the harmonic balancer to reduce the diameter. This slows the fan, gaining 18 HP at 5200 RPM! Note that belt retention is somewhat more challenging, but 18 horsepower is worth it, right?*

*- Izzy Guiffe*

## Where Are We Headed, Anyhow?

I'm guess I'm a veteran of RMC these days, having joined in late summer of 1999. Linae and I had just acquired Yenko Stinger #066 from a gentleman in Chicago to do some vintage road racing, a transaction completed in July of 1999.

RMC was a perfect fit for a late-40s guy who had driven and rebuilt Corvairs through high school in the late '60s. Most of the club members were plus or minus a dozen years, age-wise, not retired, and we had a great time doing things, playing with the old cars, reliving the past, and dreaming of glorious future adventures. We did a National Convention together, we've taken some awesome road trips, and the core of RMC has hung together like the congealed oil on our engine tin. Many of us literally raised our families together.

And we still enjoy our RMC gatherings and friends.

But these days, RMC is seeing veterans move on without new member to take their places. Rocky Mountain Vintage Racing is experiencing the same attrition. It's not a trend, it's a simple reality: Cars, old or new, are not the broad spectrum draw they were to the Boomer generation.

Many years ago, in Indiana where I grew up, one of the customers on my rural newspaper delivery

route had a bunch of old wooden wagons rotting in his yard. He was an old farmer (probably 60, maybe 65 at the time - I would have been 11 or 12), and I always wondered why they hadn't been chopped up for firewood.

Imagine my surprise one summer Saturday as I was delivering the afternoon edition, and saw horses harnessed to some of the wagons, hay bales piled high on them, men and women dressed in 1800s clothing, all riding around the adjacent field. A big banner tied to the front fence announced "Hoosier Studebaker Buckboard Club".

A quick search of the Internet will show you that there's still interest in old wagons from the turn of the previous century. I suspect that, in another 30 years, there will still be a Corvair Society of some sort, but it won't have many 'original owners' there to celebrate the cars that were special to them.

Over the years, I've come to realize that the Corvair was the draw that brought us all together in RMC, but it's the human interactions and friendships that keep us coming back. We can't turn back time, friends, but we can enjoy what we each have left of it.

- Eric

