
The Denver News

August 2026

The Official Publication of Rocky Mountain Corsa ↔ Volume 51, Issue 8

Hot Times + Deluge!

Slim edition this month... Several Corvairs made it to the CCCC Show our man Rick Beets was promoting, and enjoyed a hot morning on the tarmac. And that's about all I have from Corvairdom...

Down in Sedalia, our attention was captured by a small but incredibly challenging wildfire. The Penley Fire cause has not yet been named, but the steep rocky terrain of the old Penley Ranch was impossible to access with trucks, and only the most fit of the fire-fighters could manage the 25+ minute hike to the site in the blazing heat.

The only effective mechanized extinguisher was a Douglas County fire/rescue helicopter. The chopper was refilled near the clubhouse in our Indian Creek neighborhood, less than a quarter of a mile from our home. Over a two-day period, it made an estimated 160 trips and dropped 300 gallons at a crack on the wind-encouraged flames. The soundtrack, as the cop-ter passed 50' above our house, was almost straight out of the classic movie *Apocalypse Now*.

Even with the helicopter operations, hotspots remained until Mother Nature took charge: On Wednesday strong winds brought dark clouds and pounding rain for nearly two hours.



Black ellipse highlights chopper loaded with water and heading for dense smoke within the Red ellipse, where flames that seemingly erupted from nowhere captivated those of us near the 2-mile evacuation radius for several days.

The rain transformed the drought conditions to flooding, literally. Ditches overflowed across the roads, canopies and awnings were shredded, and Mother Nature reminded us once again that we humans aren't really in charge here.

As I wrap this sparse newsletter up today, the Penley Fire has been officially decreed "Extinguished", and Colorado summer has returned. Whew!

SATURDAY, August 1, 1:30pm

RMC Meeting - Let's do it again! Meeting room opens at 12:30, come a tad early for lunch and Corvairsation before the 'official' meeting starts.

Blue Bonnet Restaurant, 457 South Broadway



Rocky Mountain Corsa Official BS & 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 Rick Beets, 6181 S. Rosewood Dr., Centennial, CO 80121-2464**. Dues may also be paid online via PayPal at this link: www.rockymountaincorsa.org/dues

Monthly Meeting - Now at Blue Bonnet Restaurant!

RMC monthly meetings are now held the 1st Saturday of each month at the Blue Bonnet Restaurant, 457 S. Broadway in South Denver.

RMC Officers & Appointees

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RMC Corvair Happenings!

- **Saturday, August 1, 1:30 pm — RMC meeting @ Blue Bonnet Restaurant**
Why not come around 12:30 to enjoy a relaxed lunch and check out the Corvairs?
- **Sunday, August 16, around 11:00 am — Wilshire Memorial Picnic @ Bear Creek Lake Park**
Mountain View Shelter
- Whenever, 24/7 — Check www.rockymountaincorsa.org for the latest and greatest!

President's Corner

- Mike Piper

Howdy all!

This month my procrastination skills are still in force although this time not as deliberate. Eric did need to ping me to give me a deadline which is fine. I am still thrashing with trying to get my email straightened out. I'm diligently unsubscribing and blocking emails but there remains quite a flood to the point where it is hard to find the most important stuff. If I miss a week, it could be several hundred semi-useless emails. Please use mapiper3@gmail.com.

In the last couple of weeks, I managed to demonstrate activities/behaviors that are not necessarily healthy, although not deliberate. My first lesson was walking across a concrete parking lot (gray) with a series of parling blocks (gray) defining a drive through lane. I was operating cane-free but getting around OK. The lesson is to pay attention to where you are walking instead of hunting for your keys and messing with your name badge. My PSA is if you fall, don't reach forward to block your fall because you may injure your hands, wrists elbows or shoulders. Protect your head and see if you can adjust a bit to pick your landing. Try to relax. I tucked my arms in to protect my ribs, I kept my head up, and I did peek to see where I was going to land. There is more, but my injuries were minor, I cracked the screen on my Fitbit watch. This happened after the monthly PPCC meeting.

My second foolish action was at the Rocky Mountain Metro Airport Car show. Jerry Peevyhouse and John Green were there with their Corvairs, Rick Beets was there in his Spyder helping with parking, and John Dawson was there without a Corvair helping shuttle people from the parking area to the entrance. I had my red Corsa with the top down. We all knew it would be hot, but I didn't appreciate how hot. It seemed the turnout was less than in years past, but it was still pretty good. I was not getting around very well so I didn't personally see much. I think the High temp on the news was 103 but according to an email John Green received from Dick Thompson it was 122 degrees on the airport tarmac. Jerry and John wisely had shades on their chairs. I did not and I could not hide in my car. I drank a couple of liters of water, but I got to the point where I was likely suffering from heat exhaustion. Fortunately, I did not have symptoms of heat stroke. In retrospect, since I was sitting in my comfy chair most of the time, I eliminated my back as 50% of my sweating and cooling surface. My surface to volume ratio is not ideal to start with, and when I was tolerating high temperatures in the past I was walking and standing, not sitting in a chair. My PSA here is to be sure to drink plenty of water, if you stop sweating that is dangerous so drink more water. Bring shade if the facility doesn't have any and be sure you are not covered up to where you can't sweat to cool. Also be very aware that as we age our ability to deal with heat and cold is reduced.

There were two things in my calendar after our July meeting. One was a Cars & Coffee at Weathertech. There were four Corvairs including Steve's Amante. I believe Steve passed along a brief narrative and photos to Dale for the web page. Rick Beets arranged a Dust & Shine event at the Forney Museum. I'll invite Rick to talk about that at the club meeting on August 1 at 1:30 PM at the Blue Bonnet (First club meeting hint).

Future events in my Calendar are the Lafayette Cars & Coffee on August 1 (About 06:00-10:00) before the RMC club meeting. There will also be the Golden Super Cruise on August 1. The Holy Rollers car show in Broomfield is on August 8, I believe from 08:00-14:00. It is on the grass. There will be a Weathertech Cars & Coffee on August 9. The Wilshire Picnic is on August 16 at Bear Creek Lake Park. I have the time from 11:00-15:00 although I don't know that we typically stay that long. I don't have the PPCC events in my calendar, but RMC members are typically welcome even if not dual members but we may need to drive a little. Their monthly meeting is before the Wilshire Picnic, so I'll invite them to the Picnic.

Second club meeting hint is the meeting will be at 1:30 PM at the Blue Bonnet Restaurant, 457 S. Broadway. I should be able to get there after the Lafayette Cars & Coffee early enough to actually get the Zoom meeting set up properly...

Again, I've managed to fill up a page, and much is not necessarily Corvair related but hopefully some of my PSA stuff will serve as reminders to save someone else some grief. I hope the rest of you are doing things you like and are ready for the next Corvair event, whatever it might be, and you are able to avoid the heat and fires that are ongoing. As always be safe and have as much fun as you can with your Corvairs and please enjoy the season.

Mike

Rocky Mountain Corsa Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 11, 2026

Called to Order: 1:39 pm

Location: Meeting Room at Blue Bonnet, 457 South Broadway, Denver **# Present:** 17 in person + 2 on Zoom (did not work well)

Guests, long distance, new members:

- New member Brad Hall has a '61 Lakewood. Brad was a member a few years ago and dropped but back rejoined today.

Standard Business:

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes from the May meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: End of June balance was \$8,511.49. Treasurer's Report was approved.

Mailbag: Nothing.

Old Business:

- Membership: See above for new member today!
- We need to continue our work on the bylaws, there has been no progress in several months due to busy schedules.

New Business:

- Issue with sec@rockymountaincorsa.org address reported. Dale looking into it. Test all club emails to see if they come through.
- Thanks, Eric, for another 2 great newsletters without a lot of input.
- There was the dog in T-shirt story, in relation to not taking enough pictures: Mike's daughter had a 50 lb dog in Tri-State T-shirt. Sadly, no picture was taken.
- Next meeting, by popular choice of those present, will be at the same Blue Bonnet location at 1:30 on August 1.
- CCCC report, Dust and Shine at Forney, July 18 at 9am. 6 or 7 people are scheduled, could use a few more, prefer 10-12, or even up to 15. Many go to lunch afterward. CCCC Rocky Mountain Car Show is at 10am on July 25th at Rocky Mountain Metro airport in Jeffco. Volunteers are still needed also for parking, golf cart drivers moving people around, and directing people for 2 hr shift. Free entry and parking.
- Web page comments? Thanks to Dale for keeping the website content up.
- Facebook? Tony reported posting several things there. Not a lot of traffic.
- August 16, Wilshire Picnic. Same picnic shelter location at Bear Creek Lake Park. The list of who brings what was discussed last time, and Mike will resurrect it and make sure we don't double up. Also if overcrowding closes entry, we will get in because we have a site reserved.
- It was noted that there is a bit of crossover between Corvair people and train people. Kathy noted that the Union Pacific Big Boy locomotive will be in Strasburg on 7/27, 3:45 to 4:15 as part of it's cross country tour.
- Several other PPCC Events were discussed, and RMC members are welcome. 8/8, National Museum of WWII followed by Airplane Restaurant for Lunch. 9/12 is the Cruise above the Clouds. 10/3 is the Cruisin OCC (Old Colorado City) Car show. 12/5 is their holiday party.
- Rick Beets noted that we have a lot of money in the bank. He asked those present for thoughts on updated club shirts. The proposal is that a basic t-shirt design would be free, but some nicer options would have incremental costs, like a polo shirt. Dale moved, Diane seconded. Steve noted March 3, 1973 was founding day. Steve suggested a competition for shirt design. Project will be investigated.

Activities:

- July 18 (Sat) Dust and Shine at Forney
- July 25 (Sat) CCCC Car Show (see above)
- Aug 1 (Sat) Meeting, Blue Bonnet, 1:30
- Aug 8 (Sat) Holy Rollers show in Broomfield, PPCC National Museum of WWII and Lunch
- Aug 16 (Sun) Wilshire Picnic, 11 am, Bear Creek Lake Park
- Aug 22 (Sat) PPCC trip to Rambler Ranch, 10am

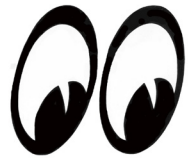
For Sale or Wanted, Recently Purchased, Projects

- Eric, discovered 4 sets of 140 heads. Can make a deal. One set race heads but junky machining,
- Tony putting electric AC into 2 Corvairs, Uses a huge 120A alternator. Eric asked that he take lots of pictures for an article.
- Mike reported the red car stalling, took 3 starts to get into garage. Left carb had strange float adjustment that was corrected and OK now.
- It was pointed out that Mike won the late open trophy at the Tri-State.
- John Dawson's 66 coupe is still for sale and the 61 Lakewood is back on the road, now with high stall torque converter, rebuilt PG, new axles bearings, wheel cylinders, backing plates, front wheel cylinders, parking brake cable, wiring harness, it is now doing a whole lot better. Now needs to bring idle down.
- Tony mentioned the Tri-State rally, and asked if we should do one for our next Tri-State? Consensus was yes, it was enjoyed by many.
- Steve's Gremlins. For Weathertek show, he took '68 and turn signals worked fine, but 4-way flashers started when he entered shop driveway. New switch doesn't work, old one works but works too much. Still messing with it. Shee-Mar is located in Longmont and makes turn signal switches and cancellers. It may or may not be the problem. Rick has a mess of early steering column parts from Larry Schubert's collection, sorted and ready to pick through.
- Rob shared the story of his completion of this year's Bike MS weekend raising funds to fight Multiple Sclerosis with Team Coneheads. He wore his cone helmet to demonstrate. The club voted to donate \$100 to the National MS Society, and your secretary thanks you all for this and your individual donations!

50/50 Raffle: \$35 to club, \$35 to winner. Winner: Rob Brereton

Meeting adjourned 2:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Rob Brereton



It's Boom'in HOT...

Our heat wave has not subsided as I write this, and we've also recently enjoyed just enough moisture from the sky added to the mix to apply the descriptive term "Muggy" to the climate shenanigans now and then. It plays havoc with many of our recreational plans by encouraging us to remain cooed in our cool spaces.

The unusual summer heat impacts everyone, but plays particular havoc with those of us who've been Corvairing since they were new in Chevrolet showrooms (which, these days, seems to be the majority of RMC members!). The hot sun and warm atmosphere makes us a tad loathe to venture out in our classics.

There are exceptions, of course... Last Saturday morning I had brunch with Larry Yoder, Steve Goodman, Dale Nielsen, and Jon Whiteley. Harlan Colburn even showed up, and we were all magically transported back to our middle years for an hour or two. Four of the brunch companions had even arrived in Corvairs, while I maintained sketchy Chevy Corv- honors in a two-seater with water cooling. And air conditioning.

A Corvair ride in the countryside on a 90°F day with windows down isn't really too bad. The incoming air doesn't beat the passengers like a modern car with windows down. And while maintaining a steady speed on a cruise, the vent windows and footwell louvers wash driver and passenger with a comfortable volume of outside air. With no hot front engine and exhaust pipes shedding heat into the passenger compartment, it's remarkably comfy.

It's a different ride, though, in Denver-area traffic. With typical 3-minute signal delays at almost every intersection, it quickly becomes a perspiration festival, and you fantasize about annihilating the guy in the giant diesel bro-dozer pickup truck that somehow manages to pour hot, reeking exhaust into the Corvair's open driver window at each stop.

In short, after an oddly temperate start, we've settled into an excellent hot gripe season, very memorable for the string of triple-digit temps recorded. But all hot gripes must come to an end, and as far as I'm concerned, that end can't come too soon. On the other hand, I don't want to push that too much, as it would really come back to haunt me if the first autumn freeze of 2026 arrived with snow-fall in September.

So, I reckon we'd best live the dream while we can. And, please; **Stay Functional, My Friends!**

Above Ramblings were written prior to our fire/flood drama, and I sincerely apologize for lack of Corvair content in this issue... We'll do a key fob update next month unless a Corvair burns my shop to the ground, or some other interesting event occurs. In the meantime, please give Dave Olwine a thumbs-up for being the first and only to respond with Fob Stuff using the News@RMC address!

