

# CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / March 2026—Volume 52—Number 3—Issue 606



## Enchanted Corvairs Newsletter

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / March 2026—Volume 52—Number 3—Issue 606

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting: Saturday, March 7, 2026 10:00 AM

Palo Duro Senior Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110

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On the Cover: Dave Huntoon's car next to falling letters at meeting

From Concept to Car (lower right)

# CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

From the  
Greg A  
Nelson



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## CNM March 2026 Newsletter Articles—Greg Nelson

### TriState

It is just around the corner, and I finally reserved my room. The room block includes Thursday night, but I told the clerk just Friday and Saturday night. I will travel on Friday morning in a convoy with Dave Huntoon and anyone else departing on Friday.

### Jackets

The new club jackets have arrived, and I will bring them to the March meeting. Please bring cash to the meeting. I have an Excel spreadsheet with the cost of each jacket.

### NMCCC

I have family from Texas visiting so I missed the meeting, but the big topic will be the upcoming Museum Car Show on May 17th. Since the date does not conflict with Tri-State, the club, and any Corvair owner, will once again make a concerted effort to display our vehicles together. The car show does not officially start until 10:00am but if you want a spot, I recommend getting there between 7:00am-8:00am.

### Trash Day Start Up

March starts off the season once again. It will be interesting to see if mother nature whips up another wind or snowstorm like past years. But if she does not then we will meet at the bottom in the cider Bar parking lot and work at the lower end of our mile. After cleaning up we will meet at the Roots Farm Café. I am also inclined to visit the café if we must cancel because of the weather conditions.

### Girl Scout Cookies

It is that time of year again and I will have a fresh batch of cookies at the meeting. I am bringing four varieties, so they are not all Thin Mints. Fortunately, Thin Mints come in two sealed sleeves so, if necessary, we can get everyone their favorite cookie.

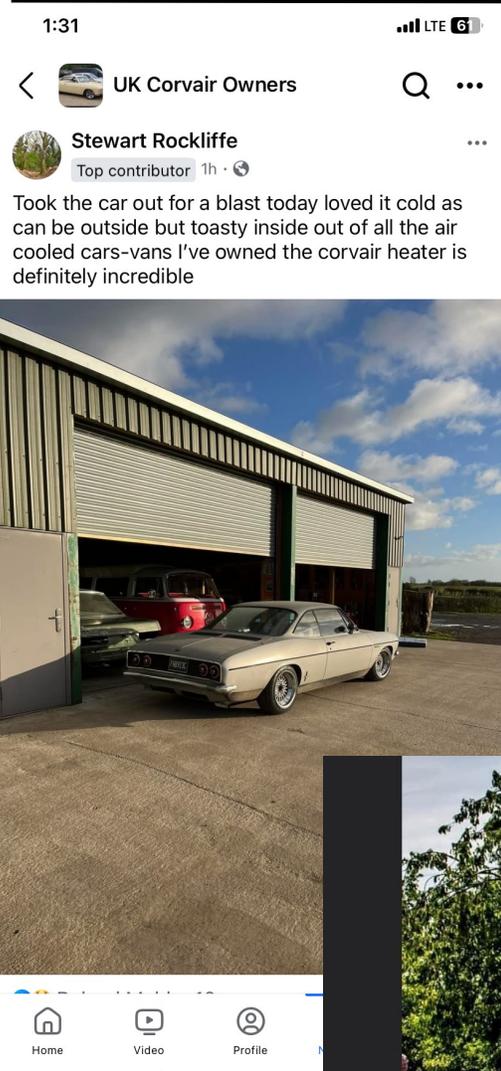
*Continued on page 3*

Report for CNM Treasury						
Account for February 2026						
Date	Check	Amount	Payee	Description	Balance	Running Balance
1-Feb-26						\$6,316.00
1-Feb-26	Check	25.00	Shimp, Curtis	- 1 year membership exp 2-27	25.00	\$6,341.00

Continued from Page 2— President's Letter

## The Search Continues

I am still searching for a white '63 with a red interior and manual transmission. I have come across two '64s, but it has to be a '63 just like my parents owned from 1963-1967.



**CORVAIR in the UK—  
David Huntoon**

This particular 1965 CORSA was last owned by CNM'er Bill Reider. When Bill passed away, it was sold to a Corvair enthusiast in England. He also passed and another enthusiast, Stewart Rockcliffe, picked up the torch and elevated the car to a daily driver. Here are some incredible shots of the car today.



# **CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO**

**CNM Meeting—February 7, 2026—David Huntoon**

**Meeting started 10:13 AM, Palo Duro Community Center, Pres Greg Treasurer Jim reports \$6316.00 current.**

**VP Robert mentioned NM Car Council has resumed after their holiday recess. Their newsletter has a new author this year. Joel Sanchez from the NM Car & Truck Club will be taking over the website.**

**Greg mentioned he will be out of town for our April meeting. VP Robert will be in charge that meeting.**

**March 14th will be our first RT 66 cleanup date. It is the 2nd weekend in March. Same day as the CNM Anniversary Lunch in Madrid.**

**The annual Tri-State in Montrose in June is fast approaching so start making your plans. Likely will be a caravan on Thursday and another Friday. Meet up locations to be determined as the dates approach. One last point about the Tri-State, reservations must be made with a phone call to the host hotel, *not online*. James Richardson stated the hotel doesn't know about the Tri-State – need to clarify to make sure you get the discount. There will be a caravan to Montrose on Thursday. You can coordinate with Tarmo and Jim from Santa Fe to confirm.**

**Club jackets are done and ready to be picked up. Call Greg for more info.**

**1969 Corvair sold for \$68,200.00 – Car from Colorado**

**1968 Corvair for sale in NM – Green Automatic – Yvonne Oselio is selling her parents 1968 Gold Corvair 140 HP with an automatic. The car has 30,000 miles. She is selling the car for \$11,500.00 and photos of the car can be found on her Facebook page. Her phone is 505-507-3334. David Huntoon has done work on the car.**

**Ray and Lilly Gonzales have sold their 4-door Corvair to Will Dee, a local person. We will attempt to introduce them to the club.**

**Lupe's car going to Robert Weinberg's place for brakes**

**Tarmo states John Lawrence has a new Clark's pump and bought a Porsche Speedster replica kit car.**

**Tarmo is working on his MC – damage due to mice eating wire harness.**

**Robert Gold – Bought Spyder convertible – will change to automatic with a 140 HP – from Dave Langlois**

**David Huntoon states that Corvair enthusiast, Charlie Friend began his Corvair passion in Alamogordo. He liked Corvairs with V8s – He raced one at 175 mph and had a blowout - impressive crash to walk away from. – This is an incredible story.**

**A luncheon after the meeting will be a few blocks away on San Mateo at the Grill.**

**CLUB EVENTS**

<b><u>TYPE</u></b>	<b><u>DATE</u></b>	<b><u>TIME</u></b>	<b><u>EVENT</u></b>
Club Matters	Saturday, March 7,	10:00 AM	Members' Meeting--1st Saturday, 10am: Palo Duro Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Alb, NM 87110
<b><i>Social</i></b>	Saturday, March 7,	12:00 PM	<b><i>Coffee/Lunch following Meeting</i></b> at nearby: To be Announced at Meeting
Club Matters	Saturday, March 14,	8:30 AM	TRASH-PICK UP on Route 66; meet at Cider Bar; 340-364 NM-33; frontage parking lot
<b><i>Social</i></b>	Saturday, March 14,	12:30 PM	<b>CNM Anniversary Luncheon</b> , Mine Shaft Tavern, Madrid, North14; meet at SHELL gas station parking lot in Sandia Park; corner North 14 & Frost Rd
Club Matters	Wednesday, March 18,	7:00 PM	Board Meeting--3rd Wednesday via Zoom, 7pm
Club Matters	Wednesday, March 25,	6:30 PM	Car Council Meeting – 4th Wednesday, 6:30 PM; Manzano Mesa Senior Center, 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
Club Matters	Friday, March 27,		Deadline for Newsletter -4th Friday
Club Matters	Saturday, April 11,	8:30 AM	TRASH-PICK UP on Route 66; meet at Cider Bar; 340-364 NM-33; frontage parking lot
<b><i>Social</i></b>	Saturday, April 18,	TBD	Origami Park – Group trip North Tijeras; South Santa Fe
Club Matters	Saturday, May 9,	8:30 AM	TRASH-PICK UP on Route 66; meet at Cider Bar; 340-364 NM-33; frontage parking lot
Club Matters	Saturday, June 13,	8:30 AM	TRASH-PICK UP on Route 66; meet at Cider Bar; 340-364 NM-33; frontage parking lot
<b><i>Social</i></b>	Sunday, June 21,	~ 9am	Fathers' Day Car Show in Edgewood; meet at Wal-Mart; caravan ~ 9am
<b><i>Tri-State</i></b>	June 5-7		<b>50th Anniversary Tri-State</b> , June 5-7, in beautiful Montrose, CO <a href="https://pikespeakcorvair.org/2026-tri-state-final/">https://pikespeakcorvair.org/2026-tri-state-final/</a>
<b><i>Social</i></b>	Sunday, September 20,	TBD	State Fair Car Show
<b><i>Social</i></b>	Sunday, October 11,	TBD	Balloon Fiesta Car Show



# Help us keep our club mile marker clean!



Join us for any of the  
following dates:

Saturday, March 14

Saturday, April 11

Saturday, May 9

Saturday, June 13

Let's meet at Cider Bar frontage parking lot;  
340-364 NM-33; at 8:30 AM



# ***CNM Anniversary Lunch***

***Saturday, March 14  
Mine Shaft Tavern***

***Madrid, North 14***



***Meet at SHELL gas station parking lot in  
Sandia Park at 12:30 pm; corner North 14  
& Frost Rd; We will dine in tavern;  
Music by FELIX Y LOS TRIO @2pm Blues  
and Cumbia in the Cantina upstairs***

# CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

## TRI-STATE HISTORY 2026

By Steve Goodman

It has been my privilege many times through the years to write about the history of the Tri-state Corvair Meet. The plot always remains the same but I try to change the script a little bit. Please read through this until the end for a 'plot thickens' in the last couple of paragraphs.

In 1975 CORSA selected Philadelphia, Penn for the 1976 Convention. Month of choice was July. Obviously, there was more going on that month in Philadelphia. The 200th Birthday of the USA and planned in the same area and month of course. Not only a long-hot drive across the middle of the country but crowded and high prices too.

Several members of Corvairs of New Mexico (CNM) including Francis Boydston/Bill Reider/Sylvan Zuecher and Leroy Rogers developed a plan for a 'mini-convention' between CNM and Rocky Mountain Corsa in Denver (RMC) and Bonneville Corvair Club in Salt Lake City Utah. It was named Tri-state Corvair Meet and both RMC and Bonneville club agreed to the weekend. Montrose, Colorado was chosen for host city due to equal distance between the three cities and May 1976 was agreed upon. NOTE this was intended as a one-time event.

When CNM applied to CORSA for event insurance they received a letter of admonishment from the national club but CORSA did acknowledge the insurance policy. I have always understood that CNM retained their copy of that letter.

The weekend was very typical with a Corvair display on Saturday morning which was very good and attracted many local viewers who had their own Corvair stories to share. Afternoon was a small gymkhana plus wandering through town and driving to scenic views of the mountain area. Saturday night was banquet and awards for show and shine and Sunday morning everyone ate breakfast and said goodbye to their new found friends from the other clubs and returned home.

NOW let's go to 1985 and the CORSA convention in Houston, Texas. Attending CNM members found me and they told me about their idea to start the Tri-state again as a yearly meet and pass the hosting duty to each club in the same vein as the Fan Belt Toss in Palm Springs. I sort of volunteered RMC on the spot and luckily when I outlined the plan at the next RMC club meeting there was no firing squad. Bonneville showed interest too as well as the recently formed club in Colorado Springs aptly named Pikes Peak Corvair Club (PPCC)

For 1986 CNM again selected Montrose and again in late May. In May the mountain towns are not getting tourists yet so having 100 or more folks in town and spending money

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was good for the city. Attendance in 1986 was again good and even a couple from other states who read about the weekend in the COMMUNIQUE. Unfortunately, the Bonneville club didn't have a large number but the total attendee and Corvair count was made bigger by the group from PPCC.

The next year was again difficult for Bonneville to instill interest and RMC hosted the 1987 meet in Ouray. PPCC took a turn in 1988 and Bonneville had several members present too. It had been decided to keep the 'Tri' name and continue as three states.

The real premise of the weekend as envisioned by Francis Boydston and others was a low-key weekend of visiting with our Corvair friends and also the population of the host town and allowing them to vote for the Corvair they thought was the nicest PLUS see new areas of the scenic high country and visit places many had never been before. Through the years the gathering has attracted Corvair owners from Kansas/Nebraska/Wyoming/Iowa/Oklahoma/Arizona/California and Washington State.

The other attraction has been the many host towns chosen mostly located in the mountains of the southern half of Colorado or the northern half of New Mexico. Obviously, that is the vacation attraction for those in the states above too. To see every location in order look at the CNM website, Jim Pittman has kept track of every event plus records of attendance and even years and models of Corvairs registered. Thank you, Jim for your dedication.

When 1996 loomed Montrose was again chosen as an 'Anniversary Year' location and has continued to be the city of choice for years ending with 6. Now it is 2026 and again Montrose is the host city June 5-7.

One part of the Tri-State meet that has changed however is a new energy and interest by the Bonneville Corvair Club. Yes, many of the years in the past several members would attend the weekend but next year the HOST CLUB will be the Bonneville Corvair Club. The preparations are well underway and I know everyone is anxious to show support to the Utah club.

So, get your room reservations and entry forms done and give your host club Pikes Peak Corvair Club all of the support possible this coming June and then try to have some patience waiting for a new host club with maybe some new ideas and certainly some different scenery for us to have fun in our Corvairs in 2027.

SEE YOU THERE IN A CORVAIR

# Dues Due

send your Dues to:  
**CNM Treasurer**  
**Jim Arellanes**  
**57 Granny Trail**  
**Tijeras, NM 87059**

**Makes Checks Payable to: CNM or Corvairs of New Mexico**

*Schedule of Dues:* CNM: 12 months = \$25.00 or 26 months = \$50.00 - CORSA: 12 months = \$45.00 or 26 months = \$90.00

If you want to pay CNM and CORSA to Treasurer: Both memberships 12 months = \$70.00 or 26 months = \$140.00

CNM Renewal Date	Status	Last Name	First Name
May-24	DUE	Domzalski	Mark
July-24	DUE	Piatt	Lloyd
November-24	DUE	Kitts	Maggie
December-24	DUE	Johnson	Alex

CNM Renewal Date	Status	Last Name	First Name
January-25	DUE	Wiker	Anne
November-25	DUE	Battaile	Corbett
February-26	DUE	McDuffie	Russ

## License Plate Renewal—Steve Gongora

My plate was up for renewal and I've had a Route 66 Plate for many years. The renewal fee was going to be \$85.00. I was meaning to replace it with a Prestige Plate. The cost for the custom plate was \$17.00. Now the "Super Van" has a plate that matches the model.



**Happy Birthday**

- Linda Cochran March 9
- Russ McDuffie March 19
- Lupe Arellanes March 21



**Mike & Karen Piper March 8**

# **CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO**

## **CNM Board Meeting— February 18, 2026—Steve Gongora**

Greg Nelson, Robert Gold, David Huntoon, Steve Gongora and Jim Arellanes logged on for a Board Meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Jim & Lupe's Corvair is having transmission issues. David Huntoon has an extra governor to install to take care of the shifting problems. The new part would cost over \$200.00. It will be installed on a warmer day.

Greg Nelson ordered the jackets and they are in. He will bring them to the next meeting.

Jim received a check from Curtis Shimp for dues.

Greg will bring his annual purchase of Girl Scout Cookies to the next meeting.

Pat Hall has been released from the hospital from a broken hip. He is convalescing at home.

Robert and Greg are planning on taking a trip to Bosque Farms for a visit.

Registration for the Tri-State are open in Montrose. Please check your email to convey our discount with Corvairs of New Mexico. You can order a T-Shirt in advance.

The Museum Car show is set for May 17<sup>th</sup>. There is no conflict with Tri-State and Robert Gold hopes to have many Corvairs for the show. Please get your cars ready!!

David Huntoon was playing golf and talked with a fellow golfer and it turns out this gentleman was the person who piloted the helicopter for our 1996 CORSA International convention photo shoot at the K-Mart parking lot. It was such a memorable event with over 40 Corvairs lining up for a shot for the CORSA Communique. The cars were lined up to spell the word CORSA.

Our CNM Anniversary Luncheon will be held at the Mine Shaft in Madrid, NM at 1:00 PM. We will caravan from the Shell Gas Station at the round-a-bout at 12:30 PM. The Route 66 Trash pick up is scheduled for the morning of the Anniversary Luncheon.

Yvonne Oselio is selling her parents 1968 Gold Corvair 140 HP with and automatic. The car has 30,000 miles. She is selling the car for \$11,500.00 and photos of the car can be found on her Facebook page. Her phone is 505-507-3334. David Huntoon has done work on the car.

Ray and Lilly Gonzales have sold their 4-door Corvair to a local person. We will attempt to introduce them to the club.

Steve Gongora's Corvan is currently getting the stereo upgrade. Brian Romero is doing the install. Brian has been working on cars for many years and is very innovative. He created a subwoofer in the "Super Van" on the left rear quarter panel. What amazing creativity. Brian can be reached at 505-987-3860

David is currently replacing the clutch cable on his Corvair Convertible

Jim mentioned a car show at the Cultural Center on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **What's With These Old Cars, Anyway? - Jim Pittman**

When I was 13 or 14 we often went to country church events or to family funerals. While the adults were doing their socializing we boys would gather in the parking area and check out the cars. We'd peer through the windows, comparing the features of the various cars to those of our family car. We formed opinions about the cars. For example, we believed car speedometers. If a car's speedometer went to 100, then that car would actually do a hundred! It had to be faster than a car with a speedometer that only went to eighty. Again: Chevrolets were better than Fords because they had that "Body by Fisher" with the little cranks for the side vent windows. But our family Ford had to be better than a Chevrolet because it had a V-8 and the Chevy only had a dinky six. And wow, that Oldsmobile was unreachable luxury because it had a mystical Hydra-Matic! Maybe someday we could own a sleek Studebaker with its streamlined styling and overdrive transmission. Lincolns, Cadillacs, Buicks and La Salles were beyond our dreams -- we did not know anyone rich enough to own cars like that.

Why am I thinking about being a kid in a parking lot? Because I attended our recent Corvair meeting and saw a modern equivalent. And because I remember all those meetings of years gone by when we'd gather around the more exotic Corvairs in the parking lot and swap technical lore, opinions and exaggerations about them.

On Saturday I arrived early at the meeting. Inside I found president Greg busy setting up his video presentation of Corvairs recently sold at auction -- during the meeting we would be gawking at the pictures and prices of these automotive jewels. I went back outside to wait for Corvairs to show up. I had in mind that when the first one arrived, I'd find a location for a good cover photo that I could send to Steve for the newsletter.

The first Corvair to arrive was the 1963 turquoise convertible driven by David Huntoon. I hurried over before he could stop and get out. "Hey Dave! Let's move your car to a good spot for a cover photo! Maybe over there by the library next to that sculpture." David was happy to oblige. His car has been photographed many times before, and it is always admired any time it shows up. As he was moving the Corvair, into the parking lot came a big black car. It was big! It was a convertible. It was an older car. Sylvan would have known it but I did not. It instantly begged for attention.

Now, when I say "an older car" let me point out that Corvairs are not "old" cars! They are just perfect cars that happened to be designed and built in the middle of the Twentieth Century. Many of us drove them as our favorite -- and often only -- cars for far longer than General Motors ever intended. My Corvair-only career extended from May 1966 to March 1990 and I continued to drive my Corvairs for some twenty years after that. Many of our club members took pride in their Corvair-daily-drivers year after year. And many club members to this day preserve, restore and drive these beloved 1960s relics of the Golden Era of American cars.

So on a Saturday morning, here we were, a few car guys in a parking lot full of modern SUVs and sedans and pickups. And what did we gather around to look at? A 1941 Cadillac. Robert Weinberg was soon telling us special details about this car. David Huntoon was soon asking about unusual design features. We admired the huge flathead V-8 and the exotic instrument panel. David asked, why

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was the exhaust manifold at the top of the engine, not the bottom? Robert said he didn't know, but it sure contributed to vapor lock problems. My tech contribution was to ask what kind of plastic was used in 1941 cars? I thought it was nylon -- Robert said maybe bake-lite.

The last time I attended the car council's August picnic at Oak Flat I was happy to drive my classic 1996 Miata. David arrived in his 2006 Rousch Mustang. Both of these are surely interesting cars. But we all gathered around and discussed the "old car" features of the Clements family's beautifully preserved 1948 Mercury. And I thought about all the times at other meetings when the older cars were the centers of attention. Do we like them because of their history? In 1941 a Cadillac was the "standard of the world" or so we heard. Do we like their old-technology simplicity? Or maybe their Roaring Twenties styling? Whatever it is, we all turn into 14-year-old boys when we are at a car gathering, and the older and more exotic the cars, the better.

I'm just glad I could be present at another gathering of "car guys" where we could try to imagine what it must have been like when a classic "old car" was truly one of the kings of the road.

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***This information is from Kathy Green from the Pikes Peak Corvair Club***



Happy Anniversary Tri-State! This year we all have the opportunity to attend a very special Tri-State meet. This year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Tri-State event in 1976!

Please don't forget to register for the [event](#) and get your [hotel reservations](#) in ASAP. You can register online or print out a registration form and send it with your check to the address on the form. When making hotel reservations, use the local line and ask for the front desk ((970) 765-0122).

### **Important deadlines:**

**April 30: Last Day for Hotel Reservations**

**April 19: Last Day for Tee-Shirt Orders**

**May 3: Last Day for Banquet Reservations**

All information is available on our [website](#). If you have questions, please don't hesitate to [contact us](#). We're looking forward to a fabulous event and can't do it without YOU!

**Photos from February 7, 2026 CNM Meeting**

**By Jim Pittman**

