

# CORVAIRS of NEW MEXICO

Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / January 2025—Volume 51—Number 1—Issue 592



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Corvair Society of America—CORSA—Chapter 871 / January 2025—Volume 51—Number 1—Issue 592

**Next Meeting: Regular Meeting: Saturday, January 4, 2024 10:00 AM**

**Palo Duro Senior Center, 8221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110**

***This Month:***

President's Letter.....	Greg Nelson
Treasurer's Report.....	Steve Gongora
Lupe's Tri-State Photos.....	Lupe Arellanes
Meeting Notes.....	David Huntoon
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Calendar of Events.....	Board of Directors
Dues Due.....	Membership Committee
CNM Christmas Dinner..	Maggie Kitts & Lupe Arellanes
CNM Christmas Photos.....	Steve Gongora
Meeting Photos.....	Steve Gongora
Corvair Seat - 61 Loadside.....	Tarmo Sutt
A Christmas Story.....	Kay Sutt
Steve Gongora's 1500th Spin Class.....	JCC



**On the Cover: Tarmo gets a new seat for his Loadside (top)**

**Map of our JANUARY 2025 Meeting Location (right)**



President - Greg Nelson	505-400-8670	<a href="mailto:fesedu@comcast.net">fesedu@comcast.net</a>
Vice-Pres - Robert Gold	505-856-6993	<a href="mailto:beisbol30@msn.com">beisbol30@msn.com</a>
Secretary - David Huntoon	505-281-9616	<a href="mailto:corvair66@aol.com">corvair66@aol.com</a>
Treasurer - Steve Gongora	505-220-7401	<a href="mailto:stevegongora@msn.com">stevegongora@msn.com</a>
Membership - Lupe Arellanes	505-515-9897	<a href="mailto:guadalupe.arellanes@icloud.com">guadalupe.arellanes@icloud.com</a>
Programs - Brenda Stickler	505-344-2039	<a href="mailto:tounce66@msn.com">tounce66@msn.com</a>
Newsletter - Steve Gongora	505-220-7401	<a href="mailto:stevegongora@msn.com">stevegongora@msn.com</a>
Webmaster - Steve Gongora	505-220-7401	<a href="mailto:stevegongora@msn.com">stevegongora@msn.com</a>

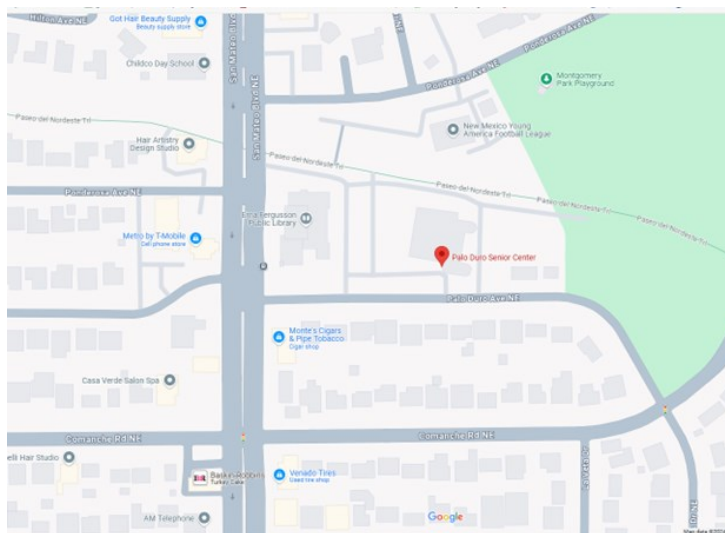
**CNM January 2025 Newsletter Articles—Greg Nelson**

New Year Greetings

I'm looking forward to another year as CNM's president. We have several social events planned and hope that you all can attend a few of them. The Los Luceros trip in October has become one of the highlights. When the car shows season starts up, I encourage anyone showing a Corvair to please take photos and submit them for a mention in the newsletter. Conversely if you attend a car show, even one out of state, please send us Corvair pictures. If you need help with a maintenance issue, please bring it up at the meeting and we'll get ya some assistance.

Palo Duro Senior Center

Don't forget that CNM will now be meeting at the **Palo Duro Senior Center**. The meeting starts at the usual time, **10:00am**, and the Center opens at 9:00am on Saturday. We encourage everyone to get a membership card. It's only \$20/year and grants entry to all the city's senior and community centers.



**January 4, 2025**  
**CNM Meeting at Palo Duro Senior Center**  
**5521 Palo Duro Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110**

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Report for CNM Treasury

Account for December 2024

Date	Check	Amount	Payee	Description	Balance	Running Bal.
1-Dec-24						\$5,561.25
20-Dec-24	5950	25.00	Lawrence, John - 1 year Membership CNM		25.00	\$5,586.25
20-Dec-24	5920	20.00	Lawrence, John - Hat Fund Donation		20.00	\$5,606.25
20-Dec-24	cash	10.00	Kitts, Maggie & Bob - Hat Fund Donation		10.00	\$5,616.25
20-Dec-24	cash	20.00	Berbig, Tony - Hat Fund Donation by David Huntoon		20.00	\$5,636.25
27-Dec-27	chk	70.00	Cochran, Dick - CNM & CORSA - 1 year membership exp 11-25		70.00	\$5,706.25
27-Dec-24	2612	-45.00	CORSA - Dick Cochran - membership 1 year		-45.00	\$5,661.25

*Continued from Page 2— President’s Letter*

2025 Tri-State

The Rocky Mountain CORSA sponsored Tri-State in Trinidad Colorado is just 5 months away. Registration is up and running on the following website:

<https://www.rockymountaincorsa.org/upcomingevents/rmc-tri-state/payment-options/>  
I’ve registered for the banquet and a large T-shirt. Looking forward to it.

Corvairs for Sale

As mentioned in last month’s newsletter there are two Corvairs for sale in Albuquerque: The Kitts’ ’61 Greenbrier and the Bristols ’64 convertible. Check out the website for contact information. The prices are very reasonable.

\$\$\$ Corvair

Speaking of Corvairs for sale Steve Gongora (via John McMahan’s email) alerted us to this beautiful ’61 Rampside valued at \$106,600. Crikey!! That’s got to be a record. But it is a beauty. [Daniel Schmitt and Co.]



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**Lupe Arellanes—Tri-State 2024—May 17, 18, and 19 in Las Vegas, NM**

Lupe has made available her photos from the Tri-State earlier this year. The links are below and you can find them on the Tri-State page on the CNM website or the Google page.

<https://www.corvair.org/chapters/chapter871/tri-state.html>

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oOfUTL45iZUZrEQVFFALQTrotMbNvfWg?usp=sharing>

Below are a few examples of the shots.



**CNM Meeting – December 7, 2024—Dave Huntoon**

CNM Treasury - \$5561.25

Anne Wiker, Brenda Stickler, Pat Hall, Lupe Arellanes, Bob & Maggie Kitts, Rober Gold, John Lawrence, Tarmo Sutt, Rita and Steve Gongora, James Richardson, Ray & Lilly Gonzales, David Huntoon, Greg Nelson

Thanking Lupe for her help recruiting more members and bringing back others from the past

John Lawrence will be getting his membership for CNM

Next meeting at Palo Duro Senior Center – center opens at 9:00 AM / meeting at 10:00 AM

Car Council – talked about Museum Car Show & Car Appreciation Day & Annual Picnic—Publicity, etc.

Route 66 Visitor’s Center – top of nine-mile hill. – The neon Spruce Lodge Sign in front of the facility doesn’t identify with the building as a Welcome Center.

Lupe – RSVP – Christmas Dinner – Cracker Barrel – 20 people so far

Brenda – Activities – needs help – Wants the members to rate events to determine which events to organize

CORSA – what happened to our Las Vegas event not being posted. Who do we contact for about publicity?

Tri-State Breakfast meeting with Presidents

Who can handle the Tri-States? This refers to clubs and locations.

Tarmo will pick up Loadside seat from House of Covers—Another step completed for restoration.

Tarmo brought a Rampside & Yenko replica model cars.

There was mention of an Evolution of Wheels – private museum open by special invitation.

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**No Board Meeting for December 2024**

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***Birthdays in January***

**Troy Ward 1-6**

**Steve Gongora 1-11**

**Lillian Shortle 1-26**

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**Tri-State 2025 in Trinidad, Colorado—The link is below or go to the CNM website and go to the Tri-State page:**

<https://www.rockymountaincorsa.org/upcomingevents/rmc-tri-state/>

Greg Nelson our CNM president has already made his reservation. Information will be on the Tri-State link. Trinidad is a great historic town with a lot to offer and you get to swap stories with all of your Corvair friends and family.

***It is going to be a great time!!!***



**JANUARY 2025**

**FEBRUARY 2025**

**MARCH 2025**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

- Saturday, Jan 4, 2025                      10:00 AM                      **Meeting—Palo Duro Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Alb, NM 87110**
- Wednesday, Jan 15, 2025                7:00 PM                      Board Meeting—3rd Wednesday via Zoom
- Wednesday, Jan 22, 2025                7:00 PM                      Car Council Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
- Friday, Jan 24, 2025                      9:00 PM                      Deadline for Newsletter
- Monday, Jan 27, 2025                      \*\*\*\*\*                      Target completion of newsletter
- Saturday, Feb 1, 2025                      10:00 AM                      **Meeting—Palo Duro Center, 5221 Palo Duro Ave NE, Alb, NM 87110**
- Wednesday, Feb 19, 2025                7:00 PM                      Board Meeting—3rd Wednesday via Zoom
- Friday, Feb 21, 2025                      9:00 PM                      Deadline for Newsletter
- Monday, Feb 24, 2025                      \*\*\*\*\*                      Target completion of newsletter
- Wednesday, Feb 26, 2025                7:00 PM                      Car Council Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
- Saturday, March 1, 2025                    10:00 AM                      **Meeting—Highland Senior Center , 131 Monroe St NE, Alb. NM 87108**
- Wednesday, March 12, 2025            7:00 PM                      Board Meeting—3rd Wednesday via Zoom
- Wednesday, March 26, 2025            7:00 PM                      Car Council Meeting – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
Manzano Mesa Senior Center , 501 Elizabeth St SE, Alb, NM 87123
- Friday, March 28, 2025                    9:00 PM                      Deadline for Newsletter
- Monday, March 31, 2025                    \*\*\*\*\*                      Target completion of newsletter



# Dues Due

send your Dues to:  
**CNM Treasurer**  
**Steve Gongora**  
8419 Palo Duro Ave NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87111-3238

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

**Due in November**

Bob & Maggie Kitts inactive as of Dec 2024

**Due in December**

David Huntoon inactive as of Jan 2025

Alex Johnson inactive as of Jan 2025

**Due in January**

Ann Wiker inactive as of Feb 2025

Lilian Shortle inactive as of Feb 2025

**Due in February**

Tony & Diane Lawler inactive as of March 2025

Curtis Shimp inactive as of March 2025

**Inactive:**

Lloyd Piatt inactive as of August 2024

Steve Johnson - inactive as of July 2024

David Pierre - inactive as of July 2024

Fred Riggs II - inactive as of July 2024

Terry Hall - inactive as of May 2024

Mark & Elizabeth Domzalski - inactive as of June 2024

John & Tracy McMahan - inactive as of February 2024

Phil Finch - inactive as of March 2024

Clifton & Katie Trujillo as of Sept 2023

*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 Christmas Holiday Dinner

### December 14, 2024 – Maggie Kitts

It was noisy. It was crowded. It was delicious. The 2024 Corvair Holiday gathering was at the Cracker Barrel on I-25. It was attended by approximately 25 members. There were flowers for birthday girls – (Maggie Kitts and Kathy Blair)!! There were “Happy Gifts” between friends. Happy New Year!!

### Lupe Arellanes

Chrome and Steel around the table, stories **Glow** of restoration's ebb and **Flow**. Each member brings a treasured **Tale** of fins and chrome that never **Fail**.

The Corvairs gleams outside while memories of Sunday drives are shared with laughs and knowing **Nods** from those who've cleaned old timing **Rods**. Some speak of finds in dusty **Barns**, while others spin their road trip **Yarns**. Of carburetors finally **Fixed** and paint jobs perfectly **Remixed**. The holiday feast before us **Spread** recalls the miles we've all **Ahead**. United by our passion **Pure** for classics that will long **Endure**. Our engines rest on winter **Nights**, as we share warmth and festive **Lights**. Each gathering makes stories **Grow** like whitewalls in fresh-fallen **Snow**.



Photos from our CNM Christmas Dinner on December 14, 2024

Photos provided by Steve Gongora



Photos from our CNM Meeting on December 7, 2024

Photos provided by Steve Gongora





## The '61 Loadside Restoration is Coming Along

by Tarmo Sutt

I've been reporting, sporadically, about the continuing restoration story of my '61 Loadside. This month I have really good news to report! Not only is the engine running, but the truck now has a beautiful new bench seat, thanks to the work of the (temporarily) un-retired Steve Gongora!

The seat that came with the truck was in terrible condition because it had been sitting outside with all the windows broken out of the vehicle for over 20 years. Pat Hall helped me find a good "builder" seat frame replacement, and I asked Steve where I could get the seat redone since he has retired and sold his shop. Steve, who has been a good friend for over 45 years, smiled and said he would "un-retire" long enough to build a new seat for the truck, similar to the one he put in his award-winning truck that he sold a few years ago.

I was thrilled! We spent some time choosing colors, and I delivered the seat frame from Pat. Steve spent many hours in his old shop designing and constructing the seat, while I continued sandblasting the metal of the floor and figuring out how to approach repairing the rusted-out places. I'm making progress.

Well, Steve sent me a text a couple of weeks ago with a picture of my new seat, saying it was now finished and ready to be picked up.

All I can say is, "Wow!" It is beautiful, and up to the always-high standard he held to during the years he operated House of Covers.

How do you say thanks to a good friend for doing so much work for you, inspiring you to continue working on the restoration of this classic?

Thank you, Steve! You've still "got it!"



## A Christmas Story

by Kay Sutt

Almost 30 years ago I was searching for a birthday gift for Tarmo. He said he didn't need anything that year, so what was I to do?

I had seen Christmas ornaments of old cars in the Hallmark store, and that seemed like something for the man who "doesn't need anything." The ornaments were due to be released just the day before his birthday, so I braved the hubbub of their "introduction party" to pick up one, wrapped it up and gave it to him for his birthday. He was intrigued and enjoyed it.

As a kid Tarmo built hundreds of model cars and, sometimes, when he saw an old car would tell stories of how he built a model of it. Unfortunately, when he grew up and left his parents' home, his models were boxed up and put in storage, where they deteriorated over the years, so they are nearly all gone now. These Hallmark models were a way to relive some of that childhood fun.

The car enjoyed a prominent place among the varied ornaments on that year's Christmas tree.

The next year we repeated the same scenario, with similar results. Yes! A relatively simple way to find a gift I knew he wouldn't buy himself but enjoyed immensely.



After a few years we discovered that Hallmark ornaments were "collectibles," which gave him more interest in finding them himself. He began shopping on the internet and found the cars from the first two years of the series to complete the set. Hallmark subsequently came out with a truck series, a motorcycle series and various "special edition" one-off ornaments.

After the first few years Hallmark (unkindly, I thought!) moved the

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delivery date to just after his birthday, but that didn't reduce his enthusiasm. He began shopping the Hallmark "Wish Book," awaiting what cars would be available during the coming season. Unfortunately, no Corvairs ever showed up, but his enthusiasm continued unabated. He found a Corvair in the same scale and added his own hanging apparatus. The models enjoyed a growing presence on our holiday tree, until there were enough of them to decorate the entire tree. Then the tree had to be upsized to accommodate

his growing collection. The current tree is a 7' tall white one with white lights to show off the sparkling bright colors and shapes of the cars, trucks and motorcycles. After the holidays he spends a day carefully dusting all the models with a soft brush and putting them back in their original boxes until next year. One of the joys of retirement maybe?

Well, the upshot of all this is that he can no longer fit all his models on the tree, and since our house isn't big enough to



sport a second tree, he has had to pick and choose which models to feature each year. He enjoys choosing which vehicles to feature and reminiscing with his car friends about the models when they come over to visit during the holidays. At this point he has nearly 170 ornaments, including all years' offerings of all the series and special vehicles he collects. They have been moved from boxes in the storage shed to the back of the closet in the computer room to protect them from the same fate his childhood collection suffered.



It's hard to recapture the wonder we all felt about Christmas as kids, but Tarmo's ornament collection provides some of that anticipation and joy of Christmas Past and anticipation for Christmas Future.

Tarmo and I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday season, and we wish you a peaceful and healthy 2025, with a sprinkling of adventure to keep you young too.

STEVE GONGORA CELEBRATES 1500 CLASSES

Steve has been teaching Spin Classes at the JCC Community Center since 2011 and reached his 1500th class on November 17, 2024. The JCC Newsletter featured his accomplishment.

# November 2024 Highlights



Steve Gongora reached an impressive milestone on November 17th, completing his 1,500th Spin class. Many members joined the session to celebrate with him, and one thoughtful member even made him a custom t-shirt to mark the occasion. Steve's dedication and passion for fitness at the JCC continue to inspire both staff and members alike!

