

# LEEKY



# SEEL

CORVAIR MINNESOTA NEWSLETTER

## President's Page

April 2014

*Though* the calendar on the wall says March 18th, we received another dusting of snow this morning as I write this. Spring must be coming sometime soon, right? There were a couple new Corvair media tidbits recently. The first was on Jay Leno's Garage. Jay had just purchased an official Yenke Stinger. If you haven't seen the 16 minute clip on the internet, it is well worth viewing. Jay once again gushes over the Corvair and what a great car it is. In his video, he calls it one of the ten most important cars GM has ever built. It is nice to see such admiration from a high profile celebrity such as Jay Leno. Now that he's 'retired' maybe he'll actually attend the CORSA convention in Washington.

The other Corvair media event wasn't quite as positive. There is a new show on The Discovery Channel called Lord of the Car Hoards. In this latest Car Restoration series, a car customizer and a former wrestler get together to help car hoarders clean up their property. In return, they build a dream car for the car hoarder, using the money they make on selling/salvaging the cars to bankroll the build and they keep any money left over. The first episode started with a tip of 25 Corvettes in someone's back yard in California. Our two car guys drive out only to find not Corvettes, but Corvairs. Needless to say they are disappointed and show their disdain for the Corvair, essentially calling them chick cars (maybe they should drive Jay Leno's Yenke).

"Reality TV" being what it is, we get to hear them say erroneously how Ralph Nader killed the Corvair and that there are no redeeming qualities of the cars and on and on. We see them haul out the Corvairs and yard full of engines and other parts and tell the owner/hoarder that they will customize one of the Greenbriers he has. They also successfully grab a '68 Convertible for a quick flip to make some cash. In the end, they chop the van and the

color goes from Red/White to a yellowy gold with white interior. The quick flip on the convertible looks great but the owner decides to keep it and give it to his girlfriend of ten years, placing an engagement ring in the glove box. Our restoration guys lose about \$5000 on the entire deal. As I said, "Reality TV" at its finest. I think I'll skip future episodes.

We had a great time at the Minneapolis Auto Show for our March Meeting. Tom Quinn had his '64 Convertible on display at the Minnesota Street Rod Assoc. Display along with his 1950 Plymouth. Chuck Johnson and I decided that most cars, especially mid-sized sedans, all look the same. Butternut Yellow is back in style, only now it's called Lemonade and appears only on the Chevy Spark pod car. It is highly doubtful Lemonade will be appearing on the Camaro or the new Corvette anytime soon. However, Gary Nelson is thinking of using that shade on his project Corvair Ute.

The April meeting will be at the MUM. We'll start seeing Corvairs come out of hibernation (or in my case, Jim's workshop) soon. We're also looking forward to seeing the members of CMI Arizona again. Welcome back!

Stay Tuned,

*Lee Knauf*

President



# CORVAIR MINNESOTA

## March 11, 2013

President Lee Knauf called the meeting to order at 7:00 in the lobby of the Minneapolis Convention Center hosting the MSP International Auto Show. 15 members and 4 guests were in attendance, including the entire Quinn family who had their Corvair and '50 Plymouth on display in the MSRA (MN Street Rod Assn) booth. This is the second year in a row a Corvair has been included in this display. Following the creed, we went around the room with everyone introducing themselves and describing where they store their Corvairs for the winter.

**February Minutes:** Approved as written.

**Treasurer's Report:** We have \$2504 in our treasury currently.

**Recent Activities:** None this month!

**Upcoming Activities:**

**TV: Monday, March 17** on Discovery Channel "**Lord of the Hoards**" will feature someone with (only) 25 Corvairs. Also, google **Jay Leno's Garage – Yenko** to see Jay's newest Corvair acquisition.

**April 8: April Membership Meeting:** Back at the MUM. Gail Quinn, the perfect guest, offered another round of her home made treats!

**April 26: CMI Spring Breakfast:** We will be in Maxx Bar & Grill 17646 Central Ave NE in Ham Lake this year from 9 – 11 a.m. People will have to pay for their own meals. **We also decided to sweeten the pot by having two \$25 drawings. Each person is eligible for the first \$25 drawing and anyone who drives a Corvair to the breakfast is eligible for the second \$25 drawing.** Start prepping your Corvairs.

**May 2-3: "Idea Show",** formerly the MN Inventors' Congress held in Redwood Falls. This is the first year in the Mpls. Convention Center.

**May 4: Buick Show** at the State Fair Grounds.

**May 10: Adopt a Highway** Spring Clean-up. Meet at Dobo's Restaurant for breakfast, work a little bit, and meet back in Dobo's for dessert!

**May 13: May membership meeting** at Cuzzy's in Chaska, next to Lenzen's.

**May 17: Adopt a Highway Back-up Date.**

**June 8: GMCCA Car Show and Swap Meet:** State Fair Grounds. CMI is responsible for our display area, the car corral, and for its inaugural year, hosting the "Saturn/Other GM" display to make any entrants feel welcome and desirous of recruiting more of their friends for 2015.

**June 10: Membership Meeting** at Wagner's Drive-In in Brooklyn Park.

**June 20 – 22: Back to the 50's:** Stare Fair Grounds.

**July 21-25, 2014: National CORSA Convention:** Tacoma, Washington at the new LeMay Automobile Museum, only 4 months remain to complete your projects!

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted,

*Chuck Johnson*

\*\*\*\*\*

The May 13<sup>th</sup> membership meeting will be at **Cuzzy's** in Chaska (on Chaska Blvd, behind Lenzen Chevrolet in Chaska) at 6:30 p.m.

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## 2nd ANNUAL

**POCI MINNESOTA TOMAHAWK CHAPTER  
CAR SHOW & SWAP MEET  
SATURDAY APRIL 26, 2014**

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

SHOW CARS \$5

SWAP SPACES \$5

FREE ADMISSION FOR SPECTATORS

FOOD VENDORS ON SITE



OPEN TO ALL AMERICAN-BRANDED  
AUTOMOBILES AND TRUCKS



14954 ABERDEEN STREET NE  
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763-434-6565



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Visit the POCI website at [www.poci.org](http://www.poci.org)

## Upcoming Corvair Minnesota Events:

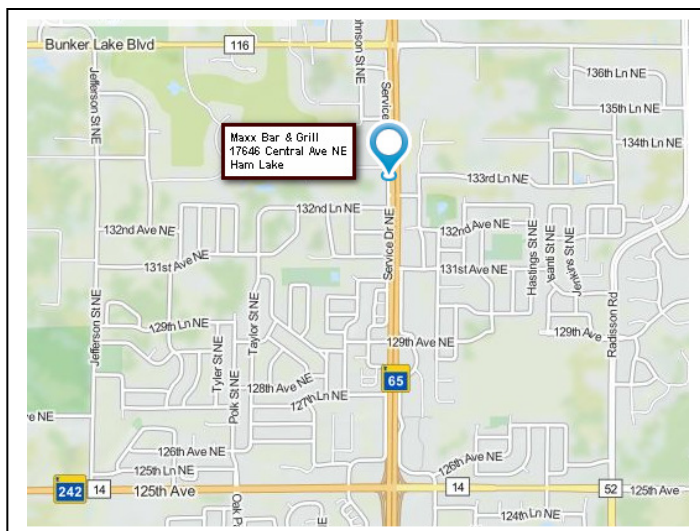
The next membership meeting will be at the MUM on April 8<sup>th</sup>, and CMI's first drive-in (non-MUM) meeting, May 13<sup>th</sup>, will be at Cuzzy's (at 6:30 p.m.).

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CMI's annual breakfast. Bring your wives/husbands and significant others (and hopefully your 'Vairs) to share good food and good friends on Saturday, **April 26<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. at Maxx Bar & Grill in Ham Lake at 17646 Central Ave NE

***New this year: Drawing for two \$25 prizes.***

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- April**
- 05-06 GSTA, Coliseum, State Fair Grounds ( <http://www.gstarod-custom.com> )
  - 08 Membership meeting **MUM** – 7 p.m.
  - 24 Board of Directors – **TBD**
  - 26 CMI Annual Pancake breakfast - Maxx Bar & Grill in Ham Lake 9-11:00;
  - 26 2nd Annual Car Show and Swap Meet at Route 65 Classics in Ham Lake; 9-3:00
- May**
- 02-03 Inventor's Congress Expo (nee: Invention & Idea Show), 10a.m – 6p.m. Mps Convention Center ( <http://www.minnesotainventorscongress.org/> ) **note: this is a Friday and Saturday event**
  - 04 Spring Extravaganza Car Show and Swap Meet, State Fairgrounds
  - 10 Adopt-A-Highway (clean-up) Dobo's at 8:00 a.m. (make-up date: May 17)
  - 13 Membership meeting – **Cuzzy's – 6:30 p.m.**  
First Fifty Auto Parts Sale & Swap Meet, State Fairgrounds
  - 29 Board of Directors – **TBD**
- June**
- 01 10,000 Lakes Concours d'Elegance
  - 08 GMCCA – State Fairgrounds**
  - 10 Membership meeting - Wagners' in Brooklyn Park, 6:30 p.m.
  - 20-22 Back to the 50's, State Fairgrounds ( [www.msra.com](http://www.msra.com) )  
(Start of Great American Race June 22<sup>nd</sup> )
  - 26 Board of Directors – **TBD**
- July**
- 04 Fourth of July Parade, Delano – Post Parade Picnic @ Peppermint Twist
  - 08 Membership meeting - Minnetonka Drive-in in Spring Park, 6:30 p.m.
  - 11-14 Iola Old Car Show and Swap Meet (Car club day – Sunday)
  - 18-20 Car Craft Summer Nationals Car show, State Fairgrounds ( <http://www.familyevents.com/event/233> )
  - 21-25 CORSA National Convention Tacoma, WA
  - 31 Board of Directors – **TBD**
  - 25-27 Little Log House show, Hastings ( <http://www.littleloghouseshow.com> )
  - 25 Kolacky Days, Montgomery, MN (Classic car show 7/27) ( <http://www.montgomerymn.org/kdaycar.html> )
- August**
- 09 New London – New Brighton Antique Auto
  - 12 Membership meeting - Peppermint Twist 6:30 p.m.
  - 17 Corn-on-the-Cob Days, Plainview, MN (not a CMI event)
  - 18 Pantowners Car Show, Benton County Fairgrounds ( <http://www.pantowners.org/carshow.html> )
  - 24 Christ's Cross Car and Craft Show, Ham Lake, MN ( [www.christscrosscarclub.org](http://www.christscrosscarclub.org) )
  - 28 Board of Directors - TBD
  - ?? Annual CMI picnic (?)**



## A 'fun-y' wintery Tale

The other day I was cleaning out my driveway after a wintery blast of snow. I opened the garage door to clean away, from inside to out, and later on closed the door. Still later I glanced at the doorway and was mildly surprised to see the door was open – still open, I thought. I went over and pushed the button and watched as it started down its usual decline. I was walking away when I heard the door motor still grinding away and thought it to be odd to be taking so long...when I turned to look - - I saw the door going back up! I tried it again and this time watched as it went all the way down to about six inches off the deck and then reversed itself. I had to go and stand inside the door and watch it go down before I saw the problem. Then I got out the camera and caught the culprit as it shielded the safety detector. Here's the detector...photo 1. Here's the culprit, up high in the sky stuck to the bottom of the door.....photo 2.



photo 1: Safety Detector

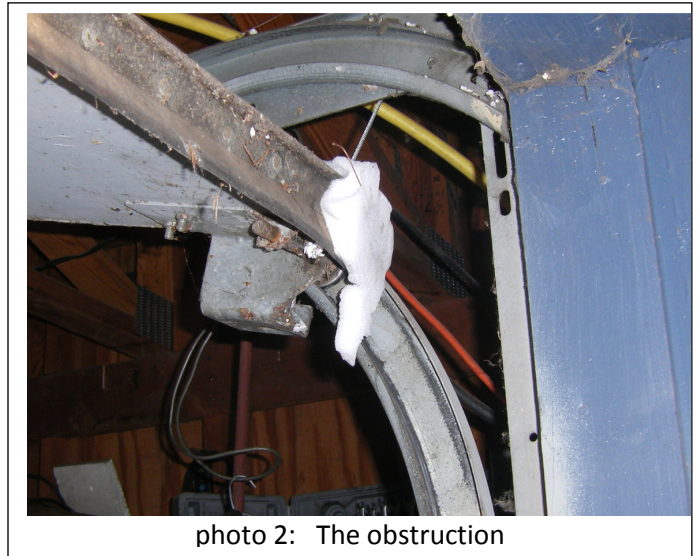


photo 2: The obstruction

And a shot (photo 3) of how the whole story went down as the teensy finger of hard-packed snow silently passed before the detector! Fun Story! **Fran**



# 32nd ALL GM CAR / TRUCK SHOW & SWAP MEET

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2014 • 9 AM - 3 PM

*Sponsored by*

**GENERAL MOTORS CAR CLUBS ASSOCIATION**

**MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS - MACHINERY HILL**

- GMCCA**
- GM Show cars & trucks enter from Larpenteur
  - Swappers enter from Snelling Main Gate
  - Spectators enter from Snelling or Larpenteur
- SWAPPERS: ALL MAKES AUTO PARTS WELCOME**

### SPECTATORS

\*General Admission: \$5.00/Adult

\*Children under 12: FREE

### PARTICIPANTS AWARDS FOR ...

BUICK • CADILLAC • CHEVROLET  
CORVAIR • CORVETTE • CAMARO  
CHEVELLE & NOVA • OLDSMOBILE  
CHEVROLET & GMC TRUCKS  
PONTIAC • SATURN /OTHER GM

**\*STATE FAIR RULES PROHIBIT:**

**OPEN FIRES, BBQ's AND  
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.  
PETS ON LEASHES ONLY.**

**PREREGISTER FOR: GUARANTEED SPACE (until 10AM)-  
REDUCED RATES FOR SHOW VEHICLES - DASH PLAQUE**

**SHOW VEHICLES & SWAPPERS: GATES OPEN AT 7 AM**

**Make checks payable to and send pre-registration form to:  
GMCCA, 9632 Wyoming Terrace, Bloomington, MN 55438**

### REGISTRATION FORM

#### GM SHOW VEHICLE

Make \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Model \_\_\_\_\_

Preregister before May 15th - \$10, after May 15 - \$15  
Car, driver & one passenger per admission

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Car Club Affiliations (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

SWAP SPACE - 15'x 20' Space  
\$10 each preregistered before 5/15  
\$15 each after 5/15

NEW PRODUCT VENDORS  
\$20 (In Display Area)

FOR SALE AREA (All Makes)  
\$15 per vehicle preregistered before 5/15  
\$20 per vehicle after 5/15

NO 'For Sale' signs allowed in the show area  
Maps, Show Changes, Flyers available at

**[WWW.GMCCA.COM](http://WWW.GMCCA.COM)**

***An old note from Fran (May 13, 2013):***

Who woulda thunk it?!?!?

The other day I was over at Gary Nelson's - - helping him put his "Custom" car together - - By-The-Way it now sits on four wheels! When I was at Gary's I was looking at an Early upper front door hinge. See photo. In the photo we see the three screw holes used to attach the hinge to the body. There is also an additional screw in the middle of this hinge unit. I looked it over and twisted it around to understand what function did that extra screw provide (?). Turns out, there is a "limiting position" screw built into the hinge so you can only open the door so far. It seems to me that putting a door-stop only half an inch from the hinge pin on a four foot long door.....is simply asking for something to break! Anyway, who knew that it was in there?

So I said to myself, "let's look on the car - the other door was already hung - and see if that screw is even possible to find. I stuck one hand under the dash and aimed the camera towards the side of the car. When I pulled it out to look I said, "OH, there's something there but not where I was pointing" so I popped another few pics till I got one that showed - - - a bunch of dash-insides - braces and spot welds, etc.; and over there in the dark were the hinge mounting screws. Right in the middle of those screws sits a little screw-driver slot....like we saw in the first picture!

So, there is an adjusting screw way up under the dash for limiting the maximum position of that hinge. I took Gary's word for it that you can't turn it for love or money....it's just there.

Just thought you'd like to win a bet with useless trivia or something.....enjoy!



Early hinge



Struts, etc.

***This space was left blank so you could fill out the GMCCA registration on the other side!!***

## 2014 Minneapolis Auto Show



Best Looking Car at the Show!  
Tom Quinn's '64 at the MSRA's Auto Show Display  
(he also had his 1950 Plymouth on Display).



Butternut Yellow LIVES!!!!!! Any similarities to the CMI President's 1969 Monza Coupe are purely coincidental. (Officially Chevrolet calls this color Lemonade)





## The Shadow Returns

By ????

This time The Shadow is able to report that he found a member from the Yearbook who was more responsive than some. Yes, "The Postman Rings Twice". His wife claims this story is true. Only the names were not changed to protect the innocent victims.

The Shadow thought that this postman might make an interesting subject for the column because he can deliver a punch line like no one can. And, you'll want to watch out for his punch. He thinks that he's a funny guy but The Shadow thinks differently although I have to admit he's kinda funny looking with that trademark cheesy thing he calls a cookie duster or the soup strainer. For those who still don't know what a cookie duster is, it is a mustache.

Oh, and this guy's left hook is pretty nasty as well. He claims he had to learn to use it back in the old days when he was delivering mail. The "keep your dog confined" rules weren't as tough in the old days and the postman was always on the dog defensive. And, the old saying, "It's the mailman's kid", doesn't apply either because his wife, Gail, would smack him upside the head so you didn't want to deal with this married guy. Charming though he was, he was the mailman who actually delivered letters ... up one sidewalk ... and down ... and up the next sidewalk ... and down. Back then, I think the price of a stamp was about 20 cents or so and the pay was pretty proportional.

Our postman owns 3 classic cars. There's the blue '50 Plymouth Deluxe. He saw it, liked it, bought it. He says the wife was antiquing and so was he. The '64 red Corvair convert is one just like the one he drove as a college kid. It was his mom's car. He so enjoyed the memories that he bought his own and drove it back from California a few years ago. And finally, his pride and joy is a '79 VW convert. The VW is white and all original with less than 7.5K. He has owned the VW since new and he bought it on impulse 'cuz it was the last year of the ragtop. At the



time they had 2 kids under age 2 at home and she wasn't happy!

What was he doing when he was a teenager? I'm going to guess wasn't pretty. My bet is that he was probably a bad

boy. I asked a couple of people, but they wouldn't talk. They said it would be better if they didn't talk.

When Tom was working, it is reported that he always made his route fun; he never messed up delivering mail. The truth is that it ain't so. But, again, nobody would talk about the time .... Well, he did mess.

Fortunately for the world, Tom's retired now, but for Gail, not so much. She says she needs to send him to his room (the garage) regularly to play.

He is enjoying retirement 'cuz he doesn't have to get up early. After 23 years of pounding the pavement, I guess your feet get tired. Tom and Gail are happily married for many, many, many years.

This month's Shadow victim is Tom Quinn

#14191. Tom joined MSRA in 2003 for the fun of rodding and driving a car that is older than he is. He didn't find a car he wanted that was older than him because I don't think they even had anything motorized then, so he got the Plymouth instead. The old guy enjoys checking out everyone's ride at Back to the 50's. The cars keep him active, says Gail. Makes him feel like he's a teenager again. I mean, com-on! I can't imagine Tom as a teenager!

Tom is a future volunteer at Back to the 50's and has been heard to say that the rewards for volunteering are great. "You get invited to the banquet along with the t-shirt you get for each shift you volunteer for" says Tom. The Shadow says it's a trip to work the 50's and we need more people to volunteer.

Thank you, Tom and Gail, for letting me pry into your lives.

Just one more thing. Beware! Now that I have your undivided attention, be on the lookout. This concludes this chapter of "The Postman Always Rings Twice" ... the story of Tom "Sawyer" Quinn". I hope it serves testimony that The Shadow knows ... and tells all.





# CMI Classifieds

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FOR SALE. \$5.00 (plus \$1 postage) 1963 Corvair owners guide. Front cover was written on by the original owner who sold a 1964 Corvair to me in about 1986. :) some underlining inside and it's a bit worn. Hence the \$5 price!

FOR SALE. \$10.00 (plus \$1 postage) 1964 Corvair Owner's Guide. Slightly worn on the edges, a bit of underlining inside but otherwise in really good shape for something 50 years old!

Carole Isakson isakson@kwgc-law.com 612-308-2123

\*\*\*\*\*

**New:** Engine electrical harness, ball joints, Pertronix ignition; headers (110 and 140); custom exhaust; Wallen rebuilt starters generators and alternators; mufflers; rebuilt flywheels; new belly pan for late; crank and rod bearings.

**Used parts:** complete engines, transmissions, differentials: call for parts – I have a large inventory.

**Also:** 1969 110hp engine (runs great, sealed & pretty) Rare – aftermarket tube style early air grill – Solid flywheel

**I also offer full time Corvair repair**

Gary Nelson 612-866-3247 or cell: 612-644-1258

\*\*\*\*\*

**1964 CORVAIR MONZA CONVERTIBLE.** (TOP IS MANUAL) 110 HP, AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSION; INTERIOR AND PAINT ARE AQUA; SAME OWNER FOR LAST 43YEARS; IN GOOD SHAPE. [GARY NELSON A LONG TIME CLUB MEMBER HAS DONE ALMOST ALL THE WORK ON IT. (612-866-3247)] MILEAGE IS ABOUT 118,000. ENGINE REBUILT AT ABOUT 90,000. MAKE OFFER

BOB ELLIOTT 612-866-1872



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\*\*\*\*\*

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*The new Catalog includes parts from the last 5 Supplements as well as 100's of improvements (including better descriptions, more photos & new charts). Changes / additions to over 70% of the pages, this is our most major revision ever.*



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**1962 Monza Coupe**- Slightly over 42,000 miles, runs well, no rust, in very good condition. Automatic transmission, four new tires. White with black interior. \$5200 Fun to drive but at my age it's getting tougher to get in and out!  
 Bill Von Hassel 952-946-2245 or VonH9700@aol.com

**WEBSITE:** <http://www.corvairminnesota.com/>

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*Kregg Tariske's Backyard*

*Kregg is a Postal worker (!), a member of Inland Empire Corvair Club of San Bernardino California and the first guest (victim?) of Lords of the Car Hoards on Discovery Channel*



VP Gary Nelson w/ early a/c dash unit

**CMI is a non-profit corporation, chartered with The CORVAIR Society of America. Send CORVAIR Minnesota's \$20.00 annual dues, payable by Jan 01, to the CMI Treasurer. Membership in CORVAIR Minnesota entitles you to the monthly newsletter, "The Leeky Seel", with free ads for members, a club window sticker, discounts on club activities, information on parts availability, and good advice on the preservation and enjoyment of the CORVAIR automobile.... *Yeah!***

**THE LEEKY SEEL**

3370 Library Lane St. Louis Park, MN  
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**TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*How about inviting a friend to a CMI event?!*