

LEEKY



SEEL

CORVAIR MINNESOTA NEWSLETTER

President's Page

November 2017

After knee replacement surgery October 3 and twelve days at Interlude rehabbing my knee I am getting anxious to get back to work on my Rampside. I am also anxious to get back to volunteer work at the Minnesota Streetcar Museum. The #1300 streetcar is getting the body lowered onto the trucks and will soon be ready for a test run after a ten year restoration. But, as they say – one step at a time.

Thanks to everyone that helped out October 14 at our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup on Highway 55. A special thanks to Jim Becker for organizing this event and hosting the club afterward at his home with lunch and a tech session.

Officer elections will be held at the November 14 membership meeting at the MUM. If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions please let us know. We do have commitments from the current officers to continue another year if there are no volunteers.

The Corvair Preservation Foundation (CPF) Museum in Decatur, Illinois is now open in it's 9000 sq. ft. facility and accepting donations. The CPF Museum is attached to the Chevrolet Hall of Fame.

Wrench, Drive, Repeat!

Jack Bacon



CORVAIR MINNESOTA

October 10, 2017

Vice-President Jim Becker called the meeting to order promptly at 7:04 at the MUM in Plymouth. President Bacon is rehabbing from knee replacement surgery. 21 members were in attendance.

Following the creed:

Treasurer's Report:

June 10 balance	\$2291	
Income		\$77
Expenses		<u>(\$384)</u>
Current Balance	<u>\$1984</u>	

(CMI received an \$800 check from this year's GMCCA show.)

Secretary's Report: Approved without reading.

BUSINESS:

OFFICER ELECTIONS are NEXT MEETING:

Consider what office or activity you might like to add your skills to, more people being more involved is vital to the health of any organization.

Bill Cook has **wearables** and **other club merchandise** for sale with him tonight! Also, Bill asked the Board to consider purchasing CMI **can cozies** for give-aways.

The club's **new feather flag** is about to be made and the club felt they preferred it without the quote on the sample. Also, preference expressed for CMI logo in place of/in addition to the CORSA logo.

2018 Car Shows: Tom Quinn asked if we might be interested in 2 Friday nights as the Featured Car Club in North St. Paul. We also discussed Maple Grove Days and the bi-weekly Victoria Car Show. More details to come once we receive the 2018 MCCA Activities Book.

Dick Mickelson is **parting out** a '65 coupe and a '66 4 door, so let him know if there are parts your need for your projects.

Dave Peterson demonstrated his **Inductive Heater** which he purchased to easily remove 50 year old rusted bolts.

Fran demonstrated how his blood clot was removed, with display items!

Upcoming Activities:

October 14: Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Event.

Arrive at Dobo's about 8 a.m. for breakfast, 9 to begin work, followed by coffee and pie. Then we will continue to Jim Becker's ranch for a Saturday Tech Session. . . .with some lunch!

November 14: Membership meeting at the MUM.

December 12: Membership meeting at the MUM.

Please bring your presents or donations for STEP, our Holiday Charity, so they can use them to brighten others' Holidays.

Holiday Dues Party: January 6-7 weekend, details to follow.

Summer 2018: American Legion National Convention, Minneapolis, MN. No additional details at this time

Summer 2018: Corsa National Convention, Pittsburgh, PA, 8 months to get prepared.

Summer 2019: Corsa National Convention, St. Charles, IL, 20 months.

Summer 2020: Corsa National Convention, San Diego, CA, 32 months, 1978 miles.

BREAK: Gail Quinn spoiled us once again with **home-made cream puffs!** What a treat, **THANK YOU!**

TECH SESSION: Jim Becker continued with more information on Engine Compartment Sealing. He and others gave tips on stapling perimeter strips and other tips to increase the knowledge base of many of us.

Jim then went through a stack of parts he brought to discuss their role and expected useful life cycle. . . .which evoked interesting examples and discussions!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Johnson



CMI 2017 Schedule

Membership meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (unless otherwise announced)

Boards of Directors' meetings are on the last Thursday of each month (unless otherwise announced)

November 14 Membership meeting – MUM (Voters' meeting)
29 Directors' meeting

December 12 Membership meeting – MUM
28 Directors' meeting

contributed by Billy Cook

Check out this Farmers Ins. Ad. (I like the Fireplace/Grill ????)

[Farmers Insurance TV Commercial, \[click here\]](#)



Farmers Insurance TV Commercial, 'Hall of Claims: Red Hot Mascot'

"We know a thing or two because we've seen a thing or two"

Fall Highway Cleaning with CMI

Seven hearty CMI cleaners met for a big breakfast at Dobo's on a chilly Saturday in October to prepare for a quick sweep of Highway 55. After filling 12 bags with highway detritus Jim led some of the folks on to his place for a tech session and some well earned lunch (thanks Marie!).



Participants:

- Jim Becker
- Vince Rohr
- Chuck Johnson
- Fran Schmit
- Peter Schmit
- Lee Knauf
- John Herkenratt





Corvair Minnesota Holiday Party

Saturday, January 6th, 2018 at LATUFF'S PIZZERIA

10820 Highway 55, Plymouth – just west of Hwy 169

Appetizer Buffet & Social Time - 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Cash Bar is available

Cost is only \$5.00 per person (check payable to CMI)

BUFFET SELECTIONS:

Sausage Pizzas

Chicken Tenders

Stadium Brat Bites

Barbeque Meatballs

Deep Fried Cheese Raviolis

Deep Fried Mozzarella Wedges

Non-alcoholic Beverages

Questions/directions: call Bill Bertram @ 612-479-5185

****Remember to bring your donation for the STEP Program****

**** \$20.00 dues for 2017 are payable at the Party or mail check to ****

Lee Knauf

401 West Street

New Ulm, MN 55073-1527

***** Annual CMI Holiday Party Response *****

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Cost: \$5.00 per person (make your check payable to CMI)

Mail your reservation to the Party no later than December 29th to:

CMI Holiday Party

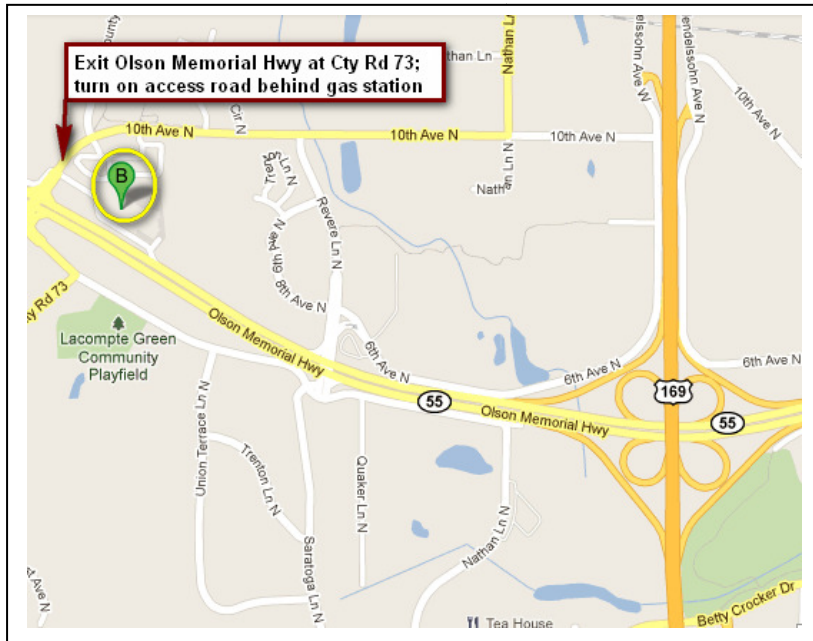
Bill Bertram

15150 Cherokee Dr

Rogers, MN. 55374-9038

Latuff's Pizzeria 10820 Highway 55, Plymouth, MN
(763) 545-2914

Corvair Minnesota's Annual Holiday/ Dues Party



S.T.E.P. will again be our Holiday/Dues Party charity this year. The people at S.T.E.P. have informed us that these items are needed....

- * CASH - STEP can get a better deal on food than an individual can.
- * CUB gift cards.
- * Personal care items: Toothpaste/brushes, Deodorant, Hand lotion/ bar soap, Perfume etc.
- * STEP is always short of Men's clothing. From "work to dress" they need them all.

If you wish to Purchase gifts:

- * Toys and games for younger children (please no \$-store toys)
- * \$15 - \$30 gift cards for older children - like from Target, are great.

Questions? Call **Mary Schmit** at 952.929.9174



A Few Corvair Minnesota Memories from circa 1966

This shot shows Judy Kaufmann in her '65 Convert, talking to CJ Schmit and his Dad Jim Schmit. The Schmit boys are leaning on Fran's '64 convert that is in line behind Fran's '64 Greenbrier. Must have been a parade line-up.



Here's a nice shot of Mark Anderson's back! Car in the pic might be Judy Kaufmann's '65 Convert with Jim Schmit down inside – doing something – and Peter Schmit and Rich Buratto observing.

Here's a nice shot of young Jerry Berge in his red convert – back in the olden days!

Editor's note –
If you'd like to share old photographic memories, just send a picture, two or three in to me along with a sentence or two for a description for each. I'm sure our fellow club members would enjoy sharing the memories!



Corvair Handling and Stability

"Didn't these things roll over?" There it is again, that question. Corvair owners know it well, and many have nearly worn themselves out answering it. It's the Nader question, and most people have heard something about Nader and the Corvair, but few truly know the facts.

GOVERNMENT TESTS PROVE THE CORVAIR DOES NOT HAVE A HANDLING OR STABILITY PROBLEM

By Bob Helt

Nader's Charges

In his 1965 book, *Unsafe at any Speed*, and several preliminary articles in the national magazine, *The Nation*, Ralph Nader charged that the 1960-63 Corvairs had a defective rear suspension that made them prone to roll-over and dangerous to drive. He claimed that they were prone to roll-over and loss of control. Although his facts were meager, his charges were hard-hitting and were picked up by all news covering organizations. Although only the first chapter of his book was devoted to the Corvair, that is the thing most remembered about his book, and most associated with Nader. As a result of his charges and subsequent U.S. Senate hearings there was a growing national concern about automobile safety, with the Corvair the center of attention.

Thorough Testing

Due to Nader's wild charges about the Corvair and the national concerns for automobile safety, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) was authorized to run a series of comparative tests during the Spring and Summer of 1971 to demonstrate the handling of the 1963 Corvair against four contemporary competitive automobiles. Involved in the tests were The Ford Falcon, Plymouth Valiant, Volkswagen Beetle, Renault Dauphine, the 1963 Corvair, and a 1967 Corvair for reference.

The test program was quite comprehensive and detailed. It was divided into four parts:

- a comprehensive search and review of all related General Motors/Chevrolet internal letters, memos, tests, reports, etc. regarding the Corvair's handling
- a similar search and review of all related public technical literature
- a review of all national accident data compiled by insurance companies and traffic authorities for the six cars selected for these tests
- a series of actual driving and handling tests designed to evaluate the handling and stability under extreme maneuvering conditions; and to push the test vehicles to their limits

The Corvair Is Exonerated

At the conclusion of these tests, the NHTSA released its 134 page report. It exonerated the Corvair from Nader's charges, and said things such as: "The 1960-63 Corvair compares favorably with contemporary vehicles used in the tests," and,

"The handling and stability performance of the 1960-63 Corvair does not result in an abnormal potential for loss of control or rollover, and it is at least as good as the performance of some contemporary vehicles both foreign and domestic." The complete report, PB 211-015, can be obtained from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS)*.

An Independent Panel Agrees

Because the NHTSA wanted to be as sure as possible of their approach, tests and conclusions, they then contracted with a three man advisory panel of independent professional engineers to review the scope and competency of the NHTSA tests. This review panel then issued their own 24 page report (PB 211-014, also available from the NTIS*).

In their report, the Panel drew even stronger conclusions in support of the Corvair than the NHTSA. They said, "It is the opinion of the panel that the Corvair quantitatively meets or exceeds the standards set by contemporary cars in stability tests, cornering tests, and rollover tests," and, "for this reason the panel concluded that the 1960-63 Corvair does not have a safety defect, and is not more unstable or more likely to roll over than contemporary cars."

Nader is Proven Wrong

Wow, go back and read that again. No safety or handling defects in the Corvair! But does anybody know this? The news media all but ignored these conclusions. They apparently thought that Nader's charges were of greater news value than the fact that his charges were all proven wrong. Even today, of those who know of Nader's charges against the Corvair, few if any know that his charges were false and were proven wrong. No, the fact that the Corvair was exonerated of all of Nader's charges was hardly publicized. It received little or no attention from the media.

It is ironic that these false charges concerning the Corvair's handling and stability are all anyone remembers, and are the only story ever told in the Press, even though they have been fully refuted by actual tests. Nader, of course, built his career on these false charges.

*National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161

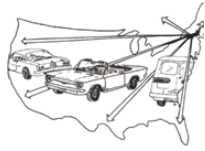
By the time the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a press release dated August 12, 1972, setting out the findings of the NHTSA, the Corvair had been out of production for more than three years. While the press may have been reluctant to publicize the good news about the Corvair ("Good news doesn't sell papers!"), it was fitting that the NHTSA accompanied its press release with a letter addressed to all Corvair owners, so they would hear of the good news and put to rest any insecurities about the safety of their cars. In its letter, the NHTSA indicated:

"The Corvair handling and stability compared favorably with the other contemporary vehicles used in the NHTSA testing programs. Vehicle rollover did not occur in any of the comparative tests for the Corvair, Falcon or Valiant. The Volkswagen and the Renault did rollover in some of the comparative tests."

CMi Classifieds

Clark's Corvair Parts®

Our catalog lists over 15,000 parts for your Corvair. We carry engine parts, body panels, upholstery and much more! There are 1,000's of reproduced items available, pages of technical information and lots of other helpful hints.



Check us out at www.corvair.com or call today to order a copy of our printed catalog. You will quickly see why we are the world's largest supplier of parts and all your other Corvair needs. Clark's - More than Parts!

Clark's Corvair Parts® 400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 013
(413)625-9776 www.corvair.com email: clarks@corvair.com

Corvair Repair In Minnesota

Your Place or Mine
Part Time Casual, Off Season Is Best
Mobile Service, Trailing Service, Reasonable Rates
CORSA, Corvair Minnesota and SCCA Member

Jim Brandberg

2214 - 293 1/2 Av. NW, Isanti, MN 55040
763-444-9334 jimbrandberg@aol.com

1964 Corvair Convertible 2nd owner, 43K miles, four speed, 110HP Exterior: Maroon, Interior: Black, no rips/tears. Top & rear window in excellent condition. Dual exhaust, spinner hub caps. \$8,900. Curt Robinson 952 934-6069 or Curtnanrob@aol.com



1963 Monza 110 Engine 4 speed, was running when put in storage, we have title, need to have key made. The car is located in Rogers, MN. \$2,000 obo. Ron Lucas 763-242-4090; 763-226-8440; 763-420-2569 lorrainelucas7@gmail.com



For Parts: 3 lates, 2 coupes and 1 convert. Probably too much rust to restore, but they may have the part you need. Contact Rich Storlie storlieaircooled@yahoo.com

1967 Monza coupe, family owned for almost 50 years. Stored inside all seasons and I do not drive it on wet roads or chemically treated roads. The odometer says about 117,000. New carpet and seat covers and repainted. Documentation from original purchase to current. Asking \$12,000. Greg Helm helmster@integra.net or my home phone 952-447-6495 Savage

1969 Monza coupe with a 2.7 liter, 164 cubic inch engine, automatic transmission, royal blue exterior and interior. It is in very good condition with 33,491 miles on the odometer. \$14,500 or best offer. Gary H. Olson 3610 90th Avenue N Moorhead, MN 56560 e-mail: garyholson@702com.net cell: 218-790-5130 office/home: 218-233-5130



Part Cleaning
Soda Blasting, Sand Blasting
Powder coating

Vince Rohr
vincerohr@hotmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://www.corvaairminnesota.com/>

← Check out our website!!

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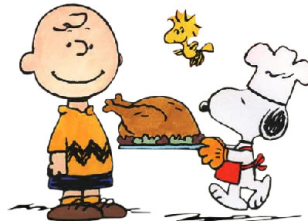
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Happy
Thanksgiving

Spot a 'Vair



Fran's Rampside at the October GMM

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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 55426-4224
TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Remember - elections at the next meeting at the MUM