

*The folks at Prior Lake asked me to write something up about our Corvairs and our group for a magazine:*

## Corvair Night

On Thursday June 23rd Corvair Minnesota car club was happy to come to Prior Lake for the Smoke Signals Classic Car Roll-In. We had 10 Corvairs in attendance. High temperatures that day may have kept some of our folks at home but they missed out on a good time. The Little Market That Could had some interesting items along with a nice shady tent with picnic tables. The nearby food trucks also had plenty of fine fare to choose from. I even found a towing hardware item I've been looking for inside Tractor Supply. Chevrolet made 1.8 million Corvairs during a 10 year production run, model years 1960-1969. They were certainly something different at the time with a rear mounted air cooled engine utilizing a lot of aluminum parts for weight reduction and more efficient cooling. From the beginning they were more expensive to produce than similar sized more conventional economy car offerings from other American car companies. They soon found a niche on the sporty side of the market with folks who may have otherwise been attracted to foreign cars. Bucket seats, four on the floor transmissions and independent suspension certainly helped in that regard. They weren't the most powerful car on the market but made up for it with superior handling. Corvair pick-up trucks and vans were also available. All Corvairs are rear mounted 6 cylinder engines. Most had two carburetors but turbocharged and four carburetor engines were optional. Corvairs came in 2-door, 4-door, convertible, station wagon, van and pick-up models.

Corvair Minnesota Incorporated is a non-profit car club with 83 members. We are one of 105 Corvair club chapters chartered with the international car club Corvair Society of America (CORSA). CMI started in 1972 with 2 guys who had their first meeting in the sales room at Midway Chevrolet. One of the guys soon dropped out when he sold his Corvair and bought a Mustang but the other guy is still a member. The group quickly grew too big for the room and moved to the GM Training Center in Golden Valley. Since that facility closed in the 90s we've moved around a bit but always meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 7 PM. We've been meeting at Ideal Hall in St. Paul for the last year or two. CMI is a good place to learn more about Corvair automobiles and get involved in fun activities. We have several folks who keep coming back long after their Corvairs are gone due to the friendships they have forged over the years. Lots of new people too.

I joined in 1995 and for a long time I was sort of a new guy, now seemingly overnight I'm getting to be an old timer. I don't know what happened to the time. We had a great time in Prior Lake and the local folks couldn't have been nicer. I bet we can get plenty more folks for a Corvair night in the future once everybody hears about how much fun they missed out on.

Jim Brandberg  
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