



Leaky Seal

Corvair



**January
2026**



Corvair Minnesota Newsletter

President's message

Happy Holidays everyone!

Our Holiday party is Saturday January 3rd at Ideal Hall.
Reception 4-5 pm with Dinner at 5 pm

Reminder: Annual club dues of \$20 are due January 1st.

You can pay at the holiday dinner, our January meeting or mail a check to our treasurer:

Paul Schuler
23350 Wood LN
Rogers, MN 55347

We are in the process of planning our events for 2026. If you have any ideas please let Heidi know as our new Activities Director. We are also looking for a host for our annual chili party - if you are interested, please reach out to Heidi or any board member.

Our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, January 13th

- Board meeting at 5 pm
- Food and beverage is available from 5:30 to 6:30
- Meeting starts at 7 pm.
- Tech session is about the importance of having fire extinguishers.

See you at our next meeting.

Dave Pedersen
CMI President



CMI club news

No meeting was held December 9th due to weather.

November Election Results

For the position of President: David Quinn nominated himself, and Pederson was nominated by Tom Quinn.

Dave Pederson won the vote.

Vice President: I nominated CJ for Vice President...

CJ Pappas is Vice President.

Director: Pederson nominated Tom Quinn to remain as director.

Tom Quinn is the director.

Heidi Olson has agreed to take over the role of Event coordinator.

Officers			Cell Phone	Email	Cars
President	Pedersen	Dave	612-385-2241	dave14957@gmail.com	65 Coupe (Green), Corvino (Gray)
Vice President	Pappas	CJ	612-508-5875	cooltrainguy@gmail.com	61 Greenbrier 8- Door
Treasurer	Schuler	Paul	612-327-9085	schuler3wef1@embarqmail.com	64 Monza Coupe (WH/Orange)
Secretary	Leah	Amber	612-251-9498	amber.81.leah@gmail.com	61 Monza (Red)
Activities Director	Olson	Heidi	763-318-5670	lholson@msn.com	61 Rampside(Black)
Directors					
	Becker	Jim	214-616-0256	mr.jebecker@gmail.com	67 Coupe (White), '64 Coupe (Brn)
	Quinn	Tom	612-670-9224	tquinn1979@msn.com	63 Convertable (Red)
Coordinators					
Technical Editor	Schmit	Fran	952-288-3041	schmfran@hotmail.com	Several Early, Late & FC (thru the years)
Membership	Jenkins	Mike	763-355-0168	rockinracer@hotmail.com	66 Coupe (Yellow)
Apparel	TBD				
SEEL Editor	Herkenratt	John	612-719-4580	jherken1@netzero.net	61 Rampside(White) '66 Conv (Beige)
Webmaster	Bankston	Jim	715-410-0902	jbankston48@gmail.com	60Monza64Monza65Corsa65Monza
Treats	Quinn	Gail	612-670-9224	tquinn1979@msn.com	63 Convertable (Red)

Corvair Minnesota Birthdays



January Birthdays:

- **Jerry Audorff**
- **Cody Berge**
- **Andrew Lake**
- **Ali Long**
- **Dan Quinn**

As always, let me know if I have missed your name on the Birthday list - Thanks!

Gail Quinn, Director of Treats Gailquinn263@msn.com

54 in '26

As I intended, I find myself without a position in Corvair Minnesota to write about but maybe I still can... In the American version of the TV show "The Office" there is a job title Assistant to the Regional Manager. It's a position that's different from Assistant Regional Manager because it doesn't really mean anything. In that vein I'd like to continue writing as Assistant to the Technical Editor although I may not always touch on things technical. It would be better if someone with a real position submits Leeky Seel content and I will always gladly defer.

Corvair Minnesota is turning 54 this year. I might call anyone who joined in the first half of the '70s part of our founding generation. We still have several of these folks as members but we maybe don't see them quite as much. Through the years our leaders have let go and passed the baton for others to carry on. As it should be. The old folks can explain how they did their job, the new folks might do it that way but then again they might not. It's the evolution of things and is probably necessary for an organization to not only survive but stay healthy.

In the grand scheme of things, a lot of people in CMI tend to come and go. They maybe find other things to do on the second Tuesday or other things to do besides Corvairs. On the other hand, a lot of folks stick around long after their Corvairs are gone as they value the friendships they've made. I have resisted the notion that it's mainly a social club with the Corvair thing in common but I could be wrong. I maybe put too much emphasis on the cars and their workings. One of our founding generation once said the same Corvairs keep coming back with new people, I suppose it could be true to a certain extent but that notion does seem a tad crass.

I'm looking forward to being a regular rank and file member again. I've been feeling sort of duty bound to attend Corvair Minnesota events which are great but I've been missing out on events in my own town. I do like getting together with my Corvair buddies, it's like an Oddfellows society where I'm the straight one. An open hood still draws me in like a tractor beam, I love seeing other ways of doing things and learning something new. I can tend to isolate and while I'm happy by myself in the garage my wife thinks I need to go out among people sometimes.

With the snow storm and not many people at the meeting we decided to forego Chris Hefty's fire extinguisher presentation until January or whenever new VP CJ Pappas wants to do it. I'm looking forward to Programs he'll be coming up with and the President has led him to believe you folks will be helping him out with presentations of your own. Maybe time for you to step up.

I believe Heidi Olson is accepting appointment to the Activities Director position. This is good news so we can have a full 7 person Board of Directors again. Many hands make the burden light. The Olson's go to a lot of Car Shows and they have imaginative presentations so it will be good to see what we have for a new slant. It's up to all the members to come up with activities near and dear to them and be sort of a hub with the planning and execution. Step up again.

Corvair Minnesota is healthy. We're showing 95 members with maybe 27 people at a meeting. We've got money. It's a good time for me to step aside and let others have a go. Things are different than when I first came around in 1989 and then joined for good in 1995. As it should be. Over the course of 30 years I'm happy to have been President, Membership Coordinator, Activities Director and Vice President. I've tried to put forth a good effort at these things although each term has been somewhat brief, as I intended.

Jim Brandberg

Fran classic: Rampside Latches

The latches of the Rampside's two gates are unique...four separate devices that each work like the others but are not interchangeable. This way you have to save every one of them that you come across. A common failure mode is to have the swaged handle material, shown in Fig 1, crumble away leaving the inner activator (Fig 2) no choice but to fall into the innards of the gate.

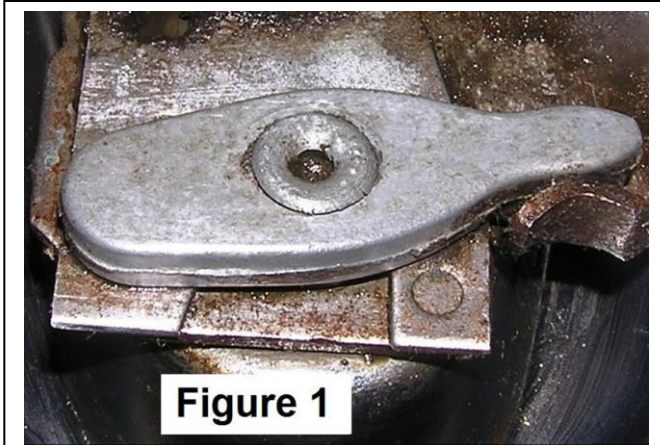


Figure 1



Figure 2

There is not an end as you can see the inner part when it is inside the door. Of course it's pretty hard to open the ramp without its being in place. This has happened to me before, on one or two of the other latches but those times I didn't bring a camera along during the rebuild.

The factory assembled the latch and finished it by stamping the last piece tightly in place. Never dreaming that 50 years later somebody would be trying to reconnect those inner and outer pieces! All I needed to do was to clean the dirt out of the mechanism (any sand/gravel that is shoveled down the ramp goes right into that latch!), collect all the parts from the cleaning tank and put it together to see how it fits. The swaged out part of the outside handle is what breaks off. To duplicate the clamping action of that stamping I cut away all the loose/torn stamped material and pared down the square end that penetrates the inner activator so that it ends below (Fig 3) the original swaging level. It appeared that a #8 screw was about the right size to strengthen the new joint. I also selected a screw with a large enough head to reach out where the swaging had been. Recognize the CORVAIR trim screw? The last figure (4) shows it all put together but without the grease. It's not pretty when it all slathered with the lube juice, but that's the best thing for it.

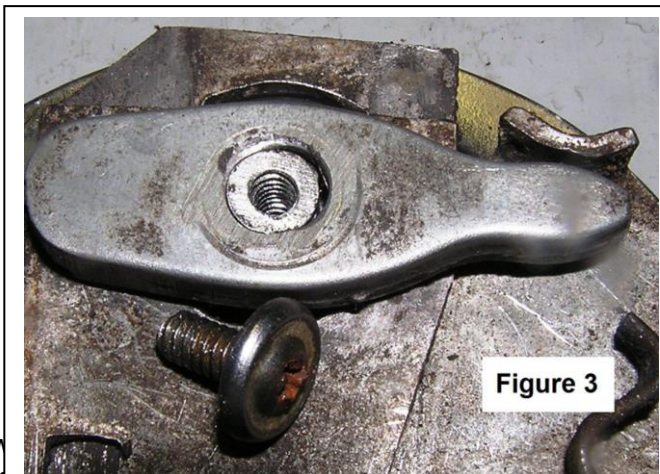


Figure 3

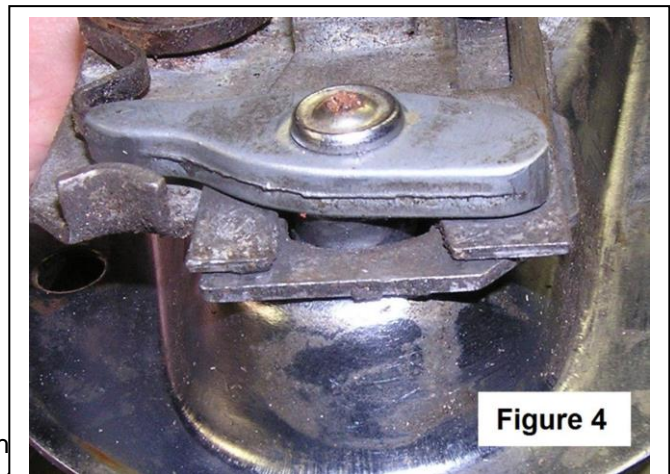
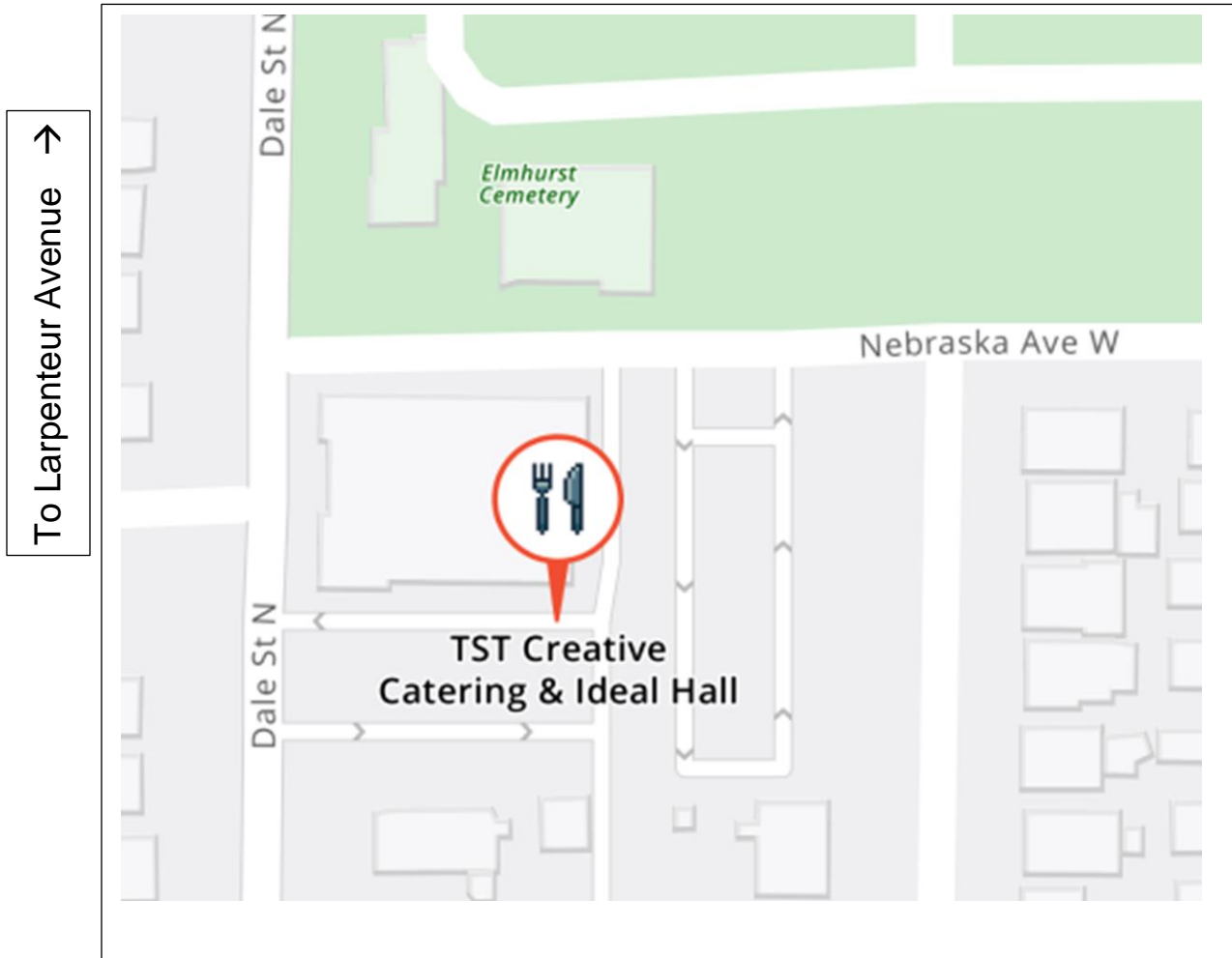


Figure 4

Fran Schmit

Let's Keep-On-CORVAIRing, *Fran*

Where is it?



TST Creative Catering & Ideal Hall
at 1494 Dale St N, St Paul, MN 55117 is the current location for
Corvair Minnesota Membership meetings, the Holiday Party,
the Spring Breakfast and the Fall Breakfast.

If you are planning on helping families at a food bank this season, things you probably don't know.

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice too.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting makes it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

In all the years I have donated food at the Holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted but have never asked. I am glad I did.



Lois Jean Berge

March 21, 1935 — December 12, 2025

Lois Jean Berge, 90, of Isanti, formerly of Red Wing, died Friday, December 12, 2025 at home with her family by her side.

She was born in Freeborn County in Albert Lea, Minn. on March 21, 1935 to Norman and Alvina (Anderson) Nelson. She graduated from Albert Lea High School in 1953. She was united in marriage to Gerald Berge at Maple Plain Lutheran Church on February 18, 1961.

Lois was a secretary for numerous businesses in the Twin Cities. She lived in Minnetonka, Glen Lake, Plymouth, Isle, and Red Wing before moving to Isanti in 2022 where she and Jerry could be nearer to family.

Lois loved reading and her flower gardens. She loved her family and spending time with them. She also enjoyed her 21 years of wintering in Mesa, Arizona.

She was a member of United Lutheran Church in Red Wing.

Lois is preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, Jerry. He passed away in September.

She is survived by her children, Paul (Sheila) of Isanti and Mark Berge of Chaska, Minn.; grandsons, Nick (Brittany) Berge of Waverly, Minn. and Cody Berge of Isanti; granddaughter, Abigail (Robert) Arndt of Isanti; great-grandchildren, Wyatt and Waylon Berge and Levi and Landon Arndt.

Memorial service will be 11 a.m., Tuesday, December 30, 2025 at Long Lake Lutheran Church in Isanti with Rev. Sue Olson officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at church. Burial will be at Fort Snelling Cemetery.

Visitation



Tuesday, December 30, 2025

10:00 - 11:00 am (Central time)

[Add to Calendar](#)



LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

3921 277th Ave NW, Isanti, MN
55040

Funeral Service



Tuesday, December 30, 2025

11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Central time)

[Add to Calendar](#)



LONG LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

3921 277th Ave NW, Isanti, MN
55040

A vintage tech tip from 40 years ago (if you have a powerglide, of course).

Clips and Drips

I'm getting real keyed up about our Wisconsin trip! It should be one of our better trips. Let's get our cars tuned up so we don't have any breakdowns.

Have you got any leaks in your automatic transmission? Most leaks can be fixed with the trans in the car. One leak that's coming with age is the shift cable. The leak is where the crimped end meets the vinyl sheath. One reason is from abuse when taking out the drive train. We tend to bend the cable too much taking it out of the transmission mount. I worked on a car, where someone had cut the transmission mount, so the cable would come down without sliding it through the mount hole. It could weaken the mount, but it seemed o.k. When you take the drivetrain out, treat the cable with care.

I've got a remedy that works about 90% of the time. Clean the crimp area and apply a generous amount of silicone. Let silicone set up, but not completely. Wrap with duct tape and put small hose clamps on each end. It's not a high pressure area, so it usually works. I've always thought heatshrink tubing would work, although it would have to be large enough to slip over the end. Install a new O-ring and you're on the road. You may ask, why all the bother? The cables aren't available for the earlies and Van series. They're available for the lates from Clark's for \$42.00, but it's not any easy job replacing one.

Got a leaky oil cooler? It's a relatively easy fix, but you can't see how well your gaskets are lining up. I don't like working blind. That's one area I would've liked to see a different design.

One remedy that helps me is making two studs longer than the bolts that mount the cooler. One bolt attaches to the head, the other between the two cooler inlet and outlet. Sliding the cooler onto these studs assures you're getting your gaskets lined up properly. It's especially handy if you're working with the generator in place, where your vision isn't quite as good.

G.S.



I'm going to level with you. The problem is in your engine, transmission, steering, front suspension, electrical system and air conditioner.



"What good old days! I need to work like a tractor."



Classified Ads

1965 Corvair Monza 140 it is in great shape. Driven 32,024 miles. Auto Trans. I drove it in to storage 4 years ago for my dad not thinking it was going to stay there. It will need the gas drained and regular maintenance done on it. Car is in storage in Siren Wisconsin. Any questions or want to see it let me know? **Mike Gaynor (contact through Facebook.**



Check us out...



For more information on
Corvair Minnesota,
visit our website:
www.corvairminnesota.com

Follow us on
Facebook:
Corvair Minnesota



803 members

(as of 12/28/2025)

Spot a 'Vair!

(Reminder:)

Corvair Minnesota
Holiday Party

Saturday, January 3rd, 2026
TST Creative Catering/ Ideal Hall
1494 Dale Street N, St Paul

Social Hour: 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Light Hors d' Oeuvres

Cash Bar is available

Dinner is served at 5:00 pm

CMI is a non-profit corporation, chartered with the CORVAIR Society of America. Send CORVAIR Minnesota's \$20.00 annual dues, payable by January 1st, 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

408 7th St S

Hopkins, MN 55343-7722

TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The next CMI meeting will be held on the
13th of January at Ideal Hall in St. Paul