

LEEKY



SEEL

CORVAIR MINNESOTA NEWSLETTER

President's Page

To say it's been a cold winter this year would be an understatement. I don't think it was above zero at all. Okay that is an exaggeration but it certainly has been a cold spell. All the more reason to think warm thoughts of Corvair cruising.

I am looking forward to getting my '69 back from Jim's shop. She's been missing from the garage since July and, despite her less than show car appearance, I'm getting antsy to show her off and drive her around again. This was reinforced on the way to work the other day when I passed a '78 Chevy Monte Carlo (the droopy fenders model). There is something about older cars that just make them more fun to drive. Maybe it's because there are less of them on the road so you feel special. Perhaps it's because you can actually work on them yourself. I think part of it is that you *drive* an old car rather than ride in them. Don't get me wrong. I enjoy the gadgets as much as anyone but sometimes the gadgets take away from the experience of the car. Sometimes they are of questionable value (I have yet to use OnStar and I've had that feature on my last three cars). In the case of my back up camera, they just remind you of how long it's been since your last car wash. Several car makers are testing cars that drive themselves. That's not a good thing. Sometimes less is more.

We started 2014 with another great Holiday Party hosted and arranged by Bill and Carol Cook. I'd like to thank them again for doing such an outstanding job. I'd also like to thank the staff at Latuff's for having us at their restaurant. I think everyone had a great time. I know Cara and I did despite the Packers' loss (you can take the boy out of Wisconsin but...).

February 2014

Cara and I are looking forward to the upcoming year and plan to make it to the CORSA convention in Tacoma. At this point we will probably fly out rather than drive our Corvair. Despite what my previous paragraph stated, you can never get too much air conditioning. At our January board meeting, we will plan out the club events and put together a more formal calendar. We will have enough flex time to add events if anyone has any ideas. There were a couple great suggestions at the January meeting which we will investigate and incorporate.

In the meantime, everyone try and stay warm and we'll see everyone at the February meeting at the MUM.

Stay Tuned,

Lee Knauf

President



Reminder:
Some dues are still due – have you paid yours?

Corvair Minnesota

Business Page

Receipts for S.T.E.P. from the December membership meeting and the Holiday Dues Party:

Cash/checks: \$350; Necklace; Doll (Kendra); Remote control car (ZL1 Camaro); Remote control car (Boss 302 Mustang); 2 Tote bag set; 3 card games; 10 craft sets; Pizza cutter; 2 stuffed animals; 2 colored pencils; Mini Basketball hoop; Boggle; Dinosaur book; Slip-n-slide; Wonder board; Magna doodle; Hop Ball; Magnetic letters; Noah's Ark craft kit, Hotel size Lotions and shampoo and soap, Three full size bars of soap, and 15 full size toiletries(bath gel, scent, lotion, etc.).

S.T.E.P. expressed their gratitude in a letter received by Mary Schmit.

Errata: the correct URL for a video of Fran's FC signals is: <http://vimeo.com/80585188>

Upcoming Events:

- February** 11 Membership meeting – **MUM**– 7 p.m.
27 Board of Directors – **Schmit residence 6:30 p.m.**
- March** 08-16 Twin Cities Auto Show, Mps Auditorium (<http://www.tcautoshow.com/>)
11 Membership meeting – @ Twin Cities Auto Show – 2nd floor meeting room, 7 p.m.
27 Board of Directors – **TBD**
- April** 08 Membership meeting **MUM** – 7 p.m.
04-05 GSTA, Coliseum, State Fair Grounds (<http://www.gstarod-custom.com>)
24 Board of Directors – **TBD**
TBD Pancake Waffle breakfast – St John's in Buffalo
- May** 02-03 Inventor's Congress Invention & Idea Show, Minneapolis Convention Center
(<http://www.minnesotainventorscongress.org/>) Note: *this is a new venue for this event*
04 Spring Extravaganza Car Show and Swap Meet, State Fairgrounds,
(www.gopherstatebuick.org)
13 Membership meeting – **TBD (Cuzzy's?)**
First Fifty Auto Parts Sale & Swap Meet, State Fairgrounds
29 Board of Directors – **TBD**
- June** 01 10,000 Lakes Concours d'Elegance (<http://www.10000lakesconcours.com/>)
08 GMCCA – State Fairgrounds
10 Membership meeting - **Wagners'** in Brooklyn Park, 6:30
20-22 Back to the 50's, State Fairgrounds (www.msra.com)
26 Board of Directors – **TBD**



CMI Annual Holiday Dues Party

The party was held at Latuff's again this year and The food and service were top-notch, as usual



Billy looking for Ron Cowden's candy



I think Linda just spotted the hors de oeuvres



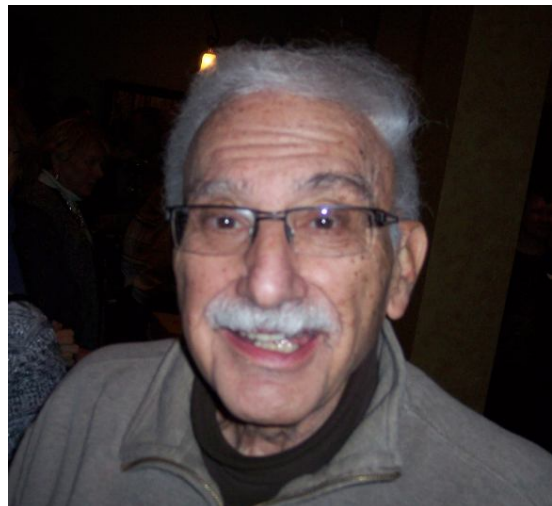
Looking at a part of the crowd



Fran and Mary still on the red carpet



Delicious pizzas and meatballs for snacks



George looks happy to be there

LEDs

by Fran Schmit

I recently showed the reworking/modifying of my FC taillights using RED LEDs. At an earlier MUM-meeting some questions were asked about the clear lens on the 'red' LED. I thought it might be appropriate to 'splain just a bit more about LEDs and their predecessors..... light-bulbs!

Light-'bulb's give off light because there is a very HOT wire inside - - hot enough to be more than 'red-hot'....even so hot as to be 'white-hot'.like 3000° ! This is no simple task and required a lot of good engineering to get them invented/designed/manufactured, etc. starting back about 100 years ago. Light-bulbs are still very HOT today! The glass envelope (bulb) that surrounds this very HOT wire is there to protect the wire, and you, and to prevent forest fires... also to enclose a pocket of inert gas which surrounds the HOT wire so the wire won't burn up. The gas also conducts the excess heat away from the HOT wire – making the glass bulb quite hot...again so the wire won't burn up. All of this to give us light that looks a lot like sunlight but with a great deal of wasted energy called HEAT! Of course the HEAT from the Sun is not wasted on us, we find it quite beneficial - - most of the time. Almost all of the energy needed to light up a "bulb" is in the form of this excess heat. Some of the energy comes out of the bulb as Ultra-violet light that we can't see but that's a very small portion of the waste. Greater than 80% of the output from a light-bulb is in the form of Infra-red light energy. Easiest way to check that is to cover your eyes and aim the light at your face. You will 'feel' the energy coming from the bulb as radiant "heat".....this is all waste because what you want from a light-bulb is LIGHT, not heat.

When you use a light-bulb to make a taillight you first have to make the HOT wire (light up) and then you put a filter (a red lens) in front of the light so you can only see the RED part of the light you just made. Remember that most of the bulb's energy is INFRA-red (which your eyes cannot detect (see) but your skin can feel. Now the little bit of electric energy that's left as visible light is cut down to a small percentage of that (the red lens absorbs all the light that is not red) so you only get a few percent of your input energy out as useable red light.

An LED, on the other hand, makes virtually no heat and gives you light the color you want.....so 99+% of the electrical energy you put through your taillight wiring comes out as RED light. What a deal! This is why LEDs are rated to have tens of thousands of hours of useable lifetime. They should easily last the life of the car - - even the life of a CORVAIR. Let me show you the inner workings of one of my LEDs. First off we notice the package is made of a clear plastic substance – not red – because we don't need a RED filter since we are only going to make RED light. Inside the package (0.20" diameter) we see two metal structures--- one piece looks something like a hand holding a cup....the other is a post with a fine wire on its top. The wire we see points down into the cup. This next photo takes us topside to look down into that cup.

At the base of the cup is the LED and that little wire makes contact with the top-face of the LED. You can see a small square black 'thing' down in the cup...the LED.



(4)



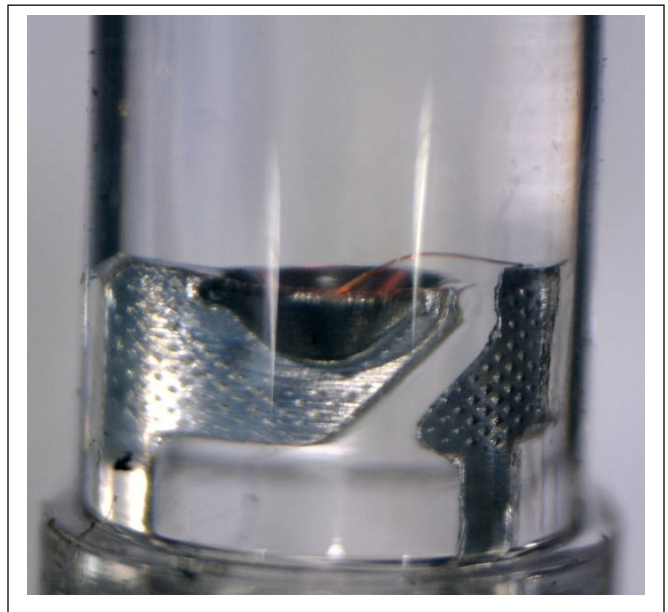
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LEDs, continued from page 4

When a very small current is passed from that wire through the surface of the LED...light (in our case red light) comes up out of the surface in every direction. Notice the cup is shiny and acts a reflector to direct the light towards the top of the structure. The dome shape of the LED's package finishes the bending of the light so that most of the light comes straight out the top of the package.

I fudged around a bit and got a nice picture of the LED – then lit it up – just enough that you could see it. Here are two views of that lit-up little (~0.010” on a side) square LED in its cup and the gold wire that feeds it. When I measured the current needed to get it to ‘just glow’ it was down in the microAmps @ 1.630Volts applied. 1.7V is quite bright, @1.8V – I can't look at it!



Not all LEDs are RED. They come in all the visible colors and the IN-visible colors that make for range finding instruments and automatic water faucets at McDonald's, etc. The white LEDs are simply a combination of red, green and blue LEDs mixed together into one structure . There's a rainbow LED that gradually changes through most of the rainbow's colors...continuously! Note: the same technology that makes LEDs also makes Lasers.....I have a small hand held GREEN laser that is just stupendous. It only cost a few dollars and not many people want one but for some of us oddballs it is out-of-this –world fascinating. Hope you enjoy seeing my LEDs when I signal to carefully change lanes – in front of you!

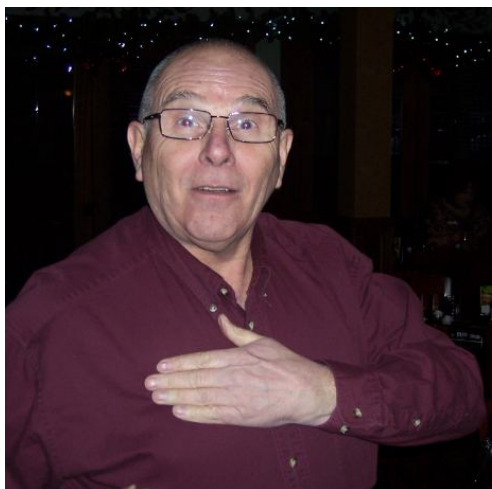
Fran



Some happy party goers!



Heather – aka Super Server – in action!

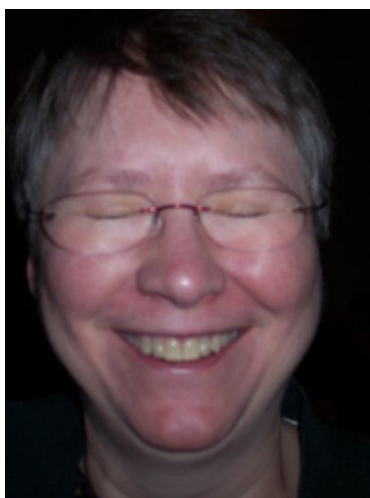


Bob Rowe looking dapper, as usual

2014 Holiday Dues Party



VP Gary Nelson, & his 1st Lady, Carol



(I told Ann Marie I wouldn't use this picture – so you didn't see it here!)



Yet more revelers!



Wise words from President Lee Knauf

CMI Classifieds

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

1960-69 (including FC) **Steering Stabilizer**. Clark's part number C1460 (see on page 138 & 152) – new in box. Catalog price - \$98.70 (+ 8 lbs shipping). Your price: \$60. John Herkenratt (952) 935-4596

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

1 of 96 air cooled inboard Corvair motor boats made by Wayne Industries. Hull Number: 16AC5125, Vessel Number: CF 9382 CV. Motor ran and prop engaged when stored.

Needs - Top gel coat refinishing, new wiring and steering reinstalled. All parts that were removed are included. Seats are new in the box. The Wayne 100 decal is in good condition. Permanent tag trailer Warehoused in Alameda CA for the last 8 years.

Contact: bdmrx-4304396642@sale.craigslist.org



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*Introducing:
Jacob Rudolph Alexander
(sitting with proud grandpa Ray)*



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

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TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



How about inviting a friend to a CMI event?!