

# LEEKY



# SEEL

CORVAIR MINNESOTA NEWSLETTER

## President's Page

*"Talk* about the unexpected—look at the 1965 Corvair! There were enough news “leaks” about Ford's Mustang that anybody who didn't know all about the car by its introduction in April just wasn't reading the papers. The Corvair, on the other hand, should be a shock to just about everybody; it's wholly unlike any previous Corvair and wholly unlike what many people expected.”

The above quote was from the October, 1964 issue of Car and Driver magazine as the introduction to the second generation 1965 Corvair, which came out 50 years ago. The article went on to say that the styling “speaks for itself; it is undoubtedly the sexiest-looking American car of the new crop and possibly one of the most handsome cars in the world.”

As we all know, all this high praise was, for the most part, lost in translation. Pony cars, and later muscle cars, gave the American drivers what they wanted; fast acceleration in a straight line, handling be damned. However the Corvair could and did handle extremely well with the new suspension design in 1965 and was the closest thing to European cars Detroit had ever built.

Anyone who watches *Top Gear UK* will know that American car makers are still being ridiculed for producing cars that don't go around corners. On the cover of *Hemmings Classic Car* were some more Corvairs, specifically the Monza GT and Monza SS. They are featured in an article about Chevrolet Concept Cars of the 1960s. One concept

## September 2014

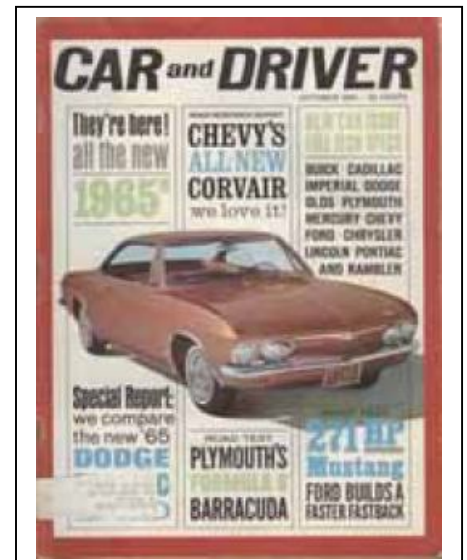
I found especially interesting was the Astro of 1967. I had always thought it was a Corvette based concept but it was actually powered by a Corvair engine that had been tuned to 240hp - too bad that engine didn't find its way in the rear of a regular Corvair.

We had a very good turnout at our August meeting despite the sudden change in venue. Peppermint Twist was temporarily closed on our meeting date but has since reopened. We will be visiting them for our September meeting. We also have a Fall Cruise planned for October 11<sup>th</sup> with details elsewhere in the SEEL.

Only a couple months of cruising weather left. Keep those Corvairs driving.

Stay Tuned,

*Lee Knauf*  
CMI President



# CORVAIR MINNESOTA

## August 12, 2014

Meeting was called to order around 8pm by President Lee Knauf. We had a last minute change of venue due to Peppermint Twist in Delano being closed. We met at Harvest Grill in Rogers.

There were around 18 members in attendance with one guest.

Our guest was Jim Becker, who recently moved from Texas. Jim has a 1967 coupe that runs and a 1964 coupe that will be running soon. Thanks for coming out to meet us, Jim, and we hope to see you at our September meeting.

The July meeting minutes were approved as written in the SEEL and seconded. Our treasurer's report showed \$1925 in our account. We have not received the check from GMCCA as of yet but are estimating that amount to be \$1900.

New items included the Buffalo Car Show on Saturday, September 6th as presented by Bill Cook.

Rich Storlie also promoted the Summer Spectacular in Farmington on August 23rd at the Dakota County Fairgrounds. Lee Knauf presented the Fall Run that will be held on Saturday, October 11th starting and ending in Chaska. Details for the Buffalo Car Show and Fall Run are in the SEEL.

No other business, new or old, was discussed as we were competing with BINGO in the main part of the restaurant. However, in keeping with our secretary's tradition, the 2015 CORSA International Convention will be in Knoxville, Tennessee from June 24th to 27th, so you now have a full 10 months to get your projects completed.

Submitted by  
President and Substitute Secretary,

# Lee Knauf

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Friends -- If you'd like to have your car in the "Classics by the Lake Car Show" on Saturday, **September 6th**, in beautiful Sturges Park on the shores of Buffalo Lake near downtown Buffalo, please e-mail me your name, address, phone number, make, model, and year of the car you plan to show (if you haven't already done so). I need to drop off the registrations by **September 1st**, so get your information to me as soon as possible. There is no cost to participate, and you might even win a trophy. There are restaurants and lots of places to shop (it's occasional sale weekend) so bring your wife or significant other. The show runs from 10:00am to 2:00pm, but we will meet in downtown Buffalo on 1st Street South, just a block east of Hwy 25 ... across from Coborn's parking lot ... by **8:00am** so we can all park together (look for my silver Corvette). There should be breakfast items available in the park. The show organizers expect over 600 cars again this year, so it's important to get there early. Call my cell (612-940-9179) if you have any questions, or if you get lost on the way to the show. This has become one of the nicest shows of the year so please plan to attend.

Thanks -- Billy

Morrie's Buffalo Ford's  
192 East Highway 25, Buffalo • 743.882.1432 • morrie.com  
MORRIE'S BUY HAPPY™

# Classics by the lake

Car Show Saturday, September 6th, 2014 • 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Free admission for spectators and show car owners • Trophies for top 75 cars chosen by show car owners  
Spectators Award, Sponsors Award and Best in Show • All vehicles of interest welcome!  
*Parking spaces fill up quickly. Parking and gandy bags are available on a first come first serve basis.*

## ENTERTAINMENT BY CHOPPER

• WORLD'S NUTTIEST DJ

BEAUTIFUL STURGES PARK DOWNTOWN BUFFALO

Antiquing • Shopping • KRWC  
Food & refreshments on site  
Please No Alcohol, Pits, or Bicycles

SPONSORED BY:

Buffalo, Advance Auto Parts, KleinBank, and other local businesses.



# The Minnetonka Drive In

This has been a staple of the collector car scene for decades and when we go there for a membership meeting it's always a good time. The weather was good, the food was good and the turnout was great as usual. President Lee kept the "sermon" short, we had two guests (one from Texas!) and many folks brought out their cars. Good times!



This is about the earliest Corvair I've ever seen!  
(actually Dave Peterson owns this "A")



It was a long trip from Texas and he had a long ways to go





# *New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run*

Saturday, August 9, 2014

The New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run began in 1987 during New Brighton's Centennial Celebration. The City added the Run to its calendar of events that year as a way of strengthening its namesake ties to Brighton, England. Complete with a visit by the Mayor of Brighton and other English guests, the 1st Annual Antique Car Run was held with 17 participants. The Antique Car Run is an American version of the prestigious London to Brighton Commemorative Run held annually in England.

The New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run is a 120 mile tour of the Minnesota countryside. Unlike the English event run through the crowded streets of the big city, this Minnesota Run starts in the small rural community of New London and takes participants past sumptuous fields and quaint farm houses as it winds its way into the suburban city of New Brighton.

All vehicles from 1908 or earlier, or any 1 or 2 cylinder vehicles up to 1915 are eligible to participate in the New London to New Brighton Antique Car Run. This includes bikes, motorcycles, steam and electric cars as well. An average of 60 cars participate annually. The Run is held the 2nd Saturday in August annually. This year, the 28<sup>th</sup> annual run, featured 62 Grand Tour participants on the Official Roster (54 started, 52 finished).

These pictures were taken on the road to the Buffalo High School where the participants took a mandatory lunch break and joined the Wright County Car Club and Corvair Minnesota for an impromptu car show.



1898 Jeanperrin, the oldest participating car



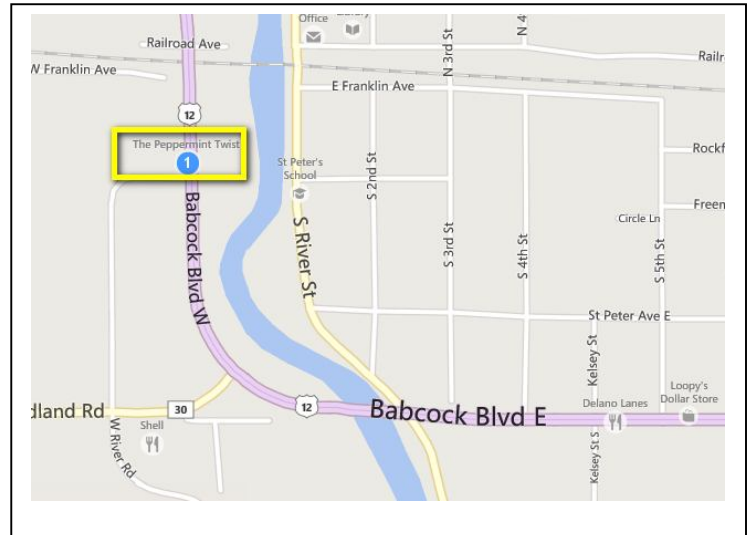
"Who are you, where are you from and tell us a little about your car"



**New London**, continued on page 7

# Upcoming Corvair Minnesota Events

CMI's next drive-in (non-MUM) meeting, September 9<sup>th</sup>, will be at the Peppermint Twist Drive-in in Delano, (6:30 pm).  
115 Babcock Blvd W, Delano, MN



- Sept**
- 06 Classics by the Lake, Buffalo, MN 10am – 2pm
  - 07 Family Fun Fest, St. John's Church, Buffalo, MN (note – this is not a car show this year)
  - 09 Membership meeting – **Peppermint Twist**, Delano, 6:30 p.m.
  - 25 Board of Directors – **To Be Announced**
- Oct**
- 07 Membership meeting – MUM
  - 11 Fall (day) trip (& recognition of the introduction of the Corvair (10/02/1959)
  - 12 Roadsters Swap Meet, State Fairgrounds ( <http://roadsterstwincities.com/> )
  - 12 12th annual Drive for Kids – ( <http://bolderoptions.org/events/drive-4-kids/> )  
8-10:30 a.m. start, noon to 4:30 finish; St. Paul to Red Wing
  - 30 Board of Directors – **TBD**
- Nov**
- 11 Membership meeting – MUM (voter's meeting)
  - TBD** Board of Directors

\*\*\* Empty space – let's find some activities to fill it up! \*\*\*

(The Annual Holiday/ Dues Party will be held in January)





# 2014 Fall Cruise

Join us for an October Fall Cruise on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll start at Egg and Pie Diner in beautiful downtown Chaska at 9am for breakfast. Egg and Pie is located across from the Gazebo Park in the center of town.

After breakfast we'll take a scenic drive to Minnesota Harvest Orchard outside of Jordan. When we say scenic, we mean no HWY 169. We'll spend some time at the orchard enjoying the fall colors, fresh apples, and Corvair camaraderie.

Depending on time and everyone's wishes, we will then travel south to Jim's Apple Orchard, which is the big yellow barn south of Jordan on HWY 169. Not only does Jim's have apples, pumpkins, and squash, they also have over 100 varieties of Root Beer and other sodas. They also bill themselves as the largest candy store in Minnesota.

We will then take another scenic drive (i.e. no HWY 169) through Belle Plaine and north to Chaska Towne Course for dinner at Charlie's Grill.

Please e-mail me at [vairy69@comcast.net](mailto:vairy69@comcast.net) if you plan on attending. Hopefully the weather will still be nice enough to drive Corvairs (or Corvettes, Novas, Fieros or Mini Coopers). Please let me know by September 30<sup>th</sup> so I can make reservations at Egg and Pie and Charlie's Grill.





Corvair  
Minnesota  
@ Buffalo  
High School



1905 Columbia/ 1965 Corvair – there's a contrast!





# Harvest Grill

The August meeting place had to be moved at the last minute because the Peppermint Twist Drive In was unexpectedly close for the meeting night. After a bit of searching we discovered the Harvest Grill located in Rogers. They offer a nice menu, indoor seating a lot of parking for those with Corvairs (& Corvettes). I think we may return to this restaurant in the future!





# CMI Classifieds

**Parts for Sale:**

- '64 - steering box (core value \$145.00) rebuilt \$185.00
- '62 - 3 piece front trim NOS \$250.00
- '65 - front grill - very good \$100.00
- '63 - 700 rocker trim (narrow) NOS
- '62 - 500/700 (narrow) rocker trim NOS
- '61 - '63 car steering box - used (core value \$125.00) \$125.00
- '65 - '66 steering box - used (core value \$125.00) \$125.00
- '65 - '69 headlight bezel NOS (1 left)
- '64 rear exhaust air grill NOS

FOR SALE ---- (25) 1965 WHEEL COVERS - (2) WITH CORSA INSERTS ONE OR ALL - - REASONABLE  
 JERRY BERGE 480-250-8816

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**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

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**For Sale -** New Craftsman "Digitork" 1/2" drive digital torque wrench, \$60.00. Call Billy at 612-940-9179.

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I have four Corvair Bucket seats if anyone has a need ... Two are black not sure of year, one white 64, one red 65. Bud Brady, 952-891-4790....Cell 942-303-2340

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**Wanted:** Looking for a "fixer – upper" Greenbrier or van. Ken Laursen phone 612-735-8955 or: [rockabillyrebel61@yahoo.com](mailto:rockabillyrebel61@yahoo.com)

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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. Fun to drive but at my age it's getting tougher to get in and out! **Make offer** Bill Von Hassel 952-946-2245 or [VonH9700@aol.com](mailto:VonH9700@aol.com)



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**1964 Monza** Very good condition 4-speed manual Corvair Monza. Near perfect paint job, with the exception of passenger door which has some scuffing. Extremely mechanically sound, full engine assessed and repaired by professional mechanic, as well as all new brake cylinders. Needs minor electrical and interior work. Structural components rust free, minor rust in some cosmetic areas. 78000 mi. Perfect for an easy restoration. \$2700 OBO. Luke 651-894-3013 (Lake Elmo)



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**1964 Spyder.** Low mileage runs & drives excellent. W/ 5 factory orig. knock off wire wheels. interior very nice. rare tissue dispenser. new tire & brakes. tuned up; new silicone wires.some rust on bottom but not through floors. 20 footer could use paint but presentable as a driver. \$6000/ offer. Bruce Alexander 605-996-1039 Mitchell, SD. [brucealexander11@yahoo.com](mailto:brucealexander11@yahoo.com) (<http://sd.craigslist.org/cto/4609889228.html>) for more pics



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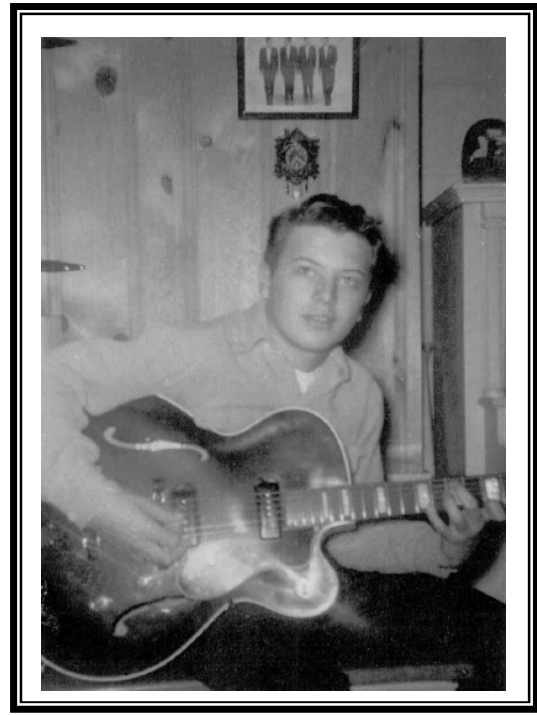
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Recognize this guy? Even though he was in about 8<sup>th</sup> grade in this photo you may still recognize the hair?!



*Back to school!*

**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**



*September – still time to get those 'Vairs out!*