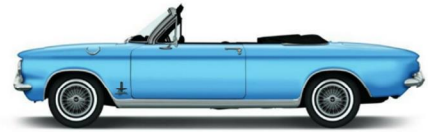




# Leeky Seel

Corvair



## Corvair Minnesota Newsletter

June 2018

### President's message...

*A special thank you* to my wife Chris, who has agreed to take on the role of Editor of the **Leeky Seel**. No excuses for late articles from my desk anymore!

Finally, Chris and I have moved into our new townhouse in St. Michael after living with my sister for two+ months. Now it's time to get everything unpacked and organized. Thanks to Gary Nelson for all the work on my Rampside over the last two months. I am looking forward to a drive and it may be ready for the GMCCA show June 3.

Our June 12, 7 PM membership meeting at Messiah United Methodist Church (the MUM), will most likely take place entirely in the parking lot, weather permitting. Drive your Corvair and come early to show off your car, talk about projects you are working on and enjoy some fun and fellowship. We will have a short business meeting and talk tech topics along with treats the rest of the night. Some of us meet at Culver's in Plymouth (Hwy 55 & Peony Lane) for dinner at 5:30 before the meeting; *join us!* At this meeting we will start holding a monthly drawing for a progressive cash jackpot. We will begin with \$5 in the pot and draw a name from our membership list. If the winner is not present, an additional \$5 will be added to the pot each month until we have a winner.

**Back to the 50's** is taking place at the State Fairgrounds June 22-24 and is not to be missed. With over 12,000 cars, this is the biggest car show in the United States. Be sure to drive your 1964 and earlier Corvair to the show. Our participation in the Delano Fourth of July parade is still in the planning stages with additional information to be provided at the June membership meeting.

See everyone at the GMCCA car show!!

Wrench, Ride, Repeat,

*Jack Bacon*



## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2018

President Jack Bacon called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm with our group reciting the CMI creed. 24 members and guests were present. We went around the room with everyone relating what Corvairs and other collector cars they own, as well as their other hobbies. One new member joined, Dan Kotten from Lakeville. Dan just completed his first year at Georgia Tech and owns a '64 Monza.

<b>Treasurer's Report:</b>	Previous balance	\$2896
	Income	\$35
	Expenses	<u>0</u>
	Current Balance:	<u>\$2731</u>

Paid Members for 2018: 61

**Secretary's Report:** Approved as written.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Pancake Breakfast:** On April 28, we held our Spring Breakfast at the Moose Bar & Grill in NE Minneapolis. About 24 members attended and enjoyed the food and fellowship. Fewer Corvairs than usual for this annual event due to the weather! Thank you, Gary Nelson, for arranging this new spot for us.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**New Leeky Seel Editor Found! Whew:** Chris Bacon has risen to the challenge and will be taking over these duties from l-o-n-g time editor John Herkenratt with this issue. Thank you, Chris, and thank you, John, you are leaving big shoes to fill!

**Summer Meeting Plans:** At this time, we are planning only one drive-in meeting this summer: **Minnetonka Drive-In** in **July**. The balance of the meetings will be at the MUM. The thinking is we would like to make the meetings more Corvair vehicle focused and get back to the parking lot sessions of old. In addition, we were short of convenient restaurants and drive-ins to use. This should be a good experiment!

**American Legion National Convention Parade:** Joe Schwert has no word on how many vehicles are desired, but he is compiling lists of available convertibles

and drivers without convertibles willing to drive someone else's car. Please let Joe know your availability for both categories.

**GMCCA Car Show & Swap Meet:** Dan Quinn updated everyone on renovations to Machinery Hill this year. Most noticeably, the swap meet will now be in a parking lot to the North. In addition, new restrooms will be across the street from our area. . .but likely not yet operational.

This year, the "Saturn/Other" vehicles will park with us as their lot is currently Construction Staging. Obviously, they are joining us because we are the most welcoming club at the event!

Dan passed around a sign-up sheet for working the gates and overseeing the "Car Corral". We will be collecting money once again after last year's one-year experiment with ticket booth sales. Rewards for everyone pitching in is a substantial check for our income statement each year.

### ***Get your Corvairs detailed!***

**Adopt-a-Highway: May 12:** Jim Becker updated the sign-up sheet and we will meet at Dobo's for breakfast at 8 a.m. Weather prediction is iffy, but we will proceed unless it is steady rain.

**North St. Paul Cruise-in "Corvair Club Night": July 6.** Tom Quinn just received the date so mark it down. We are in the same lot as last year. They ask that we enter using the alley and arrive between 5 and 6 p.m. Address & map in July **Leeky Seel**.

**'63 Spyder Coupe:** Rich Buratto, newly returned from AZ, told us to keep our eyes peeled for his old red coupe. The new owner rebuilt the turbo and drives it extensively, even competing in the Cannonball Run.

**FC with Factory Camper:** Jim Becker was contacted by the son of the owner who had worked at the GM Training Center. They own a very complete unit which has suffered from being outdoors. An interesting project for someone looking for a rare-even-when-new project!

## **Corvair Minnesota General Membership Meeting (continued)**

**Shirts and Other Wearables:** Bill Cook brought a broad selection of CMI clothing to display and sell. We may also be selling at our tent at GMCCA.

**BREAK:** Gail Quinn amazed us once again with those toffee bars with chocolate on top... Outstanding!

**Tech Session:** Fran and Gary talked about BRAKES, an appropriate topic as we are bringing our vehicles out of hibernation for another busy summer.

Fran showed a brake drum worn completely thru on the brake pad contact T! This illustrated that, given our vehicles are around 50 years old, components which normally last the life of a car need to be checked. In addition, the brake system needs to be purged every other year due to condensation rusting brake lines from the inside. Examine the color of your brake fluid for symptoms.

Fran also demonstrated how his automatic brake line flusher allows him to bleed brakes without a helper.

Gary explained converting to a dual master cylinder and why it is vitally important in older vehicles.

### **Upcoming Activities Recap:**

**May 12: Adopt-a-Highway**, 8 a.m. @ Dobo's.

**May 18-19: Corvair Museum Opening:** Decatur, IL. John & Vince are attending!

**May 19:** Adopt-a-Highway Back-up Date, same time, same place.

**June 3: GMCCA Car Show & Swap Meet.** This unique annual show by the 12 metropolitan GM Car Clubs is one you need to experience if you've never attended. Bring your Corvair regardless of condition. . .you can get a lot of tips for completing whatever your current project happens to be.

**June 12: Monthly Membership Meeting** 7 p.m. at the MUM.

**July 4: Delano Parade**, details to follow.

**July 6: North St. Paul Cruise-in: Corvair Minnesota Night:** Good food and an interesting event.

**July 10: Monthly Membership Meeting** 7 p.m. at MINNETONKA DRIVE-IN.

**July 23-28, 2018: Corsa National Convention, Pittsburgh, PA**, 687 miles, 2 months to prepare!

**August 11: New London – New Brighton old car run.** A wonderful event for getting up close to early 1, 2, and 4-cylinder cars as well as steamers. We meet them at the Buffalo High School starting at 11 a.m. as they roll in for their noon break. BRING A KID!

**August 26, 2018: American Legion National Convention Parade, Minneapolis, MN.**

**Summer 2019: Corsa National Convention, St. Charles, IL**, 14 months.

**Summer 2020: Corsa National Convention, San Diego, CA**, 26 months, 1978 miles.

**Adjourned: 9:40 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Chuck Johnson*

# Fran's Continuing Education!

Remember that sometimes I make reference to Diodes? Well, sometimes it slips my mind that LEDs are Light Emitting DIODES. That's important because DIODES, when used in CORVAIRs, are devices that let the current only go one way...we all know that, right?

When a light bulb assembly was built into the CORVAIR there certainly was little, or no, thought given to the possibility of an LED being used therein.

Fast forward to me and my CORVAIR. I noticed the glove box light was kinda puny in my '64. I had just recently built an assembly to use an LED in the glovebox of my '61 Rampside so I was comfortable with the idea of just swapping out the bulb for an LED.

You're getting ahead of me, I can tell!

OK, let's see the picture.

I put in the LED and nothing happened. Since I just took out the hot wire bulb I was quite certain the fuse was good but since the LED didn't light up I figured I had screwed up the circuit somehow and it was no longer hot.

The old hot wire bulb still worked!

Re-placed the LED and checked the ground connection – all was good.

I pulled the Assembly out of the socket to look at it and compare how the contacts are built on the two lights. Boy! They were the same size and the same length and the grounding lugs were in the same position...I couldn't see any difference. The LEDs are really reliable so I figured it was a good one but I took a clip lead by the battery and checked it to be a good and very bright LED.?!?!?

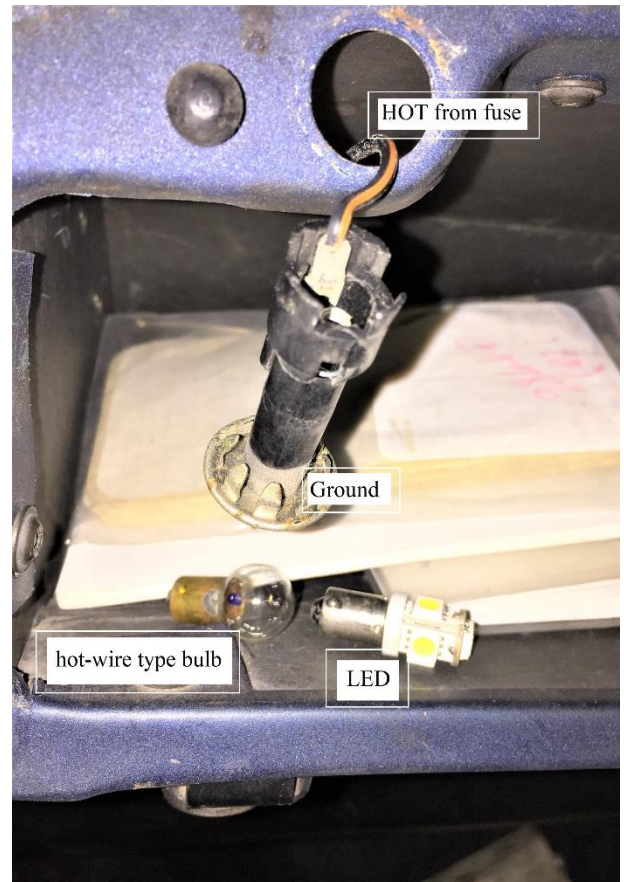
Then I saw it! LIGHT BULB over the head sort of a thing!

The General's people always use the center contact on the dash bulbs for the hot lead that comes from the dimmer. The glove box bulb is operated by pushing the bulb out of the way (when the door closes) so there is a plastic post that pushes right up the middle, lifting the bulb away from its ground contact. Works great with the old fashioned hot-wire bulb. However; the lamp holder has the hot wire coming into the side of the bulb, see photo, and that just happens to be reverse polarity for a diode!

The socket is HOT on the side contact and ground at the center contact. Opposite of the other dash bulbs but of no consequence, in the olden days, to what was a regular 'light bulb'.

HA! Jokes on me. Now all I have to do is figure out how to rebuild that assembly, with its nicely grounded socket, so that the button still breaks the circuit when the door closes but also lets the light shine when the door is open! Stay tuned while I think about that one.

Keep on CORVAIRing, *Fran*



**More from Fran.....**Remember when I said I would try to figure out how to reverse the polarity of the glove box light's fixture? Well, I puzzled on it - - till my 'puzzler was sore! This is what I came up with - and it works. That doesn't say my solution was elegant, but it does fill the bill.



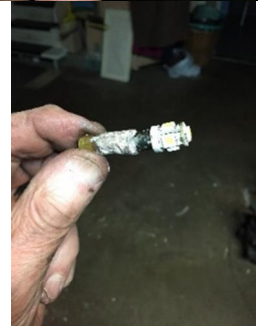
Here's how the bulb that normally works in the reversed socket looks. Inside of the bulb are the two contacts that make up the plus and minus of a regular bulb. As I said before that doesn't make any difference on a "bulb" but it is all the difference in the world to an LED. So, I smashed the glass to get at those two little wires inside. Turns out

you can't solder to that kind of wire because that wire is made to seal to the glass bead that holds all the little wires. But that wire is very soft and bendable...so I took some small copper wire and 'tied' it together with the bulb wire and then splashed a little solder on it to keep it from flopping around. The LED takes so little current that a small wire does the job...nicely! Here's the light bulb socket with its two NEW wires!



All I had to do then, was to solder the bulb's wires to the LED - in the correct direction - and it was ready to test it, just to make certain I didn't get it screwed up in reverse! LIT up like a flamethrower!

Next, I mixed up a small amount of BOND0 and squeezed it inside of the old bulb and between the wires and up onto the LED's fixture. A little tape on it just for looks and it was ready to go. Plugged it into the reverse polarized socket of the '64's glovebox and you can see for yourself how it really fills the box with abundant light.



You can hardly see it but over on the right of the glovebox photo is the courtesy lamp that goes on with the door. It's a really wimpy - puny bulb compared to the bright-little LED in the glovebox.

I am going to look up that bulb number and buy a 'good' LED to replace that factory courtesy lamp. It will light up the doorsill even in the daylight!



Just to be certain the General didn't do the same thing with the door's courtesy light, I ducked down there to take a look. Here's a shot of that fixture with its own ground wire, that goes to the grounding switch at the door jamb.

So, NO, the General didn't do it to me twice in the same car!

Keep on CORVAIRing,

Fran



# Corsa Corvair Museum Grand Opening

On a fine Friday morning, Vince and I jumped into the Ramp and headed south 525 miles to Decatur, Illinois to attend the grand opening of the Corvair Museum in its new home with the Chevrolet Hall of Fame Museum. After an eventless ten hour drive, we arrived safely at the host hotel, the Hampton Inn. The next morning we headed for the Chevrolet Hall of Fame Museum to register and tour both museums, tour the big selection of Corvairs in the parking lot (voting was held for PeoplesøChoice awards) and to check out the nice selection of Corvair vendor parts also in the parking lot. President Mike Hall oversaw the official ribbon cutting which was done by Pam Cole, daughter of the GM worker (Cecil Cole) that assembled the first Corvair by hand in order to be able to train other Corvair line assemblers. Part of the ceremony included the unveiling of a special Greenbrier now owned by Patrick Skiver. The story goes that GM built the Greenbrier in 1959 for their Motorama. While installing the Van in the Waldorf Astoria for a display, the rigging slipped and the poor Corvair ended up with a large amount of damage to the front end. Even though the van was repaired on site, GM built another for William Randolph Hearst and he used it on his estate at San Simeon for many years to give tours to celebrities. Of special note on the van is the large cloth sun roof installed by the predecessor to the well-known company ASC. Richard Lentinello of Hemmings was there as well as Paul and Mona Bergstrom, Harry Jensen, Mike McGowan and seven members of the CORSA Board. Sonny Balcaen of IECO fame sent a message which was also read at the ribbon cutting.

Saturday night the majority of attendants (probably over 200) joined together in the former museum café for a catered dinner and short presentation to acknowledge the top 3 Peoplesø Choices for each category. The next morning after coffee (and a waffle!) it was off again for the long drive home.

*John Herkenratt, SEEL Editor Emeritus*



I think we need a bigger sign!



Dick Mickelson made the trip down too!



Pam Cole and Mike Hall

## CMI Classifieds



**'61 Rampside** with camper conversion. It has been outside for years and is in rough shape but pretty complete. The picture shows what it looked like in better days. It was owned by late member Odie Rask. **Contact: Mark Rask, 9152 173rd Ave., Becker, MN 55308 cell: 320-293-6717 [mark.rask13@gmail.com](mailto:mark.rask13@gmail.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. \$7,900. **Curt Robinson 952 934-6069 or [Curtnanrob@aol.com](mailto:Curtnanrob@aol.com)**

**1963 Corvair Monza** convertible; body and suspension restored; engine is not assembled. Aftermarket seats, fuel injection (still in box), many other new parts. **Contact Dave Pugh [pugh.dave@gmail.com](mailto:pugh.dave@gmail.com) 507-285-3384**

**Pair of 12" woofers** that go well into the mid-range, in a trapezoidal speaker cabinet. Cabinet does not have the fiberglass in it so it is best to hear them at moderate power levels for now. A moderate radio receiver, with clamp on wiring for DEMO, goes with the speakers. If you set this cabinet on the back seat of your CORVAIR, please bolt it or seat belt it firmly, as it is heavy. Price is very negotiable. See or call or text or Email anytime before 10 PM. **Fran Schmit 952-288-3041, [schmfran@hotmail.com](mailto:schmfran@hotmail.com), 3370 Library Lane 55426**



**'65 convertible** purchased from South Carolina about 15 years ago. Last time driven 5 years ago. Asking \$5,500. The car is in Anoka. **Contact Tobin Opheim at: [opheimt@hotmail.com](mailto:opheimt@hotmail.com) or call or text 608-358-9699.**

**1962 Corvair 700 Monza Station Wagon.** Second owner selling to finish another project car. 66,000 miles with two-speed powerglide transmission. Body work and paint (original white) about 6 years ago, along with new fuel pump, battery, rebuilt carbs, aftermarket belt tensioner, brakes, and tires with about 2000 miles. Blue interior with cloth inserts, but both front & rear seats need to be recovered. Transmission leaks after sitting for a long time. Cooling fan bearing is starting to wear & makes a little noise at low idle. Flywheel is missing a few teeth and occasionally the starter doesn't catch right away, but it never fails to start.

This is not a show car, but a fun and very reliable driver for weekend cruises and runs to the DQ. Gets a lot of attention. Asking \$6000 obo. **Contact Alan at [aplantikow@msn.com](mailto:aplantikow@msn.com) for pictures or any questions.**

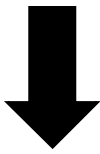
### WANTED

I have a client that is in search of a good driver quality, reasonably priced coupe (early or late); needs to have a powerglide. **Please contact Gary Nelson at 612-644-1258**

### **Leeky Seel Classified ads**

Do you have a Corvair related item you would like to sell or are in search of? Send your request for an ad in the Leeky Seel to: **[corvairminnesotaneewsletter@hotmail.com](mailto:corvairminnesotaneewsletter@hotmail.com)**

**Check us out...**



**For more information on  
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visit our website:  
[www.corvairminnesota.com](http://www.corvairminnesota.com)**

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**Spot a Vair!**

**Max Callahan taking his Dad Jake's Corvair for a drive!**



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  
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**TEMP - RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting is at the MUM!**