



# Leeky Seal

*Corvair*

January 2021



## Corvair Minnesota Newsletter

### President's message:

Welcome to 2021!

I hope this New Year will be much better than 2020.....

I also hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It was brought up amongst some board members about the dues for 2021. Since our 2020 monthly meetings were so few and far between, we decided to carry the dues from 2020 to 2021. Anybody who was a fully paid member in 2020 will automatically be carried over to 2021 paid status.

Those that join in 2021 will be charged the full dues for the year. Any questions call me.

It doesn't look like we can have a meeting again this month (January). The pandemic has curtailed Ideal Hall, but we will be notified if something changes. I've been talking to the boss at Ideal, and our Tuesday date is still reserved. I will let everyone know if a meeting can be scheduled, so hang tight and hope for Tuesday January 12, 2021.

I would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to Chris Bacon for putting the Leeky Seal together for the last few years. Chris did a great job and the Seal showed it. Thanks again Chris!

I hope everyone stays healthy throughout the New Year.

*Tom Quinn*  
**President**



## Corvair Minnesota Club Info page

Here is the CMI list of officers and coordinators as a result of the recent election:

<b>CORVAIR MN</b>	
<b>OFFICERS</b>	<b>COORDINATORS</b>
<b><u>PRESIDENT</u></b> Tom Quinn 755 West Montana Avenue St. Paul, MN 55105 tquinn1979@msn.com (H) 651-459-2657 (C) 612-670-9224	<b><u>TECHNICAL EDITOR</u></b> Fran Schmit 3370 Library Lane St. Louis Park, MN 55426 952-929-9174 schmitfran@hotmail.com
<b><u>VICE PRESIDENT</u></b> Gary Nelson 6916 Russell Ave S Richfield, MN 55423 corvairnelson@gmail.com 612-644-1258	<b><u>CLUB WEAR</u></b> Bill Cook 600 10 <sup>th</sup> St S Buffalo, MN 55313 612-940-9179 wdccacook@yahoo.com
<b><u>SECRETARY</u></b> Amber Leah 3328 5th Avenue South #1 Minneapolis, MN 55408 612-251-9498 amber.81.leah@gmail.com	<b><u>HISTORIAN</u></b> Cara Knaut 401 West Street New Ulm, MN 56073 952-448-6083
<b><u>TREASURER</u></b> Lee Knaut 401 West Street New Ulm, MN 56073 952-448-6983 vainy59@comcast.net	<b><u>EDITOR</u></b> John Herkenratt 408 7th St S Hopkins, MN 55343 612-719-4580 corvairmleekyseel@hotmail.com
<b><u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1yr</u></b> Ron Scott 12816 Jonquil Street N. W. Coon Rapids, MN 55448 612-600-0360 riskis@aol.com	<b><u>MEMBER COORDINATOR</u></b> Jim Brandberg 2214 293 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040 763-444-9334 jimbrandberg@aol.com
<b><u>BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2yr</u></b> Dave Pederson 14957 Durent Street N. E. Ham Lake, MN 55304 612-385-2241 dave14957@gmail.com	
<b><u>ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR</u></b> Corey Cowden 7360 Old Viking Blvd N. W. Nowthen, MN 55303 Ratrodgers@yahoo.com 763-226-4477	



2020 has been quite a bust as far as opportunities for CMI activities (did I even need to say that?).

BUT, we're starting to see some events being scheduled again (perhaps with some changes) watch this space as events are announced!

The Twin Cities Auto Show announced Monday that their 2021 show will be held the Minnesota State Fairgrounds on May 21 to May 23 rather than at the Minnesota Convention Center in March.

Adult tickets are \$10 and can be purchased for a discount online at <http://www.twincitiesautoshow.com/>. Tickets at the door are \$12, tickets for teens age 11 to 15 are \$6 and children 10 and under are free.

2020 BACK TO THE 50'S WEEKEND was cancelled due to COVID-19, the weekend has passed and many memories were shared from previous shows on social media. The 2020 dates are now in the rear-view mirror and we are all looking through the windshield towards next year!

**Please join us the weekend of  
June 18 – 20, 2021!**

### 2021 CORSA International Convention San Diego

Crowne Plaza San Diego Mission Valley 2  
270 Hotel Circle North  
San Diego, CA 92108  
July 27th, 2021 7:00 AM *through*  
July 31st, 2021 11:00 PM

## New Year Needed

First I'd like to thank Chris Bacon for an excellent job as Leaky Seel editor all these years.

I was planning to write something with a Dues Are Due theme. I was going to dig deep for some good reasons why Corvair Minnesota is a good place to spend your money. Something along the lines of how we haven't been able to do much lately but we're poised for a good year with a solid slate of Officers and Directors having plenty of enthusiasm and plans. How we did the best we could to keep things going in 2020 but social distancing made it somewhat difficult. I was going to ask you to please bear with us while we anticipate returning to normal activities.

All that seems a lot easier with a BOD proposal to waive 2021 dues. I'm just one guy but I think it's a great idea. Our coffers are full enough to take a 1 year hit. Hopefully we don't have to pay in because of no GMCCA show in 2020 but we can face that obstacle if we come to it. I hope I'm not speaking out of turn, I haven't heard that it's a done deal as this goes to press but I haven't heard of any objections. I personally would be happy to send in the \$20 later should we get in fiscal high water. I think new members will still be expected to pay, it helps forge a bond when there's a cost to it, especially in these days with expectation of free online everything.

I don't know for sure since I'm not on the committee but I believe plans for our traditional January Dues Party have been scuttled because of the current restaurant shutdown. It's hard to plan a party with only a hope that the venue will reopen in time. Plans can certainly change and I know I usually don't need much of a notice to go to dinner.

I also don't know about our regular meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in January. If we can have one it will be at the Ideal Hall in St. Paul. Dinner at 5:30 or 6 for those who want to pay for it and Meeting at 7:00. I love the Taco Tuesday special but other menu items look good too. We all have different views on whether we should be getting

together, a Corvair Minnesota meeting is certainly not an essential activity. We understand why folks stay away and we all have varying degrees of risk factor. Please stay tuned to the Governor's updates and be mindful of CMI e-mail announcements or at least call an Officer beforehand. We just don't know at this time.

I usually get a little philosophical about my Corvair activities around New Years. In 2020 I wondered who would be around to repair Corvairs in 2030. I've always had more work than I can do, some from other states. I'm hoping to downsize this year. I'm getting some long overdue Titles applied for. It's been over 20 years since Egil Twedt died leaving behind a huge Corvair collection. I'm working toward getting a Van running to drive while it's for sale. I would like to always have a Corvair running that's for sale, hopefully going to someone with some body working skills to finish it off. I've gotten better at sorting things and sending the extra to scrap but I've got a ways to go. I've got a few extra engines running. It will be interesting to see how the market is for running Corvairs, not much on Craigslist these days with the (gasp) \$5 fee.

There's a fellow near me wanting to sell his big collection. There's 8 Corvairs inside and 11 outside and at least 15 extra engines. 3 Rampsides, 4 Spyder convertibles, Corsa turbo coupe, 2 LM convertibles... They all need work. He'd like to sell it all to someone but I don't know who that would be. My rescue mentality kicks in and the downsizing part of my brain goes on hiatus. I'm quite conflicted. We've been talking for years about getting some running but it never seems to happen, now he realizes he may never get to it. There's a lot of that going around.

*Jim Brandberg*

## **IN MEMORIAM**

### **Hillel F. Sweet**

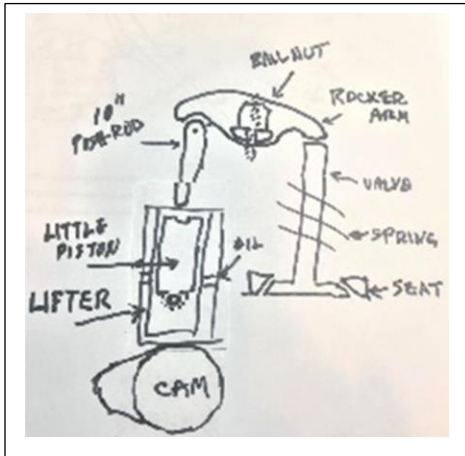
On Friday, November 13, 2020, Hillel "Hill" F. Sweet, loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and uncle, passed away peacefully at age 93 at his home in Minnetonka. Hill lived a long, joyful, energetic and productive life, full of fun experiences. He was born on October 7, 1927, in Minneapolis, MN. He graduated from University High in 1946 where he was a Minnesota state high school wrestling champion. After graduating, he served in the Army in Japan from 1946-1948. Hill married the love of his life, Arlene Kaufman, on November 20, 1949, and spent the next 71 years with her. He created a successful business called Minnesota Auto Parts and had a great passion for antique cars and motorcycles. He was renowned for his restoration skills and antique motorcycle collection, and he was a long-time member of Corvair Minnesota and charter member of the Viking Chapter of the Antique Motorcycle Club. Hill loved being at his cabin, fishing, hunting, training prize-winning hunting dogs, and he was an avid reader of history. Hill was an inventor with multiple patents, known for his innovative ideas and mechanical talents. He was a kind man of few words who made friends wherever he went. He showed his love through actions and whenever his family told him they loved him, he would say "It goes without saying." His grandchildren were the delight of Hill's life. Preceded by parents, Harry and Ida Sweet; siblings, Douglas, Jack and Conrad Sweet and their wives Elaine and Annette; in-laws, Dr. Jerry and Pauline Kaufman, Annette and Burt Davidson, and Hal Divine; and uncountable friends. Survived by children, Bette Jo (Loren) Siegel, Linda (Stephen Mitzner) Victor, Jonathan (Lisa) Sweet and Carol (Frank) Nichols; grandchildren, Robert (Lauren) Victor, Frankie Nichols, Jamie Nichols, Hannah Sweet, Dina Sweet, Marc (Casita) Mitzner, Julie (Paul) Rubin, and Allison Mitzner Schulder; great-grandchildren, Henry, Lia, Penn, Serena, Eva (and another on the way); in-laws, Alvin and Audrey Kaufman and Rita Divine; and numerous nieces, nephews, and great grand nieces and nephews who all meant so much to him. Funeral service via Zoom on Monday November 16, 2020 at 1 pm. Shiva Monday at 7pm. Email [zoom4@hodroffepstein.com](mailto:zoom4@hodroffepstein.com) for links. Memorials preferred to the Hill and Arlene Sweet Fund at Jewish Family and Children's Services of Minneapolis or donor's choice. Hodroff-Epstein 612-871-1234. [hodroffepstein.com](http://hodroffepstein.com)

*Published on November 16, 2020*

[Hillel F. Sweet Obituary | Star Tribune](#)

## ValveTrainGeometry - Instead of a Tech Session!

(let's start with a sketch)

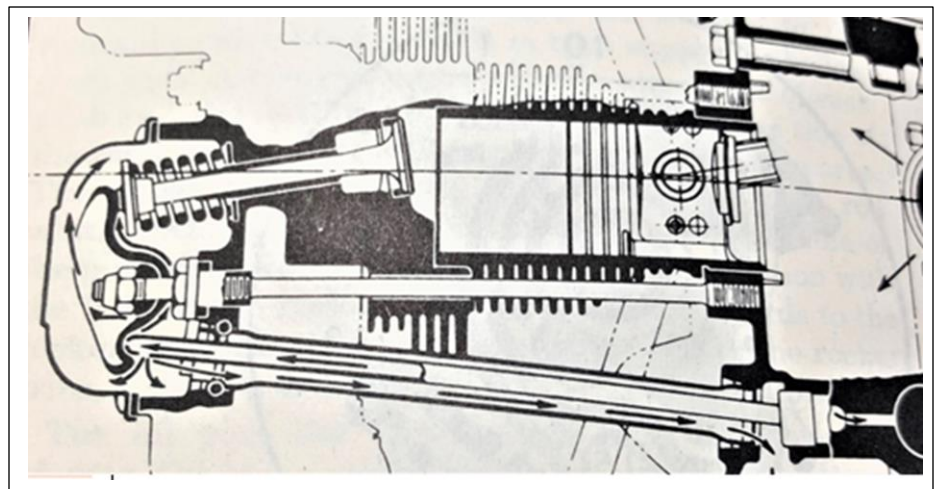
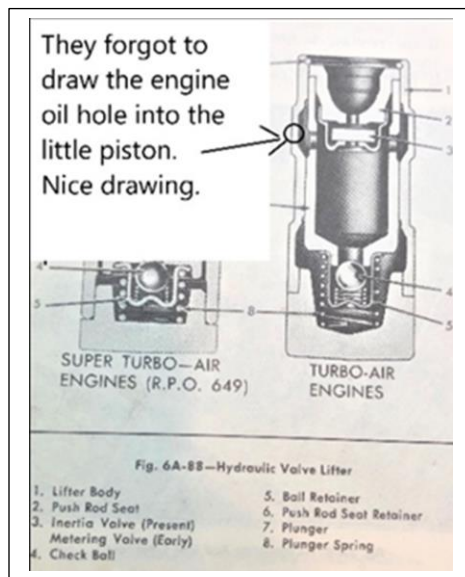


I drew this and then found a nicer pair of sketches in the '61 manual.

When the cam pushes on the lifter, it also pushes on the oil inside, which pushes on the little piston (the one with the dimple).

This little piston, in turn, lifts the Pushrod to pivot the RockerArm and open the valve.

The engine's oil pressure keeps the little piston up against the PushRod so there is no clearance in the ValveTrain. When there is no clearance there is also no "clack" in the ValveTrain. That's how come they invented Hydraulic lifters!



As the engine warms up, its Aluminum parts get twice as big as its Iron parts do, and the PushRod needs to follow those changes, so the little piston moves around in the lifter - always maintaining the Zero lash – quietly.

When we set up our ValveTrain we usually start with the little piston in the middle of its travel. We do that because if the little piston were at the top of its travel, the ValveTrain would 'clack' and the valves wouldn't open all the way. If the little piston were at the bottom of its travel, the valves wouldn't close, and your engine would talk back to you – using bad language – and you might burn a valve!

To adjust the position of the little piston, inside of the lifter, we use the BallNut up in the RockerArm – two turns of this nut is all we get...from solid Lifter to Zero lash.

The BallNut is on a 24 threads per inch bolt. So, two turns is about 80 mils and since the BallNut is about a third of the way across the RockerArm, we are seeing about 125 mils of range, for the little piston. ~1/8"

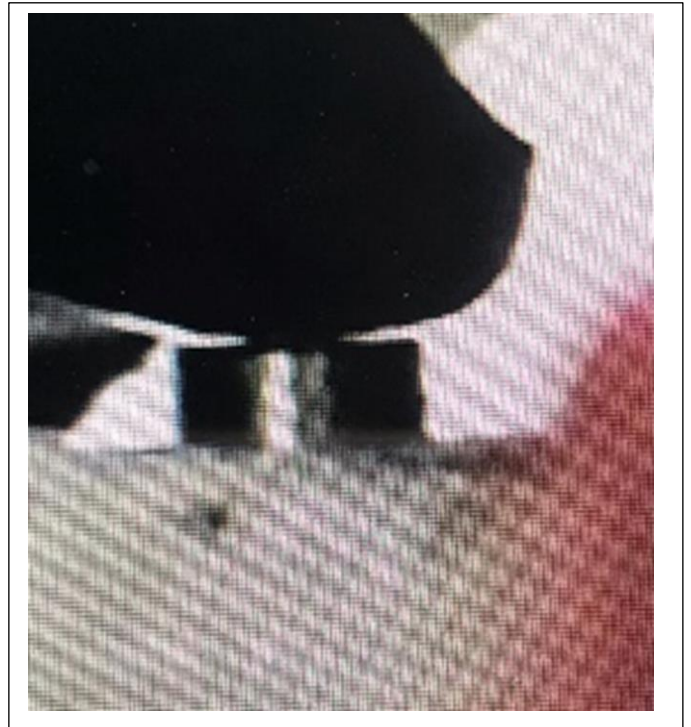
Here's where ValveTrainGeometry comes in:

In the last 60 years our engines have been opened up a few times and usually by someone else! So, we don't know what has been done to it or in it. Newly machined head gasket surfaces, a new cam and lifters, or a reground cam (!) and after market lifters, fregzample, send our PushRods up/down and everything must move to accommodate their new positions. An easy way to realign these dimensons is to read the needed length of the PushRod. If it is not within specs (see photo right), where the condition shown is when the valve is halfway open, new Pushrods can be made, for a reasonable charge, in increments of 0.025"(25 mils) to put your Geometry back in the right dimension. The engine in my FC has PushRods shortened by 75 mils.

But! you don't know what that number is, until you read your ValveTrainGeometry! So, watch the video!

It's on our website:

<http://www.corvairminnesota.com/gallery.html>



Keep-on-CORVAIRing,

*Fran*

## Warren Eugene LeVeque

November 7, 1941 - November 29, 2020

FAYETTEVILLE, Tenn. - It is with regret we announce the passing of Mr. Warren Eugene LeVeque, 79, of Fayetteville, Tennessee, formerly of Anderson. Warren was born in Linton to the late Eugene "Red" and Lurinda "Rindy" Glass LeVeque. He passed away on Nov. 29, 2020, at Lincoln Medical Center in Fayetteville, Tennessee.

Warren attended the Prospect Baptist Church in Fayetteville and formerly attended Grace Baptist Church in Anderson, where he was very involved for 20 years with the Keenagers program.

He attended the General Motors Institute of Technology in Flint, Michigan, where he met his wife.

Warren worked and retired as an industrial electrician with General Motors in Indiana.

He was also the owner and operator of LeVair Performance. Warren was well known across the country for building and racing the Corvair. He was an innovator in the Corvair performance world, so much so, that he wrote a book about his experiences. Warren was a member of the SCCA for over 50 years, winning multiple awards and campaigning through the auto crossing and amateur road racing worlds. He traveled extensively for Corvair conventions. You could easily spot his car by the Tweety Bird mascot.

Warren loved to make people smile and enjoyed playing the piano in nursing homes. He could always be found behind the piano at any social event.

Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Sharon Elaine Wilson LeVeque; children, W. Scott (Melinda) LeVeque, of Pulaski, Tennessee, Michael John (Tracy) LeVeque, of Fayetteville, and Michelle LeVeque (Chad) Werner, of Houston, Texas; grandchildren, Amanda LeVeque, Lauren LeVeque (Seth) Heseque, John (fiance, Christy Martin) LeVeque, Jacob LeVeque, Logan Gibson, Libby Gibson (Ryan) Leach and Nova Werner; great-grandchildren, Emelia Heseque and Fitz Leach; sister, Sheryl (John) Sommerkamp, of Carmel; niece, Paige Sommerkamp (Jeff) Hayes, of Camby; great-niece, Darby; and great-nephew, Chandler.

Published on December 3, 2020

[Warren LeVeque | Obituary | Herald Bulletin](#)



## Warren LeVeque Eulogy

*From The Fifth Wheel; newsletter of Lehigh Valley Corvair Club Inc.:*

Remembering Warren LeVeque, by James Rice

*Warren LeVeque passed away this month. He was one of the greats who kept the candle lit for the Corvair hobby during the dark days when Corvairs were a dime a dozen. And he did it by racing them. The following is a eulogy for Warren, written by James Rice.*

My friend of several decades Warren LeVeque has departed this life as we know it, and has entered eternal rest with his Savior. He will be missed by us all. I first met Warren and Sharon at Indianapolis Raceway part in 1978. I bummed a ride to the WOR Games, to watch the Yenko Stinger Challenge sponsored by Jim Schardt. Over the following years, we met at various Corvair and SCCA races, forming a friendship. In 1997, when I was given the opportunity and responsibility to get Jim Schardt's ex-Donna Mae Mimm's Yenko Stinger to the Monterey Historic Races in California, Warren was the first person I thought of as crew. We had a good week. He was a most interesting man. He was small in stature, but big in heart, enthusiasm and grit. He was well educated, but was a skilled trades working stiff, not given to lots of money. He once told me the overtime pay funded his racing. When it stopped, he stopped. Watching and listening to him in a group was to be enlightened. Whenever someone would say "I wonder if we could do this to make our cars faster." he often replied "I tried that. It doesn't help. I have the parts on my wall in my shop to prove it." But he also sometimes went "Hummm." and went home to his shop. He also served CORSA as the Chairman of the Competition Committee for many years, writing many entertaining and informative columns. He loved to give people rides in his race cars. One of the cheap thrills in my life was at the 2007 Detroit Convention's autocross when he gave me a ride in the ex-Bill Thomas/Doug Roe EM Corvair. What a historic Corvair race car! What a ride! I think Warren built 4 racecars from scratch, and restored or re-engineered a couple more. He was an excellent machinist and fabricator, and did some very interesting work. For all that he accomplished, I only heard him brag once. And it wasn't about his racing accomplishments, which were many. He once said he had lived more years than any male in the LeVeque family tree. He was proud of this, as he had several physical and health issues. But he persevered. But it was his health which finally kept him out of his racecars several years ago. He had a accident on the street because of his health condition, and Sharon said enough. And he listened. Good man Warren. To his wife Sharon, children Scott, Michelle and Michael, you have our condolences and prayers. May the God of all peace comfort you. We shed tears with you.

Historically, James Rice



# CMI Classifieds

**For Sale**

- 1960-69 rebuilt starter, includes drive & housing
- Two early FC headlight bezels, very good condition. \$50 each
- 1964 aluminum air grill, new, also fits thru '63. \$150
- Relined late front brake shoes \$30

**Contact Jerry Berge at 480-250-8816**

(April 2020)

The *World's Fastest Indian* is a very good movie. I happen to have purchased a copy recorded in Blue Ray. I don't have a player. Anyone who wants this DVD can have it just for the calling.

**Fran Schmit @ 952-929-9174**

(Sept 2020)



**FREE**

I got a new jack because my old one was giving me fits. Also, the new one is a two-speed unit which I like and always wanted an excuse to get!

If anybody wants to clean up a 3-ton floor jack or just sell it for scrap, they are welcome to it. I might even deliver it if you ask nice!

**Fran Schmit @ 952-929-9174**



**For Sale**

Two '66 coupes, many parts and toys in Savage, MN. Will trade for good GM car or \$1,500.

**Contact Rudolph Poppe at 612-425-7479.**

(April 2020)

**Wanted**

Want to buy a project car, any style of the early body. Doesn't need to run or be complete, just looking for something without too much rust.

**Contact me at: dave14957@gmail.com**

(October 2020)

**FREE**

Hour timer: 12-60vdc. Keep track of how long your something is on! Still in the box!

**Fran @ 952-929-9174**

(Dec 2020)



**FREE**

I mistakenly bought these flashing lights, can't think of any use for them. Remember the car in Knight Rider? Anyone want them?

**Fran @ 952-929-9174**

(Dec 2020)



**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: corvairmleekyseel@hotmail.com. **Deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.**

# Check us out...



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

Follow us on  
Facebook:  
Corvair Minnesota



*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

408 7<sup>th</sup> St S  
Hopkins, MN 55343-7722

TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# Spot a Vair!



1964 Chevrolet Corvair Greenbrier \$8,000  
Listed in [Buffalo, IA](#) (Facebook Marketplace)



**THE JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
MAY BE CANCELLED DUE TO COVID  
RESTRICTIONS – STAY TUNED!**