



# Leaky Seal

*Corvair*



May 2024



Corvair Minnesota Newsletter

## *President's message:*

This past month we went to Mike Bednarchuk's shop in Waverly for our Chili cook off, 21 members and family showed up.

Charlie and Jan Kenny won 1st place

It was a good time!

A big thanks goes out to Mike B for hosting this event.

It's almost time for our spring car show, May 18 –don't forget to RSVP!

Plan ahead for exciting upcoming events in May, June and July:

- CMI Breakfast car show, May 18.
  - RSVP by May 14
- GMCCA June 2
  - Still need 3 volunteers to help work the gates!
- Back to the 50's June 21-23
- Corsa Convention, Dayton Ohio July 21-26



Reminder- our next monthly meeting is Tuesday, May 14 with a Board meeting at 5pm. Food and beverage is available from 5:30 to 6:30 with our meeting starting at 7pm.

See you at our next meeting.

*Dave Pedersen*

CMI President

## CMI Meeting Minutes

April 9th, 2024

26 members in attendance.

Corvairs in attendance:

3 Late Models

1 Early Model

President Pederson called the meeting to order at 7 pm on the nose!

David read the creed.

No new members.

There will be the chili party on April 20th.

Please see Kay McDaniel regarding signing up for the chili party.

Dan GMCCA: there are still spots available for volunteering.

The state fair will not allow set up until 2 pm.

Make sure to come in the Hoyt gate, Snelling and Hoyt.

Every club is responsible for their own tent. At 2 pm when set up begins, beware of stragglers from the 5k.

Parking will be a little different this year. All the GM Geo Metros and Saturns will be located north of Corvair parking. They will not encroach on our area. With so many issues with the state fair, we've been there for 42 years, the board of directors are looking at other potential spots that could be a possibility.

If you are on a shift, and someone comes to relieve you, you need to be able to communicate. 12 and under are free, pets on leashes are ok. We have to pass this information on to the next person on a shift.

Ali is not in attendance to give her report.

VP Brandberg: Activities: We try to do activities 1X a month. April is the Chili Party. May will be the Breakfast Club/Car show. June will be GMCCA. Last year we didn't go to New Ulm. We'd meet down by Young America, and we'd convoy down to New Ulm.

Jim Becker for a number of years we've been going to the Nowthen threshing show.

Pederson mentioned the name tags if you would like a name tag, please let him know, they are \$10.

Treasurer Paul, everything is all good.

Bob Clothing, if anyone is interested, see him after the meeting.

Mike Jenkins wasn't in attendance.

#3 Amber Leah's (that's me!) \$5

Pederson's son is working on 3-D printing. He brought several items that his son made.

Gary is auctioning a ceramic tile. It has a red Corvair convertible from the Seattle 1983 car show.

Brandberg: Tech Session:

If you're really going to town on parts, you can have some of your parts sandblasted and then powder coated. If you start painting stuff in your engine, you've got a bottomless pit. Try to clean up the rust. The perimeter strips will

deteriorate over time. Cool air is supposed to go from the top, to the bottom, and if your perimeter strips has cracks, it allows the hot air to come back up. Brandberg uses wire for fixing the perimeter strips, and Gary uses 9/16 stainless staples. Lates have a different perimeter strip, which is about 12 feet long. He uses paint thinner to clean up the perimeter strips.

Batteries, sometimes he would get cars that come in where the batteries are floating around and that's not good due to an electric shortage. They definitely should have a hold down.

Jim Becker brought decals for a turbo, and there are some air cleaner stickers as well for a 1961.

Auction for the tile: CJ purchased the tile for \$10, proceeds go to the club. Treats were provided by Penny Nelson.

Meeting adjourned @ 8:15 [Then yummy treats! – ed.]

*Amber Leah*

Amber Leah, CMI Secretary



## May Birthdays:

- Bob Johnston
- Amber Leah
- Ron Scott
- Elias Way



*Happy Birthday to you!*

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

Gail Quinn, Director of Treats  
[Gailquinn263@msn.com](mailto:Gailquinn263@msn.com)



## **They're Crazy Out There**

In April I talked about one of my favorite things, engine compartment appearance. I'm not sure a lot folks share my penchant for detail. I think it started for me when I was a kid building model cars under the basement stairs. I love an open car hood and my eye is drawn to irregularities. Jim Becker brought a sheet metal piece that had been powder coated with just the right amount of sheen for me, I just love Satin Black and aluminum. At a Car Show or at the Sports Car races you'll find me looking under the hood as much or more as the whole rest of the car.

A Corvair Minnesota Spring Activity for as long as I can remember has been a Pancake Breakfast and Corvair dust-off, a first time out with the Corvair for the season sort of thing. We've gotten away from making our own pancakes but the Car Show Breakfast at Ideal Hall has captured the original spirit of the idea quite well. I like to get there early to see and hear Corvairs as they arrive and after a good Breakfast wander out to look some more. It seems like it would be a good time for folks to bring parts for sale. You know it's still okay to sell stuff at a Corvair meeting and not donate it to the club.

I especially like seeing Corvairs that still need work, getting a little better every time you see them but still out and about during the process. On the way home this year I'm swinging through Osseo for a look at the foreign cars including Paul Schuler's Mini. Aside from Corvairs I've always swayed more towards sports cars and road racing than American muscle and drag racing although I do have a thing for Precious Cooper.

To go along with the getting out and about for another season idea, at the May meeting I'd like to stray from technical things and talk about driving our Corvairs out on the roads today. Maybe help get our heads on straight, do they still call it defensive driving? One thing that's interesting these days is the top of the roof on my '60 4-door is about as high as the bottom of the window on most of the vehicles I pull up next to. There may be an air of superiority perched up there. In his book "How To Keep Your Volkswagen Alive" for the "complete idiot" John Muir advances the theory that if they strapped the driver out on the front bumper there wouldn't be near as many accidents. A lot of people seem to be more concerned with what's on with their cell phone or if they're dripping latte on their shirt than what might be going on around them. Plus, it's all happening at speeds that used to be frightening when cars had some road feel.

Warning lights in the mirror have largely taken the place of turning your head to look or actually keeping up with what's going on around you. They may not see you. I'm sure many of us have stories we can regale of times out on the road. The best stories have some sense of adventure along the way and reach a successful conclusion but unfortunately that's not always the case. I'd like for people to speak up so we can all learn. People trying to merge on an entrance ramp can be interesting. These days a pack of 10 come down the ramp nose to tail with seemingly no regard for how they're going to fit in and you're a sitting duck if you move into the left lane at anything under 75 MPH. It's good to drive in a manner that you always have an escape plan if something goes wrong. It's good to look at the traffic flow way ahead.

Have you checked your brake fluid? How are you doing for seat belts? Driving in the rain is way worse when your wiper blades are bad. It's tricky to merge in and around the maniacs when your windows are fogged up. Got any tools? I don't think I'm an expert or anything but I sat through a lot of Annual Safety Training when I was driving a truck. I like how on Hill Street Blues at the end of the briefing he'd always say something like okay let's roll but hey hey hey let's be careful out there!

*Jim Brandberg*

Corvair Minnesota, Vice President

## FAST IDLE TANG

When making an adjustment to where the fast idle tang falls on the stepped 'fast idle' cam, it is sometimes difficult to get the tang in the correct position. Reason being that when you bend it, the tip of the tang not only moves up or down but it also moves out into the path of other moving parts.

What this means is you need to have a good hold on something that is not really in an accessible spot. A Tool to reach that spot - from either side, remember there is more room on one side than the other – can be made out of a pushrod. Sure, it can be made out of anything – this is just a good example.

I used a Pushrod, to make the Tool, as it has a nice hardened steel end on it. That END will remain sharp and grab the soft iron tang, nicely.

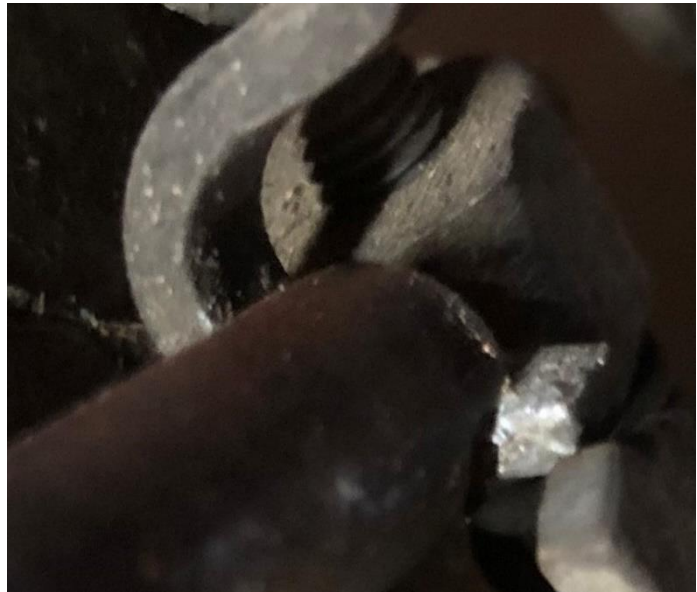
Use a Dremel Tool to carve a clean straight-sided notch out of that hard end and

then bend the rod, after cherry'ing a spot determine a good length to position the bend.

Here're a couple views, up close, showing how the notch, that is cut with sharp square edges, can grab and manipulate that Question Mark shaped Tang, with ease.

Feel free to copy this idea and then practice with it a bit, so you are ready to use it when you are adjusting some carbs.

Keep-On- CORVAIRing....*Fran*





# Breakfast and Corvairs

May 18, 2024

8:00AM – Noon

*Beverages available 8:00 – 10:30*

*Food served 9:00 – 10:30*

Location: TCT Ideal Hall

1494 Dale St. N, St. Paul, MN 55117

Cost: \$15.00 per person (\$7.50 for Kids, 10 and under)

**Meal includes: Eggs, Potatoes, Bacon, Fruit, French Toast Bake, Juice & Coffee**

**Please RSVP no later than May 14th**

*Send payment (checks made out to CMI) to:*

**Dave Pedersen**

**14957 Durant St NE**

**Ham Lake, MN. 55304**

**(or bring payment to the Membership meeting)**

***RESERVATIONS are REQUIRED***

Total # People @ \$15.00 = \_\_\_\_\_ (List Name and Address below)

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42nd Annual General Motors Car Clubs Association  
**ALL GM CAR / TRUCK  
SHOW AND SWAP MEET**



Live DJ playing music  
Food vendors on site  
Dash plaques to first 500 show vehicles

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2024 • 8 AM - 2 PM**  
**MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS - MACHINERY HILL**

**ALL GM CARS/TRUCK WELCOME INCLUDING**

**BUICK • CADILLAC • CAMARO • CHEVELLE • CHEVROLET • CHEVROLET/GMC TRUCKS • CORVAIR • CORVETTE  
EL CAMINO • GMC/CHEVROLET MINI-TRUCKS • NOVA • OLDSMOBILE • PONTIAC • UNIQUE/OTHER GM**

**Spectators:** Spectator Gates open at **8:00 AM**

- General Admission: \$10.00/Adult
- Children under 12: FREE

**Show Vehicles:** Show Vehicle Gate open at **8:00 AM**

- \$20 Day of Show (includes one passenger)
- Show Vehicles must enter show at Larpenteur Ave & Underwood

**For Sale Vehicles:** For Sale Gate opens at **8:00 AM**

- For Sale Vehicles \$25 Day of Show (all makes welcome)
- For Sale vehicles must enter show at Larpenteur Ave & Underwood

**Swap Area:** Swap Gate for swappers opens at **7:00 AM**  
Swap Gate for everyone else opens at **8:00 AM**

- Swap Space 15' x 20' space: \$25 Day of Show — \$20 if preregistered by May 15- **ST-19 Required!**  
Swapper pre-registration send check to: GMCCA, 9632 Wyoming Terrace Bloomington, MN 55438
- Swap vehicles must enter show at Randall & Dan Elmer Way
- All makes of parts are welcome!
- Optional Saturday swap setup available from 9 am-12 pm sharp June 1 2024  
Enter CAREFULLY only on Hoyt off of Snelling due to 5K running event within Fairgrounds

Visit links below for updated event information

[www.gmcca.com](http://www.gmcca.com)

[www.facebook.com/GMCCAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/GMCCAssociation)

STATE FAIR RULES PROHIBIT: OPEN FIRES, BBQs AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES. - PETS ON LEASHES ONLY

## Main Metering Jets

The other day I washed off my engine and splashed water into the filters. When I removed these old filters and drove around I found I had been using the filters as CHOKES! My mixture was WAY OFF without the filters in there. Knowing that was 'not right' I decided to get the mixture back straight and then put on filters that do not add drag to the airflow. It turns out that just the tin can from the factory adds a measurable mixture change, but I'm going to keep the cans and work with them as I search for a better filter.

I use homemade tags on each carb to show what size ID is the Jet in that carb. There are only ten sizes that one could normally use in a standard HV Carb, so it is possible to use only one number to ID any Jet. If the jet is 48 – use the number 8. If the Jet is 49 – use the number 9. If it's 50 – use 0. For 51 through 58 use 1 thru 8. See photo of a three (3). The actual diameter of the hole in a Main Jet labeled 53 is 0.053". Some racing carbs have holes twice these sizes meaning three or four times as much fuel!

Sometimes it's not easy to remove that little Brass Jet, deep down in the bottom of the bowl. I made a Tool that allows me to access those Jets and to get them to unscrew. I'm certain someone else could make a better one but this one does work, for me. One end of the Tool is 5/16" Allen wrench stock and the other end is ground down – 'round' – to the 5/16" diameter of the JET, so the tool can access the Jet down in its hole. The Jet is 5/16" OD. I cut the end of the Tool to match the shape of the Jet – with nice sharp corners – to lessen the chance of stripping the soft Brass.

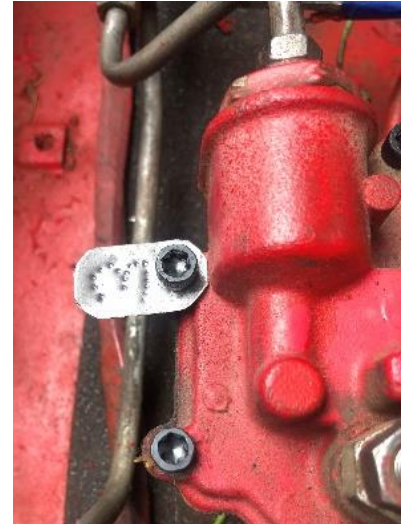
For Jets that have been in there for fifty years sometimes it is necessary to use the Impact driver to jar them loose. That's why I used a 5/16 Allen wrench as I have a 5/16" Impactor. So far, I don't remember ever having a 'stuck' Main Jet, but some did get beat-up, a bit. To facilitate striking the Impactor squarely - leave the bottom half of the carb bolted to the engine (access the Jet by removing only the AirHorn of the carb), just makes it easier to hang on to, if you are smacking it!

I have changed out quite a few Jets. So many, in fact, that I now save the spare Main Jets in a box with their labels attached. Their sizes are not easy to read down in the hole under a half inch of Gas.



Here's a shot of some Jets waiting to go into service. ENJOY

Keep-On-CORVAIRing, Fran



Officers			Cell Phone	Email	Cars
President	Pedersen	Dave	612-385-2241	dave14957@gmail.com	65 Coupe (Green), Covino
Vice President	Brandberg	Jim	763-444-9334	jimbrandberg@aol.com	Several Early,Late & FC
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	Long	Ali	763-742-6194	corvairali@gmail.com	63 Corvair Monza
<b>Directors</b>					
	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)
<b>Coordinators</b>					
Technical Editor	Schmit	Fran	952-288-3041	schmfran@hotmail.com	61 Ramp, '66 Coupe
Membership	Jenkins	Mike	763-355-0168	rockinracer@hotmail.com	66 Coupe (yellow)
Apparel	Kaczke	Bob	612-916-8769	bkaczke@gmail.com	66 Corsa (Blue)
SEEL Editor	Herkenratt	John	612-719-4580	jherken@netzero.net	61 Rampside(WH) '66 Conv (Beige)
Treats	Quinn	Gail	612-670-9224	tquinn1979@msn.com	63 Convertable (red)

## Some Up-Coming events

May 4<sup>th</sup> – Corvair Track Classic (Corvair Museum fund- raiser to benefit Corvair Museum Capital Fund

May 5<sup>th</sup> - Corvair Museum Car Show (Corvair Museum fund- raiser to benefit Corvair Museum Capital Fund ([www.corvairmuseum.org](http://www.corvairmuseum.org)) 10:00a.m. – Noon

May 18<sup>th</sup> – Spring Car Show/ Breakfast – 8: a.m. – Noon *CMI event:* see Flyer.

May 19<sup>th</sup> – Historic Hastings Car Show (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday through September ) 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> – GMCCA, State Fair Grounds 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. *CMI event:* see Flyer

June 21-23 – Back to the 50's, State Fair Grounds

June 30 – New Ulm AutoFest, Brown County Fairgrounds [damaybe@newulmtel.net](mailto:damaybe@newulmtel.net)

July 22-25 – CORSA convention, Dayton OH

July 26,27,28 – Little Log House Pioneer Power Show, Hastings 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

August 16,17,18 – NowThen Threshing Show, NowThen 7:00 a.m. each day

September 15 – 10,000 Lakes Concours d' Elegance, Canterbury Downs 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

October 12 – Frankensteiners Ball 19, Isanti County Fairgrounds 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



## CMI Classifieds

**WANTED**

**Garage storage** for 3-6 collector cars preferably in east Washington County (Lake Elmo area?)

I live in St. Paul and I now have cars stored at Rock Creek and this is too far for me to enjoy them. Willing to lease or even build on your land – everything negotiable.

Norb Johnson 612-218-1940

**For sale:** (All for Late model):

- Sedan Rear Glass
- Sedan Rear Door Glass
- Trunk floor
- Front Cowl Cover
- Misc Hub Caps

Contact Mike:

[rockinracer@hotmail.com](mailto:rockinracer@hotmail.com)

### High Powered CORVAIR Engine: \$10K

Dyno tested to prove >150 HP on the ground.

3100 ***For Sale*** tons/Jugs, where the Wrist Pins Float in the Pistons.

Roller Litters on a Roller Cam: All block mods and Cam by Ray Sedman. Valve Train Geometry centered.

Crank end of Rods reground 'Round'.

Rods ground smooth and shot peened with both ends balanced and weighing the same +/- 1 Gram.

Piston skirt to opposite Rod clearance machined to > 0.070", before balancing.

Aluminum Cam Gear mounted on an adjustable Steel hub. Set @ 4° Retard

Roller Rocker Arms. Machinist's spec sheet goes with Engine.

Annealed Heads to 94 Durometer (rings like a Bell). All contact head surfaces freshly machined.

New Valves & Guides. New Valves Springs. New/Deeper (5/16") Valve Seats w/8 mil press fit.

Presently outfitted with Headers and not-too-loud steel mufflers.

**Deliverable in its own test bed:** Good 1966 2dr 500. 4sp Saginaw. 3.27 Diff w/readjusted tolerances. Modified shifter so that it instantly finds Reverse! Air shocks controlled from Driver's seat.

Three-point seatbelts (Sebring Convertible). Dual MC on a Power Brake Booster

See Fran Schmit. ***This ad will appear in the SEEL for only one more month, before going outside CMI.***



## 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



498 members

(as of 04/28/2024)

## Spot a 'Vair!



How cool is this?! A Corvair panel van (Corvan) was used as one of the vehicles for the "Space Mobile Program," an educational program sponsored by NASA that consisted of a number of vans that traveled the states to different schools to educate students about the space program during the 1960's-1970's. The vehicles were known as the "Space Science Demonstration Unit."

*From Facebook: Meet the Makers of Chevrolet Corvair posted April 27*

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



*The next CMI meeting will be held on the  
14<sup>th</sup> of May at Ideal Hall in St. Paul*