



Whales on Wheels

2024

Number 1

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UVMCC was incorporated in October 1967 for all who are interested in Ultra Vans CORSA Chapter #008



2024 Ultra Van National Rally July 16 - 20, Greenville, OH Darke County Fairgrounds

Since no one stepped forward to host the Rally, the UVMCC Board of Directors voted on and approved a campground and dates. A 2019 regional rally was held at the campground, so we knew it will work well for the National Rally.

It's a fenced in "compound" with water and electric hookups plus a building with facilities, tables, and a kitchen. Finally, there is a pavilion with picnic tables and electricity. What else could we want?



Well, there's more!!!

What can be better than not having to make reservations and pay in advance. Come if you want and pay when you get there. There are local attractions, lodging for those not camping, eateries, and a grocery store within walking distance. Plus the dates are right before the CORSA Convention in Dayton only 43 miles away (see [page 10](#)).

See more Rally information on [page 2](#).



2024 National Rally Information (cont.)

We would like to get an idea of those who are thinking about coming. If you are thinking of coming, please fill out the form [here](https://ultravan.org/2024-national-rally-registration/) (https://ultravan.org/2024-national-rally-registration/) to be added to an attendee list.

Also, since this is a no host rally, we are looking for volunteers for a few tasks. Not all are on-site during the rally tasks nor cost anything. These are just planning. Check out the below list, select one, and contact Molly, uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com to volunteer and for more information.

National Rally tasks

Rally logo design

Tech Sessions

Agenda planning and design

Banquet ideas and plans

Activities – off site, games

Welcome Dinner plans

Door prizes/gifts plans

Awards plans

Check out the pictures from the 2019 regional rally to see the campground and facilities.

<https://ultravan.org/2019-ultra-van-eastern-rally-gallery/>

News From the Prez



Hi everyone and Happy new year!

I think it's going to be a great year for Ultra Vanning. We have many owners working on their coaches and making great progress. New owners and club members too.

Marisa and I have been putting good fun miles in #409 heading to car shows, rallies, mountain biking destinations and also to dirt bike when we can. We have put close to 40,000 miles on it since we got it in 2018 and have only needed help once to get home, and we drove it home that time. My point in all that is to reinforce that you can't do too much preventive maintenance on a UV. If something doesn't look or feel right, IT ISN'T and it will bite you eventually. Trust your gut on things like that, **ESPECIALLY SAFETY RELATED ITEMS.**

We are a close community of Ultra Van lovers that will go way out of our way to help each other. You're not alone here! Reach out and make friends with others. Ask a million questions. IT'S ALL OKAY! We've all got the sickness and love talking about Ultra Vans.

NATIONAL RALLY: We really need people to help with the rally in Mid-July (see above).

Still working on windshields. You'll hear when something is "cast in concrete" or should I say glass.

Lastly, have safe and memorable travels everyone.

Pat Jennings

Attention

Officer and Ernest Newhouse Award nominations needed by April 1

It's time to act on both of these. More on the Ernie Award below.

The offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor are open for nominations though some of incumbents say they might run again.

We **definitely** need nominations for Central Director as it expires this time and according to the bylaws, the incumbent cannot run for another three years.

Member location is not critical for running for Director and anyone anywhere can run. Please, don't assume someone else will do it. **If not you, WHO?**

It is critical that Officer nominations be submitted before ballots come out in the April newsletter, though ballot write-ins are allowed.

NOTE: The Ernie Award nominations **MUST** be submitted before the April newsletter as there are absolutely **NO** write-ins for this per the bylaws.

Submit nominations or ask questions of either President Pat Jennings, patjenningsdrums@gmail.com, 562-328-3769 or Secretary Molly Bacon, uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com, 706-457-2242.

Ernest Newhouse Award



Each year the Ernest Newhouse Award has the opportunity of being presented. It is important that you read the criteria below for the award and even **MORE** important you read about submitting a nomination. Please read everything below **CAREFULLY!**

The award recognizes an Ultra Member who has contributed in an outstanding manner to the progress, enjoyment, and general success of The Club and its activities, and meets the qualifications as stated below. Basis for selection will be the individual's performance during the entire period of membership; not just limited to the previous year or any other shorter time period.

To qualify for nomination of this award, the individual must have done **four** of the following six items:

1. Host at least one National Rally.
2. Hold a chair position of a committee
3. Hold at least one term as a club officer, tech, or other club position.
4. Be a member of The Club for a minimum of two years.
5. Host at least two regional rallies, or a second National Rally.
6. Accomplish outstanding or superior services to The Club.

A **written, qualifying report** (not just their name) must be reviewed by the President for each nominee for verification before the ballot is published in the April newsletter (**NO** write-ins). The President will forward each qualified report to the newsletter editor for inclusion on the ballot. Members vote by ballot, preceding or during the National Rally. Presentation of the award occurs at the National Rally. A tie vote selects the individual with the longest Club membership. An individual may receive the award only one time (**see your Roster for past recipients**)

Again, don't assume someone else will do it. Please send by April 1, 2024.



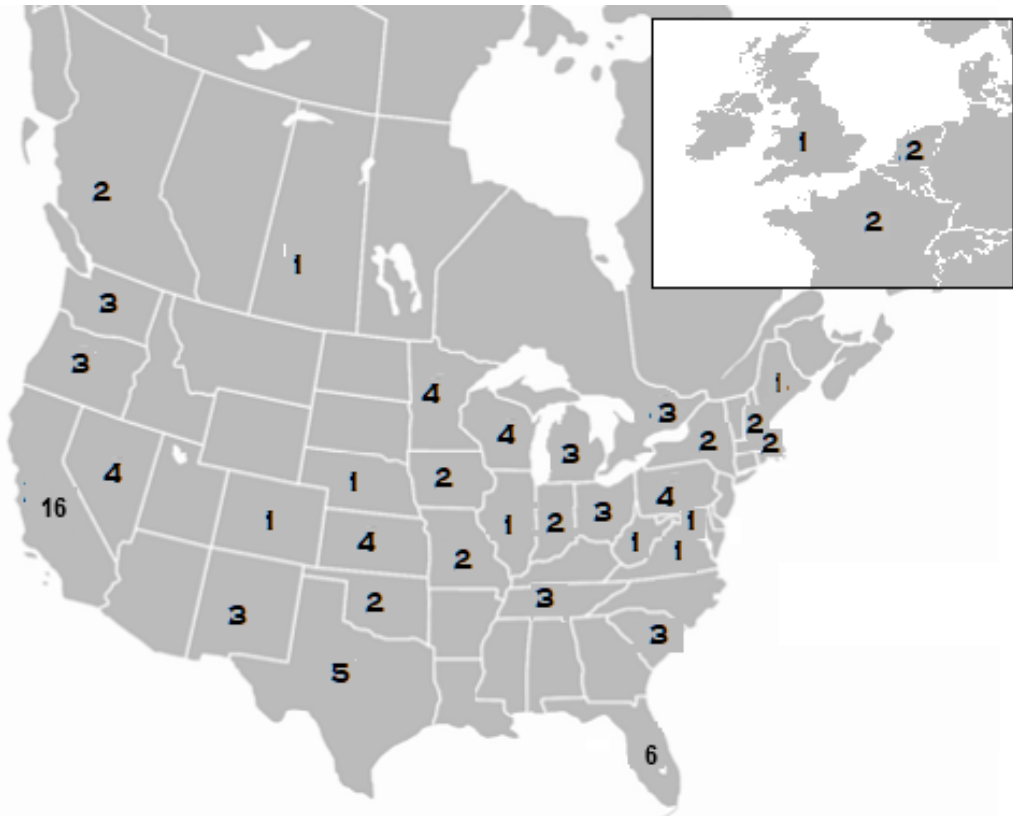
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

**British Columbia Canada
Don & Cherie Proctor #499**

WELCOME

**Ontario Canada
Peter Harvey & Torey Kehoe #215**

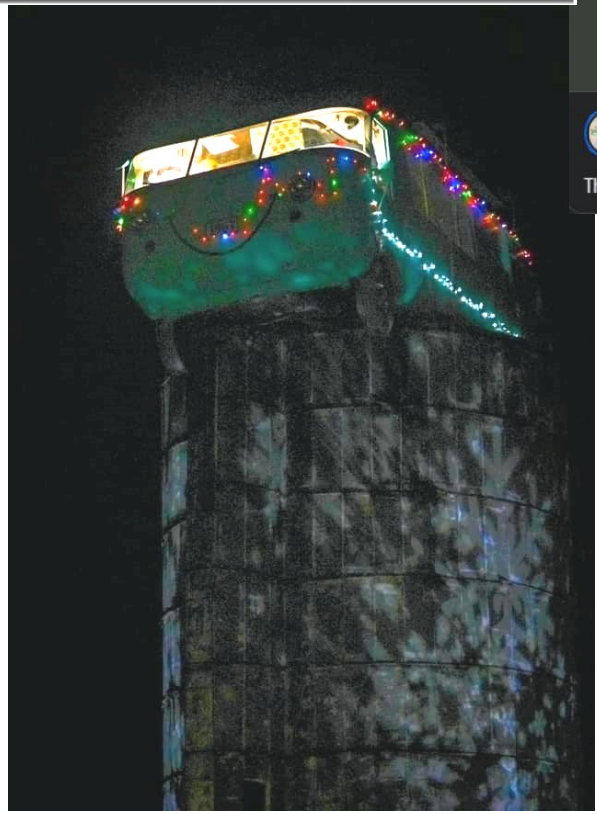
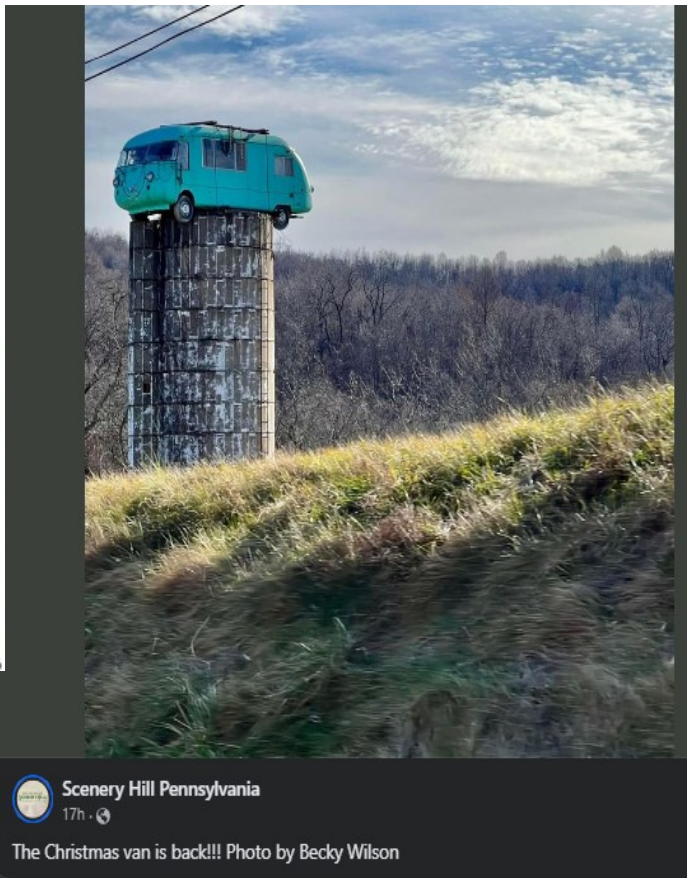
UVMCC currently has 101 members





It's BACK!!

Some missed this the first time it was in the newsletter two years ago as shown here, apparently it's removed and replaced at different times.





Short Reports

Bits of information from our members



John & Teresa Miller #509

A sun shiny day for a drive in the whale. #509 is running great, what more can you ask to bring in the new year! Eli considers himself the co pilot on out cruise, a favorite photo stop near home. Fun living close to such an awesome Route 66 icon.



Plus some holiday decorations

Mike & Tracey Scott - #396

No substantial work has been done this year, but the garage and the van are being prepped for major construction for this coming winter. Suspension all around, body work finished so we can get it primed, verify all tanks are ready so we can secure the floor and install the flooring. January update - Will be starting body work soon and rebuilding the suspension. Can't wait to get it painted!!

Larry Forman & Rosie Walker - #497

I'm hosting a Momma and Poppa Bald Eagle in my redwood tree. They have built a nest, but I don't know if the babies have hatched yet. I had been on the fence about taking that tree out because it gives me so much work cleaning up its sheddings every week and it shades my vegetable garden. I'm glad I didn't, now.

Recently, I noticed unknown people have been parking and taking pictures toward my house. I also noticed some of our daily "walkers" were walking with their heads turned upward. I thought everyone was looking at my house until another neighbor told me about the Bald Eagles. Our neighbor took the picture.

I've gone native, and drought resistant in my landscaping. The native plants in my backyard have started to bring in more birds. I'm going to have to "net" all my fruit trees, or I won't get any fruit next year.



ed – comment on tree netting. Please do not use open netting as birds and animals can easily get caught in it and die. Use a closed netting like this comparison photo.



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Phil Finch - #271, #294, #443

As an owner of three Ultra Vans, I do feel a responsibility to contribute more to the club, but I would only wish to be a helper-supporter for the person who steps forward to lead as a National Rally host. Presuming I am a helper, what would the work entail? I use a computer in my work (teaching online), and I would be willing to do such things as is required for organizing, etc. I have not worked on any of the UVs recently, being caught up in constructing greenhouses, winter gardening, caring for poultry, tucking my orchards and vineyards in for winter, etc.

Respectfully, Phil Finch

ed – please consider being just like Phil as a helper-supporter person for making the Rally a success. Select an activity on page 2 and contact the secretary.

Martin Sellers - #461

Report from West Virginia:

After sitting for nearly 40 years, I successfully started #461 with marvelous noise and smoke; nothing like 455 cu in and a 2 ft exhaust 'system'. Still many things to do before it moves and even more before it is useful.

Jay Reed #514

I had to have a new master cylinder installed as well as have the power brake booster rebuilt as my brakes were not working well. Also, I had some muffler tail piece replaced per the State Safety Testing Agency I am dealing with in order to get registered in Illinois, which has not happened yet but is getting close.

Now I am getting a lot of residue from the existing gas tank that clogs the fuel filter relatively quickly and I'm not sure how to try to clean out tank. It may need to be replaced which I don't want to do if possible. Also working with the carburetor to slow down the idle. Cleaning and adjusting it. A work in progress!

Charles Jasmer - #458

Part 1 - October

My lovely Ultra was trashed by vandals and the dinette set was left in the rain until it fell apart. Luckily, I have been able to salvage the upholstery, but the rest is going to take a long time to restore. I see they come up from time to time. They fold down into a bed for two and are perfect for grandkids.

Part 2 - December

Also, my need for some used upholstery covers to fix what I have. I will send photos and updates on my progress.

The gas tank is my current project as it was filled with kerosene and a mess. Also, it may need a windshield.

I have a broken sheet of Formica in the bedroom to replace and the plywood floor on the passenger side is rotting. Good news! A member of another motor home club sold me a nice new set of red and yellow clearance light lenses. I can recondition the aluminum by myself. I'm considering updating to LED lights.

One of the problems with the floor is the entrance door. The water from the window drips down to the bottom of the door and some leaks onto the carpet. I don't want to drill drain holes in the front of the door.

Any suggestions are welcome.

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Don Proctor #499

I am rebuilding a rear wheel bearing so I can carry it in the coach with me, just in case. I have installed a backup



camera and replaced worn out front steering bushings. I also removed, sandblasted, and painted the outside rear view mirrors on UV #499. I removed the toilet and the rusted-out ring collar [hold](#) down and replaced it with an ABS unit. The toilet was bolted back down, and it is sturdy now. Then I took the Powerglide shift cable out and wrapped it [really well](#) with silicone Rescue Tape. No leaks yet, (fingers crossed). Also, I installed a gen/fan light on the instrument cluster so I can know right away if the belt comes off. I put in a new distributor as one of the screws was stripped. I also installed a green light on the instrument cluster so I can tell when the signal lights are in use and will be notified to turn them off after the turn. Finally, I was tired of stripped screws going into the thin tin for the license plate light, so I installed some Rivet Nuts aka riv nuts and they work well.

Dave & Gloria Beck #389 November Ultra Adventure

In a nutshell: November 3-5, Gloria & I were invited to attend the "Indiana Bus Club Invasion" with our Ultra Van. This was a 3-day camping event in southern Indiana with a Pirate theme sponsored by VW van/camper owners.



Last October while attending a horse event with 12-year-old Vivian, our granddaughter, at the Hendricks Co. IN. fairgrounds I wandered over to the "Vocotober Fest", an annual VW car show with over 100 VWs of all kinds from as far away as Chicago. While talking with one of the club officers he explained they had 107 camping spaces reserved at the 55-acre, Bill Monroe campground just

outside Nashville, IN. and we should register for one of the 11 spaces left, so I did just that. When I explained that the Ultra Van wasn't a VW, he said, "yes, but it is air cooled". I taped VW badges on the front, back and on the baby moon hub caps and as we entered the campground this seemed to confound many VW Westfalia van owners.

The campground was previously owned by the now deceased mandolin playing "Father of Bluegrass" Bill Monroe where he built the Music Barn in 1939. In the day it was one of the 3 locations in the US where everyone who was anyone played country but especially the



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more recent "bluegrass sound". In the newly renovated music barn, which is now a museum, we saw a contract for \$75 paid to Johnny Cash to perform, a piano played by Jerry Lee Lewis, and hundreds of costumes worn by now famous country artists. Elvis was very early in his career but persuaded Mr. Monroe to let him record Bill's song "Blue Moon of Kentucky". The royalty paid Mr. Monroe .06 cents for each copy sold. The recording sold 4 million copies and earned Mr. Monroe \$250,000 in the 1950's. Also, in the 1950's over 50,000 people came to hear the concerts causing the national guard to be called out for traffic control. These were the days before much television, and social media could show such things and people attended in person. The governor of Indiana told Mr. Monroe to start holding his concerts over several days to control the crowds, so he did, resulting in over 15,000 people daily over the next 8 days!



Another story was about a young man named Jerry Garcia (of the Grateful Dead) who hitchhiked from his home out west so he could audition to be one of the Blue Grass Boys of Bill Monroe's band. With less than \$7 to his name Jerry was forced to sleep outside for a month while waiting for the band to return from a road tour. You can still see the pine tree Jerry slept under. As it turned out Jerry did not make the cut and was told to get more practice. Mr. Monroe gave him a ride on the tour bus as far as Missouri and Jerry found his way back home from there. However, as Paul Harvey would say, the rest of the story is that Jerry Garcia later in life said, "I may not have been a Blue Grass Boy BUT now I can pay for one!" On the property you can see the original outdoor stage where many concerts were held along with the nearby 3-hole men/women outhouse which was used by the likes of Dolly Parton and others. All these stories and many others were told by Rex Voles as he and the other 40 of us rode the hay wagon that cool moonlit night making 8 stops to explain the history of the property. The final stop was to show us where he, as a 15-year-old boy, lived on the adjoining farm and hopped the fence to see the performers. Rex started hauling trash for Mr. Monroe and now owns the property. Before his death in 1996 Mr. Monroe started a legacy fund sponsored by music lovers to give scholarships to young artist to further their music careers. A true credit to his passion for music and the people around him, Bill Monroe left his formal education at the 5th grade level and was orphaned at age 17.

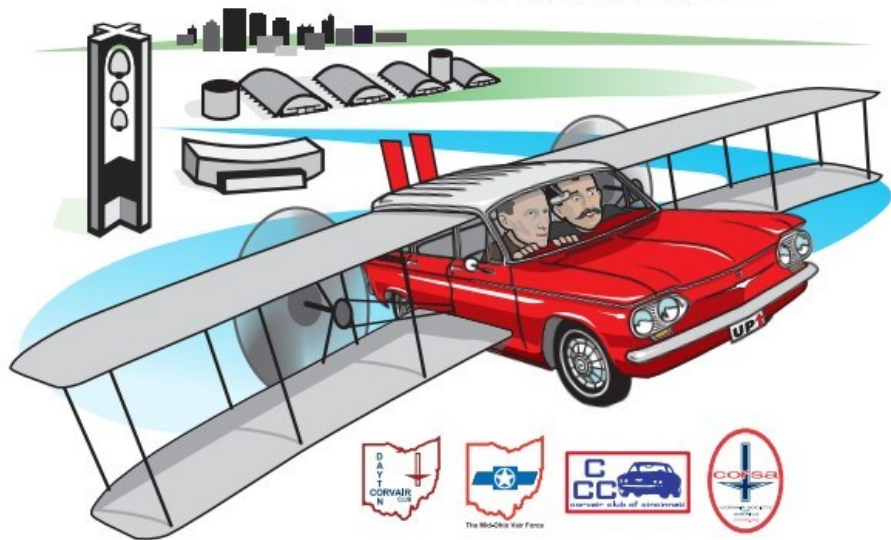
All 3 days of the event were filled with pirate costumes, food, and lots of music with 2 live bands playing till midnight. Parked in the campsite next to us was Randy Coburn who once owned UV #379, so we had lots to talk about. There was even a guy with an amazing telescope where we could view 4 of Jupiter's moons, the rings around Saturn, and a peek at our neighboring galaxy Andromeda. All this and we were only 90 miles from home. It is an interesting country we are blessed with.





CORVAIRBORNE!

**DAYTON OHIO
THE BIRTHPLACE
OF AVIATION**



**2024 INTERNATIONAL
CORVAIR CONVENTION
JULY 21-26**

2024 CORSA International Convention

**Marriott Hotel at the University
of Dayton**

**1414 S Patterson Blvd
Dayton, OH 45409**



Index of Tech Tips published after the 2015 Tech Tips document

31 tech tips have been published since 2015. Work is being done to create a new updated comprehensive document. Until that time, you can use this index to supplement. The newsletter volume listed will be a link to that newsletter on the website.

It is accessible here, <https://ultravan.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Tech-Tips-unpublished-index.pdf>



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**ULTRA
 MERCHANDISE**

**Purchase at the club website
 merchandise shop,**

<https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-club-merchandise-shop/>

Call or e-mail either of us.

Better yet come shop at the next rally!

Molly Bacon, 989-246-8046, mollybacon@yahoo.com

Patty Mello, 541-926-2631, nanapatty1951@hotmail.com



Item	Price
Club badges	1st one <i>free</i> at a rally or \$2.00 for a replacement
Miniature Cloisonné Ultra pins	\$5.00
Cloisonné Ultra earring set (post & wire)	\$7.00
Cloisonné Ultra charm	\$3.50
Ultra Van Coasters—2 designs	\$1.00
"Corvaire Powered" bumper stickers	\$3.00 or 2 for \$5.00
VIN # plates (blank)	\$3.50
Ultra Van Magnets (two designs)	\$1.00
Ultra Van Stickers (multiple styles)	\$1.00
3 ½" X 4 ½" Stitched patches w/ Ultra on US map & flag	\$3.00
Tech tips 1960-2015 PDF on CD	\$5.00
Club Roster (printed)	\$4.00
Window decal UVMCC with Ultra	\$1.00
100,000 Miles Club plaque	<i>Award</i>
Postcards and note cards	Various prices
Available while supply lasts: Tombstone Rally magnets	Big Sale \$.50
NOS Factory Ultra Van replacement parts	Various prices
Hand-made Specialty Whale items (keychains, bookmarks, fan pulls, lanyards, etc.)	Various prices





UVMCC Membership

Go to the website membership page:
<https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-motor-coach-club/>

or

email the Treasurer at:
uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com

Join Today!

Whales on Wheels (WOW)



is the quarterly publication of the Ultra Van Motor Coach Club, Inc. (UVMCC), a chartered chapter (#008) of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). Incorporated in 1967, UVMCC is dedicated to the preservation, enjoyment, and use of the Ultra Van, a 22 foot, unique motor home, which was designed by David

Peterson and built in Kansas until 1970. About 365 units were built.

UVMCC is open to anyone with an interest in Ultra Vans. Annual dues are \$5 for an emailed newsletter and \$15 for a mailed newsletter. Application and payment can either be make online with PayPal at <https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-motor-coach-club/> or make checks payable to Ultra Van Motor Coach Club and mail to the treasurer at:

UVMCC, 5425 Morrow Rd., Gladwin, MI 48624

Stories, articles, photos, memorabilia, or any other item for publication should be sent to the editor by the 15th of March, June, Sept, and Dec. Send newsletter submissions to WOW by email to the Editor, Molly Bacon, uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com

Digital submissions are preferred, but even hand written are acceptable. Mail to: UVMCC, 5425 Morrow Road, Gladwin, MI 48624

Authors are asked to submit at least a photograph of themselves for the article with any other relevant photos.

Technical material will be sent to the Technical Coordinator for review.

Website: <https://ultravan.org/>

Awards

Golden Quill Award - 2022, 2021, 2003, 1999, 1997, & 1995

CORSA Chapter Newsletter Award - 2019 - 3rd place & 2014 - 3rd place.

Founded in 1969, **CORSA** is group of automobile enthusiasts working to satisfy the common needs of individuals interested in the preservation, restoration, and operation of the Corvair.



CORSA's long range goal is to promote reproduction of parts and render technical assistance to increase your enjoyment of the Corvair, and to

further the general public's appreciation of the car.

UVMCC encourages membership in CORSA.

Visit their website, www.corvair.org



Profit and Loss

Fiscal Year 2023 - Qtr. 2 - Oct 1 - Dec 31

Income—\$973.25, Expenses—\$2680.09
(includes the stakeholder payout for sale of UV #218)

Available:

Ryerson Manual (Ultra Coach Owner's Manual)

The Ryerson is available in two forms, Printed and on a searchable CD.

Printed Manual \$60 plus shipping

Printed Manual and CD \$70 plus shipping.

CD \$17 postage paid to the contiguous U. S. Shipping is based on your choice of shipping options. Please send me your address and I will let you know what postage will be.

Eric Kirven, 3585 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807

Ultravan345@Yahoo.com