



Whales on Wheels

2024

Number 3

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



Upcoming Voting

**There haven't been many votes cast.
See [page 14](#)**

2024 Ultra Van National Rally

July 16 - 20

**Darke County Fairgrounds, Greenville, OH
Agenda - see [page 2](#)**

**Membership meeting on Wednesday,
July 17 2pm EDT**

**Call in conference line
1-605-313-6337 code 322863#**



2024 National Rally

Schedule

Tuesday, July 16 - Arrive at campground. Hot/cold sandwiches provided. Feel free to bring something to share and your own beverages.

Wednesday, July 17 - Divisional and Membership meetings (club provided lunch between) and potluck dinner (bring your finest dish) and Yankee Swap (bring a wrapped gift to participate).

Thursday, July 18 - Coach hopping in the morning and Bears Mill (water powered grist mill) in the afternoon. Pot Luck leftovers and bring whatever else you'd like to share.

Friday, July 19 - The day in downtown Greenville (lots to see and do) and visit the Garst Museum (Annie Oakley). Banquet (TBD)

Saturday, July 20 - Good-byes, pack-up and leave. We must leave as another group comes in that afternoon.

Club-provided waffle maker, batter, and syrups. Keurig machine with an assortment of coffee (plain, decaf, and flavored), plus some other types of k-cups (cocoa,??), sugars, creamers, and cups if you don't have your favorite mug.

There is a kitchen with a refrigerator, but no stove.

So far we have 18 people who have said they are coming at least one day. Possibly there will be 4 Ultra Vans. Not everyone is staying at the campground, so that shouldn't keep you from coming and not everyone owns an Ultra Van, so that shouldn't be a deterrent either. Come join the fun. It is also right before the CORSA Convention (see [page 3](#)) that is less than 50 miles away, in case you want to attend that, also.

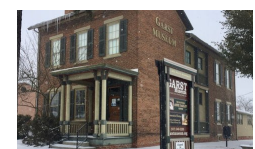
Since reservations at the campground are not required, we do want to get an idea from those who are thinking about coming. If you haven't signed up and are thinking about coming, please fill out the form [here](https://ultravan.org/2024-national-rally-registration/) or email to be added to an attendee list so we can make sure we have enough of everything to go around and take care of everyone.



Darke County
Fairgrounds Camping



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

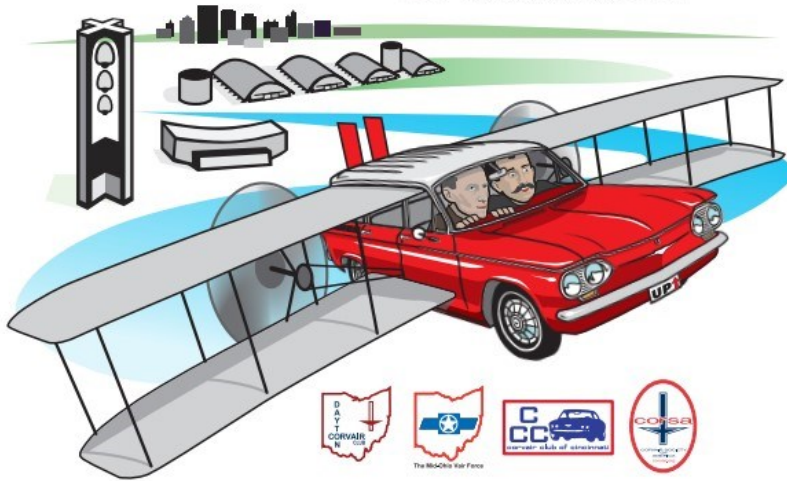


Ultra Van Motor Coach Club Convention Meeting Thursday, July 25, 3:30-4:30pm

Keep up to date with the latest Convention information here,
<https://www.daytoncorvairclub.com/gallery>

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





News From the Prez

Hi everyone!

Well, it looks like this will be my last "From the Prez" update, being that the ballots are being tallied for the upcoming new president. It's been a pleasure being your UCMCC president for sure. I'd like to thank all of you for making this YOUR club and contributing to keeping things rolling. Especially the Club Officer's assistance in getting the windshield project across the finish line and getting our first test piece shipped. See [page 6](#) for the complete update on the windshield project. I had hoped to get a few other items done before I am replaced. One of them being getting a new supplier for the Ernest Newhouse award Medals and we are still working on this project.



We have the National Rally coming in a couple weeks and we are still on the fence about attending. Marisa is in the middle of moving her house to four doors down from mine, and we will probably be knee deep in remodeling the new house. YAY!

We have been using our Ultra Van weekly all year. Mostly trips to mountain bike or to the beach. Luckily it's been very reliable, which is a blessing. I think this relates to the digital temperature monitor that we run, and I pay close attention to.

That's it for now, we hope to see all of you soon at a rally.

Lastly, thank you for trusting me to be your president.

Pat Jennings

For Sale

1970 "Corvette" Ultra Van #533

I have owned for many years and have performed the following work:

- * New windshields installed professionally,
- * New crate chevy 350 motor and aluminum radiator,
- * New turbo 350 automatic transmission,
- * New brakes front and rear
- * All new lights
- * New rechromed headlight trim rings
- * New polished alloy wheels and tires

This is a running and driving project that needs interior and exterior finished. Interior paneling in white is in good shape and useable; all pieces are there All carpet has been removed.

Exterior is in good shape, partially stripped but very solid.

Bumpers have been blasted and are straight, some wiring will need to be completed and the headlight light switch replaced.

This UV has a lot of potential and runs strong but still need finished .

I have all receipts for parts and work completed and lots of documentation and original manuals.

Health issues forces sale, if interested please contact me.

Asking \$9800 or best offer. Rick Brummett, Columbia, MO, 573-694-5348, rickisgumby56@yahoo.com



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>

Norm Helmkey - passed in the early hours April 3rd 2024 at the age of 94

By Grant Helmkey, Norm and Marion's son

Dad had up to four Ultra Vans at one point. (356,408,486,547) Three Corvair-powered and one V8. His favourite by far was #408. Mom and Dad would put on 25,000 miles a year on that Ultra and including a coast to coast across Canada for a Tin Can Tourists Millennial Tour in 2000. They always had very fond memories of the Ultra Van club and we'd talk often about their adventures.

And a little history, Dad's Ultra Van was the original Happy Ultra! Dad was the lead coach at a rally one year (1996) and a woman came up to his drivers' window and said to Dad that these were the cutest things ever and they need a big smile on it. Dad loved the idea and ran out to the front with a roll of electrical tape and the rest is history.

Before



After



And to add to the stories, Dad was a very early member of the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) and carried the number plaque of 831 on all of his campers including his beloved #408. New members would see his low member number and come up to shake his hand because they never had seen a member number that low.

One with Mom and Dad in front of #408 and one taken from The Happiest Corvair article where Dad had written for CorvairCorsa about the Ultra Van history. <https://www.corvaircorsa.com/ultra.html>



Wow, all these memories are coming back in droves. Dad was also suggested the name of Ultra Sounder for consideration of the Newsletter name at the Sept 1999 rally in Ruidoso Downs, NM. The name came up earlier that year when Dad and I were on our way to the Indy 500, and he mentioned they were looking for a name for the newsletter and did I have any ideas. I blurted out the name Ultra Sounder with the thinking of the Ultras being referred to as Whales on Wheels plus whales using ultrasonic sounds to talk to each other and newsletters being a communication media format. He actually got really excited about it, almost yelling it out "that's perfect" and he'd pass it along as a name. I guess the rest is history in that it won the vote for the name change.

Dad and I went to the Indy 500 every year from about 1988 to 2005 with invited guests in the Ultra Van. We'd park in the Coca Cola field there about a half mile from the track in a compound of other motorhomes. As usual, the Ultra Van got lots of attention from everyone that saw it.

By Nancy Pratt

Very sad news. Norm and Marion were good Ultra friends. Norm shared his knowledge of Ultras with Doug/us and let Doug drive his Ultra Van before we finally found "the right one". We visited them in Florida multiple times. We also shared the duties of a rolling rally around Lake Ontario. We did the US side, and they did the Canadian side. Lots of good memories.

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(Continued from page 5)

By Tim Verschuyt

I remember Norm. A very sweet fellow! He took my two young sons to an oval dirt racetrack in Northern California ages ago during an Ultra Van rally. We need more people in this world like Norm. May he rest in peace.

By Owen Strawn – UVMCC Historian

Norm & Marion Helmkay acquired their first of four Ultra Vans (#547 aka "Obsession IV") in November 1987. They each served as Club officers, rally hosts, and tireless advocates for the community. Norm earned the "Ernie" award in 1994 and Marion in 2002. Norm was a prolific writer of several dozen Tech Tips and countless articles for the UVMCC, UltraSounder, and Whales on Wheels newsletters; as well as Corvair club newsletters and general-interest publications such as Old Autos, Skinned Knuckles, and Family Motor Coaching.

Norm established the Ultra Archives in 1989, initially to gather old newsletters for the Tech Tips compilation as suggested by Jim Craig. Members enthusiastically supported the effort, providing additional Club, Factory, and historical memorabilia as well as letters, receipts, photographs, service guides, parts manuals, newspaper clippings, advertisements, and magazine articles. Out of all this information he gleaned over 1400 past & present UV & Tiara owners, resulting in the UV Registry which he maintained for over twenty years.

Norm was also a charter member of the Tin Can Tourists, Director of the Willys-Knight Registry, President of the Historical Auto Society of Canada, member of the Antique Automobile Club of America since 1968 and member of the Family Motor Coaching Association since 1965.



Windshield Update

The test pair of windshields have been delivered to a glass installation shop to be professionally installed and evaluated. Thanks to Martin Sellers for being the "guinea pig" and having his coach available for fitting and a local glass shop to handle it. Unfortunately, the glass shop's schedule is packed, so we will not have any information for this newsletter on the fit of the test set. The glass company is waiting for our go ahead before creating any more pieces just in case there needs to be adjustments after the fitting is complete.

Now on to shipping, which we still do not have exact amounts. We are staying with our original information that you, the windshield buyers, will be invoiced for shipping by the club. This is because it is insanely crazy to try to pay a shipping invoice. The paperwork indicates you have to have an account. If you can create an account, which I could not do without a lot of the customer service support help, it ends up that the invoice cannot be linked to the account to pay. So, you're still out in unpaid invoice la-la land with an account you do not need. As most of you know, I'm VERY tech savvy and this was a nightmare I don't want to repeat and I sure don't want any of you to have to. SO, the club will handle the ugly paperwork part. You will still have to pay for shipping, and will be invoices by the club, but everyone has some \$\$ balance in their account, from some additional discounts, to help defray those shipping costs.

I will keep all buyers updated when I have more information.

Thanks for your patience, Molly and the UVMCC Board.



Welcome to our new members



Colorado

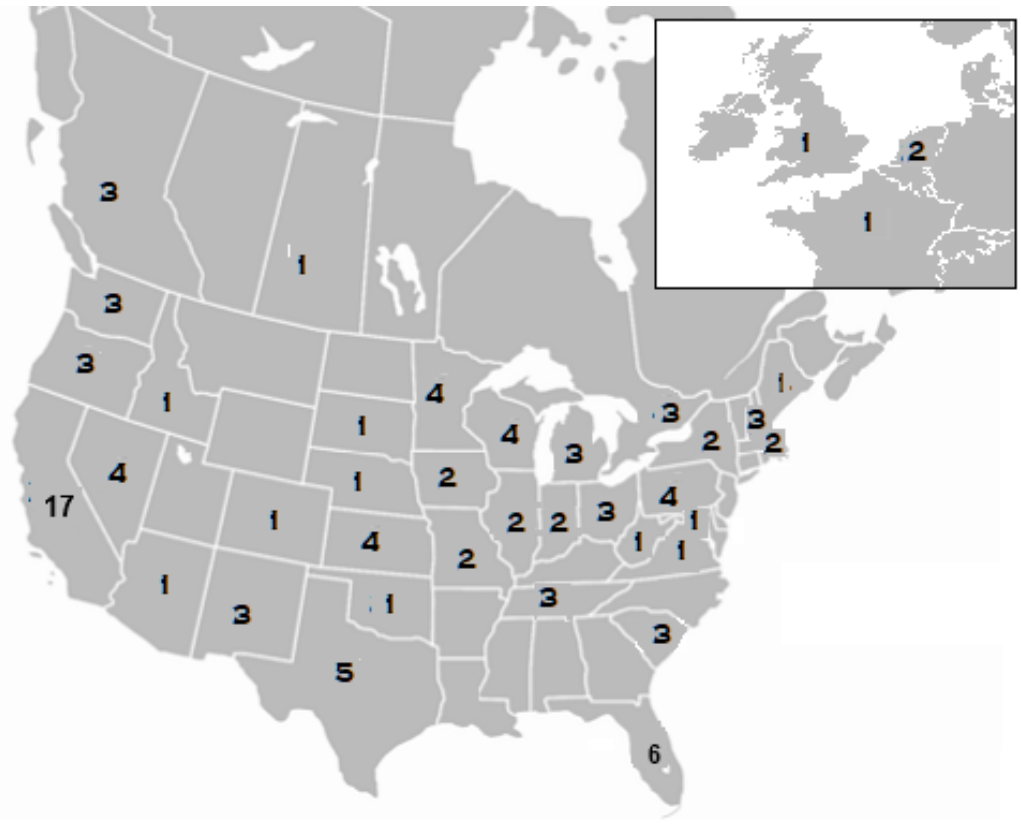
Viann Diedrich #516

British Columbia, Canada

David Kovacs #308

A printed copy of the **2024 Membership Roster** can be obtained for \$4.00 plus shipping from the web-site merchandise shop here, <https://ultravan.org/ultra-van-club-merchandise-shop/2024-membership-roster-booklet-only-available-to-current-members/>

UVMCC currently has 109 members





Short Reports

Bits of information from our members



John & Teresa Miller #509

Happy July 4th



Chuck & Cyndi Hanson #460

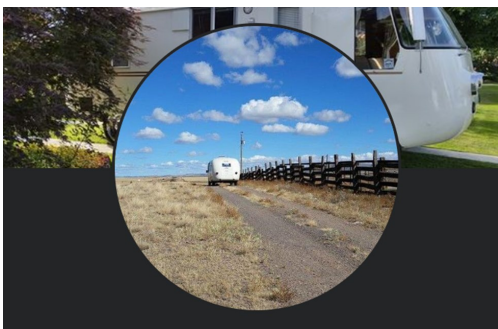
The day I assumed would never arrive, has arrived. I am officially retired as of July 2, after 51 years in the workforce; 48 of them in construction. I am amazed I'm still alive, and Cyndie and I intend to have as much fun as possible. For me right now, there are 2 things that will occupy most of my newfound freedom:

- 1) NOT going to work, EVER.
 - and
 - 2) A full-time dive into the Whale460 project, so we can escape whenever the mood strikes.
- Expect project updates soon.

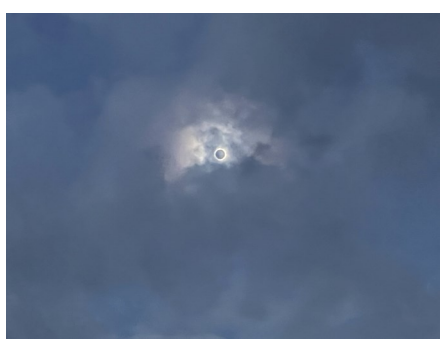


~Chuck and Cyndie and The Beasts, Barklee and Bentlee

Carl & Fran Jones - #400



Tom & Erin Koprevich #211
A lucky cloud break



(Continued on page 9)

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Dave & Gloria Beck #389

Our visit to Springmill State Park in southern Indiana in August 19, 2023, to the vintage camper rally was recently published in the Outdoor Indiana magazine for May/June 2024 (see the Beck's writeup in [WoW 2023 vol.4](#)). There were hundreds of vintage motorhomes and campers. We were excited to see #389 in the magazine layout. We look forward to returning this August for the three-day event.



Jay Reed #514

Update from April: I finally passed the State of Illinois Vehicle Safety Test along with getting the new title to state "Rebuilt" instead of "Salvaged." I now am fully registered and legal to drive in Illinois and have new Illinois plates.

I am driving it now around town and have driven it so far 80 miles on a round trip. I plan to drive it to some campsites as I feel more confident in its road worthiness. Next I need to figure out the stove, refrigerator, heater, a/c possibilities, custom making a mattress, new paint, etc. It has been getting a lot of attention wherever I go with it.



(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 9)

There are several other areas of concern so I am not going to drive it to Ohio for the Rally as I am not confident at all it would make it without breaking down. Maybe next year. Anyway, that is the good news, and it took a lot of work, time, and effort to get her legal and driving but it's done!



Latest updates: I haven't been driving her much (her name is SuzyQ) but check out my new signage!





Looking towards 2025

According to the bylaws, the Ultra Van National Rally can be scheduled either the week before or the week after the CORSA Convention if it's located within a day's drive.

In the past, the next year's Rally dates and location were announced at this year's Rally.

Start looking and let us know!!

2025 CORSA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
MAY 19-24, 2025 — SANTA MARIA, CA
HOSTED BY CENTRAL COAST CORSA

Logo: CANO graphic design 562-882-5077



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Central Director

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419-852-5720

Western Director

Chuck Hanson #460 2026
702-743-2021

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Webmaster

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New merchandise

Cute 3" x 3" sticker with a whale dreaming of an Ultra Van. \$1.00



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 decals 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

samples



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!

Founded in 1969, **CORSA** is a 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. 4 - Apr 1 - June 30

Income—\$79,558.77, Expenses—\$66,358.60
 (includes windshield payments, deposit, and fees)

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 made 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.

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

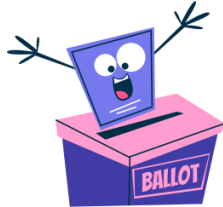
Ultravan345@Yahoo.com



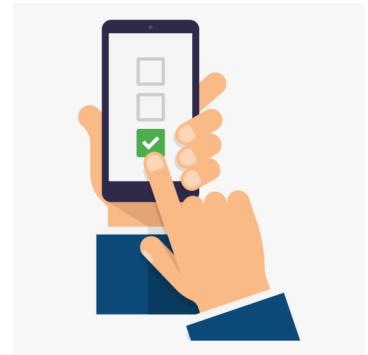
Voting

We have 109 members and only 19 have voted so far.

Please support the club and those running to support it. It's your club. More candidate information on the next page.



Vote safely, securely (it's on the club website that we control), and anonymously online [here](https://ultravan.org/2024-ballot/), <https://ultravan.org/2024-ballot/>



or

there is a ballot on the next page that can be completed and either brought to the Rally or emailed to



uvmcc_membership@yahoo.com

NO MORE MAILED ONES NOW!



Candidate Information

Hi everyone, my name is Ken Hand. I am running for President.

I know there are quite a few people out there that know me, but I am sure there are new people that do not, so everyone gets to read a little about me.



I guess I better get into the “who am I” portion. I have owned and operated Handy Car Care full time for almost 35 years. 2 years of that time I traveled full time going to your homes and fixing Corvairs! Before that, I served in the Army working on and crewing Chinook helicopters. At that time, the Corvaire was just my money-making hobby while I worked on airplanes. I also held a Michigan Master Mechanics license while I had my storefront. In addition, I have held several Board of Director (BoD) positions in the Detroit Area Corvaire club (DACC), Corvanatics, and here in the Ultra Van club. In UVMCC, I was President from 2020-2022 an Easter Director from 2016-2019. I joined in 2014 when I purchased #380. I currently own #398. With all of that experience I know how to run a friendly, professional business.

You might be thinking “but this is a club!” Yes it is, but it still needs to be run like a business to stay viable. The one thing that I think sets me apart from many officers is the fact that I listen to people's suggestions, and if they benefit the club, I try to incorporate the idea.

One of my strengths is that I can take criticism and compliments, and not get mad or shut down so that you can't reach me! Many of you know that I am on social media, and I try to offer logical advice, not just “this fixed mine” category.

After some time off, I'm looking forward to returning to the UVMCC BoD.

Ernest Newhouse Award Nomination

Jerry Mello

1. Member of UVMCC for over ten years.
2. Has served as Club President.
3. Technical advisor.
4. Has co-hosted the Cody National Rally, as well as regional rallies.
5. Has been a key innovator in promoting new ideas for safety, reliability, and performance, which is invaluable for keeping us all on the road safely with confidence. He has been there numerous times for Ultra Vanners in distress, and his doors are always open for any and all to get help and advice at his home.

See the [page 16](#) for the ballot. Please vote. There is a space for both household members.



2024 UVMCC Ballot

Ballot is for both members of a household
Write-ins welcome (except the Ernie Award)

President (2 year term):

Ken Hand

Vice President (1 year term):

Eric Kirven (incumbent)

Secretary (1 year term):

Molly Bacon (incumbent)

Treasurer (1 year term):

Molly Bacon (incumbent)

Central Director (3 year term):

Steve Lemke

Newsletter Editor (1 year term):

Molly Bacon (incumbent)

Ernest Newhouse Award (no write-ins allowed) Nominations at the top of page 4

Jerry Mello

**For secure, anonymous electronic voting
use the online ballot system through the Ultra
Van website.**

Go to <https://ultravan.org/2024-ballot/>