

Corsair, Lincoln's bread and butter car



Lincoln's smaller SUV is a very popular car.

This month, we came up short on articles for the Northstar News. I took a look at the present Lincoln product lineup and decided it was time to pass on a little information on what has turned out to be a success story for Lincoln: the Corsair SUV.

For the present time, Lincoln is offering just four models in their lineup. The entry-level Corsair, the slightly larger Nautilus, the mid-sized Plus Aviator, and the very posh Navigator. Prices run from the mid-\$40s for the Corsair to over \$100K for a fully decked-out Navigator. So, in the scheme of things, Lincoln has something for almost everyone.

While I would like to see another sedan similar to the MKZ or the Continental, SUVs are what are selling now, and to stay in business, SUVs is what you will see in Lincoln showrooms for the foreseeable future. Times do change, and perhaps the pendulum will eventually swing back toward sedans once again.

We picked up two stories off the internet that seem to be favorable toward the Corsair. We think that, for the most part, they are fairly objective. We do have a few owned by members of the LCOC, and those that have them seem to think that they are pretty decent cars, capable of providing good value for the money. The turbo I4 engine does provide good gas mileage, with sufficient power to enable the Corsair to keep up with almost anything on the highway. Not a speed demon, but a good reliable, nice car. And, we would like to remind you that Lincoln of Bloomington does have a few in stock; stop by and try one out. I think that you will like it.

Now, here is the first of a series of two stories about the Corsair.

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Welcome to the Northstar News, the monthly publication of the Northstar Region of the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club. We value your opinions and appreciate your input concerning this newsletter and the operation of the club. This is your club.

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Trivia from the Internet

Editors Message

December 2023



Jeff Bridges
American Actor

Jeffrey Leon Bridges (born December 4, 1949) is an American actor. He is known for his leading man roles in film and television. In a career spanning over seven decades he has received various accolades, including an Academy Award, a Golden Globe, and a Screen Actors Guild Award in addition to nominations for three BAFTA Awards. In 2019, he was awarded the Cecil B. DeMille Award.

Born into a prominent acting family, Bridges appeared on the television series Sea Hunt (1958-1960) alongside his father, Lloyd, and brother, Beau. He gained fame for his roles in the dramas The Last Picture Show (1971) and Thunderbolt and Lightfoot (1974), which also earned him nominations for the Academy Award for Best Support-

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Dear friends and gentle readers: December is at hand as I write this. Due to unforeseen difficulties, our newsletter will be a few days late this month. I do much of my newsletter work on a fairly late-model HP laptop while reposing on my most comfortable couch. Nico spends a lot of time on the floor, lying at my feet, wondering about how his dad can be so consumed by his laptop. Unfortunately, a few days ago, the laptop crashed. I had fears of the Solid State Drive going south, and there is usually no recovery from these types of crashes, but that was not the case. It seems as though my suite of programs, Microsoft Office Professional, had gone south, and two of the programs that I use for the newsletter, Word and MS Publisher, had frozen up. Eventually, I got things running properly by deleting Office and reloading it twice. I spent about 10 hours over a 3-day period, but things are now mostly working as they should. There are few places to take things for repair these days. Due to a lack of technicians, the wait time to get your equipment back is horrendous. Technology has brought us far but has also complicated our lives to a greater extent than it did 40 years ago.

I am sorry for filling up our newsletter with stuff from the internet, but it is so hard to get nice, interesting, original information for our newsletter. I try to do the best that I can, but it is what it is. I would like to have our members send me any kind of stories... about their favorite Lincoln, either old or new, telling us what they like best. Or you can write about other experiences, your first car, your first NEW car, or whatever you feel most comfortable writing about. If you have fond memories of your dad picking up that new car and the thrill of that day, that would make a nice story, too. Help me, help the club, let us work together to make the newsletter a little more interesting.

While Lincoln automobiles are the current common denominator for our club and its members, many of our members also own and enjoy

other brands. Your editor is guilty of that. In addition to the 1951 Cosmopolitan and the 1995 Mark VIII, I also have a 1951 and 1956 Chrysler Imperials and a 1955 Cadillac Fleetwood. All interesting vehicles that have many unique features. They are not high-point show cars but nice examples of their "breed." By nature, I am not a competitive person, so showing and winning is not that important to me. These cars are just

"nice to take out in good weather and drive for a few miles." A certain amount of pleasure comes from just doing that, too.

At our November lunch/brunch at Casper's, I had the opportunity to sit with a couple of our newer members, Rob King of Burnsville and John LaBahn from Eden Prairie. Both are two delightful and interesting members who enjoy their cars. Both have more than one "classic." Rob has a 1941 Continental Coupe, a well-put-together car, and a pre-50s Packard seven-passenger. Two of the best examples of quality automobiles of the period. John has a 1956 Continental Mark II. It is a very nice example of an II and one of the most recognizable

Lincolns of all time. I had a great time visiting with these two fellows, and I look forward to our next meeting. We have some really great members who are interesting to talk to and exchange ideas with.

As most of you know, we do not have any planned activities for December. Please take some time to spend with relatives and close friends. Enjoy the holiday festivities and create a lot of good memories that you can reflect back on over the forthcoming years. On behalf of the North Star board, I want to wish you the best for the holidays and the new year. Hopefully, 2024 will be a much better year for every one of us. And, if you have a few extra dollars, send it off to your local animal shelter. Sweet Nico would appreciate that very much.

Till next year... David and Sweet Nico, the Samoyed.....



Sweet Nico is out enjoying one of the last of the nice days of this past November. His sensitive hearing told him that his Dad had opened the treat bag and had something good for him. He now expects to get "paid" for running up to Dad with a big smile. Like most small children, he knows how to work his Dad.

Directors Message by Bob Johnson December 2023

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ing Actor. As a leading man, he starred in the adventure film *King Kong* (1976); science fiction films *Tron* (1982) and *Starman* (1984), gaining a nomination for the Academy Award for Best Actor for the latter; thrillers *Jagged Edge* (1985) and *The Morning After* (1986); and dramas *The Fabulous Baker Boys* (1989), *The Fisher King* (1991) and *The Mirror Has Two Faces* (1996). Bridges starred in the leading role of *The Big Lebowski* (1998), followed by several big-budget films: *The Contender* (2000), *SeaBiscuit* (2003), *Iron Man* (2008), and *Tron: Legacy* (2010). Bridges received several Oscar nominations, including for *The Contender* and *True Grit* (2010). He won the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role as an alcoholic singer in *Crazy Heart* (2009). Bridges earned Primetime Emmy Awards nominations for his roles in the HBO film *A Dog Year* (2009), and the Hulu series *The Old Man* (2022).

Early life - Bridges was born on December 4, 1949, in Los Angeles, the son of actor Lloyd Bridges (1913-1998) and actress and writer Dorothy Bridges (1915-2009). He is one of four children: older brother Beau Bridges (born 1941), who is also an actor; a younger sister Lucinda; and a brother named Garrett, who died of sudden infant death syndrome in 1948. His maternal grand-

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Mary and I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that you have many reasons to be thankful for this past year. Mary and I are blessed to remain healthy and be able to enjoy our family, and we welcomed a new grandson (in-law), Issac Quimby, who married our granddaughter, Emily Hahn, on October 28, 2023. Our fellowship with all our Lincoln friends is really one of the main reasons we have stayed so involved in the North Star Region for so many years. It is a pleasure to have you call us your friends. It is with much pleasure

that I can look at our members attending our events and think how nice it is to have been able to meet and know everyone who has attended our events over the years. Our Lincolns are the best, but our members are even better. For 2023, we have 23 new members because of our new type car shows with other classic cars being also shown with our Lincolns. For 2024, please keep up our brand of fellowship; you are the greatest. Please take the time to spend this Christmas season with your family and loved ones, as our time passes so fast. Mary and I look forward to seeing you in the new year coming up.

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, we held our year-end brunch at the Casper's Cherokee Family Bar and Grill in Eagan. This was our second visit to Caspers, and it was just as good as our first visit back in January, even better than our first-time expectations. We had a very nice private room, very good service, a choice of ordering from Casper's Lunch menu, reasonable prices, and the food was the best. This November weather had the beginning of a warm-up into the 60s; it was very pleasant with a day of sunshine. The North Star region was well represented, with 29 members in attendance.

Our first activity for 2024 will be a Sunday Buffet this coming January 7th, 2024, at the Machine Shed, 8515 Hudson Blvd N, Lake Elmo, Minnesota, at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Bob Johnson, email Arborbob41@aol.com, or call 651-257-1715 before January 5, 2024.

Jay White, Facebook now at www.facebook.com/groups/846938523632060 As of today Saturday, 11/19/23 we have 384 likes on the new group. Please use our correct Facebook page, which is **North Star Lincoln Continental Car Club**.

ATTENTION For Christmas: For one more month – December, we have a reduced LCOC New Membership rate of \$34.00 for 2023. This would be an ideal Christmas present for a family member or special friend who enjoys the Old Car Hobby. You can do this over the phone by calling our Cornerstone LCOC Membership office at 763-420-7829 and using your credit card.

Our newsletter editor, David Gustafson, is currently out of "My Pride and Joy" articles. We need "Our Pride and Joy" articles about your Lincoln. Please share your story about your car with all of our members, we would like to know how you got it, what you enjoy about it, what you have done to it or have left to do. With our many new members, I hope that you can take to time this winter to write a article for us and our old members please update your past articles. Please send your article to David Gustafson, he can only do the newsletter with material that you send him, so get busy.

As always, keep the journey continuing in our marvelous Lincolns and enjoy Christmas with family and Friends.

Bob and Mary Johnson.

Board Of Directors - 2023 - 2024

Title	Name	Phone Numbers	email	Term Ends
Regional Director	Bob Johnson	H(651)257-1715	arborbob41@aol.com	2023
Secretary	Chris Struble	(952)679-0342	068690@gmail.com	2023
Treasurer	Matt Foley			2025
Activities Director	Jay White	H(612)559-3219	jay@jwhiteandassoc.com	2023
Director	Bob Roth	H(763)475-1429		2023
Publications/ Membership	Dave Gustafson	H(952)435-1919	davidwgustafson@att.net	2025
Director	Tom Brace	H(651)644-1716	trbrace@comcast.net	2025
Director	Tina Zimpel	612-298-3632	tinajzim@gmail.com	2025
Director	Jeff Eisenberg	(612)521-3537	Jeff.eisenberg@libsontruck.com	2023
Director	Dave Heeren	(952)469-3647	dheeren41@hotmail.com	2025
Director	Ernie Christensen	651-500-0179	ernobc@yahoo.com	2025

Members and guests are welcome to attend the Board Meetings. Our meeting location, unless otherwise specified, will be held at Bloomington Lincoln in their conference room. Meeting time will be 6:30 pm on the first Thursday of each month, except December. Articles and other information for the newsletter should be sent to David Gustafson, Editor, at 308 Brandywine Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337. email: davidwgustafson@att.net

Corsair, a great car in a smaller package

2023 Lincoln Corsair First Drive Review: Gimme back my buttons! But at least it has BlueCruise now. By Byron Hurd.
While 2023 brings only a refresh to the Lincoln Corsair, it's a fairly robust one. It loses an engine, gains BlueCruise and receives an interior overhaul featuring a new infotainment screen running the latest version of Sync 4. Corsair may be Lincoln's best-seller, but it competes against a variety of big-sellers in terms of both size and price. Take your pick from the likes of the Cadillac XT4, Audi Q3, Lexus NX or the BMW X1, just to name a select few; and soon they will be joined by Alfa Romeo's new Tonale, which lines up surprisingly well with the baby Lincoln.

Like virtually everything in its class, the 2023 Lincoln Corsair's standard engine is a 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder, which in this case produces 250 horsepower and 275 pound-feet of torque. Gone is the previously available 2.3-liter upgrade that apparently wasn't popular.

For 2023, the only other option is therefore the returning plug-in hybrid model, which produces a reasonable (and carry-over) 266 horses. Unlike the Escape PHEV on which it's based, the plug-in Corsair comes standard with all-wheel drive. With just 16 more horsepower compared to the 2.0T and more than 560 additional pounds to motivate, it relies on the instant torque of its electric motors to get off the line with authority. Lincoln gave us the choice of sampling either the standard turbo-four or PHEV for our quick outing in the Corsair; we opted for the plug-in for symmetry with our 2021 outing.

As with virtually all midcycle updates, some exterior styling elements were updated or deleted. The grille is taller (and consequently larger) and is framed on the bottom by a new horizontal protrusion. PHEV models get a metallic foiling effect on the grille mesh. In the rear, it's business as usual.

Inside, the dash is redesigned around a new 13.2-inch touchscreen running Sync 4.0. Besides an updated user interface (more

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Rear view of the Corsair.

Northstar Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

The meeting was called to order at Lincoln of Bloomington by Regional Director Bob Johnson at 6:30 p.m.

Board members attending the meeting were Bob Johnson, Dave Hereen, Matt Foley, Tina Zimple, Chris Struble, and John LaBahn. The Board members not present were Dave Gustafson, Jay White, Tom Brace, Bob Roth, Jeff Eisenberg, and Ernie Christensen. Mary Johnson was present as a visitor. The minutes of the previous meeting and the agenda of this meeting were approved.

Director Reports: 2023 Activities to be reviewed, our Annual North Star free catered lunch and auction at Morries Classic Car Collection on Sunday, October 15, 2023, was a fantastic success. A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO MORRIE WAGENER (Who was unable to attend), and his staff, John Minnick, Gene Wendt, Jim Fredrick, and Doug Ladwig. Morries crew again gave up a Sunday at home to welcome and guide us through this amazing private car collection. This visit made us appreciate being able to again view this collection and all the automotive memorabilia. We were able to again visit Morries Car Collection for a two-hour viewing period, then we ate lunch and had an auction. Our time at Morries was a fantastic success; over 100 persons attended, 60 were members (17 couples) with 30 visitors, 80 ate lunch, and we had eight new members who were able to view this beautiful collection for the first time. We have a few photos that were taken outside. The general thoughts were this is such a beautiful collection of automobiles and auto memorabilia that we are very humbled to be able to see this collection again--Thank you, Morrie. Our auction grossed \$1035 thanks to Tom Brace's auctioneering efforts, ably assisted by Bob Gavrilesco, Dave Herren, Rob King, and Matt Foley. Kathryn Holaday donated many items to auction that Bill, her late husband, had used in the restoration of his 1959 Lincoln Capri Sedan, which was his father's car. Marino's Deli, Minneapolis, catered our lunch; the cost was very reasonable. After all bills were paid, we still had a profit of almost \$100, which is why it was a free lunch. I think the one item that was the best deal was the picnic basket with several auto detailing products and bottles of wine. The time to make the basket showed in its quality. We hope to again visit Morries's car collection in 2024.

Our driving tour and viewing Fall leaf colors to Cody's Classic Cars and World of Carz in Stanley, Wisconsin, was on Sunday, October 1. We had Four Lincolns driven on the tour: Ken and Stacy Madden with a 1997 Town Car, Tina Zimpel and her mother Elaine Endthoff with a 1993 Town car, Dan Lubber with his 1978 Town car, and Bob and Mary Johnson with a 1989 Mark VII Convertible. Driving with regular cars were Richard and Linda Herman, Don and Donna Peterson, Dave and Tammie Heeren, Fred Syrdal and guest Ken Bernsten and Matt and Angie Harbert. We visited with new LCOC members Jon and Lauren Cody, who own "Cody's Classic Cars" in Stanley, Wisconsin; they can help our members sell or buy our Classic cars, be it a Lincoln or another brand. We also visited "the World of Carz", just outside of Stanley WI. the owners are Craig and Kelly Paul. This is the largest Automotive Hobby Store in the area. They had a large variety of model cars, trucks, memorabilia, signs, and all the Car Collector items you want in one place. They have everything in the car hobby; they have several large buildings. You have to see it to believe it. Although the tour was not well attended, those who went really enjoyed driving and viewing the Wisconsin countryside during the leaf color change.

Our last event for 2023 will be the year-end Sunday Brunch, November 12, 2023, at 11:30 a.m., at Casper's Cherokee Family Bar and Grill, 4625 Nicols Rd, Eagan, Minnesota. You will order from the regular menu. RSVP to Bob Johnson by Wednesday November 9 if you are attending.

Our first event for 2024--Sunday Buffet, January 7th, 2024 at the Machine Shed, 8515 Hudson Blvd N, Lake Elmo, MN, 55042, at 11:30 a.m.; RSVP to Bob Johnson by, January 5, 2024, if you are attending.

Effective August 1st, 2023. LCOC New Member Introductory Special Offer, valid through December 31, 2023 for one full year Membership for \$34, lowered from \$54. The LCOC.org website is updated with this form for use.

Jay White, Facebook now at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/846938523632060>. As of today, Wednesday 11/01/23, we have 275 likes on the new group. Please use our correct Facebook page, which is **North Star Lincoln Continental Car Club**.

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father was an immigrant from Liverpool, England.

Bridges and his siblings were raised in the Holmby Hills section of Los Angeles. He shared a close relationship with his brother Beau, who acted as a surrogate father when their father was working. He graduated from University High School in 1967. At age 17 he toured with his father in a stage production of *Anniversary Waltz*, and then moved to New York City, where he studied acting at the Herbert Berghof Studio. He also served in the United States Coast Guard Reserve as a boatswain's mate from 1967 to 1975 in San Luis Obispo, California, with a terminal rating of Boatswain's Mate Second Class.

Supporting Actor. He next co-starred in the 1972 gritty boxing film *Fat City*, directed by John Huston. In 1973, he starred as Junior Jackson in *The Last American Hero*, a film based on the true story of NASCAR driver Junior Johnson. He was again nominated for Best Supporting Actor for his performance opposite Clint Eastwood in the 1974 film *Thunderbolt and Lightfoot*. In 1976, he starred as the protagonist Jack Prescott in the first remake of *King Kong*, opposite Jessica Lange. This film

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Corsair Continued...

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was a commercial success, earning \$90 million worldwide, more than triple its \$23 million budget, and also winning an Academy Award for Best Visual Effects.

In 1982, Bridges starred in one of his better-known roles in the science fiction film *Tron*, in which he played Kevin Flynn, a video game programmer. That same year, he starred in *Kiss Me Goodbye*, an American romantic comedy film directed by Robert Mulligan, with Sally Field. In 1984, he was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor for playing an alien in *Starman*. He also performed in the neo-noir *Against All Odds* (1984), the thrillers *Jagged Edge* (1985) and *The Morning After* (1986), and the crime comedy *Nadine* (1987).

His role in *Fearless* (1993) is thought by some critics to be one of his best performances. One critic dubbed it a masterpiece; Pauline Kael wrote that he "may be the most natural and least self-conscious screen actor that has ever lived". In 1994, he starred as Lt. Jimmy Dove in the action film *Blown Away*, opposite Tommy Lee Jones and Forest Whitaker. His real-life father Lloyd Bridges was also featured in the film, play-

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on that later), the screen now houses virtually all of the media and climate controls that were previously located as buttons and knobs on the Lincoln's center stack. All that remains on the consequently shrunken stack is a single volume knob and various vehicle controls like max defrost, auto stop/start and the hazard lights. The start/stop button has also been relocated next to the piano-key transmission controls. Through all of that, Lincoln managed to make access to the enlarged media storage bin easier. Yay?



The front of the Corsair is not bad looking either. Coming or going, no a bad looking car.

Perhaps the most significant change for the 2023 Corsair is the addition of Lincoln's highway hands-free driving suite. Originally launched on the Navigator and dubbed "ActiveGlide," the system has been renamed Lincoln BlueCruise for 2023 to align with Ford's nomenclature (and perhaps because "ActiveGlide" was a silly name). Specifically, it's BlueCruise 1.2 – the same, latest version rolling out throughout Ford's lineup. I didn't have the opportunity to test this thoroughly in the Corsair, but recently sampled the latest updates in a Ford Mustang Mach-E running the same software, and I'm pleased to report that it performs as advertised; look for an upcoming review for more on that.

Corsair occupies a space in the U.S. market where PHEV options are still the exception rather than the norm. It's low on power compared to other, slightly larger competitors such as the 304-horsepower Lexus NX 450+ and the 362-hp Audi Q5 PHEV. It also lacks the NX's electric range, offering just 28 miles on a charge versus 37. On paper, the forthcoming Alfa Romeo Tonale PHEV will match up nicely — it offers similar EV range (likely

about 30 miles) but aims for a more enthusiast-oriented package.

While we've yet to drive the plug-in Alfa, your author *has* driven the mechanically similar 2024 Dodge Hornet R/T plug-in hybrid. Based on that, it seems likely that the Alfa will have a dynamic edge over the cushy Corsair, whether in turbo or hybrid guise. That's not an insult so much as an acknowledgment of their diverging approaches to luxury.

The Corsair's powertrain is plenty responsive around town, but its chassis leans more toward commuting in comfort than carving up back roads. When he drove the 2021 Corsair, News Editor Joel Stocksdales referred to its two suspension modes as "particularly soft and somewhat firmer"; nothing has changed. It's also surprisingly quiet inside for a hybrid; and frankly, quiet for something based on the Escape, which is not nearly so isolated from the outside world. That said, the 2.5-liter gas engine doesn't make a particularly pleasing sound; the Hornet (and by extension, Tonale) has the benefit of a turbocharger muffling the incoherent buzzing of its tiny four-pot. The most obvious nod to the Corsair's humble underpinnings is the seating position.

With nothing beyond business as usual to report from the chassis, that leaves us to focus on the 2023 Corsair's most significant interior upgrade: the new Sync 4 infotainment system.

Among its upsides are its responsiveness and attractive, versatile screen layout. It makes good use of its widescreen format, and individual screens can be resized to allow multiple features to be utilized simultaneously. The climate controls that once resided beneath the screen now live within it, occupying the bottom inch and a half or so for easy access at all times.

Take the radio tuning interface, for example, pictured above. When you tap to manually scroll through stations, the UI re-focuses the interface on the station selection. That's fine on its own, but when the focus changes, the station icons and tuning controls *move*. So, if you're trying to change stations while under way, you have to look back at the screen a *second time* in order to locate the tuning button all over again. So, not only is there nothing to physically feel, but you now have to hunt UI elements around the screen like some ridiculous game of whack-a-mole. Who thought this was a good idea?

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 ing the uncle of Bridges' character. The film was not a financial success, managing to recoup \$30 million of its \$50 million budget at the box office, with its release a few weeks after another explosive-themed film, *Speed*. On July 11, 1994, Bridges received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his contributions to the motion picture industry. The star is located at 7065 Hollywood Boulevard. In 1996, he co-starred with Barbra Streisand in *The Mirror Has Two Faces*. In 1998, he starred as what is arguably his most iconic role, *The Dude*, in the Coen brothers' film *The Big Lebowski*.

In 2000, he received his fourth Academy Award nomination, for his role in *The Contender*. He also starred in the 2005 Terry Gilliam film *Tideland*, his second with the director (the first being 1991's *The Fisher King* alongside Robin Williams). He shaved his trademark mane of hair to play the role of Obadiah Stane in the 2008 Marvel comic book adaptation *Iron Man*. In July 2008, at the San Diego Comic-Con International, he appeared in a teaser, reprising his 1982 fan-favorite role of Kevin Flynn for *Tron: Legacy*, shot as concept footage for director Joseph Kosinski; this developed into a full 3D feature release in 2010.

Bridges is one of the
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More on the Corsair

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There's one more update to cover for 2023: the price. With MSRPs skyrocketing all over the industry, it's no surprise that the Corsair's redesign coincides with a higher cost. Each trim has increased by almost exactly \$2,000, including the base price going up to \$40,085. Hey, at least we got a redesign with it. All told, our loaded Grand Touring tester rang the till at nearly \$65,000. Like the Escape on which it is based, the Corsair gets expensive with options. Even at its base price of \$55,280, the Grand Touring (which is PHEV-only) ain't cheap. That's \$10 grand more expensive than the Tonale. But unlike the Italian-built Alfa Romeo, the Corsair PHEV is eligible for tax credits.

But for all of the comparisons to Alfa, Lincoln's singular focus on comfort-oriented luxury makes them a poor match for each other. Up against the Lexus NX, though, I'd have to give the nod to the Corsair. Its refined powertrain, smooth ride, more user-friendly tech and absence of sporting pretense make for a more coherent, appealing package. But for the love of all things holy, stop taking all of our buttons!

2023 Lincoln Corsair First Drive Review: All Good Things Come With A Price - A mild freshening for Lincoln's smallest product hides impressive tech and active safety changes, including hands-free driving, but at a dear price. By: Brandon Turkus.

VERDICT - 8.9/10 - My boomer parents love Lincoln. They just wrapped up a lease of a 2020 Corsair and are now on to a Nautilus. They like the style and comfort, and the fact that the seats adjust automatically to a preset position. And they really don't much care that it's a Ford with a shiny nose, because after years of owning mainstream crossovers and pickup trucks, to them, Lincolns represent luxury.

But like most Millennials, my parents are not the tech savvy sort, and when I told them I'd talk them through their new car's adaptive cruise control and other active safety systems, their response was "Well, we don't need that." And then when I then told them I was testing the refreshed and BlueCruise-equipped 2023 Lincoln Corsair, their response was "Oh, don't use hands-free driving!"

My parents need not have worried. BlueCruise and the Corsair are natural partners, and the active safety system's addition makes this compact luxury CUV better and more

relevant than ever before. But while my parents might shy away from hands-free driving, they won't be alone – adding the tech to the Corsair demands a pretty penny.

Quick Stats	2023 Lincoln Corsair Reserve
Engine:	Turbocharged 2.0-liter I4
Output:	250 Horsepower / 275 Pound-Feet
Efficiency:	21 City / 29 Highway / 24 Combined
Trim Base Price:	\$44,470
As-Tested Price:	\$60,685

Set Course And Engage - The biggest new item on the 2023 Corsair is Lincoln BlueCruise. Yes, I said BlueCruise. The hands-free driver-assist system has a new name after a single year under the ActiveGlide banner, and I'm just glad people will stop sniggering when they hear it. I understand Ford and Lincoln's desire to distinguish the premium version of this system from the mainstream (even if the only difference between the two is the vehicle they're attached to) but, generally speaking, names that remind people of bedroom paraphernalia are a bad choice.



Gear selection buttons, top row. Climate control below.

Fortunately, BlueCruise remains pretty slick. The latest version, 1.2, is available on all three Corsair trims as part of the top-end Collection III package, although customers

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Corsair continued...

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youngest actors ever to be nominated for an Academy Award (1972, age 22, Best Supporting Actor, *The Last Picture Show*), and one of the oldest ever to win (winning the Best Actor in 2010 at age 60 for *Crazy Heart*). *Crazy Heart* also won him the Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Drama and the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role.

Bridges received his sixth Academy Award nomination for his role in *True Grit*, a collaboration with the Coen brothers in which he starred alongside Matt Damon, Josh Brolin, Barry Pepper, and Hailee Steinfeld. Both the film and Bridges' performance as Rooster Cogburn, were critically praised. Bridges lost to Colin Firth, whom he had beaten for the Oscar in the same category the previous year. In 2016, Bridges appeared in the film *Hell or High Water*, for which he received his seventh Academy Award nomination. For his contribution to films, he was presented with the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2019.

In July 2008, at the San Diego Comic-Con International, he appeared in a teaser, reprising his 1982 fan-favorite role of Kevin Flynn for *Tron: Legacy*, shot as concept footage for director Joseph Kosinski; this developed into a full 3D feature release in 2010.

Bridges is one of the

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can't select BC independently of that pricey group. My most recent experience with the system, at the launch of the 2022 F-150 Lightning, was a mixed bag – the system rarely required intervention, but it ping-ponged annoyingly between lane markers. But while BlueCruise has generally felt inferior to General Motors' Super Cruise suite, version 1.2 is a big step forward.

Where the Lightning bounced from side to side, the Corsair's new In-Lane Positioning system, standard in BlueCruise 1.2, kept it mostly centered. The system will still move the Corsair in its lane, but now it's in response to adjacent traffic – come up next to a semi on the right and BlueCruise will push the car to the left side of the Corsair's lane. This behavior feels natural in itself, like the sort of thing a human driver would do.

In-Lane Positioning helped on gentler turns, too, allowing the Corsair to negotiate them with confidence. The car provided plenty of warning in the one case where it needed to disengage, too, showing off its on-highway geofencing as it deactivated ahead of a particularly tricky bit of I-75 that saw traffic merging into both outside lanes on a left-hand bend (A hands-free-equipped Mach-E disengaged for me in the exact same spot, which makes me believe it's an intentional reaction).



The Corsair features a nice, attractive dash layout, with a good sized display.

And if the computer deems a curve too sharp, BlueCruise 1.2 can now reduce speed to get through it. But like other automakers that offer a similar system for sharp highway bends, the Corsair slows too much and too

suddenly. I found it simpler to simply tap the brakes to deactivate the system and navigate the corner myself.

Hands Off My Lincoln: The most impressive addition in BC 1.2 is the automatic lane-change system, which along with the stronger lane-centering puts this version of the hands-free driving software on more even footing with Super Cruise (although GM is starting to roll out a version of the tech that works while towing, which Ford still doesn't have an answer for).

The system won't execute lane changes on its own, like a GMC Hummer EV, although it will suggest one if the conditions are right. The system works here as it does in Mercedes and GM products, requiring a simple flick of the turn-signal stalk to get things going. Once the car recognizes that the lane is open, it slides over with little delay. It was pretty much faultless during a weekend of testing.

Red Alert, On Screen - Lincoln has done some great things with its interior color schemes since launching the Navigator SUV and the Black Label line, and while the Corsair is neither quite as ambitious as its big brother or available with as luxurious a fitment, it's still better for 2023. The Eternal Red upholstery (one of two new upholstery shades) is bold and exciting, matching up exclusive aluminum accents with thoughtful contrast stitching. It's a far better shade than the blacks, grays, and tans that usually accompany compact luxury vehicles.

Lincoln focused the hardware changes for the 2023 Corsair's cabin on the center stack, which adopts a new 13.2-inch landscape-oriented touchscreen (hooray!) while ditching physical buttons and knobs for the climate controls (booooo!). Aesthetically, this is a winning arrangement.

The polarizing tablet-stapled-to-dashboard look remains, but the larger screen is a far better fit for the Corsair's dash shape, which shows off a fat stack of trim and leather while using negative space to give a sense of depth. The cleaner console below it retains the PRND selector, a volume knob, and a couple quick-access buttons, but it's overall a far cleaner, more mature arrangement.

Functionally, things are less good. While this is Sync 4 – a system my colleagues and I have praised on a bunch of different occasions – Lincoln's decision to integrate the

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Corsair continued...

(Continued from page 8)

youngest actors ever to be nominated for an Academy Award (1972, age 22, Best Supporting Actor, *The Last Picture Show*), and one of the oldest ever to win (winning the Best Actor in 2010 at age 60 for *Crazy Heart*). *Crazy Heart* also won him the Golden Globe for Best Actor in a Drama and the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role.

Bridges received his sixth Academy Award nomination for his role in *True Grit*, a collaboration with the Coen brothers in which he starred alongside Matt Damon, Josh Brolin, Barry Pepper, and Hailee Steinfeld. Both the film and Bridges' performance as Rooster Cogburn, were critically praised. Bridges lost to Colin Firth, whom he had beaten for the Oscar in the same category the previous year. In 2016, Bridges appeared in the film *Hell or High Water*, for which he received his seventh Academy Award nomination. For his contribution to films, he was presented with the Cecil B. DeMille Award in 2019.

Music - Referring to his career as an actor and his passion for music, Bridges says, "I dug what an actor did, but it took me a while to feel it, to truly appreciate the craft and the preparation. Plus, I was still playing music a lot, and I guess I had a hard time choosing: was I an actor or

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climate settings at the bottom of the screen, where the page icons for the media, navigation, phone, etc. live on other Sync 4-equipped vehicles, makes the whole system more cumbersome. In order to get from, say, the navigation to the radio page, the Corsair requires an additional input. I also had trouble getting between the native infotainment and the Apple CarPlay interface (wireless connectivity is standard, though).



Another look at the Corsair dash.

Givin' Her All She's Got - Were you waiting for the 2023 facelift to add a Corsair with its punchy turbocharged 2.3-liter to your garage? Bad news for you, as Lincoln is dropping the more powerful of its two gas engines this year, citing a low take rate and overall consumer preference. The lone gas engine, featured in my tester, is a turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder that pumps out a respectable 250 horsepower and 275 pound-feet of torque.

While that's down on the 2.3's 295 ponies and 310 lb-ft, the Corsair continues to come with more standard horsepower and torque than turbocharged 2.0-liter Audi Q5, BMW X3, and Cadillac XT4 (although the rivals from Acura, Alfa Romeo, and Mercedes-Benz pack more oomph). The plug-in-hybrid Grand Touring model remains as well, for folks who want an electrified offering.

The 2.0-liter Corsair is a tough little thing, with plenty of torque off the line and little in the way of turbo lag. It revs willingly and still feels strong even at higher engine speeds. The attached eight-speed automatic is a champ, blending into the background in everyday driving and responding willingly to sudden demands for a lower gear. The arrangement isn't overly thrifty, though, as the 2023 Corsair returns just 21 miles per gallon city, 29 highway, and 24 combined with all-wheel drive. It's not the least efficient four-

cylinder in the class (that distinction goes to the turbocharged 2.5-liter Genesis GV70), but it's not far off.

The handling experience is nothing to write home about either. The steering is vague and the body motions liberal, although the ride quality and low overall NVH levels more than make up for the uninterested cornering. That should suit the average Lincoln consumer just fine.

That's also true of the price tag. The Corsair starts at \$40,085, including a \$1,395 destination charge, with all-wheel drive adding \$2,300 to the price tag. Even at \$42,385, though, the Corsair is several thousand dollars cheaper than almost all its all-wheel-drive-equipped competitors. Only the \$39,990 Cadillac XT4 undercuts the Corsair. Entries from Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Genesis, and Acura demand anywhere from \$1,600 (in the case of the RDX) to \$6,800 (X3 xDrive30i) more.

But base prices tell only part of the story. Parking a Corsair Reserve with BlueCruise in the driveway is a different story, though. The Reserve trim with all-wheel drive starts at \$46,770, and BlueCruise is only available as part of the \$10,730 Collection III package. In addition to hands-free driving, owners will score a panoramic sunroof, head-up display, heated rear seats, and a fantastic Revel audio system, not to mention all the goodies from the Collection II pack, but there's no escaping the frankly huge markup. Collection II demands just \$2,940 more than the base Reserve, for crying out loud.

That sums up the primary issue with the most impressive version of the new Corsair – it's expensive in its best form (\$60,685 in the case of my tester). Where a lightly optioned X3 or GLC or Stelvio will keep you happy while ultimately doing less to wow than a loaded Corsair, I can't say I'd be quite as happy in a Lincoln without BlueCruise. The top-end package brings almost too much to the table, to the point that ordering it feels more like a prerequisite for purchase than an actual option.

That's probably good news for Lincoln, because I have to imagine the profit margin on a \$10,000 option pack is pretty spectacular. But for consumers, well, they're going to be left wondering if BlueCruise is really worth the expense. Maybe my parents have the right idea.

North Star Fall Events

(Continued from page 9)

a musician, or could I be both?"

Bridges studied piano at a young age, strongly encouraged by his mother. Before his first lead role as an actor, he already sold two songs to the acclaimed musician and composer Quincy Jones, who used his "Lost in Space" for the soundtrack of the 1970 movie *John and Mary* and let Bridges contribute the vocals.

While working on the 1980 film *Heaven's Gate*, he often played guitar with his co-star, singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson, between takes. His character in *Crazy Heart*, Bad Blake, was later based partly on Kristofferson. In 1982, he voiced the character of Prince Lir in the animated film *The Last Unicorn*, and in that role sang on two songs, including a duet with Mia Farrow. He released his debut album *Be Here Soon* on January 1, 2000. In 2005, Bridges, known as "The Dude" in the film *The Big Lebowski*, showed up at a *Lebowski Fest* in Los Angeles singing and playing the film's theme song written by Bob Dylan, "Man in Me."

On January 15, 2010, Bridges performed the song "I Don't Know" from *Crazy Heart* on *The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien*. In the film *The Contender*, in which he co-starred, Bridges recorded a version of Johnny Cash's standard "Ring of Fire" with Kim Carnes that played over

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The following is a summary of North Star events that have happened since October 1. We had not previously reported on them due to space and technical limitations. The article was put together with information supplied by Director (and chief Lincoln club cheerleader) Bob Johnson, who also used up a lot of organizational talent in putting these events together. If you have some time, call or email him and pass on your thanks for shepherding these events along, till they came to pass. As a club, we are truly fortunate to have that still has a little fire left in the boiler after twenty some years of running this club. Few other LCOC Regions do the kinds of things we do to provide fun, interesting, and affordable activities for our members to enjoy. So here we go with the events. If you were not there, you missed some fun times.

Sunday, October 1, was the date for a driving tour and fall leaf viewing at Cody's Classic Cars and World of Carz in beautiful downtown Stanley, Wisconsin. We left Hudson at 10 a.m. and arrived in Stanley at 11:30 a.m. After a week of rain, most of the leaves had lost their brilliant fall color.



Cody's Classic Cars, Stanley, Wisconsin

On the way east to Stanley, the traffic was light, and Interstate 94 was in very good shape. We had four Lincolns driven on the tour: Ken and Stacy Madden with a 1997 Town Car, Tina Zimpel and her mother, Ellaine Endthoff with a 1993 Town car, Dan Lubber with his 1978 Town Car and Bob and Mary Johnson with a 1989 Mark VII Convertible. It was a very hot day, 92 degrees, and Minneapolis canceled the annual 26-mile Twin City marathon run. It was a 255-mile round trip to Stanley from my home in Shafer. Those that attended were Richard and Linda Herman, Dan Lubber, Tina Zimpel and her mother Elaine Endthoff, Don and Donna Peterson, Dave and Tammie Heeren, Fred Syrdal and guest, Ken Bernsten, Ken and Stacy

Madden, Mat and Angie Harbert and Bob and Mary Johnson.

Due to the tour, we gained new LCOC members; Jon and Lauren Cody who operate "Cody's Classic Cars," in Stanley, Wisconsin. They are located at 307 North Broadway Street in Stanley, and as their name implies, buy and sell classic cars of all makes and vintages. The Cody's stand ready to help our members buy or sell classics if a need arises. About six years ago, they figured that they could make a comfortable living selling classics on consignment, so they launched Cody's Classic Cars. They conduct their business from their store in Stanley, which holds about 30 vehicles, and they have about another 50 cars that are consigned to them for sale and are displayed on their website, codysclassiccars.com. Check them out; they may have something that piques your interest.



Inside Cody's Cars showroom.

While we were in Stanley, we also visited the World of Carz, W10906 County Road North, Stanley. The owners are Craig and Kelly Paul. This is one of the largest hobby stores in the upper Midwest and is truly a sight to behold. They feature a large variety of model cars, trucks, memorabilia, signs, and virtually all the other car collector items you would want in one place.



World of Carz, Stanley, Wisconsin.

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More fall events...

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the pivotal opening credits. In February 2010, he was among the nearly 80 musicians to sing on the charity-single remake of *We Are the World*. On October 24, 2010, Bridges appeared at Neil Young's annual *Bridge School Benefit* concert and played a set with singer-songwriter Neko Case.

On April 19, 2011, *Country Music Television* announced that Bridges had signed a recording contract with *Blue Note Records/EMI Music Group*. He worked with producer *T Bone Burnett* and released his second album, *Jeff Bridges*, on August 16, 2011. On November 5, 2011, Bridges played *Austin City Limits* in support of this album.

In 2015, he sang on the album *Strangers Again*, performing a duet with *Judy Collins* of the song "Make Our Garden Grow" from *Candide* by *Leonard Bernstein*. The same year, he released an ambient/spoken-word album entitled *Sleeping Tapes*. All proceeds from the album go directly to Bridges' charity *No Kid Hungry*.

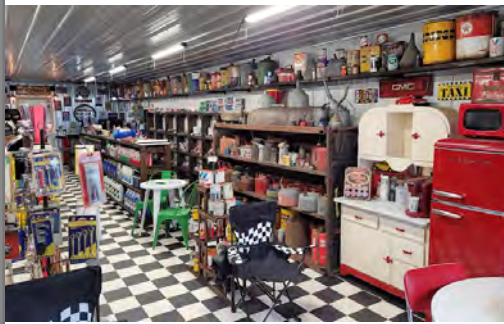
Bridges plays many guitars, including the *Gretsch Chet Atkins Country Gentlemen Model G6122-19*. In 2020, Bridges partnered with *Breedlove Guitars* to release his signature *Oregon Concerto Bourbon CE* with "All In This Together" scrawled across the fretboard.

Writing - In 2013,

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We also visited the *World of Carz*, Stanley, WI; the address is W10906 County Road N, Stanley, Wisconsin; the owners are *Craig and Kelly Paul*. This is the largest Hobby Store in the area and features a large variety of model cars, trucks, memorabilia, signs, and all the Car Collector items you want in one place. If you are interested in models, they have everything in the car hobby. Over the years, they have accumulated enough inventory to fill several large buildings. If you are looking for some unique stuff, you may find it at *The World of Cars*. You really have to see it to believe it. Check out their website, theworldofcarz.com.



Interior shot of "World of Carz." If you have an interest in the car hobby, they will have something for you.

A ton of thanks goes out to *Morrie Wagener* (who could not attend) and his staff, including *John Minnick*, *Gene Wendt*, *Jim Fredrick*, and *Doug Ladwig*. These fine people once again give up a Sunday at home to welcome and guide us through this outstanding collection of automobiles and all things related to them.

This visit made us appreciate being able to again view this collection and all the automotive memorabilia. We could again visit *Morrie's Car Collection* for a two hour viewing period, on Sunday, October 15, 2023 in *Long Lake Minnesota*.

It is perhaps the largest and best collection west of Chicago and east of Denver. And because it is a very private collection, few people are aware of the depth and width of it. From the earliest cars of the last century to the most modern ones of today. Plus, gas pumps, signs, and a whole bunch of stuff most of us have never seen. It really puts a person in a sensory overload.

After the viewing period, we all met in the comfortable meeting room for a fine lunch from a Minneapolis-based catering firm. In prior years, we featured potluck service, but this mode resulted in several inequities, so several

years ago, we went for a firm to come in and provide lunch for us. Nothing fancy, but good edible food at reasonable prices that the club could afford, not having to ask the membership to help foot the bill. It is a model which seems to work out well for everyone.

After lunch, we had the *North Star Lincoln Club* auction. This is where our members bring their excess automobile stuff and donate it to the auction. I sort of believe that in three or four years, the stuff eventually finds its way back to the original owner. But, it does provide some good entertainment for those who attend.

Our time at *Morrie's* was a success; over 100 people attended. Sixty were members (17 couples) with 30 visitors, and 80 ate lunch; we had eight new members who were able to view this beautiful collection for the first time. We have a few photos that were taken outside. The general thoughts were that this is such a beautiful collection of automobiles and auto memorabilia that we are very humbled to be able to see this collection again. Thank you, *Morrie*.

Our auction grossed \$1035 thanks to *Tom Brace's* auctioneering efforts, ably assisted by *Bob Gavrilesco*, *Dave Herren*, *Rob King*, and *Matt Foley*. *Kathryn Holaday* donated many items to the auction that *Bill*, her late husband, had used in the restoration of his 1959 *Lincoln Capri Sedan*, which was his father's car. *Marni-o's Deli*, *Minneapolis*, catered our lunch, and the cost was very reasonable. After all bills were paid, we still had a profit of almost \$100, so it was a free lunch. Plus, many people got auction items that were really needed by them. I think the one item that was the best deal was the picnic basket with several auto detailing products and bottles of wine. The time to make the basket showed in its quality. We hope to again visit *Morrie's* car collection in 2024.



A few of our members at *Casper's*.

On Sunday, November 12, 2023, we held our year-end brunch/lunch at the *Casper's Cherokee Family Bar and Grill* in *Eagan*. This was our second visit to *Caspers*, and it was just as good as our first visit back in January, even better than our first-time expectations. We had a very nice private room, very good service, the choice of

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Bridges wrote *The Dude and the Zen Master* with Bernie Glassman. Bridges found himself at a party with Glassman and Ram Dass and their conversation led to discussing the parallels between "The Dude" from *The Big Lebowski* and Zen Buddhism. The book was formed from what has been described as a "transcript of a five-day 'hang' on a Montana ranch."

Photography - Bridges has been an amateur photographer since high school. He began taking photographs on film sets during *Starman* at the suggestion of co-star Karen Allen in 1984, with his favorite camera, a Widelux F8 that his wife bought him. He published many of these photographs online and in a 2003 book entitled *Pictures: Photographs by Jeff Bridges*. In 2013, he received an Infinity Award for his photos from the International Center of Photography in New York. A follow-up book, *Jeff Bridges: Pictures Volume Two*, was published in 2019.

Voice work - Bridges narrated the documentary *Lost in La Mancha* (2002), about the making of a Terry Gilliam retelling of *Don Quixote*, tentatively titled *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote*, which would have starred Johnny Depp as Sancho Panza and Jean Rochefort as the quixotic hero. Bridges also narrated the documentaries *National Geographic's Lewis &*

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More events...

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ordering from Casper's lunch menu, reasonable prices, and food of good quality. We are professional eaters, and no one went away hungry. We will definitely be back again to enjoy this fine establishment again and again. This November weather had the beginning of a warm-up into the 60s. It was very pleasant with a day of sunshine.

Our room was very nice and comfortable and lent itself well to visiting with one another. Casper's is a place where you never get rushed, and there is no urgency to turn over your table for the next customer. It just made for a nice relaxing place for our meal and to celebrate another year with our members.



What a fine group we had at Casper's.

The North Star region was well represented, with 29 members attending. They were Tina Zimpel, John LaBahn, Ken Madden, Al Longley, Tom and Gunta Brace, David Sandels, Bob Gavrilescu, Tom and Joan St Martin, Brian Carlson, Faye Oberg, Kieth and Jill Danner, Don and Donna Peterson, Dave Gustafson, Matt and Angi Harbert, Ray and Jeanne Nelson, Karl and Sharon Flick, Richard and Linda Herman, Rob King, Ernie Christensen and Bob and Mary Johnson. Chris Struble tested positive for COVID during the week and was in home isolation and could not attend. Bob Johnson highlighted members Dave and Tammie Heeren for their efforts in producing our first in-color 2023 Region Membership Directory with member photos. Tammie was able to print many color copies that were handed out over the summer. The last five available copies were then given away. The Heerens will be updating the 2024 Membership Directory for a spring publication.

You can download or print our current North Star Region Directory by going to northstarlcc.org/NS_Directory_V2_6.30.2023.pdf.

More meeting minutes

(Continued from page 5)

Any interest in doing a LCOE Mid-America National Meet? Our last meet was in 2018, it will be six years. I have not received any specific information from LCOE on status of meets for 2024.

Treasurer Matt Foley reports a balance of \$3968.84 with all bills paid.

Membership and Publications: Dave G. 2023 North Star Region new Memberships for the past month were three new members, Bobby Penley, Sauk Rapids, Clifford Boyum, St Paul, and Scott Prescott Lakeville. WE NEED YOUR "My Pride & Joy" articles.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. No meeting in December. Next Meeting to be held at --- Lincoln of Bloomington, Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Chris Struble

For Sale

This 1961 Continental is a true "Barn Find."



This is an 100% original Arizona car with no rust. About as solid as they come. Owner had planned to restore it, but due to age, cannot do it now. It has not been run in 25 years, but the engine does turn over. Also, the interior will need to be replaced.

The Continental is owned by Darwin Peters of Meservey, Iowa., who is asking \$22,000.

Dave Heeren is working with Darwin to help sell the Lincoln. If you are interested in what could be a very fine car when restored, please contact Dave at (952)469-3647. Dave will provide you with more information and can arrange for more pictures or possible visit if you are interested in taking on this great project.

Welcome Wagon

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Clark: Great Journey West (2002, IMAX), Discovery Channel's *Raising the Mammoth* (2000), and ABC's *Heroes of Rock and Roll* (1979). He voiced the character Big Z in the animated picture *Surf's Up*. He also hosted VH1's *Top 100 Greatest Albums of Rock and Roll* series in 2001. In 2016, he narrated the documentary *Dream Big: Engineering Our World*. Bridges has performed TV commercial voiceover work as well, including Hyundai's 2007 "Think About It" advertising campaign and the Duracell advertisements in the "Trusted Everywhere" campaign.

On December 18, 2010, Bridges hosted NBC's *Saturday Night Live*; he had hosted the show before in 1983 with his brother, Beau. With the December 18, 2010, episode, Bridges beat Sigourney Weaver's record for the longest gap between hosting appearances on *SNL* (Weaver had a 24-year gap between her first time hosting in 1986 and her second time hosting in 2010, while Bridges had a 27-year gap between his first appearance in 1983 and his most recent one, also in 2010).

Personal life - Bridges married Susan Geston in 1977. They had met while filming *Rancho Deluxe* (1975), on a ranch where Geston had been working as a waitress. They have three daughters, born in 1981, 1983 and 1985. Bridges

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by Francis Kalvoda, Willmar, Minnesota 320-235-5777 fjk@charter.net



The Welcome Wagon

HaPpY DECEMBER!! We were all thankful for our extended Fall and we are certainly looking forward to the joyous holidays just ahead. Our two new members this month met at our Hugo [All American](#) Car Show and joined the North Star Lincoln and Continental Owners Club.

Our first new member is **Clark Hagemeyer**, 930 Laurel Avenue, Hudson, Wisconsin 54016, clarkwynn@hotmail.com, 651-303-2687. Clark has been a car guy forever. He has a 1967 Continental Sedan that has been in his family since 1978. Clark occasionally gets to enjoy his son's 1964 Thunderbird. The latest project is a 1961 Dodge D100 pickup. Clark recently retired from Lunds and Byerlys. If you enjoyed the delicious creations from Lunds and Byerlys Delis, Clark had a hand in making those goodies for all the stores. Here is Clark's auto biography....



Clark's D-100 pickup.

Love for cars runs in my family. My dad was a car guy, I'm a car guy and my oldest son is a car guy. Dad wasn't much of a mechanic but bought nice cars. I took wrenching skills up a notch. My oldest son took it over the top building resto-mods. Most recently a 1964

Thunderbird.

I have been a car guy since a very early age. When other kids were buying comic books and baseball cards, I was buying Hot Wheels. I started doing oil changes on the family's 1967 Ford Ranch Wagon when I was 10 years old. In high school, I took an auto shop class and learned how to rebuild an engine. I dabbled in racing at North Star Dragstrip after high school but soon after got married and started a family. I continued wrenching on cars and doing my own repairs to save money. I still derive joy from doing my own auto repairs.

Over the years I have owned many cars. I drove a 1938 Chevrolet to high school. The girls were not impressed, but it was wheels. All the cool kids were driving Camaros, Mustangs and Firebirds. My favorite cars were a 1968 Toronado, a 1967 Impala SS, a 1974 Eldorado, and a 1975 Datsun 280Z. Topping the list was a very clean and powerful 1971 Riviera GS.



Clark's 1967 Continental

My 1967 Lincoln Continental has a rich family history. It was originally purchased by my brother in 1978. It wasn't sporty enough, and he sold it to my dad. My brother borrowed it one day in early 1979. He spun out on an icy freeway ramp in Minneapolis and tagged a guard rail with the front end. The front clip was too damaged to repair, so my dad bought a donor car with a perfect front clip. Both cars were taken to Clara City, Minnesota, where one of my dad's high school buddies had a body shop. It took two years to complete the job. The car was repainted the color it is today which is close to lime gold.

The Lincoln was parked in the garage until 1999, when my folks moved to Park Rapids. The car was trailered up there and stored some more. In 2002, he had a ton of work done to get the car road-worthy. It was tuned up, new brakes, exhaust, and a bunch of other work done. Still, he never really drove it. When he passed away in 2014, I started working on it. It still needed a fair amount of work to make it

More Welcome Wagon

(Continued from page 13)

has studied Buddhism and has described himself as "a Buddhistly bent guy". On most days, he meditates for half an hour before beginning work on a film set. He has learned Transcendental Meditation. On October 19, 2020, Bridges announced that he had been diagnosed with lymphoma and has gone through chemotherapy.

On September 12, 2021, Bridges announced that his cancer was in remission: "My cancer is in remission — the 9x12 inch mass has shrunk down to the size of a marble.

Bridges also announced he contracted COVID-19 while in treatment and which he fought for almost five weeks.

Philanthropy - In 1984, Bridges and other entertainment industry leaders founded the End Hunger Network aimed at encouraging, stimulating and supporting action to end childhood hunger. He supported President Obama's initiative to End Childhood Hunger by 2015. In November 2010, Bridges became spokesman for the No Kid Hungry campaign of the organization Share our Strength. Its goal is to present and undertake a state-by-state strategy to end childhood hunger in the United States by 2015. Bridges also supports environmental causes and organizations such as the Amazon Conservation Team.

From the internet...

(Continued from page 13)

road-worthy. The water pump was shot, and it barely ran. In 2020, I took title of the car and brought it home to Hudson, Wisconsin. It took me three years to get the car road-worthy. It needed the carb rebuilt, fuel pump, new steering, battery, heater core, starter, power windows, and a LOT of vacuum hoses. I feel confident to drive the car anywhere now. My dad would be proud, and the car would be passed to my oldest son to be kept in the family.



Clark's son owns this TBird which his dad really loves.

Working on Lincolns is no easy task. It took me a while to climb up the learning curve. I invested in a 1967 Lincoln shop manual, which has paid for itself 100 times over! This year, I plan to replace the tired leaf springs, front suspension, and shocks and solve some minor electrical issues...with help from my son.

I recently purchased a solid and complete 1961 Dodge D100 Sweptline. It has a wide block 318 with a push-button automatic transmission. Not that I needed another project but the truck was owned by my girlfriend's brother (a serious Mopar guy) who passed away in March. I vowed to get the truck in running order and keep it in her family, a homage to her late brother. I hope to have it ready for Back To The 50s in 2024.

I am looking forward to meeting more members of the North Star Club next summer.

Our next new North Star member has similar tastes in vehicles to those of Clark Hagemeyer. I am pleased to introduce **Mike Conley**, 816 South Fifth Street, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082, 651-402-8392, m.conley1485@gmail.com. Mike has always been a car guy, liking Lincolns. As a kid, he REALLY liked the 1958 Mark III Continental

convertible his dad had. Then Dad bought a 1961 Continental hardtop, the first in the slab-side Lincolns. Mike has a dark ivy green 1969 Continental Sedan, the last of the slab-sided suicide door Lincolns. During the few years he has had the '69 Continental, Mike has rebuilt or replaced many mechanical components of the 107,000-mile car. Bud's Speed Shop in Stillwater has helped a lot. The stunning 22-inch rims were on the car when he bought it. Smaller rims are being considered. Mike was a machinist for 24 years until his whole company was moved to Brazil. For the last 19 years, Mike has been driving for MAGNUM Trucking, which is based in Fargo. For those who think a 4-5,000 pound Lincoln is large, consider an 80,000-pound loaded 18-wheeler like Mike drives. Mike is looking forward to getting the '69 to more car events in 2024, seeing more Lincolns, and meeting more North Star members.



Mike Conley's 1969 Continental



It certainly was a treat to visit with and welcome Clark and Mike. Feel free to contact these two enthusiastic car guys. Next month, I will have more new members to welcome. If you know of Lincoln enthusiasts who are not members, ask them to join. The reduced membership deal ends December 31. What a great stocking stuffer! Micki and I hope you will all enjoy **Very Happy Holidays!**

North Star LCOC events

- December No planned activities for December. Please take some time to hang out with friends and relatives. You will always be glad that you did.
- January January Sunday buffet. January 7, 2024, at the Machine Shed, 8515 Hudson Blvd N, Lake Elmo, 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Bob Johnson, email Arborbob41@aol.com or call 651-257-1715 before January 5, 2024
- February Our February event is with the CCCA and it will be at the Firefighters museum, Saturday, February 10, 2024. The CCCA will be furnishing a catered dinner, and there will be an auction to help defray the costs of the meal. The Firefighters museum is located at 664 22nd Avenue in Minneapolis. Please bring a quality item for the auction. Please RSVP by email or phone to Tom Brace... tbrace@comcast.net or phone 651.644.7800.



For Sale - 1979 Town Car

Linda Fenelon has decided to sell the car that she and her late husband, Ron, enjoyed for 20 years. The rust-free California Town Car has 106,000 miles. It is mechanically sound and has a nice interior. The clear coat paint is fading. The tires are nearly new. For a personal inspection or more information, contact Linda Fenelon, Alexandria, Minnesota, 320-763-4197 or 320-491-4484. \$5,500/offer.



We want you and your ideas for the North Star Lincoln Club. Tell us what you think. Tell us how we can make the club even better. Give us a call or email. We will listen. If you know of good places to eat or fun things to do or see... let us know.

Also, we can use help in signing up new members. Do your best to make the club grow and try to sign up one new member each year. The club needs new members to survive.

BACK ISSUES OF THE NORTHSTAR NEWS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE
ON THE NORTHSTAR LCOC WEB SITE.

www.northstarlcoc.org Click on publications.

Issues are in PDF format and may be printed on your color printer.

The Back Page

The special rate for new LCOC members is back!

If you have friends or relatives that would be interested in a membership to the Lincoln and Continental Owners Club, now is a good time for them to join. Or as a good favor to those folks, you might consider gifting them with a full years membership for the low rate of \$34 per year. This is a \$20 discount over the existing rate of \$54. The hitch is, it is only good for first time memberships. And as a bonus, it also includes a full years, 12 months membership in the North Star Region, which also includes the monthly newsletter, Northstar News.

This is an overall savings of \$40, it just doesn't get any better than this. Six issues of Continental Comments and twelve issues of the Northstar

News. That's a lot of very good reading for only \$34.

There are a lot of folks out there that would enjoy a membership to our fine club. Please take advantage of this fine offer to make one of your friends a gift of a LCOC membership and at the same time help the club sign up new members.

It is easy to sign up new members, membership forms are available online at lcoc.org and you can also join by calling CornerstoSne Registration at 763.420.7829.

If all else fails, give Bob Johnson a call at 651.357.1715, he will be glad to help you out.

Bringing you Seasons Greetings from the North Star Lincoln Club.
The very best for the New Year.



I am a very fine car that desperately needs a new home. I have been with my present owner(s) since the early 1980s, and it has now time for me to be much loved and well taken care of in the way that I have become accustomed to by a new family. I have an excellent pedigree that can be easily verified by all of my present masters' documents.

I am a 1979 Lincoln Mark V, having traveled less than 35,000 miles in my lifetime. I have always spent my nights and days safely stored inside, in a nice secure garage,

except when my mom and dad took me out for special rides and bring to car shows. I finished in a Diamond Blue metallic paint, which was rare in 1979. Both my inside and outside are spotless, with no dings, dents, or scrapes. I look almost as good as the day my first owner took delivery of me from the dealership. I have a moonroof and virtually all of the accessories that Lincoln offered in 1979. Plus, I come with all the owners and factory manuals too.

Would you please come to see me and check me out? I will not disappoint you and provide you and your family with many years of enjoyment behind the wheel and pride of ownership. Plus, my owners' price aligns with current Mecum auction results for similar Mark V's, most having more miles than I do. Very fairly priced at \$14,500 obo.

Further inquiries should be directed to Ann at 612-695-6524. She will be awaiting your call.