

# LIFTER NOISE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST MICHIGAN CORVAIR CLUB

APRIL 2003

## What's Going On...

The next meeting of the West Michigan Corvair Club will be on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:30 PM. The meeting will be held at Brann's, 4157 South Division in Wyoming (between 36<sup>th</sup> St. and 44<sup>th</sup> St.). Steve Ridderman and others will be holding a carburetor tech session. ... Coming up on May 3 is the Spring Dust-off in conjunction with the Detroit and Michiana clubs. We are meeting in G.R. at 11 AM and plan on being in Lansing by 1 PM. Once again, there is a map in this newsletter if you choose to go right to Lansing. ... With the weather getting nicer, the cruise nights should be starting up soon. If you know of a cruise night, pass it along to be published in the newsletter. ... Put August 2 on your calendar as the day that the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual WMCC Car Display will be taking place. We will be having it in conjunction with the first day of the Red Barns Spectacular at Gilmore Car Museum.

## Coming Events...

### WMCC/Corvair Events

April 15	WMCC General Meeting
May 3	Spring Dust-off, Lansing
May 6	WMCC Board Meeting
May 17 – 18	Mad Anthony Corvair Club 1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Corvair Classic, Fort Wayne
May 20	WMCC General Meeting hosted by Bill Klage in Saugatuck
May 31 – June 1	Ypsilanti Orphan Car Show
June 3	WMCC Board Meeting
June 17	WMCC Board Meeting hosted by John Cole at Lear
July 15 – 19	CORSA International Convention, Carlisle, Pennsylvania
July 23	WMCC General Meeting at Rosie's Diner in Rockford
August 2	7 <sup>th</sup> Annual WMCC Car Display, Gilmore Car Museum
August 22 – 24	DACC Corvair Homecoming, Quality Inn, Plymouth

### Other Events

May 17	7 <sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Car Show & Auction for Burn Survivors, 9 AM – 3 PM, Fifth Third Park, Grand Rapids. For more info call 616-455-4338 or drdesoto@chartermi.net.
June 7	Frosty Boy's Annual Car Show, 5 PM – 9 PM, 5030 Gull Rd., Kalamazoo. For more info call 269-345-5360.
June 7	Rollin' Oldies Classic Car Show and Blood Drive, 10 AM – 3 PM, Michigan Community Blood Centers, 1036 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids. For more info call 233-8524 or 1-866-MIBLOOD.
June 13	Friday Night Classic Car Show, 6 PM – 9 PM, Grand Oldsmobile-Pontiac, 2901 28 <sup>th</sup> St. SW, Grandville.
June 14	Vicksburg Old Car Festival, 9 AM - ?, Main St. Vicksburg. For more info call 269-649-1312 or VIXOCF@aol.com.
July 12	Kindleberger Festival Car Show, 9 AM – 3:30 PM, Kindleberger Park, Parchment. For more info call 269-349-5559 or 269-342-2879 or festivalcarshow@hotmail.com.
July 26	15 <sup>th</sup> Annual Wayland Auto Show, 9 AM – 2 PM, Wayland City Park. For more info call 616-792-2915.
July 26	Plainwell Car Show
August 2 – 3	Red Barn Spectacular XXIII, Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners.
August 10	Deano's 3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Car Show, Noon – 6 PM, 1604 M-40, North Allegan.
August 16	Woodward Dream Cruise, Detroit

## Last Month's Meeting...

Last month's meeting was held at Brann's. Steve Ridderman won the 50/50 raffle. The payout was \$24.50 and Steve graciously donated \$12.50 back to the club treasury. The main activity of the evening was watching a video tour of Clark's Corvair Parts.

## ***Spring Dust-off...***

Saturday May 3, 2003. Have you ever seen a REO truck? If not this is your chance. Get your Corvairs out and running. We will be dusting them off on a run to Lansing on May 3. We will meet at the Toys R Us parking lot at 28th Street and the East Beltline at 11:00 am. We will meet with the Detroit Area and Michiana Corvair Clubs at the barns of Jim Neal for a potluck lunch at 1:00 pm. Please bring a dish to pass, your own table service and a lawn chair. Our hosts are providing chips, coffee, pop and a serving table with electricity to plug in crock-pots. We will then tour the barns and view the unique collection of automobiles. There is a map included in this newsletter showing how to get to the barns if you wish to go directly there. Bring the family and let's have some fun.

## ***Membership Info...***

If you are interested in receiving an electronic version of the newsletter, you may e-mail Dave Ziebarth at [davez@i2k.com](mailto:davez@i2k.com). You will be e-mailed a link that will take you to an online version of the newsletter. Once you sign up for the electronic newsletter, you will no longer receive the snail mail version. For a sample of what the online newsletter looks like, go to <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/chapter495/samplenews.htm>.

Please send Dave Ziebarth your updated e-mail addresses to be included in the club roster which will be published in the May newsletter. You may send them to [davez@i2k.com](mailto:davez@i2k.com).

## ***Treasurer's Report...***

**MARCH 2003**

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$2,056.12</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>\$81.50</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	<b>\$145.95</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$1,991.67</b>

Income came from dues, 50/50 raffle, and a catalog sale. Disbursements were for the January and February newsletters and postage.

## ***Board Meeting Minutes...***

From April 1, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Ridderman at 8:18 at the Pearl Street Big Boy, where seven board members were present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

### **Treasury**

We have six and one half unpaid memberships from the past year, and some board members said they would talk to the recalcitrants. It was also suggested that since Keith Martin had kindly donated the now legendary station wagon to the club that he should be put on the mailing list for the Lifter Noise.

### **Old Business**

Re the May 3 Dustoff, John Cole has the route laid out. The club will supply the pop, coffee and chips for this potluck event. See elsewhere in this newsletter for the specifics. We haven't heard from the Michiana folks about attending, and Bob mentioned that since their club is disbanding maybe some of them would consider joining WMCC.

The April general meeting will be at Brann's, where Steve will conduct a carb tech session.

The May general meeting will be hosted by Bill Klage at his garage in Saugatuck, and it is important to RSVP so Bill can plan accurately. Also, try to bring the wife or girlfriend, or if you really want this meeting to be memorable, both. John Cole will host the June meeting at the trim plant that once produced door panels and seat covers for the Corvair.

We had discussed visiting the group in Zeeland that is restoring the GM Futurliner. Since this project is nearing completion there may not be much to see, but we will continue to investigate. Visit their website at [www.futurliner.com](http://www.futurliner.com) (yes, that is the correct spelling).

### **New Business**

CORSA has made their new Corvair Basics book/CD available to us. Before committing to purchasing any quantity we will see what the Detroit club is going to do when we get together May 3.

Although the Gilmore show in August is a two day event we will have our display on Saturday only.

We talked about using the Del Shannon Cruise/show in Coopersville as an informal get-together, and Steve has arranged for Kalamazoo Speedway to give us an infield display and parade lap on some Saturday night yet to be determined, possibly in July.

We have information packets available for potential members consistin of flyers and back issues of the CORSA Communique, and the meeting concluded with a discussion of WMCC members who weren't also members of CORSA. We may make a \$10.00 coupon good toward a CORSA membership available in our newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11.

D Konkle, sec'y

## ***Classified Ads...***

**1962 Monza Convertible** – This is the car featured on the 2002 Corvair Underground Catalog. White with a black top. Restored by Duane Wendtland of Oregon City, Oregon. Car shipped in enclosed carrier to Portage, Michigan in September 2002. This is a west coast car that never had any rust. It has a three speed with a 102 HP engine. The restoration is to a completely stock condition right down to the shocks. If you are looking for a perfect car down to the last detail this is it. \$9850.00. Mike Mehl, (269) 345-3811 or [mimehl@parker.com](mailto:mimehl@parker.com).

**1962 Convertible** – has new top. \$3000 or best offer. Mike at (419) 929-3049.

**1963 Spyder Coupe** – clean Georgia body, 56K mileage, original paint, black interior and instrument cluster, glove box door in excellent shape. Seats in good condition and need minor repair. Rear seats removed, rear luggage area done like early model Corvette. No headliner, but have original bows and retainer trim. Engine rebuilt in 1997 with TRW forged pistons and high performance rings. Ported and polished heads, stainless steel valves with alloy guides. Stock cam and valve train, high volume oil pump with Offenhouser cast pan. Rebuilt stock carburetor with electric choke, rebuilt turbo. 4-speed transmission with new gaskets and seals. New U-joints, metallic brakes, clutch, pressure plate, and flywheel (has rattle only at idle). Includes many extras and parts. David Lewis, Grand Ledge, (517) 272-3904 or (517) 627-0543.

Wanted - Ready to buy a 65 - 69 corsa cpe or conv. rust free and in excellent shape, can need cosmetics, will pay reasonable price. call Michael Hancock at 781-710-1733

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## ***May Meeting... by Bill Klage***

Betty and Bill Klage have volunteered to host the May WMCC meeting at their "Poor Man's Car Collection" barn in Saugatuck. They have a collection of 24 cars ranging from the 30s to the 90s (including a Corvair).

Burgers, brats, chips and beverages are to be provided by our club. Our treasury has ample funds and is getting better with the help of our monthly meeting 50/50 drawings.

The barn will be available anytime Tuesday afternoon, but our social hour is planned from 6:00 to 7:00. Dinner from the grill will be ready about 7:00.

The May weather should be perfect for the run to Saugatuck. Let's not travel alone... your wife, girlfriend, friend or other are welcome to share the fun.

Call the Klage's anytime before May 18 to give your count for attending. Their number is (269) 857-4390. An answering machine will be on if they're not at home.

Sunsets on Lake Michigan from Saugatuck are spectacular in May. This could be a romantic way to end the day! See enclosed map for directions.

## ***The GM Futurliner Restoration Project...***

In January, at a swap meet at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, Bob Janei, Dan Konkle, and Dave Ziebarth had the opportunity to visit with a gentleman manning a booth to raise funds for the restoration of a GM Futurliner. What is a GM Futurliner? In 1936, General Motors created a Parade of Progress in order to communicate to the nation the progress being made in science and industry. For the Parade of Progress to travel the country, GM built eight vehicles call Streamliners. These vehicles, along with support vehicles, went to small towns and cities across the country putting on a free show introducing to the public the science and technology progress being made. The Parade of Progress was so successful that in 1940 twelve new vehicles called Futurliners were built and an expanded show hit the road in 1941. The Parade of Progress continued until World War II.



*An original photo of a Futurliner.*

After World War II General Motors was focused on getting automotive production up and running. However in 1952 the Futurliners were updated with new powertrains and styling changes and the Parade of Progress was once again on the road. The Parade of Progress continued through 1956 but the creation of TV made the Parade obsolete.

Of the original twelve Futurliners, nine are known to exist. None have ever been restored back to original. The National Automotive and Truck Museum of the United States (NATMUS) own one of these nine. The vehicle is currently in Zeeland, Michigan undergoing a restoration by a group of volunteers. The project was started in 1999 and they are making good progress.



*Left: How the Futurliner looked in 1999. Right: How the Futurliner looked on 3/25/03.*

There has been some discussion among the board members about setting up a tour of the Futurliner or even volunteering in some way. This can be discussed at the April meeting. For more information and photos, visit the Futurliner web site at <http://www.futurliner.com>. The photos and some of the text for this article were taken from this web site.

## ***WMCC Officers...***

**President** Steve Ridderman, 720 West Gun River Dr., Plainwell, MI 49080, (269) 685-6377  
**Vice-President** Ryan Counterman, 5685 Douglas Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49004, (616) 262-8887, VairKing@aol.com  
**Secretary** Dan Konkle, 6574 Rogueview Ct. NE, Belmont, MI 49306, (616) 364-1009, Dankle@aol.com  
**Treasurer** Bob Janei, 2141 Shawnee Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506, (616) 243-3462, rdjane@attbi.com  
**Editor** Dave Ziebarth, 1411 Pickett St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508, (616) 281-3183, davez@i2k.com

### **Members of the Board**

John Cole, 104 Spruce Ave., Holland, MI 49423, (616) 395-0021, jjcole@triton.net  
Dan DeRuiter, 6708 College Ave., Kentwood, MI 49548, (616) 281-2832, deruida@yahoo.com  
Gary Gruetzmacher, 600 West Monroe (M-43), Bangor, MI 49013 (269) 427-7015  
Dave Teppo, 1063 Eastwood Ave. SE, East Grand Rapids, MI 49506, (616) 285-0311, singularity@worldkey.net  
Dave Ziebarth, 1411 Pickett St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508, (616) 281-3183, davez@i2k.com

## ***About the West Michigan Corvair Club...***

The West Michigan Corvair Club is chapter #495 of the Corvair Society of America. We typically meet on the third Tuesday of every month at Brann's on 4157 South Division in Wyoming, Michigan. Membership dues are \$15.00 per year. Junior membership dues (age 17 & under) are \$7.50 annually and family dues are \$16.00 annually. Our web site is <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/chapter495/> and our e-mail address is davez@i2k.com.



## ***WEST MICHIGAN CORVAIR CLUB***

***1411 Pickett St. SE***

***Kentwood, MI 49508***