



# Lifter Noise

Volume 31, Issue 5

July, 2004

## Upcoming Activities

- July 21 General Meeting at Rosie's in Rockford
- July 31 Coast Guard Festival Car Show, Grand Haven, Michigan
- August 3 Board Meeting
- August 7 WMCC car display at the Red Barn Spectacular
- August 13 & 14 Del Shannon Cruise Night and Car Show, Coopersville, Michigan
- August 21 Woodward Dream Cruise, Detroit, Michigan
- August 27-29 Detroit Area Corvair Club Homecoming

## What's Going On. . .

It's July and that means it's time for our annual trip to Rosie's Diner for a cruise night.

We will be meeting on Wednesday, July 21 for the cruise night at Rosie's. This will be our regular meeting for the month of July.

If the restaurant is not too busy, we will make our way inside during the night for dinner. If the restaurant is busy we will line up and caravan to downtown Rockford to the Corner Bar.

Rosie's is at 4500 14 Mile Road, Rockford. The easy way to get there is to take US-131 north from Grand Rapids. Get off at the 14 Mile Road/M-57 exit (exit number 101). Go east on 14 Mile/M-57 and Rosie's will be on the south side of

the road.

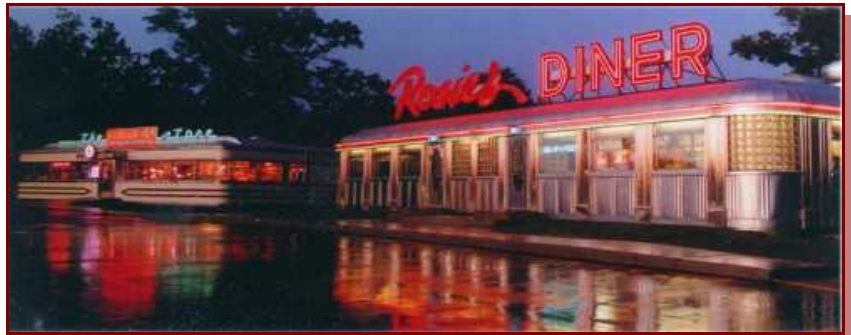
This is probably the last newsletter before the Red Barn Spectacular at Gilmore on August 7. Look for more details later in the newsletter.

The board discussed the possibility of participating as a group in the Del Shannon cruise and show in Coopersville in August also. Watch this space for future information.

There is a flyer included for the Detroit Corvair Club's Homecoming. Let's try and get a few cars out to support them.

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## Around the Club

This month we welcome the Waddells as new members. Don, Carol and Brad joined the club in June. For those who have been members of CORSA since 1986 you may remember that Don took over as CORSA President at the Grand Rapids Convention. The Waddells live in Holland and have a '65 Corsa that looks pretty good.

Other news in the club involves new cars that members have acquired.

Bryan Pulsipher has abandoned the 1962 700 sedan. He has replaced it with a 1962 Rampside. The truck is fairly solid, but will need some work to be roadworthy. We look forward to updates from

*(Continued on page 2)*

## *Around the Club*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Bryan and hope to see the truck on the road soon.

Norm Witte has added to his collection of Corvairs. This newest addition is a 1965 Corsa convertible. It is complete with turbo. We look forward to Norm keeping us

updated on the process. One thing he has talked about is a club tech session work night to do a dual master cylinder conversion on the car. Watch for more details.

Bill Wright has also added a new car. It is a 1966 Monza convertible. Watch for more details on this car and the story later in the newsletter.



Are there any other new wheels in the club? Is there anything else going on with anybody in the club that you would like to share. This is the place to share it. Please forward any news to me at [wmcc@corvair.org](mailto:wmcc@corvair.org) or mail it to me at the address listed on the back page of the newsletter.

## *Dues Increase*

Last month there was a ballot included in the newsletter for members to vote on increasing the dues.

Out of 46 ballots sent out to members 28 were returned. From those the vote went 26 yes for the increase and 2 no votes.

The increase will take effect for the 2005 calendar year. There is a provision for members to pay before September 1, 2004 and pay at the 2004 rate. Any payments after that time will be at the new rates.

This increase came about as a review of the club finances over the past two years. We have found that our single largest expense is the publication of the newsletters.

Printing cost per page on the newsletter is \$.16. So a newsletter of 6 pages is \$.96. Add thirty-seven cents for postage and the total cost is \$1.33/month. With dues set at \$1.25/month we had a shortfall. Now with dues set at \$1.50/month we will just be breaking even on the newsletter. Other activities will have to be self-funding.

## *Board Meeting Minutes*

- 1) Meeting called to order by President Steve Ridderman at 8:14 pm. Meeting was held at Pearl Street Big Boy in Grand Rapids. Members present: Bob Janei, Steve Ridderman, Ryan Counterman, John Cole, and Dan Konkle.
- 2) Treasurer's Report: Bob handed out the report showing a current balance of \$1892.06. Report approved by acclamation.
- 3) Minutes of June meeting were read by John and approved by acclamation.
- 4) Old Business:
  - a) Car Display on August 7.
    - i) Dave Ziebarth will take care of food purchases. Plan on 50 people to buy for. Menu will be burgers, chips, potato salad, hot dogs

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(Continued from page 2)

- for the kids, and pop.
- ii) Cake for 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. John Cole will take care of getting this.
  - iii) Steve and Bill to bring grills.
  - iv) Caravan from Grand Rapids to meet at Burger King at Broadmoor and 52<sup>nd</sup> at 7:45 am. Caravan will leave for Hickory Corners at 8:00 am.
  - v) John will add a note to the newsletter to remind people to bring lawn chairs.
  - vi) Awards: Clark's Corvair has exchanged gift certificates for advertising in our newsletter. These will be used as prizes. John will print certificates to be awarded to the winners of the following classes: Late Open, Late Closed, Early Open, Early Closed, FC (to include UltraVans).
- b) July meeting will be at Rosie's Diner in Rockford on July 21. Meeting will be at 7:30.
  - c) By-laws review: Dues increase passed. John passed out copies of constitution and by-laws.

Bob, John, and Dave Ziebarth will review with amendments that have been added. Review to take place in early August. Recommendations for changes to be made to be in place for next calendar year.

- d) Brief discussion of next year's calendar of events. We will look at setting up regional drives to get more people involved in activities.
- 5) New Business:
- a) Color Tour: We are looking at a drive to the Harrison area to some property owned by Norm Witte's family. Dan and John to set up a route.
  - b) August meeting may be set to take place at the Del Shannon Cruise and Car Show in Coopersville.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm

These represent the unapproved minutes of the July, 2004 Board Meeting.

John Cole, Secretary

## Treasurer's Report

Beginning June 2 Ending July 5

Beginning Balance \$1842.06

Income:

Donations \$100.00

Disbursements:

Donations \$50.00

Ending Balance: \$1892.06

Funds:

50/50 \$21.00

General \$1871.06

Notes:

Disbursements for May and June were lower than expected as newsletter expenses had not been paid in those months. This will cause July report to look higher than expected.



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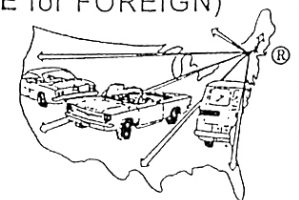
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## CORSA International Convention

This year the CORSA International Convention took place in Lexington, Kentucky. I really wanted to go, but work got in the way so I got to stay home. Well actually I had to go to training for work so I didn't get to stay home either. But I did live vicariously through the WMCC members that managed to make it to Kentucky.

It seems that our members went down and wanted to make sure that everyone remembered there was a club in West Michigan. For the most part that almost happened.

Let's start the odyssey with Ryan Counterman. Ryan had been working diligently on his V8 conversion to have it ready to take to the Corvair drag races on Monday, June 14. Ryan was close or so he thought.

The car was running and he had done a little road test on it the week before the convention. He found one problem. The rocker nuts seemed to be working loose and causing a little ticking in the engine. So some high-performance nuts were ordered. But there just wasn't enough time to get the car running when he found his cam had problems and had worn away a couple lobes. So the decision was made to trailer the car down and replace the cam once in Lexington.

In Lexington the engine was found to have a few more problems like the rocker studs were being pushed out of the heads. This was not going to be fixed for the drag races. So now what to do?

Watch Steve Ridderman run the drag races in the Rampside.



Steve had just completed work on his dad's Rampside a month before leaving for the convention so he was confident in its abilities.

He must have been as he took it to the track and

thrashed it against all competition. He managed to win the overall title. That is the joy in bracket racing. Even an old slow truck can win if you dial in your times correctly. Here you can see Steve afterwards with Bob Marlow. I've heard Steve couldn't get the goofy grin off his face for quite a while.

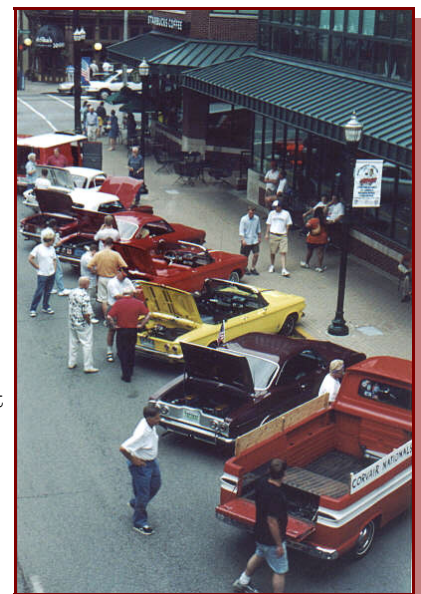


So how do you follow up that victory? By driving the truck back to the hotel and stripping the gears out of the differential turning a corner in the parking lot.

So by the end of Monday the WMCC had been represented by one win and two major mechanical breakdowns. And only three of our members had arrived as the official activities didn't begin until Tuesday.

Tuesday was the welcoming parade through downtown. Afterward the cars were parked downtown for all to see.

John Koning was the only WMCC participant. His car had been through a clutch replacement last month and since this was a low-stress event he made it through successfully. He even sent me all the pictures of the drags and the parked cars downtown.



While John was going through the parade and the display downtown, Norm Witte was on his way into Lexing-

ton. Norm took the whole family along and that necessitated him towing his Corsa down. As Norm pulled off the expressway in Lexington the trailer decided to reject the Corsa. With a loud noise the Corsa descended to earth behind the trailer and in front of another car.

Once Norm's heart started beating again he inspected things to find the car had a battered rear grille insert, a dent in the floor and a chip in the paint. Nobody was injured and the driver behind them managed to not hit the car. Fortunately this happened while pulling away from a stop light and not on the highway at speed. Norm determined that the front strap had given way which allowed the Corsa to roll back. Norm bought a replacement strap and a few extras so as to avoid a repeat on the way home.

So the WMCC was represented by four members and three cars with problems. Two of those are undrivable. However, Steve was rebuilding his in the parking lot.

Wednesday was the concours and car display. Norm had found a replacement grille insert and got his car put out for the display. This event put no strain on mechanical parts so Wednesday yields no new breakdowns.



Wednesday also marked the Witte's fifteenth anniversary so Norm decided to show Joy how much he really cares by taking her out to dinner with all the guys from the club. And the kids. To make the anniversary all the more special Norm had a reaction to some medication and wound up with his heart racing at somewhere around 210 beats per minute. A call was placed to 911. Norm and Joy went to a local hospital. Their kids went to the campground with John and Cathy Koning.

At least Norm and Joy did get to spend a little time alone at the hospital.

Thursday was the rally and Norm and Joy took two of their kids (Jake and Caitlin) and put the other two (Allison and Seth) with John and Cathy Koning in their car. A little friendly rivalry took place and the competition was to see which of the two cars would emerge with

the lower score. When scoring was completed the Witte car proved victorious over the Koning car. What John and Cathy didn't know was that Norm paid his kids to make sure that the Konings would have difficulty on the rally.

Friday was the autocross. Norm was having some carburetor troubles and decided not to run. Steve on the other hand had the Rampside back together. With the thrill of victory at the drags still fresh, he took to the autocross track. He managed a respectable second place finish. Dave Ziebarth showed shown up and got some decent video of Steve.

Saturday was the economy run and nobody represented the WMCC in this event. Some members decided to head back. But another member has shown up and was present for the banquet.

Our own Bill Wright was present at the banquet when they raffled off the 1966 Monza convertible. This is a very nicely restored car that was raffled as part of the convention. Bill didn't win. Instead a gentleman from California won. Only he and his wife decided to donate the car back to the hosting clubs for an auction.

The action at the auction was going fast and furiously when Bill, still marvelling over the car, decided to enter the bidding frenzy. When all was said and done, Bill has heard that his final and winning bid is 25. This seemed like quite a steal at 25 hundred. Only Bill missed one of the zeroes and was brought back to reality when he found he just bought a car for \$20,500.

But what really added to this is that Liz was not with Bill, so she didn't know what her husband had done. She found that out through the miracle of e-mail.

Bill's purchase of the car sparked some discussion on Virtual Vairs. As a result Ryan Counterman sent a note out to a few members of the club asking if anyone had heard about Bill's new car. I got the e-mail and forwarded it to Bill asking for the story. Liz still not having heard from Bill opened up the e-mail to find out that as she said, "Bill's gone crazy!!"

Bill went back to Kentucky the week after the convention and brought back his car. We are anxious to see it and hope that Bill will no longer be the recipient of anymore hard-luck awards.





## Who am I?

Last month we had a picture of John Shipman.

John is a charter member of the West Michigan Corvair Club. John spent many years serving the club. Most of the time John served as treasurer. He even spent a year or two as president.

The car that John was pictured with was a 1961 Monza he purchased new. The picture was taken at Daytona by Dan Konkle. John is a big race fan and had taken Dan and his father, Jack to Daytona in the Corvair for the big race.

John's fascination with racing led him to become the voice of the Berlin Raceway. He is now retired from the raceway, but still enjoys racing.

John lives in Grand Rapids during the summer and spends his winters in Florida. John and his wife, Jan, can be found at Fifth Third Park during most home games as John is also a baseball fan.

John will still make an occasional Corvair event even though he no longer owns a Corvair. His dedication to the club has not gone unnoticed. He was made a life-time member a few years ago for all his work.

John recently sent a note to our treasurer that read:

Dear Bob, and WMCC

I always appreciated what the club did a few years ago, making me a life member.

Enclosed is a small token for the General Fund Treasury.

For all John has done for the club we want to thank him.

I am including the complete picture of John, Jack and the '61.



This month I am asking for more pictures and biographies to be sent to me. We currently have 47 members on the roster and only a few have submitted pictures. They can be mailed to the address listed on the back or you can e-mail me digital copies at [jjcole@triton.net](mailto:jjcole@triton.net).

Here is this month's contestant.

A clue or two. He is older now than he was in the picture. You'll see him at most of the club functions.

We will reveal his identity next month.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Here is the list of those with special occasions to celebrate in the month of July.

If you have the opportunity wish these people well on their special dates. I hope Steve Turner doesn't forget the 23rd.

And if you haven't given me your birthday or anniversary, please do so. It's the only way to be included.

### Birthdays in July

Steve Turner	July 01
Bob Muir	July 12
Jordan Godzilla	July 21
Jan Janei	July 22
Carol Turner	July 23
Caitlin Witte	July 30
Joy Witte	July 31

### Anniversaries in July

Steve & Carol Turner	July 23
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## Car Display at The Red Barn Spectacular

August is fast approaching and with it comes our Car Display during the Red Barn Spectacular. Plan to spend the day with the club.

The Gilmore Museum will be open to tour. The museum has an impressive collection. One of the exhibits is the Shell gas station. This is reproduction of a 1930s era full service station. It is complete with old pumps and tools of the era.

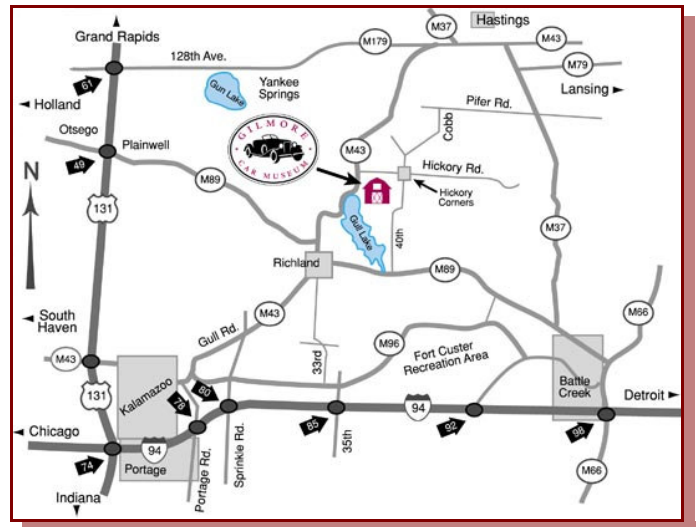
Or you can learn about one of the all time classic cars, the Pierce Arrow. This is what the Gilmore web-site says: "Pierce-Arrow was once one of the most recognized and respected names in the automobile industry and for 38 years produced some of the finest luxury automobiles made. The Pierce-Arrow Motor Car Company of Buffalo, New York actually began as a manufacturer of bird-cages, iceboxes and other household items following the Civil War. By 1896, they began producing bicycles, and within five years, had entered into the motorcycle and automotive fields and continued until 1938. The luxury automaker had a rich history—from its many automotive innovations, a strong racing legacy, and finally, to its merger with Studebaker in 1928."

There should be plenty of "old" stuff to check out. There will be a swap meet area, antique car and vintage fire truck rides available, and many other things within the museum and show.

And let's not forget the reason we are going is to show off our waterless wonders. We have invited the other Corvair clubs in the region.

We will also be celebrating our club's thirtieth anniversary. We are not planning a big party, but will have a cake there.

It will cost \$3.00 per adult to enter. Children 16 and under are free. As you drive your Corvair in tell them you want to park with the Corvairs. You will also want to bring lawn chairs. We will have a People's Choice award with prizes for late open, late closed, early open, early closed, and FC (Ultra Vans Included).



There will be a caravan meeting at the Burger King at Broadmoor and 52nd Street at 7:45 am on the 7th. They will leave for the museum at 8:00 am.

## Classified Ads

**1961 Monza Sedan** - all original, 26,000 actual miles, excellent shape, burgundy color, excellent inside, everything works, automatic 90 hp, asking \$5000. Gary Miller, Waterford, (248) 674-3083 or tech480@juno.com

**1963 Rampside** - Runs and drives, Interior 90% restored, has some rust and damage but I have most of the repair panels. Must sell. \$1200 o.b.o. Mike Shelley, Casnovia, (616) 799-0521 or mshelley@netpenny.net

**1965 Corvair Monza Convertible** - Manual top, new brakes, fair tires, tachometer 4-speed manual, new clutch, pilot & throw-out bearing, new brakes, wire wheel covers, no major rust, fresh tune-up, rebuilt carbs, not sure of mileage, needs new boot, top is in very good condition, white over white, good driver. \$3,500.

Jim Crame, (616) 452-2816. Grand Rapids, MI. Internet

pictures <http://www.buickclub.org/westmich/corvair.htm>.  
E-mail: [crame@foremost.com](mailto:crame@foremost.com)

**Wanted** - 2 or more 1965-1969 110 HP engines. Engines do not need to run. Engines should be able to turn over manually with a wrench on the crank. Carburetors also not needed. Prefer completely assembled engines. Also looking for a 1965-1969 Convertible, preferably a project car. Prefer 140 engine with manual trans. Contact Greg in Lansing at (517) 702-1592, email at [gkharis@ameritech.net](mailto:gkharis@ameritech.net)

**1966 Coupe** - The body is in excellent shape. It needs motor work and brakes. The valves may be stuck and it has not been started in a long time. There is a set of Spinner hubcaps and two motors for parts. Interior is in good shape; seats are in real good shape no ripped seams. There is also a 1964 convertible. Package deal - \$4000 takes all. The cars are in Cedar Springs. (616) 696-3238

July Meeting at Rosie's Diner  
in Rockford. July 21 at  
7:30pm.

*You're ahead with the engine behind.*



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WEST MICHIGAN CORVAIR CLUB

## About the WMCC and our Newsletter

*Lifter Noise* is the monthly publication of the West Michigan Corvair Club. Deadlines for articles and classified advertising is the first of the Month and should be mailed to the editor at: John Cole, 104 Spruce Ave., Holland, MI 49423 or e-mailed to [wmcc@corvair.org](mailto:wmcc@corvair.org). All material is subject to editing.

Membership in the West Michigan Corvair Club is on an annual basis. Individual dues are \$15.00/year. Junior membership (17 years & younger) are \$7.50/year. Family memberships are \$16.00/year. Dues are pro-rated if joining during the year.

Meetings are typically held the third Tuesday of the month at Brann's Restaurant, 4157 South Division, Wyoming, MI. E-mail [wmcc@corvair.net](mailto:wmcc@corvair.net) for verification of time and location.

Original articles are the property of the WMCC and are intended for use in our publications. Articles may be used by CORSA or any CORSA chapter with credit given to the author and/or *Lifter Noise*. Any other use must have written permission from the editor.

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