



Lifter Noise

Volume 32, Issue 5

July, 2005

What's Going On. . .

Upcoming Events

- July 19—General Meeting, Fricano's Pizza, Alpine Ave. NW
- July 26-30 — CORSA Convention, Portland Oregon
- August 2—Board Meeting, Pearl Street Big Boy
- Augst 6 & 7—Red Barns Spectacular, Gilmore Car Museum, Hickory Corners, Michigan
- August 13—Del Shannon Memorial Car Show, Coopersville, Michigan
- October 15 & 16 — Color tour to ACD Musuem, Auburn Indiana

It's July and summer is moving right along. The regional convention in Iowa is now behind us. Look for details elsewhere in the newsletter.

This month we will be meeting on **Tuesday, July 19 at Fricano's on Alpine Avenue NW in Comstock Park.** To get there go north on Alpine from the I-96 interchange. Fricano's is just south of 7 Mile Road on the east side of Alpine. We look forward to seeing Corvairs join in the cruise night with other classic cars. **Plan to be there about 7:30.**

August of course will see our car display as part of the **Red Barns Spectacular at the Gilmore Car Museum. The date for the show is August 6.** Plan to

attend and bring the family. The show will start at 9 and go until 3. Volunteers can come early to help with setting up. Look for more details included in the newsletter.

August will also bring us an opportunity to be a part of the **Del Shannon Show and Cruise in Coopersville on August 12 and 13.** More details are included later in the newsletter.

August 20 is the meeting for the month of August. We will be gathering as a group and driving up to Whitehall to the last Dog N Suds drive-in. More details on this will be in next month's newsletter.

Inside this issue:

<i>Around The Club</i>	2
<i>Red Barns Spectacular</i>	2
<i>ICE Time Trials</i>	3
<i>ICE Regional Convention</i>	4
<i>Board Minutes</i>	5
<i>Classifieds</i>	5

In Memoriam

Charter member, Jack Corcoran, passed away on June 23.

Jack played an important role in the founding of the club. He was president at the time the club was chartered in 1974. In addition Jack had done the filings with the State of Michigan every year since to maintain our status as a non-profit corporation.

Jack was always willing to talk Corvairs in specific or cars in general to anyone willing to listen. And why not as he had plenty of experience with them. Jack had owned every kind of Corvair through the years. He was mostly remembered as having Greenbriers and an Ultra Van.

His current Corvair was a late model sedan project that his son was helping him with.

Jack also helped to organize the Grand Rapids Antique Car Club. He participated in activities with them in a 1966 Toronado and 1934 Ford.

News of Jack's passing came as a group of WMCC members were leaving for Iowa for the regional convention. We took Jack's memory with us on that trip.

Jack's enthusiasm and organizational skills helped to found and build this club. He will be missed.

Around the Club

We have a new member to report this month. His name is David Dykwell. Dave and his wife Marilyn live in Jenison. He is the new proud owner of a 1964 Spyder convertible. We look forward to meeting Dave.



Ryan Counterman managed to get his car put back together in time to take it to Iowa. The new clutch went in and during assembly of the powertrain he managed to put the input shaft through the wrong end of the transmission so this prompted a tranny rebuild. It was a good thing he tore it down as he found a broken mainshaft in the tranny. It ran great in Iowa.

Dan Konkle sprayed a little paint on the racer. It looks quite a bit different. You might even say it is the Rolls Royce of paint jobs. Dan's also making some other changes to the car. He is refining it for street duty. That way he will be able to get more use out of it than he has in recent years.

Norm Witte continues on with assembling of his '65 Corsa vert. Some of the trim has made its way onto the windshield frame. The car is now starting to actually look like a car.

Red Barns Spectacular

August 6 will be our annual car display during the Red Barns Spectacular at the Gilmore Museum in Hickory Corners. Plan to come out and spend the day.

This is truly a great show. The field of cars is eclectic and spectacular. There will be antique fire trucks, military vehicles, brass-era cars, muscle cars and many other things automotive. This is in addition to the many spectacular exhibits housed in the museum barns.

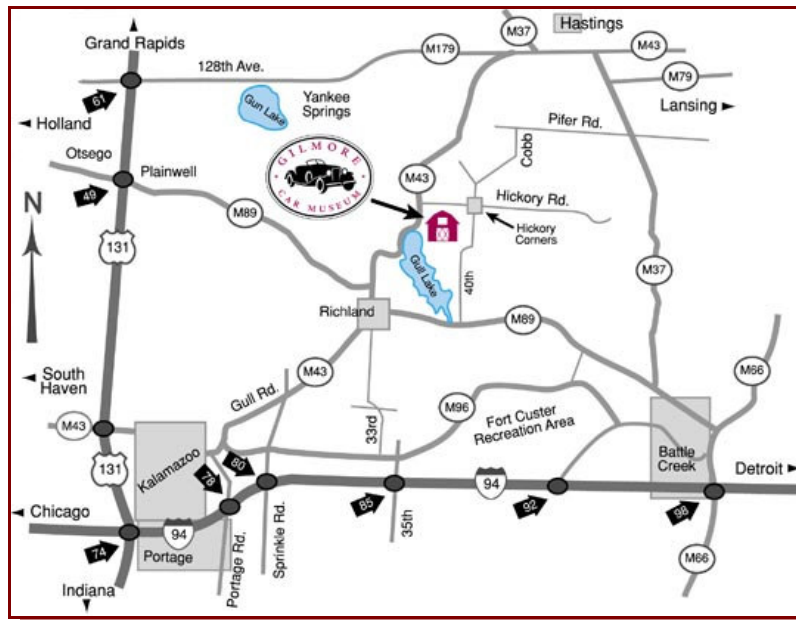
In addition there will be live entertainment. A diner from 1941 is now in operation on the museum grounds also. The GM Futurliner will be there.

And of course the Corvairs will be there.

Admission is \$10/car and that will get two adults into the show also. Kids under 11 are free. If you just want to drive down in a water pumper then entrance for spectators is \$5/each.

We will plan on lining up cars for display at 9 am. There is still an opportunity to help out with this event. If you want to assist please contact Steve Ridderman to volunteer.

Ryan Counterman is planning on having the grills fired up about 11:30. The menu includes hot dogs, burgers, chips, potato salad, cookies and pop. Lunch prices will be \$3 to \$4.



It should be a great way to spend a day looking at a nice

ICE Time Trials

by Diane Konkle

Four WMCC Corvairs met up and traveled to the ICE time trials at the Marshalltown Iowa kart track. For this expedition, I finally decided to put some paint on the Corsa, silver lacquer. Don't be fooled by any photos you may have seen - it was really only halfway done, needing some sanding and another couple of coats, but a general improvement was noted by all. A race car shouldn't be perfect, you know. Like that woman at the end of the bar, it should give the impression that it may have been in trouble a time or two. I had also thought it would be cool to mount a borrowed video camera in the cockpit to get some swell action footage of the event, but I didn't test the setup before leaving home, and at the track I found that the camera shook excessively on the mount. Dave Ziebarth tried to get some shots from trackside, but the batteries weren't holding a full charge so all he got was my first slow warmup lap with the PA guy introducing me as Diane Konkle. Oh well. At least I'll always have that.

A kart track may not sound like a very interesting place to compete, but this one featured banking, elevation changes, and third gear speeds plus no silly pylons to worry about. Each run consisted of that warmup lap followed by two timed circuits of the .6 mile course. Four runs

were promised us. Considering the 90+ temperature, it was perhaps a blessing that there were only twenty-six entrants, barely half of what the organizers hoped for, or the day might not be over yet. My car ran well, and I eventually built up enough experience to take the fast first turn without having to touch the brakes. In the afternoon session I was able to put together two really sweet and smooth laps, which I naturally followed up with two embarrassing semi-spins in an attempt to find some more speed that just wasn't there. The awards were presented by former Yenke employee and Corvair racer Donna Mae Mims, and my performance was good enough to earn one of Warren LaVeque's famous Tweeties. After the time trials were officially concluded you could stay and continue to do laps until sundown if you wished to. Some people took advantage of this to try out or ride in other's cars, but most just wanted to get back to the motel and cool off.



Maybe the highpoint of the day was when I had a conversation with Donna Mae and I got to do the Annoying Michigan Guy bit, where one points to one's right palm to explain where things are. The next day I got to do it at a motel in Green Bay, too. I love traveling. And it was nice to be driving the Corvair instead of towing it behind the Astro, even without air conditioning. The day after the time trials the family Cole and I took our Corvairs farther west to the town of Algona, where it was rumored that a restaurant was displaying the World's Largest Cheeto. Now I'll go anywhere to see the world's largest anything, and Sister Sarah's had what was claimed to be a tennis ball-sized lump of the orange ecstasy, so there was just no way to be this close and not to go see it. Alas, it turned out to be more like half of a golf ball, but still it was handsomely displayed in a glass case amongst gilded pine cones on a purple pillow atop an orange vase, so top marks were given for presenta-

tion. After lunching in the comforting glow of the Cheeto the Coles and I went our separate ways, they to the Spam museum in Minnesota and I east on US82 towards home. Unlike the trip to Marshalltown, which was done in the blistering heat, the weather was now cool and overcast with the

occasional sprinkle, great for driving. If your mental image of Iowa is that of a flat plain covered with corn you should check out the northeast part of the state, where you will be surprised by rolling hills and attractive small towns nestled in wooded valleys. I had noticed on the map that there was a ferry across the Mississippi north of the Wisconsin border and I thought that would be more interesting than a bridge. Alas again, it wasn't operating on Tuesday, so I drove south to Dubuque on the scenic River Road along the bluffs high over the Mississippi Valley. I returned to Michigan via the UP.

Nobody had anything bad to say about the event or its organizers, and I suspect there will be another WMCC trip to Iowa. After all, the world's oldest Dairy Queen, a mule cemetery, and the future birthplace of Captain James T Kirk are just waiting to be explored.

ICE Regional Convention

I asked for submissions from the other WMCC members who went to Iowa and Dan Konkle was the only respondent so now you get to hear my account of the trip. Only since Dan focused on the Time Trials I will pick up the story from there.

After parting company with Dan, the Coles did a couple little tourist type things. The first was the Spam Museum in Austin, Minnesota. This is a definite stop for anybody in the area. The history of Spam is told and there are some interesting souvenirs in the gift shop.

Then we headed back to Iowa to attend the CORSA Regional Convention that was being hosted by the Iowa Corvair Enthusiasts. As we headed south from Minnesota the weather got warm once again. And that was pretty much the way things stayed throughout the convention.

The host hotel was probably the nicest host hotel of any that I have been in for Corvair events. The Iowa club did an outstanding job with lining up a facility.

As we arrived late in the day Tuesday we missed the concours. By all reports the cars looked good, but not as many as what you would find at the National Conventions. I guess that is to be expected.

We spent Wednesday and Thursday checking out some of the attractions around Cedar Rapids. One of the more interesting was the Amana Colonies. The Colonies is a group of small communities that a religious group called the Inspirationists lived in communal style. The commune was disbanded in 1932, but the Inspirationists continue to this day. The name Amana you see on appliances today originated with the enterprises that were a part of the Colonies. The Amana name now belongs to Maytag as the appliance operation was long ago separated from the Inspirationists' business holdings. Currently there is still a functioning mill in the Colonies that makes blankets. It used to do much more business, but the business climate has changed since its glory days.

Friday was another track day. This time it was Hawk-eye Downs. This is a half-mile stock car track. Within

the half-mile is a quarter-mile loop and within that is an eighth-mile loop. The outer half-mile and inner quarter-mile were used for the autocross. One lap of each being timed for our runs. There were three runs made throughout the day. It was fun, but probably not quite as much fun as the kart track on Monday.



We started the journey toward home on Saturday morning. We made a stop at the Field of Dreams on the way. This is the original site used in the movie. It still has the baseball field in front of the farmhouse. The owner of the farm maintains it.

From there we headed to the Mississippi river crossing. The same one that Dan Tried on Tuesday. The difference was that it was running on Saturday. A neat little experience.

We then trekked across Wisconsin stopping near Madison for the night. We started moving again on Sunday ending the day in Manitowoc. At 11:30 Sunday night we boarded the S.S. Badger for the cruise to Ludington. With the Corvair stowed safely on the car deck we enjoyed the amenities of the boat. We sailed through a thunderstorm, but since we were asleep we didn't even notice. We arrived in Ludington at 5:30 Monday morning and made the last part of the run toward home arriving a little after 7:00.

Other members of the WMCC that attended the event were Steve Ridderman, Ryan Counterman and his friends, John Koning, and Dave Ziebarth. From the group there were a few awards taken home.

ICE Time Trial Awards:

Dan Konkle	2nd place Competition Class Tweety for 90% Racer
Steve Ridderman	3rd place Improved Stock-3
John Cole	3rd place Improved Stock-2
Ryan Counterman	4th place Street Mod-2

ICE Regional Convention Awards:

John Cole	3rd place Improved Stock-2
-----------	----------------------------

July Board Meeting

- 1) Meeting called to order at 8:08 pm by President Steve Ridderman. Members present: Dan Konkle, John Koning, Steve Ridderman, Ryan Counterman, and John Cole. Meeting was held at Pearl Street Big Boy in Grand Rapids.
- 2) Treasurers Report: John Cole reported a current balance of \$2201.74. Approved by acclamation.
- 3) Minutes of Previous Meeting: John Cole read the minutes of the June meeting. Approved by acclamation.
- 4) Old business:
 - a) Name tags: Label name tags for members will be printed for use at the Gilmore show. John Koning showed us "prototypes." He will have the regular tags printed soon.
 - b) Open position on the board. Dave Ziebarth is our possible choice John Cole will check with him to see if he is agreeable.
 - c) Gilmore Show: Cost to enter a car in the fields will be \$10. This will include admittance for up to two adults. Gates open at 7:00 am for set up. Steve will be there at 8:00 with John Koning and any other volunteers willing to help. Show begins at 9 and goes to 3. Lunch will be at 11:30 with Ryan Counterman and friends responsible. Costs for lunches will start at \$3.00. The menu will be hot dogs, burgers, potato salad, chips, cookies and pop. Flyers are being sent to area clubs. Dan Konkle volunteered to count the votes in the people's choice balloting. John Cole will approach Clark's for gift certificates and Steve will get ribbons for the kids to award to there choices. We will also plan a 50/50 raffle for the day.
- d) July Meeting will be held at Fricano's on Alpine. Meeting date is July 19. Arrive at 7:30 pm.
- 5) New Business:
 - a) August Meeting will be a cruise to the Whitehall Dog-N-Suds. This will be on August 20.
 - b) Del Shannon show and Cruise will be on August 12 and 13. This is not an official club activity, but John Cole will organize a meeting place for anyone wanting to attend the cruise on Friday or the show on Saturday.
 - c) Color Tour: This will be an overnight trip to the Auburn, Cord, Duesenberg Museum. Date is October 15 & 16. Steve will work on hotel accommodations and Ryan will plan the route.
- 6) Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Classifieds

For Sale: 1965 Corvair Corsa. 140 HP with 4 Speed Trans. Red with Black Int. All parts are there. Runs but needs some engine work. Call Bob Van Singel, Three Rivers, MI. 269-279-9832. Or email van@armintl.com. Can send photos.

Wanted: Interior door and rear panels for 1965 coupe. No bright colors, prefer blue or black. Also need a latch mechanism for a trunk. Dan Konkle (616)364-1009 dankle@comcast.net.

Toby Ross: Call John Cole. I have your 1960 parts ready for you.

It's CLARK'S if it's

CORVAIR® Parts

CLARK'S
30th yr.!

- Over 10,000 different new parts
- Over 3,000 used parts
- Over 670 pages of parts
- Also buying new, used, and NOS parts. Call or write Mark or Cal for quote.

steel floor panels	dune buggy	weatherstrips
steel patch panels	suspension	trim
mid engine V-8	emblems	carpets
technical assistance	interior	engine
VW bus transplant	shop manuals	wiring
	assembly manuals	

Parts! ● Get your 2002-06 catalog ● Service!

(CLARK'S 3 catalog set) \$6.00 rushed (U.S.A.),
Canada & foreign more.

Includes: main catalog (over 400-pgs.), specialty cat (210-pgs.), and price list & supplement

CLARK'S CORVAIR PARTS,® INC.

400 Mohawk Trail Box C, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

www.corvair.com • e-mail: clarks@corvair.com

413-625-9776



WEST MICHIGAN CORVAIR CLUB

255 John Kent Drive
Ravenna, MI 49451

Phone: 231-853-5340
e-mail: wmcc@corvair.org

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5



*July meeting at Ficano's
on Alpine NW, July 19.*

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, 255 John Kent Drive, Ravenna, MI 49451 or e-mailed to wmcc@corvair.org. All material is subject to editing.

Membership in the West Michigan Corvair Club is on an annual basis. Individual dues are \$18.00/year. Junior membership (17 years & younger) are \$9.00/year. Family memberships are \$19.00/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.org 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.

©WMCC *Lifter Noise*, 2004

WMCC Board

John Cole (2005), 255 John Kent Drive, Ravenna, MI 49451, (231)853-5340, jjcole@triton.net

Ryan Counterman (2006), 5685 Douglas Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49004, (269)388-3079, vairking@hotmail.com

John Koning (2005), 1818 72nd St. SE, Byron Center, MI 49315, koning8@comcast.net

Dan Konkle (2005), 6574 Rogueview Ct. NE, Belmont, MI 49306, (616)364-1009, dankle@comcast.net

Randy Merrill (2005), 454 South Amber Drive SE, Kentwood, MI 49548

Steve Ridderman (2006), 720 West Gun River Dr., Plainwell, MI 49080, (269)685-6377, vaircollector@msn.com

Dave Ziebarth (2006), 1411 Pickett SE, Kentwood, MI 49508, (616) 281-3183, dziebarth2@comcast.net

WMCC Officers for 2005

President: Steve Ridderman

Vice-President: Dan Konkle

Secretary: John Cole

Treasurer: John Koning