



# Lifter Noise

Volume 32, Issue 10

November, 2005

## Upcoming Events

- November 15— General Meeting. Election Night. Brann's South Division
- December 7— Christmas Party Fire Mountain on Alpine NW

## What's Going On...

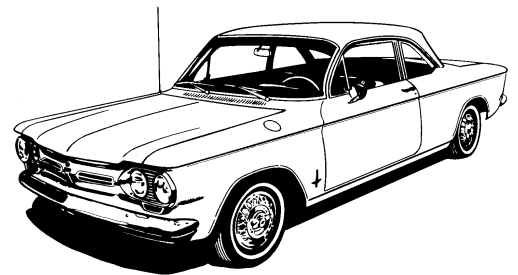
It's the time of the year when things in the club seem to be winding down. If you look at the list of upcoming events it is very small.

The first thing on the list is the November meeting. **It is on November 15. It will be held at Brann's.** This will be election night.

We will begin by choosing new board members from the list of nominees which so far includes: John Koning, Dan Konkle, Randy Merrill, Bruce Mulder, Gary Gruetzmacher, Bruce Storey, and David Dykwell. More names can be added at the meeting. Also if your name is on the list and you would like to decline the nomination, please let a current board member know.

After the election of the new board members, the board will then have the year-end meeting where the new officers will be determined. This will be an open meeting for anyone wanting to stay through it.

**The Christmas Party is coming up. It has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 7.** The party will be held at Fire Mountain restaurant on Alpine NW. Cost of the night is \$15.00 per person. This will cover the cost of dinner and gifts to be awarded. Menu selection will be from the buffet. Deanna Merrill has graciously offered to organize this event. Look for the reservation form in the newsletter. Please get your reservations in before November 30. They can be mailed to the club address care of John Cole.



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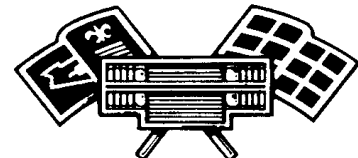
## Around the Club

Norm Witte has his '65 turbo running. It is still in need of some fine tuning, but it is drivable. We all look forward to seeing this car at club functions next year.

A car has migrated from Steve Ridderman to Randy Merrill. The '66 convertible that Ryan wrote about a couple months ago is now part of Randy's collec-

tion.

No other news to share at this time.



# November Board Meeting

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:47 pm by Vice-President Dan Konkle. Members present: John Cole, John Koning, Dave Ziebarth, Ryan Counterman, Randy Merrill and Dan Konkle. Meeting was held at Pearl Street Big Boy in Grand Rapids.
- 2) Minutes of Previous Meeting: John Cole read the minutes of the October meeting. Approved by acclamation.
- 3) Old Business:
  - a) Color Tour: A brief recap of the event with details of gas leaks on Bill Wright's and Dan Konkle's cars.
  - b) Christmas Party: The event is under control. Reservations should be mailed to John Cole. Reservation forms are included in the newsletter. Randy and Deanna are organizing this.
- 4) New Business:
  - a) Dues for 2006 are due and should be paid to John Koning or mailed to the club address.
  - b) As we will have a new secretary for the club in 2006 keep in mind that the club address will be changing also
- 5) Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

## Director's Corner—The Wish List

by Dan Konkle

Our editor has asked for articles from the members of the board, so I thought I would take the easy way out and make a list. What ten cars would I have if I could? It would certainly be no problem to come up with ten Corvairs, so to make it more of a challenge I decided to exclude them. Here are my ten Brand Xs, oldest to most recent.

1914 Stutz Bearcat series E Torpedo Roadster. Was there ever a better name for a car? The most fun you can have with an engine that only revs to 1500rpm. Cannonball Baker set a transcontinental speed record in a Bearcat, and all the Swells had one. Color? They look good in cream.

32 Hudson Essex Terraplane Roadster. I saw one of these at the Gilmore Museum and fell in love with it. This was a factory hotrod, with Hudson's biggest engine in their smallest chassis - five more horses than Ford's V8 in a body 200lbs lighter. A lot of speed and hillclimb records were set in the 30s with Terraplanes. I'll take mine in maroon with black fenders.

38 Buick Century Opera Coupe. Late 30s Buicks just knock me out. General Motors clearly had the best pre-war design studio, their cars displaying a sense of line and proportion that no other American car company could match. For my 38 I'd replace the straight eight

with Buick's later nail-valve V8 with a four carb manifold, put on some baby Moons and blue dot taillights, but not otherwise customize it. Navy blue.

50 Pontiac Chieftain Sedanette. I don't particularly want one of these as much as I would like any car with a good story. A Pontiac like this with only eleven thousand miles was offered on eBay. When new, the black twodoor fastback had been an Iowa couple's honeymoon car and they had made a grand tour of the West in it. When the husband returned from Korean War duty the body style proved too small for the family they started. The sentimental pair couldn't bear to part with their beloved Chieftan so it was carefully stored and preserved for fifty years. What's better than true love?

53 Allard J2X Roadster. A wonderful gallimaufry of lights, bulges, scoops, portholes, tiny windscreens, and a sidemount spare, all powered by a vintage Cadillac V8 with 3 speed trans. A successful hotrod roadracer despite a swing axle front suspension and crummy brakes. For the faint of heart, available as a replica without the suspect original mechanical bits. British racing green, of course.

56 Dodge Station Wagon. There are a lot of fine alternatives in the mid-50s wagon class, but the Dodge hits my

*(Continued on page 3)*

# October Color Tour

by Dan Konkle

The tour consisted of the Wrights, the Fabers, Steve and me. Bill broke a steel fuel line in Union City, which he fixed with a brake line from a parts store. On the way back a muffler hanger broke, and Steve requisitioned some electrical wire from a closed Shipshewana restaurant to lash it up.



Roadside repair of Bill's car



Dinner buffet at the Marriot Hotel

## Director's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

eye just right. Get it with the little D-500 hemi and any of the attractive two or three tone paint schemes of the period. It would look just right towing a vintage camping trailer. Are we there yet?

57 Studebaker Transtar Pickup. This should be a solid western truck with original faded paint, dents and dust. Don't even THINK of 'restoring' it. Ideally it will have some Lone Star longnecks under the seat for extra rattles and a radio that pulls in George Jones.

59 Buick Invicta Convertible. I'm not fond of enormous soft cars, but John Cole says everybody should have a highway cruiser, and the mighty finned Buick is GM's best design of this year. All black with whitewalls would be magnificent. Honorable mention in the outrageous late-50s ragtop category: 57 Chrysler 300C, 58 Edsel, 59 Imperial.

66 Renault-Alpine A110 Cabriolet. The spiritual opposite

of the Invicta. Something on this list should be rear engined, lightweight, and get good gas mileage. This fiberglass sportscar from Alpine, Renault's performance ally, is the civilized convertible version of the legendary rally machine. In butterscotch (the color, not the syrup).

85 Renault 5 Maxi Turbo. Picture a LeCar with a temperamental 92 cubic inch 350hp motor in the back seat and huge rear fender flares, built for battling the Audi Quattros in World Rally competition. Decidedly uncivilized. In French racing blue and high zoot rally trim - lights, decals, etc.

It turns out that 'just making a list' wasn't as easy as I thought. Cars made the top ten only to be pushed off by newcomers. Cars I have admired for decades were displaced by cars I have only recently considered. But there it is nonetheless. Do you have a list, either with Corvairs or without? Money's no object and dreaming is free, so let's see your choices.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Birthdays for November

Donna Blackmore November 11

## Anniversaries for November

NONE

## Classified Ads

**For Sale**—1965 Corvair Corsa. 140 HP, 4 Sp Trans. Runs but needs a little work. Has great Possibilities. \$1750 or best offer. Contact Bob Van Singel at [van@armintl.com](mailto:van@armintl.com) for more info.



**For Sale**—1964 Spyder convertible. Body work all done. Fair interior, stored inside many years. Top available. Needs carb work. Located south of Grand Haven. John Ellerbrock (616)844-2924

**For Sale**—1966 Monza coupe. 110/4-speed, 67,000 miles. Engine apart for valve work. Needs carpet, interior fair. Too many projects to finish. Best offer. Car in Hamilton, MI area. Contact Jerry (616)283-1953

**For Sale**—1963 Chevrolet Corvair Greenbriar van for sale! This 97% rust free van has 70,000 original miles. New battery, generator, plugs, and carb kit's. Interior is in great shape with no rips or tears. The body has minimal surface rust in a few small areas. Original 145 cubic inch motor. This van is a very presentable driver, but not a fully blown show van. It also features a four speed manual transmission, six roll down windows,

original paint, and spare tire cover. The van is missing the middle seat, and is sporting bias ply tires that i recomend be replaced. This van will be offered on ebay this week. Feel free to email me to arrange a time to view the vair. This is a very original 42 year old vehicle no disapointments. [anon-89856203@craigslist.org](mailto:anon-89856203@craigslist.org)

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# Christmas Party

On December 7, 2005  
 The West Michigan Corvair Club  
 Will be celebrating Christmas  
 You are invited to help us celebrate.

The party will take place at  
 Fire Mountain  
 3725 Alpine Avenue NW  
 Comstock Park, Michigan

Dinner Will be Served  
 from the Buffet  
 And will Include:

Steak  
 Shrimp  
 Salads & Desserts



Social Hour  
 6:30  
 Dinner to follow  
 Cost:

\$15.00 single  
 \$30.00 couple  
 RSVP to John Cole by  
 November 30

## Christmas Party Reservations

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

To reserve your space at the party detach the lower portion of this page and send with your check to John Cole by November 30, 2005 at: 255 John Kent Drive, Ravenna, MI 49451

**WEST MICHIGAN CORVAIR CLUB**

255 John Kent Drive  
Ravenna, MI 49451

Phone: 231-853-5340  
e-mail: [wmcc@corvairst.org](mailto:wmcc@corvairst.org)

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



*You're ahead with  
the engine behind.*

## *About the WMCC and our Newsletter*

*Lifter Noise* is the monthly publication of the West Michigan Corvairst 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@corvairst.org](mailto:wmcc@corvairst.org). All material is subject to editing.

Membership in the West Michigan Corvairst 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@corvairst.org](mailto:wmcc@corvairst.org) for verification of time and location.

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### *WMCC Board*

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

**John Koning** (2005), 1818 72<sup>nd</sup> St. SE, Byron Center, MI 49315, [koning8@comcast.net](mailto:koning8@comcast.net)

**Dan Konkle** (2005), 6574 Rogueview Ct. NE, Belmont, MI 49306, (616)364-1009, [dankle@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:vaircollector@msn.com)

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

### *WMCC Officers for 2005*

**President:** Steve Ridderman

**Vice-President:** Dan Konkle

**Secretary:** John Cole

**Treasurer:** John Koning