

# LIFTER NOISE



Newsletter of the West Michigan Corvair Club

## What's Going On

The next meeting of the West Michigan Corvair Club will take place on Saturday, June 11. We will be having a chicken BBQ at Ryan Counterman's house. The event will start at 3 PM. The club will be providing the chicken as well as soft drinks. The members who plan on attending are asked to bring a dish to pass as well as their own table service. Our President, Dave Dykwell, will have his "secret sauce" at the event. You should have received a postcard by now that has a map to Ryan's house. If not, go to your favorite mapping website or get out your GPS and plug in his address: 2315 18 Mile Road NE, Cedar Springs, MI. Come on out and get a sample on some great chicken!

The trip to visit Dan Baker's "other" garage that was scheduled for June 16 has been postponed. We will try to reschedule for July or August. There is quite a bit of interest in this event so it will happen.

Some members of the West Michigan Corvair Club will be attending the Corvair Olympics in Indianapolis, IN on June 16 – 18.

## Junkyard Tour Recap

By Paul Adams

Bright and early Saturday morning, May 21, five members of the WMCC met at the McDonalds on 68<sup>th</sup> and 131. There were three Corvairs (Dave Dykwell, Doug Lectka and Dan Konkle) and a Chevy Pickup (Reggie Stroebe and Guest). After a quick breakfast, they sped south to Steve Ridderman's Truck Stop on D Avenue. My Family and I were waiting when they arrived, adding four more to the group (we were the Black Sheep of the tour in our Chrysler minivan).

### WMCC CALENDAR

June 4 – W. Michigan Off-road Races  
June 11 – Chicken BBQ  
June 28 – WMCC Board Meeting  
July 23 – WMCC Membership Meeting  
July 26 – WMCC Board Meeting

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

What's Going On	1
Junkyard Tour Recap	1
May Board Meeting Recap	2
It's Just a Corvair... To Us Part 2	3
CORSA Election Results	4
May Meeting Recap	4

In July we will be meeting at either Berlin Raceway or Kalamazoo Raceway. Either way, we will be displaying our Corvairs and hopefully getting a parade lap around the track. More details will be in the July newsletter.

After a short chat with Steve, who was setting up for his Customer Appreciation Day, we set off toward Bloomingdale. Our first stop was the private collection of Jeff Maile on 46<sup>th</sup> Street. Several of the group had been there before, but it was my first time. There were many old cars there. Most were from the early 1930's to the late 1960's. Lots of rust, but many had the elusive part that a collector needs to finish their restoration. You just have to know what you're looking for. As for Corvairs, we found four. They were beyond restoration,

Please see Junkyard Tour Recap on page 2

Junkyard Tour Recap from page 1

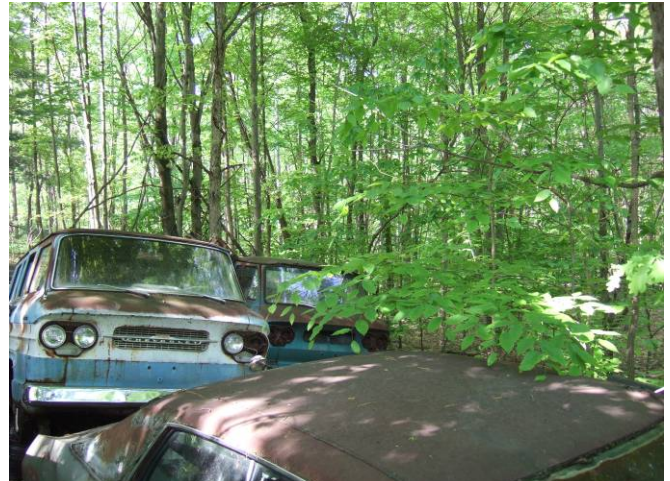
but still had some good parts. Three were Forward Controls and one lone 1961 Monza sporting a good set of wheel covers. As we were leaving, we saw a car covered with a tarp. We all had to take a peek. It was a very restorable early 1930's Chevrolet. I think every one of us would have liked to have that one.

For our next stop, we motored south to Lawrence and Clark's Auto Parts on Red Arrow Highway. We arrived at 11:45 am, and as the practice of many Midwest junkyards, they closed at noon. We were told that if we stayed out in the yard longer than fifteen minutes, only the junk yard guard dog would be there to wait on us. It was a modern "you wrench it" with newer vehicles. They had long since crushed their older cars.

We left Clark's and headed east toward Kalamazoo and then north on U.S.131 back to Steve's Gas Station. When we arrived, there were many activities set up for his customers to enjoy. There was a radio station broadcasting, a rock climbing wall, old army vehicles to look at, and of course, two Corvairs sitting out by the

road, a Racer and a Rampside. The high point was a one dollar charcoal grilled hot dog lunch. It looked like everyone there was having that. They were really good. Thanks Steve for inviting us. It was a nice ending to a great day. The biggest problem for next year's tour planner will be topping this year's tour.

Look for more pictures on the club website.



## May board meeting recap

CORSA Board - Dave was informed by CORSA that the election results are very close with only a few days left before the final count is tallied.

Annual Club PICNIC - Slated for Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, RY Counterman's place. Postcard reminders will be sent along with a map. The Picnic will start at 3:00pm. Scrumptious BBQ Chicken with Dave's secret sauce will be provided along with assorted soft drinks by the Club. Members are asked to bring a "Dish to Pass". Please bring your own table service.

Doug Baker's Other Garage - We'll be rallying at the Burger King on the East Beltline at 6:00-6:15pm and taking a short ride down to 68<sup>th</sup> Street. Dan has several storage garages packed with all sorts of interesting cars, motorcycles, scooters and parts. Afterward, we'll rally over the Schmozh for your favorite Draft (including the best Root Beer)!

Detroit TIGERS Car Show - The Club would like to sponsor a Corvair into this prestigious and unique Car Show - to showcase our beloved Corvair and our

Please see Board Meeting Recap on page 5

The annual Chicken BBQ  
will be on June 11!



## It's Just a Corvair... To Us Part 2

By Double D

Found it ... just about identical, in nice shape, affordable AND a turbo! Perfect! My high school friends are going to love this. Got it home. Take a look at this, guys. I could see the look in their eyes, it said - Why on earth did you buy a Corvair? You sold your Vette for this? Senility at 50 is a tad early don't ya think? They just didn't understand. But I was proud of it and started its transformation into Dave's Spyder.

The first show season was different. People stopped by to talk. We laughed about Ralph Nader. I guess a lot of Grandpa's owned Corvairs, too. No trophies, but I wasn't sure IF a Corvair ever received any. At least I avoided the purists and their punditry.

Enter the second summer. Added the Cragers (gotta have 'em), low profile Cooper's and replaced all the front bushings – wow, what a difference ... truly amazing. Went to the Gage Chevrolet Show. Bill, Reggie and some other Corvair owner had their cars there. It was a nice show. People seemed excited to see our Corvairs. Talked about Ralph Nader some more. Then, my jaw dropped as both Bill and Reggie's name was called to win a trophy. Gee... a Corvair can win! What do you know? Both men were happy and I was pleasantly surprised. Awesome cars left awardless. Decided to put the Spyder in one last Charity show in Allendale. It was the Relay for Life Show and the Spyder was given new "life" as it won its first trophy. The guy with the beautiful Cougar next to me packed up all his color glossy restoration and documentation books and drove off without a word. The Spyder went through the gears a little faster than normal on the way home.

So what is it? Is it the crowd? Is it the show sponsor? Or, the competition? Third season. More people looking at the Spyder with sparkle in their eyes. More stories of Dad's, Grandma's and – "Hey, nice car" comments. Other than arguing with the guy who insisted HIS Corvair had a 4 cylinder or with the guy whose Spyder was an Automatic,



the crowds are showing a real appreciation for the Corvair. However, I must admit my patience is growing rather thin with people and their Ralph Nader comments. Like, give me a break, I own the Corvair! Do you really think I am not aware of what Ralph Nader said? Gee, thanks for enlightening me. Beside the occasional and unavoidable idiot, the crowds of Corvair car people are clearly growing at every show. Could the Corvair be gaining respect?

To make a long story short, I'll start to get the point. I enjoy car shows. To see all the various cars, talk with the owners (some I see at very show) and learn more about cars. And hey, if the car wins something – it makes our day.

Last season, I attended five major local shows. Whether it was the Spyder or the Corsa, I had more people around my cars than several others worth five times more - or certainly in much better condition. In fact, last season I was in a few shows with other Corvairs (owned by people I never saw before) that in comparison to mine needed a lot of TLC. Yet, despite the investment, condition or prior reputation, the crowds flocked around them while the \$50K Kit Rod was passé. I believe the Corvair's time is here. I can feel it. Remember the Metro Cruise last season?

Please see It's Just a Corvair on page 4

## CORSA ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to WMCC's own Dave Dykwell! Dave was just elected to represent the Central Division on the CORSA Board of Directors! I'm sure that he'll do a fine job.

Let's just hope he leaves the Monty Hall wig at home...



## May Meeting Recap

Our May membership meeting was held on the 17th at Fricano's Pizza. It was their first Tuesday evening cruise night of 2011. There was a great mix of cars to view. We had eleven Corvairs in attendance including a beautiful 1969 Hugger Orange convertible driven by guest Tom May. He said that it was ordered with this color in 1969 by the original owner.

After viewing the cars we moved into the restaurant to enjoy the excellent pizza offered by Fricano's.



It's Just a Corvair from page 3

My point: No matter what condition your Corvair may be in, get it out there. Put it in shows. Talk to the crowds about it. They will appreciate it. You can be proud of it. You may even want to clean it up a bit - your car will smile upon you and the crowd!

Yes, it may just be a Corvair to you but the attitude out there has changed. Take advantage of it. Here's a parting hint to have some fun at a show: When the idiot mentions Ralph, just say, "Ralph who? Oh, you must mean the evil villain in Star Wars ... Ralph Vader or was that Darth Vader?" That usually ends the conversation!

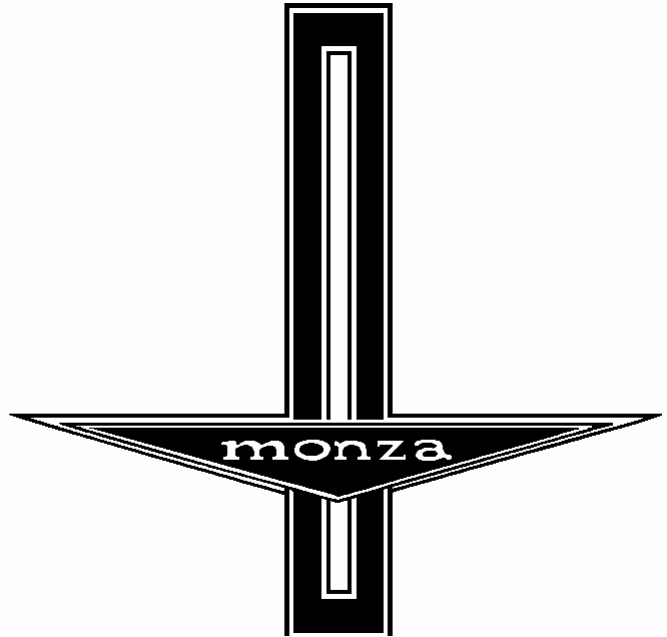
Dave Dykwell will have his  
"secret sauce" at the Chicken  
BBQ on June 11!

Board Meeting Recap from page 2

Club. Bill Wright and Dave Dykwell will be asked if they wish to participate. Only 100 cars are pre-selected to be invited and there is any entry form. The day includes the car Show, Live Music, Judging, the Tiger Game (Angels) and Awards. Date is Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup>.

Race Night - Our Club event for JULY will be a Race Night at either Berlin or Kalamazoo raceway. Steve Ridderman is gathering details for Kalamazoo and Dave Dykwell on Berlin. The date will be July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Both venues will be similar and each has a good selection of races on the agenda. Expect a Car Display, Parade Lap and Reserved Seating. Plan to attend and place the date on your calendar.

Board Meeting - We'll be trying Vitale's in Comstock Park, 6/28 at 6:30pm.



## WMCC BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: Dave Dykwell (2012)

(616) 583-9249 or dykwelld@gmail.com

Vice President: Paul Adams (2011)

(269) 375-7998 or padams2607@aol.com

Secretary: Dave Ziebarth (2012)

(616) 340-1815 or zvair65@gmail.com

Treasurer: Doug Lectka (2011)

(616) 554-0841 or dlectka@sbcglobal.net

Directors:

Ryan Counterman (2011)

(616) 262-5467 or vairking@hotmail.com

Dan Konkle (2012)

(616) 364-1009 or dankle@comcast.net

Steve Ridderman (2012)

(269) 998-1393 or sridderman1@hotmail.com

### Clark's Corvair Parts®

Clark's has been your supplier for quality repros for the past 37 years.

This year, we expect to reproduce even more parts for your Corvair.

*See the Supplement for the following:*

**VARIOUS NEW FC ITEMS**

**1964 TRIM      TURBO PARTS**

**STAINLESS GAS TANK SENDERS**

**LATE MODEL STEERING COLUMN  
PARTS**

**650 Page 2007-2012 Catalog**

USA - \$6    CANADA - \$9.95    Most Other Countries - \$12.95

**Clark's Corvair Parts®**

400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

**413-625-9776    FAX: 413-625-8498**

**www.corvair.com    email: clarks@corvair.com**

West Michigan Corvair Club  
7769 Burlingame Ave. SW  
Byron Center, MI 49315

Phone:  
(616) 340-1815

E-Mail:  
wmcc@corvair.org

You're ahead with the  
engine behind!

## About the wMCC

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: Dave Ziebarth, 7769 Burlingame Ave. SW, Byron Center, MI 49315 or e-mail [wmcc@corvair.org](mailto:wmcc@corvair.org). All material is subject to editing. Original articles are the property of the WMCC and are intended for the use in our publications. Articles may be used by CORSA or any CORSA chapter with credit given to the author of the Lifter Noise. Any other use must have written permission from the editor. Articles are written by Dave Ziebarth unless indicated otherwise.

Membership in the West Michigan Corvair Club is on an annual basis. Dues are \$18.00 per year. Dues are pro-rated if joining during the year.

---

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://www.corvair.org/chapters/chapter495/>

---

©WMCC Lifter Noise, 2011.

---

West Michigan Corvair Club  
7769 Burlingame Ave. SW  
Byron Center, MI 49315



Leo Goddyne  
2315 Crane Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001