

# LIFTER NOISE



Newsletter of the West Michigan Corvair Club

## What's Going On

The annual color tour will take place on Saturday, October 8. We will be attending the Oktoberfest and Classic Car Show in Pentwater. Registration for the car show is \$10 and the show runs from 11 AM until 4 PM. There are plenty of other events in Pentwater as part of the festival as well. We will be meeting at the Fricano's on Alpine at 8:30 AM for coffee, cider, and doughnuts. Shortly after meeting we will be taking a scenic drive to Pentwater. Once the car show is over, we will be having a late lunch/early dinner at the Antler Bar in Pentwater. Once dinner is over we will be driving along the lakeshore through Montague and then back to Grand Rapids.

We will also be holding a general membership meeting on October 18. The meeting will take place at Ryan Counterman's barn in Cedar Springs. We will be serving hot dogs as well as soft drinks and other beverages. We also will be holding a tech session so if there is something you would like to have looked at on

## September Meeting Recap

by Dave Dykwell

It was a beautiful September evening as seven (7) Corvairs rallied at the Meijer Gas Station in Standale for a leisurely drive into the fall sun toward the infamous Yellow Jacket Restaurant in West Olive. We were met there by several other "daily drivers", though Bill Wright did wheel his Monza Convertible direct from Muskegon. It was good to see Vern attend once again after a short hiatus and Tom May one of our recent members. A total of eleven members were present. The Yellow Jacket staff was gracious to give us our own room again so we were not bothered by anyone but a fellow patron from the area who mentioned he recently

**WMCC CALENDAR**

- October 8 – WMCC Color Tour
- October 18 – WMCC Membership Meeting
- October 25 – WMCC Board Meeting
- November 22 – WMCC Membership Meeting
- November 29 – WMCC Board Meeting

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your Corvair, let one of the board members know so we can plan accordingly.

sold his Rampside for \$25K+. Must have been a beauty - so why didn't we know who he was or anything about his truck? Another eBay story. The fish special seemed to beckon most of the crowd as did those "mini-pitchers" - what a deal! The conversation dujour centered on our next Club Activity - the up coming Color Tour (10/08); where to rally (Fricano's on Alpine - 8:30am) and the route (old M37). Pentwater should be a really good time for everyone - spouse and kids. Lots to do. A comment was made about how good the Car Show was in the past but if we have a good showing of our Corvairs - which we should - we'll be half the show!

*September Meeting Recap* from page 1

We also discussed the status of our Convention BID process. All items were being wrapped up by RY, Steve and Dave D, in conjunction with the tremendous support of our friends at Discover Kalamazoo. They are great! Our BID Packages are expected to be overnighted to each CORSA Board member on 9/28, conveniently within the deadline of 10/01. WMCC will have an impressive Bid for 2013! Every member can be proud of our Club's effort.

The only picture of the event is to the right and it shows Doug Lectka peeling out leaving the parking lot in his Greenbrier.



## *September board meeting recap*

Present: Dave Ziebarth, Steve Ridderman, Paul Adams, Ryan Counterman, Doug Lectka and Dave Dykwell with guest Bob Muir.

Convention Bid – Dave Dykwell had a sample of the bid package that was sent to each member of the CORSA Board of Directors. Discover Kalamazoo did an excellent job of putting together a representation of Kalamazoo along with the actual bid materials and a DVD. Included in the package was a tote bag that said "Discover Kalamazoo" on the side, a bag of popcorn from Kalamazoo Kettlecorn Company, a box of gourmet nuts from Heilman's, a six-pack of beer from Bell's Brewery, a bumper sticker from Bell's Brewery, and a few buttons from other businesses around Kalamazoo. Paul and Barb Adams purchased an assortment of Thank You

cards and one was chosen and signed by all of the board members to send to Discover Kalamazoo.

Color Tour – Will take place on Saturday, October 8. We will meet at the Fricano's on Alpine at 8:30 AM for coffee, cider, and doughnuts. From there we will drive up M-37 and make our way to Pentwater. The Oktoberfest car show starts at 11 AM and runs until 4 PM. There will be plenty of activities for the family. Following the car show we will gather for a late lunch/early dinner. Dave Dykwell will look into making reservations at the Antler Bar in Pentwater. After we eat we will take a scenic drive along the lakeshore making our way to Montague and then back to Grand Rapids.

Please see *Board Meeting Recap* on page 5

*Our bid package for the 2013  
CORSA International Convention  
has been submitted!*



## Fortunate one, Part II

By Double D

What a car must (should) think

After having my dream smashed, actually it was totaled, I reluctantly humbled myself by buying the only set of wheels I could afford at the time. Gone was the shiny, hot red, sleek Buick convertible. I'm certain it was as sad as I afterward - mangled beyond repair, stripped of its heart and soul and waiting its turn at the crusher. Replaced by a \$50 Chevy ... a Corvair. Where is his pride?

Well, it didn't take long for the Corvair to become my car. Cleaned, waxed and tuned-up, it was commissioned with a new Hurst shift knob and 8-track player. Little did I know that my attention should have been more mechanical than cosmetic, but it was summer and the gremlins were still hiding waiting to spring their surprises come fall.

It wasn't long before I noticed that this car was different. It loved to be powered around corners without braking and revved high before shifting. It had a personality that said ... let's go and don't worry about it. Even my friends could sense it as it soon became common practice to beat the snott out of it just to see how much it could take. I believe to this day it felt rescued from a lady driver who clearly did not understand its finer complexities. It repaid me by doing whatever I asked of it and more - like allowing the tires to roll right off the rims on sharp corners, automatically popping out of reverse gear and fogging up like a Turkish Bath House. But, what did you expect for \$50?



Despite those beloved character traits there was something about that car. Now, I may be crazy, but I blame all those "kids" books that we were fed growing up that put a face and name to cars, trains and planes. To this day, I still believe that every car has a hidden personality. While the '64 Monza clearly had its enduring qualities, I knew that it knew that some day it would be going to the great Salvage Yard beyond. Had it had the luxury of being pampered from day-one, may be it would have had a chance. But no such luck since no one in the early 70's thought the Corvair was destined to be an American Classic! It's OK though, it had a wonderful life.

Still, the karma surrounding my Spyder and Corsa yells out ... I'm so glad to be alive! After 45+ years, I just can't believe I made it. Thank you Lord of the Cars! I'm still looking great, purring like a kitten, hitting the streets, running through the gears, pushed through the corners ... and loved. Plus, it's beyond belief I know it, but I'm actually being displayed at Car Shows parked next to snotty Corvettes and MoPar pricks. Yes, it is I - I'm the fortunate one!

## The Tail lights were safe at any speed

Here's a Ford GT story you might have heard: When KAR KRAFT was completing the Mk IV's in Detroit prior to Le Mans, they needed to install taillights on the cars. They sent a shop helper out to the local auto parts stores with a small scale and told him to weigh every round replacement taillight and bring back a couple dozen of the lightest ones he could find. That is how the Ford cars that won Le Mans

were equipped with 1960 Chevrolet Corvair taillight assemblies. At a recent visit to The Henry Ford Museum at Greenfield Village, I confirmed that their Ford GT40, the 1967 Le Mans winner, is still equipped with the Corvair rear lights, probably the fastest Corvair taillights ever!

-- Reprinted from *Road & Track*

## Ride The Bus

by Double D

I don't what it is. Ever since Elementary School and Cub Scouts, put me in a crowd and it never failed, I ended up gravitating to the front. They made me the Yeoman. Didn't even know what that meant, but hey, sounded good. Details of the contest sounded interesting. We have been instructed to sell Light Bulbs and Seed Packages. Wow, cool prizes. Hey Dad, check this out, can you help me? I'll drive you down the block to East Grand Rapids. Different people live there. Bingo ... First Place! These people have big houses and ordered big time. Picked out a dandy new baseball mitt – *real* leather sure felt nice. I kept my secret though they wanted me to spill the beans about my success. If there was a contest, I was motivated. First Place two years in a row on the Pine Wood Derby permanently jaded me for years. All it took was a little effort.

Whether it was Cub Scouts, Rocket Baseball, Cadets, School, Church, Press Route, Real Job, if they were looking for a volunteer I ended up being one. Most of the time it had advantages and it was easy. But for my Coach, who couldn't see that I was the next Nolan Ryan. Anyway, we sure had fun cleaning the erasers, delivering the milk, and janitor duty allowed us to sneak a smoke in the bathrooms! Later on in life it even made me money. Good thing the Draft ended just before graduation. I was doomed to be the Land

*The month of October will have two events: the color tour and a meeting at Ryan Counterman's.*

Mine Sweeper or worse - Agent Orange Sprayer! I began to realize that the process wasn't all that bad after all.

Looking back, it seems there are more people who would rather simply "Ride the Bus" instead of drive it. I believe they think it's easier? But, in reality, it's too bad because I think they miss a lot. Plus, being a rider leaves little choice as to where the bus goes. The only choice is pulling the cord when it finally gets you where you want to go. It sure is more fun when you drive. And the funny part - I know WE all love to drive.

Our Club is no different. We need volunteers, coordinators or whatever you want to call them. Events and Board matters need people. Without them, the Club goes nowhere. As a "rider", you only get what somebody else thinks you want. So how difficult can it be to step up every now and then? Go ahead, try it! It will be worth it. Just ask Carol Merrill.





*Board Meeting Recap from page 2*

October General Club Meeting – Meeting at 6:30 PM at Ryan Counterman's barn in Cedar Springs. We would like to have a tech session; we tried talking Bob Muir into bringing his Corvair but he may be out of town. Dave Z. will put a message in the newsletter asking if anyone in the club would like to have their car be part of a tech session. We will also be serving hot dogs, soft drinks, and beer.

November General Club Meeting – The November meeting will be move to the fourth Tuesday of the month, 11/22, so as to not interfere with the opening day of firearms deer season. The meeting will take place at Brann's on Division. We were going to look at having the meeting at the new Brann's in Caledonia but they do not have the banquet rooms so we will go back to the Brann's on Division. Start time is 6:30 PM.

December Meetings – There will be no meeting in December. There will probably be a board meeting.

2012 Meetings – Dave Dykwell has made reservations at Brann's on Division for January 17, February 21, March 20 and April 17.

We concluded the meeting by watching the DVD that Discover Kalamazoo put together for the convention bid. It was very nicely done!

## WMCC BOARD of DIRECTORS

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## *About the wMCC*

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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.

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