

LIFTER NOISE



Newsletter of the West Michigan Corvair Club

What's Going On

Our next membership meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be held at Brann's on Division in Wyoming.

The April membership meeting will also be held at Brann's on April 16.

For those that have paid their 2013 dues, thank you! For those who have not, can you please get them paid soon? You can send the check to either the club address listed on the last page of this newsletter or to our treasurer, Doug Lectka, at 3415 Mistywood SE, Caledonia, MI 49316.

We are also starting to plan the Spring Dust Off. We are in the process of gathering ideas. Look for this event to happen in the middle of May.

The next meeting of the WMCC Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30 PM.

Chili Cook Off recap

The annual WMCC Chili Cook Off was held on February 16 at the Rockford Ambulance Community Room. We had another excellent turnout this year! There were twelve varieties of chili to sample as well as three different cornbreads and six desserts.

Judging a chili cook off is always a difficult job, but nobody seems to have an issue with the task. People went back to try chilis multiple times in an attempt to accurately crown a winner.

Once the tallying was done, John and Julia Cole were declared the winners of the Chili Cook Off with their Brown Sugar Chili. The other winners were Ryan and

WMCC CALENDAR

March 19 – WMCC Membership Meeting
March 26 – WMCC Board Meeting
April 16 – WMCC Membership Meeting
April 30 – WMCC Board Meeting

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Carolyn Counterman in the cornbread category with Mike and Anne Wildfong taking the blue ribbon in the dessert category.

After the consumption of chili was complete, Dan Konkle presented a slide show of pictures from the 1986 CORSA International Convention that was held in Grand Rapids. It was cool to see the Corvairs parked around La Grand Vitesse, AKA "The Calder".

There were also quite a few door prizes that were given away. Items ranging from Clark's gift certificates to bottles of wine. There were even prizes for the kids!

Please see *Chili Cook Off Recap* on page 3

1986 Convention Article

Back when Grand Rapids actually had a newspaper, an article was published about the 1986 CORSA International Convention. The article focuses on a gentleman from France and his picture accompanied the article as well but I chose to not show it here.

Hopefully it is readable. Enjoy!

Old Love Affairs

About 700 Corvair Club Members Hold National Rally in GR

By Margaret A. Trimer

Although Gali Bouhadiba doesn't speak or understand English very well, he had no problem Friday communicating with hundreds of Americans and Canadians at a convention of Corvair owners.

Equipped with a camera, lots of film and a Corvair baseball cap and T-shirt, Bouhadiba, 65, of Six Fours, France, talked a lot about rear-end engines, maneuverability and Ralph Nader.

"I spent all my budget to come here because I love the U.S.A. and the Corvair," said Bouhadiba, a five-year member of the Corvair Society of America. About 60 other people from southern France belong to the organization that has more than 1,000 members.

Although he has a fancy for the United States, Bouhadiba admits the European flair of the Corvair is what he likes best about the car.

"The Corvair is very much like cars in France," he said. "It drives like a European car, looks like a European car and handles like a European car."

Bouhadiba owns three Corvairs, which he left in France because transporting them was too costly.

About 700 club members have gathered in Grand Rapids this weekend for the national rally. Their Corvairs were on display Friday in the Calder Plaza.

About 1.7 million of the sporty vehicles were manufactured through the 1960s. In 1965, consumer advocate Ralph Nader based his book, "Unsafe at Any Speed" on the Corvair. Nader said the car had a "peculiar friskiness" and rear-wheel bearing problems that



Old Corvairs attract a crowd on the Calder Plaza.

caused it to spin out of control on curves.

Until the late 1960s, the Corvette was the Corvair's closest competitor in the sports car market, said Tom Lannon, president of the 64-member West Michigan Corvair Club. The car's demise came partly because the Mustang and Camaro hit the market with lower prices

and better marketing, said Lannon, a Grand Rapids resident.

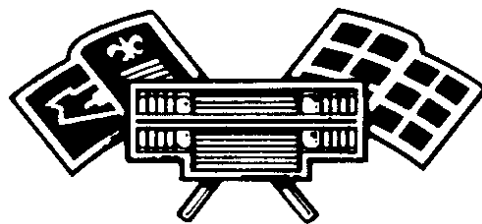
Despite criticism, most of conventioners agreed the cars and the camaraderie are priceless.

"These cars a lot of fun and they were so far ahead of their time that cars now are just catching up to them in design," said Michael Moran of Pittsburgh.

"People here are so friendly and I understand all the smiles best," said Bouhadiba, who will return to France on Sunday.

Trophies will be awarded tonight to owners of the top three cars in four different divisions. The cars are judged on how "brilliant they look" and how well they have been preserved.

Our next two membership meetings
on March 19 and April 16 will be
held at Brann's.



Chili Cook Off Recap from page 1

Thank you to all who donated prizes.

Once again the Chili Cook Off was a success! It was a great time of eating, fellowship, eating, and reminiscing about the 1986 convention. It was also a time to look ahead to this summer when we host the convention again in Kalamazoo.



February Board meeting REcap

The February board meeting was held at Woody's in Wyoming. It was a combination board meeting and convention planning meeting.

Board Meeting

March 19 Meeting

- Will be held at Brann's
- Looking for entertainment ideas
- Will exchange ideas via e-mail and have something for the meeting

April 16 Meeting

- Will be held at Brann's

Spring Dust Off

- Need ideas of where to go
- We did the Gilmore dust off last year and we'll be spending plenty of time at Gilmore this year (Air Cooled show, convention, Red Barns show)

so we should do something different

- Is there some other show or venue we can attend?
- Should we include the Detroit club?
- Maybe a junkyard tour?
- Will discuss more at March board meeting

Convention Planning

- Dave Dykwell outlined his thoughts regarding charging spectators to attend the car display at Gilmore
- Details were given for the tours
- Tech sessions were finalized
- Need to start laying out convention program
- Schedule will be printed in March *Communique*; we do not want to deviate from this schedule if possible
- Need to set up a meeting place with the Detroit club to discuss how they can/are assisting us

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**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. 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/>

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