

Lifter Noise

Newsletter of the West Michigan Corvair Club



What's Going On

Note that we have a few changes in the schedule from what was previously published with a membership meeting in February after all and the Zoup Off moving to March.

We will be having a general membership meeting on Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30 PM. The meeting place will be Jake's Goodtime Bar and Grill in Dorr. The address is 1638 142nd Ave.

We will be having a guess the part game at the February meeting. Bring a part or two that you think will stump the experts!

The Zoup Off that was originally scheduled for February 7 then moved to February 28 will now happen on Saturday, March 14. Instead of a chili cook off this year we will have a soup cook off. Bring your best soup recipe to win a prize! Bring a dessert too! The event will take place at Rockford Ambulance, 8450 Shaner Ave. NE (corner of 10 Mile Rd. and Shaner Ave.) at 2:00

January Meeting Recap

The January membership meeting of the West Michigan Corvair Club was held on January 20 at Jake's Goodtime Bar & Grill in Door. We had 16 members in attendance including charter member Rob Van Sledright. The usual room we use was reserved by another group so they put us over into the Seasons in Time Restaurant. This actually worked out better as we had more room for our main activity for the night – our parts auction.

After everyone finished eating, the people who brought parts to sell laid them out. We used the silent auction method to sell. There was quite a variety of parts from

WMCC Calendar

February 17 – WMCC Membership Meeting
February 24 – WMCC Board Meeting
March 14 – Zoup Off (formerly the Chili Cook Off)
March 31 – WMCC Board Meeting
June 20 – All Air Cooled Show at Gimore Car Museum

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PM.

It's also time to pay your dues for 2015. Some of you have paid already; thank you. For those who haven't send \$18 to the address listed on the last page of this newsletter.

small trim items to oil filters to a very nice front trim piece for a 1960 Corvair. There was also a variety of books, magazines, toy cars and other memorabilia up for auction. Rob Van Sledright brought some old articles, some old CORSA memorabilia and a supply of old WMCC stickers and Corvair bumper stickers.

Not everything sold but there were still plenty of happy buyers at the end of the night.

The high seller was a restored late model heater box

See *January Meeting Recap* on page 3

Tales from the Garage – Looking for a Muffler

Written by Dan Konkle in 1995; plagiarized by Dave Ziebarth in 2015

The exhaust system dropped off my friend Jim's car a few weeks ago. This was not totally unexpected, as Jim is not a car guy, and only performs maintenance on his jalopies in response to emergencies such as when they won't move, won't stop, or as happened the other day, something of importance actually drops off. I told him I would help him look for a new muffler, new in this case meaning different, and started to recall just what I had seen that morning on the way to work and if it was still shiny or not.

Yes, there are people in this world who shop the shoulder when muffler time rolls around. Jim can't afford to be a car guy because he's a motorcycle guy, with as fine a collection of inoperative British bikes, if you will pardon the redundant English, as you will ever care to see. Electing to use his hard-won money to maintain convoys of ships ferrying spares across the Pond, Jim has little left for transportation of the four wheeled sort.

Not that he cares. He regards cars as nothing more than mandatory appliances at any rate, useful only for hauling large objects and foul weather operation. Toward this end Jim's automobiles have traditionally been those which seem to have somehow lost their way on what was quite obviously meant to be a one-way journey to the boneyard. He has had a couple of rusted up but still dependable Corvairs, cast off as unsafe by his girlfriend/my sister-in-law when the risk of falling through to the pavement seemed just a little too great for her, but not, apparently, for him. When he had his Subaru I never had to worry about where to recycle my drain oil; Jim would add it to the petroleum IV that sustained life in the slight majority of cylinders that yet fired in the tired flat four. He currently drives a small Olds wagon, a decent enough car whose value on the normal used car market was tarnished some by the tremendous ding suffered by the driver's door, rendering it and its window inoperative. I suggested to Jim that for about fifty bucks and some fun with the hydraulic ram we could hang a junkyard door on it, but he declined. The Royal Enfield needed a widget of some sort, so Jim, all six foot four of him, clambers over the console to exit on the passenger side and never uses the drive-through at the Burger King.

But even Jim values quiet exhaust, even if only to avoid wasting his precious pence on costly repair and report tickets, or to not smugly remind his layabout neighbors that he is employed as he roars off to work at half past six in the morning. We had both been looking for a free muffler for quite a while, but with sad result. Mufflers can usually be found just downstream of an exceptionally rough railroad crossing (the one at Buchanan and Hall is a doozy; I've seen entire exhaust systems there, from manifolds to tailpipe, even an occasional cylinder head), but I prefer to hunt the notorious S-curve, the Sargasso Sea of these parts, where eventually accumulates every pice of automotive ejecta for miles around. The Grand Rapids freeway system is globally famous as testimony to the fact that one can apparently cut as many classes as one wishes and yet receive a perfectly

believable diploma in roadbuilding. Born of the need for the expressway to cross a parallel river at the exact point where some land baron's pockets could be lined with the maximum in real estate profit, the S-curve flicks one one way and then the other, catching by surprise loose hubcaps, rust-weekened bumpers, poorly tied shoes, and of course the biggest game of all, the double-baffled silver Walker.

The S-curve had been filled with all manner of exhaust debris, but it was all junk, either rusted out or squashed. Good things come unexpectedly to the righteous, however, and it was when Jim's problem was furthest from my mind that sweet serendipity spread out her bounty. Beth and I were on vacation in Michigan's fair north country, in the Spyder with the top down on a gorgeous summer day, returning to our cottage from having climbed Sleeping Bear dune (she's trying to kill me – death by exercise). Beth wanted to stop at the information center to get some pamphlets on the hiking trails (see?) so I turned off our usual route and lo!, there in the middle of may lane sat a fine-looking muffler. There are some people who are too proud to stop and pick up a used muffler and put it in their trunk, but let's face it, if you're willing to lie flat on your back under a two hundred dollar car and get a mouthful of WD-40 flavored rust flakes just to save a few bucks, chances are that Pride is not your favorite deadly sin. So I stopped. It was perfect; a clean catastrophic break at the inlet spout, no drag marks on the shell, and a nice chrome outlet pipe. And it was still warm.

Those of you who may be under the delusion that each car or truck needs a muffler that is exact and specific have a lot to learn about the creativity that frugality breeds. Have you ever thrilled to the power of an oxy-acetylene flame in your hands? Fire fits anything. The weaker of spirit will choose to mount their newfound treasure with flexible pipe and universal rubber hangers, and I can't really blame them for taking the quick way out, but to this craftsman's eye there is nothing more beautiful than a custom made rigid pipe exhaust suspended from the frame on hooks made from 1/8" welding rod. If you're gonna do it, do it right I say.

Jim was thrilled to get his muffler, but he has yet to install it. There is no real hurry because we still have several weeks of good weather (his garage is filled with motorcycles, so automotive work is done outside). He probably wouldn't much mind getting caught by the snow anyway; one can never rid oneself completely of a Calvinist upbringing, and Jim requires a certain amount of discomfort to be truly content. But just between you and me, I've swallowed all the WD-40 I'll ever need, and I'm secretly pleased that my pickup truck has a long lasting stainless steel exhaust system. When it comes to deadly sins I lean toward Sloth, and the only thing more satisfying than doing it right is not having to do it at all.

January Meeting Recap from page 1

which went for \$60. The 1960 trim piece went for \$50; look for it to be adapted to fit on a late model soon.

Not only did this auction help people get rid of some parts, it also helped raise money for charity. 25% of each transaction was donated to charity with the club matching every dollar. The sales of parts raised \$68 and the club kicked in another \$68. That made a total of \$136 that was donated to Kids Food Basket in Grand Rapids.

The parts auction was a success and a fun event to be a

part of.

For more information about Kids Food Basket, visit kidsfoodbasket.org. This is a great organization that makes sure the kids of the Grand Rapids and Muskegon area do not go hungry.

January Board Meeting Recap

In attendance at the January board meeting were Paul Adams, John Cole, Dave Dykwell, Dan Konkle, Doug Lectka, Jamie Reinhart, Steve Ridderman, and Dave Ziebarth. John Koning attended as a guest.

Auction Recap

- Felt the event was successful
- \$136 donated to Kids Food Basket
 - \$68 from auction
 - \$68 club match
- Dave Ziebarth will get the address of Kids Food Basket and pass it on to Doug who will send a check along with a cover letter
- One suggestion for improvement would be to have it at the Chili/Soup Cook Off event as we would have a lot more room to spread out the parts

Zoup Off

- The scheduled date of February 28 will not work; a lot of the board members and organizers cannot make it on that date
- Reschedule for March 14 or 21; March 14 is preferred
- Dave Ziebarth will call Rockford Ambulance and update the reservation

February Meeting

- Since the Zoup Off got moved to March, we need to schedule a regular meeting for February
- Dave Dykwell will make the reservation at Jake's and will cancel March meeting
- Eventually evolved into a discussion about

alternate meeting venues

- We do like Jake's but we want to have the meetings in different parts of the area so everyone on the north side doesn't always have to go south
- Will keep our eyes open for other options
- Sometimes difficult to get a group this large in a space that is conducive for a meeting

Survey Results

- 19 surveys were returned to Paul out of the 36 or so that were sent out
- Started a discussion over the results; focused on what events the membership felt did not go well
- Dave Dykwell suggested that we each take time to review the results on our own and develop ideas to present at the February board meeting
- Talked about what events we could have this year
 - Kalamazoo Speedway
 - Movie at the Getty Drive-In
 - Convention caravan to Knoxville, TN in June
- Steve Ridderman mentioned that he and Ryan Counterman plan on attending a few racing events this year; he would get a list to publish so WMCC members can attend and root them on

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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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