

Lifter Noise

August 2018 - Volume 45, Issue 8



What's Going On

The next meeting of the West Michigan Corvair Club will be on Tuesday, August 21 at Raittown Brewing Company in Dutton. Start time is at 6:30 PM. Raittown just moved into their new location at 3595 68th St. SE which is right next door to their old location.

Some other events happening in August include the Red Barns Spectacular at Gilmore Car Museum on August 4, the Del Shannon Car Show in Coopersville on August 11, a car show at Lucky Girl Brewing Company in Paw Paw on August 11, the Corvair Homecoming in Plymouth on August 23 - 26, the 28th St. Metro Cruise on August 24 - 25, and the All GM Show at Berger Chevrolet on August 25. Some members of WMCC will be attending some of these events. There will be a group going to the Red Barns Spectacular on August 4 for sure. If anyone wants to coordinate a rally to this event or any of the other events, feel free to reply to the group e-mail that goes out with the newsletter.

Don't forget to make your reservations for the overnight trip on September 15 - 16. There is a block of rooms reserved at Howard Johnson in Traverse City for \$170 plus tax for the night. Call (231) 715-3074 and reserve one of the rooms under West Michigan Corvair Club. When you call, DO NOT press 1 for reservations as that goes to a national call center. Instead, press 3 for the front desk and they can book one of the rooms in the block. The rooms are only being held until August 15. If you don't call by then, you won't be staying in this hotel as it is at full capacity. We will have a more detailed itinerary in the September edition of *Lifter Noise*.

The August board meeting will be on Tuesday, August 28 at Bunker Hill Chill and Grill, 4203 30th St. in Dorr. Start time is 6:30 PM.

July Board Meeting Recap

We took some time aside from the summer picnic to have a brief board meeting. We discussed that we need to put a reminder in the newsletter to have people make their hotel reservations for the overnight trip in September. We then discussed possible venues/events for our August meeting - Del Shannon Car Show in Coopersville, meet at Dog N Suds then hit a drive-in movie at Getty, or an August 11 car show at Lucky Girl Brewing in Paw Paw. After some debate, we decided on doing a regular Tuesday meeting at the new Raittown Brewing Company. Dave Ziebarth will mention the Del Shannon car show and Lucky Girl car show in the newsletter.

The Junkyard

By Scott Olivier, President, WMCC

I went to a junkyard for the first time in many years this past week. Our illustrious treasurer Doug Lectka paid a visit to Easy Russ' yard, on the north side of Grand Rapids, a few weeks ago in search of a 4-speed transmission. Doug knew that I was looking for a set of steelies for our '60, and he let me know that he'd noticed a '61 in the yard with what he believed were a set of the somewhat elusive '60-'61 wheels, with the little nubs that hold on the beauty rings that were only available those two years. I saddled up, and headed over. If you haven't been to Easy Russ', it's an experience. It's a family-owned business nestled in a neighborhood that's part residential, and part industrial. The cars are in a small yard out back, and most are covered by tall weeds. The folks running the place were very friendly, and led me on the search for my steelies. We found two wheels on the '61 Doug had referenced (it was, by now, missing the rear end, so we didn't get the other two), and two more on another early model out in the yard. All four wheels appear serviceable once they're sandblasted and painted (maybe powdercoated?).



This week's experience caused me to reflect on junkyards past. I don't know what wired my brain to love junkyards, but that's how it's always been. As a child, we would take trips from Chicago to Door County, Wisconsin to visit my grandparents at their summer cottage on Green Bay. Along the route, there was a small junkyard out in the country that we would go past. I would beg my parents to stop there every time we would pass it, so I could get out and look at the cars. This was the mid-70's, so there was lots of cool metal there. I remember everything from 30's era to the 60's in that yard. We would also take occasional trips to the county dump near my grandparents' place to drop off our garbage, and I remember finding hubcaps there from now-defunct marques like Packard and Studebaker. I wish I still had them—why would I have discarded those?

Fast-forward a few years, and I had high school friends with Volkswagen Beetles. We would frequent a junkyard in Antioch, Illinois, seeking VW parts. This particular yard catered to the vintage crowd, and I recall seeing a '60 Pontiac Catalina and a '59 Edsel along with all sorts of '50's through 70's iron. Move forward a couple more years, when I lived in southern California and owned a '59 Chevy. I can't describe how much cool stuff was in the desert yards out there. I'd venture to guess that most of the cars in SoCal junkyards in the 80's were cars that current-day collectors would take and restore, rather than junk.

My trip to Easy Russ' has reignited my passion for the junkyard. I snapped a few pictures of cars in their yard—when was the last time you saw a '62 Imperial in a junkyard?—got my wheels, and took them home. I'd like to make a return trip just to wander the yard. Not many modern-day junkyards carry vintage cars. Not in the Midwest, anyway. Maybe I need to plan a trip to the desert...



Summer Picnic Recap

On July 21 we had our annual summer picnic. Even though the weather was not favorable, we had a good turnout. There were even a couple of Corvairs driven to the event.

Dave Dykwell and Scott Olivier manned the grill that was provided by Ryan Counterman. There was an issue getting the grill from Cedar Springs down to Hastings - one of the bearings on the tires gave way and the tire went rolling into a field never to be seen again. Doug Lectka was called to come rescue the grill with his work truck. Once the grill was in place, the coals were lit and the chicken was grilled to perfection.



There were times where it was raining pretty hard and times where it stayed dry but that didn't stop everyone from socializing.

Once the chicken was ready, all of the other side dishes were laid out in the kitchen and the eating commenced. There was quite an array of salads and desserts to choose from.



Even though the weather was not the greatest, we all had a good time. We even got to take some leftover chicken halves home. Thank you to Doug and Becky Lectka for hosting us.

WMCC Calendar

August 4	Red Barns Spectacular at Gilmore Car Museum
August 11	Del Shannon Car Show in Coopersville
August 11	Car Show at Lucky Girl Brewing Company in Paw Paw
August 21	WMCC Membership Meeting at Railtown Brewing Company in Dutton
August 28	WMCC Board Meeting at Bunker Hill Chill and Grill in Dorr
September 15 - 16	Overnight Trip to Traverse City

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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.

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