

Lifter Noise

December 2018 - Volume 45, Issue 12



What's Going On

Our annual Christmas party is our event for this month. It will be on Saturday, December 8 at the home of Scott and Heather Olivier, 6781 Egypt Valley Ave NE in Rockford. Social time is 3:30 PM and dinner will be served around 4:30 PM. The club will be providing the main course of ham and turkey as well as soft drinks and some beer. We are asking that everyone bring a side dish or dessert to pass and any additional beverages you desire. Scott is asking that anyone who plans on attending to RSVP to scott_olivier_mi@yahoo.com.

There will be no board meeting in December.

The January meeting will be on Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 PM. It will be at AJ's in Dorr.

The January board meeting will be on Tuesday, January 29 at 6:30 PM. It will be at Bunker Hill in Dorr.

We are tentatively planning on having the Zoup Off on Saturday, February 16. More details will be published after the first of the year.

November Board Meeting Recap

We debriefed the 1st Annual Model Car Contest. We were a bit disappointed by the number of model entries, but the membership turnout was good, so we'd like to give it another go in 2019. Some members expressed that they would have entered a model, but hadn't had enough time. Also, inspired by Verne's display of his wooden vehicles, maybe we should open the field up to all types of self-assembled cars—not just plastic kits. In addition, we should change the award to a single winner and not have two classes.

We feel we're all set for the Christmas party, and just need to put the details in the December Lifter Noise. Scott will get with Dave D. to coordinate the main dish.

The 2019 board was set: President: Scott, Vice President: Dave D., Secretary: Dave Z., Treasurer: Doug, Directors: Paul, Dan and Dennis.

Paul had several great suggestions:

- Establish a "community parts bank" using club funds for "seed" equipment that would be replenished as needed at the expense of anyone that used a part. Items would include:

a complete set of shop manuals, common wear parts (filters, points, plugs, oil, etc), and various Corvair specialty tools. We could store all the items in the loft of our barn, since we've got the space.

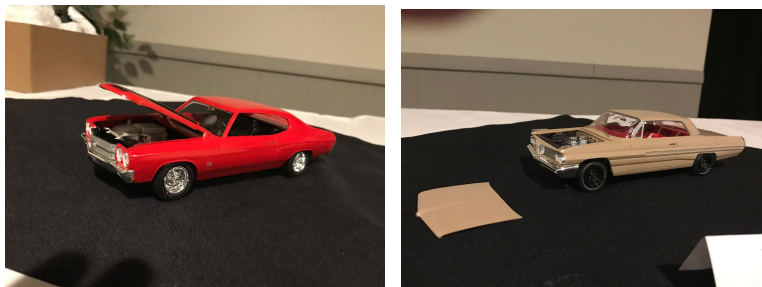
- Put together a notebook/binder of suggested meeting venues, event ideas, etc for the board that would be referenced at board meetings to streamline selection of future events and venues. Paul said that he would begin work on this.
- Change the setup of the fall color tour to have alternate routes and flexible dates to maximize enjoyment of the fall colors. This year's event, while well attended and fun, didn't have much color as it ended up being 2-3 weeks before peak.

Miscellaneous notes:

- No December board meeting (too close to Christmas)
- January membership meeting will be at AJ's in Dorr
- January board meeting will be at Bunker Hill

November Meeting Recap

Our November meeting was held at Shots on the River and we had a pretty good turnout. We only had four entries for the model car contest. After voting, Jared Ten Brink won the modified class and Scott Olivier won the stock class. The other two entries were from Dave Dykwell and Dennis Willson.



After the model car voting, we held our elections for club officers. Since there were only three people running for three positions, they were automatically voted in. Doug Lectka, Scott Olivier, and Dennis Willson will be serving a two year term that expires in 2020.

We then discussed the Christmas party and Verne Metcalf showed some wooden models that he built in his workshop. He had a steamroller, two trucks, a car, a bulldozer, a boat, and a plane. Very impressive!



What's in a Name?

By Scott Olivier, President, WMCC

Full disclosure: I've been club president less than a year, and I've already run out of article ideas. Creative writing has never been a personal strength—that's my English major sister's department. Ask my high school English teacher Mr. Hickey (I swear that's his real name) his feelings about my writing prowess. He was unimpressed. Like, give me a "D" unimpressed. Thank goodness I was proficient enough at science and math to balance out the average and earn a diploma.

I recently admitted my writer's block to fellow WMCC member, and freshly-elected club director, Dennis Willson. Dennis suggested an article about how we name our vehicles, which really got me thinking. I've owned a bunch of cars over the years, but only a few have earned a name:

As a teen in Chicago, my first car was a brown 1970 Ford Maverick. It was a gift from my Uncle Jim, who'd saved it from the crusher, and it was a colossal piece of junk. It had a pinhole in the oil pan when he got it, but he included a replacement junkyard pan with it. My friend Don and I replaced the pan, reusing the old gasket because I couldn't afford a new one, and off we went. The thing sat kinda nose-high (like a Corvair?), and sounded like an airplane at cruising speed. We called it "The Mav". Not very imaginative (see: Mr. Hickey, above), but it stuck. The Mav was eventually sold to my friend Dean, in whose hands it died a slow death over the course of a couple of years. Miss ya, Mav.

Flash forward a couple of years, and skip a few cars that didn't earn a name. I'd moved to southern California and bought the car that I really wish I still had—a 1959 Chevy Impala Sport Coupe. I loved that thing. Blue on blue, with a 283 2-barrel, bought from the original owner for \$1500. I named it "Lucille", after BB King's guitar. Seventeen years old when I got it, and when I turned eighteen, I declared myself free from family obligations, loaded everything I owned into Lucille's gigantic trunk and headed back to Chicago. After driving Lucille for two years in Chicago, I realized two things: one: I couldn't afford the gas, and two: I couldn't bear seeing the car further rust in the Midwest winters. Lucille was sold to a collector for \$1800. I like to think she's still out there somewhere.

After that, I had mostly company cars for work until 2009, when I got downsized from my job. At the time, my grandma Carlson in California had just lost her driver's license and her 2001 Buick Century was sitting idle in her carport. I offered to buy it for whatever price she was going to try to sell it for (I really needed a car, since the company car was gone), and she said that if I came to visit, the car was mine for free. She was sweet like that. I booked a ticket that week, and flew out. After a wonderful visit, I drove the Buick back to the Detroit. After riding in its velour bench seat luxuriousness, our youngest daughter Tori said it was like driving someone's living room, and declared that the car should be named "Couch", and the name stuck. Couch had only 20,000 miles on the clock, despite being eight years old when we took possession of her. I drove the wheels off of her for work for several years, then gave her to Tori. She clocked many more miles on her, until she was sold on Ebay with about 180,000 miles to a guy in Muskegon. I still watch for Couch in parking lots, but I haven't seen her yet.

Forward a few more years to the "Corvair Age". Heather and I bought our first Corvair nearly four years ago—our '63 convertible. She's named "Delores", after a distant cousin. I'm not even sure how the name sprung to being, but it's very appropriate. Cousin Delores was born in 1936 with cerebral palsy, which was a virtual death sentence in those days. Doctors at the time said that Delores would likely live into her early teens, but no longer. They were wrong. I remember visiting the farm where she lived with my aunt and uncle near Morris, IL as a kid, and seeing Delores in her 40's, at the time. Delores passed in the spring of 2013, nearly at the age of 77. She defied expectations, for sure. Honoring her name in our '63 seemed appropriate for two reasons: the '63, much like Delores, was born a little different, and also lived much longer than everyone expected.

I'd love to hear how other members named their cars. Do you have a story to share?

Scott

WMCC Calendar

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|-------------|---------------------------|
| December 8 | WMCC Christmas Party |
| January 15 | WMCC Membership Meeting |
| January 29 | WMCC Board Meeting |
| February 16 | Zoup Off (tentative date) |

Board of Directors

President: Scott Olivier (2020)
(586) 719-3797 or scott_olivier_mi@yahoo.com

Vice President: Dave Dykwell (2019)
(616) 885-3902 or dykwelld@gmail.com

Secretary: Dave Ziebarth (2019)
(616) 340-1815 or zvair65@gmail.com

Treasurer: Doug Lectka (2020)
(616) 299-1960 or dlectka@sbcglobal.net

Directors:

Paul Adams (2019)
(269) 375-7998 or padams2607@aol.com

Dan Konkle (2019)
(616) 364-1009 or dankle@comcast.net

Dennis Willson (2020)
(616) 460-4189 or dawillson4@aol.com

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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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