

Lifter Noise

January 2024 - Volume 51, Issue 1



What's Going On

Hopefully everyone had a great holiday season! On to 2024!

Our first event for 2024 is our annual Zoup Off! It will take place on Saturday, February 17 in the community room at Rockford Ambulance. For this event, we will have a Pinewood Derby. I believe everyone that reserved a Pinewood Derby car kit has received them. If not, contact Dave Dykwell. Look for the Pinewood Derby rules later in this newsletter. More details will be published in the February newsletter.

Speaking of Pinewood Derby, former WMCC member Scott Olivier checks in with his thoughts. It's always great to hear from Scott. Look for his article below.

The WMCC board of directors will be meeting later in January to start planning the remaining events for 2024. Once we have dates for those, they will be published in the newsletter and on the club web site.

It is also time to start paying your dues for 2024. Dues are still \$18 for the year. You can pay them at the Zoup Off or mail them to the club address on the last page of this newsletter.

2024 marks the 50th Anniversary of the West Michigan Corvair Club! We were officially chartered with the State of Michigan on June 7, 1974. There were Corvair enthusiasts meeting throughout 1973 with the idea of forming a club. Throughout this year we will be highlighting past events and reprinting a few past newsletter articles; starting with the June 1974 newsletter with the news that we are officially a club and a copy of one of the meeting notices sent out in 1973 looking to recruit members for the club. There is also a special 50th anniversary club logo (it can be seen on the masthead of this newsletter).

Christmas Party Recap

Doug and Becky Lectka welcomed us into their home on December 2 to celebrate the season. We had a very good turn out with a lot of appetizers, side dishes, and desserts brought by everyone to go along with the main

WMCC Calendar

February 17 - Zoup Off at the Rockford Ambulance Community Room; 2:00 PM

July 11 - 14 - Corvair Homecoming; Ann Arbor, MI

July 22 - 25 - CORSA International Convention; Dayton, OH

course of ham prepared by Doug and Becky. We even had a surprise guest in former WMCC member John Koning who ended up rejoining the club! After social time and dinner, we had a White Elephant gift exchange with the gifts being provided by the club.



Pinewood Derby

By Scott Olivier

Ah, the Pinewood Derby. A chance for father and son (or daughter? Did the Girl Scouts do this? I'll need to do some Googling...) to bond together and build a winner out of a small—and Boy Scout approved—block of wood. To me as an eight-year-old, victory was assured since my father was a science teacher. I mean, it was simple, right? The whole thing is just a matter of gravity, aerodynamics and friction. Dad could surely figure that out, genius he was. Well, it turns out the Derby was more of a matter of physics than chemistry, and Dad taught the latter. Each and every year of my Cub Scout membership, we failed miserably. Every annual campaign, I watched hopefully as Dad crafted the body of that year's candidate, purchased the graphite lubricant for the axles and assured me this would be our year.

We never won. It wasn't even close. I still feel the sting of those losses nearly fifty years on.

Idiot me, when I was president of this esteemed club a few years back I proposed a Pinewood Derby as an event for an upcoming Zoup Off. I don't know what possessed me, given the childhood trauma involved. Maybe it'll be fun this time, huh? Thankfully, COVID got in the way and the thing never happened.

Well, it's 2024 and current President Dave Dykwell has resurrected my idea and our generous member John Cole has offered up a Pinewood Derby track for this February's Zoup Off. It'll be a bit of work setting the whole thing up, I'm sure. Given the amount of effort the event will take, I feel compelled to compete in spite of our distance from the club and the potential humiliation. I'm currently working on my Derby car, tentatively named "The Flying Popsicle", and will ship it to up to y'all to be run in the contest. Dave Dykwell will run my car, and I'm sure he'll do his best for me, as I would do for him.

A word of warning to other competitors: as opposed to my father, I have access to the Hive Mind of the internet and my car will possess the advantages of various experts and bloggers in the Pinewood Derby world. It probably won't help me, but I'm good with that.

I hope to be FaceTimed into each run of my doomed design.

On a serious note, Heather and I are trying to engineer a move back up to Michigan in 2024. We've been hearing stories about the cool new members that have joined, and we hope to see you all in person soon!

Scott & Heather Olivier

President's Prose

By Dave Dykwell

Well, it's a new year and time to start thinking about what's on the agenda for the West Michigan Corvair Club. We have several items to discuss at the January Board meeting including ratification of positions, details for the Zoup Off / Pinewood Derby, tentative calendar of events, our 50th Anniversary and treasury. As a member, should you wish to offer any suggestions I'm all ears – ya I know they stick out! As a Board Member, put your thinking cap on so we can have a productive and well attended meeting later this month ... slated for 6:00pm Thursday, January 25. Location TBA, but I'm thinking Fricano's on Alpine. Watch for Dave's email blast. ALL members are more than welcome.

Last month, I asked for your input or any ideas for our Club's 50th Anniversary. Sadly, I received zippy-do-da. Which in reality could have been predicted. However, it really would be nice to receive some ideas that come directly from our members rather than just your Board Members. So, please, just take a few minutes and send me an email or text with anything you got. Even if it's cake and ice cream!

I'm really looking forward to this year's Zoup Off with the Pinewood Derby kicker. I already have my soup and dessert picked out and believe it or not my Pinewood Derby Car is finished and ready to race. I'm retired, what would you expect? Slated for Saturday, February 17th, Rockford Ambulance building as usual. More to come in your next newsletter. Attention last year's Award Winners, please remember to bring the traveling trophies – I believe Becky Lectka (soup) and Bob Muir (dessert).

Read a couple of interesting tidbits in my Hemmings magazines. An article on break-in oil and ZDDP discussed why and how it works. Granted, not all of us are rebuilding motors all the time [using break-in oil], but these products have the highest level of ZDDP on the market. DYNO testing showed horsepower with break-in oil then after with a fresh change of 5-30 Synthetic. The engine gained 11 horses. Shows how much those friction additives can rob your performance. Another article discussed the problem car collectors are having and continue to have with 90's-00' cars. Brittle plastics, burned out digitals and blown-out computer(s) with little if any replacement parts. Good reason to stay with cars built before 1973.

Research articles always get me. Like the latest stat that 1 in 4 Americans suffer from a Mental Health issue. So ... look around at three of your closest friends (relatives don't count). IF they appear OK, then it's YOU!

Respectfully Dave D.

June 1974

Here is the "first official" newsletter of the chartered West Michigan Corvair Club.

NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST MICHIGAN CORVAIR CLUB

June 1974

It's official. We are now legally chartered by the State of Michigan as the West Michigan Corvair Club. Our club president, Jack Corcoran, believes that we are the first club to be chartered independently in Michigan. Our club emblem was shown at the May meeting. We are not officially affiliated with CORSA yet. That is being looked into by the board. A copy of the Club Constitution will be available at a later date.

Our next meeting will be June 18th at 8:15 p.m. It will be held in the East Building of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. On the agenda will be a discussion of the Sandy Pines Campers Resort Tour and the CORSA Convention, which will be in Chicago on August 16-18. Following the meeting we will be watching the movie "Merrily We Roll Along".

We had a good turnout at the Fallsburg Park Picnic. There was a total of 21 people in attendance and 8 Corvairs. A good time was had by all.

Treasurer's Report: We have a balance of \$ 119.25.

CLUB OFFICERS

President: Jack Corcoran

Secretary: Pam DeGlopper

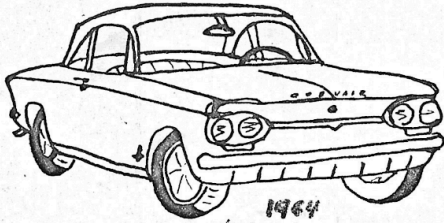
Treasurer: Scott McIntosh

Editor: Rob VanSledright

Public Relations: John Morgan

October 1973

Here is what was mailed out to Corvair enthusiasts for a meeting of the yet to be formed West Michigan Corvair Club.



Dear
CORVAIR
Owner

The Corvair owners and enthusiasts in Western Michigan are getting together again this month to formulate a local chapter of CORSA. We'd like you to attend the meeting to get acquainted, talk shop, and see many fine Corvairs in one place at once!



Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month (so far) so please plan to come and also bring your wife - we need support from your "boss".

We dress and meet very informal. Should you have neighbors or friends who are also Corvair owners or enthusiasts, bring them along also.

We have been meeting since April of this year just to see what response would be for a local club, and it seems that we grow about 25% on our mailing list every month.

Our October 16th meeting will (by necessity) have to do some serious organizational work if we are to have an active Charter by Jan. of '74.

So, at this meeting we will do the following;

- = Decide upon what Officers are needed for the club, and the term of office, whether elected or appointed;
- = Arrive at a dollar amount for yearly local dues;
- = Select or think of a name for the Club;
- = Possibilities of a permanent meeting place rather than jumping around to "members" homes;
- = Whether CORSA membership is mandatory or selective;
- = And, almost any other topic you can think of so we can draw up a rough charter for final signing in December or at the January meeting.



OCTOBER 16th MEETING PLACE - at the home of Jack Corcoran, located at 3420 Coit Avenue, N. E. This is on Coit Avenue north of North Park Street just 2 blocks.

TIME - 8:00 P. M. until ? ?

CORSA information available from Greg Cox, at 458-4184 evenings.

SPECIAL THIS MONTH - A News Team from WOTV Chan. 8 television will be on hand to record and shoot our "Club" in action!!

MONZA - CORSA - SPYDER - 500 - 700 - LAKEWOOD - GREENBRIER - 95 TRUCKS - WE LOVE OUR CORVAIRS!!



WMCC Pinewood Derby Rules

By Dave Dykwell

The following will be our Official Pinewood Derby Rules as grossly edited from the BSA National Rules to make things a lot simpler:

- Overall Width of car = 2 3/4"
- Overall Length of car = 7"
- Width between Wheels = 1 3/4"
- Bottom clearance (min) = 3/8"
- Overall Weight (max) = 5 ounces
- BSA Kit wheels and axles must be used

Not permitted: bearings, washers, bushings, springs, rocket engines.

The rest is up to you and your imagination, wood working skills, painting and trim.



Board of Directors

President: Dave Dykwell (2024) - (616) 885-3902 or dykwelld@gmail.com

Vice President: Ryan Counterman (2024) - (616) 262-5467 or vairking@hotmail.com

Secretary: Dave Ziebarth (2024) - (616) 340-1815 or zvair65@gmail.com

Treasurer: Doug Lectka (2025) - (616) 299-1960 or douglectka59@gmail.com

Directors:

John Cole (2025) - (231) 853-5340 or jcolvair@protonmail.com

Steve Vander Helm (2025) - (616) 293-0864 or sjvander426@gmail.com

Matt Zerilli (2024) - (269) 532-4559 or matthew.zerilli@gmail.com

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