

# Lifter Noise

July 2024 - Volume 51, Issue 7



## What's Going On

Our summer picnic and 50th Anniversary celebration is our event for the month of July. It is scheduled for Saturday, July 20 at Fallasburg Park in Lowell at noon. We will be meeting at Picnic Area C2. We will have picnic tables but feel free to bring your lawn chairs as well. The club will provide a picnic lunch of pulled pork, pasta salad, coleslaw, and brownies. If anyone wants to bring a side dish or chips to share, that is welcome. We will even have a 50th Anniversary cake! There will be some lawn games to play (cornhole, can jam, fan belt toss). We are asking everyone to bring their own beverages. It should be a fun celebration!

Looking ahead to August, our event will be the Red Barns Spectacular at Gilmore Car Museum on Saturday, August 3. We will be meeting at the McDonald's in Caledonia at 7:30 AM with a planned departure time of 8:00 AM. There will probably not be another newsletter before August 3 so consider this the official announcement of the event.

If you look to the right, you will see the schedule of our club events for this year. Also listed is the Corvair Homecoming hosted by the Detroit Area Corvair Club and the CORSA International Convention. For a full schedule of car shows, please see the [Events](#) page on the club website.

## President's Prose

*By Dave Dykwell*

Hard to believe, but it's a *Fact Jack*. In a few weeks we'll be celebrating the Golden Anniversary of our glorious yet humble club – The West Michigan Corvair Club. 50 years ago, and most likely a little more, several visionaries officially formed our Club and to wonders of wonders we're still here today! And, we should ALL be proud of our Club. We managed to sponsor not one but two successful and memorable Corvair Conventions, the last in 2013 when they were still profitable. Our treasury has been strong and we have always had a fine group of dedicated members who all get along. So, let's get ready to break out the picnic stuff and take a Corvair cruise to our favorite Fallasburg Park to commemorate our historic event. Make sure to read Dave Z's article with all the details.

Looking back to the early 70's, it was time when change was starting to really ramp up. The first pocket calculator was just invented and a guy could buy a pretty decent

## WMCC Calendar

**July 11 - 14** - Corvair Homecoming in Ann Arbor, MI

**July 20** - WMCC Summer Picnic and 50th Anniversary Celebration at Fallasburg Park Picnic Area C2 in Lowell, Noon

**July 22 - 25** - CORSA International Convention in Dayton, OH

**August 3** - Red Barns Spectacular at Gilmore Car Museum, 9 AM - 4 PM; meet at Caledonia McDonald's at 7:30 AM

**September 17** - WMCC Board Meeting at TBD, 6 PM

**October 12** - Fall Color Tour

**December 7** - Christmas Party

Corvair for around \$500. It does not seem all that long ago, but my first Monza convertible cost me a whopping \$100. It wasn't all that pretty but it ran, drove, leaked and gave my friends and I a lot of memories (good and bad). Like the time when I drove back home from Newaygo on only three cylinders with four guys in the car! President Nixon resigned over Watergate, the Tet Offensive started, Evel Knievel attempted to jump the Grand Canyon, the Rubik's Cube was invented, not to mention Kraft Singles, Skittles and Nacho Cheese Doritos. Bailey's Irish Cream debuted along with the best movie ever – Blazing Saddles. Gas prices were still under 50 cents (but not for long) and a new full-size Chevy cost \$3,200. And, Billie Jean King defeats Bobby Riggs to get the women's movement going in a friendly sporting way.

As we know, change is constantly changing. It took less than four years for automotive manufacturers and governments to realize that the world was not ready for the EV car initiative (save China). Now that Ford and Toyota have joined GM, BMW and Honda in rethinking the whole EV thing, we're starting to see new alternative fuels blossoming with promise. Hydrogen, Ammonia and Dilithium Crystals are being tested as we speak. Renewable sustainable energy sure makes more sense than burning more coal and starting more nuclear plants. Let's put some more thought into this before we *"roll in the deep"*, Adele.

OK, here's another chicken or the egg question. It seems a little razz-backwards to me, but as a classic car owner why am I charged to bring one of my cars to a show while the lookers get in free? OK, I admit that IF a show has free food, awards and maybe entertainment, a charge is surely acceptable. But it seems more and more shows do not have judging, awards or free anything for that matter. Show sponsors need our cars for the onlookers to see ... to claim their Grandma owned one of these. Let's face it, without us there would be No Show! After all, Spectators at car races pay dearly. Concessions are highly profitable. Am I wrong on this one?

Monthly Auto Fun Fact: Did you know that the General designed a 10 cylinder air-cooled motor for the 1962 prototype Impala? You may have seen the familiar looking pic on Facebook. Wonder if they ever corrected the oil leak issues? Guess not.

***"No amount of evidence will ever persuade an idiot"*** [not even 32 federal crimes] - Mark Twain

Respectfully, DAVE

## Air Cooled Show Recap

About a dozen Corvairs showed up at Gilmore Car Museum for the annual Air Cooled Show put on by the Franklin club. It was a beautiful, albeit hot, day for a show. Below are a couple of pictures that I pulled from Marilyn Dykwell's Facebook post as I could not attend myself to take pictures.



## WMCC History - CORSA Conventions

The West Michigan Corvair Club has had the privilege of hosting the CORSA International Convention on two occasions. The first one was in 1986 and it was held in downtown Grand Rapids. The second one was held in 2013 outside of Kalamazoo. There was some consideration of hosting another convention in 1992 but the idea was abandoned because the feeling was we couldn't get enough volunteers. We were also asked to assist the host club for another convention shortly after 2013 but we declined.

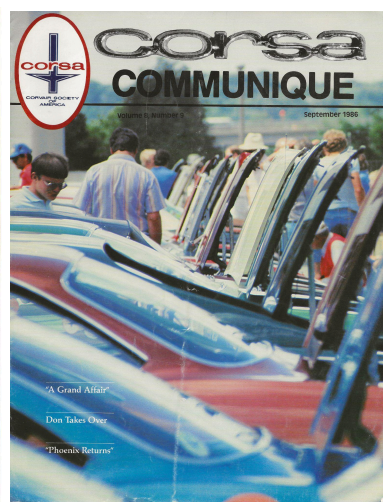
### 1986 - "A Grand Affair"



The 1986 CORSA International Convention, "A Grand Affair", took place on July 30 - August 2, 1986 in downtown Grand Rapids. The host hotel was the Amway Grand Plaza and the main car display took place on Calder Plaza. Yes, there were almost 200 Corvairs parked around "La Grande Vitesse" aka the Calder. Over 70 cars participated in the Autocross which was held at the Allendale campus of Grand Valley State College (as it was known then). It was estimated that over 350 Corvairs visited the city of Grand Rapids.

The club initially started internal discussions in December 1980 about hosting a convention. A formal presentation was made to CORSA at the 1981 convention that was held in Denver. Formal planning started in late 1983 and ramped up in 1984. The convention co-chairs were Cliff and Betsy Murphy. There was a lot of logistical planning, site visits by CORSA, and fundraising. One fundraiser was selling Corvair posters that showed the WMCC logo with a representation of each model of Corvair. There are actually still some of these posters available!

Below are some scans from the September 1986 *CORSA Communique* that recapped the convention. Also, there are some promotional pictures that were taken in 1982 of some Corvairs parked on Calder Plaza.







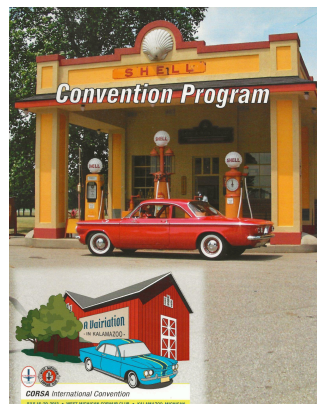
## 2013 - "A Vairiation in Kalamazoo"



The 2013 CORSA International Convention, "A Vairiation in Kalamazoo", was held on July 16 - 20, 2013 outside of Kalamazoo. We chose Kalamazoo over Grand Rapids so we could highlight the Gilmore Car Museum as a potential location for the Corvair Museum. The logo that was designed by Paul Adams' niece, Kristi Breisach, even included one of the barns at Gilmore Car Museum. There were 164 Corvairs at the car display that was held at Gilmore Car Museum. We also utilized the Kalamazoo Air Zoo for the Concours and banquet as well as the U.S. 131 Motorsports Park for the Autocross (no, the dragstrip was not part of the Autocross course). The host hotel was the Four Points Sheraton.

The initial idea was for the club to host a mini convention in 2012. Then talks changed to host a regular convention in 2013. Dave Dykwell was elected chairman of the committee and a bid was formally made in September 2011. The Chicago club also submitted a bid but our bid package included some Two Hearted Ale from Bell's Brewery in Kalamazoo. I'm sure that is what sealed the deal for us.

Below are a few pictures from that week. It's hard to believe that it's been 11 years since we hosted that convention. By the way, the Facebook page that was created is still active if you want to take a stroll down memory lane - <https://www.facebook.com/2013vairiation>.



Left - Convention program cover, Right - Tech session on brakes.





*Left - cars in the host hotel parking lot, Right - cars getting prepped for the Autocross at U.S. 131 Motorsports Park.*



*Left - cars at the Concours at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, Right - Doug Lectka's van gets a new paint job at the Car Display at Gilmore Car Museum.*

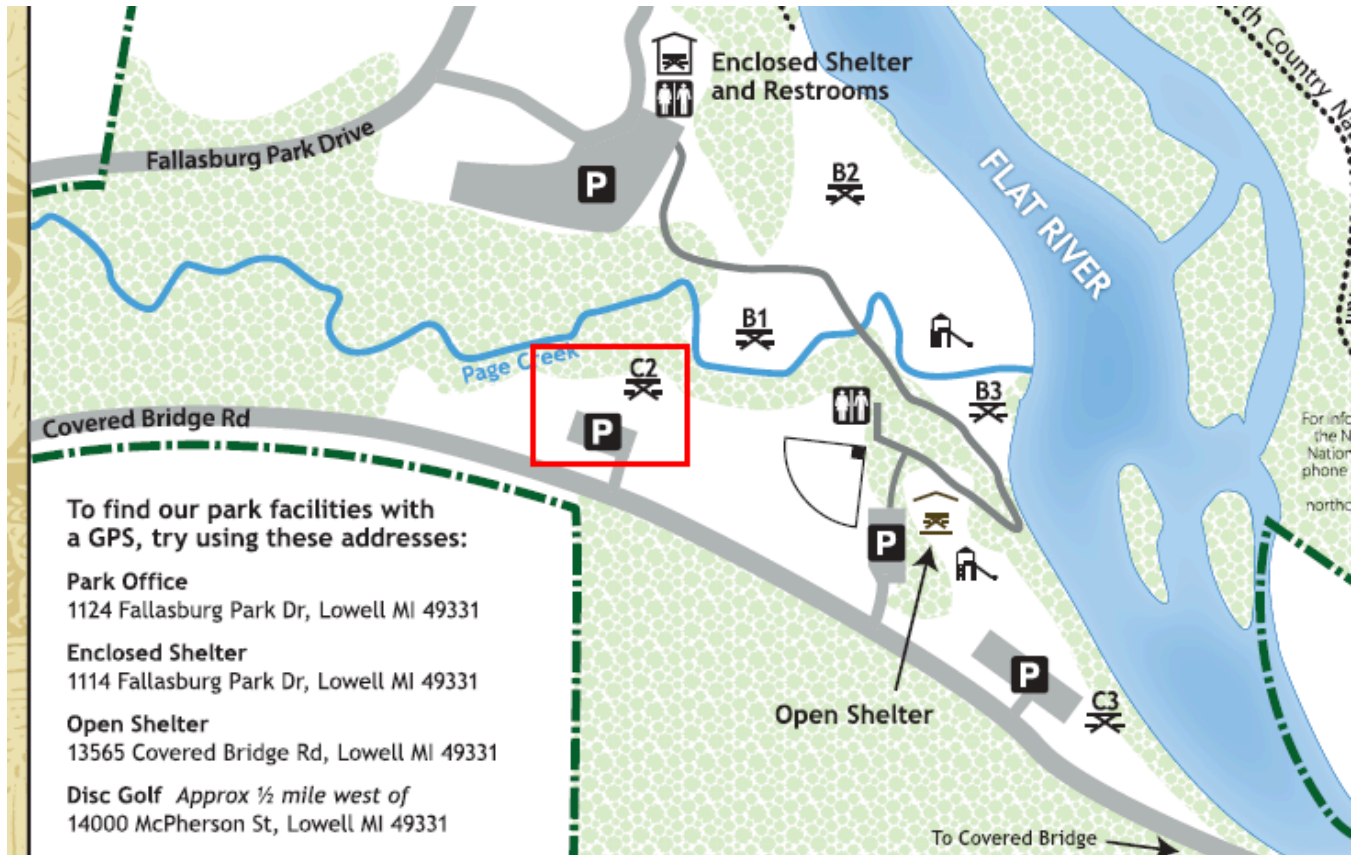


*Left - the Car Display at Gilmore Car Museum, Right - the Super Monza and a Greenbrier at the historic Shell gas station at Gilmore Car Museum.*



## Fallasburg Park Map

We are in picnic area C2 as highlighted below. Once you enter the park on Fallasburg Park Drive, take that to Covered Bridge Road and take a right (east). The parking lot will be the one just before the ball diamond.



## Board of Directors

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