

Lifter Noise

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What's Going On

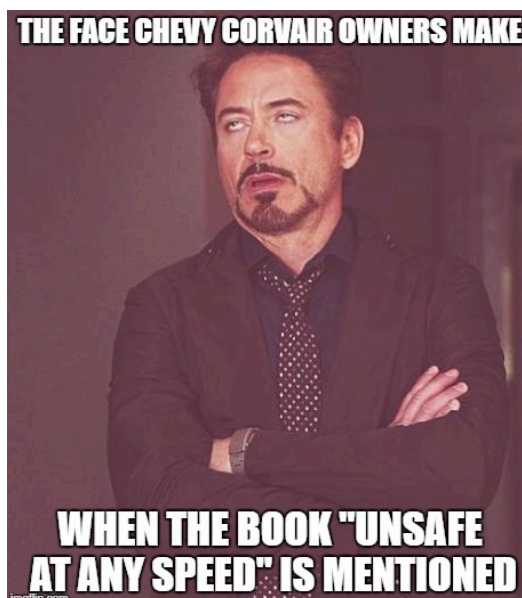
By the time this newsletter is published, our event for August, the Red Barns Spectacular at Gilmore Car Museum, would have passed. Look for a recap in the September newsletter.

We will have a meeting in September. It will be on Tuesday, September 10 at Fricano's Pizza, 5808 Alpine NW, at 6:00 PM. We will be participating in the final Tuesday night cruise night of the summer.

Coming in October is our annual color tour. It is scheduled for Saturday, October 12. More details to come.

Looking further out, we will have a meeting in November to hold our elections for Board of Directors and the Christmas Party is scheduled for December 7.

There are a few car shows in the month of August. Of note is the 28th Street Metro Cruise on August 23 - 24 and the Berger Chevrolet All GM Show on August 24. For a full schedule of car shows, please see the [Events](#) page on the club website.



WMCC Calendar

September 10 - WMCC Meeting at Fricano's on Alpine; 6 PM

September 17 - WMCC Board Meeting at TBD, 6 PM

October 12 - Fall Color Tour

November 19 - WMCC Meeting

December 7 - Christmas Party

President's Prose

By Dave Dykwell

Not sure how we did it, considering we had an outdoor WMCC Event planned (our 50th Anniversary Picnic) but the weather turned out to be absolutely perfect. We had a good turnout of Club members and plenty of food. Thanks again to Ry C. for exercising his Smoking skills (meat not weed) making the group a big batch of Pulled Pork and two home-made BBQ sauces. Thanks to Dan for his fearless delivery of meat products and to Dave Z. for braving the GFS Store for all other sundry items. Lastly I'd like to thank our dedicated brother Rob VanSledright for originally making our Club Sign (an educated guess here). Neglected and retrieved from a dusty barn corner, I gave it a little love so we could rally around it once more. I know Rob and Linda were smiling. Hey, now our Club Sign will live until our 75th Anniversary proudly refreshed by our current President Edison C.. If you missed our 50th Anniversary Picnic, Ralph would have been disappointed.



This past weekend the Club attended the show of shows – The Red Barns Spectacular. We had a good showing with ten Corvairs of various years, including Lectka's Van of many colors. Luckily, the volunteer directors noticed we arrived as a Club and directed us to an outside row to park together as a group – directly across the road from where we used to park as a Club years ago. As a person who likes to attend several shows a season, Red Barns continues to amaze me each year. With over 1,000 cars, three dozen vendors, judged cars and antique trailers I find it totally impossible to take it all in. The “Woodie Club” was the feature and did not disappoint. Chrysler Town & Countries were certainly the Gold Medal winners in the day. John and Kathy K. were there camping with their motorhome. Bill and Liz Wright also showed – great to see Bill up and in good spirits. A hot and memorable day!

Last month I mentioned that a person could easily buy a decent Corvair for \$500 back in 1970. Then, I spotted an interesting article on Facebook talking about the TEN X Factor. Caused me to think a little about it so I tested the theory. The Factor takes 70's prices of major purchases and multiplies them by ten to arrive at today's prices. Pre-Embargo Gas was .35 a gallon, today \$3.50. A normal new car was \$3,100 and today \$31,000. You could buy an average three-bedroom bungalow for \$25,000 and today it's going for \$250,000. In 1972 minimum wage was \$1.35. Today, our politicians want it to be \$13.50. So what do you think - accurate or close? Shows you how good a deal Little Caesars is ... today's \$6.00 pizza did not sell for .60 in 70. Come to think about it, your \$500 Corvair does not go for \$50,000 either. Well, maybe a fully restored Rampside might if you're crazy?

Soon, we'll be closing out the '24 season and the Club has a few more events on the Calendar for you to enjoy. Once we confirm with Bob Muir, the Club was considering a simple "meet up" at his Lake Michigan cottage late August. With the water nearly 75 degrees now it sure sounds good to me. If it holds, it will be a BYO drinks and food. Watch for Dave Z's email blast if it comes together. We're also planning to attend the last Cruise-In of the year at Fricano's Alpine on Tuesday, September 10th. Then we'll follow that up with our annual Color Tour mid-October. See you there or be square.

Monthly Auto Fun Fact: The first car with a push-button start was the 1912 Cadillac M30 (a regular button - not under the gas pedal). The first "keyless" start car was the Mercedes S Class in 1998. If you needed a spare key in 1970, you could get one for .75. Today, that lost Key Fob costs you \$75!

Respectfully, DAVE

50th Anniversary Picnic Recap

Just shy of 30 people attended the 50th Anniversary celebration of the West Michigan Corvair Club on July 20. It was held at Fallasburg Park in Lowell. Fallasburg Park was purposely picked as our first club picnic was held there in 1974. It was a very warm day so most of us just sat in the shade and socialized. A few did try their hand at cornhole however. The club provided most of the food, including a 50th Anniversary cake, and a few people brought some tasty side dishes. Even though he was not able to attend, Ryan Counterman did smoke some pork for us to enjoy along with some of his homemade sauces. Thank you, Ryan! We also welcomed Scott and Heather Olivier back from Tennessee! Below are a few pictures from the picnic.



WMCC History - Club Picnics

A very popular activity for the West Michigan Corvair Club has been having a picnic. It is always a great opportunity for us to get our cars out and just enjoy socializing in an outdoor atmosphere.

The first picnic was held on June 2, 1974 at Fallasburg Park in Lowell. There were 21 people and eight Corvairs in attendance. In 1983, we invited other local car clubs to join us at Fallasburg Park.

By the mid-1980s, there were a lot of other activities happening around the club so we did not have an annual picnic. We participated in many mall shows and parades in the summer so that is when we gathered and socialized.

In the late 1980s through 1990, we revived the annual picnic and it was held in conjunction with a fun road rally. Most of the time, the picnic was held at the home of Jim and Barb Kurtz on Silver Lake in Rockford. Once the fun runs ended, we rotated where we held the yearly picnic; Pinery Park, Charlton Park, Hager Park, and Milham Park in Kalamazoo (as part of a tour of the Air Zoo) were some of the places we held picnics throughout the 1990s.

In 1999, we held our 25th Anniversary celebration at Fallasburg Park. As part of the festivities, we honored our surviving charter members: Jack Corcoran, Bob Laubscher, John Shipman, and Rob Van Sledright.

Some time in the mid-2000s, we started the Chicken BBQ event. The club would provide the chicken and a volunteer from the club would man the grill. Some of our grillmasters were Dave Dykwell, Bill Wright, John Koning, Ryan Counterman, and Scott Olivier. The Countermans initially hosted us and in 2016 we moved to Bob Muir's cottage on Lake Michigan. We grilled chicken every year except for 2013 (CORSAs Convention), 2014 (40th Anniversary Picnic), and 2020 (COVID). In 2021, we decided to start catering our main course so everyone could enjoy themselves and someone wouldn't be tied to the grill most of the day.

In 2014 we held our 40th Anniversary picnic at Fallasburg Park and in 2024 we held our 50th Anniversary picnic at Fallasburg Park. Fallasburg Park seems to be popular for us.

Hopefully Bob Muir will have us back to his cottage in 2025.

Below are some pictures from some of the more recent picnics.



Left - charter members John Shipman and Jack Corcoran at the 25th Anniversary picnic in 1999, Right - Corvairs at Fallasburg Park at the 25th Anniversary picnic in 1999



Left - Dave Dykwell, Ryan Counterman, and Bill Wright at the grill at the 2009 Chicken BBQ, Right - the ladies of the West Michigan Corvair Club at the 40th Anniversary picnic in 2014



Left - Corvairs crossing the covered bridge at Fallasburg Park in 2014, Right - 2016 summer picnic



Left - swimming in Lake Michigan at the 2017 summer picnic, Right - 2018 summer picnic



Left - 2021 summer picnic, Right - 2023 summer picnic

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