

What's Going On

This month is our annual color tour! It is scheduled for Saturday, October 12. We will be meeting at Fricano's on Alpine at 10:00 AM. We will attempt to use a route similar to what we planned last year (but was rained out two weeks in a row). We will end up in either Fremont or Newaygo for lunch around 12:00 - 12:30.

It is that time of year for nominations for Board of Directors. If you have someone you would like to nominate or you would like to nominate yourself, please send an email to Dave Ziebarth at zvair65@gmail.com. We have four expiring terms this year: Ryan Counterman, Dave Dykwell, Matt Zerilli, and Dave Ziebarth. Dave Dykwell has already volunteered to serve another two year term as has Dave Ziebarth. Scott Olivier has also volunteered to serve a two year term. That leaves one more opening. If we have the exact number of people needed to fill the vacancies, then we will not be having a November meeting for elections as it will not be needed. However, if an election is required, we will have a meeting on Tuesday, November 19. We will let you know in the November newsletter if a meeting will take place.

The Christmas Party is scheduled for Saturday, December 7. It will be held at the home of Scott and Heather Olivier. Look for more details in a future newsletter.



WMCC Calendar

October 12 - Fall Color Tour; meet at Fricano's on Alpine at 10 AM

November 19 - WMCC Meeting (tentative)

December 7 - Christmas Party

President's Prose

By Dave Dykwell

It could very well be our best ever - Color Tour 2024, Saturday, October 12th. According to our local Chief Meteorologist and Skills Center Graduate, the peak color for our area is the exact same weekend. This year, Doug Lectka graciously volunteered to draw up the route for a tour around the Newaygo area with a final stop at the Newaygo Brewery. Our rally spot will once again be Fricanos. This year we're going Full-Tilt. Rain or shine with NO rain date. So, if you don't want to drive the Vair in the rain we fully understand. Grab the daily driver instead ... no excuses. See Dave Z's article for any more details.

Excuses come easy but this time I simply spaced it. After a wonderful time in the UP (the Soo and Drummond Island The Rock Golf Resort) I totally messed up and missed the Pure Stock Drags at the Stanton Dragway. I am bummed. Guess I'll have to catch up by waiting for my Hemmings magazine. However, the FAST Group does have their Fall Finals on the schedule at 131 Motor Speedway. It's still TBD but it usually happens mid to late October. A few years back, Doug L., Dan K. and I went and got in free with only a handful of spectators there. The event may be a little late in the season but it's amazing to see how well (fast) the newest generation of muscle cars can actually do the quarter mile. Mopars, Mustangs, Corvettes and Camaros with computerized traction/launch control blow me away.

Speaking of being blown away, I am still totally amazed at the C-8 Corvette. To think this car comes off of a normal GM Production line is what gets me. The engineering is way beyond the norm. To top it all off, the 2025 Corvette ZR1 will have 1,064 horses at 7,000 RPM with 828 lb-ft of torque from Chevy's new 5.5 liter DOHC twin turbo V-8 (LT7). Top speed estimate 215 mph. Quarter mile under 8 seconds. Think about that for a while. If you can, I urge you to ask a C-8 owner if you could kindly sit in their car or better yet go for a ride after the show. Heaven knows you'll see a dozen C-8's at any given Car Show and Vette owners are always glad to brag about their cars.

Yes, it's that time of year again ... Winter Storage. I always get a kick out of reading all the various know-it-all articles about what you should and shouldn't do to or for your beloved classic to store it. A lot of hype really, at least it seems so. I've asked several of our members what they do and their answers surprised me. Some do nothing but park it! Others change the oil, filter, squirt a little grease, check the tire pressure and top off the tank right up to the neck. That sounds good to me. I also put a moisture barrier under my cars, throw in a few fresh stinky dryer sheets and cover after a good wax job. Spring is another story for Scott to cover later. Wink, wink.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for our November 19th General Membership Meeting where we'll elect a new slate of self-less volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors. Member terms expiring include Dave D. (President), Ryan C. (Vice Pres.), Dave Z. (Secretary) and Matt Z. (Director). If you'd like to nominate someone, even yourself, let Dave Z. or me know as early as possible. New blood is always good and your perspectives are valued.

In closing, here's some good news and bad news. Bad news is that my eighth term as President is quickly coming to an end. Good news is that you won't have to be subjected to my articles any more. Monthly Auto Fun Fact: According to the 2024 SEMA Report, the average new vehicle now costs

\$48,586. The average used vehicle costs \$25,251. Average on-road vehicle age is 12.6 years, highest in a decade.

Respectfully, DAVE

September Recap

Our September meeting was held at Fricano's on the 10th. We participated in their cruise night. We only had three Corvairs from the club show up (Dykwells, Dennis Willson, and Dave Ziebarth). The Oliviers were there as well but they had to drive their daily driver as their fuel pump was leaking. There was also a very nice Rampside there. It's unfortunate that we had such a low turnout so maybe we'll try to find somewhere else to meet next summer.



WMCC History - Color Tours

One constant event in the history of the West Michigan Corvair Club has been a fall color tour. We had had one almost every year of our existence unless we had a rainout (apparently Y2K caused an issue in 2000 as we didn't have one then that I could see). The first mention of a color tour was in the September 1975 newsletter. The club was going to use the September membership meeting to gauge interest and try to plan one. I could not find any evidence that it ended up happening. In 1977 we had a rallye to go along with the color tour. So not only did you admire the colors, you also had to pay attention to other details (number of railroad crossings, exit numbers, church service start time) to answer a rallye quiz.

For a few years we would tour just north of Grand Rapids and end up at either Bob Laubscher's home on Bill's Lake or Gerry Miske's cottage on Pine Island Lake. These tours would usually end in a potluck.

There were some years where we would have a color tour with other car clubs. In 1986 we toured the Battle Creek area with the Detroit Area Corvair Club, Bryan (Ohio) Corvair Club, and Michiana Corvair Club. In the early 1990s we would combine with the West Michigan Pontiac Club, West Michigan Mustang Club, and West Michigan Collector Car Club. Starting in 1994, it was just us and the West Michigan Pontiac club and we would take turns planning the tour. 1999 was the last year we combined with another club.

In 2001 we made our way to Saugatuck to the car collection of WMCC member Bill Klage. After spending some time admiring Bill's cars, he led us on a tour of Saugatuck. One memory is the parking lot at Oval Beach was almost entirely covered in sand. Most of us managed to get through it but Rob VanSledright "beached" his Corvair so we had to help him push it out.

Other destinations over the years include the R.E. Olds Museum in Lansing, Apple Blossom Festival in Bangor, Oktoberfest car show in Pentwater (twice), Oktoberfest parade in Douglas, various wineries and orchards, and an old Sinclair gas station that was restored into Jollay's Dairy Bar near Coloma. In 2016 we combined the color tour with our overnight trip and went to the Studebaker Museum in South Bend and the RV/Motorhome Hall of Fame in Elkhart.

Even COVID did not stop us from having a color tour. In 2020 we made our way up to Ludington and dined outdoors at Ludington Bay Brewing Company.

Other restaurants we stopped at over the years include Squires Inn and Woodshed Pub in Rockford, What-Not-Inn in Fennville, The Brown Bear in Pentwater, Sam's Joint near Gun Lake, Cornwell's Turkeyville in Marshall, 57 Brewpub & Bistro in Greenville, and Big Hart Brewing Company in Hart.

Below are a few pictures from past color tours.



Left - 1999 color tour, Right - Lined up in Bill Klage's driveway in 2001



Left - Lunch at 57 Brewpub & Bistro in 2014, Right - Cody Kresta Winery parking lot in 2015



Left - Jollay's Dairy Bar in 2015, Right - 2020 color tour

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