

Lifter Noise

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What's Going On

Our event for this month is a tech session. We will be helping Scott Olivier remove and install a fuel tank on his 1963 convertible. It will be held on Saturday, November 15 at 9:30 AM at Scott's house. Details are in his monthly "President's Prose" column below.

Planning is underway for our annual holiday party. It will be held on Saturday, December 20 at the home of Jamie and Tanya Reinhart. Social hour will start at 2:00 PM with dinner being served at 3:00 PM. The club is providing a ham. We are asking everyone to bring either a side dish, appetizer, or dessert as well as your own beverages. The Reinharts live at 8928 Stonepoint Court in Jenison.

Another bit of club business that needs to be taken care of is the election for our Board of Directors. We have three people whose time on the board is coming to an end - John Cole, Doug Lectka, and Steve Vander Helm. While these three can be re-elected, we also encourage new participation. If you feel like you want to contribute, feel free to nominate yourself! We will accept nominations through email and at the holiday party when we do the election. Send an email to zvair65@gmail.com if you want to nominate yourself and cannot attend the holiday party.

We will also be accepting dues payments for 2026 at the holiday party. Dues are \$25 for 2026.

Please join me in welcoming Matt and Melissa Flowers to the West Michigan Corvair Club! They have been members for a few months but we finally got a chance to meet them at the color tour. They live in Grand Rapids and own a 1966 Monza convertible.

WMCC Calendar

November 15 - Tech session at Scott Olivier's house; 9:30 AM

December 20 - Holiday Party; 2:00 PM

For a complete list of car shows and cruise nights, check out the [Events](#) page on the club website.

President's Prose

by Scott Olivier

Greetings, West Michigan Corvairians,

The turnout for the WMCC Fall Color Tour was fantastic—13 Corvairs! We had an absolutely perfect fall day, and I'm glad we pushed the event back a week due to the forecasted rain, because we nailed peak fall color. In my first stint as president, I was staunchly against postponing events because I believed last-minute audibles would reduce attendance—I thought it better to just forge ahead and not confuse people. The pushback of the Color Tour has changed my mind—I believe we got even more participants than if we'd held the event on the planned date. Experience grants wisdom.

It was especially cool to hang with our newer members and get to know them better. New members are the lifeblood of a car club, bringing unique ideas and energy. I don't know what the club has done differently in the past couple of years to attract new folks to join, but whatever it is, I hope we keep doing it. We've recently seen the club grow in leaps and bounds, and I know the longtime members enjoy the infusion of new faces.

The feedback from the membership has been that you enjoy tech sessions, so we have one coming up this weekend. I'll be replacing the rusty gas tank on my '63 **this Saturday, 11/15**, hopefully with the help and expertise of the club. For those interested, we'll start at 9:30am at our home at **9469 Lake Gerald Dr NE, Sparta, MI 49345**. I've had the new tank for weeks, along with new hangers and strap, and I've been dutifully spritzing the 1963-vintage mounting bolts with PB Blaster a few times a day for nearly a week in preparation for the offending tank's removal. Everything I've read says that the removal isn't the hard part—it's the installation of the new tank. Getting the filler hose attached to the car is reportedly un-fun. If you're interested in hearing me utter choice words while covered in gasoline, I encourage you to attend.

As I had the car up in the air for the application of penetrating oil, a few other issues became evident. One is that the steering box is weeping. That will need to be rebuilt, which is a great excuse for another tech session later in the winter or in the spring. Another is that the pitman arm bushing is pretty much gone. Tech session? The brakes maybe aren't that great. Tech session? The shocks look like they might be original to the car, and she's a bit bouncy. Tech session? Exciting stuff. I'm going to have to hide the Visa bill from Heather.

Anyhoo....I hope to see at least some of ya'll this Saturday. It'll be good to see you.

Scott

Color Tour Recap

Well it looks like it was a good idea to delay our color tour by one week. While it was cooler the week we actually held it, it was not wet. We had 13 Corvairs and a couple of other cars meet up at Grand Rapids Ophthalmology on 28th St. on October 25. From there we had a very nice drive to north of Lowell where we stopped at The Orchards at Red Barn for some cider and donuts (plus a bonus “hay ride” from the shuttle lot to the orchard). A few of us bought some apples as well. Once we got our fill of cider, we took the “hay ride” back to our cars and got on the road to north of Greenville where we had lunch at Turk Lake Restaurant. Thank you to Scott Olivier for planning the route. We had a lot of great color! Below are a few pictures. There should be more on the club website soon.



It's a Generational Thing

by Dave Dykwell

I came across what I thought was an interesting car-related article on Google last week. It talked about a study that was conducted on DIY Oil Changes. Apparently, the Union for Auto Parts Stores or similar obscure funding source [2024 MarketWatch actually] was upset about the significant drop in oil and filter purchases over the past several years. Can we blame those "quick lubes"? Was it due to how well cars are built today? Is it the Economy or Global Warming? All good questions worthy of a study, I'm sure.

Turns out it could be a generational thing. They determined that only 44% of US car owners in fact change their own oil any more. Of those, "Silents" [born '25-'45] came in at 3%. I can see that. Hard to get that low to the ground and can't get back up. "Boomers" ['46-'64], that's most of us right now, say only 17% of them change their own. Which seems low but most Boomers are flush. "GenX" ['65-'79] and Millennials['80-'94] came in at 12%. Again, seems low but both generations would rather pay someone else to do the messy work. But, here's the interesting part. "GenZ", ['95- '12], say that nearly 55% of them change their own oil. There's your market guys! Here's the kicker... they hate Auto Parts Stores and the mind-less employees they hire. Amazon is cheaper, super convenient and together with YouTube it's all they need. Not all Studies tell you what you want to hear.

Did you hear that the quickest time for Drag Racing of Top-Fuel dragsters has just been broken? And, Shirley Muldowney is once again geeked since it was a female who did it. Brittany Force recently drove her Top Fueler to a record 343.6 miles per hour down the quarter. And, she was quoted as believing she can do even better! You Go Girl!

Lastly, I finally figured out how to cure our summer droughts. We're going to put three WMCC Events on the calendar in June, July and August. It will rain consistently that way. Plus, next year's Color Tour will be on the calendar for the third Saturday in October as usual but in reality ... we'll have it the following weekend. It will be beautiful and sunny!

Dave D.

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