

# LEEKY



# SEEL

CORVAIR MINNESOTA NEWSLETTER

July 2012

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I was reading my President's Page from July, 2011. In it I recounted seeing a vintage Corvette suffering an unfortunate run in with a Dodge Avenger. Something similar happened after GMCCA this year. Anyone who left the Fairgrounds and went north on Snelling Avenue probably noticed the traffic lights were not working. This led to some very heavy traffic and it cost the driver of a very nice looking Buick Skylark the front of his car. He rear ended the car in front of him. I had actually talked to him at the show and he told me he had two Skylarks there, one was the base model and the other, the one with the front end mangled, was the top of the line. It just re-emphasized to me the importance of attentive, defensive driving. It also made me wonder if events like GMCCA and Back to the Fifties should be held somewhere other than the State Fairgrounds. Given the amount of traffic and the additional issue of road and light rail construction, it might not be a bad idea to find something outside of the metro.

Cara and I took Friday afternoon to attend Back to the Fifties. The weather was great (and the traffic was horrible). We saw a lot of great looking cars including several Corvairs. We also saw some rather interesting cars (I'm being kind) and some unique color combinations, such as pink and mint green. Cara referred to this as "When Sherbet Goes Bad." We walked through the Mecum Auto Auction Preview and I was informed I was forbidden to come back on Saturday for the bidding. That reminds me, my Mercedes is still for sale in Mankato. There were some nice cars for auction including a black late coupe with red interior with no reserve. I also looked at a '66 Mustang the same yellow color as my '69 Corvair and didn't see the appeal the car. It just struck me as boring and a little flimsy. However the Mustang sold for \$16,750 while the Corvair only went for \$3,600. To each their own I guess.



Our next meeting will be at the Minnetonka Drive-in in Spring Park. We always have a great turn-out for this venue so plan on getting there early, and drive safe!!!

Stay Tuned,  
Lee Knauf  
President.



# CORVAIR MINNESOTA

**June 12, 2012**

President Lee Knauf called the meeting to order at 7:00 at Wagner's North. Attendance was high including Cara Knauf's extended family. We welcomed new member Deniece Munkelwitz, owner of the orange '68 Monza convertible we saw at Jim Brandberg's open house.

**April Minutes:** Approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ray reports we have \$3073 in our treasury.

## Recent Events:

**May 19:** Jim Brandberg's open house and lunch at his repair facility in Isanti was very well attended, thank you, Jim.

**June 8-9:** National Inventors' Congress in Redwood Falls. Fran had a conflict, but Rich Storlie attended and has meat for future tech sessions.

**June 10:** GMCCA car show at the State Fair Grounds. It was a perfect day but we did not better our record of 32 vehicles last year. Rich Buratto and Bruce Hubbard won in the open class; Tyson's coupe and Peter's Greenbrier won the closed class. Thank you to everyone who worked the gate

## Upcoming Events:

**June 16 & 17: Stone Arch Car & Art Show.**

**July 4 Parade:** We will enhance the Edina parade as usual followed by a picnic hosted by the lovely Schmit home with Ray Alexander assuming the chef duties. Lineup will be about 9 a.m., parade and cookout details to follow. Plans are for us to grace the Delano parade next year.

**July 10:** Monthly meeting at the Minnetonka Drive Inn.

**July 13 – 15:** Iola WI. Bill Cook has once again found us good hotel rates for Friday night at the Stay Inn & Suites.

**July 27 – 29:** Little Log House in Hastings is highly recommended. They added the Porky's Drive-In last year.

**September 1:** Fire and Ice returns to Marshalltown, Iowa. . .it is worth the trip!

**Sept 8: Classics by the Lake, Buffalo.**

**Sept 15 – 16: Fall Run:** Fran has found lodging so all systems are go. He had to reserve rooms using his personal credit card, SO PAY FRAN! Activities will include a tour of the Commemorative Air Force Museum Saturday and the Prudden domain on Sunday.

**2013 National CORSA Convention:** Kalamazoo, Michigan won the competition to host this event. This is a drivable distance, so you now have only **11** months to complete your projects for display! There are a number of great car museums in the area so plan on attending.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:34.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Johnson

## Treasurer's Report June, 2012

By *Ray Alexander*, CMI Treasurer

**May 08, 2012 Balance** **\$3400.73**

### Income:

|                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Dues                 | \$80.00        |
| Parts sold           | \$7.00         |
| <b>Total Income:</b> | <b>\$87.00</b> |

### Expenses:

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| "Leaky Seel" Printing                  | \$78.91          |
| "Leaky Seel" Postage                   | \$25.65          |
| Messiah United Methodist (rentals)     | \$100.00         |
| Fran Schmit (BOD dinners)              | \$75.00          |
| Bill Cook (Pancake Breakfast supplies) | \$97.75          |
| Chuck Johnson (P'cake B'fast supplies) | \$36.92          |
| <b>Total Expenses:</b>                 | <b>-\$414.23</b> |

**June 12, 2012 Balance** **\$3073.50**



## Thoughts on the AAH experience

2 miles is a long way to go when you are walking in the DITCH! The Adopt A Highway section that CMI has taken on is a 2 mile stretch of Hiway 55 just west of Co Rd 19. Anyone familiar with Hiway55 knows where the BIG WOODS tavern is - - this section is immediately west of the BIG WOODS. Fortunately for us AAHers there is a very nice restaurant next door to the BIG WOODS called Dobo's Café. Anyone interested in a nice breakfast, feel free to drop in at Dobo's.

Now: more to the point of the AAH program. We walked in the ditch and picked up junk. None of us found any toxic waste or DRUG paraphernalia so that part was uneventful. We did find animals that were victims of "road kill", but most of them were long dead so they weren't even smelly! We found lots of car parts and truck parts along with an abundance of paper and plastic stuff that had been carried by someone to this place of "pitch it in the ditch". The material we picked up fell mostly into the last category, as expected, but I was surprised at the amount of car parts left from crashes - one lone tree had a particularly huge stash of front end shrapnel that was apparently supposed to disintegrate by itself in a hundred or so years. The tree was 50 feet from the road, all by itself, and had apparently been the unforgiving target of an errant automobile.

The grass had been cut last fall so it was only 6-8 inches tall...definitely walkable but not the "Ditch Pitch" - remember we were not on the road but on the side of the road that is definitely sloping downward - at a steep PITCH. Like I said the Ditch Pitch was a killer! After a couple hours of walking in the heavy grass with one leg shorter than the other It became obvious to me that this was going to be painful. Fortunately it rained and we called off the first run after only a mile or so. A few days later we came back with better weather and I had fortified my body with some Ibuprofen. Needless to say it all went splendidly for the second try at AAH.

We found a lot of stuff that had been there for years so I doubt we will need to do this more than twice a year, but we will let that decision be made by our chairperson Cliff Picht. He coordinated the whole process and got the yellow vests and the bags and coordinated the shuttle bus - provided ably by Carol Cook who ran back and forth keeping us all in our proper places.

AAH - a good program and a fun time for all - especially when we can start off so well with such a good breakfast!

*Fran Schmit*

*Editors note: watch the SEEL for an opportunity to work CMI's stretch of road in the fall.*

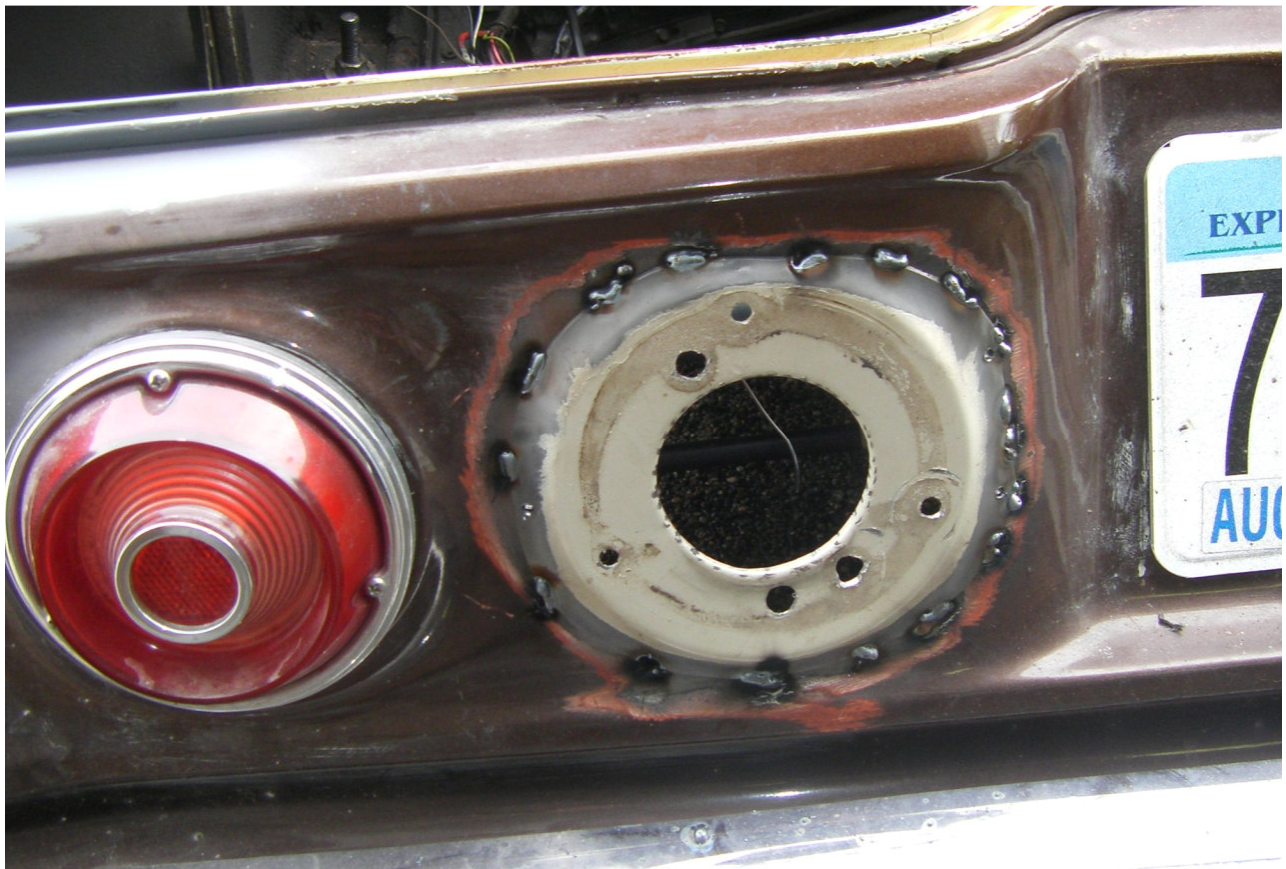


## A quick project for 2012

Since my Red Car began "movin' on" I have been working on a '66 2dr. It came from the factory with the standard 'inadequate' rear lighting (remember how good the '58 Impala's rear lights were?) so I got a pair of back-up light 'stampings' from Jim Brandberg and started snipping on them. Jim gave me two square panels that he deftly removed from a donor car. He gave me more iron than I needed so I started to snip and 'feel' the pieces onto the body in that "correct spot". Each time I cut - it got better and closer to what I wanted. When I was pretty certain the project was a "GO" I got out the screw gun and nailed the pieces onto the car! Then I measured to see they were in the right spot....there was some readjustment, but basically I knew what I wanted - - since I wanted them to look exactly the same as the rear lights on my '67.

Once the new holes were in place I started to cut away the old body pieces underneath. A sawzall works great for this job. I cut several times (which is why I had screwed the panels in place) and used each cut as a measuring tool to see that I didn't go too far. When I decided to stop cutting there was about a one inch overlap...good enough! With the screws still in place I tack welded all around the new panels, with about an inch between each tack. See pics.

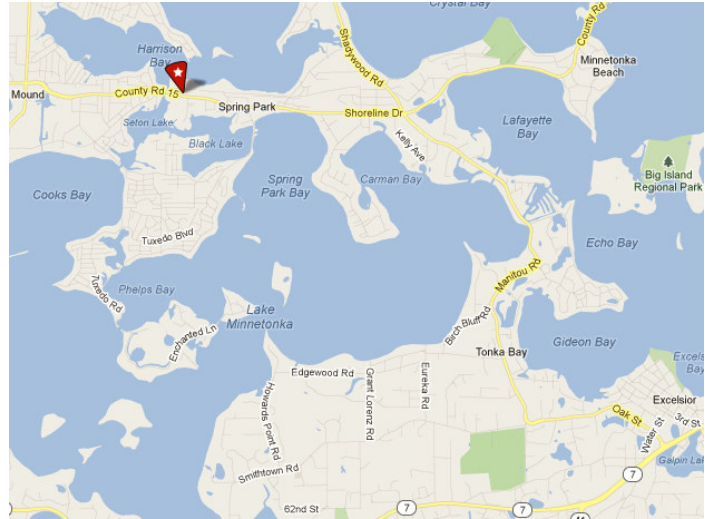
These first two views of this operation show both sides of the welds and the overlap of the panels. I felt the overlap was functional as the welded area is now double strength and should be able to withstand my brute force style of body work!



# Corvair Minnesota Upcoming Events



July 10<sup>th</sup> Membership meeting  
4658 Shoreline Dr, Spring Park, MN 6:30 p.m.



- July**
- 04 Fourth of July Parade, Edina (9 a.m.) – Post Parade Picnic @ Fran & Mary Schmit's house.
  - 10 Membership meeting - Minnetonka Drive-in in Spring Park, 6:30 p.m.
  - 20 Car Craft Summer Nationals Car show, State Fairgrounds <http://www.familyevents.com/event/233>
  - 25-28 CORSA National Convention Sturbridge, MA <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/necc/convention/>
  - 26 Board of Directors
  - 27-29 Little Log House show, Hastings [www.littleloghouseshow.com](http://www.littleloghouseshow.com)
  - 27-29 Kolacky Days, Montgomery, MN
- August**
- 14 Membership meeting - Peppermint Twist in Delano, 6:30 p.m.
  - 17-19 Corn-on-the-Cob Days, Plainview, MN
  - 25 Christ's Cross Car & Craft Show, Ham Lake [www.christscrosscarclub.org](http://www.christscrosscarclub.org)
  - 30 Board of Directors
- Sept**
- 08 Classics by the Lake, Buffalo, MN 10am – 2pm (<http://www.buffalo-mn.org/events.htm>)
  - 11 Membership meeting - Tin Shed in Savage, 6:30
  - 15-16 Fall cruise to Duluth
  - 27 Board of Directors

We will drive to Duluth on Saturday. The 15th will feature a private viewing and interpretation of the Airplane that is being restored by the Duluth Commemorative Air Force. They intend that it will fly and land in Duluth Harbor summer 2013! We stay in town the 15th. Sept 16 a fun day at the PRUDDEN ESTATE also high up on the hills above Duluth. Peter, Patty and progeny will feed and delight us as we tour their prestigious grounds. We can return home in the PM of Sept 16.

Where we will stay Saturday night.....

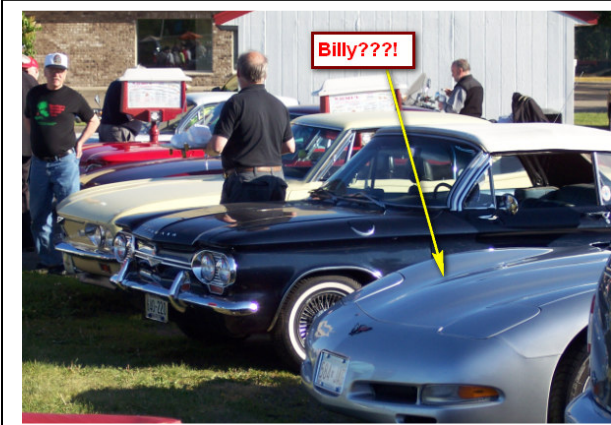
Days Inn: Up by the airport, across from Miller Mall - - Duluth, MN. {909 Cottonwood Ave, 55811}  
I have guaranteed 9 rooms for Sept 15 at a 15% discounted price...with Tax it will be \$140\$. Room will have one queen size bed - non smoking - free continental breakfast - free WiFi and a fridge. In order to keep track of how many rooms are being taken - - PLEASE - - reserve your room with me. Those 9 who reserve their room with me will get my discounted price - discounted because I gave them my credit card now (in June) for those rooms in Sept -  
If CMI needs more than 9 we need to find that out..... now by signing up WITH ME...I can try to add more rooms at the discounted price.  
Since all the rooms are the same you can pick any one on Sept 15, and pay the hotel for it then - - which gets it off my card!!!!

I will have made this same announcement at Wagner's (North) on June 12 **Fran**



## June Drive-in meeting

Our membership meeting for June (on the 12<sup>th</sup>) was at Wagner's Drive-in in Brooklyn Park. The weather was great, the food was great, the attendance was great and the meeting was short (great!).



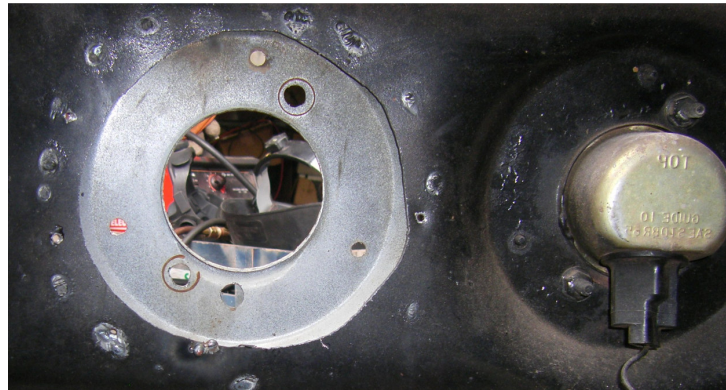
The Wag-Niters Car Club welcomes you!



The Wag-Niters was established during a Monday Night Cruise Night at Wagner's Drive In. All summer, we meet at Wagner's with our cars to socialize on Monday nights. There is no age limit for cars, or for people. Come join us for the only local valve cover races! All are welcome to come: just bring a lawn chair, grab a burger, and hang out with friends - old and new!

Wagner's Drive In is located just north of 694 and Hwy 81 on West Broadway

For those who don't know how slick the inside of this light area is on the factory model you can see the smooth area around the backup light socket in the second photo.



My body working will attempt to simulate this internal view! With that in mind see the third photo of the inside after that inner panel was torched and hammered. This effort produced two sort-of matching curved sections – that's why they had to be strong! Bondo and sandpaper should produce an acceptable inner view....I hope. Grinding off the external high points of the tack welds leaves us with the basic third light ready for the Bondo man.



**Fran**

## New member Ashley Ackley and her car.

These pictures were taken at Jim Brandberg's Open Garage, where Ashley officially joined CMI and met a number of CMI members (& immediately got some good advice from Fran).



Ashley looks on as John checks out her '64 Convertible, with PINK accents. Note the LM-tattoo on a person who loves EARLIES!! She says it fit better!



Ashley turns up the idle air screw on her driver's side carburetor since the engine idled a bit slow in Drive.



Ashley has installed a docking station for her I-phone in the EARLY ashtray. Note the Pink/white interior accents!! Also the record player with a real record on it!!!

[ed. note: this player is a Crosley, currently available on the internet]

**FRAN**



# CMI Classifieds

## FOR SALE

- '64 - steering box (core value \$145.00) rebuilt \$185.00
- '62 - 3 piece front trim NOS \$250.00
- '65 - front grill - very good \$100.00
- '63 - 700 rocker trim (narrow) NOS
- '62 - 500/700 (narrow) rocker trim NOS
- '61 - '63 car steering box - used (core value \$125.00) \$125.00
- '65 - '66 steering box - used (core value \$125.00) \$125.00
- '65 - '69 headlight bezels NOS (1 right, 2 left)
- '64 rear exhaust air grill NOS

Jerry Berge 480-250-8816

\*\*\*\*\*

|       |                                    |            |
|-------|------------------------------------|------------|
| 65    | Rocker panel trim                  | \$150.00   |
| 64    | NOS Rear Grill                     | \$150.00   |
| all   | 2 Speed Wiper Motor w/wire harness | \$ 20.00   |
| 65-69 | Clock NOS                          | \$ 65.00   |
|       | Used distributor                   | \$ 25.00   |
| 65    | Good Used Hub Caps (4)             | \$ 40.00   |
| all   | Licence Plates, 62-64 w/tabs, 65   | \$10.00/pr |
| all   | Rear Engine Comp. Rubber seal      | \$ 10.00   |
| all   | Oil Filter Adapter w Bolt          | \$ 20.00   |
|       | Late front Spoiler, repairable     | \$ 10.00   |
|       | Late dash Shifter Lever            | \$ 5.00    |

Assorted Tune up Parts price on each item  
Rich Buratto 612-743-6706

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To All - The time has come to sell two of my Corvairs. Which two depends on the interest of possible buyers, currently I have '64 Spyder Coupe, '63 Spyder cvt. and "Fred" ('61 flatbed). Most of you are familiar with the cars, because I've had them all for several years. If you have an interest in any/ ALL, e-mail me, or call 763-427-7331, Cell # 612-418-3636 Thanks, Wally Couture



Flat Fred

\*\*\*\*\*

To all the CMI'ers, It has come time to sell my **1964** Corvair Monza Convertible (aka Trophy Magnet) I have owned this car for 23 years. I wanted to let CMI know that the car was up for sale before I put it on Craigslist, etc. Most of you know the car from GMCCA, Stone Arch Show, Edina Parade, etc. This car got a Bronze at the Cedar Rapids 2010 CORSA National Convention. I recently sold my yellow 65 and red 63 Spyder. The black 64 is the last to go. No I'm not abandoning CMI, just doing some other things, and need to be able to get all my vehicles in the garage. Thanks Rich Buratto 612-743-6706



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**New:** Engine electrical harness, ball joints, Pertronix ignition; headers (110 and 140); custom exhaust; Wallen rebuilt starters generators and alternators; mufflers; rebuilt flywheels; new belly pan for late; crank and rod bearings.

**Used parts:** complete engines, transmissions, differentials: call for parts – I have a large inventory.

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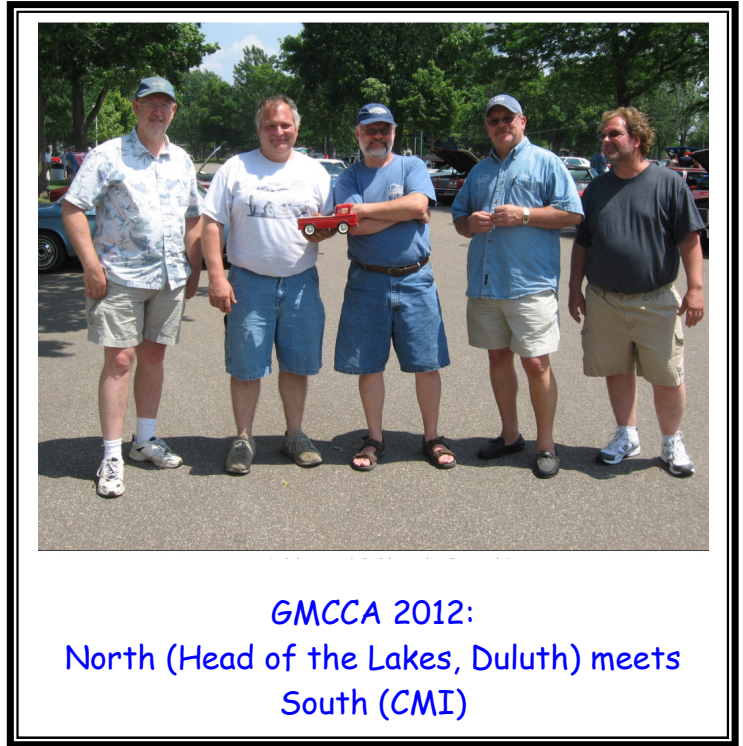
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**CMI is a non-profit corporation, chartered with The CORVAIR Society of America. Send CORVAIR Minnesota's \$20.00 annual dues, payable by Jan 01, to the CMI Treasurer. Membership in CORVAIR Minnesota entitles you to the monthly newsletter, "The Leeky Seel", with free ads for members, a club window sticker, discounts on club activities, information on parts availability, and good advice on the preservation and enjoyment of the CORVAIR automobile.... Yeah!**

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*Lots of 2012 activities to come -will we see you?*