

THE Aircooler

DETROIT AREA CORVAIR CLUB

ESTABLISHED 1974

Volume 4, Issue 3

50 YEARS AS YOUR CORVAIR CLUB

March 2024

From The Dashboard of Your DACC President,

Pete Cimbala Corvairkid1963@lentel.com; (8) We had another nice winter evening for the February meeting with dry roads and two Corvairs in the parking lot, and the rest of the week was nice as well. The Chrome and Ice Winter Car Event in Flint had perfect weather for the drive in for set up day Thursday and the ride home on Sunday. There was a Corvair entered for the fourth time in nine years when Dave Martin entered the former Dave Munaco's Government Van in the Green Arena. Over the years Marvin had the Copper Brier the second year, C S Mott's 69 Monza and the late Kurt Graham's Corvan that was a top 25 winner a few years ago. It was great to see everyone over the three days and those club members that came for the Second Saturday Breakfast had a good feed from what I heard. Up next is Autorama and you may find a Corvair there, maybe more than one? Registration is open for the big Homecoming event in July and the new design T Shirts, tank tops and even

Registration is open for the big Homecoming event in July and the new design T Shirts, tank tops and even shirts with collars are available for early ordering, check out the Website and Facebook page for color options and pricing. Remember to write down your starting mileage as it all adds up even the short trips around the block on the nice dry days. Think about some activities that we can add to the list and ones that you can help organize and help Raven find fun things we can do. The Garage Squad had a nice rite up in a Hagerty article with more to follow when weather permitting, *Continued on pg 2.*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Articles by Pete Cimbala, Pete Koehler
- 2 DACC Officers, Tom Murray, Treasury Report
- 3 Meeting Minutes, Activities
- **4** FC's go to die? 2nd Pete K. article, Membership
- **5** Article, Haggerty article link
- 8 Cover with meeting info

Make checks payable to. Detroit Area Corvair Club

The Ghost of Ed Cole? By Pete Koehler

Do you believe in the Afterlife? The Para-normal? Aliens?? Neither do I. But. There is something strange happening on our back deck here in Farmington. Several years ago, my good friends, the Smith Brothers Ian and Mark, gifted me with a really cool Caveman rocking chair. This was just after my minor cardiac event. Guess they figured I needed to rest, and this was a great way to do just that. So, we put the chair on our back deck and enjoy it whenever there is activity back there. Sometimes the chair seems to be in use even when there isn't any noticeable activity back there. What is going on here?

The Corvair was the brainchild of GM Executive Ed Cole. He is considered the Father of the Corvair for good reason. Mr. Cole convinced the others on the GM Board to go forward with the unique, unconventional design of the Corvair. When the car was introduced in October of 1959 there were only two models available, and both were four-door sedans. It was supposed to be a small, plain, economical mode of transportation. Later versions expanded on the original design intent with good results. But the way the car was envisioned by Ed Cole was embodied in that first release of the 1960 sedan. The Caveman version of the Corvair.

As many of you know I have a penchant for the 1960 Corvair. If old Ed was still around, he would probably acknowledge that the 1960 was his favorite one. Well, maybe I can't say that for sure, but I can at least think it. So here at the Caveman Garage we celebrate the 1960 Corvair. And here is where the Smith Bros rocking chair comes back into the story.

Every once in a while, as I gaze out the back patio doors here I see the rocking chair rocking. No one else is out there on the deck. No activity at all except for the rocking of the chair. How is this possible? Is it the Ghost of Ed Cole come visiting the place where his favorite Corvair is the honored version? Is he telling me that collecting and saving 1960 Corvairs is of great value? Does he just want to show his support for my collecting choices?

Or is it just the wind?? ■

SAVE THE DATE 2024 Parade! March 10, 2024



From the Rear Deck of the DACC VP, Tom Murray

quitar mechanic@yahoo.com

Hi campers!

I hope everyone is being safe. Punxsutawney Phill says it's going to be a short winter so we're continuing our series on Corvair owner preparedness. We've covered some pretty big concepts, in our efforts to avoid or deal with a breakdown, and today is no different. We're getting into ignition timing!! A note about my background, I frequently ride an old British motorcycle with manual ignition timing. It's a rolling "master class" in making a motor happy. Those of you that have driven Ford model A's or T's will know what I'm talking about.

For this article to be meaningful, we are going to have to make some assumptions.

Electricity travels at, pretty close to, the speed of light in a perfect environment. My car is less than perfect but electricity is fast enough that we can say it's pretty much instant.

Fuel/air mixture burns at only one speed based on the design of the engine. The entire combustion event in a cylinder is over in less than 50 milliseconds.

Average piston speed for a 164 cubic inch engine, with a stroke of 2.94", is 1225 feet/minute at 2500 RPM or around 13 miles per hour. This includes speeding up and slowing down to change direction. There are all sorts of piston speed calculators on the web. They're fun to play with.

Octane is a measure of how stable a fuel is while its being compressed. When the piston compresses the fuel/air mixture, its temperature goes up quickly, just because it's being compressed. In a high compression engine, low octane gas may not be able to withstand the temperature of being compressed and combusts before we want it to. This is like hitting the piston on the head with a hammer before it's ready to go down. We call that knocking, (aka ping, detonation or pre-ignition) Before writing this article, I though octane made the fuel burn slower so it would produce more of a "push" on the piston. This would lead to more power. That just isn't true. The potential energy of the intake charge is already set, regardless of the octane. The octane just helps us hold onto the power until the instant we want it. That said, high octane gas in a low compression engine, is simply a waste of money. Low octane gas in a high compression engine would also be a waste of money, but that would be due to engine damage...

The Corvair engine being a vintage motor, doesn't have anything like variable valve timing or other efficiency tricks like turning off cylinders when cruising to raise fuel efficiency. If one or more of my cylinders turns off, that's a problem! That being said, valve timing is "set" mechanically and is not a factor in this talk. We've all seen the models and animations of four stroke motors in museums and online. The cycle is "suck, squeeze, bang, blow". What the models tend to have in common is that the bang happens when the piston reaches TDC (top dead center), when the piston is neither going up nor down. In reality, that engine wouldn't run. The flame ball is happening too late and is just following the

President's report continued from pg 1.

we have another take a part event on the 27th of April. Not a lot of things are going on this month so come to the meeting for dinner and social time on March 3rd. at the 300 Bowl.

Last month I covered the second Corvair that I picked up, after looking at pictures it looks like the third was a Marina Blue 65 Monza that needed a top and a back window. Sure, it was one that I bought and resold in the spring as the pictures show it and the Rampside parked for the winter on the back patio with snow on them. There is also a picture of a brown 61 Monza coupe that was parted out about the same time. I still have the 80hp, Powerglide and Diff sitting in the parts Rampside after all these years. So that covers the third and forth from what I can remember. Back in the mid 70's it was very easy to find running and driving Corvairs for less than \$200.00 In the fall of 1973 my dad bought a 63 Impala SS 327 Powerglide with no real issues that I can remember for \$135.00 he drove this to work and back and in one big snow storm found out that it had a Posi rear axle. It was Ember Red with a white painted top just like my 63 Monza Conv't. •

2/17/24 Treasury Report by Carol Hairsine

1/17/24 Balance \$6979.07 Income: Membership \$60.00

50/50. \$115.00 License plate \$5.00

Expenses: Newsletter \$253.22

Corsa \$35.00

50/50 Payout \$57.00 Attendance \$10.00

2/17/24 Balance \$6803.85

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Continued on pg 3

VP article continued from pg 2.

piston back down. It's not really adding any kinetic energy to the motor. If by some miracle, it did run, the moment we gave it some throttle, it would stall. That timing scenario would be described as "retarded".

So, now it's time to put all these assumptions together. Engine mechanical timing, check.

Correct octane, check.

Fuel/air mixture, check.

Spark, variable...

Yeah, I said it, variable. Because the spark happens instantaneously, it gives us the greatest range of adjusting the power characteristics of the engine. It's "attitude". This is why a motor manufacturer like Chevrolet can tell us to set the spark to happen at 14ish degrees BTDC (before top dead center). With the intake charge burning at only one speed, we have to spark it off while the piston is still on the way up. The piston then continues up, stops and as it starts going down, the flame ball has developed and is there actively pushing it down. This adds kinetic energy to the system and sets the motor up to do it again and again. This timing scenario would be described as "advanced". Great! We have a running motor!! Let's go somewhere!! Not so fast. That timing only works at idle. That timing is set just to keep the motor turning over like a clock. If we want to accelerate, the piston speed will increase and in a short time the flame ball will just be following the piston down again. This limits the speeds that the engine can turn. The only way to solve this is to have the spark happening sooner and sooner as the RPMs increase. Enter the mechanical and vacuum advance! The mechanical advance is managed by weights that are working against springs within the body of the distributor. As the engine speed increases the weights are spun outward providing more timing advance. At any given engine RPM, above idle, a consistent advance is provided. However, at any given RPM we could be accelerating, cruising, or coasting down. Each requires different timing adjustments that are load based.

Vacuum advance manages these load-based adjustments. As the motor speeds up it starts sucking harder on the carburetors and it's the vacuum that is being created that can be used to mechanically advance the spark. This gives us "X" degrees of advance. Now we can cruise around at all sorts of RPMs. However, when we pull to a stop, and we no longer need that fully advanced spark. The engine defaults back to its static timing. It must or the engine won't settle down to a steady idle.

We've now covered what ignition timing is and why it's important. As much as I hate to end on a cliff hanger, I'm going to continue this article next month where we will cover the possible roadside replacement of the components that are actually doing the work described here. Stay tuned!!

Peace, Tom. ■



DACC February 2024 Meeting Minutes

We had 32 people in attendance for the February DACC meeting, and 2 members even brought their Corvairs! Pete Cimbala received the yearly CORSA chapter update papers and gave them to the secretary. Updated officer names, and yearly chapter payment of \$35 will be sent in. Treasury report shows that we have \$6725.85 in the account.

Membership report shows 150 paid members. At this point, membership is all up to date through June. Please see the Membership report for details. There were no new members in attendance tonight.

Adam noted that the Aircooler is getting kudos from the other clubs. As usual, send in articles etc for Adam to include in the Aircooler.

Activities: Saturday Breakfast is planned before the Chrome & Ice Show the 2nd Saturday of February. The Backroads Promo Tour literature has Pete C's C10 truck on the front of it!

Homecoming update – Bob Wittmann talked about the T-Shirts for homecoming. There are 6 colors and multiple styles available. Order early so that you will be assured of getting your shirt for the big event.

Pete Koehler is planning another Take-A-Part party. This is planned for 4/27/24 at this point in Schwartz Creek. He has 4 earlies and 1 late model for the event so far. Swap & Sell: Bill Vellner talked about a Florida '64 Monza Convertible, 110, Manual, with new tires for \$11K. Eva Karas has a '63 with 4 speed that needs work. Pete C. has owner's manuals (\$5-\$10 ea) and sales brochures (\$10 ea).

The 50/50 drawing drew in \$115 total, Chris Hand won the \$57.

Attendance drawing for a Chinese Buick Promo model was won by Conrad Greer.

Attendance drawing for \$10 was won by Ken Heberling. Attendance drawing for the Marquee picture was won by Tod Miller. Tod will need to get a picture to Mike Anstine for the March meeting.

2024 Calendars are available from John Allesee now. All that registered for the 2023 Homecoming will get 1 calendar. Extra calendars are available for \$10 each. Ken Heberling – Secretary ■

Activities by Raven Hand

Hello everyone, I'm currently writing this from a little burb in Arroyo Grande California, Arroyo Grande is only 15 minutes away from where the 2025 Corsa Convention will be held in Santa Maria. How cool is that? I may drive by and check out the host hotel while I'm here.

The Spring Dustoff with West Michigan plans are all under way and we have a May 11th date set with a rain date of May 18th.

Second Saturday Breakfast for March is happening at 41496 Ann Arbor Rd Plymouth on March 9th with breakfast at 9 am. I hope to see you there. Eblast and Facebook reminders will be posted ahead of time.

Spring Forward March 10th

CORSA Convention History by Pete K.

My first CORSA National Convention was right here in Southfield, Michigan in 1979. Almost. Patty, 1 & 11/12th year old Paul and I drove our crocus cream 1960 Corvair 700 sedan from West Chicago, IL to the event. When we arrived at the registration desk I was turned away because I wasn't a "CORSA member". I didn't know what a CORSA member was and either nobody explained it or I forgot to ask. So we got back in the '60 and drove up to Flint to visit Patty's Mom. We did come back down for the Concours event held at the GM Tech Center in Warren later in the week. I showed my GM badge at the security gate and they let me in. Later I found out all you had to say was that you were with the Corvair show. No CORSA badge required.

After the show we drove back to Chicago, and I asked about this CORSA thing. The kind folks of the Chicagoland Corvair Enthusiasts (CCE) explained that CORSA was the big National club and they added that CCE pre-dated "them" by a few years (maybe a few months?). So being a very enthusiastic Corvair owner I joined up. The next year I was ready with my membership card.

The 1980 CORSA convention was held outside of Atlanta, Georgia. We drove down in Patty's tuxedo black 1964 Monza coupe in a convoy with other CCE members. We had a great time. Went to see Stone Mountain. Met a lot of nice folks and at the end of the weekend I even bought another Corvair. No surprise there? It was a very clean 1964 Greenbrier van. We drove it back up to Chicago in the same convoy as earlier.

By the time the 1981 CORSA convention rolled around I was very involved in the inner workings of the CCE club. My best buddy Larry Claypool cooked up a plan to cruise out to Denver in his late model Corvair convertible. At the last minute his girlfriend decided she wanted to go, but she would just ride in the back seat so we wouldn't have to change our plans at all. At the same time Patty mentioned she would like to go as well. There was not enough room in Larry's convertible for three more passengers (Paul was nearly 4 and Bethany was on the way but still riding with her mom). So, my new plan was to drive out there in our own car. But which car? This happened so close to the departure date that I didn't have any Corvairs ready for the thousand-mile trek. But I did have a company car issued to me from my employer, the Chevrolet Chicago Zone. It was a loaded 1981 Caprice four-door sedan. It had all of the options including the highly touted 350 diesel engine. Make fun if you want, but that diesel chugged all the way out to Denver, up and down Pikes Peak and back to Chicago and the trip only cost me \$75 for #2 diesel. Of course, our Caprice was at the back of the pack in the long line of Chicago Corvairs going West. We were even behind the other waterpumpers since they didn't want to breathe any of that diesel smog coming from our tailpipe. Patty reminded me that we had to pull over once so Mom and Paul could take care of some "business". Continued on pa 5.

Is your contact info updated with membership?

DACC Membership Report for MARCH 2024 AIRCOOLER

Submitted February 16, 2024 by Mike Hurt

Thanks for keeping your membership up to date;
Clark Hartzel, Steven Saph, Don Eichstaedt

Thanks for updating your membership info: Len
Newill

We have 150 paid members and are mailing 2 complementary newsletters to Clark's and the Ypsilanti Museum.

If you can't make it to the meeting, send a **check for \$20.00** payable to **Detroit Area Corvair Club** to: Mike Hurt – DACC. Address: 1795 Ring O Kerry, Milford, MI 48381

A note about dues renewal dates, on your Aircooler to the right of your address label is a date – that is your current date to renew your membership.

Questions about membership, change of address, email info can be sent to Mike Hurt at (248) 972-7188 or mdhurt821@gmail.com and leave a message. We have an **email blast list** to notify members of quickie tours or last-minute changes. Please send me your email address so we can keep this list up to date.

Track your mileage.



Pete Koehler's "Where FC's go to Die! Pic.

This was member Dave Gould's Greenbrier van. Story is it was stolen out of Dave's driveway. Police were alerted and a chase ensued. The perps ran it into a guard rail and destroyed the van. I remember Clark and Harold D crawling around it trying to salvage at least a little bit of stuff after it was retired to the Dexter Farm - a good place for FC's to go to die!



Corsa convention history continued from pg 5

No, the rest of the group didn't stop and wait for us. Patty was efficient and the Caprice may have exceeded the posted speed limit as we did finally catch up to the group. The 1982 edition of the CORAS Convention was held in Syracuse, NY. It was sort of a homecoming for me since I was born just an hour south of there. By this time I was serving on the CORSA Board of Directors so my attendance was mandatory. I spent most of the Convention time doing CORSA things but everybody else had a great time. 1983 brought the annual convention to Seattle, Washington. As CORSA President I was expected to run the annual BoD meeting held the first day of the event, which was normally a marathon of way too many hours. I opted to fly out to Seattle rather than risk a Corvair breakdown somewhere between the Windy City and the show. Before leaving I purchased a paperback copy of "Robert's Rules of Order" so I could be effective at the Board meeting. I still have that book today but haven't used it at any DACC meetings. The event was great. The meeting was way too long. The annual membership meeting was exciting (I had to chair that one as well) since we had to raise the dues a few bucks to keep the club from going belly-up. Corvair peeps can be very frugal... A highlight of the Seattle convention was a road trip to Mt. Rainer, and some made a detour to check out what was left of Mt. St. Helens.

In 1984 the CORSA Convention swung back to the East Coast with a trip to Parsippany, NJ. This time I was ready with a Corvair - my 1961 Rampside. This year marked the first time there was an event for non-concours Corvairs to shine. Our very own Ken Pepke had lobbied CORSA for some time to come up with a way for more people to participate in the car show. Concours registrations were dwindling and a lot of very nice Corvairs were sitting in the parking lots while fewer and fewer entries showed up for judging. So, the People's Choice event was born. They had three classes: Early, Late and Forward Control. I entered the Rampside, but I had a secret weapon! Larry Claypool wanted to bring his Monza Jr. go-kart to the event but it wouldn't fit in his Lakewood or his Greenbrier. We fashioned some braces in the bed of my Rampie and strapped down his kart. For the event each vehicle got a number so folks could vote for their favorite. If my entrant number was say, 14 we posted 14 1/2 on Larry's Monza Jr. kart in the back of my truck. Somehow, I amassed more votes than any other Corvair truck there and got 1st place! I think all the kids voted for the go-kart. The next controversy was that the trophy awarded to the Concours winners was the very same size as that awarded in the People's Choice competition. I still have the trophy. Somewhere. Highlight of this convention was a side trip to the Atlantic City casinos. Host club NJACE also had a preconvention trip over to the Big Apple where convention goers experienced Broadway and saw the play, "Cats". 1985 was a banner year for the CORSA Convention and our participation. Patty and I drove down to Houston, Texas with our friends Burt and Lynda Neuner in our Ultra Vans! Patty and Lynda were awarded official "Whale" driver's licenses by fellow Ultra owner Christy Barden. Christy is a real character that belies his serious side of



piloting really big airplanes. The highlight for many convention goers was our trip to Mickey Gilley's bar in nearby Pasadena, TX. You don't know about Mickey Gilley? You should check out "Urban Cowboy" with John Travolta and Debra Winger. The movie was shot in part at this Honkey Tonk. We had a great time! 1986 brought the CORSA Convention to our door. Headquarters was in Grand Rapids. This was my final year in the President's slot, and I gladly turned the reins over to Don Waddell. Since Don was a California Boy, I picked him up at the airport here in Detroit and loaned him a Corvair to drive out to the convention. I figured his blood had thinned out from living too many years in sunny Cali, so the loaner was equipped with C64 (A/C). The car was an Arizona native - a 1966 Monza sport sedan. Rust free, fresh coat of ermine white paint and cold air on demand. Shoulda kept that one.

In 1987 we got to return to Chicago for the convention and a reunion with all of our friends in that club. Actually, CCE holds the record for the most CORSA conventions hosted from the very first one in 1971 to a total of five. So far. Other clubs and states have held multiple dates over the years. There have been five conventions in California at different cities around the Golden State. DACC has hosted two conventions, one in 1979 and again in 2007. Two other Michigan cities have hosted a CORSA convention; Grand Rapids in 1986 and Kalamazoo in 2013. Never before in the 53-year history of CORSA conventions have we had the chance to attend an out-of-state event without having to drive a bunch of miles. Dayton, Ohio is the target for 2024 and just a little over 200 miles away. Dates are July 23rd through the 27th. That gives you a week between the Homecoming and the National. Being a Corvair Enthusiast I am hoping to make both events. How about you? ■

Click on this link to read the Haggerty article about the DACC Garage Squad.

https://click.member.hagerty.com/?qs=73028dfe168b6695 2ce1364802699da612dd9e3b6e0ec4f680ec1c1a9904ced 04761f10452d8e632ceef5c32a3fd320fe65177aebf9ec007 43f1f64b49bd9e8a

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24

44th DACC Homeco	Millia	July 11-14" 2024
New swag options see below	THURSDAY	 Registration 2 pm – 6 pm Ken Pepke's World Class Hospitality Room 2-6 with lunch availability Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum Lunch Swap Meet set up
Included with your registration is your meals, snacks, pop, water, beer on tap, calendar with top 25 cars from people's choice, valve cover race, road rally, movie, etc . A complete up to date schedule will be in your registration packet	FRIDAY	 Registration 8 am – 6 pm Ken Pepke's World Class Hospitality Room Women's Activities as posted Road Rally Valve Cover Races Swap Meet // Tech Session Cook Out / Picnic Movie
For additional information contact PETE CIMBALA 810-621-9866 or 810-241-8593 Email: hcinfo@detroitcorvairs.com REGISTER ON-LINE Detroitcorvairs.com	SATURDAY	 Registration 9 am – 2 pm Ken Pepke's World Class Hospitality Room Mystery Event to be announce soon People's Choice Car Show, Model & Toy Show Swap Meet // Tech Session Live Auction
Stay informed go to our Facebook Group "Detroit Area Corvair Club"		 Pizza Party See <u>namebadge</u> for seating <u>time</u> Calendar Winners "Drive Thru" Show
Hotel location: Wyndham Garden 2900 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 734-665-4444	SUNDAY	 Wine & Cheese Event (\$10 extra) Hotel guests only Leftovers, Farewell

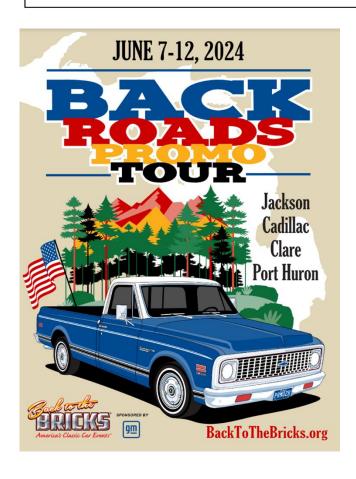
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Or call 734-665-4444 to make your reservation, be sure to mention "CORVAIR 2024" to receive the special room rate of \$99 to \$125 based on room type plus tax, per night. **Book before June 10th** when <u>block</u> is <u>removed</u> and the price goes up. Make sure if booking online that you go to the Wyndham website not a 3rd party booking company.

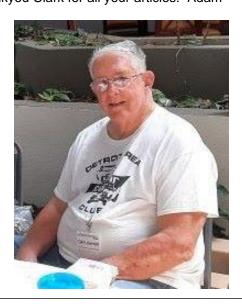
PLEASE / PLEASE when writing your check put the full name "DETROIT AREA CORVAIR CLUB"

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Let's all say a big thanks to Clark Hartzel for giving us the History article memories of the DACC past. Clark has decided to put the keyboard away and just read the Aircooler and attend meetings. How many times while reading the History articles did you remember a name, time, place, event, this is what makes history important. As Editor of the Aircooler, I want to say Thankyou Clark for all your articles. Adam



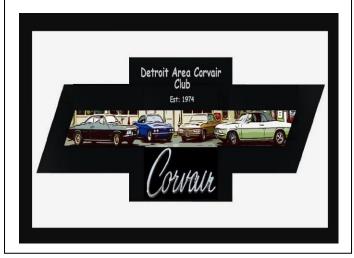
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Check out this site and expand your Knowledge of the Corvair.

https://www.corvair.org/

Updated the CORSA Club Office address

CORSA Club Office PO Box 68 Long Lake, MN 55356



March
DACC
Monday
meeting
will be @
7pm on
March 4th.
Please
Attend.
Social time
starts at
6pm.

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Other Corvair Club Newsletter links

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Haggerty myth article

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Brian Granger posted the following automotive events on your DACC Facebook page.









michiganmotorfest.com 313-310-7074



KofC Picnic Grounds

11541 21 Mile Road, Shelby Twp. 48315

Open to Public on Sunday from 9am-4pm Admission & Parking: \$10 Per Car

*No Golf Carts, Mopeds, or Scooters Allowed *No Walk-Ins / No Pets

CAR SHOW BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! | 10 BEST OF SHOW JACKETS!

VENDOR INFORMATION No Pre-Registration Available - Arrive Early

PRICING (per space)

- Saturday Vendor Setup 9am-3pm \$20*
- Sunday Vendor Setup 5:30-8:30am \$25 \$15 Saturday Car Corral Setup \$20 Sunday Car Corral Setup Sunday Car Show Setup - 8-10:30am \$20
- Swap Spaces are 15' x 20'
- Vendors and show cars that want to park together must arrive together - no saving spaces
- Automotive related items only

For More Information: Swap Meet & Car Show - Jim (248) 925-2801 Car Corral & Car Show - Franko (586) 293-1035

Visit www.bearingburners.org for updates.





CRUSIN' HINES "Nothing but the Classics"

7.5 miles of two lane Park, with no stop signs, or stop lights to cruise. With nothing but classics on the road. All vehicles must be 25 years old or older. August 25, 2024 * 9:00am to 4:00pm * Dearborn, Michigan * Food Vendors See details at www.cruisinhines.com \$5.00 Donation to Cruise.



Don@DonNicholson.net * 734-658-5296 * www.DonNicholson.net





