

On the Air

Newsletter of the Arkansas Corvair Club ■ CORSA Chapter 722

February 2004

Volume 17, Issue 2

When you don't know how to work on your car, form a car club and learn—or, how to start a car club

David Blakey

Editor's note: While living in Arkansas, during the 1980s, David Blakey was the visionary Corvair enthusiast who conceived of and led the effort to organize an Arkansas chapter of the Corvair Society of America. The initial gathering of Arkansas Corvair enthusiasts, most of whom became charter members, took place on February 20, 1988. Today, David and Sarah (his wife) reside in Clinton, Tennessee. In recognition of his contributions to the Corvair hobby in Arkansas, the Arkansas Corvair Club granted the status of Honorary Member to David on May 3, 1997. The 1962 Monza Spyder convertible, which David mentions in the story, is today owned by Elvis King.

Every month I look forward to receiving my Arkansas Corvair Club newsletter, *On the Air*, and to reading about the activities of the best car club in the US. Well, at the very least, one of the best. I love seeing new names appear, and seeing the "charter members" still hanging around.

I have the Honorary Member plaque and certificate, presented to me several years ago, hanging proudly on the wall of my office, and I still keep my eyes open for that old 'Vair hiding in someone's back yard. And, occasionally, I see one. I have found myself tempted to place an ad in the Knoxville newspaper offering to rebuild a Corvair engine for free if they will finance the parts.

How was our club created? Here's the rest of the story.

First, I had loved Corvairs since the 1960s. At one time, I tried to buy a Corvair rampside from a guy I worked for in Kentucky, when I was going to college. I can still remember riding in a

Spyder owned by the manager of the newspaper office where I picked up my daily morning papers for delivery. That was 1962. There was snow on the streets and we went anywhere! I was a thrilled 16-year-old boy and really impressed. Obviously, it stuck.

My stepson's uncle had a 1962 Spyder convertible for sale for \$2,800. I had the money so I took a bus to Memphis and picked the car up. I really didn't know a thing about maintaining Corvairs, but figured I could learn. There was a Clark's catalog in the boot, so I knew parts were available. I also saw something about the Corvair Society of America and wrote them asking if there was a chapter in Arkansas and if they would send a list of CORSA members. A few weeks later they sent me a big envelope filled with information and a list of 21 CORSA members across the state, from Springdale to West Memphis, to Texarkana.

continued on page 2

Historical Stuff

Elvis King

Editor's note: The following item, by Elvis King, was published ten years ago, in the February 1994 issue of On the Air. It is reprinted here, with David Blakey's retrospective, to mark the start of our Corvair club's 17th year. As Elvis' title implies, a little history is offered for your edification.

February 20, 1988 was an unusually warm Saturday in Little Rock. Through the direct efforts of our erstwhile mover and shaker and revered founding father, David Blakey, between 38 to 40 Corvair enthusiasts, from throughout the state, driving 12 Corvairs, gathered at the Holiday Inn in North Little Rock to organize what would soon become the Arkansas Corvair Club.

Those of us that attended that first meeting still remember being overwhelmed by the excitement of finding so many other people of like interests in this unique automobile. Our exuberance extended well past the Holiday Inn site in the form of an impromptu 11-Corvair parade down North Little Rock's Main Street, across the river, and terminating on the Capitol grounds. The ACC was on its way!

Be sure and attend our next meeting and help us celebrate the beginning of our 7th year [1994] as a chartered chapter of CORSA. ■

inside:

February Birthdays & Anniversaries

ACC Dues Alert

An Open Letter to Arkansas Corvair Enthusiasts

page 2

page 2

page 3

"Corvairs bring friends together."

How to start a car club *continued*

So I made up a name—the Arkansas Corvair Club. How original, right? I contacted a few locals by letter and began to receive phone calls, including Elvis and JB King, Joe and Crystal Espejo, Dave Sanders, Jim and Kay Agee, and Stew and Ronnie MacLeod. Actually, I got Stew and Ronnie's name from a guy named David West, at an SCCA road race in Memphis. Now at least I knew I wasn't the *only* Corvair owner in Arkansas.

I went to the NLR Holiday Inn and negotiated a meeting room and promised them at least 20 people would eat in their dining room that day, if they would waive the \$200 fee for the meeting room. I signed a contract and gave them my American Express Card number. The pressure was *really* on now.

I crafted a letter on my Mac at work and tried to make it look like some type

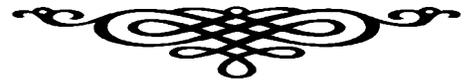
of organization that already existed, thinking that might lend credibility to this non-existent club. I mailed out the letters and held my breath for several days. To my surprise, I actually got a few phone calls and letters expressing interest. I sent out another letter to my list of names, really hyping it up, believing I had at least 10 people who would show up. As the time drew near, I began sweating blood, since it didn't look like any more than half a dozen would attend at the Holiday Inn.

On the day of the event—Saturday, February 20, 1988—I was so anxious I was almost physically sick. Suppose I threw a party and no one came? Man, I might be there alone! And I didn't have \$200 to pay the Holiday Inn. I knew Dave Sanders would show. He had devised a little show-and-tell talk in case someone did show up, and he also brought some prize Corvair models he had acquired over the years. Joe Espejo would be there and promised to bring something as a door prize, Elvis and Lewis King and Jim and Julie Agee would be there, and my stepson would be there, since he now had a Corvair his dad had given him.

Thirty minutes before the start of the first meeting I believe there were four cars at the front of the Holiday Inn. But suddenly everyone started arriving. From Northwest Arkansas,

Springdale, and Mountain Home. Gerald McBroom showed up from Fayetteville. Alan Kettner from Harrison, Jeff Barber, from Little Rock, in his 66 Turbo convertible, and my buddy BJ Daugherty showed up for moral support. Others arrived from West Memphis, Hot Springs, Fairfield Bay, and other places I no longer remember. We had a great gathering with over 30 people, in all.

A great start. A great group. After that initial meeting, in 1988, we still had work to do, but that's how the Arkansas Corvair Club was born. What a great group we have. Thanks to all of you, old and new! ■



Happy Birthday
to our ACC associates
born in February.

Elvis King
February 6 (63)

Kim Armstrong
John Coffey
February 11

Gloria Eddy
February 12

Arkansas Corvair Club
February 20, 1988

Carol Snider
February 24

Happy Anniversary
to
Robert & Bobbie Brown
February 13



Larry Levy presents an Honorary Membership plaque to David Blakey, the club's founder at a gathering on May 3, 1997.

ACC Dues Alert

In an effort to keep everyone informed about the status of your ACC membership dues, we publish a membership *Dues Alert* in every issue of *On the Air*.

The *Dues Alert* lists names of members who are past due, those due for the current month, and those due the following month.

Dues are **\$20.00** for regular membership and **\$15.00** for associate members. Please mail payments to: **Arkansas Corvair Club, P.O. Box 627, Little Rock, AR 72203.**

Here are the names that are **past due** and due in **February**.

- Past Due** Jim Agee
Bob Berry
Ken Franson
Ricky Grant
Stew MacLeod
Bob Piggot
Bill Reves
Warren Rogers

- Due Feb** Stephen Franco
Corey Holtz

Please disregard if you've already paid or mailed your check. **We appreciate your support.** ■

ACC January Meeting Minutes



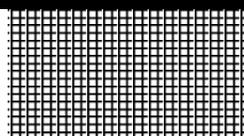
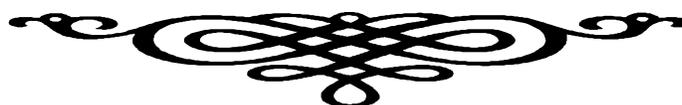
JB King

The Arkansas Corvair Club did not hold a regular monthly meeting in January.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, at Just Like Mom's restaurant, at 3140 E. Kiehl Ave., in Sherwood.

At the February meeting members will continue planning for our April getaway to Mountain View. Also, we'll discuss other plans and ideas for springtime activities.

We hope you can join us on February 17 for food and fellowship. ■



sell parts, attend tech sessions, watch the autocross, visit the hospitality room, watch the welcoming parade, stay in the host hotel, look at all the cars, buy a chance on the beautiful restored 1966 Monza convertible, win a beautiful restored 1966 Monza convertible, enjoy an inexpensive family vacation in beautiful Lexington, and, most importantly share the friendships with everyone else that attends.

I promise you, if you have never been to a convention before, you will love this one! If you have been to a convention before, you will love this one even more! Come see us in Kentucky. Visit our convention web site at www.kycorsa.com to see all we have to offer.

Thank you,

Greg Scarborough

Make your reservations now for our April getaway to Mountain View

Plan now to join Arkansas Corvair enthusiasts for our spring 2004 Corvair Spring Getaway to beautiful Mountain View, Arkansas.

The dates are Friday-Sunday, April 23-25. JB King has reserved a block of 15 rooms at the Best Western Fiddler's Inn.

Please reserve your room and join us in April. The rate for a room with one king or two double beds is \$61.20 for AAA or AARP, and \$68 for others.

Rooms have hair dryer, ironing board and iron, coffee pot. Continental breakfast included.

The deadline for holding blocked rooms is April 9. For reservations, ph. 800 528-1254. ■

Editor's note: The following is an open letter to all Arkansas Corvair enthusiasts, from Greg Scarborough, chairman of the 2004 CORSA International Convention, to be held in Lexington, Kentucky, June 15-19.

Dear Corvair Enthusiasts,

I'm writing to invite all of you to our 2004 CORSA International Convention. This invite is specially geared towards all the members of local chapters that do not belong to CORSA. The CORSA members will read all about the convention in upcoming *Communiqués*, but to reach everyone else I am relying on word of mouth and the newsletters of each chapter.

Did you know that over half of all members of local chapters do not belong to CORSA? Also, did you know that over half of CORSA's members do not belong to a local chapter? If all the Corvair people would support each other, as Peter Noone would sing "What a wonderful world this would be".

Yes, it's true that you must be a CORSA member to compete in the competitions at CORSA conventions. But there are so many other things you can do by just registering. You don't have to belong to CORSA to buy parts,

C
O
R
V
A
I
R

CORVAIR PARTS!

Since 1974 Corvair Underground has been selling parts and services to the Corvair community!

We offer new, used, rebuilt, NOS and reproduced parts as well as toy cars and collectibles.



Corvair Underground sells to every state in the Union plus all over Canada and the rest of the world. We accept all major credit cards and you can call, fax, mail or e-mail your order.

Our giant 300 page mail order catalog, The Corvair Book, is just \$6.00 postpaid (USA). You can also get a subscription to our newsletter, The Corvair News, free. All we need is your name and address. Also, don't forget our online website www.corvairunderground.com. There you'll find our newsletter online, our GoVair performance and custom site and a whole lot more!

CORVAIR UNDERGROUND Inc.

PO Box 339 Dundee, OR 97115

503-434-1648 800-825-8247 503-434-1626

Your Corvair Parts Supplier for the 21st Century!



On the Air

Arkansas Corvair Club
370 Windwood Drive
Cabot, AR 72023-8344

Place
first class
postage
here.

FIRST CLASS

"Promoting the maintenance,
enjoyment, and preservation of
the Chevrolet Corvair."

Arkansas Corvair Club Information

Meetings

The Arkansas Corvair Club (ACC) meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month at **Just Like Mom's** Home Cooking restaurant, 3140 E. Kiehl Ave., in Sherwood.

February Meeting

The ACC will meet Tuesday, **February 17**, 7:00 p.m., at Just Like Mom's, on Kiehl Ave., in Sherwood.

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for food and fellowship prior to the meeting. The club offers an array of merchandise for sale—oil filters, gas filters, hats, decals, patches, T-shirts and more.

Officers

President: Cathy Smith, 370 Windwood Drive, Cabot, AR 72023, 501 843-8413.

Vice-President: Ronnie MacLeod, 28305 Bandy Rd., Little Rock, AR 72211, 501 821-3622.

Treasurer: Elvis King, 21305 N. Mill Rd., Little Rock, AR 72206, 501 888-1224 (evening).

Secretary: JB King, 21305 N. Mill Rd., Little Rock AR, 72206, 501 888-1224 (evening).

Elected Board: Allan Embrey, 501 834-5373; Ronnie MacLeod, 821-3622; Clyde Jones, 479 774-6789; Bill Smith, 501 843-8413.

Appointed Board: Pending.

Committee Chairs

Membership: Elvis King

Publicity: Bill Smith

Newsletter Editor: Bill Smith, 370 Windwood Drive, Cabot, AR 72023, 501 843-8413.

Newsletter Advertising:

Non-members and businesses:
\$100/year full page; \$60-½ page;
\$35-¼ page.

Program & Events: Open

ACC Webmaster: Ken Franson, 608 Ridgelea Ave., Sherwood, AR 72120, 501 835-6005.

Web Address

Arkansas Corvair Club Web site:
<http://corvair5.tripod.com/acc.htm>

ACC Mission: The mission of the Arkansas Corvair Club (ACC) is to promote the maintenance, enjoyment, and preservation of all types of Corvairs and related vehicles, and to advance and improve driving skills, automobile safety, and the Corvair's image.