

On the Air

Newsletter of the Arkansas Corvair Club ■ CORSA Chapter 722

June 2005

Volume 18, Issue 6

Petit Jean picnic marked by many memorable events

Corvair enthusiasts follow blue highways to Petit Jean Mountain and a pleasant picnic in a shady rock pavilion

Bill Smith

In his 1984 book titled *Blue Highways: A Journey Into America*, William Least Heat Moon chronicles his three-month odyssey to see the real face of America. As Least Heat Moon writes in the preface to *Blue Highways*, "On the old highway maps of America, the main routes were [colored] red, and back roads blue."

The premise behind the book's title holds that for a traveler to truly see real America, he needs to depart from the interstate roads and main highways, and drive the secondary roads, through the tens of thousands of our country's small cities, villages, and towns. Because, the true lesson about travel and about life is that it is not ones arrival at a final destination, but the interim jour-

ney, that reveals life's wisdom and truth.

On Saturday, June 4, Cathy and I departed Cabot, in our 1966 Corvair Monza, for a drive to Conway, Morrilton, and Petit Jean Mountain, to attend the Arkansas Corvair Club's annual picnic.

Without giving our planned route very much forethought, we made the entire trip without ever once traversing an interstate highway. Perhaps it was our travel on some of Arkansas' blue highways—along with a number of memorable events—that made this picnic experience out of the ordinary. For more about this special day in June, read on.

continued on page 2

Summer Corvair activity notes

July 26-30

2005 CORSA International Convention, Portland Oregon. Several Arkansas Corvair Club members will be attending.

August 16

Baseball - Clunker Car Night at the Arkansas Travelers, Ray Winder Field, in Little Rock, Tuesday, August 16. Our usual practice is for ACC members to meet in the South parking lot, closest to the stadium, at 6:00 p.m. Doubleheader starts at 6:30. Watch for details in your August newsletter **(Replaces our Tuesday meeting in August.)**

September 9-11

The 14th Annual Old Town Cruisers Car Show, Van Buren, Arkansas. Car show is for pre-1972 cars and trucks. \$20 registration fee before September 3. Host motel is the Motel 6, at I-40 and State Highway 59. Phone the Motel 6 at **479 474-8001**. Watch newsletters for more information.

We WILL meet on Tuesday, June 21

Please ignore the notice in your May newsletter regarding plans for our June club meeting. At the May meeting, members agreed that we **WILL** hold a regular club meeting on Tuesday, June 21, at Just Like Mom's Home Cooking restaurant, 3140 E. Kiehl Ave., in Sherwood. Please plan to join us.

Inside:

Congratulations to Mike Shroyer	page 2
July Birthdays and Anniversaries	page 2
May Meeting Minutes	page 3

“Corvairs bring friends together.”

Congratulations to Mike Shroyer

Our warmest congratulations to ACC member Mike Shroyer for his special recognition by Dassault Falcon Jet for **30 years** of service. Mike is among 15 employees who have been with Falcon Jet since it's opening, in Little Rock, in 1975.

Petit Jean Picnic *continued*

Our June 4 picnic adventure was underway when we arrived at the appointed meeting place—the Mac-Donald's on Highway 64 in Conway—to find a group of Arkansas Corvair Club members already waiting. With the arrival of Al Embrey and Donna Hamilton, our group was complete.

We set out from MacDonald's in a 7-vehicle caravan, led by John and Barbara Coffey, driving their 1963 Monza convertible, with the top down.

After a leisurely cruise along Conway's city streets (including Oak, Caldwell, Prince, and Hogan), we were back on Highway 64, northwest of the city, where Joe Espejo took the lead for our drive to Petit Jean Mountain.

As Joe has been known to do, when leading Corvair Club caravans, he unwittingly missed the turn for Highway 9 South and led our gaggle through downtown Morrilton, where a large congregation of flea market street vendors was underway. I was amazed, at this point, that Joe didn't stop for bargains.

With our course corrected and thinking our next stop would be Pavilion A at Petit Jean State Park, everyone was surprised when a local (Morrilton) law enforcement officer pulled in behind Joe—blue lights flashing—and directed him to the shoulder. After the rest of the convoy stopped

ahead of Joe and watched intently while the officer conversed with Joe, by the driver's side of his Monza, we were later amazed to learn that the reason Joe was pulled over was so that the police officer could inform Joe that one of the officer's family members had a Corvair for sale. The officer wrote the seller's phone number on the back of his business card and handed it off to Joe, with final directions about where to turn (Oppelo) for the road to Petit Jean State Park.

Arriving at the park, our caravan was surprised to find hand-lettered signs directing Corvair enthusiasts to our picnic area and Pavilion A. Thanks to Butch and Meredith Chapman for arriving early and placing these signs for us.

The pavilion was a perfect setting for our club picnic. Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the large stone and wood structure, aside Lake Roosevelt, sheltered us from the sun and offered tables and room to spare.

In addition to good food and fellowship, our picnic was marked by two other memorable events. The first was the unexpected arrival of long-time ACC members Blair and Betty Buckley, from Fayetteville. Most of us had never met the Buckley's and we were please to have

continued on page 3

Happy Birthday
to our ACC associates
born in July.

Clyde Jones
July 1

Angela Brophy
July 3

Aaron Swift
July 4

Barbara Koenig
July 16

Linda Higdon
July 22

Happy Anniversary
to
Joe & Cristel Espejo
July 1 (43 years)

Frank & Mary Campbell
July 5

Ken & Camelia Franson
July 7

Stew & Ronnie MacLeod
July 7 (31 years)

John & Barbara Coffey
July 9 (44 years)

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 and those due for the current 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 **July**.

- Past Due** Matthew Brophy
Phillip Coates
Lynn Gates
Jef Higdon
Gary Higgins
Chuck Jolley
Jim Latture
Jim Rogers
Steve Simmons
Charles Springer
Aaron Swift
Mike Still
- Due Jul**
Frank Campbell
John Coffey
Bill MacSorley

Please disregard if you've already paid.

ACC May Meeting Minutes



JB King

The Arkansas Corvair Club met at Just Like Mom's restaurant, on Kiehl Avenue, in Sherwood, on Tuesday, May 17.

The meeting was called to order by president Cathy Smith.

Old Business

Cathy and Bill Smith presented a brief review of our very successful and enjoyable weekend reunion, in Mountain View, April 22-24. We extend thanks to everyone who participated in our 2005 ACC Mountain View Reunion.

Our club picnic is set for Saturday, June 4, at Pavilion A, on Petit Jean Mountain. Our club has reserved the pavilion from **8:00 a.m.** until 2:00 p.m. Cathy and Bill Smith will cook hot dogs. We ask others attending to bring an appropriate picnic dish, your choice of drinks, and your lawn chairs. Those who are traveling from central Arkansas are planning to meet at the McDonald's in Conway, on Highway 64 (second exit from LR on I-40). From Conway, we will caravan on Highway

64 to Morrilton and Petit Jean State Park. The plan is to leave McDonald's at **8:30 a.m.**

OUR CLUB WILL MEET ON TUESDAY, JUNE 21

Contrary to an item in the May newsletter, our picnic gathering did **NOT** take the place of our regular Tuesday meeting in June. Our club will hold a meeting on Tuesday, June 21, at 7:00 p.m., at Just Like Mom's restaurant, in Sherwood. See details on page 4.

New Business

Our club will not hold a Tuesday meeting in July, as many members will be attending the 2005 CORSA International Convention, in Portland, Oregon.

Members did vote to attend Arkansas Travelers **Clunker Car Night**, at Ray Winder Field, on Tuesday, August 16. According to the Arkansas Travelers 2005 schedule, this year's Clunker Car Night features a doubleheader, starting at 6:30 p.m. This baseball activity falls on the same night as our regular club meeting for August. Therefore, members agreed to consider the Clunker Car Night gathering as our August meeting.

Members voted to attend the **14th Annual Old Town Cruisers Car**

Show, in Van Buren, on September 9, 10, and 11. The show is for pre-1972 cars and trucks. Weekend activities include a kick-off party, street dance, live DJ, and oldies music. The registration fee is \$20, before September 3. For those planning to stay overnight in Van Buren, the host motel is the Motel 6, at I-40 and State Highway 59. You can phone the Motel 6 at 479 474-8001. Mark the dates and watch for details and registration forms in your newsletters. For more information about the car show, phone 479 471-8350.

Door Prize Drawings

The grand finale of our May meeting was drawing names for door prizes furnished by Butch Chapman. The door prizes were three workbenches donated by Advance Auto Parts, in Jacksonville. The door prize winners were: Keith LaCrosse, Al Embrey, and Stew MacLeod. We extend sincere thanks to Butch Chapman for obtaining these prizes.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JB King

Petit Jean Picnic *continued*

this opportunity to get to know them. We hope to see the Buckley's again at future ACC activities.

The second memorable event, during the picnic, was Keith LaCrosse making auction bids, over his mobile phone, and purchasing 6 Corvairs—3 vans and 3 cars—from an estate auction that was underway in Guy.

Following a very worthwhile tour of the Museum of Automobiles, everyone departed for home or other destinations.

However, the day still held one surprise event for Joe and Christel Espejo, who opted to follow Cathy and me on a shortcut route from Conway.

Along our way, on Otto Road, in Faulkner County, I noticed that Joe slowed to a stop behind me.

When I circled back, I found Joe with his Corvair's hood open and smoke coming from the engine. He quickly told me that the idler pulley had failed—the aluminum bracket had snapped in two. Fortunately, Joe had a spare idler pulley with him.

Despite a very hot engine and hot sun bearing down, Joe made the repair in about 15 minutes and we were back on our way home, along those magnificent blue highways.

All in all, this was an enjoyable picnic and an eventful day...indeed.

So, the next time you have an opportunity to slow down, avoid the inter-

states, and take a slower route to some destination, try the blue highways for a refreshing change of pace.

Again, quoting from *Blue Highways*, William Least Heat Moon observes, "...on the morning of my departure, I had seen thirty-eight Blood Moons, an age that carries its own madness and futility. With a nearly desperate sense of isolation and a growing suspicion that I lived in an alien land, I took to the open road in search of places where change did not mean ruin and where time and men and deeds connected." ■





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.

June Meeting

The ACC will meet Tuesday, **June 21**, 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: Meredith Chapman, P.O. Box 243, Jacksonville, AR 72078, 501 676-6693.

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.