

On the Air

Newsletter of the Arkansas Corvair Club ■ CORSA Chapter 722

January 2007

Volume 20, Issue 1

Corvair fans keep on cruisin'

by Cara Solomon
Seattle Times Eastside bureau

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It was early in the afternoon when Jim Brossard found it. He was with his 5-year-old son at the time. His wife had their toddler at home.

And there it stood in the lot: the car he would drive back and forth to work for the next 37 years. A tan-colored 1961 compact, air-cooled, with a horizontal six-cylinder engine made almost entirely out of aluminum.

A bit of excitement for a Boeing engineer.

"The Corvair kind of caught my eye, as something I could enjoy," said Brossard, now 78 and retired.

Celebrated, then attacked, and now celebrated again, the Chevrolet Corvair is one of dozens of car models that will make an appearance at the 8th annual Discontinued and Orphan Car Show in

Issaquah this weekend. The event is a tribute to the experimental side of automation, where good ideas do not always make money.

Corvairs Northwest is organizing the show, which has drawn as many as 80 cars in previous years. Among the known draws this year are a 1930 Franklin, a 1948 Packard Super 8 and a 1960 Hilman Husky.

The Corvair is likely to be a central attraction. The first model was built in 1960, winning praise from critics who called it revolutionary. But in 1965, consumer advocate Ralph Nader took on the automotive industry in a book called "Unsafe at Any Speed." And the first chapter featured the Corvair.

What followed was a backlash to
continued on page 2

Heartfelt thanks, once more, to Stew and Ronnie MacLeod for hosting a whiz-bang holiday party

As has become a wonderful Arkansas Corvair Club tradition, on Saturday, January 6, Stew, Ronnie, and Ryan MacLeod again opened their home to us for our annual ACC Holiday Open House and Potluck meal.

This year's gathering may have set a new record for attendance, with the following members present: Butch and Meredith Chapman, John and Barbara Coffey, Joe and Christel Espejo, Ken and Camelia Franson, Ernie and Fran Gray, Elvis and JB King, George and Barbara Koenig, Clyde and Dee Jones, Keith and Cindy LaCrosse, Larry, Debbie, and Stuart Levy, Bill and Cathy Smith, and Aaron and Mary Swift.

Counting our hosts, this made for a gathering of 28 club members and family.

And to top off the large attendance, the food, drink, and conversation at this year's open house were splendid. Everyone seemed to be in high holiday spirits. The only disappointment was not seeing Ken Franson do the Lambada. Camelia was ready.

We pass along our gratitude to Stew, Ronnie, and Ryan for their kindness and hospitality. ■

NO TUESDAY MEETING IN JANUARY

The Arkansas Corvair Club will **NOT** hold a Tuesday meeting in January. Our next regular monthly meeting will be Tuesday, **February 20**, at Just Like Mom's restaurant, on Kiehl Ave., in Sherwood. Please join us if you can.

Inside:

February Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	page 2
November Meeting Minutes	page 3
Free Corvair Hubcaps and Wheel Covers.....	page 3

"Corvairs bring friends together."

Corvair fans keep cruisin' *continued*

the backlash. Fans across the nation formed the Corvair Society of America. The Society set up a foundation. The Foundation built a museum. And now, 36 years after the last Corvair left the production line, an entire culture has grown up.

Brossard was a big part of creating the culture in Puget Sound. He helped form Corvairs Northwest in 1972. The group would get together to swap parts, tinker with engines—even host a couple of national Corvair conventions.

"There was everybody in the club from stockboys to millionaire ranchers," said Brossard, who worked in the space division of Boeing. "Everyone was very congenial."

Over the years, the club has drawn more than 100 members, from drivers focused on performance to people who love the whole underdog feel of it.

Yvonne Martin said she would not part with her Corvair for anything in the world. She gets so much attention driving her Lemonwood Yellow car all over Seattle—people honking their horns, stopping her at gas stations.

She rented a car once, and what a letdown that turned out to be.

"After two days, I thought: Gosh, no one's waving at me," she said. "This is boring."

Her husband, Roland Martin, former president of Corvairs Northwest, likes

the car for a different reason. He belongs to the do-it-yourself crowd, mostly engineers who like tinkering with machines.

It was Roland who came up with the idea of a Corvair Cavalry, a roving band of handy people who will help others in need. "We will ride to your rescue if your Corvair is under attack, as it were," he said.

There is not much expertise out there on how to fix the car. The Corvair has its fans, but demand is not high. A finely tuned machine might fetch \$12,000.

"Owning a Corvair, that's not a status symbol," said Kent Sullivan, 38, of Kirkland.

It can get uncomfortable for Corvair owners to join other car shows, where expensive models sit around, looking pretty. So Sullivan started the Discontinued and Orphan Car Show several years ago, hoping to give those less-popular cars a community.

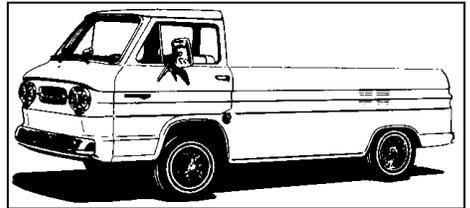
It's that sense of community that has kept Brossard in Corvairs Northwest. For years, it was a focus for the family. It's how his five children saw the country — they would pile into the motor home, hitch that tan Corvair onto the trailer, and head for another national Corvair convention.

These days, the Corvair sits in the driveway of Brossard's Bellevue home, its body wrapped in a tarp. It

has gone more than 300,000 miles so far, and is on its third engine. He built that engine, with the help of two other Corvairs Northwest members.

"We put it together with tender loving care," he said.

Come Sunday, Brossard plans to drive his car over to Issaquah, and open the trunk, for all to see ■.



Happy Birthday
to our ACC associates
born in February.

Bob Piggot
February 2

Elvis King
February 6 (66)

John Coffey
February 11

Gloria Eddy
February 12

Travis Geaslin
February 17

Arkansas Corvair Club
February 20, 1988

Happy Anniversary
to
Robert & Bobbie Brown
February 13

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 **January**.

Past Due Jerald McKown

Due Jan David Carter
 Al Embrey
 Stew MacLeod
 Bob Piggot

Please disregard if you've already paid.
Thanks for your generous support. ■

ACC November Meeting Minutes



JB King

The Arkansas Corvair Club met at Just Like Mom's restaurant, on Kiehl Avenue, in Sherwood, on Tuesday, November 21.

The meeting was called to order by vice president Meredith Chapman.

We were pleased to welcome two guests to our November meeting. They were Tom Wood, brother-in-law of Ernie Gray, and BJ Daugherty, a former ACC member and charter member.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved as published in the November newsletter.

Old Business

Members decided not to participate as a group in the world record classic car parade being organized by the Dixie Car Club, to benefit Toys for Tots, on Saturday, December 2.

However, although we will not be participating as a group, members were encouraged to participate in the parade, as their schedules permit.

New Business

JB King read a note of thanks, from the family of Lynda Berry, for the azalea plant that our club sent to the

funeral home, to honor Lynda's memory.

No specific date was decided for Stew and Ronnie MacLeod's annual Holiday Open House. The date will be communicated when invitations are sent in a separate mailing.

David Carter passed around a copy of the September-October issue of *Motor Trend Classic* magazine, featuring a Corvair story.

Tech Session

Bill Smith disassembled the mechanical fuel pump that failed on Ernie Gray's 1963 Monza convertible, during the drive to Old Washington State Park, on Saturday, October 14. After disassembling the fuel pump, meeting attendees could find no obvious internal cause for the pump failure. This led to speculation that the fuel starvation Ernie's car experienced was a the result of the combination of a shortened fuel pump push rod and wear on rod at the base of the pump shaft.

Before adjourning, members were reminded that there our club will not hold a regular monthly meeting in December.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JB King

Corvair hubcaps and wheel covers

At the last monthly ACC meeting for 2006, on November 21, Elvis King brought along his collection of about 30 assorted Corvair hubcaps and wheel covers, offering them to anyone present, **free of charge**. Some were in sets and some in pairs and odd lots.

Several folks helped themselves to Elvis' generous offering. However, there were many caps and covers that were not taken.

Butch Chapman took the leftovers to his shop, outside of Jacksonville. If interested in these **FREE** items, the address for Butch's shop (C & C Communications) is 349 Garringer Rd, Jacksonville (off Hwy 294 west of Furlow).

You can phone Butch and Meredith at 501 676-6693. ■

2007 CORSA International Convention set for Detroit, July 24-28

Make your plans now to attend the 2007 International Convention of the Corvair Society of America, in Detroit, Michigan, July 24-28.

The host hotel is the Best Western Sterling Inn, 34911 Van Dyke Avenue, Sterling Heights, 48312. Phone **800 953-1400** or 586 979-1400. Also, www.sterlinginn.com.

For information or questions, contact Pete Cimbala, **810 621-9866**.

Watch for more information in your February newsletter. ■

Note of thanks from Elvis and JB King

As most of you know, our daughter-in-law, Tina Eubanks, passed away on December 16, after a nine and one-half month battle with stomach cancer.

We loved Tina like a daughter from the moment we met her and feel truly blessed for having had her in our lives. She was an inspiration to so many people with the manner in which she handled her illness.

Thank you for your love, concern, and prayers. Please remember our son, Kime, and three grandchildren in the coming months. ■

2006 Financial Report for the Arkansas Corvair Club

Elvis King, club Treasurer, reports the following financial statement to close out the 2006 calendar year for our Arkansas Corvair Club.

Beginning Balance..... \$ 1,217.47

Total Income \$ 895.00

Total Expenses \$ 734.91

Oil Filters.....\$ 159.00

NL & Postage.....\$ 475.68

Club P.O. Box\$ 72.00

Florist\$ 46.23

Year-End Balance..... \$ 1,377.56

The 2006 year-end balance reflects an increase of \$160.09, over the year-end balance of our ACC treasury for January 1, 2006. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: Speaking for all ACC members, we are sincerely grateful to our club's "eternal treasurer," Elvis King, for his dedicated and tireless support.



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.

No January Meeting

The ACC will **NOT** meet Tuesday, **January 16**, 7:00 p.m., at Just Like Mom's, on Kiehl Ave., in Sherwood.

Our next regular meeting will be **Tuesday, February 20**, 7:00 p.m., at Just Like Mom's. Join us at 6:00 p.m. for food and fellowship prior to the meeting. We'll see you there.

Officers

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

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.