

# On the Air

Newsletter of the Arkansas Corvair Club ■ CORSA Chapter 722

February 2008

Volume 21, Issue 2

## A Cautionary Corvair Tale

*Remembering that old Boy Scout motto --  
Be prepared!*

by John Dailey

Since I am somewhat new to the Arkansas Corvair Club, I thought that I would relate what happened when I went to pick up my 1965 Corvair Monza, south of Kansas City, Kansas.

I found the car on the Corvair Project website. Part of my criteria for buying was that it must be drivable and that the drive back to Fort Smith must be a reasonable distance. This car met both of those requirements.

It wasn't even 300 miles away--a nice drive

Since I am retired from Delta Air Lines, I get to fly for free, space available. So (and I know this will sound weird), my wife, Mary, and I flew to Atlanta and then caught a flight to Kansas City. I put together a toolbox and checked that as my luggage. We got to Kansas City and caught a prearranged shuttle to Louisburg, Kansas to check out the car.

We arrived at the address I was given for the car and I and started to check the car's condition. It had a few rust bubbles and some nicks, small dings and scratches, but, for the most part, it looked pretty good. The interior

was great. Supposedly, the car only had 52,000 miles on it.

We took it out for a drive and after getting used to a non-synchromesh, 3-speed again, it drove very well. The engine was strong. I had checked the tires and the fan belt and all looked decent.

Well, we went through all the paperwork and payment stuff and the car was mine. We took off and all was going well until we reached Joplin, Missouri. At this point, the car started shaking. At first I thought it was the road surface, but then it got pretty severe.

I had just started to back off from about 65-70 mph, when the left rear tire blew. I was already easing it to the shoulder but we started to go down the embankment, forwards and sideways. Part way down, the rear end snapped around and we completed our side trip, backwards. Then, we went into some shrubbery and stopped. We both just sat there, my hands, white knuckled, on the wheel while the dust and bits of foliage settled around us.

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## A note of thanks to an anonymous Arkansas Corvair Club member

Very recently, I was contacted by Arkansas Corvair Club member Camelia Franson with a special request to publish this note of thanks to an anonymous member of our Corvair Club for a kind deed.

As most of you are aware, Camelia's life changed sadly and suddenly on November 9, 2007, with the untimely and unexpected death of her husband, Ken Franson.

Ken was a devoted Corvair enthusiast and a loyal member of our club who was, at the time of his death, serving his second consecutive term in the office of club president.

Ken was a colorful and interesting storyteller. He owned and drove Corvairs in the late 1960s and 1970s and he regaled in sharing stories about his youthful Corvair driving exploits and his reckless endeavors to push the Corvair's highway handling envelope.

As you might expect, Camelia now finds it difficult to live without Ken's companionship and care.

She called to tell me that she is sincerely grateful to the person or persons in our club who honored her with a kind and generous deed.

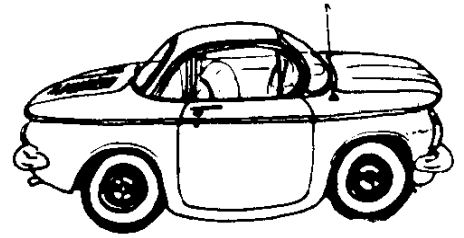
To those persons, Camelia expresses her sincere thanks.

*Bill Smith*

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**"Corvairs bring friends together."**



**A Cautionary Tale** *continued*

We got out and some people had stopped and wanted to know if we were all right. Surprisingly, we were. I think the fact that we went in backwards helped keep us from being injured. Instead of slamming into the wheel or dash, we were slammed into the seatbacks. The scary part was that we missed a concrete culvert by only about three feet.

Anyway, the highway patrol came by to see how we were and called a tow truck. I had no idea if there was any damage to the left rear because it was buried in the shrubs. The tow truck winched the car out and I noted that there was just some more scratches on the quarter panel. Also, the wheel-well chrome was trashed, as well as the wheel itself.

We put the spare on and limped into Joplin. The Wal-Mart auto depart-

ment was closed by the time we got there, so we had to spend the night at a hotel. The next morning we went back to Wal-Mart for some new tires. After the one blew, I had no trust in the rest of them. This was on a Sunday so Wal-Mart was the only tire store available. That's why I ended up with four Douglas tires, 185/70 x 13-inch.

After that detail was taken care of, the trip was going pretty well until about 25 miles from home when the fan belt went south and, stupid me, I didn't have a spare.

I called Triple-A and got towed home from that point.

The moral of my story is that you should always be prepared. The tires looked good, but you never know. I'm sure the guy I bought the car from had no idea they were bad. He only took short trips in it, a couple days a week, and probably not very fast. I

knew better about the fan belt, having had Corvairs in the past. I should have bought a couple of spares in advance and had one with me. ■

**A note about your ACC Treasurer**

Some Corvair Club members may not be aware that our ACC Treasurer, Elvis King, was hospitalized on January 28, in Little Rock, and he is recovering from surgery.

While Elvis is ill, we are doing our best to keep up with the club's mail and payments. If we missed your dues remittance, please forgive us. We will correct the error in our March newsletter.

In the mean time, please keep Elvis and JB Kin in your thoughts and prayers. ■

**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 **February**. ■

**Past Due** ..... David Carter  
Zack Eby  
Al Embrey  
Stew MacLeod  
Steve Simmons

**Due Feb** ..... Butch Chapman  
..... Corey Holtz  
..... Bill MacSorley  
..... Todd Sanders

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

Happy Birthday  
to our ACC associates  
born in March.

Cindy LaCrosse  
March 6

Betty Simmons  
March 7

Bill Smith (61 years)  
March 9

Mary Jolley  
March 10

Javier "Joe" Espejo (69 yrs)  
Bill MacSorley  
March 13

Zack Eby  
March 18

Beverly Ahrens  
March 25

Happy Anniversary

David & Susan Carter  
March 28

## ACC January Meeting Minutes



JB King

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

However, during the annual Holiday Open House activity, hosted by Stew and Ronnie MacLeod, on January 5, those attending gathered for an informal meeting. This informal gathering was chaired by president, Meredith Chapman.

The minutes for November meeting were approved as published in the November newsletter.

Bill Smith shared two newspaper articles with club members present. One of the articles was sent to Bill by Todd Sanders. Todd wrote and had published in the October 31, 2007 edition of the *Yell County Record*, an article and photograph of the 11 Corvairs that visited his home during our October 6 outing to Danville and Mt. Magazine. The second item was an advertisement from the December 2, 2007 *Three Rivers Edition* special supplement to the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. The ad featured a photo and brief note recognizing the volunteer service of ACC member, Buddy

Murray, from Wynne. Buddy was honored by the White County Medical Center for two year's of service as president of the White County Medical Center Auxiliary.

### Old Business

Bill Smith stated he would continue publishing the proposed amendments to the Arkansas Corvair Club's Constitution and Bylaws in the January newsletter. Bill also stated that he will coordinate with club offices to schedule a vote on the amendments so that we can update the Constitution and Bylaws and get them printed and distributed to members.

### New Business

Members discussed potential location and plans for a weekend activity, in late April, to celebrate the Arkansas Corvair Club's (CORSAs Chapter 722) 20th anniversary on February 29, 2008. Cities where we have held activities in past years include Hot Springs, Mountain View, Texarkana, and Branson, Mo. It was suggested that we consider Eureka Springs as a location for our 2008 spring activity. We are seeking suggestions from all ACC members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JB King



## 2007 Financial Report for the Arkansas Corvair Club

Elvis King, club Treasurer, reports the following financial statement to close out the 2007 calendar year for our Arkansas Corvair Club.

Beginning Balance ..... \$ 1,377.56

Income.....

Dues.....\$ 765.00

Merchandise.....\$ 10.00

Donations.....\$ 240.00

Total Income..... \$ 1,015.00

Expenses.....

NL & Postage.....\$ 479.76

Woolly Hollow.....\$ 40.00

Club P.O. Box.....\$ 68.00

Florist.....\$ 89.30

Total Expenses..... \$ 677.06

Year-End Balance ..... \$ 1,715.50

The 2007 year-end balance reflects an increase of \$337.94, over the year-end balance of our ACC treasury for December 31, 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.*

## Notable "Quotations"

"Sentiment plays a large role in the old car hobby, and in most other forms of mental illness."

Jamie Kitman

From the July 2007 issue of *Automobile* magazine; the words are from a regular column titled "Noise, Vibration, & Harshness." In this July column, Kitman recounts the acquisition of a new, never-titled green 1967 Volvo 122S station wagon.

In other reflections about this special car, Kitman refers to the Volvo as "a seminal sentimental object, always looming in my psycho-motive profile."



# On the Air

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

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first class  
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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 19**, 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:** Meredith Chapman,  
P.O. Box 243, Jacksonville, AR  
72078, 501 676-6693.

**Vice-President:** Vacant.

**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 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.