

# On the Air

Newsletter of the Arkansas Corvair Club ■ CORSA Chapter 722

March 2011

Volume 24, Issue 3

## Reflections on the start of the Arkansas Corvair Club

*The Arkansas Corvair Club's founder shares reflections about the organization of our CORSA chapter and the key role that founding member Dave Sanders played in our club's genesis.*

David Blakey

With the recent anniversary of our club's founding, I found myself daydreaming a bit about our very first meeting (in 1988) and the events that preceded it.

BJ Daugherty and I went to an SCCA Road Race in Memphis, in July or August of the preceding year, 1987. I had been working on the Spyder off and on and decided we would take a break.

BJ--who was an IMSA certified mechanic--still was helping Charles Morgan occasionally with his Camel GT-series car, as well as establishing his shop, so he knew his way around the pits and race cars.

Charles had won the National Championship the year before if my memory serves me right. In 1996 he and his 21-year-old son, Rob, were the winners of the GTS class at the Rolex 24-Hours at Daytona. BJ and I both were there and crewed for Charles and the Brix Oldsmobile. I mostly stood by and helped hump tires while the pros did their jobs.

At the Memphis race was a Corvair Yenko Stinger, driven by Scott Ferguson from Monroe, LA. Scott later was a source of performance parts for my '66 racer and helped me rebuild my step-son's Monza motor. He eventually moved to Oregon where he was in med school last time I talked to him.

I also met a man named David West from Memphis. David knew a lot about Corvairs and when he found out I was from Little Rock, he asked if I knew Stew and Ronnie MacLeod, and that he had met them at several conventions (Conventions...for Corvairs ??). He also told me I needed to join a Corvair group named CORSA.

I made a note of both and put it in my billfold, to be used as a resource for a plan that began developing in my mind.

Some of you already know the part where I found a Clark's Corvair Parts catalog in the Spyder's floorboard. It had a brief article on the back cover about CORSA.

That Fall I sent my dues to CORSA and started some correspondence about forming a club. At my request they sent me a list of every Arkansas CORSA member and their address. This was all by snail mail and took many weeks to pull together.

I still felt like I was just about the only Corvair owner in Arkansas, although I occasionally heard rumors that others existed. If my mind serves me, I think there were 26 Arkansas names on the original CORSA membership list.

The first letter to potential members was written and I will tell you that the few days between mailing it out and getting a response seemed like forever. I began getting responses by phone first, and then by mail. Elvis King, Joe Espejo and David Sanders were the first to call me--all from within just a few miles of where I lived. Amazing! There actually were other Corvair owners in Arkansas.

Dave Sanders was manager of Black and Decker's store in Little Rock, at the time. At his invitation, I drove by his

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**"Corvairs bring friends together."**

**Early ACC Reflections** *continued*

house the next weekend and he had a Corvair motor on the bench putting it back together. He introduced me to "Bert", his wife, and pulled out all kinds of fascinating Corvair bling. He had some really valuable stuff (...to some of us) that he had collected over the years.

Dave had names for all his cars, and his yellow convertible--"the Banana"--was his pride and joy. His energy and enthusiasm were instrumental in the continued effort to form the Arkansas Corvair Club.

At the first meeting, Dave and all his family helped greet people as they came in and made them feel like they should be there. Most importantly, he had supported the concept of the club when I was somewhat unsure I really should be doing this. He had brought

some of his prize bling that helped stimulate pride in the marquee and lots of conversation.

Dave was indeed one of the founding fathers of the club and without his effort and work (and, of course, I cannot say enough about Elvis, Joe and others), I don't know if we would have made it or not.

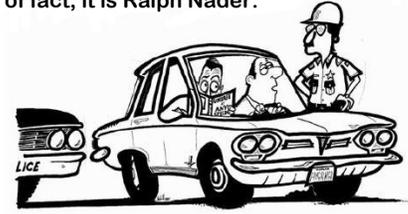
I have not seen Dave's name on the club's roster for some time, but it needs to be there.

He deserves more recognition than he has gotten, so I hope this reflection and remembrance might stimulate renewed Corvair participation from both Dave and Bert.

They are important members of our Corvair family. They should be there.

Best regards,  
*David Blakey*  
Clinton, Tennessee

Why, yes, officer. As a matter of fact, it is Ralph Nader.



Happy Birthday  
to our ACC associates  
born in April.

Laura Kuizin  
April 2

Kermit Parks (72 yrs)  
April 9

Cortney Claypool  
Mary Beth Claypool  
Christel Espejo  
Don Ruegsegger  
April 12

Jim Latture  
April 13

Ernie Gray (80 yrs)  
April 22

Larry Drannon  
April 26

Pam MacSorley  
April 30

Happy Anniversary  
to  
Larry & Pat Drannon  
April 25

**NOMINATIONS FOR ACC OFFICES**

At our March meeting, we will solicit nominations for ACC offices for the 2011-12 business year

As our club bylaws state, "Nominations for elected office will be made from the floor or in writing at the meeting one month prior to the election. At least one person must be nomi-

nated for each office. The April meeting will be the election meeting, with new officers taking office in May."

Our elected officers are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. Please consider serving as a club officer. We need you. ■

**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 **March**.

**Past Due**.....David Carter  
Bill Dulin  
Betty Jackson  
Rafee Luan  
Bill MacSorley  
Buddy Murray  
Julie Pearce  
Donald Ruegsegger

**Due Mar**.....Ernie Gray  
Mike Shroyer

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

## ACC February Meeting Minutes



JB King

The Arkansas Corvair Club met at Just Like Mom's restaurant, on Kiehler Avenue, in Sherwood, on Tuesday, February 15.

The meeting was called to order by president, Keith LaCrosse. We were pleased to have 18 members in attendance.

The minutes from the January meeting were read and approved as published in the February newsletter. Elvis King reported that the club had \$2,160.13 in our treasury.

### Old Business

There was no old business discussed.

### New Business

Shirley Sanders reported that she plans to order red shirts for ACC ladies who wish to purchase one. The shirts will be the same style as the green shirts Shirley ordered from Land's End.

Bill Smith reminded members that we will request nominations for club offices at our March meeting. And, we will hold officer elections at our April meeting.

### Tech Topic

Elvis King showed a Corvair steering gearbox that he rebuilt, recently, for his 1962 Monza Spyder convertible project car. The steering box was salvaged from a 1963 parts car. Other than cleaning and re-lubricating, Elvis had to replace only

two seals and one sleeve bushing to restore the gearbox to very smooth operation.

Elvis said that he plans to use Bob Helt's "recipe" for steering gear lube, as specified in Helt's book *Corvair Secrets*. This recipe consists of equal parts differential gear lube and chassis grease, which are heated to emulsify the mixture.

Also, Elvis used the "cleaned-up" old gearbox to demonstrate basic operation, as well as how to disassemble, reassemble, and adjust a Corvair steering gearbox during re-build project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JB King



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TRW forged pistons, \$295

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61-4 chrome gas cap with key, \$17.88

60-9 differential top cover gasket, cork, \$4.25

Universal HP Accel coil, \$28.25

63-9 mirror with Chevy bow-tie, \$27.80

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(Prices subject to change)

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# On the Air

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*“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.

### March Meeting

The ACC will meet Tuesday, **March 15**, at 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:** Keith LaCrosse, 26 Woodlawn Drive, Beebe, AR 72012, 501 882-5040.

**Vice-President:** Bill Smith, 3034 Donnell Ridge Rd, Apt 328, Conway, AR 72034, 501 499-6676.

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

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

**Elected Board:** Allan Embrey, 501 834-5373; Joe Espejo, 501 834-0806; Clyde Jones, 870 429-6789; Aaron Swift, 501 490-2448.

**Appointed Board:** Pending.

### Committee Chairs

**Membership:** Elvis King

**Publicity:** Bill Smith

**Newsletter Editor:** Bill Smith, 3034 Donnell Ridge Rd, Apt 328, Conway, AR 72034, 501 499-6676.

### Newsletter Advertising:

Non-members and businesses:  
\$150/year full page; \$100-½ page;  
\$50-¼ 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.