

On the Air

Newsletter of the Arkansas Corvair Club ■ CORSA Chapter 722

February 2012

Volume 25, Issue 2

REFLECTIONS

Looking back on 1988 and the Arkansas Corvair Club's very first year

by Elvis King

As the Arkansas Corvair Club begins our 25th year as a chartered CORSA chapter, in March of this year, perhaps it might be interesting to look back to how our club got its start.

In late 1987 and early 1988, David Blakey--the Arkansas Corvair Club's founding father--mailed letters to Corvair owners around the state, to gauge interest in forming a new CORSA chapter in Arkansas. The response to David's inquiry was strong enough to justify his renting a meeting room in the North Little Rock Holiday Inn, for Saturday, February 20, 1988.

On that February date, some 35 to 40 enthusiasts gathered in North Little Rock, driving 12 Corvairs from various regions of the state. After that initial group meeting and discussion, everyone was optimistic that a new Arkansas CORSA chapter was possible.

For that first meeting, the late February weather was unusually warm and sunny. Following the planning meeting, central Arkansans were treated to their very first impromptu Corvair parade, as 11 Corvairs, many with convertible

tops down, made their way south along Main Street, through North Little Rock, across the Broadway bridge, and on to the state Capitol grounds, where some parade participants took photographs and conversed to get acquainted.

A week later, on Monday, February 29th (1988 also was a leap year), using a document template provided by the Corvair Society of America, our charter application for chapter status was drafted and signed by 11 Corvair enthusiasts. With that action, the Arkansas Corvair Club, CORSA Chapter 722, came into being.

A club newsletter--which soon would become *On the Air*--started being published and mailed to members and prospects, to communicate news of club activities and to share technical advice. Shortly thereafter, our now-familiar turbo-based club logo (see image) was designed and club patches were made.

Although our founding members had plenty of enthusiasm, the early ACC years were challenging. A fledg-

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Happy Birthday Arkansas Corvair Club

*Officially chartered on
February 29, 1988.*

Names of ACC founding directors:

Jim Agee
David K. Blakey
Jeff Barber
Kenneth Eddy
Javier "Joe" Espejo
Gerald Glass
Bob Jett
Elvis King
Stewart MacLeod
Gerald McBroom
David Sanders



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"Corvairs bring friends together."

CORVAIR 500

In Memory

*When time who steals our years away
Shall steal our pleasures too,
The memory of the past will stay
And half our joys renew.*

Thomas Moore

Recently, our Corvair club was saddened by news of the loss of two of our members.

In November, we learned of the passing of Barbara Koenig, wife of George Koenig, of Mountain Home. Barbara passed away on November 14, 2011, at the age of 77.

Many of you who knew Barbara are aware of the fact that she loved to sew and quilt. Also, Barbara loved baseball and she was a devoted fan of the Chicago Cubs.

In January, we learned of the passing of Frances "Fran" Gray, wife of Ernie Gray, of Cabot, and mother of Cathy Smith, also of Cabot.

Fran passed away on January 22, at the age of 78. Those who knew Fran are aware that she was a happy homemaker who doted on her family and her grandchildren.

With these losses, we are reminded that each day is a special gift.

Barbara Koenig and Fran Gray will be missed by our Arkansas Corvair family. ■

Welcome New ACC Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to our Arkansas CORSA chapter.

- ◆ James Harakel,
Mena, AR
- ◆ Orville & Janice Mears,
Flippin, AR
- ◆ John & Jennifer Naas,
Jacksonville, AR

Looking back to 1988 *continued*

fort, Illinois (www.vairshop.com), remains *the* Corvair top gun. Larry remains very active with the Chicagoland Corvair Enthusiasts, CORSA chapter 605, and in the Corvair Society of America, as well.

Over the years, all three of these individuals have been named honorary members of our Arkansas CORSA chapter. We are sincerely indebted to each of them for their contributions to our club's success.

On behalf of all Arkansas Corvair enthusiasts, past and present, I express sincere thanks and salute each of them for their important contributions to our Arkansas Corvair Club, CORSA chapter 722. ■

Happy Birthday
to our ACC associates
born in March.

Cindy LaCrosse
March 6

Betty Simmons
March 7

Bill Smith
March 9 (65 yrs)

Javier "Joe" Espejo (73 yrs)
Bill MacSorley
March 13

Barbara Rhodes
March 18

Lillie Arnold
Zac Cook
March 21

Paul Harless
March 23

Beverly Ahrens
March 25

Ashlynn Cook
Renee Mobbs
March 30

Happy Anniversary

Mike & Trisha Shroyer
March 10

Jerry & Donna Pentzer
March 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 **February**.

Past Due.....Camelia Franson
Rafee Luan
Dave Sanders
Mike Winn

Due Feb.....Butch Chapman
Bill MacSorley
Don Ruegsegger
Todd Sanders

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

ACC January Meeting Minutes



JB King

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

The meeting was called to order by president Keith LaCrosse. There were 31 members and two guests in attendance.

The minutes from our November meeting were read and approved as published in the January newsletter.

ACC treasurer Elvis King reported a balance of \$ 2,319.53 in our club treasury.

Old Business

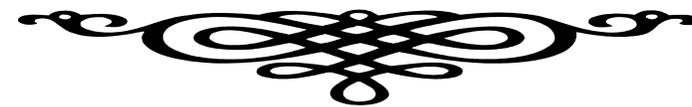
Members continued the discussion, from November, regarding the new

Looking back to 1988 *continued*

ling CORSA chapter needs money to survive. To meet that need, Kenneth Eddy, a charter member from Fairfield Bay, planned and arranged for our club to host the 7th Annual Fairfield Bay Antique and Classic Car Show, on August 13, 1988. The show was an unqualified success and proceeds from it went a long way toward putting the ACC on a solid financial footing.

In addition to money, a nascent CORSA chapter needs some means to garner recognition, respect, and credibility with other chapters and other groups of auto enthusiasts. To help get us recognized, during that first year of activity, Stew and Ronnie MacLeod--already long-time CORSA members--contacted Larry Claypool (from Chicago) to inquire about his willingness to visit Arkansas and to conduct a technical seminar for our club.

On October 22, 1988, the "perfessor" himself, delivered a slide presentation, on the subject of Corvair wheel alignment, to an enthusiastic audience of 33 Corvair lovers, at the Airport Holiday Inn in Little Rock. With



CORSA requirement that local clubs must remit \$3.00 annually for each member who is not a member of CORSA. A decision is pending from club leaders on how our CORSA chapter will deal with this added expense.

New Business

It was announced that any ACC members who are planning to attend the 2012 CORSA convention, in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, should make reservations quickly. All rooms at the Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center are nearly booked.

Announcements

Jerry Pentzer announced that he and Donna will celebrate their 8th wedding anniversary with an open house, on Saturday, March 31, at their residence in Ozark. All members of the Arkansas Corvair Club are invited to celebrate with Donna and Jerry. Also,

Larry's professional presentation at that October 1988 gathering, our fledgling Corvair Club had finally carved a small niche on the Arkansas auto enthusiasts' landscape.

After months of planning, perseverance, and hard work by a handful of dedicated individuals, CORSA Chapter 722 had indeed arrived and the Corvair's future in Arkansas became significantly brighter. Our ACC was in gear and on its way.

Since the club's founding in 1988, the ensuing years have produced enduring friendships among members in Arkansas, as well as close associations with others whom we see annually at CORSA conventions across the USA.

Over the years, we have been saddened by the loss of some avid Corvair enthusiasts from our ranks. And, we have continued to welcome new members and to make new friendships along the way.

This past year has brought about an unprecedented growth in our membership. While many other organizations are struggling to maintain their participation levels, the ACC is continu-

Jerry announced there will be an antique car show on April 21, in Ozark, sponsored by the Greater Ozark Mustang club (www.gomc.org).

Elvis King reported he had received word from former ACC member Danny Bokamper that Danny is offering for sale a complete Kellmark mid-engine V8 conversion kit for the Corvair. For information, contact Danny Bokamper at **501 835-4330**.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JB King

ing to grow! During the past 13 months, we added 14 new members. That's a remarkable growth spurt!

Today, David and Sarah Blakey live in Clinton, Tennessee. They still maintain interest in our CORSA chapter and stay in touch with ACC friends in Arkansas. While no longer owning a Corvair, David continues his interest in automobiles through his active participation with a group that races an Eagle Talon. The Talon was built to enter in low-cost, regional endurance racing events for the "24 Hours of LeMons" circuit. And, "no," that name "LeMons" is not a typographical error.

The 24 Hours of LeMons organization, a.k.a., the Societe d'Junqueheaps du Mons, is a spoof on the 80-year-old 24 Hours of Le Mans racing event. However, with the "LeMons" version, the total investment in each race car is limited to only \$500, including the car and the preparation; but excluding approved safety equipment, brakes, and wheels and tires. For more details, see www.24hoursoflemons.com.

Another ACC charter member, Kenneth Eddy was a complete Corvair man. Kenneth passed away in August of 1999. To everyone who knew him, Kenneth is remembered as a kind and generous gentleman, possessed of a keen wit that delighted and charmed those around him.

Larry Claypool, who owns and operates The Vair Shop, Inc., in Frank-

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On the Air

Arkansas Corvair Club
P.O. Box 627
Little Rock, AR 72203

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 21**, 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, 501 882-9389.

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.

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.

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.