



# Group Corvair Comments



GROUP CORVAIR'S NEWSLETTER FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA

VOLUME XXXIX, No. VIII

Nov 2011

## Ward Bourgondien, A Remembrance

Jim & Marolyn Simpson



We first met Ward and Carol Bourgondien at the 1982 Group Corvair awards banquet at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Vienna, Virginia. (Dinner was \$11.50 with an extra \$3.00 kicked in by the club.) Little did we know then just how much of a Corvair enthusiast Ward was? He and Carol were regular attendees at the club meetings and quickly took an active role in the club activities. Going back through our newsletter archives, I found out just how quickly Ward became a driving force in the club. In 1983 Ward was elected as Vice President and then moved up to be President the next year. As President, he created the monthly "From the Oval Garage" column for the newsletter. Every issue had a touch of humor and insight that delighted the readers.

Back in those days, we actually rotated people through the various offices, so in 1985, Ward took over as Treasurer. But he then returned as President in 1986 and continued holding his office through the end of 1990. During that time, he convinced Group Corvair – and CORSA – that we should host the 1991 CORSA International Convention in New Carrollton, MD. So in 1991, the club gave him a break from club office so he could devote full time to the convention organization; meanwhile, Carol picked up duties as club Treasurer. I don't think anyone who attended the '91 CORSA convention would say it was anything but a rousing success. Ward drafted Marolyn and me to handle the registration. We processed 930 attendees, 77 cars for the concours, 560 people for the awards banquet and 201 spaces

for vendors. One of my favorite scenes was watching 374 people loading up for the Potomac River dinner cruise on the eight Gray Line tour buses. The buses were lined up along 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue in New Carrollton; everyone going on the cruise was lined up in front of the hotel. We'd fill one bus, dispatch it, and the next would pull up for the next load. It worked than military precision.

And who can forget that we had as the convention guest speaker, Ralph Nader. He spoke before a packed ballroom with cameras from all the local TV stations rolling. Ward was tireless! Among all the other duties and responsibilities, he had taken on the job of providing convention tee-shirts. When we started running short, he spent an entire night during the convention silk screening more to keep up with the demand. All in all, Ward organized a truly memorable convention.

Ward returned to the club helm in 1993, but started training his successors. He was moving on to bigger and better things. He moved to the national stage, being elected to the CORSA Board of Directors. And since he

couldn't be content with having run just one national convention, he started working with a confederation of Pennsylvania Corvair clubs plus Group Corvair to host the 2003 convention, this time in Carlyle, PA. (He managed to convince Marolyn and me to do registration one more time.) Carlyle was another outstanding success, with great attendance, a locale with plenty of space to spread out, and wonderful tours of Dutch Country.

If all this wasn't enough, Ward represented the club at a number of D.C. area car clubs and related organizations. In particular, Ward made Group Corvair a sponsoring club for the annual Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show, one of the premier car shows in the Washington area. As a result, Group Corvair has a prime spot for our marque in this show.

All good things must come to an end. Ward and Carol decided to retire and escape the DC winters. In 2004 they moved to Florida. But Ward didn't forget Group Corvair! He made periodic runs up here to check up on things, showing up at meetings unexpectedly to make sure the club was still on an even keel.

Even after Ward was diagnosed with his illness, he didn't give up. He continued to be a fixture at the CORSA International Conventions.

Ward Bourgondien has left a tremendous legacy in the Corvair world and will be fondly remembered by everyone who met him.



You speak independent suspension, four-on-the-floor, bucket seats and like that? We hear you, yes we do.

## '66 CORVAIR '66 CORVETTE

Now you can sample America's sportiest looking, sportiest acting low-priced car for 1966: Corvair by Chevrolet. A lot's new. Trim touches here and there. Adjustable headrests you can add if you like. A new fully synchronized 3-speed for creamy smooth shifting.

A lot's *not* new. You still get bucket seats in Corsas and Monzas. Corvair's engine still rides in back so you go when other cars won't. It's still air-cooled—away with water and hoses and anti-freeze! You still get a big choice in Sixes, from our 95-hp miser to the 180-hp Turbo-Charged version you can order in Corsas. The '66 Corvair: for people who *like* to drive.

Now you hear the big news about Corvette by Chevrolet. For 1966, it's horsepower! Standard V8 is 327 cu. in., 300 hp. There's a 350-hp edition you can order, too. You swashbucklers just ask, and we'll drop in our new Turbo-Jet 427 under its own high-domed hood.

"Street" version's 390 hp with a 4-bbl and hydraulic lifters. The performance engine (special cam, solid lifters and more) cranks out 425 hp!

And Corvette knows how to handle all this: full independent suspension, sports-car steering, four-wheel disc brakes. If a package like this doesn't tempt you into the '66 Corvette, just look how it's wrapped.

CHEVROLET



## EVENTS SCHEDULE November

**15 - Group Corvair Meeting.** 7:00 p.m. at Glory Days Restaurant in Bowie, MD. 15505 Annapolis Rd. Bowie, MD 20715-3003, (phone) 301-805-5299, [bowie@glorydaysgrill.com](mailto:bowie@glorydaysgrill.com)

Corvair Corsa Sport Coupe, Corvette Sting Ray Sport Coupe  
©1965 General Motors Corp. Buckle up, America!

## GROUP CORVAIR 2011 OFFICERS

**President:** Jim Govoni

12713 Keswick Ave  
Bowie, MD 20715  
301 262-7017

[JKFG717@aol.com](mailto:JKFG717@aol.com)

**Vice President:** Philip Richardson

3810 Catesby Oak Court  
Port Republic, MD 20676  
410 586-2725

[Par429@aol.com](mailto:Par429@aol.com)

**Secretary:** Marolyn Simpson

12710 Lode St.  
Bowie, MD 20720  
301 262-0978

[m.simpson7@verizon.net](mailto:m.simpson7@verizon.net)

**Treasurer:** Jim Simpson

12710 Lode St.  
Bowie, MD 20720  
301 262-0978

[simpsonj@bellatlantic.net](mailto:simpsonj@bellatlantic.net)

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**Newsletter Editor:** Philip Richardson

3810 Catesby Oak Court  
Port Republic, MD 20676  
410 586-2725

[Par429@aol.com](mailto:Par429@aol.com)

[Philip.Richardson@navy.mil](mailto:Philip.Richardson@navy.mil)

**Merchandise:** Gus Torbert

5317 Crittenden Street  
Hyattsville, MD 20781  
303 927-6029

## Minutes of the October Meeting

By Marolyn Simpson

At the September meeting club members decided that the October meeting should be at Glory Days Grill to see if more people would attend. It worked! On October 18 nine Group Corvair members gathered at the Glory Days Grill in Bowie at 7:30 p.m. where they enjoyed dinner together.

After dinner Jim Govoni called the business meeting to order at 8:45 pm. The first order of business was the discussion and decision to meet at the restaurant again for the November 15 meeting. However, the start time was moved up to 7:00 p.m.

Jim Simpson gave a report on the Rockville Antique and Classic Car Show which had been held on Saturday, October 15 at the Civic Center Park. There were four late model Corvairs at the show and all of them were parked together. They made a great display and received a lot of attention. This year's "show within the show" was race cars. Unfortunately there were no Corvair race cars in the special show.

The December meeting will move back to the New Carrollton Municipal Center. There will be a short business meeting beginning at 7:30 pm followed by the Christmas party. Everyone is asked to bring some Christmas goodies to share with the group.

One suggestion for a club activity was a possible tour of the Silver Hill facility which is part of the Smithsonian. This is where airplanes are restored for display in the museum. There will be more discussion and information at a later meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.



**Dues are Due!**

Jim Simpson

Once again, that time of the year has come around again. No, not Christmas, no not New Years. It's Group Corvair Dues time! We charge a measly \$1 a month or \$12 a year. And we make it convenient to remember -- dues are due on the first of the year. So please add one more item to your post-holidays bill paying, a check to Group Corvair.

Please make out the check to Group Corvair and send it to: Group Corvair C/O Jim Simpson  
12710 Lode St., Bowie, MD 20720

**'VAIR VENDOR****For Sale:**

Battery for late model. Group 24F, Sears Gold Diehard, 100 month warranty, maintenance free. Used for about a year; replaced only because I bought a reproduction "tar top" battery for show use. \$25 or best offer. Jim Simpson, 301-262-0978. Can bring to meetings.

Blue T-Shirts with Group Logo, 3 XL, 6L, 10M & 3S

White T-Shirts with Group Logo, 2XL, 10M, 3S

Blue golf-style w/Group logo, 1S

White Sweatshirt with Group logo, 3XL, 1L

T-Shirts are \$8 and the sweats are \$15.

2 Clark's Main and Specialty catalogs (2007-2012) \$4.00

**GOODS AND SERVICES****Clark's Corvair Parts, Inc. –**

NOS, Aftermarket and reproduction parts  
Rt. 2, Shelburne Falls, MA 10370  
413/625-9776.  
[www.corvair.com](http://www.corvair.com).

**Corvair Ranch, Inc.**

All Corvair, new, used and Reproduction Parts.  
1079 Bon-Ox Road  
Gettysburg, PA 17325  
717 624-2805  
[www.corvairranch.com](http://www.corvairranch.com)

**Corvair Underground**

PO Box 339  
Dundee, OR 97115  
1-800-825-8247  
[www.corvairunderground.com](http://www.corvairunderground.com)

**LS Corvair Parts**

1300 W. 253<sup>rd</sup> St  
Harbor City, CA 90710  
1-310-534-3324  
[www.lscorvairparts.co](http://www.lscorvairparts.co)

Group Corvair welcomes anyone in the Washington, DC area who has an interest in the Chevrolet Corvair. We sponsor a variety of events including shows, tech sessions, and social gatherings. Dues are \$12.00 a year, payable to Group Corvair and sent to the treasurer's address.

Group Corvair is a chapter of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA), P.O. Box 607, Lemont, IL 60439-0607. Dues are \$45.00 a year. As a member, you will receive the award-winning CORSA Communique and be eligible to attend all CORSA national events, including the annual convention.