

Corvair-Sations



The Official Publication of Corsa Oregon

January 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello everyone:

Here we are again at the close of another year and like usual it went by rather quickly. Looking back on what little memory I have, I can say it was a fun filled year for our club. For me and Ritha the big event was the Econorun to Victoria BC. That was a fun trip with a nice drive up the scenic Olympic highway. Then the Sherwood Cruise-In that a few were able to attend and enter into the Corvair category. There was a whale watching (Ultravan) tour on the Oregon coast and then the national convention in Colorado. Next was the car show that our club helped sponsor in Vancouver, Washington, the Beaches Cruise-In at PIR, Corvair College at the Lawson's hangar, the Fanbelt Toss in Palm Springs and, to end to end the year, our annual Christmas Auction. Hopefully, you were able to get in on at least one or more of these events.

I would like to thank each and every one of you that helped in any way with putting together, or assisting with anyone of these events. Without all of your hard work and effort in volunteering your time we could not have these activities to enjoy and would just have to take the Corvair out and drive in big circles. So, thank you again!

As always, we're not sure what is in store for the club this next year . . . other than the National Convention and a few other routine events. I'm not sure yet where the Econorun will be held this year but there was talk of the Seattle area as a possibility. I am looking forward though to just spending time with each of you as we get out and put some miles on the old Corvairs. Who knows, I might even change the oil in the four door this year. A Corvair trip will give me a good excuse to stop working on my house and get out for a while. I can honestly say I haven't driven the Corvair for over three months now. I did start it up the other week just to see if it still ran and it did. So I do hope that you're all driving your Corvair more that I am and that you are looking forward to another fun filled year with Corsa Oregon.

Until next time, "Turn your head lights on" and God Bless . . . Regan

Oh, and Ritha still needs articles sent her way. She says, "Please."

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Please submit newsletter articles and ideas to Ritha Metcalf by the 15th of each month. She can be reached at ritha2@msn.com or 503-936-8339.

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Next Meeting: January 4th Refreshments—Regan Metcalf

Board mtg at 6:30 p.m. Regular mtg at 7:30 p.m.

Oregon Stamp Society Building, 4828 NE 33rd, Portland

DON'T MISS THE CORSA NATIONAL CONVENTION THIS YEAR

Submitted By: Barb Sizemore

When Tom, my dear husband, told me that the Corsa National Convention was being held in Sturbridge Village this Summer, I told him that we might eat PB&J sandwiches for a few months, but we are going to this convention. Why? Because Sturbridge is located in one of the most interesting areas of our country.



The New England area is beautiful and it's loaded with mountains that have great hiking and biking trails and wonderful photo ops. Unlike the Magnificent Northwest, this area has been settled for hundreds of years and you have the ability to visit and appreciate the building of America. In Old Sturbridge Village, you'll be seeing America at the beginning of the 1800's. When you walk into the village you'll be seeing the houses and businesses of New England as water powered mills began to be built. It gives you an opportunity to see how families, work, building, food and marketing have all changed in 200 years. I was able to spend one day here and because of the many special shows that were scheduled during the day, I really needed two days.

The quilters and knitters need to leave time for the gift shop. They have special reproduction fabric from this time period. A special word to the quilters and knitters, this trip will be incredible! There are quilt museums, yarn shops and fabric shops that you will never forget. To get a warm-up for the trip you might want to start lifting weights to build up those muscles. You're going to be packing some serious shopping bags. I suggest packing a lot of old clothes that you can throw away when you refill your suitcases with all that yarn and fabric. See the WEBS yarn website, WEBS is less than an hour away from Sturbridge. I will be organizing a trip there. Keep in touch.

Lowell, Massachusetts is something you can't miss. Everyone studied Lowell in school, but does anyone out there remember it? Lowell was the first of the great mill towns of the first American Industrial Revolution. The town was built there because the area had the perfect position for a water powered mill town. There is a powerful river that runs through the town and it was diverted into canals that ran through the town. Along the canals were built dozens of water powered mills and these mills used the water to clean, card, spin, ply and weave cotton and wool into thousands of yards of wool and cotton fabric. You may recall, it was the combination of the cotton mills in New England and Eli Whitney's cotton gin that led to the huge demand for cotton in the South and that led to the demand for slavery, and, sadly, to the Civil War. Lowell was also the home of the famous Lowell Mill Girls. Lured from their farm homes with the promise of a free education and good wages, the girls found long, hard working hours and a payday drained by board and room charges. The Lowell Mill Girls in response formed the first workers strike in America.



Left: Lowell Cemetery founded in 1841 is one of the oldest garden cemeteries in the nation and home to the Witch Bonney Statue. Center: Witch Bonney Statue. Left: Mill Girls Sculpture.

Today, the Lowell Mills have been turned into expensive condos, but you will see the canals and museums and art galleries that celebrate the immense contribution that the city made to the US industry. Oh, yes, there is a quilt museum.

Northwest of Sturbridge is the amazing Shelburne Museum. The Shelburne is not a dry and dull museum. It is the collection of a wonderfully eccentric woman who began collecting what her contemporaries considered "junk." To store her "junk," she started to collect buildings. What a wonderfully mad collection of buildings she made! Everything from the oldest colonial houses to post-modern green boxes. She collected an antique carousel, a round barn, and a mini-circus and more than I can remember. The beautiful grounds are dotted with apple trees that are the real apples that you may remember from the "good old days" much as I hate that idiotic phrase. And yes, they have a terrific quilt collection. And they let you take pictures . . . at least I think so. Don't miss the gift shop, they have a very nice book shop, too.

Welcome to the City of Newport, Rhode Island



Southwest of Sturbridge, is Newport, Rhode Island. This is a place I haven't seen but I plan to spend a couple of days at. During the 1880's and 90's, the Robber Barons of American industry built their splendid mansions that they called summer cottages. The Astors and the Van der Bilt, and their friends (and enemies, social and business) placed their homes along the cliff that edged the Atlantic Ocean. Today those mansions are restored and open to the public. For one price you can visit all the mansions and if you don't want to be trapped indoors, you can walk the trail along the cliff that runs between the mansions and the ocean. It's free and is one of the most unique walks you'll ever take.



You'll need to have a car for your trip into Vermont and New Hampshire. There's a nice tour going up one state and down the other. You'll be able to visit the plants and tour Ben and Jerry's ice Cream, King Arthur's Flour, and Cabot Creamery. And if that seems too low for your spiritual natures you will be able to visit the Shaker Village where they followed the dictate, "Hands to work and hearts to God." They were delightfully odd people who were clever enough to invent any number of brilliant machines, but too short sighted to realize that without children, their religion was going to die out. If you happen to love antique hunting, you'll be overwhelmed with joy on this trip. You could spend weeks out there and keep finding new (or old) places to visit. And, yes, they have antique quilts. One of the stranger things I enjoyed on my visit was the graveyards. So many in the old towns are colonial and the old graveyards offer wonderful opportunities for taking unforgettable pictures. You can even make rubbings of the gravestones. The tombstones are decorated with carvings and sayings that you will want to remember. You can see why these towns are so often used for horror stories. Visiting on a bright and sunny day is a very good idea.

If you are planning a trip into Boston, you'll be needing a whole new page in your diary. You might think about buying a Boston City Pass. It'll save you 50% on tickets to the New England Aquarium, Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, Skywalk Observatory and the Harvard Museum. Check out the Wikipedia entry for "sites of interest in Boston," it will give you a load of information. This is one of the greatest cities in America. You might think about staying at a Bed and Breakfast. Tom and I stayed at one outside of Boston that dates to the Revolution and supposedly harbored a ghost. We didn't see it, maybe you will.

Outside of Boston, you'll be seeing Salem, home of the horrific witch trials. It's a beautiful town and it preserved the character of the town as it grew. Don't miss the Maritime Museum. It's a homage to the great days of sailing ships. There is also a Witch Museum and it is almost a civic duty to visit it. It is a strong lesson on the danger of mixing religion with civil government. All the stories you heard about the American Revolution will be racing around you when you walk through Concord and Lexington. You will stand on the site where the first American died for our country. You will follow the steps of the great ones that lived there . . . Franklin, Revere, Adams, Kennedy, and Babe Ruth. Thomas tells me that I am a frustrated tour director. Maybe he's right but I'm not the only person to love New England. After you visit this Summer, you'll love it, too!

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