

Lime Rock 1974

Lime Rock Report

by Michael Bailie

second annual Lime Rock Meet, October 5-6, sponsored by the Northeast CORSA Council, was well attended by CORSA members from throughout the Northeastern states. Corvair enthusiasts from Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Canada turned out on a beautiful fall weekend for an outstanding agenda of 'vair activities. The Council clubs (Connecticut, Long Island, Central New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia) were expecting a huge throng, but were a bit surprised to register some real Corvair fans from Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio! The long distance trophy went to MaryAnn Volk of Warren, Ohio who drove her Spyder convertible all the way (top down, MaryAnn?)

Saturday, time trials were staged at the Lime Rock track, billed as the "racing capitol of the East"--you've read about the course in Car & Driver magazine (Lime Rock is the site for their annual Challenge series). The New Jersey club was in charge of the trials this year and an admirable job they did in timing the 30 plus Corvairs that ran. Track announcer was Bob Marlow of the Jersey club who's made quite a name for himself as announcer for many oval track races in the East. You can imagine the fun Bob had reporting on all those crazy people screeching their 'vairs around the 1.5 mile course! Highlights of the day were Jim VanLenten's ('63 Sprint) perfect 360 in the Esses, and Ingrid Klingaman's exploding engine ("No more girl racers in my car!" reports husband Ken).

Saturday evening's banquet held at the Jug End Resort in Great Barrington saw an overflow crowd sit down to an excellent roast beef meal. Special guests were Mr. and Mrs. John Fitch and Mr. and Mrs. Karl Ludvigsen. John Fitch is, of course, the man behind those fabulous Fitch Sprint Corvairs: John was kind enough to answer many of our questions on the Sprint. Main banquet speaker was Karl Ludvigsen, the fine automotive writer and current East Coast Editor of Motor Trend magazine. Karl presented a fascinating slide presentation on the early development of the Corvair and the many Corvair experimental vehicles. Both subjects are well known to Karl, as he was reporting on the early years of our favorite as Editor of Sports Cars Illustrated, then later moved to the Public Relations Department at Chevrolet to become intimately involved with promoting the Corvair.

More beautiful weather greeted those on hand for Sunday's concours on the Jug End grounds. Twenty-seven Corvairs were judged by the Philadelphia club using a revised system of judging which proved to speed up the usually slow judging pace considerably. Teams of judges checked specific areas on each car, which allowed all judging to be done in two and a half hours while retaining comprehensive scrutiny of all entrants. Best of Show was won by Leo Spanier with his '68 Fitch Sprint, narrowly beating Charles Rice's '64 Spyder for the honor. Peoples Choice went to Doug Malcolm's '61 Lakewood. We should mention, too, the absolutely spectacular setting for the concours; on a finely cut grass field with the Berkshires in the background.

The Northeast CORSA Council wishes to thank all its member clubs for the truly outstanding jobs they did: Connecticut, accommodations (Dave & Irene Worden, Tony Fiore); New Jersey, time trials (Ken Klingaman, Bob Marlow); Philadelphia, concours (Jim Lippencott, Steve Petrelli); Long Island, trophies, (Doug Malcolm, Ty Magliola); and Central New York, signs & model car contest (Ed Zintek).

The Council is now making plans for next year's Meet and hopes you will make your plans to attend. Without a doubt, the Lime Rock Meet is a quality event with everything going for it: scenery, activities and organization. How the Council can improve on this year's Meet is hard to imagine. Rumor has it 're working on Nader to run the time trials in an early fall . . .

TIME TRIAL RESULTS

Pure Stock I. (low HP) Winner - Ty Maglioli #26 1:32.52
Pure Stock II. (150-180HP) John Swanson #43 1:23.82

Street Stock I. Jim Van Lenten #2 1:28.78
Street Stock II. Mike Brent #24 1:20.45
Street Stock III. ? #35 1:19.89
Street Stock IV. Paul McCreery #39 1:21.41
Prodified Jerry Yellen #4 1:11.63

CONCOURS RESULTS

Best of Show--Leo Spanier, '66 Fitch Sprint
Early Model Stock--Ron Schwartz, '63 Monza coupe
Early Model Altered--Charles Rice, '64 Spyder convertible
Early Model Modified--Harris Lighty, '63 Monza convertible
Late Model Stock--Ty Magliola, '67 Monza coupe
Late Model Altered (open)--Cal Clark, '66 Corsa convertible
Late Model Altered (closed)--Dave Worden, '69 Monza coupe
Late Model Modified--Alan Morvay, '66 Monza coupe
Specialty--John Bozutto, '72 Cavalier convertible
People's Choice--Doug Malcolm, '61 Lakewood 700

West Coast Mini-Convention--WOW!

"Corvairs in Oregon," the West Coast Mini-Convention held on September 27, 28, and 29, was a roaring success. Members of San Francisco Bay Area CORSA, Cactus Corvair-Corvette Club, Vintage CORSA, and CORSA North West trucked many miles to participate in the north woods tribal gathering, held in Eugene.

The host chapter, CORSA Oregon, is to celebrate their first anniversary as a formal organization in January, but the event held on September 27-29 was the handiwork of a club with all its gears in mesh. These people really have their heads together! Corvairs began to roll into the Rodeway Inn, convention headquarters, parking lot early Friday evening. The stream of arriving 'vairs didn't stop until the next morning. Some people had just about enough time to turn back their trip odometers before festivities got underway. Right on schedule, Saturday morning, judges scrutinized a fleet of sparkling concours entries (best in the west!) amidst the spectacular scenery of Armitage State Park, through which runs the McKenzie River. Judging sheets were penciled and stamped by the two p.m. post time for what turned out to be a wild and wooley, ninety mile expedition through the Oregon back woods. Wayne Felt, who made the trek, along with almost all the members of his club, CORSA Northwest, reports in NW Vair-lety,

"The caravan of Corvairs was unbelievable. As far as you could see behind you they were still coming. We had to pull off the side of the road several times as the CORSA National Film Crew drove ahead to take pictures as we drove by, and then we'd stop and they'd drive ahead of us again for more pictures . . . We eventually ended up by driving approximately 90 miles over some very winding roads. (Thank heavens Corvairs are safe at any speed!) The tour took us some 30 miles south of Eugene through Cottage Grove and then back to the Rodeway Inn at 6:00 p.m.

Immediate past CORSA President, Board Member Dave Newell, presented a synopsis of Chicago convention events, sketched details of new national programs and related anecdotes of a recent Motor City tour, as guest speaker at the Saturday night banquet.

Sunday was autocross day; although participation was not as anticipated, the event was competitive. Incidentally, many thanks should be given the many producers and distributors who graciously provided convention door prizes and displays.

So, this initial event, sponsored by CORSA Oregon, was enjoyed by all. Oregon President Dave Kent would like to thank all participating clubs for their great cooperation.

CONCOURS RESULTS

Early Stock--Jerry Graf, '64 Monza convertible
Early Modified--O'Lene Kent, '63 Monza convertible
Late Stock--Wayne Felt, '65 Monza convertible
Late Modified--Tim Shevlin, '66 coupe
Modified Trucks--Dave Kent, '62 Corvan
Specialty Class--Dave Kent, dune buggy

Autocross results are not available at this time.