

www.corvair.org/chapters/njace

**Monthly Breakfast Meeting
February 7th - 9 am at
Ashley's Auto Body - Flanders, NJ**

This month [February] we will have a parts auction at Ashley's Auto Body. Our Breakfast meeting will be part of the Parts Auction since it starts in the morning. Our Quarterly meeting in March will be at the Mt. Olive Grill we'll be at the Pronto Deli for breakfast on the first monday as usual.

The newly elected officers are conducting a series of meetings targeting this years monthly activities and planning the Corvair's 50th Birthday celebration. We will need a lot of help with this endeavor for it to be successful. So, do some forward thinking and set aside some time to help NJACE get this done!!!!

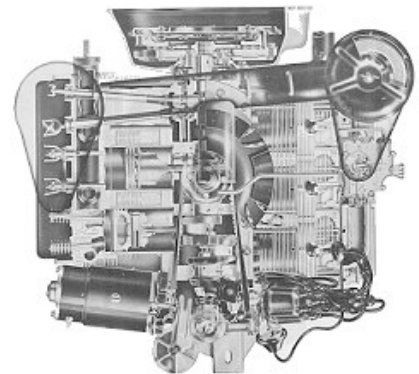
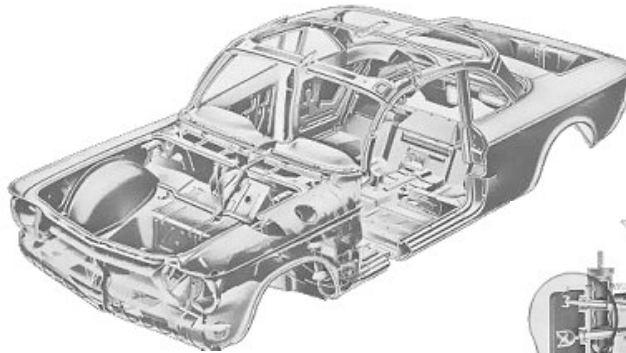
Thanks Bob for the good "stuff" in this months edition.

March is our membership renewal month. I will contact those who need to "reup".

I'm looking forward to a fun and exciting year!!!!

Greg Gorski

NJACE PARTS AUCTION



February 7th

at Ashley's Auto Body

Details on pages 2 & 3

The Fanbelt is published monthly by the New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts (NJACE), Inc. P.O. Box 631, Ridgewood, NJ 07451. Deadline for contribution is the 20th of each month. Classified-style advertising of interest to Corvair owners is available, free of charge, to all persons. A commercial ad can be placed in an issue of the Fanbelt for \$50 per full page, \$30 per half page, \$20 per quarter page, and \$10 per business-card. (Generally, classified advertisers are those offering individual cars and/or a limited number of parts, while commercial advertisers are those offering services and/or parts from stock. NJACE reserves the right to make this determination). All advertising must be camera-ready, PC-compatible or type-able copy. The Fanbelt is edited by Greg Gorski who can be contacted by email at jragmgorski@comcast.net or through the NJACE address noted above.

NJACE is a chapter of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA), Inc., P.O. Box 607, Lemont, IL 60439. Meetings of NJACE are held periodically at locations and times as announced in this newsletter. All interested persons are welcome. Additional events and activities are held throughout the year. Membership in NJACE is open to individuals and families. Information and applications are available at any meeting or by writing to NJACE, P.O. Box 631, Ridgewood, NJ 07451, or by visiting www.corvair.org/chapters/njace.



The View Through the Windshield by Bob Marlow

Right now, during the coldest and deepest part of the winter, NJACE members and friends can enjoy two warm and pleasant activities in quick succession, on two consecutive weekends: Saturday, January 31, our trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, and Saturday, February 7, our annual Parts Auction.

It's too late to get in on the dinner and show at the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, but it is certainly not too late to plan to be part of the Parts

Auction. The Parts Auction is

now one of our longest-running annual events, dating back to 1982. It began as a fund-raiser for the CORSA Convention, which NJACE was to host in 1984 at the Parsippany Hilton, but everyone enjoyed it so much that we have kept doing it every year since, now a quarter-century after that convention.

We are fortunate again this year to be able to conduct the Parts Auction at Ashley's Auto Body, a nearly ideal setting. First, because it is an auto body shop, there is no concern about old car parts being brought into the building as there has been at some other venues over the years. Second, it has plenty of room for everyone and everything without being too big. Third, it has plenty of room to park, and fourth, it's geographically well-placed not only for our members but for our out-of-state friends who participate.

Because the Parts Auction is scheduled for the first Saturday of the month, it is taking the place of our monthly breakfast at the Pronto Deli. So, don't go to Cedar Knolls, go to Flanders instead. We'll have coffee and donuts in the morning, and pizza and soft drinks for lunch.

Looking ahead, in March we will conduct our first quarterly business meeting of the year, on Wednesday, March 18. But the real excitement for March is our plan, still being finalized, to have a hands-on tech session with the one-and-only Fitch Phoenix. This tech session will not only afford you the opportunity to learn about the replacement of valve stem seals, which is the project slated for the car, but also to see and examine this invaluable custom-built one-off car up close. John Fitch is allowing us to bring the car to New Jersey before it goes to the Saratoga Auto Museum later this Spring. You can learn more about this unique opportunity at the Parts Auction and in next month's newsletter.

Speaking of unique opportunities, NJACE officers and volunteers are working behind the scenes on a once-in-a-lifetime event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Corvair, scheduled for the weekend of October 2-3-4, 2009. The Corvair first appeared in showrooms on Friday, October 2nd, 1959, and on Friday, October 2nd, 2009, we will kick off a weekend-long celebration. Watch this space.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the Parts Auction on February 7.

Complete auction details appears below.

All Corvair enthusiasts are welcome and invited! Any and all Corvair items will be sold to the highest bidders. You can set a minimum acceptable bid for your parts, or no minimum bid at all! NJACE will collect a 10% commission on the sale of parts. You may also donate items for the full benefit of the club. Please note, the flat 10% commission is a change from previous years, when we collected a higher commission on the first \$50 of an item's sale price. The flat 10% is a better deal for sellers and easier on our bookkeepers..

All you need to bring is parts and/or cash, and a folding chair on which to sit.

If you're selling, the best way to go is to organize your parts at home, so that you can quickly fill out the Lot Cards that will be used at the auction. On the Lot Cards you will identify yourself, the parts, and any minimum acceptable bid you wish to establish.

Continued on page 3 -

On the morning of the auction there will be time to set up your parts and tag them if you have not yet done so. By organizing in advance at home, setup will be easier. If you don't want to be bothered tagging your parts and you just want to donate them to the club, bring 'em and we'll handle everything for you. (Parts donations have typically been one of our club's largest fund-raisers each year.)

What kind of parts sell well? Obviously, clean parts in good condition, parts that are less common, and new-old-stock parts. Greasy, broken junk has little or no value, and the auction will prove this to you if you don't believe it. Leave the bent, rusty, broken stuff at home.

We encourage the selling of parts in "lots." For example, sell an instrument cluster and a glovebox door together, not as separate items. And we discourage the selling of too many of the same thing. For example, if you have six pairs of cylinder heads to sell, consider offering only one pair at the auction.

Once setup is complete, the auctioneers will start picking parts and auctioning them off. Whatever is set for an item's minimum bid is will be the least bid accepted (and bids will be taken in even dollar amounts as to make bookkeeping easier).

If you're buying, you will have a Bidder Number which will be used to record your purchase whenever you're the successful bidder. You'll receive your purchases on the spot, but you'll need to pay for them (by cash or check, cash preferred) before leaving. For this reason we ask that you be prepared to stay for the full auction, so that the bookkeepers can record all the sales and tally the results without interruption.

There will be a lunch break, and club will provide pizza and soda at no charge. (Who said that there's no such thing as a free lunch?) If you don't have any parts to sell come anyway – there are always great bargains to be had and there are always plenty of laughs.

The auction is a great way to see a lot of unusual parts and enjoy the competitive bidding. If you're looking for something in particular chances are good that you'll find it there.

The best part about the auction is a chance to get together with a great bunch of people. The auction is fast paced and a lot of fun. Directions appear below. So come out on Saturday, February 7th.

Directions to Ashley's Auto Body: From the east, west, and north: Take I-80 exit 27 onto NJ Route 206 south. Proceed about 3 miles south on Route 206. At the traffic light with the Old Mill Shoppe on the right, turn left onto Main Street. In 1/10-mile bear left onto Hillside Avenue. Proceed 8/10-mile to Ashley's Auto Body, on the left. From the south: Follow Route 206 about 5 miles north of Route 24 in Chester. At the traffic light just past "The After" roadside restaurant, turn right onto Main Street. In 1/10-mile bear left onto Hillside Avenue. Proceed 8/10-mile to Ashley's Auto Body, on the left. Lost? Call (973) 584-7184.

NJACE Calendar of Events

- * Saturday, Febuary 7, 2009 - Monthly Breakfast Meeting and Parts Auction at Ashley's Auto Body in Flanders; 10am start.
- * Saturday, March 7, 2009 - Monthly Breakfast Meeting at the Pronto Deli, 99 Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls, NJ @ 9 am.
Directions: Ridgedale Ave intersects NJ Rte 10 just west of I-287 and just east of US Rte 202. From I-287 take the exit for Rte 10 west. Proceed through the traffic light at Ridgedale Ave to the U-turn at Dryden Way. Return east on Rte 10
- * Wednesday March 18th - Quarterly Meeting at the Mt. Olive Grill, Flanders, NJ, the meeting starts at 7:30 pm.
Come earlier for dinner.
Saturday March 21, 2009- NJACE Tech Session featuring the Fitch Phoenix. Details will follow in the March Fanbelt.
- * Saturday, April 4, 2009 - Monthly Breakfast Meeting at the Pronto Deli, 99 Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls, NJ @ 9 am.
- * Saturday, April 19, 2009 - NJACE Swap Meet - 9am to 3pm Details to follow.

Events marked with an [*] count towards the **NJACE** Mary Paxton & Bill Ableson Awards.

CORVAIR UNDERGROUND

1974-2009

It would be trite of me to say that this is the hardest letter I have ever had to write. It would be trite and, well, untrue as well. All of us have had negative events in our life, some worse than others. On a scale of negativity this letter ranks pretty high, but I've seen worse.

In 1974 I was young and stupid. I started a part time business that, by any rational measure, looked like an eccentric lark. For reasons I still don't fully understand that excursion blossomed into a full fledged mail order business.

When my 2nd wife and I separated in 1982 I almost lost the business. But I kept stubbornly plugging away and, with the help of Linda (whom I married in 1983), managed to rebuild the Corvair Underground into a legitimate International player in the Corvair parts market.

Thirty-five [35] years is a long time for any business to last, but very little lasts forever. 2009 marks the year that Linda and I will begin to liquidate our corporation. We've seen and had to make many changes in the way we've done things. That's how you survive 35 years.

But the past 3 years have been just a bit much. First we tried to sell the business for somewhat less than it was worth. Then we tried to sell it for a lot less than it was worth. Then we almost gave it away. In every case the "serious" buyers passed up on a real opportunity, mostly because of a lack of funds.

I have had health problems before, but my heart/stroke surgery 2 years ago really threw a monkey wrench in everything. Add that to failed attempts to sell, losing my key employees in the process, and a general downturn in the economy has made the going rough. Truthfully I promised Linda Winter before last that we would not struggle through another Winter (Our traditionally slowest time of the year). And here we are.

It's time for me to do something else. What that is, I have no idea. But I do know that it's time to wind this business down.

Our intention is to have Corvair Underground closed by late Spring of this year. Whether that will be possible or not remains to be seen.

Even though our operation is considerably smaller than our "heydays" of the past 35 years, there is still an unbelievable amount of inventory here. I would still claim that we are the second largest inventory of new and reproduced Corvair parts in the world. We also have about a quarter mile of shelving and a lot of other equipment and stuff.

Is there a buyer out there? Time's running out. I may have to dump all this stuff on the open market and though "garage" sales. Not really looking forward to that.

If you have even a passing interest in our clearance make sure you're signed up for our electronic NEWS. It's free and easy. Just log into our website at www.corvairunderground.com. That will be the primary way I will be announcing open house sales dates and other breaking news.

So far as continuing to take and process your mail orders - that will not change at all. A number of our reproduced items will NOT be replaced and some inventory that requires large purchase commitments will not be replaced either. In the meantime we'll keep processing orders for the foreseeable future just as we have since 1974.

Has Corvair Underground been a positive force in the Corvair parts market these past 35 years? Well, the age of self-promotion of my business has ended for me. Other people and history will answer that question, eventually. I have owned nothing but Corvairs since 1967. I have NO intention of abandoning Corvairs or CORSA. None of us knows what the future holds, but I hope that I'll get to enjoy CORSA and my Corvairs even more!

Lon Wall

NJACE Officers 2009

President Bob Marlow

[908] 730-8873 vairtec@optonline.com

Secretary Bill Cohen

[973-729-8281] wicohen2@earthlink.net

VP/Activities Ken Schiffner

[201]236-0786 scrubbr@ix.netcom.com

Vice-President Dave Main

[201] 796-6492 dmain90826@aol.com

Treasurer Tim Schwartz

[201] 447-4299 tim@bristolnj.com

VP/Publicity Greg Gorski

[908]654-4978 gragmgorski@comcast.net