

# the *Fanbelt*

new jersey association of CORVAIR enthusiasts

## November in Review



← *The Treasurer Sings*

*Bernice Waxes a Corvair* →



← *The Corvair Makes It to South Carolina*



*Corvairs depart the Museum* →

*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 \$10.00 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 PC-compatible or type-able copy.

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](http://www.corvair.org/chapters/njace).

**On the cover:** A busy November saw NJACE members attend the Ridgewood Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company's production of *Iolanthe*, complete with club Treasurer Tim Schwartz vying for a Tony Award. A tech session in the Presidential Garage saw members getting "Clean Dave" Main's car-care tips (and the Corvair for Brian O'Neill's grandson getting the benefit of the attention). Thanksgiving week saw that same Corvair complete the journey from New Jersey to South Carolina, and the last weekend of the month saw the Corvairs that participated in the "All Air Cooled" Display at the Vintage Automobile Museum line up for a group photo before going home for the winter.

December will be a much quieter month – our only activity is the monthly breakfast this Saturday, December 2nd.



Over the recent Thanksgiving weekend, I read Edmunds' biography (*The Saga of Rotten Red, the Don Edmunds Story*, by Paul Weisel, Jr., ISBN #978-692-86661-0) and while I knew a fair amount about Edmunds' Midgets, Sprints, Supermodifieds and Indy Cars, I learned a great deal about his driving career and about his involvement in a wide range of projects. These projects encompassed everything from quarter-midget race cars for children to the ill-fated Evel Kneivel "Sky Cycle."

But the first surprise was learning that Don Edmunds was for a time closely associated with Bill Devin and the Devin sports cars, including the Corvair-powered Devin C:

## You Never Know Where Corvairs are Going to Turn Up

by Bob Marlow

A name not sufficiently well known among car enthusiasts is that of Don Edmunds. Edmunds, now 87 years old and retired to Oregon, was a successful Southern California racing driver who made it to Indianapolis in 1957, participating in the "500" three times and winning countless other races on the dirt tracks and paved tracks nationwide during the postwar boom years of American oval-track racing.



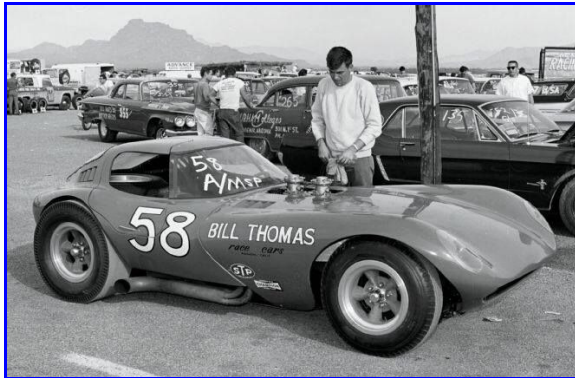
But more than a successful driver, Edmunds was a phenomenally successful designer and builder of the racing cars themselves, such that any car known as "an Edmunds" is highly prized by collectors today.

Here's one of Edmunds' classic oval-track designs on the cover of *Hot Rod* magazine's July, 1966, issue:



Another discovery was learning that Edmunds had worked with Bill Thomas, he of Bill Thomas Race Cars, and the 1960 Corvair pictured on the next page. With Thomas, Edmunds was a

principal participant in the development of the Chevy Cheetah, also pictured.



Reading on, I learned that at one point in his career Edmunds was working for the Campbell-Ewald advertising agency, which handled virtually all of GM's advertising and promotion for many years. The "suits" would come up with crazy ideas to demonstrate the superiority of the cars and trucks, and Edmunds would then have to make it happen.

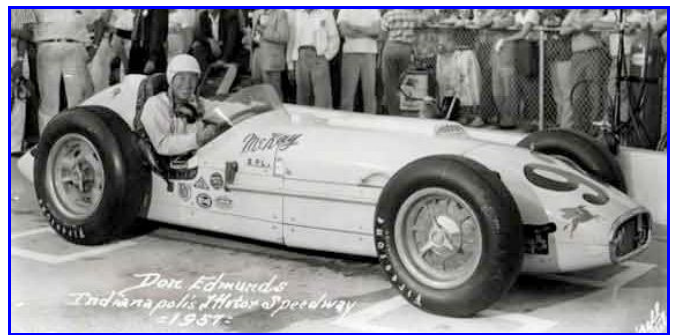
One of these was the promotional film in which a Corvan is dropped from a large electromagnet. Edmunds and his colleagues mounted a heavy steel plate inside the roof of the van, so the magnet had something substantial to grip, then warned the crane operator not to lift the van too high – if he did, the steel plate would likely crash to the floor of the van, probably taking the roof panel with it!



You may have seen the clip recently, because it was included in a new television ad campaign celebrating 100 years of Chevy trucks that has aired during this Fall's football games and elsewhere.

As if this was not enough, to me the most fascinating discovery was learning that Don Edmunds Autoresearch, Edmund's southern California business that turned out race cars from that won from coast to coast, used RampSides as shop vehicles! The book includes two anecdotes about shop employees damaging the trucks, much to the chagrin of the boss.

I am not recommending the book to anyone except those, like me, with a strong interest in American racing history and the life of a singular craftsman, but it was a fun read with a surprising amount of Corvair connections.



Don Edmunds at Indianapolis, 1957



An Edmunds Midget, circa 1976

## NJACE Calendar of Events

### Saturday, December 2

Monthly breakfast at the Empire Diner, Rt. 46, Parsippany, 9 AM. Final business meeting of 2017, with elections for 2018 club officers.

### **Season's Greetings!**

### Saturday, January 6

Monthly breakfast at the Empire Diner, Rt. 46, Parsippany, 9 AM.

### Sunday, January 21

Our Annual Holiday Party! Details will be forthcoming.

### Saturday, February 3

Monthly breakfast at the Empire Diner, Rt. 46, Parsippany, 9 AM.

### Saturday, February 17

Our Annual Parts Auction! Details to follow.



The membership roster distributed at the end of October has two errors:

First, if you were trying to contact Ken Klingaman you would be facing a challenge, because we had everything wrong except the town. The correct address for Ken Klingaman is 2063 Ridge Road, Bangor, PA 18013, and his correct telephone number is (484) 201-0000. Yup, four zeros!

Second, if you tried to call Ken Schifftner you would be out of luck, since the roster listed his former land-line number. The correct phone number for Ken Schifftner is (201) 749-3063.

Sorrrr-y!



## NJACE CLASSIFIED ADS

for December, 2017

**For Sale:** Set of (4) Car Dollys, \$90. 1930 Chevrolet Gas Tank, \$90. Corvair Gas Tank, \$75. 1969 Corvair Air Injector plumbing and exhaust manifolds (no air pump), Free. Also, Aqua Mite House hot water heater for use with hot water heating system (includes zone valve), \$130. Dave Cavagnaro, phone 908-362-5775, email [djcav@ptd.net](mailto:djcav@ptd.net).

**Wanted:** For an early model AM transistor pushbutton radio, the power, tone and volume control switch. If you can bring it to the breakfast this Saturday, even better! Tim Schwartz, phone 201-447-4299, email [tim@bristolnj.com](mailto:tim@bristolnj.com)

### NJACE Officers for 2017

President, Brian O'Neill  
Phone 973-729-5586  
Email [bmoneill@juno.com](mailto:bmoneill@juno.com)

Vice-President, Nick Ford  
Phone 201-572-5797  
Email [mb05203-64110@yahoo.com](mailto:mb05203-64110@yahoo.com)

Secretary, Frank Hunter  
Phone 201-934-0244  
Email [fdhunter@juno.com](mailto:fdhunter@juno.com)

Treasurer, Tim Schwartz  
Phone 201-447-4299  
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Phone 201-934-0244  
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Publicity VP, Bob Marlow  
Phone 201-444-1859  
Email [rwmarlow@optimum.net](mailto:rwmarlow@optimum.net)

# Scenes from the November 18 Tech Session "Mr Clean's Tips and Tricks"



Above, Professor Clean.  
Below, Professor Grandpa.

Above and below: "Clean Dave" Main demonstrates a technique for polishing the area of the hood where the "Corvair" name plate is installed.



Dave polishes and Joe tries to untangle the cord.



At left, members pay rapt attention.

**Yes, it's Election Time:** Here is your ballot for 2018 club officers. Fill it out and bring it to this Saturday's breakfast, or send it by email to [Tim@bristolnj.com](mailto:Tim@bristolnj.com) prior to Saturday. As an alternative to any of the nominees shown, you may write in the name of any eligible member. You may write in your own name.

President:	Brian O'Neill . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(Write-in)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vice President :	Nick Ford . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(Write-in)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Treasurer:	Tim Schwartz . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(Write-in)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Secretary:	David Malcolm . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(Write-in)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activities VP:	Frank Hunter . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(Write-in)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Publicity VP:	Bob Marlow . . . . .	<input type="checkbox"/>
	(Write-in)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Our final monthly breakfast of 2017 is this Saturday, December 2, at the Empire Diner on Route 46 eastbound in Parsippany, 9:00 AM.**

**Best Holiday Wishes!**

