

January 2018

the *Fanbelt*

new jersey association of CORVAIR enthusiasts

A New Year Begins...



So We've "Drawn Up" Plans for 2018!

Illustration by Chris Dunlop, Corvair Owners' Group, Facebook

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.

President's Message

by *Brian O'Neill*



I knew that he would call. It was getting close to the deadline for the January issue and I know that Ye Olde Editor would be bugging me for the President's column. And sure enough he called. But I was ready. On the way back from South Carolina where I had spent the Christmas holidays with my son and his family I began to compose a column in my head so that I could just write it all down when I got home.

I thought I should write about the saga of my youngest grandson's 1965 Monza coupe. It's a really nice looking car but it required a few things before I turned it over to him. So a technical column seemed like a natural. But then as I was thinking about the work that had been done on the car to get it ready for him, I realized it wasn't a one-man project. A number of our members had pitched in to get it ready. Then it dawned on me what this column really needs to be about is saying thanks not only to the members who helped me get the car ready but to all our members.

So here goes in no particular order.

First, I want to thank all our members for the confidence they express in our club officers. We are the envy of many Corvair clubs. Other clubs comment often on how smoothly we run and how many great events we conduct every year. I strongly believe that one of the main keys to our success is that our members have confidence in our officers and know that the officers try their very best to make NJACE the great organization that it is. So, again thanks to all our members for just being the great folks that you are.

Next on my thank you list is our club officers themselves. They freely give of their time to check out and coordinate potential events all the while doing the necessary background work that goes in to keeping us organizationally sound. As I'm writing this I'm starting to smile as I think of

NJACE Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 21

Our Annual Holiday Party! Complete details appear in this issue. RSVP required!

Saturday, February 3

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

Saturday, February 17

Our Annual Parts Auction! Details in this issue!

Saturday, March 3

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

the club officers. Thanks to Tim our Treasurer who watches over our money and make sure that we don't do anything foolish with it. Our outgoing Secretary Frank is I think a closet bodybuilder. I say this because of the extremely heavy load of newsletters and meeting minutes that he carries around. It is sure to build up his muscles. So Frank thanks for being there with the answers at our officers' meeting as we scratch our heads trying to remember what we did in the past.

A special welcome now to our new Secretary, David Malcolm a.k.a. Scotty who is taking over the duties of Secretary from Frank. He has informed me that he will not be lugging around those gigantic files so I better get my act together. All is not lost however because Frank is moving over and picking up the job of Activities VP. Stand by for some great events in 2018.

I am very grateful and want to give a big thank you to Nick, our Vice President. His advice, suggestions and willingness to do whatever is needed to make the club successful is very much appreciated.

continued

President's Message, continued

For many years I have always said that our newsletter is the glue that holds the club together. Some of our members for various reasons cannot attend meetings and events except on a limited basis. I know for a fact because I've been told that these members feel a part of the club because of the newsletter. So a great big thanks goes out to Bob Marlow who has been newsletter editor since the newsletter was chiseled on stone tablets. Personally I don't know how he does it. Month after month cranking out a top-notch product which is entertaining and informative.

[I see that you got the check – Ed]

I also want to say thank you to our members who are willing to pitch in to help other members. Our tech sessions have got to be seen to be believed. Members diving in to solve problems of other member's cars. I've been the recipient of this help many, many times and I know that I could never adequately say thank you.

I could mention so many of our members by name who have helped me over the years with my projects. The group that gathered for the impromptu tech session at my house when we spiffed up my grandson's car is just one of many examples that come to mind. So let me just say a simple heartfelt thank you to everyone. May 2018 bring you all happiness, good health, and many pleasant Corvair outings.

**It's time for the club's annual Holiday Party!**

This year the event will be held on **Sunday, January 21**, in the **Cannon Gate Catering and Conference Center at Picatinny Arsenal**. This is the same location as recent years. We looked into some alternatives but the food at the Cannon Gate is top-notch and the cost cannot be beat.

The price per person is \$25, same as last year. The bash begins at 1:00 PM and will last until 5:00 PM. There will be the fabulous buffet dinner, music, some entertainment, award presentations and last but not least, our ever-popular gift game.

If you are coming to the party (and we sure hope you do), there's a couple of things you need to do. **First of all, you need to RSVP.** You do this by contacting Brian O'Neill to sign up. Brian's phone number is 973-729-5586. Or you can e-mail him at bmoneill@juno.com. *The deadline to do this is Wednesday, January 17.*

The second thing you need to remember is that **you cannot just wander into Picatinny Arsenal**. It is absolutely necessary that you provide Brian with your name and the name of anyone coming with you. You need to make sure each person has good photo identification with them. You also must have a valid registration and insurance card for your vehicle and you have to know where you're going. The security people at the gate may ask you to pull over so they can inspect your vehicle. (Pennsylvania Joe can attest to this!)

You'll need these documents at the front gate entrance. The guards there will have a list of

everyone was authorized entry for the party. That's why it's absolutely necessary that Brian has your information no later than Wednesday, January 17. If you just show up at the front gate without prior arrangements things will be very difficult and entry cannot be guaranteed.

Okay, but how do you find Picatinny Arsenal and the correct entry gate? That's easy, just follow Interstate 80 westbound to Exit 34B for New Jersey Route 15 North towards Jefferson/Sparta. If you're coming eastbound use exit 34 and follow the signs for Route 15 North. The Picatinny main gate will be on your right, just a short distance north on Route 15.

Once you are at the gate, your destination is the Cannon Gate Conference Center, locally known as the club.

After you have gone through the gate, continue straight on the main road, and as you come up to a blinking yellow traffic light bear to the right. Go on that road for only a short distance and then bear left. The club will be a short distance on your left. Please do not wander around on the Arsenal. You'll attract attention and they'll call me.

If you wish to participate in the Gift Game, please bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$15. Just remember the gifts you bring should be unisex. Let's try not to be inundated with bottles of wine and other adult beverages. Be creative! If you're not familiar with the gift game, it goes as follows:

Each participant brings a wrapped gift. The gifts are placed on a central table, and numbers are drawn to determine the order in which participants will take turns selecting a gift. The first person opens a wrapped gift, and each subsequent participant can choose a new gift to open or can "steal" another person's gift. When a person's gift is stolen, that person can either choose another wrapped gift to open or steal from another player.

It has proven to be a great deal of fun which is why we have been doing it for years now.

There is one last somewhat uncomfortable detail. If you RSVP that you are coming and

Brian submits your name to the Cannon Gate Catering Center and the security personnel, NJACE is now on the hook for your dinner. If for some reason you have to cancel you are still responsible for the cost. Unfortunately in past years we have had some members either cancel or not show up. We know unexpected things happen but please be considerate of your fellow club members and don't burden them with the cost of your meal.

We have a lot of new members, so we will again give everyone a name tag to help them get acquainted with the old-timers. *[I think I qualify as an old-timer! -Ed]*

Now call or e-mail Brian no later than January 17 to make your reservations. Once more, his phone number is 973-729-5586 and his email is bmoneill@juno.com. Don't forget your photo identification and come up with a great gift for the Gift Game!



NJACE Officers for 2018

President, Brian O'Neill
Phone 973-729-5586
Email bmoneill@juno.com

Vice-President, Nick Ford
Phone 201-572-5797
Email mb05203-64110@yahoo.com

Secretary, David Malcolm
Phone 201-635-9696
Email david.s.malcolm@verizon.net

Treasurer, Tim Schwartz
Phone 201-447-4299
Email tim@bristolnj.com

Activities VP, Frank Hunter
Phone 201-934-0244
Email fdhunter@juno.com

Publicity VP, Bob Marlow
Phone 201-444-1859
Email rwmarlow@optimum.net

The Familiar New Guy

by Frank Hunter

For those who don't recognize the picture, my name is Frank Hunter and after being the Secretary for several years, I'm trying something new as Activities VP.



I wonder where did the year 2017 go?

Looking back, NJACE had a range of activities that included motorcycles, radios, car shows, road rally, a tour of Picatinny Arsenal, a Gilbert & Sullivan musical production and several tech sessions. This year we start off with our Holiday Party on Sunday afternoon, January 21st, see more details in the newsletter.

In February, on Saturday the 17th is the Parts Auction at Ashley's Auto Body in Flanders. For March, we are looking at an indoor event, possibly a play at a local community college. April will be a road trip, we're looking at a maple syrup farm in New York state. May is the VCCA car show in Haledon. We're looking for ideas for a June activity and we'll return to Bucky's at the lake for our June breakfast.

In July we'll have our picnic and the CORSA convention is in Pittsburgh PA this year from Monday, July 23 through Saturday, July 28th. Don't forget the Air cooled show is in Flanders on the weekend of September 15th and 16th. It's going to be a great year and I urge all of you to join us with or without your Corvair and be eligible for the Bill Ableson and Mary Paxton awards!



Minutes

General Membership Meeting

December 2, 2017

Parsippany, NJ

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by President Brian O'Neill. Upon motion duly made and seconded the minutes of the October meeting were approved as published in The Fanbelt newsletter.

Treasurer Tim Schwartz reported a balance in all accounts totaling \$8,721.62. Upon motion duly made and seconded the Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Publicity report: An updated club roster has been distributed.

Activities report: The annual Holiday Party has been scheduled for Sunday, January 21st, at the Picatinny Arsenal's Cannon Gate Catering and Conference Center. This is the same venue as in prior years. Investigation into an alternate location recommended to the club proved to be too costly. The annual Parts Auction at Ashley's Auto Body has been scheduled for Saturday, February 18th.

Old Business: Thanks were given to David Main for the car detailing tech session that took place in November.

New Business: An officers' meeting will take place on Thursday, December 14th, at the Empire Diner. Interested members are welcome to attend. New member Francis Westfield, with a 1963 Monza convertible, was welcomed. An "unofficial" tech session will take place at Ashley's Auto Body on this day following the breakfast.

Officer Elections: President Brian O'Neill made a final call for nominations, and David Malcolm was nominated for Secretary and Frank Hunter for Activities VP. Nominations were then closed and with no contested positions the Secretary cast an affirmative vote for the full slate. As a result the officers for 2018 are President, Brian O'Neill; Vice President, Nick Ford; Secretary, David Malcolm; Treasurer, Tim

continued

Minutes, continued

Schwartz; Activities VP, Frank Hunter; Publicity VP, Bob Marlow.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Hunter, Secretary (outgoing)

Welcome our new club Secretary,
David Malcolm!



The Auction is Coming! The Auction is Coming!

by Bob Marlow

The New Year brings two immensely popular club events: Our annual Holiday Party this month (see page 3) and our annual Corvair Parts Auction next month (see below).

This year's auction will again take place at Ashley's Auto Body on Saturday, February 17. Only the foulest of foul weather will cause a postponement – it's indoors!

If you've never been to one of our auctions you need to put this on your calendar right now. How popular is this event? It not only attracts the largest member turnout of the year, it attracts Corvair enthusiasts from surrounding states!

And who says there's no such thing as a free lunch? Pizza and soft drinks are included for everyone! We'll have complete auction details in next month's newsletter.

NEWS from the Corvair Underground by Lon Wall



A major change is coming to Corvair Underground Jan 1 2018.

Ten years ago I made the announcement that Corvair Underground would be closing it's doors. At that time The Underground had been a major player in the Corvair parts business for nearly 35 years. But changing markets, and a looming recession wrote clearly on the wall that the old ways couldn't be sustained any longer. As I started to clear out the large primary warehouse I realized that I still had a lot of products unique to us that might still have some demand. To make a long story short we went from 14,000 square feet of warehouse space and 7 full time employees to 1200 feet of space in a secondary warehouse and one employee – me. The downsizing worked but had it's problems as time went on.

This past year was a real roller coaster ride. After a mediocre 2016 October arrived and for no apparent reason our sales more than quadrupled. Sales were better than they had been in a decade and continued that way until June of this year. During that time of sustained sales I also got VERY sick which ended up pushing a lot of progress back. In June business went dead – with a capital D and stayed there until (oddly enough) late October. There was a similar surge in sales – but this time it only lasted about two weeks.

continued

Corvair Underground, continued

My diminished health and a poor track record of sales leads me to one inevitable conclusion. I cannot continue to operate this way. At this time I cannot tell you what will happen with our GoVair-Dale line of products, the spring loaded idlers, urethane suspension bushings etc but I can tell you starting Jan 1 2018 I will no longer be operating Corvair Underground Inc as a general mail order supply house for Corvair parts. For the time being I'm going to keep doing the Dale flywheels and distributors. It's just the day-to-day general Corvair mail order business I'm dropping out of.

My intention is to close down our remaining warehouse. In the meantime I'll try to clear out (sell) as much of my inventory and equipment as possible as quickly as possible. Maintaining this one small facility just eats up any profits I make and that doesn't make much sense.

Can someone with the energy needed to succeed pick up the operation? Unknown. All I know is all things have their time and 44 years is a damn good run.

Linda and I thank all of you who have been loyal Underground customers since we started back in 1974. It's been a great ride – but I'm tired.

Lon Wall
Corvair Underground Inc 1974-2018
www.corvairunderground.com
503-434-1648

**Pittsburgh's Perfect, People,
That's Why People Picked Pittsburgh**

If you have never had the opportunity to attend a CORSA convention, this year may offer your best opportunity to do so. The 2018 convention is taking place in suburban Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, a 350-mile drive from the Empire Diner.

This is the closest the convention has been to us since Sturbridge in 2012.

If you think 350 miles is too far, bear in mind that the 2019 convention will take place in suburban Chicago (800 miles) and the 2020 convention is set for San Diego (2,750 miles).

It's an ambitious six-day convention (Monday though Saturday) but there's no requirement to do it all. Complete 2018 convention details will be appearing in upcoming issues of the CORSA Communique, and can be found at <http://www.corvairpittsburgh.com>



Who Knew? Part 1

by Bob Marlow

Knowledgeable Chevrolet Enthusiasts know that the El Camino debuted for the 1959 model year, based on the full-size Chevrolet and likely inspired by Ford's similar Ranchero, which had appeared for the 1957 model year.



← '57 Ranchero



'59 El Camino →

But the El Camino was offered for only two model years, 1959 and 1960, before taking a hiatus and re-appearing for the 1964 model year, based on the new-for-'64 midsize Chevelle. Ford's Ranchero, in the meantime, had moved from the full-size platform in 1959 to the compact Falcon for 1960.

What we did not know was that while Chevrolet was developing its own Falcon-inspired Chevy II for a 1962 debut (see the February, 2012, issue of The Fanbelt for Al Lacki's thorough review of the development of the Chevy II), an El Camino variation of the new compact was under consideration. This photo, taken at the GM Tech Center in Warren, Michigan, in July of 1961, shows the full-size clay model of the car... um, truck:



Measuring Tools

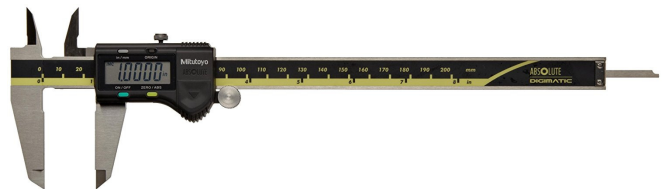
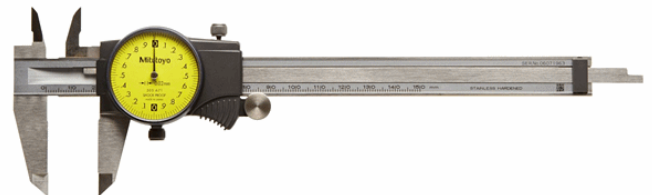
by Marshall Buck, CMA Models, Inc.

<http://www.cmamodels.com/>

A word of caution when buying. I have two different calipers I work with, one is the old dial type, made in Japan, and it's great. The brand is Mitutoyo. My other (until recently, but now replaced) was a common, off-brand digital type. The old digital one, I bought when I was feeling particularly pragmatic... OK, I was just being cheap. Well naturally, it recently self destructed.

So I went to buy another good one, a digital Mitutoyo, which are still made in Japan, and are excellent quality. In my search, I stumbled across about a million of them, on eBay, and 99.9% of them at bargain basement prices. Only one problem, all of the bargain priced ones are all fake, cheap knock-offs made in China. The corporate office of Mitutoyo confirmed this, as have numerous individuals.

The fakes look pretty darn good, but they certainly are not the genuine item, and are only mediocre at best. I am quite a jaded cynic, but I was still shocked to see such blatant piracy... and that eBay seems ok with this! I bought mine from an authorized Mitutoyo dealer, so I'll skip Sushi for a couple of weeks to make up for the extra cost. As someone once told me, "buy the best, and you'll only cry once."



Don't forget to RSVP for the Holiday Party!
(See page 3)