

★ 50th Anniversary 1970 - 2020 ★

The Election is Not Over!

No, not *that* election. The NJACE election!



Each December we vote
to choose the club officers for the coming year.
Will it be this familiar crew? Or some new blood?
Voting instructions appear in this issue.

PLUS:

- What got you into a Corvairst? (See page 2)
 - A replacement for the Parts Auction? (See page 2)
 - When Laffin became Cryin (See page 3)
 - Is Free worth the price? (See page 5)
 - A Corvairst Christmas movie (See page 6)
 - What is Sergeant Friday saying? (See page 9)
- and more!**

The Fanbelt is published monthly by the New Jersey Association of Corvairst 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 Corvairst 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 Corvairst Society of America (CORSA), Inc., P.O. Box 68, Maple Plain, MN 55359. Meetings of NJACE are held periodically at locations and times as announced in this newsletter and on our website. 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.corvairst.org/chapters/njace.

Getting Started

by David "Scotty" Malcolm

If you're like me, you have been missing our monthly breakfast get-togethers and club activities this year. The club has also had to cancel our Holiday Party for this coming January and the Parts Auction for this coming February, two very popular events.



The officers have been discussing things that we might do to help keep our membership engaged and in contact with each other, with several ideas having been put forth. One was the possibility of having two Zoom meetings a month, the second meeting intended in part to replace the wonderful informal conversations that happened at the Empire Diner.

Another idea was to try to increase the amount of material in the *Fanbelt* that directly involves our members, in addition to the more general Corvair topics covered. "Tempting Fate" by Andrew Backer in last month's issue is a perfect example, an engrossing saga of issues with his Corvair's generator.

We want to add a "Tech Question" column to the newsletter, in which members' questions can

be answered by the large pool of expertise among the club. Have a question? Please submit it to newsletter editor Bob Marlow by sending an email to vairtec@optimum.net.

Some months ago Bob suggested the topic "How I Got Started in Corvairs" as the basis for a hopefully continuing series of articles. To date we've had two articles, and both of these Corvair affairs started with an auto accident. I'm sure the membership have other interesting stories that didn't involve the possible loss of life or limb, or harm to another Corvair.

I know that many of you may not be comfortable putting pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) and we are here to help. Some of you just need to start writing, without worrying about grammar or spelling. We can whip your raw text into something that would make your grade school English teacher proud. Another option for some may be giving an interview and answering questions about how you got started. I may be calling some of you to see what incentive can be provided to get you going!

We'd like this to be a continuing monthly feature, so start to think about your Corvair beginnings. Contact me (my email address is david.s.malcolm@verizon.net) if you would like to dictate your story. And remember, by whichever means you choose to share your story, photos are always a bonus!

Goodbye 2020, Hello 2021

by Bob Marlow

Along with the topics discussed by the officers as outlined above by Scotty, two significant decisions were made:



1. On account of the pandemic, **all current members will have their membership expiration date extended by one year.** If your membership is scheduled to expire in 2021, it will now expire in 2022. If your membership is scheduled to expire in 2022, it will now expire in 2023.

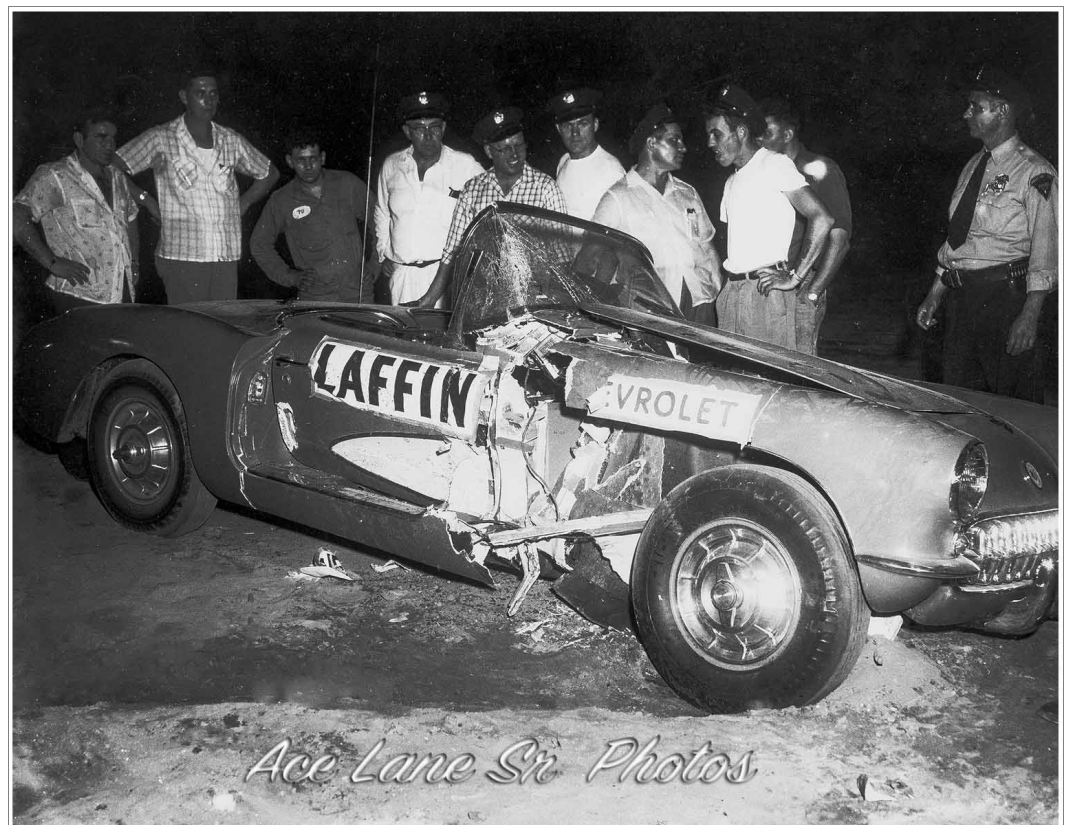
2. Because we cannot, for the foreseeable future, have indoor activities such as our popular Parts Auction, we are planning **an outdoor Corvair Swap Meet** for the Spring. The plans are just at the beginning stages at this point, but our intent is to have this take place in April, at a location reasonably central to our membership (and to other Corvair enthusiasts such as those who regularly attend the Parts Auction), and to conduct it in the style of the old "Garage Sale" swap meets we had in the 1980s and 90s. In other words, FREE to vendors and attendees.

In addition to these points, it is our intention to schedule a driving tour, similar in concept to the Fall Foliage Tour, for the springtime. Stay tuned for a fun future with NJACE!

Laffin...



... and Cryin'



Read the story on the next page

Laffin and Cryin'

A True New Jersey Story

by Bob Marlow

Even though the photos on page 3 show a Corvette, this is a story with connections to NJACE.

Laffin Chevrolet was located on Main Street in South River, a short distance from Route 18, south of New Brunswick. Founded in the late 1920s, Laffin Chevrolet was a family-owned business that survived the Great Depression, World War II, and the upheavals of the 1960s, for more than 80 years.

But in 2009, the circumstances facing many small in-town dealers caught up with it. Laffin Chevrolet closed its doors.

In 1958, however, business was booming and Laffin Chevrolet provided a new Corvette to serve as the “pace car” at the nearby Old Bridge Speedway. A flat, paved oval track, Old Bridge Speedway was just off the other side of Route 18, not far from Laffin Chevrolet.

Old Bridge Speedway first opened in 1953 and featured stock car and midget car races on the oval as well as “run whatcha brung” drag races on the oval’s main straightaway. The bulk of the competitors were the “local heroes” who comprise most short track racers in America. But in it’s day, Indy 500 winners Mario Andretti and Parnelli Jones as well as NASCAR’s Richard Petty raced at Old Bridge. During the track’s heyday, including 1958, spectators filled the bleachers that lined the main straight.

Racing photographer John “Ace” Lane, Sr., snapped our photo of Laffin’s glistening new ‘Vette early in the evening on the night of the car’s first appearance at the track.

As pre-race warmups were under way, the Laffin Corvette was parked, unoccupied, in the infield of the oval. A novice driver skidded off the track with an apparent stuck throttle in his jalopy. A witness later stated that the out-of-control race car was drawn toward the Corvette as if the fiberglass sports car “was a magnet.”

Photographer Lane documented the result in our second photo.

Remarkably, after this incident Laffin Chevrolet continued to supply pace cars to Old Bridge speedway. The track operated for another decade, running its last race in 1968. Apartment houses occupy the site today.

So what’s the NJACE connection? Former club member Al Raab is the son of a then-Laffin employee, and so for a brief time some 40 years ago, when NJACE was in need of a place for its monthly meetings, Laffin became our host.

We did not stay there long, because the South River location was not really central to our membership, which then as now skews toward the northern portion of the state.

Your author’s parents took him to an American Racing Drivers Club race at Old Bridge on a Sunday afternoon in 1959, a year after the incident with the Corvette (see photo below). It was only my second race in what was to become a lifetime of race-chasing. In the ensuing years I came to know photographer Lane, who has since passed away, and to this day I remain friends with his son and grandson.



Old Bridge Speedway, 1959

Free? Free! Free?

by Ray Coker

Recently I went to my local NAPA store to purchase parts washer solvent. The counter guy gave me five gallons that had been sitting around for a while and the lid leaked a little so they couldn't sell it. He gave it to me.



With the help of a friend we poured it in my parts washer and I began to wash a couple of engine pieces. That's when it all went downhill.

The solvent for the most part had turned to lacquer. It stunk up the garage stall... all of the garage stalls. The stink permeated my clothes, migrated to the breezeway and out to the surrounding neighborhood.

Birds fell out of the sky. Earthworms came up to the soil surface, swelled up and burst. Plants died. The paint peeled off the house. The shingles on the roof melted. The TV fell off the wall. Then bad things began to happen.

I drained the yuck back into the original can and returned it to NAPA. Free is not always a blessing.

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting Saturday, November 7, 2020 Conducted via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 AM by Vice-president Nick Ford.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Minutes of the October 3rd 2020 Meeting as printed in the October Fanbelt were approved.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Treasurer's Report as emailed to the membership was approved.

Activities Report: Bob Marlow reported that we will not be able to hold the Holiday Party nor the Parts Auction in 2021 due to the pandemic. We will be organizing a Spring outdoor flea market to replace the Auction, to be held at a location near Ashley's. Plans for a Spring Cruise are also being considered.

NJACE has paid the fee to Zoom which will eliminate the 40 minute time limit on our meetings.

Old Business: None was brought forth.

New Business: A motion was approved to continue to pay the \$20.00 dues to the NECC.

Al Lacki announced that the CORSA Annual Meeting will be held this year via Zoom on Tuesday, November 10, at 9 PM EST. Please email Al if you would like the link to attend the meeting.

Nominations: Nominations for Officers is open until the election to be conducted during the December meeting. Nominations may be made at the meeting or sent to the Secretary. So far the only nominations received are the current slate of Officers.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
David Malcolm, Secretary

Editor's Note: Attentive readers will see that the meeting lasted a mere 29 minutes. If that's true, why did we need to purchase the Zoom option for meetings that exceed 40 minutes in length?

Because following the "formal" meeting we have an informal discussion session, in which each attendee is offered the opportunity to speak, ask questions, tell stories of their Corvairs.

Join in this month! It's how we stay in touch while "social distancing."

A Christmas Card from Florida:



I was watching the Hallmark Channel online and in the beginning of the movie "Christmas on the Coast" the main character's mom picks her up at the airport in a yellow & white Corvair Lakewood Wagon. I've attached a few screen shots from that part of the movie.

Regards to everyone.

Greg Gorski



Editor's Note: The Yellow Lakewood may be the only way to distinguish this Hallmark Christmas movie from any other Hallmark Christmas movie.

NJACE Officers for 2020

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, Steve Calandra
Phone 201-836-6621
Email stevenjchevair@gmail.com

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

NJACE Classified Ads for December, 2020

Parts from NJACE: Recently a gentleman in the central part of the state donated his excess Corvair parts to the club, and we're offering them for sale, all proceeds to the club's treasury.

Club Treasurer Tim Schwartz is handling the sale of these parts. Contact Tim by email at tim@bristolnj.com or by telephone at 201-447-4299. Prices are negotiable within reason. What we have is:

- One Pair of 1965-69 front turn signal lenses. \$25 for the pair.



- Three individual right side 1965-69 turn signal lenses. \$10 each.



- One pair of 1965 rear lenses. One of them has a broken screw hole, as seen in the photo, although this is hidden by the trim ring when installed. They are otherwise really nice. \$20 for the pair.



- One 1965-69 taillight housing with 1965-style lens (2 photos). \$15.



- One 1961-69 gas tank that needs a thorough cleaning. \$40.



More Classified Ads! Don't forget that we have a web page, named "The Garage Key," with multiple color photos of the cars being offered for sale, along with descriptions more detailed than what we usually publish in this newsletter. Parts and accessories too! Updated regularly! Go to <https://garagekey.blogspot.com> and scroll down each page to see everything. You can click on most of the online photos to enlarge them. If for any reason one of the contact links does not work, let us know!



**ZOOM
with
us**



Our December Zoom breakfast will take place on **Saturday, December 5, at 9:00 AM**. You can join on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

This month's meeting will include our election of club officers for 2021, possibly only a formality since the only nominations received to date are for the incumbents.

As before, in advance of the meeting we will send a link via email. Just click on the link, or copy-and-paste it, to join the meeting at 9:00 AM that Saturday.

And remember that we'll take the time after the official meeting for a general discussion, to give everyone an opportunity to speak, ask questions, and tell us what they're been up to lately.

Join us! Saturday, December 5, 9:00 AM.

NJACE Calendar of Events

The ongoing pandemic continues to have our in-person activities largely on hold. Our monthly Zoom online breakfast meeting will take place on Saturday, December 5th, at 9:00 AM.

As always, watch our Facebook page, our periodic emails, and this monthly newsletter for updates.



Jean Has a New Car!

Congratulations to members Curt Stone and Jean O'Day. Curt advertised his 1965 convertible on our "Garage Key" web page and Jean bought it!

The car is now safely tucked away in Jean's garage, awaiting top-down driving in the Spring.



Larry Ashley, Greg Dittrich, Gup Gascoigne, Bruce Greenwood, Tim Joy, Frank Johnson, Bob Marlow, and Francis Westfield are among those who have bought and sold cars recently via the Garage Key web page. Check it out! And while there, don't forget to check out the Parts and Miscellaneous pages, too:

<https://garagekey.blogspot.com>

How to Cast Your Vote in the NJACE Election:

To vote in the election for our 2020 officers, you can attend our December 5 Zoom meeting, where a show-of-hands vote will be taken. (Note, if no additional nominations are received beyond the slate of incumbents currently nominated, per procedure the Secretary will cast a single affirmative ballot for that slate.)

But if you cannot attend the Zoom meeting you can still cast your vote. Check your email for a PDF copy of the official ballot, being sent to you as a separate message at the same time as this newsletter notification.

Print the ballot, fill it out, and mail it to NJACE, PO Box 631, Ridgewood, NJ 07451. Or, you can FAX it to 201-447-0091. Thank you!

Caption Contest!

D ragnet was a remarkably popular radio program (1949-1957) that became a remarkably popular television program (1951-1959 and 1967-1970). Still today most people can quote the line “Just the facts, ma’m,” even though lead actor Jack Webb said that only once, in one episode.

But in the screenshot below, from a 1969 episode and supplied by Ray Coker, what do you think Webb, as Sergeant Joe Friday, is saying? Send us your best and funniest guesses! We’ll publish the best of them in a future issue.

