

January 2022

# the *Fanbelt*

new jersey association of CORVAIR enthusiasts



**Your Editor confesses:  
He stole this charming image from Facebook,  
where it was posted by Arne Nilsson of Corvair Club Sweden.**

**Your Editor changed the text, though,  
figuring that only a handful of NJACE members  
might be able to translate the original:**

**God Jul och Gott Nytt År.**

*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. Commercial advertising space is also accepted, please contact the editor for details. (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 68, Long Lake, MN 55356. 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.corvair.org/chapters/njace](http://www.corvair.org/chapters/njace).

# A New Year Arrives...



★ **January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
*Club Breakfast  
 at the Empire Diner*

★ **January 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*Holiday Party  
 at Picatinny Arsenal*

## President's Message

by *Brian O'Neill*

The NJACE Holiday Party is all set for 1:00 pm on **Sunday, January 23**, at 1:00 PM in the **Cannon Gate Catering & Conference Center** on Picatinny Arsenal. Club members, families and friends are all invited!



Your cost for the party is just \$35 per person. You can sign up at our January breakfast on Saturday, January 8, or at any time prior to Tuesday, January 18, by contacting me either by e-mail ([bmoneill@juno.com](mailto:bmoneill@juno.com)) or telephone (973-729-5586).

But even with a reservation, you can't just drive in to the Picatinny Arsenal. It is absolutely necessary that you provide me 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 that you are going to the Conference Center.

The security people at the front gate will have a list of everyone who is authorized entry for the

party. That's why it's absolutely necessary that I have your information no later than Tuesday, January 18. 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 Conference Center will be a short distance on your left.

Please do not wander around on the Arsenal. You'll attract unwanted attention. Now call or e-mail me no later than January 18 to make your reservations.

Once more, my phone number is 973-729-5586 and my email is [bmoneill@juno.com](mailto:bmoneill@juno.com). It's going to be a magical!

## What About the Auction?

by Bob Marlow

Our annual Parts Auction, for decades our most popular and well-attended event, remains “iffy” for this year.



The reasons are simple: Due to the ongoing effects of COVID-19 and its variants, we need to secure a larger venue. Ashley's Auto Body has been great, but there is no question that it is a tight fit for the number of people who attend the auction. It is, as I have said previously, the opposite of “social distancing!”

So the search is on. A firehouse, a VFW hall, a vacant dealership, anything. They're all under

consideration by the club officers. It has to be roomy, well-ventilated, and available at a price point that the club can justify.

If we are not able to secure a suitable venue by the end of January, the auction will have to be scuttled for 2022 and we'll move the Plan B, a Spring Swap Meet as was done last year.

Time is short! The traditional date for the auction is the Presidents' Day weekend in February. That midwinter date is, we believe, a contributor to the event's success, so we'd like to stick to it. Please, if you know of any potential location, let the club officers know right away! The officers' contact information appears in this and every issue of *THE FANBELT*.

## A Tale of Two Projects

by David "Scotty" Malcolm

*Continued from the November, 2021, issue*

### Project Two



The cardboard "package rack" panel behind the rear seat and folding seat back on the Corvaire are made of "high quality" cardboard and are prone to scratches and other damage. Clark's sells a set of "pre-cut" carpet pieces to cover all of these areas, thereby protecting from damage while dressing up the rear seat area. I had purchased the carpet sets from Clark's in the late summer of 2018 but didn't get around to doing the installation until the following summer after finishing the sound insulation.

The sticker on the outside of the package said "Be Sure to Read the Instructions." When I opened the package I found the two pieces of carpet I expected – also a roll of self-stick thin textured rubber about 28" high, and no instructions. I called Clark's and they said they had no idea what the roll of self-stick was. They didn't stock such an item. Also I was told "there aren't any instructions – just trim it to fit."

I should have quit then and brought the carpets to our annual Parts Auction.

All in all it took about three months working on and off to complete the carpet. Frustration and false starts led to long delays in getting back to the install. By the end this project took more Valium and wine than a project should. After all, don't we have these cars to "have fun?"

After laying out the carpet for a couple of weeks to let it flatten out, I found that the only edges that have binding are the edges by the rear window, all the other edges are raw carpet.

I should have realized from the beginning that the carpet fastens to the top of the cardboard and needs to complete several bends. This uses more material for each bend so you can't just cut it to the length of the cardboard. The bottom will need to be trimmed after it's installed. This increased length at each bend leads to another more serious issue – locating the holes needed to fasten the cardboard, folding seat latch and bumper in the right location so they line up with the holes in the metal brace.

My first attempt (before the epiphany I mentioned above) was to lay the panel on my basement floor and use spray glue to just glue it

*continued*



## Project Two, continued

on the cardboard, only to discover that it tears loose when you try to bend the cardboard for installation. If this had worked I could have turned the carpet/cardboard over and used the holes in the cardboard to make the holes needed for the hardware. I did take this opportunity to trim the sides of the carpet to match the cardboard.

Next I tried stacking boxes on the floor to hold the cardboard in the position it would be in the car with the needed bends. I used spray adhesive again (you really shouldn't use it inside because the fumes are not good for your health). I thought I had it until I tried to take the unwieldy carpet/cardboard outside to get it in position. Perhaps if I had removed the front seats it might have been possible but it just didn't want to easily fit in through the door even with two people holding it. The *coup de grace* for the second attempt was the spray adhesive again letting the carpet separate from the cardboard.

Stepping back from this project for a while I got the idea to try carpet tape. This is a thin but tough plastic with adhesive on both sides. It's sold in both removable and non-removable versions. I bought the removable thinking it might allow me to reposition the carpet if necessary. I placed the cardboard back in the car and used strips of the tape to hold the carpet. I started with the horizontal package area followed by the section that goes up by the rear window.

Next was the section that goes down the back. I placed several pieces of tape horizontally with the top one about two inches below the fold at the edge of the package area. Two were placed above and below the holes in the cardboard for the bolts holding the cardboard and seat back hardware. By securing the cardboard in place I could lift that section to use an awl and an X-Acto knife to make the holes in the carpet. As it was not secured right at the top fold it could "bulge" to allow access to the back of the cardboard without coming loose.

Too late for this project I read of using a soldering iron to melt the needed holes in the carpet. This also fuses the loose edges so they don't wrap around the bolts when tightening.

A few more pieces of tape held the bottom of the carpet. Next I installed the hardware and stood back to admire my work. I had removed the upholstery panels below the windows where the cardboard fits behind the rear edge to secure it. I got the first panel and tried to install it but found that the clips securing it would not line up with the holes. The thickness of the carpet was enough to block the panel's installation. Getting out the Stanley knife and a straight edge I trimmed the carpet to just clear the panels so they could be installed. Now I had two long, not too straight, raw carpet edges to deal with. I bought push-on plastic channels from eBay. It only took two orders to get ones that fit and covered the raw edges.

Now all that remained to be done was the carpet for the back of the fold-down seat back. This actually went well – remove the screws and the pressed board panel, trim the carpet to size and replace the trim pieces discarding the board.

While I do feel it's a real improvement over my torn and scratched cardboard I'm not sure I would do it again even though I've now got it figured out. Then again, I must say it does look better than the cheap cardboard Chevy used in the rear of our Corvairs.

### Afterword

When I was writing this article I thought a photo of the mystery self-stick rubber should be included. It was tied with a piece of white rag which I removed and discovered my order written in marker on the inside.

### Materials

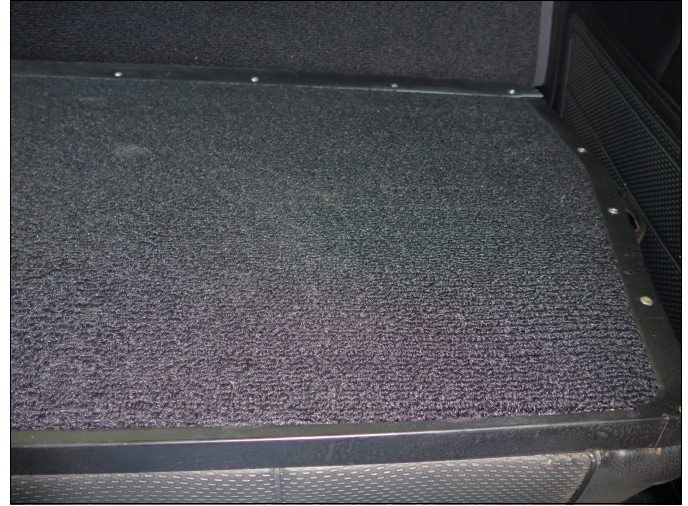
- Clark's carpet set for rear seat area and folding seat back
- Carpet tape
- Black plastic channel to cover raw carpet edges
- About half a roll of the foil covered sound barrier black edging for the raw carpet edges (Free for the asking – email me at [david.s.malcolm@verizon.net](mailto:david.s.malcolm@verizon.net))

*Photos from this project  
appear on the next page.*

Carpet where there once was mere cardboard...



The carpeted seatback...



With the rear seatback up...



The mystery rubber sheet...



*[Can you hear those speakers okay, Scotty?]*

### NJACE Officers for 2022

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Did Santa bring you a seat belt for Christmas?

### NJACE Calendar of Events

- \* **Saturday, January 8:** Monthly breakfast meeting at the Empire Diner on Route 46 eastbound in Parsippany, 9:00 AM. One week later than usual since the first Saturday of the month is New Year's Day!
- \* **Sunday, January 23:** Annual Holiday Party, at the Cannon Gate Conference Center on Picatinny Arsenal. See the details in the President's Message on Page 2!
- \* **Saturday, February 5:** Monthly breakfast meeting at the Empire Diner on Route 46 eastbound in Parsippany, 9:00 AM.
- \* **Saturday, February 19:** TENTATIVE date for our annual Parts Auction, contingent on our finding a suitable venue. See the article on Page 3.

*Items marked with \* are official club events.*



The Santa Seat Belt and Corvair Gift images on this page courtesy of Bill Stanley.