

the *Fanbelt*

new jersey association of CORVAIR enthusiasts

April 2024

**HOLD ON TIGHT... LIKE THE '65 CORVAIR,
THIS ISSUE MIGHT KNOCK YOU RIGHT OFF
YOUR CHAIR!!!**

In This Issue...

A Car Named Calvin

Member Talent

Corvairs In Miniature

***Swap Meet AND An Open
House!***

plus more...



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.

Quick Tech Tip...

By Brian O'Neill



Has the rubber molding for your doors and other areas on your Corvair got you stumped on how to clean the paint overspray and other marks off and make it look clean and new? Here is a way to do it!! Buy yourself a bottle of black liquid leather dye and apply to the rubber molding. Buy a brand name because it will cover anything. After the dye dries apply Armor All and the rubber will look brand new!

Member Talent

Submitted by Greg Gorski

Greg in his old 1965 Corsa circa 2010



Greg has made many fantastic Tiffany style stained glass Corvair themed pieces over the years. Some given to various NJACE members. Here are a few samples of some of his work...

Breakfast Meeting



We had a great turn out for March's slightly rainy breakfast meeting. Discussed topics included the Lehigh Valley Corvair Club's Swap Meet and The Corvair Ranch Open House (details in the events section). Kathi Garfield won this month's free breakfast. We had one corvair in the parking lot which was Steve Calandra's late model beige sedan. During next month's breakfast meeting we will be holding our business meeting.



A Car Named Calvin Part 1

Pre Acquisition

By Chris Senegeto



Who is Calvin, you ask?

Calvin is a 1963 Corvair Spyder Convertible and this is part 1 of our story. From parts car to family cruiser.

Spring of 2023 had been 6 months since I sold off all of the projects I was never going to finish, and I was getting antsy. While scrolling around the internet one day I came across an ad that had been up for awhile for two early model turbo corvair engines in various states of disassembly. Well, it was obvious I did not need these engines, however I have always had an infatuation with the early corvair turbo engine but had never owned one or worked on one. An hour later, the inquiry was sent.

It ends up that these two particular engines were purchased by the owner, who was a teacher at a tech school in Newton NJ, just up the road from our president Brian O'Neill. He had planned to use them as a class project, having the students rebuild them. They were partially taken apart by students and then deemed too costly of a project and never finished. The last thing I really needed was a costly project but we set a date, time and price and made the deal.

A few days later, we headed off to Newton, Nj in our van to pick up the engines. It was decided we would meet at the school where the engines and parts were located. After we got there, the owner and I chatted for a while about our mutual experiences at Bergen Tech in Paramus NJ where we had both been students at one point.

Finally, it was time to see the engines and parts. Well, as the old saying goes, you get what you pay for and these engines were certainly not in tip top condition. Dirty, greasy, one seized and one located in several buckets....we loaded everything into the van and said our farewell.

Once home, the engines and parts were unloaded into the garage with no real immediate plans for them. Just an idea that someday it would be nice to rebuild one to stick in a corvair.

Now I know what you are thinking...ok, but what about the car??!!

So, two weeks pass and I am quietly watching several corvair facebook groups as Corvairs that could be restored are being parted out and scrapped. This is a subject I don't like to talk about because it really bums me out to see it happen.

After several days of this, I came upon a post for a car that had people fighting over parts and even bidding on certain parts like an auction. Well, now my blood starts pumping because enough is enough already, right??!!.... And so I post my comment.... "this car is way too nice to be parted out!" My comment gets ignored and shipping quotes are being thrown about. Well this was it, do or die! So knowing full well it was a bad idea, I posted a second comment....."This car should really not be parted out, it is way too nice! How much do you want for the car? I am messaging you!"

And I did...And I got a reply.

The car in question, of course, is Calvin, our 1963 Corvair Spyder Convertible. I feel no Corvair with a solid trunk and floor that is relatively rust free and mostly complete should be parted out. Especially a spyder convertible with a good operating top. Now I say mostly complete because Calvin was indeed missing one very important thing... an engine. It was because of this fact and that I just so happened to have two corvair turbo engines, that I felt like maybe this was meant to be.

To Be Continued...

Corvairs In Miniature

Intro and Corgi Toys

By Gary Cohen



As a Corvair enthusiast, you probably already know that these unique rear-engine, air-cooled wonders were produced both in the U.S. and Canada during their ten year production run from 1960 to 1969. Perhaps you even know they were also assembled in Antwerp Belgium.

What if I told you that Corvairs were actually assembled in eighty countries including the U.S., England, France, South Africa, Israel, Denmark, Spain and China! The catch here is these were Corvairs in Miniature. Scale models intended to appeal to the junior enthusiast. Including, I'm sure, many of us when we were young boys and our interest in things automotive were established by collecting toy cars.

This article will be the first in a series for the NJACE newsletter. With one exception, all of the toy Corvairs in these articles were made of diecast metal (because that's what I collect). The articles will be organized by the brand of toy and country of origin. Each will include a brief history of the company that produced them, starting with the company that started it all for me, Corgi Toys!

The history of Corgi Toys begins with Philip Ullman, owner of the German toy manufacturer Tipp and Co. Ullman wisely left Germany in 1933 and founded the Mettoy company in England. He was joined by South African born German Arthur Katz, who had also worked for Ullman at Tipp Co. After producing pressed tinplate models made from lithographed sheets of steel they then produced armaments for the British government during WWII. In the 1950s Ullman and Katz decided to produce a range of diecast toys in competition with

Meccano's Dinky Toys (to be featured in an upcoming article).

The first Corgi Toy, the #200 Ford Consul, was introduced in the UK in July 1956. Corgi became known for offering new features not available on rival Dinky Toys, beginning with the diecast models having windows. This was followed by other innovations such as molded plastic interiors, spring suspension, opening doors, opening "boots and bonnets", simulated engines and eventually other "trick" features that fascinated young boys.

Over the course of the 27 year history of the original company Corgi produced some of the most famous diecast cars ever offered to collectors. This included the James Bond Aston Martin DB5, with working "ejector seat". It became the greatest selling diecast toy car of all time and is still manufactured in various forms today. It also includes the Batmobile and the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang movie car.

Corgi #229 Chevrolet Corvair

For collectors who were waiting in anticipation of a diecast Corvair, it was June 1961 when Corgi released #229. It is a four door Corvair in 1:47 scale, available in mid blue or pale blue



Continued...

In addition to having windows and a plastic interior with steering wheel, The Corgi Corvair featured a detailed engine compartment (correctly placed in the rear of the car), and rear window shades (the first to appear on a model car!



The diecast baseplate of the Corgi Corvair shows the country of origin (Great Britain) and a patent application from 1960



The Corgi #229 was withdrawn from the market in 1966, by which time 821,000 had been sold to collectors. While impressive, Corgi sales of Corvair models didn't quite keep pace with Chevrolet sales of REAL Corvairs, which totaled 1,593,221 cars from 1960 to 1966.

Corgi Gift Set 20 - Golden Guinea Set

While preparing to write this article, I initially thought that the blue #229 was the only Corvair variation made by Corgi. Then I remembered the Golden Guinea Set!

Also released in 1961, it featured three golden plated diecast cars... #229 Corvair, #224 Bentley Continental and #234 Ford Consul Classic.

This was a premium priced gift set. In part because of the hand polishing necessary to obtain a surface finish good enough for vacuum plating. A total of 23,000 of these sets were produced prior to their withdrawal from the market in 1964, making them one of the rarer Corgi items, and nearly impossible to find in true mint in box condition.

Here are two photos of my set, which shows some wear to the special gift set box.



Continued...

Corgi #347 Astro 1 Experimental Car

When is a Corvair NOT a Corvair?

When it's a Chevrolet Astro 1 Corvair Corsa Concept Car!

This incredible Chevrolet "Dream Car" debuted at the 1967 NY State Auto Show. It was designed by Larry Shinoda under direction of famed GM design lead Bill Mitchell. It featured a pop-up canopy section instead of doors and an impossibly low overall height of 35.5 inches!



In the rear sat a familiar looking but unique engine, a single overhead cam version of Chevy's turbo air 6 boxer engine. With a larger stroke and bore, increasing engine size to a 2.9 litre, the Astro 1 produced 240 HP at 7400 rpm! Though rumors indicate that the engine (as shown in this photo below) never actually appeared in the car and the show car featured the regular Corvair engine.



Leave it to Corgi to faithfully reproduce the Astro 1 experimental car in 1:43 scale. It was released in 1969 as Corgi #347, and 479,000 were sold before its withdrawal in 1974. (Note that actual sales were higher because all Corgi sales records from 1969 were lost in a major fire at their Swansea factory)



Note that the color of the experimental car is depicted in red on the rear of the box, the Corgi model was only produced in blue. This Corgi model featured their new "red spot" Whizz Wheels, which were developed against Mattel's soon to be marketed Hot Wheels brand. Collectors of the original Corgi and Dinky toys lament the launch of Hot Wheels because it marked the beginning of the end in the realism of diecast model cars in favor of speed and "play value". It was also the beginning of the end for Meccano, the producer of Dinky Toys and the original Corgi company which went into receivership in 1983 due to their attempted development of their personal computer for boys.

Continued...

Pilen #M316 Chevrolet Astro 1

*When is a Corgi NOT a Corgi?
When it's an Auto Pilen model produced with Corgi molds!*

Pilen S.A. was a Spanish manufacturing company founded in 1962. It produced diecast scale model cars from the 1970s to the mid 1990s, mostly in 1:43 scale. The castings were mostly inherited or copied from Dinky and Corgi. However, Pilen also received molds from Solido, Mebetoys, Tekno, Politoys and possibly Mercury.

As with most products produced in Spain, Pilen models were made up to a very high quality standard. Some, such as the #M316 Chevrolet Astro 1 were produced in silver plate, making them unique compared with the Corgi version, Here is a photo of the two models side by side.



Coming up in the next issue of Corvairs In Miniature will be models manufactured by Meccano Dinky Toys, with an interesting variation!

Sources for Corvairs in Miniature Article #1

The Great Book of Corgi 1956 – 1983, Marcel R. Van Cleemput, New Cavendish Books, 1989.

Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corgi_Toys,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chevrolet_Corvair,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auto_Pilen

Automobile Catalog™ - https://www.automobile-catalog.com/production/chevrolet_usa/corvair.html#gsc.tab=0

GM Authority - <https://gmauthority.com/blog/2019/12/1967-chevrolet-astro-i-experimental/>

All photos of diecast cars are from my personal collection.

Editor's note:

I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to put together these fantastic articles over the years and have shared photos from their personal collections.

If you are interested in submitting articles to be featured in The Fanbelt, feel free to send an email to chriss.corvair@gmail.com



Bling For Your Corvair

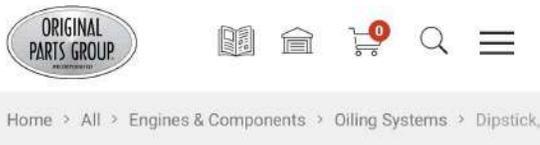
By Chris Senegeto



In search of some *BLING* for your Corvair? I was! I was looking for something to add a bit of pizzazz to my engine bay and a chrome dipstick seemed like it would do the trick.

I searched all of the usual sources and came up "Out Of Stock" across the board until I found this company. I ordered the dipstick, received it within a few days and have been very pleased with my purchase. Not sure how many constitutes "low stock" but here is the link.

<https://tinyurl.com/2nte8jcy>



Dipstick, Oil, 1960-69 Corvair, Chrome

Vehicle Specific [View fitment](#)

0 Reviews | Part# CV12021

Eligible for [Price Match](#)

\$46⁹⁹

List Price: \$52.95 You Save 11%

Low Stock Only a few left for immediate delivery

Swap Meet AND An Open House !!



This is perfect for anyone looking to hit the road, purchase some parts and / or just go spend time with like minded people.

April 13 The Lehigh Valley Corvair Club is having their **Spring All-Corvair Swap Meet**. I can tell you this is a great event as I attended last year, along with many other NJACE members. John Egerton, as always, is a fantastic host and last year I ended up with many parts I needed for my project. It's also a great time to chat with members of some surrounding clubs. The scenery on the farm is fantastic and food and beverages are available. If you are planning on selling parts please bring a table or tarp. EZ Ups are also nice to have, as last year we had a bit of rain. (see flier)

May 19 The Corvair Ranch is having an **Open House!** If you have never been to The Corvair Ranch, this would be a great time to go! You can tour Jeff's fantastic facility. He offers restoration services, engine building, repairs and a wide selection of new and used parts. I just purchased a set of early model windshield trim (sold out at many other vendors) from Jeff a few weeks ago. You can also walk through the world famous Corvair Ranch junkyard. I say world famous because it's been the feature of several articles over the years. There will be food and beverages available.



From The Vault

Original 1969 CORSA Membership form

(not current, do not send money)

Look at those membership prices!

FELLOW CORVAIR OWNER--CORSA WANTS YOU!

Let's face it--you're driving a great little car, right? Economical, right? Fun to drive, right? What better way to demonstrate your love for this fine machine than by joining CORSA--short for the Corvair Society of America--an international association of Corvair enthusiasts.



Founded in 1969, CORSA provides a quarterly magazine containing technical articles, road test and magazine reprints, Corvair literature and stories; a monthly bulletin filled with ads (free to members), questions & answers, news and coming events; a membership roster and card and various identification devices, like decals, badges, and jacket patches. Our long range goal is to provide lasting sources of parts and technical assistance through GM and our own membership. CORSA members range from car collectors to racing drivers, and use their Corvairs in rallies, concours, gym-khanas, slaloms, antique car shows, or for just plain driving fun.

If you're enthusiastic about the Corvair and its advanced design and sleek good looks, we'd like to have you among our membership. You need not own a Corvair to join--all we require of members is their enthusiasm for the marque. We hope you'll use the attached application to become part of our growing family--the fastest-growing marque club in the world. But whether you join or not, good luck and happy driving in your Corvair car!

- - - - - detach here - - - - -

TO: R. M. Langworth, Treasurer, 20 Hart Avenue, Hopewell, NJ 08525

I'd like to become a member of CORSA, and enclose dues as follows:

- () April through September: \$6.00 full year's dues
- () October through March: \$3.00 half year's dues

ALL MEMBERS ARE BILLED EVERY JUNE FOR THE FOLLOWING FISCAL YEAR

Name _____ Age _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ City _____

State/Province _____ ZIP CODE _____ Telephone _____

Please note: Your cancelled check is your receipt of dues payment; it means we have your address and have entered you on our rolls. Because our activities are on a volunteer basis, you may receive your first newsletter before your membership card and decal. Sorry, CORSA cannot be responsible for cash sent through the mail.

I Spy...

From the movie Zazie dans le metro from 1960. Directed by Louis Malle and starring Catherine Demongeot and Philippe Noiret.



Who are these “Roving Wrenches” ???
Are they the newest k-pop group topping the charts, headed to your home to sing you their newest hit?
No, even better!!

Spring is here and The Roving Wrenches, a group of talented and mechanically inclined NJACE members, are looking to help fellow club members make repairs to get you back on the road!

What do you need?
...A problem with your car that maybe you can't quite figure out or possibly a job that just needs a second set of eyes or another pair of hands.
...Parts for the job at hand.
...It's a long standing NJACE tradition to supply pizza and soft drinks.

To set up a time slot for The Roving Wrenches...

Contact president Brian O'Neill at 973-729-5586 or oneill1258@juno.com



NEW MEMBERS

NJACE would like to welcome two new members, Gene Avella and John Pry!

Gene is from Palisades Park, NJ and he is the proud owner of a fantastic 1965 Monza Sedan with a 110 and a PG.

John is from Newton, NJ and is the proud owner of not just one, but two Corvairs. A 1965 Monza Convertible with a 110 and a PG and also a 1966 4 speed Corsa Convertible with the 180 turbo.

Welcome to the club!

Lehigh Valley Corvair Club

All-Corvair Swap Meet

Saturday, April 13, 2024

rain or shine

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

at the Egerton Farm

2510 Community Drive
Bath, PA 18014

FREE for sellers

FREE for buyers

FREE admission

FREE parking

REFRESHMENTS (okay, they're not free)

50-50 Raffle (that's not free, either)

Corvairs, Corvair Parts, and Corvair-Related items only, please.

Sellers, bring your own tables or tarps or canopies.

Buyers, bring cash!

See our Facebook page for details

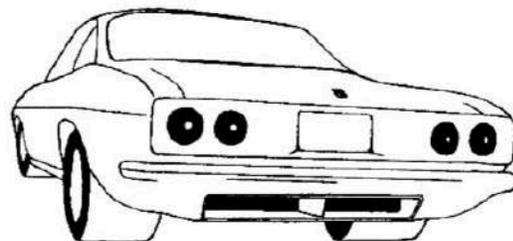


Illustration by Al Lacki

Calendar Of Events



April 6 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9am
 (Quarterly Business Meeting)
Plaza 23 Diner
411 NJ Rt 23 Southbound
Pompton Plains, NJ

May 19 Corvair Ranch Open House 9am
1079 Bon-Ox Rd
Gettysburg, PA
 717-624-2805

April 13 Lehigh Valley Corvair Club 9am
 All-Corvair Spring Swap Meet
Egerton's Farm
2510 Community Drive
Bath, Pa
 John Egerton 610-217-0514
jegerton@ptd.net
 Free Admission, free to sell
 Bring your own tarp/table
 Refreshments will be available

May 4 Monthly Breakfast Meeting 9am
Plaza 23 Diner
411 NJ RT 23 Southbound
Pompton Plains, NJ

May 18 The Roving Wrenches
A Garage Near You!
 Details in the next newsletter



NJACE Officers for 2024

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