

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

Monthly Breakfast Meeting  
March 7th - 9 am at  
Pronto Deli - Cedar Grove

We have a special treat the month - a Tech session on the Fitch Phoenix. Details are in this issue.

Also, we will have a Quarterly meeting at the Mt. Olive Grill highlighted by a video - that ties into our tech session.

April's car show will feature the Wounded Warrior Project. We want to raise a lot of money for this worthy cause - so please pass along the information to one and all!!!!!!

The officers has ironed out much of this years schedule and it is very ambitious and exciting. We hope that our membership takes advantage of our monthly activities!!!

March is our membership renewal month. I will contact those who need to "reup".

A new feature for our monthly breakfast meeting:

**A FREE BREAKFAST**

But, you will have to be there to see if you are the winner!!!!!!

Details on page 6.

Greg Gorski

**NJACE & Fitch**

**Perfect Together**



John Cooper Fitch in his 1966 Fitch Phoenix

**March 22nd Tech Session in Fairlawn, NJ**

**SEE PAGE 2 FOR DETAILS**

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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 camera-ready, PC-compatible or type-able copy. The Fanbelt is edited by Greg Gorski who can be contacted by email at [jragmgorski@comcast.net](mailto:jragmgorski@comcast.net) or through the NJACE address noted above.

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).



## *The View Through the Windshield* by Bob Marlow

There is so much to tell you this month, I almost don't know where to start. It involves special people, special opportunities, and a revised and exciting club calendar of events for 2009.

During March we will have exclusive access to a priceless one-off Corvair-powered show car, as the famous Fitch Phoenix comes to New Jersey for an NJACE activity. It continues next month with our club's first-ever all-makes benefit car show. Then, later in the year we will be conducting a unique promotional and benefit fit event that will showcase our Corvairs and demonstrate our heart. Finally, we will play host to a regional

celebration of the 50th anniversary of

the Corvair's introduction to the market, 50 years to the day. Each of these activities is new and unique, and so distinctive that I am giving each their own section of this column, starting right now:

### **John Fitch and the Fitch Phoenix**

**March** will be John Fitch Month in NJACE. If you do not know John Fitch and his many contributions not only in the Corvair arena but in countless other fields, this month affords you the opportunity for two close-up looks and this special individual and his work. Understand first that John Fitch, who is now in his nineties, began his remarkable automotive career after demonstrating his character and heroism as a decorated bomber and fighter pilot in World War II.

**Turning** to racing in the post-war years, John Fitch became the Sports Car Club of America's first national champion. He won the 1953 Sebring 12-hour race. He was invited to become the only American member of the Mercedes-Benz factory team, where among his teammates was the legendary Juan Manuel Fangio. He was one of the principals behind the design and construction of Connecticut's Lime Rock Park and he was the track's first general manager.

**Having** been a participant in the 1955 24-hour LeMans race, during which a terrible racing crash took the lives of scores of spectators, John Fitch began to devote himself to the issue of racing safety, which he continues to do to this day. He also has been developing passive safety measures for highway applications, the most widely-known of which is his patented Fitch Barrier, the sand-filled barriers which guard abutments.

**On** the cover of the February issue of the CORSA Communique is a photograph of a 1960 Corvair fording a stream in late 1959, and behind the wheel is John Fitch, a consultant to Chevrolet on the Corvair project. Not long after the Corvair was introduced, John Fitch developed the Fitch Sprint, the performance-modified Corvairs which he marketed from 1962 through 1969.

**During** this period, he designed and built the Fitch Phoenix, a prototype for a Corvair-powered sports car that was to be introduced as a 1967 model. But by coincidence, the safety legislation brought about by Ralph Nader's accusations in *Unsafe at any Speed* doomed the project, as John Fitch's company did not have the financial depth to crash-test cars. The Phoenix never went into production and the one prototype remains the only example ever built.

**Now**, you might think that all this represents a pretty good career for a gentleman now more than 90 years old. But John Fitch is not retired, not by a long shot. Which brings me to our meeting program this month: At our quarterly business meeting at the Mount Olive Grill on Wednesday evening, March 18<sup>th</sup>, we will be screening the PBS documentary, of *A Gullwing at Twilight: The Bonneville Ride of John Fitch*. This beautiful and evocative film documents John Fitch's effort, just earlier this decade, to set a new land speed record utilizing an original Mercedes-Benz gullwing coupe.

**Learn** more about the film here: <http://szwedo.com/gullwing.htm>

**See** a two-minute clip here: <http://szwedo.com/assets/demos/Gullwing.html>

**See** a moving tribute to John here: [http://szwedo.com/assets/demos/fitch\\_tribute.html](http://szwedo.com/assets/demos/fitch_tribute.html)

**Then**, only days afterward, we will have exclusive access to the Fitch Phoenix for a very special NJACE Tech Session, on Sunday, March 22. Our Tech Session will take place in the shop at Guaranteed Auto Repair in Fair Lawn, and it will be on the subject of replacing valve stem seals in a Corvair engine. The Corvair engine that will be the focus of this tech session is the one powering the Fitch Phoenix. The car is being prepared to enter the Saratoga Automobile Museum in Saratoga Springs, New York, and several NJACE members, led by NECC President Brian O'Neill, are assisting with the preparation of the car.

**By** attending this tech session not only will you be able to learn more about valve stem seal replacement in a Corvair engine, but you will be able to see and touch and photograph the beautiful Italian-bodied Fitch Phoenix.

**The recap:** **Wednesday, March 18 - Quarterly Business Meeting**  
**Mount Olive Grill - The Mall at Route 206 South, Flanders**  
**Program: A Gullwing at Twilight**  
**Meeting time, 7:30 PM (come early for dinner)**

**Sunday, March 22 9am - 3pm**  
**Fitch Phoenix Tech Session**  
**Guaranteed Auto Repair**  
**36-14 Route 4 East [Broadway], Fair Lawn, 07410**

**Don't miss either event!**

## NJACE - VFW April Car Show & The Wounded Warrior Project

**For more than 20 years**, NJACE has conducted a Spring swap meet each April called the “Garage Sale.” But after Nortech Corporation, our host for this event from 1986 through 2004, was sold, we moved first to Mercedes Benz, then to Fireman’s Field, and last year to VFW Post 5702 in Franklin Lakes. At Post 5702 we added a car show for this first time, and among the reasons for this was the dwindling of swap meet participation as the hobby (and the internet!) evolved.

**Well**, it was quite obvious that the car show portion of the event eclipsed the swap meet portion, and so for 2009 we are eliminating the swap meet entirely in favor of an expanded and enhanced car show.

**Expanded?** Enhanced? Yes. First, it is not a Corvair show, it is an All-Makes show, open to every kind of car provided that it is at least 25 years old. Second, a concerted effort is being put forth to reach a large audience of both car owners to be potential participants and spectators to come see the show. Third, and definitely most importantly, the show is being structured as a benefit for the VFW Wounded Warrior Project.

**During** 2009 NJACE, which has a strong membership base and a solid financial footing, will be doing more to “give back,” as they say. As a club we have a history of giving, dating back to a highly successful American Cancer Society benefit road rally in the early 1980s and including memorial donations and other gifts. But for 2009 we intend to do more than ever. This car show is where we begin.

**The Wounded Warrior Project** at VFW Post 5702 helps military veterans with traumatic injuries readjust and reenter civilian life. Our car show is being organized specifically to raise funds for this cause, and we are priming the pump, so to speak, with our efforts and with our checkbook. NJACE is fronting all the costs for this show, but we are also soliciting donations. These donations will not only offset the show’s costs, they will also generate additional funds for the Wounded Warrior Project.

**As I write**, we have already received donations sufficient to cover the trophy costs, and more donations are arriving regularly. Members with e-mail addresses on file with the club have already received a message from club Vice President and show chairman David Main, outlining how each member can help solicit sponsorships and donations. Numerous donors already are making their donations in the name of a family member or friend who served.

**But time is short.** The show date is Sunday, April 19, which is only seven or so weeks away as you read this. Collectively, we have much to do to make this show as successful as it can be. A copy of the show flyer is included with this newsletter. You can also download the flyer in PDF format from the NJACE web site. Print extra copies and share them, with fellow car enthusiasts, with businesses in your area, with friends. Come to the March and April breakfast meetings, as well as to the March business meeting, to volunteer to help. Contact David Main at [dm90826@aol.com](mailto:dm90826@aol.com) to lend a hand.

***The Corvair is a different car. Now let the Corvair club make a difference.***

### NJACE Calendar of Events

- \* **Saturday, March 7, 2009** - Monthly Breakfast Meeting at the Pronto Deli, 99 Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls, NJ @ 9 am. Directions: Ridgedale Ave intersects NJ Rte 10 just west of I-287 and just east of US Rte 202. From I-287 take the exit for Rte 10 west. Proceed through the traffic light at Ridgedale Ave to the U-turn at Dryden Way. Return east on Rte 10.
- \* **Wednesday March 18th** - Quarterly Meeting at the Mt. Olive Grill, Flanders, NJ, the meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Come earlier for dinner. Directions From the north: Exit 27 off I-80 to Rt. 206 South for approximately 8.5 miles. From the south, exit [22B] from I-287 for route 206/202. Follow Rt. 206 North from Rt. 287 for 15.5 miles. The Mt. Olive Grill and Bar is located on Route 206 in “The Mall on 206” directly across from the “Golf Zone”.
- Sunday March 22, 2009**- NJACE Fitch Phoenix Tech Session; **Guaranteed Auto Repair** – 36 Route 4 East (Broadway), Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 [between Yerger Rd. and E. Amsterdam Ave] **Parkway** – from South: Exit 159 on to New Pehle Ave; right on to N.Midland Ave. [Rte. 67]; continue to the end and turn right on to Broadway [Rte. 4] to **Guaranteed Auto** - from GSP North: Exit 159; turn right on to N.Midland Ave. [Rte.67] and follow above directions.  
**Route 287** – North or South: Exit 59 on to Rte. 208 for about 10.5 miles; right on to Virginia Dr.; right on to Broadway [Rte. 4] to **Guaranteed Auto**.
- \* **Saturday, April 4, 2009** - Monthly Breakfast Meeting at the Pronto Deli, 99 Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls, NJ @ 9 am.
- \* **Sunday, April 19, 2009** - NJACE Car Show to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project - 9am to 3pm Details on page 3. Events marked with an [\*] count towards the **NJACE Mary Paxton & Bill Ableson Awards**.



## *Some Upcoming Events for Future NJACE Activities*

### *Fill Our Trunks*

*Continuing* the theme of contributing to our communities, we are planning another charitable event for later in the year, and it's a beauty of simplicity and multi-pronged effectiveness. In cooperation with the Shop-Rite supermarket corporation, we are planning a benefit for a neighborhood food bank called Fill Our Trunks.

*Let me say* first that we cannot claim this as an original idea. Another CORSA chapter, in the mid-section of the country, did this a few years ago and it has stayed with me as being nothing short of brilliant. A lineup of Corvairs, the unique American cars with front trunks, outside a supermarket. The trunks of the Corvairs open, and signs and flyers encouraging shoppers to "fill our trunks" for the benefit of the food bank.

*If every shopper* that day buys even one or two non-perishable food items and places them in a Corvair's trunk, we can collect a bounty for the food bank while at the same time demonstrating our unique vehicles to the general public. It's a gem.

*Right now*, the exact date for this event has not been set, as we seek a date agreeable not only to ourselves but also to Shop-Rite and to the food bank. But to say that the preliminary reaction has been positive would be an understatement. When we approached Shop-Rite with the plan, their response was not when could we do it, but at how many stores could we do it! Clearly, the opportunity for significant pre- and post-event publicity is significant, one of the rewards for thinking of others before ourselves.

*We expect* this event to be scheduled for either August or September, with September being our current preference. Watch this space for more information.

### *Happy Anniversary!*

*Friday, October 2, 1959*, was a big day at Chevrolet dealers across the country, as the new 1960 models were unveiled for the first time. Generating the real showroom traffic was the all-new and unprecedented Chevrolet Corvair.

*Friday, October 2, 2009*, will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the debut of the Corvair, right to the day. To mark the occasion, NJACE has planned a weekend-long celebration.

*We will begin* with a media event in our home market, the greater New York City area. The exact nature of this event, to take place on the morning of October 2, is still being planned, but it could range from a showroom re-enactment at a Chevrolet dealer to an appearance on one of the national morning television shows.

*Then*, once we have made note of the date to the public at large, we will travel down to lovely Cape May for a weekend anniversary party. The Cape May activities will be centered at the best hotel in the city, will include a spectacular all-Corvair show alongside the city's annual Oktoberfest, and a parade through the town and to the historic Cape May lighthouse. There will be games, a dinner theatre, tours, and activities for the entire family.

*This event* is being geared to be regional in nature, drawing Corvair owners not only from New Jersey but from surrounding states. All of the planning for this event is still under way, and soon you will be asked to do your part. It will take many people working as a team to make it look effortless. Long time club member Ron Peles has agreed to be the overall event chairman and regular planning sessions have begun. You can participate starting right now if you wish, just contact Ron or myself. But more importantly, when we ask for your help, please say yes.

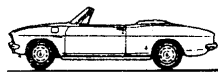
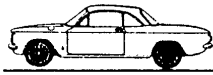
*What every member* needs to do right now is to circle the weekend of October 2-3-4 on their calendars.

## *There's More*

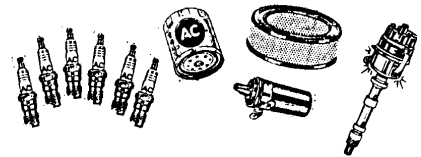
*John Fitch and the Fitch Phoenix.* The Wounded Warriors car show. Fill Our Trunks for the food bank. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Corvair. If these four things aren't enough to excite you as a Corvair owners, well, we will still have many of our regular activities throughout the year to keep you interested. Each month, of course, we have our informal breakfast meetings on the first Saturday. In June we'll be conducting a group outing to the Intrepid Sea-Air-Space Museum. In the warm weather months we will have our annual picnic. We will enjoy our Fall Foliage Tour in October, for which we have already planned a hayride! And you can circle Sunday, December 13, for our annual Holiday Party.

*2009 is going to be a memorable year. Don't sit home!*

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## **Cars & Parts**



*1963 Corvair Monza 2 door coupe---automatic trans,70,000 miles.....I have owned this car for many years but have to many cars and need to thin the herd.Drive it home, runs good, rebuilt brake system that includes all lines and dual master cylinder.....Does not have original bucket seats, I installed saturn seats that are much more comfortable and look nice too. Rear seat needs recovering but door panels are still nice. The driver floor needs patching but I have the replacement floor. If I have time and weather holds, I may have this repaired. The passenger side and rear floors are fine. The passenger side of the body is excellent and the car still has it's original paint. The driver side has a dented front fender and rear fender. I have straightened them out but need finishing. I also have a replacement front fender included in the purchase. Very little rust on this car! Rocker panels are solid too! Tires are good. \$1,500 or best offer- pictures available upon request.*

*Thanks much,*

*Greg Dittrich 908-359-0767 Hillsborough, NJ Email: [gregbecky1@embarqmail.com](mailto:gregbecky1@embarqmail.com)*

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*I have a 1962 4 door for sale. It was painted its original color about 3 year ago. New brake shoes, and hoses, new seat vinyl, new tires, new window rubber (front and rear) Rebuilt transmission, Runs good. Located in NY City*

*Thanks, James L Kistler 843-345-4280*

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## **NJACE Officers 2009**

**President Bob Marlow**

[908] 730-8873 [vairtec@optonline.net](mailto:vairtec@optonline.net)

**Secretary Bill Cohen**

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**VP/Activities Ken Schiffner**

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**Vice-President Dave Main**

[201] 796-6492 [dmmain90826@aol.com](mailto:dmmain90826@aol.com)

**Treasurer Tim Schwartz**

[201] 447-4299 [tim@bristolnj.com](mailto:tim@bristolnj.com)

**VP/Publicity Greg Gorski**

[908]654-4978 [gragmgorski@comcast.net](mailto:gragmgorski@comcast.net)

Late Great Sponsors a Junk Yard Run on March 20th to Verne's in Frackville, Pa.

Contact Mike Berry if you are interested: [michael.berry13@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.berry13@us.army.mil)

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To: All NJACE Members  
From: David Main  
Subject: April 19, 2009 VFW "Wounded Warriors Car Show"  
Date: February 13, 2009

Greetings to all,

As you already know, our planned April Car Show Event is rapidly approaching. For those of you who attended the show last year, despite some early showers, a good time was had by all.

Maybe more than most, I look forward to this type of activity. It provides a chance to take the car for a spin, helps promote the club, and gives us a few hours to tell our old stories over and over again.

This year, along with the cars, the food, and the friendship, we have a unique opportunity to provide assistance to a very needy few. All of the profit(s) this year will be donated to the "Wounded Warriors" fund held at the Franklin Lakes VFW. Many of our brave men and women are still suffering from the effects of participating in wars while protecting our lives and freedom. The car show will give us an opportunity to give something back to these courageous and deserving individuals that have sacrificed for us.

Although we will be raising funds by charging (\$10.00) an entrance fee, we will and can make this have a meaningful impact for this special event.

I am reaching out (and challenging each of you) to all NJACE members to find one sponsor (each) that will contribute to this worthy cause. Maybe your employer (mine has donated \$50.00); a local business that you have frequented over the years, your local VFW, or a friend might want to contribute for this worthy cause. Possibly you yourself are a veteran or you want to honor a family member that served in our military.

To sponsor a trophy, a \$25.00 donation will be accepted. During the trophy presentation, the sponsors name will be mentioned. In the event the sponsor is attending the show, he or she will reserve the right to personally hand the trophy to the winner. All other donations will be honored in an upcoming issue of the NJACE Fanbelt. No donation is too small and all donations and sponsorships will be greatly appreciated and recognized.

I hope all of you can contribute in some way for this worthy cause. I (and all of the NJACE officers) am available to answer any possible questions in regard to the sponsorships or the event itself. As we have very little time remaining before the event, your immediate attention to this is appreciated.

Respectfully yours,  
David Main

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### **NJACE WILL BUY YOUR BREAKFAST!!!!**

*Starting with this month's breakfast meeting, one lucky member will have their breakfast check paid by the club. In an effort to boost attendance, while at the same time possibly easing in a slight way the financial pinch that most of us are feeling, a drawing will be held at each breakfast meeting. The winner of the drawing will have their breakfast check paid for by the club.*

*The club payment is limited to the member whose ticket is drawn, **not** to that member's entire family, friends, and table-mates.*

***This promotion will continue through 2009, so come on out to our monthly breakfasts!***

Spring has Sprung, the grass has riz, I wonder where the Car Show is



It's at

## VFW Post 5702

725 Franklin Avenue  
(corner of Pulis Avenue)  
Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417  
Located close to Rt. 208 and I-287



*For the Benefit of the VFW Wounded Warrior Project*

# Spring All-Makes Car Show

**Sunday, April 19, 2009**

**9 AM - 3 PM, Rain or Shine!**

- ✓ Open to all makes and models of vintage cars - Stock - Custom - Wild or Mild
- ✓ Model years 1984 and older, only
- ✓ Trophies - Prizes - Music - Refreshments - Games

**All profits to benefit the VFW Wounded Warrior Project.**

The Wounded Warrior Project helps veterans with traumatic injuries readjust and reenter civilian life.

\$10 per car entry donation requested.

Low-key judging, no classes, trophies to the top 15 cars overall.



*Show organized and conducted by the members of the New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts, Inc., founded 1970, a chartered chapter of the Corvair Society of America.*

*Visit our web site at: [www.Corvair.org/chapters/njace](http://www.Corvair.org/chapters/njace)*

**For more information, contact David Main at**

**[dmain90826@aol.com](mailto:dmain90826@aol.com)**

**Day-of-show phone**

**201-707-1677**

**Bring the kids!**



## Some Pictures from the Hunterdon Hills Dinner Show

### *"Music of America"*



*The Luwigs - Gorski's - Ashley's - Schwartz*



*Cohen's - O'Neill's - Marlow's - Peles*



*Maurella's - Gervasio's - Stone's - Schiffter*

