

NORTHEAST CORVAIR COUNCIL 2012 CORSA CONVENTION MEETING NOTES

Date of meeting: November 19, 2011.

Meeting location: Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center.

Attendees: Bombardier, Ray ; Calandra, Steve,; Cesana, Jason ; Claypool, Larry; Cox, Janis; Delancey, Dave; Forgey, Jim; Gaudette, Kevin; Guidnard, Jon & Ginny; Hunter, Frank; Jensen, Harry; Klingaman, Ken; Kovacs, Mike; Lacki, Allan; Leonard, John & Sharon; Manwaring, Ron; O'Neill, Brian; Paroz, Michel ; Russ, Tom; Ryall, John; Ryall, Marian; Scheidel, Bob; Schmidt, Dan; Sedani, Bob; Sedani, Elaine.

Autocross Update, by Brian O'Neill on behalf of Bob Marlow.

1. The CORSA Convention autocross will be held on Wednesday, July 25, 2012.
2. Bob Marlow is currently negotiating with Thompson International Speedway and Stafford Springs Speedway to procure a site for the autocross.
3. We may settle upon either track. No contracts have been signed so far.
4. Brian suggested that the NECC Board may decide to run NECC time trials at one track and CORSA autocross at the other.
5. The time trials would be separate and apart from the Convention and would be an NECC event, as opposed to a CORSA event.
6. Possibly, the NECC time trials would be held the day before the convention, on Tuesday, July 24, but this has not yet been brought before the NECC Board.

Banquet Update, by Bob Scheidel.

1. Bob has worked with the Sturbridge Host Hotel management to settle upon a menu.
2. The choices will be beef, chicken or fish. These should be denoted on the Convention registration form.
3. The registration form should enable people to indicate if they have any special dietary requirements, such as vegan.
4. The hotel can accommodate up to 750 place settings. This is far more place settings than we will need for the convention, so there should be plenty of room in the banquet hall for our convention banquet.
5. Ray Bombardier asked Bob Scheidel to tell hotel management that we want eight place settings per table instead of ten.

Concours Update, by Brian O'Neill on behalf of Ken Schiffner.

1. Concours cars will be parked on the grass along the banks of the lake behind the hotel.
2. We have obtained permission from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to park the cars next to the lake.
3. Ken is working with the CORSA concours chairman to develop a plan for assigned parking spots for the concours cars.
4. Larry Claypool explained why the Concours day was changed from Saturday to Friday. He said that, while it is possible to do the first round of scoring on the same

day as the Awards Banquet, it is advisable to hold the Concours one day earlier because the Concours scores need to be checked and double checked before winners are announced.

- This became very evident at the Ventura convention, where the wrong person was given the Concours award due to an error in Concours scoring.
- The error amounted to only 10 points out of a 700 point total, but it was enough to scramble the results.
- CORSA needs to avoid mistakes of this kind so that members can be confident in our ability to run a good convention.

Clam Bake Update, by Brian O'Neill.

1. The Sturbridge Host Hotel can provide a clam bake affair for us in the big tent beside the lake, behind the hotel.
2. People who sign up for the clam bake can be offered a choice: (1) Clam bake with lobster, or (2) clam bake without lobster.
3. The hotel will offer a fixed price for those people who decide not to include lobster, but pricing for the lobster will be pegged to the then-current market price, which we cannot predict at this time.
4. Larry Claypool pointed out that prices need to be locked in before March 1, 2012 to facilitate the opening of registration. It would be more difficult to administer the registration process if the price for the clam bake is unknown until later.
5. One possibility is for us to simply set the clam bake price high enough to offset escalation in the market price of lobster.
6. Jon Guidnard suggested that it may be helpful to offer steak or chicken as an alternative to lobster and set the price so that any up-tick in the market price of lobster would be dampened by the steak and chicken meals.

Group Meetings Update, by Ron Manwaring.

1. Ron is in the process of re-scheduling the group meetings so they don't overlap with the Concours event, which was moved from Saturday to Friday.
2. Al Lacki said he wrote to all the CORSA Special Interest Groups to ask them about any special meeting room requirements they may have. This was done a couple of months ago. Al reported that he received responses from only a few of them. A couple of the Special Interest Group chairpersons said they do not intend to hold meetings at the Convention. Al promised to provide Ron with all the responses he has received so far from the CORSA Special Interest Groups.

Craft Vendors Update, by Brian O'Neill.

1. Cathy McCafferty informed Brian O'Neill that she will need to bow out of role as organizer of the craft vendor exhibits at the convention. Her employer, which has been doing business in Boston for 178 years(!) has decided to move its offices to another location in Massachusetts and revamp its records management system, all at the same time in 2012. Cathy will have a major role in that project and, as a practical matter, needs to hand-off responsibility for craft vendors.
2. Brian is looking for a volunteer to replace Cathy.

3. Ray Bombardier said that Cathy has records of all the crafters she has approached so far, and a rather complete list of other crafters who may be interested in setting up booths at our convention. Whoever takes over this responsibility can build upon work that Cathy has already completed.

Guest Speaker Update, by Ray Bombardier.

1. Richard Lentinello, Chief Editor for Hemmings Magazine, has agreed to be our guest speaker for the awards banquet.
2. Chuck Leonard noted that Richard Lentinello has repeatedly made very favorable comments about Corvairs in Hemmings magazine, and that he will make a great guest speaker for us.
3. Chuck also pointed out that the December 2011 issue of Hemmings is devoted to the 100th Anniversary of Chevrolet, and it includes several photos of Corvairs, including his own.
4. Larry Claypool advised Ray Bombardier to inform Richard Lentinello how long his presentation should be. Twenty or thirty minutes should be sufficient. Ray agreed.
5. Jim Forgey talked about his efforts to reach out to Click & Clack, the Tappet Brothers, to appear at our convention. They respectfully declined because their policy is to do only charity events.
6. Jim Forgey said he has emailed Ralph Nader a few times, too. Ralph Nader lives in Connecticut, near Sturbridge. So far, he has not responded to Jim's emails.
7. Ray Bombardier talked about a phone conversation with Jay Leno. They talked about a number of car-related topics. Ray gathered the impression that Jay gets invited to so many car events that he would probably be reluctant to make an appearance at our own convention. But he may be willing to doing a short video clip to provide a greeting to our convention goers. If Jay is willing to do this, it would be a wonderful surprise at the convention. Ray said he would approach Jay about this possibility.
8. There was also discussion of approaching Paul Menzies appear at our convention. He hosts the "Cruisin' New England" car shown.

Hospitality Update, by Elaine Sedani.

1. Elaine has recruited 40 (!) volunteers to help in the Hospitality Room.
2. The hotel's "Southbridge" room has been selected as the site for the Hospitality Room.
3. Elaine's team is already in the process of collecting door prizes.
4. Larry Claypool advised everyone to approach potential door prize donors as soon as possible. "Do not wait for May". Chuck Leonard agreed.
5. Michel Paroz pointed out that he also needs goody-bag items to stuff in the registration packages. Items like car-wash soap and wax samples, pens, etc. would be greatly appreciated. Larry Claypool advised folks to get 500 of each item for the registration packages; that's the approximately number of packages that Michel's team will need to assemble. If anyone has success in obtaining such items, please give them to Michel as soon as possible so that he does not have to scurry for them at the last minute.

Photographer Discussion.

1. Nobody has been assigned responsibility to get a photographer to take photos of our cars at the convention. (Note: This item should be added to our task lists).
2. Ray Bombardier suggested that we get a photographer. He has been to several car shows where a photography vendor takes photos of all the cars and then sells them to the car owners. The vendors offer not only framed photos, but also coffee mugs, T-shirts, and even clocks emblazoned with the photos.
3. Jason Cesana agreed that this would be a great idea.
4. Jason and Larry Claypool pointed out we would not pay the photographer to provide this service; instead, he would pay us, much like any other concessionaire.
5. Jason said he will perform research to determine a reasonable fee for the photographer to pay us.

Women's Activities Update, by Brian O'Neill.

1. Barbara Emerson has agreed to conduct a jewelry-making demonstration.
2. Roberta O'Neill has agreed to conduct an Christmas ornament-making demonstration.

Model Car Show Update, by Brian O'Neill.

1. Brian said Tim is looking for volunteers to help him with judging the model cars.
2. Brian talked about Tim Schwartz's efforts to requisition display cases for the model car show.
3. Harry Jensen suggested that, if all else fails, Tim can rent display cases from vendors who do jewelry shows. It's quite common.

Valve Cover Racing Update, by Janis Cox.

1. Janis Cox strongly advised Brian O'Neill to limit the Valve Cover Races to a one-day / one-time event. It is too difficult to assemble and break-down the racing track more than once. Brian O'Neill agreed.
2. Ginny Leonard advised Ron Manwaring to designate space inside the host hotel for the races. Ron Manwaring said there is ample interior space to do this and specific spots are already under consideration.
3. Janis Cox asked the group to provide an electronic system for flagging the winner of each race. She's been doing this by eye for local events, but often the cars cross the finish line at nearly the same time, so an electronic system would be better.
4. Larry Claypool said that an electronic flagging system should be easy to design. He suggested that Tim Schwartz could do this.
5. Larry pointed out that there is no need to time the cars; the objective is simply to determine which of the cars crossed the finish line first. Janis agreed.
6. Janis Cox inquired about Valve Cover Racing Rules. Harry Jensen advised Janis that, while CORSA has published guidelines, it has not established hard and fast rules for Valve Cover Racing. Therefore, Janis has the option to modify the guidelines as she sees fit.

Publicity Update, by Allan Lacki & Jim Forgey

1. Al Lacki said that the Convention website and blog are now online and that two articles have been published in the Communique about our convention plans. Another article is in the works for the January issue.

2. Bob Marlow has established a convention blog and updates it often with useful information.
3. Bob also took the initiative to have our convention listed on the Hemmings 2012 calendar and linked on the CORSA website home page.
4. Jim Forgey has reached out to TV stations and radio stations in Boston and Hartford. Channel 5 in Boston is interested in sending a reporter to cover our convention in July. Also, the National Public Radio station in Hartford expressed interest in covering our convention. Both asked Jim to remind them again in May so they can fit our convention into their reporters' schedules.
5. Larry Claypool suggested that Jim should ask them to broadcast their coverage on Friday so that the public would be encouraged to stop by on Saturday to see our Car Display.
6. Dave Delancey suggested that Jim should also approach media based in the Springfield area. The Springfield TV stations cover not only Massachusetts, but also Vermont and New Hampshire as well. They cover "four states".
7. Jim Forgey asked Al Lacki if we have a standard press release. Al said he prepared one for his own outreach efforts. Al agreed to brush it up and share it with Jim. Brian O'Neill suggested that Al should ask Bob Marlow to review it first.
8. Regarding the possibility of live radio broadcasts: Jim Forgey has investigated this possibility. It is very expensive. One of the stations said their fee for live broadcasting is \$5,000. A local DJ quoted \$2,000. Everyone agreed this is too much to pay.
9. Jim Forgey also approached "Cruisin' Bruce". CruisinBruce is on the air as host of the morning show on "the Pike" at 100.1 FM. His fee is only \$400. He has already agreed to set aside one of the convention days on his schedule. (Note: Will he broadcast live over the radio from our convention? Or will he just spin records for broadcast at the show field? Or will he visit our convention and then talk about it during his normal show?)
10. Convention Booklet. Harry Jensen said that ads in the convention booklet should pay for the entire cost of publishing the booklet, if possible. Try to charge whatever the market will bear for ad prices.
11. Ray Bombardier said Dave McMillan is already making contacts with potential advertisers. The Yankee Spirit Liquor Store (next door to the host hotel) has already agreed to offer a discount to convention goers. Ray also talked about other contacts Dave has made.
12. Harry Jensen looked-up prices for convention booklet ads from a recent convention. The prices are:

Business-card size:	\$25
1/4 Page:	\$35
1/2 Page	\$60
Full Page	\$100

Also, Harry looked-up prices for commercial advertising in the Communique:
The prices are:

1/8 Page:	\$85
1/4 Page:	\$135

Audio / Visual Equipment, by Jim Forgey.

1. Nobody has been assigned responsibility to obtain and set up audio visual equipment for the convention. (Note: This item should be added to our task lists).
2. Larry Claypool pointed out the host hotel does not provide audio visual equipment for any of the meeting rooms and halls. The hotel management can put us in contact with vendors who can do this for a fee.
3. Jim Forgey volunteered to bring his own public address (PA) system to the convention. He believes it is powerful enough for use in the Concours area outside, as well as in the banquet hall. It has tower speakers.

Registration Update, by Michel Panoz.

1. Michel has seven volunteers to help with Registration.
2. Harry Jensen affirmed that, two weeks prior to the convention starting date of July 25th, he will Fed-Ex (or otherwise mail) registration receipts, car cards, T-shirt coupons, banquet coupons, and other hardcopy registration materials in-bulk to Michel Panoz so that Michel and his team can stuff registration packages for all people who have pre-registered as of that date.
3. Registration packages for later entrants can be stuffed at the convention site, or perhaps a few days prior to the start of the convention. (I'm not sure this was discussed).
4. Of course, Michel and his team will stuff registration packages on-site at the convention for those people who register at the convention, (that is, walk-in registrations).
5. Michel and Harry Jensen talked about their plan to set up a number of computer kiosks in the Registration room so that people can register online at the hotel. The objective is to eliminate or at least minimize data entry by the registration staff.
6. Harry and Al Lacki will serve as advisers in the area to help people who are not familiar with on-line registration systems.
7. As noted under "Hospitality", Michel Panoz needs goody-bag items to stuff in the registration packages. Items like car-wash soap and wax samples, pens, etc. would be greatly appreciated.
8. Larry Claypool advised folks to get 500 of each goody-bag item for the registration packages; that's the approximately number of packages that Michel's team will need to assemble.
9. Harry Jensen said that one of the primary objectives of this convention is to attract new people to join CORSA. Jason Cesana is working on a proposal to provide an incentive for non-CORSA members to join CORSA at the convention. Details will be announced in the future.

Rally Update, by Bob Scheidel.

1. Dave Delancey said that he and Bob have been mapping-out a rally route. They fully intend to conduct the pre-rally meeting, provide all necessary printed rally instructions, and conduct the rally itself.
2. Bob Scheidel said the driving time will amount to two or three hours, but drivers will have the option to take time out for lunch. This, in combination with the time to release the cars one-at-a-time, will amount to an all-day event for all practical purposes.
3. Bob Scheidel said that it will be a gimmick rally, with a questionnaire.
4. Larry Claypool said we should expect 75 cars to participate in the rally. It will be necessary to have sufficient space to line them up without blocking fire lanes.
5. Ray Bombardier suggested that the starting point for the rally should be located outside of the Sturbridge commercial district, away from the host hotel. There is too much traffic in this area in July.
6. Larry Claypool: Have 10 people run the rally route prior to printing the instructions to de-bug it. If four out of the ten get lost, you'll need to either edit the instructions or change the route to make it simpler. It must be remembered that most of the people on the rally are novices.
7. Larry Claypool: Put an upper time limit on the event so that the participants will have a clear understanding of how much time they have to complete the route. Also, establish a check-point mid-way along the route to let participants know whether or not they have enough time to finish the remainder of the route on-time. The checkpoint should be put at a location that is mid-way in terms of estimated time, not mileage.
8. Larry Claypool: In the event that two or more drivers get perfect scores on the questionnaires, you will need a means of breaking the tie. This can be done on the basis of the driver's odometer readings so that their elapsed mileages can be measured. But odometers vary wildly in their accuracy, so it will be necessary to establish an odometer calibration checkpoint early in the rally route, too.
9. Harry Jensen suggested that it would be a good time for Bob Scheidel and Dave Delancey to get in touch with the CORSA Rally Committee Chairman. His name is Dale Dewald. Harry can provide Dale's email address. Harry can be reached at cora@corvair.org.
10. Harry Jensen said he will pre-print car-cards and rally registration lists for Bob and Dave to use. This will be done prior to the rally participants meeting. It's critical to ensure that the rally drivers actually drive the cars they have registered -not somebody else's car - to ensure that the rally results are ascribed to the correct driver/car combinations and to ensure that points for the Cole Award are allocated correctly.
11. Larry Claypool: Move the whole rally schedule an hour or two earlier than you originally planned. It would not be unreasonable to start the participants meeting at 7 AM. By moving the schedule forward, you'll ensure that the event is completed on-time for night-time activities which the participants may have already paid for.
12. Trophies: Award five trophies to the top five finishers in the Primary Class and five trophies to the top five finishers in the Touring Class. No trophies are awarded for drivers in non-Corvairs.

Tech Session Update, by Frank Hunter.

1. Grant Young was asked to do a tech session on carburetors, but he declined.
2. Gray Hatchel was asked to do a tech session on distributors, but he declined.
3. Brad Penn Oil Company was asked to do a tech session on oil. Frank is awaiting their response.
4. Chuck Leonard informed Frank that Cal Clark is willing to sent one of his technicians to do a tech session on carburetor rebuilding.
5. Larry Claypool suggested that tech sessions involving small parts, (like carbs and distributors) need to be planned carefully because the parts are hard to see.
6. Kevin Gaudette has a contact who would like to do a clay-bar car-polishing demonstration. It could be conducted indoors or outdoors, possibly in the tent concurrent with the Concours show. Everyone agreed this would be a good tech session topic.

Tours Update, by Kevin Gaudette.

1. Kevin has made reservations for three tours.
2. Mohegan Sun Casino Tour: Will take place on Wednesday from 5 PM to 11 PM and include coupons for dinner, etc. at the casino.
3. Historic Boston Tour: Will take place on Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM (timing is tentative) and include a private tour of various points of historical interest in the city as well as shopping at Faneuil Hall Marketplace.
4. Newport Coastal Tour: Will take place on Friday for most of the day. Will include a coast drive, shopping in the Newport Wharf area, and a docent-led tour of The Breakers Mansion.
5. Kevin said the tour company arranges everything for us: buses, guides, etc.
6. Kevin said he must be informed no later than July 12 of the number of people who have registered for each tour.
7. Harry Jensen said he will provide an internet link that will enable Kevin to log onto the registration database any time he wants to and see exactly how many people have registered for each tour.
8. As the July 12th deadline approaches, Harry offered to work with Kevin so that they can determine when registration for each tour will be "cut-off". Kevin's main objective is to avoid the hiring of buses that cannot be filled to capacity (or near-capacity).
9. Harry Jensen and Kevin Gaudette agreed that people who register for the bus tours have no guarantee that they will be seated or that the tour will even be run. This needs to be made clear in publicity materials (Attn: Lacki) and on the hardcopy and online registration forms.
10. Larry Claypool advises Kevin to check with the tour company to see if their buses can accommodate passengers who have disabilities, (especially wheelchair-bound passengers).
11. Kevin Gaudette asked how much we should mark-up the tour prices. Harry Jensen suggested 10 to 20% over the amount charged to us by the tour company.
12. Harry Jensen said he needs to know prior to March 1, 2012 the prices that we will be charging. Registration will open on or about March 1.

13. Harry Jensen said Al Lacki should write an article for the Communique concerning the tours. It should describe each tour so that people know what to expect if they register. This should be done much in advance of the July cutoff date.
14. Kevin Gaudette: Please share the tour descriptions with Al Lacki so that Al can write the article.

Indoor Vendor Update, by Dan Schmidt.

1. Dan just volunteered for this responsibility a few days ago, so he has nothing to report at this time.

Outdoor Vendor Update, by Brian O'Neill on behalf of Bob Marlow.

1. Brian said Bob Marlow has volunteered for this responsibility.
2. Bob intends to locate the outdoor vendor pads next to the Exhibition Hall where the indoor vendors will be located.
3. Bob Scheidel: Who should vendors contact to reserve a spot?
4. Answer: To be determined. In any case, do NOT contact the hotel. Brian O'Neill instructed everyone to let Ron Marwaring be our interface with hotel management.

Trophies Update, by Brian O'Neill for John Teixeira.

1. Trophy Chairman John Teixeira is in San Diego today.
2. Brian O'Neill agreed to give Ray Bombardier a CD showing photos of trophies awarded at previous conventions. Ray will share the CD with John.
3. Brian said Tim Schwartz will be providing powder-coated Corvair valve covers which should be used as the trophy bases for the Valve Cover Racing awards.
4. Brian also said he has samples of trophies that were awarded at a recent air-cooled car show in New Jersey. They are inscribed with humorous thoughts that we can copy for our own trophies.
5. Harry Jensen suggested that it will not be possible to know exactly how many trophies will need to be awarded throughout the event. It may be financially smart to buy fewer trophies than to buy too many.

Parking Update, by Tom Russ.

1. Tom Russ requested permission to purchase safety vests from Staples for his parking volunteers. The price is \$12 apiece. The vests would aid safety and make it easy for drivers to identify people who are directing traffic in the hotel parking lot.
2. Tom Russ said he needs walkie-talkies or some other form of wireless communication for his volunteers to use, given the large size of the parking lots. Brian O'Neill said NECC has six of them. ("FRS units").
3. Brian O'Neill said the Car Display parking lot should be laid out so that 3 parking spaces will be used for every 2 cars. This will provide extra swing space for car doors. (This may be a responsibility of the Car Display Chairperson, not the Parking Chairperson. Please coordinate.)
4. Larry Claypool: Please ensure that the parking volunteers are on duty on Tuesday. Plenty of convention goers will arrive at the hotel days in advance of the actual convention. This will include drivers with trailers. Once the trailers park, it's nearly impossible to get their owners to move them to the proper spots.

5. Larry Claypool: Please establish the parking lot areas and share this information with Mike McGowan no later than June 1st so that he can publish a parking map in the Communique. Among other things, the map should show exactly where trailers should be parked.
6. Steve Calandra suggested that convention volunteers should have name tags or some other form of identity so that convention goers can recognize them when they have questions. Brian O'Neill said Ken Schiffner is purchasing 3-corner hats for this purpose.

Orientation Room Update, by John and Marian Ryall.

1. This is a new item for the convention task list. John and Marian just recently volunteered for this activity.
2. They will provide information for convention goers who have never attended a CORSA convention before. They will welcome them to the convention and answer any questions they may have.

Fun-Day Activities, by Brian O'Neill.

1. Janis Cox inquired about the status of Friday Fun Day games.
2. Brian O'Neill said that an NJACE member has constructed a teeter-totter. He is in the process of testing it right now.
3. Also, plans for the Slow Drags remain intact. No special equipment is necessary for the Slow Drags.
4. Brian even volunteered to be the "Dunk Tank" victim, if someone can provide the tank of water!

Miscellaneous Information for Allan Lacki:

Registration and event scoring will require access to the internet throughout Convention Week. Harry Jensen asked Al Lacki to contact Kris Mosenko to obtain information about the availability of wireless internet availability throughout the host hotel. Question should include:

1. Where wireless internet service available in the host hotel?
 - In meeting rooms?
 - In conference rooms?
 - In the banquet hall?
 - In the exhibition hall?
 - Outdoors, in the tent?
2. Do you need a unique access code for each room and area?
3. Where wireless access is not available, is wired access available?