



# ACORN News

Rochester, NY - Corsa Chapter 148

April 2017 Newsletter

## Prez Says...

Greetings ACORNs!

Welcome to another Corvaair season. The snow has melted, the roads are getting clean, the temperatures are rising and our Corvaairs are calling us. We continue into our 42nd year with our membership mostly intact. We lost a few members who did not renew, as well as lifetime members Don Vair and our founder Ed Sutton. Don and Ed shall remain in our hearts and minds.

As for the future of ACORN, we will continue on as long as we have as dedicated a core of members as we do. I will continue on as prez as long as you all will have me or until someone else volunteers.

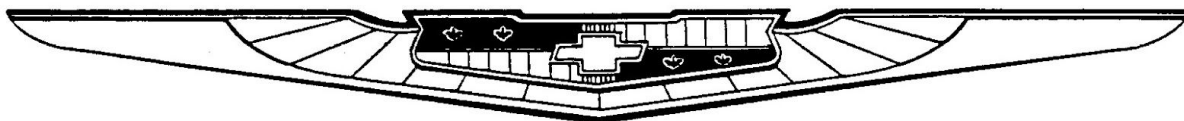
I would like to thank Brandon Carmo for agreeing to put out ACORN NEWS. I had agreed to do it, but due to my workload and complete lack of computer skills I had to step aside. Brandon's first issue looks great! Now I just have to make sure that I get him my words in a more timely manner. I would also like to encourage all members to submit any material they think the membership would find interesting. I would like to continue the topic that Jim Bartesevich started about how we all first got into Corvaairs and where we are now in the hobby.

I would again encourage everyone to check our calendar and pick out the activities that you could attend. We have several tech sessions scheduled . Even if you don't actively participate, just show up and hang out. It's a good way to show your support. We also have our annual picnic, 4th of July parade, Corvaairs On The Hill and Fall color tour. So, find a way to get involved however you can.

In other news, the club parts stash continues to grow and is now housed in two locations, George Conboy's Rush Rod And Piston Club and Dave Pulhamus's garage in Spencerport. Thanks to George and Dave for giving up space in their garages. Many thanks also to Dave Ellis for his tireless work in organizing and cataloging the stash. Please, if anyone needs parts, check with Dave Ellis before you go ordering from the vendors.

Lastly, I would just like to personally say what a great group of people ACORNs are. I enjoy the fellowship of everyone and the kindness and willingness of Corvaair people to help each other out keeping our beloved cars on the road.

Let's all drive on!



SOME SAD NEWS TO REPORT....Dave Ellis reporting...

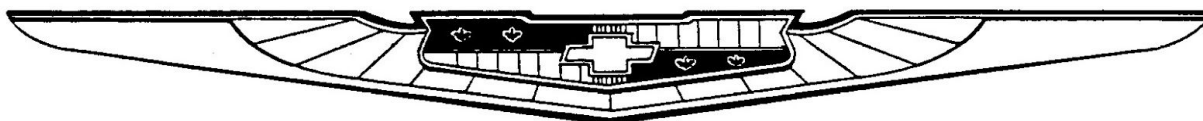
I receive a phone call during the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> of April from Pat Sutton. She informed me that, unfortunately, our LORD took ED SUTTON home late in the previous week.

She passed along the following narrative....

Ed fell attempting to retrieve her beloved cane furniture that normally reposes on the front porch, that was being scuttled across the front yard by last week's windstorm as it passed through their area. It was not much of a knot on his head. A couple hours of icing and it was gone. He was fine for several days, however, unknown to himself or Pat, he had suffered a damaged artery in his brain, and a huge aneurysm was growing. While listening to a favorite country western song on the car radio while Pat was picking up a prescription at Rexall....the aneurysm burst....Ed was gone in a couple seconds.

Many of you know that Ed Sutton was the founding father of the ACORNS. AND the founding father of several other CORSA chartered chapters, as he was a passionate advocate for our Corvairs.

I reported this information to the attendees at our BRUNCH event at Peppermints this past Saturday. It was mentioned that a memorium article in the ACORNEWS would be appropriate. As I am one of the few folks left that was around when the club was formed (the others are Fred Marsh, Dick Gilbert, Jim Bartasevich and Tom Nasman) ..I volunteered to pen the article you will find included/attached to this month's ACORNEWS...



## In Memoriam, Ed Sutton, The Johnny Appleseed for CORVAIR CLUBS

Back in the 1970-73 timeframe, down in the Alfred Station region of Western New York, something interesting was occurring. A group of Chevrolet Corvair enthusiasts were beginning to share their enthusiasm for the vehicle, their common fellowship of their faith, and family; when they had get together at one another's homes upon occasion. The individual whom was initiating this activity was a gentleman by the name of Ed Sutton. They shared with each other their experience and knowledge on how to keep their "unique" vehicles safely rolling along. GM had pretty much pulled up stakes and abandoned any ongoing support for the "brand". At some point during that timeframe they began to put out a monthly newsletter, and undertook the task of figuring out what to refer to themselves as. More importantly, they began to investigate how to become a "charter club" of a recently formed national organization, CORSA, which stood for the Corvair Society of America. Someone along the line mentioned that folks who heard that this group of folks were interested in keeping the Corvairs they came across running, referred to them as being "nuts" to do so....Hmmmmm, thus, the local group began to refer to themselves as the Association of CORvair Nuts...The title "ACORNS" as adopted to be the clubs title. Paperwork was submitted, the appropriate and required by CORSA Constitution and By-Laws were created, submitted and approved,,,,and CORSA CHARTER Club #148 was created in 1974. It was during this timeframe that the author of this article, Dave Ellis first made contact with the ACORNS. Needing a set of 5, four bolt pattern, early Corvair wheels, for my DATSUN 510 station wagon, I placed an advert in HEMMING'S. A couple of days after the issue that had my advert in it hit the newsstands, I got a phone call from this pastor, named Ed Sutton, who resided down in Alfred Station. Yep, he had a set of wheels for me, and hows about me and my family come down to his place next Saturday, to join the local Corvair folks for a picnic. We arrived to a very hearty and warm welcome, got the wheels I needed, and began a friendship with Ed Sutton that endured for over four decades. A few years passed, and Ed Sutton took the opportunity to pastor a different church. This one was in the greater Albany, New York area. Within a couple years, a CORSA CHARTER Club was established there, Capital District Corvair, again initiated by the charismatic, passionate Corvair nut, Ed Sutton. A few years passed and Ed had the opportunity to pastor a church back home in his beloved West Virginia. Again, Ed Sutton established another CORSA CHARTER Club,,,the Wild and Wonderful West Virginia Corvair Club. A pattern was developing. At this point, my memory is not crystal clear on the other two clubs that Ed Sutton was the founder thereof. However, I believe one was on the southern border of NYS, and the other was somewhere in Pennsylvania. Thus, Ed began to be referred to as the Johnny Appleseed of Corvair Clubs.

When I got the phone call from Ed's wife, Pat, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of March, 2017; it really caught me off guard. I had attempted to keep up with Ed's routine relocations, but had not talked to him for too many months. I count that as my loss. Life sometimes has a tendency to force us to apply so much attention to the events directly in front of our faces; that sometimes, we do not manage to keep track of some relationships, even when they do mean an awful lot to us.

Ed certainly lived a very full life. It was not without the challenges that seem to arrive to give us the opportunities to mature, and gain "character". Through it all, Ed was a soft spoken gentleman of faith; yet very passionate about his love affair with those air cooled orphan cars from GM....the Chevrolet Corvairs.

There are lots of folks, myself included, whom consider themselves blessed to have had the opportunity to have known him. Ed rest in peace.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Ellis, a long term ACORN member...

## April Calendar of ACORN Events:

- 4/2 @ 9 am - Indoor Flea Market  
880 Elmgrove Road (Old Kodak Elmgrove)
- 4/? @ 10 am - Organize Parts & Stuff  
Pulhamus Estate, Ogden  
(RSVP - D. Pulhamus)
- 4/21 @ ? pm - Life & Career of Willys  
Irondequoit (RSVP - B. Boudway)
- 4/22 @ 10 am - Tech Session  
Conboy's Garage, Rush (RSVP - D. Ellis)

**PULHAMUS PARTS STASH RE-ORG**

This event will be weather dependent, most likely at 10:00 am on a Saturday, on the 1st, 8th or 15th of April. The goal is to move the stock from the cardboard boxes on the shelving units and reorganize it into the several heavy duty labeled totes the club has purchased. After this effort, folks looking to find the spare part they desperately need can locate the appropriate container with relative ease, no longer needing brute force to find their way through the entire stash to find what they need!!!

An e-mail announcing this event on either Monday or Tuesday of the week that it will be held on that week's Saturday Morning. This should be sufficient notice for folks and allows us to get a reasonably good idea of what the weather is going to be doing. As we are inside, temperature is a bit more of a concern than precip, however a dry day would be nice!!!

**TECH SESSION at George Conboy's Rush Rod & Piston facility  
Saturday April 22nd, 10 am**

Dave Ellis will be demonstrating the re-assembly process from the bare top of the engine block. This is required to replace the fan bearing housing on his 64 Vert. Anyone who would like to watch this process, work on their own car, or help others who bring their Vairs in for "spring maintenance" are welcome to join. The Club will spring for coffee and donuts. Directions to the George's facility will follow in an email.

**LIFE AND CAREER OF WILLY'S PRESENTATION with GVACS**

Bill Boudway has invited the ACORNers to a presentation at the April 21st [Friday] meeting of the Genesee Valley Antique Car Society [GVACS]. The topic will be Preston Pierce's presentation on the life of John Willys. If you'd like to attend, please contact Bill at 394-6172.

## ACORN March, 2017 Activity Report & Meeting Minutes

### March 18 Brunch: Peppermint's Restaurant, Henrietta

ACORNers attending:

- Dave Ellis - Treasurer
- Paul Abel - President
- Tom Nasman
- Bill Boudway
- Dave Shoemaker
- Brandon Carmo
- Dick Gilbert
- Dick Powers
- Jim Bartasevich - Secretary

This was our annual get together to do a little short-term activity planning for the chapter and a lot of talking about our Corvairs. It's also not very often when you find a pair of rebuilt Rochester HV carburetors on the table during a meal either. Bill Boudway brought them along for show and tell and to ask a few questions about them. He had to watch that the server didn't come by and fill them with coffee. He's going to reinstall them on Grace's '64 Monza, and we'll swoop in to make the adjustments if needed.

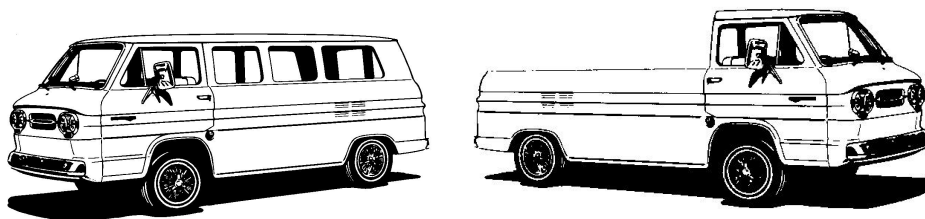


### Old Business

**ACORN Parts Depot:** Dave Ellis will be coordinating a parts sorting meeting at Dave Pulhamus' branch of our parts supply. [The other part of our parts supply is at George Conboy's Rush Rod & Piston Club "clubhouse."] This will primarily be a sort and organizing activity to transfer the parts from the deteriorating corrugated boxes to plastic storage tubs.

## New Business

- **Treasurer's Report:** Dave Ellis reported that we have \$787.45 in the treasury.
- **Other Officer Reports:** Nothing to report by them
- **Don Vair's Passing:** Don Vair, a long-time treasurer of the ACORNs, died in January of natural causes. He was in his 90s. ACORN members attending the memorial service January 7 were Ron Butera, Chuck Littman, Tom Nasman, and Dave Ellis. Don was one of our three Lifetime Members. Of course, a Corvair owner couldn't have a much better last name than his! He and Betty were frequent hosts of ACORN meetings and attended most of our activities. As Dave Ellis eloquently put it: "He was a wonderful individual and personified the definition of the word 'gentleman'." He will be missed.
- **The Death of Our Founder:** Dave Ellis heard that the Rev. Ed Sutton died recently from a brain aneurism resulting from a fall. He was residing in Pennsylvania. The members at the breakfast signed a sympathy card to send to Ed's wife. We also voted to provide a \$100 donation to her for a charity of her choice as a remembrance. Ed was a "Johnny Appleseed" for Corvair clubs, having founded the Albany and West Virginia clubs after he moved on to other congregations in those areas.
- **ACORN News:** Brandon Carmo volunteered to do the *ACORN News* after our breakfast. THANKS, Brandon! Now, all of you members please send him ANYTHING [photos, stories, a paragraph or two, etc.] involving your Corvair or your adventures with your Corvair so he'll have material for the newsletter.
- **ACORN Website:** Thanks to Marissa Andolino for updating it with our 2017 schedule.
- **CORSA Chapter Fee:** CORSA contacted us with a question about whether we paid the \$35 fee for 2016, but Dave contacted CORSA and informed them that we did. We'll pay it for 2017 whenever we receive the notice.
- **Car for Sale:** Dave Ellis announced that he heard from the son of a former ACORNER that his father's car is for sale. The information is an early coupe, probably a '62, Monza PG, 84 HP. Engine has been rebuilt as well as the brakes. The body is in good shape but shows wear. Blue on blue. The car is in Spencerport, and Dave will be making a trip to check it out after the snow melts. If you're interested, contact Dave and go along.





**ACORN 2016 Event Calendar**

- **January:** Planning meeting
- **February 19:** Valentine's dinner at Keenan's
- **March 18:** Informal brunch, story-swapping, problem-solving, whatever. Peppermint's on West Henrietta Rd. 10 AM
- **April 22:** Tech session at George Conboy's Rush Rod & Piston Club. 10 AM Engine top cover [fan bearing] replacement & what ever else you need to be done] Coffee & donuts will be provided. Dave Ellis
- **May 13:** Tech session at Bill Boudway's to adjust the rebuilt carbs and tune up Grace's Monza. Club will cover coffee and donuts. RSVP to Bill at 394-6172
- **June 9 - 11:** Recall hosted by Central NY Corvair Club. We've caravanned over in the past, so keep that in mind. [cnycorvair.com](http://cnycorvair.com); Dave 315-656-9639, [kb2hba@twcnny.rr.com](mailto:kb2hba@twcnny.rr.com)
- **June 10?:** Tech session RR & PC; Paul Able & Dave Ellis; work on Paul's convertible; snacks provided; 9 AM
- **July 4 [Tuesday]:** Canandaigua July 4th Parade. Organized by Bill Boudway. Details TBA in *ACORN*News. Post-parade picnic hosted by Bill & Grace, funded by ACORNs
- **August 13:** Summer picnic & auction so bring "stuff" [car and non-car] you want to donate to the auction to benefit our chapter.; The Lodge at Victor Park; setup at noon. More details to follow. Dave Ellis
- **September 10 [tentative]:** Corvairs on the Hills, hosted by Fred and Sue Marsh.
- **October 15?:** Fall tour organized by Steve Smith
- **November 12:** Holiday dinner. Details to follow.

From the editor...

I'm excited to have the opportunity to work on the ACORNews!

I am looking for tech article suggestions, as well as listings for parts or cars for sale. I am also interested in photos of member cars, ACORN outings, or photos and descriptions of any project car updates you may want to share.

Submissions can be sent to [bwcarmo@gmail.com](mailto:bwcarmo@gmail.com)

## **ACORN OFFICERS**

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