

the **Fanbelt**   
new jersey association of CORVAIR enthusiasts

# Octovairfest!



Bring family & friends and join us on Saturday, October 8,  
at the High Point Brewing Company, in Butler, NJ,  
for beer - brats - burgers and more!  
Complete details on page 2 of this newsletter.



On Sunday, October 16, we become the Roving Wrenches and visit a member's home in Kinnelon to diagnose and fix some vexing Corvair problems. Learn more on page 3.

Monthly Breakfast at the Empire Diner on Rt 46 in Parsippany,  
Saturday, October 1st. You just might win a free breakfast!

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).

# Octovairfest!

## You Don't Want to Miss it!

by *Bob Marlow*

Our Party Planner Extraordinaire, Ray Coker, in cooperation with VP Nick Ford, has put together a great Autumn activity for us.



On Saturday, October 8th, NJACE will visit the High Point Brewing Company, just off Rt 23 in Butler, NJ, for swillin, grillin, and chillin.

In addition to sampling the award-winning Ramstein Beer, we'll be grilling bratwursts, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Food and fun for family and friends!

Ray and Nick have rented a large grill, tables and chairs. They've arranged for EZ-Up canopies to ensure that there's no rain. As you read this they are putting the final touches on their shopping list before hitting the supermarket.

They have arranged for there to be room to park our Corvairs so the other patrons of the brewery can admire them.

We will be able to tour the brewery and see the brewing process. We enjoyed a similar brewery tour more than 20 years ago, but this time Ray and Nick have ramped up the fun factor. It will be a great opportunity for us to enjoy a day of fun, food, laughter, photo opportunities, car talk and some award-winning brews.

And while we're having fun together we'll be showcasing our Corvairs to other people and explain the joys of driving them, working on them and being members of the best Corvair club anywhere.

What is the cost for all this fun? Nothing! This event is free of charge for members, friends, and family. Your NJACE membership dues subsidize events like this, so take advantage of it! (The brewery will be charging for tastings or purchases to go.)

What should you bring, you ask? Simply bring anything you may think you'll need to enjoy an

autumn afternoon outdoors. Think positively – sunshine and warm weather – but watch the forecast and bring a sweater or sweatshirt if the Autumn chill is going to be in the air.

You can bring your own choice of beverages if tasting the beers on hand is not your cup of tea.

Oh – drive your Corvair to the brewery! The more Corvairs we have, the more fun we'll have. We cannot take over *all* the parking spaces, we'll need to leave room for the other patrons visiting the brewery that same day. So for those of you coming in non-Corvairs there is plenty of parking in adjoining parking areas within the complex.

But to make sure your clean shiny Corvair is up front, plan on getting there early.

The brewery officially opens at 2:00 PM on Saturdays. The owner of the brewery has suggested we arrive at 1:00 PM to secure the spaces we'll need to park our cars together and set up our grill and tables and canopies.

The High Point Brewing Company is located at 22 Park Place, Building #7, Butler, NJ 07405.

**In order to purchase the correct amount of food we would appreciate an RSVP to me, by phone at 201-444-1859 or by email at [rmarlow4040@gmail.com](mailto:rmarlow4040@gmail.com).**

If by chance you have an opportunity to attend and you didn't get a chance to RSVP, please come anyway.

Ray and Nick say, "Please, we want you there, we need you there, you should be there, if you're not there you'll hear about it later and wish you were there!"





Our regular monthly breakfast at the Empire Diner on Route 46 in Parsippany will this month include a formal business meeting.

Club VP Nick will be standing in for President Brian O'Neill while he and First Lady Roberta are on a trip to Croatia.

Our business meetings, held four times per year, are never lengthy but are a necessary part of

the club's operation. This month we will be opening nominations for 2023 club officers.

Think about who you'd like to see in office! Do you prefer a member of the Early Model Party, the Late Model Party, or that third party, the Forward Controls?

Think also about some fresh blood. Maybe you would like to become an officer!

And remember, each month someone wins a free breakfast – it could be you!



**Join the Wrenches!  
Sunday, October 16  
Kinnelon, NJ**

**O**ur first Roving Wrenches session in quite some time is set for Sunday, October 16, in the garage of member Gary Cohen in Kinnelon.

Gary has asked for assistance with a number of (hopefully) minor issues with his 1965 Corsa convertible.

Among them, Gary says, the brake lights don't work. Gary does not think the problem is the brake light switch, he thinks that it is the connections at the lights themselves. But he does not know for certain, so we're going to check it out.

The other problem is the idle is too high, around 1500 rpm. This issue isn't as straightforward as it would normally be, because Gary's car has a modified linkage on the four carburetors. It appears, Gary says, that the linkage is interfering with the idle setting.

Neither of these issues should prove to be too vexing for some of the club's veteran members. And to entice us, Gary is doing more than just offering the requisite pizza and soft drinks. Gary is a serious gearhead, with ten more collector cars, a large collection of vintage diecast cars, and additional automobilia for us to see.

The session will begin at **11:00 AM on Sunday, October 16**. For privacy reasons we are not publishing Gary's address, we ask that if you want to join the session you RSVP to Bob Marlow. Please contact Bob by voice or text at 201-444-1859 or by email at [rmarlow4040@gmail.com](mailto:rmarlow4040@gmail.com). Bob will then provide each attendee with the address.

### NJACE Officers for 2022

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## A Man and a Woman (and Goldie)

by *Elizabeth Malcolm*

NJACE members may know that my husband, David "Scotty" Malcolm, recently sold our much loved 1969 Corvair Coupe. I say "our" because David always spoke of the Corvair as "ours." While I know nothing about cars, "Goldie," as I fondly thought of her, gave us both quite a few years of fun and pleasure. And meeting a number of interesting characters along the way.



When we first bought the car from Greg Dittrich, David thoroughly enjoyed working on it. It's in his DNA. Safety issues were his first projects, e.g., putting in new seat belts. Some of you may recall several articles he wrote for the Fanbelt describing the assorted frustrations while a task was in progress. Blood, sweat, expletives, eventually ending in success – and on to a new project.

Early in our love affair with Goldie I was introduced to "cruise nights." The first we attended, fairly regularly every Saturday during summer months, was in Lyndhurst, NJ – in a large parking lot alongside a restaurant, the Whiskey

Cafe. The "deal" was: I would take a folding chair, a book, and a bottle of water, and sit for two plus hours by our Corvair, while David wandered around and "schmoozed" with like-minded car enthusiasts. Then David would treat me to a lovely dinner.

Just up the road from the Whiskey Cafe is a Renaissance Hotel with a bar and a great bartender, Sam. David and I would "decamp" to Sam's and enjoy the rest of the evening.

Another favorite cruise night was in Newark, I think on Thursdays. We both loved that crowd. I recall the participants included a large number of retired cops and detectives, as well as many Newark locals, all of whom were very entertaining. The only downside was that it was held on an abandoned rail siding comprised of large ballast stones which were painful to walk on. I would stay put next to the Corvair and happily read while David did his best to hobble around.

Sadly, cruise nights appear to be a thing of the past. However, I have fond memories of many great times and the wonderful folk we met and the interesting cars we saw. We still occasionally enjoy wandering into Sam's and catching up with him while having a drink and a bite to eat.

Next came car shows. The first we attended was in Nutley, NJ and their debut annual downtown car show. We had a great time in spite of pouring rain towards the end of the evening causing a mass exodus. We happily went back the next year.

Likewise, we attended the Newark annual block party and car show two consecutive years.

*continued*

### NJACE Calendar of Events

- \* **Saturday, October 1:** Monthly breakfast meeting, at the Empire Diner on Route 46 eastbound in Parsippany, 9:00 AM.
- \* **Saturday, October 8:** Octovairfest at the High Point Brewing Company. Complete details on Page 2.
- \* **Sunday, October 16:** NJACE "Roving Wrenches" session in Kinnelon. See the details on page 3.
- \* **Saturday, November 5:** Monthly breakfast meeting, at the Empire Diner on Route 46 eastbound in Parsippany, 9:00 AM.

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

**Goldie, continued**

Newark was my favorite show – it was a family affair, and I have a strong affinity for the city where I was a social worker.

Three other great car shows also come to mind: The 2019 G Wiz & Dale's Classic Car Show in Hackensack – at which David was awarded his first (and only) car trophy for most unusual car. I was so proud for him. Point Pleasant, which offered the best of two worlds: over 500 registered cars and the wonderful Jersey shore. And, finally, The Rusty Relics car show in Paramus, with some other NJACE members and a mighty fine row of Corvairs.

It was bitter/sweet getting the car ready to be transported to Tennessee. We believe Goldie has gone to a good home. We have both enjoyed some entertaining chats with the buyer which convinced us he is the perfect new owner who, I understand, is simply looking for a fun car to tool around in and enjoy.

It wasn't only Covid that did us in and possibly caused the demise of cruise nights and the slow start-up of car shows. At our age it's one thing to get down on the ground and work on a car; it's another getting up! However, I can honestly say, "David and Goldie, thanks for a wonderful ride."

***Postscript: Tuesday 6 September 2022***

Our much loved Corvair was driven on to a car hauler late in the afternoon of Friday 2 September. The buyer had contracted with a broker to transport the car to Tennessee. The hauler the broker contracted rang David on Friday morning. Was 11am or 1pm good for us? David said 11am. David said he would take me out to lunch after the car had been picked up.

By 3pm I was truly hungry and rang the telephone number David had for the hauler. I cheerfully told him I was starving and inquired where was the driver. A few minutes later I received a call from the driver. He explained how his schedule had been totally upended. He spoke of the pick up of one car and the drop off of another – but he expected to arrive in Rutherford in approximately 40 minutes. He then changed his ETA to 35 minutes – as he pointed out, he had already clocked five minutes speaking with me! Shortly after 4pm the driver arrived. A pleasant young man wearing a colorful, jaunty beach hat.

The driver was very professional: he took photographs of the car, inside and out. He asked a series of pertinent questions. With a couple of false starts (not the car, the driver – he had never driven a Corvair) he got the car on the hauler. The oldest car he had previously driven was a '79 Mustang. The buyer and David would receive a copy of the bill of lading by email. David promptly did. The driver estimated he should be in Tennessee by Monday, Labor Day, and off he, and Goldie, went.



We rang the buyer, John, and told him the car was on the way. Then the upsets began.

On Sunday John got a call saying he owed \$1,000 before the car would be delivered. It turned out the broker had been "sitting" on the fee John had paid. The next call that Sunday to John was to inform him the driver had broken down just outside of Nashville. The driver wasn't sure how long repairs would take. We were all biting our nails now.

The reason this Postscript is nearly as long as the actual article is to let readers know that, while brokers may be a less expensive way to transport a car, they are not always the most reliable. Granted, this had been the buyer's choice; however, as sellers we also felt a responsibility. John spoke with both David and I several times on Sunday and Monday. I think we were all reassuring one another.

There is a happy ending. I answered the phone when John rang this afternoon. The Corvair is finally sitting in his driveway. John is one happy new Corvair owner. He said this was the car he had always dreamed of owning. We have a new friend in Tennessee with a NJACE plate on his car. John added, Corvairs are to be driven and maybe one day we'll see him (and Goldie again) in New Jersey.

## Bulletin Bulletin Bulletin

by Walter Windshield

We have breaking news, just beamed into our Greenbrier news van from reporter Walter Crankcase. Let's go now to him for an update.



*Walter Windshield:* What can you tell us about this latest breaking news story?

*Walter Crankcase:* I have just learned of yet another remarkable event promoted by members of the New Jersey Association of Corvair Enthusiasts, which is a car club rumored to be the best car club in any universe.

*WW:* We have all heard of that particular car club. What on this green earth can they be doing that would surpass the other out of this world events they have been involved in?

*WC:* I'm glad you asked that question. It appears they are headed to Butler, NJ, on Saturday, October 8th for an event where club members will be enjoying fine foods, cold drinks and laughter along with a chance to taste some award winning beers from the Highpoint Brewing Company.

*WW:* Is this a legal adult beverage establishment or simply a back door distillery where a secret door knock and a fiver gets you inside?

*WC:* No, this brewery is legit, and from what we hear it is reputedly the best of the best at bringing out a wonderful taste by using tried and true brewing methods. For reasons which I'm sure you understand they are not willing to give away or share their trade secrets.

*WW:* What does a person need to do to join this incredible afternoon of fun?

*WC:* From what I understand, club members and their families and guests just need to show up at 1:00 pm on that date. The organizers will be there early to save as many parking places as possible for members' cars. The organizers will also be setting up tables and pop-up awnings, firing up a grill and settling in for a day of fun.

*WW:* This sounds too good to be true. Is there a cost to join this fun? Do you have to provide in advance a notice of who will be attending?

*WC:* These are great questions. In order to make these type of events successful the organizers will need to know beforehand approximately how many people will be on hand so the correct amount of food can be purchased. So an RSVP to the club's Publicity VP, Bob Malow, is needed. As far as costs, the brewery will be charging for their on-site tastings or purchases to go, but there is no other cost to club members.

*WW:* Can you confirm that location and time?

*WC:* I'll be glad to. It's Saturday Oct 8th. At the Highpoint Brewing Company located at 22 Park Place, Bldg #7. Butler NJ 07405. Be there no later than 1:00pm. Look for NJACE roadside signs.

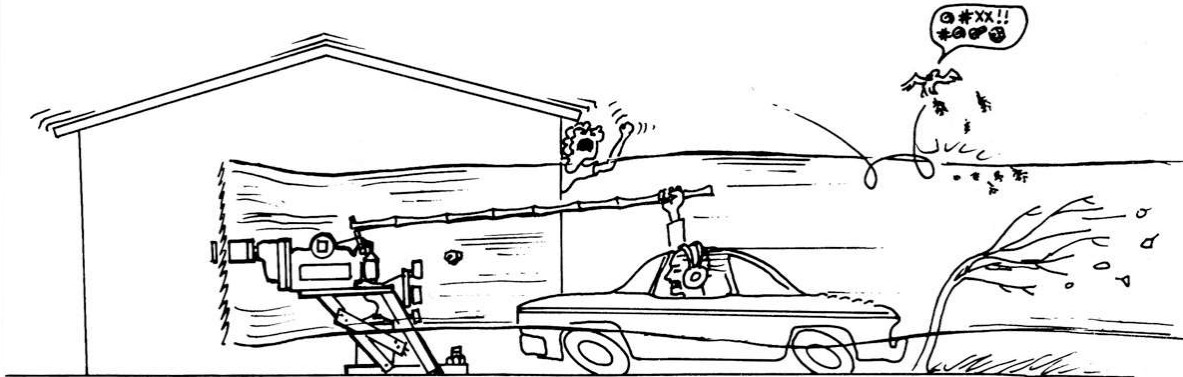
*WW:* Well, Mr. Crankcase, we want to thank you for this in-depth report and if things go as planned we're sure this will be one well-oiled (no pun intended) Octovairfest to remember. Hmmm, I think I'll go shopping for a Corvair.

(This report transcribed for THE FANBELT by Ray Coker)





# LESSONS ON THE CORVAIR



## As the saying goes, “What the... ?”

The illustration above accompanies an article entitled “The Corvair Engine Syndrome,” published originally in Sport Aviation Magazine in 1974. Written by the late Bud Rinker, a member of the Experimental Aircraft Association and a champion of Corvair engine use in aircraft, the article is both entertaining and technical. You can find it at this link:

<https://www.buildagyrocopter.com/the-corvair-engine-syndrome/>

Corvair engines have been converted to light aircraft engines since the Corvair was introduced, although General Motors and Chevrolet have never authorized or approved such use. Corvair engines have been converted for use in homebuilt,

experimental, non type-certificated light aircraft by individuals working on their own and by means of conversion manuals sold by small firms.

The earliest champion of Corvair conversions was the late Bernard Pietenpol, who found them very well suited to power his Pietenpol Air Camper and Sky Scout designs that date from the late 1920's and early 1930's. Pietenpol reportedly made his first Corvair conversion in 1960, and aside from his own aircraft designs, Pietenpol converted a Piper J-3 to Corvair power.

The photo below left shows Pietenpol (1901-1984) with a very recognizable cylinder head poking out of the engine cowling, and the photo below right is a current CorvAIRCRAFT powerplant.

