

# Last Call!

## The End of the Empire



After nine years – yes, it has been nine years – as the host for our monthly breakfast, the Empire Diner has been sold and the property is slated for redevelopment. Our June breakfast will be our last there.

But, while the impending closure of the diner has come as a surprise, the second and far more welcome surprise is that the diner owners have acquired another restaurant and have invited us to go there, starting in July!

We will have all the details on the new breakfast location in next month's issue, but in the meantime, come on out to our "last breakfast" this month (Saturday, June 3) and raise a glass (of orange juice) to the Empire Diner!

### ***Also In This Issue:***

- ★ **Roving Wrenches Recap**
- ★ **Corvairs Back on the Track**
- ★ **Rampside Restoration Installment #5**
- ★ **Duck and Cover!**

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



## Roving Wrenches to the Rescue in Rochelle Park

On Saturday, May 6, following the club breakfast at the Empire Diner, it was off to Ed Garfield's home in Rochelle Park, to tackle a myriad of small but confounding issues with his new-to-him 1966 Corvair.

Virtually all of the problems were due to prior-owner-meddling, which included an unfathomable volume of wiring nightmares. Not all issues were solved in a single visit but progress was made!

As the photos show, problems were tackled at both ends of the car simultaneously. A total of nine "wrenches" participated. The benefits of joining a car club instead of flying solo!

Yes, you might call us The Breakfast Club, but not because we're a bunch of high schoolers. It's because for a *long* time we're been meeting for breakfast on the first Saturday of each month.

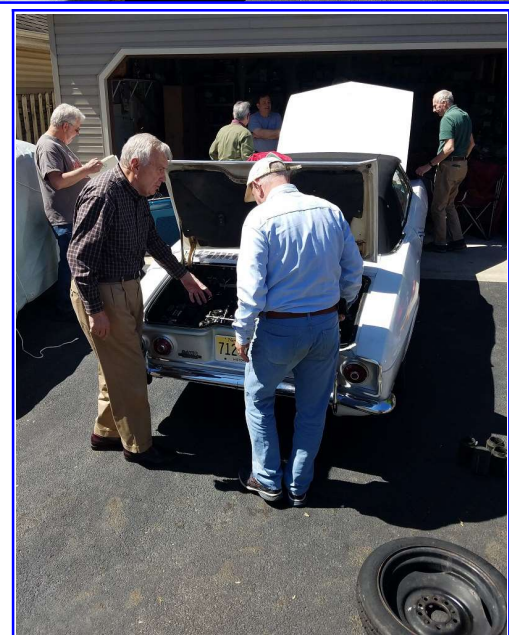
For several years it was the Pronto Deli (now gone) then the Cruisin' Diner (now gone). But for the past nine years it has been the Empire Diner (soon to be gone – seeing a pattern here?)

The Empire Diner has been sold and the property is slated for redevelopment. We do not yet know what sort of development it may be, but our June breakfast will be our last at the Empire Diner.

While all prior restaurant closures have left us scrambling, this time no searching for a new home has been required. The owners of the Empire Diner have acquired another restaurant and have invited us to go there, starting in July!

We will have all the details on the new breakfast location in next month's issue, but in the meantime, come on out to our "last call" breakfast at the Empire Diner on Saturday, June 3, 9:00 AM.

As always, it may be you who wins a free breakfast. Each month we have a drawing, and one lucky member has their breakfast check picked up by the club.



**NOW SERVING  
BREAKFAST**



# Not the Brat Pack, it's the Track Pack!

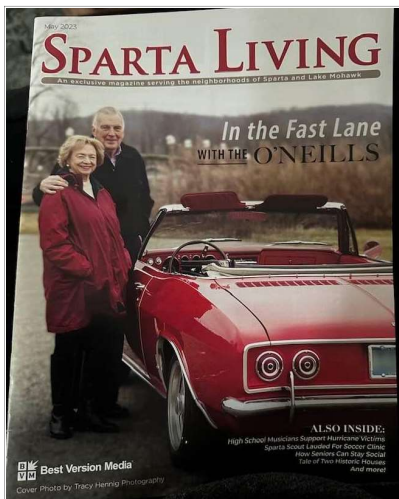
On May 20, while the participants in the Indianapolis 500 were qualifying for the big race, Corvair owners and owners of other performance cars were at the New York Safety Track in Jefferson, New York, for the Northeast Corvair Council's annual day of high speeds.

Al Lacki was there and took photos:



#68 Mike Pietro #6 John Egerton

#60 Brian O'Neill #85 Dan Schmidt #66 Terry Stafford



Your President and the First Lady on the cover of the May issue of SPARTA LIVING Magazine. Okay, it's not *The New York Times* but it's a nice photo!

## My Rampside Ownership Story

#5 in a series  
by Ray Coker



### “What’s Taking So Long?”

If you’ve ever had a vehicle painted by yourself or by anyone, you know that there is some disassembly and reassembly to do which takes delicate care so nothing gets scratched during the reassembly process.

Imagine a vehicle with a bare dashboard, two bare doors with no glass or rubber seals, no glass regulators and no latch assemblies in them, two bumpers to that have to be assembled and installed, a ramp, a tailgate etc, etc, etc.

I need to be especially careful because the painter is in North Carolina and as much as I like to visit North Carolina I don’t want to go there just because of some carelessness.

As you can see by these photos the truck is almost road ready. I still have to spray the bed floor and I have to get the seat and the sun visors recovered. I ordered new mag wheels for it and when they arrived one of them had been damaged during shipment somewhere between China and my house.

I didn’t find out about the damage until two days later when I took the wheels to a garage to have the tires installed. The garage owner was unpacking them when he discovered the damage. Yet another reason for the delays!

The engine needed a new fan bearing installed due to the noise it was making so I removed the top engine sheet metal to install the bearing while the tailgate was off the truck... making it much easier. I then took the time to paint those sheet metal parts to give the engine a clean appearance.

I took the advice of Dave Motohead and his YouTube video which shows him replacing the fan bearing by heating up the engine top cover until the fan bearing shaft was able to be pulled out by hand. I then installed the new frozen fan bearing immediately into the engine top cover while it was still hot.

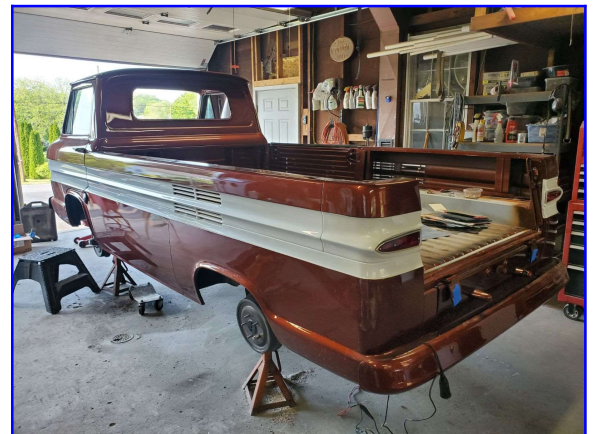
(It’s not the first time my wife has discovered car parts in the freezer).

It’s back together now and the fan bearing noise has disappeared. Replacing the fan bearing by using heat without removing the top engine cover was so easy.

I have an appointment to have the windshield and the back cab glass installed by professionals next week. I’m aware they are both installed by using the rope-in method but I still rely on professionals to do the job. I am not a person with patience and when you are working with glass or you are a doctor you need patients or patience. I have neither.

I will be driving this special vehicle very soon then I have two more special vehicles to work on. First is my wife’s little sports car which has a hard top convertible that doesn’t work. Second is my 1965 Corvair Corsa coupe, “Fast Orange,” which is not running as well as it should.

More later!





## Rampside Footnote:

The original owner of my Rampside, pictured here, died on April 29th (one day after my 71st birthday) at the age of 97. I truly wanted to take the truck back to Texas to give him a ride.

–Ray Coker



# OUR 50th ANNIVERSARY - 2023

Thanks to the support of 1,000's of Corvair owners over the last 50 years we continue to grow and reproduce more parts every year. Have a great year and enjoy our monthly sales and specials all year  
– Joan & Cal Clark

**SPECIAL SALES EVERY MONTH-** each month we'll send an email (if you have signed up) and list in a sale section on our Home Page [www.corvair.com](http://www.corvair.com)

**FREE 50th MEMENTO gifts with your first order in 2023**

**LIST YOUR CORVAIR FOR SALE- NO CHARGE-** sell your Corvair or a spare you just don't have time for! For all of 2023 we will list it on our website at **NO CHARGE** – check website (Corvairs For Sale)

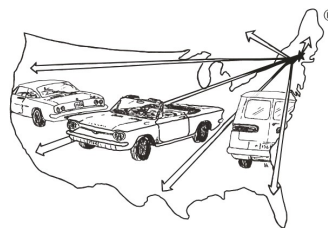
**CLARK CAR SHOW & PARTS SALES-** See our 2023 supplement or website for more details. We expect around 130 cars, and will offer tours of our buildings including the Upholstery Dept. Slide show by Cal. Parts on sale!  
**SEPT 16, 2023 - rain or shine**

**2023 SUPPLEMENT-** On our website or as a hard copy – many new repros & updates.

**INTERNATIONAL CORSA CONVENTION – Wisconsin-** We will be there Tues, Wed & Thurs with lots of recent repros on display. Stop by and say hello.  
Convention dates are June 19 - June 24

**CATALOG-** over 450 pages, free with an order, \$8 postpaid in USA

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We welcome this month new members **Joseph and Chistine Casaleiz**, informally known as Duke and Chris. They reside in Plainfield.

Their interests include old toys and watches, and they also own a 1969 Plymouth Valiant, which was Chris's first car! As far as Corvairs are concerned, on the membership form where we ask where and when did you buy your first Corvair, Duke answered "Haven't yet!"

This is wise. Joining the club before buying the car helps give a person knowledge of values, what to look for, and so on. And Corvair ownership is not required to be a member of NJACE – we're Corvair enthusiasts, but not all of us are Corvair owners!

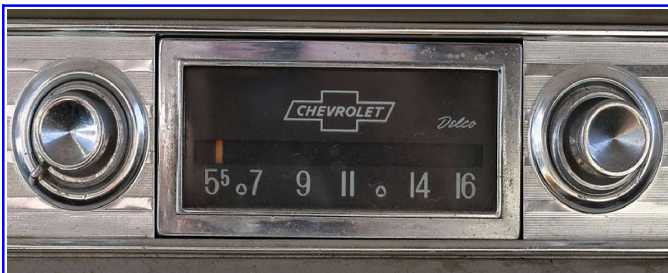
We also welcome **Steve and Wendy McGrath**, from Colonia. Steve and Wendy have a 1965 Corsa, 140-hp, painted Viper Red. It's not their first Corvair, though. Steve bought a similar car in 1973.

Welcome!

## Duck and Cover

*from the Corvair Center Forum*

Here's a Corvair radio, a '63 to judge by the trim plate. See those two little triangle symbols between 5<sup>5</sup> & 7 and between 11 & 14? Do you remember why they were there?



They are CONELRAD markings, marking AM frequencies 640 and 1240 where info could be found when Khrushchev dropped the Big One and it was time to "duck and cover."

By law, radio sets manufactured between 1953 and 1963 had to have these two frequencies marked by the triangle-in-circle symbol of Civil Defense.

From Wikipedia: "In the event of an emergency, all United States television and FM radio stations were required to stop broadcasting. Upon alert, most AM medium-wave stations shut down. The stations that stayed on the air would transmit on either 640 or 1240 kHz. They would transmit for several minutes and then go off the air,

and another station would take over on the same frequency in a "round robin" chain. This was to confuse enemy aircraft who might be navigating using radio direction finding."

The 1960 Corvair Owner Guide has a picture in which the CONELRAD frequencies (640 and 1240) are pointed out. From 1961-64, in both car and FC Owners Guides the CONELRAD frequencies are described in a box labeled "Radio Tips."

While the CONELRAD markings were required from 1953 to 1963, some car radios had them for a little longer. The use of these frequencies was ended in August, 1963, when the first '64 models were already on their way to the showroom; radios without the markings would not reach the factories until later. The description of the CONELRAD frequencies is found in the first edition of the 1964 Corvair Owners Guide but is gone in the second edition.



## NJACE Calendar of Events

**Saturday, June 3:** Monthly breakfast meeting, at the Empire Diner on Route 46 eastbound in Parsippany, 9:00 AM. The last breakfast at the Empire Diner!

**Thursday, June 8:** Edison Light Cruisers' cruise night, 6-9 PM, in the Home Depot parking lot on Route 1 in Edison, just south of I-287. Rain date June 15. Second rain date June 22. More details below.

**Saturday, July 1:** Monthly breakfast meeting, at our new location! Full details to come in next month's issue and on our NJACE website and on our NJACE Facebook page.

It's not hard to spot Tony Gervasio's Corvan in the photo below, from a recent Edison Light Cruisers' cruise night – the orange paint stands out!

This weekly cruise night is on our calendar for June. Weather permitting, cruise on over on Thursday, June 8, from 6 to 9 PM. We'll use June 15 as a rain date, and if it rains for two weeks in a row we'll use June 22. (If it rains for three weeks in a row, well, we tried.)

The location is the Home Depot parking lot on Route 1 southbound, just south of I-287. There are refreshments available and there are restaurants nearby.

It's the Edison Light Cruisers' 31<sup>st</sup> cruise night season, and each cruise night offers free registration.

Besides Tony's Corvan, in the photo you can see that these cruise nights draw a big field of cars in a nice parking lot, with a DJ, prizes and more. Heck, you could even pick up a few home repair items from the Home Depot while there!

Again, the date is Thursday, June 8, from 6 to 9 PM, and the location is the Home Depot parking lot on Route 1 southbound in Edison, just south of I-287.

We hope to see you there!





## “The Corvair Catalog”

Frank Hunter alerted us to this:

### *The Corvair Catalog*

*“A comprehensive set of technical specifications for every Corvair from every year, paired to a collection of images from original brochures, giving a thorough view of one of the most unique American cars ever made.”*

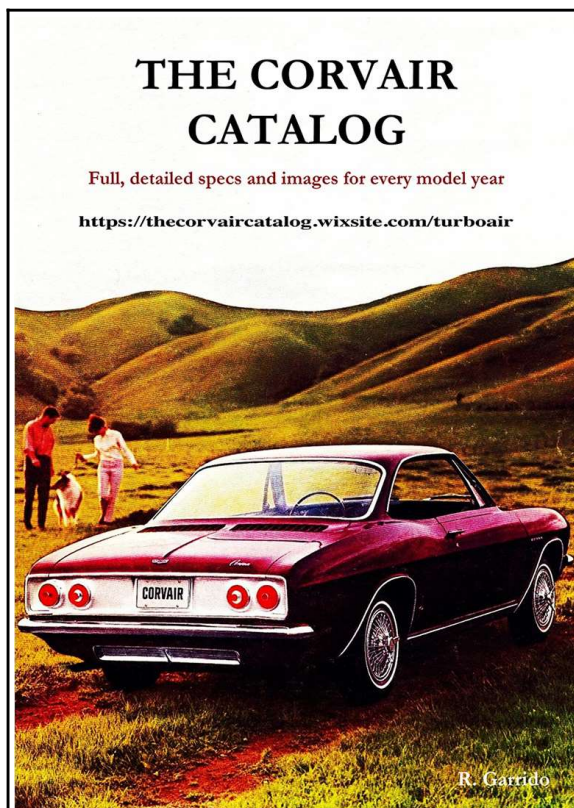
Created by Ricard Garrido, a Corvair enthusiast located in Barcelona, Spain. You can check out his website at:

<https://thecorvairecatalog.wixsite.com/turboair>

You can also take a look at a PDF, available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/n6dr73r6>

This document breaks no new ground, but it might be a useful resource to have on hand (assuming that the PDF download is virus-free).



### NJACE Officers for 2023

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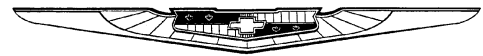
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## Follow Us on Facebook

Have you checked out the NJACE Facebook page? It's where members and friends share a range of Corvair-related (and sometimes not Corvair-related\*) information.

Recent items have included Frank Hunter's refreshment of his cars' tunnel covers (and before that, their trunks), Greg Dittrich's "Turkey Roaster" wall clock, and several persons' parts for sale.

Take a look, and check it from time to time!



Find us on  
Facebook

\* As one of the admins for the club's Facebook page, if someone posts something not relevant to NJACE members, I delete it. Fortunately, I don't have to delete very much. –Bob Marlow