

August 2023

the *Fanbelt*

new jersey association of CORVAIR enthusiasts

Founded June 1970



For a Great
NJACE
Gathering...

Just Add
People!



In This Issue:

- ★ **New Breakfast Info**
- ★ **Club Picnic This Month**
- ★ **Reports from Wisconsin and Michigan**

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.



What's for Breakfast this month?

See page 7

President's Message

by *Brian O'Neill*

Summer Picnic

With a tip of the hat to the Ashleys for many enjoyable club picnics at their house, due to their move to a new home without a suitable back yard this year's summer picnic is at a new location. On **Sunday, August 27**, we will gather at the O'Neill's residence in Sparta.



We have just had a new two-level deck built to replace the old wooden structure. The picnic will start at 1:00 PM, and the plan will be the same as we have used for many years: The club will provide the soft drinks and the hot dogs and hamburgers and you bring the other stuff. Salads, desserts, and any other goodies that you think of will be welcomed.

The address is **45 Whipoorwill Lane, Sparta NJ 07871**. In this day of in-car GPS and navigation built into cell phones it seems that directions are no longer needed, but if you need assistance or have any questions please give me a call at 973-727-5586.

Actually, there is a "trick" to getting to our house, and that is the gate at the entrance to our neighborhood. To open the gate, the easiest way is to call us at 973-727-5586. We are able to open the gate from our house. Another way if you want to try it is to go to the members' keypad which is the one closest to the gate and type in 8052 quickly followed by the pound sign.

Please **RSVP** by Monday, August 21 so that we can get appropriate supplies and set up the tables and chairs on the back deck. If you

discover at the last minute that you can attend do not hesitate. You are always welcome.

As of this moment I am not exactly sure but I believe that we will have a guest chef grilling for us. See you on Sunday, August 27!

A Changing of the Guard

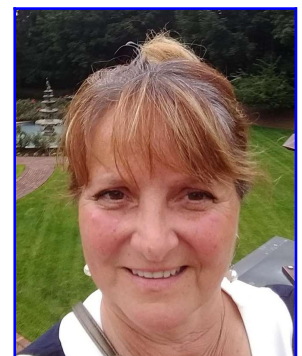
Our esteemed Secretary, David Malcolm, has asked to step back from his duties after a long period of devoted service. Although we hate to see him go, we will miss his attention to detail and hard work. But not to worry, he is still a member of the club. Our heartfelt thanks go out to him and the power behind the throne, his wife Elizabeth.

In accordance with our club by-laws I have appointed David's replacement. Since joining the club Jean O'Day has been a very active member and supported all our activities. We know she will do a great job. David and previous secretary, Frank Hunter, have offered to provide Jean with all the help she might need to settle in to her new position.

Again, many thanks to David and Elizabeth and a hearty welcome to Jean.



*Outgoing Secretary
David Malcolm*

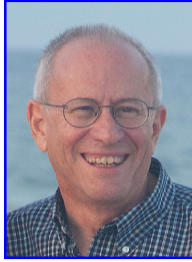


*Incoming Secretary
Jean O'Day*

(Mis) Adventures in Dairyland

by Bob Marlow

My trip to the CORSA convention in Wisconsin did not go well.



Oh, the convention itself was fine, well-run, well-attended, and the only complaint I heard was somewhat tongue-in-cheek: The place was too big! That's true; I joked that if I went from one end of the property to the other end, I passed my house along the way.

Well, okay, the weather was hot, too, but that's to be expected in summer.

No, my troubles had nothing to do with the convention itself. Nor did we experience any car trouble. Sue and I drove 1,985 round-trip miles in our Honda Ridgeline and averaged 30 mpg in air-conditioned comfort.

But upon arrival in Wisconsin Dells the first problem arose. Back in January I had made reservations at the convention hotel, but when in April it looked like we would not be able to make the trip I cancelled those reservations. The cancellation incurred a \$30 cancellation charge, which did not please me for a cancellation made two months prior to our stay. But the fee had been disclosed when I made the reservation so it did not come as a surprise.

Once the trip was "on" again it was too late to get into the convention hotel so I made new reservations elsewhere through Hotels.com. The hotel I chose was favorably reviewed and looked good in pictures. But upon check-in, we said "no way" and checked right out again. The place was a dump. Now we had to find lodging, stat!

Fortunately it took only a few calls to find another hotel, and this one was rated as #2 in Wisconsin Dells. It proved to be a family-run business with friendly and attentive family members on staff. But it was still far below the quality that we are accustomed to even from budget chain hotels. The rooms likely date to the Corvair's time in production and the mattresses probably did too! Still, it was fairly priced and it was available, so we took it.

We experienced no further hotel problems, aside from mattress-induced backaches.

Once checked in, we went to the convention hotel and found the vendor room so that we could unload our wares. (I am in the process of selling off a nearly 50-year collection of Corvair parts and so our convention plan was to sell-sell-sell.) Fellow vendor Mark Aksamit from Arizona gave us a tip on how to get the Ridgeline to the back of the building and right next to the vendor room door, so unloading was a relative breeze.

We then went to dinner, finding a remarkably authentic Mexican restaurant downtown.

Perhaps too authentic. The following morning, only minutes after opening for business in the vendor room, I was a sudden victim of "Montezuma's Revenge." I had to find the mens' room now, and I mean *right now!* Fortunately, the episode passed quickly, forgive the pun, and there were no more gastric issues afterward.

Which was good, because by the next day I was becoming aware of a painful toothache. That afternoon I was considering finding an emergency dentist in town, and in fact one of the new friends we had met (you always meet great new friends at a convention) quickly located a candidate using his smartphone. But ultimately I decided to live with the toothache until we returned home. (Upon returning home my regular dentist sent me to a dental surgeon right away. What fun.)

The next morning we found a cute little breakfast joint, full of friendly locals, just the kind of hometown neighborhood place we like. But, while eating my eggs (soft enough so as to eat with a toothache), there was a sudden "bang!" I looked down, and my breakfast plate had split clean in two, top to bottom, and the two halves had popped a full half-inch apart. Clearly there was some unexplained pent-up energy in that plate.

The restaurant staff was more than accommodating, insisting on making me a new breakfast even though I had already eaten most of the pre-bang serving, and we returned there again the next morning for another breakfast without further dishware malfunctions.

continued

Mis-Adventures in Dairyland, continued

From this point, the balance of the convention went without incident. Sue took a break and visited a local winery with friends from the Detroit club, and by Friday afternoon I was loading up my remaining inventory and preparing for the trip home.

My parts sales had more than covered our expenses and given us a decent profit, so as I said before, there was nothing wrong with the convention itself.

But I was not yet out of the woods. During our last day on the road, we stopped for a break and I suffered a fall, a move that clearly puts me in the category of “old person.” I didn’t trip, I wasn’t



NJACers in Wisconsin: L to R, Al Lacki, Tim Schwartz, Bob Marlow, Sue Marlow

knocked down, I just lost my balance and fell. Unbeknownst to me at the time, in falling I cracked two ribs.

Sore but unaware of the extent of the injury, I simply moved into the passenger seat and Sue took over the driving duties. We got home without any more problems. But by the next day I was more than sore, so I went to get X-rays. Yup, two cracked ribs, an unpleasant souvenir of the trip.

All in all it was a memorable trip but for the wrong reasons. Obviously, my troubles had nothing to do with the convention and we’re happy to have attended. But I sure managed to pack a bunch of unpleasantness into what was supposed to be a vacation!



Seen at the Convention *What's Wrong with this Picture?*



One of the more unusual Corvairs we’ve ever seen, this 1964 ‘500’ was highly customized, with a roof chopped by a few inches, far-out graphics on the exterior, and converted to right-hand drive!

The conversion to right-hand drive was done for no reason other than the owner wanted to do it.

So, Why Not Take Another Road Trip?

by *Bob Marlow*

Since my convention trip went, um, smoothly, it seemed perfectly reasonable to undertake another Corvair-related road trip a mere 17 days after returning from Wisconsin. This time, the destination was Ann Arbor, Michigan, for the Detroit Area Corvair Club's annual "Corvair Homecoming,"

More than 40 years ago I attended the first Homecoming, an event that went on to become an annual gathering and one of the largest Corvair events apart from the CORSA convention. While I haven't attended them all, in July Sue and I trekked to what was my seventh consecutive Homecoming.

In some ways the DACC Homecoming is like a CORSA convention. It's a multi-day event based at a hotel, it has a car show and parts vendors and tech sessions. But in many ways it is quite different than a CORSA convention. For one, it's more laid back. The car show is "people's choice," not judged, and the winners are identified not by place in class or first-second-third, but simply as part of the "top 25" cars.

For another, they feed you! Lunch and dinner on both Friday and Saturday are included in one's registration fee, and with the hotel's complimentary breakfast it is possible to have seven consecutive meals without reaching for your wallet.

There's free beer all weekend (although I am not a beer drinker), there's a no-snoobs-allowed wine & cheese event, there's a movie party (this year's movie was the original "Gone in 60 Seconds"), plus valve cover races and a charity auction, and more.

It's fun, and for these several years I have found it to be well worth the long drive.

This year, a highlight for me was the appearance of one of the original 97 Glenn Pray Corvair-powered Cord replicas, this one having been purchased originally in 1966 by Dick Clark, he of "American Bandstand" fame. These cars

are rarely seen and this one was one of the relatively few Powerglide-equipped examples.

Pale yellow with a red leather interior and in exquisite condition overall, the car was given Sue's blessing for me to purchase – except that it was not for sale.



Yes, this is a Corvair, sort of

What was for sale was another Ridgeline-load of my Corvair parts, along with parts offered by at least ten other sellers. Happily, sales were good and we came home with a much lighter truck. Unhappily, it rained each day, making me glad that I had opted for an indoor vendor location but putting a damper – no pun intended – on the outdoor activities.

Fortunately the skies cleared in time for one of the Homecoming's signature activities, the "parade" of the top-25 cars.

This year, Sue and I rolled into Michigan earlier than I have in prior years, so that we could visit the nearby Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum. This museum's focus is on "orphan" cars with local roots, including Hudson, Kaiser-Frazer, and yes, Corvair.



continued

Corvair Homecoming, continued

Until just a few years ago the YAHM was home to the Corvair Preservation Foundation's Corvair display, but since the CPF's move to a location in rural Illinois the YAHM and DACC have continued to maintain a solid display of Corvairs, memorabilia, and historical artifacts.

The YAHM proved to be worth a visit, but I confess to being disappointed by how run-down the rest of the city of Ypsilanti is, especially as compared to nearby Ann Arbor which is sparking.

Speaking of run-down, Sue and I also took a detour to drive past the Willow Run assembly plant where the majority of Corvairs were built. It too is a mere shell of what it once was:



Willow Run Assembly Plant, 1962

There is a lot more to the history of Willow Run than Corvairs. The facility was built originally by the Ford Motor Company to manufacture aircraft, including the B-24 Liberator bomber that played such a pivotal role in WWII.

After the war Kaiser-Frazer Corporation took ownership of the plant, followed in 1953 by General Motors. CORSA members were able to tour the plant during the 1979 CORSA convention, when GM's "X-cars" such as the Chevy Citation were being built there.

In 2009, GM announced that it would shut down all operations at the facility.

The majority of the plant was demolished ten years ago, although the portion seen in the accompanying photo from 1962, including the signature glass rotunda, remains. That glass rotunda was nicknamed the "fishbowl" and when we spotted it Sue and I knew that we had found the birthplace of the Corvair.

Unlike our convention trip in June, our trip to and from Michigan was without any mishaps and we were blessed with dry weather while traveling both ways. My stash of parts is dwindling, but even when they're all gone I'll be returning to future Homecomings.

A few More Photos of the 1966 Glen Pray Cord 8/10:



Time For Breakfast!



**Saturday,
August 5**

Our club breakfast for September will take place at our new location, the **Rockaway River Barn**, located at **11 Green Pond Rd, Rockaway, NJ 07866**.

This is right off Exit 37 on I-80. Whether eastbound or westbound, take the exit, turn left, and the Rockaway River Barn will be on the north side of the Interstate, on your left, just past the Hibernia Diner.

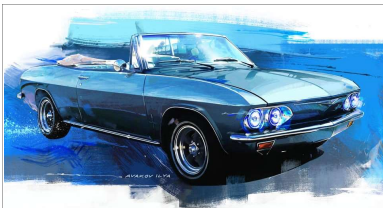
Breakfast will begin at 9:00 AM.

The Rockaway River Barn was recently purchased by our former hosts at the Empire Diner, and they specifically invited us to move our meetings there after the Empire Diner property was sold for development.

When we say “recently purchased,” we mean it! The acquisition was completed during the last week of July. But the Rockaway River Barn is an ongoing enterprise, not a new restaurant, so the handoff should be fumble-free.

Still, Murphy’s Law can intercede without wanting, so check your email and our Facebook page for any last-minute updates if needed.

See you at breakfast!



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NJACE Calendar of Events

- * **Saturday, August 5:** Monthly breakfast meeting, at the Rockaway River Barn, 9:00 AM. Our new location! See the story above for details.
- * **Sunday, August 27:** Our Annual Summer Picnic, at the home of Brian and Roberta O’Neill. See all the details on page 2.
- * **Saturday, September 2:** Monthly breakfast meeting, 9:00 AM.
- * **Saturday, September 16:** The every-other-year “Fall Classic at Clark’s” all-Corvair show. NJACE will again be supporting this show. More details on the next page.

Saturday, September 23: Last day of summer. Already?!

*Items marked with * are official club events.*





**BAY STATE
CORVAIRS**

&

**Clark's
Corvair Parts**



Present...

The *FALL CLASSIC*

At Clark's Corvair Parts

#400 Mohawk Trail (Rte. 2), Shelburne Falls, MA

Saturday, September 16, 2023 9am-3pm

Rain or Shine! Top Ten People's Choice Awards



Come celebrate Clark's 50th Anniversary with us!

Imagine! FIFTY YEARS helping to keep Corvairs on the road!

Guaranteed to be the LARGEST Corvair event in New England!

Cal wants to see 130 Entries to the show!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS HISTORIC EVENT!

Cal will give an "old fashioned" slide show of Clark's development through the years.

Don't forget Clark's

SPECIAL SHOW discounts!

10% off with cash

5% off with Credit Card

Sales tax covered by Clark's

PLEASE!!!

NO PETS

NO ALCOHOL

NO CAR TRAILERS

Clark's STRONGLY encourages pre-orders!

Order upholstery AT LEAST 3 weeks ahead.

Clark's will have your order ready for you, so you'll have more time to enjoy the show!

For more show information contact:

Paul Botelho—508-822-9665—paulbotelho@verizon.net

Host Hotel

We've reserved a block of rooms at **The Red Roof Plus+ Inn**
9 Greenfield Rd. (Route 5)
S. Deerfield, MA 01373
Just off I-91, exit 35
(800) 874-9000

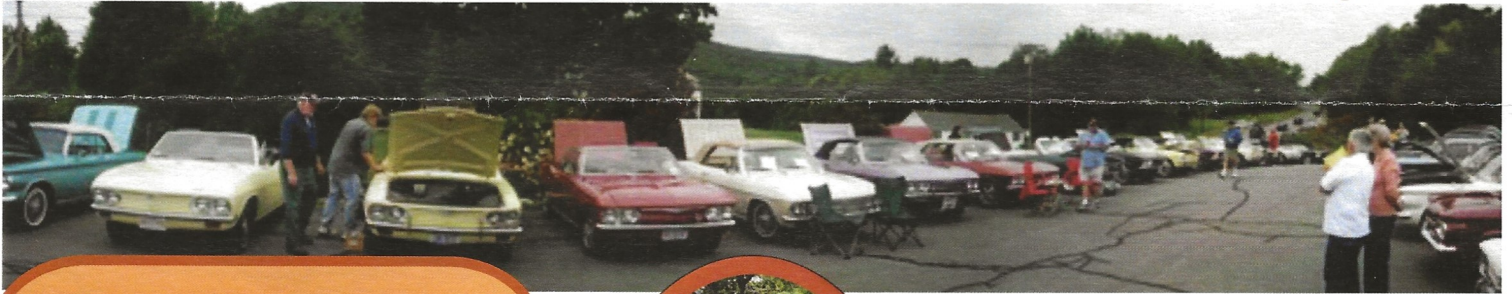
Red Roof Plus+

Sleep Easy. Spend Less.®

Tell'em Block Code "**B289BSC915**"
\$125+tax for room rate!
Rates are only good till July 31st.

Cancellations/Changes:

MUST be made by July 31st to avoid a first night billing.



Come one, come all! Please join us in the celebration! Don't forget to bring your Corvair!

Please make checks payable to:
Bay State Corvairs
Mail to: *Fall Classic*
776 North Main Street
Attleboro, MA 02703



Bay State Corvairs/Clark's Corvair Parts' Fall Classic

Saturday, September 16th, 2023 This is a Rain or SHINE event! No classes, top ten People's Choice!

Pre-Registration Form

(Get your Pre-registration by Friday, August 16th and save!)

Name: _____ Club affiliation _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Year of car: _____ Model: _____ Color _____ Engine (HP): _____ Trans _____

Special Features _____

Pre-registration entry fee: \$20 Day of Show Fee will be \$25