

September 2023

the *Fanbelt*

new jersey association of CORVAIR enthusiasts

Founded June 1970

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**An Air-Cooled, Rear-Engine Volkswagen?
A Naked Corvair Greenbrier?**

Read on...



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.

September Breakfast: Bad News, Good News

We'll Start with the Bad News: Despite optimism on the part of everyone, we will NOT be debuting a new breakfast location this month.

Now the Good News: Having enjoyed two very successful club breakfasts at Tim Schwartz's home in recent months, we are going to do it one more time, this Saturday, September 2.

The full story: Although the former owners of the Empire Diner, our long-time breakfast hosts, invited us to their new restaurant in Rockaway beginning this month, as it turns out they can only accommodate us beginning at 11:00 AM.

Unfortunately, the 11:00 AM hour just won't work for us. It's too late for breakfast, too early for lunch, and too disruptive to everyone's Saturday plans. So, with thanks, we declined the offer.

So it's back to Tim's for another month – although that's not a bad thing. The July and August breakfasts at Tim's were well-attended and enjoyable for all, the only real negative being that the location is not exactly central to our membership distribution.

So the search is on! We need a new monthly breakfast location, and **we need your help** in finding it. Obviously, a diner with a separate room such as we had at the Empire is ideal, but any suitable variation can be acceptable. A location reasonably close to the I-80 I-287 Rt-10 Rt-46 interchanges is preferred, but not a hard-and-fast requirement.

Club President Brian O'Neill has already visited several diners in the area without result, and he and the other club officers will continue to look. Do you have a suggestion? Let us know!

In the meantime, we will gather at Tim's this **Saturday, September 2, beginning at 9:00 AM. The address is 5 Riverview Lane, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ, 07423.** This is just off Route 17 which itself is accessible from the Garden State Parkway and from the top end of I-287.

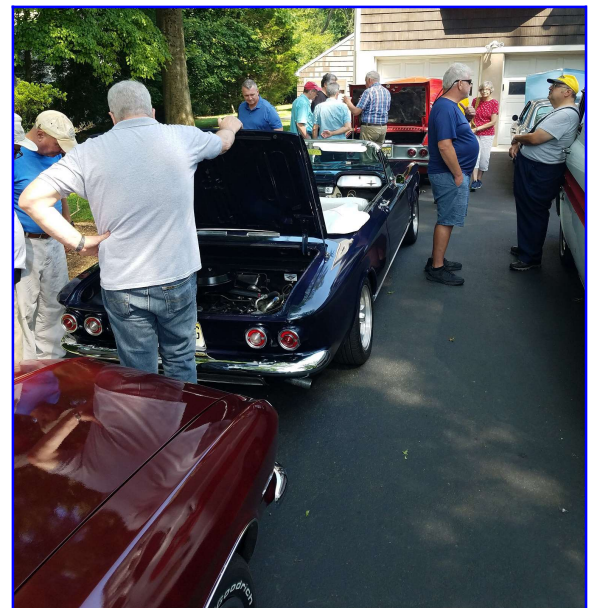
We'll be outdoors if the weather is nice, indoors if not. The club will be providing bagels and coffee, butter and cream cheese, and OJ as well. You're welcome to bring anything else that you might like, too.

Because Tim will be picking up the fresh bagels that morning he asks that you not arrive before 9:00 AM.

We look forward to seeing you there this Saturday!



A few scenes from last month's breakfast:



Come join the fun!

President's Message

by *Brian O'Neill*

Road Trip!

NJACE is on the move! The destination is Clark's Corvair Parts in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. The bi-annual "Fall Classic at Clark's" all-Corvair car show presented by Bay State Corvairs will be held on **Saturday, September 16**.



In addition to being host to a very large field of our favorite car, Clark's also conducts guided tours of their facilities. These tours are not to be missed.

Using the concept that there is safety in numbers, **on Friday, September 15, NJACE will convoy** to the overnight hotel location in South Deerfield, Massachusetts.

We will meet at the I-84 Diner in Fishkill, New York, from which we will depart as a group at 1:00 PM. The diner is right alongside I-84 and is a great place to have lunch and meet up. Located right off exit 12 on Interstate 84, the address of the diner is 853 Route 52, Fishkill, New York, 12524.

We will depart the diner and head northeast on Interstate 84 for a short period of time. Then we will take the Taconic Parkway North through some very scenic country until we hit Interstate 90 just over the New York/Massachusetts border. I-90 Eastbound will take us to the intersection with Interstate 91. We will then go north on I-91 to Exit 24 for the Red Roof Inn at 9 Greenfield Road which is also Route 5.

This is not the shortest route but it is the most scenic and the most Corvair-friendly. It skips the heavy traffic around Hartford and skirts past Springfield. The trip from the diner is estimated to take about three hours. We will arrive in time to check in, make dinner plans, and join the welcome party thrown by the Bay State Corvairs.

The show at Clark's is one of those must-see events. Typically there are over 100 Corvairs with every year and body style being represented.

In addition to this spectacular field of vehicles, Clark's opens their facilities and gives tours of their manufacturing processes. Learning how they turn a blank sheet of vinyl in to fully embossed seat covers is alone worth the trip. Parts can be ordered for pickup at the show which can save a considerable amount of money for shipping. Parts can also be bought at the show with many show specials and a cash discount available.

The show flyer is included with this newsletter and contains hotel information. If you have not yet made a room reservation it may be too late to get the special group rate, but call and ask anyway.

To help us ensure a successful convoy, please RSVP to me, Brian O'Neill, by phone at 973-729-5586 or by email at oneill1258@juno.com. Please include your cell phone number because we will use cell phones to communicate within the convoy if there are any situations or changes.

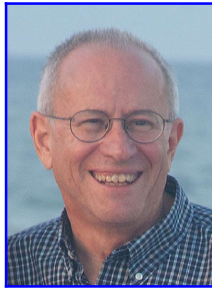
Be sure to join us for this fun weekend.



A Retirement and an Opportunity

by **Bob Marlow**

I am paraphrasing former President Lyndon B. Johnson, from a famous speech he made on March 31, 1968.



“I shall not seek, and I will not accept, the nomination of my club for another term as your Publicity Vice-President.”

I am announcing this now so that the remaining months of the year may be used to recruit a new volunteer. I have no doubt that there are good candidates among our membership.

Of course, the primary responsibility of the Publicity VP is the newsletter. But an important distinction is that the Publicity VP does not have to produce the newsletter, only ensure that it is produced. I say this in case there is someone who may wish to accept the newsletter responsibility without holding elected office, or vice versa.

There is no one reason for my decision. But among the factors are the medical issues facing both Sue and myself, and that I now live in Pennsylvania. Also, I no longer actually own a Corvair. But I will not be abandoning the Corvair hobby, just scaling back considerably.

This is not a sudden decision nor have I made it lightly. I have been pondering it for most of this year, and have concluded that this is the right decision for me.

I first began producing the NJACE newsletter in January, 1975, and in the decades since have taken only three sabbaticals. This time, however,

it will not be a sabbatical, I am retiring.

I leave the newsletter in good shape, it won CORSA’s best newsletter award again this year. But I know that there are other talented members in our midst and it is time for one or more of them to shine.

Is that talented member you? Perhaps a spouse? Please do not be shy about speaking to club President Brian O’Neill if you may have an interest in serving.



NJACE Officers for 2023

President, Brian O’Neill
Phone 973-729-5586
Email bmoneill@juno.com

Secretary, Jean O’Day
Phone 973-809-3298
Email greenjean2020@gmail.com

Activities VP, Steve Calandra
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Email stevenjchevair@gmail.com

Vice-President, Tony Gervasio
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Email corvairnut@aol.com

Treasurer, Tim Schwartz
Phone 201-447-4299
Email tim@bristolnj.com

Publicity VP, Bob Marlow
Phone 201-444-1859
Email rmarlow4040@gmail.com

Have You Seen This?

Here are two scandalous NAKED photos of a Corvair Greenbrier, as seen on our club's Facebook page:



This particular Greenbrier is familiar to most NJACE members, it's Tim Schwartz's "beige van," now undergoing restoration in the shop at Chair City Corvair Center in Lexington, North Carolina.

Stripped to bare metal, that the van is remarkably solid and straight becomes obvious, and any imperfections are readily fixable. Here is a "before" photo, taken last summer:



Part of the restoration process will be to repaint the van in a correct shade of Desert Beige; the older not-quite-right paint color might have more appropriately been named "Band-Aid."

We look forward to seeing the finished product in the months to come!

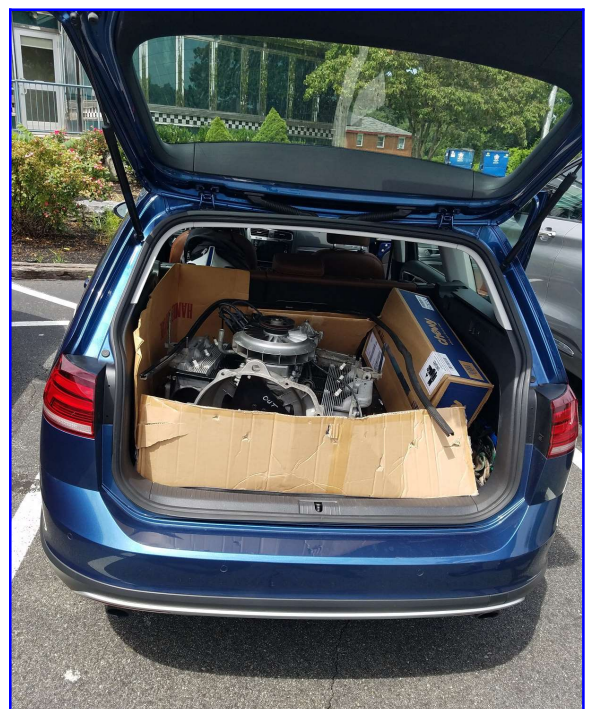
What's Wrong About a VW with an Air-Cooled Engine in the Rear?

Well, in this Instance, Pretty Much Everything

As part of Tim's Schwartz's Greenbrier restoration job being undertaken at Chair City Corvair Center, it was necessary for Tim to deliver to the shop a Corvair engine.

So he did. He, along with Frank Hunter, took a trip to North Carolina with the engine packed neatly into the back of Tim's Volkswagen Golf wagon.

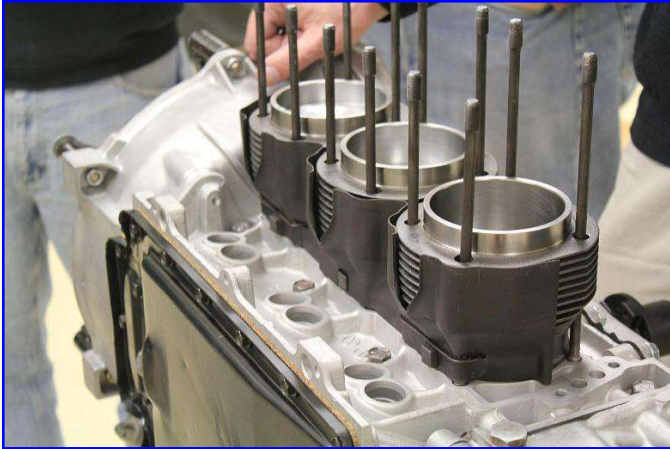
Nothing wrong with an air-cooled engine in the back of a VW, right?



The Chevy Corvair Engine

from an article submitted by Steve McGrath

Certainly a major distinction of the Corvair was its unique aluminum engine. At the time, no other American car would use as much aluminum in its engine.



This choice presented some challenges for Chevy and GM: Aluminum is much more expensive to produce than iron, and GM had no plant devoted to molding things out of aluminum. Thus, GM would have to either build its own plant or convert an existing one.

GM started talking with Reynolds Aluminum in the 1950s; in 1957 a deal was signed and

Chevy began to build their own foundry in Massena, New York, to mold the Corvair engine parts. Chevy committed itself buy over 37 tons of aluminum from Reynolds.

The new plant was constructed in 1958 and the first production aluminum parts for the Corvair engine were made in April, 1959. The plant would go on to produce 70 Corvair engines per hour.

The molten aluminum used to make Corvair engine parts was hauled from the foundry to the Tonawanda engine plant by trucks pulling flatbed semi-trailers, traveling at no more than 5 mph, each with two open ladles. About nine tons of liquid aluminum could be carried on each trip.

By the time the first Corvair was available to the public, Chevy had invested over \$19,000,000 just to manufacture the engine parts. By 1962, the plant employed over 700 people on a payroll of over \$5,000,000 yearly. Over 1.5 million Corvairs were sold during its 10-year production run.

Ed Cole, the father of the Corvair, also went on to create the Chevy Vega, and today a vast majority of cars and SUVs have aluminum engines.

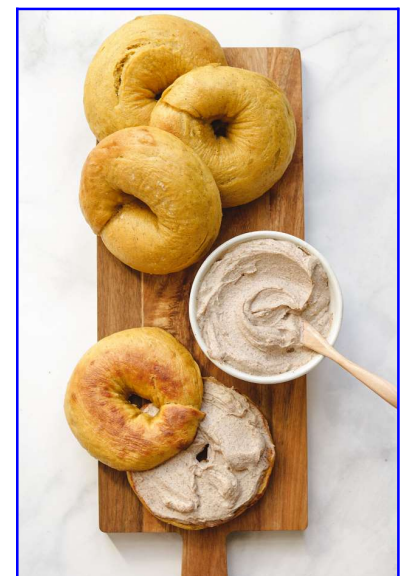
NJACE Calendar of Events

- * **Saturday, September 2:** Monthly breakfast meeting, 9:00 AM, back at Tim Schwartz's home in Ho-Ho-Kus. Details on page 2.
- * **Saturday, September 16:** The "Fall Classic at Clark's" all-Corvair show. Details of our convoy to this show are on page 3.
- Sunday, September 24:** Sparta Historical Society Car Show. See the flyer that is part of this newsletter.
- * **Saturday, October 7:** Monthly breakfast meeting, 9:00 AM, but where? You can help – see page 2.

*Items marked with * are official club events.*

NJACE Breakfast!

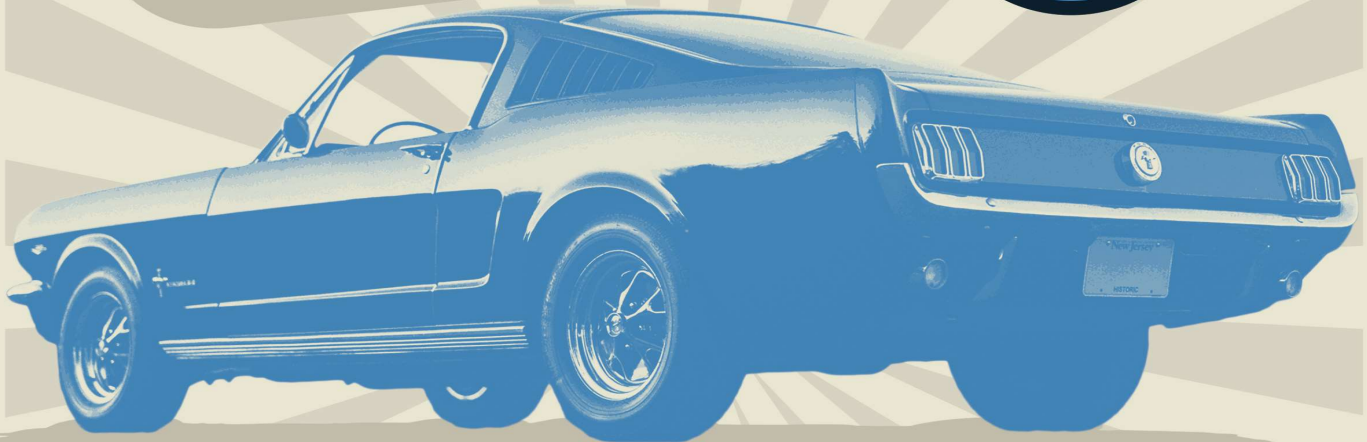
Saturday, Sept 2nd



SPARTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS

The 8th Annual
Car Show

This year's
car theme is
the
**Ford
Mustang!**



**At the Van Kirk Homestead Museum
336 Main Street, Sparta NJ 07871**

**Sunday, September 24th 2023
11:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

- FREE admission! - Cars can arrive starting at 8:30 AM -
- Food by the Sparta VFW available for purchase -
Van Kirk Homestead Museum open house with it's Fall Exhibit on the Lenni-Lenape.

Donations are welcomed!

email: spartacarshow@gmail.com to participate.



**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

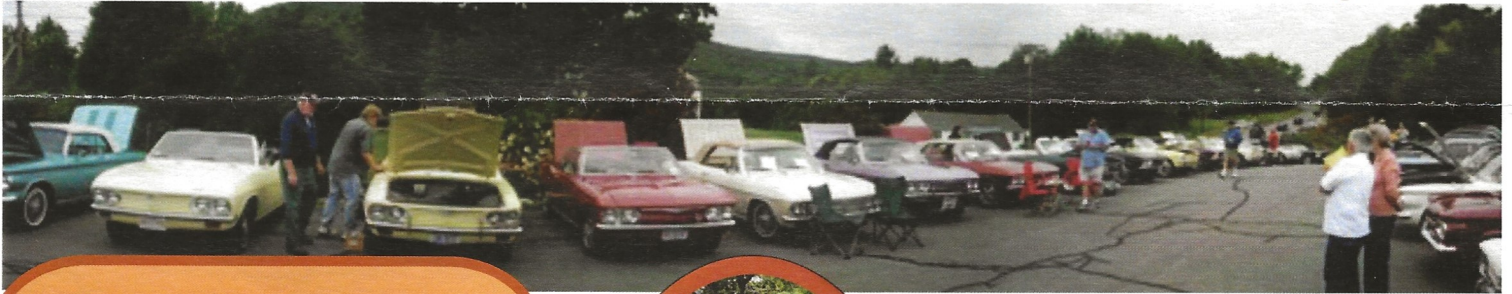
Red Roof Plus+

Sleep Easy. Spend Less.®

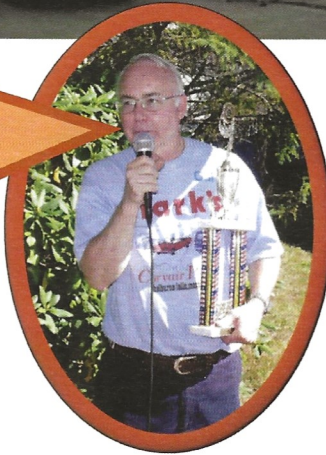
Tell'em Block Code "**B289BSC915**"
\$125+tax for room rate!
Rates are only good till July 31st.

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