

September 2016

the *Fanbelt*

new jersey association of CORVAIR enthusiasts

THIS MONTH:



Breakfast!
Saturday, September 3
at the Empire Diner

Camping!
Weekend, September 9-10-11
at the Pioneer Campground
with a Car Museum visit and a River Cruise, too



All Air-Cooled Gathering
Sunday, September 18
at the Flanders Swim and Sport Club
“If it’s air-cooled it’s cool”

NECC Track Day
Saturday, September 24
at the New York Safety Track



We’ve got every weekend in September covered!

Complete details in this issue

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. A commercial ad can be placed in an issue of the *Fanbelt* for \$50 per full page, \$30 per half page, \$20 per quarter page, and \$10.00 per business-card. (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 607, Lemont, IL 60439. Meetings of NJACE are held periodically at locations and times as announced in this newsletter. 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.



by Al Lacki

Long-time NJACE member Ron Peles served as Show Chairman for the **2nd Annual Great Phillipsburg Auto Show** held on **Saturday, August 13**. In addition to being a member of our club, Ron is Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Warren Council 474. Together, Ron and his fellow Knights ran the show and, as promised, it included a special class just for Corvair. Proceeds from the show went directly to Saint Anne's Center, also known as "Grandma's House."

Ron and I entered our Corvairs, of course, as did Joe Maurella and Neil Franks. So, in total, we had four Corvairs on display at this show. Howard and Sherrie Horne were there, too, displaying their AACA HPOF 1987 BMW 325i.

You may recall that August 13 was a scorcher of a day, with record temperatures and a heat index of 115 degrees. Yeoww!



Needless to say, the blistering heat, in combination with a forecast for late afternoon thunderstorms, affected turnout. Forty-two cars registered, which wasn't bad, but Ron was hoping for more. It's worth noting that the show was held on a lush grassy lawn – a much nicer setting than an asphalt parking lot.

Notwithstanding the weather, this show, which is only in its second year, was organized very well and ran like clockwork. Registration proceeded without a hitch, generous door prizes were awarded, good music was provided, and great food was prepared on the spot by the Knights of Columbus. The Knights also erected a number of large EZ-Up canopies to provide spectators and car owners some much-appreciated protection from the vicious heat.

Cars were judged by a crack team led by Tom Falanga, Lance Huff Greg Roser, and me. Scores were tallied up by computer. Judging began early, at 10:30 AM, and was finished by noon. Upon receiving the results, the Knights assembled the trophies and Ron announced the awards. Everything was completed by 1:30 PM, which enabled spectators and owners to leave before keeling over from the heat!

Now, for the best part: Joe Maurella won not one but two trophies. His gorgeous '66 Corsa convertible came in first in the Corvair class. He also won the "Joan's Pick" trophy; Joan being the driving force behind the establishment of Grandma's House.

Ron Peles and I also received trophies for our Corvairs and Howard and Sherrie received a trophy for their BMW.

Grandma's House is located on twenty-two acres of property next to Saints Philip and James Elementary School in Phillipsburg. When it opens, it will provide shelter and care for pregnant and homeless women with children. All women regardless of race, religion, age or marital status will be welcome.

The facility, which is currently being prepared for occupancy, is 15,860-square-foot in size with three floors and a basement. Originally built as a convent in 1965, there are 33 rooms, shared bathrooms, two kitchens, multiple living rooms,

and a chapel. The building sits on 22 acres of land in Phillipsburg, New Jersey, adjacent to St. Luke's Hospital. While engineers have assessed this solid- brick building as structurally sound, it has been abandoned for seven years resulting in multiple needed renovations.

You can read more about Grandmas' House (and make a donation, if you like), at <http://www.grandmashouse.us/>



Corvair Campin'

by Ray Coker

The time is approaching for that this year's gathering of our Corvair nut friends at the campground for a weekend of foolishness and fun.

It's all set for the weekend after Labor Day, September 9-10-11 at the Pioneer Campground in LaPorte, Pennsylvania. Call now to reserve cabins, cottages, campsites. It's going to be fun.

Call us at 570-946-9971 or email us at pioneercg@epix.net

If folks want to come in on Saturday and leave Monday, or come on Friday for three nights, we can make it work for you. We have lined up a group visit to the new car museum in Eagles Mere, and we will have our potluck for Saturday night and of course a campfire for anyone who is there Friday night and/or Saturday night.

New this year is a riverboat cruise on Sunday. It's the campground's 10th year celebration, and we're going on the Hiawatha River Boat Cruise

on the Susquehanna River, Sunday, Sept 11, 2016 from 6-9 pm.

Food will be catered by "ACME BBQ" in Williamsport. Live music will be by "Whiskey Sunday." The boat is limited to 80 people only, First come first served. Reserve your seats NOW, this will be a sell-out.

No BYOB, adult beverages and soft beverages available on board. No Children, No Pets.

Only \$40.00 per person for a three-hour boat ride, dinner, music and fun. Contact the campground office to reserve your seats: 570-946-9971 or pioneercg@epix.net.



NJACE Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 3

Monthly breakfast at the Empire Diner, Rt. 46, Parsippany, 9 AM.

Weekend, September 9-10-11

Corvair Campin' Weekend at the Pioneer Campground, LaPorte, PA, plus a riverboat cruise!

Sunday, September 18

All Air-Cooled Gathering, Flanders.

Saturday, September 24

Northeast Corvair Council track day at the New York Safety Track, Harpersfield, NY

Saturday, October 1

Monthly breakfast at the Empire Diner, Rt. 46, Parsippany, 9 AM.

Round Tuit

Part 1 of 5

by Frank Hunter

All of us have that one (or more) projects that keeps getting put off. I have a 1966 "Rust Red" Monza that has been sitting in the garage for quite some time. To be honest it moved into the garage in 1989 when we purchased our home in Ramsey. This car is so special that when we had our garage built a few years ago, it was stored inside while all the other cars waited outside.

I've owned it for over 30 years and pulled the powertrain out over ten years ago. Although I tried several times, I could not get the transmission side cover to go on correctly. The problem is two forks on the side of the transmission cover must be inserted into the transmission shaft along with the reverse adjuster at the bottom of the cover. The car would not shift into any gear, but it rolled just fine. Rolling is OK but shifting would be better!

I will not go into any further details of my multiple unsuccessful trials to fix the shifting problem. That said, two years ago another attempt was made but now the engine would crank but not start! Tim Schwartz and I replaced almost every ignition part from my running '67 4-door, but still could not get it to fire. The patient then went back into the garage for another two years.

This year I was determined to make another attempt. I drained the old gas and removed the tank, which had been cleaned in the 1990's. The tank was in good shape and new sealer was added. A review of the underside of the car for rust showed areas painted last were in good shape, however what was not painted needed POR15 and paint. After that the patient was pushed outside, an "incorrect" battery (ask David Main) was installed and was found to be still good though two years old.

I called Steve Calandra for help as I suspected we would have the same "parts" exchange as the previous repair attempt. Steve used his volt tester and found that the coil wires were attached incorrectly and that there was an additional

"unknown" and unnecessary wire connected. The car started right up, and we made some carb, timing and dwell adjustments and the car idled fine.

Next month I'll tell you about the test drive.



NJACE Classified Ads

September, 2016

For Sale: All parts listed are used and need to go to a new (or used) home.

- 110 engine crankcase, bare block, no crank or cam, block code is TO5IORH, \$75.
- 1963 & 1964 Instrument clusters with speedometer and gas gauge for automatic, \$35 each.
- 1963 headlight switch with knob, \$15.
- Arm rest bases, believe they are for '60 to '64 cars, \$10 each.
- 1967 interior door panels in black, fit coupe and convertible, \$30 pair.
- 1965-69 long plastic car heater duct, \$25.
- Late model headlight bezels, \$30 pair.
- 1960-64 steering column shaft, \$15.
- 1960-64 Powerglide dash shifter, \$15.
- 1962-64 convertible top boot trim, \$75.
- 1966-9 wheel well moulding set (4 pieces), \$40.

Call Dom Speronza at 973-895-2760 or email 36townsedan@gmail.com

Free: Remember, classified ads of interest to Corvair enthusiasts are FREE! Submit your ads to the editor at rwmarlow@optimum.net

All Air-Cooled Gathering Sunday, September 18

Bring your Corvair to the All Air-Cooled Gathering, sponsored by the Central Jersey Volkswagen Society on Sunday, September 18, at the Swim and Sport Club of Flanders. The is a large and largely hidden park located just a short distance from Ashley's Auto Body.

Corvairs – and all air-cooled cars – are welcomed at this well-attended and well-organized event. It actually covers both Saturday and Sunday but Sunday is the best day for Corvairs to participate.

The show is very hospitable to non-Volkswagens – in 2013, a Corvair, Allen Bristow's 1964 Greenbrier Camper, won Best-of-Show overall. Every year there is a feature vehicle, and this year it is Dune Buggies.

In addition to a show of more than 250 air-cooled vehicles, this event includes VW valve cover racing, kids games, 50/50, a swap meet, and the you-gotta-see-it-to-believe-it "Dub Push." There will be trophies, dash plaques, door prizes, on-site bar, kitchen, live music, special guests and a whole lot more.

Everyone is encouraged to enter the show, daily drivers to show cars, early or late model.

As long as it's an air-cooled, it's welcome. A portion of the proceeds will go to help support Operation Jersey Cares, an all volunteer organization that provides care and support for past and present NJ Combat Veterans.

Entrance to the show on Sunday – \$15.00 per person, including your car. Kids 12 and under are admitted free, and since this is a family event, there is no BYO alcohol permitted. As for pets, the event organizers have now instituted a pet policy which you can find on the event web site, <http://www.allaircooledgathering.com>

While you are free to arrive when you wish and depart when you choose, we are planning a pre-show meetup at Ashley's Auto Body so that we can caravan the one mile to the show site and all roll in together. If you want to join in the caravan, plan to be at Ashley's Auto Body by 8:30 AM. The body shop address is 274 Hillside Avenue, and the address of the show site is 272 Emmans Road, both in Flanders, NJ.

See you there!



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Mr. Koehler's Corvair

by Matt Wolfe

Courtesy the Automotive Hall of Fame

Editor's Note: Earlier this summer the Automotive Hall of Fame in Michigan inducted four new honorees, one of whom was a somewhat controversial choice: Ralph Nader. This is the story of a car that was on display at the time of the induction ceremony, followed by the story of a different car related to the first.

As many who attended our 2016 Induction Ceremony may have noted, there was a Corvair on display for Ralph Nader's induction into the Hall of Fame. The car, which was an un-restored 1960 sedan, is owned by local Corvair collector Peter Koehler. It is one of hundreds that he has owned in 48 years of collecting Corvairs, and one of the most storied in his collection.

Mr. Koehler has quite the sense of humor about the Corvair's often dubious reputation "It's extremely rare, it's actually a Canadian build", Mr. Koehler said during a phone interview. "It is one of oldest Canadian-built Corvairs known to exist." The car was initially sold to a dealer in Ontario and bought by the local butcher, who sold the car back to the dealer in 1972. "The dealer kept the car in stock because there was very little trade in value. It stayed there until the very late 80's when I bought it. I've actually owned that car three times."

Before Mr. Koehler bought the car, it had a rather unconventional role. "I've got the only Corvair that was a birthday cake" he said laughing. "There's weld splatter on the glass because the dealership used it as a parade float. They built a metal framework around the car and made it into a birthday cake. When they welded it up they covered the metal but they forgot to cover the glass and they burned it."

Though this Corvair's journey into Koehler's collection was an interesting one, its trip to the induction was perhaps the most difficult. "When we first started talking about displaying the car I was healthy," said Koehler, "I had no idea I was going to have a heart attack before this event happened." Mr. Koehler suffered a heart attack

on June 16th. "64 years and one month to the day and the heart said 'I'm tired of this I don't want to play anymore.' I was in the hospital for four days... I'm very happy I was able to survive it. Every day since has been a gift so I'm trying to do the best I can."



Ralph Nader poses with Pete Koehler's Corvair

Though he was recovering, Mr. Koehler was still willing to bring his Corvair to the Induction. "I was perfectly happy to loan a Corvair out because that promotes the Corvair hobby. I wish I had not gotten sick and could have gone to the event, but it was all I could do to get the car to the location." Even after nearly half a century of collecting, Koehler is still passionate about the Corvair hobby and introducing them to younger generations. "It's inexpensive enough that I really don't use my household income. It's a good way to have fun on a budget and it doesn't negatively impact any other part of my life. And the grandkids love Corvairs, so that's even better."



This license plate was in place for the AHoF Induction Ceremony

continued

Mr Koehler's Corvair, continued

In a subsequent posting on the AHoF web site, the organization noted:

Once again, the Hall of Fame has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the Induction Ceremony. There were many highlights to choose from the show this year, but one of our personal favorites was Ralph Nader posing for a photo-op with the Corvair that was provided by owner Peter Koehler, a local Corvair collector and enthusiast, who was proud to display his Corvair for Nader's Induction. "I chose it carefully", said Mr. Koehler, "It is 99% stock and original. The main feature of this car is that it does not have any grass stains on the roof", he said jokingly.

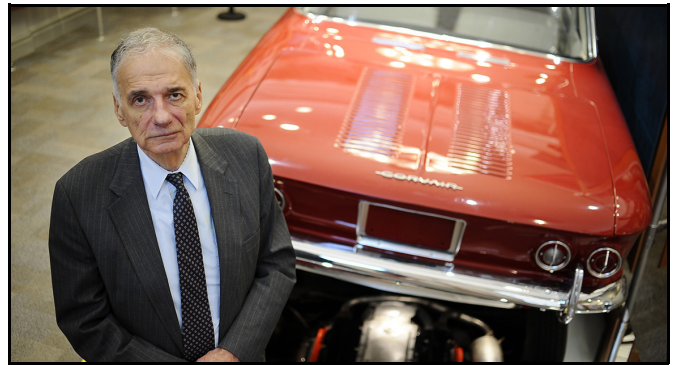
Now, Pete himself adds a fascinating follow-up story:

Anybody interested in buying a 1962 Corvair? You won't believe who the seller is. When I went back to the Cobo Center in downtown Detroit to collect my 1960 Corvair that was lent to the Automotive Hall of Fame for their event, Ralph Nader was there. And I did get a chance to chat with him. He amazed me by identifying my car as a Canadian build! How about that? He also mentioned that he has a rough '62 Corvair back in Connecticut that he wanted to sell. Now who would want to buy a Corvair formerly owned by Ralph Nader (or at least owned by the organization that runs his Tort Museum in his hometown of Winsted)? I gave Ralph my contact info and he promised to have his guy at the museum contact me.



Ralph Nader's 1962 Corvair... no kidding!

This Corvair was never driven by Ralph. It was given to him many years ago when the museum was in the planning stages, and he just stored it in a garage in Winsted, CT where it is still hiding today. When the Tort Museum was opened a few years back they purchased a nice 1963 (with an incorrect 1964 hood) Monza coupe for display. Ralph described the '62 as "rough." Judging from the pictures his Executive Director sent me, he was telling the truth.



Ralph Nader with the 1963 Corvair that is on display at the Tort Museum.

But now, it's official! Ralph Nader has agreed to sell me HIS Corvair. No, this isn't an April Fool's joke. I made a fair offer and he accepted. I have to arrange a road trip to Connecticut to collect my prize. I have made preliminary arrangements with the Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum to display the '62 Monza sedan once we get it back and get it ready for them. While the car itself might not be a prize, how many other Corvair enthusiasts can say that they bought a Corvair from Ralph Nader?

My plan is make the car operational and fix the oil leaks so it doesn't make a mess on the museum's freshly painted floor. No plans at the present to change the car's patina. What do you think?



President's Message

by *Brian O'Neill*

Where Did It Go?

This summer. Where did it go? Remember when you were little kid and this summer was endless? Seems nowadays the summer just flies by.



I think one of the reasons this summer seem to go so fast was the brutal humidity. Most summers Roberta and I spend time on our deck in the evenings eating supper and just sitting there enjoying our environment. This year if you sat outside for any length of time you soon became soaked in perspiration.

I got a healthy Corvair fix this summer though. I've been working on bringing Ms. Berniece Fisher's 1965 Corsa convertible back to life. After receiving a new paint job and a new top it sat for many years with almost every removable item taken off. I learned a lot of interesting things bringing this one back to life. Most of the more bewildering like why did Chevrolet make headlight buckets that only fit a 1965 model. It has been one interesting education.

One now that summer is over, it's time for NJACE members to take advantage of beautiful Fall weather and get back into the Corvair lifestyle. How do you do that? Well, on the weekend of September 10 and 11 you could join us at the Pioneer Campgrounds in Pennsylvania for the annual Corvair camping event. Or on Sunday, September 18 you can come to the Air Cooled Show put on by the New Jersey Volkswagen club. Every year they invite Corvairs to participate and we have always had a good representation. One year a Corvair even won Best of Show.

As usual there will be a lot of other activities during the fall season presenting opportunities for you to get together with fellow members and get a Corvair fix. Don't miss out.

Tech Sessions Return

Yep, it's that time of year. Time to reinvigorate our traditional after the breakfast meeting tech sessions. So, after the breakfast meeting at the Empire Diner on Saturday, September 3, we will journey over the Larry Ashley shop for a tech session. As usual we are looking for projects for this tech session. So if you have some work that you need help with let Larry Ashley know.

Right now all we have scheduled is some work on my 1965 Corsa convertible. For unknown reasons the tachometer and cylinder head temperature gauge have decided to go on strike. Could be a simple wiring issue. Let's hope so. Also, if you make a last-minute decision that Saturday bring your Corvair to Larry's, we'll do what we can. Over the years we have resolved many, many issues with member's cars. Take advantage. As usual lunch will be provided. See you there!



NECC You in September

by *Al Lacki*

The Northeast Corvair Council / NECC Motorsports invites you to a full day of high-performance driving at New York Safety Track (NYST) on Saturday, September 24. The track is 2.1 miles long with 18 turns and 450' of elevation change. As announced previously, September 24 replaces the August 27 date we originally scheduled for this event.

Price: \$250 per driver. Open to Corvairs and all other cars. Three-point or better seat belts (with shoulder strap) required. Roll bars required for convertibles.

Like our event on June 25, this will be a combined cars-and-sport bikes event with alternating fifteen-minute sessions all day between cars and bikes. The sessions will end approximately 5 PM. Rest assured, you will get plenty of track time!

continued

NECC, continued

Visit our website for rules, pricing, hotel information and other details. Use our "Contact Us!" web page to get on our email list. We send out email blasts to announce the release of new information about our events.
<http://www.neccmotorsports.com>

Seen on the Street

by Bob Marlow

Sue and I have a habit of watching the "CBS Sunday Morning" program whenever possible, and on the August 28 broadcast a Corvair made an appearance.

The segment concerned an exhibit being presented at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's new space in the former Whitney Museum location, and so a 1966 photograph of the building was shown on the screen.

There, parked at the curb right out front, was a Greenbrier. A perfectly common sight in Manhattan 50 years ago.



NJACE newsletter editor Bob Marlow tries on a front-engine car... the 1963 Watson roadster driven in that year's Indianapolis 500 by Rodger Ward. Photo taken during the recent Vintage Indycar Celebration that was part of the Verizon Indycar weekend at Pocono Raceway

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