

niagara frontier

corvair

VOLUME 53, NUMBER 10

Formed By And For Those Who Still Appreciate The CORVAIR Automobile

*** Celebrating our 52nd anniversary 1973 - 2025 ***

club

October, 2025



We had a great turnout for Corvair/Playboy night at the September 15th Cruise at the Wurlitzer in North Tonawanda. Sharing the spotlight with the Buffalo NY built Playboy automobile worked out great. The weather could not have been better, and we had a good crowd checking out our cars.

Dues and Membership

Club Membership - \$10.00 per year for e-mail newsletter. Dues may be paid at monthly meeting or by mailing to:
Dick Dahmer 53 Melberry Trail, Orchard Park, NY 14127 Membership year runs from July 1 to June 30.

-----Membership APPLICATION-----

NIAGARA FRONTIER CORVAIR CLUB

NAME _____ CORSA Member? Yes/No _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

DATE _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NIAGARA FRONTIER CORVAIR CLUB

Niagara Frontier Corvair Club
C/O Gary Swiatowy
7838 Chestnut Ridge Road,
Gasport, NY 14067

-----ESTABLISHED 1973-----

A Chartered Chapter of the Corvair Society of America

President	Pat Murphy	(716) 861-8749
Vice President	Gary Swiatowy	(716) 716-439-5194
Secretary	John Dawley/Tom Lynch	(716) 832-8551
Treasurer	Dick Dahmer	(716) 480-7713
Membership	Dick Dahmer	(716) 480-7713

Club Membership - \$10.00 per year e-mail newsletter, . Dues may be paid at monthly meeting or by mailing: to the Club address above .

NFCC Events and more!

NFCC MEETING SCHEDULE

October meeting Wednesday October 22nd at 7:00 PM at the First Trinity Lutheran church on Niagara Falls Boulevard, Tonawanda. Dinner for those interested at Buffalo Wild Wings 5:30 PM. Let me know by email if you are coming for dinner.

November meeting? It would fall the day before Thanksgiving. I don't care to be in that area that day. Alternative day? Open for discussion.

December meeting, normally skipped.

January meeting Wednesday January 28th at 7:00 PM at the First Trinity Lutheran church on Niagara Falls Boulevard, Tonawanda. Dinner for those interested at Buffalo Wild Wings 5:30 PM. Let me know by email if you are coming for dinner.

In case you don't know. There are newsletter options.

Your membership includes our monthly NFCC newsletter, but you also have the option to receive several other clubs newsletters as well. This could be 10 or more additional Corvair club newsletters from across the country, filled with cars for sale, tech tips and more. Most of you already receive the additional newsletters, If you are not receiving them, and want them you have to let me know by e-mail, If you are receiving them and do not want them, you have to let me know that as well by e-mail. gswiatowy@rochester.rr.com



Editor's thoughts.....

Wurlitzer cruise was a good time, we don't get together as a group often enough. We really should schedule more appearances at cruises. Thoughts?

I have most of mine put away for the winter. Still might get a few more cruising hours in, As I write this, it is going to be in the 70's this weekend.

See you at the next meeting! Gary.

September, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Persons in attendance:

This meeting was held at Trinity Lutheran Church. Those in attendance were:

Pat Murphy
Grifasi

Gary Swiatowy

Tom Koprevich

Dick Dahmer

Joe

Tom Lynch

Chuck Facklam

John Dawley

The official meeting was called to order by Pat Murphy at 7:10pm

Treasurers / Membership Report:

Dick Dahmer read off the Treasury report and membership status. It was approved by all. At this time there are 23 paid and 2 honorary members.

Old Business:

The Playboy/Corvair car show at the Wurlitzer was a success with lots of traffic and a good showing of Corvairs (although they weren't all grouped together).

The NFCC shirts and sweatshirts are done and pretty much distributed - we had orders for 19 garments in total

Last month's Board Meeting Minutes were approved

New Business:

Plenty of car shows between now and when the snow flies!

- Cars and Coffee was held at Eastern Hills Mall

- Newfane Apple Festival

- Heritage Discovery Center show

Proposal for the Club's Holiday Party proposed for the second Saturday in January - 01/10/2026

November and December Meeting have been canceled - next meeting will be January 28, 2026

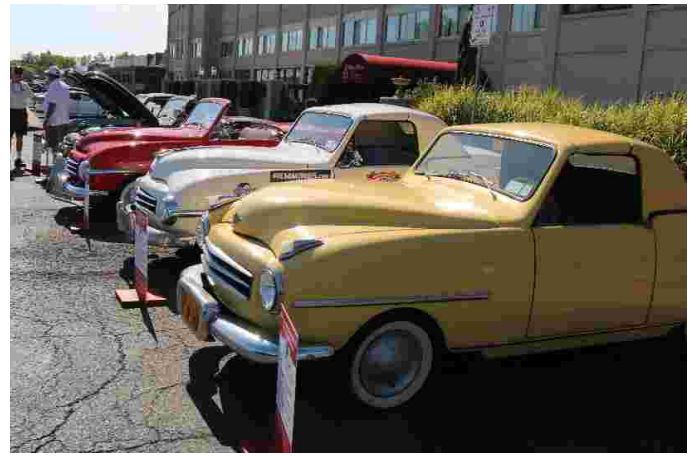
Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm PM, General discussion followed.

See everyone at the next meeting October 24, 2025 at 7pm

Submitted by Tom Lynch



More pictures from the Wurlitzer cruise.....



Right after World War II ended in 1945, there was quite a pent-up demand for new automobiles since auto manufacturers had shifted their efforts to manufacturing vehicles and equipment for the war effort during the period of 1941-1945.

Louis Horwitz, a former Packard dealer, Charles D. Thomas, a former Pontiac engineer, and Norman Richardson, a talented garage mechanic, founded the Playboy Motor Corporation in Buffalo, NY with the intention of creating a small, second car priced at less than \$1000 for around-the-town errands. This Playboy car was designed with the intention of being that around-the-town second car, and it featured America's first retractable hardtop convertible. The company only made a reported 97 prototype cars prior to closing up shop. None were ever originally offered for sale to the public. The cars were exposed to heavy publicity and were shipped around the country and even around the world in the hopes of generating interest and possible dealer franchise investors. A stock offering that would have provided capital to begin fullscale production failed in the wake of the unrelated Tucker automobile scandal. The Tucker scandal scared off potential investors who were then, albeit unjustifiably, worried about any new start-up car manufacturer.

Continued next page.....

In early 1950, after failed negotiations with industrialist Henry J. Kaiser to buy out the company, and after a second stock offering didn't work either, the assets of the company were auctioned. Most were bought by a Chinese businessman who produced one larger prototype of the Playboy in 1951 (see the "Mystery Cars" page of this website) before he went belly-up as well. Another businessman, Alvin Trumbull, from Connecticut, tried again to revive the car's interest over the next few years, but, eventually, he also gave up. Finally the remaining inventory was sold in 1964 to Donald Moore from Massachusetts, a collector and previously proposed Playboy dealer.

There are currently only 51 Playboy cars known to still exist in the world. Of those, only about 15 are known to be in roadworthy condition, and fewer than 5 are kn

According to an episode of the "Biography" TV series and of "The E! True Hollywood Story," as well as in a 2010 documentary entitled "Hugh Hefner: Playboy, Activist, and Rebel," a woman who worked for Playboy Motor Cars at the time they shut down suggested to her son's friend that he use the Playboy name for his new magazine. That friend's name was Hugh Hefner!

This story was confirmed by a letter that the Webmaster of this site personally received from Hugh Hefner in June, 2002 which reads, in part:

"The Playboy name was suggested by a friend whose mother had worked at the then defunct Playboy Motor Car Company..." - Signed Hugh M. Hefner

Hefner did **NOT** ever own a Playboy car.

WESTERN NEW YORK RAILWAY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Train & Toy Show
November 22nd & 23rd, 2025
HOURS: Saturday 10AM - 5PM • Sunday 10AM - 4PM

THE EVENT CENTER ON THE FAIRGROUNDS
5820 SOUTH PARK AVE. HAMBURG, NY 14075

OPERATING TRAIN LAYOUTS
OPERATING LEGO LAYOUTS + ACTIVITIES
NMRA DEMONSTRATIONS

MODEL TRAINS		BASKET RAFFLE
RAILROADIANA		DOOR PRIZES
COLLECTIBLES		SLOT CARS

BRING THE FAMILY!



FREE PARKING

ADMISSION: ADULTS: \$8.00 • CHILDREN: FREE (AGE 12 & UNDER)

For Additional Information Call 716-837-1791 or Email wnytrainshow@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE! NEXT SHOW: February 14th & 15th, 2026