



# ACORNEWS

ACORNS - Association of CORvair NutS  
Rochester, NY - Corsa Chapter 148  
March 2026 Newsletter

## Pres Says by Brandon Carmo

### Hello ACORNS,

It is with heavy heart that I report that we have lost our good friend Jim Bartasevich in mid February. I wish so badly that we all had another opportunity to have a breakfast with him or hit up the Gettysburg Corvair Convention. Jim Cleveland has advised that a celebration of life will be announced in the spring. Until we meet again, my friend.

The ACORNS met on March 1st for the 2026 planning meeting! I would say a good time was had by all. Everyone enjoyed pizza and wings, good conversations, and we got some things on the calendar. Some of these events are tentatively planned and will be confirmed as we get closer to the events. **Always keep in mind that more events can be added, just email me and I will spread the word. If you're going to a cruise night, let the group know.** The full proposed calendar will be noted later in the issue.

Some of the larger potential gatherings that were discussed were a possible journey to the Corvair Recall in Syracuse and/or the Corvair Convention which is Gettysburg, PA.

I mentioned in last months Pres Says that I met up with Jim Bartasevich at the convention when it was in Pittsburgh. It was a great event to see people using their cars. There were autocross events and planned drives through the countryside. I lost my steering (steering coupler separated from the steering box shaft) and this was the perfect place to fix it. Many people offered their help and I got to talk to some interesting folks. I don't know what is planned for Gettysburg yet, but it seems like it could be a good time.

I've never attended the Recall before. With it being so close, it feels like a crazy thing to miss out on. If we could get a few cars involved, we could do a group drive.

The **March** event will be a breakfast on **Saturday, 3/21 at 9am**. It has been decided that we will try someplace new. **The Bayfront Restaurant, 1075 Empire Blvd, Rochester, NY 14609.**  
**RSVP BY 3/20 to me.**

See you all soon and be well,

-Brandon



# Odd little Corvairs make for unique camaraderie

BY STAFF WRITER

DIANA LOUISE CARTER

OK, let's get the irony bit out of the way first.

Yes, Jim Bartasevich of Perinton is a safety consultant.

And yes, he owns not one but four of the cars that Ralph Nader helped label "unsafe at any speed."

But like the history and safety buff that he is, the 48-year-old Bartasevich has researched Corvairs and their safety extensively. His conclusion: Nader's "conclusions were essentially unfounded."

How else could this husband and father of two justify actually driving around in these cars?

He buttresses his claims with a collection of books and documents about Corvairs, from transcripts of federal safety investigations of the car, Nader's book (actually an indictment of the entire auto industry), and the low-profile counterpoint book, Andrew J. White's *Assassination of the Corvair*.

"Corvair was no more unsafe than any of its contemporary cars," says Bartasevich. In fact, he claims its reputation for buckling wheels and flips led to "the start of the automotive safety movement." His 1969 model, made the last year Corvairs were produced, features a padded dashboard and head rests.

And he has installed seat and shoulder belts in the hard-top models that didn't include them.

But why collect these notorious cars at all?

"It's a unique car," Bartasevich says. While many people have heard of Corvair's safety rap, they may not know what else made it different. Its engine is in the back of the car and the gas tank is in the front — where, Bartasevich points out, it's safer because it is protected by the front axle in collisions.

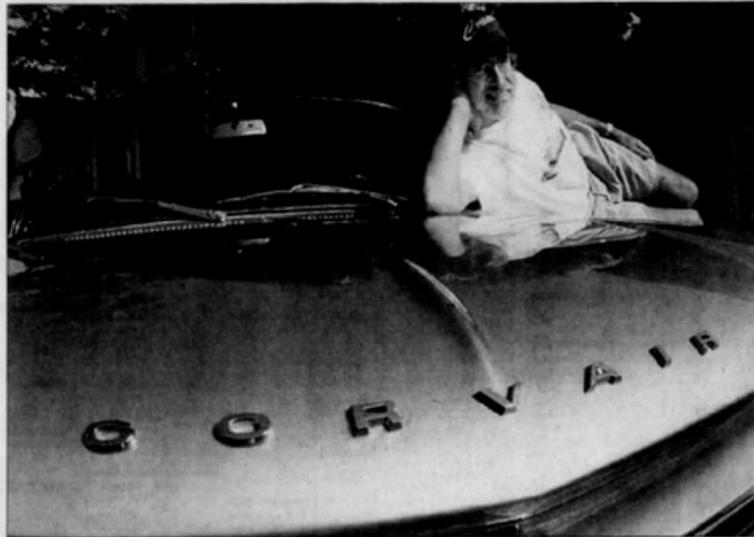
Corvair's air-cooled engine allowed lighter-weight materials to be used, and the design of some models gave birth to the popularity of turbo-charged engines.

Regardless of design features, though, Bartasevich is like many Corvair owners, whom the Corvair Society of America describes as people who just never got over their first automotive loves. He learned to drive in one that his parents owned in 1965.

"I liked the styling," he says. "I liked that it was different."

Today, he drives his 1965 model in the summer.

The other Corvairs, including a station wagon and a convertible, are more for show, but he drives



ANNETTE LEIN staff photographer



**Pastime** Jim Bartasevich, above, leans across his 1964 Monza Spyder. At left are his four Corvairs, a 1969 500, far left, a 1965 Corsa, the Monza Spyder and a 1961 Lake-wood 700.

them all.

Collecting Corvairs would seem to be a solitary pursuit, but Bartasevich likes it for the camaraderie it promotes.

Chevrolet doesn't make parts for the cars anymore, and most auto mechanics aren't familiar with the unique workings of the Corvair engine. So Corvair owners have to rely on specialty suppliers and each other for parts and know-how.

Bartasevich belongs to the Corvair Society of America, known as CORSA, which reports that it has 130 chapters and about 5,500 members.

The Rochester-area group, the Association of Corvair Nuts (ACORNS for short) has about 40 members, he says. In good weather, these local Corvair owners get together on Saturdays to work on each other's cars.

"You swap parts, we get assistance," he says. "It's my primary hobby in the nice weather." ☐



**Nothing missing** All Corvairs, like this Spyder, had the air-cooled engine mounted in the rear, with the trunk and gas tank in the front.

# **ACORN February/March Activity Report**

## **No February Event**

### **Sunday 3/1/26, ACORN Planning Meeting**

#### **ACORNers attending:**

- Dave Pulhamus
- Marissa Andolino
- Sam Andolino
- Jim Cleveland
- Paul Rader
- Mark Webster - V. P. & Treasurer
- Brandon Carmo - President

#### **Meeting Minutes**

The framework for club events for 2026 were laid out. Brandon is putting that together.

- Dave Ellis is stepping down, effective 3/1/26 as club historian and key keeper for access to the RRPC

- I have moved the club banners, photos, and hardcopy newsletters out to my shop in Ontario, along with the ACORN tool stash.

- I have assumed responsibility as key keeper for access to RRPC. If you need access to RRPC, please contact me and I will coordinate with George.

With Jim's passing, there are some voids in the club structure to be filled:

- The position of secretary needs to be filled, if anyone is willing to take on the position. I will handle it for now while we sort things out.

- Membership: Since I already handle the dues collection, I can absorb the responsibility for membership, but if there is anyone who would like to take on that role, please let us know. We need to make an effort to attract new members.

- I will work as liaison to CORSA.

The weather is turning, so it won't be long before we can get outside and enjoy the sun and our cars! Enjoy and be well!

Mark

# 2026 ACORN CALENDAR

(Dates subject to change)

**Saturday, March 21st:** Breakfast at The Bayfront Restaurant, 1075 Empire Blvd, Rochester, NY 14609. RSVP BY 3/20 to me.

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>:** Paul Rader Tech Session to look over his car

**Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>:** Donuts and Coffee, Mark's Shop

**Friday-Sunday, June 12-14<sup>th</sup>:** Syracuse Recall

**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>:** Driving a Model T with Dave Pulhamus

**Monday-Friday, June 22-26<sup>th</sup>:** Corsa Corvair Convention, Gettysburg, PA

**July xx:** MG Car Club Show

**Saturday, July 25<sup>th</sup>:** Hang out with the Model A club

**August xx:** Make friends with some VW Club folks

**September 26<sup>th</sup>:** Corvairs on the Hill with Fred Marsh

**October 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>:** ACORN year end event

**NOTE:** If you have something you want to do to maintain or repair or just have questions about your Corvair, contact us! You don't have to wait for a date on the calendar above.

**Car Nuts Breakfast:** A group of car nuts meets for breakfast the second Thursday of the month at Bay Front Restaurant, 1075 Empire Blvd. Some of our members have attended, including me. You'll be with about 40 other car nuts. You know what that means: Talking about cars, of course! In good weather, it's almost like a mini car show in the parking lot too. It's a good time, so come on out!



Thursday, March 12, 9:30 at  
The Bay Front Restaurant  
1075 Empire Boulevard, Rochester  
(585) 482-2247

Not an official club event, but a casual meeting of car enthusiasts. Join in if you have the time, want a good, no-frills breakfast and enjoy plenty of car talk. No RSVP needed, just show up, the Bay Front has room to find seating....and LOTS of parking!! hope to see you soon!...Annabelle

Next one should be 04/09!

## ACORN OFFICERS

President/Editor: Brandon Carmo  
Vice President/Treasurer/Secretary:  
Mark Webster  
Webmaster: Marissa Andolino

### Central Contact:

[acorns.rochester@gmail.com](mailto:acorns.rochester@gmail.com)

### From the editor...

I'm excited to have the opportunity to work on the ACORNews! I am looking for tech article suggestions, as well as listings for parts or cars for sale. I am also interested in photos of member cars, ACORN outings, or photos and descriptions of any project car updates or new acquisitions you may want to share.

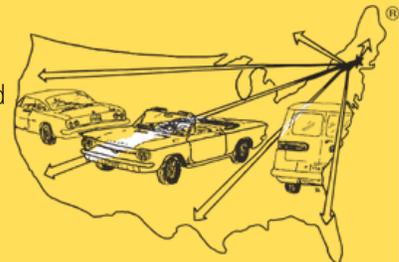
Submissions can be sent to [bwcarmo@gmail.com](mailto:bwcarmo@gmail.com)

Thanks, Brandon Carmo

## Clark's Corvair Parts®

Our catalog lists over 15,000 parts for your Corvair. We carry engine parts, body panels, upholstery and much more! There are 1,000's of reproduced items available, pages of technical information and lots of other helpful hints.

Check us out at [www.corvair.com](http://www.corvair.com) or call today to order a copy of our printed catalog. You will quickly see why we are the world's largest supplier of parts and all your other Corvair needs. Clark's - More than Parts!



Clark's Corvair Parts®  
(413)625-9776

400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370  
[www.corvair.com](http://www.corvair.com) email: [clarks@corvair.com](mailto:clarks@corvair.com)

## PARTS SALES POLICY

We all know that there are Corvairs "out there" that are owned by people who do not belong to CORSA or ACORN. It was agreed and voted on to make our parts supply available only to our members.

Here are the specifics:

If a non-member contacts us for parts, we'll politely explain our policy and ask if he or she would like to become a member.

NOS parts will be sold at a 50% discount from Clark's prices.

Used parts will be sold cheaply!

## FOR SALE

**Got news of an early model convertible project for sale down state toward New York City. If anyone is looking for a project, let me know. I have no photos or other information, but if you're interested, let me know and I will forward you the phone number.**

**[acorns.rochester@gmail.com](mailto:acorns.rochester@gmail.com)**

### 180 Turbo Engine for sale

call Jim Mruk 585-889-4587 for details

Parts include:

- Block I0420RL complete w/crank & cam
- Turbo housing complete 3856709
- 180 Distributor 1110329
- Intake crossover
- Set of 110 heads 3878566
- Turbo head 3856762
- Carter YH carb
- Air cleaner housing
- Misc. brackets & Tubing
- Series 2 Engine sheet metal parts

**Dean LoBrutto has some parts that he is looking to move along.**

**Shoot him an email if you're interested.**

**Contact him at 585-899-0867 or [dean\\_afs@yahoo.com](mailto:dean_afs@yahoo.com)**

Nice set of dog dish hubcaps for Vairs: \$80



# Wanted to buy: 140 hp Corvair engine for Stinger replica project

Contact: Scott Banner  
email: Bighobbies@aol.com  
phone: 585-507-3045



## AVAILABLE PARTS FROM THE BARTASEVICH PARTS STASH

- ❖ 1 - FC 4 speed inst. cluster [it has the shift points on the speedo]
- ❖ 2 - FC glove box doors
- ❖ 1 - Early car glove box door [don't know the year]
- ❖ 1 - Late Delco AM push button radio
- ❖ 1 - Early [I think] Motorola AM push button radio [a button is broken]
- ❖ 1 - Corsa inst. cluster & glove box door [dusty]
- ❖ 1 - Corsa inst. cluster used as a parts donor
- ❖ 1 - Corsa air cleaner with carb cross-over
- ❖ 2 - Starters
- ❖ 1 - Alternator
- ❖ 2 - '65-'66 "A" pillar interior trim
- ❖ 1 - NAPA Belden plug wire set [NOS?] but in the box for a while
- ❖ 1 - Late power convertible top switch & bracket
- ❖ 4 - Wiper/washer units
- ❖ 1 - Washer jug and bracket [rust on bracket]
- ❖ 1 - Washer bottle bracket [some rust]
- ❖ 6 - wiper arms
- ❖ 1 - NOS '65-'69 clutch rod
- ❖ 3 - Clark's C2754 rear wheel cyl. rebuilding kits
- ❖ 3 - Clark's C2745 front wheel cyl. rebuilding kits
- ❖ Multiple stainless steel headlight rings [they hold the headlight to the light unit]
- ❖ 1 - late headlight unit
- ❖ 1 - FC headlight unit
- ❖ 2 - magnesium cooling fans; 1 for a '64, 1 for '65-'69 [both have surface corrosion]
- ❖ 5 - Various oil coolers; low to high HP
- ❖ 2 - Front hubs [I think for an FC]
- ❖ 2 - Early rear car shocks, used but work okay
- ❖ 5 - Early & late gen. & alt./oil fill/oil filter castings
- ❖ Multiple fan idler pulleys
- ❖ 1 - '62 80 HP PG distributor
- ❖ 2 - '63 102 HP distributors
- ❖ 2 - '64-'68 110 HP distributors
- ❖ 1 - '69 95 PG distributor
- ❖ Multiple clamps for ignition coils
- ❖ Multiple '62 stop light lenses
- ❖ Multiple '65 stop light lenses
- ❖ Multiple '66-'69 stop light lenses

# FOR SALE

## ACORN PARTS SUPPLY

CONTACT: DAVE ELLIS: 585-503-9445, dellis1@rochester.rr.com

Fastener boxes now located at Mark Webster's shop containing items such as 1/4-20 bolts, top shroud bolts, distributor hold down brackets, u-joint keepers, and other specialty items

### ACORN Parts Supply

AIR CLEANERS  
ALTERNATORS  
ARMRESTS  
ASHTRAYS  
AXLESHAFTS, SII  
AXLE,RR,S1,BEARINGS,NOS  
BALANCE TUBES  
BUCKET SEATS  
BUCK.SEAT-CHRM SIDE TRIM  
COIL SPRINGS  
CONV. TOP LATCHES  
CYLINDER HEADS  
DIFFERENTIALS  
DISTRIBUTORS  
DOOR HANDLS-EXTERIOR  
ENGINE BLOCKS  
ENG. LID SUPP.BRKT ASSY  
ENG. SHEET METAL PCS  
ENG. TOP COVERS, S.M.

Contact: Dave Ellis; 585-227-2439; dellis1@rochester.rr.com

EXH.C/O PIPE,84/95/110 NEW  
EXH SYSTM,COMPL,USED,84-110  
FASTENERS, ALL TYPES  
FLYWHEEL RETAIN, RINGS, MAN.  
FRT PNL EMBLM-1960 MODEL  
FUEL PUMP RODS  
FUEL PUMP RETAIN. BOLT ASY.  
GLASS,ALL  
GLOVE BOX DOORS  
HEADLAMP BEZELS, S1&2  
HEADLAMP/TURN SIGNAL, FRT  
HEATER COMPONENTS  
HORNS  
HORN BUTTONS, STR COLMN  
INSTR/DASH CLUSTERS,S1&2  
INTAKE TUBES  
INTERIOR TRIM PARTS  
"JUGS" S1&S2 ???  
LIFTERS, HYDR.

MOTOR MOUNTS, S1&S2  
MOTOR MNT TO ENG BRKTS  
OIL CLRS, SEVERAL TYPES  
OIL FLTR/ALT MOUNT HSNGS  
PISTONS W/CON RODS, SI&2-??  
POWERGLIDE TRANS  
RADIOS  
STARTERS  
TAILLGH/REAR -PARTS-S1&S2  
THROTTLE LINKAGES 2 CARBI  
TURBO EMBLEMS  
VALVE CVR H.D. BRACKETS  
VISORS,,,S1/2???  
WHEEL COVERS- SERIES 1  
WHEEL COVERS - SERIE 2  
W.S. WSHR PARTS  
WINDOW HNDLS, INTERIOR  
WIPER ARMS, S1&2??

## ACORN CLUB TOOL CRIB

**All tools are currently available at Mark Webster's Shop, Contact Dave Ellis to coordinate.**

Tools are signed out when the leave, and are signed back in when they are returned. "If you break it, you replace it"  
Below are the tools available in the CRIB, as of 11/1/2018

**-(3 Available)- Hot "Valve Lash Adjustment Valve Covers"**, have 6 holes in the appropriate places for socket access

**-Coil Spring Compressors (pair)**

**-UNISYNC-** Carb Balancing Tool

**-(3 Available)- Series 1, AXLE York Removal Tools**, you will need a MAPP gas torch,,,and a big hammer too,....

**-Oil Pressure Tester**, Oil Filter Bolt fitted with flexible tubing to an Oil Pressure Gage...great to check/assure oil pressure when first firing up a brand newly rebuilt motor.....

**-Grease Gun Adapter-** for greasing HD Universal Joints that have grease fittings in place...

**-(2 Available)- Steering Wheel Pullers**

**-Harmonic Balancer Pulley Removal Tool**...works with the engine in normal position,,,just remove the Oil Filter...

**-Valve Guide Removal Punch**

**-Wire Brush Reamer** - to clean out cross-drilled holes in Crankshaft during a rebuild -Differential Side Gear Adjuster tool

**-Piston Ring(s) Compressor**, used when installing a Piston/Con Rod Assy into Jug, then attaching con rod to crankshaft

**-Fan Bearing Greasing Tool**

**-(2 Sets Avail.)-12 tubes-(Enough for one side of the Motor)-** to hold JUGS in place whilst installing Piston/Com Rod Assys into the jugs, and bolting up the connecting rod cap around the appropriate Crankshaft Journal...VERY helpful!!!



# Membership Application

## Corvair Society of America

Founded in 1969 by and for those who appreciate the Corvair automobile  
P.O. Box 68, Long Lake, Minnesota 55356 USA (603) 403-5010  
Web site: www.corvair.org Email: corsacluboffice@gmail.com

New Member       Renewal

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address or Post Office Box \_\_\_\_\_

City (Primary) \_\_\_\_\_ State or Province \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please select your membership option by checking the appropriate box. For donations, specify the \$ amount.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12-Month US Full Membership ..... \$60         | <input type="checkbox"/> 12-Month Virtual Membership ..... \$40      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-Month US Full Membership ..... \$120        | <input type="checkbox"/> 26-Month Virtual Membership ..... \$80      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12-Month Canadian Full Membership ..... \$75   | <input type="checkbox"/> CORSA Donation ..... \$_____                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-Month Canadian Full Membership ..... \$150  | <input type="checkbox"/> Corvair Preservation Fund Donation. \$_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12-Month Paper Outside US & Canada ..... \$80  | <input type="checkbox"/> Corvair Racing Fund Donation ..... \$_____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-Month Paper Outside US & Canada ..... \$160 |  |

Full Membership benefits include access to the members-only area of our website, online and mailed versions of our magazine, (the *CORSA Communique*), and the right to attend our Annual International Convention. There may be a four-to-six-week delay before you receive your first magazine by mail.

Virtual Membership includes all the benefits of Full Membership, except the *CORSA Communique* is available only online. The virtual membership price is the same worldwide. All prices are in US funds.

Chapters. CORSA has over 100 chapters throughout the world. We encourage membership in our local chapters. However, there is no requirement for you to do so.

Do NOT contact a CORSA chapter on my behalf. I already belong to CORSA Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

Roster. Member information is available on the website so members can reach out to each other. It is never sold. You have the option to exclude your information from other members.

Do NOT include my contact information in the membership roster.

If paying by credit card:  Visa     MasterCard     Amex     Discover (fill-in account # below)

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Exp. Date (mm yy)

--	--	--	--

Security Code Amex – 4-digit. All others – 3 digit

--	--	--	--

Total Payment Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_



**Association of Corvair Nuts**  
 APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP to JOIN ACORN  
 "A C O R N" is CHAPTER #148 of the  
 CORVAIR SOCIETY OF AMERICA" (CORSA)



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (MEMBER)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (SPOUSE/SIGNIFICANT OTHER, CHILDREN, etc.)

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS(ES): \_\_\_\_\_

(ACORN News, the club's monthly newsletter will be sent via email unless requested otherwise.)

PHONE #s: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ WORK \_\_\_\_\_  
 [optional] CELL \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES FOR ACORN MEMBERSHIP IS \$12, DUE IN JANUARY.  
 AFTER JANUARY, DUES ARE REDUCED BY \$1 A MONTH  
 FIRST TIME MEMBERS/FAMILIES ARE FREE FOR THE FIRST YEAR!  
**Please make checks or money orders payable to:**  
**Mark Webster**  
**607 Winona Blvd**  
**Rochester, NY 14617**

IT IS NOT A REQUIREMENT TO BE A MEMBER OF CORSA TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ACORNS.  
 HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF CORSA, PLEASE CHECK HERE: \_\_\_\_\_ IF NOT, WE CAN  
 PROVIDE AN APPLICATION FOR CORSA.

PLEASE, TELL US ABOUT YOUR CORVAIR(S)

YEAR HP	MODEL TRANSMISSION	BODY STYLE	ENGINE
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

ANY OTHER HOBBIES OR INTERESTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

 **SAVE THE DATE!** 



**2026**  
International Convention  
June 22-26  
Historic Gettysburg  
See you there in your Vair!

The 2026 CORSA Convention is being presented by four clubs:

- Mid-Maryland Corvair Club
- Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club
- Group Corvair
- Northern Virginia Corvairs

We hope that you will join us for what is gearing up to be the biggest and best convention to be held on the East Coast! Come join in the fun and the history of Gettysburg- tour the battlefields, take a ghost tour, and dine at historic restaurants!

You can even visit wineries, tour car museums, and even spend time at the world-famous Hershey chocolate factory and the fun-filled HersheyPark.

Like the country life? Gettysburg is a short hour drive from the heart of the Amish communities in Lancaster PA where you'll find fantastic dining and shopping.



What's the schedule of events? Take a look at what we have planned:

- Monday, June 22nd: Welcome Party
- Tuesday, June 23rd: Concourse
- Wednesday, June 24th: Road Rally
- Thursday, June 25th: Autocross
- Friday, June 26th: Econo-Run
- Friday, June 26th: Banquet and Awards



Tours, technical sessions, and other fun and exciting activities and events are in the works!

Mark your calendars and start planning to

**"See You There in Your 'Vair!"**

