

VAIR-IATIONS



NEWSLETTER OF THE
NIAGARA FRONTIER CORVAIR CLUB ESTABLISHED
1973

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS: POST OFFICE BOX 45, BUFFALO, N.Y. 14224

NIAGARA FRONTIER CORVAIR CLUB IS A CHARTERED CHAPTER OF THE CORVAIR SOCIETY OF AMERICA

VOLUME 54, NUMBER 04

April 1st, 2026

Formed By And For Those Who Still Appreciate The CORVAIR Automobile

*** Celebrating our 53rd anniversary 1973 - 2026 ***



Rare 1966 Corvaire Monza 2 door Wagon found for sale in Buffalo, NY. I have heard the price is VERY reasonable. Don't let this one get away! For further info contact Ralph N. at loofirpa@humor.com

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

April meeting Wednesday April 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.

May meeting Wednesday May 27th 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.

June meeting Tentatively June 17th due to several of us attending the Convention in Gettysburg week of the 22nd

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



CORSA and the Convention Team



Editor's thoughts.....

I am sad to report the passing of Rich McClive in December 2025. (I just found out) Rich and his wife Mary were very active members of the NFCC especially during the 2016 CORSA Convention in Buffalo NY. Mary passed away in 2018.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/buffalonews/name/richard-mcclive-obituary?id=60445401>

Anyone going to the 2026 CORSA International convention in Gettysburg PA? It does not get any closer than this!

I have my hotel reservation for the convention We plan on arriving on Monday and staying through Saturday. As much as I would love to take one of my Corvairs. Just not up to the work involved in cleaning the 4 door for Concours. And there is a lot to see and do in the area. So just going for th3e fun and seeing cars and peoplke. Likely may find some parts and toys to purchase.....

Anyone doing any projects on their Corvair? I could use some pictures for the newsletter. Any outings, cruises, shows etc, I need pictures..

Gary

Hi CORSA members:

The Convention is coming soon- June 22-26th in Gettysburg, PA

CORSA and the 4 Sponsoring chapters of the 2026 Convention would appreciate your help in sharing the new 2026 Convention Website. Along with the Communique magazine, it is a great place to access convention and event information.

The website link is

<https://2026corsaconvention.com/> or you can click here! 2026corsaconvention.com

A QR code has also been created for easy access to the site. Please feel free to use any of the convention information in your newsletters. Registration is open and hotel reservations can still be made. Thanks for all you do with your newsletter and chapter communications.



SUNDAY...

MAY 3, 2026

Sanborn Farm Museum, 2660 Saunders Settlement Road
(Rt. 31) Sanborn, NY 14132

7am-2pm

Parking & vendor space on first come basis

Car related items only Car Corral

Breakfast & Lunch available on grounds

For info call:

Tom-716 694 0888, John- 716 628 6786



NEW BUSINESS

1. Club Meetings

- a. Due to the Convention that members will be attending, the meeting scheduled for June 24 will change to June 17. Patrick Murphy will ask the church about availability. Stay tuned.

2. Jim Bartasevich

- a. It is with a heavy heart that we say that Jim, a co-founder of this club, passed away February 17 in Rochester NY. Memorial service is still to be determined. When such arrangements are made, the members present voted to send a contribution to the memorial from the club. Amount of this donation to be determined later.

3. Club Cruise

- a. There was a discussion of cruise locations for the summer months. Arcade/Attica Railroad and the Airplane Museum were mentioned. We are looking for ideas and possible dates.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dick Dahmer and seconded by Tom Kopravich. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

NIAGARA FRONTIER CORVAIR CLUB MARCH 2026 MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm.

Attendees included President Patrick Murphy, Treasurer Dick Dahmer, Joe Grifasi and Tom Kopravich.

Treasurer's Report was given.

Membership reports no new members. We are at 23 members and 1 honorary members. We are saddened by the loss of a founding member of our club, Jim Bartasevich.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2026 CONVENTION AT GETTYSBURG

- a. Dates are June 22-26.
- b. Gary Swiatowoy plans to attend all week. Patrick Murphy will be there Monday to Wednesday and plans to enter his 60 Horn Slot in the Concours. It will also be

displayed in the Car Display Monday night.

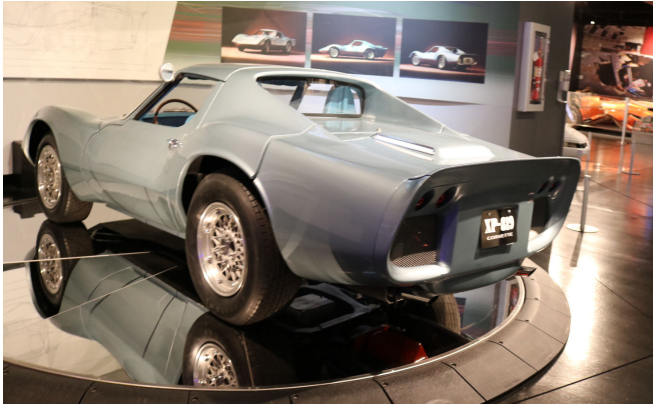
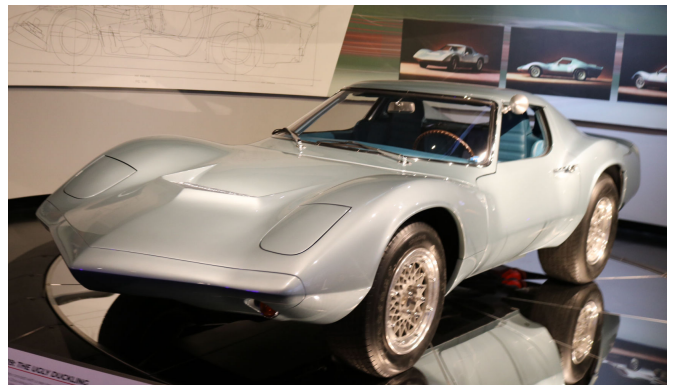
- c. Anyone else planning to go? As of this writing, the convention hotel is booked up.

2. Transportation Museum Tour TABLED

3. Wurlitzer Corvaire/Playboy Cruise Night

- a. Since Wurlitzer cruises have changed from every Monday to Mondays twice a month and the loss of the circle to all featured cars, we have lost our night to the bigger groups. Patrick Murphy will look into a new place to feature our classics.

We stopped at the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green Kentucky on our way to New Orleans. I thought I would look around to see if there was anything remotely “Corvair” related. The only thing I found was a Corvette concept car referred to as “The Ugly Duckling”. As it turns out, it used the early Pontiac Tempest differential which was based on the Corvair transaxel,

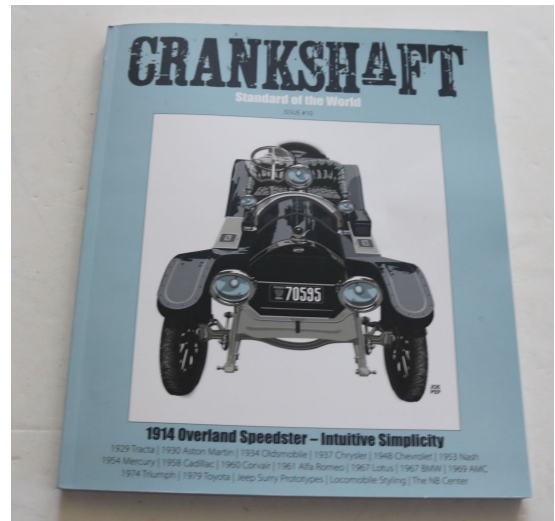


1964 XP-819: THE UGLY DUCKLING

This car is the first Corvette concept with a rear-mounted engine. Developing a rear-engine sports car was a priority for Zora Arkus-Duntov, who tasked Frank Winchell with determining the engineering specifications. When Winchell presented his ideas, Zora commented that the car's design would be “a very ugly duckling.” The nickname stuck, even after the prototype was complete.

Designed by Larry Shinoda, the finished version of the Ugly Duckling maintained its pointed nose and long tail from the original drawings. The car's front section includes some recognizable Corvette features, including prominent fender flares and pop-up headlamps. Fixed seats and a central control panel distinguish the interior from production Corvettes of the day. For the powertrain, XP-819 originally used a 287ci V8 marine engine mounted to a Pontiac Tempest transaxle.

Testing revealed that the Ugly Duckling had a significant rear-weight bias, so the car never went into production. However, Shinoda's design influenced the look of the third-generation Corvette that came four years later. Building this prototype also gave the Corvette team valuable experience with the rear-engine layout.



The current issue of Crankshaft Magazine(#10) has an 8 page article about 1960 Corvair “Horn slot” cars. These are the earliest Corvairs made, which had several items different than later 1960 production cars. Pat Murphy's 1960 black car is older than the one featured in this article.



Rear engined Corvette using an existing transaxel.

Crankshaft is an enthusiast's magazine and only available on line. Not available in stores. This is by Richard Lentinello who published the Corvair “Style” book.

Hi Gary -

We wanted to share the invitation for our dad's celebration of life on May 9th in hopes that you'll attend and also share with the larger Niagara Frontier Corvair Club. We'd love to see members and spouses there.

With love,
Katie + Megan Bartasevich

Please join us to celebrate the life of

JIM BARTASEVICH

Anyone who knew Jim knows he loved a party and a good story — so we're gathering to remember him with laughter, memories, family and friends.

Come celebrate with us:

May 9, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

Canandaigua Country Club — Fallbrook House

1 Fallbrook Park, Canandaigua, NY

Drinks, snacks, and celebration Bring your memories, funny stories, and anecdotes.

If you'd like to share any stories on that day, we welcome you to do so. Please feel free to email photos to be shared at the gathering.

With love,

Marlene, Katie, and Megan Bartasevich

RSVP and send photos to

Katie 585-704-2977 kbartasevich@gmail.com

Megan 407-739-3492 bartasevich@gmail.com



Saturday, June 20, 2026
12NOON-4PM
Gates Open/Registration 10:30AM
no early arrivals, please

ELLWOOD SUMMER BASH CAR SHOW
in memory of Rod Coats

Ellwood Fire Co.
1000 Englewood Ave.
Tonawanda, NY 14223
CARS, BIKES, TRUCKS and more!

\$12 pre-reg by June 11, 2026 *pre-reg for drawing* \$50 Mustang's gift certificate *pre-reg for drawing* \$15 day-of-show registration
please make pre-reg check payable to Ellwood Fire Co. & mail to Ellwood Fire Co., 1000 Englewood Ave., Tonawanda, NY 14223

Dash Plaque & Goodie Bag for 1st 75 registered cars
Dash Plaques compliments of TST Tunes 'n Trivia (716) 345-4431

Sponsor's Choice & Club Participation Awards **Antique Firetruck Display**
food & beverages **50/50 & Basket Raffle** **Tunes 'n Trivia** **vendors & crafters**

after the show, we invite you to stay for the rest of our Summer Bash
4-10PM: Beer Tent - 7-8PM: Corrallo's Chicken Pit BBQ; eat-in or take-out - 4-10PM: live bands

for more info: Ryan (716) 936-9316 - Joe (716) 345-4431 - EllwoodBlog - Facebook@EllwoodFireDepartment - @bersjokes.com
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

I release and waive any and all rights I may have against the promoter, sponsors, participants, and/or attendees from any and all responsibility and/or liability for any damage and/or loss to myself, my vehicle, my display, and/or my property.

NAME: _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE#: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
CAR YEAR/MAKE/MODEL: _____ CLUB: _____
SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____



So did anyone score the new for 2026 Hot Wheels Corvair "Vairstrike"? Readily available on ebay, or search your local Walmart, Target, etc.

Hot Wheels/Mattel has been very kind to the Corvair enthusiast lately with the Yenko Transporter, Rampside moving parts and now this Vairstrike.