Fanbelt Flyer

The Newsletter of the Oldest Continuous Corvair Club in the World!

Cactus Corvair Club Est.1962 Phoenix Arizona

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Letter From The Editor – *Braden Pastore*

It's July in Arizona—O boy!

Since Duane is not officially air conditioned (besides the 460 system he was originally equipped with) we're not getting a lot of miles in. Nancy tries to take him out once week but her enthusiasm for the task seems to wane when the temperature goes above 110 degrees.

Anyway there isn't a ton of news to report—in fact there really isn't an ounce of news to report. We're still having monthly Zoom meetings where we can bask in the comfort of our own homes and Dave W will of course have a tech topic that doesn't involve going outside (if we're lucky). There will be an update to the Valve Cover Race rules that should get published well in advance of this year's Fan Belt Toss. The National Corvair Convention just finished up in Gettysburg and with any luck we'll get a report about it for next month (I'm not mentioning any names but SOMEBODY goes every year—hint hint).

So that leaves us with a report from a trip that Nancy and I took to the Museum of Torture Devices (oops—autofill can have a sense of humor sometimes, too). Of course I mean the Museum of Tort Law otherwise known as the Ralph Nader Museum.

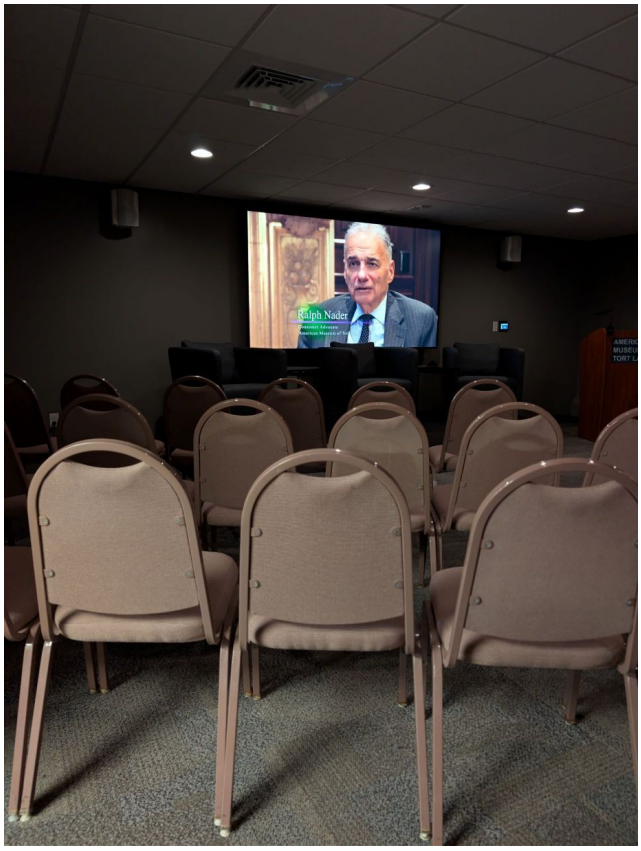
Send us an Article—Win CCC Swag! – *Braden Pastore*

After this issue you can see that it's pretty apparent that I need help. Contributors still get one of these swell Club logos. Dave W will take care those of you who help me out but you'll have to work out the logistics with him.

The Museum of Tort Law– *By Nancy Pastore*

Back in March of this year, Braden and I returned to our home state of Connecticut to attend his son's wedding. We were only in the state for three days, but despite a somewhat busy schedule we took some time out to visit Ralph Nader's Museum of Tort Law, located in the northwestern corner of the state. We had lived in Connecticut all our lives up until December of 2015, and we had driven past this museum hundreds of times in our time there, always giving the building the “one-finger salute” as we went by because of Mr. Nader's association with the demise of the Corvair, but we decided it was time we actually visited to see what it was all about.

It WAS a cold and windy day



Ralph Nader--Matinee idol? For a while we were the only people in the museum

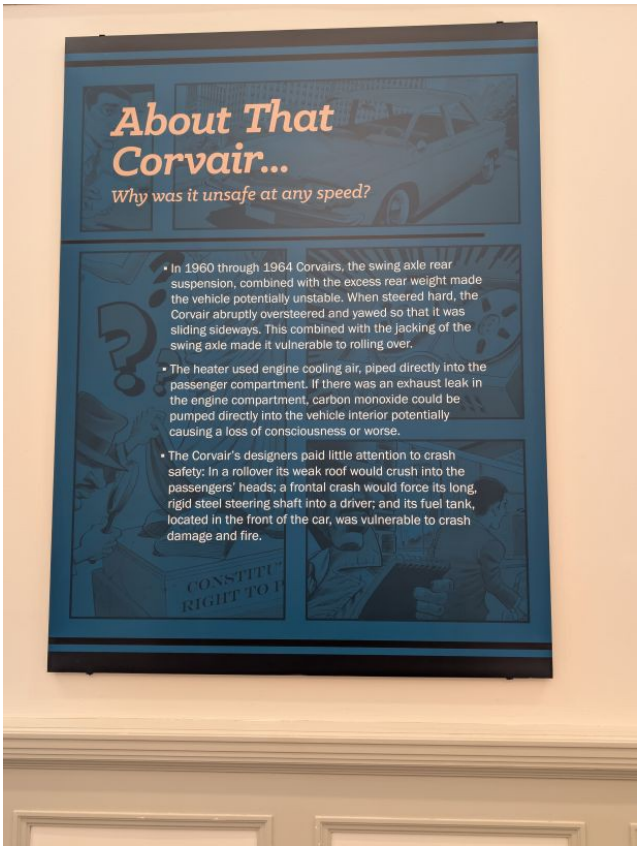
The Museum of Tort Law (continued)– *By Nancy Pastore*

Wearing our Cactus Corvair Club tee shirts (wiseguys that we are) but with jackets on, of course (boy, was cold and windy that day!) we drove our rental car about an hour out to the quaint little town of Winsted (pop. 6,977) to the building we had flipped off so many times. We paid our $7 Senior fee to a woman who was--and still is--Mr. Nader's long-time secretary. She had no sense of humor whatsoever about our Corvair Club tee shirts; it was obvious that she believed strongly in Mr. Nader's work and wasn't about to be taken in by the likes of us.

Rocking the club shirts. Someone finally came in to take our picture

The Museum of Tort Law (continued)– *By Nancy Pastore*

We did a self-tour of the museum, and I have to say, it was time well spent. For those of you unfamiliar with the term “Tort Law” (I wasn't...), all it is is the civil law that addresses wrongs committed by one person or entity against another, causing harm or injury, and the holding of the accountable party liable for personal injury. The museum is not huge, but it's filled with exhibits of the dangers that Mr. Nader has dedicated his life to fighting, and is actually still fighting today! At age 92, he is still very much an active consumer advocate, splitting his time between his home in Winsted ,CT and his work in Washington DC. Still active and working at 92!!



What Ralph thought

Enshrined in stained glass

The Museum of Tort Law (continued)– *By Nancy Pastore*

There were exhibits of dangerous children's toys (remember Jarts?), lawsuits regarding the known health issues with asbestos and tobacco use, workplace hazards, faulty automobiles (featuring the Amazing Exploding Pinto and of course the “Unsafe at Any Speed” Corvair). Remember the lady that burned herself with super-heated coffee from McDonalds? Yep, that was one of his, too! There was also a short movie to sit and watch about Ralph Nader's lifelong dedication to consumer protection and what he's accomplished looking out for “the little guy”. Quite interesting.

These were unsafe

This--Not so much

I have to say, I came away with a slightly different perspective of the man from this experience. Instead of my pre-conceived notion that he was an overly-ambitious lawyer looking to establish his own fame and notoriety in the history books by whatever means necessary, I learned that he is actually quite selfless and totally dedicated to his pursuit of consumer safety. Yes, I still feel like some of the cases he took were kind of frivolous, but there were also some cases where the manufacturers knew full well that their product was defective but weighed the cost of the fix against the cost of lawsuits over a few injuries or deaths and if the fix was more expensive, they consciously chose to allow those injuries! That did not sit well with Mr. Nader, and it doesn't sit well with me either! So now I see that we actually need people like Mr. Nader in this world, or you or I might be injured (or worse!) solely for Corporate Profit.

The Museum of Tort Law (continued)– *By Nancy Pastore*

I still love my Corvair (“Duane”, who's been with me for over 40 years), but I can't say I'm a “N8R H8R” anymore. I have gained a little bit of respect for the man whose name is associated with the killing of the Corvair. And if I ever drive by the building again....I might just wave with my WHOLE hand!

(P.S. ...I highly recommend the Museum of Tort Law if you should ever find yourself in Connecticut. The area is quite lovely; the small town of Winsted also offers a few art museums, a beautiful lake, and a wonderful local brewpub! A great daytrip if you're in the area!)

Editor's Note: Connecticut is also the Pizza Capitol of the World. Considering that it's a two hour drive from corner to corner in this state, DO NOT miss out on the opportunity to try at least one of the big three pizza restaurants in New Haven: Pepe's, Sally's or my personal favorite, Modern Apizza. You can thank me later. :)

You can't lie on a license plate