

## **G-17 Ratchet Strap Roadside Repair** *By Bob O.*

IF YOU SHOULD SUFFER a failure of the threaded rod or brackets that keep the tension on your drive belts (either stock or Comet), here's a quick roadside fix that can keep you going until you have the opportunity to effect repairs.

Simply wrap a ratchet strap around the engine cradle and the suspension subframe crossmember just behind it and tighten to get adequate belt tension. Be sure to gather up and tie off any excess strap so that it doesn't get caught up in the pulleys or suspension.

Note that this setup will allow the tension to vary somewhat as the suspension moves up and down, but it works well for a temporary repair. I plan to add a ratchet strap to my toolkit in case this ever happens to me again.

If your tension rod needs to be replaced, I recommend high-strength material such as McMaster-Carr p/n 90322A166 instead of garden-variety all-thread. It's important that the rod doesn't deflect or bend under load, which could cause belt slippage in a stock system or the inability to force the driven pulley into its high-speed range in a Comet setup. ▣

