



Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 454
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

The Flat Six

April 2025

2025 Officers

President -Tim Mahler	(217) 793-3824	Vice-President Jim Allen	(309) 361-5351
Secretary-vacant	(Call Tim)	Treasurer-Glen Rittenhouse	(309) 472-3882
Membership-Chris Hall	(217) 691-6529	Historian/Inventory - vacant	
FlatSix Editor Tim Mahler	(217) 793-3824	Email	PrairieCapital@corvair.org

Board of Directors

Shelby Berta (2026)	(217) 361-7089	Chris Hall (2025)	(217) 691-6529
Jim Collier (2025)	(217) 972-2285	Brian Nicholson (2025)	(217) 891-0808

From the Prez

SPRING - I bought flower seeds. My sister has started vegetable seeds. Its still early, but the garden planning is in full swing.

AND I noticed, so is Car show planning. Cool Cruisers has a full itinerary of cruise in scheduled, most at Motorheads off of Toronto Road. Detroit Homecoming, Springfest and the CORSA Convention are also on the schedule. I'm sure Taylorville, Peoria and other central Illinois towns have their preliminary list of Car shows, cruise-ins and parades mapped out as well.

As I write this, PCCA and Show Me Corvairs will be attending the Pawnee Prairie Days Car show May 31, 2025 (SMCC meets March 22 to discuss, I'm writing March 14). The Car show is just part of the festivities at the event. Carnival, arts and crafts, a BBQ contest and Antique Tractor show are also on schedule. Should be a fun day. Stopping by one or more RT66 sites may also be on the agenda, especially a photo op at the nearby RT66 Brick road.

PCCA will still have a business meeting on May 10th. The SMCC/PCCA meet up is one of what I hope to be many extra events for PCCA.



The pcca prez Corsa at the meeting with the treasurer's SUV behind.

Happy Corvair-ing Tim

Calendar of Events - 2025

PCCA Home Page may be found at <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/chapter627>



Directions to the CPF Corvair Museum near Glenarm Illinois. Take exit 88 from I-55, from either direction, head west – turn right if you are traveling south on I-55, left if traveling north. Follow the road as it curves to the left, south. Go straight at the stop light (turning right takes you to Chatham). The Museum is 1.3 miles from the stop light on the right hand side – just past the Double J campgrounds.

- April 25-26 SpringFest - Helen Georgia. Great event attended by many PCCAers in the past
Info at corvairspringfest.com - or contact Chris Law cjlaw1973@gmail.com

- May 10, 2025 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm.**
LOCATION: the CPF National Corvair Museum in Glenarm

- May 20-23, 2025 CORSA International Convention in San Luis Obispo, California. See the CORSA
Communique for hotel info, activities. Is an airport serviced by the larger airlines.

- May 31, 2025** **SMCC and PCCA joint activity/picnic/car show.** Route 66 Brickroad
Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show. Expect driving tour to RT66 sites in the area.
- May 31, 2025 Pawnee Prairie Days – Car show on Saturday, activities all weekend.

- July 10-13, 2025 Detroit Homecoming, Ann Arbor Michigan. Another great event see write up in the
March Newsletter. Has been attended and enjoyed by PCCA members in the past

- July 12, 2025 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm.**
LOCATION: the CPF National Corvair Museum in Glenarm

- August 4 Old Settlers days of Hillsboro IL. Car show and county fair
Other activities August 3 through 8 including carnival and a parade Aug 8.

- September 6 **PCCA Meeting 1:00pm, Near Corvairs**
LOCATION: Annual SOS Auto show near the State Capital

For more Corvair Events Check the calendar on the CORSA Web site: www.corvair.org

2025 CORSA International Convention News May 20-23rd, 2025.

San Luis Obispo, California is the new location of the 2025 CORSA International Convention. The Embassy Suites is the host hotel. **May 20-23rd, 2025.** San Luis Obispo is a historic town with unique shopping and many wineries in the area. Hotel room prices are \$139 for a king and \$149 for a double suite, (prices not including taxes and fees.)

We are looking forward to seeing everyone there. Questions? Contact the club office: (630) 403-5010



Museum Entrance Greeter. She sports a 1977 CORSA Convention T-shirt. Minnesota

Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair

By Eva Mcguire Corvair Historian/Creator Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair
(Photos courtesy of GM)

CORVAIR BURIED AT WILLOW RUN!

Here's a Willow Run secret I'm sharing for the first time: Did you know there's a 1962 Corvair buried on the grounds of the Willow Run Assembly Plant? Yes there is, and it's a complete car! How did it get there you ask?...I was told by several former Willow Run auto workers that during the production years of making Corvairs, they took a 1962 Corvair (sample image in this post) and dug a big hole outside, lowered it in the hole, and set the car on fire. A fire pickup truck (like the one in this photo) was most likely used for this exercise. They used the Corvair to help teach their firefighter/plant employees how to extinguish a vehicle on fire in case it occurred inside or outside around the plant. They would light the car up, put it out, and repeat the process. After they were finished with the exercise, they just filled up the hole with dirt and covered up the Corvair...where it remains to this day. They also used to bury a lot of broken/scrapped engines, car parts, etc. I was even told that's "possibly" what they did with the engine that wouldn't start on the last day of production (May 14, 1969) that had to be replaced in 1969 Corvair car #5999 (which I doubt that story on this particular engine). Looks like I'm taking my metal detector and go engine and Corvair hunting (wink wink).

FUN FACTS: The Willow Run Plant was so large they had their own fire department which they called the "Fire Brigade". They also had a medical facility with a nurse on staff, and their security department was called "Plant Protection." When the Willow Run Corvair Plant was opened in 1959, it was the largest indoor plant facility in the world (occupying approx. 2.3 million square feet on 22 acres of land). It was considered one of the best state of the art facilities, and other car factories that were later built would use the Willow Run Plant as a model example of what their facilities should look like. **NO PHOTOS ALLOWED?** At one point, the management at Willow Run (probably under the directive of a higher decision made at GM) allowed some Japanese automotive representatives to tour their facility and take photos in order to help them build their vehicle factories in a similar fashion. I know a lot of the auto workers shared with me that they weren't



This 1958 Chevrolet pickup was one of the many emergency vehicles at GM's Willow Run Assembly Plant, Ypsilanti, Michigan (where the vast majority of Corvairs were produced). Note the name of "Chevrolet Fire Department - Willow Run." Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair
(Photo courtesy of GM)

happy about that decision due to the foreign car competition during the 1970's/1980's. Tensions were running high at that time. They even posted signs at their UAW meeting buildings that "No foreign cars were allowed" as only U.S. cars were welcome to park in their lot. (I still see signs like this posted).

What makes this so interesting is that no photos were ever allowed to be taken inside the plant due to corporate secrets. The only other time photos were allowed (outside of the Japanese car people) was when GM had their photographers take official photos for their archives or when someone inside the plant had an idea to improve something or another GM factory needed help with repairs or installation of certain assembly line machines, etc.... If it was an idea or repair, they would have to take a Polaroid photo and a manager/foreman would hand deliver it to the other plant so they could see what needed to be done. Once the suggested idea, repair or installation was completed, they had to destroy the photo so no evidence was left behind. For those who aren't familiar with old photography...Polaroid cameras gave instant pictures without leaving a negative if someone tried to make a copy photo to share with competitors. This ensured that GM's Willow Run Plant secrets remained protected. That's why it's such a rare treat to find a photo of a Corvair inside any GM plant (outside of official events or GM photographs) as there aren't many.

The photo of the Chevrolet fire pickup in this post (courtesy of GM) was one of the many emergency vehicles at GM's Willow Run Assembly Plant, Ypsilanti, Michigan (where the vast majority of Corvairs were produced). Note the name of "Chevrolet Fire Department - Willow Run."

By: Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire, Corvair Historian/Creator
Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair
#preservingcorvairhistory
#GMAuthority

Glen Rittenhouse follows sales on Bring-a-trailer. Last month he spotted this Corvair listed on the site.
1968 Monza Convertible with California emissions.



Sample 62 Corvair in Eva's post



Pair of 62s in the National Corvair Museum, Coupe is on loan from Mike Hall. The 4 dr sedan is on loan from Paul Sergeant



1968 Monza Convertible stock including California emissions. Sold for \$15,399. Buyer scored

Detroit Homecoming

July 10 thru July 13, 2025 Ann Arbor Michigan

Not a Corvair convention but the atmosphere is really close. The Detroit club put on an excellent event that is not all that far from Illinois.

The Detroit Area Corvair Club "Homecoming" is from July 10th thru 13th in beautiful Ann Arbor, Michigan. If you have tried the rest, now come to the best annual Corvair event! To see more about the DACC visit our Facebook Group or write us at hcinfo@detroitcorvairs.com.

Here are links that will help to register and book your room for homecoming. Looking forward to seeing everybody Preferred "On-Line" Homecoming registration form here -->

<http://detroitcorvairs.com/Homecoming2025.html>

"Print and Mail" Homecoming registration form here --> <http://detroitcorvairs.com/Flyer2025.pdf>

Thanks Bob Wittmann DACC Homecoming Registrar

Book your hotel (discount group rates applied!) - simply adjust dates and # of guests

Hotel URL: (Editor will send you the email upon request) it is also in the PCCA March Newsletter



**Hey PCCA Memembers Shout out to all PCCA members
Have you renewed your membership for 2025 ?
If you have forgotten, this may be your last reminder**

How many times did your mother say "I'm not telling you again" and much to your chagrin, she did, possibly with a "friendly swat" to your bottom? This is my "im not telling your again note. The By-laws indicates that March meeting is the "voluntary resign" date for failing to renew.

There are 10 LONG time members who haven't renewed yet this year.

Please renew. I know some have had non Corvair issues to contend with, and meetings are sparse. But we still value your membership. I have sent a email to the members, By-laws instructs me to name those members in this March newsletter (missed that one) but I'll hold off for one more month.

Thanks you to everyone who has renewed. I really appreciate it. Tim

PCCA March meeting

The meeting was rather odd. The general discussions, the catch up on things amongst members, were held first, then the business meeting was held. Well, technically, the meeting wasn't because the by-laws says 5 non officers need to be present. We had 6 members present - including two officers.

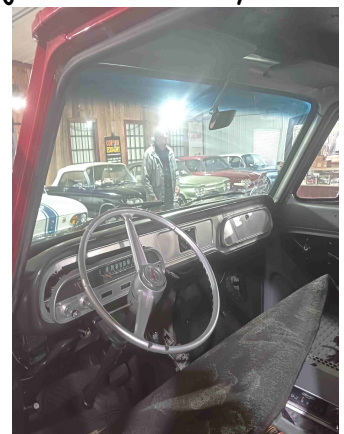
The good news, besides the pleasant weather, was the Museum had 7 visitors while we were there. Brian Nicholson lead the first couple on a guided tour of the museum. This was the initial reason for delaying the meeting start. Then a second couple arrived. Tim gave them an overview and offered to guide them around or they could browse at their leisure. They chose the latter. Later, a third couple with a younger lad (son?) Toured the museum. The last were from the gathering next door.

Chicago Corvair Entusiasts were expected to visit the Museum on Sunday. A busy weekend for the musuem.

Larry Jahn, Glen Rittenhouse and Tim spent a considerable amount of time discussing barge life. Larry worked on the barges back in the day. This was a good program for those of us listening. Lots of interesting facts I didn't know before. When I was knee high to a grasshopper, an afternoon entertainment was watching those same barges go through the locks. Rita and Gloria had their own meeting.

When Brian finished his guided tour, Tim felt compelled to have something that resembled a business meeting. Biggest issue was the upcoming joint event with SMCC. May 31, at the Pawnee Prairie days was easily favored. Car show, parade, carnival, and many other activities. RT66 sites - brick road especially - are nearby. Besides Mike, Brian and Aleta are all involved with the Pawnee event so will be there regardless.

Tim did get to drive his red Fitch Sprint wannabe Corsa coupe to the show. It ran well as expected but was the only Corvair driven to the meeting. I chuckle when I think about the items Larry Claypool would find that should be fixed or adjusted. Someday.



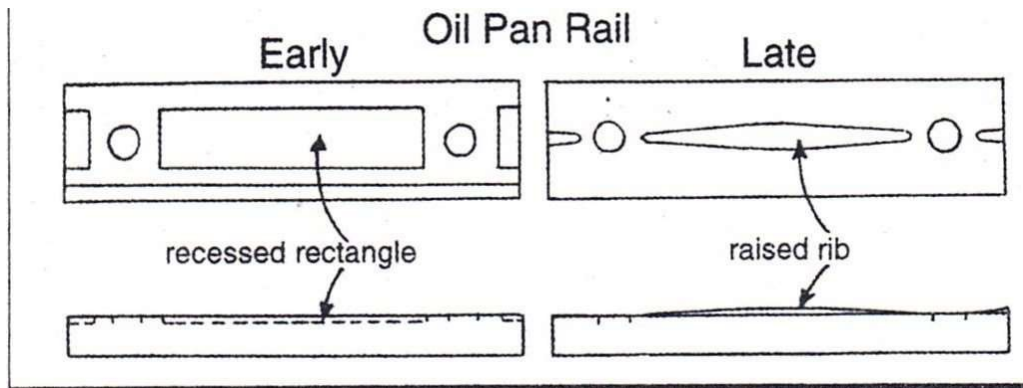
This is Mike's PG Rampside. It was once used for Parade duty, has a bench seat for the bed area for the luminaries and it's a PG so your left leg isn't overworked using the clutch. It does need some re-assembly as Richard started to retrofit it back to stock appearance.

Heart of America Corvair Owners Assn is a great group. Plus they have this wonderful tech person who write great tech tips. This is from HACOIA web site, tech articles by Mike Dawson. Article number 198 Thankfully I have never done this. Too many warnings to NOT jack up the car except at the jacking points near the tires. Rear tire mount is another no-no as it stresses the mount leading to early failure.

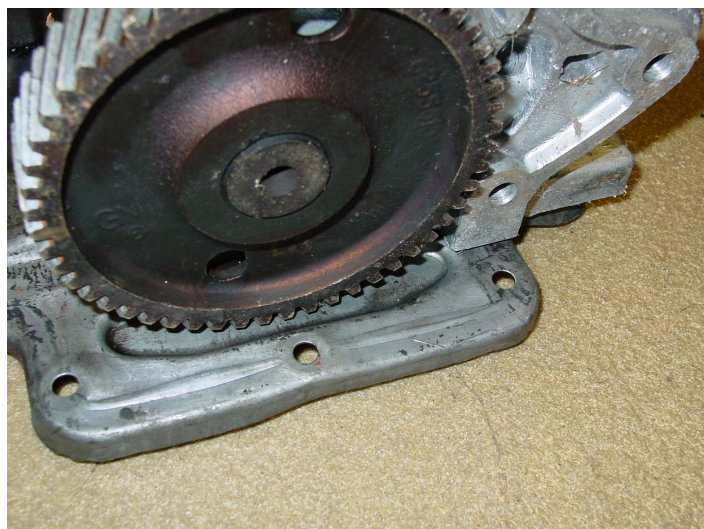
THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERIES Mike Dawson

Oil Pan Warning (Floor Jack placement Warning)

Our Corvairs (all factory engines) share one of two oil pans: early, defined as 1960 through May 29, 1964, and late as defined as mid 1964 through 1969. This included two very different gaskets and bolts. The early design used a thick composite gasket with bolts containing a thin stard washer. The later design used a thinner, hard paper gasket and bolts with a larger, thicker washer attached. The later design was much better at maintaining a good seal for a longer period of time, mainly because of holding torque. Pictured below is the identification of the two pans.



The "warning" part of this article is to keep in mind that the cam (and its gear) are below the crankshaft in a Corvair engine, helping to keep the flat six as flat as possible. This requires the cam gear to actually dip into a recess stamped into the front of the oil pan as shown below.



If a tire store (or others) use a floor jack to lift the rear of the car by jacking up under the differential or bell housing and misjudge the jack pad placement you could end up with the disaster shown below. Note that there is an aluminum cam gear tooth mark between the two dents on the inside of the steel pan in the second picture.



The RESULT



May 31 SMCC/PCCA joint adventure

The Show Me Corvair Club and PCCA are planning a joint activity for May 31, 2025. The current plan is to meet at the Pawnee Prairie Days festival and car show. Still working on some of the details. But the festival also includes a BBQ cook off, crafts and a carnival. Plus a stroll to downtown Pawnee would find many other nice shops and eateries for those wanting to stretch their legs.

A parade is scheduled for later in the afternoon or a drive to the brick road of old RT 66 could be in order. The last surviving covered bridge is not too far away either. The possibilities are wide open.

Corvairs that may be available – call soon

Mike Hall is trying to reduce the size of his Corvair fleet. Besides the 62 Spyder Coupe, 65 red coupe, and late model 4 door, Mike also is expecting to sell a Rampside with PG. These are all show ready although maybe note top notch Concours they would all score well. Give Mike and call – work out a deal – and have fun playing with your new toy. This includes the Parade ready Rampside above.

Prairie Capital Corvair Association (PCCA) Membership Form

January 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2025

Type of Membership Individual ___ \$17
Family ___ \$20 (2 adults at one address plus children under 18)
___ Apply a \$5 discount for receiving the electronic version of the newsletter and other correspondence.
If joining after July 31, dues are: Individual \$8.50, Family \$10.00. If applicable, the discount is \$2.50.

Name _____ Spouse/ 2nd Adult _____

Street Address _____
City, ST ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ CORSA Membership ID _____
Cell Phone(s) _____ Spouse/ 2nd Adult _____

e-Mail Address(es) _____ Spouse/ 2nd Adult _____

Cars, Corvair and other _____

Other interests _____

PCCA strongly encourages membership in CORSA. Do you want/need information about CORSA? Y / N

Return the completed form and dues to: Glen Rittenhouse, PCCA Treasurer
1804 Columbus Dr, Pekin IL 61554

Please make checks payable to Prairie Capital Corvair Association or PCCA

PCCA meeting minutes. Februray, 2025

The March meeting was finally called to order sometime after 4:00pm. The late start was due to the 7 visitors to the museum that arrived starting at 2:00pm. Brian Nicholson led one couple around while Tim greeted the second couple that showed up 15 minutes later. A couple and their son toured later that I think ventured over from the party being held at the bar next door.

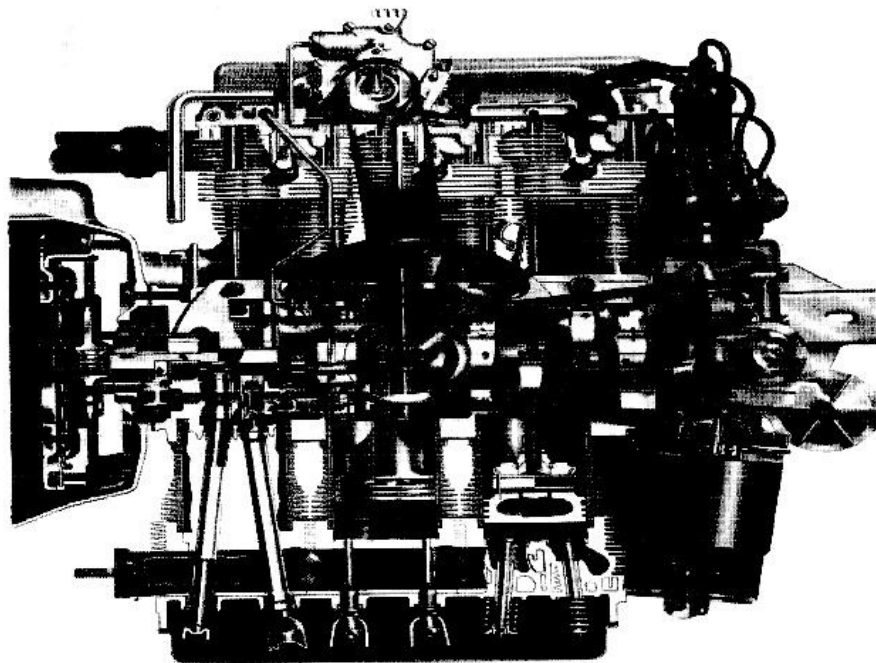
PCCA had 6 members present including 2 officers. Per by-laws, this was not a quorum. (Need 5 members in good standing (other than officers). Regardless, Tim ran thru some basics just to update every one – Treasurer report given by Glen Rittenhouse. Revenue from 5 renewals since Feb 8, 2025 (77.00). Expenses from the membership directories (42.48) left a checking account balance of \$4,372.73. Required savings account balance of \$5.00 and cash on hand of \$175.13 for a total funds balance of \$4,552.86. Brian motioned to approve, Larry Jahn seconded, everyone approved. Membership report was the 5 renewals. Secretary report (January) was printed in the FlatSix.

The only big question on Tim’s agenda was the SMCC/PCCA get-together being discussed by a few officers of both clubs. The current thought is to meet at the Car Show during the Pawnee Prairie Days festival May 31, 2025. Brian, Mike and others help organize/put on the event so they will be present. Carnival rides, crafts a bbq cook off and other activities abound. The RT66 brick road is nearby as is the only covered bridge left in Sangamon county. Everyone present was OK with that plan.

Brian Nicholson did provide some updates on the museum. The CPF Board of Trustees have visited the museum. The board is more active which should be good. Time will tell. The Chicago Corvair Enthusiasts were expected to tour the museum on Sunday.

The meeting adjoined shortly after 5pm. Although the Rittenhouses brought refreshment, we all implicitly agreed to save those for another day (or for the grandkids).

The Flat Six



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