



Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 454
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

The Flat Six

February 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

Is it Spring yet?

No, not yet. For meteorologist, Spring begins March 1. The Spring equinox is March 20, 2025. I think I'll side with the meteorologist. The January meeting saw 10-12 inches of snow on the ground when we arrived. Thankfully, Mike Hall had plowed the parking lot in front of the Museum.

There is NOT a February meeting this year. New by-law change in an attempt to improve attendance at the remaining meeting. – March 8, when hopefully Spring has sprung, will be our next meeting. My 66 Corsa is eager to get back out on the open road.

The Newsletter is still expected to be sent to everyone even without a meeting. Why? Because it keeps us in contact with each other. If you have news to share with other members - or have Corvairs or Corvair related items to sell, or wanted to buy, please let the editor know (preferably via email, so I don't forget or jumble the message).

Happy Corvair-ing Tim

Calendar of Events - 2024

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.

- March 8, 2025 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm.**
LOCATION: the CPF National Corvair Museum in Glenarm
Program: Introducing the 1965 Corvair?

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

- May 24, 2025 Placeholder. SMCC and PCCA joint activity/picnic
Location is still being discussed as the editor preps this issue of the newsletter

- 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.

Announcing San Luis Obispo, California is the new location of the 2025 CORSA International Convention. The convention host team has secured the Embassy Suites in San Luis Obispo for the same dates- **May 20-23rd, 2025.** San Luis Obispo is a historic town with unique shopping and many wineries in the area. Driving events will enjoy beautiful scenery along the coast and through the hills. Our new hotel offers wonderful amenities for our convention: Two room suites, free made to order breakfast, and an evening reception along with an indoor pool. It is centrally located with many restaurants and shops in the area. Additionally, more airlines and flights are available to this city. Hotel room prices are \$139 for a king and \$149 for a double suite, (prices not including taxes and fees.)

The reservation link and information for the Embassy Suites hotel will be on the CORSA Website shortly. More details about the schedule and events will be in the next Communique and posted to the website. Registration for the convention will open in February.

We are pleased to still be able to host the 2025 CORSA Convention, with all the events, in this beautiful area of the central coast of California. So, get those Corvairs ready for San Luis Obispo and make your travel plans. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there. Questions? Contact the club office: (630) 403-5010

PCCA January Meeting

The January meeting almost wasn't. The preceding Sunday/Monday the area received over 10 inches of snow with another 2-3 inches on Friday. Mike Hall reported close to 14 inches total.

Mike did plow the parking lot in front of the Corvair Museum so those in attendance could park, and get back out. Driving on 12 plus inches of powdery snow is tough when you only have 5 inches of ground clearance (Car not a truck). The Bertas had to contend with ice first, then snow. It was wise of them to stay home from the meeting because the ice was still there. Driving on snow is doable. Ice is much harder to drive on. Ice road truckers manage somehow, but I think that has a snow pack that provides traction.

Even with the less than ideal weather, the majority of the roads were plowed and clear. Tom Curry made it from Chillicothe, the Rittenhouses from Pekin and the Colliers from Decatur. Larry Tucker also arrived from Butler. Then of course, Mike and Tim were present being the "locals".

Beulah and Jim Collier provided refreshments, a nice mix of sweet bites and a veggie tray. Mike Hall won the 50/50 drawing.

The meeting ending somewhat early. President Tim was concerned about the long distance drivers being on the road after the sun went down. The day's snow melting was going to ice over when the temps dropped with the sun. Black ice is no fun – unless it's on an empty parking lot and your driving a Corvair as if it was an autocross course and all the hazards were half a block away. Now that's fun.



Mike Hall owned 65 4-door sedan



Chris Hall's Greenbrier



In front is Mike Hall's Spyder. Behind is Paul Sergeant's 4 door sedan.



Rampside owned by Mike Hall

Twenty Years Ago in the January PCCA newsletter

This article, written by Bill Pierson 20 years ago, was published in the January 2005 newsletter. Surprisingly, or not, so much of the article remains true yet today. Bill has restored and shown numerous Senior level Corvairs since, the latest a 61 coupe. Bill has been a major influence in my Corvair journey, getting me to join PCCA and CORSA back in 1996. Editor.

Bill Pierson remembers

President Sue's article in the Flat Six brought some memories back for me. My first connection with PCCA was in 1983. I had what I thought was a real nice 1952 Chevrolet Bel-Air. I took it to the SOS show where I was parked next to Pinky Williams Buick. I quickly found what a show car is and decided to abandon my hopes for a trophy and started walking around to look at other cars.



I owned 2 Corvairs at the time, a 63 convertible and a 64 Spyder coupe. While looking at the Corvairs I was approached by 2 gentlemen, John Seward and Bob Long, who literally changed my life as far as cars were concerned. They were so friendly and supportive. They told me about PCCA and we talked Corvairs. They introduced me to several others including Gerry and Sharon Burnett. I was so impressed with the knowledge that all these folks had, that I decided to start attending PCCA meetings. That started the long drive to Springfield each month.

Then it was time for me to try my hand at building a Corvair car to show. I first did the Spyder Coupe. I took it to the SOS and got a first place. Then John and Loretta Seward insisted that I come to their house to freshen up and attend the banquet where I was welcomed and where I first found that Bob Teague was crazy. What an enjoyable time we had.

Then came my best car ever, a 64 Spyder convertible that I restored to show. That car won many firsts all over the country and became a Senior car in CORSA. During that time Bob Long and I developed a special friendship that I value today. I call Bob and Mary frequently.



Aside from all the men there were and still are several ladies that make PCCA a great place. At first there was Loretta Seward, Mary Long, Sharon Burnett and others that I can't recall names.

From the first conversation with Bob and John, I became a Corvair nut. I have had 3 Senior cars, been elected to the CORSA board, became CORSA President and have held most of the offices nationally. We have traveled all over the US to Corvair events and have made friends literally all over the world. All because 2 very nice gentlemen stopped to tell me about PCCA. Bill Pierson

That wonderful 1961 Coupe.

Garry and Sue Biggs owned the 1961 beige Monza coupe for years. And for years, Garry was the head judge of the SOS Show (before Mike Hall) therefore he usually refused to have it judged at the SOS Show. Many commented that the car wasn't a top show car – this was mainly because of the beige color not because of the cars condition. The car just didn't have the same pop as a bright red car. Experts, like Bill Pierson and Jim Allen, knew better. It was a very well preserved car. Garry was talked into entering the car to be judged in 2006. It took first place in its class. It was indeed a very nice car.

After Garry's passing, Bill acquired the Corvair. He had always admired that 61 and he does have a soft spot for early model coupes. Bill went about restoring it because it had sat for years without the usual attention. In 2023, Bill Pierson took that wonderful little 1962 Biege Coupe to the convention and scored a very nice 97.00 to earn Gold. Bill also took the 61 to a VCCA judging and did quite well there too. Titus Stewart is now the caretaker of that very interesting and good looking 61 coupe.



The 61 coupe at a 2016 PCCA meeting



Prepped for judging at the 2005 SOS Show



On the left, the 61 coupe sits on the CORSA Convention concours show field.



Bill Pierson arrived at a PCCA meeting in 2020 in this nicely prepped 1950 Bel Air. Cool Car

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. My poor notes also indicate he may have a station wagon available. 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. Mike is expecting to take several of his Corvairs to the Meccum sale in Indy, some time in May of 2025. So don't dilly dally.

It's Bill Pierson Month. This list is from Bill's presentation back in 2008. It is still applicable today.

Trip Parts and Tools - Before any trip in a Corvair, the following steps should be taken Credit to Bill Pierson for presenting this list

1. Tune-up, points, condenser, cap, rotor, plugs, plug wires, fuel filters, carburetors cleaned. Tune to specs in shop manual, adjust carbs to specs. Check the hot wire to coil and wire to distributor, they are usually brittle.
2. Check all fluid levels, brake, steering, differential, pg.
3. Pull wheels and check brakes for wear, wheel cylinders for seeping fluid
4. Pack front wheel; bearings, rear axle bearings if possible.
5. Inspect universal joints by moving axles. Listen for any squeaking noise while driving.
6. Look for oil leaks at engine, transmission and differential. Repair all leaks.
7. Check tires for wear, check air pressure front and rear. Most like a 10 # difference front to rear.
8. Change oil and filter.
9. Inspect fan belt, replace if any wear.
10. Check battery and cables, remove cables and clean.
11. Check seat belts.
12. Check fire extinguisher.
13. Check all accessories that you want to use on the trip, radio, heater, ac, cb radio, cell phone jack
14. List the parts and tools you may need. Get a tool box sufficient to hold them.
15. Make sure the jack is in working order and the spare is inflated to rear tire pressure. You may deflate it some to use on the front.

PARTS AND TOOLS

1. CORSA Roster, the new roster will be available in the next month.
2. Fan belt, store flat in tool box, not coiled.
tools required-9/16 offset wrench, pry bar or long screwdriver
3. Fuel Pump
Tools required-1/2, 9/16 open or box wrench, 7/16 line wrench, 1/2x9/16 line wrench, fittings including "tee"
I install the fittings and the tee- in the new pump.-
4. Point plate and screws with new points, condenser and wire, pre set to .016. Tools-flat blade screw driver, 11/32 and 3/8 nut driver.
5. Valve cover gasket. I install a gasket on a spare cover. use 1/4 inch bolts to hold in place. Tools-1/4 inch drive 7/16 deep socket, 1/4 inch ratchet. 1/4x 3/4 std bolts, Ultra Black Permatex sealer.
6. Oil sender switch. Tool-special socket required, it is very hard to use any other tool.
7. Neoprene hose and hose clamps-5/16, 3/8 and 7/32. I carry about a foot of each size.
8. Spare tire and jack. If you use after market wheels, be certain you have a lug wrench to fit. It is best to carry a 4 way lug wrench. A couple spare lugs nuts may come in handy.
9. Tire gauge. Check tire pressure often.
10. Flash light, extra batteries.
11. Inner and outer headlights. Tools-Phillips and regular screwdriver, screwstarter drivers, small vise grips for the spring.
12. 1157 bulbs. Tools-Phillips screwdriver
13. Fuel filters, both stone and inline if you have one installed. Tools-7/16 line wrench, 1 inch open end and vise grips for the nuts that have been rounded.
14. Fuses, at least one of each size. Tool-fuse puller
15. Wire ends, connectors, small roll of wire, wire nuts, wire ties. Tool-wire stripper and crimper
16. C clips for the accelerator linkage. Tool-small screwdriver or needle nose pliers.
17. 1/4 id flat washers, cotter pins.
18. Oil, ATF, brake fluid, funnel for ATF.
19. 1/4 inch drive socket set with short and long extensions, 3/8 drive the same. Open end wrenches 5/16 thru 3/4, Small hydraulic jack.
20. Aerosol tire inflator.

Optional Parts; Alternator, voltage regulator, rocker arms, nuts, balls, push rods, lifter. Spark Plugs, Coil Wire, Plug wire
(one long one should do) Brake Fluid, Tube of Silicon Ultra-black

Do the hard, harder test on the brakes before the trip.

Shout out to all PCCA members

It Is time to pay your club dues for 2025!

Please (with a cherry on top)

My notes show only a third of PCCA members have paid their 2025 dues. I don't have the ledger, so the count may be higher but it is already February. Spring is just around the corner (so I hope). Please take a moment and send a check to Glen Rittenhouse. Or bring check or cash to the March meeting. Thanks

Attention: Comments Suggestions Welcome

May 24 SMCC/PCCA joint adventure

The Show Me Corvair Club board thinks it is time for PCCA and SMCC to do another activity together. The PCCA board, when asked, agreed. The current suggestion is to meet at the Motorheads Bar and Grill and Museum, and then possibly tour some of the RT66 sites in the area - like the brick road, turkey track, etc. The other suggestion was to have a picnic at Lake Yaeger in Litchfield which we did years ago.

I am sure other possibilities exist. Currently, the thought is toward the Motorheads museum, food and RT66. But I am open to other suggestions. Maybe a second tour later in the fall? In January, Popeye the cartoon sailor celebrated his first publication. He is honored in Chester Illinois. Not much else in Chester, but it flew across my radar screen so I mention it. Your thoughts are appreciated.

The Target date for the SMCC/PCCA Get together is May 24, 2025. This is Memorial Day weekend if that makes a difference to anyone. Graduations also occur in May which may play a role for some.

In Memorium

PCCA Member Richard Warren passed away the week of January 15, 2025. Richard married Doris Painter back in 1961, she passed away May 13, 2018. 56 ½ years of marriage. Richard held many jobs over the years but his longest was as an employee of Norge/Fedders Corp. in Effingham, Illinois. He retired from this firm in February, 2001 after 38 1/2 years. Richard and Doris enjoyed the great outdoors and traveled extensively during their retirement years as they toured many states on their favorite ride, a Honda Gold Wing trike. Richard also enjoyed gardening and making lovely flower beds with his wife, wood working and restoring various pieces of machinery. Richard was also a licensed Amateur Radio enthusiast for over 62 years, he was first licensed in 1962. He enjoyed "rag chewing" many hours with fellow Amateur operators around the world.

Richard is survived by three daughters, Doris Hall of Mattoon, Illinois, Rose Seaman of Stewardson, Illinois and Anna (Dave) Ballinger of Trowbridge, Illinois. Also surviving is one sister, Mary Teel of Albuquerque, New Mexico; five -grandchildren; and six Great-grandchildren; plus several nieces and nephews. He also leaves his very close and beloved Bassett Hound, "Ms. Tippy".

Memorials in his memory may be left to the donor's choice.

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. January 11, 2025

President Tim Mahler open the meeting just after 2:00pm with the pledge of allegiance. There were 8 PCCA members present. Not bad considering the foot of snow outside the museum doors.

The Call to recognize dedicated drivers (those who arrive at the meeting in a Corvair) was zero – see note above. Mike Hall still had several of his Corvairs on exhibit in the Museum. The secretary report for November was printed in the December newsletter. No meeting was held at the December Christmas get-together. No changes were noted.

Glen Rittenhouse gave the treasurer report - Checking account starting balance 12/14/2024 was \$4,286.78, 4 dues were received totalling \$81.00. Expenses for President/Secretary/Editor appreciation gift card was \$106.95, reimbursement for membership directory (to Mike Hall) was \$66.62. Ending balance checking account was \$4,194.21. Savings has the \$5.00 and cash on hand was \$170.13 bringing the total Checking/Savings/Cash ending balance as of Jan. 11, 2025 to \$4,369.34. Report was approved by the membership present.

Chris Hall, Membership Chair, had to work. Tim noted that PCCA renewals were coming in slowly again this year. Will do another shout out in the newsletter.

Old business: Programs - Friend of Joe Ori is a snow bird, will ask when he gets back, may be a May program if he is willing. March? No ideas yet. Refreshments today Jim and Bealuh Collier (thank you) Rittenhouse's volunteered for March.

New Business: Tours? Tim is thinking Late September / early October would be a good time frame. Where? Some ideas were floated, no solid consensus. Tom Curry mentioned the Wheels of Time. May be a nice second tour?

Museum updates: Mike Hall gave a brief update on the museum. New board for the CPF created with the new set of CPF By-Laws is smaller and only indirectly linked to CORSA. New board is wanting to make a visit/tour this winter/spring. Some rumblings about relocating the museum back to Michigan.

The meeting, was finally, called to a close with a motion by Jim Collier.

Refreshments provided by Beulah and Jim Collier.

Mike Hall won the 50/50 drawing

And Beulah Collier was presented her PCCA enthusiast of the year (female) appreciation gift card. The editor still has one for second place enthusiast Bernie Allen.

Glen Rittenhouse follows sales on Bring-a-trailer. Last month he spotted two Corvairs listed on the site.

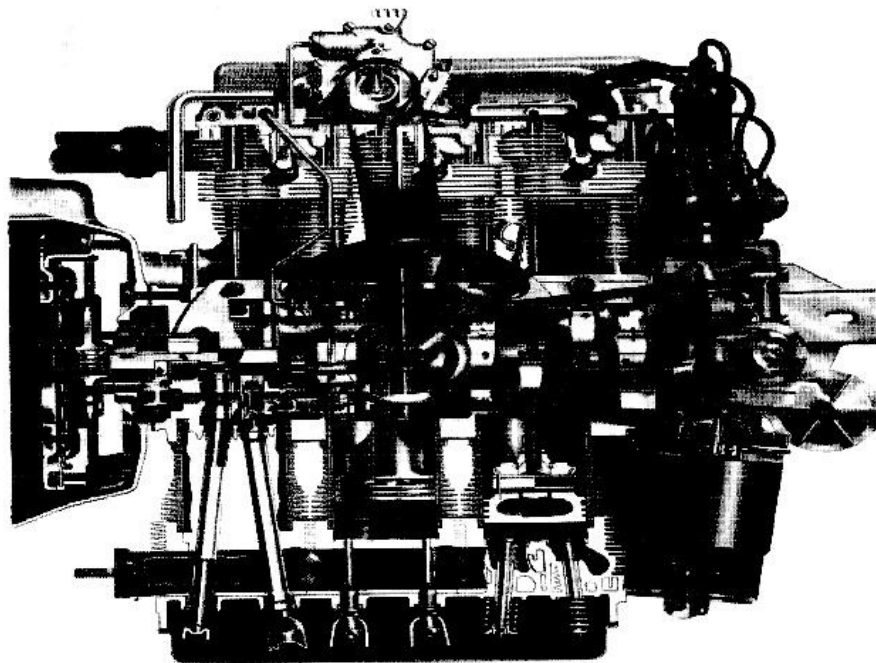


1966 Corsa Coupe, 4speed. Sold fo \$10,750
Nice car, buyer got a good deal



1962 Monza Spyder Convertible. The condition was only fair but it is a first edition spyder convert. Sold for \$10,900

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