

## Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 454  
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

# The Flat Six

November 2024

### 2024 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

|                    |                |                        |                |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Mike Hall (2024)   | (217) 494-7105 | Chris Hall (2024)      | (217) 691-6529 |
| Jim Collier (2024) | (217) 972-2285 | Brian Nicholson (2025) | (217) 891-0808 |

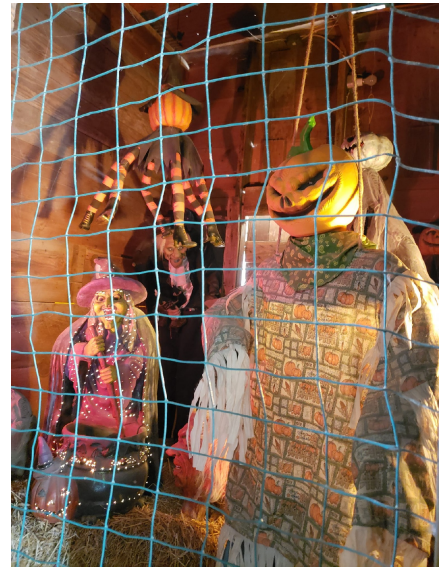
## From the Prez

Time for elections – PCCA election that is. The slate of candidates and ballot is part of this newsletter. Unless someone else volunteers, there are no contested positions. You may send you completed ballot to Chris Hall or bring it to the meeting to be counted. I’ll have a few at the meeting if you forget.

The tour to Casey was a lot of fun. I enjoyed hearing a lot of Bill’s stories from his softball playing days. Locating the Big Things in the little town of Casey was equally fun. Lunch was excellent thanks to Mike Hall’s timely suggestion. I ate too much. So the kids in the group and the supporting adults (Chris Hall and family and Tim’s extended family) went walking through the maze of things at the Arthur are Great Pumkin Patch.

I don’t have a specific program for November – so if you have an idea, please let me know. December is the Christmas Get together at the MCL in Springfield. Another chance to eat too much.

I expect the first meeting in 2025 to be in January at the Corvair Museum. January is PCCA Anniversary month. PCCA has been meeting for 48 years and still going strong.



Part of the haunted corn crib at the pumkin patch

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.

November 9, 2024 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm. LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm

December 14, 2024 **PCCA Christmas get together, luncheon. MCL Springfield.** Located at 2151 Wabash 1:00pm til 4? Directions: Take the IL4, Veterans Pkwy exit off I-72 and head North (right). Turn right at the intersection with White Oaks Mall (Wabash) Turn LEFT at the first light AFTER the mall. There is a left turn lane.

January 11, 2025 PCCA Anniversary month. January marks PCCAs 48<sup>th</sup> year  
**PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm.**  
**LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm

For more Corvair Events Check the calendar on the CORSA Web site: [www.corvair.org](http://www.corvair.org)

Restaurant for Christmas Party: MCL in Springfield on Wabash Avenue. Private room, 1:00pm



These pumpkins had a blue color

# PCCA Tour to Casey Illinois

It was a wonderful day in the neighborhood. A warm sunny day with a slight breeze was ideal for a walk around Casey Illinois looking at all the wonderful Big things in the little town. I asked my sister Debby, if she and the kids wanted to go too. They did, so we took the comfortable blue SUV.

Driving to the first meet up location in Mt Zion, just south of Decatur, we slowed down a bit. We had caught up with the Shriner Flag Car. A nice convertible driven by Mike Hall - CORSA and PCCA board member and Corvair Museum Curator. I found out later, (had to ask), Mike's passenger was Diane Osman, the museum's marketing coordinator. We met Chris Hall and family (Kayla, Hannah and Ella) in Mt Zion and after Mike refueled his Corvair with tasty premium fuel, we proceeded to Casey.

On the way to the Illinois Softball Hall of fame museum, our second meet up spot, Debby commented that a black car had joined our little caravan. That would be Jim and Beulah Collier in their nice (freshly repaired) Corvair Monza coupe – in a dark Maroon, not black. They were a distance back.

At the Softball museum we were met by Bill and Thelma Pierson and Tom and Carlene Curry. Bill is an inducted member of the Illinois Softball Hall of Fame, hence the main reason I wanted to meet at this museum. Bill's hall plaque was on display in the center of the hall of fame section of the museum. The other half contained many other softball artifacts including a bat with a curved handle. The museum also contained a large section devoted to the ladies softball game.

Outside the museum was a giant bat for photos and one with face cutout to be a catcher or umpire. I think Thelma got one of Bill as a catcher, the position that earn him that Hall of Fame status.



The Colliers arrive at the Museum

Speaking of picture taking, several tourists to Casey, not with our group, took numerous pictures of the Flag Car and the Maroon Coupe. Those Corvairs easily drew them in. The tourists admired the Corvairs then apparently went back downtown to sightsee the town's notable Big things.

After everyone seemed to have viewed the museum, the tour group also ventured downtown to find all the Big things in the little town of Casey. Well, we did have to drag Bill a bit. Bill knew so many of the other players, team organizers, and sponsors he seemed to have a story for every plaque and picture



Chasing the Flag car



Flag Corvair at Softball Museum



Bill Pierson reading one of many plaques



on the wall. I exaggerate. However the stories were interesting and this was a great time to hear them – and some more later over dinner. Hopefully, we will get more opportunities to hear more stories from Bill in the future.

Back to the tour, it was a short trip from the museum to downtown Casey where most of the Big things in the small town could be found. We parked on one end of Main street and proceeded to walk toward the first Big item. It was hard to miss. The world’s largest mailbox. You could take steps up to the box and walk to the front for a grand view from about 20 feet up in the air. Several members had their pictures taken from down below.



We then migrated to the big wooden shoes inside the candy store. Yes, we all bought some candy. I did refrain from buying any ice cream - it was still before lunch (like that really matters). Out the back door through the ally we eventually passed by the giant mouse trap. Then inside the rock store we found a giant jigsaw puzzle and large rocking horse.

Next up was the giant yard stick (is it a yard stick if it measures 20 feet?). The sound of the worlds largest chime greeted our ears by this point. Visitors could pull the cord that rang the chime. Further down the street, was the world’s largest teeter totter. Yes, you could walk the length of the teeter totter, and several member of our group did just that. However, I did not see the teeter totter balance. it moved, but I don’t think any group had enough on the far end to overcome the hydraulic pistons.



Across the street was the world’s largest rocking chair – it towered over the buildings. Along this side of the street, we saw the formerly largest knitting needles and crochet hook and the Largest barber pole, large pencil and the large bird cage. Inside another store was a large pokemon ball. Of course, several members had their picture taken inside the bird cage, including the love birds Bill and Thelma Pierson.

At this point the tour guide asked everyone where they wanted to eat. It was almost noon and he noted hearing a few belly rumblings, including his. Mike Hall suggested dining in Casey at the Richards Farm Resturant. Wowser. That was a very good suggestion. The food was excellent. Outside we found a very large pitchfork which was not on my map of Casey attractions. We also got to drive by the large golf tee and the large bookworm on our way to the restaurant.



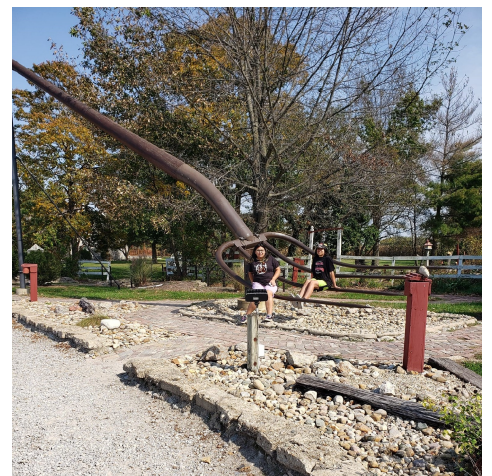
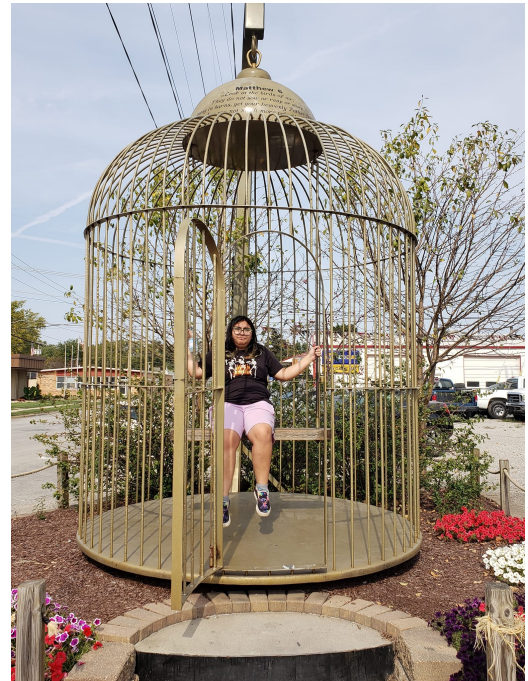
Post dinner, the group brought up somewhat. The Piersons opting to head south toward home versus going another hour north. Mike and Diane headed home as well. The Colliers had already departed to attend a birthday party. The kids wanted to go to the Pumpkin patch south of Arthur. Arthurs’s arts, crafts and knick knacks weren’t of much interest to them. Meanwhile Tom Curry said we have enough pumpkins so downtown Arthur was their interest.

So the group with kids (Chris and Tim) went to the Pumpkin patch, and the adults only (the Currys) group went to downtown Arthur. Both groups had options to visit one or more Bakeries which is part of Arthur’s reputation.

The pumpkin patch did not disappoint. A very large layout of corn, sunflower and other mazes plus pumpkin “exhibits”, animals (goats, three little pigs, chickens and turkeys) and a haunted corn crib and other interesting exhibits. Even at a speedy pace, it took over an hour to walk through it all. Not sure how well the Halls did because we walked though the patch at our own pace. I did visit the Homestead Bakery before leaving - and enjoyed the fantastic aroma but didn’t purchase anything this trip. The cinnamon bread was already sold out and I didn’t see any angle food cakes that we have purchased in the past. Oh well. Always the next time.

It was well past 3pm when my sister Debby and kids decided to head home. It was a fun enjoyable day. Seeing all the other Corvair people made it even better. We had 14 people touring parts of Casey, 10 adults and 4 youngsters. I think we all enjoyed finding the Big things in that little town.

We need to do more of these fun little adventures. Metropolis (Superman) or Chester (Popeye) Illinois come to mind. Course, there is also a revisit to Louisiana or Hannibal Missouri. Hmm.



# 2025 PCCA Official Ballot

Summary of proposed by-law change on this ballot - Allows for bi-monthly meets vs requiring monthly meetings. Proposal is to meet every other month PLUS tours, outings and Christmas gathering.

By-law change wording changes are below

## SECTION 3: MEETINGS

General Membership Meetings:

From:

Meetings shall be held every month at a designated location, date and time as set by the board and published in the Club newsletter.

To:

Meetings shall be held every other month at a designated location, date and time as set by the board and published in the Club newsletter. The December get-together is an additional gathering date.

By-Law change     Approve                       Disapprove

President             Tim Mahler                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President     Jim Allen                               Other \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer             Glen Rittenhouse                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary     Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Board of Directors

One Year Term     Jim Collier                       Paul Beck                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

Two Year Term     Shelby Berta                               Other \_\_\_\_\_

Bring ballot to meeting, or email choices to Chris Hall - [cmhvair@aol.com](mailto:cmhvair@aol.com) Who will get them counted

## Ten Year Ago in the November PCCA newsletter

The feature article was the Trip to Branson Missouri for the Great Plains Round-up held Oct 1-4, 2014. At least 8 PCCA members came home with a trophy including Bill Pierson, Jim Allen, Mike Hall, Bud Lauback, Dave Wilson, Paul Beck and Richard Boxdorfer. Oh, Rita Rittenhouse won an award in the Dice Run rally. Jim and Bill both earned high gold scores in concours, I think coming in 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> respectively. There are very good concours gentlemen. My count had 28 PCCA members there.

Paul Beck had an overheating problem caused by a failed thermostat that was replaced in the parking lot in another on-site tech session. A total of 11 PCCA Corvairs were there. 77 Corvairs in all.

Also in the newsletter was a story on the SMCC/PCCA picnic held in October to avoid the summer heat. Alas, it was a bit chilly that year. 22 members, 5 Corvairs. Tim was off running the Chicago Marathon where cool weather helped his finish time (back then I was speedier, finishing in 3 hours 18 ½ minutes.

# Corvair Preservation Foundation

Posted to CPF facebook page back on October 1, 2024 by Eva McGuire

“Happy "Corvair Heritage Day" as we celebrate the day the 1960 Corvair was introduced to the general public on Oct. 2, 1959. October 2nd is also "National Drive Your Corvair Day," and we hope there will be plenty of Corvairs taking to the road today. If your Corvair is already in storage slumber, find your favorite Corvair t-shirt to wear to celebrate this special day. Please share your photos of Corvair(s) on the road in the comment section below. Enjoy the drive...air-cooled style!”

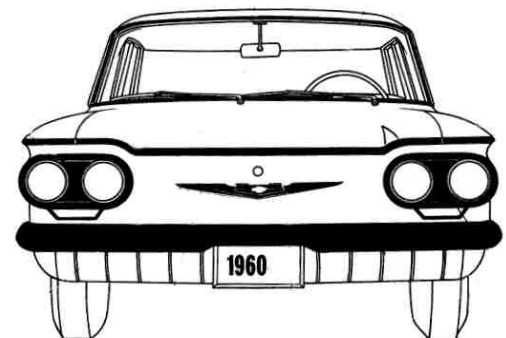
In the Comments – Jess and Sharon Rogers posted a picture of their grandchild next to HER Corvair  
“We no longer own any Corvairs, our granddaughter is the proud owner of our last one. This was taken at a show in Arkansas”



I could not find out what group Steve and Lynn Yeomans were a part but it was a sizable group. Brian Nicholson, center in the red hat, was once again the tour guide.

## Parts For Sale

Most of you know that I sold my 61 Monza (Gary Biggs car). I have lots of parts that I need to sell. Some new, some used and some of Clarks parts. I do not have a list yet. Any one need parts give me a call. I also have some Corvair literature, parts books, Corvair related books and Communiques back to 1971. I would like to sell all at once. Call 618-534-2495 or email [billpier39@yahoo.com](mailto:billpier39@yahoo.com)



hmm. I noted that 10 years ago, Bill was cleaning out his garage then too. “A lot of used parts, mostly for earlies, some for lates.” Same contact info. I wonder if he has some of those parts yet?

Mike Dawson always has good tips for us Corvair folk. I borrowed the article from the archives on the HOACA website under tech articles. This is number 130 printed in HOACA newsletter in the late 2019. With winter approaching, it seemed appropriate. I worry most about window defogging. Need to see the road.. Thanks Mike for great tech tips.

## The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

### Heater Blower Motors

The direct air heater motor for all Corvairs can have glitches and can be improved on.

Improvements:

Replace an original motor with one of the later styles such as: AC 15-87, Four Seasons 35587, or VDO PM102. There are others; all Corvair vendors sell them and they will all be faster than the original.

Replace a loose blower Cage: VDO BW9302 (Use blue Loctite on the set screw). Again, all vendors sell versions of them.

Use of the high speed motor requires some checking of your old system and can benefit from an upgrade; on all but late model A/C cars you can install a relay that will connect the battery directly to the motor in high speed mode. This eliminates connectors, the switch and wiring from causing voltage drops and lower speeds.

Larry Claypool has a step by step article in the CORSA Tech Guide on page 20 of Electrical and Speedometer. The relay is NAPA AR102 or O'Reilly BWD R353.

Perform PM on your blower motor switch by carefully taking it apart, cleaning and lubing.

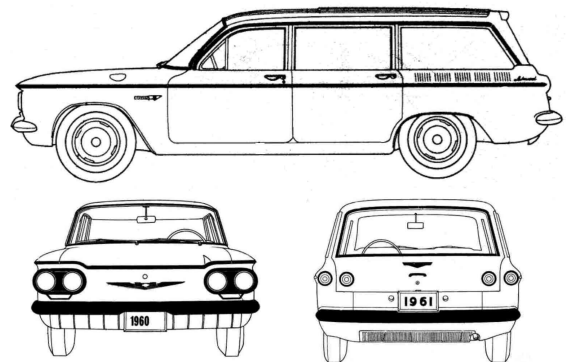
Glitches Caused By Old Age:

The heater boxes above the transaxle can lose their ground to the body and lower blower speeds. This is worsened if you install a higher speed motor. To test, hook a voltmeter between the blower motor housing and a good body ground. If there is meter movement (or digital reading) with the motor on high then the ground is poor. You can also turn the motor on high and hook a jumper between the motor housing and a good body ground. If the motor speeds up, make the ground permanent.

If you have the motor out, make sure there is no rodent nesting present in the adjacent duct work and inspect the blower cage for a loose fit where the steel is crimped onto the alloy center.

If you install a high speed blower motor and do not use a relay, be sure and install a quality 25 amp fuse. The motor will surge to 16.5 when cold and then run at 9-10. I recently installed two different 20 amp fuses (Made in China) that failed quickly with less than 20 amps. Using a 25 amp of the same supplier has worked so far. Also, to check a fuse, use a test light on both ends when installed or use an ohm meter. I have had several fuses with a loose filament in the end caps that visually appeared good.

If you have a late model with A/C, you should at least clean and lube both the blower switch and the mode switch. I easily installed a relay in the back of my 65 A/C car that controls the compressor clutch and the idle speed up solenoid. It takes a few amps off of the blower switch.



CORVAIR LAKEWOOD

Mike's preventive maintenance series included a copy of the CORSA Tech Guide article.



**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 Notes for October 12, 2024**

A PCCA meeting during the October Casey tour did not happen. There were enough members and officers for a Quorum but the president (me) simply forgot to call one to order. There was no new business to discuss - except for the upcoming slate of officers in the newsletter. The treasurer's report is unchanged from August as no new revenue no expenses were recorded in the last 60 days – actually none since May 18, 2024. The editor has some minor expenses (\$20 or so) to report but they have not been submitted for reimbursement yet.

The next meeting will be November 9 at the Corvair Museum at 2:00 pm.

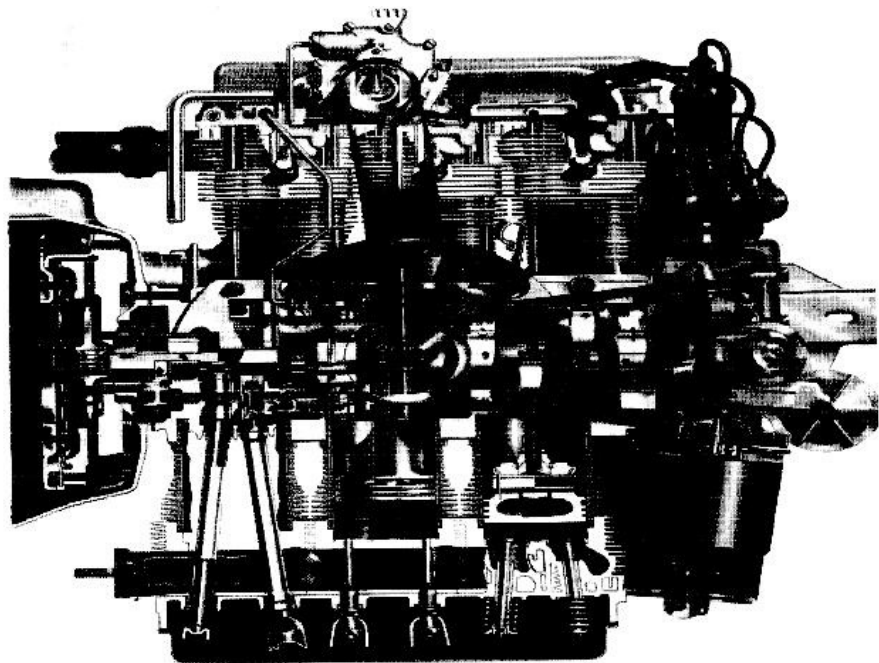


Mike Hall's 1965 blue convertible with white interior and his blue sedan with white top. Both could be available to join your stable of Corvairs. Mike may have others too, he has a large stable of Corvairs including a 1962 Spyder coupe and a red late model coupe. Contact Mike if you are looking for a ready for show Corvair (or maybe



even one that is a project, in one stage of completion or another). Mike has contacts with other Corvair owners who may just that vehicle you have been dreaming to own – and more importantly to drive.

# The Flat Six



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