

## Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 454  
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

# The Flat Six

September 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

It's time for the Secretary of State Auto Show. I've entered my not really show worthy Corsa just because I could. The show has moved off the streets into the parking lot adjacent to the Stratton office building, and Illinois State Museum - Entrance is at Spring and Edwards street in front of the Museum. PCCA only had 4 Corvairs at the show last year - and 6 classes. We need more Corvairs entered. I understand Mike Hall has a few show worthy cars that are very drivable. Pic later in the newsletter. Speaking of problem solver Mike Hall. I asked for the board for help in finding a restaurant for the Christmas get-together. Mike came through, once again. MCL on Wabash in Springfield. Reservation been made and we're good to go.

Elections are just around the corner – PCCA Elections. PCCA needs new board members - 3 to replace the current members who have served the past two year. I am hoping to talk the current officers into serving one more year. Board position is usually light duty, attend a meeting or two early or maybe just respond to an email from the president asking for advice. The best part of the position is being able to tell others that you are on a Board of Directors.

PCCA will attempt a meeting at the car show around 1 pm near the Corvairs. Need 5 members present to call it a meeting, and the weather needs to be nice. The State visitor center is across the street from the car field. It's serving as registration location and likely awards too. It has AC and regular restrooms. The capital building will also be open for tours and also has restrooms and AC.



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.

September 7, 2024 **SOS Auto Show, downtown Springfield 8:00am to 3:30pm**  
**PCCA Meeting 1:00pm. At the show.**

Construction around capital complex has moved the show field to the parking lot between the Illinois State Museum and the Straten Building. Spring and Edwards. Capital Building is still open for tours.

To Park together, Meet up is at the Walmart on South 6th street (I-55 exit 92, 6th street )  
**Will depart Walmart at 8:00 am**

Sept 27-29 International RT 66 Mother Road Festival and Car Show. - Downtown Springfield  
Friday night Cruise from Captial City Shopping to Downtown

Sept 27-29 Saturday - Main Car Show Day - Bands, Burn out contest, more (\$40 til 9-25)  
Great Plains Corvair Round-up – Cruzin-54. Mid-Continent Corvair Assn  
Host hotel: Red Roof Inn 6815 W Kellogg (US 54) Wichita KS 67209 877-843-7663

October 5, 2024 State Police Heritage Car Show

October 12, 2024 **PCCA may try again to tour Casey and Arthur Illinois.**  
Tim is working on the tour route and meeting places.  
Expect to start at the Rochester Community building between 9 and 10 am.  
It's an hour to Arthur which I suspect will be the first stop.

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. Is a left turn lane.

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

Glen Rittenhouse follows “bringatrailer.com” results and has reported these over the last month. (1)

This nice 64 4-door sedan was bid to \$8,500



## July 22-26, 2024 – CORSA International Convention

The “Not Bill’s Car” revisited. The editor thought he recognized the VERY NICE 1961 coupe as Bill Pierson’s car but the license plate was for the wrong state. Jim Allen then Bill himself explained things to me.

From Bill via email.

“The picture in the newsletter WAS my car. But it now belongs to Titus Stewart. I am without a Corvair for the first time in 50 years. I most likely will not have another. Concours is more work than fun and the Monza has accomplished everything but winning the Mitchell. After having so many Senior cars and not winning the Mitchell, I figure it ain't gonna happen.

I have met many fine people over the years I've been in CORSA. I have made friends( and maybe an enemy or two) from coast to coast. Most of the folks I started my Corvair journey with have either passed or have retired. So I sold my MONZA to a Corvair guy who will do it well. No regrets here, only memories of really good times and really good people.”



Bill Pierson

And this from Rob Landers

“Jeanne and I were on the way home when I saw your email. Weekend was busy and I just recalled your email after seeing the newsletter.

Convention was well done. Dinner Under the Wings at the USAF Museum was AWESOME. The Concours was held a block down the street in the Carillon National Park where the Wright Air Museum resides. Great venue and very picturesque setting for Concours. And lots of shade trees which were very welcome!!

Autocross was about 15 miles away at a paved oval short track. Surface was good and the local SCCA laid out a very good course.

As for me personally, the Yenko scored over 94 points which was due to new 15” Minilite wheels and BFG Radial T/A’s that replaced 25-year old tires and similar rims. I also worked on cleaning better and had the interior looking really good. Not much more I can do to improve the paint and trim without doing a re-paint and restoration so I think it’s about as good as it’s going to get.

The Yenko was running really, really well and I had almost a 10 second advantage over others in the IS-5 class



Rob on course sporting blue painted solid steel wheels with some sticky tires - autocross mode.



Rob has the Yenko set up well. Nice cornering.

after the first 2 runs in the autocross. However, I did manage to cut another 1.5 seconds on my 3rd pass but I thought I had some turn cut-out that hurt my time. I found out on my 4th run that my gas gauge which was showing 1/2 tank was actually empty as I coasted through the finish line about 10 seconds slower than my 3rd run. An easy fix as I had my gas can in the pre-grid and had put some in to get weight balance but didn't realize I was running on fumes before it was too late to add more. Oh well, still won my class by more than 5 seconds so not much to complain about other than not posting a lower time to compare to the faster classes.



Staging before the start line.

“Mike and Philip Kost trophied in the Rally and Philip trophied in the autocross but they had to retire early as the clutch was slipping really bad and their car developed a mysterious noise that didn't sound good. I think it was a loose flywheel.

Kent Goddard's car made Seniors in the Concours and he autocrossed it, too.

Trevor Monninger Concours car scored well and he took first place in his class at the autocross in his other Corvair.”

Rob Landers

# Happy 74th SOS Vehicle Show

In 2024, the show is featuring the 1964 Mustang on the special event license plate.

**Plus: Antique Tractor Class:** An antique tractor class will again be showcased. All tractor enthusiasts are encouraged to participate at no cost. First-, second- and third-place trophies will be awarded.

**Free Swap Meet:** Swap meet offers free 20' x 20' space on Capitol Avenue. For more information, contact [intergovernmentalaffairs@ilsos.gov](mailto:intergovernmentalaffairs@ilsos.gov) or call 312-793-8876

## Corvair Classes – SIX.

- CR-1 Class: Corvairs (open) (tops up for judging) .....1960–1964
- CR-2 Class: Corvairs (closed, includes station wagons) .....1960–1964
- CR-3 Class: Corvairs (open) (tops up for judging) .....1965–1969
- CR-4 Class: Corvairs (closed) .....1965–1969
- CR-5 Class: Corvairs (racing and/or modified) .....1960–1969
- CR-6 Class: Corvairs Rampside and Greenbriar .....all years

## Information and Directions

SOS Show has six classes for Corvairs - open, closed, early late, modified/Race and FCs. Bring lawn chairs. Downtown Springfield has good eateries, possibly a food truck or two as well. To park together, we will need enter the show as a group.

Pre Show Meeting location: South **Sixth Street Super Walmart** off I-55 exit 93 (6<sup>th</sup> Street exit) **ready to depart for the show at 8:00 am.** We will head north on 6<sup>th</sup> street to Lawrence avenue, turning left. After 6 blocks we will turn right on Spring street, just past the Vinegar Hill Shopping Mall, and 2 block past 2<sup>nd</sup> street. This will take us to the Illinois State museum and the V parking lot on the left where the show is located.

**Entry Form is Online** – easy to fill out and print format, Show is Sept 7, 2024. NO LATE Registrations. [https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/iga13.pdf](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/iga13.pdf)

# August PCCA Meeting

Pictures by Shelby Berta

Well, it was a beautiful day but not many PCCA members attended. The State Fair was still in full swing and I'm sure many other summer activities impacted everyone's decisions on what to do.

The good news is Joe Ori arrived in a wonderful 1964 Monza convertible. It was good to see both the Corvair and Joe. Tim arrived in his trusty 1966 coupe Fitch wannabe. And used the bar entrance to allow everyone else to enter the museum while we waited for assistant curator Brian Nicholson to arrive (he was mowing grass, dang pesty home ownership duties).

Also in attendance was star PCCA photographer Shelby Berta and husband Bill. And of course, Larry Tucker who is working on getting his Corvair back on the road. This month's todo was rebuilding and re-syncing his carburetors. Brian was able to offer some helpful hints in this regard.

Before the meeting got started, two visitors arrived at the front door. While traveling north and south on I-55, they had been meaning to stop by the museum, but usually didn't have the extra time. Today they did. Tim guided them around the museum pointing out a few of the highlights – the cut-away power trains, the stretch limo, the Super Monza, the body only 1969 as well as the last known surviving (1969) Corvair, #5999. They appreciated the tour and the museum.

Then Tim started the brief meeting. Big items on the agenda were programs, PCCA Elections and a need for a location for the Christmas get-together. A location has been found - MCL in Springfield, Thanks Mike. Joe has a possibility for speaker, has to ask. Which leaves the Elections. PCCA primarily needs volunteers to serve on the board, really an easy job. The usual members handle the details, we just need the board to give us suggestions to help us make the club as enjoyable as possible.

A tour to Arthur/Casey Illinois is still in the works – October. The SOS Show is September. Should be a great show. Come by and say hello even if you haven't entered a car/Corvair.

And OH. The Museum has a "Yenko Stinger" or at least the body of a Yenko. It lacks the official Yenko VIN Tags but it believed to have been tagged as a Yenko in a former life - Stage III. It's in race car shape – that is, it has a lot of patina, lacks a powertrain and probably a lot of other things, but it still is interesting to look at.

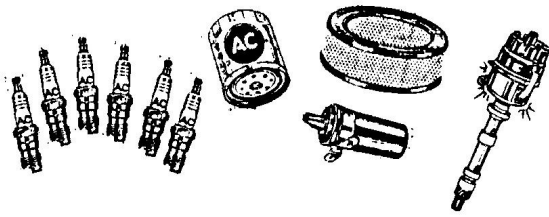


Joe Ori nice 1964 Convertible. Nice color



The Yenko Stinger a "tag" car





# 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)



## PCCA Elections

Please consider volunteering to be an officer or board member. The club is in need of new people to lead us for the next year or three. The current board members, except Brian Nicholson, have reached their term limits per the PCCA by-laws. Send Tim an email or a text message or give him a call. Please. 217-793-3821 email [prairiecapital@corvair.org](mailto:prairiecapital@corvair.org) The Elections will be held in November for the 2025 calendar year. The Slate should be presented at the October Meeting. The ballot in the November Newsletter, as a separate email to members or both.

A bylaws change may also be on the ballot concerning the number of PCCA meetings to be held each year. With declining attendance, aging membership and difficulty in finding new programs for the meetings, the thought of reducing the number meetings per year is appealing. Still being discussed by the board. First suggestion is meeting every other month plus road trips plus Christmas get-together. The latter two typically do not have a business meeting.

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 190 printed in HOACA newsletter in the Spring.. Thanks Mike for great tech tips.

## The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

### Disaster Prevention and Trip Checks (It Is Dust Off Time)!

Since you are reading this, you must own a 55+ year old Corvair; congratulations on a great choice. However, along with the pride and joy comes responsibility. You may have stored your baby all winter or maybe you might be behind on preventive maintenance, in either case the following may be useful as a guide to start the new season. Beginning with disaster prevention:

- If you have not replaced all of the steel brake lines in your car you should do the "stomp test" in your garage. Hit the brake pedal harder than you might do in an emergency. If this passes, then push and hold the pedal with minimum pressure, checking for a slowly sinking pedal which would indicate a bad master cylinder.
- All 164 CI engines should have a harmonic balancer, and just like flywheels, they will come apart with the outer ring quickly cutting a slot in the oil filter. If yours has been in service for decades, keeping an eye on it seems a poor choice when you can change it and take that off the list of things to look at every time you stop.

The following is a list of items I suggest checking before taking a trip (or after buying a car). Remember that even long trips are usually less than the mileage between a single oil change. Serviced properly, your Corvair will cruise to all of this summer's events and back. And be happier for it!

1. All Corvairs roll on four sets of wheel bearings and they all can be repacked. Check & lube the 2 or 4 U-joints. Check front end parts and lube the fittings (install any missing ones on the car idler arm or FC lever).
2. Have tires balanced and aligned if necessary. Before trips, check all five tire pressures and tighten lug nuts with the tool you use to change a tire.
3. Check or change all fluids: oil, transmission, differential, brake fluid, washer fluid and battery level (if possible). Synthetic Powerglide fluid is a very good idea, and with regard to oil, remember that our air cooled engines run hotter and have greater engine tolerances than newer cars. A higher number viscosity oil such as 20W50 or SAE30 is recommended for mid summer in the midwest. Castrol has a new 20W50 Classic oil which has higher levels of zinc and a good ZDDP rating.
4. Check the oil pressure sending unit and change this inexpensive item if you do not know its history.
5. Check the engine tune, and include cleaning the crankcase vents. Check the breaker plate in the distributor, lube the distributor cam and inspect the electrical connections such as the primary coil wires, alternator wires (no generators allowed) and multi-connectors. Check carburetor inlet nuts for leaks.
6. Check the battery date, cable ends, ground cable mount and check the overall charging system with the lights and accessories on maximum.
7. REMOVE the belt and check the condition of the entire length. Spin all three pulleys and lube anything questionable. Tools are available to grease the fan and idler bearing.
8. Check all running lights, check the fuse block for rust, check the large multi-connector in early model engine compartments on the left side (by-pass the 10 gauge wire), and check warning light operation.
9. If air conditioned, blow out the condenser, check the mounts, the belt, check the evaporator drain. Remove the lower shrouds for better cooling if you need it.
10. Be sure to check a mechanical fuel pump mount, it can work loose. To be safe with the increasing ethanol addition you should have a new version of the mechanical pump or an electric pump. If you already have an electric pump, check the pre-filter.

11. Lube your late clutch cable ball and look for frayed cable between the two pulleys under the dash on early models – also check parking cables in the same area and lube the parking brake ratchet.
12. Check brakes; wheel cylinders, shoes, master cylinder (push rod leak under the dash), and most important, the steel and rubber lines. As noted above, give your car the “stomp test” in the driveway. Steel lines above the gas tank and next to the transaxle are the most prone to rust, with tunnel lines next.
13. Be aware of any speedometer error you may have and know your oil consumption rate. Test drive 15 minutes on the highway on a hot day, pack up and head out!

Spares and tools? My favorites would be a belt, a new fuel pump, one rocker arm with pushrod and valve cover gasket, one 30 amp fuse, a set of points and condenser (if equipped), oil as required, tools for these items, and a CORSA Travel Roster (Cell phone and credit card are assumed to be permanent contemporary companions).

There are other tech articles in this series that could help you address many of the above items.



## **PCCA meeting Notes for August 10, 2024**

The August PCCA meeting was called to order by President Tim Mahler after 2:00pm (Tim gave a museum tour first and everyone waited patiently, thank you). There were 6 members present including the president. A quorum was met.

This was the first meeting in several months. The Secretary report, when last written was printed in the Flat Six. Tim had the Treasurer report supplied to him by Treasurer Glen Rittenhouse. There were no expenses nor revenue since May 18, 2024. The ending balance in checking was \$4,398.23, cash on hand was 162.63, savings was \$5. The ending balance all accounts was \$4,565.86. The Report was approved by those present.

Old Business: The SOS Show is September 7, 2024 between the State Museum and Stratten Building. The Tour to Casey/Arthur is being reviewed for October 2024. Tim is inclined to start in Arthur, with lunch as a Arthur eatery. Will need to re-visit Arthur before September meeting. A location for the Christmas Get-together is still needed. Last Year the Bertas reserved Witts End in Taylorville. (Tim asked the board after the fair and Board Member Mike Hall was able to reserve the MCL resturant in Springfield.)

New Business: PCCA Elections – need volunteers to serve on the board.

Museum news : Latest addition is what is being called a tag Yenko Stinger. It is mostly just the body, in pre-restoration condition. Nice patina. The CPF Board has new appointees and leadership. The CPF is responsible for the Corvair Museum.

Tim brought refreshments – old classics - twinkees and chocolate swiss rolls. And Pink Lemonade – it is fair week.



**Prairie Capital Corvair Association (PCCA) Membership Form**

**January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024**

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



Mike Hall’s 1962 Spyder – could it be yours???



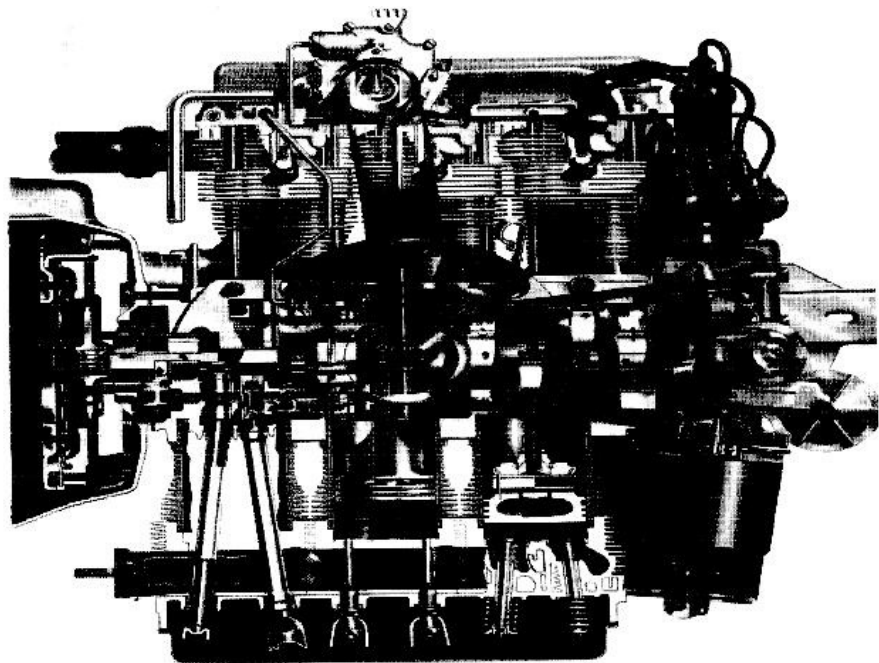
Or maybe a blue convertible with white interior?



One never knows what is Available until your ask  
 These four are Mike Halls,  
 Show ready and they could be for sale, maybe. Gotta ask Mike



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