

## **Prairie Capital Corvair Association**

**P.O. Box 954  
Springfield, Illinois 62705**

# The Flat Six

December 2021

### 2021 Officers

President -Chris Hall	(217) 691-6529	Vice-President Larry Jahn	(217) 283-7365
Secretary-Tim Mahler	(217) 793-3824	Treasurer-Jim Allen	(309) 361-5351
Membership-Chris Hall	(217) 691-6529	Historian/Inventory	
FlatSix Editor Tim Mahler	(217) 793-3824	Email	PrairieCapital@corvair.org

### Board of Directors

Mike Hall (2021)	(217) 494-7105	Sandy Myers (2022)	(217) 624-4400
Glen Rittenhouse (2021)	(309) 472-3882	Brian Nicholson (2021)	(217) 891-0808

## From the Prez

Greetings fellow PCCA Members!

Here it is the end of the year already! My wife & I had a little discussion last night about Christmas. As we pulled into the driveway I stated it feels like I just watched all my favorite Christmas movies. I got my Christmas lights put up on the house this past weekend. I have not turned them on yet. I'll be waiting to take down our inflatable turkey later this week. Speaking of Turkey I'd like to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving! Though we are finished with Business for our 2021 calendar year I would like to thank all our Club Officers & Board Members for their service this year! For 2022 I would appreciate a volunteer for the Secretary position. I would personally volunteer my wife but, I know the repercussions of doing so. Be thinking of what you'd like to do next year! I'm personally looking forward to next year! We will be looking to do a road tour or two. "Public safety restrictions dependent" It'd be nice to get a calendar together for everyone's local car shows for next year! I wouldn't mind taking in a Peoria Chief's game. I hope to see everyone at our Christmas party on Saturday December 11th at Motörhead's! Maybe we can get a group photo in front of the Corvair rear end! If you are unable to attend I'd like to wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!! Happy Christmas shopping also! Always remember "Tis the season to be Jolly." Membership books have been printed. Now to find time to get to the post office and get them sent out.



God Bless!  
Chris Hall, PCCA President.

# Calendar of Events - 2021

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.



## Events - 2021 / 2022

**December 11, 2021 PCCA Christmas Get-together Noon/1:00pm - 4:00pm**  
**Location:** Motorheads 600 Toronto Rd, Springfield IL - just off I-55  
PCCA has reserved the meeting room at Motorheads for the Christmas bash.  
NO gift exchange. PCCA will collect toys for "Toy for Tots" (unwrapped, new toys)

**January 8, 2022 PCCA Board Meeting at the Museum 1:00-2:00 pm.**  
**LOCATION:** CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)  
Main Topics: New Officers installation, Programs for 2022. May become a "Zoom" meeting

**January 8, 2022 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.**  
**LOCATION:** CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)  
January is the anniversary month for PCCA – Happy 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday PCCA!!  
Program: History of PCCA in Pictures

**February 12, 2022 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.**  
**LOCATION:** CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

**March 12, 2022 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.**  
**LOCATION:** CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

**April 9, 2022 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.**  
**LOCATION:** CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

**May 14, 2022 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.**  
**LOCATION:** CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

**May 20-21, 2022 PCCA Hosts the CPF Corvair Museum Event**  
These are tentative dates that I expect will be finalized soon.  
Friday - welcome party, Saturday - Road Tour?, Corvair Show  
And Dinner at the Museum. (Well, maybe we'll do lunch? ) details to follow

**June 11, 2022 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.**  
**LOCATION:** CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

**July 9, 2022 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.**  
**LOCATION:** CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

**July 12-16, 2022 CORSA Convention in Peachtree City.**  
Host hotel is the Peachtree City Crowne Plaza.  
Convention rates are \$119 plus taxes good from July 10 to July 17. Is a web link  
or call the hotel 800/227-6963 group code is TU5. The host hotel is now accepting reservations.



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

# PCCA November Meeting

A typical day in November, in Illinois. Chilly, cloudy great excuse to get together with other Corvair enthusiasts at the Corvair Museum.

The editor was not in attendance, so these notes are from the faint recollections from the “paint the bottle” program lead, Debby Sparling, the editor’s sister. Debby was aided by two of her grandkids, Eva Chipol and Aiden Chipol. Four PCCA members gave the paint the bottle program a go. Sandy Myers, Bernie Allen, Rhona Hall and Kayla Hall. Based on the pictures, Hannah (I think) also participated modeling an apron.



Sandy preparing paint for her artwork

Deb brought the art supplies, the bottles and 2-3 ideas to paint on the bottles. The goal was to have fun, and to create a holiday decoration for themselves or to gift to a friend. Nothing better than receiving a hand crafted gift. Christmas wreaths, snowmen, candles were all in the realm of possibility. And doable in just 2 to 3 hours. I think it was closer to 2 hours from the report I received. Deb will take longer sometimes because she keeps fine tuning the art work. And

like a multiple choice quiz, changing your first answer is not always good.

I received pictures of three of the bottles. However, I know more were done, at least partially. Like most artwork, each is unique and beautiful. Sandy opted for the snowman model while Rhona and Bernie tried their hands at the Christmas ornament amidst evergreen limbs, wreath. I lack any artistic ability, so am always amazed how nice these decorations are.

**In short – Way to Go Ladies.**



Rhona and Eva creating



Here Bernie and Aiden get started on their art



# PCCA Officers for 2022

President	Chris Hall	Vice-President	Tim Mahler
Treasurer	Glen Rittenhouse	Secretary	Open

Board of directors - 1 year term	Larry Jahn	Jim Allen
2 year term	Mike Hall	

***PCCA Tour Proposals — Which would you prefer - one, two, all of them? and when - April, June, October? Summer, Fall ? Still open for discussion, Please Let us know your preferences.***

Larry Jahn -- 70 miles east of Springfield - Tuscola/freemont/Atwood -- Harris Ag Museum main draw, Tuscola ice cream/sandwich shop (Flesors Kitchen) for lunch. Other museums, attractions in the area.

Bill Berta -- Idea number one - Visit the Ace Sign Company Museum, Second thought is a return to Taylorville private museum (automobiles) plus miners museum nearby. There is a great ice cream (outdoor sitting only) nearby. The courthouse may be open with several attractions within. Plus there is antique shop and boutique on the square' along with other shops of possible interest. Also, there is a bakery on the north side of the square.

Jim Allen -- Pekin -- another private museum, Memory lane on first floor of former school building. Numerous "room/store settings"

## PCCA Programs for 2022

Getting programs started again has been a struggle. But we will continue to try. If you are willing to give a presentation, or have a presentation that you would like to here – please let the VP know. Who is the VP for 2022 – Tim Mahler, aka, the editor.

For January - expect a walk down memory lane via pictures – PCCA history. It is PCCA's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in January. PCCA first met in January, 1977. Do I have pictures from those early years? No, I didn't join PCCA until late 1996 and became editor in January 1998. I do hope to get some photos from those early days. If you have some you are willing to share, send them to me preferably by email or text. Easiest way for a photo or three is to take a picture of the picture with your phone.

I noted some discussions about the Monza Jr karts that Chevrolet made available, thru Rupp, to the public. There was one in the Museum until recently. Seeking someone to do a presentation on those nifty little carts. I have found some articles, but I am not an expert, not even close. Anyone?

## Newport Hill Climb Correction

Larry Jahn won his class at the Newport Hill Climb show. The crankshaft best of show award was won at the Earl Park Show. My apologies for the error but an excellent excuse to showcase Larry's wagon again.



Best of Show - Larry's 62 Wagon

This Ad was posted to the Corvair Preservation Foundation Facebook Page. 1960 - Body by Fischer

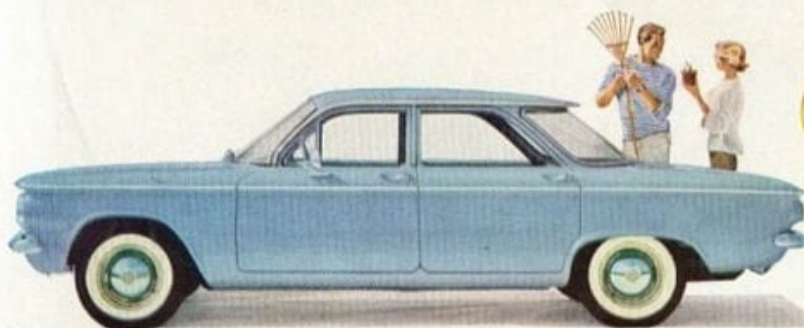


## *Silent partner*

### BUILT-IN QUALITY OF BODY BY FISHER

Ride in a Corvair by Chevrolet and you ride in quiet, spacious comfort. The Exclusive Extra of Corvair's Unistrut Body by Fisher welds roof, floor, sides, frame and fenders into one sturdy steel unit to set new compact car standards of quiet and safety.

There's nothing like a new car. Be sure your next one has all the built-in quality extras of Body by Fisher: Magic-Mirror Finish • Sound Barrier Build Safety Plate Glass All Around • Vault-Solid Doors Contour-Molded Carpets and Mats.



The  
Exclusive  
Extra

IN ALL GENERAL MOTORS CARS

CHEVROLET  
PONTIAC  
OLDSMOBILE  
BUICK  
CADILLAC



Body by Fisher

Corvair 700 4-Door Sedan

**Note:** This article appeared in the *VairCor* - sometime in the past. I retrieved it from Heart of America Corvair Owners Assn web page - tech section. Texh article number 132. I probably used it last year about this time in the newsletter, but with the cold weather, I thought it was worth repeating. Again, my thanks to Mike Dawson for writing another great article.

# The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

## Wintertime Corvair Heater Odors

I still remember picking up my brand new 1965 Corsa coupe in February of '65 and turning on the heater while on my way home from Van Chevrolet. There was a distinct smell to the heater, not unpleasant and different from my aging '61 Monza with its smelly heater that I had traded in. The new Corsa heater had a combination of hot paint smell and hot metal which I grew to love each fall when the heater was turned on the first time. I still get that today from our cars and my wife says the same; it is a familiar smell that leaves us satisfied that all is well maintenance wise. If an engine issue would cause a change in the heater we would know it instantly. When Sandy was driving my Corsa to work at Hick's Brothers Chevrolet around 1970 with 100K miles on the car I noticed a burned oil smell in her hair when she came home one night: push rod tube seals.

Due to the nature of an air cooled engine operating at a higher temperature, the fact that the exhaust pipe exit is just outside the engine compartment and with all inside heated air coming from the engine compartment (Corvair heaters have no recirculation feature), the opportunity for one of the five different odors listed below to show up is significant. Maintenance of critical areas is obviously the key to a great heater. Keep in mind that on initial startup in a garage or with a car parked next to you there is the opportunity for exhaust gas to curl up and be sucked in the engine air intake. That effect can also come from a neighboring car's exhaust at a traffic light.

If you are experiencing something other than mild hot paint and hot metal in your heater during normal driving, the following may be useful. These are each a unique smell that longtime Corvair folks should be quick to recognize.

**Raw Gasoline Smell.** An initial brief startup smell is possible but if it persists during driving and at a stop this is a warning. Check immediately for things like carburetor inlet nut leaks, fuel pump leaks, and rubber fuel line hose at the starter and heater hose, Engine compartment sparks are produced by starter brushes, point system distributors, generator brushes, leaking plug wires, and static electricity at the balancer. Any of which can ignite gasoline fumes from a hot engine. A leaking gas tank filler neck hose will also get into the interior, but only for a short time after fill-up. Also remember that since Corvair carburetors are vented to atmosphere, the fuel will evaporate into your garage from a hot engine after it has been turned off.

**Burned Oil Smell.** This is usually the smell caused by leaking push rod tube seals that are just above the exhaust manifold, although a leaking front main seal on automatics can end up on the exhaust system and into the engine compartment if you have less than perfect perimeter seals and grommets. A haze on the inside of your windshield is an early indication of tube seal leaks (unless you over Armorall your padded dash).

**Leaking Crankcase Vapors.** This is a pretty annoying smell, a step worse than burned oil. The vapor (ring blow-by and hot oil) can get into the heater very easily because the entire vent system is in the heater air intake, both under and above the top shroud. Plugged vents, leaking o-rings, broken grommets, brittle hoses or loose attachments are the culprits.

**Exhaust Gas.** Not only nasty smelling with the chokes on, it is dangerous because of CO even if the smell seems to go away warmed up. If you suspect a leak, check the six exhaust packing with a hose to your ear (engine running, belt off). Also check the two manifold to pipe packings and the exhaust



Photos from a New article on the **Pontiac and Oldsmobile Corvair Variants**. "Retroautos By Retroautos - 23 November 2021" shannons.com.au – see CPF facebook page for a shortcut.

I am accustomed to seeing the 1959 renditions of these two variants but the 1958 fiberglass models were surprisingly close to the proposed 1960 Chevrolet Corvair. Learned something new.

1958 Photos – Pontiac and Oldsmobile. The variants were the Corvair body with minor, mostly badging, modifications to make them a Pontiac or an Oldsmobile



Both divisions later made extensive body modifications to make the new compact look like a Pontiac and look like an Oldsmobile. Below is a revised Pontiac - 1959



Bonus - History - 1981. Think Larry was a PCCA And CCE member when this Photo was taken.



Larry Claypool - and the Vairshop. May, 1981

PCCA Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2021 From notes taken by Chris Hall

The November PCCA meeting was called to order by President Chris Hall. The group started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary report for the last official meeting (October) was printed in the flat Six. The Treasurer's report was given by Jim Allen. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made and seconded. Motion approved.

Chris Hall indicated that the new membership book should be ready by the Christmas meeting.

Sandy Myers and Brian Nicholson were present but were quickly summoned to give tours of the CPF Museum. Chris Hall asked ideas to do a scaled down fundraiser for the museum in 2022. Mike Hall presented several ideas to the group. A show of hands of the group attending indicated all were in favor of holding an event to raise funds for the museum. Mike Hall and 2022 VP Tim Mahler will share notes to get things started.

PCCA Elections. Chris asked if there were any paper ballots to be counted (none were in the PO Box, one received electronically). None were offered, and with no contested positions, Chris requested a motion to accept all candidates as presented. Motion carried by all present. President - Chris Hall, VP - Tim Mahler, Treasurer - Glen Rittenhouse. Board of Directors - 1 year term - Jim Allen and Larry Jahn. 2-year term - Mike Hall.

A request for members to be on the bi-annual by-laws review committee was made. No volunteers were found at this time. Jim Allen did suggest that the number of board meeting per year to reduced to 2 a year.

Chris asked about the options for road tours suggested at the last meeting and listed in the November FlatSix. Bill Berta suggested that the board review the ideas at the club calendar planning meeting (typically January Board meeting).

Meeting was adjointed. Jim Collier won the 50/50 raffle.

Program was Paint Bottle day – Christmas/Winter themed painting on cleaned wine bottles. Debby Sparling with help from Eva and Aiden Chipol (grandkids) led the program and supplied the bottles, art supplies and clean up items. Debby is Tim's sister. Tim was running a 50 mile race on the meeting day.

Editor Notes: Tim expects to take notes doing meeting in 2022 unless he is off running somewhere. Willing to let someone else be secretary, but this works. By-laws limits terms, which will be reviewed this year (Tim just raised his hand).

## Liquid Tire Chain

Posted by David Synder, via Eva Mcguire

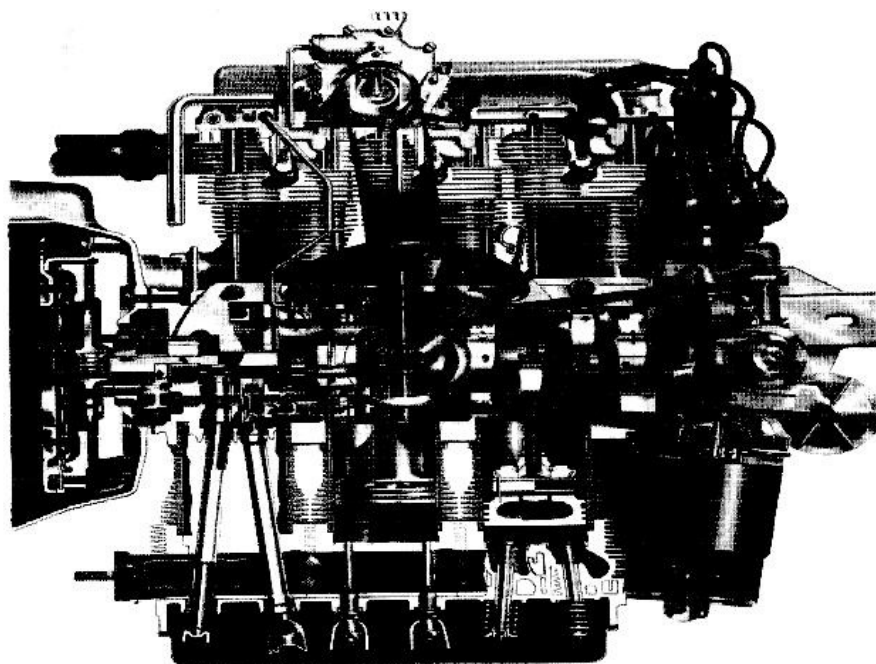
Rare 1969 Chevrolet option called Liquid Tire Chain. Available under UPC code V75, around 2,600 Chevrolets were ordered with this one-year only option. A control on the instrument panel activated a pair of aerosol canisters mounted above the rear tires that contained a chemical compound labeled Liquid Tire Chain Traction Improver. Inside the canisters was a space-age polymer ready to coat the rear tires and turn slip into grip. Press the button and an evaporating solvent left a traction-improving chemical compound on the tires that resulted in instant winter traction, even on ice



Timothy Paul Nelson

Used to use washer canisters and spray nozzles year round. We mixed saltwater with rubbing alcohol for winter and Clorox with water for the dragstrip... worked great!

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