

#### **Prairie Capital Corvair Association**

P.O. Box 954 Springfield, Illinois 62705

# The Flat Six

February 2022

2022 Officers
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President -Chris Hall (217) 691-6529 Vice-President Tim Mahler (217) 793-3824 Secretary-vacant (Call Tim) Treasurer-Glen Rittenhouse (309) 472-3882

Membership-Chris Hall (217) 691-6529 Historian/Inventory

FlatSix Editor Tim Mahler (217) 793-3824 Email January 10, 2022

Board of Directors

Mike Hall (2023) (217) 494-7105 Sandy Myers (2022) (217) 624-4400 Jim Allen (2022) (309) 361-5351 Larry Jahn (2022) (217) 820-8895

### From the Prez

Greetings Fellow PCCA Members!

Brrrrr, it's cold outside! Hoping you're all staying warm & healthy this winter so far! Just picture it you're sitting on a beach getting a nice tan!?? Wait! Who am I kidding? I live in central Illinois!?? For those of you that joined us for our first Zoom meeting in January thank you! Crazy how fast the weather can change! Allow me to shift into second gear and say I feel like we've got a great year being planned! We do currently have a nice road tour being planned by the Jahn's! Many thanks! Many thanks also to our Vice President who has been working hard to get programs together for just about every month of the year! I have one of our Cousins slated for the month of April to give us a presentation on his Ford model A! How is your list of local car shows going so far? How are your winter projects coming along?

I'm still not finished with my Summer projects.??Feel free to send in a little blurb to our newsletter editor about what you're working on! I'm hopeful to get out and have some fun this year! Hopefully the weather holds out for our February meeting and I hope to see you there! Should the weather turn ugly we'll adjust to a Zoom Meeting!

Chris Hall, PCCA President.



Interior of the CPF Raffle Car, it is beautiful car.

## Calendar of Events - 2022

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

**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.

February 12, 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

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 2:00-4:00 pm.** 

**LOCATION: CPF Corvair Museum** (exit 88 off I-55)

**Program:** The Model A Ford

May 14, 2022 PCCA Meeting at 12:30pm, tour starts 11:00 am.

Tour to Tuscola and Atwood Museums and other attractions. Meet in Springfield to caravan (9:30am) to Tuscola or go directly to Tuscola (11:00 am). Lunch Meeting at Flesor's Candy Kitchen in Tuscola at noon.

# June 10-12, 2022 PCCA Hosts the CPF Corvair Museum Event LOCATION: Pawnee Prairie Days, Pawnee

These are tentative dates that I expect will be finalized soon.

Friday - welcome party, Saturday - Corvair Show At Pawnee Prairie Days

And Dinner at the Museum. details to follow

June 11, 2022 **PCCA Meeting** 2:00-4:00 pm.

**LOCATION: Pawnee Prairie Days, Pawnee** 

June 12, 2022 Tremont Turkey festival and Car Show, Tremont, IL

July 9, 2022 **PCCA Meeting** 2:00-4:00 pm.

**LOCATION: TBD** 

#### 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.

August 13 PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm.

August 20, 2022 **PCCA Morning Tour** to Pekin Museum - plus lunch and maybe another museum

August 21, 2022 Antique Auto Show & Swap Meet Sunday, Pinckneyville, IL

Sponsored by the Egyptian Antique Auto Club - Judging at 1:00pm

September 10, 2002 Secretary of State Auto Show, Springfield Illinois, PCCA meeting at show - 1:00pm

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







# PCCA Meeting went Zoom – Virtual.

Saturday, December 11, 2022 was full of icy road reports including several semi tractors that jack-knifed or just went off the road into the interstate medium. For safety reasons, specifically for those outside the Springfield area, the meeting was done virtually. Looking at the weather maps, Decatur was getting lots of icy precipitation during and after the meeting. Areas south on I-57 and along I-70 were also very slick. It seemed to mostly miss the Museum area but the potential for havoc was high.

Looking at my notes, 11 PCCA members joined the Zoom virtual meeting. The board zoom meeting had 5 attendees including 3 board members and 2 officers. I think if done in person, the general meeting may have had 5 attendees. This is based on communications from those who had indicated they did not feel safe traveling with the potential icy roads. It was a good meeting but with little to report.

EXCEPT: The CPF Museum has been granted a reprieve of sorts. The Museum has rented the current location February and March. This means PCCA may meet at the Museum those two months. And more importantly, the Museum gets to stay open at its current location... for at least a while longer.

# **CPF Museum News**

CPF Preseident Mike Hall announced that the CPF Corvair Museum may remain open at its current location for at least the next two months, maybe as late as the end of the calendar year. The Museum is on a month to month lease and has paid for February and March.

Mike Hall continues to search for a new home for the Museum - preferably along Historic Route 66 and with CORSA/CPF members nearby to support/staff the museum. Those two items have been a big plus the last few years. RT66 and Springfield historical visitors have visited the Corvair Museum while touring the many other sites Springfield has to offer.

A few possibilities have been investigated, including one in Ponitac Illinois near the RT66 Museum there. If you have thoughts – specifically if you know of a possible location, let Mike know.

PCCA will still be able to meet at the current Museum location thru March at this report.

# CPF RAFFLE CAR!!

Win this Concours-quality black 1961 Corvair Monza Sport Coupe with red interior, 102hp, 4 speed that's ready to drive and show! More pictures on the CORSA web site. <u>Www.corvair.org</u> under merchandise for sale. click on the raffle ticket to take you to the page with all the details and pictures.



Tickets are only \$10.00 each and will help to support the Corvair Preservation Foundation and Corvair Museum. Ther more tickets you buy, the better chances to win. The winner will be announced on June 5, 2022. You do not need to be present to win.

# From the Inside Looking Out. by garry Biggs

Editor's Note: It's PCCA 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary January 1977 to January 2022. PCCA has been around a long time, but I have noted, several PCCA members have been married longer. Amazing. This Story is from January 2009, by past PCCA editor, president and all around good guy Garry Biggs.

I guess when you are born into a family with a Dad and Uncles that all worked on automobiles and worked in garages with more car guys you would expect some of this to rub off. Maybe somewhat to my Mom's dismay, it did. My first memory of going to a race was loading into an old Chevrolet, I didn't know they made any other kind of car until I went to college, with my Dad and Uncle and three or four other guys and drove to Mitchell, IN. to an old dirt track back in the hills. One of the body guys took me up to the top of the



old wood bleachers and held me up on the back rail so I could see. Never saw a thing but the noise and smells were really great. So it was on to Salem, IN. to the high banks, it was really starting to grow on me. Soon we had a 1/10 mile dirt track just outside my home town, the Midget Race Circuit raced there every Sunday night. You could park your car around the track and sit on the fenders or top and see a great show. Can you imagine sitting on the top of your car to watch a race now? Some Sundays there would be a hundred of these race cars in to race. I was really hooked on fast cars by then. I used a tractor and some equipment from my uncles so I could get into the abandoned Army Air Base so I could see the Sports Car Races. Yes, this was when you drove your MG or Jaguar or Ferrari or Corvette to the race, covered the headlights and took off the hubcaps, put on your half bucket helmet, and you RACED. When the day was over you hoped you had a car that you could drive home. I took Sue to the Sprints at Terra Haute one wet day before we were married, we were so dirty when we got back her family couldn't understand how she could have had fun. Well, she did I guess so the next time I tried Motorcycle races. A big highlight for me back then was going to the NHRA Championship, actually I was there the same year Jim Allen was. Now this was held at the same Army Air Base as the sport cars and my home town was about 7500 people. Remember a lot of the drag cars as well as all the spectators drove their cars, so you can only imagine what the "square" looked like on Saturday night, HEAVEN.

What does this all have to do with Corvairs? Well, it wasn't until I went to a CORSA Convention that I had ever seen an autocross. I was fascinated by it right off. Every time a car left the line it was a whole new race. The autocross become the highlight of the convention as far as I was concerned. It even became

more exciting when I started learning people, and then to have one of your own out there to root for, it only got better. THEN, a few weeks ago Tim invited me to ride a round with him at Rantoul. Now I was going to get to experience all of this "from the inside looking out". Now I was going to see why so many guys had problems driving between cones. Now I was going to see why so many guys got lost and sort of wander around. The first thing I



learned even before the engine started, it's not as easy to get into a car through the window as Jeff Gordon or Jimmy Johnson make it look. Maybe it could be the age thing, but I was going to get in even if it was a piece at a time. They had me put on a helmet that they had borrowed from some Neanderthal and Tim helped me get the dozen straps of belt on, also not as easy to get on as Jeff and Jimmy make it look. Then Tim fired up the sweet sounding flat six behind us and the heart started pumping and I was READY to go. Tim got the sign from the starter guy, he robably has a more formal name but I could have cared less, and Tim punched it and the FUN was on. The Rantoul course had a number of tight gates, sounds like I know what I am talking about doesn't it, then a nice long arching turn which was fast, well it felt fast, then to a sharp set of gates, through a salom to another gate and on to the finish line. First let me tell you things happen FAST, like I am looking for the cones and we just

went through them, ok now I know why so many guys miss gates. We had gone through the second and third gates and I am still thinking about how fast the first one came up. Now I know why so many guys just wander around out there. I really enjoyed the fast arching turn, I like fast. The rest went so quickly and I wasn't ready to get out yet. That was one of the quickest 49.559 second ride I had ever had. I thought about not giving the Lady

back her helmet but I was afraid it belonged to her boyfriend and he might be nearby. From now on my own helmet will be in the back of the truck just in case. Tim can write in the newsletter about not being as good a driver as some, I was very impressed by his reactions and driving skill, I also understand why he enjoys doing the autocross. Who would have thought a ride in a Corvair could be that much fun. One last thing, Bill, if you would get one of those belts like Tim has, you wouldn't need to put your arm out the window, it holds you right where you want to be.



#### Corvair Ads – from "Corvair Ads 1960-69 by Hi-Tech Software" via Bill and Shelby Berta



goes around curves like a corner in town

The '63 Corvair Monza will dig in and go through just about anything but your pocketbook, whether you're on maneuvers in the country or just making the rounds in town. It delivers more traction because the engine's in the rear (and this makes steering feel a lot lighter, too). Another nice feeling: the bumps don't get past Corvair's stable independent suspension with a husky coil spring at each wheel absorbing anything a road can throw at it.

In fact, all you ever do feel is great. Practical, too, because Corvair's air-cooled six-cylinder engine needs no water or antifreeze, and its self-adjusting brakes save you time and money. There just isn't another production car made in this country quite like Corvair. Try it at your Chevolet dealer's just for fun. That's what we built it for! . . . Chevrolet Division of General Motors, Detroit 2, Mich. Keeps Going Great



Betty Skelton (above) is internationally famous as a pilo and car driving record holder, but she still appreciate how the Corvair turns heads as readily as it handle curves, how it runs up hills but not upkeep bills, and the way it parks so easily. Cross-town or cross-country, a Corvair Monza can brighten every corner in your day.



Editor notes: Interesting ads from the 1960s. The 1963 Monza ad emphasizing the great cornering ability of the Corvair – using the same suspension that later safety pundits (such as Nader) claimed were unsafe. No wheel tuck in that photo. Telescopic steering wheels are not common even today. However, tilt steering wheels are standard options on many automobiles.

**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 163. Again, my thanks to Mike Dawson for writing another great article.

## The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

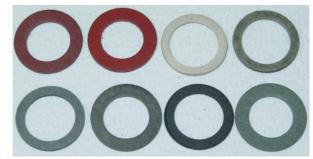
Oil Filter Bolt Fiber Washers – ( under the oil filter bolt )

While doing a pre-trip check of our air conditioned sedan for the Roundup in Little Rock, I found that the fiber washer under the vertical oil filter bolt on the 90 degree A/C adapter was failing. Pieces of the washer were sticking out all around the bolt head. I have adapters for spin on filters and do not regularly change the 90 degree adapter gaskets and washers since only the filter is moved during a change. I had encountered the exact same thing a while back on our other A/C equipped car and at the time thought it was a singular occurrence. More thought was needed since the fiber washer is always changed during non-A/C oil changes but rarely changed on A/C cars. This may not seem like a big deal until you consider how difficult (messy) it is to do the replacement away from home.

I checked my maintenance records and realized the fiber washers had not been changed on either car for almost 4 years. Plus the fact that the larger hard fiber gasket underneath does not seal well without the full 20 ft. pounds noted in the shop manual applied to the vertical bolt. I pulled the adapter, cleaned, checked and replaced the washer with one of my many spares. On to the Roundup.

During the car show at Little Rock I started looking at other folks' open engine compartments and checked belts, balancers and those oil filter bolt washers. I did find two more of the exact same failing fiber washers on the 90 degree adapters. Both owners were very glad I brought the issue to their attention and I also realized that all of the washers that were failing were the same color (red) and possibly all from the same source. At this point my only move going forward is to closely monitor my own cars and suggest all owners with the 90 degree adapter do the same. Pictured below is a failed washer next to a new one and a second picture of washers that are available with various filters. I'm sure time, heat and pressure all contributed to the failures; a regular change would be the logical preventive maintenance.





# Request for Funny Corvair Stories

Calling all Corvairs We want your funny stories – especially as they relate to Corvairs. We all have a story or two that provides a chuckle or two when told. Please share. Send them to the Editor <u>-</u> <u>PrairieCapital@corvair.org.</u> Include a picture or two too – The picture could be of your current Corvair or related to the story being told or both. Thanks

## **PCCA Tours**

May Tour Coordinator: Larry Jahn. **Douglas County Tour on May 14, 2022** 

Leave Springfield at 9:15-9:30 Tuscola is 78 miles, approximately 1 ½ hours.

Meet at Douglas County Museum at 11:15 Tour in one room, takes about 45 minutes.

Flesor's Candy Kitchen in Tuscola for lunch----12:00 Would have our own private meeting room

Travel to Atwood, Il to Museum 15 minutes Tour Harris County Museum 1:30-3:00.

Larry would like to have headcounts for the tour and lunch – at least a good estimate.

August Jim Allen has made arrangements for PCCA to tour a private museum in **Pekin Illinois for August 20**, 2022. Memory lane is on the first floor of a former school building with numerous "room/store settings". A morning tour is planned with option for lunch to be determined. Some members may want to visit the Wheels O' Time museum in Dunlap in the afternoon. Sunday is the Pinckneyville car show in south central Illinois.

# PCCA Programs for 2022

Some progress was made in reestablishing PCCA programs. January icy road conditions moved the first program back a month to February.

For February - Walk down memory lane via pictures – PCCA history. It is PCCA's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 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. But thanks to Bill and Shelby Berta, I now have some albums from the early days of PCCA. Special thanks to Sharon Rogers who put those albums together - ages ago - from photos and newsletter articles and other notes. Wow. Yes, I'll bring the albums too.

March or April - Chris Hall has a program idea he would like to do – IF he can find the time to put it together. With 3 kids, this may be a tough thing to do. Meanwhile, Chris is going to ask a friend if he would give his presentation on the (Ford) Model A. As I understand it, this presentation was first given to the Model A club. It may not be a Covair, but I am sure it will be interesting.

May Corvair Museum event has been merged with the Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show In June. Why? Well, the car show in Pawnee is already being held on a regular PCCA meeting date, and the location of the Corvair Museum remains in flux. Mike Hall and Tim Mahler will attempt to add Corvair specific things to the June event to make it a CPF Corvair event. What exactly is open for suggestions.

Future Programs: I need someone(s) willing to do a presentation or two – ideas include the Monza Jr karts that Chevrolet made available, thru Rupp, to the public; the Corvair based Ultravans; maybe even the unique GMC Motorhome that many Corvair enthusiasts also drive. A tech session or two would be nice. Please

volunteer and make the PCCA meetings that much more fun.

If you are willing to give a presentation, or have a presentation that you would like to here – please let the VP Tim Mahler know. Thanks.





Back in the day, March 2002, Circle City Corvairs celebrated CORSA day - the start of CORSA. PCCA was invited to the picnic held in Eastern Indiana.

# It's Time to Renew your PCCA Membership!!!

To date: Only 15 members have renewed. PLEASE renew. Thank you. Tim

Prairie Capital Corvair Association (PCCA) Membership Form

# January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022 embership Individual \$17

	Family at for receiving the	\$20 (2 adults at one address plus children under 18) electronic version of the newsletter and other correspondence. re: Individual \$8.50, Family \$10.00. If applicable, the discount is \$2.50
, ,	•	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 encoura	ges membership ir	n CORSA. Do you want/need information about CORSA? Y / N
Return the completed for	orm and dues to:	Glen Rittenhouse, PCCA Treasurer 1804 Columbus Dr, Pekin IL 61554
Please make checks pay	able to Prairie Car	pital Corvair Association or PCCA

#### PCCA Board Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2022 taken by Tim Mahler

The PCCA meeting was held virtually because of icy road conditions throughout central Illinois. President Chris Hall called the meeting to order at 1:08 pm. Board members present: Larry Jahn, Sandy Myers and Mike Hall. Tim Mahler present taking notes.

The meeting moved ahead to the by-laws review. VP Tim Mahler reported that he had reviewed the by-laws along with several changes that have been suggested by members. Those will be presented to the general membership at the next meeting.

The meeting location was discussed next with the Pawnee BowScouts meeting hall (6 miles from the museum) and Motorheads being the two suggestions. Sandy Myers suggested meeting at picnic areas, car shows which was down in PCCA early days. Mike Hall informed the group that group that the CPF museum will be available for meetings at its current location for the next two months (February, March) as the museum was able to do a month to month lease for the short term. Further discussion was tabled.

Next item was club event planning. With PCCA doing a remote meeting in January, the PCCA History in pictures was deferred until February. Chris Hall indicated he might be able to do one if he gets the time to put it together. Chris did suggest asking the Model A club to give a presentation on the Model A. The group was receptive to that idea. Request will be made for March or April meetings.

For May, the group asked Larry Jahn to work on details for the tour to the Tuscola/Freemont/Atwood area. A meeting location in Springfield (likely the Walmart on South 6<sup>th</sup> Street) for those wanting to caravan will be established. Plus Larry should designate a location near the tour start for those who prefer to travel directly.

Touring the Pekin museums in August may be a possibility especially if the State Fair exhibit is not held. With the CPF museum location in flux, Tim suggested the CPF Car show be held in conjunction with the Pawnee Prairie Days car show. This is a PCCA meeting date and other activities exist for show participants.

Other activities for the "Corviar Museum Event" will be discussed for the Friday/Sunday surrounding the Prairie days car show.

July is the CORSA convnetion in Alabama. No PCCA program was discussed. September is the SOS Auto show in downtown Springfield.

Other items discussed: Chris asked if the newsletter could print "Funny Corvair Stories" from the membership. Yes. A request for stories will be added to the newsletter. Chris also asked if space could be made for board members to submit an article (Communique and CCE both feature these articles). Another yes from the editor.

Final item on the Agenda – other ideas to increase member participation. Mike Hall mentioned the tech sessions held by other clubs (Kansas club, Chicago) and attendance at Car shows doing nice weather months. The CPF Museum currently lacks space for working on members cars, but maybe a members garage could be offered (Terry Kalp does this for the "Tuna"s in Kansas, nice shop). The CPF has plenty of work in me donated vehicles too. Most of these include picnic style lunch.

Board meeting was adjoined at 1:45 pm

#### PCCA General Meeting Minutes for January 8, 2022 taken by Tim Mahler

The PCCA meeting was held virtually because of icy road conditions throughout central Illinois. President Chris Hall called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm. Members present included James Rice, Glen Rittenhouse, Gloria and Larry Jahn, Chris Hall, Mike Hall, Sandy Myers, Tim Mahler, Brian Nicholson, Richard Warren, Bill Berta. 11 members.

Secretary report for the November meeting was printed in the Flat Six. There was no official meeting for December. The Treasurer's report was given by Tim Mahler for Glen (who's audio was mal-functioning). The checking account started with a balance of 4,522.81. 14 members were noted as renewing and \$100 was transferred from petty cash to checking. Ending balance was \$4,864.81 with \$5 in savings and \$79 in petty cash. A motion to approve by Mike Hall senconded by Brian Nicholson, Motion carried. Tim indicated 15 of 36 members have renewed based on the treasurer's report. (Corrected to 17 of 35 members post meeting). OLD Business: 2022 Program ideas. Chris Hall will ask the Model A club to give a presentation. The PCCA History in Photos was moved to February.

NEW Business: The location for PCCA meetings will remain at the CPF Corvair Museum in Glenarm for February and March as the museum was able to do a month to month lease. Mike is still looking for alternative (long term) location for the Museum. The By-laws revisions was deferred until February. Chris requested a lost of car shows/events that could be included in the newsletter with the idea/hope that more Corvairs could attend those shows to promote the marquee.

Calender of Events: Meet at the Museum (Glenarm location) for February, PCCA photos. March / April Model A presentation – at the Museum is the expected location. May - tour eastward with Larry Jahn as the tour host. June - Pawnee Prairie days Car Show – to also be the Corvair Car show with other events being discussed for Friday and Sunday.

Meeting open to the Floor. Gloria thanked Chris Hall for his work on the PCCA membership book. Museum news - The museum is on a month to month lease up to the end of the year. February and March on in the books. Mike and CPF Staff continue to look for alternative locations – preferably with membership support nearby to staff the museum. Being located on or near Route 66 has been a bonus for the current location so would like to maintain that link if possible. Bill Berta mentioned Taylorville has available an old Studebacker dealership building that may have possibilities. Mike mentioned a building in Pontiac Illinois that was close to the Route 66 Musuem but currently lacks volunteers in the area to staff that location. Another offer of a building in Nebraska was also mentioned. Everything is being considered.

Motion to adjoin was make by Mike Hall, seconded by Larry Jahn at 2:30 pm.

Editor Notes: Tim expects to take notes doing meetings in 2022 unless he is off running somewhere. Willing to let someone else be secretary, but this works.

# The Flat Six

