



Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 954
Springfield, Illinois 62705

The Flat Six

February 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
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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

Chris Hall

Greetings Fellow P.C.C.A. Members!

By the time you'll read this edition we'll have sworn in our 46th President of the United States of America! I can't personally state what our future holds with COVID-19 and our Calendar of Events this year. I know here within Sangamon County we are seeing some changes forthcoming. I'd like to point out that the Allen's (Thank you!) will be bringing some tasty treats for Refreshments on Saturday February 13th! I'd highly recommend getting to the meeting! Time is most certainly flying by! Before too long we'll be detailing our Corvairs & hosting the mini-convention in May! I know we're going to need all the help we can get! I reached out in a post on the Corvair Owners Group Facebook page asking what other local clubs have tried to interest the younger generations into the Corvair hobby. I received a little bit of feedback from some people. Feedback ranging from absolutely nothing to having tech sessions. If anyone has any ideas please let me know! I'll see you at the next meeting! Once again I'd like to be compliant with the health ordinances. Please bring your face mask😊. Now, I just have to leave you with a little joke! *"What part of the car is the laziest? The wheels, because they are always tired!"* – "juicyquotes.com"



Between the general meeting and the board meeting, discussions

Chris Hall

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. The building was the location of Elite Classic Cars a few years ago.

Events - 2021

February 13, 2021 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.
LOCATION: CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

March 13, 2021 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.
LOCATION: CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

April 10, 2021 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.
LOCATION: CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

May 08, 2021 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.
LOCATION: CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)



May 19-22, 2021 Mini Convention: The Next Generation, Springfield IL to benefit the CPF and CPF Museum

The PCCA web site has a link to the 2021 Mini Convention - The Next Generation. <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/chapter627/mini2020.htm> The information will be updated for 2021, however, the events and presentations will be the same as were planned for 2020 including the presentation by William Wynne at a nearby airport. A Corvair powered fly-in is also expected at that airport. The host hotel will remain the **Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield Illinois.**

June 12, 2021 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.
LOCATION: CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

July 10, 2021 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.
LOCATION: CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

July 29-31, 2021 CORSA International Convention, San Diego, California

August 14, 2021 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.
LOCATION: CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

September 11, 2021 PCCA Meeting at the Museum 2:00-4:00 pm.
LOCATION: CPF Corvair Museum (exit 88 off I-55)

October 1-3, 2021 Great Plains Corvair Roundup, Hosts: Arkansas Corvair Club in North Little Rock.
Editor suggests using US Route 67 from just south of St Louis off I-55 to Little Rock - nice 4 lane road.
Host Hotel is the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, events include Banquet, Peoples Choice display, Valve cover races and a Fun Run. T-shirts available too. Nice Hotel, friendly and the Arkansas river is across the street with a nice walking path/park. Short walk across the bridge to downtown Little Rock and a long walk to the Clinton Presidential Museum.

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

PCCA 1977 to 2021

January 2021 is PCCA's 44th anniversary. PCCA first met on a cold day back in 1977. Bill Berta sent me some historical notes from PCCA's first two years. This included newsletters from those early days including a copy of the first PCCA newsletter published - volume 1, number 1. I doubt it has the same collector value of Superman first issue but I surely enjoyed reading it.

Bill Berta was the newsletter editor in those early days – the first two years. Bill was followed by Wil Gaedtka then Garry Biggs. PCCA long time editor and NOS parts vendor Bob Long followed Garry and was the editor for 15 years. All these editors were pre-PC editors, cutting and pasting involved scissors and paste, literally. I've always used a PC, so I feel like I've cheated just a bit.

The following article is from the FlatSix volume 1 number 8. The author was Nick Whitlow – remember the Piranha car of the Man from UNCLE fame at the 2016 convention in Springfield?

That Was the Year that Was!

By Nick Whitlow, Dec., 1977

It's pretty hard to believe a whole year has gone by since the Prairie Capital Corvair Assn. Was formed.

It all started as a result of the Paul Abbots, Rick Brights and Bill Bertas attending the St. Louis group's mini-convention in '76 and then deciding to form a CORSA chapter in this area. The first meeting was held on Friday, Jan. 17, 1977 at Friendly Chevrolet with the signing up of 12 members, some of which were already CORSA members and others who were interested enthusiasts. The next few meetings produced more members and increasing enthusiasm.

By June, the meeting night was changed to Wednesday and location moved to the Dutch Pantry, where we presently meet.

One of our first activities was a picnic at New Salem State Park on June 5th with representation from the Chicagoland Corvair group which went over very well. July 9th saw three PCCA families attend a joint meet in Peoria with the Central Illinois Corvair Enthusiasts. The "Judge it yourself Concours" was enjoyed by everyone.

The Gaedtkas and Dawsons represented PCCA at the National CORSA convention in Minneapolis July 28-31. On August 11th, seven Corvairs participated in the Illinois State Fair parade. August 20th, six Corvairs were displayed on the Old State Capitol Plaza. It was a delightful day for everyone and besides getting some new members, we got a lead on the oil filters that are now selling as a fund raiser.

Four Corvairs participated in the Pana Labor Day parade including the Bertas, Nicholsons, Smiths and Whitlows. He group was later joined by the Abbots and Biggs for a post-parade picnic. Also, Smith's car won a second place trophy in the special interest car judging.

Paul Abbott entered his recently completed '65 Fitch Sprint in the Secretary of State Car Show in September. Several other Corvairs were entered also. Because of their excellent showing, 1978 will see a special class for Corvairs at this show.

Several PCCA members attended the Annual Hoosier Auto Show in Indianapolis September 16-18 and got to drive their little jewels around the 2 ½ mile Indy raceway. On October 29th, eight Corvairs were displayed at Decatur on Market St. With a picnic following in the afternoon.



2001 Tech session led by Brian Nicholson. This was the year Dick Moon and Jim Allen joined PCCA

Other achievements during our first year include selection of our logo, and the acquisition of jacket patches among other things. As you can see, our chapter is pretty active for being in existence for only a year, and the best is yet to come.

On the first anniversary of PCCA, special thanks is given to interested members who have worked at various events and all the officers who have served this year. Let's make the next year even better!

Editor Notes: The SOS show grew to 7 classes for Corvairs before being trimmed back to 3 in the last few years.

The meeting day was changed to a Tuesday evening at some point and was meeting in the basement of the Security Bank building in downtown Springfield when the editor joined PCCA back in 1997. After losing the use of that location, PCCA moved to the Rochester community building for many years. And oh, those oil filters were advertised in the FlatSix for \$1.50 ea plus 25cents for postage or \$18 for a case of 12 post paid.

Advancing a year to December 1978, PCCA's Second Anniversary, I pulled this article from the FlatSix. It lacks a byline, so my first guess is the author was Bill Berta. The verbiage is similar to the history of PCCA found in many of the PCCA flyers handed out to prospective new members – those tri-fold brochures that describe who and what PCCA is and does and included a membership application.



From Bob Long's files - PCCA Car Show at Cross Country Mall. The Corvairs were actually inside the Mall for the Show.



Inside the Mall, Bob and Mary Long on in the center

How it All Began

printed in the FlatSix December, 1978

As we approach our 3rd year as a group, the question has been asked about how PCCA was started. Probably the idea for a CORSA chapter (or at least a local Corvair Club) had been thought of from time to time by someone, but it took the St Louis group's mini-convention to spark the idea and set the wheels in motion. (Sorry about that!)

The summer of 1976 saw us on our way to St Louis to attend what would be a really nice weekend of meeting and visiting with some nice people with our mutual interest. The Abbotts were there (and unknown to us the Gaedtks). Where there, we met the Rick Brights (also from Springfield). From this the idea grew about having our own CORSA Chapter in the Springfield area.

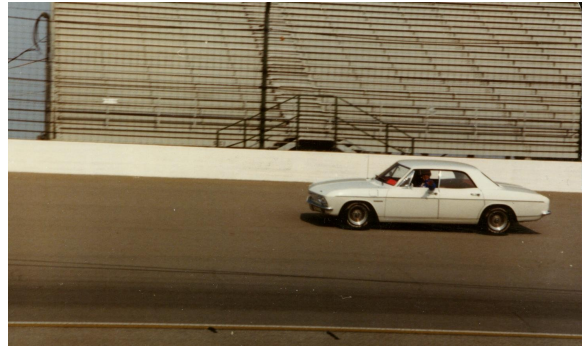
The Brights had been associated with the I&I Corvair group in Eastern Illinois and had experience in organizing a group as we all envisioned.

During the following months, the Abbotts, Bertas, and Brights formed what we hoped to be "Prairie Capital Corvair Association". Flyers were printed and placed on Corvair windshields and in December an announcement was made in the Springfield newspaper that a meeting would be held at Friendly Chevrolet the 2nd

Friday in January, 1977. Sixteen Corvair owners attending that first meeting became the first members of PCCA and since then our group has grown. As with anything, changes have come about. The Brights returned to Eastern Illinois, the Abbotts moved to Minnesota and we have grown to over 40 members.

In two years we've had a lot of fun and activities with our favorite car. It will be interesting to see what the coming years bring us as a group.

Editor Notes: PCCA still hovers around 40 members today. Notably, Bill Berta is still a member, Bill and Shelby are the last chartered members to still be active in PCCA. Of course, we all need to remember to renew our memberships for 2021!!! (See below)



Bob Long driving his 4 door Corvair on the Indy tri-oval. Hoosier Car show and swap meet

PCCA Membership Dues Are DUE!

Only 20 of 33 households had renewed by the January meeting. Please Renew. PCCA needs (and wants) you. Yes, the editor remembered to write his check out at the January meeting.

Prairie Capital Corvair Association (PCCA) Membership Form

January 1, 2021 thru December 31, 2021

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:
 Jim Allen, PCCA Treasurer
 4130 N. Timber Circle, Peoria IL 61614

Please make checks payable to Prairie Capital Corvair Association or PCCA

Corvair Ads – from “Corvair Ads 1960-1969 by Hi-Tech Software” via Bill and Shelby Berta.



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 and, when you get your next one, be sure you get 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.



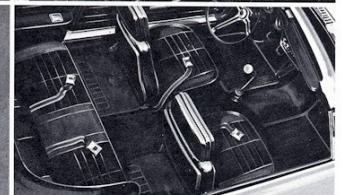
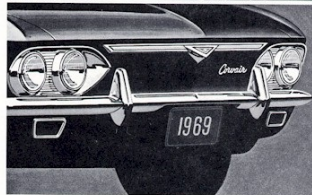
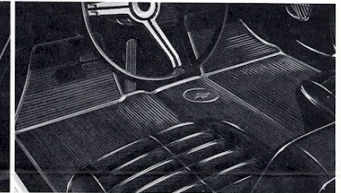
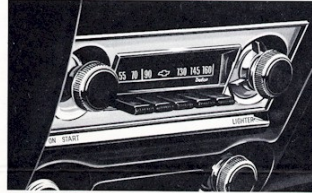
Corvair 700 4-Door Sedan



1969 CORVAIR

PUSH BUTTON RADIO

FULL WIDTH FLOOR MAT



FRT. & REAR BUMPER GUARDS

CONTOUR FRT. & REAR MATS

CORVAIR CUSTOM FEATURES

Putting you first, keeps us first.



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

The Corvair Museum is located directly on Route 66 just south of Springfield in Glenarm, Illinois (adjacent to Lucky Moon Saloon & just south of Double J Campground). The Museum is operated by the Corvair Preservation Foundation as a tribute to the many varieties of the Chevrolet Corvair built from the first 1960 model to the next to the last Corvair built #5999. The exhibit features cars of each year and varies time to time as the exhibits are changed out often to give the visitor always a different flavor of this unique air cooled Chevrolet. Today the exhibit includes feature Corvair Race Cars, Prototypes, one of a kind and a vast collection of history documentation from the development through the entire production run for Corvair automobile and trucks.



<https://illinoisroute66.smugmug.com/Southern-Illinois-Route-66-Attractions/Corvair-Museum-in-Glenarm/>

Note: This article appeared in the *VairCor* - January 2021 edition. I usually prefer to wait a few months before using an article like this but after using VairCor's article last month on mechanical fuel pumps, I thought I should also use this one on electric fuel pumps. Regardless, A really appreciate the wisdom from Mike Dawson.

The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

Maintenance of Electric Fuel Pumps and Pertronix Units

Both electric fuel pumps and Pertronix installations are great upgrades for our Corvairs but they should not be considered maintenance free.

Electric Fuel Pumps

- All of them require a pre-filter and the filters supplied with them are quite small. Of course how often you need to check or change it depends on the condition of your gas tank, how clean the fuel is that you purchase, and how efficient is the filter element. I check my wife's daily driver every year (now a 20 year old gas tank) and replace it every two years but have never found it actually restricted. And you can be creative and add a larger see-through filter if you have room.
- If the pump is exposed to possible damage from road debris you should do an examination any time that issue is suspected.
- Check the electrical connections (including the fuse) watching for corrosion or rust. The ground wire is usually exposed to the elements and there are usually two splices in the wires at the pump.
- The usual installation will have three rubber fuel hoses. They need to be inspected yearly and depending on how much ethanol you use they will become brittle. Note: The one next to the starter has to flex with engine movement. Originally it was under vacuum but is now under pressure with the pump mounted close to the tank.



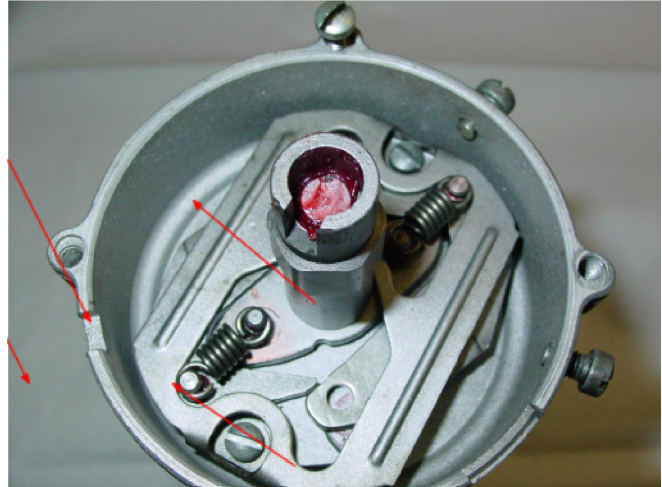
a late model installation with a larger fuel filter.

Pertronix Ignition Units

- Pertronix systems (or any electronic replacements) eliminate the rubbing block wear, the deterioration of the points, and any initial timing changes caused by same, but the mechanical advance and vacuum advance are unchanged by the electronic systems. You need to do periodic inspection and lubrication or the advantage of the upgrade will be marginalized.
- Confirm that the red wire from the Pertronix module is attached to the 12 volt ignition source at the engine compartment multi-connector and not to the + side of the coil which receives less than 6 volts during run time. See instruction 25 in the installation guide.
- Inspect the center carbon button in the distributor cap and the six contacts for any corrosion or start of

carbon tracking. Check the rotor for fit and also that the metal contact finger is not loose. Check the air gap between the module and the magnet sleeve; it should be the same when you finish maintenance (0.030).

- Remove the Pertronix magnet sleeve and remove the two screws holding the breaker plate, lifting it off and lay it aside. Apply a small amount of light grease in the area under the rotor where the cam rotates on the shaft. Inspect the springs and weights, looking for rust, badly worn pivots or excessive oil from a worn bushing. Check the breaker plate pivot and the vacuum advance arm pin, lubing if necessary. Temporarily install the rotor and twist clockwise to observe movement of the parts and where small amounts of light grease need to be applied. Re-install the breaker plate and magnet sleeve and check that the air gap between the module and magnet has not changed.
- Bring the engine up to operating temperature and confirm that your initial timing has not changed and then rev the engine while watching the timing mark, both with vacuum advance connected and disconnected, verifying the three functions of advance that are necessary for overall performance (although vacuum advance is only an aid to fuel economy).



Lightly lube at these points on both sides of the assembly as well as under the rotor.

Make a note in your maintenance records that all is well and hit the road for some Corvair fun and adventure!

CORSA MEMBERS – Mecum Auctions Discount

Corvair Society of America is proud to be a part of the Mecum Auctions Car Club Program for 2021. This program was established to support the car clubs, their members and the collector car community. What's in It for CORSA Members?

Bidder Registration Discounts! Individual CORSA members can buy a Standard Bidder registration for Mecum Auctions that includes one (1) Bidder Badge and one (1) Guest Badge. The normal price for Standard Bidder registration is \$200 per auction, but CORSA members pay only \$100.

To take advantage of this offer, log onto this website with your CORSA User-ID and Password and then **CLICK RIGHT HERE** to obtain your Mecum Promotion Code. Then, sign up for an account on the Mecum Auctions website at www.mecum.com. Please be aware this offer is available only to dues-paying CORSA members.

After that, you can register for any of the upcoming Mecum auctions. The Mecum website will walk you through the process. When you arrived at the "Checkout" screen, be sure to enter the promotion code. Otherwise, you won't receive the discount.

Beware: This offer is available only for those of you who register online. You can also register by phone, by mail, or when you walk in the door, but you won't get the discount.

Mecum has a car club booth at each one of its auctions. CORSA will be among the clubs represented there with brochures and sample copies of the CORSA Communique magazine. Our logo will also appear in Mecum show programs and in Mecum Magazine.

The Mecum auction schedule can be found on their website at <https://www.mecum.com/>

PCCA Minutes - January 9, 2021. Tim Mahler Secretary

The January PCCA meeting was called to order by President Chris Hall at 2:14pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The secretary report for November was printed in the FlatSix, no changes were requested and it was approved by the membership present. The treasurer’s report was given by Treasurer Jim Allen with an ending balance in the checking account \$4,448.74, \$5 in savings, and \$125 cash for a total of \$578.74. Jim reported he had received 20 membership renewals to date. The report was approved by the members present. Chris Hall gave the membership report as 23 memberships at 12 households. Chris asked about the new format of the membership roster which was larger than years past. Everyone voiced approval of the larger format.

CPF Museum report - Brian talked about the new Greenbrier Billboard out front on the berm. The local Boy Scouts donated most of the labor to prep it for painting, paint and other materials were donated by the Pawnee graphic shop. Mike Hall mentioned that the CPF does have another raffle car that was donated. It will be worked on over the coming year. Donations from visitors is down because the bar and museum both have been closed. The museum does have some new artwork in route to be exhibited. Old Business: None.

New Business: The San Diego National convention is still planning to be held in July but the pandemic is an issue. The mini in Springfield is also still being planned with the same issues with restrictions that may or may not be in place come May.

Chris asked about future club events – picnics, tours? Comments included a return to the Pontiac Tour. Jim Allen announced that his daughter Carrie would be providing cupcakes for the refreshments at the next meeting. Brian Nicholson volunteered to bring refreshments for the March meeting.

Mike Hall announced that Meccum Auctions has worked with various car clubs, including CORSA to offer a discounted (\$100) bidders pass good for the entire event. There is a vacancy in the Central Division for the CORSA Board, contact Mike. The Maggie Valley show may become a mini this Fall. The Heart of Texas (HOT) show has been moved to November – should be cooler then.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm. Jim Allen won the 50/50 immediately donated it back to PCCA. Mike and Rhona Hall brought refreshments.

PCCA Board meeting Minutes - January 9, 2021.

President Chris Hall brought the meeting to order at 1:17pm beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present - Mike Hall, Brian Nicholson, Glen Rittenhouse and Sandy Myers. Officers included Chris, Tim Mahler and Jim Allen.

Mine Reboot. Mike Hall and Brian Nicholson both discussed a few aspects of the convention. Key item is that it is still be planned for May, 2021. With the National Convention being in California, and the pandemic causing concerns in the medical community (hospital capacity), there is some concern that the event may not occur. A final decision will not be made until March, until then, plans are that it is a go. Mike mentioned as a prelude to adding an auto cross to the Springfield Mini to replace the National autocross if the national is again postponed. A location to hold the autocross was discussed without any final determination.

Chris asked about upcoming programs, activities for the club. Chris also asked for ideas on how to grow the club membership - tech sessions, working with CACC bodyshop?

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52pm

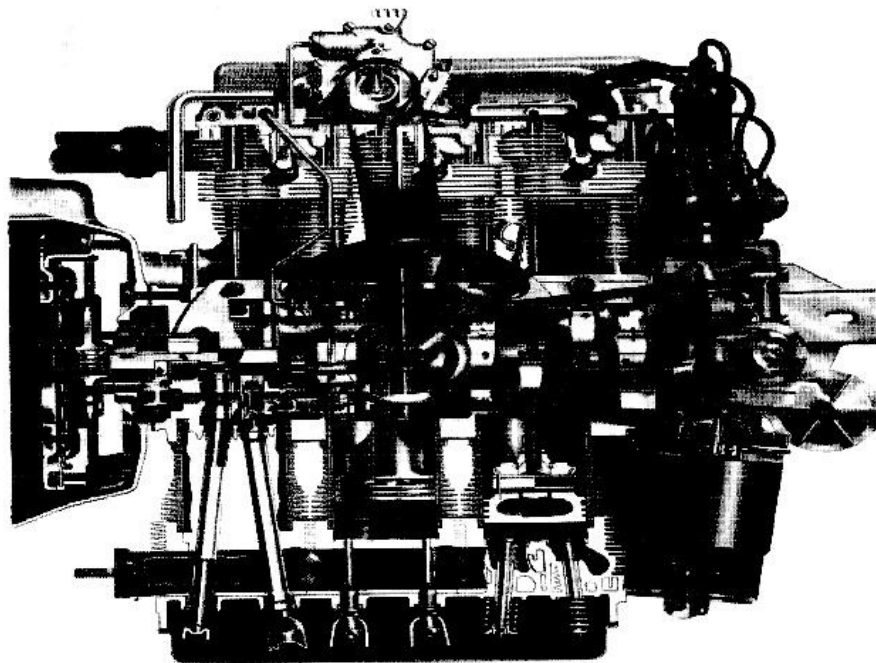


Inside the Corvair Museum



A “Corvair” bicycle, inside the Corvair Museum

The Flat Six



Prairie Capital Corvair Association



Prairie Capital
Corvair Association
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