

Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 454
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

The Flat Six

June 2026

2026 Officers

President -Chris Hall	(217) 691-6529	Vice-President Brian Nicholson	(217) 891-0808
Secretary-Tim Mahler	(217) 793-3824	Treasurer-Mike Hall	(217) 494-7105
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FlatSix Editor Tim Mahler	(217) 793-3824	Email	PrairieCapital@corvair.org

Board of Directors

Shelby Berta (2026)	(217) 361-7089	Jim Ori (2027)	(217) 725-8049
Jim Collier (2026)	(217) 972-2285	Jim Allen (2026)	(309) 361-5351

From the Prez

Greetings, Fellow PCCA Members,

Our apologies for having to cancel the May meeting. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to get a quorum for our planned July meeting. It's hard to believe that we're closing in on Memorial Day weekend already! We're knee deep into car show season! Have you gotten to any shows yet? I haven't yet but, am hopeful to get to some. As a club we have a couple of planned events coming up! Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show and the Tremont Turkey Festival Car Show. I'd also like to apologize that I made an error on my personal calendar. I actually have to work during our Pawnee Prairie Days event so I'll be unable to attend. Since two of our officers help put on that event please disregard my message about having a standby meeting. With that being said I hope you are able to attend! I most certainly hope to see you at some point throughout this year! In honor of our fallen Soldiers this Memorial Day weekend and the recent passing of NASCAR Racing Driver Kyle Busch please allow me to get you into the Newsletter with a moment of silence. God Bless you all and may God always Bless the United States of America.

Chris Hall, PCCA President 2026



Freedom Tour cars arriving at the museum. Pre-arranged tour, lots of visitors in a short time span. Photo by Larry Claypool

2026 Calendar – watch closely, things change

It's Summer Time

Back to a Week Night Meeting – gather at 4:30 for a good meal meeting at 5:30.

- May 30, 2026** **Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show. Pawnee IL.** Details to follow
Expecting to meet up with Show-me Corvair Club at 8:30am rt105 & I-55.
Last Year saw a plenty of Corvairs from both clubs (mostly SMCC)
and we had a Great Time. Mike and Brian help Host the event
May 30&31 CPF Museum will be Open 10am-4pm Sat and 8a to 4p on Sunday
- June 8 thru 12 Hot Rod Power tour – starts in Joliet ends in Tulsa OK. June 9 is scheduled to be in Rantoul Illinois then to St Louis (gateway Speedway) June 10. CPF Museum will be open June 10 as the tour follows RT66 thru Chatham.
- June 14, 2026** **Tremont Turkey Fest – and Car Show - PCCA is expecting to attend as a group**
Show from 10:00 to 1:00; registration at 8:00. Cost is \$10 per entry and you get a ticket for a free turkey sandwich. All cars are extended an invitation to stay to participate in the parade at 2:00. Organizer is Greg Williams.
- June 20, 2026 Hemmings Great Race – A Time Distance Speed Rally for vintage (old) cars
Starts Old State Capital Springfield IL 9:30-1:00pm (staggered start I assume)
CPF Museum slated to be open June 17 thru June 20 to accommodate visitors.
- June 22 - 26, 2026. 2026 CORSA international Convention** Gettysburg (Monday-Friday schedule)
Location: Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel & Conference Center, 95 Presidential Circle, Gettysburg, PA
- July 9 to 11 Corvair Homecoming - Detroit Michigan
- July 14, 2026** **PCCA Meeting at Toni's Café: I-55 and Rt2 104 - Exit 82 near gas station.**
Early Dinner Meeting. Gather at 4:30 to eat. Meeting slated for 5:30 pm
Room reserved in the back portion of the restaurant.
- August 13 Illinois State Fair parade (early evening) Expect a Corvair to be in the show.
August 23 Concours in Geneva Illinois
Sept 10-13 Great Plains Corvair Roundup Springdale Arkansas
- September 12** **Secretary of State Automobile Show.** Near new
State Capital Springfield IL
- September 25-27 IL RT66 Mother road Festival - Very big Car Cruise and Car Show Springfield IL
Sept or Oct **Overnight tour to Hannibal MO - Mural tour – details still be worked out.**
- Nov 14, 2026 PCCA Meeting date Details to follow. Expect Toni's Café at exit 82
Meeting will start most everyone has eaten lunch – estimated at 1:45 pm



Willow Run May 14, 1969

Corvair Last Day of Production*

May 14th commemorates the 57th anniversary of the last day of Corvair production which took place at the Willow Run Assembly Plant in Ypsilanti Twp., Michigan, with the press, Willow Run officials, and some GM Executives in attendance.

In its last year of production, a total of 6,000 1969 Corvairs were built at Willow Run. On May 14, 1969, at the historic time of 1:30pm, the last made Olympic Gold Monza coupe (car #6000) rolled out of the plant, was placed in a covered truck to be taken to downtown Detroit to GM's garage, and was never seen again. This left the Corvair community an unsolved mystery as to its whereabouts all these years. It was never issued an MSO (Manufacturer's Statement of Origin) nor was it ever registered. My confidential sources told me that car #6000 was scrapped due to the infighting of those who wanted to own the last made 1969 Corvair. For those who want to know more information about the last year of Corvair production and who ordered the last made car #6000 and why he didn't get it...click on this article link for all the juicy details:

<https://www.corvair.org/.../meet-the.../the-last-corvairs>

There were a few historic pictures taken on May 14, 1969, and Mr. Joe Strayhorn, former Senior Reliability Engineer and Superintendent of the 6,000 1969 Corvairs built, was the last known person to be photographed in car #6000. I've attached some photos from that day including some very rare ones I'm privileged to share from the private collection of Mr. Strayhorn when I first interviewed him several years ago. Unfortunately, Joe has since passed away.

There were also a couple of news clippings about those last Corvairs including car #6000 and a photo of the next to the last Corvair, car #5999. Car #5999 wouldn't start; resulting in a backfire condition, and the car had to be pushed aside to make way for car #6000 to roll out.

CORVAIR WORKER STORY:

I had a former Willow Run auto worker relay this little unknown gem of a story on the last day of Corvair production...When he and his fellow workers saw the last made car passing by, those who wore hats took them off and placed them over their hearts to pay tribute to a car they were Vairy proud and honored to make. That says a lot about how these guys felt about making our favorite air-cooled wonder.



Photo of the last 1969 Corvair (car #6000) going down the mini line in the Corvair Room where they hand assembled the last made cars.

Caption from news: "General Motors workers finish assembling a Chevrolet Corvair at their plant in Willow Run, Mich. on May 14, 1969. Jobs in the auto industry — and the economic security that came with them — formed the bedrock of American middle-class life for decades after World War II. | Richard Sheinwald/AP Photo"

If you look closely to the right, you'll see cameras rolling as Walter Cronkite gave a news report using this footage on the last day of Corvair production. To view this news report and seeing the last made Corvair, click on the link below: <https://youtu.be/VNKWHnvMWc4> Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire

CORVAIR FUN FACTS:

Mr. Linus "Pete" Rausch was the only known gentleman who was photographed in two historic Corvair production moments at Willow Run: As the Corvair Plant Manager in 1959, he officially drove the first production made 1960 Corvair (car #1) off the assembly line and was also photographed in the last made 1969 Corvair (car #6000). The first and the last. This would make for a good trivia question for Corvair aficionados.

Due to a high demand of Novas being made (producing around 57 cars an hour with 3 Corvairs running on the line in between); the Corvair was taken off the main assembly line in mid November of 1968. From there, a separate "Corvair Room" was created to hand assemble the remaining 1969 cars. On November 15, 1968, the first hand assembled pilot line car (#2195) was built. According to Joe Casey, Supervisor of the Corvair Room, they only built one convertible a day because he said, "They were a pain in the a\$% to make."

OTHER FACTS:

Corvairs were produced for model years 1960-1969 with a U.S. production total of 1,786,243 vehicles made (with the vast majority of them being made at Willow Run = 1,397,698 out of that total). Separate from U.S. production numbers, there were 48,297 Corvairs made in Canada. The dream began in 1960 with just over 250,000 cars made in the U. S. In its last year of production, a total of 6,000 1969 Corvairs were built at Willow Run (with only 521 convertibles).

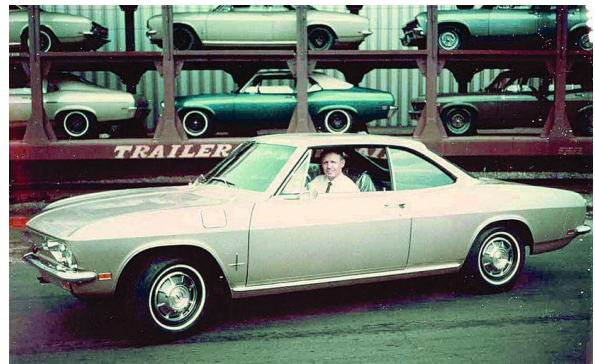
For rare film footage taken on May 14, 1969, of the last Corvair made (car #6000), please click on the link below for the Walter Cronkite news report announcing the last day of production (by the way, the announcer made a mistake, the first day of production was July 7, 1959 (not July 5th):

<https://youtu.be/VNKWHnvMWc4>

For those who would like to learn more about the Corvair history, please click on our page to follow.

By: Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire,
Corvair Historian/Creator,
Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair

*Please contact Eva McGuire at corvailady@gmail.com to obtain permission to reprint article or publish photos in newsletters, magazines, blogs, websites, etc. Thank you.



The last made 1969 Corvair (car #6000) with Joe Strayhorn taken on the last day of Corvair production on May 14, 1969. Joe was the 8th level Senior Reliability Engineer and Superintendent of the last made 6,000 1969 Corvairs. He began his career with General Motors at Chevrolet in 1952. In 1955, he transferred from St. Louis to work at the Willow Run Plant as Foreman of the truck plant, and in 1960 he became the General Foreman of the Corvair Plant.

The fate of car #6000 is a mystery. After it rolled out of the plant at the historic time of 1:30pm on May 14, 1969, it was loaded on a covered truck and taken downtown (Detroit) to the GM garage where it was never seen again. The car never had an MSO (Manufacturers Statement of Origin) nor was it ever registered. My confidential sources told me that the last made Corvair was scrapped.



One of the last photos taken of the last made 1969 Corvair, car #6000 in front of the car carrier train that carried mostly Novas, but if you look carefully, there should be a couple of Corvairs on this train.

May 30 Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show (and other activities)

CAR SHOW – Near the corner of St Rt 104 & 5th St. – Registration in Curry Funeral Home Back Lot
Contact Mike Hall at 217-494-7105 for info & sign up

The Show Me Corvair Club and PCCA are planning a joint activity for May 30, 2026 at the Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show . OPTIONAL Pre show meet up at the truck stop at IL104 and I-55 (exit 82). Depart at 8:30am for the show. Should be ample time to clean our Corvairs. OR you could just go directly to the show field.

Car Show Registration (\$15) is from 8 to 11am. judging starting at 11:15 Awards 2:00pm, the parade is 4 or 5pm. The festival also includes a BBQ cook off, crafts and a carnival. Plus a stroll to downtown Pawnee would find many other nice shops and eateries for those wanting to stretch their legs.

2026 CORSA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Come see us at the 2026 Convention in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania! Our booth will be open Monday the 22nd through Thursday the 25th. We are driving our truck so we will have a larger display of reproduction parts and two people ready to take orders. We won't have our large trailer like in the past, but we will have a truckload of parts for display and sale. Orders placed at the show get the show discount!

Check our [Shows We Are Attending](#) page on the website and with CORSA at www.corvair.org for more details and updates.

Clarks Corvair Parts
400 Mohawk Trail
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

www.corvair.com
413-625-9776
clarks@corvair.com

Editor's Note: Running a repeat request from Corvanatics Club – open to all FC (Greenbriers, Rampsides, Loadsides, Corvan) Enthusiasts. You do NOT need to own a FC, just be an interested in those interesting Forward Control Vehicles.

The World's Largest Club Dedicated to Corvair Trucks And Vans



All Corvair FC Enthusiasts Welcome!

www.Corvanatics.org



Editor's Note: Still back near the beginning of Mike Dawson's excellent Preventive Maintenance Series. Below is the article to complement last issues rear end noises - on to the Front: #7 from October 2013. Noises are Still noises and should be fixed before they become more serious. Once again, Thanks Mike.

THE PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE SERIES

Mike Dawson

Noises from the Front

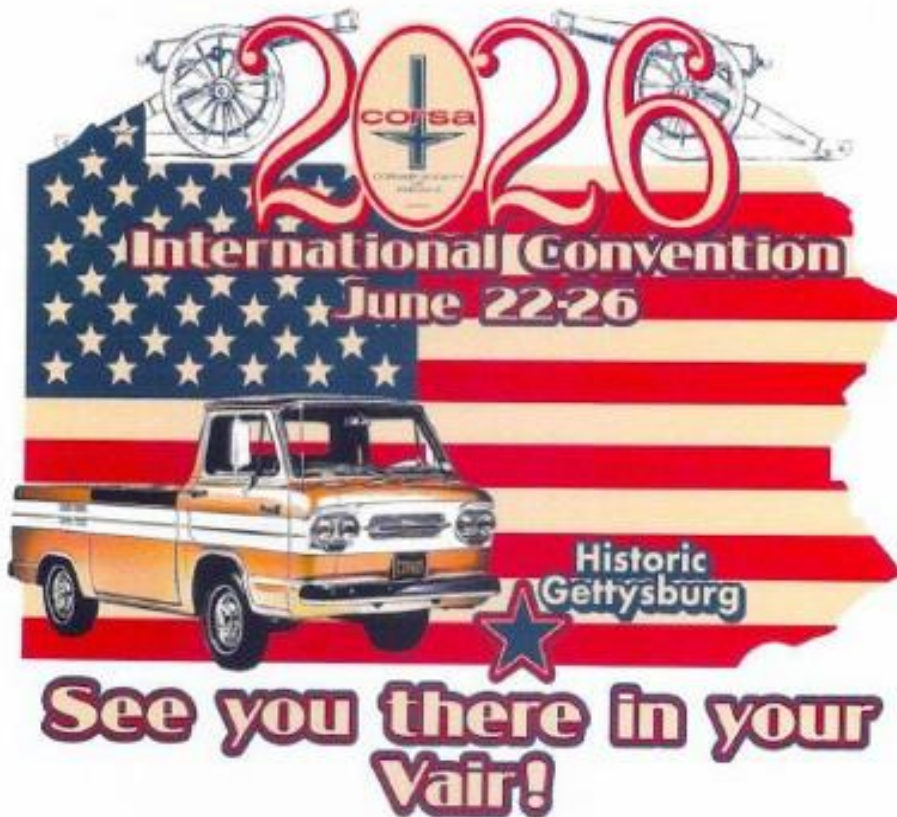
This month is an attempt to help identify front end noises.

Application is for all years and models with exceptions noted.

- A creaking noise heard at low speed during turning is usually a frozen idler arm joint. By the time it creaks, it may be too late, but installing grease fittings where none exist is highly recommended.
- A quick squeak when hitting small bumps at low speed is usually a worn out pitman arm bushing. It will be accompanied by play in the steering wheel. Cars only, and replacement is the cure.
- A very sharp metallic knock when going over a bump with one wheel only is usually a missing or split outer swaybar bushing (if your car has one). If both bushings are bad, you get twice the noise. The upper bushings can also cause the problem, but not as common.
- Loose lower shock mount bolt on late model cars also makes a series of metallic knocks. You can see rusted metal powder around a loose bolt. Add washers to squeeze the A-arm against the shock when you tighten the bolt.
- Very soft thunks that can be duplicated by lightly bouncing the car can be in the shocks themselves. Long periods of storage causes this, and replacement is the only cure.
- A loud sproing (sic) when going over dips and bumps or when bouncing the car, is the spring rubbing on the inside rear of the spring tower. Caused by negative caster or springs that have settled and aggravated by bad shocks.
- Light knocking that seems worse as you encounter edges may be strut rod bushings. The lower A-arm is controlled, and shock is absorbed by the strut mounting at the crossmember. As the bushings wear out, the metal strut encounters the mounting hole. Steering also suffers.
- Clicking may be a loose hubcap center, wire cover spokes, loose front wheel bearings, an unnatural object inside the wheel cover or a nail in a tire.
- Bad A-arm bushings usually make a snapping noise when making quick low speed turns. As they get worse the noise can be heard going over bumps.

There are probably many more noises to diagnose, but these are some of the more common. A yearly check of ball joints, steering parts, suspension bushings, springs and shocks is a good way to head off trouble; noises are not normal. Preventative maintenance is preferable to repairs in most cases.

 **SAVE THE DATE!** 



The 2026 CORSAs Convention is being presented by four clubs:

- Mid-Maryland Corvair Club
- Central Pennsylvania Corvair Club
- Group Corvair
- Northern Virginia Corvairs

We hope that you will join us for what is gearing up to be the biggest and best convention to be held on the East Coast! Come join in the fun and the history of Gettysburg- tour the battlefields, take a ghost tour, and dine at historic restaurants!

You can even visit wineries, tour car museums, and even spend time at the world-famous Hershey chocolate factory and the fun-filled HersheyPark.

Like the country life? Gettysburg is a short hour drive from the heart of the Amish communities in Lancaster PA where you'll find fantastic dining and shopping.



What's the schedule of events? Take a look at what we have planned:

- Monday, June 22nd: Welcome Party
- Tuesday, June 23rd: Concourse
- Wednesday, June 24th: Road Rally
- Thursday, June 25th: Autocross
- Friday, June 26th: Econo-Run
- Friday, June 26th: Banquet and Awards



Tours, technical sessions, and other fun and exciting activities and events are in the works!

Mark your calendars and start planning to

"See You There in Your 'Vair!'"



Participation limited to CORSAs members. Not a member? Join today! Are tours on the schedule for the Gettysburg Battle Site. When June 22nd, 2026 12:00 AM to June 26th, 2026 12:00 AM

Location: Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel & Conference Center
95 Presidential Circle Gettysburg, PA 17325-8397

Contact Email: govairs@aol.com

CPF Tours, Open Dates Tidbits May 19, 2026

Pictures are by Larry Claypool posted to the CPF FB page (lots of cool pictures there.)

The Freedom Road Rally (Tour) made a stop at the CPF Museum May 19, 2026. CPF President asked Bill Pierson and myself to help guide the visitors around the museum. Jim Allen was going to help to but wasn't able to at the last minute. The tour promoters called beforehand to make arrangements some 50 plus people were part of the rally. The group were late in arriving because of a hiccup at the restaurant in Decatur (Chevy Hall of Fame Museum). That spread them out from 1:30 to close to 5:00 pm. Made it easier on us.

It was a fun day helping (I should have volunteered more with Mike and Brian but did not). Better, was getting to catch up with Bill before the guest arrived. The tour is expected to visit the museum again June 2nd - Bill and Jim may be helping (tim is again out of town) Larry may appreciate another person or two, if not then, on one of the other group days - RT66 100th anniversary tours are popping up every week - and the Museum is currently on the RT66 route - and on it radar for a visit. Museum open dates are on the CPF web site and may change so it's good to check - info@corvair.museum.org or call (815) 603-8556 to verify the Museum will actually be open when you arrive.



Past Corsa presidents Bill Pierson and Tim Mahler

From <https://museum.corvair.org/index.php/visit/museum-schedule>

All dates for 2026

May 30	10am to 4pm	
May 31	8am to 4pm	
June 2	Noon to 4pm (maybe 5pm)	Freedom 500 Tour
June 10	open for Power Tour which is driving RT66 from Rantoul thru Chatham	
June 17	Noon to 5pm	Great Race Days
June 18	9am to 5pm	Great Race Days
June 19	9am to 5pm	Great Race Days
June 20	9am to Noon	Great Race Days (race leaves Springfield 9:30am to noon)
July 11	9am to 5pm	
July 12	9am to 2pm	



Val & Sasha with their Greenbrier camper. They were present all afternoon with their two youngsters.

Prairie Capital Corvair Association (PCCA) Membership Form
January 1, 2026 thru December 31, 2026

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: Mike Hall, PCCA Treasurer PO Boc 454, Pawnee IL 62558
 Please make checks payable to Prairie Capital Corvair Association or PCCA

No PCCA meeting held in May - lacked a quorum , next meeting is July 14 with two Car show gatherings scheduled – May 30 at the Pawnee Prairie Days and June 14 at the Tremont Turkey Fest. The July meeting should start gathering at 4:30 at Toni’s Café off I-55 for dinner.

Glen Rittenhouse follows sales on Bring-a-trailer. Last month he spotted two Corvairs on the site.



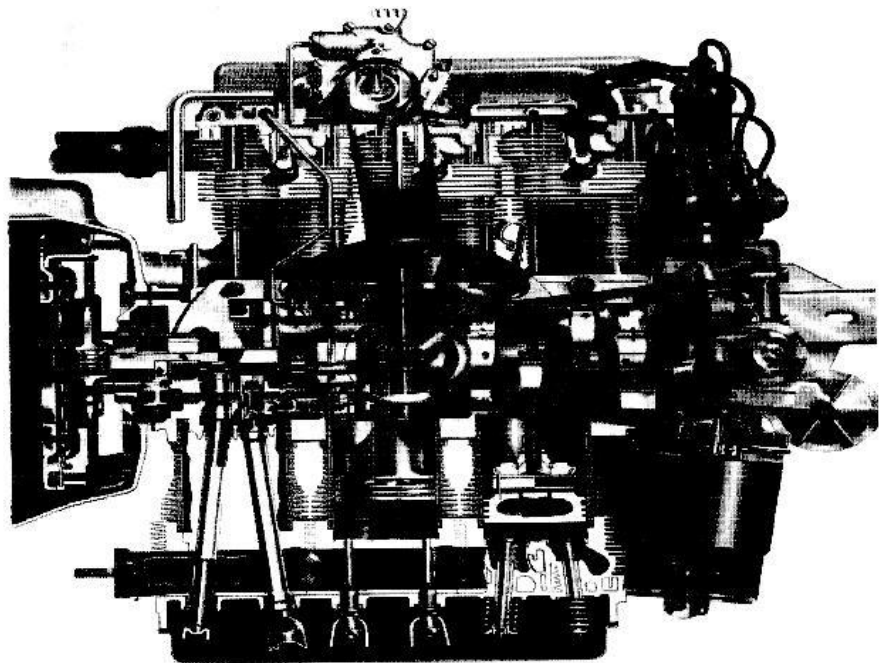
1963 Monza Coupe sold for \$14,000. Nice Car. Good price for both buyer and seller. It resembles the 61 coupe once owned by Biggs/Pierson



1963 black Monza Convertible. Spotted rust thru the newer paint job, lacks much of the exterior trim. Sold for \$7,400. Note the 64 nose trim. Hmmm.



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