



## Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 454  
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

# The Flat Six

March 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

Spring. Spring.

March is the start of Spring for many – meteorologists define spring as March 1 to May 31, in part because it’s a set time frame. Works for me. Besides the temps the last part of February have been spring-like. I even washed the car in the driveway. Snow may still fall, but if it does, it isn’t likely to stick around long. Yeah to Spring.

PCCA is still looking for program ideas for the next several meetings. Any transportation related talk would be appreciated. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to provide refreshments. The Colliers handled February with several yummy options. The Allens are celebrating Carrie’s birthday in March (I’m hoping for some delicious cupcakes). Carrie must be turning 23 this year. And the Rittenhouses have volunteered for April. Thanks everyone.

It is not too early to reserve your room for the 2024 CORSA convention – call the listed number, not the 800 number. Dayton is roughly 5 hours from the Corvair Museum. I’ve driven there and back home in a single day to pick up parts for my race prepped Corvair.

Hmm. With Spring here, and summer fast approaching, PCCA should be identifying a few other activities we may want to try to do this year. It has been a while since we went on a tour somewhere. Route 66, or some other historic area may be a nice diversion from all the hubbub on the news.

Stay Warm, Travel Safely and above all, Have Fun.

Tim



Feb meeting Corvair outside. Tim’s Coupe

# 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.



2024 Meeting Dates - Location – the National Corvair Museum in Glenarm

- March 9, 2024 PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm  
**LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm  
Refreshments: Jim and Bernie Allen
- April 5-6, 2024 Corvair Performance Workshop. Dernoshek Racing & Restoration  
5645 Ashland Rd., Kannapolis NC 28083
- April 13, 2024 PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm  
**LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm  
Refreshments: Glen and Rita Rittenhouse
- May 11, 2024 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm. LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm  
May 18, 2024 Joint Picnic - SMCC and PCCA at the National Corvair Museum.  
Detatils to be announced later. If you have suggestions, let an Officer know.
- June 8, 2024 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm. LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm  
This may become the Pawnee Prairie day Show in Pawnee.
- July 11-14, 2024 DACC (Detroit) Homecoming - always a great event  
Wyndham Garden Ann Arbor 2900 Jackson Road Ann Arbor, MI
- July 13, 2024 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm. LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm
- July 22-25, 2024 2024 CORSA International Convention  
Marriott at the University of Dayton 1414 South Patterson Boulevard Dayton, Ohio  
Hosted by Dayton Corvair Club, Corvair Club of Cincinnati, and Columbus Mid-Ohio  
Vair Force **Concours, Road Rally, Economy Run, Autocross, swap meet, tech sessions, More** Call 1-937-223-1000 for room reservations.
- August 10, 2024 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm. LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm  
September 7, 2024 **SOS Auto Show, downtown Springfield 8:00am to 3:30pm**  
**PCCA Meeting 1:00pm. At the show.**
- October 5, 2024 State Police Heritage Car Show  
October 12, 2024 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm. LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm  
November 9, 2024 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm. LOCATION: the CPF Museum** in Glenarm  
December 14, 2024 **PCCA Christmas get together, luncheon.** Need location and ideas, please.

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

# PCCA Meeting Photos

And a few Notes. Photos are from Shelby Berta and Tim Mahler. Tim's Coupe on p1 was by Shelby

The February meeting was met by, for February, mild temperatures and clear skies. At least I didn't get rained on. I do need to replace the seals around the fresh air vents so the heater has a chance on actually warming the car. Of Course, if I do THAT, I should also fix the control knobs so I can fully turn close the heater vents for the summer days. And then fix all the other things a almost 60 year old automobile needs fixed. – OK the brakes are checked regularly - hard, harder. The engine purrs nicely (Thanks to expert mechanic Jim Allen) and the tires are only 3 years old. Mechanically sound.



Inside, the great members of PCCA gathered around for a brief club meeting and socialization. During the meeting, Brian was giving a tour to a couple from out of town. I noticed that the Mrs was reading a book after an hour or so while he continued looking at all the Corvairs house in the National Corvair Museum.

A request was made during the meeting for volunteers, members, honor students (may need an adult to be present) or friends of members to be



available at the museum on weekends. At least one day. My notes indicated 10-4 time frame but that is not set in stone. A Tuesday or Wednesday may work too, same kind of hours. The idea is to be able to advertise (at least on the web page and front door) that the museum is open at these set times or by appointment other times. Mike, Brian and others do a wonderful job handling

ad hoc tours, but having set times would allow more visitors to "just drop in because we were in the area." The Greenbrier on the median, and the new signage help draw the RT66 tourist to the museum.



The sole "Tim" photo, rest by Shelby

The following article was submitted to the Flat Six by CPF Secretary James Rice. The editor does not necessarily agree with the comments/statements but felt it was important to share to the Corvair Community but he does support the CPF.

## **HOW YOUR LOCAL CLUB CAN SUPPORT THE CORVAIR PRESERVATION FOUNDATION**

**Who Are We?** This article explains the purpose of the Corvair Preservation Foundation (CPF), its National Corvair Museum (NCM), and how the Corvair Society of America (CORSA) Club Chapters can help financially a worthy organization. Although CPF is an affiliate of CORSA, each group is fully independent of the other in terms of all financial obligations, memberships, and general operations. Specifically, the CPF is 100% funded purely from its own tax-deductible memberships and donations. Moreover, membership in CORSA does not provide membership in the CPF – and vice versa. While enthusiasts are welcome and encouraged to join both, it is also worth noting that CORSA membership is not required for CPF membership.

**Our Mission!** The mission of the CPF foundation is to preserve and promote the history of the Corvair through documentation, public education, and acquiring significant artifacts.

**What Do We Do?** The CPF operates and maintains the National Corvair Museum located at 10041 Palm Rd. (Old Route 66), in Glenarm, Illinois. The museum displays significant historical vehicles with various examples of cars and trucks, along with engines, literature, design sketches, prototypes and experimental and artifacts. CPF also welcomes the opportunity to display cars and historical items on loan by fellow Corvair enthusiasts. The National Corvair Museum has been recognized and endorsed by General Motors as the official museum of North America to tell the national story of this air-cooled wonder.

Another function of CPF is sponsoring and awarding scholarships to deserving qualified high school students associated with active CORSA members. This scholarship program is named in honor of Frank Winchell, who was the former Engineering Staff Vice President of General Motors and Director of Engineering for Chevrolet Research and Development Group. Considered a true Corvair hero. He played a leading role in the successful defense of the Corvair during the trials against Chevrolet and GM. He is also credited with the development of the Corvair transaxle and was involved in the creation of several Corvair concept/project cars.

**How can local Corvair clubs help CPF?** While CPF and NCM is operated by volunteers, it still takes donations to keep the both running. We encourage clubs to create ideas to promote ways of giving to the CPF. For example, a club might have donation canisters with CPF literature available at local events. We know of at least one club who plans to restore a Corvair up and raffle it off with the donation of the funds raised given to CPF. Some clubs donate funds each year to the Frank Winchell Scholarship Fund, while others donate monthly to help cover the operating costs for the National Corvair Museum. No matter how small or large, every dollar counts and is most appreciated.

**How can I become a CPF Member?** Another way to support our organization is to become a member. When you join CPF, your annual dues not only support the ongoing operations of the National Corvair Museum, but also ALL our various initiatives. This includes Corvair recovery and restoration, CPF touring exhibits, funding for the Frank Winchell Scholarship program, and much more. Membership dues are only \$45/year. CPF Members enjoy an official Membership Card, complimentary window cling, and free year-round admission to the CPF's National Corvair Museum. Your dues and donations are tax-deductible, and you'll also have the satisfaction of knowing your contributions help keep the history and preservation of the Chevy Corvair alive for future generations.

**We Need Space!** We recently kicked off a national capital campaign to raise funds for a permanent museum home. We have outgrown the space we currently lease and are looking into either building a new facility or purchasing an existing building, thus providing the Corvair with a permanent home to tell its story.

**Are There Donation Alternatives?** Donations to the CPF are not limited to revenue only. CPF welcomes donated items such as cars, parts, literature, and memorabilia, all of which are tax deductible. Contributions through estate planning are also possible and encouraged. If you or your club are interested in donating, or need assistance with estate planning, please contact CPF President Mike Hall at (217) 494-7105 or email at [mrhvair@aol.com](mailto:mrhvair@aol.com). Please consider supporting the continued growth and development of the CPF and National Corvair Museum with your financial commitment. For more information about our organization, museum, or ways to donate, please go to [www.nationalcorvairmuseum.org](http://www.nationalcorvairmuseum.org).

Donations and correspondence can be sent directly (and payable to):  
Corvair Preservation Foundation  
P. O. Box 68  
Long Lake, MN 55356

Many, Many Thanks! We thank all those who have generously contributed in the past, and we look forward to your continued support in the future. Working hand-in-hand, together we will ensure that the legacy of the Chevrolet Corvair endures.

## **National Corvair Museum News From PCCA member and CPF President Mike Hall**

Hi all. I wanted to see if there is any interest in our membership helping at the museum on weekends so we can advertise to be open for tours. Brian and I are not always available so I wanted to reach out to see if anyone has an interest in helping us accommodate tours. As you know we are the only OPEN corvair museum in the country, and establishing hours other than by appointment will help us grow. Please let Brian or I know as soon as you can if you have interest in doing this. We will train you and provide you a script.

**NOTE: At the February meeting**, a Tuesday or Wednesday may also work in conjunction with the weekend. Suggested hours 10-4 – maybe 11-5. Trying to find days of week the Museum could advertise as open with the goal of drawing more visitors. Good Wi-Fi is available so a teenager helper may be encouraged to help as well.

### **CORSA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2024**

2024 CORSA International Convention - Dayton, OH

Hotel Booking is now open!

Monday July 22nd thru Thursday, July 25th.

Monday 7/22-

Welcome Party, Car Display and Valve Cover Racing!

Tuesday 7/23 - Concours d'Elegance during the day; Special evening event: "Dinner under the Wings" at the National Museum of the United States Air Force

Wednesday 7/24 - Econo Run and Road Rally

Thursday 7/25 - Autocross and Banquet



<https://www.daytoncorvairclub.com>

There is much more planned for your enjoyment and many local attractions to visit before and after the convention. More details on these attractions and information about the convention schedule will be updated to the CORSA site and published in the Communique. Convention Registration will open in March 2024.

Hotel information: (Call the 1-937-223-1000 number, the 1-800 doesn't have the right information)  
Marriott at the University of Dayton 1414 South Patterson Boulevard Dayton, Ohio 45409 1-937-223-1000  
Room rate is \$142 per night. Mention The Corvair Society of America 2024 for special room rate.

This rate is available for Sunday thru Friday night reservations.

Go to the CORSA Web site to find the link to the hotel reservations page [www.Corvair.org](http://www.Corvair.org)

Mike Dawson always has good tips for us Corvair folk. I borrowed another one from his archives on the HOACA website under tech articles. This number 185 - a nice one place location for the pesky gas gauge doesn't work. Thanks Mike.

## The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

### Gas Gauge Diagnosis Revisited

Gas gauges for early models, late models and FC vehicles all operate essentially the same; they vary only in the resistances involved. A 12 volt power supply is provided to one side of the dashboard meter and a variable resistance to ground is provided by the in tank rheostat to the other side of the meter. This varies the magnetism that locates the gauge needle.

Use of a quality ohm meter would be a very useful tool; a cheap unit will not read accurately in the range you need, which is 0-100 ohms. The early model and FC units are a 0-30 ohm resistance and the late model units are 0-90 ohms. Note: there can be a variance of a few ohms when checking sending units, including new ones.

#### Quick Check

With the key on, you can check your dashboard meter movement by removing the output wire at the tank; your meter should read over full (On FC models you would have to cut the wire coming from the tank since you cannot reach the connector). Ground that wire and your meter should read empty. Keep in mind that late model dash boards can lose their ground either at the screw attachment or at any of the ground strap connections behind the dash. The dashboard meter will read overfull if you loose the dash ground.

After performing the quick check test which confirms that your dashboard meter works properly, the following information may be useful.

The majority of the problems will come from one of the following: a missing ground between the tank's sending unit and the body, a float that has sunk, or a bad rheostat or wire on the tank sending unit. There are several tests that can help you determine where the problem is before you start replacing parts.

**If your dashboard meter reads overfull, the dashboard ground is good and the dashboard meter passed the quick check:** There is an open circuit between the dashboard meter and the sending unit, an open in the sending unit itself, or between the sending unit and a good ground.

1. To check the sending unit you would disconnect the wire on the tank sending unit (FC's require cutting the wire unless you pull the tank) and check the resistance between the stud on the sending unit and the sending unit flange. Your ohm meter should indicate some resistance on the 0-100 scale depending on early or late. If not, then the open is in the sending unit rheostat or the in-tank connection. You might be able to repair the problem but replacing the sending unit, float, pickup filter and seal would be the permanent solution. Stainless steel units are now available.

2. If you register the correct resistance at the tank, then next check the ground for the tank. The ground wire must have a good connection where it is attached to the body. If the ground and the wire are good, then you must have an open in the wire from the tank's sending unit to the dashboard meter. The quick check above would have shown this when you grounded the wire at the tank -- the gauge unit would not have moved.

If you have another sending unit available, hook it up by using a long jumper wire connected to the sending unit wire you have pulled off. With the key on, ground the unit and move the float to observe your meter movement.

**If the dashboard meter reads empty all the time and the meter passed the quick check, then proceed to the following possibilities:**

1. The float has a hole in it and has sunk to the bottom. Attach your ohm meter to the output stud at the sending unit and to ground. You would read either 0 or only a few ohms, confirming the float is on the bottom.

2. The wire from the sending unit to the dashboard meter is grounded. It could have a screw grounding it or the insulation scraped off around the tunnel pan area or if it is an FC the wire may be pinched between the tank and the body.

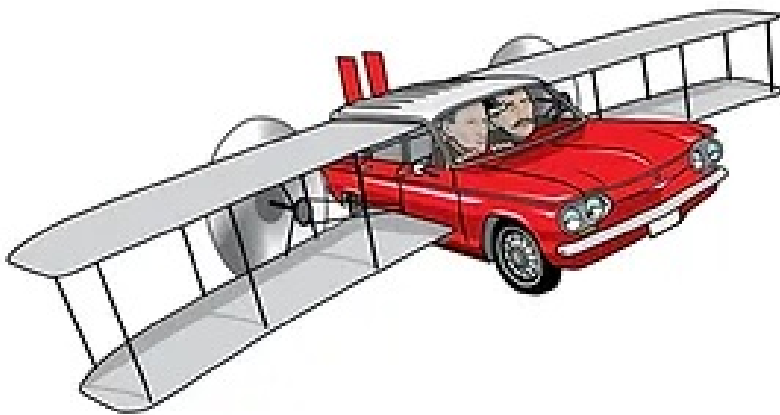
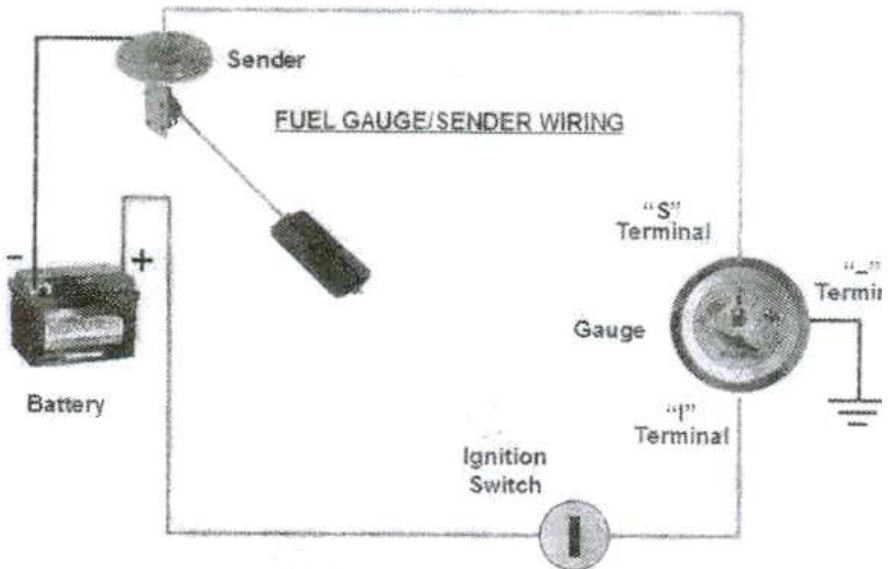
3. The insulation on the sending unit strap that connects the rheostat to the output stud has rotted away and is grounding at one end or the other where the strap can touch. See example to the right submitted by HOACA member Matt Olson:



**Other possible causes of erroneous meter readings; I have experienced all of these:**

- The wrong year sending unit has been installed
- The bottom of the tank has been attacked by a floor jack.
- A rusty tank has had a liquid liner applied inside without proper cleaning. The liner came off and is under the float like a wadded up newspaper.
- It is not uncommon to find that those before you have altered wiring for some modification or repaired wiring with non-soldered connections that corroded.

**One final note:** Before installing a replacement sending unit, use a long jumper and a ground to remotely move the float up and down while observing the dashboard meter. You can adjust the arm movement slightly to get closer to the full or empty mark if necessary.



**General Meeting Notes February 10, 2024**

**by Tim Mahler**

President Tim Mahler called the meeting to order at 2:07pm opening with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The secretary report and January treasury report were printed in the FlatSix. There was no meeting in January due to the incimate weather. Glen Rittenhouse gave the February treasury report. Glen Rittenhouse's

Checking Account Beginning Balance	1/13/2024	\$ 4,177.43
Income - Dues deposited (7)		\$ 84.00
Expenses - None		\$ 0.00
Total Checking 02/10/2024		\$ 4,261.43
+ Savings Acct. Balance (required for a checking acct)		\$ 5.00
+ Total Cash on Hand 2/10/2024		\$ 125.13
Total Checking/Savings/Cash	February 10, 2024	\$ 4,391.56

The report was approved those present. The president acknowledge charter members Bill and Shelby Berta, who along with Sue Biggs are the last charter members from PCCA's founding in January 1977.

Museum report - Mike Hall gave a update on the CPF National Corair Museum. Thanks to the Milwaukee Corvair club who ventured south for a tour and volunteer time. The group did an inventory of museum artifacts (re) discovering several archive magazines - "Windmill" from CORSA's early days. They also help mount several displays. Much appreciated. Mike also reported that 5 Corvairs, various models including a FC and a wagon will be displayed, on load, at the Crawford Museum in Cleveland OH. The actual dates have not been confirmed but late spring is the target.

Other Business – The Performance workshop is being held in North Carolina this year - April 5-6. The SOS Show is now self-supporting and will be held in the Stratton parking lot instead on the city streets. Ample place and still near the State Capital and the Illinois State museum. Date is September 7, 2024. Finally, the State Police Heritage museum will host a car show October 5, 2024.

Motion to adjoin was made at 2:55. 50/50 was held with Bill Pierson winning some gas money for the long trip home. James and Beulah Collier brought refreshments - a nice mix of sweets and healthy options. Thanks



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024**  
**DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD, IL**

The order form for the SOS Plates is available on the SOS web site – see the link below

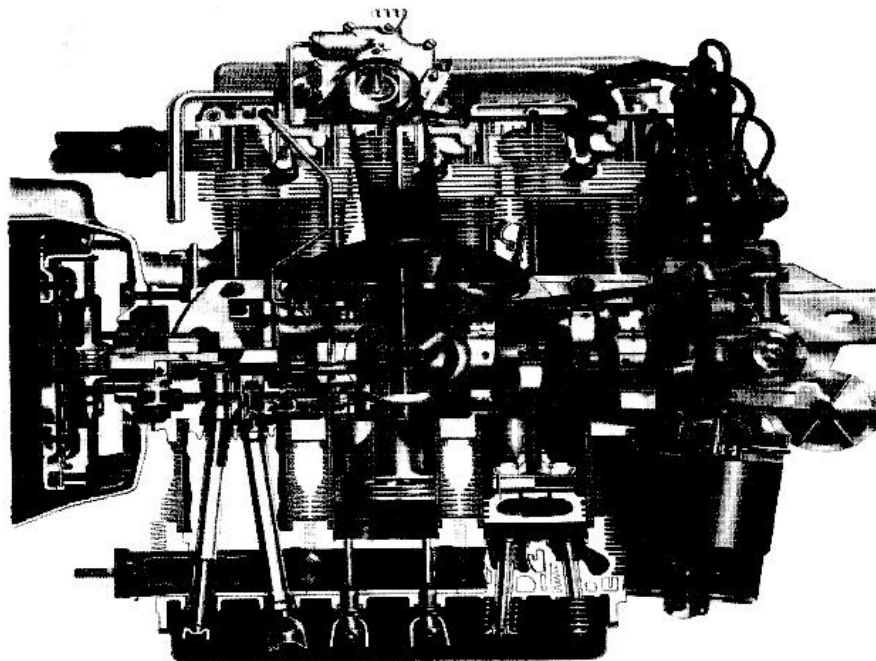
[https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf\\_publications/iga14.pdf](https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf_publications/iga14.pdf)

Mike Hall also has an order form for Illinois State Fair Event plates - for the State Fair Museum





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