

Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 454
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

The Flat Six

June 2025

2025 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

Shelby Berta (2026)	(217) 361-7089	Chris Hall (2025)	(217) 691-6529
Jim Collier (2025)	(217) 972-2285	Brian Nicholson (2025)	(217) 891-0808

From the Prez

It's late May, Memorial day weekend. Thank you to all veterans and special thanks to those who served during times of conflict.

I'm prepping the newsletter to be sent before the May 31 Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show as a last minute reminder to all Corvair Enthusiasts. Mike, Chris and Brian will be thrilled to see a very large Corvair turnout this year. There is a Corvair Class at the show (Mike is involved). It should be a grand day. Bonus: We get to meet up with our SMCC friends.

The May business meeting was cancelled because we lacked a quorum. Spring activities were partly to blame. Plus I need to get some programs together to make the meetings more interesting. I have one or two leads, but not having attendees makes getting presenters more difficult. It becomes a revolving door issue. But we will overcome or maybe just show a few Laurel and Hardy films involving revolving doors. Laughs are always good.

Back to fun stuff. Wash your Corvair and get in a test drive. Pawnee Here We Come.

Happy Corvair-ing Tim



It's been awhile since I've seen the "tow truck". This photo is from the 2022 CORSA Convention in Dayton Ohio.

Calendar of Events - 2025

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.



May 31 SMCC/PCCA joint adventure

The Show Me Corvair Club and PCCA are planning a joint activity for May 31, 2025 at the Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show . OPTIONAL Pre show meet up at the truck stop at IL104 and I-55 (exit 82). Depart around 9:00am 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.

See the May newsletter for the Prairie day Flyer and more information.

July 10-13, 2025 Detroit Homecoming, Ann Arbor Michigan. Another great event see write up in the March Newslettr. Has been attended and enjoyed by PCCA members in the past

July 12, 2025 **PCCA Meeting 2:00-4:00 pm.**
LOCATION: the CPF Nationa Corvair Museum in Glenarm

August 2 Abe Lincoln Car Show at Cherry Hills Church (2125 Woodside rd) 8am to 4pm.
Show field mostly grass, some concrete. Feature guest is Eric Estrada (ChiPs)

August 3 Old Settlers days of Hillsboro IL. Car show and county fair
Other activities August 2 through 7 including carnival and a parade Aug 7.
NOTE: Date Correction. Larry Tucker kindly sent a note correcting my dates,

September 6 **PCCA Meeting 1:00pm, Near Corvairs**
LOCATION: Annual SOS Auto show near the State Capital

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

Lincoln Railsplitter Car Club events (Full calendar is on the internet)

Cruise-ins - 1-4 pm, all in Lincoln, IL. May 3rd and July 5th Evergreen Rentals (saturdays)

Cruise-ins 4:30-8:30 pm, Fridays, June 20th, July 18th on Pulaski St

Cars and Coffee - June 28th on Kickapoo St.

Cool Cruisers Event Schedule (again, full schedule is on the internet)

At Motorheads, Wednesday, 5:30-8:30 - June 4, June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30

Meet the Maker Creator and Corvair Historian Eva McGuire has been busy posting articles on the Corvair on her “Meet the Makers” Facebook page. Eva has been kind enough to repost many of those articles to the Prairie Capital Corvairs Facebook page. I really appreciate her efforts and stories. I do enjoy reading about history although I could never be a historian – too many dates and I forget stuff. Below is another of her recent posts.

Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair

By Eva McGuire Corvair Historian/Creator Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair
(Photos courtesy of GM)

*RARE PHOTO OF A "HOLDEN" (A/K/A CORVAIR) SPOTTED IN PUBLIC...The following is a letter written by John D. Walker that was sent to the Corvair Museum in 1998 including a photo he took as a teenager at a gas station in 1959 spotting a “Holden” (secret project name given to Corvair during its experimental development before it was introduced to the public). GM didn't want the public to know it was creating a compact car so it used the name "Holden" (a GM subsidiary of Australia). They disguised the car (including placing "Holden" emblem badges on it) to keep spies from other car companies and the public discovering this new air-cooled wonder. We thank Wade Lanning, historian, for sharing this letter and photo by Mr. Walker. Sorry, I do not know the location of the gas station.

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



Dear Sir:

Please find enclosed print made from a Kodachrome slide taken in July 1959. At the time that this photograph was made, I was seventeen years of age and had been following the progress of the development of the Corvair as it had been reported in Popular Science and Popular Mechanics since roughly 1957 or 1958. I never expected to come face to face with one before its introduction.

Some time in early to mid July 1959, I was going to the local post office (the brick building in the right background) and saw the Corvair at the gas pump. I ran home (150 yards away) and got my camera. I shot the picture that you see here before any of the party with the car spotted me. The service attendant has either just finished refueling the car, or was getting ready to start refueling. The men to the right rear were in the party that were traveling with the Corvair. The Corvair "crew" consisted of two of the men, and the rest were traveling in the 1959 Chevrolet wagon just barely visible to the rear of the Corvair.

The car appears to be a 1960 Corvair, possibly a 500 model, with a fake mesh grille with a cutout to allow access to the trunk lock. There is a hood insignia that I think might said "Holden" on it (as in Holden/GM of Australia). There were fake tail fins made of body color painted cardboard just barely visible on the right rear fender. There were also fake C pillar covers of body color painted cardboard visible to the left rear of the car. Looking at the photo, I am not sure if I see a very slight suggestion of positive camber of the right rear wheel, but I may be overcalling it a bit here.

I took the photo that you see here, and then moved closer for a better look and then went to the right side of the car to get a photograph of the side of the car, and one of the men spotted me for the first time, and some of them ran at me in a menacing way and shouting that I could not photograph the car. At this point, I turned and ran. I have seen various photos of the Corvair over the years that had been taken prior to its introduction and have always found them interesting in light of my experience above.

I am forwarding these to you in the hopes that some of the visitors to the museum may enjoy seeing them. In July 1965, I purchased a 1965 Corvair Monza coupe with 110 HP and 4 speed. It now has 178,000 miles on the odometer. There is no question in my mind that the Corvair lived up to its early promise in every way. Whenever I drive it. I am reminded how we lost when it went out of production.

Sincerely,
John D. Walker
10 June 1998

Mr. Lanning's observation of photo: In addition to the details described by Mr. Walker, note how the rear window seems to be boxed in to appear smaller than the production Corvair rear window, probably using cardboard or something to help disguise it.

*Please contact the writer of this article to obtain permission for reprinting. Thank you.

Editor attempted to zoom in on the "holden" to see some of the details. But am afraid the internet reduced the resolution too much to see the cardboard cut outs well. Tm



Misc Corvair News

the first week in May was busy at the Corvair Museum. CCE visited on Sunday May 4. Earlier in the Week, V8 and RT66 enthusiast Don Kosanka started his drive, in a V8 powered Corvair, spanning the entire historic RT66. It included a stop and tour of the Museum on Thursday May 1. Tm

I grabbed the CCE Photo and comments from the CPF Facebook page. And thanks to CCE member John DiProva who is not pictured- because he's the camera man!



The Chicagoland Corvair Enthusiasts did their Spring driving tour yesterday, 5/4, and one of our stops was the National Corvair Museum in Springfield, IL. Both Mike & Brian (far left) were on hand to give the museum tours!

Brian commented "Appreciated having the CCE group come visit. Was a pleasure getting to talk to many of you and appreciated your feedback. Keep Vairing crew."

Reply by Larry Claypool "Brian Nicholson Brian- a tip of hat to you & Mike for all the volunteer hours you've put in to make our visit possible!"



Cruising RT66 in a Corvair

Don Kosanka, a member from South Carolina, who is planning a cross country trip that follows the old Route 66 path. Don and a friend are driving his beautiful V-8/C5 Conversion from Chapin, SC to the Corvair Museum in Springfield, IL. They plan to leave the museum on the morning of May 1st and proceed on the route listed below with a final destination of Santa Monica Pier on hopefully May 7th. Don tried to time his excursion with the CORSA Convention in San Luis Obispo on May 21st, but other commitments have kept that from happening.



Don's kept his itinerary flexible to avoid heavy rain and hopefully not having delays due to some mechanical issues with the car. Here are some key dates from the planning stages.

4/30. Day 1 - Chapin, SC to Springfield, IL
5/1. Day 2 - Springfield, IL to Joplin, MO
5/2. Day 3 - Joplin, MO to Tulsa, OK
5/3. Day 4 - Tulsa, OK to Amarillo, TX

5/4. Day 5 - Amarillo, TX to Albuquerque, NM
5/5. Day 6 - Albuquerque, NM to Williams, AZ
5/6. Day 7 - Williams, AZ to Santa Monica Pier, CA
5/7. Day 8 - Santa Monica Pier, CA to Seaside, CA

Here's a link to view his conversion.

<https://www.v8registry.com/don-kosanka---chapin-south-carolina.html>

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



Nice Car at a nice price. Sold for \$12,250, 1964 convertible, blue



Another nice car at a nice price. Sold for \$12,250. Note Wide White wall tires. 1964 convertible, red



No sale, Bid to \$12,000. Very nice car deserving of more dollars. 1965 maroon convertible



1961 Crovan, camper features. Bid to \$9700. Worthy of more dollars to the right buyer



1960 red 4 door. Good price for a nice car



1965 Blue coupe. Buyer may have missed an opportunity. Bid to \$20,250. Nice car with some questionable interior modifications

Heart of America Corvair Owners Assn is a great group. Plus they have this wonderful tech person who write great tech tips. This is from HACOIA web site, tech articles by Mike Dawson. Article number 200. Mike Mentions referring to Articles 32, 64 and 65 for more information.

THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERIES Mike Dawson

Corvair Alignment Tips For Front Toe-In

There are three tech articles concerning Corvair alignment on our club website (HACOIA.org) that may be helpful if you are contemplating either checking or doing a complete alignment. On the home page, go to: Document Library, Technical, and click on the PMS Series. There is a search option at the top. The three articles are 32, 64, & 65.

For tips on homemade tools, such as a toe-in tram, Clark's sells copies of Fred Johnson alignment book C5061 (\$6). The book also contains lots of good general information on aligning Corvairs at home.

The following tips are notes I have accumulated while setting front toe-in and can be useful since adjustment techniques vary with early, late, and FC vehicles. Adjustments are referenced for using the tie rod sleeves. All alignment specs are from GM and are for the total amount of toe-in.

Late Cars Front:

Left side; turn to the rear to toe out (1/2 a turn equals approximately 3/16")

Right side; turn to front to toe out

Turn both sleeves forward the exact same amount to bring the steering wheel back from the right without disturbing the toe-in. Do not center the wheel by changing the steering wheel position on the shaft; keep the index marks aligned.

Early Cars and FC:

Left side; turn to the front to toe out

Right side; turn to the rear to toe out

Turn both sleeves backwards the exact same amount to bring the steering wheel back from the right without disturbing the toe-in.



Toe In Trams For Cars and FC

Thanks to Helen Moore For Compiling This Page

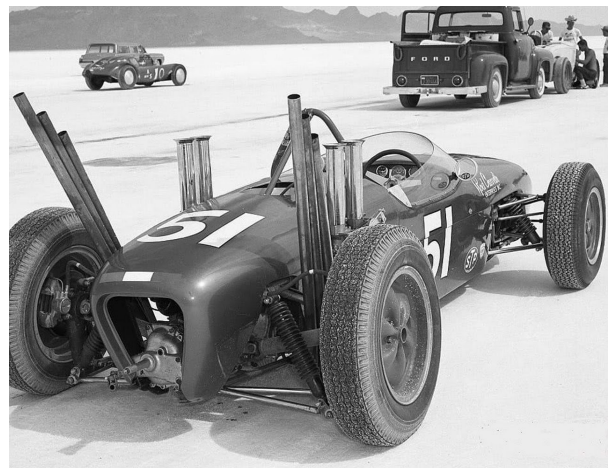
CORVAIR ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
<u>Front Wheels</u>										
Camber*	$\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$0^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$
Caster*	$3\frac{3}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$1\frac{3}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$1\frac{3}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$1\frac{3}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$1\frac{3}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$2^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$3^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$2^{\circ} \begin{smallmatrix} +\frac{1}{4}^{\circ} \\ -\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \\ 0 \end{smallmatrix}$	$2^{\circ} \begin{smallmatrix} +\frac{1}{4}^{\circ} \\ -\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \end{smallmatrix}$	$2^{\circ} \begin{smallmatrix} +\frac{1}{4}^{\circ} \\ -\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \end{smallmatrix}$
Toe-in ^Δ	$\frac{5}{16}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{5}{16}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{5}{16}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{5}{16}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$
<u>Rear Wheels</u> 1960-63 chamber not adj. 1964 not listed (probably as shown below)										
Camber*	$1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$NEG \frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$1^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$
Toe-in ^Δ	$\frac{1}{8}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{1}{8}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$	$\frac{1}{4}'' \pm \frac{1}{16}''$

*All must be within $1/2^{\circ}$ from side to side.
^ΔSet Toe-in after camber, caster.

CORVAIR 95 AND GREENBRIER
ALIGNMENT SPECIFICATIONS
(from shop manuals)

	1961	1962	1963	1964
<u>Front Wheels</u>				
Camber*	$\frac{1}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$\frac{1}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$\frac{1}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$\frac{1}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$
Caster*	$2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$	$2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$
Toe-in ^Δ	$\frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{5}{32}'' \pm \frac{1}{32}''$	$\frac{5}{32}'' \pm \frac{1}{32}''$	$\frac{5}{32}'' \pm \frac{1}{32}''$
<u>Rear Wheels</u>				
Camber*	$\frac{3}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$\frac{3}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$\frac{3}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	$\frac{3}{4}^{\circ} \pm \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$
Toe-in ^Δ	$\frac{3}{8}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{3}{8}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{3}{8}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$	$\frac{3}{8}'' \pm \frac{1}{8}''$



Bonneville (salt flats) odd balls, posted by Peter Fredsall (repost from Clarke Walker)

Prairie Capital Corvair Association (PCCA) Membership Form
January 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2025

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: Glen Rittenhouse, PCCA Treasurer 1804 Columbus Dr, Pekin IL 61554
Please make checks payable to Prairie Capital Corvair Association or PCCA

Detroit Homecoming
July 10 thru July 13, 2025 Ann Arbor Michigan

Not a Corvair convention but the atmosphere is really close. The Detroit club put on an excellent event that is not all that far from Illinois.

The Detroit Area Corvair Club "Homecoming" is from July 10th thru 13th in beautiful Ann Arbor, Michigan. If you have tried the rest, now come to the best annual Corvair event! To see more about the DACC visit our Facebook Group or write us at hcinfo@detroitcorvairs.com.

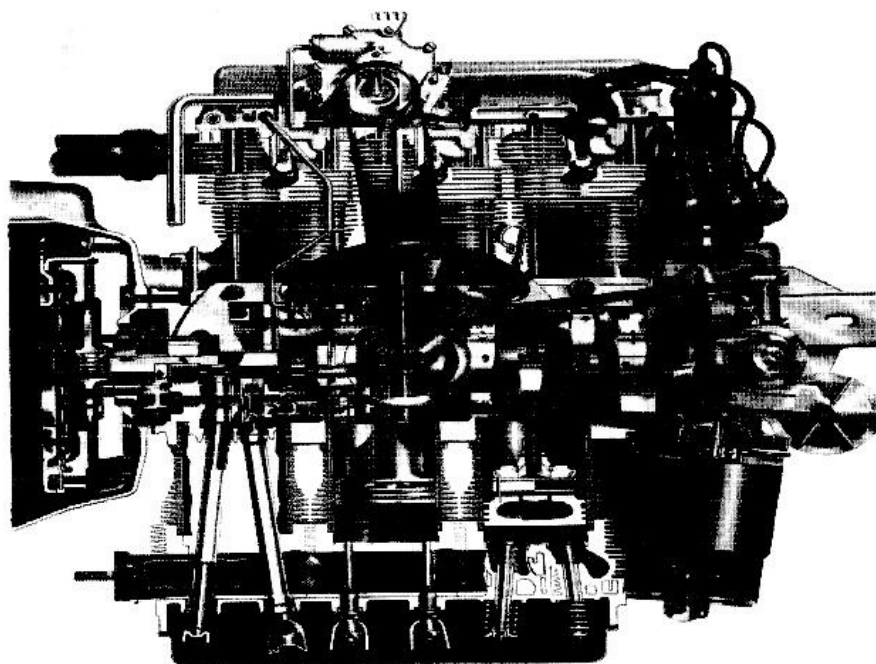
Here are links that will help to register and book your room for homecoming. Looking forward to seeing everybody
Preferred "On-Line" Homecoming registration form here -->
<http://detroitcorvairs.com/Homecoming2025.html>

"Print and Mail" Homecoming registration form here --> <http://detroitcorvairs.com/Flyer2025.pdf>

Thanks Bob Wittmann DACC Homecoming Registrar

Book your hotel (discount group rates applied!) - simply adjust dates and # of guests
Hotel URL: (Editor will send you the email upon request) it is also in the PCCA March Newsletter

The Flat Six



Prairie Capital Corvair Association



Prairie Capital
Corvair Association
P.O. Box 454
Pawnee, IL 62558