

## Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 454  
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

# The Flat Six

May 2026

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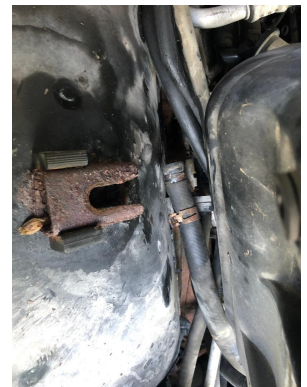
## From the Prez

Greetings, Fellow PCCA Members,

May is almost here already! Car show season is underway! Have you been able to get to any shows? For myself the answer is no. There always seems to be something preventing from getting to one. I'm certainly looking forward to the Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show this year! I'm still hopeful to get some small tasks completed on the Greenbrier so I can get it to some shows. My Daughters are gearing up for their 8U Softball & Teeball Summer leagues. The annual CORSA Convention is upcoming! I hope you're planning to attend! I most certainly intended to get there but, sadly I don't foresee getting there due to circumstances beyond my control. Speaking of the Convention there's an award called the Hard Luck Award. To tell you a little story I felt like I could have won it just attempting to pickup a new toy. My Truck overheated due to a failed coolant line tee. Took it out finally and located a GM part number. Couldn't locate one anywhere. OEM list price was also around \$65.00 for a piece of plastic. Began searching aftermarket and was able to locate a replacement that doesn't have very good reviews but, had to get my truck fixed. Well several days later it seems to be repaired. Now by no means would I have won the Hard Luck Award but, I sure thought about it the whole time. Allow me to get you back into the news!

Three men are driving in the desert when their car breaks down. The men decide that they must split up and survive on their own for the best chances. They are then forced to abandon the car. To be fair, they decide that they can each take one part of the car to help them. The first man decides that he wants to take the car battery, he is an engineer and believes he can hook it up to somehow keep his phone charged as he travels the desert. The second man decides he wants the water pump because he can drink from it when he gets thirsty. The third man, who was a little slow, wanted to take a car door with him. His reasoning was, "if it ever gets to hot, I can just roll the window down" ~ upjoke.com

Chris Hall PCCA President 2026



# Calendar of Events - 2026

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

Need to do something “fun” this year. Put on your thinking cap, offer to lead a tour. Participation will be optional, but hopefully enough will join in to provide some fun even for those spectating. Nothing strenuous, or mind boggling just simple fun.

## 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 12, 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.
- May 30, 2026**      **Pawnee Prairie Days Car Show. Pawnee IL.** Details to follow  
Expecting to meet up with Show-me Corvair Club.  
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
- 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)
- 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  
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



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

## The “reunion” at the Willow Run Assembly Plant - revisited.

TBT - This was the first time I invited a group of Corvairs back to the Willow Run Assembly Plant as part of an open house celebration in 2016 that was held by the GM Customer & Aftersales and Service and Parts Operations (who now lease the plant) . I also invited some former Willow Run Corvair auto workers to join us to tell their first hand stories of production while we toured the former Chevrolet Division. It was surreal to drive through the doors where most Corvairs were originally made. I've been honored to be able to bring more folks to the plant over the years for events and photo opportunities with their Corvairs.

For those who have never seen what the Willow Run Assembly Plant looks like...here it is. At the time, Willow Run was the largest indoor plant in the world. It was considered one of the best built factory facility that other factories around the world copied.

Warning: For those who think they can simply drive into the plant parking lot and take photos - please be aware that their security guards will stop you as they don't allow photos to be taken inside the gates of the plant without permission. You are permitted to take photos "outside" the gates off the road.

Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire, Corvair Historian/Creator,  
Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair  
(Photos courtesy of Eva McGuire)

\*Please contact author at [corvailady@gmail.com](mailto:corvailady@gmail.com) for permission to reprint article and/or photos in any newsletter, magazine, blog, web site, etc. Thank you!



Pulling into the former Chevrolet Division where most Corvairs were made. This was the final inspection area where Corvairs were about to exit the building to be placed on trucks or rail cars to be transported to dealerships



Posing with two former Willow Run Corvair auto workers (left to right: Norman Estigoy from Chevy Division, myself, and Tommy Espy from Fisher Body) in front of the Rotunda (Fishbowl). The plant used to put a few cars in the Rotunda to showcase what they were making to entice folks to buy the product. There were two brand new 1960 Corvairs in the Fishbowl in 1959. Norman and Tommy delighted our group with first hand stories of Corvair production while we toured the plant.



Image of the last built 1969 Corvair (car #6000) with Joe Strayhorn inside taken on the last day of production on May 14th, 1969. This was the last known photo taken of this car before it was placed on a covered GM truck and never to be seen again. Confidential sources have told me that car #6000 was scrapped due to the infighting of those who wanted to own the last made Corvair. Try to see how many Corvairs are on the rail cars amidst a batch of Novas.

# Willow Run 1983 Corvaire Project Built\*

THIS DATE IN CORVAIRE HISTORY (APRIL 22, 1983) marks the 43rd anniversary date when the "Willow Run 1983 Corvaire Project Built" to restore a 1964 Corvaire was completed in conjunction with GM's 75th Anniversary celebration. Ypsilanti's Willow Run Plant Manager, Harvey Williams, had the idea to purchase a used Corvaire and run it through the plant's assembly line to restore it back to its original status using modern technology. Kinda cool that this car was on the main assembly line among new 1983 cars being made. I can't quote any particular dollar amount it cost to do this but I heard various estimated figures (in the tens of thousands even up to in excess of \$40,000+) as to what it cost to do this and all the figures were pretty astronomical (more than it cost to make the original Corvaire, for sure).

The 1964 Corvaire they selected to purchase was originally built at the Willow Run Plant on October 23, 1963, and they obtained it from a Willow Run auto worker who purchased it from a private owner in North Carolina. Five men were assigned to the project; who also happened to be employees that were involved with the original building of the Corvaire's back in 1959. Nice touch. They were: Milt Sundberg, Supervisor (Quality Control); Kenneth K. Banks (Paint); Bobbie H. Guyett, (South Trim); Thomas A. Honeycutt (Body); and Robert E. Mulready (Chassis).

On November 1, 1982, the restoration work began as a joint project between the UAW Local 1776 Union (Willow Run Workers) and Management as an Employee Participation Project. On April 22, 1983, the restoration was finished and local TV reporter, Ven Marshall of WXYZ (Channel 7 News) was there with a film crew as the plant declared it "Corvaire Day" to celebrate the completion of the project. Unfortunately, I was unable to obtain the film footage as the WXYZ TV film Director informed me that they do not release any film to the public from their archives. Bummer.

To commemorate the event, there were frisbees made and handed out with words "1983 Corvaire Project - Built 10-23-63 with GM 75th Anniversary." I was lucky to obtain one of these frisbees at a local yard sale! Custom Jackets and plaques were also made and given to the guys who oversaw and participated in the project. There were other GM 75th anniversary giveaways among these items (like GM labeled shoelaces, yo-yos, etc.).

After its restoration, the 1964 Corvaire was placed proudly on display in the Rotunda building ("Fishbowl") at Willow Run for several years. It took me quite a while to find out from former auto workers that the car remained in the Fishbowl until the closing of the plant (in 1993), and then the car's whereabouts became a mystery...until recently. I have been working on this story for several years and following a lot of leads trying to locate it. I talked to many former Willow Run auto workers and one clue after another had me finally discovering its whereabouts...Yippee!! Right now, it must still remain a secret until I can write the article about this special Corvaire. Plus, I'm still interviewing folks who were



1964 Corvaire coming off the main assembly line at Willow Run on April 22, 1983, after completing its restoration for the "1983 Corvaire Project Built." This was a joint project between the UAW workers and Willow Run Management in conjunction with GM's 75th Anniversary.

Eva "Corvaire Lady" McGuire  
(Photo courtesy of the Milt Sundberg family)

involved in this project so it will take time. The interesting thing was that the current owner of this car had no knowledge about the historic significance of this Corvair until I told him the story. Cool, huh?!!! This is why I love doing what I do so much! It's the discovery of new stories and photos that haven't been revealed, and it's such a joy to share it with fellow Corvair enthusiasts. The color image in this post comes courtesy of the Milt Sundberg family who I've been working with among other workers who were involved in this project. Milt was the Supervisor of this project and I have many more color photos of this 1964 Corvair going through different phases of restoration and on the assembly line inside the plant. Some of those will be revealed when the article is published down the road. In the meantime, enjoy these photos.

Great Corvair trivia question to stump aficionados would be "When was the last time a Corvair was on the "main" assembly line at Willow Run?" Answer would not be Nov. of 1968 but April of 1983!

Happy 43rd Anniversary 1983 Corvair Project Built!  
 Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire, Creator/Historian  
 Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair

\*Please contact writer at corvailady@gmail.com to obtain permission to reprint/publish article and/or photos in any newsletter, magazine, blog, web site, etc. Thank you!

Editor's Note: Last month, I ran an article from the Corvanatics web site. And lo and behold, in my email inbox was a request to promote the 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 intesting Forward Control Vehicles.



Frisbee commemorating the 1983 Corvair Project Built 10-23-63 in conjunction with GM's 75th anniversary. Found this at a local yard sale!  
 Eva "Corvair Lady" McGuire  
 (Photo courtesy of Eva McGuire)

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

**All Corvair FC Enthusiasts Welcome!**

[www.Corvanatics.org](http://www.Corvanatics.org)

Editor's Note: I went back to the beginning – of Mike Dawson's excellent Preventive Maintenance Series. Below are two articles combined into one here. #5 and #6 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 Rear

This month will be an attempt to help diagnose noises from the rear of the car. Drive train noises also apply to FC vehicles.

- A rolling noise that does not change in pitch from acceleration to deceleration in the same speed range is usually a wheel bearing. Wheel bearings on early models usually squeak or make a cycling growl. Late bearings will squeak, make a raspy noise or howl.
- A clank when starting from a stop or going into gear may be a U-joint. They can also make a clinking noise, usually at low speed. Loose axle yokes on early models and FC can make the same noise.
- Howling that changes noticeably between acceleration and deceleration is either a worn out pinion gear, mismatched ring and pinion gear or very loose or worn out pinion bearings.
- Thunking noises on late models can be either the top or bottom shock mount. Check for shifted lower bushings or rusted top mounting pads. The latter can be repaired.
- Squeaking from one side of a late model going over bumps can be a trailing arm bushing that has popped out of its shell. The arm is rubbing on the bracket and the tire is way out of toe alignment.
- A heavy thump or clunk going over a quick rise may be a separated motor mount on a 1965 model. The other models make less noticeable noises unless almost terminal. Best to check them every time you change oil filters if they are original.
- A loud squawk that occurs briefly as you push in or release the clutch is a pilot bushing problem. Always replace it any time the transaxle is separated as they take a set very quickly.
- A knocking noise at idle which disappears or gets quieter when depressing the clutch is a flywheel
- with loose rivets (all years, all models of manual transmissions).
- A squeal or light rattling noise that is only noticed when holding down on the clutch pedal is a clutch release bearing.
- A moaning sound that is heard only when the engine is cold is probably a late model blower bearing that needs greasing or replacing. Early model bearings usually start a continuous metallic rumbling noise due to their design.

- A light to heavy tapping noise that goes away after driving is usually a lifter that has lost its oil temporarily. Long storage or cold startups and quick shutdowns cause lifters to go “flat”. Frequent oil changes and avoiding a lot of start ups with out driving helps this problem. Age and sometimes dirt interfere with lifter check valve action.
- A lighter tapping noise that sounds like a lifter may be a bad exhaust valve guide. The exhaust gas blowing down the guide sounds almost metallic.
- A persistent squeak (usually powerglide cars) that only occurs at a stop, in gear with your foot on the brake may be the rear parking brake cable at its support brackets or on the backing plate on the inside of the brake drum. To test this theory, pull slightly on the parking brake handle when the squeak occurs. If it stops, you have found the problem. The idling engine gently tugs on the spring attached to the cable assembly: install the missing clips on the two support brackets, grease them and use brake lube under the cable inside the brake drum.
- A chirping from the engine that is noticeable only on acceleration may be a loose head. Retorque the heads immediately or you will have blown head gaskets. This is usually caused by overheating and can sometimes result in studs pulled out of the crankcase. You can also get a bad smell in the heater since combustion gas is escaping.
- An actual blown (burned through) head gasket will make a persistent spit-spit-spit noise as the engine idles. The noise will get louder under a load and bad fumes get in the heater.
- A mild howling from four speed transmissions up through 1965 that is only heard in first, second and third is probably the needle bearings and shaft in the counter gear. The noise is gone in fourth gear since the counter gear is not loaded. A common problem and the parts are available.
- A clicking noise from the rear of early models & FC at very slow speed may be the brake shoes snapping across backing plate pads as they try to follow an out of round drum or a slightly bent axle (common problem). Apply brake lube to the pads or correct the problem. This can also be a bad U-joint or a badly worn stub axle that is rocking the side gear of the differential.

**Clark's**  
Corvair Parts®



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**2026 Supplement Catalog Available Now!**

New Parts, Updated Parts, Sales and MORE!

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Also see the updated [NOS Part List](#) to see what is in stock.

**SALES- Up to 20% off 2025 prices!**

All Wiring Harnesses and Battery Cables up to 12% off- Pages [81](#) & [97](#) - [98B](#)  
PLUS up to an additional 8% off with our [Wiring Harness Discount](#)

**PRICE DECREASES**

By increasing our order quantities, we've been able to drop some prices 2-10% off 2025 prices.

These are a few:

ENGINE PARTS- Some rings, lifters, pushrods, and more, PLUS our [Engine Parts Discount](#)

SUSPENSION- reductions on ball joints, tie rods, some bushings

**NEW Clark Harmonic Balancers In Stock Now!**

[C1438](#)

Repro Carb Bases are in production and should be in stock by Winter 2026.

**20% OFF FEDEX CHARGES**

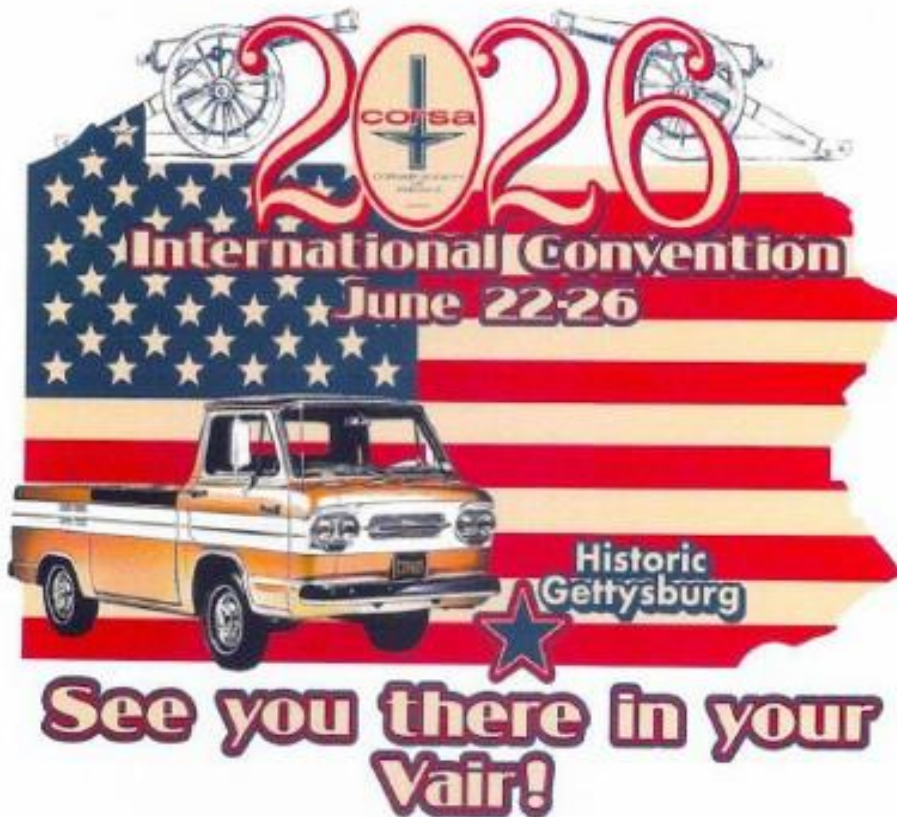
Clarks now covers 20% of total FedEx charges for shipments to all USA addresses.

**CLARK FUEL PUMPS**

250 arrived at the end of January and were sold in less than three weeks. We have 1000 more of our excellent fuel pumps expected by early summer. You can order to be put on the notification list and be notified as soon as we have them. If you were not able to get one from the latest batch and still need one, please let us know so we can put you back on the notification list.

[C6600R](#)

 **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.



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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

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 April, next meeting is May 12, starting at 4:30 at Toni's Café off I-55**

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



1969 Monza Convertible Sold for \$22,000 nice price for a nice Corvair. A good price but at one time, because of the 69 Convertibles rarity, it may have gotten an even higher selling price.

**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!

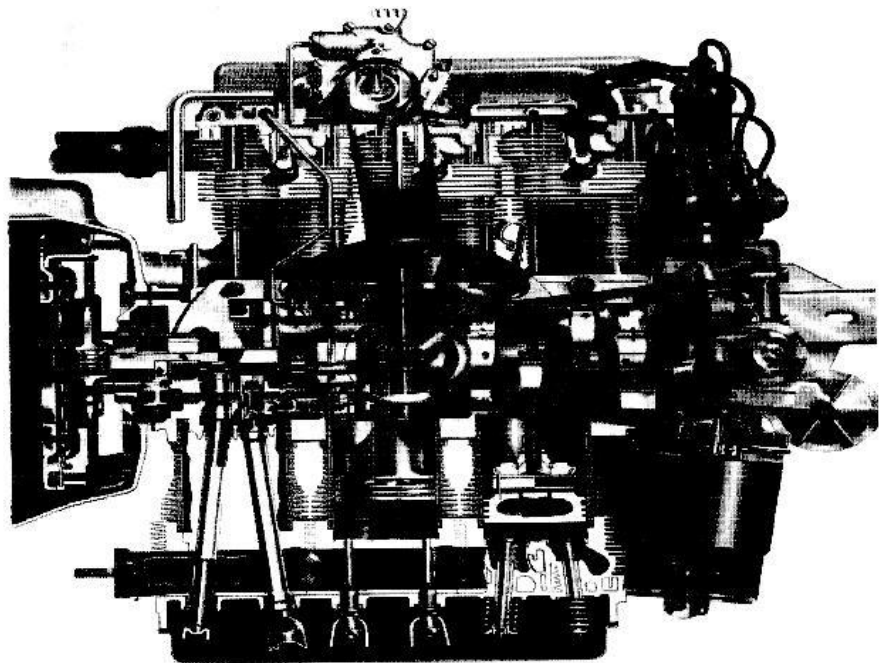
Check our [Shows We Are Attending](#) page on the website and with CORSA at [www.corvair.org](http://www.corvair.org) for more details and updates.

Clarks Corvair Parts  
400 Mohawk Trail  
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

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# The Flat Six



# Prairie Capital Corvair Association



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