

## Prairie Capital Corvair Association

P.O. Box 454  
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

# The Flat Six

September 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

September means the SOS Auto Show. The shows 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary so it may be bigger than recent years – Weather looks favorable but that could change between now and September 6, 2025. Will attempt to have a meeting at the show near the Corvairs around 1:00pm.

Like past years, I'll be asking members if they would be willing to serve as a PCCA officer or Board member. It is more important this year as I (we) adjust to meeting less frequently translating into one less meeting for me to solicit members to serve. Board members, usually the easier position, is big on my list to fill – I need 3 members to serve on the board replacing current members. Shelby Berta is our 2 year member. I also need a new treasurer as Glen is traveling more and is ready to step aside. By-laws also state that Glen should not run again. Pesky by-laws.

The next regular meeting after the SOS Show is slated for November. I polled the PCCA Board and everyone agreed to meet at the MCL Restaurant pn Wabash avenue in Springfield, IL on the First Thursday of the month. That would be November 6<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to schedule the meeting room from 5:00pm to 7:00pm (maybe 7:30) with the business meeting commencing after everyone has eaten – or roughly 6:00pm. The meeting rooms are large and quiet enough to have a presenter if you know someone who has something of interest for the group.

OK - enough business stuff. Go wash your Corvair and hope to see you at the Show.



Decatur Postmaster Chan Glosser inspects a new delivery truck, the first of its type in the region, 61 years ago today, on April 2, 1961.

Happy Corvair-ing Tim

# Calendar of Events - 2025

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



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

Members wanting to park as a group should meet at the Walmart on south Sixth street (exit 92A, I-55) at 8:00 am. Will driver as group to the show entrance on Edwards street near the Illinois State Musuem. (6<sup>th</sup> street to Cook, to 2<sup>nd</sup> street to Edwards). Expect the Red Corsa will be leading the way again.

All cars must be parked by 10:00am, judging starts at 11:00am Awards scheduled for 3:30pm

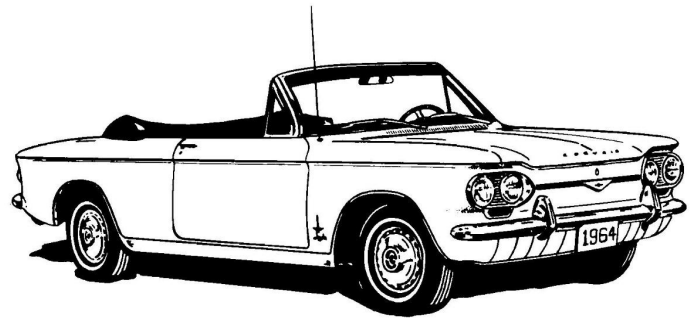
The Visitor Center is Show HQ, indoor restrooms, AC, and information about touring the Capital Building as well as other historical sites in Springfield - Lincoln's Hometown.

Sept 20, 2025                    Capital City Car Show. Southside Christian Church, 2600 S Macarthur, Springfield, IL  
Judged show, 10am-5pm with awards at 4pm.

Sept 26-28, 2025                Route 66 Mother Road Festival. Downtown Springfield IL  
Cruise Friday night, Car Show Saturday and Sunday. Info: [WWW.route66fest.com](http://WWW.route66fest.com)

**October 11, 2025                PCCA Fall tour to Atlanta Illinois** - American Giants Museum and other sites. Lunch  
in town between museum visits. The town has at least 4 museums.

October 18, 2025                Fall Festival and Car Show -  
ROCHESTER, Illinois.  
Gates open 8am, judging noon,  
awards 4pm    Entry fee \$20(show) or \$15 (Display)



**November 6, 2025                PCCA Meeting** – Current plan is to  
meet at the MCL Resturant on  
Wabash in Springfield IL. Arrive  
5:00pm, get supper, meeting rooms in the rear. Meeting will be after most everyone has  
eaten dinner – estimated at 6:00 pm – or until Chris shows up.  
December 13                    Usual date for PCCA Christmas Luncheon – need location – restaurant. Ideas?  
Backup plan is to meet at the MCL Cafeteria at 1:00pm. Need to do something “fun” this  
year. Put your holiday thinking caps on.

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

Cool Cruisers Event Schedule, full sched on internet <https://coolcruisersclub.com/car-show-calendar/>  
Sunday, Sept 14 1-5pm at Motorheads,  
Sept 20, Saturday - 10-5 capital city car show 2600 S MacArthur

**CPF Corvair Museum Hours**                Should be posted at the museum, may change,  
Saturday, September 20, 2025 10 AM to 3 PM    Sunday, September 21, 2025    10 AM to 2 PM  
Saturday, October 4, 2025                    10 AM to 4 PM                    Sunday, October 5, 2025                    10 AM to 4 PM

# September – SOS Auto Show

September, PCCA participates in the annual SOS Auto show. This is September 6<sup>th</sup> this year. It's the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the show. PCCA has participated for over 40 of those years. My first exposure was back in 1996. For those wanting to part together at the show, the meet up is the Walmart parking lot on south 6<sup>th</sup> street. Will try to depart at 8:00 am or shortly thereafter. Mike Hall is the chief judge for the show. Expect Brian Nicholson to be judging as well. If you want to be a judge (likely non Corvair class) contact Mike, there is usually a need for more judges.

I pre-registered but you may register at the show. We should have plenty of time to go through the registration line and do final clean up of our cars. It is a judges show, including a look at the undercarriage. Not as strictly judged as a CORSA Concours, but they do have a point system of sorts. There is also a display class for those who want to park on the show field without having to worry about their car being judged. I should do that class myself my Corvair is more a parade car now - meaning it looks good from 10 feet away.

Again this year in the parking lot of the Stratton building. The registration and show headquarters is the visitor center near the show field. AC and running water restrooms. May be a food truck or two nearby or visit Boone's across the street - good food and adult beverages (have a designated driver, please). Downtown eateries should also be open, 5-7 block walk. Capital building open for tours. The Illinois State museum should also be open and is next to the show field.

PCCA will attempt to have a meeting near the Corvairs around 1:00pm.

## **The 75th Illinois Secretary of State Vehicle Show (details)**

The 75th Illinois Secretary of State Vehicle Show will be held **Saturday, September 6**, at the State Capitol Complex at the corner of Edwards and College Streets in downtown Springfield. First organized in 1949 as an Antique Auto Meet, today the show features not only some of the finest antique and classic vehicles in Illinois, but also sports cars, motorcycles, trucks, and tractors. This time-honored event is held rain or shine. Spectators are FREE! To register for the show, please download the registration form found at [https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf\\_publications/iga13.pdf](https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf_publications/iga13.pdf)

### **Schedule**

7 a.m. – 10 a.m.: All participants must be through the show gate and parked, even if pre-registered. Your parking number must be at the registration table at the Capitol Complex Visitors Center located at 425 College Street by 10 a.m.

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Participants prepare for judging.

10:45 a.m.: Judges' meeting at Capitol Complex Visitors Center Auditorium.

11 a.m.: Judging begins.

3:30 p.m.: Awards Ceremony – First-, second-, and third-place winners will receive awards in at least 60 classes. An Illinois State Champion award is presented to the vehicle judged best at the show by the Vehicle Show Advisory Committee. This year's show will honor a Marquee Award winner. The Marquee Award represents a different automobile manufacturer each year, as chosen by the Vehicle Show Advisory Committee. In 2025, the committee will pay tribute to the 1955 Chrysler 300.

### **PCCA and other Corvair Enthusiasts PLEASE NOTE:**

To park as a group, we will meet at the Walmart on South 6<sup>th</sup> st, Springfield IL at **8:00 am**. This gives us plenty of time to drive to the show field. This is exit 92A, I-55 from the North, business 55 from the south. The Red Sprint wanna-be will lead the group to the show entrance on Edwards street near the Illinois State Musuem. (6<sup>th</sup> street to Cook, to 2<sup>nd</sup> street to Edwards).

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.

# *Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair*

By Eva McGuire Corvair Historian/Creator Meet the Makers of the Chevrolet Corvair

## **CORVAIR CONVERTIBLE HISTORIC DEBUT...**

March of 1962 brought new and exciting changes to the Corvair model line. Although the 1962 Chevrolet Corvair was introduced to the public in September of 1961, the BIG NEWS came at the end of March (March 27, 1962) with the announcement of the convertible and turbocharger option package (which was added to the Monza line).

To celebrate these new additions, a special gathering of newly made 1962 Corvair Monza convertibles took place at the local Willow Run Assembly Plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan (most likely in April when these cars debuted). We're fortunate to have two photos to commemorate the occasion and they were both taken in front of the Chevrolet Division side of the plant near the famed Rotunda (affectionately known as the “Fishbowl”). If you look closely at the black and white photo...you'll see a new 1962 Chevy II convertible on display inside the Rotunda (round glass building) as this was the first year of its introduction to Willow Run's production model line. We're pretty sure there was also a new 1962 Corvair convertible next to it on display. Willow Run would often place a couple of cars they were currently producing at the plant and display them in the Fishbowl as a means to entice the public to purchase one of their cars. When the Corvair was first introduced in 1959, there were two 1960 Corvairs in the Rotunda (see cover photo for this page). The Rotunda was used as the reception area entrance to the Executive Offices at Chevrolet and it had a lovely lady receptionist at a desk to welcome guests when visiting for a plant tour or seeing office personnel.

The black and white photo in this post showcases the front of the convertibles, and the color photo has the rear line-up of vehicles selected to be in this image. It appears they included cars with two shades of red (Roman Red, Honduras Maroon), Ermine White, Satin Silver, blue (not sure if it's Nassau



Blue, Silver Blue, or Twilight Blue), and Tuxedo Black in color. It would be nice to know the total number of Corvairs who participated in this special gathering... It would be cool if they had a total of "62" cars but I don't see that many. You can kind of figure out how many there are based on the two photos. (maybe around 33). In the black & white photo...The way the gentlemen are dressed in their trench coats and fedora hats indicates they were probably Willow Run management personnel from the plant (and maybe even a sprinkled Chevrolet employee).

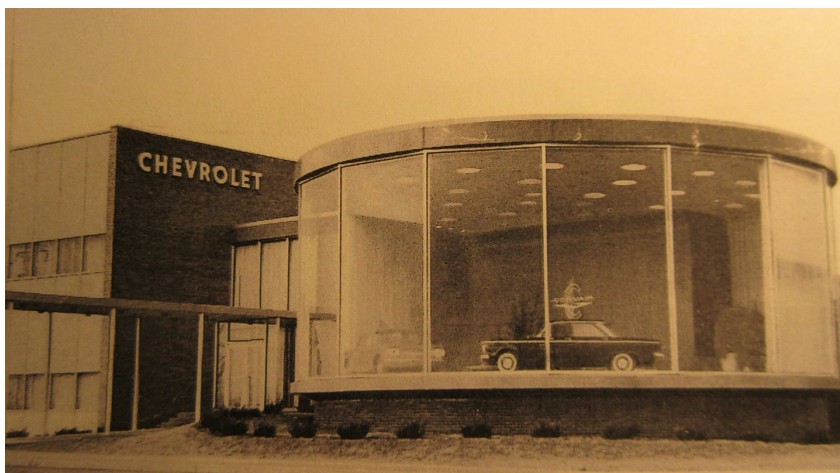
1962 also brought new ways on how General Motors would market the Corvair to the public. Instead of being the basic "economy compact car" as originally introduced; Chevrolet would now call the new 1962 Corvair a "sporting compact car" as they geared their ad campaigns to aim this air-cooled wonder to sportier (rally & racing) crowds...and it worked! You would often see 1962 Corvair sales promotion ads featuring the car in action shots or a photo of a nearby Corvette to emphasize the on par sportiness of the Corvair. This trend would continue in the following years promoting Corvair. Sales figures for 1962 rewarded their efforts. Total production figures for 1962 Corvairs was 328,500 units (broken down to 292,531 cars and 35,969 FC trucks). There were a total of 16,569 Monza convertibles made.

Other Information...The Monza "Spyder" option was only available on the Monza coupes and convertibles with 4 speed transmissions. The addition of 150hp plus available options of chrome engine accents, special emblems, "Spyder" wheel cover inserts, and special dash truly made this one sporty car. There were other upgrades and cosmetic changes made to the 1962 model line. High performance engine, heavy duty suspension, metallic brakes, positraction rear axle, and return to automatic chokes. The 1962 Corvair had a fantastic year in sales figures despite the addition of the Chevy II to the Chevrolet line.

**DEBUT INFORMATION:** The Corvair Monza Spyder turbo was first shown at the Chicago Auto Show in 1962 which opened on Feb. 17, 1962. The other turbo (Oldsmobile F-85 Jetfire) debuted at the New York Auto Show in April of 1962. **FIRST MADE CONVERTIBLE...**The first Monza Spyder convertible (photo in post) debuted at the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, WV before a gathering a GM Executives which probably occurred before the Chicago show. (info. and photo courtesy of Bill Stanley)

P.S. Conley ("Alabama") Phillips was the Willow Run auto worker who was asked to work on the first made convertible. He put the welds on it.

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



The image in this post is our page cover photo which shows the Chevrolet Motor Division at the Willow Run Assembly Plant in Ypsilanti Twp., Michigan, with two brand new 1960 Corvairs in the glass Rotunda affectionately known as the "Fishbowl". This photo was taken in 1959 when the plant first opened and they continued to place automobiles to showcase them in this display area over the years. The executive offices are located to the left of the Rotunda with a beautiful reception area/offices within the round building. If you look carefully in this photo, you'll see a big "Corvair" sign on the back wall. Would love to know where that went. Most Corvairs were built at Willow Run but there were other plants who also made them.

(Photos courtesy of Willow Run Assembly Plant/Chevrolet/GM)



# Louisiana Tour - From 2011

PCCA folks did themselves proud. Jacket and umbrella weather did not deter 6 Corvairs meeting at McDonalds for coffee and breakfast. From the Toronto exit, VP Dick Moon led the group west towards Louisiana. Dick won the coin toss in part because the Moons travel to those parts of the woods for other activities. I noted later that Mike Hall took over the lead as we approached Louisiana. Mike had the directions, or at least location, to the meeting place for those coming north from St Charles.

The forecast for the day was overcast, nah, raining, all day. Unfortunately, the weatherman got it right and it drizzled on the tour for most of the day. Yet, three convertibles participated - Dick and Neta Moon in Blue Moon, a 65 dark blue with white top; Mike and Rhona Hall in the cruising red 65 convertible with white top and Tim Mahler in his 64 red convertible with black top.

Only Tim got wet. The rain kept dribbling though the window top and top bow and of course, the towels were in the trunk grumble. Discussing the issue at the statute park, it was mentioned that maybe Tim should adjust the hooks that latch the top down. Hmmm, those were adjusted so that surely couldn't be the problem. Weeelll, Tim has not been driving the 64 much lately and forgot the driver side hook sometimes needs help to connect with the frame. Yes, the top was only latched on one side. Rehooking the top helped a whole lot on the drive home. Thanks everyone.

The closed cars on the tour included President Jim and Beulah Collier in the 65 maroon four door. Plus driving down with the Moons from Peoria was Brian and Sue Sellyer in the very interesting 64 Spyder coupe with a fresh engine done by master mechanic Jim Allen. The true family car was driven by Bob Gwin with four adults stuffed into his red 63 Coupe. Bob and company do seem to enjoy the Corvair adventures. The coupe "disappeared" in Louisiana as they did their own self tours around the area, wonder if they also did some geo-caching as well?

Arriving in Louisiana the PCCA contingent was met by those from SMCC each in a newer water cooled vehicle. Somehow we arrived in town close to the same time, 10 minutes or so apart is the same time when one group travels an hour and the other close to two hours to get to a meeting place.

For lunch the crew went to the Eagles Nest. The restaurant bills itself as a bistro which I think is a fancy name for a café with fancy sandwiches. The food was good and the dessert portions generous. The building itself was very interesting, being an older architecture. I spent time wondering the various



The Let's Go Eat Moment



rooms including the basement area and the boutique winery next door. The winery attracted a few other Corvair members who managed to bring home a bottle or two. The wine prices did seem reasonable.

After lunch, with the drizzle making a tour of the town buildings less appealing, Dick Moon led the group to the Lay Foundation Statute park. But first, we went by a locals garage to see his Corvair. The gentleman was alerted to our gathering and came down to the bistro for a chat. He, or his family, have owned the Corvair since it was new, 1965. Several other patrons discussed Corvairs with us as well. The town was not very busy - not because of the swollen Mississippi but because of the constant drizzle.

Fortunately, at the Statute park, the rain subsided, although the wind was a tad nippy. Reading the literature, after I got home, I finally understood the numerous stone books at the park. The Lay Foundation is an educational foundation and the statute park is geared with that in mind. The books provided topics for the “youngsters” to write about. Nonetheless, the statutes were interesting. Tim also took a brief side trip to the adjacent cemetery which dates to the early 1800s.

After the statute tour, the group decided it was time to venture home. The PCCA group stopped at a “produce stand” on the way home that the Moon’s visit when in the area. Although it was too early in the season for much in the way of locally grown items, the store had an interesting assortment of apple butters, preserves and other produce. Those of us who stopped, bought something to take home.

The tour may have been more enjoyable, and more local sites visited on a sunny warm day. But I enjoyed it nonetheless. I was able to drive my Corvair, spend time with good friends, and see an area of the state that I do not typically see. I’m ready for the next tour



## PCCA Elections – for 2026

Please consider volunteering to be an officer or board member. The club is in need of new people to lead us for the next year or three. Send Tim an email or a text message or give him a call. Please. 217-793-3821 email [prairiecapital@corvair.org](mailto:prairiecapital@corvair.org) The Elections will be held at the November meeting for the 2026 calendar year. The Slate is normally presented at the October meeting – but, oops, we don’t formally meeting in October. Trying to get as much together before the September meeting as I can. Need some volunteers – or suggestions on who to contact to ask to serve.

The ballot in the November Newsletter, as a separate email to members or both.

Tentative Slate thus far – President - Chris Hall, VP - ?? Asking a couple members at SOS Show  
Treasurer - Really need someone here. Secretary – Tim Mahler  
Board - Shelby Berta is the current 2 year person.

Need 3 volunteers. One for a 2 year term, two for 1 year terms - Suggestions Welcomed  
At most, 2 meetings a year, but most meetings, questions are resolved through email.



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 201.

## THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERIES Mike Dawson

### Buzzers: Headlight Warning and Turn Signal Flasher

Many years ago I read a tip in the CORSA Tech Guide on making a headlight warning buzzer, just as NAPA discontinued the one they sold. I collected the parts and made up a batch to install on customer cars. All the parts required are available on eBay or your favorite electronic store:

12V DC 1A Diode (\$0.50 in bulk)

12V DC Piezo Buzzer (\$1.50 in bulk)

Shrink fit tubing

Mini alligator clips

Solder the diode to the red buzzer wire with the gray band towards the buzzer, add shrink fit tubing and clips. When finished, attach the red wire/clip to the Panel Light fuse holder and the black wire/clip to any switched fuse, such as Radio.



### Turn Signal Flasher

Driving at highway speeds in most of my Corvairs makes hearing the turn signal alert difficult. Making a tin can holder for the flasher and an extension to remote the flasher closer and on metal helped but I still would catch myself daydreaming until cars in front signaled to me that my turn signal had been on for 10 miles. A quick search online came up with a two wire flasher that advertised a "5X louder" signal for \$10. It arrived from Rock Auto and included a remote wire harness to move the flasher closer to the driver plus a metal mounting bracket to possibly amplify the sound. After installation I do not feel it is anywhere close to 5X the sound level and would not recommend it. However, if anyone is interested:



What I did do was use a piezo buzzer from one of the "Headlight Warning Buzzer" units that I make and hooked it in parallel with the original Corvair flasher unit. It makes a high pitched "beep" that is loud enough to hear on the highway, although maybe a little shrill for sitting at a traffic light. You can adjust the sound by putting layers of tape over the hole in the buzzer. It does not need a diode like the headlight buzzer so you can just add wire for the hook up as you like. Looking at the end of the original flasher with the spades on top, you would hook the red wire on the buzzer to the spade on the right, black wire on the left (if it does not beep, reverse the hookup at the dashboard side since different years have different layouts).





In the setup below both units make a noise but the piezo buzzer is much louder and does not have to be attached to anything. The original flasher unit does not have to be grounded since it works with current flow only.

8 PCS -Buzzer Alarm Active Piezo 3v 5v 6v  
12v 24v Continuous Sound DC 85DB C20  
US \$11.62

Sold by: [lianhe02](#)

eBay Info:

BULK Wholesale electronics Power Axial  
Diodes 1A 3A 6A Amp 12V 12VDC LOT

AMPERAGE: 1 AMP  
NUMBER OF PIECES: 20PCS

US \$10.57

Sold by: [225fwy](#)



1965 Corsa Turbo Convertible. Sold for \$26,500. Nice car with a good price. Glen noted that the car had a 66 valance. Odd?

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

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

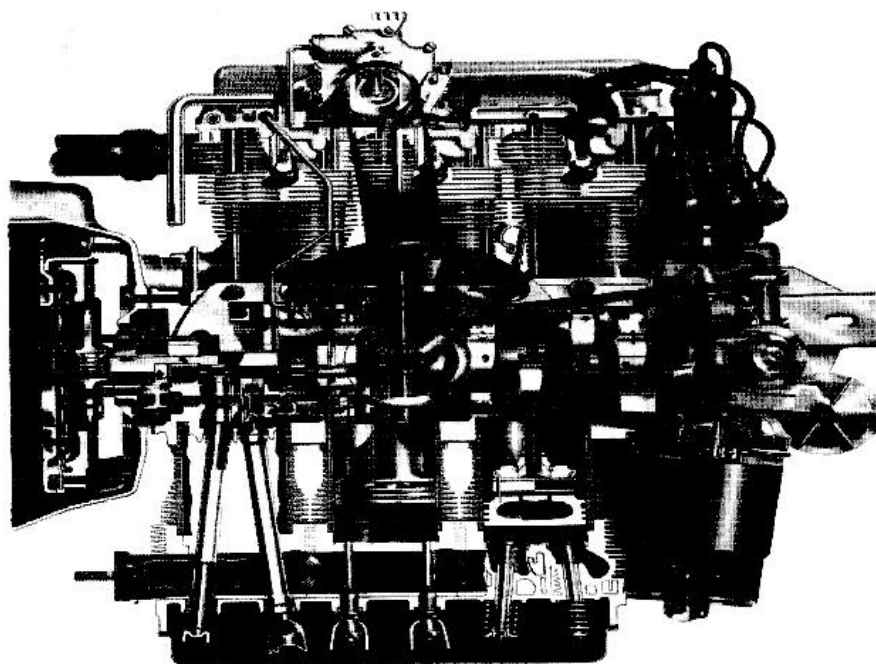
Cars, Corvair and other \_\_\_\_\_

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

# The Flat Six



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