

## Prairie Capital Corvair Association

**P.O. Box 954  
Springfield, Illinois 62705**

# The Flat Six

July 2017

### 2017 Officers

President -Jim Allen	(309) 361-5351	Vice-President Allen Monts	(309) 243-7477
Secretary-Rhona Hall	(217) 483-5289	Treasurer-Glen Rittenhouse	(309) 472-3882
Membership-Chris Hall	(217) 691-6529	Historian/Inventory Garry Biggs	(217) 498-8241
FlatSix Editor Tim Mahler	(217) 793-3824	Email	PrairieCapital@corvair.org

### Board of Directors

Mike Hall (2017)	(217) 494-7105	Dick Moon (2017)	(309) 382-3903
Bud Laubach (2017)	(309) 374-2572	Larry Jahn (2018)	(217) 283-7365

## From the President

The year is going by way to fast. We will be at the convention before long. Bernie and I hope to see many of our members in Independence MO.

Our son Jim Jr. is driving in from AZ. It will be a good time.

The meeting and car show in Tremont was enjoyed by all. We had 10 or 11 Corvairs in the show. It was a peoples choice event. Mike Hall's Rampside won the Corvair class.

We all enjoyed their signature turkey sandwiches and strawberry shortcake. Drinks were supplied by Dick Moon. Thank you Dick.

Our next meeting will be on July 15th in Decatur IL. PCCA members, Mark and Linda Allen will be our hosts. They are also having Pizza for us at 1:00. The meeting will follow.

We will have a Corvair display at Marks business. It will be on a lot next to one of their Speedlube locations on El Dorado street.

We can arrive at the July car show / meeting, at 10:00-11:00AM.

It is on the 3rd Saturday in July. That will give us a little time to recover from the convention.

Lets see how many Corvairs we can get together. Maybe we can get Mark to let us tour the warehouse and office, and feed the fish, and see the turtle habitat.



Tremont Car Show, PCCA meeting

See you in Decatur  
Jim Allen

# Calendar of Events - 2017

Meeting Location –unless otherwise noted, PCCA meets at the Rochester Community Building located off Il Route 29 in Rochester Illinois. The community building is on the east end of Rochester at #1 Community Drive. PCCA Home Page may be found at <http://www.corvair.org/chapters/chapter627>

June 24 **Pawnee Prairie Days** All Day Saturday Annual Car Show at the Parking lot of Pawnee Assembly of God Church - Contact Scott Day or Mike Hall for more information; Tractor Show and Kids Tractor Pull on NE corner of Village Square on Douglas St. Also Saturday is the 4th Annual Backyard BBQ Cookoff. It's a village wide festival.

**June 27-July 1 CORSA International Convention. Hosted by: Heart of America Corvair Owners Assn. Location: Independence, MO.** Just east of Kansas City on I-70 (US36 is a nice route).

**July 8 Being Moved To July 15 Decatur**

**July 15 PCCA Car Display and Chapter Meeting, Decatur arrive between 10-11am. Lunch at 1:00 pm will be provided. Meeting after lunch.**

**Note: this is 1 week later than normal to place some time after the convention.**

location: Speed Lube, 925 E Eldorado, Decatur- Mark Allen's place of Business.

This is down the road from the Decatur Chevrolet Hall of Fame Museum, Corvair Museum

**July 15 PCCA Board Meeting**, if held, prior to the Regular meeting by about 1 hour. 1-2 pm

August 4 Maple City Street Machines, Monmouth Il. All day cruise-in.

**August 14 MONDAY PCCA Car Display and Chapter Meeting, Illinois State Fairgrounds. It is Senior Day – seniors (60+) get in at a discounted rate.** Expect to meet prior to the caravanning to the fair - a requirement to enter as a group. Steak and Shake on Dirksen parkway has been the location in past years. Meeting expected to be around 2:00 pm



**September 9 Secretary of State Auto Show (It is back !!! ) Downtown Springfield. PCCA Chapter Meeting will be near the cars around 2 pm.**

**Sept. 15.16 All Corvair Show hosted by Circle City Corvairs, Indianapolis.** The annual “Hoosier Show” is back for year 2, transformed into a Corvair Only show. CCC makes this event a great show to attend. Ray Skillman Museum, Greenwood, IN Host hotel is the La Quinta Inn 5120 Victory Dr (south side of Indy off I-465) (317) 783-7751. <http://www.circlecitycorvairs.org/?q=node/740>

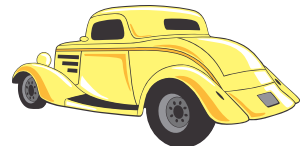
**October 7 Fall tour to Ponitac Illinois to tour its many sites.** A museum tour is definitely part of the tour, plus meeting, touring with other area CORSA chapters including Chicagoland Corvair Enthusiasts, Iowa Corvair Enthusiasts, Circle City (Indianapolis) and Show-Me Corvair Club. It should be a great tour. More details elsewhere in the newsletter.

**October 14 PCCA Car Display and Chapter Meeting, Rochester Community Building 2-4:30pm**

PCCA Board Meeting, Rochester Community Building 1-2 pm

**November 11 PCCA Car Display and Chapter Meeting, Rochester Community Building 2-4:30pm**

**December 9 PCCA Annual Christmas Dinner** - Toni's Café Auburn, IL rte 104 and I-55.



For more Corvair Events Check the calendar on the CORSA Web site: [www.corvair.org](http://www.corvair.org) Upcoming events are now on the home page, left side. Click on Events to see other future events.

# 2017 TREMONT TURKEY FESTIVAL

Recap by Dick Moon. Photo's from Mike Hall

Tremont, Illinois welcomed 10 (as I remember) of our PCCA Corvairs to their annual car show that is held in conjunction with the village's acclaimed Turkey Festival this year on Sunday, June 11. The car show itself had a fair gathering of maybe 60 assorted vehicles. Most of the vehicles were very nice originals, restored, or customs. Of course, our Corvairs collected quite a lot of attention, with 7 of them located side-by-side. Three later arrivals had to search for parking.



With prior knowledge that PCCA would be bringing some vehicles, the organizers created a class especially for Corvairs... a nice touch, I thought. This was a "favorites" show, none of the vehicles were judged. After awards were presented (sorry, but I did not stay that long; I had to get a turkey sandwich and strawberry shortcake home to my patiently waiting wife) the organizers got a "tour" together for any of the show participants who wanted to show off what they brought. I do not know how many Corvairs joined that tour. Sorry, again. And to finish it off, do not know whose Corvair won our class, either. Editor Notes: Mike Hall's Rampside won the Corvair Class, see Prez Column.

As advertised PCCA leaders decided, with members' approval, to have the Club pay the entry fee for members' vehicles, and add enough pocket money to get one of the famous sandwiches and strawberry shortcake. I believe all of our PCCA folks took advantage of that, and were happy to do so. There was a large cooler of sodas and bottled water setting in the shade for our group.



Editor Notes: Also from the Prez Column, thanks to Dick and Neta Moon for the sodas and water.

So, I will stick my neck out and name the PCCA members I remember being there, and thank all who came from far and near: Rob Preston, Brian and Sue Seyller, Bud and Kay Laubach, Jim and Bernie Allen, Mike and Rhona Hall, Glen and Rita Rittenhouse, Art Jameson's daughter, Betsy (driving Art's woody Corvair with a proper engine), Bud Patterson and wife, Dale and Joyce Kuykendall, and Mark Allen and his wife, and Dick Moon. All the above except the Rittenhouses had a Corvair in the show. Other Club members appearing without a Corvair were James Rice, Brian Nicholson and friend, Larry and Gloria Jahn. I thought we had a good turnout, with many visitors stopping to ask or comment about Corvairs.

Please do not be offended by lack of names or by inaccuracies found in this summary. I am working with a withered memory these days.

Dick

In the pictures, the editor spotted these 7 Corvairs at the show: Mike Hall's Rampside; Mike and Rhona Hall's 65 Convertible, Brian and Sue Seyller's green Convertible, Betsy Fannin's 62 "woody" Spyder, Jim and Bernie Allen's 61 Lakewood wagon, (I believe it to be) Rob Preston's red convertible (hidden amongst all the other Corvairs, it is) and Dick and Neta Moon's 63 4 door Sedan.



## Prairie Capital Corvair Association (PCCA) Membership Form

**March 1, 2017 thru February 28, 2018**

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 August 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  
 OR to PCCA Treasurer P.O. Box 954 Springfield, IL 62705

This was actually taken from the 2017 Convention Web site. Basic checks of any car before Summer or a trip. I like Mike's simple list of spares – a fan belt, valve cover gasket, rocker arm and push rod, a fuse, points and condenser, motor oil, and a new fuel pump. Tools to replace the above and a CORSA Roster (and a PCCA Roster, especially those headed to the convention along your route) Old car enthusiasts, especially Corvair dudes and dudettes, are friendly and helpful. Tim

## The Preventive Maintenance Series

Mike Dawson

### Pre-Trip Checks

The following list of items to check before taking a trip are suggestions for all Corvairs in general. Remember that even long trips are usually less than the mileage between a single oil change. Serviced properly, your Corvair will cruise to all of this summer's events and back - and be happier for it!

1. Check or clean & pack all four wheel bearing assemblies, and check & lube the 2or 4 U-joints. Check front end parts and lube the fittings.
2. Have tires balanced and aligned if necessary. Before trips, check all five tire pressures and tighten lug nuts with the tool you use to change a tire.
3. Check or change all fluids: oil, transmission, differential, brake fluid, washer fluid and battery level if possible. Synthetic Powerglide fluid is a very good idea.
4. Check the oil pressure sending unit and change this inexpensive item if you do not know its history.
5. Check the engine tune, and include cleaning the crankcase vents. Check the breaker plate in the distributor, lube the distributor cam and inspect the electrical connections such as the primary coil wires, alternator wires (no generators allowed) and multi-connectors. Check carburetor inlet nuts for leaks.
6. Check the battery date, cable ends, ground cable mount and check the overall charging system with the lights and accessories on maximum.
7. REMOVE the belt and check the condition of the entire length. Spin all three pulleys and lube anything questionable. Tools are available to grease the fan and idler bearing.
8. Check all running lights, check the fuse block for rust, check the large connector in early model engine compartments, check warning light operation.
9. If air conditioned, blow out the condenser, check the mounts and belt, check the evaporator drain, and remove the lower shrouds for better cooling.
10. Check the harmonic balancer, and if it is original, replace it! Be sure to check the fuel pump mount, they can work loose. To be safe with the increasing ethanol additions, you should have a new Airtex pump.
11. Lube your late clutch cable ball and look for frayed cable between the two pulleys under the dash on early models – also check parking cables in the same area.
12. Check brakes; wheel cylinders, shoes, master cylinder (push rod leak), and most important, the steel and rubber lines. Give your car the “stomp test” in the driveway. Steel lines above the gas tank and next to the transaxle are the most prone to rust, with tunnel lines next.
13. Be aware of any speedometer error you may have and know your oil consumption rate. Test drive 15 minutes on the highway on a hot day, pack up and head out!

Spares and tools? My favorites would be a belt, a new fuel pump, one rocker arm with pushrod and valve cover gasket, one 30 amp fuse, a set of points and condenser, oil as required, tools for these items, and a CORSA Travel Roster.

Another Thanks to Heart of America Corvair Owners Association and Mike Dawson for having these great tech tips available. HACO is the host of the 2017 CORSA convention where Mike Dawson (Rochester carburetors), Fred Bybee (collectible Automobiles) and Larry Claypool (electric fuel pumps) are slated to give separate tech sessions. I entered the Peabody way back machine to August 2014 for this article – I also noted the 2014 convention write up by VairCor editors Gary and Helen Moore whose Rampside (Helen’s Rampside) won several awards.



From the 2014 Tacoma Convention Banquet – Gary Moore is on the right, with Rhono and Mike Hall front center. Barb and Don Wagner are to the left of Rhona.

## The Preventive Maintenance Series Mike Dawson Valve Guide and Rocker Arm Issues

Corvair engines were designed with a good valve guide, rocker-arm, pushrod combination, which racers usually improve on, but you will get good long term performance from the stock items with reasonable maintenance. The incidence of bad guides is not very common unless there is a maintenance problem or the guides are affected by one of the issues discussed below.

To begin with, most replacement valve lifters are not designed like the original Corvair lifters, which had a very deep pocket for the pushrod and a full one turn adjustment that compensated for the Corvair engine’s aluminum expansion. Most of the new lifters sold today will only tolerate a one-half turn and are shallow so that completely flat lifters with minimum adjustment can allow the pushrod to jump up on the ledge of the lifter (this would hold the valve open). Accurate valve adjustment is always very important but more so with replacement lifters. Remember that a lifter that is noisy cold but is quiet hot is not out of adjustment, it just required running for a while to pump back up – 10 to 15 minutes in some cases. A lifter that is quiet cold but noisy hot is out of adjustment and may contribute to some of the issues described later in this article.

Pressurized oil in the lifter galleries is metered through the valve lifter, travels up the pushrod and exits out of the pushrod end inside the valve cover. Since Corvair valve guides, valve stem ends and rocker arm ends are located above the end of the push rod, a hole in the side of the pushrod provides a spray of lubrication upwards through a hole in the rocker arm as the pushrod rotates. If you install your pushrods backwards you invite rapid wear on the above mentioned items. Also keep in mind that the pushrod guides have the holes cut at an angle and if you install them backwards they put a significant amount of pressure on the pushrod. The “U” stamped on the guide faces outwards.

Corvair valve guides are made of a cast iron alloy with aftermarket bronze guides available for extreme service. Valve stem seals are installed on intake valves to limit oil being sucked in to the intake system, but no seals are used on exhaust valves. Lead in the gas used to lubricate the exhaust guides but they seem to survive reasonably well without it. As long as oiling in the valve cover is adequate and rocker-arms do not move off the center of the valve stem onto the edge, valve guides have a good life span.

However, since most of our 50 year old cars were serviced by someone else early in their life it would be a good idea to pull valve covers and check the pushrod oiling, check the “U” on the pushrod guides and most important, check that the rocker arms are not sitting off on the side of the valve stem where they will cause valve guide failure from the sideways pressure. If you find one sitting on the edge of a valve stem, remove the rocker arm and check for an indentation at the valve end of the rocker arm and possibly a bad wear pattern on the ball and the socket – you can dress up minor issues on the end with a cutoff wheel and sandpaper. For deep wear areas or bad balls, you must replace the parts. Check for a bent pushrod and check the valve stem, if the rocker is off to the side the stem probably has a distinctive wear pattern on one side – again you can carefully dress up the end of the valve stem with a cutoff wheel so that it is square with the rocker. FC engines that have valve rotators installed can still have a valve stem with the entire edge rounded over from a bent pushrod or badly worn rocker arm.

A bad exhaust guide will mimic a clicking lifter – the exhaust gas fires down the valve stem and exits into the valve cover area. An attempt to adjust the lifter will result in no (or temporary) change in the noise and you will eventually hold the valve open once the lifter is tightened beyond its adjustment span. A bad guide will cook the oil on the valve spring (usually visible with the cover off) and will cause your fresh oil change to darken quickly. If you wind up with a valve job because of bad guides, obviously check all parts of the valve train before re-using them and check that the rocker arms are running true when the engine is back to running condition.



Helen Moore's Rampside at Tacoma. See the rampside in person at the 2017 Convention in Independence Mo. It is beautiful



Mt Ranier.

## Cars And Parts for Sale

**FOR SALE:** (FIRST appeared in February 2017 Newsletter)

1963 Corvair Monza Conv. / Power Top - all new mechanical parts and new seal kit on top / Factory A/C with replacement compressor /engine overhauled by Jim Allen /extra set of tires with rims /red body & interior / \$15,500..Rob Preston.. 309-241-8673

**For Sale (non Corvair; new May 2017) :**Completely rebuilt heads for a Buick 225 V-6. May fit others. Everything new, still in shrink wrap from the machine shop. The heads were from a 1965 Buick Special. Will include the carburetor, intake manifold, cam shaft, and exhaust manifolds with y-pipe with purchase of heads. Looking to get \$550 for them, which is what I have just in the machine shop work. If you are interested, make us an offer! Lyle Rigdon 217-778-2231

### Auction News

Premier Auctions Gulf Coast Classic, March 17-18, 2017 as reported in OCW April 27,2017

1962 Corvair Monza 2dr convertible, 145cid/95hp/PG condition 3 \$4,300

**MINUTES OF MEETING – JUNE 11, 2017**  
**PRAIRIE CAPITAL CORVAIR ASSOCIATION**

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance as usual at 1:05 p.m. President Jim Allen asked Treasurer Glen Rittenhouse for his report. Our checking account balance as of May 20, 2017 was \$4,849.87. He stated that there were no additional deposits made since that date. No additional disbursements were made from the account since that date as well. The total balance in our checking account as of today's date is \$4,849.87. Our savings account balance is \$5.00. This account is required to have a checking account at CEFCU. Our cash on hand is \$327.50, which includes a deposit of \$8.00 from the May 20th 50/50. Our total Checking/Savings/Cash balance as of May 20 is \$5,182.37. He also reported that he has undeposited dues from two members of \$32.00. Our provisional balance is \$5,214.37. Jim asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was made by Brian Seyler and seconded by Larry. The motion carried. In the absence of Membership Chairman Chris Hall, Jim asked Glen for a membership count, and he reported that we have 48 individuals and 41 addresses.

Rhona Hall read the minutes of the May 20 meeting. They were approved as read.

Jim thanked everyone for coming to the Turkey Festival and, especially those who brought a car and noted that we have a great day for it. Jim also thanked Glen for making our meeting room possible.

Jim asked for new business. For new business, Jim asked Mike about the flag he brought with him for Corsa. Mike explained how our flag will look and its purpose. He ordered one for the Show Me Corvair Club for use at the annual Easter Car Show so those who come out to look at all the cars will know where their Club's cars are located. The Corsa Board has approved the addition of the flags to the Corsa merchandise for those chapters that would like to have one to call attention to their cars at shows. There will be order blanks at the merchandise table at the Convention for any members to pick up if they would like to order one for their chapters when they return home.

Jim stated that Mark and Marilee Allen will be our hosts in Decatur for our July meeting at their oil change business. They will provide pizza for us from their pizza business. Later we will go to the Chevrolet Museum before we go home.

Mike reported that the Pawnee Prairie Days car show will be two weeks from today. There will be a Corvair class. If anyone can come to display their car, he would appreciate it.

There being no further business to discuss, Jim asked for a motion to close the meeting. The motion was made by Brian Nicholson and seconded by Bud Laubach. The motion carried at 1:13 p.m. Glen accepted money for 50/50. Glen and Rita were thanked again for the use of the room for our meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhona Hall, Secretary

*2nd Annual*  
*Circle City All Corvair Show*  
*2017*

Presented by  
**Circle City Corvairs Club**



**Hospitality Room 5:00PM till ???**  
**Food / Door Prizes / 50-50 / Tech Talk / Ladies Bingo / Movie**

**Friday September 15, 2017**  
Host Hotel—La Quinta Inn 5120 Victory Drive  
(317) 783-7751 for reservations  
Room Rate is \$81.00 per night— Ask for Corvair Group rate

**People's Choice Corvair Show 10:00AM - 3:00PM**  
**Door Prizes/ Tech Talk / Lunch / 50-50**  
**11 Classes / Best of Show / Hard Luck / Long Distance**  
**Special Events for the Ladies!!!**

**Saturday September 16, 2017**  
Ray Skillman Classic Car Dealership  
1280 US 31 S, Greenwood, Indiana 46143  
[www.rayskillmanclassiccars.com](http://www.rayskillmanclassiccars.com)

**Dinner (at hotel) 6:00PM**  
**Dinner / Door Prizes / 50-50 / Awards Presentation**  
*(All meals included with registrations)*  
**\$30.00 per Vehicle & Driver Pre-registration before 9/8/17**  
**Registration Day of Show: \$35.00 per Vehicle & Driver**  
**\$20.00 for each additional person**  
*(12 years and under no charge)*



# CORSA International Convention in Independence MO Hosted by Heart of America Corvair Owners Assn.

Host hotel Hilton Garden Inn, 816/350-3000 or 877/782-9444, use group code CCA  
or for online registration go to [corvair.org/2017hotelreg.html](http://corvair.org/2017hotelreg.html).

General Contact Email Address for questions, comments is [2017localconventionchair@gmail.com](mailto:2017localconventionchair@gmail.com).

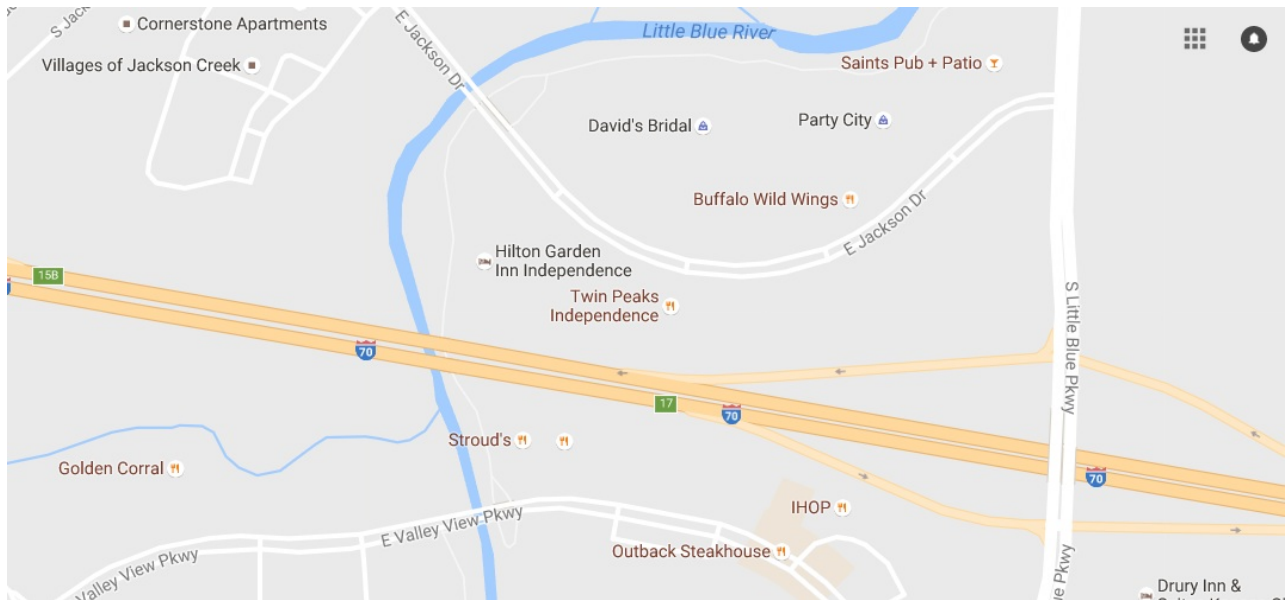
**EARLY Convention Registration ends MAY 27, 2017 – save \$10-\$50 or more by registering early!**

**WHEN** June 27th, 2017 12:00 PM through July 1st, 2017 4:00 PM

**LOCATION** 19677 E Jackson Dr Independence, MO 64057 (The East side of Kansas City)

Note: From I-70, take exit 17, left onto e Jackson Dr, left onto Little Blue Trace Trail, hotel is on the left.

Restaurants – Golden Corral, Outback Steakhouse Ihop. Plus Buffalo Wild wings, Hereford house at the hotel, Joe’s Crab Shack and many others. All seem to be withing a short drive/walk from the convention Hotel.



## **Four Way Corvair Cruise-In, Pontiac Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Although Plans do change. These preliminary thoughts, plans, goals should help. Lyle Rigdon has done a lot of preliminary leg work and is still refining things as I type. Any feedback should be sent to Lyle.

Four Way Corvair Cruise in. Pontiac, IL Oct 7th.

PCCA, CCE, Circle City, Iowa Clubs (Technically 5 way with St. Louis)

Arrive around 10:00am – Reserved Parking will be provided.

10:00-1:00 Meet and Greet, Show and Shine, Wander downtown Pontiac

Route 66 Museum - Military Museum : [WWII 754th Field Artillery Battalion Group on display]

Pontiac Car Museum [Additional buildings/cars open just for us]

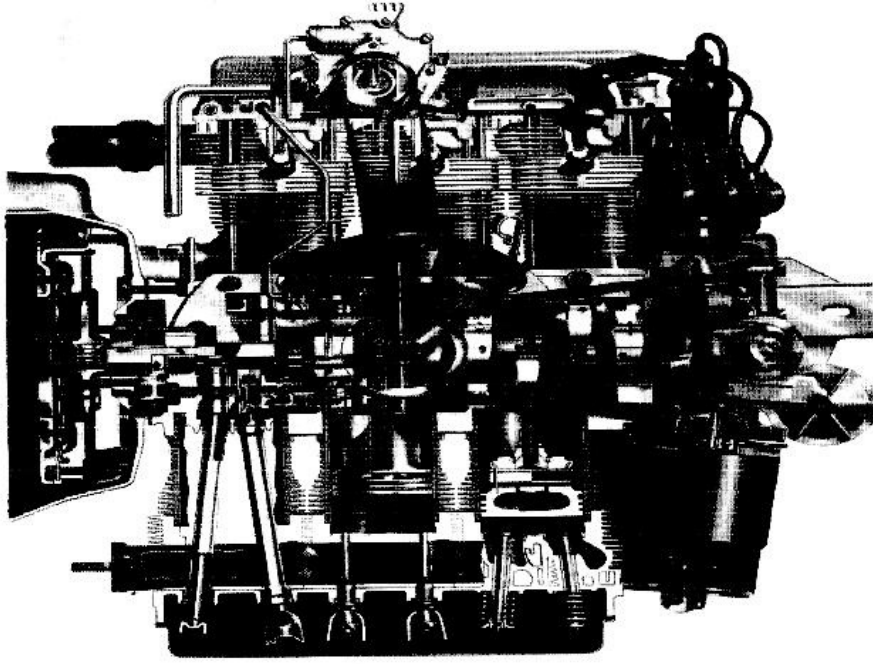
Farmers Market - Courthouse

1:00 Lunch: Edinger's Garage Themed Restaurant - Reserved

Depart at your leisure!

**Possible Lunch Menu** at Edinger’s Filling Station. \$10 per person with drink, tax and tip included or \$13 per person includes assorted pie selection. Choice of: Grilled Cheese and Vegetable Soup, Chicken Pot Pie, Grilled Chicken Salad, Taco Salad, Cheeseburger and Fries or a Fruit Plate.

# The Flat Six



# Prairie Capital Corvair Association



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