

VAIR STREET JOURNAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB

MAR/APR 2011

HISTORY

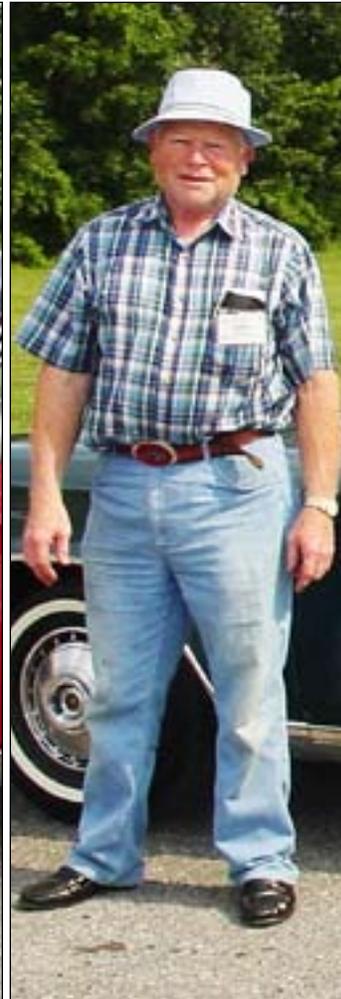
Around this time of year when Corvairst events and activities are few or don't take place at all, your editor is hard pressed to find resources for the *Vair Street Journal*. It's a matter of make something up or fall back to the past. For example: the pictures below of the four WPCC hunks were taken in 2003 (see note below). It's always nice to have an interesting full-color photo on the front page even if it isn't relevant. Inside you will learn more about the Fitch Phoenix and see a photo from the early days of WPCC. ed.



Don Cekus with his late model convertible



Al Friend with his '64 red coupe



John Gundlach with his '64 convertible



John Tyger with his maroon '63 coupe

Photos above are ©2003 in the names of Dennis & Debbie Pleau from the CORSA National Convention in Carlisle, PA



Never Forget 09-11-01



Next Meeting

Tuesday, May. 24, 2011

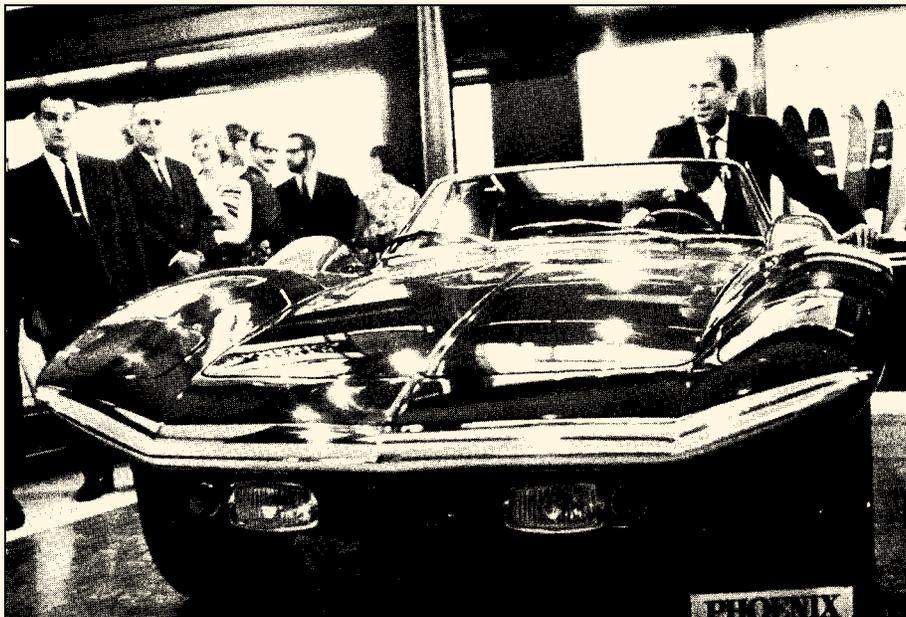
North Park Lounge Clubhouse • Rte 8
1/4 mile north of the Butler, PA Turnpike Exit
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**See the tentative
Schedule of Events
for 2011 on
page 6**

The New York Times.

Friday, July 8, 1966

Luxury Sports Car of Tomorrow Is Unveiled Here



The New York Times

John C. Fitch, racing driver and engineer, displays his creation at Abercrombie & Fitch

By Frank M. Blunk

The car of tomorrow arrived in New York yesterday. It was an elegant blue creation placed on display on the main floor of Abercrombie and Fitch's sporting goods store at Madison Avenue and 45th Street. It will remain there until August 20.

This luxury sports car, called Phoenix, is the brainchild of John C. Fitch, international race driver, engineer and creator of many new and exciting machines in the automotive field over the last 20 years.

Fitch's newest car, designed in collaboration with noted industrial illustrator, Coby Whitmore, is based on the rear-mounted Chevrolet Corvaire, six-cylinder, 170-horsepower air-cooled engine.

That means four speed synchromesh transmission, either manual or automatic, with enough horsepower to cruise comfortably at 100 miles per hour (in areas where such speeds are permitted).

The car has Koni adjustable shock absorbers, Weber carburetors, Girling disk

brakes and is equipped all around with the new Goodyear radial tires, themselves a creation for the future, and an electrically operated window in the rear of the Landau-style top. The Steel body is made in Turin, Italy, by a special group of old world hand-craftsmen.

The body lines of the Phoenix are different from any seen on the road today. The slight swelling on each side of the hood are tire wells, one carrying a rear spare and the other a spare for a front wheel. The rear wheels have seven-inch rims and the front wheels six-inch rims, so two sizes of tires are used.

Fitch is planning to produce about 500 units of the Phoenix in the first year. He is quoting a price of \$8,700 for the "rally" or competition version, while the normal road Phoenix will sell for \$8,300.

He has sold his first car to John Timken, a well-known auto racing and yachting man.

Fitch, who was born in Indianapolis in 1917, became a race driver soon after the

end of the second World War. He drove an MG. He has since driven at Le Mans, France, for Briggs Cunningham and has been a winner in most of the leading races in this country and many abroad.

As a car builder he has been successful with various combination of Fiats and Fords particularly of the 1934 V-8 version, and with Jaguar conversions as well.

His kit for the Corvaire sprint car, a refinement that he brought out several years ago, is said to have reached more than 100,000 in sales.

But Fitch's new two-seater Phoenix, weighing only 1,950 pounds, is a car of rare beauty and high performance, and is undoubtedly his masterpiece.

Headquarters of the Fitch Phoenix Company are in Falls Village, Conn., a small community only a few miles from Fitch's home at Lime Rock. That is also the site of Lime Rock Park, a 1.5-mile sports racing course that Fitch designed and ran for several years.

This article originally appeared in Volume 4, Number 1 of the CORSA QUARTERLY the forerunner to the CORSA COMMUNIQUE.

Many thanks to Al Friend for providing this information

March 22, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Officers Present:

Jim Madden, *President*
 Don Cekus, *Vice President*
 Pat Greenwald, *Secretary*
 Jim Heatherington, *Treasurer*

Board Members Present:

Don Baker
 Bob Hieber
 Steve Puskas
 Jim Steigerwaldt
 Charles Lucas, *Journal Editor*

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Madden.

The minutes of the January meeting and the February board meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Jim Heatherington's treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2903.38. Proceeds from the Chinese auction amounted to \$196.00 and the club contributed \$216.78 to the cost of diners at the party. Jim reported that there are 43 members and 4 more that have not yet renewed. A discussion followed concerning the status of courtesy membership extended to widows. No changes will take place for now.

The Meyersdale car show is April 3rd. People showing interest in attending will wait to consider the weather and coordinate by phone.

The topic of CORSA finances was discussed. Jim Madden suggested that the club can't do much more than promote membership from within our club.

Les Walter has ordered brochures of Green County covered bridges. He offered to work with Bob Hieber on the October fall foliage tour.

There is nothing definite yet on a new meeting place. Jim Madden will check out some places in Monroeville. The May meeting is scheduled for the North Park Club House.

Jim Heatherington is waiting for the schedule to set up a date for the trip to Jennerstown and the Mountain Playhouse.

Jim also reported that the Model A club is attending the Apple Blossom Meet in Winchester, VA the weekend of May 6,7,8. Contact Jim if interested.

Jim Madden suggested that we create a flyer promoting our club and distribute it at car cruises.

The August Victory Hill car cruise does not yet have a definite date.

Jim Madden continues to finalize plans for the trip to the Erie area wine country for July 16 – 17.

Steve Puskas has invited club members to his home for a picnic on September 10th.

Respectively submitted,


 Pat Greenwald

Historic photo and copy from 1979



The photo at left appeared in the February 1979 WPCC Newsletter.

The copy read as follows:

The January annual meeting began on a sort of historical note. Dave Lovejoy brought the papers to be filed for our incorporation. Vaun Hamlin took photos of the membership in attendance during the signing. When our paper work goes through the state bureaucratic maze, we will be known as The Western Pennsylvania Corvaair Club, Inc. Many thanks Dave. Unfortunately our founder, Ivan Clever was in Florida, and missed this historic moment in the development of WPCC. A caption below

the photo noted that Dave Lovejoy's son shows off the incorporation papers at the January Meeting. Some folks that I recognize (this photo is before my time in the club) are Dick Brier, Bill Artzberger, Carole & Al Friend, Jan & Dave Fabyonic, Wayne Jones, Bob McCune and Bates Murphy. *Thanks to Al Friend for the photo and the copy*



©Dennis & Debbie Pleau
from the 2003 CORSA National
Convention in Carlisle, PA

Another photo from the 2003 CORSA National Convention in Carlisle: a beautiful Tim Cotrofeld Yenke Stinger. By the way, Cotrofeld Automotive is featured in a *special profile* in the June 2011 issue of Hemmings *Classic Car* magazine.

Please make copies of this form, keeping them handy in you glove box for that occasion when you meet a prospective member.

The Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club Wants You

Dues are \$12 per year or *one dollar per month for each remaining month after January. Example: If you join at the end of April, your dues would be \$8. ***This however, only applies in the year that you first join WPCC.**

Become a member by completing the application below. Send it along with a check (payable to WPCC) in the amount of your initial dues, to:

Jim Heathering • 128 Sharp Road • White Oak, PA 15131

Regular Bimonthly Meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday of the following months: March, May, July, September and November. The annual Holiday Party takes place near the beginning of January. The restaurant location where an upcoming meeting takes place will appear on the first page of the *Vair Street Journal*, the bimonthly publication of WPCC. If you care to join us for dinner on meeting nights, we start at 6:30 p.m. The meeting follows at 7:30.

Name _____ Age _____ Occupation _____

Address _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Date _____

CORSA Member? Yes No No. of Corvairs owned _____ Model & Year of each _____

Recommended by _____ Other car clubs _____

e-mail address _____ Married No Yes—Spouse's name if married _____

Additional information about yourself (optional) _____

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
1	Aaron , Michael & Barbara	119 Valleycrest Drive, Cecil, PA 15321	724-745-0656	aaronmic@co.washington.pa.us
2	Adamson , Richard & Doris	251 Lilac Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146	412-372-3452	
3	Artzberger , Bill & Joan	305 Golf Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15229	412-364-6842	BILLA305@comcast.net
4	Artzberger , Jim & Sandy	1300 Cattail Lane, Sewickley, PA 15143	412-749-1432 c:412-855-1313	Artzberger1300@comcast.net
5	Baker , Don & Joanne	12461 Larimer Avenue, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-3770	dcbakerscca@yahoo.com
6	Brier , Dick & Carol	493 Sleepy Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228	412-563-4591	
7	Brill , Jean	4500 Oakhurst Blvd., Harrisburg, PA 17110	717-526-4523	
8	Buccigrossi , Emerick	1502 Fernledge Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101	412-486-7691	ebuccigrossi@comcast.net
9	Bucklew , David & Linda	414 W. Newcastle Street, Zelienople, PA 16063	724-452-5735	dbucklew1@verizon.net
10	Butalla , Franz & Helen	172 Rubena Road, Greensboro, PA 15338	724-966-7825 c:724-984-3233	hbutalla@gmail.com
11	Cekus , Don & Mary Ellen	197 Browns Hill Road, Valencia, PA 16059	724-903-0990 C:412-952-3190	corsa1@zoominternet.net
12	Cekus , Dwayne & Joy	108 Prosser Drive, Monongahela, PA 15063	724-258-7778 C:412-296-0294	cekus@verizon.net
13	Cekus , Ken & Toots	28 Center Avenue, Monongahela, PA 15063	724-258-8514	onecorvair@yahoo.com
14	Clapper , Ed & Wendy	315 Western Avenue, Beaver PA 15009-1448	724-774-5276	ewcjr4@yahoo.com
15	Costantino , John & Clare	305 3rd Street, Freeport, PA 16229-1141	724-295-2675	
16	Dandois , Dick & Marie	11844 Route 286 Hwy W., Homer City, PA 15748-7803	724-726-5606	dindy6@verizon.net
17	Desmond , Tim & Michele	107 Hivue Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-761-3926	TDES123@netzero.com
18	Duva , Vincent & Louise	195 Browns Hill Road, Valencia, PA 16059	724-898-1604	
19	Friend , Al & Carole	6000 Great Oaks Drive, Export, PA 15632	C: 724-433-0839	a.c.friend@comcast.net
20	Goehring , Earl & Diane	140 Whitestown Road, Harmony, PA 16037	724-452-8823	
21	Greenwald , Pat	415 Crestview Drive, Plum, PA 15239	412-795-5719	pggreen233@netzero.net
22	Gundlach , John, Gayle & Laura	228 McKay Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056	724-352-4205	ggundlach@zoominternet.net
23	Hackl , George & Marlene	420 , Hulton Road, New Kensington, PA 15068	724-224-0482	
24	Hamlin , Charlotte	2207 Arbor Glen Court, Sun City Center, FL 33573	813-633-6684	hamlinchar@aol.com
25	Heatherington , Jim & Suzanne	128 Sharp Road, White Oak, PA 15131	412-672-0914	suzanne@heatherington.com
26	Hieber , Bob & Donna	1679 Brodhead Road, RR3, Moon Twp, PA 15108	724-457-9712	bob@thehiebers.com
27	Kreisel , Curt & Elana	1141 Sunrise Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243	412-561-1845	curt.kreisel@wolterskluwer.com
28	Lucas , Charles & Sarah	236 W. Marigold Street, Munhall, PA 15120-2233	412-462-6735	chaslucas@gmail.com
29	Madden , Jim & Heidi	3045 Mt. Troy Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212	412-321-1654	triximadden@comcast.net
30	Matenkosky , Walter & Susan	702 Spring Street, Latrobe, PA 15650	724-537-8922	wmatenkosky@hotmail.com
31	McDonald , Paul & Joyce	258 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001-2711	724-287-5671	jam40258@zoominternet.net
32	Morgan , Robert & Margaret	344 Ridge Road, New Brighton, PA 15066	724-846-6040	
33	Murray , Rod & Michelle	476 Woodland Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-719-3449	murray8986@gmail.com
34	Puskas , Stephen	221 Green Manor Drive, Butler, PA 16002	724-284-3721	spuskas@embarqmail.com
35	Rising , Connie	155 Ben Franklin Road N., Indiana, PA 15701	724-465-4146	
36	Schifano , Charlie & Connie	223 Blackridge Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601	724-832-7498	charlieschifano@verizon.net
37	Shearer , Ralph & Joanne	30 Clover Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650	724-539-8645	gailey.shearer@comcast.net
38	Steigerwaldt James & Diane	506 Quail Drive, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066-4074	724-776-0935	Jimstg@zbzoom.net
39	Sweet , John & Charlotte	1264 Walnut Street, Stoneboro, PA 16153	724-376-4335	jasvair@certainty.net
40	Tedesco , Bob & Polly	4741 Curry Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236	412-881-8577 C: 412-584-8668	bptedesco@aol.com
41	Tyger , John, & Barb	8399 Rte 954 Hwy. N., Creekside, PA 15732	724-397-2043	jtyger@directv.net
42	Walter , Lester	100 Thompson Lane South, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-8437	timerles@aol.com
43	Watkins , Kerry & Linda	209-1/2 S. Third Street, Youngwood, PA 15697	724-925-1962	
44	Wilson , Gregory	508 Bigham Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15211	412-481-6864	
45	Yobst , Robert & Rosalie	518 Brookdale Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215	412-963-9943	
46	Young , Bill & Dana	126 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-220-3896 C: 412-260-8359	william.h.young@verizon.net

If you would like to correct or update your listing, please forward the correct information to:

Charles J. Lucas • 236 W. Marigold Street • Munhall, PA 15120-2233 • or phone: 412-462-6735 • or e-mail: chaslucas@gmail.com

2011 Tentive Schedule of Events

May 13-14VA Vair Fair	July 16-17Trip to the wine country near Erie
May 24Meeting at North Park Club House	July 26-30CORSA Convention in Denver
June 4Trip to DeBence in Franklin, PA - Music Museum	August 6Blueberry picking trip
June 24.....Carlisle, Pa - Car Show	August 13?Victory Hill Car Show
Date TBA Jennerstown - Caravan to Green Gables Restaurant and Mountain Playhouse	September 10.....Saxonburg Art Festival, car show, club picnic.
July 5 – 8.....Idlewild Old Fashioned Days	September 27.....Meeting at North Park Club House
July 12Meeting – Location TBA (change of date to avoid conflict w/ CORSA Convention)	October 8.....Fall foliage tour
July 15-24Vintage Grand Prix	November 22.....Meeting – location TBA
	January 8, 2012.....Holiday Party – Grant’s Bar in Millvale