

VAIR STREET JOURNAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB

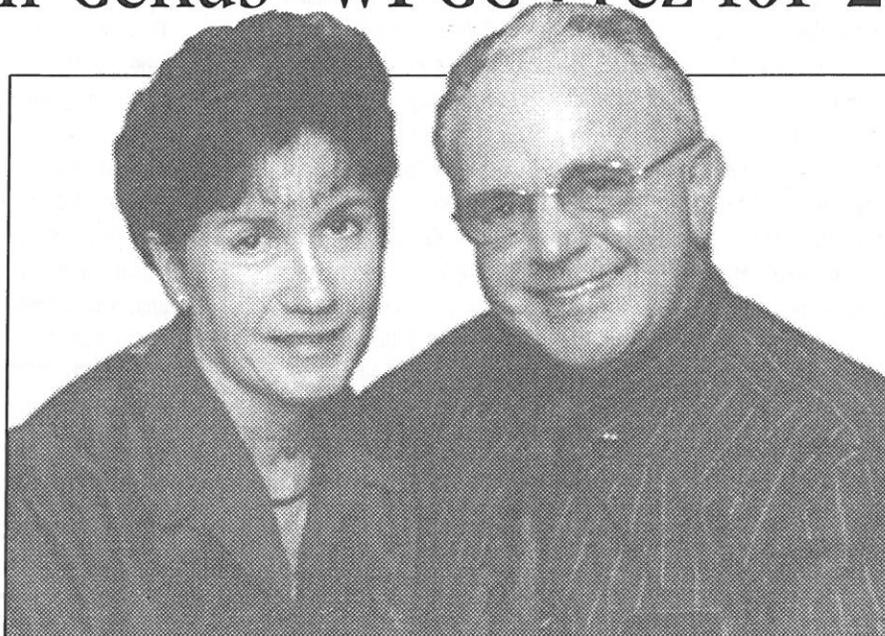
FEBRUARY 2003

Don Cekus—WPCC Prez for 2003

On Saturday January 4th, those in attendance at the WPCC Holiday Party elected a new President. From the very capable hands of Jim Heatherington, the gavel was turned over to the new President, **Don Cekus**.

A very active member since 1987, Don is enthusiastic and committed to our club and Corvairst automobiles. He attends, takes part, or serves as coordinator at meetings and events. You can also expect to see his lovely wife, Mary Ellen right beside him. And Willa Falcettoni, Mary Ellen's mom, will most likely be along for the ride too.

I'm always interested in how people developed an interest in Corvairs, so I asked Don the big question. "Don, how did you first get interested in Corvairs?" It seems that



The First Couple—Don and Mary Ellen Cekus

PHOTO BY DON BAKER

Don teaches Auto Body Repair at Beattie Tech. At one time in his life he owned his own shop but decided he'd rather teach others about the trade. It was tough he said, working during the day and going to school at night, but it paid off, of course, when he received his teaching certification from the University of Pittsburgh.

Don and his wife Mary Ellen make their home in Pittsburgh's North Hills at 286 Hillcrest Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

Don is a guy who knows Corvairs inside and out. Like many others in our hobby, he is very willing to share his knowledge with anyone who has a question about their Corvairst. He can be reached at 412-364-8224 or on the internet at corval1@att.net.

Walt Baldinger asked Don to test drive a Corvairst he was considering, and Don, who had never driven a Corvairst at that time, said, "sure, I can do that!" And that's all it took—he loved the way the car handled and has been driving Corvairs ever since.

His first Corvairst was a Fitch Sprint, bought from Tom Cress in 1987 after consulting with Bill Artzberger, who also owned that *same* Sprint. How many Corvairs has Don owned? "Six or seven", he says.

2003 Executive Board



Steve Puskas



Pat Greenwald

Steve Puskas is our new Vice President. **Pat Greenwald** keeps her position as Secretary and **Bill Brill** remains as treasurer. However, while Bill and Jean Brill are attempting to sun themselves in Florida, (till April) **Al Friend** will be filling in as treasurer. The remainder of the board consists of **Bill Artzberger**, **Emerick Buccigrossi**, **Jim Heatherington** and **Bob Hieber**.



Bill Brill



Al Friend

PHOTOS BY DON BAKER

L. Eugene Rising 1933-2003

Long time WPCC and CORSA member, Gene Rising passed away on January 11, 2003 in his hometown of Indiana, PA. Many of us enjoyed Gene and Connie's company at CORSA and ACC events. Gene's near perfect cars were always winners. He collected many types of old cars, but the Corvairs always seemed to be his favorites.

Attending the funeral were Marie and Dick Dandois, Al and Carol Friend and John, Gayle and Laura Gundlach. In addition, Barb and Jack Tyger paid their respects at the Funeral Home. Flowers were sent from WPCC.

You may wish to send your condolences to Connie Rising at:

155 Ben Franklin Road N.
Indiana, PA 15701

Connie sends her thanks and love to everyone. The preacher talked at length about Gene's love of cars, *especially Corvairs!* Gene was a very special member to quite a few of us.

Thanks to Al Friend

L. Eugene Rising, 69, of Indiana died Saturday, Jan. 11, 2003, at Indiana Regional Medical Center. The son of Leonard J. and Gladys Miller Rising was born May 20, 1933, in Indiana. Mr. Rising was a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church, Indiana; Antique Automobile Club of America; Corvair Society of America; BPOE Lodge 931; United Commercial Travelers; and VFW Post 1989, Indiana.

He was self-employed as owner of Rising Bros. Tires Inc. since 1955.

A veteran of the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Army as a cryptologist in the Signal Corps. He enjoyed collecting Corvairs and camping on the Allegheny River.

Surviving are his wife, Connie Jeffries Rising; a son and two daughters: Kenneth E. Rising and his wife, Jaimie; Joy L. Blystone and her husband, Kenneth; and Brenda L. Bish, all of Indiana; eight grandchildren: Sean, Meghan, Sara and Brian

Rising; Stacey and Chad Blystone; and Carly and Kate Bish; and a sister, Elaine R. Martin, Fort Myers, Fla.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Friends will be received today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Bowser-Minich Funeral Home, Indiana, where BPOE Lodge 931 will provide a memorial service at 7 p.m. A funeral service will be held Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, with the Rev-James D. Patten officiating. Interment will be in Oakland Cemetery, Indiana, with members of VFW Post 1989 providing graveside military honors.

Above is the Obituary for Gene Rising as printed in the Indiana Newspaper on January 13, 2003.

Thanks to Marie Dandois

Minutes of the November 26, 2002 WPCC Member Meeting

Officers Present:

- President, Jim Heatherington,
- Vice President, Don Cekus
- Secretary, Pat Greenwald.

Board members present:

- Bill Artzberger
- Charles Lucas

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Heatherington.

The minutes of the September 24th meeting were accepted as printed in the newsletter. The treasurer's report* was read and approved. The current balance is \$3,374.57. There are 45 paid members.

The Hershey trip report:

Received\$1350.00
Misc. exp (pop, ice, newspaper ad, printing)55.09
Bus <u>.1117.00</u>
Profit177.91

A message from Dick Brier explained that the lower profit from the Hershey trip this year was due to an increase in the bus expense. Don Cekus recommended that the trip price of \$30.00 be increased next year. Don also had some ideas for changes in the trip that would get the people back to Pittsburgh at an earlier hour. These ideas will be discussed with Dick.

Don Baker agreed to serve as the nominating chairman for next year's officers.

Jim reported on the Covered Bridge Tour and thanked Bob Hieber for organizing it.

Bill Artzberger reported on the trip to Seven Springs for the car show. The club was treated very nicely and all seemed to enjoy the day despite the cold, rainy weather.

Don Cekus discussed the plans for the

January 4th party. Dues paid by club members help subsidize the cost of meals and pays for the hors d'oeuvres.

The Gundlachs attended Corvair Days in Carlisle and got a preview of the 2003 Corsa convention.

Jim received a call from Vaun Hamlin in Florida. Vaun is doing fine and recently wrote an article for Car and Driver. Luke has it and will publish it in the newsletter.

The next meeting will be the Holiday Party at Carmody's in Wexford on January 4th, 2003.

Following adjournment, Don Cekus held a tech session on distributor rotors.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Greenwald, secretary

*See a complete financial report on page 3

WPCC

WPCC Current Roster of Members

FEBRUARY 2003

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	e-mail address
1	Adamson, Richard & Doris	78 Garden Drive, Turtle Creek, PA 15145	412-372-3452	
2	Ames, Michael & Rosanna	42 Westchester Court, McKees Rocks, PA 15136		
3	Artzberger, Bill & Irene	305 Golf Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143	412-364-6842	
4	Artzberger, Jim & Sandy	1300 Cattail Lane, Sewickley, PA 15143	412-749-1432	
5	Baker, Don & Joanne	12461 Larimer Avenue, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-3770	
6	Brier, Dick & Carol	493 Sleppy Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15228	724-837-5082	
7	Brill, Bill & Jean	502 Kenmore Avenue, Greensburg, PA 15601	724-837-5082	
8	Buccigrossi, Emerick & Letty	1502 Fernledge Drive, Allison Park, PA 15101	412-486-7691	emandletty@msn...
9	Cekus, Don & Mary Ellen	286 Hillcrest Circle, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-364-8224	corsa1@att.net
10	Dandois, Dick & Marie	11844 Route 286 Hwy W, Homer City, PA 15748-7803	724-726-5606	dindy@stargate.net
11	Desmond, Tim & Michelle	107 Hivue Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-761-3926	
12	Fabyonic, Dave & Janice	38 Sierra Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239	724-327-7361	davidfab@usa.net
13	Fabyonic, David, Jr. & Melisa	313 Oak Wood Circle, McDonald, PA 15057	412-257-4554	
14	Falcattoni, Willa	1554 Butler Plank Road, Glenshaw, PA 15116	412-486-4638	
15	Friend, Al & Carole	6000 Great Oaks Drive, Export, PA 15632	724-325-2588 W 888-311-4183	afriend@pclient.ml.com
16	Goehring, Earl & Diane	140 Whitestown Road, Harmony, PA 16037	724-452-8823	
17	Greenwald, Pat	415 Crestview Drive, Plum, PA 15239	412-795-5719	pggreen233@aol.com
18	Gundlach, John & Gayle	228, McKay Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056	724-352-4205	
19	Heatherington, Jim & Suzanne	128 Sharp Road, White Oak, PA 15131	412-672-0914	suzanne@heatherington.com
20	Hieber, Bob & Donna	1679 Brodhead Road, RR3, Moon Twp, PA 15108	724-457-9712	bhieber@processengineering.com
21	Jones, Judy	3205 Bel Air Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15227	412-882-2109	wandjones@aol.com
22	Lucas, Charles & Sarah	236 W. Marigold Street, Munhall, PA 15120	412-462-6735	chasjlucas@aol.com
23	Puskas, Stephen	458 Whitestone Road, Butler, PA 16001	724-482-1165	
24	Sweet, John & Charlotte	1264 Walnut Street, Stoneboro, PA 161..	724-376-4335	jasvair@stargate.net
25	Walter, Lester	100 Thompson Lane South, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-8437	timerles@aol.com

This Roster of Members is compiled for you from our list of paid-up membership dues. We apologize for any keyboarding errors or omissions of information.

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 • phone 412-462-6735 • e-mail chasjlucas@aol.com

ABOUT YOUR DUES

If you have not paid your 2003 WPCC dues, your name does not appear above. If you wish to continue your

membership (and we hope you will) please remit your dues of \$10 to:

Al Friend
6000 Great Oaks Drive
Export, PA 15632

If you do not pay your current dues it is uncertain whether you will receive additional issues of the *Vair Street Journal*. So please support WPCC by sending your dues today.

Treasurer's Report as of November 26, 2002

Last Reported Balance	\$3,150.61
Monies Received	
Hershey Bus Trip	\$ 274.91
Dues	8.00
Total	\$ 282.91
Balance	\$3,433.52

Balance	\$3,433.52
Disbursements	
September <i>Vair Street Journal</i>	\$58.95
Balance as of November 19, 2002	\$3,374.57

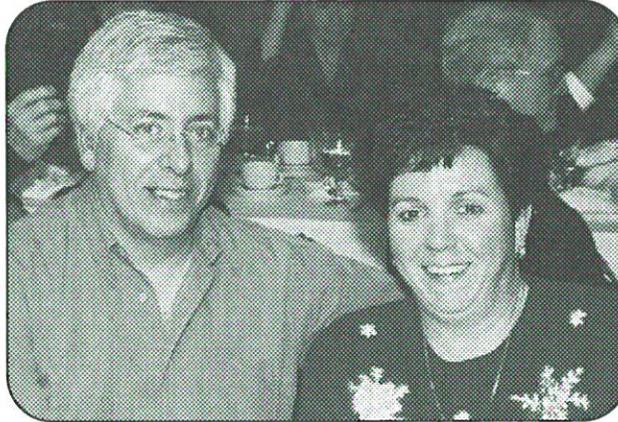
Bill Brill, Treasurer

Bill Brill, Treas

Fun at the Holiday Party



▲ Willa Falcettoni tries to strangle Don Baker with raffle tickets after he puts a hex on her so she won't win anything in the Chinese auction. And guess what?, she didn't.

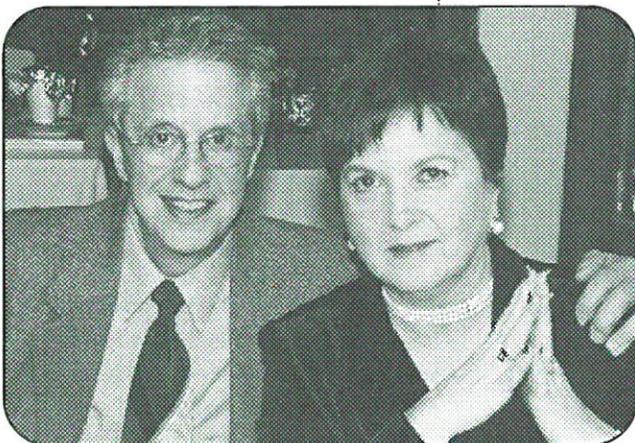


ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY DON BAKER

▲ Two new faces to the Holiday Party, Tim and Michelle Desmond. Tim joined WPCC last year.



▲ Jim and Sandy Artzberger, a couple we're always happy to see.

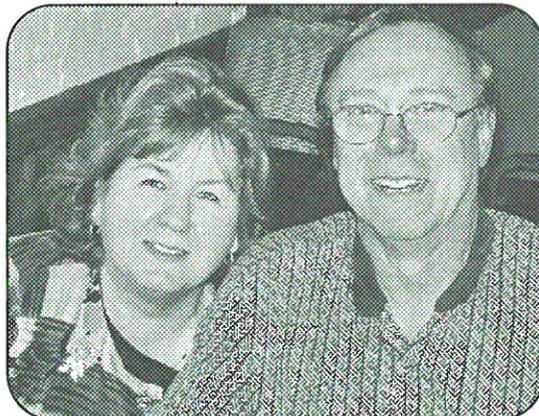


▲ Also new to our Holiday Party were Emerick and Letty Buccigrossi. Emerick joined WPCC in 2002.

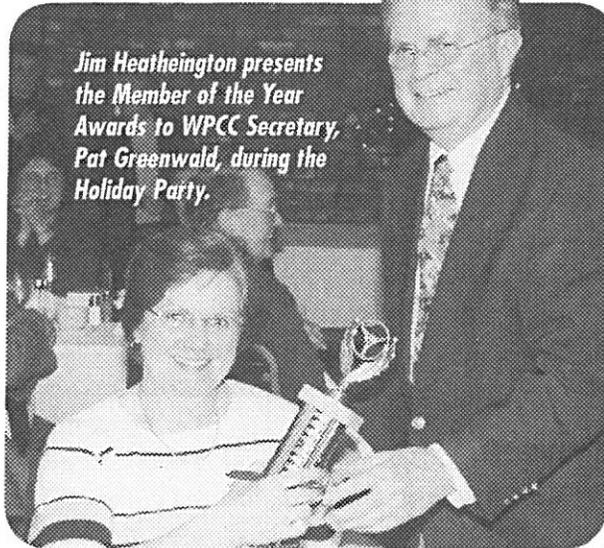
▼ Always great to see John and Charlotte Sweet.



▲ The King and Queen of the Gift Exchange, Al and Carol Friend.



Fun at the Holiday Party



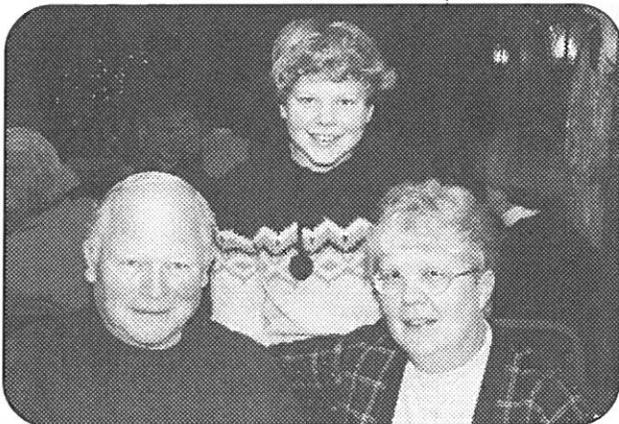
Jim Heatherington presents the Member of the Year Awards to WPCC Secretary, Pat Greenwald, during the Holiday Party.

▼ The Gundlachs, John, Gayle and their delightful daughter Laura.

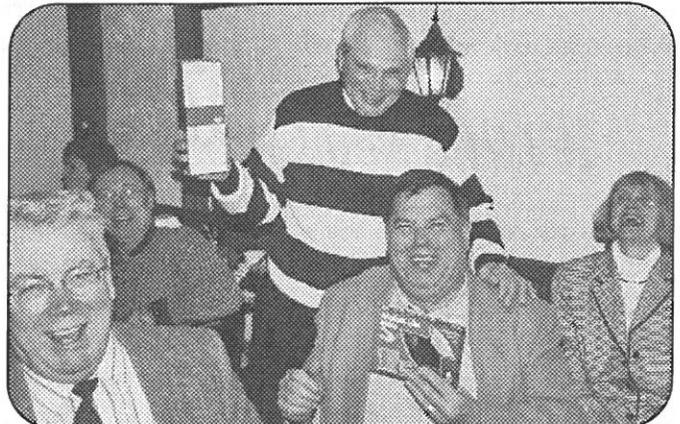


▲ Good to see first-timers, Doris and Richard Adamson at the Holiday Party.

▼ Dave Fabyonic gets the Ulu knife and Dick Brier gets Dave's Holiday Spirits.



ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY DON BAKER



Minutes of the January 4, 2003 WPCC Member Meeting

The club met at Carmody's Lounge for the annual Holiday Party/meeting. Thirty-nine people attended.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Heatherington.

The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

Al Friend gave the Treasurer's report. The balance at the end of year 2002 was \$3384.57.

Jim discussed the upcoming National Corsa Convention in Carlisle, PA and encouraged club members to attend.

Nominating committee chair, Don Baker, announced that there was one candidate for each of the four offices:

- President Don Cekus
- Vice President Steve Puskas
- Treasurer Bill Brill
- Secretary Pat Greenwald

There were no additional nominations offered. The secretary cast the vote for the above slate of candidates.

Jim presented the "Member of the Year" trophy to Pat Greenwald.

Jim thanked everyone for their help and participation this year, especially Don Cekus for handling the Holiday Party and Charles Lucas for publishing the newsletter. Jim then turned the meeting over to Don Cekus.

Don also encouraged a good club turnout at the convention and urged members to make their reservations soon.

Don asked for volunteers for the 2003 board of directors.

Al Friend presented Jim with a desk clock in appreciation for his service as president this past year.

Arrangements were made for the 2004 Holiday Party to be held on January 3rd at Carmody's Lounge.

Al and Carol Friend conducted the gift exchange and Pat Greenwald and Dolly Izzo ran the Chinese Auction.

Respectively submitted,

Pat Greenwald

A LOOK BACK

FROM THE NOVEMBER 1977 VAIR STREET JOURNAL

We had an autocross school headed up by Dave Fabyonic at the North Park parking lot. We had a ladies special—they had a free run after their spouse (or boyfriend) had theirs. The course was lined with lime and (borrowed) pylons. Top speed was between 35 and 40 MPH. The gals almost beat the guys in the previous year. The guys were out to win “big time”!

You could get a discount on a new Chevrolet from Devereaux Chevrolet, by mentioning John “Cossys” name. John was a member of WPCC, and employed with Devereaux as their Parts Manager.

Our previous month’s trip to Ft Ligonier included 19 Corvairs and four “water pumpers”. Dinner was held at the Laurel Highlands Motor Inn. They provided a huge dining room/meeting room. The food was absolutely delicious. About 75 people attended. **Ivan Clever** and **Wayne Jones** put the tour together.

A new member was introduced to the club. He was a 58 year old store manager who owns a clean ’62 Monza sedan that we all admired on the Stern Convoy (our visit to Ernie Stern’s Museum and Restoration Shop). **Bill**

Brill was recommended by **Bob Holderbaum**.

A plan was in order to attend the National Convention in San Diego, July 20 thru 23 the following year. We needed 171 people to reserve a plane. We didn’t make that number, but we did have nearly 100!

Bill Klotz was handling this affair.

The President (Nov. ’77) was **Al Friend**, Vice President was **Dave Fabyonic**, Treasurer was **Carolyn Sullivan** and Secretary was **Judy Jones**.

Thanks to Bill Artzberger

A Little News From the Southern State of Florida

BY VAUN HAMLIN

Charlotte made a big pan of a bean based dish and I attended a picnic held 115 miles Northeast of Sun City Center sponsored by Nature Coast, Sun Coast and Central Florida Clubs on Sunday, Nov. 17th. We were handed three days of rain, over 3", which ended in late morning on the day of the picnic.



PHOTO BY DON BAKER

Vaun Hamlin

We left at 7:00 AM so we were the first car there getting cleaned up for the show. I was giving thought on how to clean the car where the facilities I enjoy are not present. If it weren’t for the wire wheel covers, I wouldn’t have a problem, but a light came on in my head which proved to be successful. I took the garden sprayer with water in it, sprayed on the wire wheel acid and rinsed them thoroughly. I always spray a light coat of Shine Spray from Stoner

which is high silicone, for protection. From there it was a piece of cake, using tire cleaning foam, wiping with a towel and applying tire shine to complete the wheel/tire task. Final Detail with 2 towels to the car, clean the windows and ready to show. It was still raining a spec so I left the car closed until other cars came and the blue sky was visible. The sun was out, but the wind was terrific, and our temperature dropped about 20° here in two days.

After eating only a small portion of the many foods available, the other end of the very large shelter was set up for games. Entrants were given a sheet with all the games listed. As each game was played, the points gained were added to the sheet. Examples are: Three Corvair cylinders, red, white, and blue were set together with the open ends close and a surround piece of aluminum at each side. A left and right handed golf putter are back about 8 feet. Using four balls, how many could you get thru the cylin-

ders. Center one worth 3 points, end ones 1 point. No one got more than one ball thru the center. They had push rod tubes set vertically and a person stood above, dropping push rods into the tubes, a very difficult task. Fan belt toss and several other challenges made for a fun time.

Every person attending was given a ballot to fill out for the people’s choice car. I made a copy of the plaque we got so you know I haven’t lost everything.

They set up a blind driver’s challenge so the co-pilot could try to get the car thru the cones without a failure. That caused some laughs.

Having been to a few Corvair events, this was a good one. The members knew what they were doing by getting people who value the Corvair club involved and ultimately happy.

Weather Report: Chilly this morning but by noon, sun out bright and a pleasant day.

Vaun and Charlotte Hamlin

How Much Fun Did We Have

THE FOLLOWING APPEARED IN ROAD AND TRACK MAGAZINE

It dawned on me while reading the article on the Lamborghini Murcielago (May 2002) that for a quarter mile my old Corvair would be competitive. Maybe an estimate (of the Corvair's power) would be a possibility. I'm sure the tires available in 2002 are better than we had in 1968, plus other items can't make for 100-percent accuracy.

I chopped the roof off a '61 Chevy Corvair Lakewood and thus made a light-weight pickup. The engine was 145 cu. in. stroked to 155 cu. in., Paxton supercharged and much modified. In three years of running, it was unbeaten in C-Gas Supercharged class while competing at five drag strips. We left the line at 6000 rpm, shifted at 7700 rpm, never missed a speed shift, never broke the engine. At Keystone Dragstrip we had many runs at 125 mph and our best ET was 11.57 seconds. The truck weighed 1706 lb.

Vaun Hamlin, Jr.
Sun City Center, Florida

With a little math, passable approximations of engine power are possible when some combination of the vehicle's

weight and either the elapsed time or mph are known for the standing-start quarter mile.

Of the two, the mph calculation is often more accurate because the mph varies less than ET due to traction, driver technique and other variables. The formula is:

$$\text{BHP} = (\text{mph}/234)^3 \times \text{weight}$$

Plugging in your numbers we arrived at 260 bhp. This may not sound like enough power to run 125 mph, but your Corvair was very light. It was also highly tuned at 1.68 bhp/cu. in. That would be 587 bhp in a 350-cu.-in. V-8, for example.

We should also note the weight should be the all-up vehicle weight including driver, fuel and so on. We used 1706 Lb. in our calculations, so if that was without driver, as seems likely, the power was even higher.

In any event, calculations such as these are educated guesses and it is best to err conservatively. If nothing else, running mid-11s at 125 mph was an excellent accomplishment in the '60s; you definitely have our congratulations!

Thanks to Vaun Hamlin, Jr.

Random Thoughts

- On the other hand, you have five fingers.
- I just got lost in thought. It was unfamiliar territory.
- Seen it all, done it all...can't remember most of it.
- You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say will be misquoted, then used against you.
- A bumper sticker—"Honk if you love peace and quiet."
- A bumper sticker—"Caution, I drive as bad as you."
- Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?
- It is hard to understand how a cemetery raised its cost and blamed it on the cost of living.
- The 50-50-90 rule: Any time you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% possibility you'll get it wrong.
- It is said that if you line up all of the cars in the world, end-to-end, someone would be stupid enough to pass them.
- The things that come to those who wait are usually the things left by those who got there first.

Thanks to Bill Artzberger

FOR SALE

Two Late Model Corvairs

1965 Corvair Monza

- 140 Engine
- Automatic Transmission
- Red Paint
- Altered cloth interior—Burgundy

1965 CORSA Coupe

- 140 Engine
- 4-Speed Transmission
- Black Paint
- Altered cloth interior—Burgundy

Phone or e-mail Don Cekus at:

412-364-8224
corsa1@att.net

Don says these cars are in outstanding condition and could be driven across the country tomorrow.

FYI

Did you know our Corvair Club was organized and chartered as a CORSA Chapter on Oct 10, 1975? Let's start planning a landmark event for 2005.

We have revision No. 2 in Club files. They appear the same as the original by-laws, but of course some details have been changed. The purpose remains the same. It is to provide an organization

which satisfies the common needs of individuals interested in the operation, preservation, restoration, and enjoyment of the Corvair automobile and its derivatives. The national organization certainly has done its job! We have helped some!

Thanks to Bill Artzberger

VAIR STREET JOURNAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB

FEBRUARY 2003



Remember 09-11-01

Hoss's Restaurant • Route 22 • Murrysville
 Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

March 25, 2003

Next Meeting



158
 Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club
 236 W. Marigold Street
 Murrells, PA 15120

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HAVE YOU PAYED YOUR WPCC MEMBERSHIP DUES YET?

At the incredibly low cost of \$10, you can not go wrong. Do it today! We want you as a member.

IMPORTANT: Bill Brill, our treasurer, is currently in Florida, so for the present, please forward your payment to Al Friend. Information on where to send your check can be found on page 3, along with the current roster of members.

Thank you!