

VAIR STREET JOURNAL

Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club

March 2002

New Officers

The Holiday Party was not all fun and games folks. We conducted a short business meeting for the purpose of selecting officers for 2002. Nominating committee chairman Don Baker managed to come up with a slate of officers who had no opposition. Can you imagine that? Nevertheless, our new executive board is comprised of four fantastic folks who will advance WPCC and make all of us proud.

Returning as President after a year off, is the very capable, *Jim Heatherington*.

Our new Vice President is the ever enthusiastic, *Don Cekus*.

Long time Treasurer, *Bill Brill*, once again returns to that position.

Another long timer, *Pat Greenwald*, continues as Secretary



Heatherington



Cekus



Brill



Greenwald

The New Prez Sez

Greetings to a new year and a new touring season.

On February 9, 2002 the Board of Directors conducted its initial meeting and I was pleased with both the attendance and the input from the board members. Everyone contributed, and when that happens you can expect a successful year. We discussed many event ideas, including the standard ones such as parades and the holiday party.

For the first planned event of the year, Don Cekus will lead a group to the Maple Festival in Meyersdale on March 17. There will be more information about this elsewhere in this newsletter, so check it out...don't be left out!

We are also looking at the possibility of an overnight trip to the Riverside Inn and Dinner Theater in Cambridge Springs, PA. The theater performance is Saturday evening, and Earl Goehring and Luke are investigating interesting and intriguing places for us to visit on Sunday before our return home. A possible date is May 11-12, so if this interests you, let me know so I can begin to set final plans in motion. If there is not enough interest, the trip won't happen, so please don't put this off!

Because the 2003 National Convention is in Arizona, there probably won't be a great deal of participation from our club. That means we can devote more time to planning

daytrips (or overnight trips) in our area. And that leads naturally to the ever-present issue of participation on the part of you, the member: PLEASE speak up if you know of an interesting place our club might want to visit. Simply mention it to any one of the officers and you will receive whatever help you need to arrange it.

Our next general meeting is Tuesday, March 26 at King's Restaurant on Route 910 at I-79. There has been some discussion about looking for a more centrally-located place to hold our general membership meetings and a committee is working on that. If you have suggestions in this regard, please let one of the officers know and we'll be sure to look into it. Until a change is made, we will continue alternating between King's in Wexford and Hoss's in Murrysville.

Jim Heatherington, President

In this Issue

New Officers	1
The New Prez Sez	1
Board Meeting Minutes and Calendar of Events	2
Meeting Minutes	
January 5, 2002 Holiday Party Meeting	3
The Sweet Story	
John Sweet tells about the years he and Charlotte were in California	4
Having Fun with Air Cooled Cars	
by Vaun Hamlin	5

Minutes of the Feb 9, 2002 WPCC Board Meeting

Officers present:

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

Board members present:

Bill Artzberger, Earl Goehring,
Bob Hieber, Charles Lucas.

The Meeting was called to order by President Jim Heatherington. The minutes of the January 5th meeting/party were read and approved.

The board agreed to join the Legislative Council again this year. Jim will ask acting treasurer Al Friend to remit the \$35.00. The next council meeting is March 17th in Hershey.

Bob Hieber will try to attend.

Charles Lucas reported that, to date, 35 club members have paid their dues for the current year.

Bill Artzberger and Don Cekus agreed to check into the possibility of a meeting place in Harmarville. But without definite information on a site there, the year's meeting dates and places (tentatively) were set as follows:

- March 26th—King's in Wexford
- May 28th—Hoss's in Murrysville
- July 23rd—King's in Wexford
- Sept. 24th—Hoss's in Murrysville
- Nov. 26th—King's in Wexford
- Jan. 4th—Carmody's in Wexford

The dates will not change, but if a suitable arrangement can be made for a place in Harmarville, the place may be changed. Details will be in the *Vair Street Journal*. The January 4th, 2003 meeting is the holiday party.

Jim will have the deposit sent to Carmody's.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to setting up the year's calendar of events. (see below)

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Greenwald, secretary

<p>January 5, 2002, Holiday Party/ Meeting Carmody's - Wexford (Jim Heatherington)</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">JAN 2002</p>	<p>February 9 WPCC Board Meeting Hoss's Restaurant - Rt. 22, Murrysville</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">FEB 2002</p>	<p>March 17 Meyersdale Maple Festival (Don Cekus)</p> <p>March 17 Legislative Council (Bob Hieber)</p> <p>March 26 Meeting - Wexford King's, Rt. 910, off Exit 73 of I-79</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">MAR 2002</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">APR 2002</p>	<p>May 11-12 Cambridge Springs (Jim Heatherington)</p> <p>May ? Richmond VA Vair Fair (Bob Hieber)</p> <p>May 28 Meeting - Murrysville Hoss's Restaurant - Rt. 22, Murrysville</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">MAY 2002</p>	<p>June ? Somerset - 2 day trip (Jim Heatherington)</p> <p>June ? Crafton parade (Bob Hieber)</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">JUN 2002</p>
<p>July 4 Brentwood parade (Bob Hieber)</p> <p>July 4 Canonsburg parade (Jim Heatherington)</p> <p>July ? Idlewild Old Fashion Days (Charles Lucas)</p> <p>July 23 Meeting - Wexford</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">JUL 2002</p>	<p>August 18 Jennerstown Playhouse (Jim Heatherington)</p> <p>August ? Picnic</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">AUG 2002</p>	<p>September ? Lincoln Highway Tour (Charles Lucas)</p> <p>September 24 Meeting - Murrysville</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SEP 2002</p>
<p>October 5-6 Hershey bus trip (Dick Brier)</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">OCT 2002</p>	<p>November 26 Meeting - Wexford</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">NOV 2002</p>	<p>January 4, 2003 Holiday Party/ Meeting Carmody's - Wexford (Jim Heatherington)</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">JAN 2003</p>

Minutes of the Jan 5, 2002 WPCC Meeting

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

Jim Heatherington, the party coordinator, welcomed all to the party.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Bill Artzberger.

Officers present:

Bill Artzberger, Vice President
Pat Greenwald, Secretary

Board members present:

Don Cekus
Earl Goehring
Jim Heatherington
Bob Hieber
Charles Lucas.

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as printed in the *Vair Street Journal*.

Reporting for Bill Brill who is in Florida, Al Friend gave the Treasurer's report. The balance at the beginning of 2001 was \$3088.80.

Credits Totaled\$1114.18
from membership dues,
Chinese Auction, Hershey trip,
and parades.

Debits Totaled\$1125.50
from the Holiday Party, clock,
Legislative Council,
postage, printing, oil filters,
picnic, etc.

2001 Year End Balance\$3077.48.

Bill announced that the party was being dedicated to the memory of Wayne Rockhill. Bill thanked Charles Lucas for the fine job he is doing with the newsletter and acknowledged special guest Donna Mae Mims.

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

President **Jim Heatherington**
Vice President **Don Cekus**
Treasurer **Bill Brill**
Secretary **Pat Greenwald**

There were no additional nominations offered. On a motion by Dave Fabyonic and

a second by Sandy Artzberger, the secretary cast the vote for the above slate of candidates.

Bill presented the "Member of the Year" trophy to **Don Baker**.

Bill then turned the meeting over to the new President Jim Heatherington.

Carol Friend presented Doreen Rockhill with a clock in appreciation of Wayne's service to the club, especially as the 2001 president. She promised that another clock would be coming for Bill Artzberger, who stepped up as president, filling in for Wayne.

Pat Greenwald and Suzanne Heatherington conducted the Chinese Auction and Al and Carol Friend officiated over the grab bag.

Respectively submitted,

Pat Greenwald
Pat Greenwald, Secretary



We're into the third month of the new year already. Wow, spring is just around the corner. For many of us, that means getting the dust cover off of the Corvair and getting it back on the road (where it belongs).

There will be an opportunity to glide on down the road in the

Corvair on March 17, when Don Cekus leads the WPCC to Meyersdale for the Maple Syrup Festival. Be sure to contact Don a week prior to March 17, so that he'll know how many are coming. You can reach him at 412-364-8224. Then meet him on the 17th for a 10:00 a.m. departure from the McDonalds Restaurant in New Stanton (in town). Get there early for breakfast if you like.

If I may digress just a bit to the Holiday Party (which was fun as always), it was great to meet and talk to Donna Mae Mims. There is a fine article in the April 1999, CORSA Communique about Donna Mae. ☺

Parts and Services:
Now reopened in PA
John's Corvair Parts
Specializing in NOS, repro and used parts for Corvairs.
Also, rebuilding engines, steering boxes, etc.
John Sweet
724-376-4335 or
e-mail jasvair@stargate.net
for information

The Sweet Story

by John Sweet

In January of 1980 my family and I moved to the Pittsburgh area when I accepted a job with H.J. Heinz as a Field QC auditor for their Weight Watchers Division. We purchased a house and 13 acres in Portersville which is situated 35 miles north of Pittsburgh.

WPCC and CORSA

I joined the WPCC that same year and was an officer and became a tech advisor for the Club. I have also been a Corsa Eastern Division Director for four years and the Parts and Repair Chairman for six years.

Parts Business

My Corvair parts business spans more than 30 years and includes NOS, repro and used parts. To house my cars and parts business, I built a 30' x 60' garage in Portersville, but a growing inventory soon required me to bring in a 60' mobile home for parts and storage.

I have attended many National Corvair conventions throughout the country from 1979 thru the National Convention at Lake Tahoe.

Position Eliminated

In 1992 my position at Heinz was eliminated when the company deleted a middle management level. After trying for a year and a half, I was unable to find a technical position because many companies were cutting back at the time.

A Job Offer

Then I received a call from my old friend, Larry Shapiro, who is the owner of Larry's Corvair Parts in Los Angeles, California. He offered me a position helping him manage his business.

The Move and Job Offer 2

We moved to the Los Angeles area and bought a house in Lomita, California. Lomita is in the South Bay area just below Los Angeles. After working with Larry's for two years another friend offered me a Director of Technical Services Position at National Confectionary Brands in Chino, California, which was 50 miles from our home. I became a "freeway driver" for three years and I think I could drive any NASCAR race after that experience.



John Sweet

On weekends I'd help Larry at the shop. We'd also hit all of the Corvair meets selling parts.

A Decision to Return

I returned to Larry's on a full time basis in 1999 when the NCB job was completed. In the later part of that same year, Charlotte and I made a decision to move back to Pennsylvania so that we could enjoy our grandchildren and family.

Knowledge Gained

During my six years at Larry's I gained a broader knowledge of the proper methods for rebuilding Corvair engines and other parts. In California, many Corvairs are being used for daily transportation. As you know, California

cars have little or no rust due to limited rainfall and lack of SNOW and SALT. Yes, we do miss the weather that is in the 40's in the winter and 80's in the summer. It was nice to take a bolt off of a car and not have it break due to rust and corrosion as often happens here in Pennsylvania.

Relocation

We purchased a 4 bedroom Victorian house on three acres just North of I-80 is the small community of Stoneboro, Pennsylvania. Both Charlotte and I work at Wal-Mart in near-by Meadville.

Plans

Currently, I am organizing the upstairs in my garage, and as before, I will be selling Corvair parts nation wide. I will be offering rebuilding services for engines, steering boxes, blower bearings, etc.

There are many stories to tell of my experiences in California, from the people and celebrities, like Jay Leno, that I met, to attending the taping of the Home Improvement Show where Larry's Corsa convertible was used. I hope to attend many meetings so that I can share these stories with our members. I am also available for tech sessions when they are planned.

Corvairs

Currently, I have two Corvairs that I purchased in California. One is a 91 point, '65 Corsa coupe show car that is completely detailed. To further upgrade this car, I plan to repaint it and add many powdercoated parts. This should bring it close to 98 points. The other Corvair is a '65 Corsa convertible that has a Crown mid-engine kit with a Chevy V8. This car is slated for a complete restoration in the near future. 🏠

Having Fun with Air Cooled Cars



by Vaun Hamlin, Jr.—as printed in the 2001 Winter Pittsburgh ENGINEER, Quarterly Publication of the Engineers' Society of Western Pa.

I was allowed to clean-up parts when my father would work on his 1924 Franklin in approximately 1939. (pictured above right) When I was in the eighth grade, he bought me a Binks spray gun and I refinished that car. When I turned sixteen, my high school car was a '31, fourdoor Franklin costing \$90.00. I made all the mechanical and body repairs. In 1948, our family had its' only vacation together in that car, crossing New York state from Binghamton to Niagara Falls.

I started Hamlin's business in 1950 officially, bought a '55 Volkswagen sedan. I was unhappy with the dealer's service and became well known for providing service that no one could match, travelling to Toronto, Canada for parts not available in the United States at that time. An example: we would rebuild a wiper motor with a new armature (\$2.50) and American grease and they never failed.


Chevrolet introduced Corvair in 1960. By 1961, we were modifying them for better performance and handling. Some years later, I purchased a wrecked '61 Corvair Lakewood (station wagon), modified the body to lighten the vehicle and resemble a pick-up truck. We campaigned the supercharged vehicle for three years, 1966 thru '68, mainly in Pittsburgh International Dragway and Keystone, which is still in operation today. The truck competed in C-Gas Supercharged, and was never beaten in its class. In 1967 it came in the Top Ten at P.I.D., the only supercharged

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Over the years, I had much fun with Corvairs, owning several very nice ones. I had another '61 Lakewood which won Second Place Trophies at the only two National Conventions it was entered, a '61 Corvair 8 door van with another modified engine, complete a trip to Monterey averaged 21.89 M.P.G. and 62.86 M.P.H. I sold that vehicle to another Corvair fan in Sandusky, Ohio, minus the modified engine, when it took 'Best of Show' at the Sandusky show this year. Presently, my '66 Prism Red convertible and '67 Blasberry Blue 4-door hardtop were winners at Daytona, Florida last year and were Gold Trophy winners at Chicago CORSA Annual Corvair Convention this year. I was the only person to win two golds.

Some improvements to make the Corvair better are to use radial tires, replace the oil seals in the engine with Viton, a product of the space program, and replace the vinyl seats with cloth. Some of the Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club member cars now have Ford Escort seats which install easily, backs recline, and have head rests.

Two club members joined the Corvette Club of Western Pennsylvania in a 4-day, 3-night event called Lap of Pennsylvania where our first stop was SAE headquarters. The 1143 mile event ran mostly on two lane roads around the edge of our state. We had a great time and I think the only thing that the Corvettes had more of was fuel stops.

Comment: A good car can offer much fun when it's owner is a member of an automobile club. Western PA, Corvair Club, an example. 🍷

Thanks Vaun!

*Editors note:
Illustrated above is Vaun's article as it appeared in Pittsburgh ENGINEER magazine. The text below is the unedited copy that appears in that article .*

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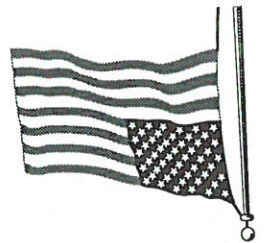
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Thanks Vaun!



March 26, 2002

Next Meeting

King's Restaurant • Route 910, off I-79 at Exit 73 (old exit 22)
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Meeting at 8:00 p.m.



158

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

Maple Syrup Festival
Meyersdale, Pa., Sunday, March 17, 2002

10:00 departure

from the McDonalds Restaurant, Rts, 70 and 119
in "Downtown" New Stanton.

See from the editor, page 3, for details.