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# VAIR STREET JOURNAL

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WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB

MAY/JUN 2011

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## FINGER LAKES TOUR

WORDS AND  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
SUZANNE  
HEATHERINGTON

On Sunday, May 15, Don & Mary Ellen Cekus and Jim & Suzanne Heatherington drove up to Horseheads NY, in the Finger Lakes area, for a week-long tour. The event was the "Happy Days" tour, chaired by members of the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America, and was open to all Chevies from 1955-1975.

Of the 30+ cars on this year's tour, eight were Corvairs, so Don's expertise in this area was both valuable and welcome

Story continues on page 3 thru 6



Never Forget 09-11-01



**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 12, 2011**

**King's Restaurant - Rt 910 • Wexford**

Off I-79 at exit 73

**Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

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See the tentative  
Schedule of Events  
for 2011 on  
page 8

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## May 24, 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  
 Charles Lucas, *Journal Editor*

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Madden.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter.

Jim Heatherington's treasurer's report showed a balance of \$2535.38.

Jim Madden welcomed new member Rod Murray.

Jim Heatherington displayed a map, created by Suzanne, that showed where members (those who regularly attend the meetings) live. Harmarville was the most central location. There is a King's restaurant there and it has a meeting room. Jim Madden will check the availability. The location of the July 12th meeting will be in the newsletter.

Luke reported that Tim Desmond will be phasing himself out of club activities for a time. If the August 6th blueberry trip is to take place this year, it will need a new coordinator.

Don Cekus reported that he and MaryEllen and the Heatheringtons traveled with the Vintage Chevrolet Club to the Finger Lakes in N. Y. There were 8 Corvairs among the 37 cars making the trip. On a visit to Watkins Glen, it

was learned that a pink block can be placed there in memory of Donna Mae Mims. The cost is \$300.00. Don Baker will contact the other clubs that Donna Mae belonged to and discuss their participation. Don Cekus will be the contact person for Watkins Glen.

Al Friend discussed a gas saver additive that he tried in his vehicles. He has statistics for the savings for two Jeeps and a Navajo.

Bob and Margaret Morgan made members aware of a car cruise put on by the Model A club in Zelienople on August 13th. When flyers are available they will get one with all the details to the newsletter editor for publication.

There is still no word on a definite date for the Victory Hill car cruise.

Jim Madden is continuing to work out the details for the July 16 -17 trip to the Erie wine country. Information will be in the newsletter on sent by e-mail.

Les Walter received more information about the covered bridges in Green County. He suggested including barns with the bridges for the October tour.

Jim Heatherington checked out the Mountain Playhouse for this season. Due to a big price increase this season, the club will pass on the event this year.

Don Baker discussed magazine articles about Stingers raced by Warren LeVeque and the Fitch Sprint.

*Pat Greenwald*

Respectively submitted,

Pat Greenwald

### St. John's (Burry's) Church

## John H. Gutermuth Memorial Car Cruise

1835 Route 68; Rochester PA 15074

(located next to Young's Frozen Custard Stand)

**Saturday, August 13, 2011**

2:00 — 8:00 p.m. Rain or Shine—Registration at 12:00 Noon



**NO EARLY BIRDS PLEASE**

First 100 will receive dash plaques

• **DJ • FOOD • DOOR PRIZES**  
 • **FELLOWSHIP • ACTIVITIES**

Thanks to  
 Peg & Bob Morgan  
 for submitting this ad

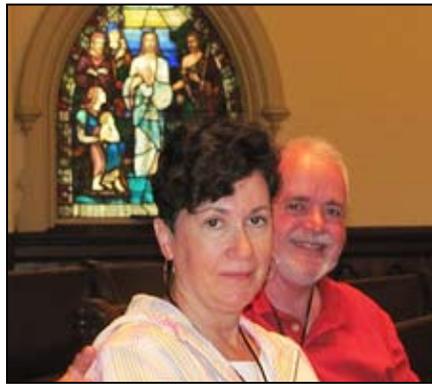
**Come out with the family for a day of fun!**

**Please no dogs or bicycles**

# FINGER LAKES TOUR

Continued from page 1

The drive up on Sunday was pretty awful. With precipitation that varied between steady rain and monsoon downpours, we were very happy that our low-slung Corvairs were so road worthy. When we arrived at the Best Western Hotel in Horseheads, however, the smiles that greeted us were sunny. Don & Mary Ellen had met many of these people at the 2010 Happy Days tour in Sevierville TN, and the reunion was fun for all. Sunday's opening banquet was held at Hickory House Restaurant, almost adjacent to the hotel, and it offered good food and great fellowship.



Mary Ellen & Don Cekus pose inside the Park Church in downtown Elmira

have any of the downpours of the previous day as we headed for our first stop.

**Mel and Dan Hayes** have a collection of 50-60 cars of various vintage, all in good to very good condition, and all for sale. It was fun to wander around the collection, which included Nash



Mary Ellen Cekus, Jim Heatherington and Don Cekus with a 1955 Ford Sunliner convertible at Hayes Collection

Monday morning was our first official day of touring, and it was cloudy and rainy once again, but we didn't

were VERY well fed this week!). The Farmers Museum is more interesting than the name might imply. Many of

the implements and appliances that were part of early American farm life were familiar: wood stoves, meat grinders, etc. But there were other facets of country life on display here, too, such as beekeeping (with a fully-outfitted dummy) and other paraphernalia associated with the long history of farming in Chemung County.

Next was a tour of the **Park Church** in downtown Elmira, where we were treated to lunch. This church was established by the wealthy and progressive Langdon family, whose



Inside the National Soaring Museum

Metropolitans, 1957 Chevies, and even a late model SMART car!

After everyone chose their favorite purchase here, we departed for the **Chemung Valley Farmers Museum** for a tour and also for refreshments. (You may as well know that we

daughter Olivia married Mark Twain. It is a Presbyterian Church, but was founded by abolitionists, and a social justice agenda was always a top priority here. Our docent was the church's music director and as part of the tour he treated us to a couple of songs on the impressive pipe organ. After lunch, we were entertained by a local Mark Twain impersonator, who was quite talented and made everyone smile with his replication of the quick and sardonic wit of Elmira's famous relative.

From Elmira we traveled up Harris Hill to the **National Soaring Museum**, and if the fog hadn't been so thick we may have been able to see gliders landing and taking off. It was a real pea-

**Tour** continues on page 4

**Tour** continues from page 4

souper, though, so pretty soon we were on our way to our next stop (you didn't think Monday was finished, did you?).

This was the home of **Dale & Nancy Bryant**, part of the host committee, who opened their home to the tourists for wine, cheese & crackers, and yummy hot hors d'oeuvres. Only then could we finally call it a day and head back to the hotel and plan for tomorrow.

Wish I could say that **Tuesday** dawned bright and clear but, alas, it was cloudy and rainy. Our goal was the town of Hammondsport at the tip of Keuka Lake where we visited the **Glenn Curtiss Museum**, named for



Hair wreath with close-up detail below



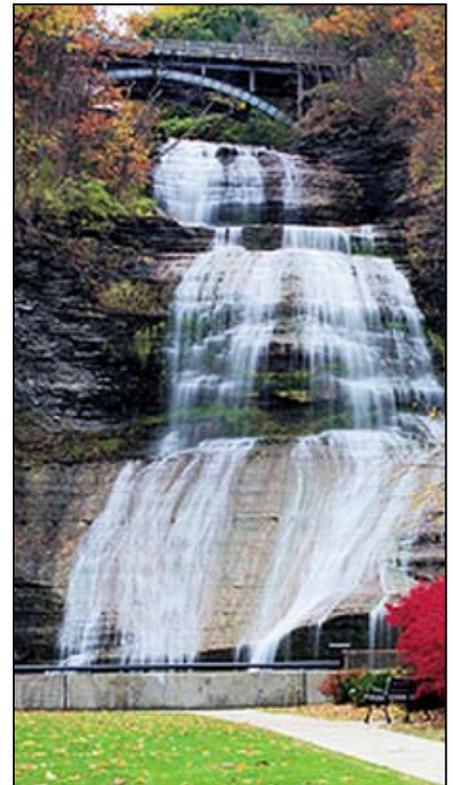
the town's favorite son and dedicated to this pioneer aviator. His work earned him U.S. pilot license #1 and acknowledgement as the "Father of Naval Aviation." The drive would have been spectacular on a sunny day, but even so, we appreciated the gorgeous

hills and dales. Cookies and punch awaited at the Curtiss Museum which offered not only a peek into the history of aviation but also a peek at life in early 20th Century America.

A permanent display of doll houses offers a look at southern plantations and rural farms, while a huge wreath made out of human hair reminds us that all those Bakelite hair receivers had a purpose after all. Next was the **Bully Hill Winery** where the man behind the bar conducted the tastings with the panache of a stand-up comic. The wine is quite good, too, and we sampled some when we had a delicious lunch at Bully Hill's charming restaurant. The ladies would have loved to wander the shopping district in Hammondsport but the rain made that a dismal prospect, so we headed on back to the hotel.

An amazing sight awaited us on our drive home, though. In **Montour Falls** there is a waterfall. "What's so amazing about that? you ask. Well this one is smack dab in the middle of town. It's loud and large and right in someone's backyard, for heaven's sake. The photos don't do it justice, but try to imagine walking out your front door and going to the side yard for some flowers. Then imagine going to the OTHER side yard and sitting at the base of a 156-foot tall cascade! You gotta see it to believe it, folks, but we saw it and even in the drizzle we stopped for some photos.

Then we headed back along more scenic roads to our hotel to plan for tonight's picnic at Eldridge Park. This is getting to be pretty long, but I can say this: we weren't really "up" for a picnic. It was chilly and damp and the last thing we wanted was hot dogs served picnic style. Boy, were we wrong! The building was heated a bit and got warmer as the evening progressed, but the highlight was a performer named **Rick Wilson** who was both talented and charming. He had folks up and dancing



Montour Falls

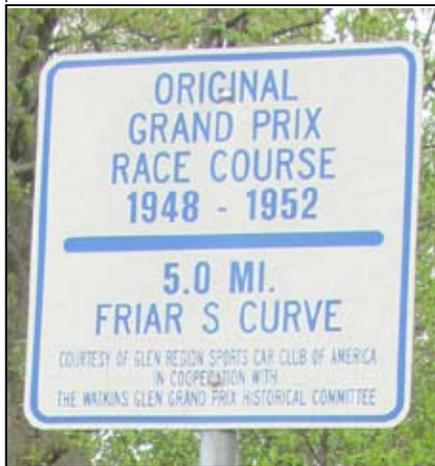
until closing time, then it was back to the hotel to plan for Wednesday.

On **Wednesday**, we were off to **Watkins Glen**, racing mecca since 1948. Once again we traveled scenic roads to the historic village of Watkins Glen, where we boarded a cruise boat for a luncheon cruise around beautiful **Seneca Lake**. Unlike some other similar events, this one featured excellent food and beautiful scenery and, best of all, was not overly long.

Then we drove into the village where a Grand Prix on city streets was laid out in 1948. The sport took off from there and is now home to Watkins Glen Race Track, a modern facility in every way. All the tourists got to drive three laps around the track, which was pretty exciting. (Don Cekus wished the pace car would have allowed him to really "open up" his Corvaire but he was doomed to disappointment).

We went into the village where the International Motor Racing Research Center welcomed us with a 15-minute

slide presentation featuring Chevrolet cars of the ages. This facility has gained international standing as a research



center and it's Don's goal to have a paving stone there dedicated to the late **Donna Mae Mims**, long-time member of our club. It will, of course, be a



Seneca Lake luncheon cruiser



In their Corvairs, Jim and Don, wait to enter Watkins Glen

pink stone, unique among the others there. After an exhausting race, our

drivers were ready to head back to the hotel for dinner and some, um, adult refreshments.

**Thursday**, ah Thursday – we have the prospect of some sun at last! Well, not right away, of course. As we gathered at 9:00 in the parking lot of the **Corning Museum of Glass** to help them celebrate their 60th anniversary, several employees were lining our cars up for a short parade and the sky just opened up. Don Cekus, gentlemanly as always, got out of his car and offered one young man an umbrella, which was received gratefully. The bad weather did move off while we toured the museum, which turned out to be pretty spectacular. We were divided into groups of about 10-12 and a docent led us around the facility telling us about the various pieces of museum-

quality art glass on display. As we walked around, we also got some information about glass itself and an appreciation of what a special time in history it was when humans first discovered how to make it, and what all it could be used for.

We saw a demonstration of **flame-working**, where an artist takes a lump of glass and forms it into a shape. Today, these artists were creating glass Chevrolet Impalas in our

honor. Very beautiful!

From the museum we drove into



Close-up of a Chihuly glass chandelier



A glass dress

the town of Corning and stumbled on The Gaffer, one of a large selection of restaurants. "Gaffer" is what one of the people involved in glass-blowing is called. It was a wonderful meal, and afterwards we walked down the street to the **Rockwell Museum of Western Art**. Mary Ellen and I had both looked forward to this, as we are big fans of Norman Rockwell. Well, um, er, this isn't Norman, it's Robert. Robert Rockwell, no relation to Norman,

**Tour** continues on page 6.



A glass chess set of Jewish & Roman Catholic religious figures.  
A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Bishop are the kings in this set.



A glass artists working with molten glass

founded the museum to display art of all kinds depicting the American West. There were paintings (even one by Norman and a special exhibit of work by Pittsburgh's Andy Warhol). There were weavings, sculptures, wood carvings, quite a large collection. It was interesting, and the art was unique, but somehow we still felt a bit disappointed that it wasn't all about

Norman. Ah well, if there's only one thing in a whole week of touring that is a bit disappointing, it's been a great week. And it had been, too! We headed back to the hotel and got ready for the closing banquet, once again at Hickory House, and enjoyed one last party with the folks we'd travelled with all week long. Some awards were given out and Don Cekus was a finalist for the Tour

Spirit Award, due to his generosity in sharing his considerable body of knowledge about Corvairs with some other tourists who were having car trouble. (And he shoulda won, too!)

Friday morning the sky was blue, the sun was shining and the air was filled with happy people calling "Goodbye!" and "See you next year in Ohio!" and "Have a safe drive home!"

The Cekuses and Heatheringtons drove home on the first full day of clear weather we'd seen since we left Pittsburgh. This had been a wonderful week and we are all grateful for the many months of effort the local club took to prepare it for us.

**Many, many thanks to Suzanne Heatherington for this great article and accompanying pictures.**



Mary Ellen & Don Cekus



Jim & Suzanne Heatherington

## FOR SALE

**Attention: I'm selling my entire collection of Corvaair parts (PLUS). Buy one item or everything. Currently priced. Let's make a deal! (NOT selling the cars though).**

**Contact Bill Artzberger at 412-364-6842**

**Words of wisdom from Bill: Four things you can't recover:**

- 1. The stone after it's been thrown**
- 2. The word after it's been said**
- 3. The occasion after it's been missed**
- 4. The time after it's gone**

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

July 5 – 8.....Idlewild Old Fashioned Days

July 9\*.....Trip to the wine country near Erie

July 12 .....Meeting – Location TBA (change of date to avoid conflict w/ CORSA Convention)

July 15-24 .....Vintage Grand Prix

July 26-30 .....CORSA Convention in Denver

August 6 .....Blueberry picking trip

August 13? .....Victory Hill Car Show

September 10.....Saxonburg Art Festival, car show, club picnic.

September 27.....Meeting at North Park Club House

October 8.....Fall foliage tour

November 22.....Meeting – location TBA

January 8, 2012.....Holiday Party – Grant’s Bar in Millvale

**\*Please note: the Erie Wine Country Tour has been moved to one week earlier – July 9th instead of July 16th and the July 12th Member Meeting is also earlier than usual because of the CORSA Convention.**