

# VAIR STREET JOURNAL

Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club

November 2002

## The Prez Sez

The turnout at the September meeting was outstanding, and despite some competition

from Hoss's sound system, we had a great gathering. Bill Brill reported six new members, and we hope to see them frequently



PHOTO BY DON BAKER

Heatherington

during the year. They are: Tim Desmond, Al DiMartino, Patrick Lamolinare, Richard Makar, Donita Stollenwerk and Bill Young. Welcome!

It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is upon us, but cold temperatures tell us it must be so. For the most part, it's time now to put the cars in the corner of the garage and cover them up. Some of you may be ready to take part in a Christmas parade, though. In McKeesport, our Christmas parade is the year's largest!

Our thanks go out to Bob Hieber for putting together the Leaf Tour on October 5. Those who took part enjoyed driving on some of the most beautiful roads in southwestern Pennsylvania. The weather was great, the cars behaved well, and the covered bridges nestled in our Pennsylvania hills were gorgeous. In addition to the fact that there were no mechanical difficulties, no one got lost—touring doesn't get any better than this! Thanks, Bob.

Dick Brier ran the Hershey bus trip once again, and I understand it was a big success again this year. With such willing workers, it's no wonder this club is so active!

I also want to thank my fellow board members for their help during the past year with other events we had, such as the trip to Jennerstown to the Mountain Playhouse, the Independence Day parades, and Idlewild Old-Fashioned Days, represented by Charles Lucas.

Speaking of Luke, it's only right to mention the wonderful *Vair Street Journal* he has provided for us. The inclusion of photos means an interesting newsletter with a special personal touch, and I'm happy to extend the gratitude of the entire club to Luke for a job well done.

I'm also grateful this year to Vice-President Don Cekus who agreed to chair the Holiday Party on January 4, 2003. Once again, this event will be at Carmody's Restaurant at the junction of I-79 and Route 910 in Wexford. Information about making your reservations is on page 7 of this newsletter.

Our November meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 26 at King's Restaurant, also at I-79 and Rte 910 in Wexford. Hope to see you there!



Jim Heatherington

## Minutes of the September 24, 2002 WPCC Member Meeting

### Officers Present:

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

### Board members present:

- Bill Artzberger
- Bob Hieber
- Charles Lucas

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Heatherington.

The minutes of the July 23rd meeting were accepted as printed in the

*Journal*. The treasurer's report was read and approved. The current balance is \$3,150.61. There are 46 paid members.

Jim commended Luke for the fine job he is doing with the newsletter.

Bob Hieber spoke about plans for the October 5th tour of covered bridges and fall foliage in Washington County. The meeting time was changed to 2:00. The tour ends at a restaurant on Rt 40 near Claysville.

Jim revealed that the club plans to take part in the car show at the Seven Springs Octoberfest. The date is October

6th. Those interested should contact Jim Heatherington at 412-672-4211.

Jim introduced new member, Bill Young. Bill is hoping to attend the covered bridge tour.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 26th at King's in Wexford.

Respectfully submitted,

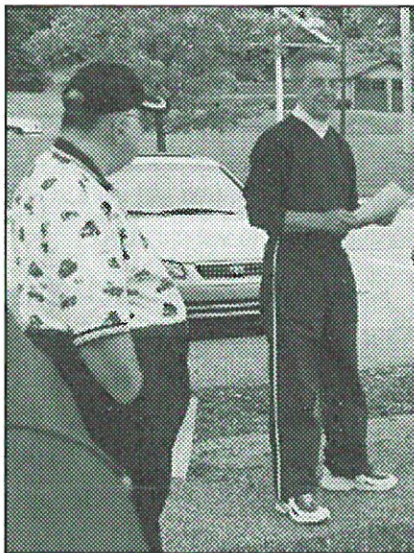


Pat Greenwald, secretary



# Fall Foliage & Covered Bridge Tour

Saturday, October 5th seemed very much like an Autumn day. Odd because the month of September had been one of the hottest that I can recall. Thick clouds seemed to promise rain. Most of us were wearing lightweight jackets to keep a slight wind from getting through to our skin. I wished for a warmer day. I hated having the top up. "This Corvair is meant to be driven with the top down, not up", I was thinking. But the top stayed up, and in the end, it would prove to be a fine day for a cruise over the rolling hills of Washington County. It just never got warm enough for that top to come down.



Dave Ritter and Emerick Buccigrossi

Let me begin at the beginning. Sarah couldn't make it for this event because she was working her usual 11:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. shift, so I asked a long-time friend, and car enthusiast, Dave Ritter, to ride shotgun for me. I was delighted when he said, "sure, I'd love to."

Dave lives in Castle Shannon, an easy diversion off the route to the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Upper St. Clair. During the short drive from his house to the church parking



Waiting for Don Cekus to arrive, are from L to R: Irene and Bill Artzberger, Suzanne and Jim Heatherington, Pat Greenwald, Bob Hieber and Letty Buccigrossi. It looks as if there are two ghost images in this picture (end of the roll, wouldn't you know it). The hand that's on Letty's shoulder is Emerick Buccigrossi, and standing next to him is Dave Ritter. Sorry about that guys.

lot, I told Dave that a day earlier, a new master cylinder was installed in my Corvair. Recently, I had been experiencing pedal fade when I came to a stop. Not a very good feeling! But now as I drove, I had a secure feeling that pedal fade was a phenomenon of the past.

We spotted three Corvairs as we drove into the church parking lot. I introduced Dave to Bill and Irene Artzberger, Jim and Suzanne Heatherington, Emerick and Letty Buccigrossi, Pat Greenwald and Bob Hieber (who would be driving his Jeep). Donna Hieber arrived later. Departure time was set for 2:00, but Don and Mary Ellen Cekus along with Willa Falcettoni had not yet arrived.

It was nearly 2:30 as we received our trip tick and instructions, when Don's blue 4-door pulled into the parking lot. Following the briefing, we were off and cruising toward the covered bridges of Washington County. As we drove along, the overcast skies started to break-up a bit, so that there were welcome periods of sunshine, making the journey so much more pleasant.

Bob Hieber had told us when this event was in the planning stages, that the roads would be tough going in places, and that was no exaggeration. The roadways were very hilly and very rough at times, winding here and there. Actually, they were little more than goat paths at times. Not the kind of road that you'd want your prized Corvair traveling daily. (If you read the Prez Sez column, on page 1, you're probably saying, "were these two jokers on the same roads?" Actually Jim was referring to the scenery along the roads, not the roads themselves. Who ever saw a beautiful road...in Pennsylvania?)

As we descended one of the many hills, my brake pedal went to the floor. I quickly pumped the brakes and was able to slow the Corvair. It happened again and again, but I was able to slow or stop the car each time. Although I didn't panic, it was still rather scary because the hills were very steep and came one after another. (Maybe Jim *was* on a different Fall Tour. Just kidding. I guess we didn't tell him about my brake problem).

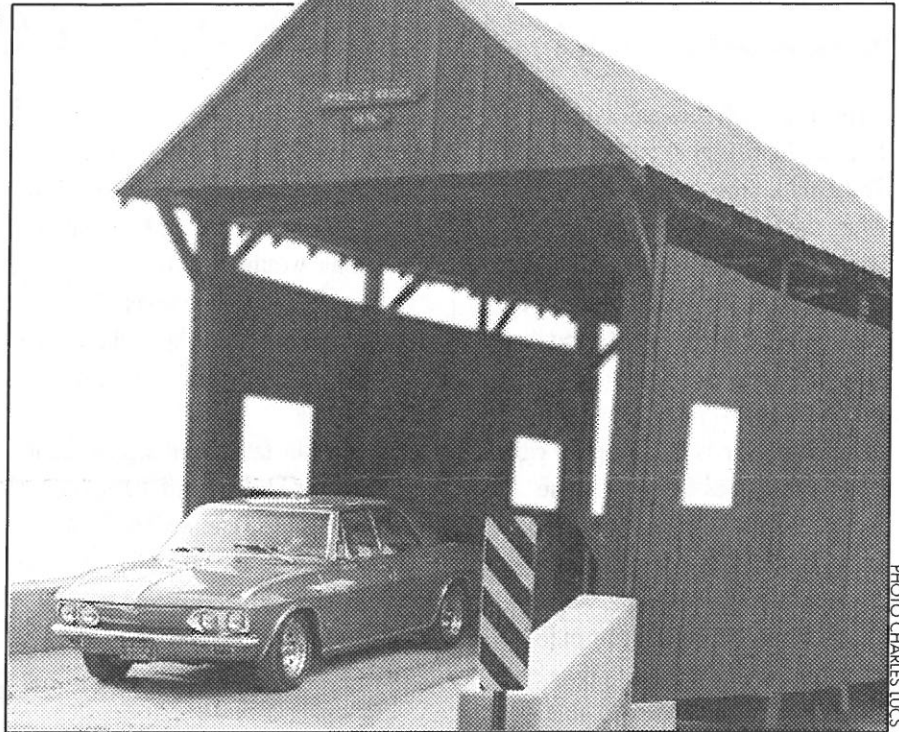


The bridges weren't quite what I had expected. They were small in comparison to the covered bridges I had seen over the years. Those that I recall were rather long, and because these were not, they appeared to be very high (just an observation). How big or small they were was of no consequence; what mattered most, was being out in our Corvairs.

When we continued on after a brief pit stop just beyond one of the bridges, I noticed that the brake problem was gone as suddenly as it had come. Another problem had developed just after I had the initial problem with the brakes. As we descended very steep hills there was what seemed like a rubbing sound coming from the right rear wheel when I applied the brakes. I thought maybe a wheel cylinder or brake spring broke and a brake pad was dragging. The noise was loudest on the steepest hills as I applied more and more pressure to the brake pedal.

All the pressure (no pun intended) was getting to me. Maybe I should have said tension was getting to me. Sorry about that, but don't you just hate it when your car misbehaves?

Back to our story! Finally the roller-coaster hills came to an end and thoughts shifted to food. After pulling into the Club 40 parking lot, both Dave and I touched the right rear wheel.




*Driving out from under the bridge roof are Don and Mary Ellen Cekus with Willa Falcettoni and Pat Greenwald. This Corvair is Don's '65, blue 4-door. The placard above the entrance says Sprowls Bridge, 1976.*

"Hot, very hot," we both agreed. At this point I just wanted to think about food, not hot wheels.

Dave and I had an enjoyable dinner with Jim and Suzanne. The food and relaxed atmosphere were wonderful. Being with friends and enjoying good food and good conversation is a tough combination to beat. I don't think the word "brake" was uttered, even once.

As fortune would have it, I managed to get both Dave and myself home safely.

I encountered no further problems along the way home.

A few days later I received a "brake primer" from Bill Artzberger that describes in his own words, how the braking system works. This little treatise is printed below, for my edification and yours, if, like me you are not mechanically inclined. Thanks to Bill for the primer and thanks to everyone who made the covered bridge tour such a great experience. 

## A Brake Primer

by Bill Artzberger

*Editors Note—I can always depend on getting contributions from Bill Artzberger for the Journal. This one came on October 16, 2002.*

Hello Charles:

I'm a little late but I planned to drop you a note in reference to your Corvair brake problem. Here's how your braking system works:

The springs pull the brake shoes away from the brake drum when you are not applying the brake. This forces the wheel cylinder to push the brake fluid back to the master cylinder.

Two things happen in the master cylinder at this point. First, the returning fluid slowly opens a residual pressure type check valve. It then passes

See **Brake Primer**—page 4



**Brake Primer**—from page 3

through a small compensating port to refill the master cylinder reservoir. This check valve is calibrated to close when the back pressure from the wheel cylinder is not too great. In reality, the brake lines to each wheel have about 10 pounds of hydraulic pressure when your brake pedal is released. This is managed by the check valve, or as it is properly called, the residual pressure valve. (The reason for the constant pressure is to have full pedal pressure on the first pump of the brake pedal).

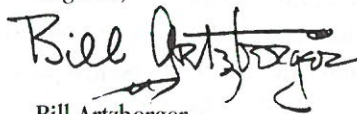
Without this valve, you would have to pump new fluid under pressure to each wheel cylinder. This would cause your brake pedal to go to the floor or, at least part way, until the master cylinder fills the lines and wheel cylinders with pressure.

Therefore, this is what was (or is) happening with your braking system. Perhaps a small piece of foreign matter reached the check valve and caused it to operate improperly. To make it simple, the fault appears to be with the check valve in the master cylinder.

You may be able to correct this by disassembling the master cylinder and cleaning out the check valve. However if you do that, you will void the warranty.

I'd return the master cylinder to Clark's. They may have a bad batch of rebuilds or very old N.O.S. with deteriorated valves. Let me know the outcome.

Regards,

  
Bill Artzberger

# “Has anyone seen Steve”?

by Bob Hieber

At 6 a.m. things did not look too good for our trip to Somerset county. By the time we all met at Mac Dee's in New Stanton the weather had not improved.

Every one was there except for Steve Puskas, and he said he knew the way so the 6 Corvairs began the short run to the Oktober Fest.

I think the fall foliage was beautiful, but it was real hard to tell because of the fog. “No problem, we'll feel our way”. Chatter on the CB indicated that this was not really as bad as the fog in Donegal, our exit.

“Should see the exit soon. Oh now we have temporary inconveniences for permanent improvements. It appears that the exit is not marked among the orange barrels. Oh there it is, quick right turn and we're back on track”. A check on the CB, every one is together, so on down the road.

The chatter was correct, the fog is worse, in fact I know that Bill Brill's Corvair is just in front of me, but how far in front is hard to say as the tail lights can't be seen 20 ft. ahead. Still no word from Steve but don't worry, he knows the way. Maybe the weather will change. It does, as we climb up the mountain, it begins to rain, the temperature starts to drop and the wind picks up.


Now we are feeling our way, messages pass back and forth. “Has anyone seen a sign for Seven Springs?” It seems like we must have passed the entrance. Everyone is looking for a safe place to pull over when there appears out of the mist a big sign pointing the way. Still no Steve, but not to worry, he knows where we are going.

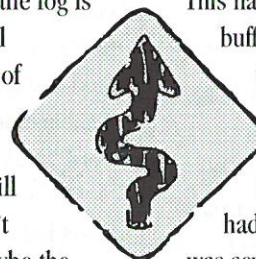
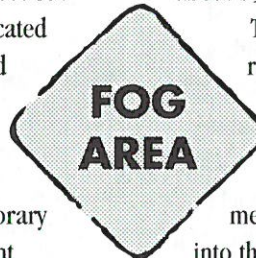
11 a.m. and all 6 Corvairs make their way to the exhibit area. Several men attempt to position the cars but you guessed it, can't see any thing because of the fog and rain/mist. What an adventure. Now to the fun parts.

As the conditions were less than perfect, none of the lifts were operating, in fact it was not easy to see where the lifts went as the atmospheric ceiling was about 15 ft.

There was free entertainment running all day. First on the schedule was Buffo the worlds strongest clown. He put on quite a show with many member of the audience getting into the act. This is something not to be missed. Between live acts there were several bands and singers at various locations. All the performers were very professional and entertaining.

Now for the best part. All show cars were given a 2 for 1 card for the buffet. This had to be the deal of the year, the buffet had so much to choose from that one actually had to try small samples in order to taste everything. This was impossible as the dessert bar had 22 choices alone, the result was severe gastric overload. But well worth the effort.

5 PM, time to start home. Steve? Oh yes, Steve did arrive, after touring the turnpike to Bedford and back. Remember the orange barrels?, well they were at Somerset too, so TWO missed exits later he got turned around and back to Seven Springs. The return trip was even more exciting as the fog was still present and now it was dark. Still couldn't see 20 feet ahead but all in all it was one of the most fun days the WPC has had. Wait till next year. 





# Bill Artzberger Remembers 1983

Charles,

I was browsing through some old *Vair Street Journals*. 1983 must have been a very good year for WPCC. In addition to our monthly meetings, here are some of our activities: In addition, the *Journal* carried a column by Bob Larison, who was the "Prez" at the time. He explained how he got interested in WPCC and joined. He owned a '65 Monza convertible that he semi-restored himself. He was one of our early members, having joined in 1981.

Three new members joined WPCC in February, 1983. They were: Armin and Jan Abramson, Bob Ozosky and Jack and Joyce Bachman.

A tech article explained toe, camber and caster, what it does to your Corvair and how you can easily adjust it yourself.

There was a quiz too. Twenty logos or emblems were posted on two pages. You were to guess what cars they were attached to. Some logos were a lot older than our members. But there were a lot of "right" answers.

March 13 - 20	Auto show at Century III Mall
March 27	Auto cross and Picnic at North Park
April 24	Arden Trolley Museum and West Alexander Village tour
May 21	Jimmy Stuart Parade, Indiana, PA
May 22	Nelson Ledges Sports Car Races and picnic
June 25-26	Wild and Wonderful Hullabaloo, Morgantown WVA
July 17	Kennywood Park Picnic and Corvair Parade thru the park
August 28	Mahoning Dam/Lake/Picnic, New Bethlehem, PA
Sept 24	Gateway Clipper Cruise, Dining and Dancing
Oct 2	Auto Rally, Compass Inn tour, Ligonier, PA
Nov 13	Auto Cross and Picnic, North Park
Dec 20	Holiday Party
And that's how we used our Corvairs.	

What a great car club we have!!!

Did you know that our present *Journal* editor also draws caricatures? You'll find a great "likeness" of Bob Larison in the



Bob Larison (1983)

middle pages of the February 1983 *Vair Street Journal*.

Regards,

*Bill Artzberger*

Bill Artzberger

## FOR SALE

### 1969 Corvair Convertible

- 110 Automatic Transmission
  - Restored
  - 69,117 Original Miles
  - New Red Paint/White Top
  - Stored in Garage since 1998
- 724-222-0570

### 4 Yokahama 185-70SR13 tires

- mounted and balanced on late model steel 5-hole wheel rims—\$200
  - Tim Desmond
- 107 Hivue Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237  
412-761-3926

## A Real Hoot

The following personal ad appeared in a newspaper.

SBF (Single Black Female) seeks male companionship. Age and ethnicity unimportant. I'm a young good looking female who loves to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pick-up truck; I love hunting, camping, and fishing trips. I love cozy winter nights spent lying by the fire. Candle light dinners will have me eating out of your hand. Rub me the right

way and watch me respond. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Kiss me and I'm yours.

Call 000-555-0000 and ask for Daisy.

The phone number was the Humane Society. Daisy was an eight week old black Labrador Retriever. They received 643 calls in two days.

Submitted by Bill Artzberger

# Roster of Members

## Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club

WPCC

NOVEMBER 2002

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	e-mail
1	Adamson, Richard	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, Pittsburgh, PA 15229	412-364-6842	
4	Artzberger, Jim & Sandy	159 Link Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-367-8987	
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	corsal@att.net
10	Clapper, Ed & Wendy	158 Ridge Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001	724-375-1461	
11	Constantino, John	305 Third street, Freeport, PA 16229	724-295-2675	
12	Dandois, Dick & Marie	11844 Route 286 Hwy W., Homer City, PA 15748-7803	724-726-5606	
13	Desmond, Tim & Michelle	107 Hivue Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-761-3926	
14	DiMartino, Alfred & Rose	72 Stratford Drive, Irwin, PA 15642	724-863-0985	
15	Fabyonic, Dave & Janice	38 Sierra Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239	724-327-7361	davidfab@usa.net
16	Falchettoni, Willa	1554 Butler Plank Road, Glenshaw, PA 15116	412-486-4638	
17	France, Jim	12241 Champion Circle, Fort Myers FL 33913		
18	Freeman, Don & Dee	801 McGrath Avenue New Castle, PA 161061		
19	Freeman, Tim	723 Cunningham Avenue, New Castle, PA 16101	724-657-5368	
20	Friend, Al & Carole	6000 Great Oaks Drive, Export, PA 15632	724-257-8390	
21	Goehring, Earl & Diane	140 Whitestone Road, harmony, PA 16037	724-452-8823	
22	Greenwald, Pat	415 Crestview Drive, Plum, PA 15239	412-795-5719	pgreenwa@ccac.edu
23	Gundlach, John & Gayle	228, McKay Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056	724-352-4205	
24	Hackl, George & Marlene	420, Hulton Road, New Kensington, PA 15068	724-224-2482	
25	Hamlin, Vaun & Charlotte	2207 Arbor Glen Court, Sun City Center, FL 33573	813-633-6684	hamlinchar@aol.com
26	Heatherington, Jim & Suzanne	2403 Jenny Lind Street, McKeesport, PA 15132	412-672-4211	suzanne@heatherington.com
27	Hieber, Bob & Donna	1679 Brodhead Road, RR3, Moon Twp, PA 15108	724-457-9712	bhieber@processengineering.com
28	Huber, Ed	910 Glenwood Court, Cranberry Twp., 16066		
29	Jones, Judy	3205 Bel Air Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15227	412-882-2109	wandjjones@aol.com
30	Kreisel, Curt	1141 Sunrise Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243		
31	Lamolinarie, Patrick & Patricia	103 Jacobs Street, Pittsburgh, Pa 15234	412-885-1511	
32	Lane, Robert & Ella	259 Lutz Road, Zelienople, PA 16063	724-452-0540	
33	Lovejoy, Dave	3221 Greenwald Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102	412-854-2740	
34	Lucas, Charles & Sarah	236 W. Marigold Street, Munhall, PA 15120	412-462-6735	chasjlucas@aol.com
35	Makar, Richard	11 Seneca Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601	724-834-3023	
36	Morgan, Bob & Margaret	344 Ridge Road, New Brighton, PA 15066	724-846-6040	
37	Nicely, Ron	1117 Nicole Renee Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650	724-537-0228	
38	Puskas, Stephen	458 Whitestone Road, Butler, PA 16001	724-482-1165	
39	Rising, Eugene & Connie	155 Ben Franklin Raod N., Indiana, PA 15701	724-465-4146	
40	Rockhill, Doreen	118 Ivy Lane, Venetia, PA 15367	724-941-2216	dkhill@stargate.net
41	Shearer, Ralph	30 Clover Drive, Latrobe PA 1565038		
42	Sweet, John & Charlotte	1264 Walnut Street, Stoneboro, PA 161..	724-376-4335	jasvair@stargate.net
43	Stollenwerk, Donita	RD No. 1, Box 3054 Leechburg, PA 15656	724-845-1560	
44	Tyger, John & Barb	R.D. No. 1, Box 77, Creekside, PA 15732	724-397-2043	
45	Watkins, Kerry & Linda	209-1/2 S. Third Street, Youngwood, PA 15697	724-925-1962	
46	Young, Bill	126 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-220-2130	BYTHEKingeProdigy.net

*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 • Mumball, PA 15120 • phone 412-462-6735 • e-mail chasjlucas@aol.com*



# WPCC Holiday Party



The holiday party will be on Jan. 4, 2003 at Carmody's Restaurant on Route 910 at the I-79 interchange (Exit 73). This is just on the other side of I-79 from Kings Restaurant where we hold many of our meetings.

We will begin with hors d'oeuvres at 4:30 pm., compliments of the club. Dinner will be at 5:30 pm., leaving plenty of time for the festivities to follow. Remember to bring a gift for the Chinese auction, headed up by Pat Greenwald. Following this will be the ever-popular gift exchange run by Al and Carole Friend.

Participation in the gift exchange requires that you bring a wrapped gift costing between \$5 and \$10. Please mark your gift with an **F** if it's for a female, **M** if it's more suited for a man. If it is generic, you may label it with a **B** for both.

## RESERVATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Cost of dinner is \$16.00

Menu choices (Please indicate number of each)

**Chicken Romano**  
**Veal Cordon Bleu**  
**Fried Shrimp**

Entrees include appetizer, salad, twice-baked potatoes, vegetables, sherbet, and a beverage.

Send this form with your check, made out to WPCC, to:

**Don Cekus**  
**286 Hillcrest Circle**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15237**

Your reservation must be received before  
 Dec. 21, 2002. Please Don't forget!  
 Thank You

# VAIR STREET JOURNAL

Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club

November 2002

Next Meeting

**November 26, 2002**

**Kings Restaurant • Route 910, off I-79 at Exit 73 (old exit 22)  
Dinner at 6:30 p.m. • Meeting at 7:30 p.m.**

**Remember 09-11-01**



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



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*The Holiday Party Reservation Form* is on page 7 of this *Vair Street Journal*. Please be sure to read it over, fill out the necessary information and return it to Don Cekus by December 21, 2002. The party is on Sunday January 4, 2003. You won't want to miss the festivities and fun, so get that reservation form to Don just as soon as you can.