

VAIR STREET JOURNAL

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CORVAIR CLUB

SEP/OCT 2008

Highlights

• **The Prez gives us his read on the 2008 Convention in:**

Tales from CORSA at Ventura

• **Bob Hieber, the dubious award winner at the CORSA Convention, tells the tale of**

his almost unbelievable trip to Ventura, California in: CORSA in Ventura—The Road Trip



PHOTO BY JIM STEIGERWALDT

Tales from CORSA at Ventura

by Jim Steigerwaldt, President, Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club

What the Prez Sez about the CORSA Convention

Way back, when, I first heard about the CORSA convention being held in Ventura, Calif., I said to my wife, Diane, "Lets go". At first she wasn't interested, but later she asked, "can we go to San Diego". I said, "sure", so I made plans. We would leave the "Burgh" on Sunday, June 22nd, and return on Monday the 30th. Our arrangements includ-

ed the WORKS: all flights to and from, car rental, hotels, three days at the convention, tours offered by CORSA, sight-seeing to San Diego and three days in San Diego itself, all taken care of ahead of time.

Sunday, June 22 2008

When Sunday arrived, we were excited, finally going on vacation, at least it was one for us. We arrived at the Pittsburgh International Airport, (what a misnomer) at around

4:30 PM for a 6:50 PM direct flight to Los Angeles.

As a limo driver who frequents the "port", every day, I customarily scan the boards for arrivals and departures, and so I checked our flight's status. Well now the fun starts. Our flight is DELAYED until 7:50 PM. In Pittsburgh, it was beautiful, however there were storms, up and down the east coast, and our

Continued on page 2

plane was flying in from Newark, N.J. By the time it landed in Pittsburgh at 10:00 PM, the storms had moved WEST. We finally got off the ground at 11:00 p.m. and arrived in Los Angeles at around 1:30 PM. Pacific Standard Time. It was an hour till I was able to collect all of our baggage. From the airport I drove an hour north to Ventura Beach and our Hotel. We were finally in bed at 4:00 AM.

Monday, June 23 2008

I told Diane, "It can only get better from here", and IT DID! The Marriott hotel was just great. It was beautiful, the rooms were spacious, beds comfortable, staff VERY courteous. In all honesty, one of the nicest hotels, I have ever stayed in. It was located about three miles from the fairgrounds, where all the events were staged or held. We were up at around 11:00, had breakfast (very good but expensive) walked around, got our bearings, then drove to the Fairgrounds.

Upon arriving at the Fairgrounds, I expected to see oodles of Corvairs. After all, this is California, the state with all the beautiful cars you see and read about in magazines. It's a picture perfect day, and to my complete surprise, I see about 30 Corvairs and six Ultra vans. And where are Don Cekus and Bob Hieber?

Actually, I did know or had an idea where they were. As they were driving across the good old USA,

Bobs' Vair suffered a mechanical problem in Houston, Texas. Without going into detail, (he'll take care of that). Don got their around 2:00, as I recall, and Bob arrived a few hours later. So at least I would know someone, thank God.

We walked around. Nothing really special. We registered, signed up for the tours that we were interested in, checked out the vendors — Clark's, Corvairst Underground — the usual. I was delighted to see our own John Sweet, working behind



Vairs and Ultra Vans in Ventura, California

PHOTO BY JIM STEIGERWALD

the tables of Larry Shapiro. Didn't buy anything...YET! We went back to the Hotel and relaxed.

Tuesday, June 24 2008

The next day, Tuesday, June 24th it was the same routine, got up, had breakfast, and went over to the Fairgrounds. WELLLLLL, what do we have here? 35 Vairs, maybe, setting up for the "Concours d' Elegance, scheduled from 9:30 to 4:30. Only problem was that our Tour was from 8:00 to 5:00 at Universal Studios, Hollywood. Sooooo, we missed it! At least what their was of it, because when we got back to the Fairgrounds, we were back to 20 cars.

Disappointed again! Oh! Well. We did have a GREAT time at Universal Studios. Don and his buddy Al, were on the tour with us, so we did get to talk a little. I would highly recommend this tour to anyone who has kids or grand kids. I Checked out the vendors again. Still no sale!

Wednesday, June 25 2008

Same morning routine but we passed on the Wine Tasting Tour. There might have been a total of 30 Corvairs, so we packed up a cooler and headed North to Santa Barbara. We drove around, spent the day there, and returned in time to attend the Bar-B-Que. The Bar-B-Que was held outdoors of course, next to the fairgrounds, with a view of the Pacific Ocean, very scenic. Small problem—the temperature dropped down into the 60's and a strong wind was-a-

blowin. But the food was good.

Thursday, June 26 2008

Overall, I was very disappointed in the turnout. Maybe, I expected to much, since the turnout at Portland and Buffalo was so great. Perhaps the price of gas, was a factor. It was however, very well organized.

Hey! I stopped at the vendors. Ahhhh yes, bought a couple of items that would fit into a suitcase.

We were off to San Diego. Don and Al would leave on Friday for Vegas, and Bob was heading north to Oregon.

2009—Jacksonville, Florida, you'd better start making plans.

July 22, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Officers Present:

- Jim Steigerwaldt, *President*
- Don Cekus, *Vice President*
- Pat Greenwald, *Secretary*

Board members present:

- Jim Heatherington
- Bob Hieber
- Steve Puskas
- Charles Lucas, *newsletter editor*

President Jim Steigerwaldt called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the May 27th meeting were read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read and approved. The balance is \$2,576.73.

Jim Heatherington reviewed the details for the trip to The Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown on Sunday, July 27th. The caravan will leave at 10:30 AM from the McDonald's on Route 30 in North Huntington. We will travel along Route 31 to Somerset, then up the mountain to Jennerstown.

Don Cekus discussed the August 2nd Victory Hill Car Cruise on old Route 837 near Monongahela. There is shade and picnic tables and an air conditioned building nearby. The registration fee for

the cruise is \$7.00.

Jim Steigerwaldt relayed a message from Tim Desmond that the August 2nd Blueberry Picking Trip is set. Meeting time is 8:30 AM at the Krispy Kreme in Cranberry. In addition to the berry picking, it will be possible to go about 15 miles north to visit some vineyards. Participants can decide to go to the vineyards as a group or individually. Lunch is set for about 2:30.

Pat Greenwald asked if anyone was going to Old Fashioned Days at Idlewild. Pat, Don and MaryEllen Cekus, and Vince and Louise Duva made plans to go on Friday.

Jim passed around a 2008 Ohio state road map with a Corvairster on the front.

Jim also reported on his convention experience in Ventura, CA. He was pleased with some things and not so pleased with others. Next year the convention is in Jacksonville, FL.

Bob Hieber and Don Cekus drove their Corvairsters to the convention. Bob was awarded the 'Hard Luck Award'; obviously, things did not go well for him. He spent extra time in Houston solving a problem with the torque converted.

Luke passed out sample club business cards that he printed. A discussion followed concerning what should be included on the card. It was decided that the card should contain the meeting and dues information and the secretary's contact information. Members can individualize their own cards by adding their name if they desire.

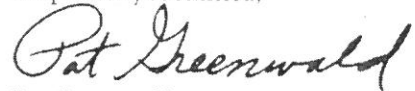
Don is still going to try to plan the trip to the PA Grand Canyon for weekend of August 23-24th.

Pat Greenwald asked about the club subsidizing food and beverages for the picnic at the Gundlach's on September 7th. On a motion by Steve Puskas, and second by Bob Hieber, the members voted in favor. Members will still contribute covered dishes.

Dave Fabyonic won \$13.00 in the 50/50 raffle.

The next regular meeting is Tuesday, September 23rd at King's in Wexford.

Respectfully submitted,



Pat Greenwald, secretary

A Real Gasser—Bob's Econo-Ralley—Saturday, October 4



Bob Hieber,
Event
Coordinator

The Econo-Ralley will be held starting at 1:00 PM on Saturday Oct. 4. All are welcome, but we would really like to see a nice group of Corvairsters. The starting and finish will be the Exxon Mart at the Tarentum end of the bridge at the intersection of Freeport road. The course has been shortened due to the high cost of gasoline but will take a couple of hours to cover a lot of back country. There are no hard rules, just fill up, follow written directions and fill up again at the end with your total miles driven. If all goes well we will have dinner at a nearby restaurant. There is no rain date, we will go rain or shine.

CORSA at Ventura—The Road Trip

Story and photos by Bob Hieber, Board Member, Western Pennsylvania Corvair Club

A brief summary of the trip to Ventura California and return, driving my 1965 Corvair Monza, 2 door, 110 with Powerglide and air conditioning.

Depart June 16 7:00 AM
Return July 6 10:30 PM
Total miles driven 7,280
Gal. Hi Test Gasoline used. 342
Miles per gallon. avg 21.3
Qts. Oil Full Synth. 10w40 used . . . 8

- Stayed in 13 hotels.
- Travel thru 16 states

- Interstates:
I-10 southern route to CA.
I-90 for the northern return.

Average driving speed per day was 47 mph. This is total miles driven per day divided by the total time between start and stop of the day including breaks and fuel stops. On average, 250 miles was driven between fill-ups. The car ran the entire trip without any mechanical problems except for the repair in Houston Texas. I will

detail this in the next installment.

A book could be written just on the stories about Corvairs that were told to us by total strangers at each stop across our country. I may attempt to document these in another installment.

Next will be the story of how to win the hard luck award at the Corvair National Convention or as they said on Apollo 13, "Houston We Have A Problem"

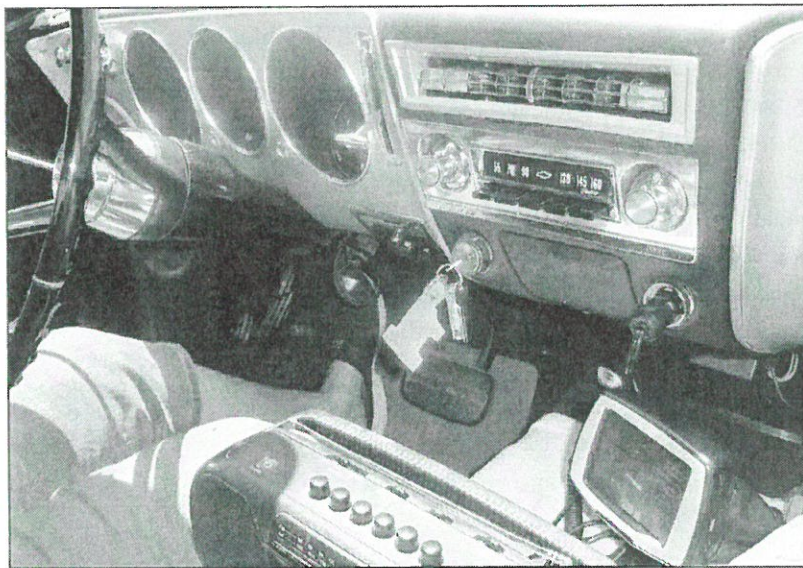
Bob

Preparing for a cross country trip in a 43 year old Corvair involves the common sense stuff like an oil change, tune-up, new filters all around, plus the less often done repack of all wheel bearings, flush transmission and differential fluid, all of which were accomplished before starting out.

A selection of spare parts was also included, along with the necessary tools to make the repairs. All of these were neatly secured in out of the way places in the Corvair.

7:00 AM June 16 came early after an earlier morning tweaking of the air conditioning system.

Our travel route took Donna and I through West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee—the plan being, a meet-up with Don Cekus and his friend Al, who left the day before so they could tour Memphis and see Elvis' mansion.



Cockpit of Bob's Corvair as prepared for a across country trip: white styro cooler, Garmen GPS, AM, FM, cassette portable, and most important, air conditioning

All went well and we met at the hotel as planned. This hotel had some of the most unique decor we had ever seen. The only minor problem was some transmission fluid had been ejected again during high speed hot weather conditions. This did not seem to be a critical issue and a pint of fluid was added to bring it to full.

We departed for New Orleans the next morning, June 17 with the Corvair running well. Of unavoidable note was a severe wind and rain storm

while crossing Lake Ponchartrane causeway that caused a several mile backup on I-10. Transmission fluid however, continued to be expelled from the dipstick tube and Don Cekus thought the fluid looked a little dark but the Corvair was running fine and shifted well.

We had rooms in the best hotel in the French Quarter and spent 2 days doing tourist things—another story.

Thursday morning June 19, saw us extracting our cars from the secure parking garage, a necessity considering the reputation of the Bourbon Street area.

We headed for Houston. After encountering another rain storm and traffic jam we settled into our hotel on Telephone Road, planning to tour NASA Mission Control the next day.

Friday, June 20 looked like a beauti-

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

ful day in Houston. At least as beautiful as it can be with 95% and 90% humidity. We decided that I would take the lead and use the Gormen GPS to get to mission control. Don and Al followed at a reasonable distance. The Corvaire was running as well.

I made a stop before entering the on-ramp to I-45, and when the Corvaire should have shifted to high it went into neutral instead. I left off the gas and she downshifted as normal but on speed up it again went to neutral. At this point I grabbed the 2 way radio and told Don I had a problem and was going to swing off the ramp, down to the nearest parking lot.

After checking fluid levels Don and I drove some back roads, and yes, "Houston we have a problem". The rest of that story will be in another installment, but thanks to Don Cekus for finding someone who knew where to take the car and also acting as the instructor for disassembling the drive train.

After securing the parts "another story altogether", Don and Al departed for the Alamo on Saturday morning, secure in the knowledge that three Spanish speaking Mexicans could put things back together. With a little help from me we were back on the road by 4:00 PM, June 21. All is well now. What can go wrong?

Somewhere near Kerrville Texas, Donna my wife and copilot noticed a small black bird in our lane flying about 18 inches off the ground, this while I tried not to back up traffic by maintaining the 80 mph speed limit. "Don't worry it will move", I said as the critter smashed thru my right side high beam. Well there goes an original T-3 and put a nasty dent into the headlight bucket, more hard luck.



Don Cekus in New Orleans watches for street cars

Our over night stop was in Kerrville Texas. This town looks much as it did 100 years ago. I took some time to tour the town while Donna attended church Sunday morning. As we departed Kerrville June 22, all looked well and the Corvaire was running better than ever. The rest of the trip will be smooth sailing...maybe?

Several miles east of El Paso on I-10 we noticed a brown cloud in the distance, at about the same time the local radio station issued a warning about high winds and limited visibility. It was then that I started to notice tractor trailers swerving from lane to lane and everyone slowing down except for a few crazies who actually sped up. Things got really serious when dust and sand began to pile up on the windshield wipers. It was time for a break anyway, so we took the first exit with a sign for a gas station.



Donna Hieber at the wheel in Texas, proof that she will drive a Corvaire if absolutely necessary

As I stood spitting sand from between my teeth, I noticed a Harley cycle at the next gas pump. It had a Pennsylvania license plate. When the driver showed up, I asked him what he was doing way out here. The reply was that he was to report to Ft. Bliss (Texas) by midnight and he had left Philadelphia 30 hours before and drove straight thru. His face was covered with dirt and sweat was forming muddy streaks down his neck...and I thought I was crazy.

The next overnight stop was Demming, New Mexico. Our plan was to get an early start on Monday morning, June 23, and drive straight thru to the Ventura Convention. The car is running well at this time, the weather is clear but very hot. The rest of the trip is a cinch.

We left Demming at day break and drove past some of the most beautiful scenery the desert can offer. Some of the mountains were just being hit by the morning sun and the colors were beyond belief and description. By noon we were ready for a break and gasoline. The bank temperature sign showed 127°. but the official radio temperature was 116°; I felt so much cooler. Donna bought a thermometer to check the inside temperature of the car with the air ON at full blast. The AC held at 80° inside. Not bad for a 43 year old car. After returning from lunch we found the thermometer blown out. I guess the inside temperature was over 130°.

Temperatures remained well over 100° going into California, where the sight of mile after mile of power generating windmills, lined both sides of I-10 as far as the eye could see. After we were stopped for a break, I came to

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

realize that there was a constant howling of the wind. The rest area attendant said that the wind is like that, 300 days a year. Maybe this is part of the answer to our energy needs.

We entered the Las Angeles freeway system at about 7:00 p.m., and thanks to the GPS we managed to navigate over some of the biggest highways I've ever seen. We were in the mountains of Ventura county and as we rounded a bend we found all six lanes covered

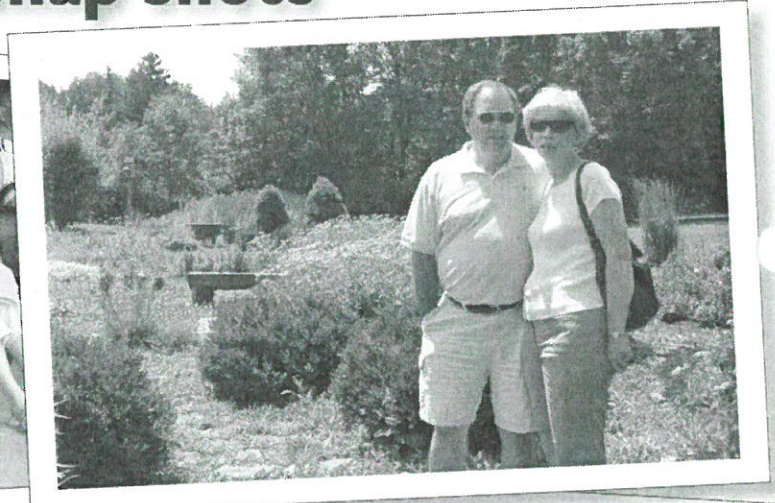
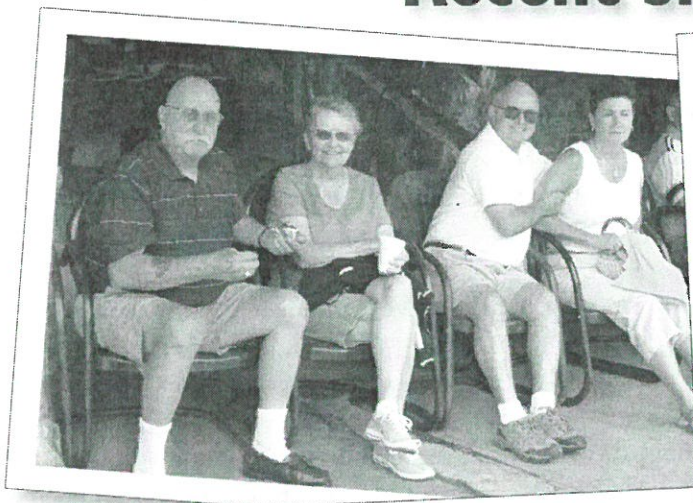
with wooden doors. Yes, green wooden doors, like those you might find in someone's house. There was nowhere to go but over the top. Doors went flying but we were still in one piece on the other side.

As we rounded another bend a trailer came into view with doors stacked 10-ft high. The driver was securing the load (just a bit too late). I pulled over but in this stretch of freeway there is no shoulder. The road is all travel lanes. I walked back to the driver

and asked if he knew the damage he was causing. He didn't reply and when I asked for his owners and insurance information he said I wasn't going to get anything from him. I walked back to the Corvaire and didn't see any obvious damage and being parked in a travel lane I said why push my luck, so it was on to the Convention without further incident.

The story continues in the next issue of the *Vair Street Journal*. Don't miss it!

Recent Snap Shots



Above:
Waiting for the show to begin are Vince and Louise Duva along with Don and Mary Ellen Cekus at the Mountain Playhouse in Jennerstown on Sunday, July 27th.

Below:
At Jennerstown Jim Heatheringto, event coordinator, sends out the cars. This was a combined Corvaire and Model A event.

Above:
Bob and Mary Lou Ploskunak (friends of Pat Greenwald) enjoy the Green Gables flower field adjacent to the Mountain Playhouse.

Below:
Grid worker, Donna Mae Mims in action at Beaver Run with racer Tivvy Shenton, in his 1955 Jaguar XK 140 FHC (Fixed Head Coupe). He is the winner of many, many over 2 liter production races and a lap record holder.

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
1	Adamson , Richard & Doris	251 Lilac Drive, Monroeville, PA 15146	412-372-3452	
2	Artzberger , Bill & Irene	305 Golf Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15229	412-364-6842	BILLA305@comcast.net
3	Bachman , Jack & Joyce	402 Elfinwild Lane, Glenshaw, PA 15116	412-486-2478	quebapa@aol.com
4	Baker , Don & Joanne	12461 Larimer Avenue, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-3770	dcbakerscca@yahoo.com
5	Biddington , William & Carol	1722 Lexington Avenue, Uniontown, PA 15401	724-455-1826	wbiddington@atlanticbb.net
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 & Letty	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	Cekus , Don & Mary Ellen	197 Browns Hill Road, Valencia, PA 16059	724-903-0990 C:412-952-3190	corsa1@zoominternet.net
11	Cekus , Dwayne & Joy	108 Prosser Drive, Monongahela, PA 15063	724-258-7778 C:412-296-0294	cekus@verizon.net
12	Cekus , Ken & Toots	28 Center Avenue, Monongahela, PA 15063	724-258-8514	onecorvair@yahoo.com
13	Clapper , Ed & Wendy	315 Western Avenue, Beaver PA 15009-1448	724-375-1461	
14	Costantino , John & Clare	305 3rd Street, Freeport, PA 16229-1141	724-295-2675	
15	Dandois , Dick & Marie	11844 Route 286 Hwy W., Homer City, PA 15748-7803	724-726-5606	dindy2@earthlink.net
16	Desmond , Tim & Michelle	107 Hivue Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-761-3926	TDES123@netzero.com
17	Duva , Vincent & Louise	195 Browns Hill Road, Valencia, PA 16059	724-898-1604	
18	Fabyonic , Dave & Janice	387 Sierra Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239	724-327-7361	davidfab@usa.net
19	Fabyonic , David, Jr. & Melissa	313 Oak Wood Circle, McDonald, PA 15057	412-2574554	
20	Friend , Al & Carole	6000 Great Oaks Drive, Export, PA 15632	724-325-2588 W 88-311-4183	albert_friend@ml.com
21	Gatts , Gary & Joan	38 Emery Road, Fredericktown PA 15333	724-263-5356	
22	Goehring , Earl & Diane	140 Whitestown Road, Harmony, PA 16037	724-452-8823	
23	Greenwald , Pat	415 Crestview Drive, Plum, PA 15239	412-795-5719	pggreen233@netzero.com
24	Gundlach , John, Gayle & Laura	228 McKay Road, Saxonburg, PA 16056	724-352-4205	
25	Hackl , George & Marlene	420, Hulton Road, New Kensington, PA 15068	724-224-0482	
26	Hamlin , Charlotte	2207 Arbor Glen Court, Sun City Center, FL 33573	813-633-6684	hamlinchar@aol.com
27	Heatherington , Jim & Suzanne	128 Sharp Road, White Oak, PA 15131	412-672-0914	suzanne@heatherington.com
28	Hieber , Bob & Donna	1679 Brodhead Road, RR3, Moon Twp. PA 15108	724-457-9712	bob@thehiebers.com
29	Jones , Judy	3205 Bell Air Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15227	412-882-2109	wandjjones@yahoo.com
30	Kreisel , Curt & Elana	1141 Sunrise Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243	412-561-1845	curt.kreisel@wolterskluwer.com
31	Lucas , Charles & Sarah	236 W. Marigold Street, Munhall, PA 15120-2233	412-462-6735	chaslucas@gmail.com
32	Madden , Jim & Heidi	3045 Mt. Troy Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15212	412-321-1654	triximadden@comcast.net
33	Matenkosky , Walter & Susan	702 Spring Street, Latrobe, PA 15650	724-537-8922	wmatenkosky@hotmail.com
34	McDonald , Paul & Joyce	258 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001-2711	724-287-5671	E-mail-jam40258@zoominternet.net
35	Mims , Donna Mae	2467 Brookledge Road, Bridgeville, PA 15017	412-221-3257	
36	Morgan , Robert & Margaret	344 Ridge Road, New Brighton, PA 15066	724-846-6040	
37	Puskas , Stephen	130 Alana Drive, Saxonburg, PA 16056 (Temporary)	724-352-4294	Pusk8@aol.com
38	Rising , Connie	155 Ben Franklin Road N., Indiana, PA 15701	724-465-4146	
39	Schifano , Charlie & Connie	223 Blackridge Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601	724-832-7498	
40	Shearer , Ralph & Joanne	30 Clover Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650	724-539-8645	
41	Steigerwaldt James & Diane	506 Quail Drive, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066-4074	724-776-0935	Jimstg@zbzoom.net
42	Sweet , John & Charlotte	1264 Walnut Street, Stoneboro, PA 16153	724-376-4335	jasvair@certainty.net
43	Tedesco , Bob & Polly	4741 Curry Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236	412-881-8577 C: 614-496-4000	bptedesco@aol.com
44	Tyger , John, & Barb	8399 Rte 954 Hwy. N., Creekside, PA 15732	724-397-2043	jtyger@yourinter.net
45	Walter , Lester	100 Thompson Lane South, North Huntingdon, PA 15642	724-863-8437	timerles@aol.com
46	Wardoclip , Paul & Lois	891 State Route 356, Leechburg, PA 15656	724-845-2699	pwardoclip@windstream.net
47	Watkins , Kerry & Linda	209-1/2 S. Third Street, Youngwood, PA 15697	724-925-1962	
48	Yobst , Robert & Rosalie	518 Brookdale Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15215	412-963-9943	
49	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



Never Forget 09-11-01

Next Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 23, 2008

King's Restaurant—Wexford • Route 910 • Off I-79 at Exit 73

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

Announcing Idlewild's 2nd Annual HallowBoo! Cruise & Rod Run

September 27&28

We invite you to come in costume, and decorate your vehicle if you like.

Note: Costumes and vehicle decorations are optional, but will certainly add to the FUN! Adults are not permitted to wear masks in the park after the parade is over.

- Open to antique, classic and street rod vehicles.
- Free admission will be limited to two per vehicle and includes park rides and attractions.
- Gates open to parade participants at 11:00 AM (11:30 to the general public)



• Parade will start promptly at 1:00 PM and is limited to the first 125 vehicle per day.

- Enter at Parking Area "C". Cars will be on display in Parking Area "D" following the parade.
- Parade participants receive a commemorative dash plaque.

For admittance, vehicles must be in quality condition, at least 15 years old and/or registered as an antique or classic. Vehicles not meeting these standards will not be permitted to participate or granted complimentary admission. We ask that you enter Idlewild's main entrance and proceed to the specially marked registration gate. Questions? Call Kathy, Jodi or Patti 724-238-6784.

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158
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