962-20-640 **David E Peifer*** (`dpeifer@unca.edu`), Mathematics, UNC-Asheville, Asheville, NC 28804-8511, and **Richard P Kent**. *A Geometric and Algebraic Description of Circular Braids.*

We provide a variation of the classical braids, called circular braids. The classical braids form a group, B_n. Similarly, the circular braids on n strings form a group CB_n. A presentation arises naturally for CB_n by analogy to B_n. We prove that this presentation is complete, and show that CB_n is isomorphic to the subgroup consisting of all braids in B_{n+1} for which the string beginning in the first position also ends in the first position. (Received September 18, 2000)