

# Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2010

This month: Regular club meeting at Doss Park on April 16th, Dewberry Festival on April 24th



## Houston Astros 45th Anniversary Celebration at Minute Maid Park

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# Driver's Seat

I think that many of you have seen the saying on the back windshield of Jerry Kelley's non-Corvair pick-up truck. It's right below the Corvair insignia. It reads "We don't leak oil, we're marking our territory." Keeping that in mind, on Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, nine Corvairs gathered at FM 1488 & Hwy 290 heading for H.O.T. in San Marcus. The group consisted of my wife, Gail and I, Mike and Audrey Tidwell, Michael and Sara Tidwell, Alan Dunlap, Ricki & Sally Jannise, Jon and Betty

Protteau, David Keseian & Denise Martinec, Ed, Julie & Chrissie Murphy and Greg Wrobleske.

We headed out at 10 AM or so with Greg Wrobleske in the lead. I decided to pick up the second place followed by the rest of the Gang of Nine. It began to drizzle, or so I thought. Gail suggested I use my windshield wipers but I realized (having been warned by Mike Tidwell that Greg's Rampside blows oil) that it wasn't drizzling but we were being anointed with

Greg's special "marking fluid." It was too late for me to "give up" my special second place position so we drove on. After our first pit stop, Jon & Betty picked up the special second place position following by David & Denise with me in 4<sup>th</sup> place. Jon and Betty remained in that position but at, what they thought was a "safe" distance. David and Denise wanted a closer look at Greg's Rampside so he made a very sharp and decisive move and took over the special second place

for the rest of the trip.

Now they say one gains wisdom, through experience, as one grows older. On the return trip two days later, I was two days older and let's assume wiser. The return trip was with the Gang of Seven. Greg's Rampside was in the lead. Can you guess who took over that special second place position? So much for older and wiser. I must add that we should investigate the brand of "marking fluid" Greg uses. The reason for this is that basically "marking fluid"

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## ON THE COVER

Former Astros Bob Aspromonte (left) and Danny Coombs (right) are shown riding in Club Member Chris Brown's 1965 Monza Convertible at Minute Maid Park as part of the Houston Astros 45th Anniversary celebration (1965 to 2010). Photo provided courtesy of Stephen O'Brien of the Houston Astros organization.



# Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



Thanks to a great deal of effort and hard work by the Alamo City Corvair Association, H.O.T. 2010 was as good as it gets. The accommodations, entertainment, food, and activities were all first rate. The San Marcos Embassy Suites provided large, luxurious rooms in a ten-story u-shape complex that overlooked a central atrium, lounge and restaurant area. The atrium included a large pool and fountain that offered a tempting target to spit into, if one were so inclined, from the balcony/walkways high above. Access to these walkways and the rooms was via three glass-fronted elevators which offered a dizzying view as they swiftly, but smoothly, lifted passengers. Anyone afraid of heights could turn his back on the glass wall and pretend to be interested in what floor was approaching. The hotel provided excellent breakfasts from a buffet to cook to order omelets. On to the car show.

The car show was held at Nash Chevrolet. (It was

eerie to see hundreds of new Chevrolets that all carried a cardboard license tag that read "NASH". Let's hope that's not an omen.) The dealer provided a large area of their lot to line up the nearly 50 Corvairs in the show; several arrived late and were not technically in the show, but there were 50 altogether for H.O.T. Alamo City provided a new framework for the show by setting up two categories: Show cars and "scratch & dent" cars (daily drivers). This change allowed more cars to be recognized, and the use of judges gathered from all of the clubs with a different judge for each element of the car made the whole event more equitable and more fun, which is what it is supposed to be about. Among the winners were:

Ed Murphy - late closed - show; Jim Watkins - FC - show; Jon Protteau - early open - scratch & dent; Mike Tidwell - Hard Luck Award #2 - dropped valve seat; (Mike Cheek

from ACCA received Hard Luck Award #1 for a deemed to be more serious dropped valve seat.) For a more complete list of winners, see the ACCA web site. The show was followed by either a Slow Speed Challenge Course or the Hill Country Cruise; most of the Corvair Houston members chose the cruise, and we were not disappointed. The weather was perfect; the scenery was beautiful; and carving through hills and curves in a Corvair is just good, clean fun.

The cruise was followed by a banquet held at Dick's Classic Garage which is an auto museum with group facilities. The museum contained an eclectic collection of cars from the 30's, 40's and 50's. Along with Duesenbergs were Studebakers and even a 1943 Navy Jeep and a 1940 Chris Craft Barrel-back Runabout being trailered by a '56 Ford Country Sedan Station Wagon. The dinner, door prizes, and awards were all enjoyable, but the high

point of the evening was the appearance of Dolly Cole as the after-dinner speaker. She is a witty, attractive, lady who can tell funny, funny stories. She drew gut-busting laughter from the group with jokes from Ed Cole's notebook and stories from her life as wife of the president of General Motors when it was the biggest, richest corporation in the world which made her the "Queen of the May", as she describes it. After a question and answer session in which she shared all kinds of stories about Bloomfield Hills and her family, she received a well-deserved standing ovation.

When we returned to the hotel, we were just in time to see hundreds of collegiate gymnasts pour out of the banquet facilities to use the three elevators to return to their rooms for an evening of "blowing off steam" after participating in a national meet at Texas State University - San Marcos. Since these throngs of athletes, mostly

# Driver's Seat

(Continued from page 2)

is heavier than air but regardless how far back I was from Greg, I still got "anoined."


Jon Protteau will cover the events of H.O.T. in more detail in Rearview Mirror in this issue.

On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cameron Dewberry Festival Classic Car Show will be held at

Ledbetter Park in Cameron, Texas, 9AM to 3PM. Registration Fee is \$20. Host Hotel is Budget Host Hotel. A block of rooms have been established at \$69. If you haven't made your reservations yet, I strongly recommend you do so at your earliest convenience. Their number is 1-800- 283-

4678 or [www.budgethost.com](http://www.budgethost.com). Two groups will be leaving – one on Friday morning and another early Saturday morning. Emails will be sent out with more details following the next monthly meeting on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see many of you there. It's a great ride there and the people of Cameron put on

a great show.

Our next meeting will hopefully finalize some shows and events that we, as a car club, could and would attend. Please try to attend this important meeting so that your voice can be heard concerning these matters. Thanks and hope to see you all very soon. 

by Tony Pomponio



Rest stop at the Winery along the Cruise



Guest Speaker: Mrs. Dolly Cole

# Rearview Mirror

(Continued from page 3)

female, kept crowding into the elevators, my wife suggested that if I wanted to remain healthy, we would wait until the elevators were less crowded. So we did.


The next morning dawned foggy and

drizzly, but other than Jim Watkins developing some sort of valve trouble with his Greenbrier, we had another enjoyable drive home on country roads.

This month's brief animal story: After changing Old Blue's oil,

we drove the Toyota Prius to go pick up the our dogs who are not allowed to ride in Old Blue since one of them bit me last month. On Fish Creek Parkway, where a deer nailed the side of the Prius last summer, a

possum darted out from the side of the road, and I ran over it because I didn't have time to hit the brakes or the anti-gravity button.

Sorry, possum. Toyota was not to blame. 

by Jon Protteau



# the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

## Gasoline Tip



With gas prices going up again, it can be useful to shop around for the cheapest prices in your area. The website at <http://autos.msn.com/everyday/gasstations.aspx> allows you to enter your zip code and will provide the prices for gas at all the stations near you. The data is updated daily.

## CH Wants You!

Have a flair for writing but nowhere to show off your skills? Want to tell your friends you are a published writer? Have a wealth of knowledge about the Corvair and want to be able to share it with fellow enthusiasts?

Corvair Houston is always open to member submissions for articles to be printed in the newsletter. Articles can cover areas such as technical information, commentary, personal Corvair experiences, and restoration tips. Writing assistance is available. Email any submissions to [mwclarke01@hotmail.com](mailto:mwclarke01@hotmail.com) or snail mail to 1907 Iron Ridge, Sugar Land, TX 77478.

## Happy Anniversary To:

Chaz & Samantha Cardiff	2 years	Apr 10
David & Liz Hopkins	14 years	Apr 13
Perry & Rose Radoff	42 years	Apr 28

## Happy Birthday To:

Michael Smith	Apr 3
Bill Lush	Apr 21
Jacob Moser	Apr 23
Clarkie Atkinson	Apr 26

## The Corvair Society of America (CORSA)



“Founded in 1969 by and for those who still appreciate the Corvair automobile”



Corvair Houston strongly encourages all members to become members of the Corvair Society of America (CORSA). Anyone with a fondness of the Corvair automobile will benefit from CORSA membership. In addition, we will all benefit by maintaining a strong national presence to lobby our interests and organize our collective purposes.

PLEASE do not overlook the potential value of a CORSA membership. Try it out. Your first year will cost only \$45. For more information, contact any of the Corvair Houston officers listed on the back of this newsletter, or contact:

CORSA  
P.O. BOX 607  
Lemont, IL  
60439-0607  
[www.corvair.org](http://www.corvair.org)

## Corvair Houston Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Apr 16	Club Meeting	Doss Park	T. Pomponio
Apr 24	Dewberry Fest	Cameron, TX	D. Watkins
May TBA	Craig Picnic	Craig & Heidt	T. Pomponio
May 15	Wings & Wheels	1940 Air Terminal	J. Watkins
May 21	Club Meeting	Doss Park	T. Pomponio
June 18	Club Meeting	Doss Park	T. Pomponio

## Clark's Corvair Parts®

Clark's has been your supplier for quality repros for the past 37 years.

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400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-9776

FAX: 413-625-8498

www.corvair.com

email: clarks@corvair.com

## Clark's Corvair Parts®

### CATALOG SALE

Over 650 pages; 3+ Lbs.; over 15,000 parts. You need the 2007-2012 catalog.

The following offers are good February, March & April 2010:

**\$1** with a parts order over \$20

**\$3** In USA (shipping included). Order by phone, fax, mail or email.

**\$5** To Canada (shipping included). Order by phone, fax, mail or email.

### Clark's Corvair Parts®

400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-9776

FAX: 413-625-8498

www.corvair.com

email: clarks@corvair.com

## Tech Corner

Interesting trivia taken from Virtual Vairs Dec/02:

Do you carry these sockets with you in your Corvair? The most common sockets used on a Corvair are: 1/4, 5/16, 3/8, 7/16, 1/2, 9/16, 5/8 and 3/4. Additionally, the spark plug and the rocker

studs are 13/16 for which you want a "deep" socket (approx 50mm length), the coil & starter solenoid require an 11/32, and a deep 11/16 is needed for the castle nuts that hold the engine assembly in at the front trans mount and at the rear of most earlies.



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# Corvair Classifieds

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## 1960 700 COUPE

Red with white interior. Appears to be near Kountze, Texas - 90 miles E/NE of Houston. Contact seller (Tilly Barrington) direct. 409-246-3707 [tbarrington@hughes.net](mailto:tbarrington@hughes.net)



## Possible Parts Car for Sale

My name is Maria Berry and I have an early model Corvair sitting in the driveway. If you or any of your club members are interested please feel free to drive by and take a look at it. The address is 1313 Curtin St. Houston, Texas 77018 my cell is 281-216-5929. Tony Pomponio has seen the car and has photos if anyone has questions, please contact Tony at 281-363-9250

## WANTED!! PARTS...

140 Secondary Carbs (any condition, as long as they're rebuildable) - 140 Linkage (Main Crossover only) - Headers for 140 - Good used Disc Brakes for 14" LM Wheels (front).

Contact David Brown, 713-410-9595 (c) or [corvair69@gmail.com](mailto:corvair69@gmail.com)

## Need Late Model Engine

I am looking for a late model engine for my 1965 Monza Convertible. Please call Dick Pirkey at 281-420-5914 (home) or 281-420-4550 (work) if you have an engine you are willing to part with.



## 1965 Monza coupe, with A.C asking \$3,200

The car starts great, runs very well. A rebuilt '66 engine (110 hp / 6 cyl.) installed 4-5 years ago. Contact Doug Addison at 512-626-5772 (Austin area)

## WANTED!! Late Model Parts...

I just purchased a 1965 Sedan at H.O.T. and I am looking for a set of new or better condition seats. Also interested in purchasing a set of 14" mag wheels. Contact Mark Clarke, 281-217-8573 (c) or [mwclarke01@hotmail.com](mailto:mwclarke01@hotmail.com)

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Corvair Houston  
 1907 Iron Ridge  
 Sugar Land, TX 77478-4116



Best Tool for a Dropped Valve Seat

**CLUB MEETING TO BE  
 HELD ON FRIDAY  
 APRIL 16TH AT  
 DOSS PARK**

Directions: Doss Park



Deliver to:



Corvair Houston



Corvair Houston, the local chapter of the Corvair Society of America, is a non-profit association dedicated to the preservation of the Corvair automobile. Dues are \$25 per year (\$20 for CORSA members). The club conducts regular monthly meetings, and also sponsors or participates in other activities through the year: local and national car shows, picnics and barbecues, races and museum events, and road trips to locations within and about the Houston area. If you are interested in the Corvair and would like information about our organization, please call one of our club officers.

2010 Officers:

President	Tony Pomponio	281-974-5080
Vice President	Ricki Jannise	281-259-2256
Secretary	Jon Protteau	936-582-1228
Treasurer	Sally Jannise	281-259-2256
Director	Mike Tidwell	281-356-2043
Director	Todd Hasfjord	281-704-3848
Director	Ed Walsh	281-825-6361
Director	Brett Finley	832-717-7973
Director	Alan Dunlap	281-203-9977

Committees:

Membership & Library	Ricki Jannise	281-259-2256
Historian	Guy Bobkoff	713-666-0475
Merchandise	Dee Watkins	979-548-1313
Newsletter	Mark Clarke	281-217-8573
Events Coord./Photographer	Jim Watkins	979-548-1313
Car Locator	Guy Bobkoff	713-666-0475
Website	M. Clarke & D. Brown	281-217-8573
H.O.T. Chairperson	Greg Wroblekske	281-356-5542