

# Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 5

MAY 2009

This month: Club Meeting May 15th, Wings and Wheels May 16th, Craig Auction ??, Fish Fry and Car /  
Truck Tear-down and Auction June 13th



**Jon Protteau and his Winning 1962 Monza Convertible**

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# Driver's Seat

by Jim Watkins



I'll start off this month's article with a story of a Corvair hunt that went bad. It all started a couple weeks ago at the First Ever Cameron Car Show when Ed Walsh brought an ad from Craig's List for a Corvair convertible for sale in Cameron. After the car show Ed called Maxie Morgan from Cameron and the bunch of us headed over to check out what was advertised to be a Corvair convertible for \$2500.00.

What we found was a Corvair that was in really bad shape. I offered to let Maxie donate it to the club for parts but he didn't want anything to do with

that idea.

It would take the whole newsletter to tell about all we found at Maxie's place, so I will try and make it short. With the Corvair he had a couple of Studebaker Larks, a VW Karmann Ghia, two Studebaker pickups and a couple of other Studebakers. From the warehouse we walked up the street to his house. From the street outside all you saw was a nice two story house with big oak trees. In his garage he had a super charged Studebaker Packard that he was restoring. And as we entered his back yard



Other Vehicles at the First Ever Cameron Car Show

we found ourselves in a small western town, complete with a putt-putt golf course and a castle. Out behind all of this were more sheds full of Studebakers. All in all he probably had twenty five Studebakers and few other cars to show us.

So here we are two weeks later with two trailers, five club members and we are loading up with Studebakers instead of Corvairs. Mike (Tidwell) ended up with a 1955 Studebaker pickup and Brett (Finley) a 1951. All went well and we had a great time.


Our next meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup> at Doss Park. We

will be having a guest speaker from "Your Powder Coating" Eli Guzman, he will show us the difference between powder coating and painting. Should be an interesting session.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> we are participating in Wings and Wheels at Hobby Airport. The aviation theme will

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## ON THE COVER

"Old Blue", Jon and Betty Protteau's 1964 Monza Convertible won Best Convertible at the First Ever Cameron Car Show held during the Cameron Dewberry Festival. That's Jon with the car and the trophy. 



Corvair People at the First Ever Cameron Car Show



Corvairs at the First Ever Cameron Car Show

# Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



It was still semi-dark, the road was wet, a car and a truck were approaching, and Old Blue's rear end started to break loose on a sweeping curve just south of Montgomery. Luckily, Nader was proved wrong again when, a nudge of the wheel and backing off the gas kept our Corvair in its own lane. When I joined up with our Corvair Houston caravan at the Sonic at Highway 1488 and 290, Mike Tidwell suggested that mixing a new 185/80-13 with a 195/70-13 on the rear of a positraction-equipped Corvair might have contributed to the tendency to swap ends on the curve. The new tire was the only whitewall the tire store had in stock the day before, and I hadn't really noticed the "B" traction rating. (I have since ordered a pair of Hankook "A" rated tires from Rinn's Tire in Magnolia for \$120.00 and change, installed and balanced.)

Our caravan, consisted of Jim and Dee Watkins' '63 Monza coupe, Mike and Audrey Tidwell's '65

Corsa coupe, Ed Walsh's '67 500 coupe, my '62 Monza convertible, and Tony and Gail Pomponio's F 150 (just while their Spyder convertible is in the shop.) We proceeded without incident from Highway 290 to Highway 36 at Brenham, and we followed it north through the rolling farm country to Cameron. We were among the first to arrive at the American Legion Park, and we set up under cloudy and windy skies. We were joined a short time later by a '67 Corvair Monza from Austin which gave us a row of five cars with the rear engine lid open instead of the hood. Young people in particular always seem to be amazed to find the engine in back. Considering the iffy

weather and that this was the first time that the Cameron Dewberry Festival had held a car show along with the kids fishing contest, rides, and all kinds of good food, a fair number of cars appeared. The "Best in Show" trophy went to an immaculate '55 Chevy with an original Blue Flame six cylinder engine. And Old Blue was finally recognized as "Best Convertible." Of course when my wife learned of this well-deserved, but belated recognition, she said, "What? Were you the only convertible in the show?" Actually, there was another convertible: a 1978 Beetle shown by some very nice people with their seven-month old German Shepherd puppy. (Big

puppy.)

After the show, Ed Walsh wanted to go look at an early convertible in Cameron that had been advertised on Craig's list. We were told to look for a Studebaker out in front of the building housing the Corvair, and when we arrived, we found a fairly rough Corvair project, but the gentleman also owned a fair number of Studebakers. We saw various Studebakers from the 40's through the 60's, including a supercharged 1957 Packard Hawk, one of approximately five hundred ever built, and actually derived from the Studebaker Golden Hawk. Although none of us were interested in the early convertible, Mike Tidwell and Brett Finley are now owners of Studebaker pickup trucks, a 1955 and a 1951, both with running V-8 engines.

While some of the members of our group chose to stay in Cameron for the night, I gently tucked Old Blue's trophy



Continued on Page 6

# Driver's Seat

(Continued from page 2)

by Jim Watkins



Mike Tidwell and his "new" 1955 Studebaker pick-up truck

again be the Beechcraft aircraft. We will be doing a tour of the FAA control tower for the members who did not make it last year and the ones who would like to see it again.


Sometime during the show a friend of mine, Rick Sharpe, will be letting Les Smith fly his Huey UH1V over to the terminal to take those of us who would like, on a

flight around Houston. All we have to do is pay for the fuel that is used. Maybe we can even talk Rick into flying a few of us around in his T-34 also. Rick has a Huey, A-10 Skyraider, Douglas C-47, Beech T-34A and a Douglas A26C that he flies for air shows throughout the southwest.

We will be having the annual Craig Corvair Parts Auction between May 23<sup>rd</sup>

and June 6<sup>th</sup> but the exact date has not been set yet. When the date is set we will send out an e-mail letting all members know.

On June 13<sup>th</sup> the club is having a large car tear down and parts auction at Mike & Audrey Tidwell's place in Pinehurst. Bring your tools, help us save Corvair parts and maybe you will find the part that you have been looking for. So far we have six cars, trucks and vans to take apart. There also may be a few surprise Corvair's for sale. Mike will be providing some of his famous fish for lunch. More on the tear down later.

Mike decided that he would purchase a 1955 Studebaker truck and Brett Finley thought he might purchase a 1951 Studebaker truck. So this Saturday five members with two trucks and trailers headed back to Cameron. After a tour of Maxie's backyard where he had built the tile covered castle and western town he showed us sheds, barns and shops full of Studebakers and parts. Mike and Brett purchased the Studebaker's that they wanted we headed back home with our trailers loaded with Studebaker's instead of Corvair's. All went well and it was a good time. 



The Ceramic Tile Castle



Studebaker Starlight Coupe



Brett Finley and his "new" 1951 Studebaker pick-up truck

# the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

## Tech Session Ideas?

Have an interesting technical project you worked on recently? Need to see a technical demonstration of a procedure that will help you with your restoration or repair project? Your Corvair Houston Officers are looking for ideas for technical demonstration sessions for our monthly club meetings. These technical sessions can be helpful for those of us restoring or performing maintenance on our Corvairs.

If you have an idea, please notify one of your officers listed on page 8 of this newsletter. Have a project to present? Presentation assistance is available. Email any submissions to [rsjannise@gmail.com](mailto:rsjannise@gmail.com) or snail mail to 13102 N Decker Dr, Magnolia, TX 77355.

## Happy Anniversary To:

Perry & Rose Radoff	40 years	April 28
Geary & Deborah Grimes	25 years	May 13
Matt & Kim Feehery	24 years	May 26
Earl & Betty Jo Raabe	40 years	June 14
Jon & Betty Protteau	37 years	June 17
Barry & Kelly Pritchard		June 17

## Happy Birthday To:

Bill Lush	April 21
Jacob Moser	April 23
Clarkie Atkinson	April 26
Jeanelle Moser	May 4
John Spenn	May 17
Shirley Alford	May 20
David Hopkins	May 20
Kay Freeman	May 23
Matt Feehery	May 24
Ray Rosenbaum	May 27
April Grimes	May 30

## 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 \$38. 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
May 15	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
May 16	Wings & Wheels	1940 Air Terminal	Jim Watkins
???	Craig Auction	Craig & Heidt	Mike Tidwell
June 13	Car Tear Down	Tidwell's House	Mike Tidwell
June 19	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
July 13	CORSA Conv.	Jacksonville, FL	Dave Brown

# Rearview Mirror

(Continued from page 3)

in the back seat and drove back in clear weather with fairly heavy winds until we ran into a monsoon just west of Plantersville on Highway 105. Old blue's wipers could not keep up

with the water, so we slid under a gas station's canopy until it let up enough to get back on the road. When I arrived back home, it was after dark and had just stopped

raining, and our daughter walked up beside the car, pointed at a little green blob, and said, "What's that?" Apparently, it had been raining so hard that a

tree frog had hopped up on Old Blue to avoid drowning and had ridden home with us. See the photo. And that's this month's animal story. ☺

by Jon Protteau



## MORE CAMERON DEWBERRY FESTIVAL PICTURES



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# Corvair Classifieds

## 1963 MONZA CONVERTIBLE

White ext, Red int., excellent condition; Powerglide, 102 hp engine, Pertronix II points, 71,038 original miles. Appraised for \$9,950. Asking \$7,950. Extra wheel covers, new radio & speakers (uninstalled) & extra parts (door and window cranks, tail light covers, etc). Contact Tom at 281-743-1981 or [tboycett@comcast.net](mailto:tboycett@comcast.net).



## CORVAIR PARTS FOR SALE

5-13" 3-prong wire wheel covers. V-V-G; 1 set NOS 63-64 & late headlight bezels; Corsa dash, complete & operational; 61-700 dash & glove box door V-G; 1-64 exhaust pipe & 1-65 turbo out; turbo w/ 2"- SU carb & adapt; E-flow & RAJAY housing; 2 Holly/Weber progress 2 barrel carbs; late model factory A/C 90% complete; 110 or 140 mount-bracket, R-12 available; early & late front axle bearings, seals, tie rod ends, idler arm; 2-early rear package panels; 1 set (A&B) early bumper guards V-G. Contact Bob Willhelm at [bobwillhelm@aol.com](mailto:bobwillhelm@aol.com) or 713 771 9059

## 1965 CONVERTIBLE

110 engine, automatic transmission, new paint, new top new leather interior, new tires and wheels It still needs some work but can call me for information. Jim 713-301-6499. Price \$10,000.



## 1961 SEDAN

A/C, bumperettes, buckets, 4 speed, 95 hp motor, etc. 15 year old restore with all receipts, red on red. All original in appearance. Looks, and runs real nice! \$6500 obo. Jeff Taylor 949-395-7376 [classicdad@cox.net](mailto:classicdad@cox.net)



## 1964 SPYDER CONVERTIBLE CLONE

Spyder emblems and instruments - no turbo charger, new crankshaft seals. 4 spd transmission and differential have been rebuilt. New shocks. garaged for 3 years, driven once a week. More on CH website. Overall a good driving car. Price: \$4,800 or best offer. Call 830-278-8186



## 1960 FOUR DOOR

This is a FIND!!! One owner, NO rust, complete, \$1,000. Has been in the same garage since 1970. Can be seen at City Garage, Carmine Texas 1-979-278-3377 from 8:00 AM to Noon Monday thru Saturday or call Ray Rosenbaum 713-723-4441 for additional information...

## 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)

Corvair Houston  
 13102 N. Decker Dr.  
 Magnolia, TX 77355-8461



Let's go for a helicopter ride at Wings and Wheels!

Deliver to:

**CLUB MEETING ON THE  
 15TH...  
 TECH SESSION: POWDER  
 COATING AND TIRES**



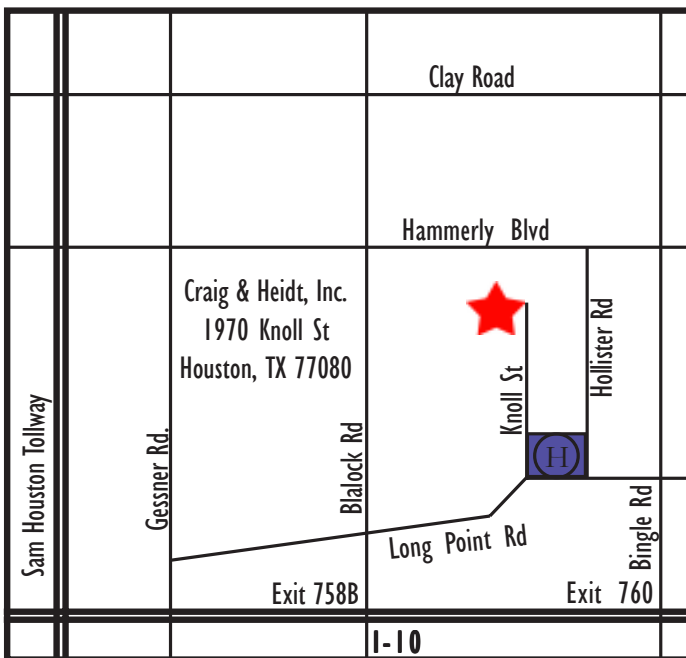
Corvair Houston, the local chapter of the Corvair Society of America, is a non-profit association dedicated to the preservation of the Corvair automobile. Dues are \$25 per year (\$20 for CORSA members). The club conducts regular monthly meetings, and also sponsors or participates in other activities 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.

**2009 Officers:**

President	Jim Watkins	979-548-1313
Vice President	Tony Pomponio	281-974-5080
Secretary	Jon Protteau	936-582-1228
Treasurer	Sally Jannise	281-259-2256
Director	Mike Tidwell	281-356-2043
Director	Gail Brown	281-579-9321
Director	Todd Hasfjord	281-704-3848
Director	Mark Clarke	281-217-8573
Director	Brett Finley	832-717-7973

**Committees:**

Membership	Dave Brown	281-579-9321
Historian	Guy Bobkoff	713-666-0475
Merchandise	Dee Watkins	979-548-1313
Newsletter	Ricki Jannise	281-259-2256
Photography	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 Wroblewski	281-356-5542



Craig Auction