

# Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 38, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2012

This month: No regular club meeting as we will be in Salado, TX  
celebrating the 16th Annual Heart of Texas Reunion



A 1964 Rampside enjoying a lazy Spring day in Texas

## In this issue:

Driver's Seat by Mike Tidwell	2	Photos from last month's events	4	Bulletin Board	5
Driving Shotgun by Brett Finley	2	On the Cover	5	HOT 2012 Itinerary	6
Rearview Mirror by Tony Pomponio	3	Calendar	5	Classifieds & Ads	7

# Driver's Seat

by Mike Tidwell



Hey everyone. We had a great turn out for the Tuna to get ready for HOT in Salado on April 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be two caravans going. One will start with Mark Clarke's group and the second one will be with Mike Tidwell. We will meet up together at the Jack-in-the-Box at HW290 and FM1488 to caravan to Cameron where we will eat at a restaurant called Sissy's place. Following lunch, we will then be on our way to Salado for a fun packed weekend with all the great Corvair clubs of Texas (and perhaps one or two from Oklahoma).

There is no regular meeting for April in Houston. We will have a short meeting in Salado on Friday night over adult beverage and food.

The May meeting has been changed to the second Friday of the month (May 11) at the Feehery Party Barn (Matt's broth-

er's place). We have a lot of women that drive Corvairs so I will be doing a tech session for the women. There's a lot of great upcoming events that will be discussed at Mays meeting.

Hope to see you soon - whether at HOT or the next meeting.



# Driving Shotgun

by Brett Finley



I think we are all looking forward to the upcoming 16<sup>th</sup> annual Heart of Texas Corvair reunion in Salado Texas April 20-22 hosted this year by the North Texas Corvair Association under the leadership of Geary and Deborah Grimes. Our friends at NTCA have been working hard to set up a fun and inviting weekend for the rest of us to enjoy and, at last count, Corvair Houston should have a large contingency of both members and Corvairs in attendance. I think we are all looking forward to the upcoming 16 or so vairs I think. A number of members will head out in CH caravan style on Friday April 20<sup>th</sup> with perhaps up to fifteen or more Corvairs and/or tow vehicles participating. We will be following club president Mike "Mad Dog" Tidwell and his bride Audrey and making our way westward along the scenic wildflower lined Texas highways slightly off the beaten path. I am sure we have details in this newsletter.

We seem to have 32 CH members planning to attend (that I know

I am glad to be a part of this years celebration as this is my second HOT in as many years and this

while being treated for my ongoing battle with cancer. I have remarked before how much more like a family CH is to us than simply a car club. We have a lively and well represented group of members and I am always delighted to see new faces at our meetings. You don't even have to have a Corvair to join CH, just an interest in Corvairs and a good sense of humor will get you far. Next year, it is again our turn to host HOT. I am planning on being the president of Corvair Houston for that event and we are already charging into plans to

make it a memorable one for all. Thanks to everyone for their high energy input in doing the legwork to put together such well thought out events which benefit our club and other clubs as well. Soon enough, we will be at the wheels of our fave autos again, enjoying late spring breezes or in some cases, Astro Ventilation and Four Seasons a.c. in our faces, and catching up with our fellow Vair heads as we enjoy the highway of life. Here's wishing everyone a safe, pleasant and memorable HOT 2012 and many more to come.



# Rearview Mirror

by Tony Pomponio



March came in like a Lion and went out like a Lamb. Unfortunately the Lion remained with our “Corvair Cousins” to the north and west a little longer than they’d like.

We had another exciting month. Our Board of Directors meeting at the Beaver Creek Boathouse Restaurant on HW 249 was great. Many proposals were made to make 2012 as exciting as 2011. The restaurant is a great location as we’re put in a separate room (hummm, that sounds a little suspicious) away from the rest of the patrons and sports TV. Besides, the food is great!

The regular monthly meeting was held at Armadillo’s on Kirby. Some new faces were in attendance and also the “usual suspects.” Dee Watkins displayed some great new Club merchandise. We hope to get them posted on our website in the very near future. (It’s amazing what you can miss when you don’t attend!) The following day the club went on a fun run to Yankee’s Tavern in Carlos, Texas. Unfortunately, Gail and

I were not able to participate and we heard much fun was had by all. The last day of March, for many of us, was spent at the Tidwells and “Club Tuna” or the annual “tune-up” of Corvairs prior to H.O.T. And yes, we did feast on Tuna Sandwiches thanks to some of the ladies of the club. The tune-ups not only got the cars in great shape but, for me, it’s a learning experience watching Mike Tidwell applying his expertise to our cars. On that same night, many of us caravanned to Niftee 50ees for their opening event for 2012. OMG, so many cars! All the parking spaces allotted had a classic car and the aisles were filled with the overflow. A Great Night!

I realize the exploits of Cap’n Tony of the Corvair Resto-Rangers were sorely missed last month. However, he has been “released” and is back to his usual antics. When we last left him he was gloating over the success of his starter motor replacement. A short time later, he discovered a waterfall of transmission

fluid under the car. “Now wait a minute, this is out of the realm of my ‘expertise’” he mumbled to himself. This will require the Expert of Experts, “Major” Mike Tidwell of the Corvair Resto-Rangers. A quick call to him resulted in my removing of the engine. “How lucky can I get?” he stated. With the engine out, the differential/transmission was separated and Cap’n Tony took it to “Major” Mike. Now, keep in mind Cap’n Tony was recovering from a pacemaker implant. It had to be near the heart and unfortunately, Cap’n Tony of the Corvair Resto-Rangers is left-handed and was restricted on the use of his left arm. Trying to re-adjust to a right-sided life is a bit trying. Anyway, Cap’n Tony put on a “stiff upper lip” and plowed ahead. The engine was put on an engine stand and some minor repairs made to the sheet metal. “Major” Mike called saying that the transmission was repaired and he’d bring over that coming weekend and would put the engine/transmission

together and put the engine back into the car. In preparation for this event Cap’n Tony of the Corvair Resto-Rangers decided to remove the engine from its stand and put it on a hydraulic lift cart. Sounds pretty easy, right? Keep in mind Cap’n Tony of the Corvair Resto-Rangers is left-handed and is now doing things with his right hand. To make a long story short (is that possible?) he dropped the engine. No, not on his foot, but on the floor. This resulted in breaking out a chunk of the bell housing. Thankfully “Major” Mike said it would not hurt the engine in any way. Gail’s car now has an additional opening to access the torque converter or better yet, additional air flow to the converter. How’s that for positive thinking. Well, kiddies, that’s that, but never fear Cap’n Tony of the Corvair Resto-Rangers, will be taking his own Spyder soon. That only means the adventure is not over, just a new “victim.” Live well, laugh often.





March club meeting at the Armadillo



HOT Chair Greg Wrobleske



Club Tuna preparing for HOT



Opening Day at Niftee Fiftees



Who ya gonna call? "Mad Dog" Mike Tdwell



On the road - Carlos Fun Run

# the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

## Happy Anniversary To:

David & Liz Hopkins	16 years	Apr. 13
Perry & Rose Radoff	44 years	Apr. 28

## Happy Birthday To:

John Jackson	Apr. 12
Bill Lush	Apr. 21
Jacob Moser	Apr. 23
Clarkie Atkinson	Apr. 26
Kay Ranshaw	Apr. 29

**Mark your Calendar!**  
**4th Annual Dewberry Festival & Car Show**  
 May 19th - Cameron, TX

Questions: Contact Dee Watkins 979-548-1313 or 979-848-6713  
 or by email to [snicktaweed@msn.com](mailto:snicktaweed@msn.com)

## 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.

## On the Cover

Greg Wrobleske's 1964 Rampside on the Carlos Fun Run. Photo credit to Greg's wife, Sandra. We had a total of 4 rampsides, 2 convertibles (1 early and 1 late) and 2 coupes (1 early and 1 late) attend this popular event on March 17th.

## 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. 20-22	HOT 2012	Salado, TX	G. Wrobleske
May 7th	Board Meeting	Beavercreek Boathouse	M. Tidwell
May 11th	Club Meeting	Feehery Party Barn	M. Tidwell
May 19th	Dewberry Fest	Cameron, TX	D. Watkins
June 9th	St. Arnolds Tour	Houston TX	M. Tidwell
July 7th	Ice Cream Social	Jannise's home	S. Jannise

16th HEART OF TEXAS REUNION!! Itinerary  
SALADO, TX  
APRIL 20 - 22, 2012

FRIDAY:

- 3:00 pm Hotel Check-In
- 3:30 pm Registration opens in hotel lounge area
- 6:30 pm Dinner at Sonic Drive-In [west side of I-35]
- 9:30 pm Registration closes [Host hotel lounge area available for socializing]

SATURDAY:

- 7:00 am Complimentary guest breakfast at host hotel [closes at 10:00 am]
  - 8:00 am Car show setup at Salado Civic Center, 601 N. Main, Salado
  - 9:00 am Late Registration at Salado Civic Center
  - 9:00 am HOT Corvair Car Show - People's Choice [informal swap meet during show]
  - 11:00 am Car show ends; Line up for 1st phase of driving tour and lunch
  - 11:15 am Depart for 1st phase of driving tour/lunch [Dead Fish Grill] overlooking Lake Belton
  - 1:30 pm Arrive at host hotel and 2nd phase of driving tour continues on [or you may shop in Salado]
  - 2:30 pm Arrive at Pace Park Pavilion for social gathering [2nd phase of driving tour ends here]
  - 4:30 pm \*Pace Park social ends/depart for host hotel to prepare for Awards Banquet Dinner
  - 6:00 pm Happy hour at Historic Stagecoach Inn [cash bar] [401 S. Stagecoach Rd.]
  - 6:30 pm Awards Banquet Dinner at Historic Stagecoach Inn dining room [401 S. Stagecoach Rd.]
  - 9:00 pm Host hotel lounge area open for socializing
- \* Washers war between clubs...prepare your team. Trophy awarded.

SUNDAY:

- 7:00 am Complimentary guest breakfast at host hotel [closes at 10:00 am]
  - 8:15 am Officer meeting in host hotel lounge area
  - 11:00 am Hotel check-out and farewell
- [Itinerary may change without advanced notice]

# Corvair Classifieds

## For Sale: 1965 Monza Convrt - see note below from Guy B

Charlie Craig requested this ad. It appears a friend started a project with his daughter. Along the way, she lost interest and he chose not to continue. He had done some preparations, following find information Charlie shared. 1965 Corvair Convertible- Monza or Corsa unknown. Engine turned over when brought into his Hydraulic shop. Body is on Cradle and intact, all parts appear to be there.(Charlie noted Cradle goes with car) Body is in Black primer.,Charlie said seats on side were white.

Seller is open to best offer.

Car is near NW mall, between 290 and old Hempstead road. 6012 1/2 B Central Crest Street  
Mark Hermann 713-822-2087 Cell

## For Sale: 1967 Corvair Monza (see photo below)

Yellow with black interior. Paint is very good and the seats and carpet are new. 110hp engine with powerglide transmission. Fuel and brake systems have been gone through. It looks, runs and rides great. Asking \$7500.00 (CH members price \$6500.00)

Contact Greg Fox at 713-826-2828



## For Sale: 1966 Monza Coupe - see note below from Guy B

Hi. Received a call from a Gerald Smitherman. He has a 1966 Chevrolet Monza Coupe. The car sounds very original. Owned by his father in law and bought for his wife in Central Iowa. Always garaged, not driven much, taken out for parades etc.Brought here to Houston and garaged in a gated community in illis. He is unsure what price, but was told those from the club who would be looking would be fair. 1966 Corvair Monza Coupe All Original parts, glass, caps, Seats, etc. Yellow exterior/Black interior 68,000 Miles Manual (He drove it 2 miles on Houston arrival, believes it to be 4 Speed).Seats in good shape, one thread loose. Has title (Iowa)

Forty six years old since it was born, this car sounds like a good original car.

Gerald Smitherman  
281-723-0693  
jpats1@suddenlink.net

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

Deliver to:



The Watkins '63 Sypder is back from the Paint Shop

## NO REGULAR CLUB MEETING THIS MONTH DUE TO HOT 2012 IN SALADO, TX

### TOP 10 REASONS NOT TO ATTEND

#### HOT 2012 IN SALADO, TX

1. THE PRICE OF GAS IS TOO HIGH
2. THE HILL COUNTRY GIVES ME ALTITUDE SICKNESS
3. I WOULD RATHER BE IN HOUSTON THAT WEEKEND
4. I DON'T RECALL THE LAST TIME THE CORVAIR RAN
5. MEETING NEW PEOPLE SCARES ME TO DEATH
6. I DON'T HAVE AN EXTRA FAN BELT
7. ISN'T IT SUPPOSED TO RAIN THAT WEEKEND?
8. I STILL HAVEVN'T PAID MY DUES THIS YEAR
9. SOMEONE MIGHT ASK ME TO BE A CLUB OFFICER
10. WHAT IS HOT 2012? I DON'T RECALL HEARING ABOUT IT.



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.

#### 2012 Officers:

President	Mike Tidwell	281-748-4576
Vice President	Brett Finley	410-804-7289
Secretary	Tony Pomponio	281-794-5080
Treasurer	Julia Murphy	281-251-8553
Director	Ricki Jannise	281-259-2256
Director	Ed Walsh	281-825-6361
Director	Jim Watkins	979-248-5272

#### Committees:

Membership & Library	Ricki Jannise	281-259-2256
Historian/Car Locator	Guy Bobkoff	713-666-0475
Merchandise	Dee Watkins	979-848-6713
Newsletter/Website	Mark Clarke	281-217-8573
Events Coord./Photographer	Jim Watkins	979-248-5272
H.O.T. Chairperson	Greg Wrobleske	281-356-5542
Social Chair	Sally Jannise	281-259-2256
Technical Chair	Mike Tidwell	281-748-4576
Club Email	Tony Pomponio	281-764-5080