

# Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2009

This month: TV donation to the VA Hospital on the 11th; Club Meeting on the 17th; Burton Cotton Gin Festival on the 18th; Dewberry Festival Car Show in Cameron, Texas on the 25th;



We have a delivery for the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center!

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# Driver's Seat

by Jim Watkins



Veterans' Hospital Staff and Patients Look Over the Corvairs

Now with HOT behind us it's time to start planning other Corvair Houston outings. We will be starting April off on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a presentation of a 42" flat screen TV to the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Administration (VA) Medical Center (*See cover photo – Ed.*).

The plan is for club members to meet up at the A&W restaurant at Highway 288 and Old Spanish Trail (OST) at 10 am on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> of April. At 10:45 am we will convoy to the VA Hospital to arrive at 11 am. The hospital police will have an area marked off for our parking and display. We will

spend an hour or so there and during that time we will present the hospital with the TV for use in the Lone Star Clinic.

At the present time the clinic has a small 19" regular TV that can only be seen by a few people at a time, the larger TV will enable more veterans to be able to watch TV while they wait for their appointments. The waiting rooms hold around 60 people and are full all day long. The wait is often hours for you to

get into your appointment, but the service that you get is excellent. The TV will just make it a little easier on the men and women who have served our country.

After the presentation some of us are driving north to Conroe for a crawfish lunch, everyone is invited to join us.

April 17<sup>th</sup> will be our monthly meeting in Doss Park. We will have another guest speaker, Chris Parrish from Gulf Coast Soda Blast. He will bring his portable equipment and demonstrate paint removal with soda blasting. This is the company who did some of the soda blasting on my '64 Spyder.

On Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> we are planning a trip to Cameron, Texas for their first ever car show. This will be an early start so we can get to Cameron around 9 am. The plan is to meet

up at the Sonic at Highway 290 and FM 1488 at 7 am. We should leave there around 7:30 am which should have us arriving in Cameron around 9 am to register. Registration is FREE and trophies will be presented around 3 pm.

The car show is part of Cameron's annual Dewberry Festival and there will be a Bar B Q cook-off, a Dewberry cook-off, arts and crafts, live music, dance, parade, a laser light show and more.

Dee has been working with the locals trying to help them set up their first car show and the local Budget Host Inn has agreed to give our club a room discount for those who would like to stay the night and enjoy the entertainment. 

## ON THE COVER

Corvair Houston members deliver the Vizio 42" HD Plasma Television donated by your club, Corvair Houston, for the Lone Star Clinic waiting room at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. 



Corvair Houston Members Meet up at the A & W Restaurant

# Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



Alan Dunlap's '66 Corsa



Jon Protteau's '62 Monza

March was a busy month for Corvair Houston with participation in the Brazoria Car Show, the Austin County Car Stampede in Bellville, and preparations for H.O.T. in New Braunfels. The San Jacinto Car Show & Picnic suffered a rain-out this year, but the Nifty Fifties Saturday Night Show at the Spring-Cypress Kroger's started up again in March and has been well-attended

by Corvairs and all those other non-Corvair classics, as well.

Although the New Braunfels H.O.T. Reunion was a resounding success last month, being the 13<sup>th</sup> one might have had some connection with an unusual number of automotive malfunctions. David Keseian's yellow '64 Monza coupe developed a starter malfunction, but Ricki Jannise's light taps with a hammer encouraged

the starter to crank again. OK, sometimes he had to bang it a good one, but it kept it running. Todd Hasfjord's maroon '66 Corsa convertible also had an intermittent starting problem that seems to have been solved by jiggling the wire connector plugs.

On the way home from New Braunfels, David Brown alerted us to a cloud of oil smoke pouring from Old Blue, my '62 Monza convertible. It was spewing oil from every orifice, sort of the automotive equivalent of projectile vomiting. The dipstick showed it down 1 ½ quarts, so David pulled a spare 5 quart jug of 20W50 out of his trunk, and we rejoined our group two miles further down the road at Buckee's. In those two miles, Old

Blue had lost another quart of oil, so we called our favorite daughter to bring us a U-haul car trailer to finish the trip home. We spent our down time sampling the fare at Buckee's (they sell some great cream puffs), and browsing through their sometimes unusual gift items. How about a horsehide-covered toilet seat for that person who has everything?

Meanwhile, Ed Murphy's virtually new 'Vair, the green Corsa, developed a fuel leak on the way home near La Grange, Texas. Just down the road near New Ulm, Texas, Alan Dunlap developed what sounded like a rod knocking in his turquoise '66 Corsa. Fortunately, he was able to park it at Krenck's Garage until he and Mike Tidwell could return the following Saturday with a trailer. However, none of these breakdowns spoiled the fun of a really great H.O.T., and if the number 13 was the cause, we won't have to worry about it for another hundred years. 🍷



On the Way to H.O.T.!!

## Member Profile - Tony and Gail Pomponio

by Matt Feehery

Two of Corvair Houston's most colorful members are Gail and Tony Pomponio, who have been active club members since 2005. Tony drives a very recognizable '64 Spyder convertible which sports a flashy purple paint job (Candy Violet to be specific) that draws attention and admirers wherever he and Gail go. When the car is on display, it features a large sign highlighting the car's pedigree with an equally large hairy spider crawling over the windshield.

As for non-stock options, the Spyder is accented by purple LED undercarriage lights and a "wolf whistle" for good measure. The car's driver is also recognizable: Tony wears a visor hat topped with spiked purple hair, a very cool accent that matches the car and its overall appeal. The name of the game is fun and enjoyment and it is clear that Tony and Gail are all about fun. They are true Corvair ambassadors.

Tony originally hails from Brooklyn, New York

and Gail was born in Chicago but moved to San Diego as a toddler. The military moved Tony to San Diego where he met and married Gail in 1961. Tony served actively in the U.S. Navy for nine years and is a Vietnam Veteran. Both attended San Diego State College (now part of the California State University System). Gail pursued a degree in Nursing while Tony went after an Accounting/Advertising degree. They have two sons; Mike, the oldest, lives in San Diego and Terry, the youngest, lives in Brooklyn, New York. Mike is training as a welder and Terry works for the Guggenheim Museum.

Tony and Gail retired a couple of years ago. Gail

worked as a Retail Merchandising Representative and Tony was a Fleet Transportation Safety and Construction Safety Manager. Both are enjoying the good life of sleeping in late. They currently own two Corvairs: the 1964 Spyder CV and a 1960 4-door 700. The 700 sedan is in a "resto-mod" status at the moment. Tony is including such updates as air-conditioning, power windows and doors.

Their first Corvair was a used 1960 red two-door coupe purchased in 1962. They put quite a few miles on it before selling it for a larger car as their family grew. Both have always liked the shape of the

early Corvairs. The first Corvair they owned here in Houston was a '65 red Monza Convertible with PG and a 110 engine. That car was passed on to Dave Brown. They acquired the '64 Spyder on eBay. The 700 sedan was purchased from a Corvair Houston member for Gail. She really likes the rear window overhang on the early 4-doors. They're keeping their eye out for a Lakewood, but not 'til Gail's car is completed.

One of the craziest and funniest things that happened to them as Corvair owners was the day Tony couldn't make it up a hill in San Diego. It seems Tony replaced the fuel pump and did not get the brass bolt into the aluminum slot of the fuel pump. After an hour or so of the car starting and stalling he called his father-in-law Frank. Frank created a gravity-fed fuel tank out of a one pound coffee can and some welded fuel lines that gravity-fed gas to the carbs. This worked out great and got Tony up the



Tony and Gail with their Candy Violet '64 Spyder Convertible

Continued on Page 6

# 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.

## Special HOT Edition!

Watch for a special edition of your newsletter commorating the 2009 Heart of Texas Reunion in the next couple of weeks!!

## Happy Anniversary To:

David & Liz Hopkins	12 years	April 13
Perry & Rose Radoff	40 years	April 28
Geary & Deborah Grimes	25 years	May 13
Matt & Kim Feehery	24 years	May 26

## Happy Birthday To:

Mark Clarke	March 23
Scott Brittin	March 25
Bill Lush	April 21
Jacob Moser	April 23
Clarkie Atkinson	April 26
Jeanelle Moser	May 4
Shirley Alford	May 20

## 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
April 11	TV Donation	VA Med. Center	Jim Watkins
April 17	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
April 18	Cotton Gin Fest	Burton, Texas	Jim Watkins
April 25	Dewberry Fest	Cameron, Texas	Jim Watkins
May 15	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
June 19	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins

# Member Profile: Tony and Gail Pomponio

(continued from page 4)

by Matt Feehery

hill and to the apartment where they were living. It took Tony awhile to realize what he'd done. He replaced the fuel pump and, once again, all was well with the world (after a few chosen words that are best left unspoken).

When Tony and Gail cruise the highways and byways of Houston in their Candy Violet Spyder, they are amused by the

various stares and comments about their car. They once had their picture taken while driving on I-45 by a woman hanging out the window of her car (passenger side) with a camera phone (thankfully she was **not** driving!). Tony offers, "Most comments have been complimentary and some not so. You just can't please everyone!"

Comments range from "Do they still make those?" to "What is that?" to "What color is that?" to "Hey, that's a great car!" and so on. Reflecting on what

life has given to them, they both agree on one thing: they look forward to continued happiness and longevity. And may they achieve both. 

## VA HOSPITAL DELIVERY PICTURES



The Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Administration Medical Center



Corvairs at the Main Entrance of the VA Hospital



Late Lunch of Crawfish at Dixie's in Conroe

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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 [tboyett@comcast.net](mailto:tboyett@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

This car has lots of options such as A/C, bumperettes, buckets, 4 speed, 95 hp motor, etc. It's a 15 year old restore with all the receipts, red on red. Was originally white. All original in appearance. Anyone in the club interested? Looks, and runs real nice! Please let me know. I think this car would be a perfect addition to the club. \$6500 obo. Jeff Taylor 949-395-7376 [classicdad@cox.net](mailto:classicdad@cox.net)



## 1965 MONZA COUPE

White with import seats, 110hp, PowerGlide; factory AC car; reliable daily driver; road trips logged to Tulsa, OK, three HOT's and many club events (you know the car); new shocks, muffler, engine wiring harness and tail lights; \$1,200. Also, used 110/4sp drive train from club tear-down, rear and side tinted glass; make an offer; Call Ricki or Sally at 281 259 2256 or [rsjannise@gmail.com](mailto:rsjannise@gmail.com)



## 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

Deliver to:



Gulf Coast Soda Blast cleans Jim's '64 Spyder

**CLUB MEETING ON THE  
 17TH...  
 TECH SESSION: GULF  
 COAST SODA BLAST**

Directions: Doss Park



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 Wrobleske	281-356-5542