

Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 34, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2008

This month: Club Meeting Aug 15th, Pool Party / Fish Fry Aug 30, Great Plains Roundup Sept 12th



High-Speed Corvairs and Drivers - Hot off of the Track!!

In this issue:

Driver's Seat by Mark Clarke	2	CH Cookbook Reminder	3	Bulletin Board	5
On the Cover	2	Honorary Lifetime Member: John Noser	4	Classifieds	7
Rearview Mirror by Jim Watkins	3	Birthdays and Anniversaries	5	Notes and Letters	7

Driver's Seat

by Mark Clarke



We all had a great time at the Watkins's place in Brazoria last month and we appreciate Jim and Dee's efforts in hosting the event. Hopefully the Brazoria Fun Run will become an annual tradition. After some consideration, we decided to cancel the Guadalupe Tubing Trip – perhaps we can make the trip next summer.

Our next scheduled event is the **Tidwell Fish Fry/Keseian Pool Party** on Saturday, August 30th at

the home of Dave Keseian. We will start off the day by meeting at **BB Custom Upholstery Shop** at 10:30 a.m. where member, Alan Dunlap will provide a tour of the shop. The shop is located just east of downtown Tomball at 10041 FM 2920, Tomball, TX 77375. Following the tour, we will make our way to Dave Keseian's home which is located at 619 Tall Pines Drive in Magnolia. If you cannot make the tour,

please plan on arriving at Dave's place by 1:00 p.m. for the Fish Fry and Pool Party. Please be sure to bring a side dish or dessert. *(Don't forget your chairs and your towels if you wish to swim in Dave's pool - Ed.)* The club will provide ice water and/or lemonade or ice tea, but you may wish to bring other liquid refreshments. Please make plans to join us for this event as it should be a busy and fun filled day.

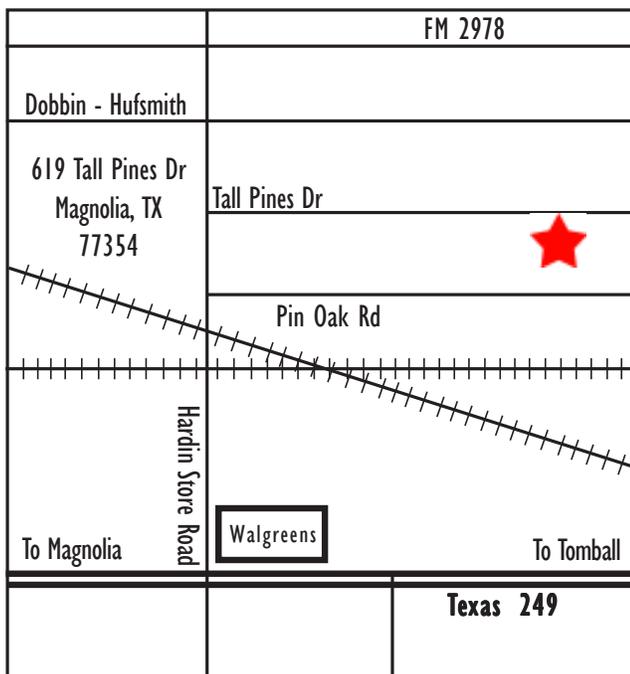
At last count, we have 7 Corvairs and about a dozen folks making the trip to Oklahoma City for the **Great Plains Roundup** the weekend of September 12-14th. If you are interested in attending, there is still time to register – please contact me for more information. This event is very similar to our Heart of Texas Roundup which means that the event should draw well over 50 Corvairs and more than 100 Corvair enthusiasts. Corvair Houston has provided representation in each of the previous roundups

and I am excited that we are keeping this tradition going.

As I prepare this article, we are experiencing the effects of Tropical Storm Edouard. Fortunately, it appears that we are being spared from any significant damage. For me, it just means a day off from work (providing time to write this article) and a steady light rain which was greatly needed. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Our next regularly scheduled meeting is Friday, August 15th at Doss Park at 7:00 p.m. Please be sure and drive your Corvair as we will continue the tradition of holding a door prize drawing as an incentive for folks to drive and show off their classic beauties. 

ON THE COVER

The Corvairs of Alan Dunlap, David Brown, David Keseian, Mike Tidwell, Todd Hasfjord, Sally Jannise (Driver Ricki Jannise), Mark Clarke and Jim Watkins on display at MSR Houston Race Track. 



Map to David Keseian's Home

Rearview Mirror

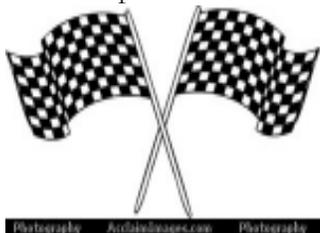
by Jim Watkins



Our monthly meeting on July 18th started with the usual attendees and by 6 pm we had **27** members show up in eleven Corvairs making it a great turn out. Attending was our newest member Brett Finley. Brett is the owner of a 1963 Corvair Spyder convertible. We discussed the plans for our get-togethers for the rest of the year and watched a slideshow that Ricki had about the MSR Raceway that we would be attending the following Saturday.

The tickets for the gift certificates were drawn and Sally Jannise won the certificate to Clark's Corvair and our new member Brett won the certificate to the 59 Diner. After that 19 members and 9 Corvairs adjourned to the 59 Diner for dinner and malts.

Saturday July 26th started early, 9 Corvairs and 15 people meeting up at the I-Hop at 7:30 am at



Hwy. 288 and CR 518 for BS and breakfast before we left to go to the raceway. Dave Brown said that he would more than likely not be able to race because he was only running on 5 cylinders. In the parking lot Mike Tidwell checked it out for him and as usual within 6 seconds Mike's magic hands diagnosed it as a vacuum leak and within a few minutes it was repaired and we were on to the races.

We arrived at the MSR Houston Racetrack on Hwy. 288 in Angleton at 9 am. After properly airing the tires and unloading some weight from the trunks James Rogerson took each of us (bystanders included) on a ride to show us the route of the course and how to handle our cars. When James took us on a pace lap Mike jumped in front for clean air. I was in second place but I was running in Mike's dirty air and wasn't able to pass him and this allowed 2 lates to pass me (Dave Brown and Ricki Jannise). After a grueling 30

minutes we got a checkered flag and had to, unfortunately, leave the course.

After leaving the racetrack we headed to the first Sonic for cold drinks then on to our house for snacks and bragging rights on our ability to handle the course.

We took a fun run to Sargent, Texas on the coast and stopped at the Krusty Pelican for a visit then across the swing bridge at the Intracoastal Waterway. After a cruise down the beach it was back to our house. It was a perfect late afternoon for fajitas, margaritas and enjoying each others company.

At first we were all a little apprehensive about running the race course but afterwards we were all vowing to be back next year. Remember, you do not have to race to go and enjoy the day and you don't even have to drive your Corvair if you do not want to. Just come out and have some fun.

MSR Racetrack is a very impressive place with some great people who

work there. They also have some of the world famous racers go there for practice. If you would like to work the track someday when they are having trials go to www.msrhouston.com/volunteer.

Cookbook Reminder

My goal is to be finished with the cookbook in October so we can have it printed by Christmas.

I am still in need of recipes of any category, photos of your Corvairs (a few from the good old days would be great) and any funny story that you might have about your car or our club. You can email me your contributions for the cookbook or if you send me a photo, be sure to write your name and address on the back and I will make sure that you get it back.

Dee Watkins

16239 CR 946

Brazoria, TX 77422

sniktaweed@msn.com

979-848-6713

Honorary Lifetime Club Member: John Noser

by Guy Bobkoff

(Editor's Note: Your Corvair Houston Board of Directors elected to extend an Honorary Lifetime Membership to one of the founding members of Corvair Houston: John Noser. This article is a tribute to John)

Corvair Houston members have heard the name "John Noser" for what must seem like forever. Pretty good reason for that: John was a driving force for the creation of Corvair Houston.

After serving in Vietnam as an Ejection Seat Specialist on the F-4 Phantom Jet (our deceased members Travis Jackson and Bob Blissard flew the F-4), John

returned to Houston from California towing a 1936 Ford Coupe with his 1965 Impala.

John settled in a large three car garage apartment across I-45 from the University of Houston while he studied Environmental Design. John's brother allowed his new 1962 Monza Sedan (4spd - a/c) to go on dates with John and his girlfriend (John steered, she shifted) . . . John was hooked.

John had soon traded the Impala for a '65 Convertible (Camaro rally wheels, body colored headlight doors, void of trim (Detroit followed by slowly de-chroming cars), while cousin Bob took on

the project of finishing the '36. This left John with room for a studio and a 2 car project space soon filled with Corvairs. First there was a \$50, '65 sedan . . . frozen alternator bearing . . . remove rear of alternator ,start engine, turn shaft with emery paper, new bearing, drive home, sell to help finance college Fun. Many similar projects followed.

Being creative, and a man of action, John had a name "Corvair Houston" but no club as of yet. Seeing other attempts not yet coming to fruition, John called an action group to session including Mike Garcia and Charlie Lee. Out of this came the pieces for the current logo and a plan for a first meeting in December 1974. With a calling list of 75 "Corvair Customers", and a CORSA roster, we soon had 39 members and Corvair Houston license frames on order.

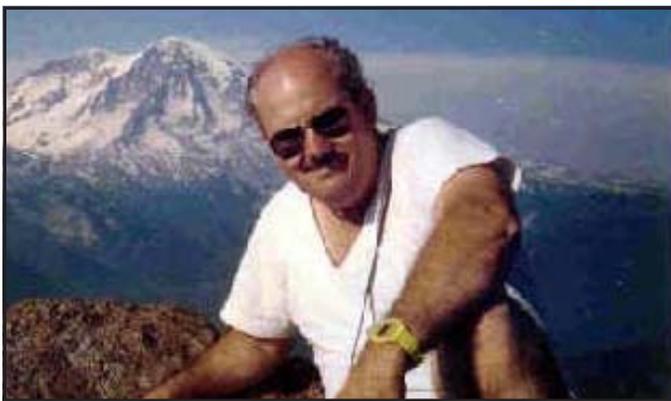
By February, with Tom Moore helping with the

newsletter, we had a viable organization that to this day brings loads of fond memories and life long friends together. (I attended, fearful it would be filled with grease covered hot rodders, it wasn't...). John served twice as president (charter) and twice as editor.

John, being a "Native Houstonian", his first days were at Heights Hospital, then Heights Boulevard before settling with his family on the edge of Garden Oaks, a few doors down from the F-4 Phantom parked at Fisher and Alba streets (Google that!) and around the corner from where Patrick learned to dance at his mom's, Patricia Swayze, Dance Studio.

Until recently, John owned a large 2 1/2 story - 1908 house in the Montrose. He also, in the early days, had a 100' long shop full of Corvairs, and a business, Dimensional Design, nearby. He enjoyed

Continued on Page 6



John Noser on Mount Ranier

the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

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 ricki.jannise@halliburton.com or rsjannise@gmail.com or snail mail to 13102 N Decker Dr, Magnolia, TX 77355.

Happy Anniversary To:

Robert & Kay Freeman	43 years	Aug 20
Tom & Joan Clarke		Aug 25
John & Patricia Mullins	43 years	Sept 4
Greg & Sandra Wrobleske		Sept 19

Happy Birthday To:

Victor Wenzel	Aug 17
Earl Raabe	Aug 20
Gail Dove	Aug 23
Joe Murphy	Aug 29
Ruby Manen	Aug 30
Sandra Wrobleske	Aug 31
Kevin Peakman	Sept 3
Corrie Wenzel	Sept 3
Gary Johnson	Sept 5
Nelma Boisjolie	Sept 9
John Spenn	Sept 10
Joan Clarke	Sept 13

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:



Corvair Houston Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Aug 15	CH Meeting	Doss Park	Mark Clarke
Aug 30	FF / Pool Party	D. Keseian's Home	Dave Keseian
Sept 12	Great Plains	Oklahoma City, OK	Mark Clarke
Sept 19	CH Meeting	Doss Park	Mark Clarke
Oct 17	CH Meeting	Doss Park	Mark Clarke
Oct ??	Camping Trip	Stephen F Austin SP	Mark Clarke
Nov 21	CH Meeting	Doss Park	Mark Clarke

Honorary Lifetime Club Member: John Noser (continued from page 4)

by Guy Bobkoff

redoing and restoring Corvairs, houses and anything with a nice patina, like a red 1940's Chambers Range or a piece of leaded glass, or sandblasting a classic design in his front door glass (Art-antiques-artifacts) (fossils).

Besides having kept Corvair Houston supplied with lots of cars and parts, John likes to travel. Besides trips to Europe, John has a late powered - '61 - 8 door (with a/c), dubbed "The Raccoon" by the club. The 8 door was set up for camping and travel with modified Corvair camping gear - which had a back seat by day and a bed by night - complete with an, install as needed, 110 volt a/c unit. (Ask John for instructions on how to change drivers while traveling in a high speed "convoy" - Celica bucket seats help). This van took he and his significant other on trips to Detroit, Toronto, Atlanta, Charleston, Savannah, Denver (45 Houston members), Dumas, and many other non-national convention trips. The Greenbriar stayed home for conventions in

Minneapolis (39 Corvair Houston attendees) and Birmingham.

John has owned gobs of Corvairs, his favorites include a Maroon '61 Lakewood, the '61 8 door van, most any "late", including 3 a/c Corsas (two convertibles and one coupe) - but no '60s, Loadsides or Spyderys. (John contends only no oil leaks or any turbo - only way to ruin Corvair engines)

The collecting and active Corvair participation fed the notion that "Every Corvair in South Texas was once owned by John Noser" (Take that, Greg Riley). John didn't just collect, he also innovated clever ideas in addressing Corvair body and paint modifications, suspension updates, air conditioning, etc. John towed his (now Billy Dove's) '61 rampside back from Denver with the 8-door (picking up a "coil on top -refrigerator along the way) stopping at radio station KDDD in Dumas Texas to commemorate the 8-doors early life as a portable radio station.

(Orange and Black - "Ding dog daddy from Dumas" logo on side) . . . Life was fun.

The last 18 years have mostly been in Seattle where he raised his son (now majoring in robotics near Boston) and enjoyed hiking, skiing, and travel in The Great Northwest.

John Noser has certainly enjoyed his Corvair

activities. Along the way he has been a driving part of a wonderful club that has given us all so many fun and learning experiences.

Most importantly he has given us good friends of a lifetime.

I have already thanked John Noser. Next time you see him, you might consider doing the same thing!

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Corvair Classifieds

1966 MONZA COUPE

Factory A/C, 110 hp PowerGlide, Cragar Wheels, 91,000 miles, Pioneer AM/FM CD with Sony Speakers and Amp. Very Clean Interior. Second Owner. \$8,000 , trade or best offer. Pasadena Area. Contact Robert Yates (713) 253-1715



1969 110HP Engine

I am the owner of a 1969 Corvair engine that I ran on my air boat. I took the motor off several years ago after it developed an oil leak around one of the valve cover gaskets. It ran great at the time I removed it. I don't know much about them other than it is a 110 HP 1969 model. All the parts are there as far as the engine block are concerned. The price is \$400 or best offer.

Contact Shaun C. Lawson via email

shaun@legacy-landscape.com, or call (281) 221-3894

1962 700 FOUR DOOR

PowerGlide. Runs - oil leaks, Right Carburetor Should be Replaced, Needs Tires, Battery and Body Work. Some Rust on the Top Edge. Asking \$3000.00 but the Price is Negotiable. Located in Goldthwaite, TX. Contact Buck (325) 938-5404 or hideaway@centex.net



1966 Monza Coupe

110 hp, pg, maroon with black interior, located in Center, Texas (about 30 miles east of Nacogdoches). Contact Billy Hairgrove at 936-598-5291 (work) or 936-598-6127 (home after 6:30 pm) if interested. Asking price is \$1,200.

Late Model at Pull-a-Part

Terry Scott spotted a Corvair at a Memphis "Pull-a-Part" <http://www.pullapart.com>. Mobile number is 901-674-0099. Late model, turq/Blue, and intact, no interior seen. Clean lot, up on blocks and offered for sale by part. He has offered to stop by the lot and help getting it shipped.

News Update: Audrey Tidwell

Thankfully, Audrey Tidwell is recuperating at home from her long ordeal after abdominal surgery. Audrey and Mike would like to thank the members of Corvair Houston for the thoughts, prayers, flowers and, of course, all

the food delivered to Mike and the boys during her hospital stay. The support provided was beyond all their expectations and left them speechless.

Audrey and Mike send a heartfelt "THANK YOU!"

Letter from Bette Weaver, Mother of Mark Clarke

Dear Corvair Houston,
We appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending such beautiful flowers to my husband's funeral services (6/15/08). They were taken to the First

Baptist church after the funeral for their Sunday service, so they were enjoyed by many.

Thank you for this remembrance.

Bette Weaver

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



Corvairs and Friends - Under the Brazoria Oaks...

Deliver to:

CH MEETING AGENDA: GREASE PACKING REAR WHEEL BEARINGS

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.

2008 Officers:

President	Mark Clarke	281-217-8573
Vice President	Jon Protteau	936-582-1228
Secretary	Jim Watkins	979-548-1313
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	Matt Feehery	832-767-4599
Director	Tony Pomponio	281-363-9250

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	Dave & Gail Brown	281-579-9321
Car Locator	Guy Bobkoff	713-666-0475
Website	M. Clarke & D. Brown	281-217-8573
H.O.T. Chairperson	Greg Wrobleske	281-356-5542