

Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2009

This month: Club Meeting August 21st at Doss Park, Club Bowling Night August 22nd at Tomball Bowling Center near Lowes on 2920, Pool Party September 5th at Dave Keseian's



Dave Brown Wins Second in the Autocross Competition at the Convention

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Driver's Seat

by Jim Watkins



I was planning to go to the Brenham Fireman's Car Show in Brenham this weekend but ended up needing to work so I missed it. Maybe next year we can get some members together to make the trip. I had been contacted and asked to participate since they had never had a Corvair in their show. The past few weeks I have been approached by several people who have come up to me and asked what kind of car my white coupe was. It seems like, now that the Corvair has been out of production for 40 years, that there are a growing number of people who have never seen or heard of a Corvair. I think it's time for a "National Corvair Awareness Day", maybe it's time to call Obama.

Niftee 50tees's started out real slow last night

(August 8th) but by 7:30pm it had filled up with a lot of fine cars, even some that didn't look like a car. Still not sure what it was but it did have "Ford" on the rear and only one tire on the front. We had six Corvair's; including two Rampsides, show up for Niftee 50tees.

Who's counting how many FC we have in the club now? More than a dozen that I know of and the numbers are climbing fast, with the addition of the two new ones picked up by Ed Walsh this last week.

Our next meeting will be August 21st at Doss Park. At the meeting Dave Brown will be going over his recently restored front suspension and all that it takes to get it back in new condition.



The Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Administration Medical Center




The donated 42" HDTV in use in a DeBakey VA Hospital waiting room


We are planning to have a get together on Saturday August 22nd at the Tomball Bowling Center on Hwy. 2920 just west of Hwy. 249. It's been over 30 years since I've thrown a bowling ball so come on out and bowl a few games with us. We'll be there from 2 pm 'til 5 pm. Afterwards we will be going south to the Niftee 50tees for the evening show of beautiful cars and trucks and listen to good music.

On September 5th Dave Keseian will be having a pool party at his home in Magnolia. Last year a great time was had by all. This year we will not be having Mike's great catfish but we will have to make do with

hot dogs and hamburgers.

We are still trying to support "TV's for the V.A." by collecting donations for more large screen TV's to be placed in the waiting rooms of all the clinics. We collected about \$130.00 at this month's board meeting and Niftee 50ftees last night. Thank you for your continued support for this fine cause. We can never do enough for our veterans. 

ON THE COVER

Dave Brown is awarded the plaque for second place in the Autocross Competition at the 2009 CORSA Convention held in Jacksonville, Florida by MC John Policella. 

Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



July, which is named after Julius Caesar, was hotter than June, which was named after his wife, Junius, whose maiden name was Soprano of the Sicilian Soprano family, and who was a direct ancestor of Tony, who you might have seen on HBO. Anyway, it was too hot to drive around in non-air-conditioned Corvairs very often in the day time, but Corvair Houston members did manage some night-time activities.

A group of sixteen caravanned to the Showboat Drive-In Theater in Hockley, Texas on 2920 just west of Tomball for a double feature of action and comedy: Transformers 2 and Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs. Corvair Houston movie critics, Ricki and Sally Jannise, gave both films three and a half thumbs up. Sally gave them two thumbs up, but Ricki has spent so much time using his chain saw lately that he can't straighten his right thumb. His wood pile is creeping from his yard out into his

driveway, and Ricki is talking about putting in an overpass to his garage.

Club members also gathered at the Niftee 50ees Saturday night car show at the Kroger store on Spring Cypress Road just off Highway 249 in Tomball. Hundreds of classic cars and hot rods gather every Saturday from March through October, and Corvair Houston members are regular participants. On July 11, our son and a friend from Lubbock were visiting, and neither has seen many car shows. They thought that riding in Old Blue, our '62 Corvair convertible with the top down and the speakers cranked up playing old time rock and roll was pretty "rad". (Translation: "rad" means radical. We would probably say "nifty", "keen", or "swell".) Upon arriving at the show, they were amazed at the number and



1958 Pontiac Star Chief



1951 Mercury and grill


variety of cars, and they were particularly enamored of the chrome that cars used to have. Among the cars these two young men most admired were a 1958 Pontiac Star Chief with chrome all over the place, a '51 Mercury with a great big toothy chrome grill, a '47 Lincoln Continental whose owner popped the hood to allow these young ones to see a genuine V-12 motor for the first time in their lives, a '54 Corvette with a Blue Flame Six (who ever heard of a six cylinder Corvette?), and a '59 Chevy



1947 Lincoln

wagon; they loved that low rider with the bat-wing fins. With big grins on their faces, they kept saying, "Bring on the chrome."

If you have never been to a Niftee 50ees gathering, stop in some Saturday from 6:00 until 9:00 P.M. Corvair Houston is usually gathered right behind Wendy's, and there is always room for one more. For more information, see www.niftee50ees.com.

We will omit this month's animal story to allow more space for David Brown's report on the 2009 CORSA convention in Jacksonville. 



1954 Corvette with the Blue Flame Six

2009 CORSA Convention

by Dave & Gail Brown

Another great convention is now behind us. There were a few 'hiccups' in the overall event, but we have come to appreciate these, as they do occur at *every* one (it's always a volunteer operation) and I think it adds to each convention's personality. It was a nice drive for Gail (we trailered the '69) and I do have to admit, it was nice to know the car was the same rolling off the trailer as it was in my garage back in Katy. The highlight for me was looking for & buying a bunch of parts that I needed for Gail's car (including a set of disc brakes!). We entered the economy run and enjoyed a beautiful drive in and around the Jacksonville countryside. I really tried to get good economy (sort-of) and ended up with close to 30mpg. The winning car (a 140 Corsa, no less) got something like 48mpg. I'm wondering how much they actually pushed it!?! The other event, that I had been looking forward to, was the Autocross. I was happy to get a 2nd place; although I only had 1 (out of 3) good runs. It took me twice to realize that I was supposed to 'serpentine' around 4 pylons which got me hefty point deductions! The other features we enjoyed were: the Valve Cover races (won by Tom Fricker-NTCA!); the Dinner Boat Cruise; the Hospitality room (good chats, snacks, drinks & door prizes); several meetings we attended (Featured speaker: Joe Casey & Joe Case, Jr.- both Texans now! Joe was a supervisor on the '69 assembly line when #6000 rolled off!); and, of course, meeting up & spending

time with our 'annual' Corvair friends & meeting new ones.

Next Convention (2010) – Cedar Rapids, IA

The convention starts on Monday, June 21st through Friday June 25th. This should be a nice 2 day drive (stopping over in Tulsa) and we already have several people committed to go! Here's the info we have at this time:

The host hotel will be the Marriott.


Dolly Cole (Ed Cole's widow) will present the 'Ed Cole' award there in person!

The Car Show/Concourse will be at the City Park

The Valve Cover race will be a new track (designed by Bob Dunahugh- convention chairman) and will have a "drag-strip" light system for starting.

ALL money made from this convention will be donated back to CORSA!

The city of Cedar Rapids will donate \$5,000 to CORSA for having the show there!

They are currently collecting old Corvair t-shirts which will be made into a quilt. 



the Corvair
Houston

Bulletin Board

Let's Go Bowling!

On Saturday, August 22nd Corvair Houston members will meet at Tomball Bowling Center for an afternoon of bowling fun!! The games will begin at 2pm and conclude around 5pm, just in time to go to the Niftee 50ees Car Show at the Kroger on Spring Cypress. The bowling alley is:

Tomball Bowling Center
14435 FM 2920 Rd.
Tomball, Texas 77377-5509

We should be able to get in two maybe three games. Prices can be paid per game or per hour. Lanes can be rented for one or two hours for up to six bowlers. Single game prices are \$3.75 plus \$2.75 for shoe rental (if needed). Bring your own ball and shoes and let's have fun!!

Happy Anniversary To:

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------|--------|
| John & Jacy Jackson | 1 year | Aug 8 |
| Guy & Pat Bobkoff | 41 years | Aug 11 |
| Ed & Julie Murphy | 31 years | Aug 12 |
| Robert & Kay Freeman | 44 years | Aug 20 |
| Rufus & Lynne Youngblood | 22 years | Aug 22 |
| Tom & Joan Clarke | 64 years | Aug 25 |
| Roger & Rebecca Garrett | 7 years | Aug 31 |

Happy Birthday To:

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Tom Clarke | Aug 2 |
| Scott Crane | Aug 5 |
| Rachel Grimes | Aug 8 |
| Katherine Spenn | Aug 14 |
| Cynthia Ruiz | Aug 17 |
| Earl Raabe | Aug 20 |
| Liz Hopkins | Aug 27 |
| Ruby Manen | Aug 30 |
| Sandra Wrobleske | Aug 31 |

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

Corvair Houston Calendar

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>EVENT</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>CONTACT</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| August 21 | CH Club Meeting | Doss Park | Jim Watkins |
| August 22 | Bowling | Tomball Bowling C | Jim Watkins |
| Sept 5 | Pool Party | D. Keseian's Home | Dave Keseian |
| Sept 18 | CH Club Meeting | Doss Park | Jim Watkins |
| Oct 2 | NTCA Show | Weatherford, TX | Jim Watkins |
| Oct 16 | CH Mtg - Camp | S.F.A. State Park | Sally Jannise |
| Oct 17 | Grace Ch. Show | Katy, TX | Jim Watkins |

CORSA Corner

Welcome to the CORSA Corner. In a continuing effort to keep an open channel of communication between the CORSA Board and the individuals we represent, it was decided that each director would provide a companion article, to the CORSA chapters, to supplement their Directors Turn at the Wheel in the Communiqué.

In my August Directors Turn, I stated that this club is made up of individuals and that we are just like a family. We all have different opinions on the issues that affect our Corvair family, CORSA. I also know that we all realize that one of the keys to the success of this club is compromise. Let me give you a couple of examples.

On August 15th the board will vote on whether to retain our current management and publishing team or to hire a new one. I have no idea which way this will end up, but I do know that whatever the decision is, we will all have to compromise.

Another area that the

board is working on is the website. Volunteers have been contacted to help update and add some dynamics to the static pages of our website. This will help promote CORSA, offer a better first experience to newcomers and improve site navigation.

We have also received many requests to shorten the International Convention to three or four days. The Board, myself, and others, are researching ways to do this effectively. Our goal is to schedule the convention so it is easier to attend and more affordable for our members, but again there will have to be compromises.

We are also looking into the feasibility of a two or three tiered membership based around receiving the Communiqué in print or in electronic form. These are just a few of the issues we are dealing with right now. I hope this gives you some insight into all the work that is being done by your Board. We are all working hard to make the

right decisions for CORSA, but compromises will be inevitable.

I hope that all of you will be able to spend some time with your fellow CORSA chapter members this month. And if you don't belong to CORSA, just jump in and do it. I know you will really enjoy being part of such a diverse and interesting extended

family. As always feel free to contact me or your Division Directors with your comments or concerns. Our contact information is listed in the Communiqué and on the website, www.corvair.org. Thanks.

Jamie Reinhart

Cresco, Iowa

CORSA Central Director

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413-625-9776 www.corvair.com

Corvair Classifieds

1962 MONZA COUPE

Power Glide, headers, engine turns over- not sure if it runs, no title, needs paint, interior OK, all glass good. Parts or restore? Call Ricky Dryden at 979-826-8374 (work) or 979-525-3462 (cell) for best offer (Waller, TX).

TIRES AND WHEELS

I have a set of 4 185/80-13 tires that are in like new condition, already mounted on Corvair rims. I had bought them new a few years ago, just before sending my car to the resto shop. We decided to go with different tires/rims, so these essentially new tires are serving no purpose in my garage. I haven't a clue how to ship them, but am willing to sell the whole set for \$100 to the first person that comes by to pick them up. Please contact Chris in Austin at: 512-422-7336, and/or vaichris@gmail.com

1964 COUPE

My '64 coupe is for sale. Repainted to light beige just before HOT this year. 140 engine, this car is in excellent condition and is "show" ready. \$6000. Pictures available. Delivery to Houston available. Don Manen – donmanen@yahoo.com.

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



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...

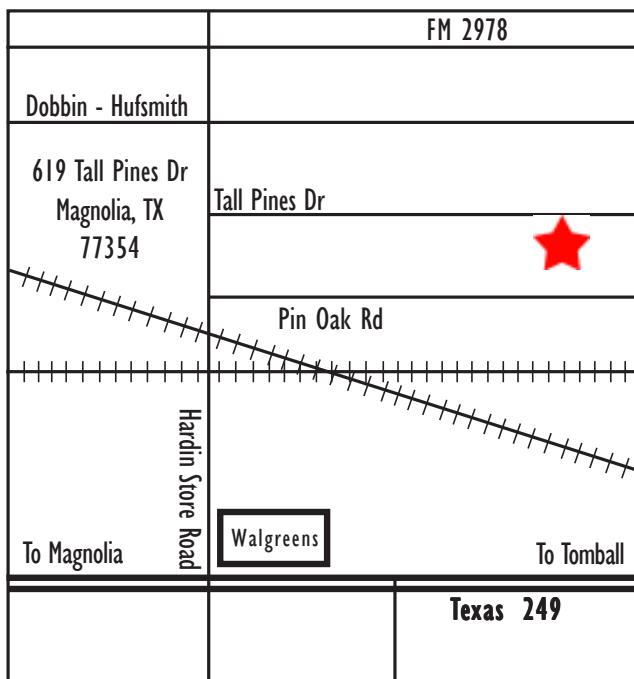
140 Secondary Carbs (any condition, as long as they're rebuildable) - 140 Linkage (Main Crossover only) - Headers for 140 - Good used Disc Brakes for 14" LM Wheels (front) - Contact David Brown, 713-410-9595 (c) or corvair69@gmail.com

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



Dave! There's gotta be a better way!!

**CLUB MEETING ON THE
 21ST AT DOSS PARK...
 TECH SESSION: FRONT
 SUSPENSION.**



Map to David Keseian's Home (Pool Party September 5th)

Deliver to:



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 |
| Director | Alan Dunlap | 281-203-9977 |

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 |