

Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 7

JULY 2010

This month: Regular club meeting at Doss Park on July 16th



Classic Corvairs blend in to the neighborhood in the historic Houston Heights

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Driver's Seat

by Tony Pomponio



What a great and “different” beginning to, what appears to be, a long HOT Summer (and that doesn’t stand for Heart of Texas)! Hurricane Alex roared its somewhat ugly head and created havoc all along the Gulf Coast – not to mention creating problems for the clean-up crews in the Gulf. If there is a somewhat bright side to all this, Houston needed the rain.

Well, plans are moving along for CH’s presentation of the remaining HD TV’s to be donated to the VA Medical Center. As we move closer to that special day, I will be notifying all as to the date, meeting place, et al. We hope to meet at 8AM at a location close to the medical center and then caravan there, make the presentation and display our Corvairs for an hour or so and then, those interested, will caravan to a local restaurant for a late breakfast/early lunch. We are hoping for a big turnout to show our support for veterans and all that they have done for us.

Plans are also under-

way to attend the Great Plains Roundup in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It’s scheduled for September 24-26, 2010. Host Hotel is the Embassy Suites. Rates are \$95.00 per night (1 King or 2 double beds). Book your room before September 16th to guarantee this rate. For more information please check out the Great Plains Corvair website.

Corvair Houston is trying to put together a car show in conjunction with the Corvair Heritage Day on Saturday, October 2nd. This is still in the very basic planning stage, so if any of you have any suggestions please email me with your thoughts. We can discuss it further at the

next regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

We’re also prepping for this year’s Autorama at the George R. Brown Convention Center Thanksgiving week-end. Car selection will be made by the Special Events Committee and the Board of Directors, with the permission of each car owner. And as usual, we can use a lot of help on set up date and also on tear down. Details will be in future newsletters.

I hope you enjoyed your 4th of July celebration. I realize some of your activities might have been dampened some what but that’s what so wonderful about Texas in general, and Houston in

particular. Don’t like the weather, wait 5 minutes and it’ll change.

It’s amazing! We are officially Two Hundred and Thirty Four Years old this year. Has any other form of government lasted this long? This is not a political remark but a historical fact. Once again, it’s amazing!



ON THE COVER

Shown on the cover are 3 late model Corvairs - Ed Walsh’s 1967 500 coupe, Mark Clarke’s 1965 sedan and Matt Feehery’s 1965 Corsa. The cars are parked in front of the Yale Street Grill located in the historic Houston Heights.

CH Supports VA Hospital

Shown to the left is a photo from April 2009 when Corvair Houston, under President Jim Watkin’s leadership, made an initial donation of 2 HD TV sets to the Michael E. Debakey VA Medical Center. We are nearing our goal of donating a total of 8 TV sets to the hospital. Your continued support of this worthy cause is appreciated!



Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



Since Houston summertime temperatures are usually warm enough to allow you to fry an egg on the dashboard of any non-air-conditioned vehicle, and since our trusty Corvairs are almost all in that category, current club president Tony Pomponio wisely chose to have a fun run on the morning of June 26th. (Tech tip: If you want to try to fry an egg on your dash just to see if it's really that hot, 1.) avoid placing the egg on the radio speaker grill, 2.) allow an extra hour of cooking time for a padded dash.) Fourteen Corvair Houstonians met at the Yale Street Grill, located in what was originally the

Yale Pharmacy with the same soda fountain stools and counter. The breakfasts are large and reasonably priced, which is something that appeals to us thrifty Corvair drivers.

After breakfast, a caravan of nine Corvairs and one Mazda 3 (Dave Keesian's '64 Monza needs some engine attention) drove across town to the Houston Maritime Museum where we were given a guided tour of model ships, navigation instruments, and marine artifacts. Among the sailing ships was a model of the Flying Cloud, which we learned from our very knowledgeable guide, was the clipper ship which

set a world speed record in 1851 which was not broken until 1989. The Flying Cloud sailed 16,000 miles around Cape Horn from New York to San Francisco in less than half the usual time thanks to the skill of her navigator, Eleanor Cressy, the Captain's wife. Can you imagine? 89 days of "Josiah, turn left. Josiah watch out for those shoals. Josiah, didn't you see that other ship coming? Another of the famous clipper ship models was the Cutty Sark; former sailor Tony Pomponio said that it is his all-time favorite ship, and he can tell you many, many stories about it.

From the museum,

some of us continued the fun run north to Tomball, where we had lunch at a new establishment called Bayou A Drink Bar & Grill. The food was good, and the air conditioning was better.

Our 4th of July fun run was originally scheduled for the 3rd of July in Brazoria with a car show in Bay City; however, the 14 inches of rain that fell that weekend washed out the car show part of the plan, so we just moved one day forward. Once again, we met early in the morning, this time at the I-Hop at 288 & 518 in Houston. Mike and Audrey Tidwell

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Corvair Houston makes a donation to the Museum



Tour of the Houston Maritime Museum

Corvair Power: If you can dream it, Corvair can power it

The versatile Chevrolet Corvair has not been manufactured since the middle of May, 1969. A lot of automotive water has run under the bridge in the forty one years since then and in the fifty plus years since the innovative American car first hit the streets. We have seen venerable brands like Studebaker, American Motors, Plymouth, Oldsmobile, and recently Pontiac, Saturn and Hummer reach the end of the line. Oddities like DeLorean and Bricklin have also come and gone in the interim. While many examples of the aforementioned brands are around for us to enjoy through the preservation efforts of their collective loyalists, perhaps none have been

as widely reconfigured/reinvented as the Corvair or more specifically the world renowned “pancake six” horizontally opposed air cooled aluminum powerplant it introduced.

I have found a few examples, rather a small handful of examples of this extra special “Heartbeat of America” powerplant being used in a number of ways most people have never seen or heard of. Given that a large number of Americans living today have never seen a Corvair or know anything about its unique history it is reasonable to assume that the average twenty or thirty something year old has no idea of the engineering that went into the development of this truly unique engine. Chevrolet chief

Ed Cole and his legions of designers developed a marvel of technology even by today’s advanced standards. The compact and lightweight air cooled powerplant was relatively economical, durable, and easy to work on. Once technology caught up with the Corvair in the way of seals and gaskets, the little engines early problems with copious oil leakage were mostly solved leaving its only room for improvement being the inability to produce vast horsepower/torque from it due to there being limits on the cubic inch capacity of the design itself

Nonetheless, even today, hundreds of thousands of the motors survive. Some run and some don’t and some are scattered into their vari-



by Brett Finley

ous parts in thousands of garages, barns, and storage facilities across America. The Corvair motor will never be known for mega horsepower or unlimited torque but it will certainly be known for a myriad of other reasons, not the least of which is its versatility. Here I have included a very small number of Corvair powered vehicles for your viewing pleasure. Remember, this is just a handful of the known applications of the mighty all American boxer six. Enjoy. 



Corvair powered Motorcycle

Corvair powered Helicopter

Corvair powered Boat

the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

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.

Great Plains Roundup

Be sure to make plans now to attend the Great Plains Roundup in Tulsa on September 24-26. The event is sponsored by the Green Country Corvair Group in Tulsa and will be held at the Embassy Suites Tulsa I-44. The event will include valve cover racing, slo-drag, people's choice car show, concourse, tech sessions, hospitality suite and awards banquet. This should be a great event to close out the 50th anniversary celebration. For more information, check out the Green Country Corvair Group website at www.tulsa.com or contact event chair, Marv Luke at 918-250-1500 or by email at mluke@cox.net.

Happy Anniversary To:

Ricki & Sally Jannise	34 years	July 10
Greg & Ronnie Riley	18 years	July 10
Jerry & Loretta Kelley	45 years	July 16

Happy Birthday To:

Meredith Grimes	July 3
Jeff Moser	July 4
Jim Watkins	July 14
Lloyd Jannise	July 18
Carroll Alford	July 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 \$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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 16	Club Meeting	Doss Park	T. Pomponio
Aug 2	Board Meeting	Fuddruckers HW290	T. Pomponio
Aug 20	Club Meeting	Doss Park	T. Pomponio
Sept 7	Board Meeting	Fuddruckers HW290	T. Pomponio
Sept 17	Club Meeting	Doss Park	T. Pomponio
Sept 24-26	Grt Plains Rdup	Tulsa	T. Pomponio

Rearview Mirror

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led our caravan from there to Jim and Dee Watkins home near Brazoria. On the way, we couldn't help but notice that nearly everyone in that area appeared to have waterfront property, thanks to the 14 inches of rain. It's a scenic area with a great many large Oak trees hung with what resembles Spanish

Moss, but is some other airplant whose name Jim Watkins told me, but I forgot. We spent a pleasant day socializing and enjoying fajitas, fresh fruit, and other fine food thanks to Sally Jannise and Dee Watkins. There is nothing that beats good food and good company.



by Jon Protteau



Celebrating July 4th at Jim & Dee's in Brazoria

Clark's Corvair Parts®

Clark's has been your supplier for quality repros for the past 37 years.

This year, we expect to reproduce even more parts for your Corvair.

See the Supplement for the following:

VARIOUS NEW FC ITEMS

1964 TRIM TURBO PARTS

STAINLESS GAS TANK SENDERS

LATE MODEL STEERING COLUMN

PARTS

650 Page 2007-2012 Catalog

USA - \$6 CANADA - \$9.95 Most Other Countries - \$12.95

Clark's Corvair Parts®

400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-9776 FAX: 413-625-8498

www.corvair.com email: clarks@corvair.com

Clark's Corvair Parts®

CATALOG SALE

Over 650 pages; 3+ Lbs.; over 15,000 parts. You need the 2007-2012 catalog.

The following offers are good February, March & April 2010:

\$1 with a parts order over \$20

\$3 in USA (shipping included). Order by phone, fax, mail or email.

\$5 To Canada (shipping included). Order by phone, fax, mail or email.

Clark's Corvair Parts®

400 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

413-625-9776 FAX: 413-625-8498

www.corvair.com email: clarks@corvair.com

Corvair Classifieds



1966 Monza coupe with Factory A.C \$1,500

4 speed, comes with '66 RB 140, '66 Corsa dash and glove box lid, '66 posi differential, complete front suspension overhauled. Contact Mike Tidwell at 281-748-4576.



1962 Monza coupe \$4,000 OBO

Most everything is new and there is way too much to list so call for more information. Most of you know this car as Audrey's car - this is a beautiful car if you have not seen it. Contact Mike Tidwell at 281-748-4576.

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

Need Late Model Engine

I am looking for a late model engine for my 1965 Monza Convertible. Please call Dick Pirkey at 281-420-5914 (home) or 281-420-4550 (work) if you have an engine you are willing to part with.



1965 Monza coupe, with A.C asking \$3,200

The car starts great, runs very well. A rebuilt '66 engine (110 hp / 6 cyl.) installed 4-5 years ago. Contact Doug Addison at 512-626-5772 (Austin area)

1965 Corsa coupe, with A.C asking \$2,000

Contact Dave Kesian at 936-689-8179. This car was previously owned by Mike Tidwell and was stored in his garage for years.

Corvair Houston
 1907 Iron Ridge
 Sugar Land, TX 77478-4116



1965 Greenbrier - prototype plan for the Tidwell clan

Deliver to:

**CLUB MEETING TO BE
 HELD ON FRIDAY
 JULY 16TH AT
 DOSS PARK**

Directions: Doss Park



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.

2010 Officers:

President	Tony Pomponio	281-974-5080
Vice President	Ricki Jannise	281-259-2256
Secretary	Jon Protteau	936-582-1228
Treasurer	Sally Jannise	281-259-2256
Director	Mike Tidwell	281-356-2043
Director	Todd Hasfjord	281-704-3848
Director	Ed Walsh	281-825-6361
Director	Brett Finley	832-717-7973
Director	Alan Dunlap	281-203-9977

Committees:

Membership & Library	Ricki Jannise	281-259-2256
Historian	Guy Bobkoff	713-666-0475
Merchandise	Dee Watkins	979-548-1313
Newsletter	Mark Clarke	281-217-8573
Events Coord./Photographer	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 Wroblekske	281-356-5542