

Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 7

JULY 2009

This month: CORSA National Convention July 13th, Club Meeting July 18th at Showboat Drive-In Movie



Tony Pomponio and his Winning 1964 Spyder Convertible

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Driver's Seat

by Jim Watkins



July will be a slow month for the club, mainly because of the heat. It is just a little too hot to drive with no air conditioning and stand around out in the sun.

We have moved our club members meeting for July from Friday the 17th to Saturday the 18th and will be doing something a little different this month. Let's hope the heat will be a little cooler on that day. For the club meeting we will meet

up at the Sonic Drive-in in Tomball Saturday evening between 4:30 and 5:00 pm. The Sonic is on FM 2920 just west of Highway 249 in front of Lowe's Home Improvement. We will leave Sonic at 5 pm and drive west to the Showboat Drive-In Theater. By going early and lining up we hope to all be able to park in one area together. They do not allow you to save spots



Jim Watkins and Todd Hasfjord pose with their Rampside



Dave Keseian and his 1964 Monza Coupe



Mike Tidwell and his '65 Corsa



Corvair Houston and Friends at the Watkins' July 4th Bar-B-Q

for late comers. The price is only \$5.00 per adult and \$4.00 for children (3 – 12) for two movies. There is a nice snack bar and you can get burgers, drinks and snacks there.

Be sure to bring your lawn chairs and a portable FM radio, if you have one, for the sound on the movie comes to you over an FM frequency. The Showboat Drive-In's website doesn't have what movies will be playing yet but it should be out in a couple days (Tuesday).

We will be discussing what the club would like to do to celebrate "50

Years of Corvairs". We are thinking of combining a camping trip to the Stephen F. Austin State Park and doing a Grace Christian Church Car Show along with the 50 year celebration. More on this at the drive-in. 

ON THE COVER

Tony and Gail Pomponio's 1964 Spyder Convertible won First Place for 1960 to 1964 Convertibles at the 4th Annual Classic Car Show in Richwood, Texas. Photo taken at the July 4th BBQ at Jim and Dee Watkins' home. 

Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



On Saturday, June 13th, the street in front of the Tidwell household was lined with the cars of Corvair Houston members who gathered to dismember early, late, and Forward Control Corvairs (see below). Dismember is not meant as some kind of butchering of these Corvairs, but it's more like the harvesting of organs for use as transplants: these parts will be used to restore other Corvairs to life. For example, the Powerglide transmission from the John Noser van will be used in Ed Murphy's Greenbrier while the motor will likely power my 700 coupe, and the sheet metal cut from the rear corner will reappear welded to Todd Hasfjord's Rampside. It was a hot day, and the disassembly of dirty, greasy old cars left the Disassemblers somewhat dirty and greasy, not to mention sweaty. Did I

mention that it was hot? But it was also a day of good humor, great catfish, camaraderie, and only a few skinned knuckles. A big thank you to the Tidwells for hosting this event and to the many club members who helped make this a successful activity.

On the following Saturday, June 20th, club president Jim Watkins led a group from breakfast at the Pearland I-HOP to Richwood, Texas for the 4th Annual Classic Car Show held at the Bobby Ford - Ford, Lincoln, Mercury dealership. With more than 100 cars in the show, Tony and Gail Pomponio's '64 Spyder convertible won first place in the 1960-1964 category, and they received a very nice trophy for their family room. The purple Spyder has always drawn attention at shows, especially from younger people, and the

recognition is long overdue. Congratulations to Tony and Gail.

For the 4th of July, Jim and Dee Watkins hosted a barbecue for the club at their home in Brazoria. People had words of praise for the pulled pork and sausage and all of the other great food which they washed down with reasonable quantities of golden cola. Once again, Corvair Houstonians enjoyed socializing on this most American of holidays, and the festivities were marred only by the engine trouble suffered by Todd Hasfjord's recently rehabilitated red-and-white Rampside. However, in spite of some belching of smoke and hiccoughing and rattling, the Rampside did make it home under its own power. Later in the day, half of the group caravanned to the Bay City Airport for fireworks, while the other half headed to Tomball for a Niftee Fifteens car show. Thank you, Jim and Dee, for your hospitality. (That rhymes.)

OK, it's time for this month's animal story. Two weeks ago, I was attacked by a deer for the third time this year! Driving on the recently opened Fish Creek Parkway which connects FM 1488 with FM 2854 just west of Conroe, a large doe streaked from the woods on the left side of the road and slammed itself into the left side of our Toyota Prius, mangling the fender and door. In the rear view mirror, I saw the deer spinning horizontally toward the shoulder, but with a pickup truck coming up behind, I wasn't able to stop to examine the damage to the car or the deer. Besides, there might have been more deer lurking in the trees, and I was unarmed. When I looked for the deer the next day, there was no trace of it. It had disappeared. Just like the one that hit Old Blue, our '62 Monza. Just like the one that hit Black Beauty, our '87 Ford truck. Just like the one that hit Herbie, our daughter's New Beetle. Is there a pattern here?



The Passing of a Corvair Houston Member: Berdene Tidwell

Berdene “Dene” Tidwell (shown below with her 1964 Monza) joined Corvair Houston in 2006 (when her son,

Mike, was club President) and remained a member of the club even after returning to her native state of Oregon in late 2007. If you

had the privilege of knowing Dene, then you knew that she was a true Corvair enthusiast. She also enjoyed ceramics, crochet and reading and of course spending time with her family.

(The following obituary is from the Baker City (Oregon) Herald on June 29, 2009.)

Ellen Berdene Tidwell (Bloom), 71, of Baker City, died June 26, 2009.

Berdene was born Sept. 28, 1937, in Oregon. She married Charles H.

Tidwell in 1963 and raised a family in the South, returning to Baker City to retire.

She most loved being a mother and grandmother, and spending time with her family and friends.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Patti and Lloyd Shaver; her son and daughter-in-law, Mike and Audrey Tidwell; her grandchildren, Rachel and T.L., Mike, Jean, Cliff and Charlie; and her great-grandchildren, Nykole, Aaron and Chianne. 



MORE RICHWOOD 4TH ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW PICTURES



the Corvair
Houston

Bulletin Board

New Members

We have TWO new members to announce this month!

6/19/09: **Rufus & Lynne Youngblood**

Corvairs: 1966 Monza Cvt, 1965 Monza Cvt, 1963 Spyder, 1963 Greenbrier. Rufus was in the club years back, left in 1998 and is re-joining again.

6/22/09: **Chaz & Samantha Cardiff**

Corvairs: 1966 Corsa Turbo Cvt, 1966 Corsa 140 Cp, Rampside. Welcome, from all of us at Corvair Houston!

Happy Anniversary To:

Scott & Naoko Brittin	37 years	June 24
Al & Astrea Fatica	17 years	June 27
Dave & Gail Brown	35 years	June 29
John & Catherine Spenn	35 years	June 29
Ricki & Sally Jannise	33 years	July 10
Greg & Ronnie Riley	17 years	July 10
Jerry & Loretta Kelley	44 years	July 16
Raul & Janie Garcia	27 years	July 22

Happy Birthday To:

Betty Jo Raabe	June 20
Silvia Grimes	June 21
Gail Brown	June 23
Waynette Clarke	June 23
Deborah Grimes	June 28
Greg Wrobleske	June 29
Meredith Grimes	July 3
Jeff Moser	July 4
Julie Murphy	July 7
Jacy Jackson	July 13
Jim Watkins	July 14
Lloyd Jannise	July 18
Chaz Cardiff	July 19
Vicki Crane	July 28
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 \$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

Corvair Houston Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
July 13	CORSA Conv.	Jacksonville, FL	Dave Brown
July 18	CH Club Meeting	Showboat Drive-In	Jim Watkins
August 21	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
Sept 18	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
Oct 2	Great Plains RU	Wichita, KS	Jim Watkins
Oct 16	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins

Your Help is Needed!

by Mark Clarke

As you know, Corvair Houston recently donated a 42" flat screen TV to the Michael E. DeBakey Veteran's Administration (VA) Hospital in April 2009. The VA Hospital has a total of 8 waiting areas and there is a need for a television set in each waiting area. Our area veterans are able to receive free health care at the hospital, but the wait time (for the veteran and concerned family members) can be quite long. Our club president, Jim Watkins became aware of this need a while back and saw this as an opportunity for the club to support the brave men and women of our nation's armed services. As a veteran, Jim knows first hand the sacrifice that our

veterans make to allow us the freedoms that we enjoy as citizens of the greatest nation on earth.

As a long term goal, Corvair Houston would like to draw attention to and support the effort to provide a TV set for each of the waiting areas. We could use your support as a club member to help get the word out and solicit donations from family members, friends, co-workers, employers and the general public. It is our hope that the club can secure outside (and member) donations with a matching donation from the club treasury (the cost to furnish and mount is approximately \$800 per TV). Our immediate goal is to donate another TV

to the Hospital by Veteran's Day which is November 11, 2009. I have set a personal target amount for raising funds for this worthy cause and I hope that you will do the

same. Contributions may be made in cash or check (payable to Corvair Houston with notation VA TV) and should be forwarded to club treasurer, Sally Jannise. ☺



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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

CORVAIR PARTS FOR SALE

5-13" 3-prong wire wheel covers - Show Quality, 1 set NOS 63-64 Headlight Bezels, 61-700 Dash & glove box door VG, 1-64 Exhaust pipe, 1-65 Turbo out, 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 Black, Beige, 1 set (A&B) Early bumper guards VG. 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

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



Todd Hasfjord and his Rampside at the Watkins' Bar-B-Q

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

**CLUB MEETING ON THE
 18TH SATURDAY!!
 SHOWBOAT DRIVE-IN
 THEATER!!**

Directions: Sonic Drive-In Restaurant - Tomball

