

Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2009

This month: Tidwell's Fish Fry and Auction June 13th, Club Meeting June 19th, Richwood 4th Annual Classic Car Show June 20th, Magnolia Main Street Crossing June 29th, Brazoria Bar-B-Q July 4th



View from the Control Tower at Hobby Airport

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Driver's Seat

by Jim Watkins



It looks like summer is upon us once again. With the temperature already over 90 degrees and the high humidity we need to be careful outside at all of the events that we attend. If you start feeling muscle cramps, light headed or sick be sure to stop, cool down and hydrate.

The club's next planned event is Mike and Audrey Tidwell's Fish Fry and Corvair Tear-down Auction on Saturday, June 13th. This year we have lots of cars to tear down, so even if you are not looking for any parts you should come on out and have fun with your fellow club members and help us remove the usable parts being disassembled. The event might even run

over into Sunday, so if you can, please come on out and help. So far we have two earlyies, one late, one Rampside and two vans. There will also be other parts for sale that have mostly been donated to the club and will be sold to help raise money.

It will be a hot day so be sure to bring and drink plenty of liquids and don't over do it.

At the June 19th regular club meeting I am going to try again to get the owners of "YourPowderCoating.Com" to attend and talk about what they do, or can do, for the ones who want to powder coat some of the parts of their cars.

On Saturday June 20th

we will be participating in the 4th Annual Classic Car Show in Richwood, Texas. Richwood is part of Lake Jackson which is south of Houston on Highway 288. The plan is to meet at the I-HOP at Highway 288 and FM 518 in Pearland at 8 AM. From there we will leave as a group for the 30 minute trip to Richwood. The show will be held at the Bobby Ford Lincoln Mercury dealership. Don't let that scare you, they will love our Corvairs. The car show is free; they will be serving free hot dogs and drinks with a live band performing. After the car show we plan on cruising north to the Niftee 50ee's car show at Spring Cypress and Champion Forest

Blvd.

Kelly Finley's cousin Tres Womack will be performing his music at the Main Street Crossing in Magnolia on June 29th at 7 PM. Come on out and listen to Tres, there is a five dollar cover charge for the music and you know the company is good. See you there.

At the board meeting there was interest in having a 4th of July party at our place in Brazoria. Again, we would meet up at the I-HOP at Highway 288 and FM 518 at 9 AM for breakfast and take the one hour trip to our place. This year we will be serving bar-b-que with the fixings. They are having a big Niftee 50ee's on the fourth and those of us who want to, will again travel north for the evening.

ON THE COVER

The Houston skyline and the 1940 Air Terminal Museum in the old Houston Municipal Airport building. Also, visible are the Corvairs on display for Wings and Wheels.



Fly-in Planes on Display at Wings and Wheels

Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



May of 2009 witnessed two major Corvair Houston events: our 3rd Corvair car show at the Hobby Airport Museum and the annual Craig Auction and Picnic. Both activities were well-attended, with Hobby Airport bringing out the most Corvairs as the auction requires some trucks to haul those Corvair parts and other items to and from the Craig Company site.

On Saturday, May 16, Hobby Airport visitors arrived to find a line of fourteen Corvairs arrayed in front of the 1940 Air Terminal Museum, and a fine display they made with exactly seven coupes and seven convertibles, with ten being the desirable early models and four the later models that some prefer. Our Corvairs were joined by a Chevrolet cousin, a purple '56 Chevy that received Tony Pomponio's smile of approval. The '56 was very well-done, and had a tasteful custom interior that complimented the deep purple paint. In addition to the picnic lunch



Corvairs lined up in front of the 1940 Air Terminal Museum

which the museum provided, we were given a guided tour of the unique art deco air terminal which is undergoing restoration. In addition to the museum area with its early airline artifacts, the main lobby has just been restored to its original elegance, complete with the original marble floor. In addition, we were given a tour of the modern airport tower just next door to the terminal to see close up just how air controllers coolly handle the many flights coming in and out of a major airport. And for a very special activity, current club President Jim Watkins arranged for the club members to see the Houston area from high above in a Vietnam era

Huey helicopter, complete with a 50 caliber gun mounted in the doorway. And since I had to leave the airport just as the Huey arrived, there is a special report from Corvair Houston board member Brett Finley.

The Craig auction and picnic has been the club's regular fund raiser for many years, and this year's held true to form as we hauled Corvair parts and

other items usually of an automotive nature to the Craig Company on Saturday, May 23. It was a good day. The weather was good, the food was good, and Todd Hasfjord got his Rampside running in time to bring it to the auction, and there is no better vehicle for hauling Corvair parts home. The club raised more than \$500.00, and nearly all of the donated items were sold, except for the Jaguar wire wheels which will continue living in my garage. Dave Brown admired them as he helped me load them back in the truck, but said that he would prefer the disc-style wheels for his "Jag-u-ar." And that will have to suffice for this month's animal story. 



The 1940 Air Terminal Museum in the old Houston Municipal Airport

The Passing of a Corvair Houston Member: Glenda Willhelm



Glenda Willhelm, Bob Willhelm's wife, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly last Friday from an acute illness. Bob and Glenda Willhelm have been members of Corvair Houston since September of 1975. Glenda is often remembered for her Corvair Houston front cover picture riding a faux-Corvair 140 lawn mower. She also served as Hospitality Director in 1978. *(The following obituary is from the Houston Chronicle website June 7, 2009. – Editor)*

GLENDALU
SHUMAKER
WILLHELM, age 66, of

Houston, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, the 5th of June 2009. Born in Dallas on Christmas Eve day of 1942 to the late Glen and Lucille Shumaker, she graduated from Highland Park High School and received her BBA from Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth. She was an active member of the Kappa Delta Sorority. Glenda worked as a training representative for IBM, where she developed many lifelong friendships. Following her tenure there, she began working for St. Agnes Academy as an administrative assistant and was still serving at the Academy when she passed. Glenda was a faithful member of Second Baptist Church, where she was active in the Beacon Bible Study Class. She was

dedicated to her family and to her many friends. She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Bob Willhelm; her daughter, Carrie Muchaw and husband Ben; and her beloved grandsons, Weston, Mason, and Bryce Muchaw. She is also survived by her brother, David Shumaker and wife Suzanne. Friends are cordially invited to a visitation with the family from six until eight o'clock in the evening on Monday, the 8th of June, at Geo. H. Lewis & Sons, 1010 Bering Drive in Houston (77057). The memorial service will be conducted at eleven o'clock in the morning on Tuesday, the 9th of June, in Sanctuary of Second Baptist Church, 6400 Woodway Drive in Houston



July 1978 Newsletter Cover

(77057), where Rev. Lee Maxcy will officiate. Immediately following, all are invited to greet the family during a reception in the Deacons' Parlor. Prior to the service, the family will have gathered for a private interment at Forest Park Westheimer Cemetery. In lieu of usual remembrances, contributions in memory of Glenda Willhelm may be directed to a charity of one's choice. 

Wings and Wheels 2009

by Brett Finley

I'm sure you have all heard about the Corvair Houston trip to Hobby Airport on Saturday, May 16th 2009 at the 1940 Air

Terminal Museum. We had a great club turnout this year (the best ever for this event!) with 14 Corvairs representing both early and

late body styles and one very cool 1956 Chevy in a Pomponio-esque metallic purple paint scheme. From 500s to Corsas to

Spyders to Monza 900s, hardtops to convertibles, automatics to standards

Continued on Page 6

the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

MORE WINGS AND WHEELS 2009 PICTURES



The Ticket Desks in the 1940 Air Terminal Museum



All Aboard for a Helicopter Ride!!

Happy Anniversary To:

Matt & Kim Feehery	24 years	May 26
Lloyd & Claudeann Jannise	6 years	June 12
Earl & Betty Jo Raabe	40 years	June 14
Jon & Betty Protteau	37 years	June 17
Barry & Kelly Pritchard	20 years	June 17

Happy Birthday To:

John Spenn	May 17
Shirley Alford	May 20
David Hopkins	May 20
Kay Freeman	May 23
Matt Feehery	May 24
Ray Rosenbaum	May 27
April Grimes	May 30
Kim Feehery	June 1
Greg Fox	June 1
Ruben Ruiz	June 2
Greg Riley	June 3
Charlie Craig	June 7
Gail Pomponio	June 8
Suzie Protteau	June 17

New Members

I would like to resurrect a short note that, for some reason, slipped out of the newsletter a number of years ago, and list our newest members in Corvair Houston. To start this off, please note (and welcome!) the following new members for the last 6 months:

2/26/09: Raul & Janie Garcia, 1962 4-dr Sedan, CORSA member

3/18/09: David & Liz Hopkins, 1961 Loadside (& Rampside now), CORSA member

5/15/09: Jim & Vicki Alexander, 1960 4-dr Sedan
David Brown - Membership

Corvair Houston Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
June 13	Car Tear Down	Tidwell's House	Mike Tidwell
June 19	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
June 20	Classic Car Show	Richwood, TX	Jim Watkins
June 29	Main Street Xing	Magnolia, TX	Jim Watkins
July 4	Bar-B-Q	Brazoria, TX	Jim Watkins
July 13	CORSA Conv.	Jacksonville, FL	Dave Brown

Wings and Wheels 2009

(Continued from page 4)

by Brett Finley

we had the cars covered!

Our event included a guided tour of the work in progress vintage air terminal, lunch and a guided tour of the actual working Hobby airport control tower. As a very exciting extra, Jim Watkins arranged for those who wanted to do so to ride in a 1974 vintage UH-1 "Huey" helicopter! After a nice breakfast gathering at the Tel-wink Grill at 4318 Telephone Road, we drove the short distance to the old terminal building and took to our favorite pastime of catching up and trading Corvair updates. On the way down, yours truly experienced a bit of transient chest tightness which fortunately turned out to be nothing serious but I am grateful for everyone's care and concern.

Gail Pomponio turned out to be our second casualty of the day when she took an accidental spill on an uneven concrete surface which resulted in an upcoming shoulder surgery to fix a rotator cuff injury. We wish our blonde bombshell the best this

week as she undergoes corrective work on the shoulder! We had a lunch of hotdogs and chips with cookies for dessert after touring the very historic terminal building and museum. Vintage aircraft were on display for our collective enjoyment and the guided tour of the working terminal was extremely interesting and informative.

Those who wished received a thrilling ride in the vintage Huey helicopter as groups of 4-5 took turns taking off from the Million Air facility and riding about 15-20 minutes around south Houston. It is truly amazing to take a ride in such a historic aircraft and everyone raved about the colossal fun one can have simply by being a member of the best car club in the country. We departed as distant rain clouds gathered on the western approaches courtesy of a sneak peek at the FAA advance weather radar in the working terminal and my beloved 1963 Spyder garnered the hard luck

award, suffering a systemic brake failure about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way home. Fortunately, Colonel Tidwell was on hand to help nurse the errant Spyder back home. Mr. Dunlap and Mrs. Finley had to shut their eyes and wish for the best as I drove

the erratic car back to Tomball where we joined the Tidwell clan for BBQ as Mother Nature washed our cars free of charge. Be sure and check out the photo spread on the Corvair Houston website! Up, up and away in the jolly green Huey!

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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



Let's go for a helicopter ride at Wings and Wheels!

Deliver to:

CLUB MEETING ON THE 19TH... TECH SESSION: POWDER COATING

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.

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