

# Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2010

This month: Regular club meeting at Doss Park on March 19th, San Jacinto Car Show on Saturday March 20th, Niftee Fifteens on March 27th and April 3rd, HOT April 9th - 11th



## Brazoria Car Show and Fish Fry

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# Driver's Seat

by Tony Pomponio



What a great Saturday we had on March 6<sup>th</sup>. We gathered at the I-Hop in Pearland (Mike & Audrey Tidwell, Sally & Ricki Jannise, Jerry & Loretta Kelley, Gail and I (The Pomponios), Mark Clarke, Ed Walsh and Alan Dunlap). After a hearty breakfast we caravanned to The Brazoria County Charity Car Show. We were met by Jim Watkins and his Greenbrier as he had a section reserved for Corvair Houston. He was joined shortly by his wife Dee and her 63 Coupe and their daughter, and granddaughters and their Rampside. Waynette Clarke joined us later that afternoon. The weather was great – a breeze with

partly cloudy skies. The car show had a parade with a variety of motorcades. The show ended with awards in a variety of categories. Jim Watkins won recognition for both the Greenbrier and his 1963 Coupe. Awards were also won by Ed Walsh, Mark Clarke, Ricki Jannise and one for the “Purple” car. Additionally, the kids from the Boys & Girls Club of Brazoria County awarded the “purple” car a special T-Shirt signed by many of their members. The show ended and once again we were on the road caravanning, this time to Jim and Dee Watkins place for a fish fry – but first we had to catch our own in Jim’s fishpond. Poles were

provided and before you could say “What the . . .” Mike Tidwell pulled up the first catfish. As soon as his second line hit the water he snagged another. Both pretty good size. But wait, Ricki Jannise hit a whopper and then a second one. Then it was Loretta Kelley’s turn followed by Mark Clarke. Todd Hasfjord arrived on his “two-wheeler” and joined in. Unfortunately Todd, Jerry Kelley nor I were lucky that day. Alan Dunlap was working feverishly on putting in a headliner in Jim Watkin’s van. The fish were filleted and cooked to perfection by Mike Tidwell (with the help of the “batter makers” inside Dee’s home). Mike

summed up the evening by saying “great fresh fish, great drinks and GREAT company – it doesn’t get any better than this!”

March and April are filled with many activities and events – The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Old Car Picnic on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the San Jacinto Battleground State Park. Corvair Houston will be meeting at Denny’s on I-45 South (Gulf Freeway) and Woodridge Exit on the west side of the freeway at 7AM for breakfast. Gates open at 9AM. When we finish breakfast we’ll all caravan to the Battlegrounds. There’s a \$5 donation per car. There is a food concession at the grounds.

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## ON THE COVER

Mike Tidwell, Mark Clarke, Ricki Jannise and Loretta Kelley proudly display their catch from the Watkins’ catfish pond following the annual Brazoria County Charity Car Show.



# Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



It was a cool, but sunny Saturday for the Corvaire Houston Annual Pancake Breakfast held at Ricki and Sally Jannise's home in Tomball, and of the many Corvaire's surrounding the house and yard, it was a clean turquoise '63 Monza four-door that was a real attention-grabber. At first, I thought that Ricki Jannise had been burning the midnight electricity in his wondrous garage complex, and had finished re-assembling Sally's car, but this particular four-door belonged to two of the club's newest members, Jerry and Joanne Miller. Given the nice weather and a large turnout of club members, small groups floated in and out of the house socializing and discussing the many merits of the Corvaire, staying inside only long enough to sit down and enjoy a pancake breakfast which was as meritorious as the Corvaire's parked outside. Sally and her helpers kept the food coming as fast as we could fill our plates with the sizzling sausages and the pancakes slathered

with melting butter and maple syrup. (I'm getting hungry just thinking about it.) I don't know how many pancakes flew out of the kitchen, it would probably be easier to measure them by the hundredweight rather than pounds.

After a great breakfast, groups found their way outside to continue admiring Corvaire's. Members drove eight early and late cars, one Greenbrier, and two Rampides. Duane Baker, a long-time club member, had the engine lid up on his Rampide, and we noticed that the 140 sheet metal looked particularly good. Duane said that he had it powdered-coated years ago, but that it held up much better than paint. He recommended Superior Shotpeening, 13930 Luthy, Houston, Texas. Phone (281)449-6559.

Ed Murphy's family arrived in the white Greenbrier which he put back on the road after it had sat in storage for years. Ed said his Air Force technical background helped him do the extensive rewiring,

and his years of experience restoring Corvaire's didn't hurt either. Since I am one of the previous owners that had the Greenbrier in storage, Ed let me take the Greenbrier for a spin.. It's spacious, comfortable, and the 110 powerglide moves it down the road well enough to keep up with traffic.

Thanks to Ricki and Sally Jannise for their hospitality and to all of the club members who helped with the breakfast. The club also an additional-raised another \$237 for the Houston Veterans' Hospital through their donations at the breakfast.

This month's animal story is titled, "How I

Learned Not to Interfere When Two Miniature Poodles Get Into A Fight Over A Dingo Minibone." We have three poodles that were originally toy poodles, but over the years they have moved up a weight class, so they are now miniatures. They like food. In fact, if they had free access to food, they would probably look like fuzzy beachballs with little stubby legs. Gracie, who is nearly blind and has lost some teeth, always finishes her rawhide minibone in minutes, and then she stalks 15-year-old Sandy, who has teeth, but spends two or three hours gnawing on hers. As soon as

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Bridget: the one who didn't bite me.



# Driver's Seat

(Continued from page 2)

On March 27<sup>th</sup> Lone Star College and Niftee 50ees will be having a "Tech Fest", BBQ Cookoff and Auto Show, located at North Harris College campus at 2700 W. Thorne Drive in Houston. Further details will be available at our next monthly meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> at Doss Park.

Niftee 50ees kicks off

its 2010 Cruisin' Drive-In on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Krogers Shopping Center on Spring Cypress and Champions Forest at 6PM. A \$5 is requested to help defray the cost of insurance, security, et al. Hope many Corvairs will be there.

Then, of course there's H.O.T. in San Marcos beginning April 9<sup>th</sup>. We will

cover meeting places and times of departure at the regular March meeting.

Corvair Houston will be planning some half-day Saturday fun runs in the near future and other events. I think most will want to wait 'til Mother Nature warms up a little. If you have any suggestions concerning fun runs, events, or things we can do



by Tony Pomponio

as a club please feel free to call or email me or any of the board members. What makes a club good is a large membership – what makes a club GREAT is membership participation and contribution to its success – So participate and contribute and you'll feel better in the morning! See ya' at the meeting!



# Rearview Mirror

(Continued from page 3)

she gets a chance, Gracie slides in and steals Sandy's minibone. Bridget, the third poodle who came to us from the Tidwell family, minds her own business and doesn't get involved in this minibone snatching. Wednesday night Gracie and Sandy got into a snarling, whirling dogfight right

next to my chair in the family room. Thinking one of them might get hurt, I reached down to break them up like I have done many times before. It felt like I stuck my hand in a meat grinder, and it came back with a bloody middle finger. The dogs learned a whole bunch of

new words while I tried to get the bleeding stopped. Since it was already the Jay Leno hour, I waited until the next morning to go to a nearby Urgent Care Clinic and got a tetanus shot and properly bandaged up in exactly one hour for \$500 less than an all-night visit to a hospital

emergency room would have been. Since I don't know which dog actually bit me, they are receiving a group punishment: no Dingo Minibones for a week and (Corvair content) they don't get to ride to the post office in Old Blue with the top down the next time I go.



by Jon Protteau



# the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

## Heart of Texas Reunion

The 2010 Heart of Texas Reunion is coming on April 9th - 11th!! Alamo City Corvair Association is the host club this year and it will be held in San Marcos, Texas. Register soon!! You must register for both the event and the hotel room! The host hotel is:

The Embassy Suites San Marcos  
1001 E. McCarty Ln.  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

The number to call for hotel reservations is 512-392-6450. Be sure and tell them you are making your reservations for the Heart of Texas Reunion. The room rate is \$109 per night and includes a hot breakfast and daily Manager's Reception!! Check out the HOT web page on the ACCA website: <http://www.alamocitycorvair.com/hot2010.html> for all of the information and forms you need to register. Don't forget the event registration form (included with this newsletter and on the website). It must be completed and sent to:

Todd Girgus  
c/o Master Mailing Services  
3823 Thousand Oaks Dr.  
San Antonio, Texas 78217-1951

## Happy Anniversary To:

Mike & Audrey Tidwell                      14 years                      Mar 23

## Happy Birthday To:

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Trenton Moser    | Mar 1  |
| Todd Hasford     | Mar 3  |
| Jon Protteau     | Mar 4  |
| Robert Freeman   | Mar 7  |
| Dennis Svetlik   | Mar 7  |
| Rebecca Garrett  | Mar 7  |
| Geary Grimes     | Mar 8  |
| Charles Atkinson | Mar 13 |
| Mark Clarke      | Mar 23 |
| Barry Pritchard  | Mar 23 |
| Scott Brittin    | Mar 25 |

## 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](http://www.corvair.org)

## Corvair Houston Calendar

| DATE   | EVENT           | LOCATION          | CONTACT      |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Mar 19 | Club Meeting    | Doss Park         | T. Pomponio  |
| Mar 20 | Old Car Show    | San Jacinto Mnmt. | Ed Murphy    |
| Mar 27 | NF Tech Fest    | Lone Star College | T. Pomponio  |
| Apr 3  | Niftee 50tees   | Spring, Texas     | T. Pomponio  |
| Apr 9  | Heart of Texas  | San Marcos, Texas | G. Wroblecke |
| Apr 16 | CH Club Meeting | Doss Park         | T. Pomponio  |
| Apr 24 | Dewberry Fest   | Cameron, TX       | D. Watkins   |

## Blast from the Past - from Corvair Houston Newsletter dated April 1977:

CORVAIR HOUSTON HISTORY: CORVAIR HOUSTON was officially formed in December, 1974 by some 23 Corvair Enthusiasts who gathered at the home of Gene Marshall. By April, 1975 we had grown to a membership of 52 and today exceed 150 members. The long range goal of our club is simply to increase your enjoyment of the Corvair and to aid towards its preservation. To meet these goals, we endeavor to provide technical information, parts

procurement, and publications. We offer free ads in our CORVAIR HOUSTON NEWSLETTER to our members, and we participate in and sponsor car shows, rallies, autocrosses, economy runs and other enthusiasts events.

We love traveling to local points of interest and you can be sure the CB chatter will pick up as people see a Corvair caravan coming up the road. We also have parties, picnics, tech sessions and plenty of just plain Corvair talk. We invite you

to get to know CORVAIR drive Corvairs. See you HOUSTON. Remember...The nicest people soon!



### 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

## New Members

We have new members to announce this month!

03/01/2010: **Dick & Judy Pirkey**

**Corvair:** 1960 2-door 700 & 1965 Monza Cvt

03/07/2010: **Gary & Linda Blalock**

**Corvairs:** 1964 Spyder and 1962 Monza coupe

Welcome to you from all of us at Corvair Houston!

## Welcome Back!

We have former members rejoining!

02/20/2010: **Duane Baker**

**Corvair:** 1964 Rampside

02/20/2010: **Bill & Virginia Derby**

**Corvairs:** 1964 Spyder convertible

Welcome back to the club!

### 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

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# Corvair Classifieds

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## 1960 700 COUPE

Red with white interior. Appears to be near Kountze, Texas - 90 miles E/NE of Houston. Contact seller (Tilly Barrington) direct. 409-246-3707 [tbarrington@hughes.net](mailto:tbarrington@hughes.net)



## 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](mailto: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.

## Possible Parts Car for Sale

My name is Maria Berry and I have an early model Corvair sitting in the driveway. If you or any of your club members are interested please feel free to drive by and take a look at it. The address is 1313 Curtin St. Houston, Texas 77018 my cell is 281-216-5929. Tony Pomponio has seen the car and has photos if anyone has questions, please contact Tony at 281-363-9250



## 1965 Monza coupe, with A.C asking \$3200

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)

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## CH Dues Reminder

As always, our club dues expire at the end of the year and are due as of January 1st.

If you are a Corvair Houston member only, dues are \$25/year. If

you are also a CORSA member, your dues are \$20/year.

If you're not sure, contact Ricki Jannise as he has a current list from CORSA (281-259-2256,


[rsjannise@gmail.com](mailto:rsjannise@gmail.com)).

You can pay at the meeting(s) by cash or check or you can mail them to:

Sally Jannise at  
13102 N. Decker Dr,

Magnolia, TX 77355-8461.

Please make checks out to:  
**Corvair Houston.**

The March issue of the newsletter will be the last for those who have not paid their dues for 2010. 

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



Needless to say, he stayed over for the night

Deliver to:

**CLUB MEETING TO BE  
 HELD ON FRIDAY  
 MARCH 19TH AT  
 DOSS PARK**

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.

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 Wrobleseke      | 281-356-5542 |