

Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2009

This month: H.O.T. Preparation Mar. 14th, Old Car Picnic Mar. 15th, Heart of Texas Mar. 20th - 22nd
NO REGULAR CLUB MEETING IN MARCH!



Heart of Texas Reunion 2009 Logo

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Driver's Seat



by Jim Watkins

Time is really going fast right now for some reason. It seems like just yesterday we started planning for H.O.T. and now it is just about upon us. Everyone has been pulling together and working hard on H.O.T. and I feel that it will be one that we will all remember for a long time.

We have been getting tremendous support from Corvair suppliers, auto parts and services and other business friends. We have already taken some door prizes and stuff to Audrey and Mike's house. I have 4 boxes sitting in our living room, Dee's trunk has a couple boxes in it and she's been told by several companies that they will be sending items between now and H.O.T.

I have heard from several

members that they are going to bring quite a few parts to sell during the Swap Meet part of the car show, so get out your shopping list of what you need for your cars and maybe you'll be able to fill it.

We have set up three meeting places for the trip to New Braunsfels for all of you who would like to travel with others.

1. Thursday, 19 March, leaving 10A.M. from the Sonic @ Hwy. 290 & 1488

2. Friday, 20 March, leaving 8:30 A.M. from the Sonic @ Hwy. 290 & 1488

3. Friday, 20 March, leaving 8:30 A.M. from the Bass Pro Shop @ Katy Mills Mall

Contacts for each group are:

1. Jim Watkins at 713-301-6499 or Ricki Jannise at 713-702-6716

2. Mike Tidwell at 281-748-4576

3. Dave Brown at 713-410-9595 or Mark Clarke at 281-217-8573

Next weekend is a full weekend starting Saturday the 14th at Audrey and Mike's place where we will put the finishing touches together on the registration bags, Econo Run bags and getting all of the door prizes together to transport to New Braunsfels and, of course, enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs. Everyone is welcome and all of your help is appreciated. Saturday night is also the first Niftee-Fiftee's of the 2009 season and several people will be taking their cars to show.

Sunday the 15th is the Annual Car Show and Picnic at the San Jacinto Battleground State Park. We would like to get the trophy for the club with the most cars attending; I think we will need about 15 cars to be in the running for the trophy. We will

meet up at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at Denny's at 6969 Gulf Freeway (just north of 610 Loop) take the Woodbridge exit.

Remember the '61 Ramp that Mike and I went to pick up in Oklahoma a few months ago? Well, it is now up and running on its own. The engine sounds like new, no lifter noise at all and on the road there are no squeaks or rattles. I have a few more things to do to it and it will be ready for a few short road trips before H.O.T. It will be there one way or the other.

As I was going through the paperwork that I received with the Ramp, I found that it still had the plates from the 1st owner on it. I have all of the

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ON THE COVER

The official logo for the 13th annual Heart of Texas Corvair Reunion to be held on March 20th through 22nd at the T bar M Resort in New Braunfels, Texas. The logo will appear on event t-shirts and hats. 



Jim Watkins' Bull Dog

Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



February saw a change of venue for the Corvair Houston Annual Pancake Breakfast which was hosted by Ricki and Sally Jannise. This is one of the club's more popular activities, and it was as well-attended as usual. When asked how many members were there, Ricki said that he and Sally were too busy rustling up food to count how many were eating it. Although we usually have several photographers at our gatherings, nobody brought cameras to record this event, so the club has no photographic evidence to prove that we held a breakfast, but those in attendance will testify that the food was as excellent as always. Thank you Ricki and Sally for volunteering

your home and your time once again.

Club members have spent many hours under the leadership of Greg Wrobleske during the past several months preparing for the upcoming Heart of Texas event at the T Bar M Resort in New Braunfels. Based on the current registrations, more than a hundred Corvair fans from Texas and nearby states will be in attendance.

This month's true animal story involves a Toyota Prius, but there will be a Corvair connection. One evening last month, on assignment from The One Who Must Be Obeyed, (For unmarried readers, that means "wife") I pulled into the local Kroger lot, opened the

door of our Toyota Prius, and had a pigeon land on the arm rest of the driver's door. I shooed the pigeon off the door, closed it, and watched the pigeon fly up onto a perch on the rear door. I figured that if the pigeon wanted to sit on the Prius while I carried out my grocery-buying duties, it was no skin off my nose, and that the bird would find someone else to visit. Imagine my surprise 30 minutes later to find the pigeon sitting in the same spot, but with a two-foot white streak dripping down the door. Since the pigeon seemed to be waiting for another chance to get in the car, I cleverly opened the opposite rear door, threw the groceries on the seat, and slammed the door shut just as the pigeon scrambled across the rear hatch toward the open door. When I walked back around the car, the pigeon followed me around the hatch again. I jumped into the car, and the pigeon perched on the driver's window. I opened the

door again, and he jumped from the door to the hood. I decided that the bird needed to get off the car so that I could go home, so I reached out to remove him, and he ran across the hood. I ran around the front of the car, and the pigeon stayed a foot or two in front of me. We continued around the car, and that's when I noticed that a couple who had loaded their groceries in their Ford Explorer was now seated on the hood, and pointing and laughing at the chase scene. Soon, they were joined by other spectators who made helpful remarks like, "Why is he chasing the pigeon?" and "Is that his pet bird?" Pretty soon, there were eight or ten Kroger shoppers enjoying the free show in the parking lot, and most of them were rooting for the bird. Finally, I stopped at the hatch; the pigeon stopped at his perch on the back door; I slowly approached the bird, snatched him off the door, ran him out 100 feet from the car, set him

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The Notorious Prius Pigeon

C H Scrap Hounds ... Part 2

by Matt Feehery



(Editor note: The Full Title is "Corvair Houston Scrap Hounds United to Save, Scavenge and Salvage Corvairs - Part 2")

What was I thinking? I allowed myself to get caught up in the excitement of FC ownership and purchased a 1961 Loadside that could be described, at best, as a rolling compost bin. My newest acquisition was moved into a protected environment for the first time in 25 or 30 years on the day of the Corvair Houston Christmas party. There it sat through the holidays waiting for new owner commitment to occur. This particular truck is a sight to behold, mind you, but not quite the sight you are thinking of. As friends and relatives file by and encounter this beast of a vehicle, they ask what it is and some wonder if it belongs in a scrap yard rather than a covered environment. Ahhh! Where others see scrap, we see potential.

So yesterday, with


trouble light and excavation tools in hand, I donned my hazardous waste protection gear and began my assault on years of neglect and decay. I felt like a Discovery Channel anthropologist as I removed mounds of organic material from beneath and behind the seats. Close Encounters of the Dirt Kind. I kid you not--I shoveled and vacuumed out some 40 pounds of waste accumulation and insects from this vehicle.

This truck had served as a nest for all manner of North Texas and Oklahoma wild life. Generations of rodents were born in this vehicle, and some died there, completing the circle of life. I am certain that an eight-point buck also resided inside at one time.

This kind of debris removal effort gives new meaning to the term "interior detailing." As the hours went by and I could finally see light at the other end of the cab, I began to bond with this vehicle. I envisioned a surf wagon. You know, Cragar mags

and a bed cover with two surf boards mounted on top. Hey, with a new set of brakes and a few other necessary components, this baby could be road worthy in a few months. (I know the engine will run, but I still need to remove the nesting material and other crud from the engine.)

So now I am an official Corvair Rescue Ranger. I have owned five other

Corvairs in various states of operation and restoration, including one barn car, but this is my first true field-seasoned vehicle. I am boldly going where some of you have gone before and, at the same time, scratching my head, wondering why I am venturing there when I have two perfectly good drivable Corsas to enjoy. The saga will continue. Happy motoring. 

Mechanic's Corner

by Mike Tidwell

I usually don't write in the newsletter but something has been on my mind. There are different opinions on the subject and here is mine.

It is the issue of mechanics and the cost of auto maintenance. With the cost of car ownership (new, used or collector) going up year after year there have been cases of abuse. As it turns out, trying to have some government entity help, still can't protect the

ignorant from dishonest mechanics or shops.

So, with that said, it is not necessary to get greasy to be informed, there are plenty of the printed words in articles from many sources. But I think that when you find a mechanic that is fair and honest you should stick with him. These seem to be the price shopping times and that is not always the best way to go.

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the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

CH Dues Reminder

As always, our dues expire at the end of the year & are due as of January 1st. Several members are already paid through 2009. Thanks!

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 David Brown as he has a current list from

CORSA (281-579-9321, corvair69@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 2009.

Happy Anniversary To:

Kenneth & Laurel Peakman	19 years	Feb 25
Roger & Nelma Boisjolie		Mar 11
Mike & Audrey Tidwell		Mar 23

Happy Birthday To:

Justin Wenzel	Feb 20
Lani (Brittin) Lucero	Feb 21
Trenton Moser	Mar 1
Todd Hasfjord	Mar 3
Jon Protteau	Mar 4
Robert Freeman	Mar 7
Dennis Svetlik	Mar 7
Gearly Grimes	Mar 8
Cory Valdes	Mar 10
Charles Atkinson	Mar 13
Rich Purtell	Mar 18
Mark Clarke	Mar 23
Scott Brittin	Mar 25

Heart of Texas Reunion

The 2009 Heart of Texas Reunion is coming on March 20th, 21st and 22nd!! Corvair Houston is the host club this year. This year's event will be held at the T bar M Resort in New Braunfels, Texas. If you haven't registered yet, do it soon!! You must register for both the event and the hotel room! The T bar M Resort contact information is:

The T bar M Resort
2549 Highway 46 West
New Braunfels, Texas 78132

The number to call for hotel reservations is 1(800) 292-5469. You can also e-mail them at reservations@tbarm.com. 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 continental breakfast for up to four people!! Check out the HOT web page on the Corvair Houston website: <http://corvairhouston.com> 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:

Tony and Gail Pomponio
25610 Pecan Valley Circle
The Woodlands, Texas 77380

Corvair Houston Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Mar 14	HOT Prep.	Tidwell's Home	G. Wrobleske
Mar 14	Niftee Fiftees	Kroger - Spg. Cyp.	Jim Watkins
Mar 15	Old Car Picnic	San Jacinto Park	Jim Watkins
Mar 20-22	Heart of Texas	New Braunfels, TX	G. Wrobleske
April 17	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
May 15	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins

Rearview Mirror

Continued from page 3

down, and ran for the car. I slammed the door; put the dash lever (very similar to the Corvair automatic gear selector. This is the Corvair connection.) in gear, and drove out of the lot to the cheers and


laughter of the shoppers. But as I glanced in the rear-view mirror, I saw the pigeon running for all he was worth, and I swear that he had tears in his eyes.

True story. Check the cell phone photos. 

Driver's Seat

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registrations from the second owner from 1981 thru 1998 so I called him and he has sent me the unused Oklahoma license plate that he got when he first registered the Ramp in

1982. In the 27 years that he owned the truck, he said that he drove it to town once and to the feed store once and the only used it around his farm. The truck was a lucky find. 

Mechanic's Corner


Continued from page 4

by Mike Tidwell

As a mechanic myself, my view is he may be higher one time but lower another. If you have a good rapport with your mechanic you can help in diagnosing the fault and have the problem repaired faster. The other part is the cost of repairs; every business has overhead to take in as a factor in prices. Some shops have more then others location,

employee's salary and commissions are just some of the factors. But I feel shooting straight and honest is the way to go.

By the way don't expect miracles, or one day service, with your classic cars.

Rinn Tire in Magnolia does have in stock 185/80R13 tires. I found they are cheaper then anyone else. 



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Corvair Classifieds

1966 MONZA COUPE

Reduced: Factory A/C, 110 hp PowerGlide, Cragar Wheels, 91,000 miles, Pioneer AM/FM CD with Sony Speakers and Amp. Very Clean Interior. Second Owner. \$5,000 , trade or best offer. Pasadena Area. Contact Robert Yates (713) 253-1715



1962 RAMPSIDE

Very clean. It has a rebuilt '64 110 car eng, new brakes, good tires, gas tank cleaned, alternator upgrade, PG, lots of new parts. Solid truck no rust issues. Solid interior with carpet. I will send pics if some one is interested in your area. I am in Southern Ca., email me for pics, thanks Bruce! 760-961-2710

1964 MONZA COUPE

Very restorable condition, body exceptionally straight, e glass good, everything works except radio, engine & transmission work, clear Texas title...make an offer...What is it worth to other Corvair enthusiast?????. Tony DuVall, 2817 Graystone Rd., Longview, Texas. E-mail: vintage41@aol.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

This car has lots of options such as A/C, bumperettes, buckets, 4 speed, 95 hp motor, etc. It's a 15 year old restore with all the receipts, red on red. Was originally white. All original in appearance. Anyone in the club interested? Looks, and runs real nice! Please let me know. I think this car would be a perfect addition to the club. \$6500 obo. Jeff Taylor 949-395-7376 classicdad@cox.net



1964 MONZA CONVERTIBLE

It is white with a recent black top, the drive train is a 110HP – 4 Speed and has some minor rust. Asking price is \$5,000. Contact Bob Tucker at 713/468-5607 or e-mail bob@bobandmaggi.com



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

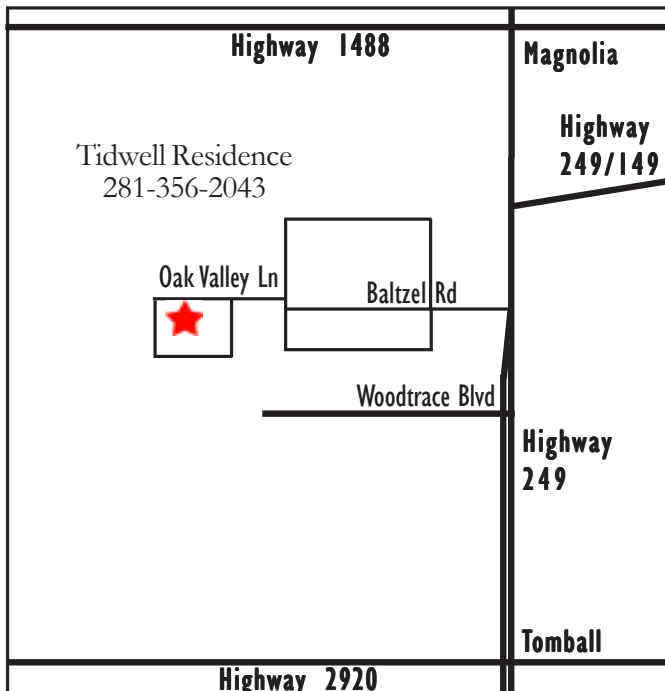


Now, that's an H.O.T. ceiling fan!

Deliver to:

NO CLUB MEETING THIS MONTH!!
H.O.T. PREPARATION AT THE TIDWELL'S MAR. 14TH

Directions: Mike and Audrey Tidwell



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