

# Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2009

This month: Camping trip to Stephen F. Austin SP, October 16th; Club Meeting and Grace Christian Car Show in Katy, October 17th; Conroe Swap Meet at Montgomery County Fairgrounds, October 30th - November 1st; VA Hospital TV Presentation and Car Show, November 7th



## Corvair Houston Award Winners at NTCA 50th Anniversary Show

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# Driver's Seat

by Jim Watkins



I just looked outside at the temperature gauge and it's 65 degrees and it sure feels good out there. It would be nice to get some moderate temperature days before the cold weather comes. The last three or four days with the high humidity makes it miserable working outside.

Last weekend those of us that were able to make it to Weatherford, Texas for the NTCA and Jerry's Chevrolet 50 Year Anniversary Car Show had a great time, even with a little rain it was still a lot of fun. For Dee and me it was a 352 mile drive, so again, we got the longest trip award.

Tomorrow, Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup>, I'll be up north at Mike's place pulling the engine out of our 1963 coupe again. This time, to replace the rear seal that has started to leak quite badly. I have now driven the coupe

23,600 miles since I put it together in February 2008 and I'm still on my first fan belt. I will be putting a new one on it when I pull the engine; it's a little more of a job with the add-on air-conditioner on it.

Next week end, the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of October is our club camp-out. As wet as it's been the past few weeks, let's hope that the burn ban has been lifted and once again we can sit around the campfire telling Corvair stories and maybe see the woodsman in the red suit wandering through the woods. On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> we will be holding our club meeting at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Grace Christian Church Car Show that is being held at 2001 Greenbusch Rd. Katy, Texas 77494. Our meeting will start around 11:30 a.m. There will be NO

meeting Friday night, October 16<sup>th</sup> at Doss Park. The car show will be giving Corvair Houston an area where we can park all of our cars together and will help us celebrate "50 Years of Corvairs". We are hoping for a large turnout at the car show. The entrance fee is \$15.00 and can be paid at the show. There will be hot dogs, drinks and chips available for 50 cents each. You can go to the club website for directions (*see map on page 8*). If you are not going to be camping with us, please come on out to the Stephen F. Austin State Park and have dinner with us and S'mores around the campfire later that evening.

Don't forget the three day Conroe Swap Meet the 30<sup>th</sup> of October through the 1<sup>st</sup> of November. I think a few of us will be going up Saturday morning, if you want to join us let me know.

We have been doing well at collecting money for our TVs for our veterans at the VA Hospital. We are

planning a Corvair Houston Car Show for them on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of November from 11am - 2pm where we will again be presenting the VA Hospital with another one or two 42" TVs for their waiting rooms. This time we will go on a little tour of the inside of the hospital. This is a fantastic hospital; I think there are more patients going there each day than most other hospitals have in a week. There are some great people there doing some great work.

If any of you have any suggestions of things that you would like to see our club do, please let me know and we will see if we can make it happen. 

## ON THE COVER

**People's Choice Awards: Dave & Gail Brown, Mike & Audrey Tidwell, Jim & Dee Watkins, Tony & Gail Pomponio. Longest Drive: Jim & Dee Watkins. NTCA Choice: Charles & Joy Blanton. 50/50 drawing to Sally Jannise. Thanks NTCA!**



A few of the Corvairs at the meeting at Advanced Gas

# Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



On Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, Corvair Houston set up a fund-raising car show sponsored by Advanced Gas, the welding supply company on Houston's South Loop. Sixteen Corvairs were arrayed in front of the building with eight earlies vying with eight lates for best in show. The owners and employees of Advanced Gas did the judging for the show, and from a selection of four early convertibles, one coupe, three Rampside pickups, two late convertibles and six late coupes, they chose Tony and Gail Pomponio's '64 Spyder convertible as the best of show. To add some

variety to the show, a like-new '87 Buick Grand National was parked next to the Rampside by its original owner.

While the show was in progress, Dudley Gray provided a tech session on finish-sanding the paint job on his 1966 Monza coupe which has the one-year-only Aztec Bronze color. It was amazing what a difference he made in just a short time by applying some 2000 grit wet sandpaper and rubbing the surface. He did emphasize the importance of letting the paint cure for a period of time before sanding.

Various door prizes were provided, and Ed

Walsh won a great cutting torch kit provided by Advanced Gas as a raffle prize.

After the show, President Jim Watkins led a caravan to a Mexican restaurant for a late lunch, and then on to an evening at the Niftee 50ees car show at Krogers near Tomball, where we set up the donation table to raise some more money for the Veterans' Hospital. Altogether on Saturday, the club raised \$132 toward another waiting room television.

The next morning, Corvair Houston members were up with the sun to work with the "4th annual Ride for Recovery"

by a motorcycle group sponsored by Hermann Memorial Hospital. Corvair Houston set up water stations and way stations for more than a hundred Harley Davidsons as they rode with Motorcycle Police at the head of the columns nearly 100 miles from the hospital on Houston's west side out through the rolling wooded countryside to Magnolia and Prairie View and back. As the columns passed, we fired up our Corvairs and fell in behind the bikes. It really is invigorating to see and hear and feel the vibrations from that many Harleys rumbling down the country roads together on a Sunday morning. According to club member and ride coordinator Matt Feehery, since Corvairs are air-cooled and American, the bikers like our company on the road.

During the weekend, we drove our Corvairs at least two hundred miles, and it served as good practice for the road trip to North Texas which was to follow.



Photographs from the Corvair Houston Club Meeting and Car Show at Advanced Gas



# Corvair's 50th Anniversary

by Tony Pomponio

Corvair Houston was invited to attend the celebration put together by NTCA and Jerry's Chevrolet in Weatherford, Texas Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> thru Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

A group of us met at FM 2920 and US 290 at the Jack-in-the-Box. The caravan included the Browns, Jannises, Blantons, Pomponios, David Keseian, Dudley Gray, Ed Walsh with passenger Todd Hasfjord, Alan Dunlap and Bob Willhelm bringing up the rear in a "civilian" car. We headed north on Highway 6. Stopped twice to admire the blue bonnets in the area. While there, decided to change belts on the Blanton's Corvair. Then Ed Walsh's Rampside threw a belt just north of Waco. Oh well, they say things happen in threes. The Clarkes picked us up on

the way.

We arrived at the hotel in Hurst at various times, stretched our legs, unpacked and gathered in lobby for the short drive to a Welcoming Party at Scott Netherton's home in Colleyville. The Convoy to Scott's home was led by Geary Grimes and were warmly welcomed by our host and members of NTCA. Feasted on bar-b-que beef, chicken, potato salad, beans, and other great and delicious goodies including an assortment of desserts.

The evening ended with Corvair Houston heading back to their hotel and other locales. An early rise in the morning. Mike and Audrey Tidwell and Dee and Jim Watkins arrived much later that evening.

At 9 o'clock Saturday morning, led by Geary Grimes, eleven Corvair Houston Corvairs and

other Corvair Club members caravanned to Jerry's Chevy dealership in Weatherford to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Corvair. We were well represented with 4 Earlies: David Keseian's '64 Monza Coupe; Mark and Waynette Clarke's '63 Monza Convertible; Dee and Jim Watkins' '63 Monza Coupe; and Gail and Tony Pomponio's '64 Monza Spyder Convertible. 6 Lates: Audrey and Mike Tidwell's '65 Corsa Coupe; Alan Dunlap's '66 Corsa Coupe; Dudley Gray's '66 Monza Coupe; Joy and Charles Blanton's '65 Corsa Convertible; Gail and David Brown's '69 Monza Coupe; Sally and Ricki Jannise's '65 Monza Convertible, and last but not least: Ed Walsh's '63 Rampside. Rain tried to dampen the spirit of the celebration but we all "toughed it out." The celebration wrapped up with the presentation of many awards. Once again, Houston garnished many – plaques were awarded to Dave Brown, Mike



Tidwell, Tony Pomponio and Jim Watkins. Jim also won for the longest trip – 350 miles! But the piece of resistance (my French is terrible!) was the great big trophy that went to Charles Blanton. And low and behold, Sally Jannise won the 50-50 Jar... \$147.00! There were a total of 48 Corvairs (21 Lates, 18 Earlies and 9 FC's) on display – all years and all models. Jerry's Dealership set up an area as it might have been when Corvairs were new. It was a great display!

We then gathered at the local Dairy Queen for afternoon treats. All members from all the clubs caravanned (at different times) through downtown Fort Worth and ended the journey at the Fort Worth Stockyards and Risky's Bar-B-Que for the evening meal. We Continued on Page 6



Early Convoy to 50th Anniversary Celebration

# the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

## October Club Meeting!

Our October meeting will NOT be held on the third Friday this month! The meeting will be held on Saturday morning (the 17th) at 11:30am. Join us at The 3rd annual Grace Christian Church Car Show for the meeting and the car show! They will have a special area for Corvairs. The address is: *(see map on page 8)*

Grace Christian Church  
2001 Greenbusch Road  
Katy, Texas 77494

Join us for the weekend camping trip at Stephen F. Austin State Park near Sealy, Texas (Oct 16 through 18th). You can camp out for the weekend or join us for the day on Saturday. For camping information call Sally Jannise at 281 259 2256.

## Happy Anniversary To:

Greg & Mary Fox                      37 years                      Oct 14

## Happy Birthday To:

Kelly Pritchard	Oct 1
Kelly Finley	Oct 3
Billy Dove Jr.	Oct 4
Rufus Youngblood	Oct 7
Bob Willhelm	Oct 8
Joy Blanton	Oct 9
Naoko Brittin	Oct 11
Miguel Soto	Oct 12
Don Manen	Oct 15
Ronnie Riley	Oct 16
David Brown	Oct 19
Perry Radoff	Oct 19
Raul Garcia	Oct 19
Pat Bobkoff	Oct 22
Ricki Jannise	Oct 22
Chrissy Murphy	Oct 27
Astrea Fatica	Oct 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](http://www.corvair.org)

## Corvair Houston Calendar

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Oct 16	Camping Trip	S.F.A. State Park	Sally Jannise
Oct 17	CH Club Meeting	Grace Christian	Jim Watkins
Oct 17	GC Car Show	Katy, TX	Jim Watkins
Oct 31	Conroe Swap Mt	Conroe, TX	Jim Watkins
Nov 7	TV & Car Show	VA Hospital	Jim Watkins
Nov 20	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
Dec 12	Christmas Party	Jannise's Home	Sally Jannise

# Corvair's 50th Anniversary

(Continued from page 4)

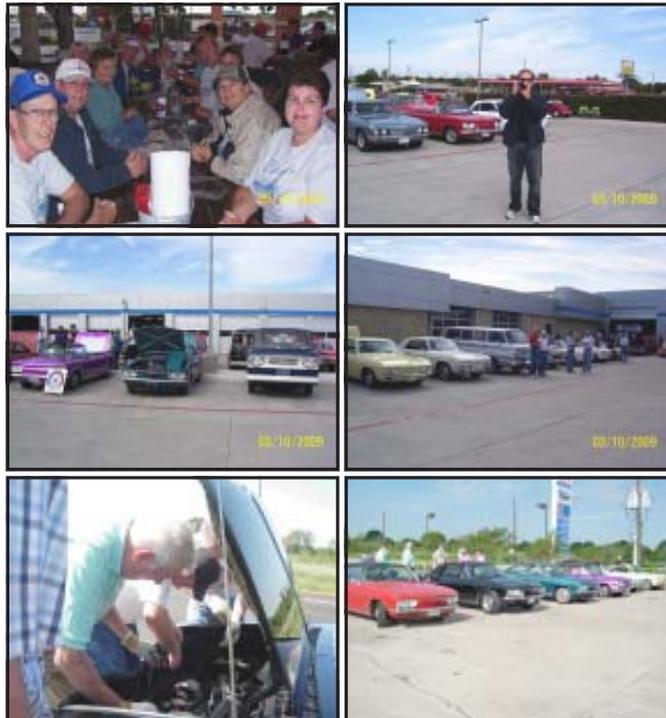
feasted on food and drink until they ran out of food or at least Margaritas (only kidding!) Across the street is the Stockyards maze. (Yes, a real maze!) Mike Tidwell convinced Audrey Tidwell, Gail Brown, Sally Jannise and Rachael Grimes to try it out. There is a viewing platform above the maze and we (the men) had a ball mis-directing the women through the maze. The women were joined by Sandra Wrobleske and the fun continued. Sally Jannise was the first one

out. I'm sure the women will speak to their respective husbands eventually. The fun continued strolling through "Stockyard's" many shops. The evening can to an end and we all headed back to the hotel. On our way, a few of the members decided to stop a Police Car. Mike Tidwell thought the cop ran a red light but the officer convinced Mike that it was yellow at the time. Something about caravanning and missing

the lead car but it wasn't too clear.

On Sunday morning, Corvair Houston held its October board meeting. It rained overnight and rain continued through the day. The trip back to Houston was uneventful but very "leaky" for a few of us.

I must end this by saying that NTCA went all out to make the other Corvair Club members welcomed and part of the festivities. A big round of applause for everything they did to make us welcome. Many, many thanks NTCA!



50th Anniversary NTCA Car Show Photos

by Tony Pomponio

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# Corvair Classifieds

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## 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 [vairchris@gmail.com](mailto:vairchris@gmail.com)

## 1961 CORVAIR

My mother has a 1961 Corvair, automatic, hard top, royal blue for sale. It has not been started in 20 plus years, so 4 flat tires and a dead battery, but the body is in good condition – it has been kept in a garage. Would anyone in your club be interested? Contact Jane J. Munoz, cell 832-331-5673 or email [jmunoz@dodi.com](mailto:jmunoz@dodi.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](mailto:corvair69@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:classicdad@cox.net)



## 1963 SPYDER PROJECT CAR

Original Owner! Undercoated by dealer in Feb 1963. Restoration began about 1984 with minor rust. Stripped to metal, urethane primer applied. Stored indoors. Meticulously maintained. Electronic ignition, silicone brake fluid, short shift kit, steering stabilizer, alternator and special metallic shoes. The original engine rebuilt with Iskenderian 280 cam, balanced, .030 over, with NEW heads, 3.27 rear gear. Excellent condition with 22,000 miles. Reasonable offer considered. Need the space. [bobwillhelm@aol.com](mailto:bobwillhelm@aol.com) or 713-771-7059. Cell 713 829 7549.

## 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...

Corvair Houston  
 13102 N. Decker Dr.  
 Magnolia, TX 77355-8461



Tony Pomponio's '64 Spyder Convertible wins the Advanced Gas Choice

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:**

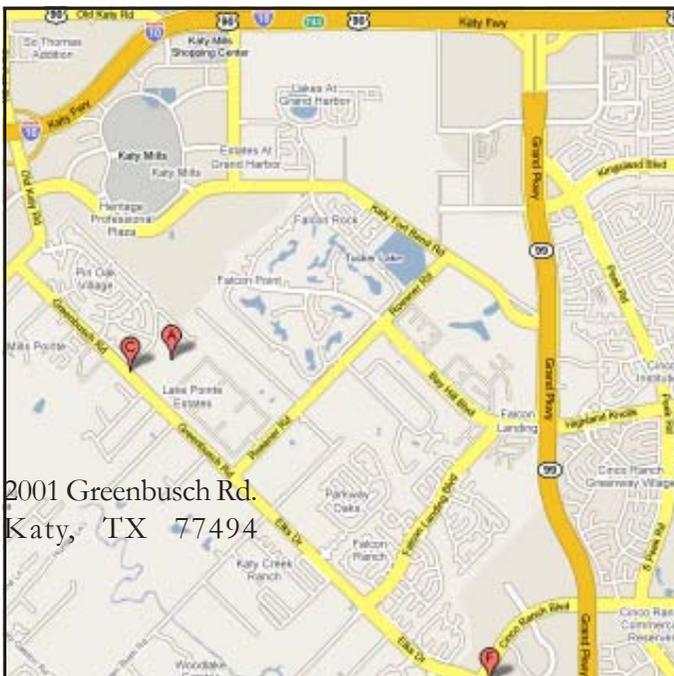
President	Jim Watkins	979-548-1313
Vice President	Tony Pomponio	281-974-5080
Secretary	Jon Protteau	936-582-1228
Treasurer	Sally Jannise	281-259-2256
Director	Mike Tidwell	281-356-2043
Director	Gail Brown	281-579-9321
Director	Todd Hasfjord	281-704-3848
Director	Mark Clarke	281-217-8573
Director	Brett 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 Wroblekske	281-356-5542

**CLUB MEETING ON  
 SATURDAY THE 17TH AT  
 GRACE CHRISTIAN  
 CHURCH.**

Directions: Grace Christian Church



2001 Greenbusch Rd.  
 Katy, TX 77494

# Help Us Help Our Veterans

Donations Appreciated

[www.corvairhouston.com](http://www.corvairhouston.com)

The Corvair Houston Club is accepting donations to help furnish the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Clinics with new 42" flat screen HD televisions for each of their waiting rooms to replace the existing 19" analog televisions.

This is a small way to tell all of the men and women who have served our country through the years how much we appreciate what they have done for us.



**Contact Information:**

Jim Watkins, Club Pres.  
713-301-6499 or 979-548-1313  
Corvair Houston  
16239 CR 946  
Brazoria, Texas 77422

# CORSA CORNER

This special column for select chapter newsletters is written by Jack Pinard, CORSA Western Division director, [corvairjack@yahoo.com](mailto:corvairjack@yahoo.com)

CORSA STORE debuted Sept. 19 at South Coast Corvairs car show. It is a new program by directors to bring supplies and merchandise to chapter events. A limited stock of tech guides, decals, pins, hats and books was offered to members this first time out. The full line of shirts will be added to inventory at the Oct. 4 Corvairs West of LA Concours d'Elegance.

It was fun to setup my tent and pitch CORSA wares in Torrance next to my pretty blue Corvairs convertible. When visits to the booth slowed down I picked by decals and visited members. The one buck decals sold out fast so will reorder.

The newly revised Tech Guide drew lots of comments. A compilation of 1 and 2, it has been re-edited and reset in clear type. The illustrations are sharp, easy to see for even my tired eyes. It is available printed with three holes, or on PDF disk.

If you plan to attend Inland Empire CC's Great Western Fan Belt Toss & Swap Meet Oct. 23-25 in Palm Springs, you can reserve a copy of the tech guide by sending an email. The books are heavy, so I need to know in advance how many to take. The toss has always been a must for every owner so hope you can visit.

Hector Gonzales and the SCC crew did a great job for their show. The cars entered were parked in voting class groups, and all details were well thought out. About 30 very nice stock and modified Corvairs pleased owners and visitors.

Especially appreciated were those who took time to share with me their concerns about CORSA. I listened to comments about dues, website and activities. We need to enhance and expand membership, and as a rookie director your ideas are important. Please send emails so I can have a file to show other directors.

Oct. 3 is 50th Anniversary of Corvairs First Day of Sale. Find a way to celebrate and promote, even if it is only to drive around your town with a handmade sign. I'll go to CWLA meet at Bob's Big Boy in Northridge.

A late addition to SoCal calendar is Ventura County Corvairs autocross at Camarillo Airport Oct. 18. It is open to all makes, but designed for Corvairs daily drivers. Contact Tim Chew, [service@topcatauto.com](mailto:service@topcatauto.com).

Western Division chapters are among the strongest and most active in CORSA, attracting young and old enthusiasts. Let's all promote membership in CORSA, and actively participate to make it as dynamic as the cars we own and drive. Go team!

Jack Pinard  
CORSA Western Division Director

116 E Garden Green, Port Hueneme, CA 93041-1926  
Cell 805 340-6533