

Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2009

This month: Round Top Swap Meet September 10th in Round Top, Texas; Club Meeting September 19th at Advanced Gas and Equipment; Ride for Recovery drive September 20th; Corvair 50th Anniversary Show on October 3rd in Weatherford, Texas



Corvair Houston Pool Party Parking

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Driver's Seat

by Jim Watkins



Well here it is September already and let's hope most of the really hot weather is behind us for awhile. I see by Wednesday the temperature will only be 90 degrees. The temperature in Lewiston, Idaho will only be 74 degrees today.

Now that it is cooling off a little outside it's time to get the Corvairs out of the garages, get them cleaned up and show them off. Our next club meeting normally scheduled for Friday, September 18th, is going to be moved to Saturday, September 19th. Friends of mine Colleen & Chris Rudy who own Advanced Gas & Equipment will be

sponsoring September's meeting at the company location, 6200 South Loop East, Houston, TX 77078. Their website is www.gotoage.com and they have a map and directions to their location or check the Corvair Houston web site (see also page 8).

We will meet at 10 am Saturday morning where we will line all of the cars up show fashion. Around 11 am we'll have our club meeting outside if the weather is nice and, if it is too hot we will have it inside. After that Chris will give us a tour of his operations and around 12 noon he will serve

hamburgers and such.

During the activities we will have a 50/50 jar out for the club and people at Advanced Gas with the club's portion going for more TVs for the VA Hospital. Also, there will be a cutting torch set raffled off plus door prizes. The employees of Advanced Gas will pick out their favorite car or Rampside and will present the owner with a trophy.

I think it will be a fun day for all of us and give all of the club members a chance to get out and drive their Corvairs. After the show we might have a group of cars who would like to head out to the car shows in Pearland or League City where they seldom get a chance to see a group of Corvairs. It's been around 50 years now for the Corvair. Let's let the younger generation, who have never seen a Corvair, see what they have missed.

E-mail me (sidwinder67@msn.com) if you can make it to the meeting on September

19th. I will give Chris somewhat of a head count, so he will have an idea for food and drinks.

On Sunday, September 20th, Corvair Houston will be riding in support of the motorcyclists who will be in the 4th Annual "Ride For Recovery" which is sponsored by Hermann Prevention & Recovery Center. This will be headed up by Matt Feehery and more information will be e-mailed to you by Matt. Let's all try to support this very fine cause.

The October club meeting will be held on Saturday, October 17th at the Grace Christian Church Car Show at 2001 Greenbush Road, Katy, TX 77494. They will be giving

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ON THE COVER

The Corvairs of Mark Clarke, Tony Pomponio, Alan Dunlap, Mike Tidwell and Ed Walsh. What do Corvair guys do at a pool party? Start and run a fresh-built Corvair hotrod motor...what else?



Dee and Jim Watkins with their award winning 1963 Monza Coupe

Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



Since August in Texas is even hotter than June and July, Corvair Houston held a fun run to the Tomball Bowling Center where more than a dozen members bowled in air-conditioned comfort. Although this was strictly for fun and a non-competitive event, the high game for round one was bowled by Dave Brown, who reportedly said that he doesn't like bowling; high game for round two was thrown by current CH President, Jim Watkins, who said that he hasn't bowled in thirty years. Imagine what these guys could do if they liked bowling and practiced a bit.

After cooling down at the Bowling Center, the club members caravanned to the Niftee 50ees Saturday Night Car Show at the Kroger's store on Spring-Cypress for an evening of socializing and car watching.

Non-Corvair, but air-cooled anyway report:

The Texas region Volkswagen clubs held the VW equivalent of H.O.T. at the KOA Campground

on Highway 105 in Montgomery. In addition to the original "Peoples' Car", there were later square-back and fastback, buses, "Things", dune buggies, New Beetles, and even a load-side pickup version of the bus. One or two of the Beetles had water cooler window units, which is sort of like air conditioning as long as you are moving down the highway, but most of the VW people braved the Texas August heat to drive here, and then camp out for the weekend. Remember, Corvair Houston camps out as a group, but we do that in October when it's cool enough to have a campfire, unless there is a burn ban in effect, in which case we might need to use a microwave to make S'Mores.

Speaking of water coolers, Dave Keseian hosted the 2nd annual David Keseian Corvair Houston Pool Party at his house in the country this past weekend. The weather was sunny and warm: just right for a pool and a

picnic. Entertainment this year included a live appearance by Todd Hasfjord's 140 motor which he has just finished building. The motor with its Holley four barrel carburetor, headers, and hot cam sounded pretty ferocious when he fired it up for the very first time there at the party. Once installed in Todd's '63 Coupe, it should make for a pretty lively street car. In addition, Mike Tidwell led a couple of tech sessions on carburetor balancing on Alan Dunlap's Corsa Coupe which has a new motor just in time for the October trip to North Texas, and on Mark and

Waynette Clarke's '63 Monza Convertible which is sporting some new wheels.

This month's animal story is about my next door neighbor, who had raccoons get into the engine compartment of his motor home which was in the same storage area where I kept a couple of FC's until just recently. The raccoons did hundreds of dollars in damage to the engine wiring and the main wiring harness, so he set out a baited live trap, and the very next day he checked the trap and discovered that instead of a raccoon, he had caught a striped skunk. 🐾



VW Loadside?

Member Profile - Brett and Kelly Finley

by Matt Feehery



Brett and Kelly at the Corvair Houston 2008 Christmas Party

This month we profile Brett and Kelly Finley, two exceptionally nice people who fit right in with the rest of the Corvair Houston bunch. The Finleys have been active in the club for the past two plus years and Brett currently serves as a Director on the Club Board. But Brett's introduction to the Corvair happened many moons ago during his high school years. That's when he acquired his very first car, a 1963 Monza 900 coupe with a 4-speed. "I drove it proudly throughout my high school days," recalls Brett.

Today Brett and Kelly own a 1963 Corvair Spyder convertible which they regularly drive to club

activities and events. The Spyder is aqua blue with a white top and black interior. "I bought it off of eBay in October of 2007," says Brett. "I bought it because I had always wanted a Spyder and thought this one was in pretty reasonable condition for the money." While it is Brett's pride and joy, the couple is on the look-out for a late model convertible for Kelly. It appears the Finleys are falling victim to that Texas Corvair tradition – no one can have just one Corvair.

Brett's interest in classic automobiles does not stop with the Corvair. Brett has three more classics that fit right in with the Corvair convertible: a 1964 Buick Skylark station wagon (not just any intermediate

wagon, but the cool one with three sky-light glass panels in a raised roof above the rear compartment, closely resembling the Oldsmobile Vista Cruiser of the same year), a 1979 Chevrolet Nova, and his latest acquisition, a 1950 Studebaker pick-up truck.

The Studebaker is already a unique specialty vehicle in its own right, but Brett has big plans for the Studebaker. "I'm going to convert it into a Corvair powered truck with AC and automatic transmission and a HUGE trunk up front!" It will be an involved project, but Brett is ready for the challenge and enthusiastic about its prospects.

Hailing from the town of Tyler in Northeast Texas, the Finleys reside in the Tomball area and have been married for 22 years. Kelly works in human resources at National Oilwell VARCO and is also a student at Sam Houston State University. Brett is a pharmaceutical/biotech representative in the Houston and

surrounding areas. The couple is active and they enjoy walking and exercise, fishing and hiking, travel and reading. "We also like gardening and, of course, we LOVE hanging out with our fellow Corvair Houston members!"

As for that Corvair moment of clarity, Brett suggests that you should always check the entire braking system when buying an old Corvair. He advises that it is "even more important to stop with confidence than to start with confidence." Truer words have never been spoken. (There's a story in there somewhere but you will have to ask him for it.)

Brett is looking forward to increasing his stable of classic cars. Once he installs the motor and tranny into the Studebaker truck, he will officially have two Corvairs. When they find the late model convertible for Kelly, it will be three Corvairs in the Finley household. You can never have too many Corvairs and Brett and Kelly are working hard to make that statement a reality. 

the Corvair Houston Bulletin Board

Saturday Morning Meeting!

Our September meeting will NOT be held on the third Friday this month! The meeting will be held on Saturday (the 19th) morning at 10am. Join us at Advance Gas and Equipment for the meeting and a car display! We'll have burgers, raffles and door prizes. Afterwards we'll check out some area car shows.

The address is:

Advance Gas and Equipment, Inc
6200 South Loop East
Houston, Texas 77078

If driving south on I-45, take exit 41B. Turn right on Griggs Road. Turn left on South Wayside. Turn left at the South Loop East. Advance Gas and Equipment is at 6200. See the map on page 8.

Ride for Recovery

Memorial Herman's Prevention and Recovery Center's 4th annual motorcycle ride event on Sunday, September 20th! Watch for information! We'll park at strategic locations, then follow the caravan along the route through Harris, Montgomery and Waller counties. The ride starts at 9am and should pass through Pinehurst, Texas around 9:30. Check out the website: www.rideforrecovery.org or contact Matt Feehery 713 329 7577.

Happy Anniversary To:

Brett & Kelly Finley	22 years	Sept 5
Greg & Sandra Wrobleske	22 years	Sept 19
Jim & Dee Watkins	36 years	Sept 21

Happy Birthday To:

Gary Johnson	Sept 5
Joan Clarke	Sept 13
Tony Pomponio	Sept 20
Andrew Spenn	Sept 20
Jordan Wrobleske	Sept 21
Guy Bobkoff	Sept 26

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

Corvair Houston Calendar

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sept 19	CH Club Meeting	Advance Gas & Eq.	Jim Watkins
Sept 20	Ride for Rec.	Field Store, TX	Matt Feehery
Oct 2	NTCA Show	Weatherford, TX	Dave Brown
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
Dec 12	Christmas Party	Jannise's Home	Sally Jannise

Driver's Seat

(Continued from page 2)

Corvair Houston a special spot to help us celebrate 50 Years of Corvairs. More on this meeting in next month's newsletter. Information can also be found on our website, so start making plans to attend now. They expect to have at least 100 cars this year. Corvair did win the Best Open Class last year. Don't forget that this is also the weekend of Corvair Houston's camp out at Stephen F. Austin State Park in San Felipe, TX.

Plan on coming on out and camping with us at the camp grounds on Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Some of our members do not want to camp out, or do not have access to a camper. They are staying at a nearby motel and will join us for all of the events. So come camping with us or just join us for the day.

All of us who are at the campsite will convoy over to the Grace Christian Church for the meeting and car show at 9 am

Saturday. Maps and directions are on our website (watch for October's newsletter).

During the car show the ladies are planning a "Lady's Day" with a leisurely lunch and maybe going to a matinee or touring the shops in Old

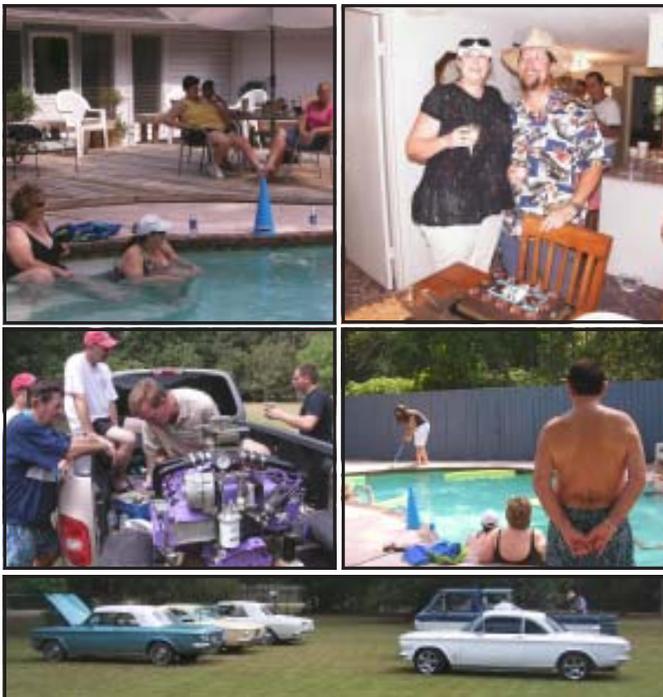
Katy.

Also, be watching for more information on our planned trip to Weatherford, Texas to celebrate 50 Years of Corvairs with NTCA on October 2nd, 3rd and 4th. More on this trip from Dave Brown.



by Jim Watkins

CH POOL PARTY PICTURES



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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

1964 COUPE

My '64 coupe is for sale. Repainted to light beige just before HOT this year. 140 engine, this car is in excellent condition and is "show" ready. \$6000. Pictures available. Delivery to Houston available. Don Manen – donmanen@yahoo.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

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



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 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...

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



Promotional Rampside for KNUZ radio in Houston

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 Wroblewski	281-356-5542

Directions: Advanced Gas and Equipment



CORSA CORNER

By Jack Pinard, Western Division Director

If you can read this, then the first step in improving communications from the board to the chapters is working. This is “new news” reporting about August 15, sent to your chapter e-mail address.

MANAGEMENT CHANGE STUDY

Following a year of research and proposals and sometimes contentious interaction, the CORSA board of directors made decisions in a phone conference meeting on the future process of professional management of our society. Last year, before I joined the board, questions were raised about operating costs. It was decided to obtain proposals from several companies that managed non-profit organizations like CORSA. A committee of directors drew up the guidelines and sent to seven firms. Then four were asked to submit formal bids, including the current team M&PS.

PRESENTATIONS MADE

Presentations were made at the 12-hour Jacksonville board meeting July 13, but due to complexity of the issue and lack of time, the vote was rescheduled. A month of e-mail controversy ensued among about half the board. Several of the directors did not participate in the Corsa B.O.D. group mail. Unanimity was not reached on key points.

PAUSE FOR LENO

So there was some suspense on the outcome of the vote that Saturday morning. But first another piece of business was taken care of, the granting of honorary membership to Jay Leno. Leno has a late 180 coupe and did a total restoration of a Rampside. The video on Jay’s Garage website is a terrific promotion for Corvairs and CORSA.

VOTE ON HARRY AND MIKE

Back to the issue. Following a long discussion on contract changes, the M&PS team of Harry Jensen and Mike McGowan was retained in an 8 to 3 vote, including three proxies of directors not on the call. Then a motion was made for the executive committee—comprised of president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer—to negotiate contract modifications. The president objected as the by-laws mention that the president conducts them.

WHO WILL NEGOTIATE?

A variety of reasons for and against greater participation were made. The resulting vote was a bigger split, with five favoring a team approach and six opposed. Then a unanimous vote was made to give President Tim Mahler the right to negotiate a new contract with M&PS.

SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED

Mahler requested suggestions on cost reduction changes from directors within 10 days and promised to report to board. It was then decided to meet via phone conference on September 26.

SOME GET OLD NEWS

Your chapter has this important news now, within two weeks of vote. Others may not know for six weeks when they read the October Communiqué. This is because the chapter email list has errors due to failures to communicate, and the September Communiqué closed August 1.

DIRECTORS MAY UPDATE

Several directors like my suggestion for annual personal visits by directors to chapters to verify data and hold “town hall” discussions. A plan is being formulated to make the visits soon after club elections. This outreach is part of the new spirit to improve communications by directors. It counters the old status quo attitude some expressed that “no one is interested”.

WHAT ARE YOUR IDEAS?

With your input we can promote CORSA and make participation more fun. E-mail your comments to corvairjack@yahoo.com.