

# Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2009

This month: Club meeting (Swap Meet) - November 20th, Christmas Party at the Jannise's - December 12th, AutoRama Set-up - November 25th



## Three More Televisions for the Michael E. DeBakey V. A. Medical Center

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# Driver's Seat

by Jim Watkins



As most of you know we have been collecting money for the purchasing of additional 42" TV's to present to the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Hospital in Houston. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November we presented them with three more TV's to be used in the waiting rooms of the clinics where some veterans may wait for hours for their appointments.

At our next club meeting this month will be at Doss Park on Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Corvair Swap Meet. The plan is to have

everyone look into their stash of Corvair parts and, if you have any good parts that you do not need, pack them up and bring them with you and we will trade or sell parts to each other. If everyone would bring 5-10 parts it may be a chance for you, or someone else, to find what they have needed. I've got a box of NOS tail light lenses that I will bring. Don't know all of the years but some are early and some are late.

We have Autorama coming up in a couple of weeks. If any of you would like to help out this

year we could use all that we can get. I think Ricki, Mike and Todd are heading up the display and putting it together so please get with them. If you can help, we set up the display on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> and tear down will be Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

The cars that will be in the Autorama this year are:

Bill Lush's 1960 Corvair 500 Coupe

Carroll Alford's 1962 Corvair station wagon

Brett & Kelly Finley's 1963 Corvair Spyder

Ed & Julie Murphy's 1965 Corvair 4 door hardtop


Ed Walsh's 1964 Corvair Corvan

Mike & Audrey Tidwell's 1964 Corvair Rampside


Dee and I will be in Idaho all that week so if someone can take pictures we would appreciate the help.

If any of you are thinking about buying another Corvair let me know. I have found a stash of Corvairs that have been in storage since the early

1970's. I haven't gotten a lot of information yet but I will be going to look at what there is and will be taking a lot of pictures and getting information. I understand that there are 30-40 Corvairs and lots of parts. I'll try to put together a slide show and put it out at the meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> at Doss Park.

Don't forget to mark the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2009 on your calendar for that is the night of Corvair Houston's Christmas party. This year it will once again be at Ricki and Sally's house in Pinehurst. Maps will be posted on the web site. For more information contact Ricki or Sally. 

## ON THE COVER

Members of Corvair Houston deliver three, count 'em, **THREE 42" HDTV's** and wall mount kits to the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Administration Medical Center in Houston for installation in the waiting rooms used by our military veterans every day. 



Kelly Finley & Jim Watkins show the Grace Christian trophies they won!

# Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



The mid-October weather was ideal for the Corvair Houston camping weekend this year. The bountiful rains earlier in the month ended the day before the campout that started on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and ended Sunday at the Stephen F. Austin State Park on the Brazos River near San Felipe. Sandwiched in the middle of the weekend was the third annual Grace Christian Church car show in nearby Katy. For Corvair Houston's second appearance as a club at their car show, Grace Christian presented us a club banner honoring the Corvair's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and recognized the relatively large number of a single marque by judging the Corvairs as a separate category. Winning first place for the best Corvair was Dee and Jim Watkins's bright, white '63 Monza coupe which Jim uses as a daily driver, racking up thousands of miles in Houston area traffic in the year since he restored it. Second place for best Corvair went to the new,

blue '68 Monza convertible belonging to Kelly and Brett Finley, who have learned that you can't just own one Corvair: they become a habit.

Of the fifteen Corvairs that the Club presented at the show, Bill Lush's 1960 "Caveman" 500 coupe was a popular highlight that drew quite a bit of attention, as did the Rampsides driven by Mike Tidwell, Jim Watkins, and Ed Walsh. The Ramps also provide extra seating area for camp chairs and a birds-eye view of the show. Inexpensive food and drinks were available; that's always a draw for Corvair owners because we tend to be a frugal lot.

Some members packed up their chairs and headed home, but most caravanned back to the Stephen F. Austin State Park to finish their outdoor weekend on the shores of the mighty Brazos River. If you've ever seen it after heavy rains, you'd know why it's sometimes called the mighty Brazos: it can run a roaring flood of muddy

red water up to and even over its steep banks. Anyway, we had just set out our chairs in a big circle around Corvair communal fire pit at our camp site and were discussing the strange rule that the park had posted that prohibited picking up any of the dead wood that seemed to litter the entire area. There were twigs and branches and whole trees lying around everywhere. Mike Tidwell and I had just agreed that it seemed very peculiar, and I noticed that we had a fair-sized pile of twigs and branches next to the fire pit, and these twigs and branches bore a fair resemblance to other twigs and branches which were lying around our area. About that same time, a park ranger who we recognized from last year's camp out strode into our

camp site. He looked around for a moment and told the one person who was not with us last year that he definitely remembered him. Those of us who were there had to suppress our smiles and snickers because the rest of us did remember the ranger; he was the same one who broke up our s'mores cooking festival which we were having over a miniature charcoal stove in violation of the previous year's burn ban which was in effect, even though there had been enough rain to make it safe to have a campfire, because the only judge in the county who could cancel the ban was on vacation at the time.

So this year, everyone was excited because there

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Corvairs lined up at the Grace Christian Church Car Show

## Member Profile - Ed Walsh

by Matt Feehery

One month it's the gold '67 Corvair 500 coupe. Next time it's the '63 Corvan. The following time it's the recently acquired '61 Rampside. Next month, Ed pulls up in his latest acquisition, a '63 Rampside. Yes, he's a Corvair man through and through. You can even call him Mr. Forward Control.

"I like the old car hobby because its fun fixing and driving old cars plus you get to travel and meet a lot of people. I became interested in Corvairs two years ago when a friend emailed me pictures of the '67 Corvair he was selling. The next day I mailed him a check." Two months later Ed flew to the Midwest to pick up his new ride. After two days of visiting with his friend and their family, he threw his suitcase in the back seat and hit the highway. One fuel pump, two blowouts and 24 hours later, Ed was home.

"That started my Corvair habit. A year later I visited the same friend and bought his '63 Corvan." But Ed wasn't done yet. 9 months later he made the mistake of

driving Jim Watkins' Rampside. From that moment on, he was hooked. So Ed started looking for a Rampside. "One '63 Rampside in California was just what I wanted. It was a rust-free, low mileage truck, but the seller and I couldn't agree on the price." Ed passed on that one and instead purchased a '61 Rampside from Blake Palmer's brother in Tulsa. Two months later the seller of the '63 California Rampside called back and the two agreed on a price. So now Ed has two Ramps!

"The good thing about having four Corvairs is that I don't have room for any more. Plus, having four Corvairs is a lot to keep up with in time and expense. Of course, the great thing about Corvairs is they are under-valued

and affordable." With that much interest in Corvairs, there must've been one in Ed's past. "As a kid, my brothers and I were always fixing mechanical things: bicycles, lawn mowers, go karts, mini bikes, and cars. When I was 15 I asked my parents if I could buy a car. They said no, so I brought home a 1969 Yamaha 200cc motor cycle." His parents were not motorcycle fans, though. They would let him buy a car if he sold the motorcycle. With that directive, Ed bought his first Corvair, a 1963 Spyder coupe. "I didn't keep it long because it was more of a running parts car."

While Ed currently works as a clerk at the Port of Houston, he spent a great deal of his professional life as a machinist. "After college I started a machine shop. It was a challenging and

rewarding career with an 84-hour 7-day work week. I closed that business after 15 years due to the decline in local manufacturing."

Ed lives outside of Tomball on 5 acres in a house that he is renovating. He has big plans for the homestead. "I hope to make it a great car collector property with a large garage for the cars." He will need that garage for his many projects and cars. Over the years Ed has owned a lot of different classic cars, including a 1956 Chevrolet Bel Air and a 1927 model T.

Ed Walsh is a cheerful, easygoing person who loves Corvairs and the people who drive them. He has been a member of Corvair Houston for the past year and a half. "I never expected it to be so much fun. The helicopter ride, road trips, parts take-offs, and other events are a blast, plus all the great people you get to meet." Ed would like to serve the club as a Board member in 2010. With his enthusiasm for the Corvair and his good nature, he'll have my vote.



Ed Walsh and his '63 Rampside



the Corvair  
Houston **Bulletin Board**

**Christmas Party 2009**

The Corvair Houston Christmas Party will be held at Sally and Ricki Jannise's house on Saturday, December 12th beginning at 5:00pm. The address is 13102 North Decker Drive, Magnolia, Texas 77355-8461 (see the inserted map).

As in years past, the party will be "covered dish" and will include smoked turkey provided by the club. There will also be a gift exchange for those who wish to participate as well as fun and fellowship.

Mark your calendars and get ready to celebrate the holidays!

**Happy Anniversary To:**

Mark & Waynette Clarke	28 years	Nov 7
Ray & Dorothy Rosenbaum	52 years	Nov 10
Tony & Gail Pomponio	48 years	Nov 21
Jeff & Jeanelle Moser	16 years	Dec 18
Don & Ruby Manen	48 years	Dec 22
Charles & Clarkie Atkinson		Dec 30

**Happy Birthday To:**

Rose Radoff	Nov 1
Lynne Youngblood	Nov 2
Dorothy Rosenbaum	Nov 13
Ed Murphy	Dec 3
Janie Garcia	Dec 7
Dee Watkins	Dec 13
Jerry Kelley	Dec 16
Claudeann Jannise	Dec 20
Sally Jannise	Dec 23
Al Fatica	Dec 24
Dudley Gray	Dec 28
Samantha Cardiff	Dec 29
Mary Fox	Dec 31

**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:



**Corvair Houston Calendar**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>
Nov 7	TV & Car Show	VA Hospital	Jim Watkins
Nov 20	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
Nov 25	AutoRama Setup	Convention Center	Ricki Jannise
Dec 12	Christmas Party	Jannise's Home	Sally Jannise
Jan 15	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	Jim Watkins
Feb 19	CH Club Meeting	Doss Park	???


# Rearview Mirror

(Continued from page 3)

was no burn ban, and we could have a real campfire, but now the ranger launched into a one hour lecture so that we would thoroughly understand the park rules about wood gathering. The condensed version is, "Leave the park like we had it; it's supposed to look like a natural area with twigs and branches and trees lying all over the

place. If you want firewood, you can buy it from the park hosts." Waynette Clarke, overburdened with guilt after the ranger's lengthy lecture, leaped up and cried "I confess. I'm the one that spoiled the unspoiled natural look that the park is supposed to have, and I will put all of the twigs and branches back exactly

where I found them." That seemed to satisfy the ranger's quest for justice, because he stopped his lecture, and pointed out a two-foot hole in the ground where they had removed a tree and cautioned us not to fall in it, and he said they would

be around later to fill in the hole and restore the dirt to its natural look before it was dug up, if they had time. So, with Waynette as our guide, we returned all of the twigs and branches to their proper locations and restored the balance of nature. 



Corvair Houston Campers gathered around the campfire

## 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](mailto: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.

by Jon Protteau



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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).

## 1966 CORSA

140 HP, 4 Speed, Red with Black Interior, Original, very nice car. Owner has original AC system, all parts, not installed. Asking \$7500. Contact Zack Levitt at 713-818-9815



## 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

Deliver to:



Tony and his Spydres...Halloween at Niftee 50ees

**CLUB MEETING ON  
 FRIDAY THE 20TH - CLUB  
 MEMBER SWAP MEET**

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.

**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 Hasford	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 Wrobleske	281-356-5542

# Corvair Houston Christmas Party

*This year's Christmas Party will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup> at Sally and Ricki Jannise's home. The address is 13102 North Decker Dr in Magnolia, Texas 77355 (see map below). From Highway 249, turn left (west) on Woodtrace Blvd (look for the highway intersection warning sign). Turn left at the first STOP sign on Wright Rd. Look for the first house on the right: at the corner of Wright Road and N. Decker Dr.*



## *Other details...*

- *Bring a covered dish*
- *Festivities start at 5pm – stay 'til...*
- *Everyone bring a gift*
  - *Boys bring boy gift and girls bring girl gift*
  - *\$20 cost limit*
  - *Wrap Girls gift in Red*
  - *Wrap Boys gift in Green*