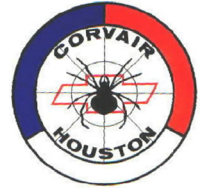


# Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 41 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2015

**This month: HOT 2015 Reunion in Burnet, TX**  
**Friday, April 17th to Sunday, April 19th**



## Fun Run to Navasota and Independence

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# Driver's Seat

by Ed Walsh



Greetings Corvair family. This year is flying by pedal to the metal. We have many great events coming up. Next weekend is our Heart of Texas Reunion hosted by The Lonestar Corvair Club. This is our opportunity to reunite with the other Corvair clubs in Texas and perhaps a few from Oklahoma. Great effort goes into these events. For those of you that haven't attended an HOT, you are missing out on a lot. All of the Corvair HOT events are memorable events of great people, places, food and many

Corvairs. All these events add to the Corvair experience. We will have two caravans leaving out on Friday. The first caravan will meet at Highway 290 and FM 1488 at the Jack in The Box parking lot at 9:30 AM. The second caravan will leave at 1:00 p.m. from Mike Tidwell's home in Pinehurst. The caravans are a great way to leave the work and city life stress behind.

We have many events plan for the month of May. On May 15<sup>th</sup> we will have our monthly meeting at the Party Barn. We have a Tech Session

planned and Door prizes will be given out. I would like to thank Mike Feehery in advance for letting us use his facility. The following day we caravan out to the Dewberry Festival Car Show in Cameron. This can be an over night event or a day trip. The Cameron people always welcome us and treat us very well. The club always wins many trophies and door prizes. The great Corvair fellowship event of the day is a trip to Bobs Steak House. Great food and they even have alligator on the menu.

Our last big May event is a TUNA at the Tidwell's.

This event is planned to help those going to the CORSA Convention to get their cars ready for the trip. Lunch will be served and all are welcome. It takes place on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>. Just a reminder to please support CORSA through your membership. The insurance they provide for our events is important. More important than that is having a national unified group of great folks that make the hobby great and on going.

Happy Motor-ing! Hope to see you at HOT this weekend.



## Member Profile

### Charles Ray Atkinson

by Matt Feehery



It was approximately 21 years ago that Charles Ray joined the world of Corvair ownership, but he was around them when they were introduced in 1960. His brother, who was the Service Manager at the Chevrolet dealer in Trinity, Texas just north of Huntsville eventually owned one. "They cornered well and were fun

to drive." 21 years ago was also when he joined Corvair Houston. "I was sitting in my garage when Bob Willhelm stopped by my house and invited me to join the Corvair club."

He bought his first Corvair out of California, a 1963 Monza convertible, white with red interior and black top. He still has it, still drives it, and happily

states that "it's really been a trouble free car." For Charles, though, this could have been the one that got away. He's now owned the car twice. "Many years ago I decided to sell a Model A, a motorcycle, a Volkswagen Baja and my Corvair to make room for new projects. I looked at other Corvairs but really missed mine so 10 months later I

wound up buying it back from the guy I sold it to."

Charles can tell a good story and this one has many twists and curves like a winding country road. "When I bought the car it was being restored. It was nearly finished shy of the paint job. I had to give him \$150 more than I sold it for but he had

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# Rearview Mirror

by Jon Protteau



March found Corvair Houston members getting ready for upcoming major road trips by blowing some dust out of our Corvair dual exhaust on some local back roads. First off, a Fun Run was navigated through the rural hills of Montgomery, Grimes and Walker Counties by Alan Dunlap in a '65 Monza 4-door, Ricki and Sally Jannise in their '65 Corsa coupe, Audrey and Mike Tidwell in their '64 Monza coupe, and Jim Watson drove his white 1963 Monza coupe all of the way up from Brazoria for the excursion. Stops at rural eating establishments

and scenic views were the highlights of the day.

Another trip for Corvair Houston was over to the annual Austin County Cruiser Classical Car Stampede car show on the square in downtown Bellville, population 4,234. Corvair Houston was well represented by Ricki and Sally Jannise, Dave Keseian and friend Connie, Alan Dunlap, Mike and Audrey Tidwell, Guy and Pat Bobkoff, Bruce and Vicki Eichenburg, yours truly, and Fred Mahler who is a member of both clubs. It is always amazing how many classic cars turn out in this rural community of

Bellville, which Stephen F. Austin named for one of his Old Three Hundred, Thomas B. Bell, who had donated his land for the new county seat in 1846. More than 300 cars were registered, but many late comers joined in the gathering without registering. The weather was ideal, the food was good, and most of us avoided sun burn by visiting Newman's Bakery and other shady eateries.

As I write this month's article, I am getting Old Blue cleaned out and ready for Corvair Houston's trip to the annual Heart Of Texas, or the HOT

Corvair Convention in Burnet, Texas, next week-end. And, several members' Corvairs are getting serious attention from our dedicated Corvair specialist, Mike Tidwell, and son Michael, for their trip to the national Corvair Convention in Knoxville, Tennessee in June.

It was fortunate that Old Blue, our '62 Monza convertible, was checked over by the Tidwells as it needed some serious brake work: new brake pads and hoses. (Corvair maintenance tip: Do not buy bargain-priced brake hoses. As Mike says, you get what you pay for.



Photos from Bellville Show (sponsored by the Austin County Cruisers Car Club)



# Spring is Here!



by Howard King

It is time to get out those projects you put away when the weather turned cold and messy. Whatever it is that is on your list be it getting the car ready for HOT in Burnet, the Dewberry Festival in Cameron or the upcoming CORSA convention in Knoxville, the time is here to get started.

This last weekend I uncovered the 65 Monza convertible project car from Oklahoma to get more of the paint stripped off. Paint stripping is kind of like many other jobs that you don't really want to do, but nec-

essary because there is no real shortcut. I believe that GM originally used a process to treat the bare steel body panel to inhibit rusting and any abrasive methods like blasting will remove it. This particular one has its bumps and bruises, but really demands the proper methods be used. My plan is to get it back to bare metal and lay down a coat of PPG epoxy primer before sending it to the paint shop. That way I am sure that the prep work was done to my satisfaction.

So, I asked the guys for some like kind help to

get a good chunk of the work knocked out. Mark Clarke and Andrew Brennan came over and helped on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. They started around 9 AM to get the stripper buttered onto the surface while I proceeded to remove chrome and trim pieces which were in the path. When the goop was applied it was apparent a run the hardware store would be necessary to get more of the Ready Strip and some other goodies. How hard is it to go to the Depot and just get one thing? Mark even found some AC vents that were on his

list. We stopped at the local burger joint for lunch and a bit of conversation. My mind always races back to Guy's thought, "It's not just about the cars, but the people." Back to the job at hand, to find that while we were away the stripper had worked as planned. As you can see in the photo the true colors under that yellow enamel were made apparent. Much was accomplished because of the help to move this project toward the finish line. Thanks again to Mark and Andrew who sacrificed a Saturday to help me.



# Member Profile

## Charles Ray Atkinson

by Matt Feehery



far more into it than that. So then I finished the car.” Everybody likes good deals and Charles is no different. The car had been primed but needed the finish paint. “I ran into this guy who was allowed to do paint jobs on the side where he worked and use the paint booth. I paid \$200 for a new base coat/clear coat paint job.” And Charles was happy with the results.

Charles loves his Corvair but he also enjoys other antiques and classics. His stable currently houses four classics in all. He owns a ’31 Ford Model A slant windshield Town Sedan, a ’41 Ford 4-door Super Deluxe and a ’79 MGB, “which I don’t lack much to finish.” Of these three cars it sounds like his favorite is the ’41 Ford. Part resto-mod, Charles added some mechanical and cosmetic touches: longer spring shackles, lowered back end, dual exhaust, fender skirts and Fulton sun visors. “It will run 60+ mph.”

His favorite Corvair model is the one he has. “I get as much attention with my Corvair as any of the other cars and I have as

much fun or more driving it.” Never short for injecting a bit of humor into the conversation, Charles added that “women like the Corvair. I told my wife that I carry a big stick in my Corvair to keep them away from me. She quickly reminded me that the girls aren’t interested in you, they just like the car.”

Charles prefers the early model Corvair, primarily “because they were the ones I was around when I was younger.” His only other Corvair was a 1962 Monza convertible, blue with blue interior and white top. He later sold it to Jon Protteau, who joined our club around the same time he bought the car. Jon affectionately refers to the car as “Old Blue” and is still driving it regularly.

Besides his love for automobiles, Charles has been an avid motorcyclist for over 50 years. He has owned a Honda Gold Wing and still owns a Yamaha Venture Royale, both fully dressed, built for comfort highway cruisers. “My longest trip as a motorcycle rider

was a 5500 mile trip to Canada and the farthest I rode a motorcycle in one day was 900 miles.”

A native Texan, Charles was born in Lovelady just a couple of moons ago and grew up in Trinity on a farm. He married Clarkie, his wife of 60 years, on December 31, 1954 and says “if it works out we’re going to buy furniture.” He served our country in the Army from 1954-55, becoming a MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) Meteorologist and also served in the Triple A Anti-aircraft battalion. He was assigned to an Air Force base in Long Beach, CA and worked at the Mojave Desert base sending up weather balloons, gathering weather information and calling in the radar. As Charles tells it with a wink and a big grin, “I fought in the Battle of Long Beach during the Cold War.”

In 1957 Charles went to work for Goodyear Chemicals here in Houston and retired 40 years later. “I never missed a payday. I was a Production Operator and

Reactor Operator and I worked where all the ingredients went in to make latex. Even much of the bubble gum was rubber based and produced out of the same materials your tires are made out of.” Upon retirement in 1997, Charles and Clarkie moved to Lake Conroe where they still reside. On the family side, “we have a son and daughter nearly as old as we are plus one granddaughter and one great grandson and he is a car guy. If he has a choice between watching cartoons or NASCAR, the cars win every time.”

Longtime club members will recall that for many years each summer and usually in early June Charles and Clarkie hosted the annual Corvair Ice Cream Social at their house. Although not as active in club events today, Charles has always enjoyed the people in the club and stays in touch. When we get the opportunity to see him at club events, we are rewarded with his signature smile, welcoming demeanor and kind words. And always the story teller, Charles can still spin a good yarn.



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# Bulletin Board

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## Our 42nd Year!

Get the 2013-2018 Catalog. If you did not get the catalog in 2013 or 2014, you can get one FREE on your first \$50 order during 2015. (Additional catalogs \$3 with an order) Over 100 new repro parts in the past 3 years.



Clark's Corvair Parts®  
400 Mohawk Trail,  
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370  
(413)625-9776 www.corvair.com

## Member Note to the Editor:

Something came to my attention while reading on the Corvair forum, a Corvair owners car started running bad; he found his car had a large amount of water in the fuel ?

This occurred after a prolonged rain in his area, after checking he found of all things a june bug had plugged the water drain hole at the bottom of the fuel filler door compartment and the water entered the fuel tank through the fuel cap.

After all the rain we have had lately it reminded me that this could happen to some of our cars, pass this along if you think the members would be interested.

Motormouth (aka Jerry Kelley)

## TREASURY REPORT

REPORT AS OF APRIL 6, 2015

Beginning Balance	\$6,220.21
Receipts	
Deposits (Auction)	\$164.31
Subtotal	\$6,384.52
Withdrawals:	\$527.97
Ending Balance	\$5,856.55

## CORSA International Convention Knoxville TN

Hosted by Knoxville Corvair Club

June 23rd to June 27th

Host Hotel is Knoxville Marriott  
865/594-4155, \$110 night.

Mention Corvair or go online at  
[corvair.org/2015convention/hotel-reg.html](http://corvair.org/2015convention/hotel-reg.html).

## Annual 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 (ph. 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: Ricki Jannise at 13102 N. Decker, Magnolia, TX 77355-8461. Please make checks out to: Corvair Houston. The March 2015 issue of the newsletter will be the last issue for those members who have not paid their dues for Calendar 2015. .

the Corvair  
Houston

# Bulletin Board

## Happy Birthday To:

Barbara King		Apr 16
Bill Lush		Apr 21
Jacob Moser		Apr 23
Clarkie Atkinson		Apr 26

## Happy Anniversary To:

Larry & Zandra Keast	47 years	Apr. 6
Howard & Barbara King	10 years	Apr. 9

## Welcome New Members!

Matt and LaDonna Miles and family (Pearland, TX)  
1965 Corsa

Donald & Donna Freeland (Meadows Place, TX)  
1961 Monza coupe



## Heart of Texas Reunion

The 2015 Heart of Texas Reunion is coming on April 17th - 19th!! Lone Star Corvair Club is the host club this year and it will be held at in Burnet. You must register for both the event and the hotel room! The host hotel is:

Comfort Inn  
810 S. Water Street  
Burnet, TX 78611

The number to call for hotel reservations is 512-756-1789. Be sure and tell them you are making your reservations for the CORVAIR Heart of Texas Reunion. The room rate is \$92.99 plus tax per night. Check out the HOT web page on the CH website: <http://www.corvair-houston.com> for all of the information and forms you need to register. Be sure to make your hotel reservations and turn in your registration to Gail Brown with LSCC.. Room reservations are filling fast so do not delay..

## 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
Apr. 17-19	HOT 2015	Burnet, TX	E. Walsh
Apr. 25-26	Concours d'Eleg	La Toretta	G. Riley
Apr. 25th	Rotary Car Show	Alvin	J. Watkins
May 5th	Board Mtg	Fuddrucker HW249	E. Walsh
May 16th	Dewberry Fest	Cameron, TX	D. Watkins
May 30th	TUNA	Tidwells home	M. Tidwell



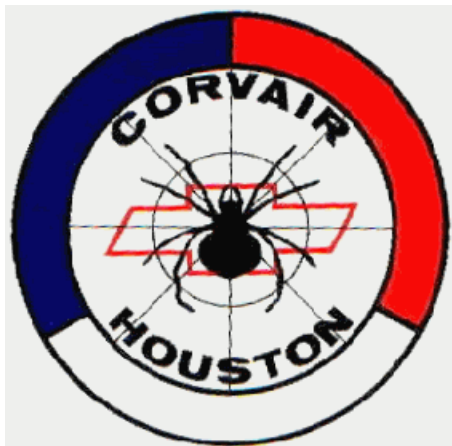
Corvair Houston  
13102 N. Decker Drive  
Magnolia, TX 77355-8461

Deliver to:



Charles Ray & Clarkie Atkinson and their  
1963 Monza Convertible

NO REGULAR CLUB  
MEETING IN APRIL



Corvair Houston



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.

2014 Officers:

President	Ed Walsh	281-825-6361
Vice President	Mike Tidwell	281-748-4576
Secretary	Jon Protteau	936-520-2395
Treasurer	Audrey Tidwell	832-434-1154
Director	Todd Hasford	281-704-3848
Director	Howard King	832-687-8251
Director	Bruce Eichenberg	281-380-1809

Committees:

Membership & Library	Ricki Jannise	281-259-2256
Historian/Car Locator	Guy Bobkoff	713-666-0475
Merchandise	Dee Watkins	979-848-6713
Newsletter	Mark Clarke	281-217-8573
Website	Dave Keseian	936-689-8179
Events Coord./Photographer	Jim Watkins	979-824-6225
H.O.T. Chairperson	Greg Wrobleske	281-356-5542
Social Chair	Sally Jannise	281-259-2256
Technical Chair	Mike Tidwell	281-748-4576
Club Email	Richard Jonec	832-559-1629