

Corvair Houston Newsletter



VOLUME 43 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

This month: Club Meeting on Friday, Nov. 17th, Autorama
Nov. 22-26 and Christmas Party on Dec. 9th



Autocross at Heritage Days in Mineral Wells

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Driver's Seat

| by Richard Jonec



Well the year is almost over and what a year it has been for Corvair Houston and its members and the Houston area in general. We had a wonderful HOT event in the spring and some great events in between. Houston survived a Biblical level flooding event from Hurricane Harvey and luckily most members were not affected. The ones that were are recovering and transitioning to get their personal effects and homes either replaced or restored. With the bad we inevitably get some of the good and that was the ASTRO's becoming World Series Champions for the first time in the history of the ball club. The CH Autocross Championship is complete with some of the regular competitors were not being able to finish all the events due to car issues or not being able to compete due to personal health. As we head into the holiday season we still have a few events left to attend and finish out the year that was 2017. But before we get to these events and upcoming activities.

I would like to a highlight a unique event that took place to promote the then new 1961 Corvair.

Last month we discussed the 24 hr. Enduro at Riverside Raceway. This month I want to highlight another endurance test that took place in 1961 to exhibit the dual-purpose machine called the Corvair. Instead of a testing the cars capability at the track this was a month's long expedition through the jungles of Panama and Columbia. This area is known as the Darien Gap. This is a region where the Panamanian and Columbian borders meet and are separated by deep jungle terrain with zero infrastructure to make such a crossing during that time in a 4 wheeled vehicle. This is an area that would have tested the best of any off-road 4x4 vehicles. The 3 Corvairs were flanked by a support crew with 4x4 Chevrolet trucks. If you watch the Chevrolet promotional film on You Tube you will find that these Corvairs run a like a Timex "they take a beating but keep on

ticking". Pretty amazing stuff for the time. What impressed me the most was the ability for the Corvairs to be able to "Ford" the rivers. We might have been able to deploy some our Corvairs during the Houston Floods based on how these cars performed when crossing some of those rivers. One of the three Corvairs did not make it and is now a landmark in the jungle. Go to the links to get the full story on this daring adventure through the jungles of Central America.

<https://thecitypaperbogota.com/travel/pacific-travel-guide/the-lost-corvair/1429>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcag9jM5FkU&feature=youtu.be>

Last month some of the faithful members hit the road on a little adventure of our own to Mineral Wells, TX to attend the 8th annual Heritage Days event. This is always a great event that North Texas Corvair Association (NTCA) puts on. Friday evening is always a great get together with a dinner and a meet and greet

with valve cover races. While Saturday is a fun filled day of auto crossing. Saturday evening was the banquet and awards dinner to commemorate the autocross competitors and provide trophies to the winning show cars in the people's choice awards. Howard provides a detailed report of the activities that took place.

To fill everyone in on the Autocross Championship no one attended the last event of the month which was scheduled for the first weekend of November. Some of the regular competitors were out of town I included as I was attending the SEMA show. While some other members like Ricki and Ed were dealing with ailing cars in need of repair and Alan suffered a concussion after a bad fall. As we said before the best 2 out of 3 events would be counted and that is the way the cone bounces. Awards will be handed out at Annual Christmas Party in December.

The regularly scheduled Club meeting resumes
[Continued on Page 3](#)

Rearview Mirror

| by Betty Protteau



The North Texas Corvair Association held its 8th annual Heritage Days during the weekend of October 20-23 in Mineral Wells which is located west of the Dallas-Fort Worth area and is in Palo Pinto and Parker Counties. Mineral Wells is named for the mineral springs in the area. The Corvair Houston monthly meeting was also held during this event. Included in the Heritage Day festivities was the annual

Valve Cover Races as well as the Auto Cross event in which several Corvair Houston members participated. The banquet was held on Saturday evening and awards were presented at that time. On October 28th the Niftee-Fiftee's group held their annual Halloween Car Show at the usual location on Louetta and Kuykendahl roads in the Spring area north of Houston. Actually, the

Halloween /car Show was suppose to take place on October 21st, but because the weather people were predicting much rain for that Saturday, it was re-scheduled for the following weekend. However, the weather was not cooperating on October 28th so the number of cars was less than the enormous crowds of previous years. Nevertheless, there were at least 200 cars, including several Corvairs, at the

show. Many of the cars were elaborately decked-out for the Halloween holiday. And, of course candy was handed out to the many children and adults wearing their costumes. The monthly Corvair Houston Board meeting was held on Wednesday, November 8th at which plans for Autorama were finalized as well as the annual Thanksgiving meet to be held on November 18th.



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DRIVERS SEAT ARTICLE

this Friday the 17th at the Feehrey Party Barn for the annual Pot Luck Thanksgiving Feast. The Club is providing the Turkey, Ham and Mashed Potatoes as well as the Libations and Beverages. Please bring a side dish and or dessert to complete the meal. The next two events

are the Autorama Car show, Todd will fill us in on all the details pertaining to this event during our meeting on Friday. The planned move in date for the vehicles will be Tuesday. We will need some volunteers to come to Ricki's house on Sunday the 19th to load up

the display materials so we can setup on Tuesday the 21st at George R. Brown Convention Center. If you have any questions please get with Todd as he is coordinating this event for the Club. The final event of the year is at Ricki and Sally's home on December the

9th for the annual Christmas Party. Please plan to bring a gift if you plan to participate in the gift exchange. Boys are Green wrapping paper and Girls are Red wrapping paper. Please try and cap the gift in the \$25 dollar range. I hope to see y'all at the Party Barn, le on Friday.



What's This about Autocross?

by Howard King



I first became acquainted with the event called autocross two years ago when Corvair Houston converted a donated 1967 Coupe with automatic transmission into a race car. This car was a mess when we started on it as a club project but with some members effort became a star and was later purchased by club member Todd Hasfjord. It was during that time I revived my much younger life of Go-Kart racing. So, in a way, you could say autocross is Go-Karts for us big kids. In many ways those who have participated, and some spectators could identify with that comparison.

After all, you are on a marked course in a motorized vehicle with the ambition of seeing how fast you can wag your way from start to finish in hopes of beating the others in your class. May I say; autocross racing is addictive?

It just seems that four runs are not enough to satisfy one's need for driving the course as fast as you can. The clenching

of your teeth and gripping the wheel as you tromp the accelerator down the straight away into the next turn. Your mind churns as you think through the corrections in steering, hoping not to spin out or go off track, to achieve the very best time for the run. Maybe you get the idea or know firsthand the thrill. The excitement sticks with anyone who has had the experience. This brings me to the story....

This year we had a Corvair Houston club competition in which some members competed for the best two out of three. One of the runs was to be at Heritage Days held in Mineral Wells and sponsored by NTCA. In speaking with event coordinator Tom Wright, I was informed that the autocross is really the central part of Heritage Days. Tom said, "It is a place where we can come out and have a fun time and do it inexpensively." I know they have worked hard to keep this racing event open for enthusiasts. Heritage Days 2017 was at-

tended by members from Corvair Houston, Central Oklahoma Corvair Association and North Texas Corvair Association.

This year I was out on the track for the driver training, taking the photos seen here and other places and thinking about how to get the best shots. Last year during the event I was stationed near the fence and far from the action. Needless to say, the photos were not great. I have really wanted to be racing, but have chosen not to drive 67 Coupe survivor in the race. See Nov. 2016 issue of the Communique for more about the car. You may understand.

At the end of training I asked where I could shoot from, expecting to be told again to get off the track, but instead was directed to find a volunteer spotter and we could be as close as fifty feet. I had no idea who this could be and started towards the spectators, just then seeing Ed Stock coming out to the track. I asked and he said; 'Sure, he would be happy to be my spotter.' We posi-

tioned ourselves out close to a turn to get the best action. I was elated about the potential. Thanks to Ed and the race official.

Ed is a hard luck member who had experienced engine trouble on the drive from Houston to Mineral Wells. I helped him resolve many of the issues, but a loose rocker arm was just too much for the parking lot repair. He had participated in the CH club competition, mentioned earlier, and so wanted to experience this leg of the circuit too.

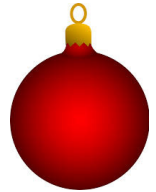
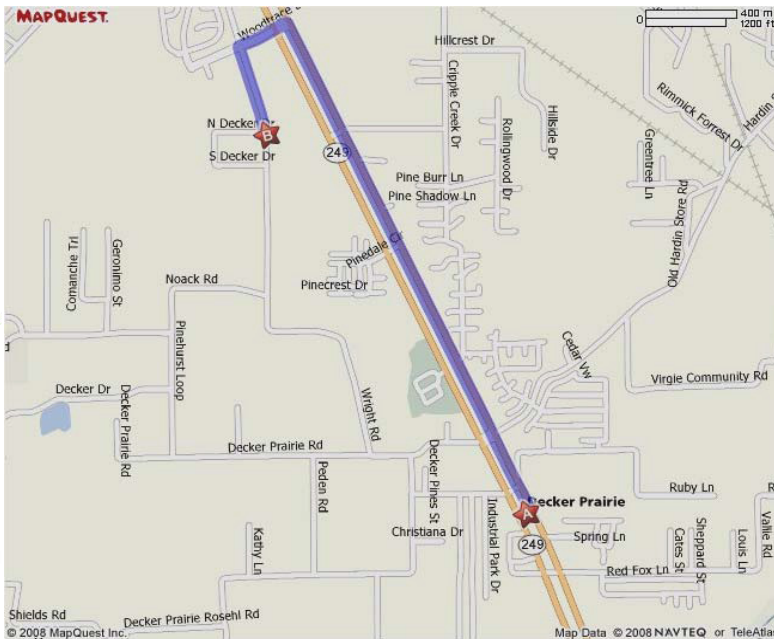
This brings me to the point that I was thinking, Autocross, at least as we have seen, is great fun and a huge thrill at a low cost.

Thanks to NTCA and their commitment and all of you that make this a fun event for us big kids. Do not forget that without the backing of CORSA events like these could not be possible or at least overly expensive due to the insurance required.



Corvair Houston Christmas Party

This year's Christmas Party will be held on December 9th 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 Drive.



OTHER DETAILS FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

- * BRING A COVERED DISH, APPETIZER OR DESSERT ITEM
- * ACTIVITIES START AT 5:00 P.M. AND USUALLY END AROUND 9:30 P.M.
- * EVERYONE BRINGS A GIFT FOR THE GIFT EXCHANGE
- * \$20 to \$25 SUGGESTED COST LIMIT
- * GIRLS WRAP GIFT IN RED
- * GUYS WRAP GIFT IN GREEN
- * RSVP to SALLY JANNISE AT RSJANNISE@ATT.NET OR 281-259-2256

Bulletin Board

FOR SALE! 1960 Corvair 4-Door Sedan. Spyder dash, automatic, 102 engine, beautiful interior, Pearl White paint, 2-speed windshield wipers, remote control driver side view mirror, back-up lights, 4-way flasher, and side makers. First \$3,000 takes it home.

Tony at 281-794-5080/email togatoo@charter.net



High quality 100% cotton T-shirts available at <http://www.corvairhouston.etsy.com>. Order yours TODAY while supplies last!



TREASURY REPORT

REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2017

Beginning Balance	\$8,186.63
Receipts	
Auction Receipts	<u>\$3,760.75</u>
Subtotal	\$11,947.38
Expenses	
Auction payout to sellers	\$3,113.60
Petty cash expense	<u>\$43.75</u>
Ending Balance	<u><u>\$8,790.03</u></u>

Clark's Corvair Parts®

Our catalog lists over 15,000 parts for your Corvair. We carry engine parts, body panels, upholstery and much more! There are 1,000's of reproduced items available, pages of technical information and lots of other helpful hints. Check us out at www.corvair.com or call today to order a copy of our printed catalog. You will quickly see why we are the world's largest supplier of parts and all your other Corvair needs. Clark's - More than Parts!

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



the Corvair
Houston**Bulletin Board****Happy Birthday To:**

Michelle Richburg	Nov. 8
Dorothy Rosenbaum	Nov. 13
Aidan Barker	Nov. 15
George Lapp	Nov. 20
Bruce Parker	Nov. 24
Chris Langley	Nov. 26
Ed Murphy	Dec. 3
Bob Tucker	Dec. 3
April Duplantis	Dec. 3
Maggi Tucker	Dec. 5
Dee Watkins	Dec. 13
Jerry Kelley	Dec. 16
Sally Jannise	Dec. 23
Dudley Gray	Dec. 28
Abigail McCullough	Dec. 28
Vicki Eichenberg	Dec. 31
Sally Jannise	Dec. 23

Happy Anniversary To:

Ron & Michelle Richburg	20 years	Nov. 1
Mark & Waynette Clarke	36 years	Nov. 7
Ray & Dorothy Rosenbaum	60 years	Nov. 10
Chuck & Claudia House	12 years	Nov. 17
Tony & Gail Pomponio	56 years	Nov. 21
Richard & Kristen Jonec	35 years	Dec. 12
Fred & Sandy Mahler	48 years	Dec. 20
Gene & Joyce Marshall	55 years	Dec. 22
John & Jennifer McCullough	13 years	Dec. 31
Jerry & JoAnn Miller	51 years	Dec. 31

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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

Don't forget to join Corvair Houston on Facebook. You will see reminders of events and meetings along with photos. You will be able to post your own photos, questions about our club or your Corvair. You will also be able to post any parts and Corvairs that you might have for sale.

Contact Dee Watkins if any questions.



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

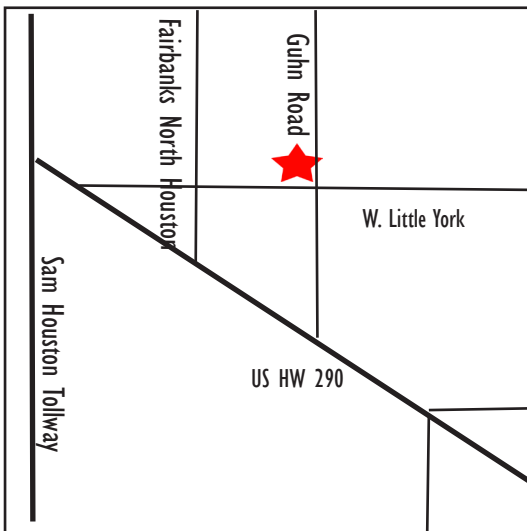
Deliver to:



Catching up with Charles Ray Atkinson & Pat and Billy McMurrugh at Cars & Caffeine Poker Run in Montgomery

CLUB MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17TH AT THE FEEHERRY PARTY BARN

Map to the Meeting Location
 6914 Guhn Road Houston Texas 77040



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 barbeques, 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.

2017 Officers:

President	Richard Jonec	832-559-1629
Vice President	Ken Boysen	281-831-5049
Secretary	Betty Protteau	936-520-2395
Treasurer	Richard Jannise	281-259-2256
Director	Ed Stock	281-413-3478
Director	Howard King	832-687-8251
Director	Sally Jannise	281-259-2256

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