

## The Final Word

We hope you enjoyed this third issue of the new *Texas Takeover*. A special thanks goes out to all of you who have written articles and sent in other items useful to this publication. We need to get the rest of you involved now. I'll say again; please send in, drop off, mail, fax, or leave under my Eagle's wiper blade any and all things AMC that can be used as newsletter fodder. Write up your attempt at a repair (successful or not), car show experience, parts house fiasco, whatever.

For those of you who missed the last meeting, Hickory Hollow stiffed us yet again on our meeting room. We may have to look elsewhere if they don't get their act together soon.

We'll also be reporting on the Election winners in the next issue. Ramble on, dudes.....



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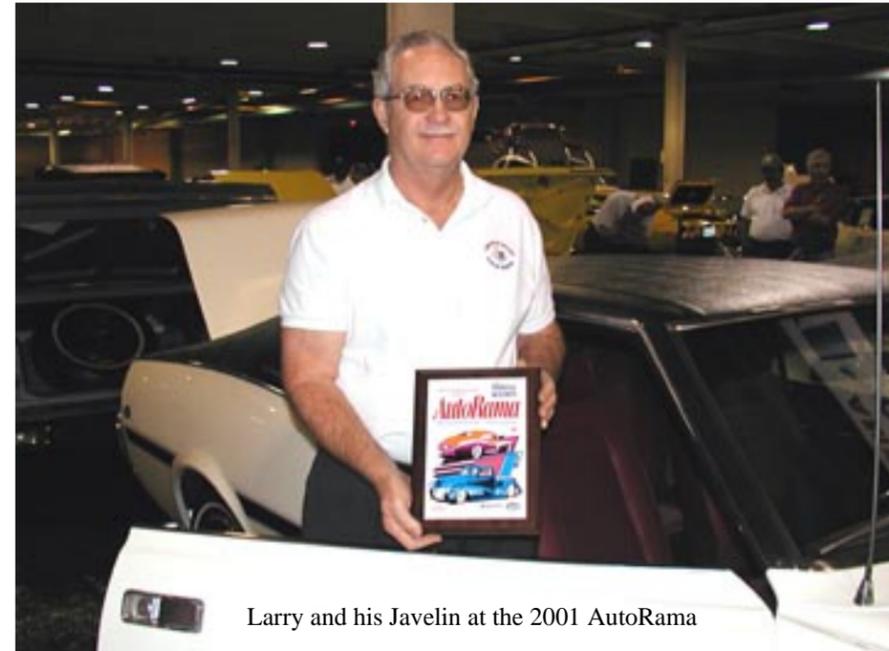
# 2002 The Texas Takeover



The Official Newsletter of the American Motors Club of Houston

March

April



Larry and his Javelin at the 2001 AutoRama

## Member Profile -- Larry Roberts Page 4



<b>Also In This Issue :</b>	<b>Collectable Corner - Two Dimensional Promo's</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
	<b>AMCoH Annual Bowling Event</b>	<b>Page 8</b>
	<b>Tom &amp; David's Excellent Adventure to Sealy</b>	<b>Page 9</b>

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## Club Information

The *American Motors Club of Houston* was founded in the early 1980's with the goal of advancing the image and preservation of AMC vehicles in Southeast Texas and the surrounding area. Our Club is one of a triad of AMC organizations in Texas - the *American Motors Club of Houston*, *Alamo AMC* based in San Antonio, and *North Texas AMC* headquartered in Dallas form a strong contingent of Texas AMC fellowship, experience, and support.

We are a chapter of the American Motors Owners Association (AMO). Although we strongly suggest joining this fine organization, AMO membership is NOT required to be a member of the *American Motors Club of Houston*.

Planned activities include a large display in the annual indoor Thanksgiving Houston AutoRama Show, the annual AMO Southwest Regional Show (location rotates between Houston, San Antonio, & Dallas), family picnics, cruises, parties, races, etc. The 2001 AMO National Meet was also held in Houston!!

We have regular monthly meetings on the second Tuesday of every month (7:30 PM) at the Hickory Hollow restaurant, located at 101 Heights Blvd. (just a few blocks south of I-10). If you are not already a member, feel free to join us for a "get acquainted" session before you sign up.

Ownership of an AMC vehicle or residence in our local area is NOT required to join our group. Interest and enthusiasm are more than enough. We'll gladly help you find your own treasured AMC if you don't already have one!!

Dues are \$18 per year - we are a non-profit organization, and 100% of your dues go to supporting club activities. The club officers do not receive a salary for their efforts. Dues and an enrollment form may be submitted at our monthly meetings, or mailed to our Treasurer.

AMCoH exists specifically to support you in your AMC endeavors; and we look forward to adding your own AMC experience to our knowledge base. If you need any additional information, feel free to contact any of our club officers.

**Check us out on the Web at [www.AMCofHouston.com](http://www.AMCofHouston.com)**

The American Motors Club of Houston (AMCoH) is a nonprofit organization which exists expressly for the purpose of aiding and encouraging the use, enjoyment, preservation, and restoration of all American Motors vehicles. Any suggestions in this newsletter regarding modification of your vehicle are subject to common sense compromises among safety, longevity, reliability, legality, and resale value. AMCoH will not assume or accept any liability resulting from information contained herein. Any modifications are the sole responsibility of the person(s) performing those modifications.

## The Club Store

Thanks to Kevin's hard-nosed negotiation style; the Club purchased a load of slightly mis-colored 2001 AMO International Convention T-shirts at a greatly-reduced price; and we are passing the savings on to you. We are asking **only \$10 each** for the first one (including postage) and **\$6 for each additional shirt** (or \$6 each for all if you pick up), and we still have plenty of all sizes. **Further discounts for BIG multiple purchases!!** These are still the first-quality Hanes Beefy T's" - coloring is the only problem. Since the photo above doesn't show a real good representation of what went wrong color-wise, I'll try to explain:



1. On the front; the "blue" in the lettering and AMC logo is purple (instead of fading across in red/white/ blue; its red/white/purple).
2. On the front, the yellow on the Javelin is just a touch brighter than we wanted.
3. On the back, the "red" areas came out more of a florescent reddish-orange, instead of the correct AMC red. These are first-come, first served; limited to stock on hand. Please contact Prez Kevin Dalley or VP George Graham to purchase these while you still can.

The Club also has a few remaining AMCoH Hats left in stock. These hats were hot sellers at the AMO meet, and we almost sold out during the show. In case you haven't seen these yet; they are red, white, & blue, with the Club logo on the front, an AMC emblem on one side, and the famous Texas Lone Star on the other side. These 3 logos are **embroidered** on the hats; not just painted on. These are **\$15 each** (plus postage).



Also for sale is our new AMCoH Golf Shirt, in both plain and fancy collar/sleeve versions (fancy shown here). \$37 for the fancy, and \$22 for the plain. Both styles have the AMC logo on the sleeve, and the Club logo on the front. The fancy shirts are very high-quality items. **Show your colors!!!**

As always; 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the above items goes directly into the Club Treasury to support Club activities.

## Classifieds

Please submit all Classified requests to AMCoH VP George Graham

**Wanted to buy:** Bucket seats for a 1977 Gremlin. Contact Randy Plotkin at 281-859-3643 or Email BRHHOUSTON@aol.com

**For Sale:** 1973 Hornet Sportabout, 304 V8/auto, Larry Roberts old car, runs and drives, I paid \$600 and I'll sell it for \$600, either I'm too big or it's too small, because it doesn't fit me too well. Contact Randy Helm at 281-578-6206 or Email NostalgicPast@aol.com or radmadrandy@aol.com

**For Sale:** 1923 T-Bucket with no eng/trans, needs finishing, no interior or paint, but it is a rolling chassis, (it has real 12 spoke American spindle mounts up front that are worth about \$600, on line) I bought it for \$2500 in San Antonio about 2 years ago and haven't done a thing with it except pay for storage for it, make me an offer. Contact Randy Helm at 281-578-6206 or Email NostalgicPast@aol.com or radmadrandy@aol.com



## 2002 AMO Southwest Regional Show Coming Up Fast

One more time!!! Its time to start thinking about participating in the upcoming AMO Southwest Regional meet to be held this year on June 8 in San Antonio. This is always a good show; and usually attracts about 60 to 70 cars. Doesn't matter if you think your car is not good enough, bring it anyway; judging is optional. The San Antonio Club always shows us out-of-towners a great time.

If you don't have a car ready to bring; go anyway and support the Club. You can help out with judging (great fun, by the way), lot set-up, anything!!

If your car is less-than-dependable; some AMCoH folks usually try to caravan to the meet on Friday, and spend the night there. Those who can't get off work Friday will just blast over Saturday morning. The location has changed since their old haunt, Rooty's, is no longer with us. The new location is Biff Buzby's Burgers (hey, it sounds like a cool place). A Show flyer is included in this newsletter. Be there, or be square!!

**TIP:** If you pre-register; be sure to choose a T-shirt size one or two sizes bigger than you usually wear!! They are smallish (very smallish)!!

## From the Officers:

We hope you all took advantage of the special Election & Dues mailing that was sent out in March; and want to thank all of you that have renewed your membership and voted in the Election. Remember, **this year, everyone who pays their dues in April will get a FREE 2001 Houston AMO Convention T-shirt!!** The shirt must be picked up at a monthly meeting or at Kevin or George's house (except for out-of-town members; those will be mailed).

We also want to take this opportunity to give a special AMCoH **THANK YOU** and a big round of applause to Larry Roberts for all of his great work as Secretary of the Club for more years than we can remember. Larry has decided to spend more time with his family now that retirement's close by; and has asked to be excluded from this year's election (can't blame him!!). Larry's level of detail on the meeting minutes is legendary. Whoever wins the Secretary Election this year has a very big set of shoes to fill.

Also; to give Larry the sendoff and notoriety he deserves, he was chosen for this issue's Member Profile; and has written a pair of very nice articles about his (and his AMC) history. **Thanks, Larry. You represent the best of what AMC'ing is all about.**

## Presidential Perspectives, by Kevin Dalley, AMCoH President

Well, Spring has sprung. It is now time to pay the Club dues, and get our cars cleaned up for the upcoming cruise/show season so we can show off those AMC cars we all love. Last year, the membership had the challenge of hosting the AMO International meet; which consumed lots of everyone's "car" time (and everyone did a great job with that by the way!!). This year, I would like to challenge everyone to get their cars running!! And then actually drive them to the meetings, car shows, and other Club activities. I know; I'm as guilty as anyone in the Club about not having my cars running, and driving them. I plan on working toward this goal, and hope you will too.

The bowling event we had was great fun!! We just need more participation!! Come on; its fun and **FREE!!** Next year, be there; you'll be glad you came out. Just don't bet with Charlie and his so-called BAD BACK!!

I hope everyone plans on going to the San Antonio Regional Show in June, and then the Kenosha multi-club show in July. They should both be a great time for all; and you'll have the opportunity to see tons of cars you will never see again!! I hope to see all of you there!!

AMC Rules; Kevin

## Member Profile -- by Larry Roberts

I was born in Wellington, Kansas, and grew up on a farm about 20 miles from there. The hospital I was born in has since become a museum. I like to tell people that I am so important, that my birthplace was turned into a museum. I am 65 years old, having now reached the official retirement age when I can now start receiving Social Security money. At least I'm getting a little something back after all those years of paying SS taxes.

Professionally, my degree was in Chemistry, and I have worked at various chemical plants up and down the Ship Channel over the years. The majority of my career was at Aristech Chemical Corporation, Pasadena. The last two years were at another chemical company, Enron Clean Fuels, at La Porte. It became EOTT Energy last July, before the Enron meltdown.

I will have been married to Lois for 40 years this coming July 21<sup>st</sup>. Thankfully, she has been very understanding and tolerant of my AMC hobby. How else can you explain it when the day, and evening, was spent at the AMO Nationals here in Houston when our club hosted the car show and awards banquet the very day of our anniversary? It goes without saying that Lois is much younger than I, since I have now disclosed my age. We have a daughter, Kelli, who lives in Arkansas with her husband and 3 kids. Our son, Bart, and his wife and son live in California. Naturally, his first car was a red 1969 Javelin when he began driving. It was originally going to be a parts car, but wound up being fixed and driven to high school. After driving a 1982 Camero to college, he then had a 1984 Jeep Grand Wagoneer. The other Javelin we had was a 1968 Javelin in the Scarab Gold color. It, too, started out as a parts car, but wound up being driven. At one time all 3 Javelins were running (and tagged, even!). The only other AMC car we've had was a 1973 Hornet Sportabout with the Copper paint scheme. I used it for a daily driver to work until last fall when I sold it to Randy Helm. It's interesting how AMC cars are pretty much bought and sold with the "AMC Family."

On a religious note, we have been active members of the Southeast Church of Christ, which is next door to the Radisson where we hosted the 2001 AMO National Meet. This proved to be advantageous in that it made it easier to secure parking, tables, chairs, electrical plug-ins, and to keep the front parking lot lights on all night for the trailers added security.

## Tom & David's Excellent Adventure to Sealy -- by Tom Diehl

It's Sunday morning, February 17<sup>th</sup>, and I'm on my way to meet David Vasquez so we can race at the eighth mile strip at Sealy. After a few wrong turns near Highway 6, we meet up and head towards I-10. Pretty soon, we pick up a 6.6 liter Firebird that is doing everything he can to get next to us and show his power. Finally, he sees an opening, accelerates past us and, by my estimation, pushes up to about 100mph. The car was quick but neither David nor I were lured into racing. We headed West on I-10 and it was really a beautiful ride. There's just something about riding the open road with another AMC. When we stopped for gas, a gal came over and admired our cars, asking if we could come out and show them in her town some time. Shortly after the gas stop, the first sign of problems popped up. My alternator light is flickering at about 3,200 rpm. I held it to 3,000, and it seemed okay. David's car is running flawlessly. After checking in at Sealy, and deciding not to tighten the alternator belt, we line up for trial runs with David and I paired up. This is my chance. We heat up the tires with a short spin and stage the cars. It's exciting, but I'm getting more at ease each time I go to the track and face the lights. Unfortunately, I was too much at ease because the next thing I saw was the three yellows and the rear of David's car leaving the line! I did everything I could to close the gap but we crossed the line with David about one and a half car lengths ahead. Still, I threw some good shifts and the car seemed to run well. When I got the yellow time slip (you only get the white copy if you win), I saw that my reaction time was 1.4343 and David's was .5629! The ET's were fairly identical with David at 9.3771 and me at 9.3962, but you've just GOT to have a competitive reaction time to win a race. After that, my car went south and it started nosing over at about 4,800 rpm and spitting and sputtering. Lindsay (our Club Web Guy) noticed that the fuel filter was virtually empty and took it apart to clean it. It would fill for a moment and then empty as soon as I'd rev it up. Someone suggested that I pull the gas cap and when I did, I heard a "psst"...suggesting the possibility that a vacuum was preventing the fuel from reaching the carburetor. At about the same time, the alternator situation worsened and the battery got weaker and weaker. I ran a few more times but continued to spit and sputter. My reaction times got progressively better until I pushed too hard and red lighted. David won a couple of runs until he got eliminated. At this point, my battery was so low that the horn wouldn't even honk and I was afraid to turn on anything for fear the motor would just quit. Thank God Kevin was there. He followed both David and I all the way back on I-10, and fortunately there were no mechanical problems. Since February, and following my recent surgery, I've had some time to research my problems and can't wait to get healthy and fix them. I know the car (and I) can do better and I'm looking forward to going to Baytown and having fun. Hope to see you there.

## Second Annual AMCoH Bowling Event a Success

Sunday, March 3rd, was a perfect day for a winter inside event. The weather was a tad cold for the usual outside weekend activities. Everyone showed up right on time at 1:30 at Armadilla Lanes on Fuqua over close to Kevin's house. We had 12 bowlers strung across 4 lanes down at the far right end of the house. They wanted to keep us away from all of the other "real" bowlers (can't blame them there!!).

We divided up into 3-man teams just for fun. After each game, the teams were re-allocated in a futile attempt at "evening out" the scores. We managed to get off three games in our allotted time period. Here's the stats (in high-average order):

Charlie Fisbeck	129, 158, 185	157 average
David Vasquez	161, 137, 150	149 average
Kevin Dalley	132, 153, 149	145 average
Larry Roberts	89, 135, 147	124 average
George Graham	116, 100, 133	116 average
Randy Helm	119, 140, 86	115 average
Lucille Dalley	101, 97, 129	109 average
Steve Collello	106, 103, 102	104 average
Lindsay Johnson	120, 89, 95	101 average
Ted Davis	70, 110, 66	82 average
Laura Collello	43, 93, 66	67 average
Lynn Collello	44, 34, 36	38 average

As you can see; if you decided not to join us in fear of being embarrassed by your bowling scores, no need to worry. When it comes to bowling; the AMCoH for the most part stinks!! But it was great fun nonetheless for everyone there. Hope the rest of you will come out and join us next time. Remember; **ITS FREE!!!**



## Welcome a New Member!!!

Please join us in welcoming a brand new member to the Club; **Ronald Bayer**, hailing from Willis, Texas. Ron stopped by for our March monthly meeting, and joined up right there and then!! He is currently AMC-less; but is in the market for something with a decent body and possibly some mechanical problems. Like most of us, he would rather fix mechanical problems than do body work!! **Welcome aboard, Ron.**

## My First AMC -- by Larry Roberts

Hi! My name is Larry Roberts. I own a white 1969 Javelin SST with a 390 V-8, Go Package, A.T., P.S., Power Disc Brakes, A.C., etc. You get the idea – a pretty loaded car that I bought new here in Houston at John Short Motors, 1805 Ella Blvd. So how did this former farm boy from Kansas wind up in Houston, and buy an AMC product? I thought you would never ask!

After graduating from college, and doing my 6-month tour of active duty in the military, I came to Houston at the urging of a friend who said, "This is a good place to find a job." When you're 22, not married, without a job, and your friend invites you to stay with him while you hunt for a job, it's like "Why not?" Fortunately, I landed a good job in a short period of time.

My dad had driven Fords, Chevrolets, and lastly – Buicks. His youngest brother had driven a Chevrolet, a Ford, and then for a number of years drove Nashes and Ramblers (including the 1957 Rambler Rebel). So I guess my uncle will have to take some of the credit for my openness to owning an AMC product. At the time I began my search for a new car, I was driving a 1962 Triumph TR-4 sports car I had purchased new. From the TR-4, I had learned to appreciate good handling, quick response, disc brakes, and just the pure joy of driving.

When I was going to the various dealerships to look at and drive different cars that had those characteristics I wanted, I found myself crossing off those cars that didn't measure up. The Mustang's steering was too slow, the Camaro's headroom was too cramped, and the new Barracudas and Challengers just coming out were questionable because of Chrysler's record of first-year model problems. Since the Javelin had been out for a year, and AMC's in general had a good history of fairly tight bodies, this seemed worth a drive. I liked the styling, headroom, room for 4 adults (5, if friendly), and the general handling and feel of the car. Also, factored into this purchase was the need to have more than 2 seats (growing family) and air conditioning (Houston, you know).

In going to different AMC dealerships, I didn't see exactly what I wanted. The salesman at John Short Motors then took us to the AMC Regional Sales Facility on Sea Mist (inside Loop I-610, in the northwest quadrant). They had various new cars that the dealerships could pull from. The Javelin we purchased came from that regional sales facility. It had the Go Package, which meant it had the power front disc brakes and the handling package, which I did want. After driving it, I discovered the "Go" in "Go Package" was an apt term. It also had something called a Stereo 8 tape player with an AM radio. Mind you, I had heard of 8-track player, but until we drove the car home the first time from the dealership, I had never heard one. So  
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**My First AMC Car -- by Larry Roberts** (Continued from Previous Page)

As a matter of fact, I still have the original 8-track tape that came with the car (P.N. 3195617). It was manufactured by Capitol Records, and is titled "Today's Sweetest Sounds." I can hear you trivia buffs asking "So what were the day's sweetest sounds?" If this listing doesn't push your button, feel free to skip down to the next paragraph. It is as follows:

- "Wilkommen" .....Jackie Gleason
- "Michelle".....The Letterman
- "Love is Blue".....George Shearing
- "Homeward Bound".....Glen Campbell
- "Mary In the Morning".....Al Martino
- "Something Stupid".....Peggy Lee
- "Up, Up And Away".....The Sounds of Our Times
- "Music To Watch Girls By".....Matt Monroe
- "The Look Of Love".....The Letterman
- "By The Time I Get To Phoenix".....The Sounds of Our Times
- "Walking In The Sunshine".....Ella Fitzgerald
- "Angel Eyes".....Laurindo Almeida
- "Carmen" (Prelude to Act 1 ).....Carmen Dragon - Capitol Symphony Orch.
- "Maid With The Flaxen Hair".....Carmen Dragon - Capitol Symphony Orch.
- "Waltz Of The Flowers".....Hollywood Bowl Symphony Orch.  
Conducted by Felix Slatkin



Another trivia item that I still have is my original "Owner Identification Card". At first glance, it looks like a typical white plastic credit card. The printing is in blue; example: "American Motors Protective Maintenance" and "Service that's so good you help us sell cars." The embossed portion is in red and includes the following: owner's name and address, vehicle identification no., delivery date, dealer number and the notation "Original Owner 1/12 5/50".

Unfortunately, one of the items I don't have is the original window sticker (Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price Label). Since it pretty much went directly from the AMC Regional Sales Facility to the dealership, and then to us, they didn't take time to type one up. I asked for it, but to no avail.

A picture of the Javelin has appeared in the Houston Post, Wednesday, September 25, 1985 edition, along with John Wing's 1969 AMX. The automotive reporter wanted a picture to run with an article about the Javelin and AMX. This happened not too long after I became a member of the club here in Houston. That was also the same year the Javelin first made an appearance at the AutoRama as part of the Greater Houston Classic AMX Club display. Later appearances at the AutoRama with the club display

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**My First AMC Car -- by Larry Roberts** (Continued from Previous Page)

The last big point of pride has been the inclusion of a picture of the Javelin when the car magazine "Muscle Car Review" covered the July 2001 AMO Nationals here in Houston. This photo was in the January, 2002 issue (Page 22, if you're looking for it!). As the car gets older, it attracts more attention than ever, whether driving on the freeway, pulling into a gas station, going to a cruise, or wherever. It continues to receive many a thumbs-up! It's nice to know that other fans of old cars have come to appreciate what we AMC'ers have known all along – that we have some pretty neat cars that you don't see coming down the street every day.

**Collectable Corner** -- By George Graham

If you are like most of us fanatical AMC'ers, you would like to own one of every year and model AMC. But reality strikes hard; and we can only afford one or two cars each. So what else is there?? Promo's!! But even those are getting pretty expensive (most AMC promo's now go for between \$40 and \$100+). So, lets take another step down into the world of two-dimensional promo's -- in other words; POSTCARDS!! Although I am unsure how long advertising postcards were issued by AMC; I have personally seen cards dating from 1954 all the way up to 1974. These items are still relatively cheap if you shop around and shop smart. My personal collection currently averages about \$1.50 per card. Buy in bulk when you have the chance to keep your costs down. These are all over Ebay at prices ranging from less than a dollar, to a max of \$15 each (although I have never seen an Ebay card actually sell for more than \$5 each). Just don't get into a bidding war with any other Club members (keep away



from my Auctions, Ted!!). The group of cards you see on the left are all 1964 Rambler American's. Those of you who know my little yellow car know my affinity for '64 American's. Get these cards cheap while you can, like all else, they are only going to get more expensive in the future. Happy hunting.