

The Final Word

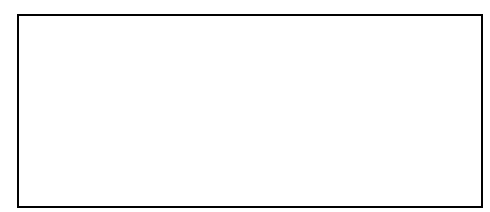
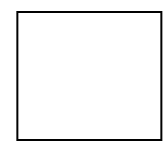
Stay tuned for the next impressive issue for exciting new articles on..... on..... on.....; well; we don't know what will be in the next issue just yet. We await your feedback and ideas with baited breath. Please send all comments, ideas, and suggestions to AMCoH VP George Graham, 5609 Valerie St, Houston, TX 77081; or Email to turbineguy@worldnet.att.net

We will also be accepting want ads from Club members for cars, parts, or whatever you want to get rid of. Send all ads to the address above.

The Officers of the American Motors Club of Houston would like to take this opportunity to wish all who read this a great Thanksgiving and a wonderful Christmas season. We hope to make great strides with the Club and this newsletter in the coming new AMC year.



George Graham
5609 Valerie St.
Houston, TX 77081-7305



2001 The Texas Takeover

The Official Newsletter of the American Motors Club of Houston

NOVEMBER 2001



AMCoH Show Crew with just barely enough energy left to stand up for a group photo

NOVEMBER 2001

**STOP THE PRESSES!!! HOLD THE PHONE!!!
BACK UP THE TRUCK!!!**

The AMCoH Newsletter has a NEW LOOK!!!!

See page 3 for details!!!



Also In This Issue	Houston's 2001 AMO International Convention a rousing success for both AMO and AMCoH.	Page 4
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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.

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.

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** (including postage) for these, and we still have plenty of all sizes. These are still the first-quality Hanes Beefy T's" - coloring is the only problem. Since the scan I attached 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 remaining are a few of our new AMCoH Golf Shirts, in both the 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.

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.

Collectable Corner

If any of you rabid diecast collectors have been to a Houston area Wal-Mart lately, you may have noticed a new special Wal-Mart-only ERTL American Muscle CustomShop 1/24 scale AMX offered in the same hunter-green-with-silver-stripes scheme as the old familiar 1/18 scale offerings. This 1/24 kit is attached via shrink wrap to a '49 Merc metal kit - you have to buy both to get the AMX; but the price is right at \$10.88 for the pair. Remember the earlier purple and RWB kits were priced at \$15.88 for just the one kit; so two kits for \$10.88 is a bargain.

These new offerings are not the same as the prior purple and RWB kits in that they do not have a scoop or a hole in the hood (and they also left off the famous AMX "Power Bulges" - you win a few, you lose a few). They also have more external detail than the prior two issues, including the AMX quarter circle logos, 390 emblems, side marker lights, and door handles. Also, don't be fooled by the box art that still shows the old purple car with the hood scoop - look inside and see what's really there.

There are actually four colors offered in these new special kits, but only certain parts of the country got certain colors. The south has hunter green with silver stripes, the east received black with white stripes, the north got Big Bad Blue with black stripes, and the west offered up red with white stripes.

If you're lucky enough to stumble on to any of these, grab them; when they are gone, that's it - no more.

Also available now is a new 1/18 issue of Ertl's AMX diecast in Playboy pink!! This issue commemorates the free hot pink AMX given to Playboy's 1968 Playmate of the Year, Angela Dorian. YOWZAA!!! I remember her from my high school days. I have not actually seen one of these yet; but I wonder if it comes with a copy of her centerfold photo from back then (you know, kind of like the Johnny Lightning cars coming with a reproduction magazine ad).

Important announcement!!!!

After a bazillion years in business at the same location, our meeting place, Biba's One's-a-Meal, has closed its doors for good to make room for a strip mall. We are now meeting 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).

From the Officers:

In case you haven't noticed yet; the AMCoH newsletter has a completely new-and-improved look and feel. We (the Club Officers), in the most selfless and intelligent act ever conceived by us, decided to use some of the proceeds from the recent AMO Convention to attempt to give the Club publication a nice "professional" look. Deciding how to use the money was a tough decision to make. Some of the other purchases we considered for the Club's newfound wealth (which were all summarily voted down) were: (1) Officers' trip to Cancun, (2) Officers' monthly Kegger, (3) embezzlement into Officers' bank accounts, and (4) a massive unprecedented one-time purchase of lottery tickets. But then, as is usually the case, we came to our senses and decided to use the funds for the betterment of the Club.

Since we are expending all of this energy for the Club's reputation; we want to ask that you don't just read this; but also try to get involved in this newsletter. Send us articles written about you, your cars, your AMC endeavors, other articles you found interesting or amusing, anything at all. If you don't think you write well, who cares; write it and send it in anyway - we'll tidy it up for publication.

Also let us know what you think about this rag. We're open to any and all suggestions about what to add, what to lose, what works, what stinks, whatever. You want it perforated so you can use it in the bathroom?? That's OK, too!! Remember; the only bad idea is the one you keep to yourself.



Car Ad Abbreviations Explained (at last)

Abbreviation:	What you think it means:	What it really means:
R&H	Radio & Heater	Rattles & Heaves
W/W	Whitewalls	Wheels Wobble
2 Tn Rd & Crm	2-Tone, Red & Cream	2 Tons of Rusted & Corroded Metal
P/S	Power Steering	Probably Stolen
Ex Cond	Excellent Condition	No holes bigger than your fist
N/D	Nothing Down	Not Driveable

The 2001 AMO International Convention

The Untold Story; Behind-the-Scenes Musings from the American Motors Club of Houston

George Graham – Vice President, American Motors Club of Houston

--- This article also appears in the December 2001 issue of American Motoring Magazine ---

The American Motors Club of Houston Officers and Members would like to take this opportunity to send a big Texas-sized “Thank You” to all who took the time out of their busy summer schedules to come down and be a part of this event. We hope you thoroughly enjoyed your visit, and suffered no long-term medical maladies from Houston’s intense summer heat!! For those of you who couldn’t make it, you missed a great time.

The AMCoH staff would like to use this forum to say that we believe that each and every AMO Chapter should host the AMO Convention at least once (so we never have to do it again!!) to get an idea of what it takes to put on a show of this magnitude. Not a big deal?? Easy, since AMO handles everything?? Not so!! Each and every Convention will generate a unique set of hurdles to jump depending on the show location’s particular set of circumstances. Due to this, it is impossible for AMO to give more than “high-level” guidance to the host Chapter. Those who expect more direction from AMO will be disappointed. Its up to the host Chapter to take care of all of the “little things” that must be addressed.

Now, with the above-mentioned points clarified, on to those interesting “little things” we had to deal with:

Show Site:

Since one of the main items AMO desires from any Convention is a profit margin of greater-than-zero, the host Chapter needs to keep a sharp eye on expenses. By far the biggest expense will be the show site. One of the underlying problems here is the old adage of “you get what you pay for”. We paid nothing for using the host Hotel’s parking lot, meeting rooms and other facilities – we only had to guarantee that “x” number of rooms were booked (no problem thanks to your support). We also had a signed contract document from the Hotel stating exactly what we were entitled to for the show. The point to remember here is ALWAYS GET EVERYTHING IN WRITING; PERIOD!! This document was a lifesaver many times during the year prior to the show.

Now, back to the “you get what you pay for” scenario. Keep in mind that the glamorous world of Hotel Management is in reality a low-paying transient occupation staffed by people who just don’t care about you or your event. The host Club will most likely be dealing with many different sets of Hotel Management people during the year prior to the show. We actually went through three sets – each had no idea of what an AMO Convention was all about, and knew nothing about our Contract with the Hotel. Many times while explaining our show to the then-current inaugural set of Hotel folks, we were told “no, I’m sorry, we can’t do that”. We, of course, usually replied with “we have a signed Contract; pardon us while we call our lawyer”. Don’t let them push you around; they do not have your best interests on their agenda.

Also, there were numerous big and small items in our Contract that we never did get!! I’m sure all who were there remember the other Convention that was in residence through Friday night (can you say “Carmen Miranda hat”?). That group was supposed to have been gone Wednesday night!! Had the hotel held up their end of the bargain (the AMO show was supposed to be the only thing going on that week after Wednesday), there would have been no problems with overbooked reservations or “overloaded” elevators (you had to be there!!).

The Hotel also (at the “last minute”) wanted part of their parking lot back on Saturday afternoon for a wedding reception. After much arguing, we agreed to “try” to free up some parking in the trailer area – knowing full well that all trailers would already be parked before Saturday afternoon. We could also be devious when needed!!

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Tom Diehl & David Vasquez trying to figure out where in the heck the AMO grille badge goes.



Club VP George Graham makes a futile attempt to moon the camera, but is too tired to drop his pants.



The famous Ashmead Donohue Javelin - NICE!!!



Numerous unidentified show patrons try to keep stray kid from getting his grubby hand prints on the cars.

The 2001 AMO International Convention makes the Big Time!!
The January 2002 issue of *Muscle Car Review* has 4 pages of nice coverage on the Show. Locals mentioned by name in the article (with photos of their cars and/or products) were Randy Guynn (Performance American Style), Craig Caudle (North Texas AMC Prez), Larry Roberts (AMCoH Secretary), and J.R. Garcia.
Pick up a copy if you can find one. We have so far only found them in a few mall-located Waldenbooks stores. For those who can’t find a copy, we hope to receive permission from *Muscle Car Review* to reprint the article in the next AMCoH Newsletter.

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Show Direction:

A host Club absolutely needs one or two people who will take command and drive the show to completion. Any more than this, and the process will become bogged down with discussions and arguments about “who, what, where”, etc. This person needs to have the ability to “tell it as it is” to all under his command. He can’t worry about “stepping on toes” or hurting anyone’s feelings – the show must go on!! For the Houston show, this person was our Club President, Kevin Dalley. If not for Kevin’s persistence, this Show would have been nothing more than 30 people wondering aimlessly around a mall parking lot somewhere trying to keep their cars from getting stolen. Luckily, Kevin has his own business, and is quite adept at managing his work crews – this is a good talent to have when managing a show of this size. Kevin was the one constantly dealing with the Hotel problems, and pushing the show’s volunteers to complete their tasks. The AMCoH Club Officers and Members want to take this opportunity to publicly say “THANK YOU” to Kevin for flawlessly performing this “thankless” job. Drum roll and big round of applause, please!!!!

A host Club also needs at least a dozen volunteers to address the hundreds of pre-show items that need to be completed. Be wary of those volunteers who may “bite off more than they can chew”. Realize that their good intentions may not be achievable in real time. Level-load the work over the whole crew as much as possible, taking into account the individual talents of each person. Many times we had to say “no, you can’t do that” to a cheerful volunteer due to knowing their talent and/or time constraints. The AMCoH Officers want to say a public “THANKS” to our pre-show volunteers who donated much time and talent to getting this show on the road, and to those who helped during show day. Many of these folks proved that they are indeed AMCoH “Officer material”.

Show Day:

Have as much manpower and womanpower as you can dredge up for Show day. You can never be over-staffed. AMCoH Officers and Members brought in lots of friends and relatives to help.

Be ready for lots of little problems on show day. Nothing goes perfectly. Most who attended our show told us it came off perfectly. That’s the key to a good show – make it LOOK perfect even though it was not. A few unexpected things popped up. The crew had to make numerous trips to Sam’s for more Gatorade and sodas (we didn’t account for how the heat would affect you Northerner’s!!); water was running through the Show field from the wash area; etc. In the great scheme of things, these problems are nits – you can’t let them worry you too much.

Bottom Line:

We thoroughly enjoyed having the 2001 AMO Convention here in Houston. Orchestrating and running a show of this size was both a major pain in the backside at times, and a unique joy when it all came together on the day of the show. As stated previously, hosting an AMO Convention is a once-in-a-lifetime event that should be experienced in some way by each and every AMO member and Chapter.

Again, thanks to all for making this an event to remember.

The Officers of the American Motors Club of Houston.



AMCoH Takes the 12th Annual Houston MOPAR Show & Race by Storm

Well, maybe by a small shower. The weekend of October 6 & 7 started out dreary and rainy Saturday morning at the famous Houston Raceway Park in Baytown. Many were worried that the annual MOPAR extravaganza hosted by the Houston MOPAR Connection Club would be forced to a rain date later in the month. Not so; the weather later that day cleared enough to let the Park crew dry off the track, and allow some late-day bracket racing action on Saturday, and a full day’s worth on Sunday. AMCoH made a strong showing both Saturday and Sunday, lured to the track by Prez Kevin Dalley’s promise to let everyone use his 3rd-floor chalet over the starting line to get out of the weather. In attendance were Prez Kevin Dalley, VP George Graham, Secretary Larry Roberts, Activities Director Brian Tolley, David Vasquez, Tom Diehl, Jane & Dale Ott, Ted Davis, the Schneider brothers from San Antonio, Claude Short, Doug Tipton, and the Divito family (hope I remembered everyone).

The bracket racing action included Kevin’s pro AMX, Tom’s AMX, Brian’s AMX, David’s AMX (Saturday) and Gremlin (Sunday), and the Schneider’s Machine and Rogue. Also in attendance on the show field were Larry’s original-owner Javelin, and the Ott’s gorgeous Metropolitan. The best time by far was had by David Vasquez; rookie drag racer just getting his feet wet in the game. Here are David’s own words:

About 1:30 or so, the San Antonio guy's, Brian, Tom, and I ran some time trials with our cars. It was the 1st time our AMX's had been run down the 1/4 mile track so we were all nervous. We lined up at the staging lines and made our runs...one after the other..no one wanting to be 1st so we could see how the other guy did. I think we all ran 3 time trials..I know I did...and was satisfied with the results, so I went for the elimination's. I managed to make it to the 3rd round (money, money, money ...\$25) before being eliminated. My best reaction time for the day was .503 and the best ET was 14.002 @ 102.7 mph. I thought nothing could top this day until Sunday...when the mighty Gremlin hit the track.

Sunday was a great day. I wanted to see Kevin's car run...and also get a 1/4 mile time on the Gremlin while it still has the 258. I called Tom and he was willing to go...so I picked him up and off we went. We met up with the guy's at the track and managed to get in 10 time trials that morning. I drove 6 of them and Tom the other 4. Times were pretty consistent and we were having a blast, so I decided to go for the elimination rounds.



View of the track from Kevins’ chalet - Tom just leaving the line, Brian ready to stage.

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I kept looking around at the dial in times, and it seemed the Gremlin was possibly the slowest car out there. It's a little depressing, especially when your in line waiting to run and you're wondering if your engine is still on. Seems like I was the only one with mufflers on the car. I'd give it a little gas and it would roll....so I was OK. Now the good part starts.....1st run / win.....2nd run / win. Is this right?? What's wrong with this picture, I am wondering? And then.....3rd run / win.... 4th run / win... and it hit me (MONEY..MONEY..MONEY)...I'm in the finals!!! I'll bet all those clowns up in room 301 (the rest of the Club in Kevin's chalet - ed.) are either laughing their a\$\$e\$ off, or their jaws are on the ground...I'm so excited. I'm gonna stay calm and do it. Then the one-armed guy pulls up next to me (a local track legend - ed.). He eliminated me yesterday in my AMX...what are the chances?...my worst nightmare is next to me again. Oh well, it's all in fun..off we went...he beat me; but my satisfaction is knowing he had to "work for it" according to Kevin and the time slip. After the race, he even came up to me and said he thought I had him..made me feel better...as he's been racing forever..and this was the first time for the Gremlin at Baytown. It was nice to see an AMC in the finals at a Mopar Show. Best reaction time for the day...503....best E/T. 17.13 & 77.43 mph. On a sad note, after I dropped Tom off at his truck on the way home, the old 258 started clattering and died a few times. It was hard to accelerate and died at every turn or stop. It got me home though, and died again in my driveway. I fear it may have given it's life for one day of glory...or maybe it's just a fuel filter or something.....

Can this guy tell a story!!! Other noteworthy happenings during the weekend were:

1. Brian Tolley fragged a clutch and had to be trailered home. Brian's car is now modified to the point that he should soon be routinely breaking things. Hey; you aren't a real motorhead until you run over your own connecting rods at least once.
2. The Schneider boys almost got kicked out for running their Machine too fast (11.85) without a cage (and if you know the Schneider's, you know they SHOULD be caged!!). A block under the foot-feed fixed that; and they were allowed to continue racing. They were also giving tours of their nifty new tour bus, with lots of way-cool internal woodwork (I thought I was in a million-dollar yacht!).
3. The leftover cookies and chips from the AMO show STILL are not stale. A tribute to American chemistry at its finest.

Well, that's about it for this story. See what you missed?? -- Loads of fun, mayhem, cool cars, and busted car parts with your AMC brethren. We'll try to keep everyone updated on future planned Club events either through this newsletter, mass-mailings, or phone calls.



Editorial Corner:

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the new AMCoH *Texas Takeover* newsletter. Now that the Club treasury is fattened up a bit from proceeds generated from the July AMO Convention, the Club Officers have decided to pass these profits on to our members via a well-deserved new flashy glitzy newsletter!!! Its time to drop-kick this Club into the 21st Century, and use the available technology to its fullest.

In today's society, the only way for a Club to survive is to do all it can to attract new members, and of course keep the members it already has. This new format is but a first step toward that end. Most people today are so busy with work and home life, there seems to be no time available in the average busy day to engage in a "lackluster" hobby (or Club!). A person will not spend any time doing something that doesn't bring a certain level of enjoyment. If its more fun to sit around and watch *Survivor* on TV than go to a Club meeting, then there is definitely a problem somewhere. And the problem is not with the apathetic Club member; the problem is the Club itself.

It's the duty of the entire Club to create an environment that entices the current members to participate in Club activities. Now; its not the Club Officers' duty to create that perfect environment; the Club Officers' duty is strictly to "facilitate" and steer the members in the right direction, and keep up with the day-to-day administrative work. As the current membership gets more actively involved with the Club, not only does the Club become more enjoyable to the members, but also becomes more inviting to "outsiders". Then, guess what; we start attracting new members. Once that process loop starts; its hard to stop.

So; I'm asking all of you to help re-energize this Club -- come to a monthly meeting -- come to a planned Club activity -- get your motorhead friends involved in AMC. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at what's changed with the Club since you joined the "inactive" ranks.

Thanks for the support.

George Graham

Vice President - AMCoH

