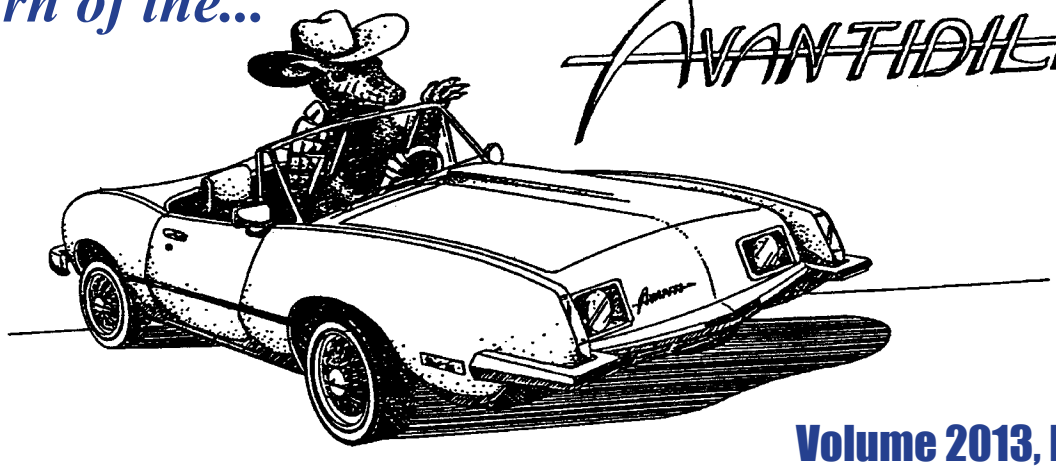
The return of the... AVANTIDILLO



March 2013 **Volume 2013, Number 1**

For those of you were part of the Houston area AOAI chapter in the mid-80s, you'll recognize the masthead above as that of that club's publication - Avantidillo. At one point, the Houston-area chapter of the AOAI had over 50 members with monthly meetings. I truly believe that we can attain those same, if not greater, numbers with a larger geographical range from which to operate. So, what say we get started?

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February 2013 "Are you interested?" mailing

In late 2012, I had conversations with the current leadership of the AOAI and expressed interest in forming a chapter in Texas/Louisiana. Their response was enthusiastic and the club provided me with a list of approximately 120 current and former members of the AOAI. Once the dust from the holidays had settled, in late February I created and mailed a short note to each of the people on that list and waited, unsure of if I would receive any replies at all! Lo and beholds, I started to receive responses almost immediately - many of the responses came via email, others called and a few wrote letters. I was glad to receive them all!

All in all, a total of 26 responses were received, or a little more than 20%. While that may not seem like a great response, from a "direct mail advertising" point of view (even with a "targeted" mailing list), that's a successful first time mailing. If you're reading this as one of the "other" 80% that did not reply to the first mailing - how about taking a minute to call, email or otherwise letting me know if you're interested in being a part of OUR group?

Moving "forward" and April "Kick off" meeting

As mentioned in the earlier mailing, it takes "seven" members to form a chapter, and I think we'll be able to get to that number in fairly short order - possibly even at the "kick-off" meeting. We've set a date, time and place for this first meeting, but don't worry it won't be all business - there's a bit of fun planned in here, too! ➲

Moving "forward" and April "Kick off" meeting *(continued)*

The "when" and the "where":

Date: Saturday, April 20th, 2013
Time: 2:00 pm
Place: DeLorean Motor Company, 15023 Eddie Drive, Humble, Texas 77396 (northeast Houston)

PLEASE RSVP by phone, email or letter so I can plan for the right number of people.

I'm employed at DeLorean, and we have ample parking and meeting space, and if you're interested in cars, it's an interesting place to visit. If you've never seen 30-40 DeLorean cars in one place, along with literally millions of new and reproduction DeLorean parts - now is your chance.

First off, we'll spend a little time introducing ourselves, then talk about the direction we want our chapter to take going forward. Finally, we'll review the steps and requirements to becoming an "official" chapter of the Avanti Owners Association International - nothing too hard, but I will be using the "V" word (volunteer). As it happens with most organizations, those who don't show up are the ones who get "volunteered" first.

From that point, those that are interested can join together for a bite to eat and then head to the Atascocita "Blast from the Past" cruise-in near DeLorean Motor Company. Informal and relaxed, it will give us an opportunity to show our cars (or look at them all some more if you can't bring yours) and see some other interesting cars, as well. Bring a lawn chairs and a jacket in case it gets chilly!

For those coming in from out of town and making a weekend out of it, here are two recommended hotels, and other suggestions for things to do while in the area.

Best Western Plus Atascocita
(nearest to the Cruise-In)
7730 FM 1960 Road E
Humble, Texas, 77346-2256
Phone: 281/852-5665

Spring Hill Inn & Suites-Intercontinental
(nearest to DeLorean Motor Company)
15840 John F Kennedy Boulevard
Houston, Texas 77032
Phone: 281/442-2275

Old Town Spring - Texas historic railroad town. Quaint 1900's town full of antique shops, restaurants and more
Space Center Houston - Official Visitors Center of NASA's Johnson Space Center.
Houston Premium Outlets - The world's finest outlet shopping. Save 25% to 65% every day on designer and name brands.
Houston Museum of Natural Science - The purpose of the Houston Museum of Natural Science has always been to "enhance in individuals the knowledge and delight in natural science and related subjects."

More information on these, and other points of interest, will be available at the kick-off meeting.

PLEASE RSVP by phone, email or letter so I can plan for the right number of people.







How we will communicate

This newsletter, Avantidillo, will come out every other month or so - and while the first communication you received from the chapter was via regular mail, in the interest of keeping printing and postage costs (and therefore the aforementioned dues) as low as possible, if you have an email address, we'd like to use that whenever possible. The chapter also has a web site, and everything that's newsworthy (including electronic versions of this newsletter) will be posted there.

All that said, however, if you don't have an email address or don't use the internet, don't worry!

We're all in this **together** and we'll continue to send you all our news in the regular mail if you tell us to do so. After the kick-off meeting, we'll be sending out membership applications and there will be a spot on there to indicate your preference.

New Email address and Website/Contact Information

I recently created a new email address and web site for Chapter-related matters. For the time being, the mailing address remains the same. Both the new email address and the website are up and running now, so please take note of the email address and take a look at the website - comments are welcomed and appreciated!

Send all emails to: thirdcoastavanti@gmail.com
Web site: http://www.thirdcoastavanti.com

The mailing address and phone number remain the same for the time being.

Third Coast Avanti Club • 7122 Hollow Cedar Drive • Houston, Texas 77049
281-650-5533

Volume 2013 - what the heck does that mean?

When I bought my Avanti, it came with several old (mid-80s) copies of the Houston-area chapter newsletter - the Avantidillo. These copies were from noted with a Volume X, Number X numbering system, apparently starting in January of 1985. Rather than start this latest iteration of the Avantidillo with Volume 1, Number 1, I opted to start with Volume 2013, Number 1 in order to differentiate these from the 80s-era editions.

That said, I've converted as many of these 80s editions to electronic format (PDF) and posted them on the website (above) where you can download them, if you like. If you're not online but would still like hard copies, they are available for the cost of the copying (cheap) and postage (going up, but I don't mind supporting the post office if you don't). Just call me (281-650-5533). Here are the issues that are available:

June 1986 • July 1986 • September 1986 • October 1986 • November 1986 • December 1986
March 1987 • December 1986

As you can see, there's plenty of holes to be filled here. If anyone still has any copies of them that are not posted on the website, I would love to get copies to try and complete the archives!

Photos of my first time...in South Bend, Indiana

In the summer of 1984, I was between my junior and senior year of high school. A few years before this I had my first exposure to the Avanti, in a book titled “Elite Cars” that I received from my older brother. Filled with exotic cars like Clenet, Maserati, Ferrari, Stutz, Excalibur, DeLorean and the Avanti, it ignited a passion for uncommon cars that I’ve been unable shake in the past thirty years.

Looking on the map, it was easy to see that South Bend was about 5.5 hours from where I lived with my mother and brother in St. Louis. Telling my mom I was going to spend the night at a friend’s house, I set off for South Bend instead, leaving early in the morning. It was mid-afternoon when I arrived at their offices and asked if I could look around and take some pictures. I recall having fairly free run of the ground floor, and picking up some postcards featuring the black Touring Coupe on the front.

A few weeks ago, I ran across what remained of the photos I took that day. As is most often the case, hindsight is 20/20, and if I knew then what I knew now, I would have taken a lot more photos of the various operations. Does anyone out there have any photos of the South Bend, Youngstown, Villa Rica or Cancun Avanti facilities?











