



Country Coach Texans

Fall 2019

Fall Rally in Mineola

From rally hosts

Pat Turpin, Cherie & Ron Rang and Lavada & Lonny Stevens

The Fall 2019 Rally of CC Texans was held October 23-27, 2019 at the Mineola Civic Center, Mineola, TX. We had 20 coaches (38 people) registered for the rally, with five guest registrations. **Pat Turpin, Cherie & Ron Rang, and Lavada & Lonny Stevens** were your hosts for this rally.



Rally hosts (l-r): Cherie & Ron Rang, Lavada & Lonny Stevens and Pat Turpin

As registrants arrived, they received rally bags with the rally agenda, "surprise gifts": Halloween-inspired wine bottles decorated by **Lavada Stevens**; assorted items provided by **Sandy Nikolai, Cherie Rang, and Pat Turpin**; an agenda for the General Membership Business Meeting; maps with directions to the Canton Western Swing Festival; packets from the Mineola Chamber of Commerce; and later, coupons from area merchants for discounted purchases. Our table decorations were more artistic creations done by Lavada.

We began our festivities with a CC Texans "traditional" Margarita Happy Hour, with the famous **Lonny & Lavada Stevens** margarita recipe. So good!! Our dinner meal was chicken enchiladas with all the "traditional" Mexican sides.

Our caterers for this rally were **Brad and Sandy Cobern**, owners of the **Red Dome Bar BQ** in Quitman and **Uncle Bubba's Grillhouse** in Mineola. Our servers were **Gary, Sherry, and**

Jeannie: they were superb during the entire rally!

Thursday morning, we gathered for a delicious breakfast of bacon, eggs, sausage, biscuits, and gravy. Our General Membership Meeting followed breakfast (minutes for this meeting are posted on the website). After the meeting, we all drove over to Canton, TX to the **Western Swing Festival**, where we enjoyed two fantastic bands. Special thanks go out to **Cherie and Ron Rang** for their connection to this group to get us special discounted tickets to enjoy the festival for its first day. One of the **Jeff Woolsey Band's** signature songs, "Blue Diamonds" gave us the opportunity to wear our own "blue diamonds" battery powered rings during the dance. **Bobby Flores & the Yellow Rose Band** followed and their fiddle-playing was phenomenal! Everyone enjoyed the day and the opportunity to dance and visit.



What would a CC Texans Fall Rally be without just a little bit of rainy weather? Thursday night storms blew in and we woke up on Friday to mist and fog - also, cooler temperatures. We began the day with scrambled eggs,

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Fall Rally cont.

biscuits and gravy, bacon, sausage and potatoes. After breakfast, members dispersed to explore the area: shopping in downtown Mineola (the Haute Stuff Boutique yielded many amazing bargains); visiting the Grand Saline Salt Palace and Museum (what an educational experience! Ask anyone who went to tell you the story behind Morton Salt's motto: "When it rains, it pours"); touring the Antique Car Show on display in downtown Mineola. The weather never slows a CC Texan down!!

We had a delicious Italian Spaghetti dinner, served by our wonderful caterers. **Mineola Civic Center Manager, Nancy Murphy**, joined us after dinner to give us a history of the Civic Center and a bit about her background (she once sang in a backup choir for Tammy Faye Baker). Some members asked her to sing and she gave an amazing extemporaneous performance of "Summertime." She got a standing ovation! Quite a treat!! She then drew names from people who had submitted receipts for purchases made in the area and gave gifts provided by area merchants. Nancy explained that she provides a report to the Mineola City Council to demonstrate the economic impact that RV Rallies have on their community.

After Nancy left us, we began a new activity for CC Texans, inspired by **Terrie Howard** and **Jennifer Stallings**. This past year, they scoured garage sales across the state and found amazing gifts to contribute to our first-ever "Chinese Gift Exchange". We had to set a rule that one gift could only be "stolen" twice -- there was quite a lot of discussion over that rule. The item most-wanted was a canvas purse, which was initially won by **Ginny Passe**. The final recipient will remain unnamed. After the gifts were exchanged, many members headed back to their coaches to watch the World Series Game while those remaining were entertained by the movie "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel." The movie was fun. And, if

recalling correctly, the Astros won. So, everyone had a good time!

On Saturday, our caterers served Sausage Breakfast Casserole to start our day. The weather was a bit better, so some went out exploring the area.

We later gathered in the Civic Center for Happy Hour, followed by a delicious dinner of bacon-wrapped pork medallions. Wow! What a treat.

After dinner, **David Twilley** led us in several rounds of Card Bingo. We had many gifts, once again provided by **Terrie and Jennifer**. We even introduced giving a prize to the person who had the most cards remaining after a session.

Following the last round of Card Bingo, every family was given a Chinese sky lantern. Pens were available to write what you wanted to "fly away." We headed out to the main circle at the Civic Center and sent the lanterns aloft. Since we had so much moisture, we didn't fear setting trees on fire, and the lanterns went straight up and headed north. What an amazing, magical sight.

Sunday morning, we had a light breakfast of cereal, muffins, and yogurt. We said our goodbyes for now and look forward to meeting in the spring.

Another great CC Texans Rally! Thanks to all who contributed!!



The best thing about a rally is reconnecting with friends!



The lovely table centerpieces were made by Lavada Stevens



Fall Rally cont.



More from the rally...



We appreciated Craig Dorsett of Motorhomes of Texas bringing a show coach to the rally.



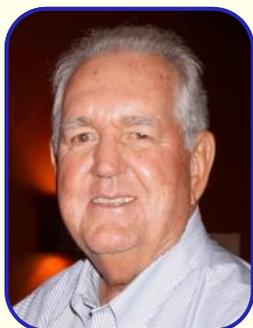
More from the rally...



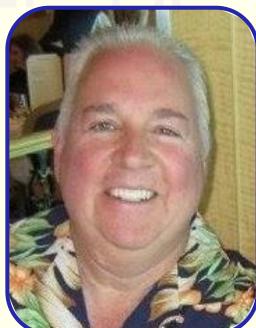

More photos are
posted on the
CCTexans [website](#).



Thank You to the CCTexans Officers



David Twilley
President



David Schnautz
Vice President



Cindy Rodney
Secretary



Laura Osiecki
Treasurer



L.B. Butts
National Director

Club President **David Twilley** was the only officer who was able to attend the Mineola Rally. He conducted the General Business Meeting with the assistance of **Pat Turpin** who filled in for **Cindy Rodney**, Secretary and **Laura Osiecki**, Treasurer. Thank you Pat for stepping up to the plate. David and Laura have now completed their terms as officers. Your service to the Club is very much appreciated!

The officer reports and new elected officers are summarized in the [General Business Meeting Minutes](#).

Welcome New Members



Marlin & Cheryl Youngquist
Livingston, TX

Mark your calendar for the Spring Rally

April 29 - May 3, 2020

River View RV Park & Resort in Vidalia, Louisiana

Just across the Mississippi River from historic Natchez, Mississippi



Our hosts/co-hosts will be Lonny & Lavada Stevens and Whit & Kathy Byers

More details will be announced as the date gets closer

(Photo credit: River View RV Park & Resort)



Remember to utilize the Country Coach Texans Facebook page to learn about or inform other members of “unofficial” get-togethers, we’re calling “no-rally rallies”. We’ve had several of these fun, informal gatherings.

This issue is dedicated in memory of Jim Bobo, Larry Maresh and Rod Reames - members we lost this year.