

March 2017

Desert Jaguar



Monthly Newsletter of the Jaguar Club of Southern Arizona



Jaguar XJ8 (27 built)

Inside

- 2 The Prez Sez
- 3 Jaguar XJ8
- 4 April in Silver City
- 5 St. Valentine's Day Picnic
- 6 First Wednesday Dinner
- 7 Coming Events

Leadership Team

President	Chauncy Dayton	410 370 2340	mitchdayton@cs.com
Vice President	Stephen Saltonstall	520 822 8278	slsaltonstall@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jim Hart	520 760 5667	jehart17@hotmail.com
Secretary	Carroll Lam	520 327 4696	jcsa-secretary@cox.net
Editor	Sharon Weatherbie	425 344-2977	wallabies2@msn.com
Marketing	Darrell Anderson	520 529 0570	andycarol@comcast.net
Web Master	Dave Christensen	760 451 2288	davchr@gmail.com
Advisory	Skip Bailey	520 219 2578	skip-bailey@comcast.net

The Prez Sez



JCSA March Prez Says

We enjoyed the Valentine's Day drive to Patagonia Lake with about a dozen other cats. Past-Prez Fred and Maggie Secker organized the event and, as in the past, everything went flawlessly. This event was the swan song for the Seckers who have been a driving force (no pun) in our club. By the time you read this, it is likely that their home and the familiar yellow E coupe will be sold in preparation for a more-or-less permanent return to merry olde. On behalf of the club, I want to thank them for outstanding service to JCSA and wish them best wishes in their driving adventures across the pond. Please try to attend the next couple of first-Wednesday dinners so you can interact with Fred and Maggie before they depart.

The Jaguar XJR-15 is a 215 mph, barely-legal road car that's for sale.



Reese Counts

The late 1980s and early 1990s were awash with supercars from automakers across the globe. Classic Driver in the UK is selling one of the rarest of all of these supercars, the road-going racecar that is the Jaguar XJR-15.

The XJR-15 is the lesser known sibling of the Jaguar XJ220. Only 27 were ever built. The XJ220 may not have received the same recognition and reverence as the Ferrari F40, the Porsche 959, and the McLaren F1, but for a time it held the record for the fastest road-going automobile, 217.1 mph. All of the XJ220's engineering and prowess is owed to the development of the XJR-15, which in turn owes everything to driver Tom Walkinshaw and his experience in touring and Le Mans racecars.

Unlike the twin-turbocharged XJ220, the XJR-15 features a big, naturally-aspirated V12 that turned out 450 horsepower and 420 ft/lbs of torque when new. The engine has a dry sump oil system, a Cosworth forged crankshaft, connecting rods, aluminum pistons, and fuel delivery from a Zytec electronically controlled sequential fuel injection system. The engine is mated to a five-speed transaxle from Tom Walkinshaw Racing, while the suspension - fabricated wishbones and horizontal pushrod-spring dampers at the front and coil springs at the rear - is pulled straight from the XJR-9 racecar.

At the time, the car was capable of hitting 60 mph in under four seconds and topped out at 215 mph, just shy of the mark later set by the Jaguar XJ220. The XJR-15 was also the first road car to make extensive use of carbon fiber. In fact, at 2,315 lbs, the car's listed weight is less than that of a new ND Mazda Miata. The body was designed by future McLaren F1 engineer Peter Stevens.

While the McLaren and Porsche were more complete and well-rounded machines, the XJR-15 was a bare bones, uncompromised track machine. The interior was barely more than a carbon tub fitted with a pair of seats.

The car in this listing is chassis number 21 and only has 1,400 miles on the odometer. Some minor modifications to the hinges allow the hood and engine cover to be quickly and easily opened. The car is listed for £450,000, or about \$560,000. Not cheap, but what rare, early 1990s supercar is?

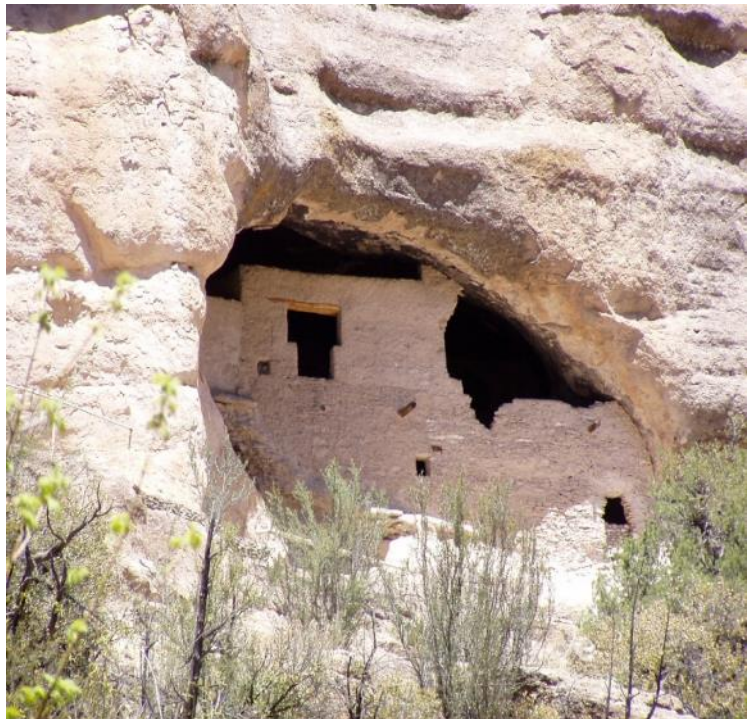
April in Silver City

I am so excited that once again the JCSA is going to Silver City, NM. Except for a few small changes in a couple of restaurants, the trip is the same as the 2015 trip because nothing in the area can beat the drive along the Trail of the Mountain Spirits and the visit to the Gila Cliff Dwellings.

For those of you who missed the last trip, let me tell you a little about the event. We stay at the Bear Mountain Lodge, a charming historic lodge just a few miles outside Silver City nestled in 178 acres bordering the Gila National Forest. The Lodge has fabulous views in every direction, walking trails, and delicious food for breakfast. We will also eat one dinner there.

I think the drive along the Trail of the Mountain Spirit was designed with our cars in mind. You twist and turn through the forest while enjoying beautiful scenery whenever you dare take your eyes off the road. The brochure says that thirty-five million years ago, the area was a complex of super-volcanoes that changed the land, creating vast craters and canyons. It is rich in minerals including gold, silver, and copper. The drive takes almost two hours and is worth every minute.

The Gila Cliff Dwellings are unique because you are able to walk into the caves left by the Mogollon people. These homes of prehistoric Indians give you a glimpse into the lives of the Indians that inhabited the region from about 100 to 1300 A.D. The Gila Cliff Dwellings were built in the 1280s. They require climbing a well-maintained but sometimes challenging path but are well worth the effort.



Silver City is a tourist town which is very proud of its history. There is a historic walking tour that includes the site of the jail where Billy the Kid at age 15 escaped after being arrested for stealing from a Chinese laundry. It is an "Art Town" with a wide range of galleries and creative specialty shops. It is also the site of the Western New Mexico University Museum which houses the world's largest permanent display of artifacts from the thousand-year-old Mimbres Culture.

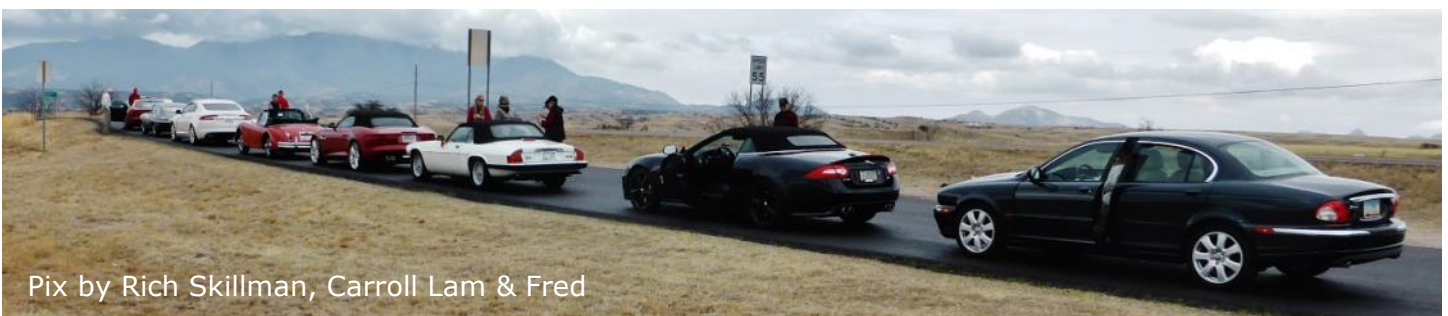
Come join us. The trip is from April 6th to April 9th. Currently, there is one room still available at the Bear Mountain Lodge. Contact me at 520.360.8669 or andycarol@comcast.com for specifics. We'd love to have you join the fun.

St Valentine's Day Picnic



I can safely declare that romance is still alive and well as 26 club members supported our St Valentine's Day Picnic Drive. What a great line up of cars we had at our rendezvous spot. 11 Jaguars, some sporting appropriate decorations, were on display to the delight of us all.

We set off along the freeway and then re-grouped before sashaying along the winding five mile stretch of Old Sonoita Highway with its "Beware of Cattle" warnings (one cow sighted) then regained highway 83 to convoy sedately to Sonoita where once more we regrouped and potty stopped. Around the next corner was a barrage of flashing lights as we negotiated some road works before pressing on to transit Patagonia with its notorious reputation for speed trapping. We tiptoed through the once-upon-a-time silver mining town and resumed normal speed for the few more miles to Lake Patagonia. A few drops of rain appeared on the windshield but the sun came out as we settled in to our picnic at a lovely spot alongside the lake and a very pleasant picnic ensued. We snacked and socialized until it was time to leave and then we set off homeward bound in our own individual ways. St Valentine's Day could not have been nicer.



Pix by Rich Skillman, Carroll Lam & Fred

First Wednesday Dinner - March 1

Firebirds Grill

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Coming Events

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|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 6, 7, 8 | Silver City Double overnight (Carol Anderson) |
| May 4 | Titan Missile Drive & Lunch (Dan Eklund & Colleen Jacobs) |
| July 13 | Summer Drive to Mt Lemmon (Dave & Kelly Christensen) |
| Sept 16 | President's Brunch (Stephen Saltonstall) |
| Oct 13 | Painted Desert (Sam Logan & Linda Willmore) |
| Nov 4 | Concours (TBD) |

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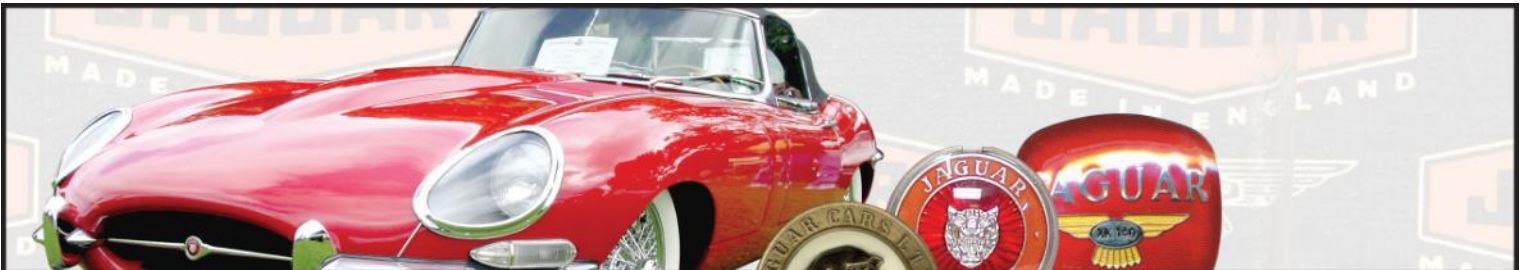
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