

March 2014

# Desert Jaguar



Monthly Newsletter of the Jaguar Club of Southern Arizona



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## My Jaguar Experience

By Club Secretary Jake Jacob

I believe I first became aware of the Jaguar name when I acquired, either during or immediately after WWII, a Dinky Toys model of what appears to be an SS90. Dinky Toys was essentially shut down during the war years, so I'm not sure of when I acquired it. I still have a dozen Dinky Toys models of pre-war U.S. and English autos. The English car designs seemed to have a lot more class than the American ones, which began my lifelong affinity for English cars in general, and Jaguars in particular. Unfortunately, Dinky Toys went the way of the English auto industry itself.

Through the 50s, I remember occasionally seeing a Jaguar, probably an XK140 or XK150, and wishing I had one. They were about as rare then, at least where I happened to be, as a Ferrari is today. Somewhere I have a picture of me standing next to one at a jazz festival in French Lick, Indiana circa 1960 – that was the type of venue where you might see a Jaguar.

In 1963, as I completed USAF pilot training, I had to settle for a "poor-man's Jaguar", an Austin-Healey 3000. Had there been a Jaguar dealer in that town, I don't know if I would have been able to buy one or not. Since that Healey is still in my



garage, I guess I have been satisfied.

In 1965, while stationed in Great Falls, Montana, I finally got a Jaguar; not anything from the XK series, but a 1951 Mark VII saloon. It was surprisingly rust-free, but needed some mechanical work, some of which I attempted myself before learning that it's sometimes cheaper when the professional you're forced to hire doesn't have to fix your mistakes. I soon received orders to go to Viet-Nam, and since the car wasn't fully road-worthy, and I had no place to store it, I was forced to sell it. It was quite a car, if somewhat impossible to steer at speeds under 10 mph, and I wish I had been able to keep it.

I've never lost my desire for a Jaguar, so when my first wife passed away in 2007, I decided to indulge myself. I was looking for an S-Type, as I needed a reliable daily driver, and the retro styling offered the best of both worlds – modern features with a "classic Jaguar" look. I kept checking Royal Jaguar's website, looking for a late-model 4.2 litre model, but all they had was this supercharged model. After several weeks I decided that the reason it was still there is that I was meant to buy it. After over 6 years I'm convinced that we're the perfect match, although now I'll never be satisfied by any Jag that isn't an "R" spec.



### Upcoming Events:

March 8 Jaguar Club of Central Arizona Concours  
 March 16 Breakfast run to Shlomo & Vito's Deli (see page 6)  
 April 13 Drive up Mt Lemon for Lunch at the Iron Door  
 May TBA Drive to Boyce Thompson Arboretum  
 June, July, August - no driving events planned - too darned hot!

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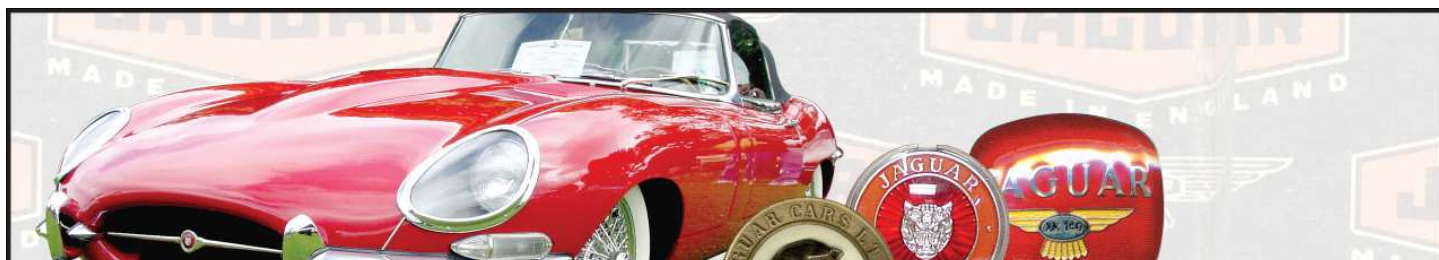
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## Drive to Patagonia and the Velvet Elvis

Sunday February 16

What an excellent turn out! More cars than we have seen on a driving event for many a long time. Was it the superb weather or the thought of those famous Velvet Elvis pizzas? Whatever the reason, we had thirteen cars participate with twenty five people which is a high percentage of club members. Here's who was there:-

Richard & Marianne - XJS Convertible  
 Carroll & Donna - F-type  
 Skip & Lori - XK Coupe  
 Doug & Julie - XKR Convertible  
 Jeff & Bethanne - XK8 Coupe  
 Jake & Colleen - S-type  
 Bill & Elly - S-type  
 Chan & Jude - XK8 Convertible  
 Gerald & Joan - E-type Convertible  
 Fred & Maggie - E-type Coupe  
 Cameron Visitor - E-type Convertible  
 Rich & Rita - Vette-type  
 Ray & Sanda - Brand X type

We all gathered at the appointed hour at the Chevron gas station at exit 269 on I10 and after much chin wagging set off along the freeway with Richard leading. Chan & Jude joined us later. Soon we left the freeway and took 83 towards Sonoita. The road is an excellent driving road with a 55 mph limit but I guess it was inevitable that we should get stuck behind Ma & Pa Kettle in their pick-up campervan pootling along minding their own business and out for a gentle Sunday drive. Never mind, it gave us more chance to view the scenery and marvel at the jaw dropping vista as we came out at the top of the pass and had the grass-lands spread out before us stretching forever into the distance. In Sonoita we lost Ma & Pa Kettle as we turned right for Patagonia so were able to go along at a decent clip as the road wound through the Sonoita Creek State Natural Area which was once upon a time a vast

cattle ranch. Entering Patagonia we were careful to abide by the speed limits as the local Officers of the Law are known to be rather zealous. We parked our cars in a haphazardly relaxed manner and enjoyed a stroll through this old silver mining town where there are lots of quirky and amusing sights to be seen.

The Velvet Elvis Restaurant was ready and waiting for us with long tables set out just for us and surprisingly, considering the size of our group, the service was prompt and smilingly courteous. Everyone was impressed by the quality of the meals. The salads were beautifully presented and the pizzas tasted great. Definitely a very pleasant experience. Made even more so by the fact that our club contributed to the cost of the lunch to the tune of \$10 per meal.

After lunch a bit of retail therapy was deemed necessary by 50% of the group which was ok by the rest of us I guess. The aforesaid group eventually declared it was ok to move on so we all formed up behind Richard again and set off for Larry Pfitzenmaier's house near Sonoita so that the other 50% could get revenge.

Larry has the most amazing collection of famous cars which he is happy to show to interested parties now and then. Amongst others he has a Watson Indy Car, a Cunningham, a classic Stingray, a Champ Car and a Sprint car once driven by such luminaries as AJ Foyt, Johnny Rutherford and Mario Andretti. He also has an inexhaustible supply of stories so it was hard to drag ourselves away but eventually we left in dribs and drabs to cruise home individually.

So ended another excellent day out with our friends and their Jaguars. A day to remember. Thank you Richard and Marianne for putting it all together.

Fred Secker

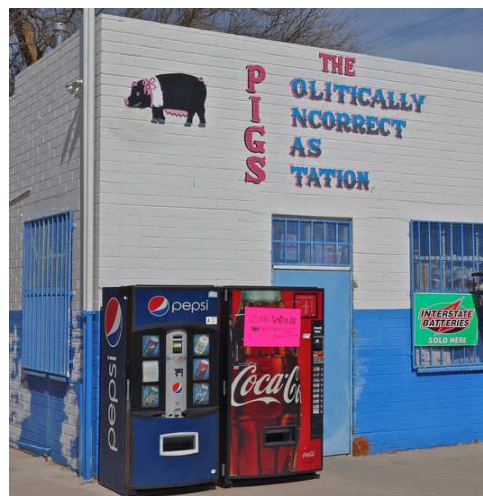
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# Patagonia Gallery

by Carroll Lam



Click the link for an excellent video by Carroll Lam

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fWxxUfif7o&feature=youtu.be>

Don't Forget Our 1st Wednesday Dinner  
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Please RSVP to the Secretary Jake Jacob if you will be attending our First Wednesday Dinner as the restaurant would like to know numbers in advance.  
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## Breakfast Run

**Sunday March 16 at 0930**

RSVP to Marianne at [mmfortune@cox.net](mailto:mmfortune@cox.net) by Friday March 14

It is quite a while since our club had a breakfast run so come along and enjoy a convivial get together at a highly recommended restaurant. There will be no organized drive beforehand so just plan to be there by 0930 (or 0900 if you would like to chit chat around the cars before we eat). There will be a designated parking area so we can line the cars up in suitable style. Shlomom & Vito's Restaurant has a nice patio so we will eat al fresco weather permitting. Marianne Fortunato is organizing this event so please email her if you will be joining us as the restaurant needs to know numbers in advance.



Some Breakfast Choices:

### **Five Burroughs**

*Three Eggs any style, Sausage, Ham, Bacon. Choice of Deli Potatoes, Latkes, Hash, or Fruit & your choice of Bread*

### **Grand Central**

*Two Buttermilk Biscuits, Sausage Gravy, Cheesy Scrambled Eggs & your choice of Breakfast Meat*

### **7th Ave Egg White De-Lite**

*Spinach, Tomatoes, Onions, Bell Peppers, Mushrooms & Fruit*

### **Cheese Blintzes**

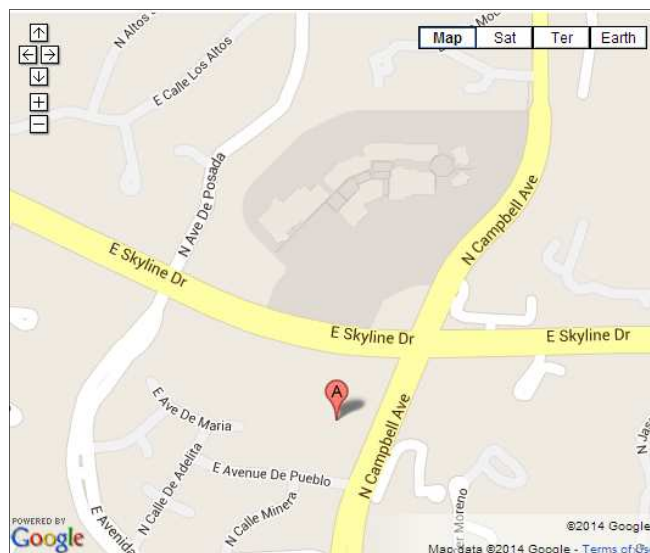
*Blintzes topped with Spiced Sautéed Granny Smith Apples, served with a Honey Walnut Sauce*

### **Spanish Harlem**

*Spicy Chorizo, Black Beans, Avocado, Sour Cream,*

### **Leo the Lion**

*Lox, Eggs, & Onions mixed with Capers, Omelet or Scramble*



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## Minutes of Board Meeting

The meeting was held at Royal Jaguar on February 1<sup>st</sup> beginning at approximately at 1:00 pm. Those in attendance were:

### Board of Directors

Richard Mandziac	Acting President and VP Events Coordinator
Fred Secker	Associate VP and Editor
Jake Jacob	Secretary
Dan Eklund	Treasurer

### Advisory Council

Bill Badger

What began as an informal discussion of issues currently facing the club segued into the meeting itself. For clarity, items will be presented in the order in which they listed on the agenda, rather than in the order in which they were covered.

- ~ The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted by the board
- ~ As of the meeting date, the previous Treasurer had not completed his final report. Dan Eklund will coordinate with Herbie to ensure it is completed.
- ~ Our continuing need for a person to assume the office of President was discussed; Rich and Fred both stated that they had asked several people, with no luck. We will keep trying.
- ~ First Wednesday: We will continue to meet at Firebirds, as most people seem satisfied with this venue. We will remain open to any input regarding alternate locations.
- ~ Future driving events, and the following were approved or proposed:

February 16

Drive to Patagonia, with lunch at the Velvet Elvis. It was proposed and approved that the club "subsidize" the lunch costs at approximately \$10/person

March 8

We should encourage club member participation in the Phoenix club's Concours. Doug Dechant will be asked to possibly organize a drive up there for interested spectators.

March 15

The DM50 Car show at Davis Monthan AFB. If enough people are interested we could make it a club event.

March date TBA

A breakfast event (with or without a group drive) was suggested for one of the free weekends in March - details to be determined.

April 13

Drive to Tucson Soaring Club for lunch and optional flights.

May

A drive to Boyce Thompson Arboretum for lunch was proposed. Dan Eklund will try to get a member to act as coordinator for this trip.

October 2nd weekend

Overnight scenic drive

October 25

Club Concours. Bill Badger volunteered to be Concours Chair.

- ~ Dan mentioned that our club page accessible from the JCNA Website was out of date. Maggie Secker will be asked to update it.
- ~ Dan will look into adding a version of the monthly Treasurer's Report to the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm  
Respectfully submitted by "Jake" Jacob, Secretary.

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