

April 2014

# Desert Jaguar



Monthly Newsletter of the Jaguar Club of Southern Arizona

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Visit our club's award winning website [www.jcsaz.com](http://www.jcsaz.com)

## New Club President - Fred Secker

Having been a member of JCSA for 15 years I guess I am long overdue to serve as the club's President so I bit the bullet, proposed myself to the Board and was duly voted in. Now I am looking forward to leading JCSA into the future. Not that I am proposing any change to the way the club operates. Quite the contrary as we are a very fine club just the way we are with a wonderful bunch of people making up our membership.

So here is some background info on your new Prez:-

Born and raised in the industrial heartland of Wales I was pretty keen to get away and travel the world so what better way to achieve this than to join the Navy. But not as a seaman. I wanted to fly so I joined the Fleet Air Arm branch of the Royal Navy and thereby killed two birds with one stone - travel and aviation. It was the best move I could have made because from then on it was fun and adventure. It was not only 'planes but cars that now entered my life - after all, a trainee pilot has to have a sports car doesn't he? And of course one thing leads to another and soon I was dating a gorgeous Naval Nurse who has been my wife for 48 years. After 8 years in the Navy Maggie and I decided we had had enough of cold and wet UK and emigrated to South Africa in search of the sun. A job awaited me there in the South African Air Force flying the same aircraft I had flown in the Navy - the Buccaneer and also the C130 Hercules. Our two sons were born in South Africa and we thoroughly enjoyed living there for 9 years.



However bigger and better things awaited us in another part of the world as I had obtained my commercial pilots license and landed a job in Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific Airways flying the Lockheed Tristar and Boeing 747. And what a magical place was Hong Kong. Most folk believe it is a concrete jungle but that is far from the truth. We lived in a marina surrounded by beaches and islands and owned every form of boat you can imagine. The kids were in paradise spending all their free time swimming and messing about with boats. Often we would sail across the South China Sea to the Philippines and cruise the islands for weeks on end. Retirement came all too soon but the adventures continued as we moved our boat to Thailand and bought a ski lodge in Whistler, BC. Meanwhile the boys had both married and settled in UK so we eventually swapped the Whistler place for a house in UK and swapped the boat in Thailand for a home in Tucson. So here we are - Brit Snowbirds spending the summers in UK and winters in the desert. My retirement present was an XK150 and this was later joined by an E-type so Jaguars became a very important part of our lives and surely will ever remain so.

**Breaking news:** I am lucky to start my tenure by giving you the great news that Jack & Kathy Clifford have offered to host our Holiday Party in December at their lovely home. More good news is that our November event will be a fabulous overnight tour to Verde Valley. *See page 6*

Fred Secker, JCSA President

### Events in 2014

April 2	First Wednesday Dinner Social at Firebirds
April 5	Board Meeting 1pm at Royal Dealership
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!
Sept	Kit Peak Picnic
October	Concours D'Elegance
Nov	Verde Valley double overnight
Dec	Holiday Party at Kathy & Jack's place

### JCSA Officials

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Our Next  
Event!

## Mount Lemmon Drive

Sunday April 13, 2014

When it comes to world class scenic roads the drive from Tucson to Ski Valley on Mount Lemmon is right up there with the best. The road is well surfaced and rises from saguaro covered desert floor to the alpine forests at the peak. So come and join us as the JCSA takes to the mountains on this memorable trip. We will have lunch at the Iron Door restaurant sitting together on their outdoor deck with a great view of the ski area and surrounded by humming birds. It might be little chilly so come prepared.

### The Plan

Gather at Udall Park on Tanque Verde Rd just east of Sabino Canyon Rd  
on  
Sunday April 13  
at  
10 am for a 1030 departure

When arriving at Udall Park please park in a pleasing line so that the editor can get some good shots for the May newsletter. Departing the parking area in convoy at 1030 we turn right onto Tanque Verde and continue for about a mile before turning left onto E Catalina Hwy. After a further two miles the road starts to twist and turn as we start our climb up the sky highway.

There are several view points along the way but we will not stop for safety considerations and to avoid having to stop at the kiosk and pay the fee. The most famous view point is Windy Point which can be very busy on Sunday. We will not be stopping there but drive very slowly around the corner as there could be pedestrians crossing the road. You may want to stop here on the way down as you will be on the correct side of the road and not have to cross over. Windy Point is where the division between the desert brush and the lush forest begins. This area is also populated by odd looking natural rock sculptures worn by wind and time.

Moving on up into the alpine levels the forest gets thicker and the views get better. Eventually we get to the top and take the branch road to the right taking us up to Ski Valley and the parking lot by the Iron Door restaurant where we have reserved seating on the patio for lunch at 1230. We may be early enough for a stroll around before eating but please go to the restaurant at 1230 so we can all eat together. After lunch you may want to drive down to Summerhaven to browse the shops before departing individually down the mountain.

### The Iron Door Restaurant

The "Iron Door Restaurant" is named for the lost Mine with the Iron Door. Legend has it that Jesuit Padres operated a gold mine in the Catalinas in the 1700's using Papago Indians as laborers. After many years of operation, the legend states that an Apache raid killed everyone and obliterated the mining camp. The gold was said to have been left in the store room as Apaches had no use for this mineral. The "Iron Door Restaurant" serves a wide variety of salads, sandwiches, homemade soups and features their famous chili and cornbread. Whether you decide on a hearty lunch or just a salad or slice of pie, you will be treated to the most pleasant surroundings in which to enjoy your lunch outdoors on the patio with the flowers, trees and humming birds.

Treat yourself to a relaxing lunch, a taste tempting slice of pie or just enjoy the mountain ambiance.

Please RSVP to Fred Secker  
fred@secker.uk.net 520 574 3042





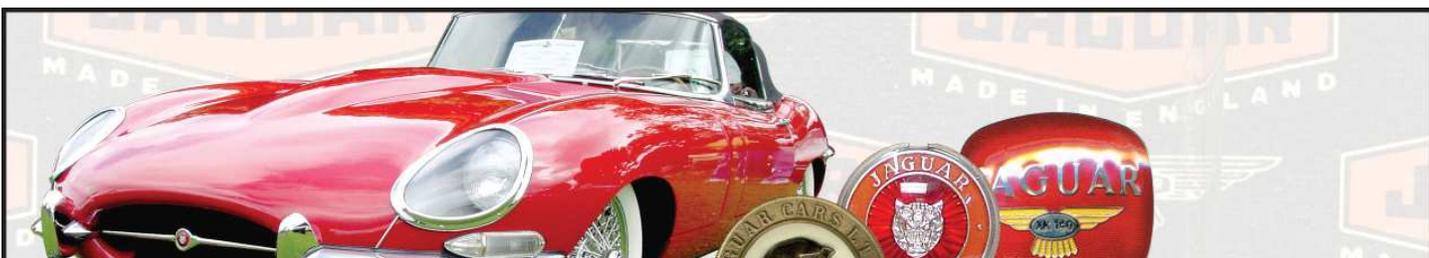
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## Breakfast at Shlomo & Vito's

Sunday March 16



### "A Picture Paints a Thousand Words"

Never was this saying more appropriate than at our breakfast gathering on March 16. What an impressive line up of Jaguars we had. Here for all to see was what makes Jaguars such a revered marque. We even had three E-types in identical primrose yellow. Twelve cars completed the line up and 23 folk sat down to an al fresco breakfast on Shlomo & Vito's attractive patio. Bob & Lynn drove down from Phoenix to be with us and Carolyn presented David Reilly with the award he won at the JCCA concours. She also gave a few words on her prize winning exploits at the slalom.

Those present were:

Doug & Shirley - XK8  
 Herbie & Claire - XK140 DHC  
 Peter Kay & Mother - E-type Coupe  
 Fred & Maggie - E-type Coupe  
 Cameron & Carolyn - E-type OTS  
 David - S-type Classic  
 Jake & Colleen - S-type  
 Skip & Lori - X-type  
 Doug & Julie - XKR  
 Jack & Kathy - E-type Coupe  
 Bob & Lynn - XK150 FHC  
 Richard & Marianne -XJS DHC





# Verde Valley Tour in November

## Advance notice of a knock out trip planned for later in the year

On March 18, Cathy, Colleen, Daria and I headed out of Tucson to check out a proposed trip for the Jaguar Club to the Verde Valley in Northern Arizona. Our first stop was Apache Junction. After checking out the bathrooms (ask Cathy and Daria about them!), we decided it wasn't a stop to be included in the trip. Besides, it was too soon for lunch. We then checked out some picnic sites and a really interesting little guest ranch and finally found the restaurant at Lake Saguaro - a lovely surprise.

The scenery we enjoyed on the route Jake planned just kept getting better and better. We also noted that the drive had some fun challenges for even the best Jag drivers. I hadn't known that area was in our state and am so pleased that the Jaguar Club has introduced it to me. (The club is responsible for showing me so much of this beautiful state.) We spent the night at the Cliff House Casino Hotel. It had comfortable beds but looked tired and uninviting. The exfoliating bath towels put the nail in that coffin. However, there is a wonderful restaurant in Camp Verde that made up for the hotel. It is The Horn, family owned and well worth the stop if you are in the area.

Next day we started off looking for a place for the group to stay and checking out the parks and other entertainment. We decided Tuzigoot National Park should be one of the club's stops. The people at the Blazin'M Ranch were so nice and the place was so clean that we were pleased it was one of our major attractions for the drive. The Verde Railroad was also a hit as was the gift shop. None of us left without something. Check out Daria's jacket.

We explored the area, checked out some restaurants, and did a little shopping in between negotiating rates and deposit requirements. For those of you who have been to Jerome, it is the same general area but has an entirely different flavor.

The trip is planned for Friday November 7 to Sunday, November 9 with a scenic drive to Cottonwood where we will stay two nights at the Best Western Cottonwood Inn. [www.bestwesterncottonwoodinn.com/](http://www.bestwesterncottonwoodinn.com/) Friday evening we will have dinner and entertainment at the Blazin' M Ranch (Western dinner and show) <http://blazinm.com> Saturday we will visit Tuzigoot, shop, or sleep late and then board the Verde Railroad for a 3 1/2 hour train ride through Arizona's other grand canyon. [www.verdecanyonrr.com](http://www.verdecanyonrr.com) That evening we will dine at the Schoolhouse Restaurant [www.vvschoolhouse.com](http://www.vvschoolhouse.com) Sunday you can decide whether you want to stay another day or two, wander through back roads, or head straight back to Tucson. We have reserved 10 rooms at the motel. When you book your room (1-877-377-6415 Ref. The Jaguar Club) you will be charged for the whole package for this trip which includes 2 nights at the motel, 2 lunches, dinner & entertainment at the Blazin' M Ranch, the train ride (with lunch), & dinner Saturday evening as well as 2 breakfasts. Please book as soon as you can so we can see whether we reach the ten room minimum for this trip. We are opening this trip to non-club members so we have a better chance of meeting the minimums. The hotel will allow you to cancel with a full refund as late as 48 hours before the trip. Any rooms not booked by October 1st will be released to the public. Cost of the package per couple is \$418 for a standard room with two queen beds or \$454 for a casita with a California king, patio, and microwave.

In order to reserve your place on the tour send a non-refundable deposit of \$100 made out to JCSA to Dan Eklund, 11353 E San Juanita Place, Tucson, AZ 85749 no later than September 1st. This deposit will pay for lunch on Friday and other incidentals

**Please join us. The event is late enough for snowbirds to be back and early enough not to interfere with holiday activities.**

Carol Anderson



4 Ladies Havin' Fun on their Verde Valley Road Trip

Teddy's comments fell rather flat!

Just peekin'

Cathy considers a new career

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## Members Success at JCCA Concours

### Saturday March 8th

Three of our members attended the JCCA Concours in Chandler and all three had excellent results. Bob and Lynn Brown entered a 2014 F-type, a 1962 MK2 and a 1960 XK150 FHC. Cameron and Carolyn entered a 1969 E-type roadster and David Reilly entered a 1967 S-Type. All 5 cars won 1st place in their class. Something our club can be very proud of. What is most impressive is that Carolyn won her class in the slalom in their primrose yellow S2 E-type Roadster.



Cameron and Carolyn, JCSA's newest members attended the JCNA concours held in Chandler on March 8th. The show was held at the San Marcos hotel which is a fine venue indeed. Registration was scheduled for 9:30 so they showed up at that time and were the second to last car to arrive. There must be some unwritten conventions in Arizona which they have yet to learn. There were 36 cars to be judged and Cameron had volunteered to be on the judging team. Their car, known to them as "Buttercup," was entered in the S-3 class which is for cars with a certain level of non-authentic items. They were dismayed to discover that the class comprised as many as three cars. After a survey of the competition, they decided to stop wiping on their car as the cause seemed hopeless. Nonetheless, for reasons unknown to them, they scored a first in class with a score which remains unknown to them but which will be revealed at some time in the future. A dinner and prize presentation ceremony were held in the hotel on a terrace. The site and the meal ranked highly in their experience. The next day a JCNA slalom was held in the parking lot of a local (to Chandler) high school. This spot was plenty roomy and had bathrooms available. Who could ask for anything more.

Cameron got to have all of the fun on Saturday so Sunday was Carolyn's turn. She also ended up in a three car class and she also prevailed. She was in the third and last batch of cars to run and had her class won after her first go. As the car seemed to be working well she did several more runs and managed to improve her time by 1/2 second.



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**Peter & Melinda Kay**  
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