

February 2016

# Desert Jaguar



Monthly Newsletter of the Jaguar Club of Southern Arizona



James Dretler races his Project 7



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

## The Prez Sez

We have two noteworthy developments this coming month. Firstly we have a change in venue for our monthly First Wednesday dinner. We have been dining at Firebirds grill for several years and its time for a change so for a trial period of two months we will meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at Harvest Restaurant at the River Center on the NE corner of River and Craycroft. Our first get together at the Harvest will be on February 3rd. Read all about it on page 3. Your feedback on this new place would be much appreciated.



Verde Guest Ranch. There is no doubt that the popularity of this event is largely due to the unbeatable buffet at the Ranch. Must be the best spread in the world.

Now we have the St Valentine's Junket to look forward to on February 14th. The format is somewhat unusual in that we will have lunch at the delightful Arizona Inn before setting off for an open country drive through the grasslands of Sonoita. Deck your Jaguar with St Valentine's paraphernalia and maybe win a prize for the best decorated car.

Next development is the inclusion in future newsletters of a technical forum. Alan Cowan of Falconworks has agreed to answer your questions on all technical aspects of Jaguar ownership be they great or small. Send your questions to me at [fredsecker@gmail.com](mailto:fredsecker@gmail.com) and I will forward them to Alan. The question and answer will then be printed in our newsletter. Now is your chance to get answers on those technical problems that have been bothering you. Read Alan's introductory article on page 6.

Our concours in the Fall is at risk of not happening if we cannot get volunteers to help run it. We are putting together a team to run the event which will consist of Event Chair, Social Chair, Venue Manager, Chief Judge, Treasurer and Secretary. All these positions are filled except for Social Chair and Venue Manager. So please step up to the plate and volunteer for one of these positions. Their duties are quite straight forward and you can get details by contacting me. If we do not fill these positions the JCSA concours will not take place for the first time in 44 years. Don't let this happen!

Once again our traditional mystery drive on January 24th was a huge success with 15 cars turning up to enjoy a local drive followed by lunch at Tanque

*Fred Secker*  
JCSA President

### 2016 Driving Events

February 14	St Valentines Junket. Love your Jaguar
March 19	Tumacacori & Tubac. Lunch at Tubac Golf Club
April 2	Double overnight. Scottsdale concours.
April 23	Local Drive & Lunch. Historic Block
May 20	Double overnight to Prescott and Jerome
June 14	Queen Creek Olive Mill & Orthodox Monastery
July 20	Mount Lemon & Lunch at Iron Door
August 20	Karchner Caverns brunch and tour
September 18	Local drive and brunch at Arizona Inn
October 22	Double overnight White Mountains fall colors
November 12	Concours
December 9	Holiday Party

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# New First Wednesday Restaurant

Breaking News!

## Harvest at River Center

Wednesday February 3rd

We have held our First Wednesday social dinner at the same venue for several years so it is time for a change. On Wednesday February 3rd we will have our dinner at the Harvest Restaurant at the River Center on the NE corner of Craycroft and River. For those of you that remember our old venue of Ric's Café this new venue is virtually next door. It is on the second floor and is served by steps and an elevator if you park in the lower area or there is level access from the rear car park, which is recommended.

[www.harvestonriver.com](http://www.harvestonriver.com)

Click the above link and explore the Harvest Restaurant website. Of particular interest is of course the menu selections. Two menus will be available to us - the Dinner Menu and the Sunset Menu. For our club there will be two additional items on the Sunset Menu, Chicken Picata and Pork Tenderloin. Happy hour is until 6 pm when there will be \$2 off glasses of wine & beer, half priced house cocktails & well drinks & \$6 apps. There is a bar area with tall tables where we can gather for mix and mingle as usual and the dinner seating will be at a long table at the far end of the room next to the fireplace. They will supply separate checks.

**There is no need to RSVP as they have been told how many to expect. Please be there at 5 pm to chat at the bar and to give your menu selection in good time.**

**This new venue will be for a trial period of two months after which we will decide whether to make it a permanent location or not.**

### Location of Harvest Restaurant

Note the convenient parking at the rear



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# St Valentine's Day Junket



Sunday February 14

**Show Your Love** – for both your “significant other” and your Jaguar!

Join the club for an elegant St. Valentine's Day lunch at the beautiful Arizona Inn and then give your Jaguar a chance to stretch its legs.

**Meet at 11:00 am in the Arizona Inn car park**

After lunch we will head out on a scenic, open country drive to Sonoita and Benson with a final stop for coffee in Benson at the Horseshoe Café before we head home.

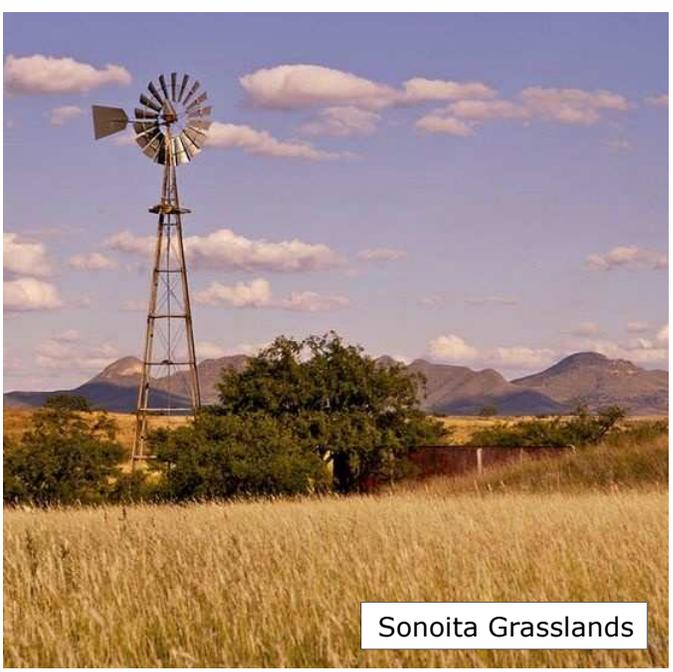
Decorating your car to please St Valentine is encouraged and a prize will go to the best decorated car.

Check out the Arizona Inn and the menu options for lunch/brunch at <http://arizonainn.com/dining/>  
Please RSVP by 5:00 pm on Sunday, **February 7<sup>th</sup>** as seating is limited and must be confirmed.  
Just send an e-mail to confirm to Kelly Christensen at [klychr1@yahoo.com](mailto:klychr1@yahoo.com).

## Happy Valentine's Day!



Arizona Inn Dining Room



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## The Mystery Drive - A Great Success

A sunny Sunday January morning in Tucson is always nice, but add some beautiful Jaguars, some good friends, great scenery, along with good food and you have a really good day.

Our members seemed up for the fun as 15 cars and drivers, including some new members, gathered on the Northwest side for our annual Mystery Tour and brunch at Tanque Verde Ranch. The route was planned by Tom and Daria Durham and the Tanque Verde Ranch arrangements were provided by Claire Hampton.

The route through northwest Tucson and then across town to the ranch proved again that there is indeed a lot of beautiful scenery in the Tucson Metro area. As we went north on Twin Peaks Rd we went through the beautiful saguaro desert, with the Tortolita mountains in the background. The saguaro and cholla desert continued as we traveled

eastward with Pusch Ridge in the distance. Then as we headed south we came upon our "mystery"— a boat which was stuck up in a tree. How and why did it get there? It turns out the property is owned by a welder-artist who put the boat in the tree as a way to draw attention to the metal sculptures in his yard. Mystery solved!

As we headed east along the Catalina mountains on Sunrise and then on River, it seemed like we were somewhere other than in the middle of our own metropolitan area. Then on to the Tanque Verde Ranch, a Tucson treasure since 1868. As always they know how to put on the feedbag...both for humans and horses. It was a good day and a great start to our new year of events.

*President:* Many thanks to Tom, Daria and Claire for organising this great event.



More Mystery Drive Pix on Page 8

## New Technical Forum

The inclusion of a Technical Forum in our Newsletter is long overdue so the Jaguar Club of Southern Arizona is very pleased to have Alan Cowan of Falconworks on board as a technical advisor. The plan is for members to forward questions of a technical nature to the editor Fred Secker at [fredsecker@gmail.com](mailto:fredsecker@gmail.com) who will forward them to Alan for his advice. The question and answer will then be published in the newsletter. Your questions may be basic or complicated - no restrictions. Here follows an introductory article by Alan.....

The diagnosis was on the table. "You did Google that, didn't you", our client asked. Perhaps a reasonable curiosity in this day and age, for the layperson unsure whether to trust a new mechanic's proposed course of action. I had to admit I had not. But it sure got me wondering, and in such curious state some Googling was in order: What does the collective mass know? Unfortunately, when involving car-stuff that usually leads to "the forums": places where truths, lies, egos, prattle and banter are not just blended, but are often inextricably alloyed. On car-stuff everyone's an expert. There I found that 'Land Rover Rick' had a huge following of folks all touting his solutions. No need to reason out — much less prove — why the suspension fuse blew. There's a very simple and cheap solution, he preaches, put in a larger fuse. Well, gosh, why didn't I think of that? Perhaps that's why I'm not an internet guru!

Decades ago, the *60-Minutes* folks did an exposé on us auto mechanics. It really hurt the business. Certainly there are unscrupulous shops, but the method of the broadcaster's detective work brilliantly illustrated just why it is that **we** are solving the problems, and fixing things, instead of them. You see, their dragnet scheme seemed to them a tidy way of catching the crooks: they'd create a really simple problem on their faux-customer car, and see how much it cost to repair at various shops. The difficulty with this approach is that problems with machinery don't occur in a vacuum, and it is important to understand the background and cause of the problem if one is to know how — or whether — to affect a satisfactory repair. In the case of the exposé they removed a perfectly good heater blower fuse and substituted

an utterly splattered, blown-out one in the circuit. Their prize-winning god-like mechanics simply put in a new fuse and sent them on their way for a dollar or two; their evil-doers, the bulk of their suspects, charged huge amounts of money trying to isolate the **cause** of the blown fuse, in an effort to truly repair the car. Of course since the car had no actual problem which had blown the fuse, no normal test revealed anything, and the more determined problem-solvers spent considerable effort sincerely searching for what was in fact a ghost — a lie — rather than admitting early-on they were stumped. Now if one of those techs were **really** good, he'd have solved the case correctly, albeit rather expensively, and proved that the fuse had indeed not blown in that car at all, but had been intentionally blown first and subsequently installed by a devious TV crew looking for mud for headlines.

So in repair, in general, the problem is indeed often apparent, easy to see, or easy to find. And many DIYers are very comfortable making the fix. But many times the background of the failure is not so obvious, easy to identify, and the chance to ask somebody who may have **that** information tucked-away in his grey cells would be nice. Your editor has decided that, while you could go to Land Rover Rick, one of the best benefits of a type-club is a ready source of disinfected, valid and relevant technical information. He has asked me to answer such questions on a monthly basis in the format of this column. Simply pose your technical questions to the editor, and he will pick one for publication. I promise not to use Google (or Siri) to find your results.

**Alan Cowan** is a British-car driver of well over a million miles, and a private pilot of about 750 hours. He is proprietor of the workshop, Falconworks Quality Repair.

# Future Event - Scottsdale Double Overnighter

## April 2nd & 3rd

Our club driving tour in April will be a double overnight visit to Scottsdale to enjoy some events at the JCNA International Jaguar Festival staged by the Phoenix Jaguar Club. This week-long event is based at the Scottsdale Plaza Hotel and includes many activities which you can view at [www.jaguarfestival.com](http://www.jaguarfestival.com)

Our driving tour will consist of :-

**Saturday Apr 2.** Drive in convoy to Scottsdale. In the evening have a group dinner at the Brazilian restaurant Fogo de Chao.

**Sunday Apr 3.** Enjoy the Concours as a spectator or as an entrant. In the evening join the BBQ and Twilight Movie 'Harold and Maude' at the Scottsdale Plaza Hotel

**Monday Apr 4.** Drive from Scottsdale to Tucson via the Bee Line Highway, Lake Roosevelt and Superior with a picnic at Lake Roosevelt en route.

**What you should do now** if you intend to join this tour:

1. Contact Fred Secker on 520 574 3042 or [fredsecker@gmail.com](mailto:fredsecker@gmail.com) and register your interest and ask questions.
2. Visit [www.jaguarfestival.com](http://www.jaguarfestival.com) and familiarize yourself with the International Jaguar Festival.
3. Register and pay for the BBQ & Twilight Movie at [www.jaguarfestival.com](http://www.jaguarfestival.com)
4. Register at [www.jaguarfestival.com](http://www.jaguarfestival.com) for the concours if you wish to enter.

You do **not** need to book a room at the Scottsdale Plaza Hotel as we have block booked 10 rooms which are available on a first come first served basis. Just let Fred Secker know if you wish to be included in the club block booking. Cost per night \$164 + 13.17% tax + \$22 resort fee.

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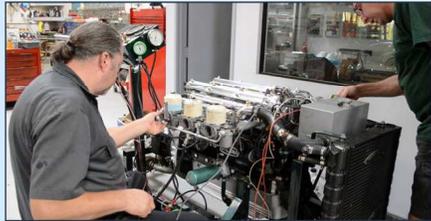
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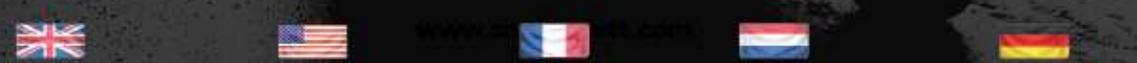
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