

January 2015

# Desert Jaguar



Monthly Newsletter of the Jaguar Club of Southern Arizona



Michael & Gail Von Pinnon's XKR Special Edition

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR**

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## The Prez Sez

Another Holiday season has flown by and here we are in 2015 with a shiny new year ahead of us ready to be filled with all sorts of interesting experiences. Maggie and I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year. May all your wishes come true and we look forward to meeting up with you at our future club events.



A change in the venue for our First Wednesday dinners to La Paloma Golf Club has been proposed but having polled the Board Members and Advisory council the overwhelming opinion is that we should stay at Firebirds. If any member should propose a new venue it will always be given full consideration by the Board.

Looking at our calendar of driving events you will see there is an enjoyable time in store for everyone.

From another aspect 2014 has been a very bad year for the JCSA as we lost two staunch members. Jake Jacob passed away early in the year and just recently Herbie Hampton lost his battle with cancer. Both will be sadly missed as they were lovely people and prominent members of the board of directors. They will not be forgotten.

Our next event is the Mystery Drive where we will be guided by Cameron and Carolyn along a route of their choosing ending up at the Tanque Verde Ranch for their superb Sunday lunch. This is always a very popular outing and our special meal price is amazing value. See page 3.

On page 5 you will see a very interesting article about Bob Scarff our oldest member at 94. Bob was a Navy pilot on WW2 and had some fascinating experiences. I hope this article will encourage other members to tell us about their own interesting exploits.

It is great news that Doug Dechant has been elected to be the next JCNA South West Regional Director.

Congratulations Doug!

As well as doing the new job Doug will remain as JCNA Membership co-chair. These jobs will keep him very busy so he will step down from being Membership Chair of our club but will retain his role as Dealership Liaison officer.

Happy New Year to One and All  
Fred Secker

### Video of the Month

For a GREAT VIDEO of our Valley Verde Trip click this link:  
<http://youtu.be/daQGzID-rKM>

### The Year Ahead

January 18	Mystery Drive and lunch at Tanque Verde Ranch
February 14	Valentines Day Picnic at Patagonia Lake
March 22	Sonoran Desert Museum
April 12	Breakfast Run
May 16	Mount Lemon Drive
September	Driving Event in collaboration with Royal Jaguar
October 24	Concours
November	Overnight driving event
December	Holiday Party

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Our Next  
Event!

## Mystery Drive & Lunch



**Sunday January 18**

Oysters on the shell - Prime rib - Salads and Desserts from heaven  
The Famous **Tanque Verde Buffet Lunch** has it all

So no surprise that our opening event for 2015 is a Mystery Drive  
ending at the top Dude Ranch in Arizona. Come and join us!

The drive will be orchestrated by Cameron Sheahan and Carolyn Arnquist and  
we will assemble at the Home Depot car park on I19 and Irvington (west side  
of the highway) on Sunday January 18th at **0930** for a departure at 10.00

The regular price of the buffet is \$29.95 but we have managed to get this  
reduced to \$25.95 for our group. Furthermore the club will contribute \$10  
towards the cost such that we only pay \$16 per person. This is amazing value  
for such a sumptuous buffet.

**Please send your checks for \$16 pp before January 12th to:-**

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

# Holiday Party!

## What Fun We Had !

36 members celebrated the holiday in style on Sunday 14th at Cathy and Jack's palatial home in the Catalina Foothills. The outside bar and fire pit was the stage for convivial chit chat, drinks and appetizers before attacking the tasty entrees laid out on the veranda. AJ's Fine foods did us proud with a really excellent spread then WOW what a display of pot luck desserts awaited us. The mouthwatering variety was truly amazing. Well done everyone.

Our President thanked everyone who had contributed to make 2014 such a successful year for the JCSA and the local fire department collected the pile of toys to give to Toys for Tots. Eventually people drifted away home and the hard core left behind adjourned to the fire pit for a final glass or three. What a lovely evening!



## Lt. Commander Robert Scarff

Bob and Flo Scarff are active members of our club and have been for many a long year but little did any of us know of Bob's interesting history. At our dinners and drives we sit next to one another month after month but never really get to know much about each other which is a shame as I am sure there is many an interesting tale lurking in the background. And here we have a case in point with Lt Cmdr Robert W Scarff. Bob has written his memoirs of his time as a Navy pilot which I have been fortunate enough to read. It is totally fascinating and here below are some of the stories related in his own words.....



"In 1941 it was becoming apparent that the US was going to become involved in WW2 so if I were to volunteer for one of the services I decided that it would be a lot more exciting up in the air than down a foxhole so I went to the Sand Point Naval Air Station in Seattle to see if I could qualify. Half the applicants failed to get in but I managed to pass all the tests and was sent to Corpus Christi, Texas for cadet training. There was plenty of marching, close order drill, handling of guns and standing inspections. I couldn't understand what this had to do with learning to fly a plane but came to realize that the Navy wanted us to be officers number one and pilots number two. When we graduated some of the cadets became Marines but I preferred the looks of a Naval uniform.

After flight training on the PBY Catalina I went for operational training on the PBM Martin Mariner at NAS Banana River Florida. Every now and then we would be given liberty then we would go to Daytona Beach which had lots of fancy hotels filled with cute young girls from all over the country who were training to be WACS. All the local guys were away in the services so the ratio was very favorable.



My first operational base was Natal, Brazil from where we attacked German submarines and escorted convoys. On one of my patrols we were 350 miles out to sea when an engine failed. The PBM supposedly could not fly with our load of fuel and bombs but by throwing everything movable overboard and jettisoning the bombs we managed to keep it

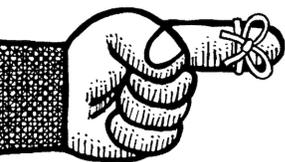
airborne and nursed it back to base (*Bob was given a citation for this which reads - "Judgement, presence of mind in a dire emergency, and exceptional flying ability was exhibited by Lt Scarff - ed).*

Later I was based in Hawaii which was a wonderful experience with uninhibited flying and a great social life. It was here that we heard that atomic bombs had been dropped on Japan and soon my squadron was off to a new floatplane base in Tokyo Bay from where we flew Admirals, Generals and scientists over Nagasaki and Hiroshima to observe the results of the atomic bombs. We also flew into China and Korea.

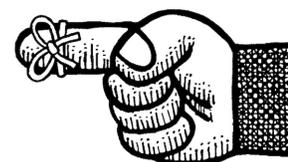
In December 1945 a relief crew turned up and we were on our way home to the US of A. At the hotel where we stayed in San Francisco they were amazed when we ordered a pitcher of milk. It was wonderful to be back in civilization once more.

Back when I was a youngster I was visiting friends of my parents when a baby girl was born to them. They named her Flo and from then on our lives were intertwined. After the war I was dating Flo occasionally as well as a lot of other girls and some of my friends thought I was treating Flo badly and started asking her out. I had to ask them to cease and desist as this was the girl I was going to marry.





**Don't Forget Our 1st Wednesday Dinner  
January 7th**



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**New!**

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**New!**

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# Well I Never!

## PASSING THE BUCK/THE BUCK STOPS HERE

Most men in the early west carried a jack knife made by the Buck knife company. When playing poker it was common to place one of these Buck Knives in front of the dealer so that everyone knew who he was. When it was time for a new dealer the deck of cards and the knife were given to the new dealer. If this person didn't want to deal he would "pass the buck" to the next player. If that player accepted then "the buck stopped there".

## RIFF RAFF

The Mississippi River was the main way of traveling from north to south. Riverboats carried passengers and freight but they were expensive so most people used rafts. Everything had the right of way over rafts which were considered cheap. The steering oar on the rafts was called a "riff" and this transposed into riff-raff, meaning low class.

## SHIP STATEROOMS

Traveling by steamboat was considered the height of comfort. Passenger cabins on the boats were not numbered. Instead they were named after states. To this day cabins on ships are called staterooms.

## SLEEP TIGHT

Early beds were made with a wooden frame. Ropes were tied across the frame in a crisscross pattern. A straw mattress was then put on top of the ropes. Over time the ropes stretched, causing the bed to sag. The owner would then tighten the ropes to get a better night's sleep.

## SHOWBOATING

These were floating theaters built on a barge that was pushed by a steamboat. These played small towns along the Mississippi River. Unlike the boat shown in the movie "Showboat" these did not have an engine. They were gaudy and attention grabbing which is why we say someone who is being the life of the party is "showboating".

## OVER A BARREL

In the days before CPR a downing victim would be placed face down over a barrel and the barrel would be rolled back and forth in a effort to empty the lungs of water. It was rarely effective. If you are over a barrel you are in deep trouble.



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## Herbie Hampton



Herbie left us on Thursday December 18. Why do such lovely people have to be taken from us? We will all miss him so much. Claire our thoughts are with you constantly and we share your sorrow.

Life in our Jaguar Club will not be the same. Herbie's wise words at the board meetings were invaluable and as treasurer he served the club with dedication. He was car crazy like the rest of us and owned an XK140 DHC, a Lotus Elise, a Lotus Esprit and a Chrysler Crossfire, all of which he drove with enthusiasm. How he got away with being stopped by the law doing 132 in his Elise goodness only knows. For Maggie and me this is a time of great sadness as we have a lost a close long time friend and I don't think we will ever get used to Herbie not being a part of our lives.

Fred Secker

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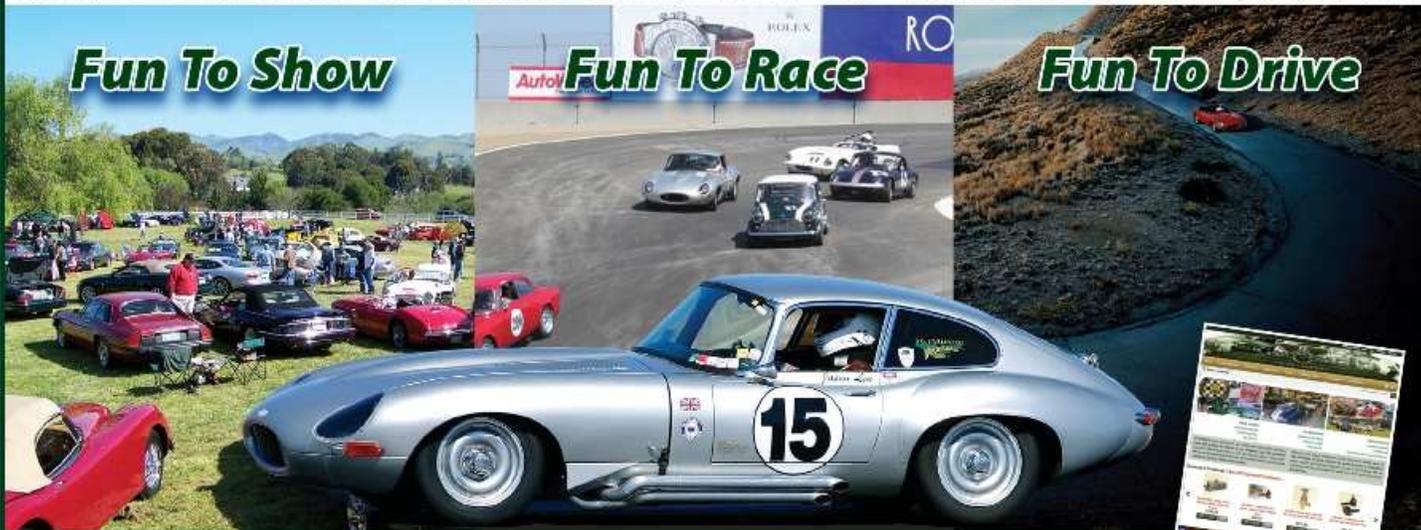




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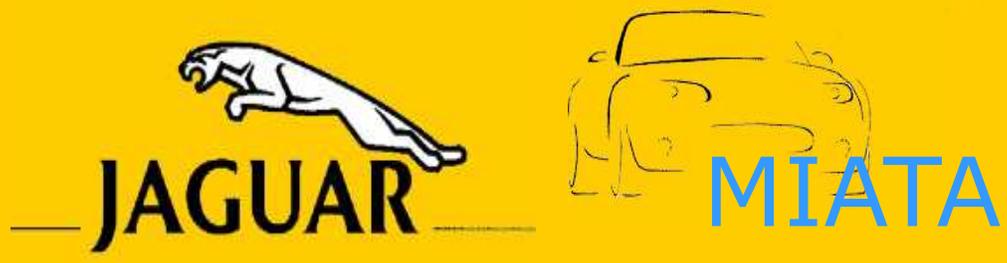
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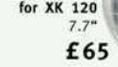
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