

The Coventry Cat



Official Newsletter of the Jaguar Association of New England

August 2013

www.j-a-n-e.org



The Bahre Collection

Several JANE members ventured to Paris, Maine, to see the Bob Bahre car collection. Among the treasures were this E-Type in British Racing Green and an MG-TD. Read Ed Avis's report on page 11. Photo by Ed Avis.

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Savor the Moment

Here I am on vacation, just chilling out at my house but stressing out about what to write for this month's President's Message. Suddenly I find myself consumed in JANE business, i.e., giving guidance to an event chair, helping another with an important letter, sending emails, and calls about different projects and tasks. And to my surprise I receive a voice message that just says "Hello Michael, we are just checking in, how are you, we miss you."

Suddenly I stopped thinking about my obligations and duties and started to think about how significant all these little things are to my life. I am very lucky to have joined this club. I have met all kinds of big-hearted, kind, spirited people -- all smart, all doers, givers. As they say "we don't remember the days, we remember the moments."

Remember last month we had five events, most clubs have one event per month. I think back on last month at Lime Rock Park and smile because I was surprised to see so many non-racers, new and old members show up; everybody was happy, it was great. Our slalom had countless minutes of laughter to remember, I had a ball. JANE at the British Consul General's reception was our surprise spectacular party of the year. I got home at midnight! Chuck Centore and Carl Hanson stepped up to cover in my absence to lead an intimate gathering for our monthly social meeting. What could be better than spending time with Big Chucky and our man Carl? What do you remember from your last activity with JANE?

And this month Ed and Cheryl Avis took charge and led our members to the unique and special multi-million-dollar closed car collection of Bob Bahre in Maine. This one-day drive drew a much larger group than originally expected and was a very worthwhile adventure with a great time had by all. Thank you Ed and Cheryl, for recreating this day trip and organizing a memorable experience for almost 50 members and friends. Good job.

This weekend is JANE at Myopia Polo. Aldo Cipriano's vision of JANE spending an afternoon at a polo match at this historic polo club has become one of our summer's major afternoon events. It's a time to relax and mingle with friends while watching great polo. Since I must submit this President's Message prior to this Sunday, I will report in more detail next month. But thank you in advance, Aldo, for your total organization and continued commitment to JANE and this day at Myopia.

The following Saturday, August 3rd, is the afternoon potluck party at Dennis and Prebble Eklofs' house. This hard-working, generous couple is opening their home to all JANE members, even the rowdy (not too rowdy) ones.

And the week after the Eklofs' party is our fabulous signature event, JANE's Jaguar Festival and Concours. Under Bruce Murray's leadership our three-day party has continued to be a stellar event. Bring your Concours Jag, your driver, or your Jag that you fear should not be judged and put it in Display Class. But please do come and join us. Read Bruce's report on page 7.

As I reflect on all of our members who have come to events whom I have spent time with, I can remember the moments together that have given me happiness. I hope each of you will take a few minutes and think of one anecdotal story you have due to some special moment with one of our fellow Jane members and appreciate what we have in this fine club.

For those who have not volunteered, please do so. We have tiny tasks that will take as little as one hour a

continued on next page

August 2013 Volume 15 Number 8



The Coventry Cat is the official publication of the Jaguar Association of New England (JANE), a non-profit organization of Jaguar enthusiasts that is a regional chapter of the national Jaguar Clubs of North America (JCNA). JANE is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

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The Coventry Cat

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www.facebook.com/JagsNEWall

year, or bigger jobs if you wish, but do come forward and participate, you will receive a lot more back.

That's all for now. I'd say it's time to put the top down on my XK and go for an ice cream. Please make it a point to come say hello to me at one of our upcoming events. Hope to see y'all soon.

Savor the moment!

Michael



Ah, the Jaguars, the polo ponies and the spectacular hats! Must be Myopia. Since the Myopia Jaguar Cup happened at press time it did not make it into this issue. But never fear, full coverage of the event and more exciting photos will appear in the September Coventry Cat. Photo by John Romano.



Welcome New Members

Suzanne Krauss and Scott Bailey
Alexander and Bonnie Hay
Will and Allie Haynes

Brunswick, ME
Scituate, MA
Standish, ME

1967 E-Type 2+2
Looking for an XK-120!
Looking for an XKR!

August Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, August 28, 7pm
Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA



Longfellow's Wayside Inn

The Wayside Inn is the oldest operating inn in the country and a Massachusetts historic landmark, well worth a visit even separate from JANE's monthly meetings there. The Inn's Old Bar is its oldest room, and it's still in use today. On the evenings when we have our meetings at the Inn, you'll always find members already gathered in the Old Bar well before dinner meetings begin at 7pm. It's always the perfect gathering place to visit with fellow members.

Date/Time	Event/Details	Location
August 9-11, 2013	JANE Concours d'Elegance	Sturbridge Host Hotel, Sturbridge, MA
August 28, 2013 Wednesday, 7pm	JANE Monthly Meeting	Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
September 14, 2013 Saturday	JANE Fall Slalom	In Control Training Facility, N. Andover, MA
September 20-22, 2013	British Invasion	Stowe, VT
September 25, 2013 Wednesday, 7pm	JANE Monthly Meeting	Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
October 14, 2013 Monday, 10am	Columbus Day Parade	Revere, MA
October 18-20, 2013	JANE Weekend Escape to Martha's Vineyard	Martha's Vineyard, MA
October 20, 2013 Sunday, 9am	JCSNE Fall Slalom Contact Ken Haas: slalomchair@jcsne.org	New Britain, CT www.jcsne.org
October 23, 2013 Wednesday, 7pm	JANE Monthly Meeting	Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
November 20, 2013 Wednesday, 7pm	JANE Monthly Meeting	Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
December 8, 2013 Sunday 3pm	JANE Holiday Party	Vesper Country Club, Tyngsboro, MA

*Dates above are only those confirmed at time of publishing.

Check this page for updates each month and for the most current events check the Calendar page at www.J-A-N-E.org.

JANE Concours Hospitality Seeks Contributions!

The Hospitality Suite hosts could use your culinary help at the Concours. Contributions of appetizers, salads, and desserts to accompany the pizzas on Friday night; or breakfast, lunch, or snack items to share during the Concours would be most welcome. Refrigerator space will be available. Please contact Gordon Taylor and Betsy Taylor-Kennedy at tryfan@taylor-kennedy.com or at 978-779-5213 to let us know what you'll be bringing.

Thanks!

Upcoming Events

JANE 2013 Concours - August 9-11, 2013

By Bruce Murray

Well it's not long now! As of this writing date we have a total of 28 cars registered for judging and 11 cars for display. Last year attendance was typical, with 45 cars being judged and 20 on display. So we are only about 60% there with two weeks to go. Many of the usual suspects haven't appeared so here's hoping they get the message.

Please remember that it is a great help to Jan Gill to receive registrations before August 6 so that she has time to prepare the forms. After this date a \$15 late fee will be applied, including the walk-in registrations on August 10.

If you are cogitating about joining us for our stellar banquet, please note that we must give the hotel a final count by Monday, August 5. So far the count is at 40.

As we did last year, we plan to have the display cars on the side lawn, with the judged cars on the main field at the back. The judging field is filling up quickly now and the addition of an XJ, XF, XK, and F Type from Jaguar Woburn has increased the number of cars on the back lawn. We are usually pretty cramped on the back field and with the addition of these four new cars, we may not have space for late entrants. Therefore if you are thinking of coming, we suggest you get your registrations in quickly to be assured of a space.

Our sponsors provide us with support that allows us to have a great event at a most reasonable cost to our entrants and other club members. Our main sponsors this year are Woburn Jaguar, SNG Barratt, and KTR Motorsports. Woburn Jaguar will be bringing the latest models to the show although we do not have details of their exact intentions yet. Also we are very happy to welcome SNG Barratt back to the show field, where they will have a display and sales table. They have graciously offered a 10% discount on orders placed beforehand for delivery to the show. Free shipping and a discount to boot – how can you go wrong? KTR Motorsports is a regular sponsor of the concours, and once again we appreciate their help in the funding of this event.

Some of our on-line registrants have had difficulty because logos appear that block out part of the registration form so that it looks like the picture on the right.

Ed Avis has discovered that this happens if you use Internet Explorer 8 and have the compatibility view turned on. To correct this problem, go to Tools in the top menu and uncheck "Compatibility View" in the drop-down list.

Don't forget that if you have items for the silent auction or the raffle, please notify Carl Hanson of any you will be bringing. Carl's email is chansonjag@aol.com.

The Hospitality Suite, ably run by Gordon Taylor and Betsy Taylor-Kennedy will, as usual, have a TV and DVD player. So if you have any favorite DVDs that you'd like to show to the club, do please bring them along.

Richard Kosinski is organizing the Sunday Poker Run and will attempt to outdo the extraordinary event he ran last year.

That's all for now, but don't forget, if you have questions, comments, brickbats contact Bruce Murray at bruce.s.murray@verizon.net.

The JANE Concours is a very special event. Be there!



Upcoming Events

Martha's Vineyard Tour October 18–20, 2013

Now that the MMT has been completed, we are looking forward to our next organized JANE Tour, the Tour of Martha's Vineyard! The Hansons and the Finans are working on the final details, but the following information summarizes the planned events at this time. Send in your registration form, or at least let Carl know about your continuing interest, chansonjag@aol.com, so we can plan accordingly.

1. **Dates:** The event runs from Friday afternoon, October 18, to mid-morning Sunday, October 20.
2. **Ferry reservations.** Make your own reservations on a ferry from Woods Hole to Vineyard Haven (www.steamshipauthority.com). Round trip fare for a Jaguar is \$137. Select a time that meets your personal schedule. Early arrivals can enjoy shopping in downtown Edgartown or a short visit to the beautiful beaches of Chappaquiddick Island. We will have an informal reception on the porch of the hotel sometime after 5 p.m. on Friday.
3. **Hotel reservations.** Make your own reservations with special rates at **The Harbor View Hotel** in Edgartown. JANE has reserved a block of rooms under the name of "**Jaguar Association of New England.**" Call **1-800-225-6005**. You can choose a guestroom at the Main Building with a rate of \$219/night or at the adjacent Governor Mayhew with a rate of \$189/night. There is a two-night minimum, but you can stay longer at those special rates if you wish. The cutoff date for our block of rooms is September 9, 2013.
4. **Island Tour.** Saturday's schedule includes a driving tour of the island, including the towns of Oak Bluffs, Vineyard Haven, West Tisbury, Menemsha, and Gay Head. An appropriate lunch stop will be selected. A wine and cheese tasting will be held at a very special art gallery in West Tisbury.
5. **Banquet.** A special banquet will be held at the hotel on Saturday evening. Menu details and prices will be finalized in the next few weeks. We expect the banquet charge will be approximately \$65 per person, including gratuity and taxes. Drinks will be at your own additional expense.
6. **Event Fee.** Traditional rally plates will be prepared for each participating car. These and other additional expenses result in an assessment of \$15 per person, or \$25 per couple in the same vehicle (one rally plate per vehicle). A registration form is on the following page.

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Upcoming Events

REGISTRATION FORM - MARTHA'S VINEYARD TOUR FRIDAY P.M., SATURDAY, SUNDAY A.M. OCT 18 - 20, 2013 Sponsored by the Jaguar Association of New England

DRIVER'S NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DRIVER'S E-MAIL: _____

DRIVER'S CELL PHONE: _____ DRIVER'S HOME PHONE: _____

DRIVER'S CAR: MAKE/MODEL _____, YEAR _____

PASSENGER #1: NAME: _____ PASSENGER #2: NAME: _____	PASSENGER #3: NAME: _____ PASSENGER #4: NAME: _____
--	--

I / WE WILL BE STAYING OVERNIGHT AT HARBOR VIEW HOTEL, EDGARTOWN (NOTE: TWO-NIGHT MINIMUM)	YES	NO	RESERVE DIRECTLY WITH HOTEL 800-225-6005 CUTOFF 9/9/2013	\$210.00/night - Main Building \$120/night - Mayflower Bldg. Refer to Jaguar Association of New England for these rates.
I/WE WILL NOT STAY AT THE HOTEL, BUT WILL MEET TOUR GROUP SATURDAY at 9:00 a.m.	YES	NO	MAKE SURE GROUP LEADER HAS YOUR CELL PHONE NUMBER IN CASE OF LATE ARRIVAL	

Send completed form and check payable to Carl Hanson (amount calculated below) before October 1, 2013, to:

Carl Hanson, JANE MVY TOUR, 40 Springs Road, Bedford, MA 01730

Contacts: Carl Hanson, chansonjag@aol.com, 781-275-2707; or Tom Finan, tfinan@capecod.net, 508-255-1152.

Host Hotel for Tour: The Harbor View Hotel, 131 N. Water Street, Edgartown MA 02539
www.harbor-view.com

Martha's Vineyard Rally - Participation & Fee Schedule

	PRICE	SUBTOTAL
Driver's Reservation	\$15.00	\$15.00
Passenger Reservation(s)	_____ @ \$10.00	
Saturday 10/19 Wine and Cheese Tasting at art gallery (included in registration fee)	_____ participants	
Saturday 10/19 Group Dinner at Harbor View 5:30 p.m. suggested gathering for 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. plated dinner - price includes tax and tip - drinks extra - ENTER ENTRÉE CHOICES	Sirloin _____ @ \$65.00	
	Swordfish _____ @ \$65.00	
GRAND TOTAL		\$ _____



**St. Michael Concours d'Elegance
September 27-29, 2013
Hyatte Regency Chesapeake Bay
Cambridge, Maryland**

The seventh annual St. Michael Concours d'Elegance will take place on Sunday, September 29, 2013, at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina in Cambridge, Maryland.

Jaguar of Annapolis will be presenting the award for the best Jaguar. Jaguar owners are welcome to come and enjoy the event and enter their period cars in the Concours.

"The waterfront 18th fairway of the golf resort's signature hole will rival the most scenic setting of any concours event in the country" said George M. Walsh, Jr., Chairman and Founder of the event.

Once again this year, the Concours d'Elegance will feature rare coachbuilt automobiles from the golden age of motoring, 1900-1942. It will also feature a unique collection of sports cars from the post war racing era from 1948-1963. This year there will also be a class of wood bodied cars to 1953.

This event began in 2007 at the Inn at Perry Cabin in St. Michaels. Due to the need to accommodate more automobiles in 2010, the Concours moved to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. The Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina is the perfect venue for this year's event.

For information on the seventh annual St. Michaels Concours d'Elegance, you can visit the Concours website at www.smcde.org or call the Concours office at 410-820-8366.



JANE Tours Bob Bahre's Car Collection

Story and photos by Ed Avis

On July 20th JANE was joined by several members of the Mid-Maine Sports Car Club on a trip to beautiful Paris Hill, Maine, for a tour of Bob Bahre's magnificent personal collection of exceptional motor cars. The weather was rather warm, but the rain gods smiled on our group and the day was dry. Thirty JANE members and guests made the trip from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine to attend the event and were well represented with 3 E-Types (1967, 1968, and 1969), a 1953 XK120 DHC, a 1965 S-Type, a 1980 XJ6, a 2001 XJ8 VDP, a 1955 MkVII M, a 2006 XJ8L, a 2004 S-Type, a 2004 XJR, a 2010 XK, and a 2008 XJR. MMSCC was also represented by 12 members who brought such interesting cars as a 1935 Riley Imp, a 1951 Triumph Renown, a 1954 MG-TF, and a 1974 Alfa Romeo GTV2000.



Our first stop was at McLaughlin Garden in South Paris for a catered lunch in the old barn and a casual stroll through the gardens. Bernard McLaughlin, a local bank teller of modest means, loved to garden and eventually became one of the most respected gardeners in Maine. When he died the property was purchased by the McLaughlin Foundation, which now cares for the house and garden and makes their beauty and charm available to the public.

Following lunch we drove the few remaining miles to Paris Hill and reserved parking on the village green. At 2 o'clock Jeff Orwig, the curator of the collection and walking encyclopedia of automobile history, met us for a guided tour of the 66-vehicle collection. The collection is open to the public only one day a year, during the Paris Hill Founders' Day celebration (the 3rd Saturday of July – mark your calendars for future visits). The entrance fee supports the local library, and the tour is well worth it. We were treated to a detailed history of each car and marveled at the scope of the collection. There aren't too many places where one can see four Model "J" Duesenbergs, a Brewster Buick, a Tucker, a Mercedes SSK, a Mercedes staff car commissioned by Adolf Hitler for one of his generals, a Stutz Bearcat (and a Super Bearcat), an Auburn Speedster, a whole

row of rare Packards (including one commissioned by Carole Lombard for Clark Gable), a custom-bodied 1947 Delahaye, a Series 1 E-Type OTS, and many other very interesting cars, including the only remaining REAL (not made-for-the-movie) Chitty Bang Bang (with an astounding 18.8 liter 1915 aircraft engine on a lengthened 1921 Mercedes-Benz chassis).



This was the first year that the Founders' Day organizers included a "Best of Show Within a Show" contest for those who drove their classic cars to the event. This was a "people's choice"

continued on next page

competition with members of the public doing the voting. First place went to JANE's own Chris and Sandy Milton-Hall with their beautiful 1968 E-Type OTS in their first outing with the club. Second place went to Ed and Cheryl Avis's 1953 XK120 DHC. We were also glad to see JANE's newest member, Scott Bailey, there with his newly-acquired 1967 E-Type 2+2.

More photos are available on the JANE website at www.j-a-n-e.org.



Opposite page: Everyone loved Bruce Murray's 1/3 scale Jaguar engine. A 1940 Mercedes commissioned by Adolf Hitler for one of his generals.

This page clockwise from top right: The rare 1947 "Narwhal-nose" Delahaye. A late Brass Era 1910 Thomas Flyer. An elegant 1932 Packard with a lovely backdrop. In their first JANE outing Chris and Sandy Milton-Hall received People's Choice first place on the green. Collection curator Jeff Orwig and the 1906 Baker electric – with original batteries!



To Victor Belongs...

By Al Zanengo

As you may know, our own Victor Cromie put up a great time of 52.7 seconds at our "Virgin Spring" Slalom in his 1930 Austin "Super Sport." Originally, when Paul Bicknell recorded the standings to JCNA he included Victor in Class Z (other).

Shortly afterward, as I was browsing national standings on the JCNA website, I noticed a 1929 Austin Swallow alone in Class A with a time of 63.4 seconds. Immediately, my thoughts went to glory for JANE and Jaguar! Paul modified the entry at my request, and we had rightful recognition for, at the very least, knowing how to have some fun.

Shortly after that, on a sunny afternoon I received a call from an elder British gentleman from the Virginia Jaguar club who identified himself as one David Harrison, the previous first place holder in Class A. My throat tightened as a shiver went down my spine, knowing that what I feared would come next, and I understood why it must.

Mr. Harrison assured me that though he would rather not file a formal protest, the rules stated clearly that Class A requires the vehicle to be street legal, with the presumption of lights, fenders, etc. Candidly, who knew?

I asked him to shoot me off an email and asked Paul to switch Victor back into Class Z if he was in agreement that the "letter of law" must not be ignored. After the entry was modified, I also invited Mr. Harrison up to our September 14 Slalom, which he declined due to a prior engagement and his acknowledged fear of a thrumping.


If that's not enough inside Slalom scoop for you, there was the wildest rooting tooting rodeo of a Slalom out in the wild west of New Britain, CT, at Papa's Dodge on July 14. Ken Haas and Dean Cusano did a fantastic job hosting 40 cars at their new site for the JCSNE event. Through the generosity of Papa's Dodge, there was an air conditioned auto museum with a full service 50's style diner and bathrooms and a lounge for awards. Big time!

It was a warm, sunny day with some great cars: Jaguars, Corvettes, Porsches, MGBs, Austin Healeys, and some wild oddballs. Records fell with the help of some smooth, warm asphalt, three generations of Hagopians (at least enough for a softball team) and many more guys, as well as both Felicia Hagopian and Penelope Christy. Did I mention that Victor Cromie was also entered, after attending a hill-climb on Saturday in Wilbraham? (Drat those Lucas fuel pumps!)

Since you missed it, you should know that a Jeep Comanche that in the 80's had been race-campaigned by the Archer Bros. was turning times in the low 40's. Gary Hagopian was rocking 38-second runs in his race-prepared Bugeye (the "other one"). Rumor has it that his grandson may have actually clipped a few more hundredths off in the same car. It

continued on next page

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was some tasty Slalom!

After the official runs were over we retired to the air conditioned lounge for the awards ceremony, where ribbons were presented for 1st in each class. I felt like a pony.

For the addicted, there were “dollar runs” afterwards and everyone got to go home and sleep in their comfy beds later that night.

The final word in Slalom Scuttlebutt is that JANE has some real contenders in the JCNA National Standing:

Mike Kaleel in 1st place in Class P in a field of 2 with a 46.990

Gary Hagopian in 1st place in Class Z in a field of 14 with a 38.596

Al Zanengo in 1st place in Class J in a field of 10 with a 46.744

Rich Kosinski in 3rd place in Class L in a field of 8 with a 45.762

Paul Bicknell in 3rd place in Class M in a field of 5 with a 48.120

Dennis Eklof in 8th place in Class Z in a field of 14 with a 47.650

Victor Comie in 11th place in Class Z in a field of 14 with a 52.700

Bob Totten in 14th place in Class Z in a field of 14 with a 61.300



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Now my pencil is worn to a nub and I have to get back to eBay, but I hope you've set aside our September 14 date for the “Fast Fall Slalom” in North Andover and pray that some members who can still drive and have an E-Type or an XK might want to come out and help us rank in some other classes.

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The advertisement for Upton Foreign Motors features a background image of a white Jaguar car. The text is in blue and red. There are small inset images of car parts like wheels and tires.

Gettysburg 150: Reliving the Past

Story and photos by Tracey Levasseur

Editor's note: I know this is not car related, as there were none in 1863. From 2011 to 2015 the United States is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War with various special exhibits, seminars and living history reenactments. Here's a first-hand account of the recent Gettysburg 150 re-enactment.

Anyone can attend a Civil War anniversary celebration. It's another story to participate....

Two years ago I became interested in the American Civil War, and since I'd never been to any Civil War national historic park I made it a goal to not only visit one but to visit during the 150th anniversary. This year marks the 150th anniversary of several major battles, including the three days fought at Gettysburg, PA. Since that's the closest to me, I set my sights there.

Flashback to October 2012: Kennebunk's Brick Store Museum opened its Civil War exhibit "From the Kennebunks to Appomattox" with a demo of military drills and an 1860s "fashion show" presented by a Maine group of re-enactors. Jay Carter and I attended, the first time we'd been able to catch a re-enactment event.

In between demos we talked with the re-enactors. They are the 3rd Maine Volunteer Infantry, Co. A, a friendly group who welcome new members. As we chatted with the company commander we mentioned our plans to attend Gettysburg the following year. He said the 3rd Maine would be there participating, and it would be less expensive to be there as a participant than as a spectator. So with nothing to lose, and the fact that we wanted to try our hands at re-enacting, we became members.

As a female member I'm allowed to choose whether I want to have an infantry or civilian impression. Since my main interest in the Civil War is the military aspect I chose infantry.

We spent this past winter and spring collecting our equipment necessary for an infantry impression: a musket (a replica, but still a real firearm), uniform (yes, it's real wool), ammo and cap cases, haversack, bayonet and scabbard, canteen, canvas tent, and eating utensils. Not only does a re-enactor need to look authentic in parades and drilling demos, but also when participating in an encampment. When spectators walk through a 3rd Maine encampment they must feel like they're stepping back into the 1860s. That means no coolers, no Coleman stoves, no LL Bean tents, and no modern folding camp chairs. If coolers or other modern items have to accompany a re-enactor they must be concealed.

While we acquired our equipment we attended meetings for drill training and also participated in a Camp of Instruction at Norland's Living History Center. This training was a mandatory prerequisite to Gettysburg and any other "battles" we might participate in throughout the year. Having survived that and



JANE members Jay Carter and Tracey Levasseur (center) as privates in the 3rd Maine Volunteer Infantry re-enactors at Gettysburg, PA.

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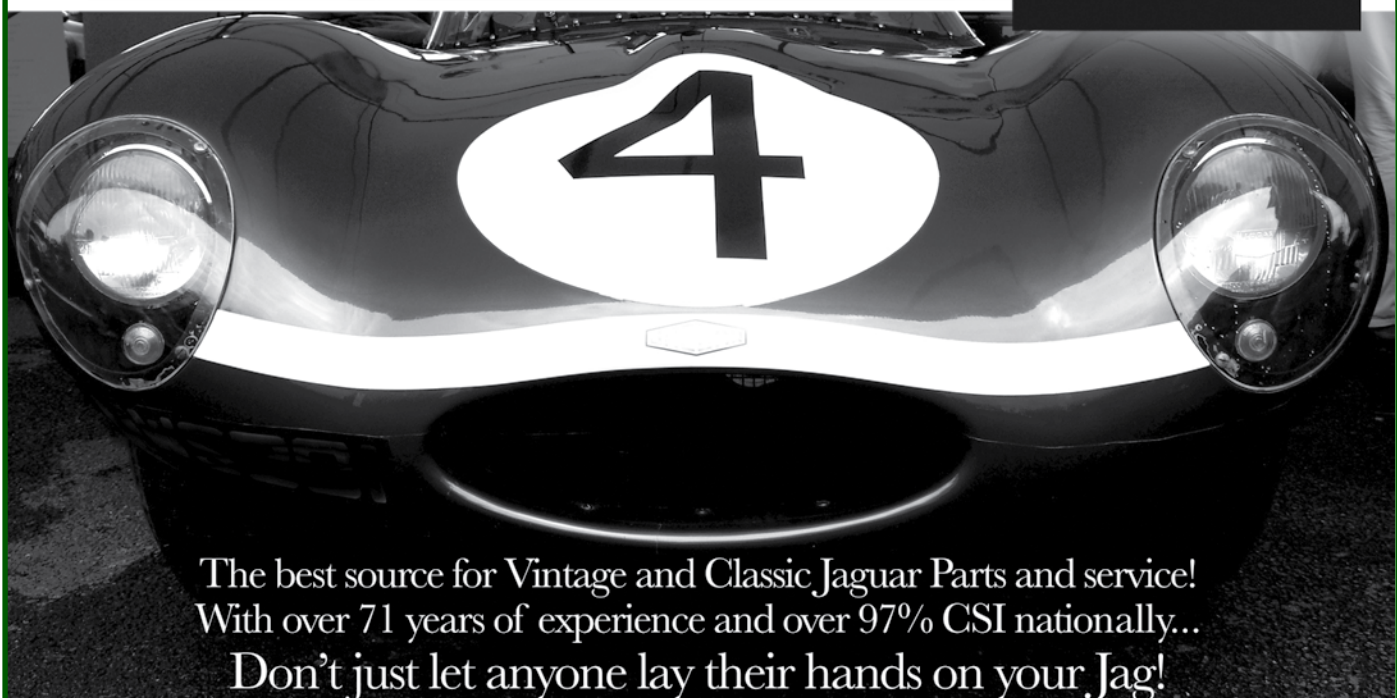
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a weekend encampment at Norland's in June we were ready for Gettysburg.

The Gettysburg re-enactment the 3rd Maine participated in happened June 28-30 and was on the Bushey farm property just south and west of the actual military battlefield. Almost 10,000 re-enactors making up infantry, artillery, cavalry, and civilians (Union and Confederate) descended upon this beautiful farmland of rolling hills, established pastures, and hardwood forests. Union infantry and artillery (that was us) were fortunate to be camped in the woods because every day was close to 90 degrees and very humid. Those poor rRbels were camped almost a mile from us in the field. Luckily the organizers supplied ample portable toilets and several water tankers for us.

We arrived a day early so we could set up camp and do some shopping at the sutlers' tents. During the war sutlers were civilian "vendors" who followed the armies around and sold them various equipment and food not supplied by the government. Sutlers were a "necessary evil" according to some veterans' accounts, since they provided goods but often of poor quality and usually astronomical prices. Today's sutlers provide re-enactors with everything necessary for a good Civil War (and other time periods) impression.

Friday morning was Day 1 of the battle (July 1, 1863). It was hot and humid, just like the actual day. Each day was to have at least three battle scenarios although we (3rd Maine) would not participate in them all. And I might note that only one day we got



The 3rd Maine encampment, tents as far as the eye could see. There were just under 10,000 total re-enactors participating June 28-30, at Gettysburg.

continued on next page

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to portray the actual 3rd Maine, the other days we wore corps badges of different regiments. It was good that we did not participate in all of them because our first battle started at 11am (Buford's Stand), and since we were already on the field the organizers decided to have the second and third battles (the Railroad Cut and McPherson's Ridge) piggyback the first. By the second battle we were melting in our wool and several people dropped out from heat exhaustion. After a 15-minute break we performed the third battle (with little enthusiasm at this point), then with what strength we had left marched back to camp. Many long-time members said they'd never been in such extreme conditions as that.



That evening they had two more battles (Culp's Hill and East Cemetery Ridge) in which we did not have to participate. This gave us an opportunity to watch the event and take photos.

Saturday (July 2, 1863) was still hot but not as humid. Unfortunately, the organizers either got confused or were trying too hard to have the start of our battles coincide with the start of the actual 1863 battles. They got us marched to the field at noon for a 2pm battle. The battles didn't happen until 4pm (the Wheatfield and Peach Orchard), so we waited around all that time. The battles, when they did happen, must have been impressive to watch, I know it was impressive in the front ranks! In the Peach Orchard we got to portray ourselves, the 3rd Maine.

On day 3, over 1000 Union soldiers participate in Pickett's Charge. Here the boys in blue await orders as the Rebels approach through cannon smoke.

Since we got a late start our scheduled dress parade and

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photo of the entire Union army was postponed until Sunday morning, thankfully as we didn't look too photogenic after waiting so long and then fighting in the blazing sun.

As many Civil War buffs know, the third day at Gettysburg (July 3, 1863) wrapped up with Pickett's Charge, 12,000 rebels marching en masse across the open field toward the Union's center line on Cemetery Ridge. For this scenario the organizers used all participants. After the formal dress parade there was a short break as we all anticipated the grand finale. A stonewall had been created on the property and a "copse of trees" planted specially for this battle. When the time came, the entire Union force marched onto the field behind the cannons. For 15 minutes our cannons and the Rebel cannons exchanged volleys just as they did in 1863. After this we witnessed the long line of Confederates marching across the field toward us. At the command we ran over to the stonewall and began to fire at will. Suddenly rebels were running toward the wall, those who didn't "fall dead" behind it hurled themselves over it only to fall dead at our feet or be taken prisoner – just like 1863. No sooner did it start than it was over, the "dead" on both sides rose up, and a lot of hand shaking and salutations ensued. It was a great ending to a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Our trip concluded the next day with an entire day walking around Gettysburg National Military Park. Having participated in re-enactments has given me a better understanding of what the soldiers went through during the war, both in battle and in camp. Granted, we don't use bullets and we had plenty of ice, water, and bathroom facilities, but at least when I read memoirs or first-hand accounts from those who'd been there I'll have a better understanding. Walking through the battlefield also gave me a better understanding of the lay of the land, and when I read about the Wheat-field, Devil's Den, Seminary Ridge, the Valley of Death I will have a picture in my mind's eye, not just two-dimensional figures on a map.

I probably could have stayed at a hotel and spent the whole weekend at the battlefield, there was so much that I did not get to see and learn about. But then I couldn't have said I participated in the 150th anniversary re-enactment.



Above: Re-enacting is not allowed on the actual Gettysburg battlefield so the action happens on private property. However, participants got breathtaking views of the Little and Big Round Top off in the distance.



Right: After the celebration Your Editor visited Gettysburg National Military Park, taking photos of the many monuments including this one dedicated to the actual 3rd Maine regiment. It stands where the Maine boys fought, in the Peach Orchard on July 2, 1863.



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