

The Coventry Cat



Official Newsletter of the Jaguar Association of New England

April 2015

www.j-a-n-e.org














2015 JCNA Annual General Meeting, Philadelphia

The Delaware Valley Jaguar Club hosted this year's AGM. The highlight of the weekend was the tour of the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum. Attendees observed breathtaking automobiles such as this 1938 SS100. For the official AGM report see page 12. For one member's experience at AGM and touring Philly see page 14. And for more Simeone Foundation photos see the inside back cover. Photo courtesy Brian McMahon.

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Spring Is in the Air

Moderating temperatures, longer daylight hours, and even some sunshine are slowly eroding the frustration and discomfort of this winter season. Even as a few streets remain difficult to traverse, with parking and travel restrictions still in place complicating the growing foot traffic as people attempt to break free from the long period of imposed confinement, patches of bare ground are beginning to emerge. This can only mean that the batteries are being charged and the wrenches are completing those last few necessary adjustments that will bring our Cats back to life.

The 2014 Boston AGM seems barely visible in our rear view mirrors now, as our JANE delegation of twelve members went off to Philadelphia in a more relaxed and comfortable state of participation for the 2015 AGM. Most of us thought that by going west and a little south for a few days, it would be warmer than being at home, but Mother Nature was not about to let us forget that winter was not yet over by giving us two days of snow. This year's delegates, Dave Moulton and Gus Niewenhaus, were responsible for commanding our club's votes at the business meeting on the changing rules and policies from JCNA, while three other members of our delegation were busy participating in other national committees. As the membership of JCNA has grown over the last few years to 6,500, JANE still retains the prestigious position of being the largest club in North America. The highlight of this year's AGM was the Friday night Welcome Party at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum, which boasts some extremely rare cars from the last century with some significant provenance. The Saturday night awards banquet keynote speaker was Kim McCullough, the new Vice President of Marketing for Jaguar Land Rover North America LLC. According to Kim, sales are improving significantly and Jaguar is aggressively attacking the market with more promising developments.

Dennis Eklof has been hard at work building a new and improved website for the club, and it should be up and running shortly. The new site will provide easier navigation, registration, and payment for all of our future events. Additional benefits will be provided for our sponsors and advertisers, with greater visibility and access to their websites directly from our pages. We are also in need of someone to take over the club calendar and post events and information on the website. The responsibilities will be very easy with the new site design and will require only a very small time investment, so it is nothing to be afraid of taking on. If anyone has any interest in becoming more involved in this activity, please contact Dennis for more information.

Previewing the month of April, all things indicate it will be a bit light with activities, which will give some time to work on our cars. The Judge's Training will be held on Sunday, April 26th, with plenty of new changes for our teams to digest. This would be a great opportunity for anyone who has an interest in knowing more about the judging process to come and participate in order to understand what responsibilities our judges need to maintain. The April monthly meeting will be back at the Wayside Inn, and Dean Saluti has arranged for another great program. Michael Gaetano will be there to tell us all about the new British Motorcar Festival in Bristol, Rhode Island, in June, as well as the 25th British Invasion in Stowe, Vermont, in September. Please go to the JANE website and register for this program. Early registration helps to make Dean's job of coordinating with the Inn a little easier.

The Magical Mystery Tour is rapidly approaching, and at last count there are 37 teams and cars that are participating. Dennis and Prebble have spent a lot of time and effort to create an amazing event and have

continued on next page

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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Back cover half page	\$500

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JANE is also on facebook at
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President's Message continued

indicated that this year's will have the largest attendance so far. There may be only a few rooms left at the inn, if any, so if you have any interest in participating in this fun event, don't wait any longer to sign up.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the upcoming events. Remember, this is your club and everyone gets more out of it than they put in, but we need your participation and input to make it better.

Jim



First day of Spring? That's what it said on the calendar, but you couldn't tell by looking out at the hotel parking lot during the 2015 AGM. Let's hope Richard and Jan Gill brought their snow brush to clean off their XJR. Photo courtesy Jim Sambold.



It's now official – JANE is again the largest of the 66 JCNA-affiliated Jaguar clubs in North America, as confirmed by the membership numbers presented at the AGM last month! The nearest competitor in size has consistently been the Jaguar Associates Group in San Francisco, but since 2012 JANE has had a larger membership. The table below shows the numbers for 2010 - 2014 and also for 2015 to date (as of the AGM).

Congratulations to JANE and thanks to everyone for being recruiters for the club!

Club	31 DEC 2010	31 DEC 2011	31 DEC 2012	31 DEC 2013	31 DEC 2014	09 MAR 2015
San Francisco	263	264	220	237	265	175
JANE	243	206	283	303	305	251

However, we still have work to do! As of April 1st we have 262 new or renewing members in JANE. We ended 2014 with 305 members so we need 43 additional new or renewing members to match 2014! Help the cause by recruiting a new member this year!

Cheers,

Ed Avis

Welcome New Members

Paul & Netta	Vercollone	North Marshfield, MA	(none yet)
Paul	Tuhus	Norwich, VT	2015 F-Type S Conv.
Steven	Corcoran	Lincoln, MA	(none listed)
David	Frink	Concord, MA	2014 F-Type

...And Former Members Who Rejoined

Robert & Terry	Green	Lincoln, MA	2000 XK8
Thomas & Kathrine	Mauser	Hollis, NH	1964 E-Type OTS

2015 JANE Calendar

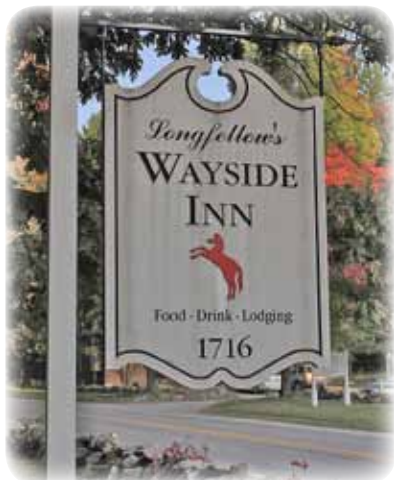
You may register for any JANE event online at www.j-a-n-e.org
and pay in advance by credit card or PayPal

- Apr 6** SCDA Track Day at Lime Rock, Lime Rock Park, CT
- Apr 22** SCDA Track Day at Thompson Speedway, Thompson, CT
- Apr 22** JANE Monthly Meeting, Speaker Michael Gaetano, Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
- Apr 26** JANE Judges Training Session (Location TBA)
- May 3** JCSNE Spring Slalom, New Britain, CT
- May 8** SCDA Track Day at NHMS, Loudon, NH
- May 23-24** JANE Magical Mystery Tour
- May 27** JANE Picnic on the Lawn at Larz Anderson Auto Museum, Brookline, MA
- May 28** SCDA Track Day at Lime Rock, Lime Rock Park, CT
- May 29** Empire Club Drivers School at Lime Rock, Lime Rock Park, CT
- June 7** XK's at Kaleel's, Hamilton, MA
- June 12-14** First Ever British Motorcar Festival, Bristol, RI
- June 14** First Annual British Motorcar Festival, Bristol, RI
- June 14** JCSNE Annual Concours, Middlefield, CT
- June 16** SCDA Track Day at Thompson Speedway, Thompson, CT
- June 20** JANE Spring Slalom
- June 24** JANE Monthly Meeting (Program TBD), Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA
- June 28** LAAM British Car Day

***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.

Upcoming Events



April Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 7pm
Guest speaker Michael Gaetano

Longfellow's Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA

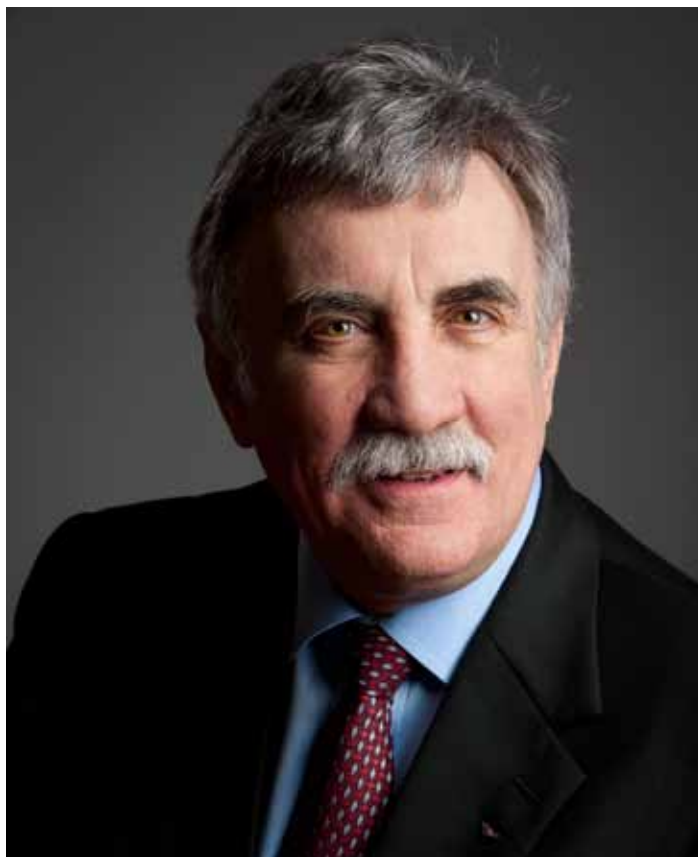
Come and hear all about Michael's first British Motorcar Festival at Bristol, Rhode Island, June 11-14, 2015. It's a weekend celebration of the British Lifestyle and All Great British Motor Cars.

Michael will also be talking about the special 25th British Invasion in Stowe, Vermont, September 18-20, 2015.

We will have our usual buffet dinner.

Please register early on the JANE website, www.j-a-n-e.org.

\$30 – or \$35 at the door if you do not pre-register and just show up.



Upcoming Events

JANE Magical Mystery Tour (MMT) May 23 – 24

JANE's 2015 Magical Mystery Tour is waiting to take you away! The arrangements have been made with this year's "mystery" destination inn, and Dennis and Prebble have begun to lay out the "magical" route for you to follow. Have you made your reservation for the event yet?

We will depart from Johnson's Restaurant in Groton, Massachusetts, on Saturday morning, May 23rd. You will get route sheets that morning with clues to follow to get you to the "mystery" destination. Your route sheets will contain no street signs, no route numbers, no town names. You will find your way by following the clues along beautiful New England back roads, all paved, no dirt. As you might imagine, this winter has taken its toll on the roads, so we can't promise there won't be a few "bumps" along the way, but we will do our best to make it as smooth a drive as possible. It is not a timed event, you are on your own schedule, and the distance is such that you should be able to arrive at the inn by mid-to-late afternoon in plenty of time to get settled into your room and be ready for the cocktail reception before dinner. There will be things to look for and questions to answer along the way, which will go toward awards at the evening's festivities.

Since you cannot know in advance where we will all gather at the end of the day, obviously you cannot make your own overnight reservations. But as soon as you register for the event, we will make sure you are booked into the mystery destination inn. The package cost for the weekend, per couple, is \$380. This includes the Saturday evening cocktail reception, dinner, double-occupancy room, breakfast Sunday morning, and all associated taxes and gratuities. This package rate for the event also includes a small assessment per participant for the event rally plates, awards, and other tour-related expenses incurred by your tour organizers. The only additional charge for you will be your own bar tab for the cocktail reception and dinner. For anyone who thinks you might want to stay over an additional night, separate from the JANE event, please call or email Dennis or Prebble and we can work out those reservations and financial arrangements for you.

If you've not participated in an MMT in the past, it's best that you go to the JANE website and read the event reports for the tours that ran in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2013. The photos tend to tell the story of the fun to be had. The 2009 Event Report also has a link to that year's actual route sheet, which will give you an idea of the kinds of instructions to expect. And there is more complete information on the upcoming 2015 MMT on the events calendar on the JANE website, including the 2015 Magical Mystery Tour General Instructions (under Event Details, click for Additional Information).



The inn is holding 42 rooms for us, and as of April 1st, 37 are already booked. So if you want in on the MMT, you need to act quickly. You may register online on the JANE website. Your registration must be made, and we must receive your check (made payable to Dennis Eklof – NOT JANE) by April 15 in order to reserve your place in the 2015 MMT. In the meantime, if you have any questions that are not answered here or on the website, call or email Dennis (508-878-9510 – dennis.eklof@verizon.net) or Prebble (617-877-5825 – prebble.eklof@verizon.net).

Upcoming Events

Spring Slalom Spree North Andover, Massachusetts June 20, 2015

Okay, you hibernating Jag devotees, it's almost time to wake up your rides and get them tuned up for some awesome fast fun with cars and friends at the Spring Slalom Spree (say that three times fast!).

This year our first slalom is being held on June 20, the Saturday before Father's Day, so it will be a great opportunity to get out with your friends and/or make it a family event, cheering the drivers on and enjoying a great lunch menu.

You don't need any special equipment or training, just the desire to have some fun. If you want to learn more about the event, contact JANE's Slalom Chair, Rich Kosinski, at richardkosinski@comcast.net or 978-204-5300.

Just be sure to "Save the Date" and register on the JANE website at www.j-a-n-e.org.



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JANE Members Shake Winter Blues at F1

By Dennis Eklof, photos by Bill Richardson

On March 1, some 14 JANE racer-types again made the trek to Braintree to try their hands at the indoor kart racing track at F1 Boston. If you have never tried this event, keep it in mind for 2016. We all arrived a bit after 1pm for a 2pm racing start. The track was set aside for JANE for about 45 minutes of racing, with three 10-lap heat races and a 15-lap final to determine the overall winner. Everyone got to drive in at least two heat races.

Drivers included (and I am doing this from memory, so don't bet any money on it) Jan and Richard Gill, Dan Graf, Tom Moses and son Ethan and guests Peter and Ian Shank, Twister Collins, Howard Kalet, Dennis Eklof and friend Nate Moynihan, Jim Sambold, Rob Gardner, and Bob Lang. We also had a cheering section (again from memory) comprised of Prebble Eklof, Leslie Gardner, Dean Saluti and Margie Cahn, Paul Bicknell, Anne Geoffrion, Glen and Barbara McLachlan, and Bill and Deb Richardson.

At the end of the races, Rob Gardner edged me out of a podium finish in the last lap of the final, while our young friend Nate Moynihan finished a surprising 2nd. Long-time racer and auto-crosser Bob Lang did his usual and easily smoked us all for first place.

After the racing a number of us hung around for a late lunch at the surprisingly good restaurant that is part of the F1 facility. After the horrid winter we have endured, it was good to get back into some car activities. Many thanks to our President, Jim Sambold, for organizing the event.



Top: JANE members at speed on the track of F1. Above: Look at the smiles on this group! Nothing breaks a cabin fever like a day of karting with like-minded club members.

Sweet Destination: Parker's Maple Barn

By Dennis Eklof

As we have done for several years, JANE opened the driving season (sort of) with a short tour to Parker's Maple Barn for lunch. I say sort of because there is still so much snow around that most of us opted to leave our Jaguars in the garage until the crud is gone. I think there were only three Jaguars to be seen, those of Mike Axford, Bruce Whitmore, and David Rardin.

This year our visit happened to be on Parker's busiest day of the year, so it was not until 2ish that we actually got seated. Despite the lateness of the hour, many of us still opted for breakfast, which is a Parker's specialty. You haven't lived until you have tried a Parker's Special, which consists of two large pancakes, two eggs, two pieces of bacon, two sausage links, a slice of ham, a generous portion of homefries, and toast. Yum, but I was stuffed and ate nothing for the rest of the day!

Bruce Whitmore and Carl Hanson did their usual job of laying out two completely different routes to Parker's, along with a number of questions to be answered along the way. Awards were made. On the Eastern Route, Rich and Linda Kosinski were the victors, while the Western Route was won by Dave Moulton and Bonnie Getz. In the absence of any misadventures on which to base a "Bent Spoke" award, Tom and Mary Finan went home with a tin of maple syrup for having driven the farthest for the event -- all the way from the Cape.

Everyone was suitably stuffed after our meal, and things began to break up at about 3:30, although some of us lingered considerably longer over our coffee.

Thanks to Bruce and Carl for another enjoyable outing.



And the winners are...

Left: The Eastern Route winners Rich and Linda Kosinski. Above: Bonnie Getz proudly holds the prize as Western Route co-winner. Right: Tom and Mary Finan were awarded a sweet nip for driving farthest to attend. Photos by Bill Richardson.

2015 JCNA AGM

JCNA 2015 Annual General Meeting Philadelphia



By Dennis Eklof

Well, another JCNAAGM has come and gone, this year in Philadelphia, and hosted by the Delaware Valley Jaguar Club. DVJC did a fine job of organizing and running the event, and I think everyone enjoyed the weekend.

Prebble and I drove down on Thursday (no Jaguar -- still too much salt on the roads) and arrived at the hotel in time for some relaxation and a dinner with other JCNA members at a nearby Irish pub. I think it was the toughest flank steak I ever tried to chew, but the good company more than made up for it.

For many attendees and delegates, Friday was a day for some sightseeing around Philadelphia, but for me, it was an all-day meeting of the JCNA Board of Directors during which we went over many of the same issues that would be presented to the General Meeting on Saturday. All-in-all it was a productive day -- more on that later.



There are several Jaguars at the Simeone including this 1956 D-Type.

Friday night was perhaps the highlight of the weekend -- a catered dinner at the Simeone Foundation Automotive Museum. If you haven't visited the Simeone, put it on your bucket list. Dr. Fred Simeone has amassed an incredible collection of primarily race cars, many of which are unrestored, original cars. The museum is arranged in groupings around the cars involved, with one group for Le Mans racers, another for the Mille Miglia, a third for Targa Florio, etc. One group of five cars is called the Winners Circle, and each of the five cars in the group was the actual winning car in a major international race. It includes a Mercedes Benz, an Alfa Romeo, a Cunningham, a Bugatti, and an Aston Martin. The total number of cars in the collection is between 65 and 70, and there's not a loser in the bunch. The Simeone collection was supplemented by some fine Jaguars belonging to members of DVJC.

Philly Cheesesteaks were a natural choice for the featured dish at Friday's catered buffet, along with some Korean barbecue that everyone also enjoyed.

Saturday was consumed mostly by the General Meeting, and it proved to be a productive day for the club. As many of you may be aware, there has been considerable controversy of late over Concours judging standards and the high frequency of single-car classes at most JCNA Concours. While there have been proposals to address these issues at recent past AGMs, none has been successfully passed.



One of the five cars in the Winners Circle is this 1958 Aston Martin DBR1. All photos on this page by Jim Sambold.

This year was different. Two very important Concours rule changes were passed. The first relates to the standards for judges. Beginning this year, each club must have all JCNA-certified judges on its judging teams in order to qualify for a JCNA Concours sanction. In the past, many clubs made do with uncertified judges or apprentice judges, contributing to the discrepancies in judging standards across clubs. While this change will not guarantee that judging standards will be uniform across clubs, it is certainly a step in the right direction. JANE has been fortunate in that being a large club and having JCSNE as a nearby neighbor, our judging teams have met these new standards for some time, but some of the smaller clubs will have to ramp up their judges training programs.

The second big change is the consolidation of some classes. As new models have emerged from Jaguar, there has been a proliferation of classes and an increase in the number of single-car classes. As an example, JCNA has about a five-year supply of 3rd place trophies on hand under past conditions. The final numbering of the new classes is still being worked out, but for example, all pre-war Jaguars will now be in a single class. Thanks to Bob Matejek for his hard work on putting together this proposal. You can read much more about the AGM proceedings by visiting http://www.j-a-n-e.org/events/event_705_report/2015_AGM_Minutes.pdf.

We also now have a new JCNA President, George Camp, who has been Dick Maury's VP for several years, and a new Vice President, Barbara Grayson, who is a past JCNA President and current Regional Director from the Northwest Region. Many thanks to Dick Maury for the great job he has done as JCNA President. Our membership has grown in each of his years in office, and the club is now on a sound financial basis.



Ed Avis accepts his 2nd Place award from Deannie Kennedy for his write-up on the 2014 Bar Harbor Tour.



Dave Moulton receives a 3rd Place award from Mrs. Kennedy for his 45.7 second score in Slalom Class R. Photos this page by Dennis Eklof.

After the business meeting, it was on to the cocktail reception and awards banquet. The keynote speaker for the evening was Kim McCullough, the recently appointed Vice President for Marketing for Jaguar Land-Rover North America. She had some great things to say about Jaguar's plans for the future, and I am sure we can count on a lot of new developments coming over the next couple of years.

Then it was on to the awards. Three JANE members and one member from JCSNE received national awards for 2014. David Moulton won 3rd place in Slalom Class R, with a 45.700-second run in his F-Type. Ed Avis won the 2nd place award in the Travel category for "Travels With JANE: We Venture Down East," writing in *The Coventry Cat* about our tour to Bar Harbor last year. Robert Sylvestri, from our sister club, JCSNE, took the 1st place award in the Technical category for his article, "Out of Darkness." And Dean Cusano was again the "Fastest Man in the Slalom" with his sub-38-second run with his very fast prepared XJS.

One last item -- many thanks to the four tech-session presenters: Brian Donovan on Suspension Improvements in Early Jaguars; Michael Engard, of Ragtops and Roadsters, who spoke on Overdrives and 5-speed Transmissions; David Kinney, from Hagerty Insurance, who spoke on Jaguar Valuations; and Ralph Steinberg, of Cloverleaf Auto Restorations, who discussed the challenges associated with ethanol and other fuel additives.

We are already looking forward to the 2016 AGM, which will be held in Scottsdale, Arizona, in conjunction with the 2016 Western States event. It was done this way in Phoenix a couple of years ago and we had a great time.

For more Simeone Foundation car photos see the inside back cover.

Travelogue: 2015 AGM in the City of Brotherly Love

Story and photos by Brian McMahon

Editor's note: JANE member Brian McMahon submitted several photos of his adventures at the 2015 AGM in Philadelphia to me along with some very descriptive captions. Strung together they give an idea of all the things to do and see at AGM.



I was able to attend three of the tech sessions organized by Delaware Valley Jaguar Club (DVJC), hosts of this year's JCNA AGM. The first was conducted by Brian Donovan, of Donovan Motorsports, who spoke about "Jaguar Performance Preparation." Like many of the AGM seminar presenters, Brian was careful to outline differences between a Jaguar designed to win concours events and one that is designed to be driven regularly. Because vintage Jaguars came from the factory with bias-ply tires, and yet radial tires offer much better performance, an owner must decide how "authentic" he wants his car to

be. Some upgrades, like internal engine parts fabricated with all the metallurgical advances made in the past 50 years, can be made invisible. Others, like replacing the original leather rear axle seals in E-Types with more durable neoprene seals may be visible to an alert concours judge. Brian also told us that today's gasoline introduces two problems to owners of vintage Jaguars: ethanol will rot rubber fuel hoses, and the lower octane rating of today's unleaded premium fuel requires re-tuning the ignition system.



Happy Delaware Valley Jaguar Club members welcome guests to the AGM at the hotel.

Michael Engard, of Ragtops and Roadsters, spoke on "Overdrives and 5-Speed Conversions," and he also spent some time covering manual-to-automatic transmission conversions and retrofitting air conditioning. A 5-speed transmission installed in an E-Type will provide more speed off the line, and 400-800 lower RPMs on the highway. However, Michael said that transmission suppliers and makers of adapter kits are sparring over responsibility for mismatched parts, and these problems are currently unresolved. Conversely, there have been several successful transplants of General Motors series 350 and 400 automatic transmissions in vintage Jaguars. A seminar participant asked why use an older 4-speed GM transmission when new Jaguars come with 8-speed transmissions. We learned that you might be able to adapt the hardware, but that all modern cars depend on computerized engine controls, so an 8-speed in an E-Type would be "brainless" and not functional. Changing transmissions will affect the car's value: increasing its appeal to those who want to drive it regularly, decreasing it for concours cars.

Michael said that they have an interesting test case: they will soon be selling a customer's Series 1 E-Type that they had modernized with an automatic transmission, power steering, and air conditioning.

Standing in for Hagerty Insurance to discuss classic and antique car valuations, David Kinney, of US Appraisal, gave us a wise and witty overview of the market, and Jaguars in particular. He observed that most people feared that disastrous "Black Swan" events like 9/11 would vaporize the market for classic cars. In reality, many potential buyers decided to act promptly on their "bucket list" goals of owning a car that they idolized when younger, pushing classic car valuations higher in the years afterwards.

In light of the seminar on transmissions, I asked about the viability of owning manual transmission cars in a market dominated by the automatics of today. For example, the last manual transmission Ferrari was the 2009 599 GTB Fiorano. Grandparents today who are prosperous enough to buy a stick-shift antique have grandchildren who have not even ridden as a passenger in a car with a manual transmission, so what about the future value of these classics? David

observed that the collector car market has a higher percentage of buyers who can drive a car with a manual transmission, and expects that future buyers will be willing to learn this skill to enjoy the experience of driving a vintage car. It might be like the thousands of new motorcyclists who have bought Harleys in the past decade and trained themselves to handle a vehicle that not only requires the hand-foot synchronization of a stick-shift car, but also how to balance on two wheels.

When asked what antique cars will probably lose value, he cited classics like the '57 Chevy Bel Air, whose owners' ages trend upwards into their eighties, with few younger collectors interested in these cars. David joked that the only way to re-ignite interest in a former hot commodity is for the antique to be featured in a rap music video that goes viral on YouTube. He believes that the sale of a Series 1 E-Type Jaguar at Amelia Island for \$300,000 suggests that this model is fully valued now. Jaguars that he expects to increase in price include the Series 3 E-Type and the XJS convertible. "Look at me," he commented, "I'm 6'6" and not as light as I was 30 years ago. A Series 1 or 2 E-Type is just too tight for me." He believes that Baby Boomers interested in owning a vintage Jaguar will migrate to the more commodious Series



A 1956 XK140 OTS at the Simeone Foundation. For more Simeone car photos see the inside back cover.

3 E-Type and XJS models, leading to appreciation in their values.

My wife, Martha, and I also took the Simeone Museum tour. Delaware Valley Jaguar Club members brought several of their beautifully restored cars to display with the Museum's collection of racing cars. Simply amazing. I'll let the photos speak for themselves.



Oh behave! JCNA reps allowed the author entry into the F-Type "Shaguar" at the Simeone.

and directed our cabbie to cross the Ben Franklin Bridge to the other side and proceed along a road that parallels the river. After a few wrong turns, our driver asked a local woman for directions and we found the access road. Good thing, since the whole area looked like crack houses, and at 2 pm there were already five Camden, New Jersey, police cars at work.

To our dismay, we found out that the battleship was closed, only weekend tours were available in the winter. When we asked the gate guard for a phone number for a New Jersey taxi to take us back to the hotel, a *New Jersey* Foundation staffer came out and made small talk with us. When he asked where we were from and found out that we were familiar with *USS Massachusetts* in Fall River - and that I'm a "former naval person" -

The Sheraton Society Hill must have known I was coming, so they gave us a room with a view...of a battleship. *USS New Jersey* is on display across the Delaware River from Philadelphia in Camden, New Jersey. We hopped in a Philly cab and asked to be taken to the *USS New Jersey*. We got a blank stare from the driver before he called his dispatcher, who was also no help to us. "It's a 45,000-ton battleship moored along the riverfront, how hard can it be to find?" I asked,



These colorful musicians called Mummies entertained during the museum tour.

continued on page 16



The USS *New Jersey* anchored in the Delaware River, in close proximity to the AGM host hotel.

he opened the gates and said “I’m the director, so I’m responsible for everything here, and I’ll give you a quick tour of the ship while the cab is on its way.” He proudly announced that *New Jersey* was the most highly decorated U.S. Navy battleship, with the “Black Dragon” having served in combat during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and the 1983 Lebanese Civil War. She also traveled the farthest and fired the most projectiles of any *Iowa*-class battleship during her career, which began in 1943.

We enjoyed dinner at Talula’s Garden with our daughter Julie’s maid of honor, Marne, and Marne’s mother, Jane, who live near Philadelphia. I was concerned when our waitress launched into a spiel about the restaurant’s sustainability and bio-friendly policies, assuming that I was doomed to a meal of bean sprouts and spring water. However, they were interested in being successful and offered a variety of tasty treats, and our waitress was not



The author’s wife, Martha, and tour guide standing next to a 16” main armament shell that weighs 1,700 pounds.



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only friendly and enthusiastic, but very knowledgeable. We ordered a cheese sampler (“Six Women Behind the Wheel” from creameries owned by women), and she was able to describe the flavors of each of the samples. I’m sure that she could have done the same for any of the other five cheese samplers, as well.

What’s a trip to Philly without seeing the “Rocky” statue outside the Philadelphia Art Museum? A personable homeless man offered to take our picture in return for a gratuity, so we queued up with all the other tourists in Saturday’s snow storm for this picture (photo at right). Local residents complain that tourists hop out of cabs, have some Rocky pictures taken while the meter is running, and then speed off, so we felt obligated to spend a few hours in the museum, enjoying the special exhibit of Japanese Kano art. And, yes, I really did sprint up those steps to the museum.



Martha and I enjoyed the AGM and the journey to the City of Brotherly Love. Neither of us has ever been there, and we met a lot of good Delaware Valley Jaguar Club people, as well as those on our sightseeing jaunts.



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Cars For Sale



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Thank you Jim Sambold and Brian McMahon for sharing these outstanding photos. More photos can be found on our website www.j-a-n-e.org.



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