

Newsletter

Vol.2, No.12, December, 2003

December 14th Christmas Party at Vinings Club

See menu on page 6

An English Day Trip

By Tom Koballa

My work as a university professor sometimes involves traveling internationally to attend professional meetings and to confer with colleagues about research projects. Last summer, my family and I found ourselves in London. With a day between meetings for me, and my wife and our 11 year-old daughter willing to give up a day of London sightseeing, we decided to visit the Jaguar factory and Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust (JDHT) museum in Coventry. Our experience may inspire you to spend a day as we did, investigating the heritage of our wonderful older Jaguars and learning something about the new

models that are available at Jaguar dealerships in our area.

Our day-trip actually began before we left Georgia. First I checked out the JDHT web site (www.jaguarcars.com/uk/jdht) where I found photos of a number of cars owned by the JDHT and learned that entry to the Browns Lane center is by reservation only. At the web site I also found the name of Jo-Ann Bingham, the JDHT center administrator, and her telephone number (44 2476 20322 outside the UK). My morning telephone conversation with Ms. Bingham, led me to reserve spaces for the 1 p.m. factory tour

and confirmed my belief that Tuesday is a good day to visit. Ms. Bingham told me that the center is generally closed on weekends and can be quite busy on Thursdays and Fridays.

On the Tuesday morning of our visit, we left our hotel and headed for Euston Station in time to catch the 9:54 train to Birmingham that stops at Coventry and other small towns along the way. Euston Station is one of London's larger train stations, connected to all points in the city by the tube (subway). Rather than traveling on the Virgin Train, we chose the Silverlink that stops at more platforms and travels at a slightly slower speed. By traveling after 9:30 a.m., we were also able to take advantage of the Silverlink's off-peak fare, which at 19 pounds round-trip is about one-third that of the Virgin Train. Travel time between Euston Station and Coventry was about 2 hours, with wonderful views of rolling green fields and small English villages along the way. We were careful to pay attention to the conductor as the train got close to Coventry. Many of the station platforms look alike and we did not want to miss our stop.

The taxi stand at the Coventry station was easy to find. We jumped in the first cab in line and told the driver that we had an appointment to visit the Jaguar factory

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PRESIDENTS LETTER

It's the end of the year and time for the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Don't forget your cat at this time of year when you are choosing presents; it would love to have something new, too.

Thanks to all of you for the effort you put forth on behalf of the club. I also want to thank you for being afforded the honor of serving as your President for these past two years.

Happy Holidays and happy motoring

Terry





NEW MEMBERS

Our membership is now up to 69.
Membership lists are available to any member by mail or e-mail.
If you would like one, call or e-mail Roy Cleveland.



Annual Dues for 2004

The annual dues for NGJC for 2004 will be \$45 and are payable by December 15. We have to send a roster to JCNA with dues payments for each member on the roster in early 2004 so it is very important that we have all our dues collected before January 1. Of the \$45 that you pay in dues, NGJC pays \$20 to JCNA. If you were a member at large, you would pay \$28 for annual membership. In effect, it costs you only \$17 per year to be a member of NGJC (\$45 minus \$28) assuming you intend to be a member of JCNA. For this \$17, you receive a monthly newsletter, access to local events, a local club, and discounts from Hennessy Jaguar. We hope that you will decide that your membership has been worth its cost and will continue your membership for 2004.

Over thirty members have paid up for the new year and we have already added some new members effective January 1, 2004. Thanks to all who have already paid. Please make your check payable for \$45 to the North Georgia Jaguar Club and mail it to:

North Georgia Jaguar Club
P.O. Box 1377,
Gainesville, GA 30503.



Submission of Newsletter Material

The deadline for submitting articles for the newsletter is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter. Please submit any articles for the newsletter to Roy Cleveland and he will forward them to John Yates. The preferred format for submissions is Microsoft Word.

All members are encouraged to provide content for the newsletter whether it be "letters to the editor", technical questions or comments, book reviews of automobile related books, or Jaguar related articles.



Newsletter Distribution and Content

If any of you would prefer to receive the newsletter by e-mail rather than U.S. Mail, just call or e-mail John Yates The e-mail version is in color. Also, the newsletter is now accessible through the JCNA website (www.jcna.com) by clicking on "CLUBS", then "North Georgia Jaguar Club", then look for "Current Newsletter".



CALENDAR & SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2003

February 15 – Tech session at Hyundai Training Center on automotive fluids, oils, etc.

March 16 – Driving tour in North Georgia; lunch at the Smith House in Dahlonega

April 19 – Tour of Athens, visit to G. Bugg car collection, lunch & Ga Botanical Garden

May 17 – British Motor Car Day

May – Possibly a one day driving tour in North Georgia

June 28 – Overnight driving tour in Tennessee and North Carolina mountains

August 2nd Lunch and general meeting (Location TBD)

August 23 – Tech session/Judges training session for JCNA Concours

September 7 – Jaguars at the Zoo

September 21– JCNA sanctioned Concours at Chattahoochee Country Club in Gainesville

27– Carolina Jaguar Club – Autumn in the Mountains, Flat Rock, NC

October 11 – Fall Leaf Cruise in North Georgia

18 – EURO 2003 Auto Festival at BMW manufacturing plant

November 8– Southern British Weekend in Chattanooga

15 – Business Meeting in the Atlanta area – location to be announced

December 14 – Christmas Party at the Vinings Club

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Report on Annual Business Meeting

A good turnout of members attended our annual business meeting on Saturday, November 15 at the Homewood Suites Hotel in Alpharetta. Vice-President Joe Newell conducted the meeting and reviewed some of the club's 2003 activities and discussed some possible events for 2004. He also discussed the JCNA Challenge Championship which will be held at Chateau Elan in September 2005. More information on this event will be provided in future newsletters. Officers for 2004 were elected and they are: President – Joe Newell, Vice-President – Terry Hulsey, Vice-President for Membership – Skip Smith, Treasurer – Roy Cleveland, Newsletter Publisher – John Yates, and Secretary – Dianne Hulsey. No candidates were willing to take on the position of Vice-President for Activities but three members volunteered to take on the position collectively. Therefore, George Haldane, Richard Bowers, and Larry Kludt will serve as a committee handling this job. A calendar of the club's planned events for 2004 will be prepared and published in the January 2004 newsletter.



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New XJ8 Stands Out in Car & Driver Comparison Test Thanks to Hennessy Jaguar for Support in 2003

The new 2004 Jaguar XJ8 was rated the second best luxury car in a comparison test conducted by Car & Driver. The results were published in the December issue which has just hit the newsstands. The test included the new BMW 745i, Mercedes S430, Audi A8L, Lexus LS430 and Volkswagen Phaeton. The Jaguar rated higher than all of them except the Lexus LS430. It beat the Lexus in the areas of steering feel, handling, performance, styling and value and tied the Lexus on ride. The Lexus got better ratings on front seat space, fit and finish, and cargo utility. The author stated about the Jaguar: "The steering is light and quick and very sharp. You point it down the road by instinct, and it knows where to go. It's quick to your spurs, too, lively, eager. The six-speed flicks down readily. The V-8 reads your mind. This car feels spirited in a way that the others never match." The Jaguar also had the lowest "as tested" price and the lowest vehicle weight and tied for the best MPG on the 750 mile test trip. It looks like "the Cat" is back!

On behalf of the members of the North Georgia Jaguar Club, the officers of the club would like to publicly thank Hennessy Jaguar for their support throughout 2003. Randy Coile, Sales Manager at Hennessy Buckhead, and Steve Newcome, Sales Manager at Hennessy Gwinnett, have provided facilities, funds and general support. Hennessy provided funds to cover the cost of our brunch at the annual concours. This was a significant amount for our club and provided a real benefit for our concours entrants.

In addition, Hennessy offers discounts to our members on parts and labor. When you are in the market for a new or used Jaguar, parts or Jaguar automobilia, we would encourage you to visit Hennessy and consider doing business with them. Several of us have done business with them for years and have had nothing but favorable experiences. Two Hennessy employees, Derek Watson (Sales-Hennessy Gwinnett) and Richard Schofield (Service Manager-Gwinnett), are club members and Derek even advertises separately in our newsletter. Support those who support us

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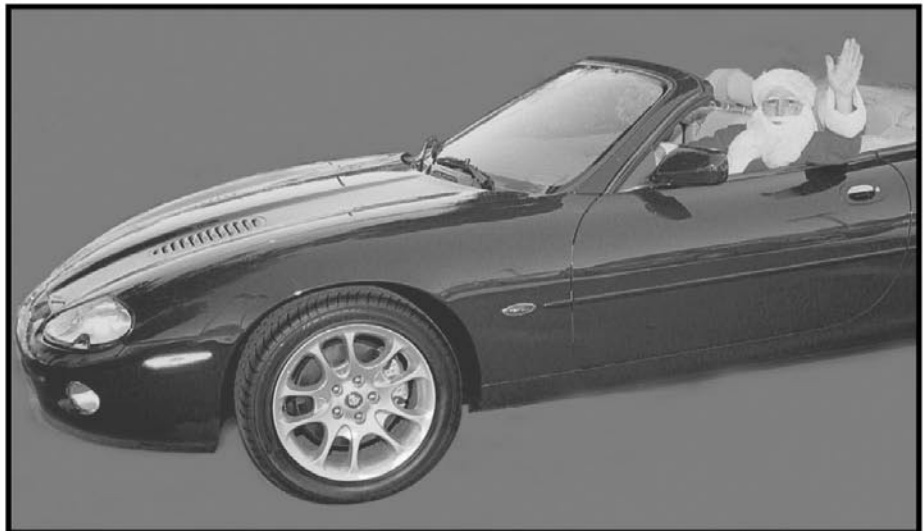
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and JDHT at Browns Lane. Within 15 minutes, we were exiting the taxicab at the main gate. The large sign with the silver Leaper on top and the many new Jaguar cars buzzing around told me that we were there, the famous Jaguar factory—the birth place of all those great cars. Five minutes later, we were in a Jaguar company van pulling up to a large statue of Sir William Lyons that stands in front of the visitors' center. Two older men in green jackets greeted us at the visitors' entrance. They assisted us with our cameras and bags [that were not to be carried on the factory tour] and led us to a large theatre-style auditorium inside the visitors' center.

Our tour began with a big-screen presentation that showcased the technical innovations and racing prowess of Jaguar Cars right up to the present. Toward the end of this presentation, we learned that the green-jacketed gentlemen who escorted us into the auditorium were retired Jaguar factory workers and would be our tour guides for the afternoon.



The presentation was followed by a few minutes in a large interactive display area where our daughter Kendal thoroughly enjoyed driving the arcade-type Formula 1 Jaguar racer located on the second floor. During our walking

tour of the factory, we observed the assembly of both XJ-8 and XK-8 models, from metal fabrication right through to the final quality control checks. The assembly process involves state of the art robotics as well as the work of the skilled craftsman for which Jaguar Cars Ltd has long been known. My favorite stops of the tour were the leather and wood shops. It is here where



men and women handcraft the many leather and wood interior parts that are later fitted inside the different Jaguar models. As we walked through the leather shop, I wondered to myself if the workers ever tire of that "new car" smell. After 90 minutes of walking the concrete floors of the factory, Dava, Kendal and I rested in the nicely appointed visitors' snack bar before heading to the JDHT museum, located just next door to the visitors' center.

As the owner of an older Jaguar, the highlight of the afternoon for me was our visit to the JDHT museum. Being able to see and [when no one is looking] to touch some of the greatest of all Jaguars was an unbelievable treat. Cars on display the day of our visit included a sampling of Swallows, XKs, E-types, and Daimlers, and Jaguar racing cars that I had only seen in pictures. Located above the museum's main lobby is the Heritage Trust archive. A request to visit this area, allowed me to chat with Anders Clausager, Chief Archivist for the Trust, and see the logbook in which build data were handwritten

by Jaguar employees on the date that my XK-140 FHC was dispatched from the factory in November 1955. After a stop at the museum's gift shop, we exited the Browns Lane site and returned to the Coventry station for our train ride back to London. We were a little tired, but glad that we had included a visit to the Jaguar factory and Heritage Trust museum as part of our time in England.



North Georgia Jaguar Club Christmas Party Sunday, December 14

Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres – 6:00PM to 7:00PM

Dinner in the Main Dining Room – 7:00PM to 8:30PM

Conversation & Dessert – 8:30PM until

The chef has a wonderful repast planned for us:

First, hors d'oeuvres – crab cakes with szechuan sauce; then, a salad of baby spinach, sliced toasted almonds & mandarin oranges with poppy seed vinaigrette. For the main course – a choice of filet mignon or sea bass with seasonal vegetables and dinner rolls.

To top it off – a pecan tart with maple bourbon ice cream.

All of this, good friends, lively conversation and some remarks from Scott Thompson of Jaguar Cars. What more could you ask?

Well, how about door prizes (nice ones!)? Of course to enjoy any of this you must be present.

The dress will be black tie (highly optional), coat & tie required!

The bar will be cash only and the dinner will be \$55.00 per person (gratuity included).

Approximately 35 people have responded thus far but we can still accept more if you respond quickly.

Call or e-mail Roy Cleveland and then please mail your checks made payable to the North Georgia Jaguar Club to:

North Georgia Jaguar Club, P. O. Box 1377, Gainesville, GA 30503

We look forward to seeing you there!

Directions to the Vinings Club: Take exit 18 off the upper arc of I-285, turn south onto Paces Ferry Road.

Continue six-tenths of a mile to Overlook Parkway. Turn left onto Overlook Parkway, continue to second driveway on right, and turn right into Overlook III (entrance to Vinings Club is in the building on the immediate right after turning).

After turning into Overlook III, continue straight ahead into the parking garage and take the first left in the garage.

Park in spaces marked for "valet" if you wish since there will not be valet parking.

From the garage, take the garage elevator to the lobby level and proceed directly into the building.

When you reach the lobby elevators, continue around the corner to the elevator which will take you to the Vinings Club.

Call 404-386-9868 or 404-218-9717 on the day for help or the Vinings Club at 770-431-9166.