



# THE SCRATCHING POST

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY JAGUAR CLUB

APRIL 1967

VOL. II, No. 1

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Actually, this is being written from under the director's chair; I am hiding, not answering the phone and will stop reading my mail soon. Fact is, the world is very much with me these days and this, combined with a continuing bout with a seemingly terminal case of inertia has led to a decision of sorts; there will be no more Scratching Posts from this tired old typewriter.

Starting with this issue, the SP will be produced by the fertile fingers of Shiftless Frank Weikel, Our Founder. Now, perhaps, we'll see a newsletter on a more or less regular basis. (Optimist! - Ed.)

Lessee, now ... some items of note; first, congratulations, flowers, thanks and all to Bob Metcalf, who finally solved the meeting and eating problem. If you missed the last meeting, be informed that you missed an excellent dinner, expensive but good drinks, excellent service, a quiet meeting room for once and a cocktail waitress that had to be seen to be believed. The DVJC, it seems, has found a home at the Brass Rail.

Two, Shiftless Frank finally got us a good film ("good film" being defined as one featuring a Jaguar win) and has promised more of the same for future meetings.

And finally, blessings on Shelly Roseman who hid in a barrel and risked life and limb to film our last gymkhana. John Mecray, too, for the concours slides.

And everybody else.

Next on the long-range agenda is the concours. Guenter Umlauf is your man if you want information of any kind or if you'd like to help. We found from experience that we're going to need at least ten energetic warm bodies to run this year's event right, so if you're not showing a car, why not come along on The Day and help out.

John Gibson's going to be our Steward this year, so you might give him a call and find out what's needed.

Dick O'Kane  
Director

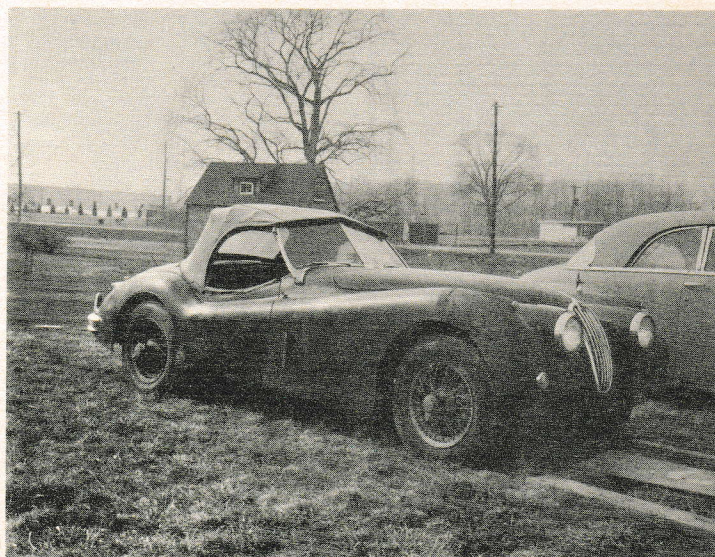
EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first issue of the "Scratching Post" in its new format. Hope you like it! We now have a pretty face - but we need something to go with it: articles, technical tips, comments, gripes, jokes, anything that the other members might be interested in reading. Pictures, too! Send all contributions to The Editor, c/o DVJC, Box 1994, Phila. 19105.

## IN THE NEWS THIS MONTH;

- DVJC FINDS A HOME! (See "From The Director's Chair")
- DVJC BUYS DERELICT XK-140!
- DERELICT XK-140 FINDS A HOME!
- LE MANS REVISITED!
- NEW MEMBERS GALORE \*
- DVJC'S WINOS TURN OUT IN FORCE FOR SECOND ANNUAL BACCHANALIA!

\* No relation to What's-Her-Name Galore

## PICTURE OF THE MONTH



It's a Bird! . . . It's a Dog! . . . It's a Wreck! . . . No, it's next year's Champion on the Concours Circuit! What? You don't believe it? . . . Read on . . .



## THE SCRATCHING POST

PUBLISHED BY THE DELAWARE VALLEY JAGUAR CLUB  
MAILING ADDRESS • P.O. BOX 4994, PHILA., PA. 19105

EDITOR • FRANKLIN H. WEIKEL  
ART DIRECTOR • JOHN MECRAY  
PRODUCTION MANAGER • BARRY GREEN  
BUSINESS MANAGER • WILLIAM P. ROVERSI  
PRINTING • INTERNATIONAL LITHOGRAPHING

## DELAWARE VALLEY JAGUAR CLUB

A DIVISION OF JAGUAR CLUBS OF NORTH AMERICA

DIRECTOR • J. RICHARD O'KANE  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR • FRANKLIN H. WEIKEL  
SECRETARY • FRANK BISHOP  
TREASURER • PETER T. GRILLO, II  
ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN • EDWARD J. GUTGESELL  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN • HARRY M. USSERY

### THE SAGA OF A 810596 - PART I

It's hard to believe, looking at her now, that once she was a ravishing beauty. She was the toast of the town, her escort's perpetual delight ... envious eyes were upon her wherever she went. Yessir, in those days she had real style, class ...

But nobody's young and beautiful forever, and time has its way of changing things. The years took their toll on her ... the aura of glamour and dignity about her dimmed, then faded away altogether. She was abused and neglected, cast off by disinterested lovers. No longer the object of admiring glances, she now faced indifference or - worse yet - ridicule when she ventured out in public. Soon, tired and forlorn, her spirit gone, she retired to a private retreat and sat there in silence, recalling the bittersweet memories of an earlier and happier day, a day of sunshine and laughter, of happy romps over rolling green hills, past golden meadows....

\*\*\*\*\*

... That's the way we found her - a very sad looking XK-140M roadster, circa 1955. Her latest owner, a dedicated enthusiast with two other Jaguars, had advertised the 140 in the local paper, just at the time when we - the Delaware Valley Jaguar Club, that is - decided to undertake the restoration of a vintage XK as a club project. Thus Fate has saved old A810596 from the cutting torch or further abuse from an unappreciative new owner, and has entrusted her to us. (Fate also gave us another new member - the 140's owner - Andre' Vauclain.)

The idea was prompted by three considerations: first, many members are interested in learning more about the inner workings of a Jaguar ... how to take things apart, fix 'em, and put 'em back together again. Few chances for such educational experiences come along ... hence, the idea that the club supply a car as a sort of "laboratory vehicle" for such activity. Second, we have the concours nuts who could care less about repairing fuel pumps but want to know how to restore bodywork, leather, etc. Again, a club car would provide the "workshop".

Finally, the project is potentially a money maker. If we are successful in our plan to restore the car to original condition, we should be able to sell it for an amount significantly greater than our total investment. So the club's treasury gets some sorely needed help.

We've made the project self-supporting by asking interested members to "loan" twenty dollars to the project. This gives us a pool of working capital and leaves the club treasury intact. When we sell the car, we'll give everyone back their money, go out and have a bash somewhere and put the surplus in the treasury.

... That, in essence, is what the project is all about. So far, we've bought the car found a place to store it and work on it - Tom Crawford's home in Neshaminy, Pa. - and have taken it there. Our first step will be to pull the engine and transmission, degrease and completely disassemble it. Frank Polsenberg's in charge of this part of the project. If you want to see how it's done, or better yet if you want to help do it, check in with Frank right away. (We could also use some more \$20 loans to add to the many we've already received - whether you want to work on the car or not.)

Watch for the next report on our progress - see "THE SAGA OF A810596 - PART II" in next month's "Post."

### .....RECALLING THE HAPPIER DAYS OF RACING WHEN THE CARS LOOKED LIKE CARS AND JAGUAR REIGNED SUPREME AT LE MANS.....

Highlight of the February dinner meeting was our feature film presentation, the documentation of the 1956 Le Mans race, supplied to us through the courtesy of Jaguar Cars, Inc. The film did an excellent job of capturing the mood of the time, when the drivers seemed a bit more human and the cars a bit more like cars. There was even a stock XK-140 coupe in the '56 Le Mans race! (Imagine that today, with the 200-mph rocket ships on the Mulsanne straight!)

Opening remarks - a pre-race look at some of the cars and drivers - were handled with quiet humor by the late, great Mike Hawthorn, who later played a starring, if disappointing role in the race itself. '56 was a frustrating year for the Jaguar factory team - two-thirds of their seemingly unbeatable three-car task force was wiped out in the opening minutes, and Hawthorn's D-type made repeated pit stops until a cracked fuel line was discovered. Then it was too late to recover the lead - but Jaguar's day was saved by a private entry - a D-type of the Ecurie Ecosse, David Murray's Scottish team, which motored steadily on to win the 24-hour race.

1956 had further significance since it was the year that Jaguar officially withdrew from racing. But, ironically, 1957 was to be the year of Jaguar's greatest triumph at Le Mans. We'll relive that year on April 21\* when we present "Le Mans - 1957" as the second feature in this dramatic film series. Don't miss it!

\*Note - we had to postpone this film from March 17 to April 21, because of a scheduling problem.

### ABOUT THAT WINE TOUR THING.....

Spring made a "sneak preview" visit on March 11 and gave the DVJC a perfectly delightful day for our second annual Wine Tour. The order of the day was "tops down" for the E-type roadsters and one XK-120 assembled at the Holiday Inn, while the coupes and sedans had to settle for open windows.

A grand total of 16 cars turned out for what was a thoroughly enjoyable event from beginning to end. Cars were sent off in groups of three, with Ed Gutgesell's clever and occasionally foggy instruction sheet, for what was a sort of half-rally, half-quiz. Everybody eventually made it to our destination - the Renault winery - although the last two cars, fielded by the famed Metcalf/Smith Racing Team, arrived much, much later due to reasons known only to them. (You didn't really end up in Trenton, did you, guys?) The gimmick was to answer several questions on the clue sheet, the last of which was a "guesstimate" of the total mileage. (Ed had painted out the odometers on all the cars!) Winners, with all question correct and an uncannily accurate guess for the mileage were new member Barry Green and his wife Suzanne; their reward was a bottle of Renault champagne.

After tasting and buying the products of the Renault vineyards, the group motored swiftly (that's English for "dragged") over to Zaberer's where everyone got properly Zaberized (that's Zaberish for "smashed") waiting for the dinner bell. All survived, however, and enjoyed a sumptuous meal and, we hope, a safe ride home.

... All in all, a wonderful day, enjoyed by:

Jim and Mauveen Barnes	XKE
Tom and Judy Crawford	XK-120M
Pete and Audrey Grillo	XKE
Barry and Suzanne Green	XKE
Norm and Sylvia Grimm	XKE
Ed and Mary Gutgesell	Mk II
Carl Kohn and his nephew	XKE
Tony and Sue Krasas	XKE
Bob and Betty Metcalf	Mk II
Dick and Cindy O'Kane	XKE
Jim and Marion Sigafos	Mk IX
Ed and Virginia Smith	Mk II
Gunter and Elizabeth Umlauf	Mk II
Harry and Olive Ussery	XKE
Frank and Grace Weikel	Mk II
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Wright	XKE



## NEW MEMBERS

Since January 1 we've had the pleasure of welcoming 17 - that's right, 17 new members to our ranks! That brings our total membership up to 65, thus more than erasing the attrition we experienced as a result of a few non-renewals on Jan. 1. Here's the lineup of new faces:

J. William Nock, Jr., Rahns, Pa. - we welcomed Mr. Nock and his Mk IV in the last issue of the "Post," but since he was our first 1967 recruit, we're including him in this listing. Welcome again, Bill and Virginia - that's Mrs. Nock.

William P. Roversi, Philadelphia. Bill is an account exec at KYW-TV and drives a '67 E-coupe. We welcome both him and his wife Elaine.

James H. Sigafos, Haddonfield, N.J. - Mrs. Sigafos (Marion) says the Mk IX is hers, and Jim figures everybody's got to have a hobby . . . we don't care whose Jaguar it is - we welcome them both!

Richard W. Taylor, Glen Mills, Pa. - he's a CPA and drives a '67 E-type roadster. Glad to have you aboard, Dick!

Herbert Watkins, Mount Penn, Pa. - he brings another classic into the club - a 1949 Mk V. saloon. Welcome Herb!

John R. Killmer, Philadelphia - production supervisor at Nice Ball Bearing Co. - drives a '63 E-type roadster. A hearty hello to you, John!

Roy Reinard, Jr., Somerton, Pa. - Roy's in the insurance business; he and his wife Ethel enjoy their '62 E-type roadster, and we enjoy welcoming them to our ranks.

Thomas P. Robinson, Norristown, Pa. - Tom drives a '64 E-type roadster and works at the General Electric Space Technology Center at Valley Forge. Welcome to Tom and his wife Pat.

William Finkel, Philadelphia. - Bill is a mechanical engineer at the Naval Air Development Center; drives a '63 E-type coupe. Welcome aboard, Bill!

Barry Green, Philadelphia - in the printing business, and he drives a '67 E-type roadster. Welcome, Barry and Suzanne!

Louis Costa, Philadelphia - a Research Engineer at the Franklin Institute; proud owner of a '65 E-type roadster. We were happy to meet Louis at the last meeting, and equally happy to salute him here.

William R. Rambo, Aldan, Pa. - Bill and his brother operate an auto and truck repair shop in Philadelphia. We're especially glad to welcome Bill and his wife Joyce to our ranks, for they bring with them the 1960 XK-150 DHC formerly owned by Frank Weikel (that's me!) (Having turned down a previous offer from a gentleman in New York in the hopes of keeping the 150 in this area, I'm glad Bill took my advice and signed up - that car just wouldn't look right without a JCNA badge!)

William W. Drake, Horsham, Pa. - and still another classic - a 1946 Mk IV - joins our ranks! Perhaps now we'll have some competition in the vintage class at the concours! Welcome, Bill!

Andre Vauclain, Gladwynne, Pa. - Andre is the former owner of the XK-140 the club recently purchased for restoration. His Jaguar stable includes another 140 - and a Mk IX. Bienvenu a notre club, Andre!

Gerald Sisak, Warminster, Pa. - Glad to see Gerald help round out our "XK-number" roster, with his '52 XK-120 MC. Good to have you with us, Gerald!

Edward A. Sharrah, Havertown, Pa. - Ed joins the club while his '62 E-type coupe awaits parts and repairs following an accident on the Pa. Turnpike - now that's what we call club spirit! A hearty welcome to pharmacist Sharrah, and our Rx for his XKE: best wishes for a speedy recovery!

Thomas K. Crawford, Neshaminy, Pa.

Tom's a Jaguar enthusiast of many years' standing, and has just as enthusiastically joined our club. We gained not only a new member but a place to store our XK-140. Thanks and welcome, Tom and Judy!

. . . That's the bumper crop; a very cordial welcome to all our new members!

## LEFTOVER PARTS.....

Every now and then we total up the different classes of Jaguars in the club, just for fun. Here's the latest count -

E-types - 33  
XK's - 15  
Sedans - 22  
Vintage - 9  
79

. . . Wouldn't it be a lovely sight to see these 79 Jaguars all in a row? We'll have to try it some time!

\*\*\*\*\*

Some of our members have had a bit of bad luck with their Jaguars lately. Larry Schear had his venerable XK-140 - with completely rebuilt engine - totaled in a collision. He promptly went out and bought another 140 and a wrecked 150 with a 140 engine (an XK-145?), and is now completing a rather elaborate set of engine and parts swaps which'll probably result in two-and-a-half 140's.

Harry Ussery's blood-red E-type suffered some body damage when Harry and another gentleman attempted to disprove the theory that two solid objects can't occupy the same space at the same time . . . . .

Our Bearded Leader, Dick O'Kane, suffered the indignity of a floating valve in his Mk X, whilst cruising through Allentown. If you ever want your Jaguar towed from Allentown to Philly, check with Dick first - you might decide to scrap the car instead if his towing bill was typical! The sedan is currently undergoing emergency surgery at Ed Roth's.

. . . Hope the rest of you are having better luck!

The January "Road & Track" had a delightful article recalling the joys of owning an XK-120MC, written by none other than our own Dick O'Kane. In case you missed it, a reprint is attached \* (with permission of Road & Track, of course!)

Also attached \* you'll find your personal copy of our latest membership list. Please check your listing carefully, and advise Frank Weikel if there are any errors or omissions. We're especially anxious to round out the listing of wives' names - we've started asking for this information on the applications - and we had to rely on our feeble memory for many of the entries.

Keep your membership list handy, and get acquainted with other members in your vicinity. Extra copies are available on request.

\*These attachments are included with copies for DVJC members only.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE LAST WORD

So you're a member of the Delaware Valley Jaguar Club? An active member? You pay your dues and come to meetings, so that means you are an active member?

. . . . . THE HECK YOU ARE!

You're an active member of this organization if you are contributing something more than your dues and your presence. You're an active member if you're an officer (an officer doing his appointed job, that is!) or committee chairman or committee member . . . or if you help recruit new members . . . or if you offer to write articles, take pictures, type newsletters, run off meeting notices, lick stamps, or whatever your time and talents permit you to do . . . . .

We've grown from an idea to a going organization in less than a year and a half because we were fortunate enough to recruit a good percentage of truly active members - and we're pleased to see many of the newer members taking an equally active part in the club's affairs.

How about you? Are you lending a hand to make this thing go? Or are you just going along for the ride? It's a lot easier - and we'll go a lot faster - if we all pull at the oars a little bit.

The fact is, we urgently need help in many areas . . . help in recruiting new members (we've got a list of over 100 non-member Jaguar owners in the area!) . . . help in planning and running programs and events . . . help in our publications effort (typing, printing, etc.) . . . you name it, we need it!

Busy? Who isn't? We've all got our business and personal lives . . . but some of us manage to find some extra time for the club. If you're not too busy to attend an occasional meeting, you're not too busy to lend a hand now and then. Pick the area you want to help in, contact the appropriate officer and volunteer!

. . . HOW ABOUT IT, EVERYBODY?

Frank Weikel



DELAWARE VALLEY JAGUAR CLUB  
P.O. BOX 1994 - PHILA., PA. 19105

### DVJC CALENDAR

Here's a long-range calendar of meetings and events - all worth your attention. Make plans now to attend these functions. You'll receive further information on all these activities as the dates approach; in the meantime, if you want more details, call the people listed opposite each event (those are home phone numbers). We'll revise and add to this calendar as dates are firmed up and additional activities planned.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Function</u>	<u>For more info, call</u>
April 8	Tour to International Auto Show	Frank Weikel (609) 235-4744
April 21	Dinner meeting - Brass Rail	Bob Metcalf (609) 845-7792
April 29	ATCO - gymkhana, speed events	Bob Roggio (215) 438-7933
May 6*	Gunk Festival	Ed Gutgesell (215) 355-2495
May 14	Washington club's Concours	John Mendenhall (D.C.) (202) 667-7204
May 19	Dinner meeting - Brass Rail	Bob Metcalf (609) 845-7792
May 26-27-28	New York club's Lime Rock weekend	Bob Roggio (215) 438-7933
June 11	DVJC's CONCOURS d' ELEGANCE	Guenter Umlauf (215) 352-4924

\* Tentative Date