

President's Rallye

Cat's hate water and will do anything to avoid it. Nov 1st was the day of the President's Rallye in Paso Robles and a much-needed rainstorm was hitting the Bay Area. A few days before I was getting emails and calls telling me that, "We'd planned to come but it's going to rain cats and dogs so we're canceling."

Hmmmm ... I left Mill Valley that morning in a light rain. It turned heavy at times as I approached San Jose, but by the time I passed Gilroy I had left the rain behind.

In Paso I met Mike and Ruth Hunter, Ken and Ann Bilodeau, and Carl and Leah Moore from the Central Coast Jaguar Drivers Club. We looked at the threatening sky and said, "Let's do it!"

The Moores have an E coupe with Weber carbs, hot cams, and custom exhaust. Those pipes make a glorious sound when Carl punches it, quite fitting because Carl is an accomplished organist.

We exercised a bit on the rolling, twisting back roads east of Paso then headed west on 41 to Morro Bay where we lunched by the water. Overlooking the fishing boats and the famous rock, we thoroughly enjoyed our clam chowder with our fish and chips.

On to Cayucos for its annual car show. Everything from Model Ts, to lead sleds, to high tech Vettes and RX-7s lined the main street, some of the best machinery on the Central Coast, and the show is free, live music included. For me the star of the show was a perfectly restored 1918 REO casket wagon. From its wood-spoked wheels and nickel plated step plates to its hand carved, solid oak, casket display rotunda, this is the pinnacle of the coach builders' art. I put in my reservation. When I go to that great Jaguar Resting Place in the sky I'll be riding in the back of that REO. Checkout our website, www.jags.org, for a picture of the magnificent REO.

From Cayucos north on Hwy 1 to Harmony and its famous GlassWorks. I had a gold-fluted wine bottle stopper made for Inga and we collected various one-off works of art.

Then east on 46 to Rotta Winery which makes a very passable black monukka sun-baked sherry. Rotta is one of the old-



*Ken & Ann Bilodeau, Ruth & Michael Hunter,
Leah & Carl Moore and President Jerry Nuijen
enjoying the President's Rallye*

est wineries on the Central Coast. On to Summerwood; very good and very pricey. The region is progressing; some very good wines if you can stand the tariff.

Since the tasting rooms were closing and the rain was finally starting (did I mention that the entire day had been dry, 65-70 degrees, and at times sunny?) we retired to the Moore's hillside home overlooking east Paso Robles and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and swapped some great stories. Carl entertained us with J.S. Bach on his pipe organ, the largest I've seen outside the cathedrals in Europe. He also plays the clarinet, the guitar, and the piano. Don't ever tell me that engineers are narrowly focused and boring.

We capped the evening at the DownTown Brewery (pretty good pale ale) for dinner and watched Texas Tech defeat Texas to the deafening roar of our fellow patrons ... gourmet candy for dessert.

To all of you who were afraid your Cat might get its feet wet:

You missed a hell-of-a drive and premium gas for \$2.65/gallon in Salinas!