

# Jaguar Owners Association North Texas

May and  
July  
2021



## President's Message

April and May were really busy for the club and it seemed like we were back to normal. The May dinner meeting had great attendance (see the last newsletter for some pictures) and the June meeting was even better attended. Ben Davis found the British themed Sherlock's Baker Street Pub for the meeting and it was great. They gave us the whole room and had plenty of servers and the food was good. More on the meeting later. It was so good that we returned there for the July dinner meeting with 55 members attending.

With the 51st Concours D'Elegance on June 5, we needed to make sure we had enough certified judges to examine the 30 cars that were going to be there. Dave McDowell set up a judges training session on May 22 at Jaguar Frisco to meet that need. There were 21 people that showed up and completed the training.

Then came the Concours. The early weather predictions caused some concerns and there was lots of scurrying around for back up plans. Fortunately, Jaguar Frisco offered us one of their covered customer bays to keep registration out of the rain and if needed, we could parade the cars through that bay to get judged in the dry. A email was sent to all the participants explaining the plan and asking them to let us know if they did not plan to attend. We did have a few decide that their Jags did not like the rain enough to make them cancel. Although there was rain while the setup crew put things together, that cleared and it turned out to be a pretty nice day. See the article and pictures that follow.

Park Cities Historical Society is hosting a July 4th parade (on July 3) and invited JOANT to be part of it. We had been part of their Annual Car Shows in the past and it is a good group. Of course there will be pictures of the parade later in the newsletter.

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## President's Message

The July dinner meeting was another great get together. Many of the same people that always seem to come to the club events, but only a couple of the new to the club this year members are coming to these events. A goal for the club needs to be getting these new members to attend functions and to get them to become active members. Please give us your ideas on how to do that.

There are some big events coming up for JCNA. In August, there is the JCNA Annual General Meeting. This is the meeting where all the big picture changes in the are hashed out and changes made to the guidelines and procedures. The need for membership growth and financial stability of JCNA will be some of the key topics. Any member can attend these meeting so if you are looking for some place to go in August, consider going. More details later in the newsletter.

The other big event is the annual International Jaguar Festival in October. This is the big event for JCNA has been in the past very enjoyable and interesting. Those members who have the really special old Jags, sometimes bring them out of storage for this event. It is important for JOANT to have people attend this event so that we can learn the ropes and get ideas for our IJF in 2022. Again more info later in the newsletter.

This newsletter has in the past had lots of pictures of our events. Special thanks goes to Miki Solomon for most of those picture, but many others have also contributed. This newsletter will be no different. Lots of pictures and we are trying to put names of members on those picture. Who among us knows the name of all the members that we see at events. Hopefully, these pictures and names will help us greet every member by name when we see them.

Although we have added 17 new members to the club this year, we still need to grow and add some youth to our numbers. One thing we are doing to help with that is we created a Tri-fold brochure on the club. These brochures will be displayed at Jaguar Land Rover Frisco in hopes of getting new owners interested. If you know of any other place we should have the brochures available, please let us know.

We hope that you enjoy these newsletters. If you have any items you would like to see in future newsletters, just reply to Don Marpe. He is always looking for articles or stories to include in the next addition. Thanks to Alan Barclay for his article.

Thanks for being part of our club and it is you the members that make it the great club that it is.

Richard Wright—Proud President

## 51st Concours D'Elegance Judges Training May 22

The most important part of a Concours is of course the Members and their Jaguars. They all think that their Jag is perfect and should be a winner at the event. In many cases, that will be true. But who makes that decision? It is the Certified Concours Judges. These individuals most likely also have a Jag that they think is perfect and since they have been trained on what makes a Jag perfect, there is a good chance that it will be a winner. Fortunately, no judge gets to evaluate their own car.

We hosted a Concours Judges Training session on Saturday May 22 from 1:00 to 3:00pm in the meeting room at Jaguar Frisco. Dave McDowell started the training by reviewing the JCNA Rules and training manuals.

Then as a group, we judged a few members cars as practice.



There are several reasons that a JOANT member should take this training. First, it will help them prepare their own Jag to do well in the Concours. Second, the club needs many certified judges to run a concours. We normally have around 30 Jags entered in the concours. Each Jag is evaluated by a team of two or three judges. At most, a team can evaluate 5 cars in the short time needed to make the concours work. That means we need to have 10 judges to host a normal concours. Thanks to those that attended the training session.



## Monthly Membership Meeting June 1

JOANT started out June with the monthly membership meeting at Sherlock's Baker Street Public House and Pub in Addison. The atmosphere was truly British as you can see from some of the pictures. They gave us the whole second room which had plenty of tables so there was lots of opportunity to visit with fellow members. There were over 40 people at the meeting.



The Richard and Ben Show started shortly after 6 pm (not really shortly but after Richard arrived) and was the usual amusing time. The first real order of business was to recognize Dave McDowell (and Margaret McDowell) for his exceptional service to the club and to JCNA. For this effort he received the Andrew Whyte Award from the JCNA Board of Directors.



There were a couple of newer members that were introduced and given a chance to say a few words. Then Don Marpe provided an update on the 51st Concours D'Elegance to be held the next Saturday. There would be 40 Jags in total with 15 of them to be E Types. The weather forecast caused some concerns for the concours, so the possible back up plans were discussed. There was a request for more volunteers to help with the set up, coordination of the placement of the Jags, handle the registration, and help with the cleanup. There was a good response to the request.



## Monthly Membership Meeting June 1

Then the room got a little quiet as the food was starting to be delivered.



After most people were finished eating, the 50/50 drawing and door prize drawings were held. Judi Carvajal had the lucky ticket for the 50/50 money but gave most of the winnings back to the club to support the concours. Suzanne Teitelbaum won a bottle of wine and Margaret McDowell won a Jaguar blouse.



## JOANT 51st Annual Concours D'Elegance June 5

You plan an important event for most of a year and just as everything is set up and things should go smooth, Old Man Weather has to throw a challenge in the mix. All of the arrangements were made with Jaguar Land Rover Frisco to host the event on their show area and there were 40 Jags signed up to be there. The week ahead forecast looked bad and some of the entrants started asking what the back up plan would be. Alternate dates were considered, but no good date could be found. Holding the event in a covered parking area was considered, but that would be expensive and entrants still had to drive their Jags to the area in the rain. We were fortunate that Jaguar Frisco offered to let us use one of their customer service bays in case of rain. We could set up the registration in the dry bay and if necessary, we could parade the Jags through the bay so they could be judged in the dry. The start time was delayed until after 10 to give the roads time to dry up if it rained the night before. An email was sent to all the entrants on Thursday explaining the plan and hoped that they would still bring their Jags for the event.

The set up crew arrived at 7 (which was too early) to put up the tents, place the cones in the parking locations reserved for the event, hang the many banners and signs. Much to the disappointment of everyone there, it was raining. Not a hard rain, but enough to make JJ Keig know he was going to have a lot of cleaning and drying before the judging. One good thing for the crew was there was plenty of coffee and doughnuts. Almost everyone was doing a 10 minute check of their weather app looking to see if the rain would stop. It did stop a little before 9 am.



That is when the fun started. Jags started showing up, towels came out of the boots and the wiping began.

There were 19 judges for the event. 12 were certified by JCNA and 7 were in the apprentice phase (must judge one concours to be certified). Dave McDowell the chief Judge instructed all the judges to not deduct for water spots or rain related imperfections.



Operational Verification inspections (making sure lights, horn, etc work) was completed before lunch. There were a couple of times when the clouds looked a little threatening, but they soon let the hot sun come out. After the lunch break, the judging started. There were 20 Jags that needed to be judged. 8 in Champion, 1 in Special, and 11 in Driven. There was also another 8 Jags in the Display Only group.



## JOANT 51st Annual Concours D'Elegance June 5

Donald Beck came down from Tulsa to show off his XK 150 Drop Head Coupe. It was a beautiful car and ended up winning the Best of Show Award. He was one of three Jags that received the perfect score of 100.



Kelley Wright brought her 2004 XKR to the concours and also received the perfect score of 100. This car had been a JCNA national champion many years ago and Kelley has kept it in perfect shape. I guess Richard may have helped a little.



JJ and Rebecca Keig entered their 1969 E Type Fixed Head Coupe and also received the perfect score of 100. This Jag was the JCNA national champion last year so you would expect it would still be in perfect shape.





## JOANT 51st Annual Concours D'Elegance June 5

There were several Jags at the concours that had a story around them. Souad Shrimme brought her 1969 E Type Open Two Seater and entered in the Display group. Her husband bought the car new in 1969 and has driven it until he passed away many years ago. Souad kept the car but her legs were too short to drive it. It sat in the garage for many years but with the help of some friends, they were able to get it running and drivable.



The fact that this Jag was a one owner and in original condition led the participants at the event to vote it the Best of Display Award. Another interesting fact is that her legs are still too short to drive the Jag and would like volunteers to take it for a spin every two weeks or so.

Frederick Brinker brought his 2004 XJR 4 Door up from San Antonio for the event. He made an interesting observation the way up. He said that somewhere past 100 mph, the weather stripping on the back window will start to come off. It is startling how much noise a thin piece of rubber can make at that speed. Fortunately, the judges did not mark any points off for the missing weather stripping.

Terry Collins (2017 F Type owner) said that must be why it took him 4 hours to get home. He wanted the rest of the stripping to stay on.





## JOANT 51st Annual Concours D'Elegance June 5

So it is time to talk about the 11 E Types that showed up. The judges had a hard time finding things to deduct points for. As a result almost all of them had score of 99.+ and received JCNA Plate awards.



In addition to the 7 judged E Types, there were 4 E Types in the Display Only category.

## JOANT 51st Annual Concours D'Elegance June 5

Lloyd Lumpkins intended to bring his 1963 E Type Open Two Seater and compete in the Special Modified Category. His Jag has a lot of upgrades so he has to enter in that category. Unfortunately, there was a minor incident at the JOANT Slalom event in April that affected its appearance so he was going to withdraw from the concours. We fortunately convinced him to bring his Jag and enter in the Display Only category. We all got to appreciate what a fine car it was despite that minor blemish.



Jay Teitlbaum was going to bring his 1974 E Type Open Two Seater and enter it in the Driven category but the early rain made him decide to just come and help set up the event. After the rain stopped and the clouds cleared up he rethought that decision and went home and got his Jag. Good thing because he ended up winning a first place trophy in his class.





## JOANT 51st Annual Concours D'Elegance June 5

Ron Wallis came up from Houston and brought his 1996 XJR6 Sedan. Ron is the Houston Club President and the JCNA South Central Regional Director along with our own JJ Keig. He has been a constant supporter of our club for many years. His Jag is also special. It was previously owned by David and Judy Nichols. Ron purchased the XJR6 from Judy after David passed away. David was special to our club and previous concours have been a memorial to him for the many years of his leadership in the club.

You can see from the pictures below that Ron takes concours competition seriously.



## JOANT 51st Annual Concours D'Elegance June 5

The Concours did not happen without a lot of support from club members. Some showed up early to set up the event critical items. Others helped with registration and door prize give-a-ways. There is always a break after the Jags get their final wipe down and the start of judging. That is the time that the support crews and members that just came to see the Jags do a little socializing and solve the worlds problems.





## JOANT 51st Annual Concours D'Elegance June 5

After the judging is completed and the chief judge and others are reviewing the scores and determining the winners, there is always a dead time before the awards are presented. Some of that dead time was filled with giving out door prizes. JOANT has been blessed for many years with loyal sponsors that provide door prize items and goodie bag stuffers. Those vendors this year were Just British Online Motoring Magazine, Castrol Consumer North America, Hagerty Insurance, Hemmings Motor News, Moss Motors, Dr Color Chip Corporation, Welsh Motors, and Phoenix Insurance. And of course a big thanks to Jaguar Land Rover Frisco for hosting the event and providing the support needed to make the concours a success.



Finally the scores were totaled and the winners put down on paper. It was then time to present the awards. A complete list of the winners is on the power point presentation that will be sent out with this newsletter. Thanks to Glen Jarboe for preparing the power point. Also thanks to Kari Halme, Ron Wallis, Rebecca Keig, and many others that provided pictures that are included in this newsletter.



A video of our Concours and a salute to the 60 years of the E-Type can be seen at the link <https://fb.watch/6jrhz7hoFK/>

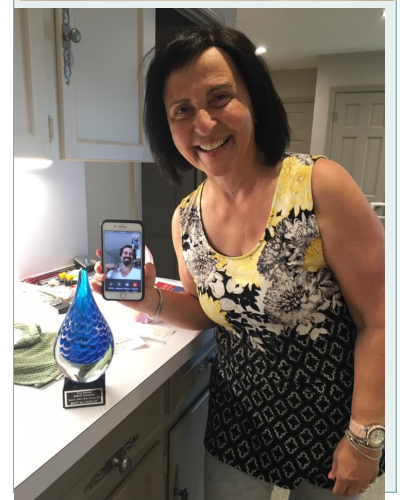
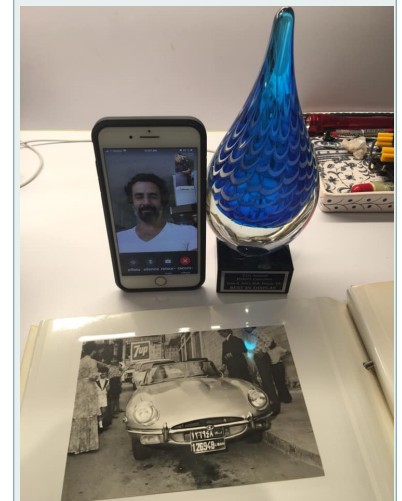


## New Member Souad Shrime's Story

Something extraordinary happened at the Concours d'Elegance last Saturday. A new member, Souad Shrime, brought an E-Type with quite the history! She touched our hearts in a big way! Her car won the Best in Show for the Display class! When she was told she won the award, the only thing she could say was "Oh my God!" The pictures below tell a little of the story. She and Husband bought the car new in 1969. It's been to Lebanon and back! Her husband passed away 25 years ago and she's now bringing the E-Type out of mothballs to share with us! Check out the captions with each picture! Please take the time to get to know her! You will be blessed!

Richard Wright said "I was so stunned when the Head Judge, Dave McDowell, gave me the final score sheet to announce the winners, and saw Souad's award! I knew she had left several hours before, but I knew she would be more than thrilled when I sent her the message of the award. It was not judged or scored, she and the car won by popular vote, as she did bring and shared her compassion with us. It was magic! Ben Davis and I were honored to take her the award on Sunday, and we spent over an hour with her, and her son was with us on FaceTime as well. It is amazing how Jaguars can touch our lives, and bring us all together....again and again"

Souad Shrime responded "The love, acceptance and support I have received from this group since Saturday has filled my heart with gratitude beyond words. My friend's husband encouraged me to join your group and he drove the car to the event and back... a feat I could never have been able to accomplish alone. I know that he has directed me to the right place. I feel surrounded and guided by each and everyone of you who has approached me and encouraged me. My husband loved his car and our children wish to keep it. I plan to honor their wishes. With a heart full of gratitude I want to thank each one of you who gave the thumb up to his car and our story. You have all moved me and my children deeply. Thank you! "





## PARK CITIES 4TH OF JULY PARADE 2021

The Parade was actually on Saturday, July 3rd and started at 9:00 AM. The starting location was Highland Park Town Hall to University Park City. The JOANT Jags would meet at 7:00 am and line up in the parking lot in front of the Inwood Theatre, 5458 W Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX 75209. It is at the SE corner of the intersection of W Lovers Ln and Inwood Rd. There were 27 JOANT members in the parade. The crowds were pretty heavy for much of the route and it was clear from the smiling faces in the crowd that they liked seeing the Jags in the parade. All the Jags were lined up and ready to go when the parade started.



Well almost all of the Jags were ready to go. Ben Davis's XK 120 picked the most inopportune time to have a starter problem. Not only did he miss the parade but had to wait almost 5 hours to get a tow truck to bring the car home.



## PARK CITIES 4TH OF JULY PARADE 2021

Once the parade started, there was an impressive group of Jags of all ages and models heading down the route.





## PARK CITIES 4TH OF JULY PARADE 2021

And the Jags kept coming.



No JOANT event would be complete without a stop for food. In this case it was Sherlock's Baker Street Pub.





## July 6 Membership Meeting at Sherlock's Baker Street Pub

There seems to be a trend developing in where the club eats. The monthly dinner meeting was again at Sherlock's and it continues to be popular. We had 55 members and guests attend and enjoy the food and conversation.



The Ben and Richard show was its usual entertaining presentation.



Dave McDowell who is the chief Concours judge for the club made a heartfelt confession on an error he made at the last concours and corrected the error by announcing that JJ Keig and Rebecca Richter's E Type was infact a 100 point Jag. With the correction, that Jag became the Best of Champion Division and JJ and Rebecca were presented with a trophy.





## July 6 Membership Meeting at Sherlock's Baker Street Pub

A few new or sort of new and returning members were introduced and given the microphone to tell a little about them selves.



Diane Vermen



Sandy Lewis



Ben presented the special member badges to Alan and Arlene Barclay for more than 10 years in the club and being a past president.

Miki Solomon did his usual great job and capturing the members and some of the action of the evening.



J. Stephen & Catherine Sadler



Gary & Doris Watson

## July 6 Membership Meeting at Sherlock's Baker Street Pub



Rex Anderson & Chris Corbett



Wayne Garrett & Daughter April



Fred Carrvajal



Jay & Suzanne Teitelbaum



Justin Husman, Don & Bonnie Marpe



Suzi & John Checki



**July 6 Membership Meeting at Sherlock's Baker Street Pub**



John Checki, Mike and Julie Wilson



Brett & Julia Holman



Starr Solomon and Kari Halme



Jim Hockert



Dave McDowell and Lloyd Lumpkins



Billie Bailey & Bryan Sanderford



## July 6 Membership Meeting at Sherlock's Baker Street Pub



Brett Holman & Jim Patrick



Jay Key & Ben Davis



New social members Deby Warner & Sandy Lewis



Rebecca Richter & JJ Keig



Alison & Chad Reid, Adrienne & Scott Jeffrey, Lloyd Lumpkins, Bob Harpool



## July 6 Membership Meeting at Sherlock's Baker Street Pub

And if you had not noticed from many of the pictures, the theme for the meeting was the Mad Hatter.



Starr Solomon, Julie Wilson, Rebecca Richter, Margaret McDowell, Judi Carvajal, Billie Bailey



Don Marpe showed the members the new JOANT trifold brochures on the club. These brochures will be placed at Jaguar Frisco and other businesses that service Jaguar owners. These will hopefully result in more active club members. Many thanks to Adrienne Jeffrey for putting together the brochures and handling all the printing.

The 50/50 drawing was won buy JJ Keig and Lloyd Lumpkins won the Jaguar men's fragrance donated by Frederick Brinker (San Antonio Club) at the last concours.

The official meeting ended, but the socialization continued much longer.

## JOANT Members and Their Jags

We are starting to gather pictures of members and their Jags and hope to someday have a complete set of those pictures. Here are some of the ones that we have gathered so far. Send us a picture of you and your Jag so we can finish the set.



Lois and Drew Keith's 1997 XK8



Clark Kirby's 1966 E Type OTS



Lloyd Lumpkins' in his 1963 E Type OTS



Richard Wright—one of his E Types



Dave McDowell and his 1987 XJ6 VDP



JJ Keig and his 1969 E Type FHC



## 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**August 26 - 28**

**Location: Columbia, SC**



Join us for the Jaguar Clubs of North America's 2021 Annual General Meeting!

Join us for a fun, productive Annual General Meeting in Columbia. Late August highs average 90 degrees and overnight lows around 70. The Marriott Columbia is located on Main Street, which is lined with mature live oak trees that provide sidewalk shade and is just three blocks from the South Carolina capital.

On Saturday mornings until 1 p.m., Main Street is closed for the 'Soda City Market,' with an average of 150 local producer vendors. Main Street also has shopping, dining, and other attractions within walking distance.

**Friday, August 27**

Friday, starting at 10 a.m., Coventry Foundation will host an open house with activities, heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments throughout the afternoon. Frequent shuttles will be provided to Coventry Foundation from the Marriot. Several Jags, the factory tool collection, rare Jaguar literature, media, and collectibles, as well as the JCNA archives, will be on view. There will be a silent auction, and perhaps even a 'garage sale' of extras. With model cars supplied by the Foundation, a remote-controlled car slalom will be held and champions will be crowned! Attendees may drive their Jags to the Foundation, regardless of condition, for a 'People's Choice' award.

Friday evening, Coventry Foundation is sponsoring a cash bar that will carry over to the 'Cannonball Dinner' where JSSC member and pitmaster Doug Mills will slow-cook BBQ along with traditional sides.

The speaker will be Dave Yarborough from Charleston, who, with David Heinz, won the 1979 Cannonball Run in an XJ-S. Dave was a Jaguar dealer throughout the 1970s. There's talk of a movie, too!

**Saturday, August 28**

Saturday, the AGM will commence at 8 a.m. following the delegate breakfast. There will be a break for lunch and then an afternoon session. After the AGM, there will be two seminars from 3 to 4 p.m., and two from 4 to 5 p.m., covering Social Media, Insurance, Slalom and Membership. At 6 p.m., a cash bar cocktail hour will be opened, followed by a buffet banquet dinner, reminiscings by Mike Dale, OBE - retired President of Jaguar North America and Bob Tullius - legendary race car driver and founder of the Group 44 racing team, and JCNA annual awards.

Make your reservations on the JCNA website. The Group Rate is \$135.00 per night and includes complimentary self-parking. The group rate is available from Tuesday, August 24th through Monday, August 30th and the last day to book at the Group Rate is August, 6th, 2021.



Hosted by the Jaguar Club of Southwest Florida

Host Hotel: Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa - (239) 466-4000

Message From the IJF Planning Committee Chair

Dear IJF Participating Members,

Following the suggestions in this email will allow the IJF registrations to run smoothly.

Suggestion 1 - As you know by now, the JCNA International Jaguar Festival is happening October 20 - 24, 2021. That said, the days are going by Lickety-Split, which leads me to my point. At this early date, there

are 38 hotel rooms booked. If you are planning to attend this year's IJF, my suggestion is to book your rooms now, at Book Your Group Rate for Jaguar Club of Southwest Florida rather than later.

Suggestion 2 - To enter your car or cars in the concours, please make sure your registration is received by September 30, 2021. Any registration received after September 30, 2021 (to include the day of the show) will be placed in display only. There are no exceptions to this rule, and we thank you for your understanding!

Suggestion 3 - To register for events, please go to [jaguarclubofswf.com](http://jaguarclubofswf.com) (Events/IJF 2021). If you plan to enter your car or cars in the concours, an additional form is required. You will find this form on the IJF home page titled "CONCOURS ENTRY FORM / DIVISIONS."

Suggestion 4 - For Paper Event Registration, go to our IJF home page and click on "MAIL-IN EVENTS REGISTRATION." Please remember, for your car or cars to be excepted in the concours, it is required to fill out the form mentioned in Suggestion 3.

There are several ways to register for IJF events!

1. On-Line IJF Registration. PayPal or Credit Card.

2. Paper Registration - Go to "MAIL-IN EVENTS REGISTRATION" on the IJF website. As mentioned in Suggestion 3, we require the "Concours Entry Form / Divisions" form to be filled out in full to enter your car in the IJF concours. You may register with Credit Card or personal check. Please make your check out to the "Jaguar Club of SWF" and mail the check and the concours entry form per instructions at the bottom of the concours entry form.

As always, please feel free to contact me with questions and or concerns that you may have.

Kindness Regards, Phil Mannino Jaguar Club of Southwest Florida





6:00 pm Welcome Reception—Island Room

Dinner on your own

**Friday, October 22, 2021**

6:30—9:00 am Operational Verification Checks

10:00 am—3:00 pm Concours d'Elegance—On the Green

6:00 pm Concours Awards Dinner

**Saturday, October 23, 2021**

10:00 am—2:00 pm Slalom

6:00 pm Rally and Slalom Awards Dinner—Poolside

**Event Schedule**

**Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

11:15 am Lunch

1:15 pm Auto Museum Tour—REVS  
World Renown Auto Museum

6:00 pm Dinner Cruise—Sandbel Har-  
bour Cruise Line

**Thursday October 21, 2021**

9:00 am Rally or Scenic Tour

12:00 pm Dealership Celebration—  
Jaguar Fr Myers Dealership

## A Message From Rebecca Richter

I just thought of something that I'd like you to put in the newsletter. All of our Amazon purchases go through the Smile.Amazon so a small portion of everything we buy gets donated to Frisco family services. I'd like to encourage members to do the same thing. They don't have to donate to that particular charity, but we can strongly encourage it. We, the members, don't get to write it off on our taxes, but it's still a great way to support our chosen charity.

Thanks.

### How to donate using AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. Every time you shop with Amazon, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice!

To donate to RMHCC go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. Go to the top of the page to the search bar. Under the search bar it will say "Supporting". Click on supporting and type in Ronald McDonald House Charities of (Frisco Family Services, Dallas, or Fort Worth, or where ever you want to support.)

## Experience feel-good shopping

Shop at **smile.amazon.com** and we'll donate to your favorite charitable organization, at **no cost to you**.

**Get started** (Website button)

## START BY PICKING YOUR CHARITY

**Search from over a million local and national charities**, like animal shelters, school groups, and religious organizations.

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### FRISCO FAMILY SERVICES

Frisco, TX Human Service Organizations

Yes, I understand that I must always start at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/) to support Frisco Family Services.

**Start Shopping** (Website button)



# FASTER THAN A SPEEDING JAGUAR

By Alan Barclay

Lately I've been reading about the possible revival of commercial Supersonic Transport (SST), which takes me back to the mid/late seventies. A time when Washington's emission controls had slowed Detroit V8 powered cars to a crawl, or even eliminated them. Having sold my Daimler-Jag when I left London for the hills of Western Pennsylvania in 1971, I was a victim of boring vehicles of the time and hence boring driving as 'sporty' family car imports were beyond my financial grasp back then and besides, there was that stupid 55 mph speed limit. Being in my mid 30's I had an unrequited need for speed.

It was a warm June evening at home in the suburbs of Pittsburgh in 1976 when the telephone rang. "This is Pete", the voice on the phone said. Pete was Gulf Oil's International Division head guy in London. "Oh oh, this can't be good", I remember thinking in view of it being about midnight Saturday in London, something bad must have happened. Long story short, I had to be in Kuwait for a Tuesday morning meeting and the only way to get there in time was to take the first flight tomorrow (Sunday) to Washington National then transfer across town to Dulles. There, I'd take the British Airways Concorde to London Heathrow arriving about ten pm, with an early Monday morning connection to Kuwait. What? I'd take what? It took a while for this to sink in. I flown plenty of international flights but the Concorde? Oh Wow.

As arranged, I arrived at Washington Dulles on schedule with much ground staff attention. Pri-



or to boarding I surveyed the Concorde, the drooped nose in the takeoff position and the high praying mantis-like stance making it look somewhat ungainly sitting there on the tarmac. Once on board, the dimensions became clear. The aisle was extremely narrow and standing headroom limited, tho' not a problem for me. The four across seats (two and two) were narrow - similar to current economy seating width - but I found them very comfortable with an excess of reclining and leg room. The cabin was in two sections although just a single class, with small windows. Sitting in the second section gave me an unforgettable takeoff experience. The engine noise was deafening as we accelerated down the runway at a speed that pinned me into the seat back. After all, afterburners were used to achieve rotation speed of just under 250 mph compared with 155 for today's Boeing 787. The vibration was beyond imagination, perhaps like a spaceship launching? Then the nose lifted and climbed at what seemed to be an

almost vertical ascent. Looking towards the front I could actually see the entire long tubular cabin flexing up and down. After what seemed an eternity the engines were throttled back and the rate of climb slowed as we proceeded east to the coastline at subsonic speed to comply with no sonic boom rules. The no-smoking sign went out and many passengers reached frantically for cigarettes to calm their nerves. Who remembers those days? The poor guy across the aisle from me was shaking so badly he couldn't get his lighter close to his cigarette until his seatmate held his hand steady. Then, once clear of land the speed increased again and the prominently displayed Mach Counters registered 1.0 as we broke the sound barrier without any apparent physical indication within the cabin. After a glass of champagne I was invited to the flight deck for a short visit with the Brit flight crew who were rightfully so proud of their Concorde. Can you imagine this in today's environment? Despite all the sophisticated engineering of this flying wonder, the spartan and cramped flight deck was more reminiscent of a military jet based on photos I'd seen, or even WWII fighter planes. Returning to my seat it was pointed out to me that we were close to Mach 2.0 and then we were, cruising up to 60,000 feet above the Atlantic Ocean at twice the speed of sound or 1,380 mph. The curvature of the earth was plainly visible through my tiny window, while enjoying impeccable service and the finest food (dispensed from special small service carts due to the narrow aisle). It's no wonder I don't enjoy flying these days, having been one of the fortunate few to experience Mach 2 flight and being treated as someone special by an airline.



As a footnote, I flew the Concorde four more times, between New York and London from which I have three specific memories.

On a London/New York flight my fellow passengers included the Fleetwood Mac Group. I really wasn't familiar with them back then but my boss got to sit next to Christine McVie and was later able to bring me up to speed. I do remember how surprisingly well behaved the band members were on the flight, with expected antics not forthcoming.

"Want to meet the rich and famous? Fly SST".

One Thursday evening in London during a phone call from the Pittsburgh head office, I was reminded that I would miss a large important Pittsburgh luncheon the following day, Friday. Or would I? My plans already included the Friday morning Concorde to New York, arriving an hour earlier than my departure (local time). Even after the cab ride from JFK to La Guardia and a one hour flight to Pittsburgh, I was able to walk into the Pittsburgh luncheon just ten minutes late to the open mouthed amazement of my colleagues.

"Don't want to miss a meal? Fly SST".



Finally, there was the guy who boarded the afternoon flight from JFK to London with a briefcase but no luggage. He had flown from London that morning to New York for a meeting, returning home to London on that same day. Who needs to fly from Europe to the USA and back in one day for a short meeting? Haven't they heard of Zoom? LOL.

"Want to get away - and back in a day? Fly SST".

So, did the Concorde make up for my mediocre cars of the time and satisfy my need for speed? In a word, Absolutely! Will the revival of SST's really happen? That's above my pay grade, but with modern communications and advances in video conferences etc. I personally don't see the justification for the average business flier, especially when taking environmental and fuel costs into consideration. After moving to Houston in 1980 the Concorde was no longer an option and I really didn't miss it. I had - as they say - "been there, done that"

But heck, I've been wrong before - after all, I did buy that '87 V12 XJS!