

# The Coventry Cat

The Newsletter  
of the

Jaguar Association  
of New England



Vol 12 - Num 1  
January 2010



*The entire gang at the JANE Holiday Party at Vesper Country Club*

## In This Issue

- 3 President's Update - by JANE President Dennis Eklof**
- 4 Calendar of Upcoming Events**
- 5 Upcoming Events**
  - JANE Monthly Meetings
  - JANE Valentine's Dinner at Gibbet Hill
- 6 JANE 2010 Slalom Information**
- 8 Other Happenings**
- 10 Things to Do**
  - Renew Your Membership for 2010
  - Order Your JANE 2010 Wall Calendar
- 12 Event Report**
  - JANE AGM and Holiday Party - By Dennis Eklof
- 16 Short Film with New England Ties Features JANE Jag**
  - By Tracey Levasseur
- 22 Classified Ads - Shop here!**

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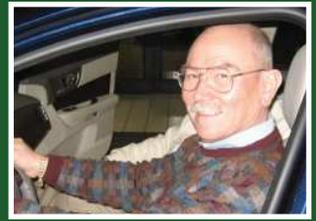
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# President's Update January 2010



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.

## JANE Officers

**President:** Dennis Eklof, 978-448-2566, dennis.eklof@verizon.net

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Margaret Caruolo • Chuck Centore • Aldo Cipriano  
Stu Forer • Ed Hall • Carl Hanson  
Michael Kaleel • Ray O'Brien • Dave Randall  
Francisco Silva • Brenda Soussan

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## Winter Blues?

By Dennis Eklof

**W**ell, it's the first Sunday in January and the first Sunday of a new decade, but at this point it doesn't look very exciting. Right now I am looking out my window at about 8 inches of snow, and more is falling. At some point today I will have to go out and clean up. It's times like these when I think about moving to a more Jaguar-friendly climate where car hobby activities can go on all year long. On the other hand, I've lived and traveled a lot of places, and nothing outside of maybe the Alps rivals the driving pleasure I find in New England. Even the Alps leave something to be desired -- most of the roads go somewhere, and you have to share them with busses, trucks, and motor homes -- yuk! Same with Colorado -- beautiful mountains, but short of off-road excursions in a Jeep, most of the roads go somewhere. In New England, on the other hand, I can always find some relatively untraveled back roads -- ask anyone who went on either of the Magical Mystery Tours Prebble and I have organized. While the scenery in New England may not be as spectacular as that in the Alps or the San Juan range of the Rockies in Colorado, it is still very picturesque and satisfying.

So, does all of this snow mean we need to abandon our car hobby for the dead of winter? Of course not, we just need to focus on things other than driving. During the winter we have tech events, social meetings like our AGM and Holiday Party (see the event report on page 12). It's also time to get our Cats ready for the next season. I have a list of things planned for Elizabeth this winter: get the clock fixed by Jag enthusiast Mike Eck at JaguarClock.com, get my speedometer recalibrated for the change from 3.55 to 3.07 differential gears (What's the hurry? The gears were changed two or three years ago -- if you have a tach, who needs a speedo?), a thorough cleanup, tappet adjustment, etc., etc. With an older Jaguar it's always something.

But before I get to Elizabeth I have another big car-related project underway -- a complete revamp of my garage space. After two years in the new house I am finally finding time to set up a decent garage in the considerable space I have available. So far, I have managed to add over 2000 watts of fluorescent lighting (Prebble says she needs sunglasses in there now) and about ten individual 20-amp circuits, so I can forget about electrical overloads and extension cords. Next will be the piping of compressed air to strategic locations, and finally a new ceiling and flooring. I may not have the height required for a lift, but I plan just about everything else. I already have a lot of equipment (blasting cabinet, three kinds of welders, a 20-ton press, engine hoist, engine stand, etc.) from all my rebuilding on Elizabeth, so if you need something sometime, give me a call.

And of course there is club business to attend to, and the early part of the winter is key to our entire year. It's time for planning events. Your club's Event Committee will be meeting within the next two weeks to lay out a preliminary event schedule for discussion at the next JANE monthly meeting (7 p.m., January 27th, at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury, MA). I hope many of you will attend and help us map out a really exciting year. We'll be driving our Jags again before you know it, and we want plenty of club activities to suit everyone's tastes! Actually, we already have several events on the schedule, our Valentine's Dinner, two Slaloms, the Concours, the Myopia Polo event, and our Larz Anderson Night on the Lawn, but there will be many more.

In closing, let me say how delighted I am to be serving you as JANE's President over the next year. One of my goals for the year is to get more of the club's many members involved in our meetings and events. To do that I plan to ramp up the club's communications to its members, including posting of meeting minutes to the website and starting a regular JANE blog. Did you know that JANE has its own blog? It has not been very active, but the facility can be found by going to Member Pages and clicking on the Blog menu items. I intend to use it as a means of two-way communications with club members, and I urge all of you to use it to let your Board know what you would like to see in the way of events and what things you like and don't like about the club's activities. It's already a great car club, and with your help we can make it even better. Hope to see you on the 27th.  Dennis

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

# From the Editor

## WHEN

## WHAT

## WHERE

### January

08 - Fri - 6 p.m. Unveiling of the New XJ Woburn Jaguar, Woburn, MA  
27 - Wed - 7 p.m. JANE Monthly Meeting Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA

### February

14 - Sun - 6:30 p.m. JANE Valentine's Dinner (time to be confirmed) Gibbet Hill Grill, Groton, MA  
24 - Wed - 7 p.m. JANE Monthly Meeting Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA

### March

24 - Wed - 7 p.m. JANE Monthly Meeting Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA  
26-27 - Fri.-Sat. JCNA 2010 Annual General Meeting Indianapolis, IN

### April

28 - Wed - 7 p.m. JANE Monthly Meeting Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA

### May

26 - Wed - 6 p.m. JANE on the Lawn at Larz Anderson Auto Museum Brookline, MA

### June

06 - Sun - 9 a.m. British Car Day at Larz Anderson Auto Museum Brookline, MA  
19 - Sat - 9 a.m. JANE Slalom Devens Airfield, Ayer, MA  
23 - Wed - 7 p.m. JANE Monthly Meeting Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA

### July

11 - Sun - 1 p.m. JANE at Myopia Polo Matches Hamilton, MA  
28 - Wed - 7 p.m. JANE Monthly Meeting Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA  
31 - Sat JANE Jaguar Festival and Concours d'Elegance Sturbridge, MA

### August

7-8 - Sat.-Sun. British Cars of New Hampshire Wolfeboro, NH  
14th Annual Show of Dreams  
25 - Wed - 7 p.m. JANE Monthly Meeting Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA

Welcome to JANE members who are new officers with the beginning of 2010: Dennis Eklof as President, Bruce Murray as Webmaster, and Brenda Soussan as Board member.

In April of this year I will have been the *Coventry Cat* Editor for two years. With Dennis now taking on the presidency, that makes for a lot of JANE "business" in the Eklof household. I am willing to continue in this volunteer role. However, in the interest of trying to get more members involved in JANE activities, I offer up the editorship of the *Cat*. If you are a JANE member who would like to take on some JANE activity, but organizing an event is not your thing and editing a newsletter is, I will gladly turn over the *Cat* to anyone who would like to do it for a while and give it a new look. Let me know!

In the meantime, please continue to take pictures for the *Cat* at events, send me articles, and tell me of anything you're doing that might be of interest to other JANE members. 

*Prebble*

## EVENT PLANNING FOR 2010

Carl Hanson is JANE's VP-Events. Carl is working on the schedule of events for this year, and a much-expanded calendar will appear in next month's *Coventry Cat* and on the JANE website. Please let Carl know now, or at any time during the year, of any ideas you have for club events. Better yet, plan and organize an event yourself, and let Carl know so it gets onto the 2010 calendar as soon as possible. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate or expensive to do. We have our beautiful cars, so it doesn't take much else to make for a nice outing.

Maybe you know of an interesting place for the group to tour to, just a day's event? Brunch? Lunch? A picnic? Ice cream? A lobster fest? A wine tasting? Check out someone's nice car collection? A Poker Run along some scenic route? A historical place in our area to visit? Something with a holiday theme . . . Easter, Independence Day, Halloween?

Get involved, be creative, and think of some interesting things for the club to do this year. 

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# Upcoming Events

## **JANE Monthly Meetings** **Longfellow's Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA**



Longfellow's Wayside Inn

**J**ANE's monthly meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except for November and December). January's meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27th, at Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury.

We've been meeting at the Wayside Inn for over a year now. It's a beautiful, historic place, our meeting attendance is actually up, and the meetings are lively and fun. They begin at 7 p.m., though many attendees come a little early to schmooze in the Old Bar before dinner and the meeting. If you've not been to a meeting lately, plan to come to the January meeting and catch up with some new members and others you may not have seen in a while. 🇺🇸

## **JANE Valentine's Dinner** **Sunday, February 14th**

**J**ANE's Valentine's Dinner is on again for this year, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 14th, at 6:30 p.m., same place as the last two years -- Gibbet Hill Grill in Groton, MA. The Gibbet Hill Grill is a lovely restaurant sitting amid the rolling fields of an old farm. The food is excellent and the company will be great -- other JANE members! Here's Gibbet Hill's website if you want to check it out: [www.gibbethill.com](http://www.gibbethill.com).

Being mid-February, the weather may not be Jaguar-friendly, but we can all talk about the fact that within about six weeks from Valentine's Day, we should be close to getting our Cats out of hibernation.

Tom Moses is organizing this event. **Space is limited, so make your reservation soon. Send an email to Tom at [tmoses@spillcenter.com](mailto:tmoses@spillcenter.com), and put JANE Valentine Dinner in the subject line.** 🇺🇸



The Gibbet Hill Farm

**CHECK OUT PREVIOUS  
VALENTINE'S DINNER  
EVENT REPORTS  
(WITH COLOR PHOTOS)  
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[WWW.J-A-N-E.ORG](http://WWW.J-A-N-E.ORG)**

## SAVE THE 2010 SLALOM DATES

It was difficult to find a slalom venue in 2009, but fortunately, we have now finalized two dates for our JANE Slaloms in 2010.

Saturday, June 19th  
Sunday, October 3rd

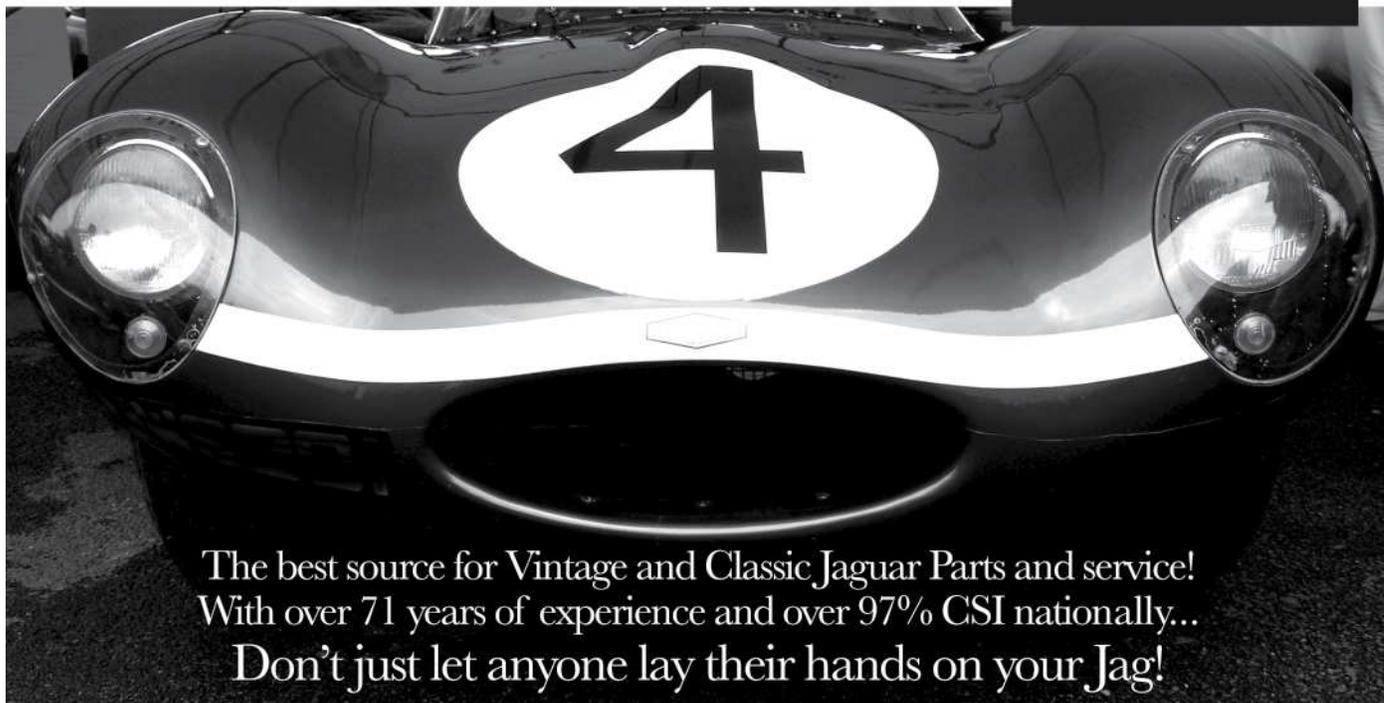
Both will be at Devens Airfield in Ayer, Massachusetts.

**Plan now to be competitive at the JCNA level in 2010. See below how JANE members placed in JCNA's 2009 slalom competition.**

### JANE Members' Placements in 2009 JCNA Slalom Competition

Class	Place	Name	Car
B	1	Adrian Curtis	1953 XK12
D	2	Bill Parish	1966 E-Type OTS
	3	Tom Parish	1969 E-Type OTS
	5	Dennis Eklof	1967 E-Type OTS
	7	Bruce McEdwards	1965 E-Type OTS
	8	David Reilly	1968 E-Type OTS
	14	James Ashworth	1970 E-Type OTS
	20	Herb Strachman	1968 E-Type OTS
	28	Joe Greco	1969 E-Type
H	3	Gary Hagopian	1963 E-Type FHC
I	10	Tom Moses	1992 XJ40 VDP
J	2	David Dew	1995 XJSC
K	1	Ray Duhaime	2002 XK8 Convertible
L	16	Michael Kaleel	2001 XKR Convertible
	23	Richard Gill	2006 XKR
SPL	1	Jim Roberge	1973 E-Type OTS
Z	3	Robert Totten	1964 Spitfire GT
	5	Ray and Jill Duhaime	2005 Lotus Elise
	9	Adrian Curtis	Alfa Spider
	13	Dennis Eklof	2005 Brunton Stalker
	17	Tracey Levasseur	Alfa
	20	Alan Quinn	2006 Subaru Outback
	24	Weston Keyes	Alfa
	32	Paul Rikert	Honda Insight

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# Other Happenings

**The 52nd JCNA AGM is being held March 26th and 27th in Indianapolis.** The Jaguar Association of Greater Indiana is hosting the event and has planned a lot of fun things for the attendees.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway is celebrating its Centennial Era, and the Speedway Museum is probably a must-see place that weekend. And there is definitely an organized trip planned to the Stutz Museum.

The AGM will be held at the historic Crown Plaza at Union Station in downtown Indianapolis. The special room rate for AGM attendees is \$109 per night, plus tax, but the number of rooms at this rate is limited, so register early if you plan to go.

More information about the AGM is posted on the JCNA website ([www.jcna.com](http://www.jcna.com)), and any other details we get will also be included in the next couple of issues of the *The Coventry Cat*. 



**EVEN IF YOU GET THE COVENTRY CAT BY MAIL,**

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# Things To Do

## ***Renew Your JANE Membership for 2010***

**A**ll 2009 memberships expired on December 31, 2009, so don't forget to renew your membership. If you haven't done so yet, please visit the JANE website at [www.j-a-n-e.org](http://www.j-a-n-e.org):

- From the Home Page, scroll down, click the **Member Pages** menu button on the bottom left.
- From the Login screen, enter your User code and Password and click the **Submit** button.
- From your personal JANE home page, choose the **Renew** button on the left.
- Pay your dues online using PayPal, \$60 per year with printed *Coventry Cat* and \$50 per year with electronic *Coventry Cat*.

You may also renew by mail (use form below) and send your renewal to Tom Moses. The cut-off date is January 31, 2010. Former members who have not renewed by that date are removed from the database prior to our submitting the 2010 roster to JCNA's national membership chair. The roster, along with new member forms, change of address forms, and dues must be received by JCNA by February 15, 2010. For clubs whose rosters and dues are not received on time, their delegates are ineligible to vote at the AGM in Indianapolis in March.

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## Order your JANE 2010 Jaguar Wall Calendar

**The JANE 2010 Jaguar Wall Calendars are still available.** The calendars are a nice 11" x 17" size when opened, and they are spiral-bound this time rather than saddle-stitched, so they lay open flat against the wall. Each month features a color photo of a JANE member's Jaguar, so you know you will have some beautiful cars to look at on your wall throughout the year!

They come shrinkwrapped and with a cardboard insert to protect them during mailing. Get several -- for your home, your garage, your office, your friends and family. Don't wait until the year is half gone! They are reasonably priced: \$15 each, 2 for \$28, or 3 for \$40, including shipping.

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# Event Reports

## JANE Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party

By Dennis Eklof

Photos by Chuck Centore and Dennis Eklof



On December 6th about 50 JANE members gathered again at the Vesper Country Club in Tyngsboro, MA, for JANE's Annual General Meeting and Holiday Party. It was another outstanding event, and we all owe Avis Mello a rousing cheer for arranging such a fine venue and event. But this year there was something missing from the festivities -- Avis's smiling face and wonderful sense of humor. Avis was unable to attend due to some health problems. We all missed her and wish her well in her recovery. If you want to drop Avis a card, her address is 24 Appletree Green-Sky Meadow, Nashua, NH 03062. Her email address is avisjmello@att.net.

As usual, the affair got started with a cocktail hour, and the hors d'oeuvres were outstanding. Following the social hour was the club's Annual General Meeting and the election of new officers for 2010. Once again, Chuck Centore did an outstanding job as head of the Nominating Committee. For 2010 your club's officers are:

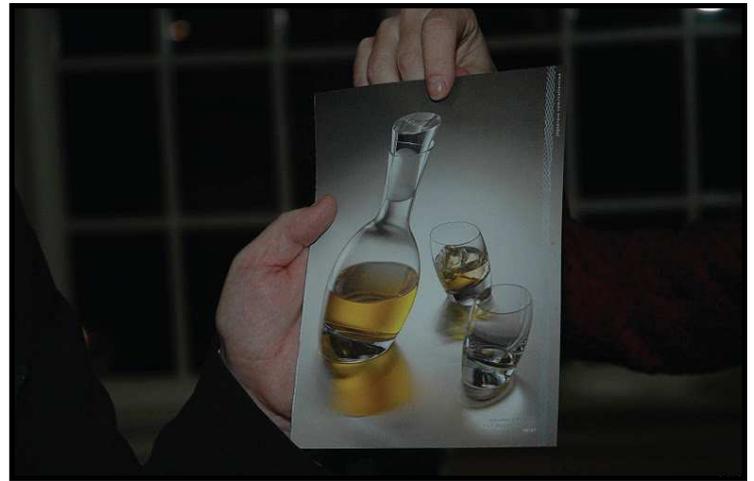
President	Dennis Eklof	Website	Bruce Murray
VP-Events	Carl Hanson	Newsletter	Prebble Eklof
Treasurer	Don Holden	Concours Co-Chairs	Michael Kaleel and Brenda Soussan
Secretary	David DeBlois	Slalom Co-Chairs	Bill Parish and Tom Parish
VP-Membership	Tom Moses	Head Judge and Regalia	Aldo Cipriano

### Board of Directors

Margaret Caruolo	Chuck Centore	Aldo Cipriano
Stu Forer	Ed Hall	Carl Hanson
Michael Kaleel	Ray O'Brien	Dave Randall
Francisco Silva	Brenda Soussan	

Following the business meeting we all settled in for a terrific dinner and a lot of great company. After we were all stuffed, we dove into the traditional JANE Yankee Swap. One of the hits of the swap was a custom made JANE version of monopoly -- JANEopoly -- the handiwork of Brenda Soussan. I walked away with a Jaguar spotted Snuggie that is actually very nice by the TV on a cold winter night.

That's all for this year's event, but mark your calendars for December 5th, 2010. We plan on being in the same venue again, and it will be a fabulous event, as usual. If you haven't ever joined your fellow JANE members for this great party, be sure to include it in your plans for this year. You won't be disappointed. 🇬🇧



The President's Award 2008-2009 was presented to Ray O'Brien in appreciation for his dedication and support for JANE, along with a wine carafe set to commemorate his tenure as President.



**Wacky hats were encouraged!**

**From Top Left Clockwise:  
Patt Centore  
Chuck Centore  
Richard Gill  
Carol Holden**

**Even some fashionable pants and footwear  
showed up. Do you know whose legs these are?**





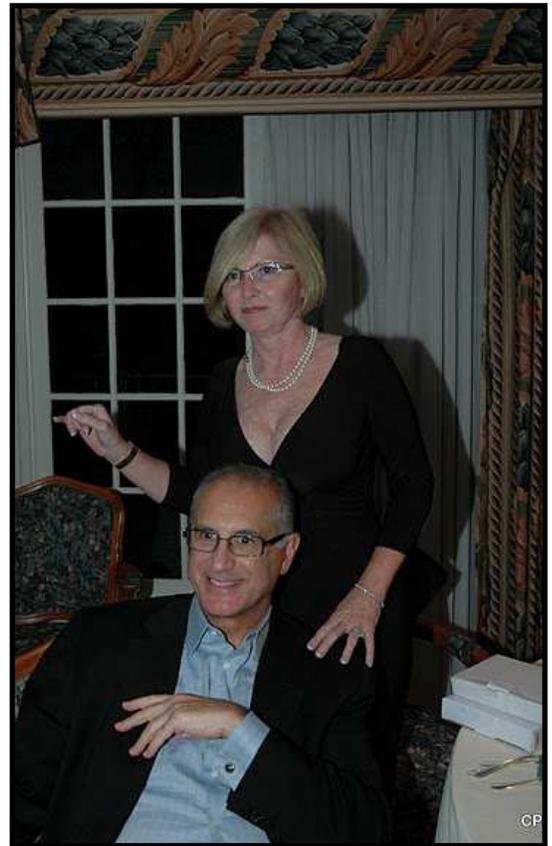
**Clockwise from Top Left**

**Edward Werner Cook, looking very British**

**Ray and Sanda O'Brien with Margaret Caruolo with her award for outstanding service to JANE**

**Michele Kayden with the JANE-opoly game that was the most bounced-around gift during the Yankee Swap**

**Stu Forer and John Fuller showing off the JANE shirts they got in a regalia giveaway**



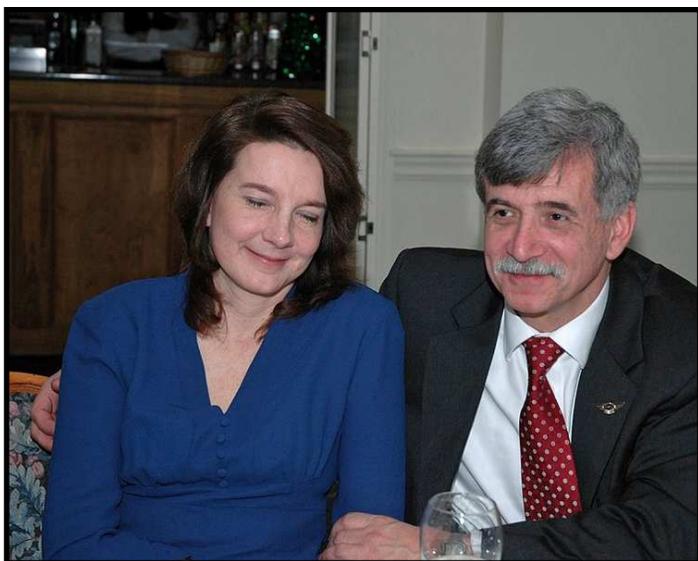
**Clockwise from Top Left**

**Bruce and Jane Murray**

**Michael Kaleel and Brenda Soussan**

**Elaine Burns and Jack Memishian**

**Stacey Lancaster and Jim Sambold**



**THERE ARE MANY MORE PHOTOS  
-- ALL IN COLOR --  
WITH THE  
AGM AND HOLIDAY PARTY  
EVENT REPORT  
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# Short Film with New England Ties Features JANE Jag By Tracey Levasseur



**F**or those who enjoy “spotting” Jaguars in television shows and movies, there was a short film produced in New Hampshire last summer which features a Jaguar sedan owned by a fellow JANE member.

The Jaguar, a deep red 2003 Super V8 (Vanden Plas), is owned by Bruce Whitmore. Back in August, then JANE President Ray O’Brien contacted

a few JANE members who had sedans fitting the criteria for an audition organized by the producers of a short film called *The Pond*. Bruce was one of those lucky members who got a call. He thought seriously about the audition, feeling this adventure would do him good, considering that back in June he had lost his wife of 20 years, Mary Ann, to ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). So he attended the JANE Concours in Sturbridge to ask folks their opinions about a film crew using his car. Some advised against it, telling horror stories of cars returning to their owners after production with dents, paint chips, scratches, etc. But since the film was supposed to be only 20 minutes long after all post-production editing, Bruce figured the car would not be on set long enough to incur any damage.

On Friday, August 20th, Bruce drove from Massachusetts to an apple orchard in Hollis, NH, for a 3 p.m. audition. To his surprise the film crew was just beginning to shoot the day’s scenes after working the previous night until 4 a.m. that morning. Bruce discovered that even if a scene is shot right the first time, it’s redone a few more times just to be sure. They filmed until dusk forced them to stop, but never used Bruce’s car nor the other Jaguar on set. Discouraged, Bruce went back to Massachusetts.

But Dan Hannon, the film’s author and director, really likes Jaguars. He’s always admired his neighbor’s 1996 British Racing Green Vanden Plas, which happened to be the other Jaguar on the set. He called Bruce back, stating he had to have his car in the film, even if it meant rescheduling the shooting of some scenes. So that Sunday Bruce drove back to New Hampshire to rejoin the film crew.

*The Pond*, which represents the Garden of Eden (hence the red Jaguar as the “forbidden fruit”), is about a woman who loses the love of her life in a car accident. Through a strange set of circumstances he is resurrected. But he cannot stay for long. A strange, mysterious character explains

all this and is employed to keep certain things in nature protected, and secret. The film stars David Morse, who played in *The Green Mile* with Tom Hanks and in the HBO mini-series *John Adams*. Morse was born in Hamilton, MA. Also starring is Alicia Witt, a Worcester, MA, native. She starred as Sybil Shepherd’s daughter in the television series *Sybil* and more recently in *88 Minutes* with Al Pacino.

Dan Hannon also has New England roots. He is one of the founders of the New Hampshire Film Festival ([www.nhfilmfestival.com](http://www.nhfilmfestival.com)), a non-profit corporation that unites students, professional filmmakers, and screenwriters with industry experts, educators, avid movie-goers, and film connoisseurs from around the world for a highly interactive weekend each October in Portsmouth, NH.

Bruce Whitmore, who had been a Jag-less JANE member in the late 1980s, rejoined the club in 2005 and shortly afterward bought his soon-to-be-famous Vanden Plas from a seller in Colorado. However, his love of Jaguars goes back to when he was five years old and visited his grandparents in England. His grandfather had a two-tone gray Mark IX. For the young Whitmore it was love at first sight. He recalls, “It had bright red leather interior with bucket seats and fancy woodwork and picnic tables and pull down armrests and a hole in the roof that opened and closed.” It was faster and far more elegant than the big, bench-seated Buicks back in the states.

As an adult, and after a visit to Browns Lane in 1987, Bruce began collecting 1:43 scale model Jaguars (much less expensive and easier to store than the real things!), waiting for the day when he could acquire a full scale model. Today he’s got roughly 600 toy Jags and a real 1988 XJ-SC cabriolet that shares the stable with his celebrity Vanden Plas. In the future Bruce hopes to acquire a two-tone gray Mark IX similar to his grandfather’s.

So when will *The Pond* debut? The film was finished in November, and Dan Hannon plans to show it at the Sundance Film Festival in January as well as the Cannes Film Festival in France this May. He also mentioned showing it at a future JANE meeting if things work out.

Next time you see Bruce Whitmore at a meeting or club event, be sure to say hi and ask to see his famous car. Maybe you can get an “auto” graph! 🐾



L to R: Dan Hannon, author and director; actor David Morse; Bruce Whitmore; and actress Alicia Witt posing with Bruce's Jaguar on the set of *The Pond* in the apple orchard in Hollis, New Hampshire

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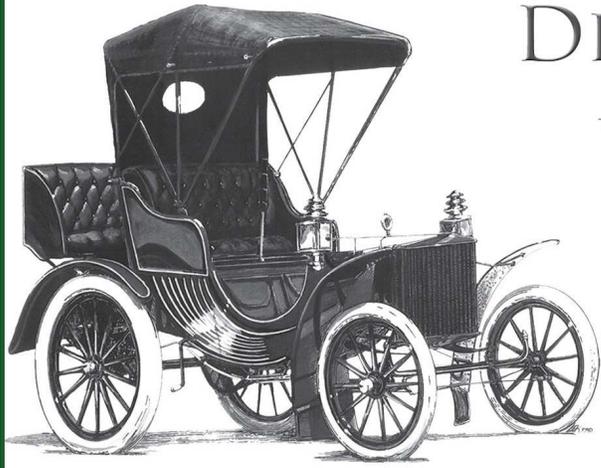


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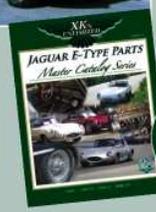
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