



CAT TRACKS

JAGUAR CLUB OF SANTA BARBARA



Volume XXXI August 2009 Number 5

Annual Meeting Sets Speed Record

by Lorelei Snyder

How much fun were we having at the Annual Meeting and picnic at Mission La Purisma July 18. Let's put it this way. The photographer forgot to take pictures. The reporter forgot to take notes. By acclimation the group reelected all officers. Details on future events were postponed, and by the time several decided to enjoy the workings of "Mission Life," the docents were going home. Tables were reserved until 2 p.m., but it was more like 4 p.m. when we reluctantly packed things away. A grand time was had by all.

As usual, the food was superb, and **Mary Bock** deserves great praise for the magnificent job she did organizing the affair. One Central Coast Jaguar Drivers' Club member remarked, "you guys really know how to put on a picnic!"

Perpetual President **Ron Bock** arranged for a docent to come to us to give us a history of La Purisma Mission. The really bad news is that it is a State Park, and on Arnie's chopping block. Keep your fingers crossed.

There was much discussion among the Jaguar Ladies regarding a possible Ladies Only weekend in Las Vegas. Ideas tossed around: a show, a celebrity, Thunder Down Under, a limo, a suite, a jacuzzi.

Also up for discussion was an August event. Traditionally
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Dinner and a Play

by Ron Bock

Our September Events are both "Dinner and a Play," to wit:

September 12, Saturday
Festival Theater, Solvang
"The Spitfire Grill" at 8 p.m.
Dinner at 5:30 p.m. at AJ Spurs.
Tickets \$22.50 regardless of age.

- and -

September 19, Saturday
Severson Theater, Santa Maria
"Distracted" at 7 p.m.
Dinner at 4:45 p.m. at the Roadhouse Grill.
Tickets \$22.50 regardless of age.

I have reserved 20 seats for Solvang, and 12 for Santa Maria. As stated in my email, please RSVP to **Pat Bivans**, but mail your checks to Ron. Pat is making
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this has been the Antique Car Weekend in Monterey/Carmel. For the past few years only the Lindbergs have attended and some felt it was time to move on. However, no one had an alternative. Any ideas can be directed to **Pat Bivans**.

As far as the reporter can remember, those laying back and enjoying themselves included **Cam** and **Charlene Lindberg**, **Bill** and **Elana Rourke**, **Betty Wells** and **Erik Wulff**, **Dale Bennett** and **Barbara Boyd**, **Betty Hensel**, **Jack** and **Lorelei Snyder**, **Ron** and **Darlene Nardizi**, **Ernie** and **Pat Bivans**, and several from the CCJDC. (If anyone is missing, impeach the reporter.)



(Dinner and a Play continued from page 1)

arrangements for our dinners at AJ Spurs in Buellton, and The Roadhouse Grill in Santa Maria, bless her heart.

A SPECIAL TREAT: Those attending the September 19 presentation of “Distracted” at the Severson Theater in Santa Maria will get to meet the most wonderful **Suzanne Rose**, PCPA’s director of Group Sales. She has expressed an interest in Jaguars and in meeting our group, so she will join us at the play, and hopefully for dinner. We have Suzanne to thank for facilitating our past September adventures at the Solvang Festival Theater. Since we’d like to keep this September tradition alive, we’ll want to favorably impress Suzanne, and will therefore have to behave ourselves on the 19th.

Please RSVP to **Pat Bivans**, 682-2778, ASAP, and: mail your check made out to Ron Bock to:

Ronald C. Bock
114 North “H” Street, Suite 1
Lompoc, CA 93436.

Hope to see you there.

(P.S. Mary and I are on vacation from August 26 to September 9, so please, please contact Pat Bivans. Thanks.)

Jaguars on the Prowl

(Condensed from “On the Prowl” by Jeremy Kahn, Smithsonian, November 2007)

Jaguars (the cats) are suddenly popping up in unexpected places such as our southern borders in Arizona and New Mexico. Four have been documented in the United States over the past decade. Some think that others live undetected in this area. Once thought to have vanished from the United States, the cats’ presence has set off an intense debate about how to ensure their survival in the American landscape. Along the way, encounters with the jaguar have transformed an unlikely group of cattle ranchers and hunters into avowed conservationists. And the animal has become ensnared in many of the West’s thorniest political fights: the battles over grazing rights, development, mining and efforts to seal the U.S. border with Mexico.

The Jaguar is the Western hemisphere’s largest feline and the third largest cat in the world. It’s also the only cat in the hemisphere that roars. It once ranged widely through much of the Americas, from Argentina up through Central America and through the mountains of Mexico into present-day Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. But the growth of cattle ranches, logging and mining operations, combined with extensive trapping and hunting, brought the cat to the brink of extinction in much of its range.

Neighbors in the Poloncillos area have formed a group to advocate for economically sound range management to alter growing public perception of ranchers as poor stewards of the environment and to pre-empt political pressure to further restrict grazing on public lands. Grazing limits were hard on cattle ranchers. And perversely, they also harmed the very environment they were supposed to protect by forcing many ranchers to close up shop and sell out to developers, who then subdivide the land for housing, ruining wildlife corridors.

Jaguar sightings led to litigation that forced the federal government in 1997 to list the jaguar as endangered in the United States. But in a nod to the

ranchers' concerns, the FWS decided that it was "not prudent" to designate any particular areas "critical habitat" for the cat, arguing that the biggest danger the jaguar faced was illegal hunting, not habitat loss.

Ranchers' historic animosity toward a predator like the jaguar doesn't dissipate easily. But, thanks in part to conservationist efforts, attitudes are starting to change. Volunteers on wildlife studies are investigating any suspicious kills and ensure ranchers receive fair compensation. Worry about predation has subsided, but it was supplanted by the fear of critical habitat. Ranchers want to convince people that ranches can be important wildlife corridors as well as bulwarks against urban sprawl.

The 700-mile-long border partition the U. S. government is building to stem the tide of illegal immigrants and drug traffickers may also seal the fate of the jaguar in the United States. Immigrants and drug traffickers use many of the same trails as jaguars. In the mountains the government has opted for a lattice construction intended to stop vehicles from driving across the border. That forces illegal migrants to enter on foot, theoretically making them easier to catch. But because an animal can go under or over the steel rails, it is also supposed to be more wildlife-friendly than a traditional wall, but some are not so sure. Jaguars might be too intimidated to cross.

Defenders of Wildlife has worked with other local conservation groups to create sophisticated maps of probable jaguar migration corridors. The groups hope to persuade the Border Patrol and the Department of Homeland Security to rely more heavily on so-called "virtual fences" — high-tech remote sensors and cameras that monitor the border without a physical barrier. So far they have had little success.

Another looming threat for the jaguar is a mining boom. A recent surge in mineral prices, driven by demand from China and India, coupled with technological advances, has made it economically viable for miners to return to the Arizona mountains they largely abandoned after WW II, including in areas where jaguars have recently been documented. In

the Patagonia and the Santa Rita mountains, a place where large numbers of jaguars were once killed by hunters—conservationists and ranchers have joined together to fight a proposed open-pit copper mine. Unlike ranching, mining is noisy, industrial work that can frighten off animals and alter an entire landscape. In July 2007, Arizona congressman Raul Grijalva introduced a bill to set aside 83,400 acres of mountains and rolling grassland northwest of Nogales as the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Area. The land would be off-limits to mining, development and recreational use by motorized vehicles.

Ultimately, the fate of the jaguar in the United States is bound to its fate in Mexico. And there the cat is in trouble. The jaguar population in Sonora, home of the confirmed breeding population closest to the border, is estimated to be no more than 150 individuals. Some biologists, however, think that maintaining the Sonoran population will hardly ensure the jaguar's return to the United States.

To a lot of people, the idea that such a majestic and mysterious creature stalks the high desert touches something primal within; inspiring an appreciation for all that is still wild and unfettered by man. And if the jaguar disappears again, a victim of development or mining or a belief that a wall can prevent supply from meeting demand, then it won't be just the great spotted cat that suffers. For with the jaguar will go another piece of what little remains of the untamed soul of the American West.

Think About It

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher. *Socrates*

Maybe it's true that life begins at 60...but everything else starts to wear out, fallout, or spread out. *Phyllis Diller*

Be careful about reading health books. You might die of a misprint. *Mark Twain*

And finally the Cardiologist's Diet: If it tastes good - spit it out.

Your JCSB Calendar

Saturday, September 12, Dinner and a Play at the Festival Theater in Solvang. This year the play is "The Spitfire Grill".

Saturday, September 19, Dinner and a Play, Severson Theater, Santa Maria, "Distracted".

Saturday, October 24th
Hallowe'en Costume Party at the Lindberg's in Lompoc, 5:30 p.m.

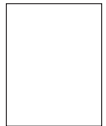
Check our JCSB Web site for current and past newsletters at: <http://members.cox.net/~jcsb/>

Saturday, November 14th
Joint meeting with the CCJDC, TBA

Saturday, December 12th
Annual Christmas Party, Location TBA



Jack & Lorelei Snyder - Cat Tracks Editors
Jaguar Club of Santa Barbara
1503 Mountain Avenue
Santa Barbara, CA 93101



Saturday, September 12, 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at AJ Spurs, Solvang
Play at 8 p.m., PCPA, Solvang

The 08/09 Board of the Jaguar Club of Santa Barbara

President:
Ron Bock, 736-1344 (w) or (cell) 291-6699

Vice President:
Mary Bock, 291-0377

Editors:
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Pat Bivans 682-2778

Events Coordinator:
Pat Bivans 682-2778

Thank you to the great contributors to this issue of JCSB's Cat Tracks!