

California Dream'n tour

by BK Showalter



The California Dream'n tour really began on October 4 when Alphy led us over to the Palm Springs Air Museum. The veterans who did the docent-guided tour were great. They knew WW II from firsthand experiences. The aircraft available for viewing were exceptional pieces. Sunday's touring took us to Borrego Springs for lunch at the resort there, then up and over the mountains. This required that we drive up an eleven-mile long hill, part of it with a grade of six to seven percent. We were lucky in that the temperature was low enough that no one had to drop out due to overheating problems. For a reward, on the down slope side, we stopped for pie and ice cream. At that point, due to traffic and curving roads, the usual neat line of our vehicles became somewhat less tidy.

Still, we all made it to our hotel and found it located in the nicest spot in that fine city. From my room, I could see acres of small craft moored in a sheltered bay. From my front porch, I could watch cruise ships plow in from the open sea. On one occasion, we were treated to the sight of the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln waltzing inbound with the grace of a Dancing with the Stars contestant. That happened a day or so after we toured an aircraft carrier, the USS Midway.

That occupied much of day four, but we did find time to sail aboard a tour boat for a cruise of the harbor.

Our next day involved a freeway drive out to see the Wild Animal Park. This was a treat as the animals are exhibited in a setting that resembled their origins. Lunch topped off the walking and tram tours most of us enjoyed.

We spent Wednesday, 8 October, at Balboa Park. There is only one way to tell you about it and that is "go see it! The site has been the location for two "Expositions," one in 1915-16 the other in 1935-36. No one saw it all that day, but we had coupons for later use and many of us returned on Saturday for a second look!

Thursday was saw us following Harvey Williamson's '47 Plymouth across the hills to see Alphy Norman's memorabilia and (of course) to enjoy another feast!

Friday we "did" Simpson's Nursery, a "most unusual" place, half museum, half farm. After we roamed there for 2 hours, we headed for the Barrett Jct. Café. Once again, our planning committee had located fine food in a fine place and we all dug into it before heading back to San Diego to see a collection of exotic vehicles that left us all salivating. Our host there provided drinks and cookies to go with our leisurely look at some truly magnificent vehicles that were salted with some unusual pieces that included a Ford Pinto woodie wagon! True! It was hidden under plastic so that it did not steal any thunder from the Bentley, the one-off Continental convertible, and the early Jaguar! Many of the ladies (and possibly a few gents) also went next door to peruse Rosie's Quilt store. (The place was huge!)

Saturday we were free to do as we wished until the banquet that evening. Once again the food was superb, the company wonderful, and our hosts outdid themselves!

A "thank you" is never enough to pay for the effort and hours Normans, Williamsons, Benjamins, Skip Humphrey, and Mike Kienitz contributed to our week.

Sunday saw everyone loading up and heading out. For some it was an uneventful ride into the sunset. For others, like Dolly and Harry, there was a moment of excitement when their Mustang "threw a shoe" and required major roadside surgery. Fortunately, doctors and nurses were on hand, as they were accompanied by the Kelmans and the Showalters. Forty minutes or less after the Mustang limped off the freeway, it was back in harness and Dolly and Harry were on their way to Monterey for stopover with friends.

To all who did not take part, do make a note on your calendars ... NOW... to make plans to do the 2009 Tour already being organized by Joe Wiggins and Bennit Roberson, among others that will take CHVA tour-ers through the beautiful Smoky Mountains. Don't miss this one folks...the rumor that Dolly Parton may join us may actually be true.

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IMG_2370.JPG



IMG_2371.JPG
Joe and Sue Jones '55 Olds



IMG_2372.JPG
Bob Truax unloading his
51 DeSoto



IMG_2373.JPG
Brad Bowles showing the
muscles required to handle a
motorhome on the freeways of
CA



IMG_2374.JPG
The Pass from Palm Springs to San Diego



IMG_2375.JPG
Rugged country



IMG_2376.JPG
Rugged country



IMG_2377.JPG
Rugged country



IMG_2378.JPG
Temp gauges climbing!



IMG_2379.JPG
2379, 2380, 2382 Shots from our
Ford of Dick/Char Klaas 65 GTO
which won another prize this trip.



IMG_2380.JPG
How'd he get behind us?



IMG_2382.JPG
Good looking GTO in my rearview mirror.



IMG_2383.JPG
2383-2384 Bob and Maryellen
Zarnosky's '63 Plymouth's newly
done brakes failed while en route to
Alphy's ranch for lunch.



IMG_2384.JPG
Earlier on as we left San
Diego for Alphy's house



IMG_2385.JPG
The Jones '55 Olds beats a red
light



IMG_2386.JPG
2386-2411 Scenes from the Wild Animal Park
where we dined at the Mombasa Room. They said
it was chicken, but did you see the size of those
emus?



IMG_2387.JPG
The Higday's T-Bird escorts the
Mob Limo into the park.



IMG_2388.JPG
Henry & BK discuss the merits
of a pet rhino.



IMG_2389.JPG
Bob & Maryellen take a break

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IMG_2390.JPG
Henry is ready to go for coffee.



IMG_2391.JPG
Follow me! I've got a map!



IMG_2392.JPG
O'Connells and Bowles look for the lunch site.



IMG_2393.JPG
Resting weary feet.



IMG_2394.JPG
Waiting for the tram to ride out to see the big animals.



IMG_2395.JPG
And, we're waiting...



IMG_2396.JPG
And, we're off!



IMG_2397.JPG
BK, look the other way!



IMG_2398.JPG
No, the other other way!



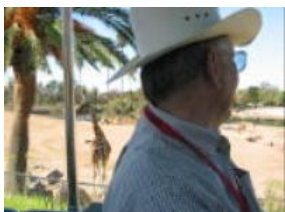
IMG_2399.JPG
Now ya got it!



IMG_2400.JPG
What? No crocs?



IMG_2401.JPG
Heads up! Giraffes to the left.



IMG_2402.JPG



IMG_2403.JPG



IMG_2404.JPG



IMG_2405.JPG



IMG_2406.JPG
Somehow, Mama, those Jerseys don't look like the ones in Iowa



IMG_2407.JPG



IMG_2408.JPG
Feeding the visitors in the Mombasa room.



IMG_2409.JPG
Talin' n' eatin' and California Dream'n

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IMG_2410.JPG
And mostly talkin'



IMG_2411.JPG



IMG_2412.JPG
2412-2413 Bob & Carol Coates '40 Buick and Harvey's & Tolly's stubborn little '47 Plymouth coupe.



IMG_2413.JPG



IMG_2414.JPG

2414-17 one of a number car museums we enjoyed on this tour ... sorry, I did not get any pics of the air museums.



IMG_2415.JPG



IMG_2416.JPG



IMG_2417.JPG



IMG_2418.JPG

2418-2454 Simpson's Nursery and Tame animal Farm! Lady in hat (seated) is Ruth Truax (she wore a different hat every day)



IMG_2419.JPG



IMG_2420.JPG



IMG_2421.JPG



IMG_2422.JPG
BK, Gary & Joe



IMG_2423.JPG
Nancy, Gary & BK



IMG_2424.JPG
Mick Sutter studies the scene



IMG_2425.JPG
Weber duo



IMG_2426.JPG
Beebe & the Webers



IMG_2427.JPG
Carolyn & Eric



IMG_2428.JPG
Joe & Sue Jones



IMG_2429.JPG
Dick Klaas / Linda Bowles

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IMG_2430.JPG
Bennit sneaks a hug



IMG_2431.JPG
Porky's cousin



IMG_2432.JPG



IMG_2433.JPG



IMG_2434.JPG



IMG_2435.JPG



IMG_2436.JPG
Joe Wiggins and friend



IMG_2437.JPG
Tom! Behind you!



IMG_2438.JPG
This ain't no place for a lady like you!



IMG_2439.JPG
Dolly and Harry at
Simpson's Nursery



IMG_2440.JPG
Randy & Ellen
prowl the antiques



IMG_2441.JPG
Celestina and Mark
enjoy the tour



IMG_2442.JPG
"Kathy, Tom is over by the carhop
mannequin."



IMG_2443.JPG
Joe and Sue peruse the petunias



IMG_2446.JPG



IMG_2447.JPG



IMG_2448.JPG



IMG_2454.JPG
Grandma's Onions at the Simpson's Nursery



IMG_2451.JPG
Grandma's Onions at the
Simson's Nurserv



IMG_2452.JPG
Grandma's Onions at the
Simson's Nurserv



IMG_2453.JPG
Grandma's Onions at the
Simson's Nurserv

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IMG_2455.JPG
2455-56 Tom and Birdie Stacey in their '67 Eldo Cad.



IMG_2456.JPG



IMG_2457.JPG
Remo and Judy's '46 Chev gets a looksee



IMG_2458.JPG

2458-61 Barrett Jct. Cafe .. a major food stop!



IMG_2459.JPG

Eleanor tries to keep the Gorley clan in order.



IMG_2460.JPG

Food is the stuff of CHVA life.



IMG_2461.JPG

Note, Pres. O'Byrne pretending to be a pet rock.



IMG_2462.JPG

2462-68 ... The aftermath of some fun en route home. Dolly Hebert and Harry Ozol's lost the tread from their Mustang's left front tire--at speed--on a busy freeway about halfway thru LA. They managed to keep things together long enough to make a nearby exit where, assisted by Joe and Cindy Kelman (their '69 Mustang suffered a broken headlight from the debris flying off Dolly's Mustang's tire and other misc. parts) and BK and Marjorie, the quick application of 19 feet of bailing wire and duct tape resulted in a fix that got the damaged car back on the road.



IMG_2463.JPG
3 talking heads, one camera woman....



IMG_2464.JPG
Engineering a fix



IMG_2465.JPG

Nurse! Forget the duct tape... hand me the bailing wire.



IMG_2466.JPG

Spread out the tools and make it look professional.



IMG_2467.JPG
The scene is set.



IMG_2468.JPG
Most times "the shoot horses, don't they?"