

July 12, 2024

Hello!

On Saturday, June 8th, the California Dodge Brothers and Sisters gathered at the home of Herman and Barbara Boone's , for the DB's Go To The Dogs Tour through the back roads of San Joaquin, Amador, Calaveras, and Sacramento Counties.





GATHERING TO TOUR!

Present were Amil and Sharon Gehrke ('30 DB straight 8 rumble seat coupe), Bruce and Gloria Reid ('27 Graham Brothers Screenside), Dan and Rose Mills ('39 Plymouth convertible two door sedan), Bob and Timber Vincent ('36 ½ ton LC DB pickup truck), Howard and Joan Edson ('15 DB touring), Travis and Julia Barham (and Allison and Tyler, '24 DB touring); Erik and Jennifer Stewart (and Justin); Buzz and Sue Horn (driving Boone's '35 DB ½ ton KC pickup truck); Knute and Maryjoan Kleinen ('36 DB four door sedan); Joe and Dorene Gomes ('30 DB Senior Six sedan); Joe and Evan Franco; Wallace Brooks and friend Connie; and Tom and Sharon Barham.

The week before this Tour, Herman and I were “sweating it” as the daily temperatures leading up to this Tour were in the 100's. But for this two day Tour, things cooled off for us into the low to high 80's! Excellent Tour weather!



ALLISON AND TYLER BARHAM WITH JUSTIN STEWART READY TO TOUR!

Gathering about 8:30 a.m. we enjoyed doughnuts and other goodies in Boone's backyard before our Driver's and Navigator's Meeting. At that Meeting we discussed what to expect to see on the routes planned by Herman; using the "second man out" to mark turns; questions; etc. Then we "started our engines" for an adventure to Burson, California with Herman and Barbara in the lead in their '33 DB sedan and the Stewarts (along with Tom and Sharon) bringing up the rear in current day iron.

We travelled slow back roads through ranch lands, along a creek for awhile, seeing orchards and farmland along the way as well, ending up at the Burson Market, a Chevron station with a market.



BARBARA BOONE AT THE
BURSON MARKET CHEVRON

We had time to get gasoline, stretch our legs, get a snack, etc. But eventually we once again got on the road to our first stop, the ranch of Sal Manna and Melinda Gardner.



DB'S ARRIVING TO SEE THE DOGS!

Sal is the premier local historian for the history of west Calaveras County. He maintains the Museum of West Calaveras History operated by the Society for the Preservation of West Calaveras History. Sal introduced us to “the world’s smallest museum” located on a car trailer (so it can go to local schools, etc.). He had it set up to present the history of a local stagecoach robber, Black Bart, a bandit of great notoriety and a thorn in the side of the Wells Fargo Stage Company. Sal has an original letter, given to him by Black Bart’s grandson, the only one known to exist, offering a Wells Fargo reward for Black Bart’s capture!



ALLISON BARHAM HOLDING BLACK BART

WELLS FARGO REWARD POSTER

From “the world’s smallest museum” we walked to an arena at the back of the ranch where we were able to see Sal and Melinda show us the talents of the herd dogs they raise. Sal and Melinda are ranked in the top 20 trainers worldwide for the dogs they raise. Interesting fact: the dogs respond to hand, voice, and whistle commands; the dogs are not ever rewarded for their efforts with a “treat;” they are the only known animals that “perform” like this because they love it. Another

interesting fact: why would a 2,000 pound cow, or a sheep or llama be afraid of a very small dog and do what the dog wants it to do? Because the dogs “nip” the legs of the animals they are herding and it only takes one or two “nips” for the large animals to decide they should comply with the wishes of the dogs!



ALLISON AND TYLER BARHAM WITH
A PONY WITH MELINDA GARDNER

Before we left, Sal told me he would be writing a story for the local newspaper about our visit. True to form, three days later, a report about our visit was on the front page of The Valley Springs News, a twice per week local newspaper!



WE MADE THE NEWS!

After thanking Sal and Melinda for their hospitality, we continued our journey to the City of Lockeford. We dined for lunch at the Rich Plate restaurant, which is located directly across an alley from the Lockeford Sausage Company. The Lockeford Sausage Company is a family owned business that has been making sausage for decades and is locally renowned as the place to visit for sausage! Rich Plate has these sausages on their menu, so that's what several of us ordered. Delicious!



RICH PLATE HAS GOOD BANANA SPLITS, TOO!

Rich Plate closes at 3 p.m. so we were on the road again about that time. We were headed straight for the City of Galt where we had arranged our overnight accommodations. We arrived early enough at the Day's Inn (or La Quinta right across the parking lot!) so that Allison and Tyler could take a dip in the pool at La Quinta! By early evening we assembled in the parking lot, minus Joe and Dorene Gomes who had to leave us. We began the caravan in the DB's to our traditional Saturday evening camaraderie dinner at Pastosa by Lucia, a small family owned

restaurant in Galt. It was very comfortable on their patio which we had reserved, and we enjoyed lasagna, linguine alfredo, and ravioli. It was a wonderful way to end the day with good company and great food! All told, Saturday was about a 60 mile trip and a lot of fun doing it!

Sunday saw us gather again in the parking lot for our Driver's and Navigator's meeting. Herman led us out of the parking lot for a ten plus mile journey to Herald, California, to visit the car collection of rancher Gary Silva. Gary has very eclectic collecting instincts so his large collection spans from a 1910 Oldsmobile to a



RESTORED NASCAR RACER

restored NASCAR race car, with lots of motorcycles, automobilia, a couple of airplanes, etc. mixed in for good measure!







PARKED AT GARY SILVA'S

Gary told us interesting stories about his collection and his role as the sponsor of a sprint car racing team that travels the racing circuit throughout California! We were then free to wander and “take it all in.”







SOME VIEWS OF GARY SILVA'S COLLECTION



NATIONAL SPRINT CAR HALL OF FAME DRIVER

LEROY VAN CONETT

WHO HAPPENED TO “DROP BY” WHILE AT GARY SILVA’S
COLLECTION!

After thanking Gary for his hospitality, we hit the road again back to Galt to enjoy
lunch at the Velvet Creamery



PARKING AT THE VELVET CREAMERY

We were joined by Roger and Lynne Gong for lunch and twenty of us filled up a long table and spilled over into two booths as well! Once again, good food and good company!

Dan and Rose Mills left us here as they were not very far from home, so we had one less companion on the return trip to the Boone's home. When we arrived at Boone's, we were welcomed by root beer floats that tasted wonderful after a warm ride all the way from Galt!

Alas, it was time to pack up and trailer home after saying good-byes. Our thanks to Herman and Barbara for once again opening their home to our group, and for all the planning that went into this! It was a very enjoyable weekend together!

Our next formal gathering will be in mid-September at Mike and Suzette Sordello's home in Morgan Hill. We will once again attend the "Vehicles in

History Park” as we did last year, but this time Dodge Brothers vehicles will be the featured marque! We need as many DB’s to attend as possible so we have a good showing. But History Park is not the only focus for this Tour; we will once again enjoy Famous Dave’s BBQ Saturday evening followed by ice cream in Mike’s ice cream parlor with pinball machine and juke box access, as well as a driving tour Sunday. Plan to attend!

Then in late October we will travel from Hollister to Monterey for our Monterey Rain or Shine Tour. Karl and Elvia Skow have routes already planned that will take us through Salinas and San Juan Bautista, ending up at Fisherman’s Wharf in Monterey Friday. Saturday will include not only travel along the Pacific Ocean but also a trip along the “17 Mile Drive,” with a catered Subway Sandwich picnic along the way. Sunday will be an enjoyable tour back to Skow’s ranch for hamburgers and hot dogs before heading home. So far, 14 families plan to attend; I hope yours is one of them!

Next Spring Joe and Dorene Gomes may be able to host our first tour of 2025 out of Woodland. Right now it looks like we may travel up the Capay Valley on Saturday, and over to Lake Berryessa on Sunday. More to follow!

For Sales

Received the following from Bruce and Gloria Reid; take a look and make an offer!

“Hi Tom. see the link below. Spread the word. Bruce has been to the Placerville Airport and seen this truck. It is really a 30/31 and not a 1929. Seller wants it gone. (will negotiate price) If anyone is interested and wants more info have them call Bruce”

<https://www.facebook.com/marketplace/item/1068226084295107/?sfnsn=mo&mibextid=AtLtBA>

Well, that’s all I had for this newsletter. Hope this finds you healthier than Sharon and me, but we are on the mend!

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