

May 16, 2024

Hello!

There is Tour news below and a lot to pack into this newsletter so I will get right to it!

We gathered at Amador Valley Community Park for our annual “start of the tour season” pot luck picnic on Sunday, April 21st. Our postponement from our usual “last Sunday in March” date proved to be a good thing, as we didn’t interrupt anyone’s Easter, and we dodged some rain and some parking problems because of a swim meet at the park the weekend before. The weather cooperated, the parking was abundant, and the food and camaraderie were great! Present were Herman and Barbara Boone; Roger and Lynne Gong; Karl and Elvia Skow; Elaine Gong; Mike and Suzette Sordello; Timber Vincent; Howard and Joan Edson; David LeCount; Lou MacMillan and friend; Travis and Allison Barham; Erik, Jennifer, and Justin Stewart; and Tom and Sharon Barham. This was Justin Stewart’s first DB meeting (he is now five months old!) and he seemed to really enjoy it, and all the attention he generated!

We dug into an assortment of pot luck food and drink; we have wonderful cooks in this group! Then we had a “business meeting” where we discussed our Tentative Schedule of Events for this year. We had presentations from Tom Barham and Herman Boone about a tour in May or June (see below); presentations by Karl Skow and Mike Sordello to answer questions about the tours that they have planned for our participation (Mike’s in September, Karl’s in October); news from our President about membership and the new website (californiadodgebrothers.org); and For Sales and Wanteds (there weren’t any at the picnic; get them to me if you want me to get them out there for you! See below!).

It was great to get “caught up” and look forward to this coming Tour Season. It was also great to hear that our new website is attracting new members. I heard yesterday that Travis was on the phone with a lady in Southern California who has a DB hearse and wanted information about our group!

We now have a date for the first Tour of the season. Herman and I have been working on routes, places to eat, etc. for the weekend of June 8th and 9th, 2024. This has taken longer than the two of us expected because we ran into some hotel problems at the venue we were shooting for. But we have things worked out now. We don’t have all the details, yet, but here is what you need to know to get included on this Tour:

Our itinerary:

We will meet at Herman and Barbara Boone's home on Saturday, June 8th. We're still working on whether we need to meet at 9:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m., so that will be shared in another newsletter. Park trailers and tow vehicles in the Boone's walnut orchard and unload DB's; attend Driver's and Navigator's meeting, after which we will take off through back roads to Burson, California. At Burson we will be hosted by Sal Manna at his ranch. According to Calaveras County Library staff, Sal is the pre-eminent west Calaveras County historian. He will give us a presentation about one of the County's most notorious bank and stage coach robbers, Black Bart! It turns out Sal and his wife are also trainers of herding dogs. They have an arena at the ranch and we will enjoy a presentation by their dogs showing their skills at herding animals!

Upon leaving Burson, we will travel west to Galt through more scenic back roads, having lunch along the way (lunch stop to be determined). Arriving at Galt and checking in at the hotel, you will have time to "freshen up" before our Saturday evening "camaraderie dinner." Total driving mileage for Saturday will be close to 60 miles.

After breakfast Sunday morning, we will travel six miles to the town of Herald to see a automobile collection of about 400 automobiles! They range in age from 1906 to current day corvettes. I am told the buildings that house this large collection are almost as impressive as the collection itself! Our host, Gary Silva, will speak to us for a bit about his collection, and then we will be able to wander through it.

From the collection, we will travel either back to Galt for lunch, or to Acampo (again, to be determined). From either of these, Herman has explored a route that will return us to Farmington within about 35 or 40 miles. Depending on where we have lunch, we may be enjoying root beer floats at Boone's before everyone departs for home!

Lodging will be in Galt Saturday night, June 8th. We have found a motel complex that should meet our needs. There is a Days Inn that shares a parking lot with a La Quinta Hotel. They are both owned by the same business group. The parking lot is right between the hotels, and they have had car shows and car clubs stay there; they know our need for secure parking, as well as downstairs rooms for some of us! Rates for one night at Days Inn are \$110 + tax; at La Quinta, the rate is \$150/night + tax. See below. I have reserved a block of rooms for our group, eight at Days Inn, and two at La Quinta. The Manager will hold these rooms for us until May 31st, then she will put them back "up for grabs" in their reservation system again. Here is the information she sent via e-mail that explains how to reserve your room:

Tom,

So glad we were finally able to connect; here is that info again just so you have it:

For Days Inn we are selling at \$125.00 plus tax for the two queen bedrooms without discounts so I can offer a discounted rate of \$110.00 plus tax per room coming out to \$121.00 after tax

For La Quinta we are selling at \$180 plus tax for the two queen and one king beds without discounts so I can offer a group discount rate of \$150.00 plus tax per room coming out to \$165.00 after tax

Both locations have modern rooms but the amenities are different. Days Inn has a smaller continental breakfast where La Quinta has a full hot breakfast and also a lounge with full bar to purchase from.

Group Name: Dodge Brothers Club
8 rooms at Days Inn (two queen beds, ground floor)
2 rooms at La Quinta (one king, or two queens)

Guests can book through the link or by calling the property directly and mentioning the block name, Dodge Brothers Club. If you have any questions let me know, rooms not reserved will be released on 5/31. Thank you!

Days Inn (phone# 209-251-7331)

[Days Inn by Wyndham Galt | Galt, CA Hotels \(wyndhamhotels.com\)](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com)

La Quinta (phone# 209-251-7788)

[La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Galt Lodi North | Galt, CA Hotels \(wyndhamhotels.com\)](http://www.wyndhamhotels.com)

Again, you need to tell the person you talk to that you are with the Dodge Brothers Club to get the discounted rate.

The other costs of this Tour are “yet to be determined.” It depends on whether or not the restaurants we choose will allow us to order separately, give us a group discount, etc. Be looking for the amount to send in to me in the next newsletter.

Once you read this, please e-mail me to let me know of your attendance. That will help Herman and me as we look for lunch and dinner venues that will take a group of our size. So far, about eight families have told me they are “in” for this Tour; don’t be left out! Join us for a good time of DB driving, fun and camaraderie!

On to other tours:

Make sure you reserve September 14th and 15th for the Autos in History Park Tour out of Sordello’s home in Morgan Hill. Dodge Brothers is the featured antique auto for this year’s event and that probably won’t happen again for a long time. So make sure you call Mike to let him know you’ll be there so we have an excellent representation! On Sunday, September 15th, we will tour the Santa Clara Valley area, so the Kelly Park event is only on Saturday. See the attached Schedule of Events for contact information.

At the picnic, I sensed there were some who hesitated to commit to the Rain or Shine Tour to Monterey because of a misconception about the cost of perceived scheduled activities. Karl and Elvia know that Monterey is an expensive area; so, they are leaving as many of the costs of this Tour up to your discretion as possible. The plan/itinerary for this Tour is to travel from Hollister to Monterey on Friday, parking in the Fisherman’s Wharf parking lot for dinner which will be “on your own.” There are no scheduled activities for the rest of Friday. On Saturday we will travel the 17 Mile Drive (maybe \$17 or \$20 per car, but we are working on getting in for free!) and along the way have a catered TOGO’S picnic lunch which will be about \$17 per person. Saturday evening we will have our Camaraderie Dinner at a pizza parlor where everyone will order their own food so we don’t have to pay for a room to eat in together. On Sunday, (after a small breakfast at the hotel; you can go somewhere to get something more if you desire), we will return to Hollister and have hamburgers, hotdogs (BBQ’d by Karl), chips, drinks, etc., which will work out to \$10 or \$12 per person. So, there will be a lot of free time to explore and enjoy Monterey but that doesn’t have to be expensive; the suggestions about visiting the Aquarium, Cannery Row, etc., were just suggestions in case they were attractive to you. Most probably, Sharon and I will do what we always enjoy doing at Monterey (and there’s no cost!): driving along the coast looking at the ocean, tide pools, etc., on the many turn-outs along the City of Monterey ocean front. So just to be clear, other than the motel room for two nights, and probably \$5 for parking

at Fisherman's Wharf for dinner on Friday, the only other planned expenses of the Tour you will have to pay is for the picnic lunch along the 17 Mile Drive (and possibly the entry fee to get into the 17 Mile Drive) and lunch in Hollister on Sunday. All other food and "touristy type" things will be in addition to the basic Tour costs, and be at your cost and discretion. You can make it as expensive or inexpensive as you like. So, get on the phone and make your reservations at the Motel for this once in a lifetime experience of touring Monterey in your DB! I will be sending out Karl's write-ups on the Rain or Shine Tour in a e-mail to you after this one.

We have our first "Wanted" of the year from Russ Stewart:

Hi Tom, for your next newsletter, could you please mention that I'm looking for a steering box that would work with my 1937 1-ton Dodge panel truck? I've tried adjusting my existing steering box, but it didn't help much. It takes a quarter-turn of the steering wheel before the wheels move. So I'm hoping to replace it with something better.

Thanks,
Russ Stewart

Well, that's about it for now. Don't miss this upcoming tour, and don't sit around deciding whether to call or not for a room; once May 31st hits, the discounted rate disappears!

Tom B.