

Hello!

Sunday, March 30th, was our California Dodge Brothers and Sisters Kick-Off Picnic at Amador Valley Community Park in Pleasanton. It rained on and off all last week so we were sweating the weather until 11:30 p.m. Saturday evening. At that time, Siri's weather forecast finally got down to a 10% chance of rain at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, so we decided to go for it! I sent out an e-mail to everyone on our mailing list that the Picnic was "On!" This is a hardy group of DB people! By the time we were finished with lunch and a short Business meeting, the cold wind and overcast had turned to blue sky with white puffy clouds! It turned out to be a beautiful day by the end of our time there!

Frank Squire was waiting there when we arrived at noon. We wanted to get there an hour early so Erik Stewart could get hot dogs on the grill! As time went by, the rest of the group arrived: Karl and Elvia Skow; Elaine Gong; Lou MacMillan; Dorene Gomes; Mike and Suzette Sordello; David LeCount; Donn Marinovich and Sherrin Grout; Bob and Timber Vincent; Jim and Karen Oster; Herman and Barbara Boone; Roger and Leah Gong; John and Angelina Fornbacher; Wallace Brooks; and Travis, Julia, Allison, and Tyler Barham. Erik, Jennifer, and Justin Stewart, and Tom and Sharon Barham, rounded out the group of attendees.

We dug into an assortment of pot luck food and drink; we have wonderful cooks in this group! Everyone got "caught up" while enjoying lunch together.

After about an hour, we dove into a Business Meeting. We heard from our President, Travis Barham, about our bank account (healthy, with many dues checks collected at this meeting!!); our web page (californiadodgebrothers.org) and that it is attracting new members (3). Then we had presentations about our Spring Fling Tour, and our second October Monterey "Rain or Shine" Tour (see below for information on these). Then we discussed For Sales (Travis knows a person that wants to give away a '30's straight 8 sedan; only problem is that it is entirely in pieces in boxes! Located south of West Sacramento); and Wanteds (Frank Squire is looking for a working NorthEast starter/generator). After the meeting, most everybody hung around for at least a half hour; this group likes getting "caught up" and the weather was just beautiful!

Our next Tour opportunity will be our Capay Valley Spring Fling Tour out of the home of Joe and Dorene Gomes in Woodland. We will gather at their home on Saturday, May 3rd and tour together on both May 3rd and May 4th. A sign-up sheet along with information on the Tour, cost, etc., was handed out at the Picnic and I have included that sheet as an attachment to this newsletter. The cost for all meals is \$80 for the weekend (including light breakfasts, lunch, and our Saturday night camaraderie dinner) for adults and \$20 for children! Dorene needs your response and checks for this Tour as soon as possible so she can get a "head-count" as well as have the funds for meals. Our Saturday evening camaraderie dinner will be catered at their home with a menu including Tri-Tip or Chicken Marsala! Joe and Dorene have enough space to store everyone's tow vehicles, trailers, and DB's, so you don't have to worry about that detail. Additionally, they have graciously made available for sale to all participants, at their cost, gasoline and diesel fuel which they have on the property. Their wholesale cost is usually about 50 cents per gallon cheaper than retail and that's the price at which they will sell it to us!

(PLEASE NOTE YOU NEED TO PAY CASH FOR THE FUEL YOU PURCHASE! THEY ARE ABLE TO OFFER THIS TO US BECAUSE OF THEIR TRUCKING BUSINESS; THEY ARE NOT SET UP TO TAKE RETAIL CREDIT CARDS!)

Saturday's itinerary will center around the Capay Valley. We will be having picnic lunch at Capay Valley Lavender Farm on Saturday. The owner will have tables in the shade for us, give an intro, a demo, and anyone who wants to walk with him on a tour can do that, too. They have a store, restrooms and lavender ice cream for sale!

Sunday's itinerary will include the Town of Winters, as well as a visit to the Monticello Dam/Lake Berryessa area. We will return to Gomes' for lunch and dessert.

On the attached flyer, you will see the names and contact information for three hotels in Woodland. You must call to make your own reservations and they are not offering our group any special discount, but will honor a AAA discount so be sure to ask for it. Also, they have been alerted to our need for ground floor rooms and have said that they will try their best to provide them. Plan on getting to the hotel of your choice in your tow vehicle on Saturday evening; no one will have to

worry about their DB since it will be parked at Gomes' for the night. (There is no protected parking for DB's at any of the three hotels.) You can arrive at Gomes' home (see flyer for address) Friday anytime after noon, and unload your DB.

Please reserve May 3rd and May 4th on your calendar and get your check to Dorene as soon as possible. Then, call your choice of hotel to make sure you get a room; May 3rd is not that far away!!!

At the Picnic, Karl Skow told us about the second Monterey "Rain or Shine" Tour. Everyone had such a good time on this Tour last year Karl and Elvia have set it up again for us. I have attached the preliminary information about the Tour that Karl distributed at the Picnic. Please see the information presented in it and act accordingly. Once again, we will be staying at the Sunset Inn in Pacific Grove, and they have reserved all 17 of their rooms for us. They will hold them for us, at the special rate they have once again offered us, until August 10th. So that they can plan, and Karl and Elvia can plan, please reserve your room as soon as possible. Sunset Inn will refund your money if you cancel before 60 days before October 11th. If you cancel within 60 or less days before October 11th, you will most probably be charged for one (not two) night's stay.

Also, note that if you want to come to the area and stay overnight before the Tour (so you can easily make the Driver's and Navigator's Meeting on Friday, October 10th; remember that this is a three day Tour, and it starts on Friday), there are an assortment of hotels that Karl has talked to about our group and several of us stayed at those last year the night before the Tour.

Karl and Elvia said that details about an itinerary, etc. will follow. But if you talk with anybody who went on this Tour last year, you will hear about how much fun it was. So, make those reservations and let Karl and Elvia know of your participation as soon as possible!

I think that about covers it for this newsletter. If you missed the Picnic, you missed a good time, but our touring season promises more fun together in the near future! So come on out and enjoy the DB's with us and the DB people!!!

Tom B.
925.250.7494

WANTEDS:

Travis Barham is looking for a usable set of 24" or 25" wheels; wood or disc.

Frank Squire is looking for a working NorthEast Electric starter/generator.