

2025 SPRING FLING TOUR

The California Dodge Brothers and Sisters (californiadodgebrothers.org) group likes to use/drive our DB's, and members like to enjoy each others' company. Our Spring Fling Tour on May 3rd and 4th allowed us an opportunity to do just that!

From the home of Joe and Dorene Gomes, we traveled the Capay Valley, enjoyed our Saturday evening camaraderie dinner, and had a relaxing weekend together! Present were Dennis and Diane Strawn ('15 DB touring); Travis, Julia, Allison, and Tyler Barham ('24 DB touring); Erik, Jennifer, and Justin Stewart (Tom and Sharon Barham's '26 DB sedan); Amil and Sharon Gehrke ('28 DB phaeton); Bruce and Gloria Reid ('27 GB screenside); Herman and Barbara Boone ('33 DB sedan); Roger, Lynne, and Leah Gong ('17 DB touring); Russ and Trish Stewart ('37 DB MD-21 1 ton panel truck); Karl and Elvia Skow ('25 DB touring); Jim and Karen Oster, and Tom and Sharon Barham (both in current day iron).

On Saturday, May 3rd, we gathered at Gomes' home about 9:00 a.m. for our Driver's and Navigator's Meeting while enjoying coffee and baked "goodies" that "hit the spot!"



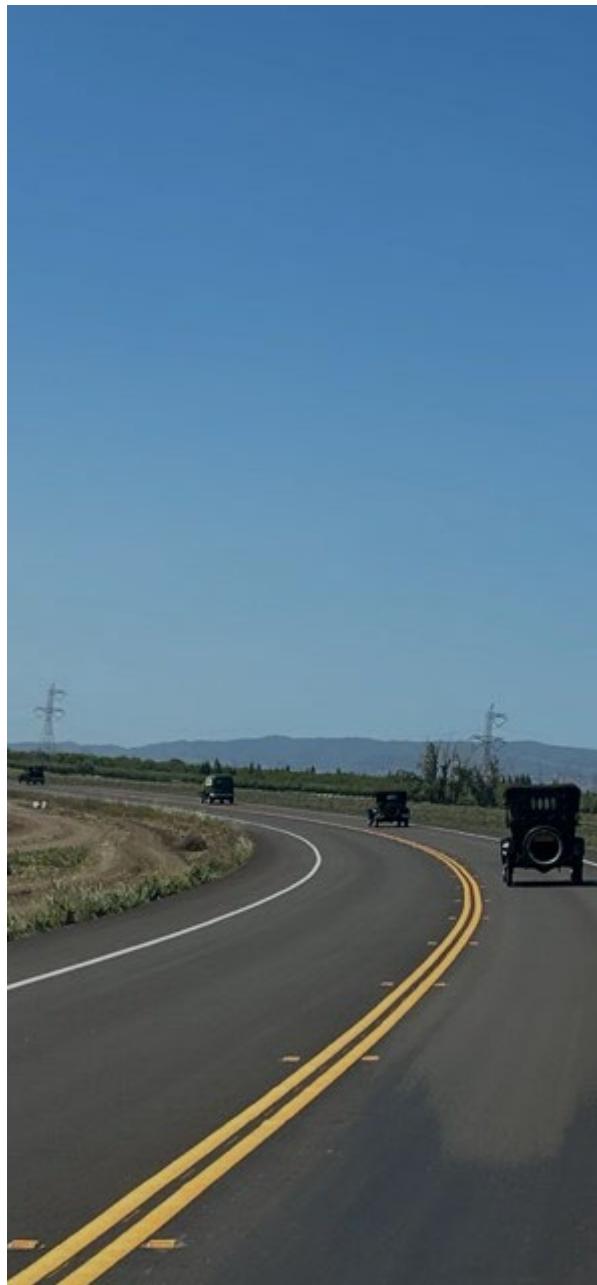


**GATHERING FOR THE DRIVER'S AND NAVIGATOR'S
MEETING**



GETTING READY TO GO!

Then it was off to explore the Capay Valley following Joe in the Gomes' 1930 Senior Six sedan. This valley is lush with crops and orchards. It is a flat plain between two mountain ranges and the "wide open spaces" effect of the scenery was enhanced by the beautiful weather, with lots of blue sky.



WIDE OPEN SPACES!

We traveled through the towns of Madison, Esparto, Capay, Brooks, and Guinda on our way to a “stretch stop” at the Cache Creek Casino. What an interesting sight: driving DB’s through the flat land of farms and orchards was like being back in the 1920’s, and then all of a sudden there appears a multi-story hotel

with lots of parking lot, manicured grounds, etc. It was a stark contrast!

We drove from Cache Creek Casino to Rumsey where we turned around to retrace some steps; we planned to go past Rumsey to Berryessa Snow Mountain, but were running late for our next stop. (We'll take in the trip north of Rumsey another time!)



TURNING AROUND AT RUMSEY

We traveled back past Cache Creek to our next stop, the Capay Valley Lavender Farm, where we were welcomed by the owner, Sherri Wood, and enjoyed a lunch set out under a big tarp for the shade it provided.



PARKED AT THE LAVENDER FARM

During lunch, Sherri told us about her farm. On 28 acres she grows several different varieties of lavender, and will be trying out Iris next season to see how it likes the soil and ambient temperature.



LAVENDER FARM WIDE ANGLE VIEW



LAVENDER FARM UP CLOSE!

After lunch, Sherri led a tour into the Distillery where she explained the process of extracting oil from the lavender.

The product produced has many commercial uses, but the most surprising one was to make lavender flavored ice cream, which is sold on the premises and sampled by many in our group!



AT THE DISTILLERY



FROM FUTURE DB DRIVER TO...



FUTURE LAVENDER FARMER!

We retraced our steps to return to Gomes' home after about 50 miles of touring. We had enough time before our traditional Saturday evening camaraderie dinner so that participants could return to their hotels to "freshen up" if they wanted to do so. Returning by 6:00 p.m., we enjoyed a dinner of Tri-tip, Chicken Marsala, salad, bread, vegetables and soft drinks catered by Cracchiolo's, an area favorite in Woodland. Dorene knows this group well: dessert was cobbler and ice cream!

After a wonderful meal we heard comments from our President, Travis Barham, and then adjourned to play Bingo for the rest of

the evening! Allison and Tyler Barham seemed to hit a lucky streak right off, but then the odds straightened out and others had a chance at the prizes for those yelling, “Bingo!”



SATURDAY NIGHT'S BIG BINGO WINNERS!

After all prize winnings were distributed, it was time to head for the hotels to “rest up” for the following day’s touring!

Once again on Sunday we were treated to “goodies” before the Driver’s and Navigator’s meeting. About 10:00 a.m. we had a brief description of our destination and route, and then started to prepare the DB’s for the day’s adventure. Only eight DB’s traveled the road this day; Reid’s had another engagement and Gongs had to leave their DB at Gomes’.

Once again, we enjoyed back roads and beautiful scenery on our way to our destination: Monticello Dam at Lake Berryessa. We toured through the historic town of Winters, and followed Putah Creek to the Dam. It is an impressive structure and can be viewed from a parking area/overlook where we assembled. The lake formed behind the dam holds 1.6 million acre feet of water. The dam is located in a very narrow canyon (called Devil’s Gate), which does not allow for a regular type of spillway. Instead, the “Glory Hole” is a 72’ wide concrete pipe which juts out just above the water. When the water level exceeds 440’ the water spills into the pipe at 362,000 gallons per second and 53 miles per hour! Completed in 1957, the hole has only activated to maintain maximum lake level 28 times in 68 years!



**AMIL GEHRKE AND HERMAN BOONE
ENJOYING THE STOP AT THE DAM**

After a group picture, we reversed course and meandered back to Gomes' home. No DB breakdowns after another 50 mile journey!

High winds had been blowing all day but the weather was still so pleasant that most of us sat outside to enjoy lunch, and more ice cream and cobbler!

People lingered past lunch because of the good time being had by all. But, alas, by about 3:00 p.m. folks began to say their “good-byes” as for some, it would be a four hour drive to return home!

It was a wonderful weekend; Joe and Dorene’s hospitality, and their willingness to allow all of us to invade their home was so much appreciated by all of us! So, thanks from all of us, Joe and Dorene; we hope you will have us back again to explore more of the Woodland area!

Check out our next opportunities to get together on our Schedule of Events on our website, and also included in the first newsletter of this year. Our next tour opportunity will be in October on the 10th – 12th. We will once again tour from Hollister to Monterey. This was a very popular tour last year and many have already expressed interest in doing it again this year. Karl and Elvia Skow are once again working out the details; as soon as I have them, I will get them out to everybody. In the meantime, make your room reservations at the Sunset Inn in Pacific Grove as there are only 17 rooms available. The rate for the hotel is \$249/night, which is about \$50 off per night from their usual rate. Call manager Rishi Patidar at 831.324.3400 and make sure you let him know you are with the Dodge Brothers group. If something comes up and you have to cancel your

reservation, you can do so without penalty as long as you do it before 60 days from the Tour. If you cancel in less than 60 days before the tour, you will most likely be charged for one night's lodging. If you need more detail at this point in time, call Karl.

That's it for now!

Tom Barham
925.250.7494

WANTEDS:

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