

Hi!

A year ago at the tour season Annual Kick-off Picnic of the California Dodge Brothers and Sisters, Karl Skow asked for a show of hands to see how many of us would be interested in a DB Tour from Hollister to Monterey, California. Many hands shot up, so Karl and Elvia Skow began the task of planning and organizing this Tour, which took place from October 25th – 27th this year. And they put together a wonderful experience for us!

We dubbed this the Rain or Shine Tour because lodging in Monterey is pretty expensive; if we got “rained out” with the DB’s, we were going to go anyway in modern iron since we would already have made our non-refundable reservations!

This was the first three day Tour that I can remember our group taking. It began on Friday, October 25th, starting at the Skow’s ranch in Hollister, California. Several tourists stayed in motels (arranged by the Skows for all those interested) overnight on Thursday to be able to make the planned 8:30 a.m. gathering time. Attendees could unload their DB’s at this time if they had not done so on Thursday.

Upon arrival at the Skow’s ranch, attendees unloaded and socialized under a tractor shed with coffee/donuts/bacon/and home-made breakfast casserole that was delicious. We got to explore the many barns and sheds on the Skow property and see an impressive collection of farm machinery, vehicles, and other items.

SKOW’S ’24
DB
TOURING
MARKING
THE
ENTRANCE
TO THEIR
RANCH!



At the Driver's and Navigator's meeting were: Amil and Sharon Gehrke ('30 DB rumble seat coupe); Elaine Gong ('30 DB rumble seat coupe); Travis and Tyler Barham ('24 DB Touring); Erik and Jennifer Stewart (and Justin, in Travis Barham's '25 DB Touring); Buzz and Sue Horn ('17 DB roadster); Russ and Trish Stewart ('37 DB MD-21 1 ton panel truck); Mike and Suzette Sordello ('22 DB Touring); Herman and Barbara Boone ('33 DB sedan); Joe and Dorene Gomes ('30 DB Senior Six sedan); and Knute and Maryjoan Kleinen ('36 DB sedan). Also present were Walt and Drucy Covington who came in current day iron because they ran out of time to get their DB roadable. The current day iron would turn out to be very good to have available on this adventure!



PRE-TOUR BREAKFAST AND DRIVER'S MEETING

After the driver's meeting we started off with a group photo in front of the original ranch house that Karl's 95 year old mother currently lives in independently.



GETTING READY TO TOUR

Joe and Doreen Gomes' DB Senior Six Sedan lost the gas cap somewhere between home and the Skow's property so they fashioned a rag in the fuel inlet that would be a temporary fix. They were also having low battery issues but got the car started and we were on our way to Monterey following Karl and Elvia in their '19 DB Touring.



STARTING OFF WITH BABY STROLLER MOUNTED ON LUGGAGE RACK!

We climbed the San Juan grade, a steep winding road with incredible views of the coastal valley. Some of us went up (and down) in second gear but all made it over the grade without issue. The road was very “authentic” to the time our cars were built and steering around large potholes and bumps became a sport.

We stopped at a park in San Juan Bautista where there was a very nicely remodeled clean public restroom facility and then continued a few blocks into town to the Mission for stretching our legs and checking water in the radiators. Available was a self-guided tour of the Mission grounds for those who were interested. Right behind the Mission runs the San Andreas fault line, and those that wished to could actually walk along the fault! This fault line is forecast to be able to create the big earthquakes in the region – as big as magnitude 8 – that would disrupt a wide-ranging area of the Central Valley.

Upon start-up from the Mission, the Gomes’ battery had finally given up and, courtesy of the Covingtons in their current day iron, they made a quick detour into town to purchase a new battery which did the trick and provided them very easy starting for the remainder of the tour. We continued onward to Salinas where we

stopped to stretch, use the bathroom and those that needed could top off their gas tanks.

After passing through some beautiful coastal farmland including a large lettuce operation we started seeing the scenery change to sand dunes and it wasn't long before you could catch a glimpse of Monterey Bay.

Downtown Monterey traffic caused our group to separate a bit, but we all made it into the parking lot of Fisherman's Wharf for a late lunch / early dinner on our own and exploring the area.



DB'S ENTERING MONTEREY



IN THE PARKING LOT AT FISHERMAN'S WHARF

Buzz and Sue Horn's 1917 Roadster started acting up so Buzz stayed back in the parking lot with Amil Gehrke while Sue Horn and Sharon Gehrke enjoyed dinner on the wharf. Unfortunately after some repairs and further troubleshooting it was decided that the Horn's roadster was done for the day, and, once again, we were very fortunate that Covingtons came in current day iron! They were able to take Buzz back to the Skow Ranch to pick up his trailer and the rest of us continued along the beautiful Monterey Coast through Pacific Grove to our motel.

Accommodations at the motel were wonderful: individual "cabins/bungalows" with comfortable beds, and clean and updated rooms; many with gas fireplaces which were used at night when the fog started rolling in. Elvia Skow impressed us with a professional looking and very large charcuterie board and we all enjoyed several hours of socialization and good food and drink sitting around the gas firepit on the patio at the motel.

Buzz returned with his trailer and Dodge, ready for heading home the next day. At the close of the evening those that opted to sleep with a window open could hear the sound of waves crashing.

Saturday morning we enjoyed a leisurely breakfast on the motel



patio. Buzz and Sue headed for home to work on their car and tend to other things and a group of us gathered in the parking lot to help troubleshoot Karl and Elvia's 1919 touring that was running very rich to the point it wouldn't even idle. A dislodged seat in the vacuum tank top was the culprit, allowing raw fuel to be sucked directly into the intake manifold. This was quickly staked back in place and our tour leader's car was back on the road and running strong!

Joined this day by Julia and Allison Barham, we left the motel for our tour of the 17 Mile Drive in Pebble Beach. A club member, Bob Scafani, lives in Pebble Beach so we all entered the gate as his personal guests. We did a complete loop of the 17 Mile Drive and enjoyed near perfect weather and some of the best scenery and views that the California Coast has to offer. We stopped near Asilomar where we took a group photo of our cars parked along a sandy beach with the Pacific Ocean just yards behind us.



DB'S AT
THE
BEACH!

A PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN DB HOOD
ORNAMENT!



Bob and Rosie Scafani were very kind to invite us to their truly amazing, newly-constructed home in Pebble Beach where we enjoyed a few hours for lunch on their patio sharing each others' company and catching up with a few people, like Alan Brohard, and Bob, who many of us hadn't seen for quite awhile.

After our lunch stop, we all went our separate ways for a free-afternoon to further explore the area or return to relax at the motel. We reconvened for dinner at Gianni's Pizza Parlor in Monterey.



OUR TRADITIONAL SATURDAY NIGHT
CAMARADERIE DINNER

This is a very popular and crowded establishment, but we soon realized why when all were greatly impressed by the food. They sat us at a long table in the back, so we had a nice opportunity to socialize with one another and enjoy a great dinner. Karl surprised us all with an entertaining and engaging “dinner program” that consisted of a ticket drawing where those whose number was called could go pick a prize. Many of us left with DB shirts, hats, and several other things that the Skow’s had generously taken the time to put together for us. We returned to the motel by the candlepower of Dodge Brothers headlights and continued the camaraderie at the motel patio gas firepit for several hours before heading to bed.



LEAVING MONTEREY SUNDAY. PACIFIC GROVE GOLF COURSE ON
RIGHT, PACIFIC OCEAN ON LEFT!

Sunday morning was another wonderful breakfast that Elvia Skow put together on the hotel patio. We had our drivers meeting and returned to Hollister to the Skow Ranch along a similar route to how we got there, stopping in Salinas for gas and returning up and over the San Juan grade. Upon arrival at the Skow’s ranch, we

loaded our DBs into trailers while Karl fired up at least 2 barbecues and treated us all to a BBQ lunch outside at a patio near his mom's historic home.



ENJOYING BBQ LUNCH AT SKOW'S RANCH

We said our goodbyes and left having enjoyed good company, good running DB's (mostly!), and perfect weather. As a matter of fact, Karl reported that it rained in Monterey two days after our tour, and poured five days after the tour. So, as he said, we missed the "Rain" part of the Monterey Rain or Shine Tour!

The consensus was that although Monterey can get expensive, this was a truly unique tour opportunity that was thoroughly enjoyed by all, so much so that we'd welcome the chance to do it again! A big "THANK YOU" to Karl and Elvia for a very well planned tour and excellent hosting which created a very memorable experience for all!

We encourage everybody in our group to participate. I want to thank nine year old Tyler Barham for his "write up" of his memories from this tour. It is included below. Without it I would not have found out that a blackbird actually joined his group for lunch inside the restaurant they patronized on Fisherman's Wharf!

The Dodge tour was so fun! When we left,
we saw so much coops of fruit and
vegetables. On the same day we went
Mission San Juan Bautista and after
we went to fishermen's wharf and to crabby
Me, Daddy, ~~xxxx~~, JJ, and Justin went to crabby
Jims. We also saw an otter and a bird. right
next to ~~daddy's~~ ^{saw} chair! The chesse
was great. On the second day, we just
drove around monteray. Those were some
of the things we did in monteray.

Tyler