

Club Jaguar of Mexico

22nd Gran Concorso Internacional de Elegancia

Photos provided by Tom Krefetz



Day 1: Thursday

At six o'clock in the morning on Thursday, April 17, the committee of judges was on its way to downtown San Diego. This was the first step to reach their ultimate destination, Mexico City. The committee was composed of Tom Krefetz, Harvey Williamson, Pete Rieth, of the San Diego Jaguar Club, Curtis Arndt, Chairman of the Austin Healey Concours, and Eduardo Palermini an expert restorer connoisseur. They were in route for Club Jaguar of Mexico's 22nd annual Gran Concorso Internacional de Elegancia.

The concours began with a group of Jaguar enthusiasts years ago who wanted to share their passion with the community. It grew more each year, and it is now the largest event of its kind in Mexico. The show has attracted many other clubs including Porsche, Mercedes, Alfa Romeo, Triumph, MG, Fiat, Ferrari, Mustang, Corvette, Chrysler, Micro Cars, and Volkswagen. Besides the JCNA concours, the event also includes a general concours comprised of the various car clubs' own choice. A best of show is chosen from all of the vehicles as well. Many automobile manufacturers sponsor this event, which

helps fund Club Jaguar's other events. A large portion of the proceeds is also donated to a local charity. Club Jaguar is an active, very social club, and they go on Saturday drives to have breakfast as a group driving an hour outside the city. They plan rallies and events to drive and enjoy their Jaguars. This is a wonderful organization that shares mutual interests in cars as well as friendship. Club Jaguar catered this event for their club and was a very good host to the judging committee and guests.

Arriving at the Santa Fe depot, the committee boarded the Volaris airline shuttle to Tijuana. They flew out of the Tijuana airport and about three hours later arrived at the Toluca airport. Toluca is less than an hour drive from Mexico City. Jeff Carlson, the Chief Judge for Club Jaguar Mexico, picked the committee up at the airport and took them to a beautiful, modern office building where the judging committee conducted a training session for Club Jaguar members. The office complex was in the middle of the high end ANTARA shopping mall in the very high tech Polanco district of Mexico City. During a three hour training session with judges from Mexico and the committee from San Diego, they

discussed current rules of judging and procedures as well as recent updates from JCNA's Annual General Meeting. After the session, dinner was in the Odion restaurant on the ground level of the same spectacular office complex. Reuniting their friendship from previous years, the men enjoyed great fellowship while sampling some authentic local dishes and spirits. After dinner they retired to the beautiful Santa Fe financial district and the gorgeous Camino Real Hotel.



farm's stable that has a lot of character and history. That afternoon all of the various new car manufacturers, vendors, and sponsors were setting up their displays, an effort that continued through the night. After the luncheon, the judges previewed the cars for the concours during the afternoon, and during the evening they enjoyed more fellowship at another wonderful restaurant. Then they retired back to their hotel.



Day 2: Friday

On Friday morning, Tom Krefetz went with Jeff Carlson to Julio Cesar Cuenca's automobile restoration shop to preview some of the cars that would be in the concours. Julio restores Jaguars and other classics for members of the Club Jaguar Mexico. From there Tom went to Jeff Carlson's home, as Jeff wanted to show the new addition to his shop to accommodate his Jaguar hobby. Jeff and Tom shuttled cars from Jeff's home to the Concours site. The event field for the concours was an old Equestrian field in Dos Rios of Huixquilucan, which is in the middle of the mountain country setting with a beautiful green surrounding about 10,000 feet above sea level. The rest of the committee went with David Shepherd of Club Jaguar who treated them to breakfast that day and shopping in an area dedicated to the preservation of traditional crafts. Later that day, the committee met with the other members from Club Jaguar Mexico and caravanned out to the field where the concours event would be held. The cars were placed on the field for judging, and later the men enjoyed a spectacular lunch celebration in Las Caballerizas restaurant. The restaurant is situated in a resplendently converted previous

Day 3: Saturday

The judging committee left early Saturday morning for the concours to prepare for an intense, arduous day of activities. Jaguar Cars Limited was a large sponsor, displaying the new XF model, XF turbo, and the XJR turbo. These exquisite Jaguars were presented in an enjoyable lounge setting with fashion models assisting with the previewing. Several factory dealers present were showing next year's model at their display area. Of particular note was Dodge's new 2009 Challenger, which was on display and later auctioned, serial number one. Being this is the largest Concours in Mexico the manufacturers' marketing campaigns begin at this event and then spread across the country to other cities for marketing and promotion. After a brief meeting, the judges divided into teams for the JCNA Concours and started judging the Jaguar classes. Line up on the field was excellent. By 4 PM the judging was completed, and the remainder of the day was spent enjoying the scenery, over three hundred vintage vehicles on display, and socializing with club members. As night descended, they retreated back to their hotel for dinner at the Guadiana restaurant. It was a spectacular experience and great fellowship.



combined Club Jaguar and committee was a great time spent reminiscing long into the night in Club Jaguar's tent with only a Jaguar's headlights to illuminate the setting. At about 1 AM, the group was hungry and ventured downtown into Mexico City to a taco stand, the only thing open, for traditional home cooking before calling it a night and heading to their hotel at 2 AM.

Day 4: Sunday

Sunday morning the committee returned for the general concours. The judges previewed the general event, and the committee was assigned to assess three of the best cars from each category. The winners would be chosen from the best of these cars. The three categories chosen were Best European Car, Best American Car, and the Best of Show. After two days of judging, the awards ceremony took place at 4 PM. The awards ceremony was very festive and special. It was well attended and began with a fashion show with local models in beautiful spring apparel. Concours Chairman and Club Jaguar Mexico President Emeritus Enrique Villa with



Day 5: Monday

Monday morning the committee was on their way home, departing from their hotel at 8 AM for the Toluca airport and their Volaris direct flight to Tijuana. The Volaris shuttle in Tijuana picked them up and returned them to the Santa Fe depot they left from 4 days earlier. For those who have concerns with crossing the border, this was an excellent way to travel that was arranged by friends in Club Jaguar Mexico. Tom's wife, Debbie, picked the men up and brought them back to North County, San Diego. Tom



Club Jaguar Mexico President Alejandro Isoard Viesca bestowed the awards and made presentations to the audience. Eduardo Palermi made a brief presentation to the crowd in Spanish on behalf of the SDJC committee. Sunday night among the



Krefetz summarizes the event saying, "This is an event we all look forward to every year. Everything about it is fantastic. There are long days with a lot to do, but the time goes quickly. What we come back with are memories and continuing friendships." This was Tom's third year of attending, organizing, training, and judging at the Grand Concorso in Mexico City. It was Harvey Williamson and Pete Rieth's second year. Club Jaguar Mexico enjoyed participation in the past JCNA challenge in Indianapolis, and they attended the AGM in Pittsburgh. Several members of Club Jaguar Mexico with some of their best vehicles are expected to attend the SDJC annual concours at the Spanish Landing in San Diego on July 20, and then they are off to the JCNA 50th Anniversary celebration in Grand Junction, Colorado in late July. judges look forward to this next opportunity for a growing, educational, and enjoyable interchange.



Best American

Best European



Best in Show