

AutoSCENE

Jaguar Club of Minnesota



Glenn Nickleski, president of the Jaguar Club of Minnesota, says he was "smitten with the British sports-car bug in college." He always wanted an E-type Jag because he liked its lines and wire wheels but couldn't find an affordable XKE until he bought a '68 roadster a few years ago.

Elaine Brahms, the club's membership coordinator, got her 1973 XJ12 sedan as a present from her husband after answering "a Jag" when he asked her what kind of car she'd like if she could have anything she wanted. "I just thought they were very sleek-looking cars," she says.

Dick Jones, former club president and current webmaster, has a 1970 XKE roadster and an '85 XJS V-12. He not only likes Jaguars' speed and sense of style, but their "quirky Britishness" as well. "We love our Jags," he says of club members.

Whether their cars are older, or the newer state-of-the-art models that require a paragraph to list all their features, Jags are known for style, so it's not surprising that this uncommon style is what attracted the club's 140 or so Jag owners and admirers.

You don't have to own a Jag to be in the club, (which turns 30 next year), but most members have, or once owned, one. The membership is diverse, including many "non-tycoons," with most members living in the metro area. Annual dues are \$40 and the club publishes a quarterly newsletter.

Members say the club is primarily a social group for people who appreciate Jags, but members also volunteer for organizations like Feed My Starving Children. And the club's two monthly events include

drives and tech sessions at members' garages and auto facilities (including Downtown Jaguar) in addition to things like pub nights, holiday parties and summer picnics.

Members who own newer models are more into driving their Jags, while owners of older models like to work on their cars more, according to Nickleski, so events cater to both interests.

The club occasionally sponsors longer drives. One circled Lake Superior. A trip to Des Moines earlier this year helped an Iowa Jaguar club set up shop. Club members' Jaguars can usually be spotted at the All-British Car Show (the Ellingson Car Museum in Rogers every August), the Midwest Premier Concours d'Elegance (Rice Park, downtown St. Paul, June), the Stone Arch Car Show (Minneapolis, June) and other area shows.

Next year, for the first time, the club will sponsor Rendezvous, a three-day meet for Upper Midwest owners of all sorts of vintage foreign cars. The event, in Grand Rapids June 14-17, takes place in Canada every other year and has four sponsor clubs, two Canadian and two from Minnesota (the Minnesota Austin-Healey Club is the other one here). Rendezvous activities include a charity car show, a speed run on the local airport's runway, a road rally and more.

For more information on the Jaguar Club of Minnesota, call 651-439-3948 or visit www.jaguarminnesota.org.

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