

Stu Slattery is our "Guest Writer" for this month. Stu's account of the CCRG is "Right On" Thanks Stu for a great job! - Ed.

Central California Regional Group Jamboree

May 1, 2, & 3, 2009

By guest writer Stu Slattery

When Suzie and I arrived at the meeting place Eddie Pruett and Ken Koop were working on Ken's sedan. Apparently the driver's door window glass had separated from the riser so the window would not roll up. This would not have been a problem except the forecast called for rain.

Shortly after Suzie and I arrived, Stan & Mary Nicks showed up, then Cliff & Sharon Connelly, then Dan & Shelby Foulk.

The window problem had turned into a potential chicken moment since the departure time was 1 PM, and at 1:03 Eddie and Ken went looking for nuts and bolts.

Art & Jane Tibbetts showed up at 1:05 with motor home and car in trailer. Slight reprieve of the chicken moment, but the window not fixed yet. Rick & Sharon Davis showed up at 1:09 and Debbie Launer at 1:10. The window was fixed at 1:09:30. No bubble gum or bailing wire was harmed in the repair, and the chicken was narrowly avoided. At 1:20 we were underway.

The drive to Porterville went well until we approached town. We got a bit spread out with Eddie leading the way the whole gang was ahead of us with Art & Jane right behind us. Rick and Sharon were about three quarters of a mile ahead, and we watch them following Eddie 'NeverLost' Pruett drive past the Hwy 190 exit. Apparently on their way to who knows where? Of course we took the 190 exit and drove less than a half mile to the hotel. We were checked in, registered, and had been to our room before the gang showed up.

We heard hard luck stories almost immediately upon arrival. A car from the coast blew a rod close to home. Two cars from Fresno threw fans. We also, heard a story of a car being hit in a parking lot at a lunch stop. Guess we were lucky to get here with no problems.

I might note that the group that got lost getting here had no problem finding the hospitality room. There were plenty of good things to eat (cookies, chips, fruit, etc.), plus water, soda and coffee for those that were thirsty.

Rain was forecast for Friday night and early Saturday. It started at about 4 PM for a short time followed by dust. By 5 PM it was raining, and rained through the CCRG Jamboree BBQ. Sharon Davis was the only one prepared for rain with her psychedelic garage sale rain coat.

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The BBQ put on by the CCRG Board of Directors and Representatives was a success in spite of the rain. Tri Tip, beans, salad, role, and Häagen-Dazs ice cream for desert. Mmmmm Mmmmm.

It rained most of Friday night, but Saturday dawned with the sun shinning through the clouds. The swap meet consisted of a 30 pickup full of Kelsey Hayes 16 inch wheels.

We went on the Sierra Tour. Seven cars made the 54 mile round trip through Springville to SCICON, a Tulare County Schools science and conservation camp. It was a very nice camp and beautiful scenery coming and going.

Saturday night's banquet consisted of ribs and chicken which were quite good by all accounts. The Jacquie Conley award was awarded to Janet Andrews (security-treasurer of CCRG). Les Andrews, MAFCA President, was present and gave a state of MAFCA talk. Garth Shreading, MAFCA Board member and Bakersfield Chapter member handed out MAFCA Longevity awards to our Club members Stu & Suzie Slattery 25 years and Mike Budy 40 years.

Some of our members did O.K. on the raffle. Al & Judy Baumgarten won 8 coffee mugs, Stan & Mary Nicks won a blanket & a case of oranges, Cliff Connelly won a starter drive, Garth won the Model A Advertising book & a Snider's gift certificate for \$50, and the rest of us got to take home fond memories.

Sunday morning most of our Club went home after breakfast. Some of us (Slattery, Nicks, Albitre, Brancato, Baumgarten, Foulk, and Launer) decided to make a stop in Exeter on the way. When we first arrived we all parked together except Al & Judy.



We all went to the True Value Hardware where Ernie and Dan bought chairs.



We walked around town admiring the murals, and found Al with the starter on the tail gate of the station wagon. Seems the bendix spring had broken. Andy hung out and helped Al. They had it fixed before lunch

We had lunch at the café. We sat outside in the shade with the temperature at about 82 degrees. The food, service and company were very good.

After lunch we headed south on Hwy 65, and then bypassed Lindsay and Porterville via J27 and then worked our way to Road 208. We took 208 to Richgrove. On 208 there were many sights. There were a couple of iris farms in full bloom, almond orchards, oranges, walnuts, pistachios, pecans, all kinds of grain crops, two large draft horses, and at least 8 dinosaurs. Really, dinosaurs. We parted company at Lerdo Hwy and Hwy 99.

We all had a great weekend at the CCRG Jamboree with many thanks to the Happy Honkers, kings River and everyone else who pitched in.

Mark your calendar for next years CCRG Jamboree put on by Questa Crankers. May 13, 14, and 15, 2010.