

## 17th Annual California Autumn Classic

By Dick France

October 17th & 18th were great days for British Car lovers. The California Autumn Classic, held in Morgan Hill, included a great tour and car show strictly for British two-passenger sports cars and their 2 + 2 derivatives. I understand the Saturday tour was well attended and enjoyed by all. Following the tour there was a group dinner held at Mama Mia's Italian Restaurant in Morgan Hill.

On Sunday the weather started out great and continued that way all day. The sun was out but there was a bit of a breeze and fluffy clouds that kept the temperature reasonable. The excellent organization showed up at the start of the day with more than enough volunteers to assure you entered at the correct check point and were guided to your assigned spot on the street. Entry times were staggered so as to avoid long lines at the check-in points with boiling cars and occupants--it worked very well.

Morgan Hill has a delightful downtown area with a treed divider down the middle of the main street. Several blocks were cordoned off for the parked cars and pedestrians. The cars were backed in at an angle to the curb. This made it very nice for unloading the car and piling the stuff against the business building. In addition it was a nice area for just setting up the chairs with their backs to the building, and where the trees didn't, the building overhang provided shade. Our spot was directly in front of a Mexican Restaurant which was real nice came lunch time. We got a table just inside the restaurant and

could keep our eye on the car while we relaxed with the stuff and refried beans.

We saw lots of JAG friends there including: Alex Kennett who stopped by early, Larry & Dolly Wilson, who had the only Series III V-12 at the show, Gils LeSage with his crowd-drawing modified XK 120, Jeff Chew with his award winning 1969 S2 XKE Roadster, Jim Christian with his red 1968 S2 XKE Roadster, Dave Jensen with his prior best of show 1954 XK 140SE Roadster, Norm Weinfeld with his 1957 XK 140 Drop Head Coupe, and George & Andrea Barry who had two cars in the show, a 1959XK 150S Coupe and a 1964 S1 XKE Roadster plus a mama and offspring Jaguar protecting the E-type. Dick and Norma France had their 1953 XK 120 FHC in the show. JAG member Tim Moriarty brought his MGA to the show.

Judging is done by 25 volunteer car owners from different marquee clubs. It is a popular choice, judging based generally on condition, presentation and originality. Norma and I highly approved of the judging system when they placed a blue ribbon on our car designating that it was 1st in class. The presentation of the 1st place silver plates went very smoothly. The winners just fell into line when they arrived from their parking places and they went to the awards location in that order. It was a great show and we will certainly be back again next year.



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