

SDJC Tours the Autowerks and Dines at Gingham

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On Saturday, May 11th, the San Diego Jaguar Club met at Philip Thearle's Autowerks Collision Center where we were given a tour of this state-of-the-art auto body repair shop located in Santee near the intersection of 125 and Mission Gorge road.

This tour was particularly interesting for Jaguar owners as Autowerks has been the "go-to" shop for Jaguar San Diego and its predecessor, Jaguar Kearny Mesa, for years. It is the only facility licensed by Jaguar to work on their aluminum-bodied cars.

All this is especially noteworthy for Club members because, even though WE never dent our beautiful cars, sometimes an exuberant parking valet will.... In fact, my own XK8 was in there, not for damage, but for help in preparation for the up-coming show season. The Autowerks repainted the front end, replaced a marred grille bar, and touched up scratches and chips that picky judges have rudely pointed out at earlier shows. See how it turned out on page 26.



Owner Philip Thearle gives a quick brief before the tour



A Portfolio in for minor repairs



A cocooned XK8 awaits the next step

Philip Theodore's
AUTOWERKS
COLLISION CENTER



Philip displays a state-of-the-art jig

Club members enjoyed soft drinks and pizza as we toured the spotless facility. Philip quickly made us realize that, long gone are the days of beating a fender with a ball-peen hammer and filling in the rest with Bondo. Everything in his shop was modern and state-of-the-art. Computers are used to assist cost estimates and parts ordering. Computers are also used to re-align badly damaged cars to specifications closer than factory.

It was an exciting and educational tour. Even Kathleen Steele stated she would rather tour Philip's facility than shop!

The Club very much appreciates Phil and his staff members coming in on their day off to provide us with such an informative tour.



My XK8 looks ready to go.....like new again



Parts drying



Some of our member's Jags in the parking lot



Candidate for the Autowerks. I told Tim Woodard to check that parking brake!

GINGHAM



Our private room included Bullwinkle



Haley (on the right) and her friend Nicole were in charge of the check-in table and flirting with the waiters.



Table 1



Table 2

After the tour, I led the group on a short drive from Santee through Mission Gorge and Del Cerro to La Mesa for dinner at Gingham. We got there a little early so we took the opportunity to cocktail on the patio and enjoy the warm weather while we waited.

Those of you who missed the dinner at Gingham didn't miss much I'm afraid. We were served items that were not on the menu we had previously agreed on. They were out of many sides and appetizers, and some of the food was so tough you couldn't cut it. Shoe leather came to mind. Service was extremely slow. Other than that, it was pretty good. (Other than that Mrs. Lincoln, how did you enjoy the play?)

For ordinary human beings, it would have been a total disaster, but for SDJC members it was just another opportunity to have a good laugh. God bless 'em. Most members said what the heck; they didn't come to a world-renown Brian Malarkey restaurant to have delicious food and great service, they came

Table 1 - L-R Al Steele, Grant and Nedra Rummell, Bob Proctor, Harvey Williamson, Kathleen Steele, Tolly Williamson, Joe Harding, Ali Proctor, Diane McDonald, Ann and Jay Stamets.

Table 2 - L-R Reg L'Abbe, Bob Buchanan, Sue Turner, Denise Picksley, Pat Harding, Mendi Wyatt, Jorgene Jensen and Nicole Phelps are hard to see, me, Haley, Dan Jensen, Lynn Wyatt, Phyllis Yates, Pete Picksley, Craig Turner, and Rodger Prater.

to have fun with their friends and talk about Jags. As the host, I drank heavily and pretended nothing was wrong.

Diane held another fantastic raffle with many interesting and useful gifts. It was the highlight of the evening. Thank you again Diane!

All in all, it couldn't have been too bad because when we found out later that the restaurant closed its doors **forever** the day after our event, attendees graciously called off my burning in effigy.

