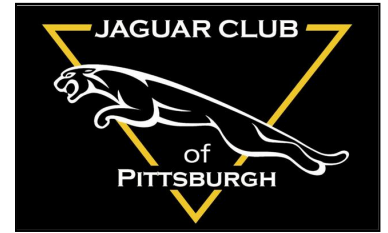


Jaguar Jargon



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MARCH 2025

JCOP Loses a Long-Time Member and a Good Friend with the Passing of David Gestler

By Craig Gestler

The Jaguar world lost one of its biggest fans February 24th. My father, David Gestler, passed away after a short illness. He was 88 years young and still looking forward to driving his Jaguars this coming spring.

Dad had a mechanical aptitude from a very young age. He and his childhood buddy Ronnie built a four-wheeled jalopy using junkyard parts and the drivetrain from a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. The interest in all things mechanical eventually turned into a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Pittsburgh and then a long career with Rockwell and its many incarnations in later years. He retired in 2000 from his final position in international sales and marketing.

Dad's pride and joy, a 1953 XK-120 OTS, was acquired in 1960 for the sum of nine hundred dollars, five years before he "acquired" me. I was indoctrinated at a very early age and never looked back. The Jag was a neighborhood draw, with its swoopy body and straight-through dual exhaust, during the automotive dark years of the late 70's and 80's.

Duty to family and work always came first and I recall several years when the XK-120 did not move one inch. I'm sure that inside he wanted to rebuild the front suspension to get rid of that shimmy so he could take it out but the time was not available. It would have to wait. His days of autocrossing a lightly modified Corvair were long over at this point, too.

Mom and dad were always collectors. Not in the junky, hoarder kind of way, though. They knew what they liked and took it to the fullest. Dad's collection of old sports car magazines, Jaguar specific magazines and Jaguar literature is borderline bonkers. I don't think he had the ability to walk out of an antique store without a Jaguar ad, sales brochure or magazine that featured a Jaguar. Some of the documents have notes about the relevance to his cars.



David Gestler and his pride and joy, his 1953 XK-120 OTS. Photos submitted by Craig Gestler

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In 1990, the metering division of Rockwell was sold to BTR in the UK. Dad got new business cards with a new company name just like everyone else but he also received some sort of payout as a result. The only sensible thing to do with this new-found money (that probably should have gone into a retirement account) was to buy an E-Type with me. He fronted the money and I paid back my half (with interest!) over the next three years. The car spent most of its time with me and I don't think he minded one bit.



As the years went by, his automotive activities moved from emergency engine rebuilds toward polishing and cleaning. In the early 70's, I can recall dad rebuilding the engine in the Corvair Greenbrier camper van in mid December so that we would have a family sized vehicle that would make it to Florida for Christmas. In the early 2000's he acquired a Series 3 XJ6 which he disassembled but then needed some help from his master mechanic son-in-law, Don, to get back into running condition in less than three years. Over the last few years, as he lost confidence in his own abilities, Don or I

would be called upon for every automotive task. On dad's list of things I needed to accomplish this winter were to get the speedometer working and replace the brake light switch on the XK-120. I failed.



I had the opportunity to take one last road trip with dad this past fall. It felt very much like the old rock and roll band, now graying and living with back pain, heading out on their final tour. We stopped by to see the remains of his place in Englewood, Florida, destroyed by Milton and we visited his brother in Atlanta, who sadly died a few weeks before dad. Through all this, dad remained stoic, but you could tell it took a toll on him.

As I reflect back on life, I'm reminded that I could not have asked for a better dad. In fact, my wish is that everyone could have a dad like David J. Gestler

Dad,...I promise that I will get that speedo working and shatter some windows with that exhaust.

Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh 2025 Events Calendar



- March 29** Karting Event with Audi and Mercedes-Benz clubs at Full Throttle Adrenaline Park, dinner to follow at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza, both in Monroeville
- May 18** JCOP Picnic at Roosevelt Shelter at North Park
(Hosted by Stu Benson and Mike Zappa)
- June 1** Sunday Afternoon North Hills Car Road Tour & Dinner at Middle Road Inn
(Hosted by Stu Benson with the West Penn Miata Club invited to join JCOP)
- June 28** Veterans Car Show at Southwestern Veterans Center with Steel Town Corvette Club
- August 9** Sewickley Car Show for Exceptional Cars (Chuck Pipich)
- August 23** Jaguars at Jacksons (Hosted by Dave and Karen Gamret)
- September 20** Pittsburgh Concours d'Elegance at Fox Chapel Yacht Club (Bryan Williams)
- September 28** British Cars at Hartwood (Coordinated by Jack Terrick, Stu Benson, Mike Zappa)

Jaguar Clubs of North America Upcoming Events

The Delaware Valley Jaguar Club invites JCNA members to participate in the 2025 JCNA Annual General Meeting, scheduled from April 24 through 27, 2025 at the Sheraton Valley Forge, 480 N. Gulph Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

This location is approximately 50 minutes from the Philadelphia International Airport. It is close to the Valley Forge National Historic Park, the King of Prussia Mall, and the Valley Forge Casino.



The event chairman is Bill Beible (president@delvaljaguarclub.com or 610-223-1051).

For more information: www.jcna.com/events/2025-jcna-annual-general-meeting

- May 24, 2025:** Susquehanna Valley Jaguar Club will hold its 18th annual JCNA sanctioned Concours d'Elegance on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at Sunset Lane Park, York, Pennsylvania. Trailer parking available. A caterer available, along with a pavilion and picnic tables for lunch. Contact: Dave Hershey, 717-846-0642, email: ivestrainboy@aol.com Application is in this issue of the Jargon.

Other Events of Interest to JCOP Members

- July 6-20, 2025** Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix
Website: www.pvgp.org



“Double Clutching and Rev Matching”

President’s Perspective

Rich Aronson



March 2025

First Ever! March 29 Karting Event with Audi and Mercedes-Benz Club

We’re pleased to have arranged a first ever JCOP karting event at the end of this month, Saturday March 29. We’re joining Audi and Mercedes clubs at the Full Throttle Adrenaline Park near the Monroeville Mall at 3:30 pm. JCOP members (team of drivers) signed up promptly upon Stu Benson’s email invitation to members, *so we’re fully subscribed* unless folks cancel so immediate enthusiasm has been very high for this first-ever type of event for us.

**Karting at Full Throttle Adrenaline Park
Saturday, March 29, 2025**

Meet at 3:30 PM

Full Throttle Indoor Karting

Monroeville Mall (across the parking lot from the Cinemark)

**[360 Mall Circle Drive](#)
[Monroeville, PA 15146](#)**

Stu Benson, (412) 491-1586, our Treasurer and immediate past president, is leading the JCOP kart drivers as our organizer, assisted by Ken Como and renowned, veteran vintage auto and kart racer Mike Zappa. I discussed some useful driving and safety tips with Mike who’d like to pass them on to experienced and beginning drivers alike:

Drivers – do not wreck!!! Though sounding basic, Mike advises (as do all cart tracks’ rules) that intentional contact with other carts, their wheels or cart body is not permitted and could result in being pulled off the track. Mike also wishes to remind us that although the walls of the track are spring-loaded, coming into contact with them could still be painful or jarring at the least and of course cost you time as well as comfort! Injury could also result. These carts, in particular, are very high torque electric-powered capable of speeds up to 45 mph.



Photos by Ken Como

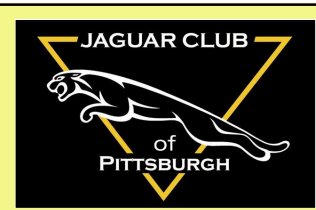
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“Double Clutching and Rev Matching”

President’s Perspective

Rich Aronson



Wear all your gear, helmet, neck brace, sturdy shoes and adequate body-covering apparel

Learn the configuration and layout of the track *on your first lap*. Take it easy and focus on the course before you assume higher speed. This initial lap will enable you to test your brakes and throttle response(s) as well.

Once you feel comfortable, increase your speed

When you think you can go faster try to be smooth...avoid jumpy “on and off” application of the throttle and brakes!

If you slide in the corners, try a little opposite lock on the steering wheel. Do not lift off the throttle – you may lose control if you do

Note that “opposite lock” is when you turn the steering wheel in the direction of the rear end slide – similar to winter driving on icy roads

Mike did not elaborate on the racing technique of “clipping the apex,” but did mention it as a classic technique of coming into a corner from the outside, following the line across the corner closest as possible to its apex and exiting the curve moving back outside to preserve as much safe speed and smooth driving as possible – but in the end, just have fun and enjoy the thrill!

Review the track rules before driving. This may help avoid “surprises” you may not have been aware

Confer with teammates and “Leader of the Pack” Stu Benson the day of the race if you’ve questions.

Thanks, Mike Zappa for these tips, and so...
Ladies and Gentlemen, Start your *Motors!*

Our Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh Web Site

Being early in my “presidential term,” I simply wish to recommend that all of you wander on to our JCOP web site (jaguarclubofpittsburgh.org) designed brilliantly by Dolly Taskey in conjunction with past presidents Dave Gamret and Stu Benson. I find it artistically designed, intuitive to navigate and chock full of interesting, varied, informative and sentimental historical information. JCNA awarded it and Dolly Web Site of the Year among all clubs in 2022 after it rolled out in 2021, and deservedly so.

Besides acting as a chronicle of our events, replete with pictures by year bringing back so many memories of our cars, members and the “feel” of our experiences, it is a wonderful point of reference for a wide range of important information.

Included but not exclusively are JCOP Policies, By-laws, back issues of the *Jargon* and our membership list/data under our “Members Only” area. Stu Benson, our Membership Chair as well as current Treasurer updates the latter often along with Dolly Taskey.

To access the Members Only area, a discussion with any Board Member can provide you with the password if you’re not aware of it already. Or just call me or Stu Benson to learn the password once we can confirm the caller is legitimately a JCOP member. You will enjoy the Photo Gallery and many other sections. This is particularly true as we await better weather prior to our cars coming out for event season beginning this spring. I guess then we can finally trade potholes and road salt/brine just in time for spring-time construction, loose gravel and “normal” road hazards here in western PA!

Continued on next page



“Double Clutching and Rev Matching”

President’s Perspective

Rich Aronson



Remembering our Long-Time Member David Gestler

We learned sadly that we lost recently our dear friend, long-time member David Gestler Monday night, February 24, 2025 after a short illness. David was 88 years of age and active in JCOP events for over fifty years. Please look for David’s son, Craig’s, personal tribute to his dad in this issue. Craig is our club’s Second Vice President and is also active in the club and like his dad. Craig is also known for his enthusiasm for vintage Jaguars – so much so in fact that his current restoration to a very high level of his 1966 Mark II saloon is documented here in the *Jargon* by a series of detailed, interesting articles complete with photos. Those articles detail his expert adaptive engineering, meticulous component repair and high-quality restoration workmanship.

All of us at JCOP wish Craig and his family sincere, deep condolences for the loss of his amazing dad. As for David, he will be lovingly remembered by all of us for his expertise, passion and consistent enthusiasm for Jaguars and club members alike - all of whom considered him to be a true friend.

David’s black 1953 XK-120 OTS has been purring along as a gorgeous original car under his care since he purchased it in 1960 as a low mileage example – a car of important historical significance for its originality and documentation.

David also was always proud to discuss his car with all of us (especially fellow-XK-120 owners) and learn more about what we club members were up to as he attended many of our events right up to the end of last year. We will miss him and are so thankful for how much we learned from him and how we were able to enjoy his delightful company often at our events.

Cheers and Happy Motoring, David!



David Gestler receiving his first-place award for his 1986 XJ6 Series 3 from Stu Benson at JCOP’s 2024 Concours d’Elegance.

Photos by Candy Williams



Two New Thrilling Race Tracks for the Grand Prix in Schenley Park!

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is ready for racing action this summer! With the Panther Hollow Bridge closed for repairs, we're shifting gears and creating two thrilling new track events for the July 19-20 Vintage Weekend in Schenley Park.

"We are rerouting the vintage street race onto Overlook Drive and forming a new Hillclimb event to continue the racing action to the golf course," exclaimed PVGP Competition Director Joe Teplitz. "This represents a major enhancement to our Schenley Park offering...for both spectators and drivers. We've always considered how to incorporate the Schenley Oval into our course, and this does it. The uphill sweeping esses with Oakland and the City of Pittsburgh in the background will be spectacular!"

PANTHER HOLLOW HILLCLIMB

For the first time ever, the PVGP is introducing a Hillclimb in Schenley Park. Starting near Phipps Conservatory and the Schenley Park Visitors Center, this intense 1-mile hillclimb charges up the historic, stone-walled Circuit Drive, winding through the park to the Bob O'Connor Golf Course and thousands of fans will cheer them on to the finish line at the Neill Log House.



If you are unfamiliar with Hillclimbs, you will be pleased to hear that they are still vintage racing. The cars will accelerate through the park at the same speeds as our past races. The Goodwood Hillclimb is regarded as one of the best vintage automotive events in the world, and we plan to host a similar event.

The hillclimb offers drivers an opportunity to compete with cars considered too valuable or inappropriate for wheel-to-wheel competition. In a hillclimb, cars run one at a time against the clock. For details, visit pvgp.org.

There will be 4 groups of cars:

- **Unlimited:** Race-qualified cars over 3.0 liters, driven by race-qualified drivers
- **Large Bore:** Race-qualified cars from 2.0 liters to 3.0 liters, driven by race-qualified drivers
- **Small Bore:** Race-qualified cars under 2.0 liters, driven by race-qualified drivers
- **Historic:** Cars with historic significance (1940s and older).

For more details on all the PVGP events, visit pvgp.org

FOR SALE: 1956 Jaguar XK 140 SE/MC OTS

FOR SALE: I am offering this award-winning XK 140 SE/MC OTS (in photo at right) for sale to JCOP members (and your friends) before listing on Bring a Trailer. Dan Fowler has gone over the mechanicals and Dave Ley the exterior and interior all in preparation to impress auction bidders - don't let this one get away. The Hagerty price guide has the 1956 XK 140 MC Roadster between \$75,000 (condition #3) and \$122,000 (condition #2).



History from the 1980s Pebble Beach Concours d' Elegance to 2024 PVGP British Car Day is available on request. The Car is in storage at Dan Fowler's FAST Company location in Glenshaw, PA and can be easily viewed by appointment. Jim Southwood jsouthwood@southwoodpartners-llc.com Mobile: 724-494-7475

FOR SALE: 1969 Jaguar E-Type Coupe

Excellent Condition car that I have owned for 18 years. Stripped and repainted in 2018 on a solid rust free body. Always garage kept and well maintained by owner. Equipped with 3-SU Carbs and Pertronix. Odometer shows just over 21,000 miles.

Email or call Gary Kincel for more details and to discuss price. Gkincel64@gmail.com , 412-638-2715.

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The first generation of electric road vehicles from Jaguar drew inspiration from our racing team activities. Taking what we learn on the track and adapting those technologies to deliver electrifying performance on the road has been our promise from the start. With our entry into the ABB FIA Formula E Championship—and now with the Jaguar I-PACE eTROPHY Championship—we're bringing that promise to life.



Up To 234 miles¹
Estimated range

EV Navigation
Shows range on map and makes finding charging points easy.²



40 Minutes Rapid Charging
Time taken to charge from 0-80% (100kW DC)

4G WI-FI Hotspot
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Pre-set home charging times to match the best rates for electricity

0-60 mph In 4.5 seconds³

WWW.JAGUARMONROEVILLE.COM

1. All figures are EPA estimates. Actual mileage may vary. 2. Do not use Jaguar InControl® features under conditions that will affect your safety or the safety of others. Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control. 3. Always obey local speed limits. © 2019 Jaguar Land Rover North America, LLC

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Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh 2025 OFFICERS and BOARD of DIRECTORS

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| 2nd Vice President: | Craig Gestler | 412-821-1378 | Craig.Gestler@Gmail.com |
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| Secretary: | Chuck Pipich | 412-373-7090 | chuckp212@gmail.com |

| | | | |
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| Newsletter Editor | Candy Williams | 412-751-2355 | allwrite2@aol.com |
| Webmaster | Dolly Taskey | 412-614-1711 | dollytaskey@gmail.com |



JCOP MEMBERS ONLY

WINTER DETAILING SPECIAL

For a limited time only, schedule a Checkered Flag Complete Detail and get

\$75 OFF

* \$75 off complete detail. See dealer for complete details. Offer ends 3/31/2025.

WINTER READY SPECIAL

\$249.95 PLUS TAX

Includes:

- Genuine Jaguar Front Wiper Blades Replacement
- Balance Tires
- Tire Rotation (if needed)
- Full Brake Inspection
- Complete Fluid Top-Off
- Full Suspension Inspection
- Battery Inspection with Digital Printout
- Professional Car wash
- Multi-Point Inspection

* Must present coupon when order is written. Jaguar only. See dealer for complete details. Expires 3/31/2025.

JAGUAR

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15035 Perry Highway • Wexford
(724) 940-3500
BobbyRahalJaguar.com

JAGUAR SOUTH HILLS

2409 Washington Road • Canonsburg
(724) 754-0560
JaguarSouthHills.com



JAGUAR CLUB OF PITTSBURGH
 JAGUAR CLUBS OF NORTH AMERICA
2025 Membership Form

| | | |
|--|-------|---|
| Name | | |
| Address | | |
| City | State | Zip |
| Email | Phone | |
| Occupation | | |
| Spouse/Partner | | |
| Name | | |
| Email | Phone | |
| Occupation | | |
| Please list Jaguars owned* (not required for membership) | | |
| Year | Model | Body Style (OTS, FHC, DHC, Sedan, Coupe, Conv, SUV) |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*Include additional Jaguars on a separate sheet.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--|
| Dues (check one) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$90.00 | New Membership for 2025 (JCOP \$35, JCNA \$55) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$90.00 | Renew Membership for 2025 (JCOP \$35, JCNA \$55) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | \$35.00 | JCNA Affiliate Club Membership ¹ New or Renew for 2025 (JCOP \$35, JCNA \$0) |
| | | JCNA#: |

| | |
|--|---|
| Form Return Options | |
| Mail to: | Stu Benson, Treasurer ² 2116 Grandeur Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044 |
| Scan and email to: | stubenson3@gmail.com |
| Enter information in an email and send to: | stubenson3@gmail.com |

| | |
|---|--|
| Payment Options | |
| Make check payable to Jaguar Club of Pittsburgh and mail with your form to: | Stu Benson, Treasurer ² 2116 Grandeur Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044 |
| Pay online (3% surcharge) after you have returned your form: | Click the Pay Online button @ jaguarclubofpittsburgh.org/membership |

¹You have a current JCNA membership through another club.

²If you have any questions, contact Stu at 412-491-1586.