



Right: Head 'em up, roll 'em out. Jack Allen calls Outlaws to their cars for the trip down Mt. Lemmon.



Right: Head outlaw Mike Wroughton holds court at the Sonoran Desert Museum. Far right: Outlaw Len Erie attempts to dislodge a finger from the Javelina's death grip at the Desert Museum. (Psst, Len, they're sculptures.)



Arizona Outlaws BAJA FIESTA 2000

By Steve Proctor



From left: Mike Wroughton, Len and Susan Eerie, Dennis and Barb Crowley, Steve Proctor, and Gary Suggs enjoy the campfire.

Saturday morning, as Baja Fiesta entrants arose for the morning tour or rolled back over for more shuteye (Len and Susan Eerie), Jeff Gamble sent a post to the 356 Registry On-line List with a real-time update, "Baja Fiesta 2000 is going like clockwork with perfect top down weather conditions."

Well, Jeff was mostly right, the event was going like clockwork, but there was a brief deviation from "perfect" top down conditions. He had been busy taking care of some last minute details and had missed the Friday afternoon drive up 9,000-foot Mt. Lemmon. The open car drivers in shirt sleeves reveled in the glorious Tucson sun and temperatures in the high 70s at the early part of the drive, but as the line of colorful cars followed tour leader Jack Allen past the 6000 foot level, snow began to appear beside the road. Some began to roll down their sleeves and wish they had brought jackets. Arriving at the 9,000-foot peak, the group parked the cars and sought the welcome shelter of a mountain top restaurant for a break. Cups of hot chocolate in several variations were the hit of the day. Halfway through the drinks, the group looked up to see Lute and Jackie Thompson of Phoenix walk in. Lute is the original owner (41 years!) of his 1959 coupe and Jackie said that he did not spare the horses coming up the mountain to catch up with the group.

That night, back down at warmer levels, the Outlaws from New Mexico and Arizona met in the outdoor courtyard at a local Mexican Restaurant for a delicious and lively dinner. A small food fight broke out at the end after Barbara Crowley alley-ooped her wadded up napkin backward over her head into a quarter-full pitcher of Margaritas at the next table. Tsk, tsk!!



George and Ellen Duck anxiously await the departure for Mt. Lemmon.

The next morning, the Outlaws traversed the route over Gates Pass, which was used during the Third 356 West Coast Holiday (Cinco de Mayo) in 1979. Jackets were already coming off at 9 a.m. as the cars rolled up for reserved parking and what turned out to be an impromptu car show. The group spent a beautiful sunlit morning with the active desert animals, many of which apparently weren't allowed on the ark and were banished to Arizona (rattle snakes, scorpions, gila monsters, poisonous spiders, centipedes, etc. along with the cactus). Of particular interest were the Javelinas (native Arizona wild pigs). The Autumn Arizona Outlaw event is known as the Javelina 100 and this was the first time that some of the Outlaws had ever seen their mascots up close and personal. After lunch at the Museum, Jack Allen once again headed 'em up and rolled 'em out for a drive down perfect back country, two lane Southern Arizona roads that led almost to the Mexican border and back. Halfway back, a stop at an authentic cowboy



saloon in old Patagonia wet the whistles of the parched Outlaws.

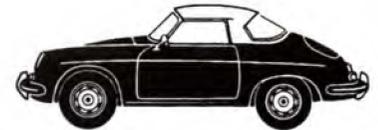
Back in Tucson, the Outlaws freshened up and headed up into the foothills to Steve Proctor's for burgers and beers. Steve, batchin' it again, as wife Barbara was at Mom's weekend at college for the second Baja

Fiesta in a row, grilled over 25 hamburgers for the hungry Outlaws. Ex-racedog Lucy filled in for Barbara, greeting each arrival and only at the end of dinner became a pest as she made off with a purloined hamburger in the truest Outlaw tradition. Following dinner, Steve torched off some very dry pallets that sent flames 20 feet in the air, then threw on two large logs that provided warmth against the desert cold for the late evening conversation. Sunday morning, the party continued at the luxury La Paloma Resort with breakfast outside overlooking the beautiful Catalina Mountains. On the heels of this year's successful event, plans are already being made for Baja Fiesta 2001!

Stay tuned.



Tucson Outlaws Steve Proctor, Jack Allen and New Mexico Outlaw Matt Bleything in the Tucson sun.



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