

Welcome to San Antonio and the  
60<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Jaguar Clubs of North America

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Everyone in the San Antonio Jaguar Club who has worked so hard on putting on this event hopes you have a wonderful time in the Alamo City, and have a productive Annual General Meeting! The more productive, the more of a chance you will end early and get to see downtown San Antonio and check out the famous Paseo del Rio, or Riverwalk. If you head out the front doors of the hotel, you will find The Alamo itself to the right, and the Riverwalk straight ahead and one block over. To the left, is Rivercenter Mall, which is also connected to the Riverwalk, but more about that later. At the end of this document is the AGM Schedule of Events, and a map of the hotel.

March 2018 is the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first European settlers to the San Antonio River valley, and you are here at a time of many special events! More information on the Tri-centennial events can be found at <https://www.sanantonio300.org/>. Also, the NCAA Men's Final Four Basketball Championship is next week, and the entire downtown area has been prepared for that major tourism draw.

Many people come to San Antonio for the first time, and are surprised to find The Alamo in the middle of downtown. The Magliozzi brothers of NPR's 'Click and Clack' radio show used to joke how there was a Woolworth's across the street. Built in the early 1700's as the northernmost of a string of five Spanish Catholic Missions along the San Antonio River, The Alamo is in the center of town, because it was on the edge of the town at first. The town grew to the west and south along the rivers and creeks from here. By 1836, Main Plaza, some six blocks west of The Alamo, was where the General Santa Ana and the Mexican Army were camped during the siege that ended on March 6, 1836.

The Alamo and Alamo Plaza itself have evolved over the last 175 years, without an undue burden of historical preservation and planning. Aside from the large white Cenotaph statue honoring the Heroes of the Alamo, adjoining property has been developed by the owners, relatively uncontrolled by more than public opinion. To preserve what is often referred to as The Cradle of Texas Liberty for three more centuries and beyond, some aspects of the current Plaza need to change. The depth and breadth of those changes are a sensitive and hotly contested subject, involving descendants of the Heroes and the Texas Land Commission, who owns the Alamo. Eminent domain has taken ownership of much of the property across Alamo Plaza from The Menger. One thing is sure, how you see The Alamo and Alamo Plaza during this visit will be far different from how it is seen 10-20 years in the future.

Renovation of Alamo Plaza is a subject under much debate. Some reduction of the 'circus midway' feel was part of what the city and state promised the UNESCO World Heritage Site committee when that designation was granted. The Site itself is The Alamo and the other four missions that extend southward over the next 20 miles. All the Missions were part of the culture developed by the Spanish with the indigenous peoples. The Spanish brought their tools for better agriculture, their faith, and education with them up from Mexico. The connection between San Antonio, Mexico, Hispanic culture, and faith began 300 years ago here this very month, and will never end.

Studies of The Alamo building itself show that the walls are eroding due to the elements. It is basically made of stones, which will erode to the point that structural failure of the building is projected in another 300 years. Doing ANYTHING to the walls is a very hot button issue! Design has begun on a \$100 million museum that will go into the Plaza, probably replacing the

midway across from The Alamo. There is a movement at work to re-invent The Alamo even further, erecting large glass walls on the boundaries of what were the walls of the original fortress compound. As those historic walls would have to extend into the large downtown Post Office to accomplish that, some compromises will no doubt occur. None of the plans I have seen touch The Menger itself. When the city fathers and mothers here stop watching the Fiesta parades every year from The Menger room where the JCNA BOD will meet Friday, something might happen to The Menger.

Some of us not participating in the Annual General Meeting are going on a **tour of the Mission Trail**. It will depart at 9:30AM Saturday on a chartered bus that is planned to pick up everyone on Crockett street east of the motor entrance to the hotel. The tour will return to the hotel at approximately 3:30PM, and will include a stop for a pay as you go lunch at a place made to handle separate checks easily. As this is Palm Sunday weekend, and these missions are still functioning parish churches, they will be happening places. The guide for this tour is SAJC member Chris McCool, who is a worldwide professional tour guide, and a native of the San Antonio area. I have been on two European tours with him, and he will provide you a wonderfully guided tour of these historic and beautiful missions.

The Riverwalk is the historic path of the San Antonio River, but a few branches, as well as flood control improvements have been added to the original river route. The San Antonio River emanates from a spring in Brackenridge Park, but receives run off from a large area. A massive flood of downtown in 1921 led to building of a catch basin and bypass channels. Depression era public works projects helped build the Riverwalk based on input from 5 local architects. River barges that you see can be taken on a guided tour for a short ride, or a few miles upriver. The barges are less than six months old, all electric and silent. The river barge operator has a website at <http://www.goriocruises.com/> with more information. The closest ticket office and terminal is inside Rivercenter Mall. Later in this document is a map of The Menger showing the meeting and eating rooms. On that map, it shows you how to get to the Riverwalk inside Rivercenter Mall. A short list of restaurants I would recommend on the Riverwalk are: Pasesano's (Italian), Boudro's (southwest-ish), County Line (BBQ), Texas Land and Cattle (Steaks) or Rio Rio (Mexican).

I do not want to run on any longer, but I have given you some highlights and references. I also do want to provide a word of caution also. San Antonio is a very safe city for its size, but late at night, you want to stay to the well lit areas of the Riverwalk and city streets. There is not much of a chance of a classic mugging, more like some aggressive panhandling. There is a lot of visible security, and you may even see some military police on the Riverwalk. If one of the military training centers gives liberty to recruits on their last weekend or two, the military bring their own police to augment the city force.

Once again, welcome to San Antonio, and have a safe and wonderful meeting and visit!

Brian Blackwell  
San Antonio Jaguar Club President

**JAGUAR CLUBS OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.**  
**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATION**

<b>Event Schedule</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Thursday, March 22, 2018</b>		
AGM attendee Registration	2:00P – 7:00	Lobby
JCNA Board of Directors Dinner	7:30P	Rio Rio Cantina, 421 E. Commerce
<b>Friday, March 23, 2018</b>		
JCNA Board of Directors Breakfast	7:30A – 8:15	Colonial Room
JCNA Board of Directors Meeting	8:15A – 3:00	Renaissance Room
Seminar D - XK120 Judging Guide Proposal – by Dick Cavicke	3:00P – 4:30	Renaissance Room
AGM attendee Registration	12:00P – 4:30	Lobby
JCNA Board of Directors Lunch	12:00P – 12:45	Colonial Room
AGM attendee registration	4:30P – 7:00	Reception
JCNA 60 <sup>th</sup> Birthday buffet dinner and entertainment	6:30P – 8:30	Minuet Room
<b>Saturday, March 24, 2018</b>		
AGM attendee Registration	6:45A – 4:30	Reception
Annual General Meeting Breakfast	7:00A – 8:00	Minuet Room
Annual General Meeting Lunch	12:00P – 12:45	Minuet Room
Annual General Meeting	8:00A – 3:00	Ballroom A-C
Guest Day Tour of World Heritage Mission Trail	9:30A – 3:30	Crockett St bus pickup east of Valet
Seminar B - Dr. Mike Mueller talk	3:15P – 4:15	Patio Room
Seminar A - Coventry Foundation	4:30P – 5:30	Patio Room
JCNA Awards Banquet Social Hour	6:00P – 7:00	Reception
JCNA Awards Banquet and Program	7:00P – 10:00	Ballroom A-C
<b>Sunday, March 25, 2018</b>		
JCNA Board of Directors Meeting	8:00A – 10:00	Ballroom C

Updated as of 10 March 2018

