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GATES AND ESTATES LUNCHEON AND MOTOR TOUR WOWS MEMBERS

By Joanne Goldman

Once every five years or so, members Peter and Barbara Regna graciously invite our club to historic Tuxedo Park, New York for a luncheon followed by a tour of select homes in their community. Members in attendance in years past refer to the event as the most notable and unforgettable the club holds. The sold out “*Gates and Estates Luncheon and Motor Tour*” held last September was in keeping with the reputation that preceded it.



Above: Outside the Tuxedo Club.
(Photo by Jake Matthews)



Above: John Cory graciously provided a sampling of cars from his collection. See more photos on page 29.
(Photo by Fred Conrad)



Left: A BMW is towed from the parking lot to make room for our PMCs.

(Photos this page by Jake Matthews)

Tuxedo Park, nestled in the Ramapo Mountains of Orange County, New York, was envisioned by Pierre Lorillard, a tobacco millionaire and sportsman in the 1880's. The 5,000 acres of land became the launching point for an exclusive, gated community of

19 "cottages" and thirty miles of roads. While there are several more residences than there were back then, Tuxedo Park remains largely as it was, much to the delight of our members visiting for the day.



Above: Don Fish arrives in his 1977 Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith II LWB saloon (LRF31546).

The amount of planning and organizing by Peter and Barbara, in coordination with Tuxedo Park personnel, was extraordinary. Their efforts were immediately apparent, as Rolls-Royce and Bentley motorcars were greeted and readily waved through at the private gate of the community. From there, “RROC” signs placed thoughtfully along the route to the Tuxedo Club provided another clue to the care our hosts took to ensure a fabulous time.



Above: Gerry Dolezar and Sonja Corbin’s 1953 Bentley R Type saloon (B97SP). *(Photo by Jake Matthews)*



Above: A partial line up of motor cars at the Gates and Estates 2013 event. *(Photo by Bob Karpel)*



Above: Bevy of beauties outside the Tuxedo Club. *(Photo by Ed Goldman)*

Below: John Matsen (left) and Dennis Nash catch up in the parking lot. *(Photo by Jake Matthews)*



Early arriving guests were welcomed with coffee and pastries provided in the parking lot. One-by-one, PMCs of all models and years arrived. All told, there were forty PMCs at the event that day.



(Photo by Fred Conrad)



Right: Lenny Babbish and Sol Fox brought their 1980 Silver Shadow II saloon (SRL41698C) to the event.

*(Photos, this page, by
Jake Matthews)*



The weeklong threat of thundershowers prior to the event miraculously dissipated. The event was graced with beautiful weather, allowing members to welcome each other among the mounting number of motorcars.



Above: Berit and Bill Hirsch.

Right: Martin Gilbert and Hugh Segner arrive.





Above: Sunday Best.

(Photo by Jake Matthews)



Left (*left to right*): Chris and Eva Trefz along with Joan and Ernie Trefz, with Ernie's 1961 Bentley S2 Continental Park Ward drophead coupe (BC45LCZ).

(Photo by Bob Karpel)

Our hosts had also arranged to have two lovely ladies, Alexa Clark and Katie Demure, greet members and guests. They were delightful and helpful throughout the day.

As people arrived for the event, the director of catering was asking his staff if they had any Grey Poupon for the reception table to go with plated pretzels. Overhearing the request, one of our club members (okay, it was yours truly!) replied, "But of course! We

keep a jar in the glove compartment of our Silver Cloud in case someone asks for it."

Chairman's tip: Empty a Grey Poupon jar of the contents. Find or mix paint the color of the mustard. Put a dollop of paint inside the jar, swish it around until the inside of the jar is fully coated. You'll have Grey Poupon without the danger of having mustard all over your PMC, should you stop short on a tour!



Above: Three pretty ladies. Katie Demure (center) and Alexa Clark (right).

(Photos by Joanne Goldman)

Right: Herb and Margaret Sailer.



Left: No shortage of Grey Poupon!

(Photo by Bill Wolf)



Views of the lake from the patio of the Tuxedo Club were enhanced by four cars from John Cory's collection. Elegant, stately and majestic homes dotted the landscape surrounding the lake, accessible only by winding roads.

Above: John Cory's 1959 R-R Silver Cloud I Series F Mulliner drophead coupe (LSJF204) (forefront) with his 1959 Bentley S1 Hooper LWB (LALB28). Right: 1959 R-R Silver Wraith James Young limousine (LHLW4). (Photos by Fred Conrad)



Below: LHLW4 (right) is joined by John's 1961 4-door Bentley S2 Continental James Young saloon (BC77LCZ) (Photo by Bob Karpel)



Guests were called away from the dreamy vista by none other than Peter Regna, himself.

Right: Members mingle on the patio.
(Photo by Bob Karpel)

Below left: Host Peter Regna summons guests to lunch.
(Photo by Bill Wolf)

Below right: A Bentley beauty with Villa Regna in the distant background.
(Photo by Jake Matthews)





Left: John Cory entertains the group.

(Photo by Joanne Goldman)

Once seated, Peter welcomed everyone and reviewed the day's program. Tamer and Amra El Rayess, hosts for the first residence we were to visit, joined us for lunch. There was an audible, delighted gasp, as Peter announced the second home belonged to the founder of 1stdibs.com, Michael Bruno and his partner, Alexander Jakowec. The tour would end at the Regna's abode, where they would provide a proper sendoff.

The impeccable waitstaff at the Tuxedo Club served the luscious menu while John Cory roasted Peter and Barbara and poked fun at a few members and several of his own guests. All in good spirit, of course!

And speaking of fun, Chairman Ed Goldman handed out "Gates and Estates 2013" awards. The lovely registration ladies were on hand to present trophies to the lucky winners. However, everyone knew the best was yet to come, as lunch was adjourned and it was time to assemble the caravan for our first stop: the El Rayess residence.



Above: 2014 VP of Membership, Rich Halprin with his sweetie, Elise Liebowitz. *(Photo by Bob Karpel)*



Above left: Hugh Heller's R Type won the Most Sensual award. Above right: The Ladies' Choice Award went to Robert Lindgren and Thomas Gibb for their 1948 Silver Wraith (WCB61).
 (Photos by Bob Karpel)

GATES & ESTATES AWARDS		
AWARD	WINNER	CAR
Pre-War Favorite	Scott Ammarell	1927 Springfield Phantom I Brewster Piccadilly S140RP
Most Romantic	Bob Horowitz	1999 R-R Silver Seraph saloon LAX-01703
Most Sensual	Hugh Heller	1954 Bentley R Type Hooper saloon B75ZX
Leak-Tight	Don Fish	1977 R-R Silver Wraith II LWB saloon LRF315-46
Least Improved	Joe Marley	1988 R-R Silver Spur III X22801
Neat Nik	Chris Trefz	1997 Bentley Azure drophead coupe KBV-61062
Howard Award	Herb Sailer	1953 Bentley R Type saloon B398TN
Brace + 2 (or more!)	John Cory	1959 R-R Silver Wraith James Young limousine LHLW4 1961 4-door Bentley S2 Continental James Young saloon BC77LCZ 1959 R-R Silver Cloud I Series F Mulliner drophead coupe LSJF204 1959 Bentley S1 Hooper LWB LALB28
Ladies' Choice	Robert Lindgren & Tom Gibb	1948 R-R Silver Wraith Hooper WCB61
Atlantic Lady	Joanne Goldman	<i>"For our own Atlantic Lady"</i>
Winner Overall	John Cory	1959 R-R Silver Cloud I Series F Mulliner drophead coupe LSJF204



Left: The Neat Nik Award went to Chris Trefz for his 1997 Bentley Azure.

(Photo by Bill Wolf)



Above left: Award recipient Joe Marley. Above center: Robert Lindgren and Thomas Gibb accept their award. Above right: Presenter Ed Goldman with Atlantic Lady trophy winner Joanne Goldman.

(Photos by Bill Imre)

Assembling a collective caravan of forty or so Rolls-Royce and Bentley motorcars is no easy task. However, the Tuxedo Park police did a spectacular job of escorting and directing everyone around the scenic lake. But the hospitality of the Tuxedo Park community extended well beyond that. For example, the Rapaille's, neighbors of the El Rayess family, permitted twenty or so of our cars to park in their driveway during the first leg of our motor tour.

Right: Tuxedo Park police took good care of us throughout the day.
(Photo by Joanne Goldman)

Below: The tour begins. *(Photo by Fred Conrad)*





Above left: The El Rayess Residence. Above right: The pool was a showstopper. (Photos by Bill Imre)

In order to really appreciate the El Rayess Park and embark on a vision that has taken House beyond the obvious beauty and rich several years to realize. Touched and in-architecture, Tamer El Rayess, our house trigued by his abbreviated story, *TAL* folhost, spoke to members candidly about how lowed up with Mr. El Rayess for the whole he and his family decided to live in Tuxedo story after the event.

Below left: Magnifique! (Photo by Ed Goldman) Below right: The French chateau was ultimately designed by Jim Collins. (Photo by Jake Matthews)



In 2001, Tamer and Amra El Rayess were both with Goldman Sachs. Surviving for several hours in the basement of Goldman Sachs on 9/11, they feared the worst as they watched television. Had WWII started?

Upon learning the Pentagon was hit, they were certain the actions were that of a foreign nation. Clearly, a decision had to be made. The couple could sit in the basement and wait for a nuclear bomb to hit New York City, or they could get out.

At the time, Tamer had investments in some restaurants in Brooklyn. There was food in their restaurants and a means of protecting themselves. If they could make it there, and had enough people they knew, they could set up a protection zone, if this was to be a prolonged, protracted siege.

Upon leaving the basement, they saw ash everywhere. Using paper towels to cover their mouths, Tamer and Amra walked across the bridge to Brooklyn. Thankfully, WWII hadn't started, however, as was the case with many New Yorkers, 9/11 shifted Tamer's perceptions from that day forward.

"When you survive something like that, having been in the middle of it, it crystalizes in your psyche," Tamer explained.

Mr. El Rayess had what he referred to as "primitive thoughts" about survival. The post-9/11 survival mode shaped Tamer's approach to finding a safe, suitable place to call home. For one, moving out of New York

City was imperative. He drew concentric circles far enough from the city, yet commutable for work. While this isn't unusual in and of itself, this requirement was based partly on fears of a future nuclear blast. Should this ever occur, Tamer's wife and children needed to be a safe distance from ground zero.



Above: The El Rayess Family.

(Photo by Bill Imre)



Above: Elegance and beauty personified. *(Photo by Jake Matthews)*

Tuxedo Park was a suitable surrounding. Tamer looked at the older, historic mansions, but didn't find them conducive to his protective needs. They would need to be retrofitted to his family and modern times.

In order to realize his dream, Tamer would have to build. As it happened, Peter Regna, our Gates & Estates host, was chairman of the Board of Architectural Review at Tuxedo Park. He encouraged Tamer to go beyond

his vision of a unique, beautiful home and build something really special.

Tamer joked about Peter firing up his ego. Fortunate to have the resources to pursue a "no budget, no compromise" project stance,

Tamer wanted nothing but the best. Fueled by both ego and a desire to leave a lasting legacy for his children, he embarked on creating a self-sustaining architectural structure of beauty in 2001.

Planning and design for the house which was to be built from the ground up began in 2002. The five-year process involved four different architects, six different engineering firms and several attorneys.

“The contractor asked me several times, ‘why do something no one will see?’ I knew it would be there. I wanted it to last for several generations,” Tamer explained.

At this point in the interview, the similarities of the home design and building philosophy began to gel with that of our Bentley and Rolls-Royce motor cars. If you’ve ever seen the veins on the inside of a Silver Cloud’s hand soldered grill, you know the detail and precision that is hidden from view, but important to the overall quality of the car. No doubt, Tamer’s values of beauty, workmanship and sustainability in his home resonated as such with our members.

Further similarities became apparent as Tamer described his efforts to create a fort that could protect for protracted periods of time, but also be incredibly beautiful. Anyone who have ever sat in the backseat of a 5,000 pound Rolls-Royce or Bentley knows the feeling of safety.

The obvious beauty of the home was more than skin deep. The goal of keeping the modern home affordable for future generations focused on utility. Several measures accomplished this. For example, the geothermal system takes the seasonal heat and coolness from the ground and transfers it to the home to fully heat and cool it year round

with fossil fuels. (There is some electricity to run some of the pumps.) Solar panels will be installed, however, the commercial generator serving as a backup for electricity is already in place.

Another example of self-sustainability is the underground water system. In case of emergency, there needs to be plenty of both drinking and irrigation water. Concealed, interior gutters drain into two large tanks. There are 4,000 gallons of rainwater underground, plus runoff from the street along with an underground irrigation system.

The former Ferrari and Ducati owner has less time and interest in enjoying passions from a more carefree time in his life. With his changed perspective from marriage, family and 9/11, Tamer is more attuned these days to the sensibilities of a new Rolls-Royce Wraith with the fine craftsmanship, beauty and protection it provides, though he hasn’t purchased one just yet.

On behalf of our club, we appreciate Tamer’s candidness for this article and the hospitality of his family for the Gates & Estates tour.



(Photo by Jake Matthews)

The caravan to the Bruno house, the second under Jakowec, were attracted to Tuxedo on the tour, provided members and their Park because of the beautiful Alpine setting guests with a northern view of the lake. with gorgeous old homes all within an hour Tuxedo Park residents driving along the of Manhattan. Mr. Bruno, the founder of route delightedly stopped to watch the parade of motor cars go by. According to Barbara Regna, the community was still abuzz about the parade of PMCs months after the event.

1stdibs.com (www.1stdibs.com), a website for “the most beautiful things on earth” loves things that stand the test of time. His 12,000 square foot Georgian home is a fine example of that philosophy (as are our cars!)

Our second hosts, Michael Bruno and Alex-



Above: Our host, Peter Regna, directs Tuxedo Park traffic in style! (Photo by Joanne Goldman)

Nathan Laliberte, covering the event for *The New York Times*, had the good fortune to ride in the rumble seat of Scott and Debbie Ammarell’s 1928 Springfield P1. Coverage of the event first appeared online in *The New York Times* “Wheels” blog dated September 26, 2013 with the headline “Do You Have Any Grey Poupon? Rolls-Royce and Bentley Owners Cruise Tuxedo Park.” (The article is available without a subscription through an online search.) It was subsequently published in print in the Sunday, September 29th *Automobiles* section of *The New York Times*. A separate article written by Stuart Cohen of 1stdibs.com appeared on the 1stdibs.com website thereafter.





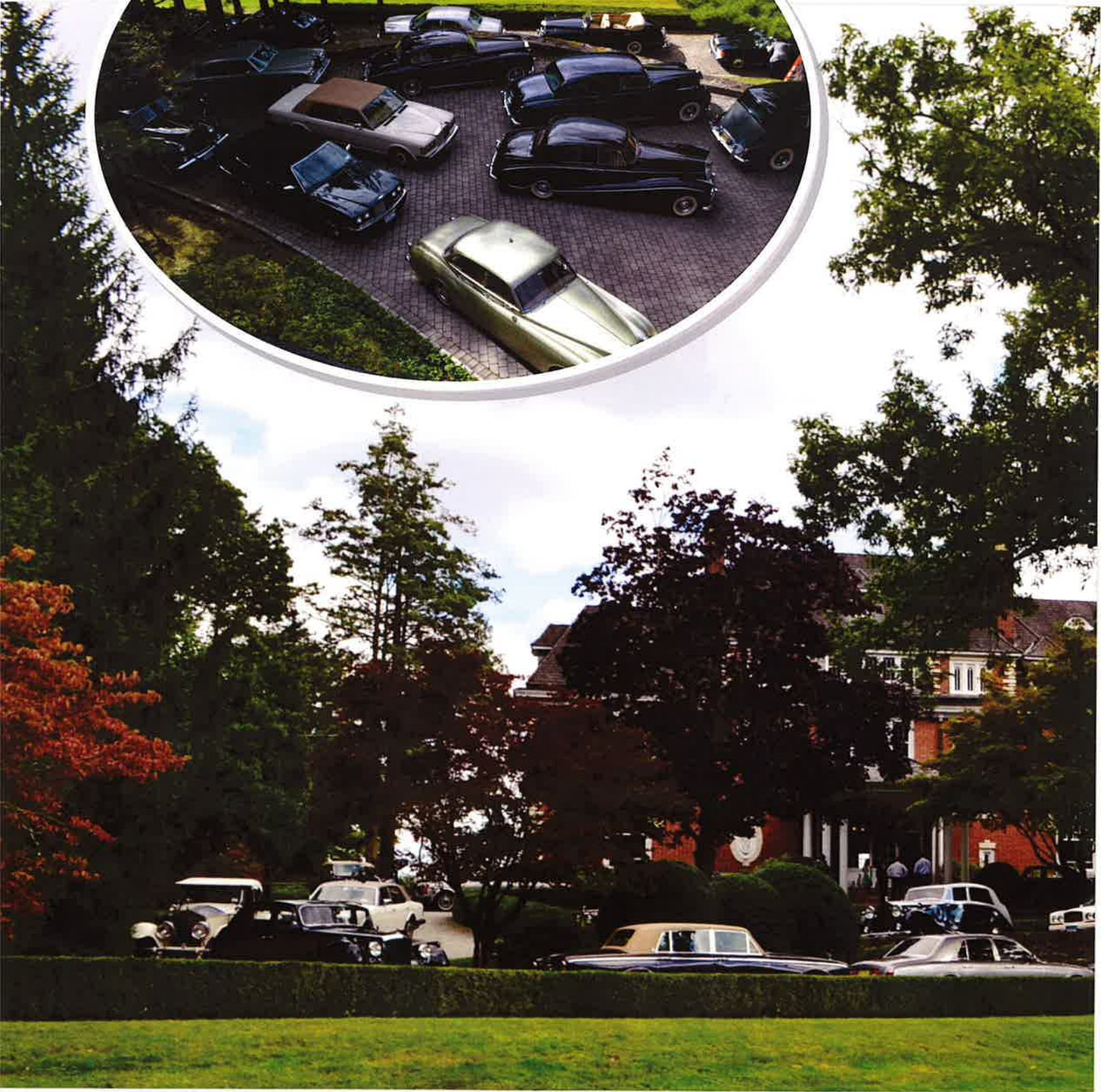
Above: Forty PMCs lined the Bruno House driveway. *(Photo by Bill Wolf)*



Left: On display at the Bruno home!
(Photo by Ed Goldman)

Our hosts took great pleasure in opening their doors to us. The eclectic collection of furnishings throughout reflected a casual elegance at every turn. The view from the veranda was heavenly, as was the meadow beyond the expansive driveway where our motor cars were displayed.

(Photo opposite by Ed Goldman)



(Photos by Jake Matthews)



Right: Hugh Segner (left) and our house host, Michael Bruno.

(Photos by Jake Matthews)

Below: Lenny Babbish.



Our event host, Peter Regna, took every precaution to ensure no PMC would be left behind. Mechanics and experts were personally invited to the event, should there be a failure to proceed along the tour route. Atlantic Region members John Palma, Jeff Palmero and Steve Aiello, along with Greg Hellstern, were graciously present, but thankfully not called upon, to service any cars that day!

Photographers, however, were out in full force, capturing magic moments occurring in and out of cars. *TAL* gives special thanks to Atlantic Region members Bob Karpel, Bill Imre, Bill Wolf, among others, with valuable contributions from Jake Matthews, Barry Sutton and Fred Conrad.



Above: Bill Wolf on Bill Wolf.

(Photos by Bill Wolf)

Right: Bill Imre works his magic.





Above left: Bob Karpel and Carol Sherman en route to “Villa Regna” in their 1979 Silver Shadow II saloon (SRK36327). Above right: Bob and Lillian Chapman are part of the caravan in their 1977 Corniche Mulliner, Park Ward drophead coupe (DRF30105).

Right: Don Fish follows suit in his 1977 Silver Wraith II LWB saloon (LRF31546).

(Photos, this page, by Jake Matthews)

The grand finale of the motor tour, just a short distance from the Bruno home, was the Regna residence. The Regna’s live in one of the original homes of the Tuxedo Park community. Peter and Barbara lovingly restored the house and infused it with art and antiques collected over the years.

As beautiful as the décor was, it was the garage that many a member made a beeline for! The Regna collection of Rolls-Royce and Bentley motorcars were on display at the Tuxedo Club and then parked elsewhere. There were, however, a few prancing horses and a raging bull to the delight of those who peeked in!



Above: Villa Regna décor.



(Photo above and right by Jake Matthews)



The only thing more beautiful than the home of our hosts was their generous hospitality.



(Photo above and right by Bill Imre)





Above: "The Hacienda" home of the Regna's with a sampling of members' cars. (Photo by Jake Matthews)

The veranda was the perfect place to relax with friends after the long day. Some members commented that the view of the lake was as good, if not better, than Lake Como, Italy.

Truffle popcorn, delectable hor d'oeuvres, and refreshments were provided. Assorted

brownies and cigars made the close of the day that much more memorable. Lovely ladies Alexis and Katie dispensed travel snacks in soft lunch boxes with the "Tuxedo Park" logo on them, providing the finishing touch of Barbara and Peter's hospitality.



Left: The After Party. (Photo by Bill Wolf)



What an
amazing day!

*(Photos this
page by
Jake Matthews)*



Above: Scott LeFebvre (left) with new Director-at-Large, Joe Marley.
Below: Event hosts Barbara and Peter Regna.

