



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

FORESTER BLUES

I am on my second Subaru Forester (2002, 2007) and still enjoy the safety, reliability, and “loveable dorkiness” of this small SUV. But suddenly this year the car’s Consumer Reports reliability rating slipped. After six straight years of mostly red (good) dots, the 2007 Forester fell to half a black dot (bad) for “major engine” and “fuel line” problems, which a CR forum moderator identified as head gaskets and timing belts. I wrote to Subaru corporate and got a bland PR response along the lines of “just take good care of your car and you should be okay.” I asked for specific data or advice about the 2007 Forester’s downgrade, but all I got was Subaru spin. I hope that someone out there has useful insights into how and why this formerly very reliable car suddenly developed major engine and fuel line problems. Please share your thoughts in plain English; I am not mechanically inclined. But I would like to get constructive feedback from anyone who owns one of these cars or who has had any experience with this particular issue.

LOCAL BURGLARY ALERT

Daytime residential burglaries have been increasing all over the Peninsula. The San Mateo County Sheriff is working with various city law enforcement agencies to increase communication and identify suspects. If you see a suspicious person and/or vehicle possibly casing your residence or neighborhood, call police. Arrests have been made due to alert neighbors identifying suspects with quick calls to police and leads from home surveillance systems. Take reasonable precautions. Lock all doors and windows. Recent burglaries involved unlocked garage doors or kicked-in side doors that led into the garage. The burglaries are occurring generally between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. More information on crime statistics can be found on the sheriff’s citizen website at smcso.org. Be aware: In

some areas, burglars walk door to door, knocking on the front door to see if anyone is home. If you open the door, burglars will give a phony reason for knocking. If no one answers the front door, the burglars enter a side yard to kick in a side door that may not be visible from the street. In some cases, a lookout may wait in a car parked outside. If you see suspicious people or vehicles in your neighborhood, call police and program the number into your cell phone for quick emergency access. (based on a press release issued by Sheriff’s Coastside Patrol Sgt. J. Gilletti)

DEVIL’S SLIDE VISTA POINT

Speaking of Devil’s Slide, I can’t wait for the new county park to open on the old Highway 1 roadway overlooking the sparkling Pacific Ocean. I hear that it may be a year away, but if public wishes and desires are any help, let’s all hope as hard as we can that it can be sooner. Whenever it happens, pedestrians and bicyclists will be able to enjoy the awesome sights and sounds of Devil’s Slide without the roar of traffic.

INNER EDIROT

Mar Kaden let out a horse laugh when she read about the Asian Art Museum’s terra-cotta miniature horseback riders described as “calvary items” in a photo caption in the Bay Area News Group “Thursday Magazine” (February 28). Call out the cavalry and the copy editors!

LION EYES

“One young male lion traveled the mountains from Santa Cruz County...north almost to Pacifica.” (San Francisco Chronicle, April 19) We wonder if this wild cat was headed to Pacifica’s well-known cougar bar.

DO IT IN THE PARK

Celebrate volunteer week April 21-27 by hooking up with the Friends of San Pedro Valley County Park, dedicated to preservation and enjoyment of the park and natural history education. This 1,150-acre jewel in the county park system offers hiking trails, wildlife, waterfalls, and a Trailside Store, reference library, and museum at the visitor center. Drop by now to sign up. Park entrance is at 600 Oddstad Boulevard way in the back of Linda Mar.

LUIGI’S SCHOOL BENEFIT, MAY 2

Thursday, May 2 from 3 to 9 p.m. is a CSEA Classified Employees fundraiser for 5th-grade outdoor education in the Pacifica School District. Eat in, take out, or get delivery from Luigi’s Italian Restaurant (Linda Mar at Adobe), and all proceeds will be donated to the school program. Pizza, pasta, and a good cause – what could be better than that!

SITeseer

- Trade books, CDs, DVDs: paperbackswap.com
- Offload your puns: bizarrocomics.com
- Ultimate password protection: lastpass.com
- Death to spam: spamihilator.com, spamassassin.com, spamarrest.com, spamsieve.com (for Macs)

JOHN’S GRILL

Scott McKellar took the bait last week when he read my spoof menu. He says we should add little packets of Vallemarmalade on our condiments tray. Of course, Linda Martians would insist on having Lindamarmalade, too. Leslie Davidson wants Foggy Flapjacks. Meanwhile, we are still working on new items like Devil’s Slide Tunnels, a variation on that old childhood favorite (eggs in a basket, toad in the hole): two slices of bread with eggs fried in round holes cut out of the bread. Send your menu suggestions to my email address below.

HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE’S TUNNEL

San Mateo County History Museum (2200 Broadway, Redwood City) features an exhibit on the history of Devil’s Slide, including the environmental struggle to prevent Caltrans’ disastrous plan for a freeway bypass through the mountains, the public vote against the bypass and in favor of a tunnel, which finally came to fruition this year with the opening of the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil’s Slide. This history exhibit is open through Sunday, May 12. Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Get more info at historysmc.org.

WASTING AWAY IN MAYBURRITOVILLE

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