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The Cone Zone



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Every now and then, something extraordinary happens. On Sunday, August 13, 2006, in Manville, NJ, the JCNA overall slalom record was shattered by an extraordinary driver in an extraordinary car. Karen Jones, last year's winner of the "Fastest Time by a Woman" award blasted her way to a time that may be hard for anyone to come close to, a blazing 38.390 seconds! Under cloudless skies and perfect weather, Karen turned in several runs breaking the elusive 39-second barrier, but minor clips of cones prevented them from being official record breakers. On her

next to last run, in the smoothest, cleanest run of them all, Karen did it. And the record fell.

The car Karen drove to the new record is, in and of itself, a very special machine. Designed by husband, Stew Jones, the renowned E-type V12 guru, and built in their shop in Winsted, CT, for Jim Roberge, this 1972 E-type is like no other in the world. Starting as a basic car, the engine was completely rebuilt and blue printed, modified to an impressive 500 horsepower. The car itself was stripped down and reinforced throughout, removing excess weight and building in extensive torsional rigidity. The cockpit was transformed into that of a true racecar, with nothing but the bare essentials. Yet at the same time, the lines of the body were reworked into a sleek evolutionary transition of the sensual E-type form, painted silver, producing a visual treat. With racing suspension and extra wide tires on custom rims, the car begs to be driven fast and hard.

Prior record holders Gary Hagopian and Art Dickenson both drove highly modified Jaguars. Gary's Silver Hammer is a 1963 E-type coupe that held the previous record of 38.920. Like the Stew Jones racer, Gary's car is a pure racecar, modified, reinforced, with proper roll cage and modified engine to maximize power and performance. Prior to Gary, Art drove his 1983 XJS coupe which he calls Silver to a JCNA record in 2002, being the first person to break the 39 second barrier with a time of 38.936. Art's record didn't stand

for long, as Gary broke it the next season.

For the past couple of years, it looked like Gary's record would stand for many years to come. Several other challengers have emerged recently, including Dick Maury who has built an impressive E-type racecar designed with breaking the record in mind. Others have entered their heavily modified cars in the slalom competition, hoping to come close to or potentially break the hard fought for record. None of them had been successful.

None of them, that is, until Karen Jones. With years of slalom experience under her belt, not to mention her highly honed competitive driving skills, Karen was up to the challenge. It became very apparent early on during the day's competition that something special was going to happen. Immediately, on her first run, Karen turned in a time in the low 39s. On her next two runs, Karen broke 39 seconds, tuning in times of 38.935 and then a run of 38.600. But during both of those runs, a cone was hit, putting the runs well above record level. Finally, on the fourth run, everything came together perfectly. The car responded to every nuance of Karen's smooth-as-silk driving and her control of the gas. As the car crossed the finish line, stopping on a dime, and the time flashed on the large lighted display, the crowd went wild, and Karen had the record in hand.

Congratulations to Karen Jones on her outstanding performance. And, congratulations to Stew Jones and his team for their excellent construction of an amazing car. Finally, kudos to Jim Roberge for bringing this car to fruition and providing the opportunity for Karen to drive it.

You don't have to be a record holder or drive a racecar to enjoy slaloming. It's fun for everyone. Come out and enjoy it. And if you're in the New York/New Jersey area on October 1, 2006, come to the slalom at Adesa Auto Auction in Manville, NJ. The Jaguar Touring Club will be holding its fall slalom, and we hope to see Jim, Stew and Karen there with the Amazing Silver Streak. Maybe Karen will best her own record for us?



Top Ready, set ... Karen preparing to launch out of the starting gate for her record-breaking slalom run. **Center** The new North American record holder with the amazing Series 3 E-type. Karen Jones has many slalom trophies to her credit but breaking the JCNA record with this very special E-type assures her place in JCNA competition history. **Bottom** Karen Jones on the course making a spirited run in the much-modified E-type built by her husband Stew for Jim Roberge.