



Compiled &
Edited by
Harry
Frantz

Cat Tracks

Central Oklahoma Jaguar Association
July 2020

Picnic at Chickasaw National Recreation Area In Sulphur – 6.13.20

By Sarah Baxter

Saturday morning was as perfect a day as you could possibly ask for. Sun was shining, it wasn't unbearably hot at 9:00 while we were waiting in the Wal-Mart parking lot for everyone to show, and there was a gentle breeze. Our route was changed early Saturday morning as there was a train derailment that had Hwy. 77 closed at Wynnewood. Sure happy that Susan Frantz heard that on the news before we got started as it is easier to change routes at the beginning rather than come upon a road closure and then have to come up with another plan. So, instead of taking Hwy. 77 all the way to Davis then east to Sulphur, we took Hwy. 77 to Wayne, then Hwy. 59 east to just past Byars when we picked up Hwy. 177 south into Sulphur.

There were 12 cars in the caravan. Alvin and Beverly Harrell and their grandson Charles were in the caravan but they had to peel off early as they needed to pick up 2 granddaughters back in Norman at noon to keep for the day. John & Sharon Vaughan could not find the Wal-Mart so they just headed south on I-35 to Davis and then east to Sulphur. We were happy that they did as they arrived a little before the caravan got there and they picked out

the most perfect shady spot for our group to gather for our picnic!! The area had 2 picnic tables and lots of trees for shade. There was plenty of parking for the Jags and Jagette to park. Other visitors to the park were driving by and some were stopping to take a better look at the cars. So, this may be a way to have an "informal" car show next year. Charles and Diane Porta were planning to join us at the park, but we never did make connections.





Since it was almost 11:30 by the time we arrived at the spot, everyone wasted no time in unloading their cars and setting up their chairs and began to eat their lunch which each one brought. Everything seems to just taste better outside!! Some members brought plenty so ended up sharing food with others.



It was just a very relaxing day spent visiting with each other and catching up with how they each had been spending their last 2 months quarantined at home!!!! Members were so ready to just get out and get their cars back on the road again. It was a spur of the moment drive planned a week before. Sometimes we overwork and overplan an event that when something doesn't go exactly right, we are disappointed. When you do spur of the moment events, you have no set plans and you just stay flexible and usually have a much better and more relaxing time. I propose that we have an annual picnic at some park and spend some time outside instead of in a restaurant each time.

On the way home, some members were stopping by the fruit and vegetable stands around Stratford. Geleta rode with me so we stopped at one to check on their peaches. We both bought some. Geleta can make the best peach cobbler!!!

Editors note: Susan and I stopped at Bruce's fruit and vegetable stand and ran into the Parker's there. We picked up some new potatoes, and peaches, a watermelon and some peach ice cream. Everything was great!!!



Coffee & Cars and Luncheon at Don & Becky Sable's Shop – 6.6.20

By Sarah Baxter

Jess and I braved it and went to the Coffee and Cars event on Saturday, June 6th, at their new location at Chisholm Creek Shopping Center. We arrived about 7:45 after I had gone by Village on the Park to take my Dad his meds for the day. So, by 7:45 there are very few parking spaces left except at the far south end of the parking lot!!! When we drove thru, we spotted Steve Houtari's "Blayack" Jaguar now owned by Alvin Harrell. After we found a spot to park, we walked back to the north end of the lot where Alvin's car was and by that time, Steve arrived. Alvin had claimed a shady spot next to one of the buildings, so we put our chairs there to and visited with Steve and Alvin for a while. Steve left shortly before Ben & Sandy Ratzlaff arrived and then Dickk Woolbright also showed up.

Around 10:30, a number of cars started leaving the area. Ben & Sandy, Dickk, and us were all planning to go to Don & Becky Sable's Shop on Wilshire for the luncheon and "informal" car show of members of the Sooner HCCA Club, MG Club, Triumph Club, Studebaker Club, Model T and A Clubs, and Rogers Abbott had put in a good word and got members of COJA invited to the event. COJA members who were in attendance were Ben & Sandy Ratzlaff, Clifton & Betty Hill, Dickk Woolbright, Jeff Hand, Dean & Mari Imel, and Jess and I.



The cars were all parked in the parking lot for everyone to look at. There were some very nice old cars.



Tables and chairs were set up inside their main office building as well as their workshop and then outside on the lawn. The cooks started cooking chicken, brats and hamburgers around 12:00 and Don and Becky furnished an "all the trimmings" picnic luncheon. They had the serving line set up with gloves to use when going thru the line to get your food for everyone's safety from the COVID 19 virus. There were probably 50 to 60 people there for the luncheon and the Sables furnished everything and did not want anything as a

donation towards the cost of the meal. Super Host and Hostess!!!

There was to be a drive thru Bricktown and around Lake Overholser after the luncheon. Since there was also a protest going on at Bricktown, the cruise thru Bricktown and Lake Overholser were scrapped. As Jess and I left the Sable's shop, we took a drive around Lake Overholser ourselves as we headed on home. It makes for a nice and pretty drive!!

Upcoming Events

Great American Car Race

By Dick Russ

Please let our members know of the change in schedule for the Great race. The new date is set for Sunday August 23 in Ardmore. If you have hotel reservations be sure to reschedule your stay date.

Regards,
Dick

Fall Fling

By Harry Frantz

As of this writing, I am confident that this Covid-19 business will be over by October 23 for our Fall Fling to Amarillo and am continuing to plan a spectacular weekend out of town. I am also confident that it will be much needed and enjoyed.

For those non-procrastinators, I have reserved a block of 15 rooms at the Hampton Inn and Suites East, telephone 806-418-2000. Be sure to ask for rooms for the "Jaguar Club". They have given us a special rate of \$110.00 per night plus tax. As a bonus, breakfast is included and parking is free which, I have found out, is a rare thing in Amarillo

Bi-Monthly Ladies' Luncheons And Guy's Bi-Monthly Outings

By Sarah Baxter

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the majority of ladies responded that they would like to put the luncheons "ON HOLD" until late Fall or early 2021. I checked with Dick Russ and he agreed that the Guys would put their separate outings "ON HOLD" until late Fall also. Watch the Cat Tracks for more information later!!!

Miscellany

Looking Back

(An Editorial, by Dick Heiderich)

At last count I get eleven (11) periodicals a month; all but one has something to do with automobiles. This is just too much paper and I never really get finished in time for the next month. For some reason I keep thinking that without all this clutter, I'd never know what is going on; what happened in the past and perhaps even more important, what the future holds. This last month's "Classic Car" and "Car and Driver" will keep anyone busy for a few nights. Car and Drivers superb article on The Greatest (Cars) of All Time is a different take on why some cars are the way they are. Of course the XK's and E Types are in there and I'll bet you didn't know that the XK-E was designed by Malcolm Sayer, an aerodynamicist. Other cars will have you guessing as to why they made the list. I didn't know the Austin Mini was built from 1960 to 2000, and that over 5 million were manufactured. The research these writers do is amazing. Safety has always played a part in the auto evolution. Everyone should take

note that the invention of the three-point (shoulder strap) seat belt was first offered by Volvo in 1959 for European cars. Volvo engineer Nils Bohlin, a former aircraft ejection seat designer gets the credit. There are many stories and a lot of information about the people behind the scenes. These pages are worth your time.

Then, *Classic Car* devotes many pages to all the British Greats, with a detailed nut and bolt restoration of a 1961 Triumph TR4 (Part II). Author Jeff Koch said it best when describing “Her Majesty’s” post war models. “The cars they built oozed charm.” What a delightful expression. There are more brands than I can list and many of the names will hopefully bring back some memories of your youth, providing you lived in or near a big city, because I doubt that in 1950, you saw any in Kansas! I don’t sell magazines or books but I am recommending some. This is just two out of eleven. Better yet, I recommend all eleven plus the 12th if you’re into airplanes!

Enjoying Our Cars in the Spring of a Global Pandemic

By Alvin C. Harrell

I. Introduction

I always appreciate receiving *Cat Tracks*. I enjoy the articles by Dick Russ and others, plus the other features. But Harry Frantz’s report “From the Editor” in the June issue really struck a chord. It was great to read about Harry and Susan getting the Vette out on the road for day trips to the lake and for lunch at Pops.

It was a reminder that, even with all of the current problems, for now at least we can still drive our cars. With so many forms of recreation upended, we are fortunate that road trips (the proverbial “Sunday drive”) remain an available weekend option.

There was a time, from roughly the beginning of widespread motoring in the early 1920s to maybe the mid-1950s, when Sunday driving and other weekend day trips were a primary form of travel and entertainment for many Americans. This was a distinguishing characteristic of American exceptionalism (as compared to other countries, where recreational travel by car was more likely limited to a thin upper crust of society). The day trip never entirely went away, of course, but many of us remember how the Lockheed Constellation and DC-7, and then the Boeing 707 ushered in a significant change - - the modern age of commercial aviation and the resulting “jet set” lifestyle. Far away destinations became more accessible, and some traditional local destinations suffered.

Now perhaps we are seeing this change again. International travel is sharply curtailed, and “big-name” U.S. destinations have scaled back amid health and other concerns. Their prices also may be raised. The *Wall Street Journal*, which (as noted in a previous *Cat Tracks* article) already had praised the “improvisational” road trip and (more recently, in “Memory Lane,” Aug. 10 – 11, 2019 at D1, travel by classic or “vintage” car) has noted an increasing interest in local day trips, as an antidote to the Covid-19 restrictions and concerns (the article cites lyrics from an old Gene Autry tune that some of us may remember: “Don’t Fence Me In.”). See “Little Ways to Escape,” *Wall Str. J.*, May 30 – 31, 2020 at D1.

Even more recently, the *Wall Street Journal* ran a book review (Dave Shiflett, Bookshelf, “Awake at the Wheel,” *Wall Str. J.*, June 4, 2020 at A13) describing a new book (Matthew B. Crawford, “Why We Drive”) on “the joys of driving – and about the attempts by various scolds to relegate the

joy...to the junkyard of history.” Crawford describes driving as a “domain of skill, freedom, and individual responsibility” and “an exercise [of] one’s skill at being free.” There is much more, and Crawford is mostly a biker rather than a car buff, but his points are broadly relevant to anyone who loves cars or enjoys a road trip.

Even so, car events and day-tripping options have been more limited than usual since early March, but here are some that your author has enjoyed. Hopefully more such options will return soon, consistent with safety precautions for those of us who are risk averse or in high-risk demographic categories.

II. Coffee and Cars (C & C)

For me at least, the March 2020 C & C was pretty much the last “normal” car event of the year, before virus concerns took hold of our lives. At the time, experts were advising a three foot social distance, and I thought that would be easy (though it still presented a challenge as crowds gathered). I noticed that people “vaping” or smoking were exhaling at distances that were visible well beyond three feet. Sure enough, the guidelines were subsequently extended to six feet. That may be the practical maximum. I hope it is enough; I have heard of some doctors’ meetings that observed a 12- foot distancing standard!

The April C & C was a driving-only “stay in your cars” event and I could not attend due to a family conflict. The May C & C was more “normal.” Few masks were evident, and the turnout was huge. I tried to observe the social distancing guidelines, but would have to say that not everyone did the same. This makes it somewhat difficult for us older folks, as keeping a distance between two persons requires some effort by both.

But wearing a mask and endeavoring to stay a distance from others seems a reasonable option for these outdoor events. An alternative is to just stay home, and that is not perfect either.

There was also a huge turn-out for the June 6 OKC C & C, but for me it turned into kind of a mini-COJA event, with some interesting Jags and a small gathering of COJA members. The C & C event is too large to make this easy, as it is nearly impossible to park together absent advance coordination and an unreasonably early arrival. But several of us were able to gather briefly in the shade of Uncle Julio’s Mexican Restaurant. Steve Houtari came in his (OK, his wife’s) red S-Type R (appropriately nicknamed “The Red Rocket”), but disappointed us all by announcing that this was likely his last car show and he did not plan to renew his COJA membership, due to health concerns. We all have to face these things before we are ready, but Steve has been very important to COJA (and to many of us personally) and he will be greatly missed.

Jess and Sarah Baxter had already arrived in their beautiful E-Type, and eventually we found each other in the crowd (just in time to greet Steve’s arrival). Due to the size of the C & C crowd, we were parked at opposite ends of the parking area, so we didn’t get to present a COJA line-up. Sara and Jess were headed for the MG club picnic following C & C, which sounded nice. Steve left but Sandy and Ben Ratzlaff arrived (in their very nice BMW) and we enjoyed some more COJA conversation, a welcome relief after months of social quai-solation.

Your author had to leave at about 9:30 to attend the Southern Thunder car show at I-240 and South Penn. As noted below, this is a traditional, judged car show, the first of

the year that I am aware of because so many others were canceled due to the virus.

III. Southern Thunder Car Show

I tend to treat these shows like a C & C event - - essentially as an informal come-and-go event. My cars are generally not show quality and my typical preparation technique is not up to a concours standard. So winning a trophy is not in the cards and I am there just to participate. Having bought Steve Houtari's 2006 S-Type R (Blayack) last year, I brought it to the June 6 C & C and to the Southern Thunder show later that morning. Of course Blayack won many awards in the hands of Steve, but that was after Steve's meticulous preparation and as noted my own efforts are somewhat less inspiring. So imagine my surprise when Blayack won its class trophy at the Southern Thunder show. In truth, I'm not sure how many (if any) other cars were competing in that class, but hey, a win is a win. It may never happen again, but for a brief time in June 2020 Blayack continued the virtually unbroken string of car show awards achieved by Steve. And kudos to the South OKC Chamber of Commerce and other sponsors of the Southern Thunder car show for going forward with this event (even as they felt necessary to encourage social-distancing through-out the event).

IV. Cruise in for Coffee (MWC)

This event started with a one-hour C & C-type gathering at the usual location (Santa Fe Steakhouse, east of Air Depot on S.W. 29 in Midwest City (MWC)). For the May meeting, participants were asked to stay in their cars and use every-other parking space. The latter request was

mostly honored; the former less so (but still somewhat). It seemed to me there was reasonable social distancing, even among those who got out of their cars (I stayed in mine).

Then after gathering for about an hour, the cars were cranked up and (led by a Mopar group) traveled in a line (maybe 20 – 30 cars) on a pre-arranged route through MWC and then around Lake Draper. It was a nice (and scenic) drive, in a line of classic and interesting cars, with minimal health risk. It seemed to me that this might be a prototype for a low-risk car event. There was no sharing of refreshments (there is a Starbucks nearby, but most of us brought our own); restrooms were available at nearby gas stations; and social distancing was feasible for those of us sensitive to this need.

The drive around the lake was a nice feature, but as I understand it there are no current plans for a repeat of this. The plan is that in future months a simple C & C-type format can be resumed (though with reasonable social-distancing). I had to miss the June meeting but hope to attend again in the future. This event is sponsored on the third Saturday of each month by the City of MWC, and it is commendable that they have continued to support this event even in the face of the current challenges.



BALANCE OF 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



| Month | Date | Activity | Coordinator |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Jan. – Dec. | 1 st Sat. | Coffee & Cars | North Park Mall |
| Jan. – Dec. | Every other month | Ladies' Luncheon & Guys' Outing | S. Laurence/D. Russ |
| June | 13 th | Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur | S. Baxter |
| July | 11 th | Trip to Eischens | R. McCormick |
| August | 8 th | Warwick Motorcycle Museum & Lunch in Wellston | R. Wager |
| | 23 rd | Great American Race Stopover in Ardmore | D & L Russ |
| September | 3 rd | Oklahoma Pilots Association Airplane, Motorcycle, Car Show | B. Ratzlaff |
| October | 23 rd – 25 th | Fall Fling – Amarillo | H. Frantz |
| November | 7 th @ 10:00 | Annual Meeting/Calendar of Events for 2021 & Lunch | R. McCormick |
| December | 5 th | Christmas Party (OKCG&CC) | S. Baxter/ S. Frantz/ M. Lietz |
| | | | |

**CENTRAL OKLAHOMA JAGUAR ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
DECEMBER 30, 2019 TO JUNE 26, 2020**

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| BOA Checking Account (as of 12/29/19) | | \$9,369.84 |
| Plus: Income: | | |
| Dues Income (COJA & JCNA – 2020 Renewals & New Member - Somerhalder) | \$1,020.00* | |
| Advertising Income | 600.00 | |
| Other Income (Adj. by Bank on a Dep.) | <u>.10</u> | |
| Total Income | | 1,620.10 |
| Less: Expenses: | | |
| Editorial Expenses | 50.00 | |
| JCNA Dues (Renewals & New Members – Somerhalder) | 1,890.00 | |
| Miscellaneous (Donation to Wesley United Methodist Church in Memory of Shane York) | <u>100.00</u> | |
| Total Expenses | | <u>(2,040.00)</u> |
| BOA Checking Account Balance (as of 6/26/20) | | <u>\$8,949.94</u> |

*NOTE: The remainder of the dues for JCNA's portion was collected in 2019.

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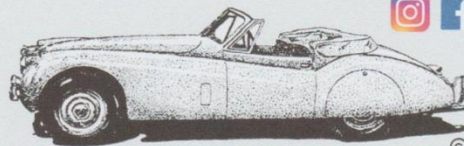
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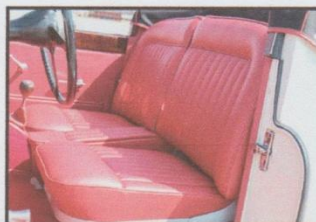
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