

Compiled &
Edited by
Harry
Frantz

Cat Tracks

Central Oklahoma Jaguar Association

June 2025

BBQ & Bingo... and a Balloon Ride??

By Susan Frantz

A big "Thank you" to Jenny and Doug Somerhalder for hosting a fun event last month. Twenty of our members showed up at the Coal Creek Vineyard and Winery for a little wine tasting and a nice BBQ dinner. The entertainment for the evening was several rounds of bingo. A couple of people in our group even won prizes!



COJA members playing Bingo at the Coal Creek Winery.

Additionally, Jenny has learned that the same folks are hosting a Balloon and Kite Festival, September 12-14. Apparently balloon rides are available for about \$20, for those who may be interested. Check with the Winery for more information.

Steam Engine and Tractor Show

By Dick Russ

Last week the Guy's Day Out was attending the annual Steam Engine and Steam Tractor show at Pawnee, Ok. One of the features was the world's second largest engine. The engine was used by the world's largest zinc producer located in Blackwell. The steam engine provided the electrical power for the production plant to provide 10% of all the zinc in the world. The engine was so large it had a 12 foot diameter flywheel.



12' fly wheel from the zinc mine.



The steam engine driving the fly wheel.

There were only six members attending but were treated to a parade of steam tractors dating back to 1818.



COJA members waiting in line for groceries.

What made them unique was the steering was done by huge logging chains. The farmer had his hands full just driving the tractor let alone keeping the monstrous fire that kept up the steam pressure. For those interested in old tractors they had over 150 ranging from 1818 to 1969 and they were required to be operational to enter the show. Jeff Hand and I tried our best to start an old John Deer by hand spinning the engine. Neither of us were able to get it started. I suspect farmers were more in tune to spinning the flywheel than we were.



One of the many steam tractors.

The steam tractor parade was interesting but after watching 20 or 30 steam tractors in the parade Jeff and I felt we had enough steam this year and headed home.



A miniature steam tractor.



A saw mill run by a steam tractor.



The huge steam tractor running the saw mill.

The entire show was a reminder of just how hard it was for farmers to provide crops. A side note was they had a single cylinder steam engine turning a 5 gallon ice cream machine.



The steam powered ice cream freezer.

The ice cream was delicious as well as fun watching it being made. There was a flea market made up of locals selling anything from blankets to old engines or just parts. All in all, it was just a nice time to take us back in time and appreciate what we have today.

May Ladies Lunch

By Susan Laurence

On Saturday, May 3, a convivial crowd of eight COJA ladies met at Jolene Short's lovely home on Ski Island. Her menu included tacos with all the fixings. Susan Frantz and Susan Laurence provided the dessert. No one went home hungry!

If you have never been hosted in the Short's home, you really need to show up for dinner some evening because it is truly a relaxing and comforting venue (I'm sure the Shorts would not mind – just joking!). As always, the conversation and sisterhood among these special ladies leaves you feeling grateful for their friendship.

Our next meeting will be held on July 19 – again at Susan Laurence's home – menu is yet to be decided. Please get this on your calendar – we all have such a good time together!

Upcoming Events

June Outing to Myriad Gardens

By Susan Frantz

Friends -

By now, I hope you have marked your calendars for a guided tour through the beautiful Crystal Bridge of the Myriad Gardens (301 W . Reno) on **June 6 at 10:00 a.m.** The tours typically last from 30 minutes to 1 hour. The Crystal Bridge Conservatory contains tropical plants and has a rainforest climate, as well serving as a home to a parrot named Muffin. Water bottles are encouraged. There are 3 levels to explore, so wear comfortable shoes and cool clothing.

Following our tropical expedition, we can enjoy a refreshing lunch at Charleston's in Bricktown (224 Johnny Bench Drive - on the south side of the canal between Toby Keith's restaurant and the movie theater). The cost of this venture is \$11.00/person but they ask that the group entry be paid by a single individual, so please bring your cash or check to me on the day of the visit. Parking options as listed on their website (myriadgardens.org) are:

On-Street Meter Information:

EMBARC operates, maintains and manages approximately 175 Pay-By-Plate meters that manage over 1,300 spaces in Downtown Oklahoma City.

Meter Rates:

Rates vary by meter. See rate posted on individual meters.

Parking Meter Ordinance:

Individuals with a valid handicapped placard or a handicapped vehicular license plate may park at any downtown meter for free but can only park there for the posted time limit.

Operating Hours:

The meters are in effect and enforced from 8 am until 6 pm, Monday through Friday. There are also several parking garages nearby.

We will meet at 9:45 at the visitor's center to allow time to pay for entry and find our guide. I need to let both the Gardens and the restaurant know how many to expect, so please RSVP by June 3 to 405.250.1082 or susanfrantz1@gmail.com.

*****If you told me a few weeks ago that you wanted to attend, please reconfirm to me! I'm afraid I did not start a list and if I don't write it down, I forget it. Senior moments...**

Regional Food Bank

By Nancy Driver

On Saturday morning, July 12, we are planning an outing to the Regional Food Bank, 3355 S. Purdue Avenue, where we will be packing backpacks or other packages of nutritious food for various Food Bank Programs. Our shift is scheduled for 9:30 to 12:00, after which we can have lunch together at Charleston's Restaurant at 2000 S. Meridian.

To insure that no volunteer space goes unused, the Food Bank has some fairly strict requirements. They want names, email addresses, and phone numbers of all volunteers no later than one week prior to the scheduled date. After that time, any remaining spaces allocated to us will be pulled and redistributed.

So I will need that information no later than July 5 from those who think they will participate. If you prefer not to provide that information, I understand, and you would be welcome to join only for lunch. Other rules: closed toed shoes are required for safety. Persons in sandals, flip-flops or any other shoes where toes are exposed will

not be allowed to volunteer.

The Food Bank is a tobacco-free facility and campus. Smoking is allowed in private cars only.

Despite all the rules, I believe volunteering in this way will be fun and not too strenuous. I hope many of you will plan to attend.

Miscellany

Editor's note:

Susan has been getting a great many phone calls, text messages and emails concerning Cat Tracks. She has nothing to do with Cat Tracks at all.

Also, neither Susan nor I have the time, energy or knowledge to write articles or write-ups for Cat Tracks. I have enough to do editing, proof reading and publishing the newsletter

It would be greatly appreciated, not to mention a saving of time, effort and confusion if you would please contact me directly by phone or text at 405-496-0850 or by email at frantzharry594@gmail.com. Thank you.

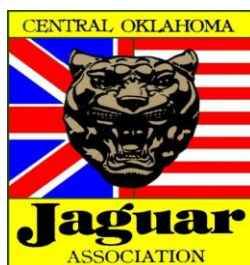


2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Month	Date	Activity	Coordinator
January	17 th	Ladies' Luncheon – Charleston's in Bricktown	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
February	1 st	Tour of Ted Davis' Car Collection & Lunch	Jeff & Lynette Hand
	15 th	Guy's Outing – Tour of Smitty's Classic & Lunch	Dick Russ
March	14 th	Ladies' Luncheon @ Susan Laurence's Home	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
	29 th	Cookout & Get-together at Russ' House	Dick & LaNeal Russ
April	11 th	Tour Heart of Rte. 66 Auto Museum & Lunch & Gasoline Alley Classics	Jeff & Lynette Hand
May	2 nd	Coal Creek Winery and Bingo (Tuttle)	Doug & Jenny Somerhalder
	3 rd	Ladies' Luncheon at Jolene Short's Home	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
	3 rd	Guy's Outing to Pawnee for Natl. Steam Engine & Steam Tractor Show	Dick Russ
June	6 th	Tour of Myriad Gardens & Lunch @ Charleston's Downtown	Harry & Susan Frantz
	TBD	Guys' Outing	Dick Russ
July	12 th	Volunteer at Oklahoma Food Bank & Lunch @ Charleston's on Meridian	Larry Hillman/Nancy Driver
	19 th	Ladies' Luncheon @ Susan Laurence's Home	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
August	TBD	Brunch – Hefner Grill	Sarah Baxter
	TBD	Guys' Outing	Dick Russ
September	TBD	Okla. Pioneer Woman – Ponca City	Larry Hillman/Nancy Driver
	TBD	Ladies' Luncheon	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
October	10 th -12 th	Fall Fling in Graham/Mineral Wells, TX	Joe & Jill Dunham
	TBD	Guys' Outing	Dick Russ

November	TBD TBD	Annual Meeting Ladies' Luncheon	Jeff Hand Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
December	12/6 TBD	Christmas Party @ OKCG&CC Guys' Outing	Sarah, Susan F, Susan L., Nancy Dick Russ



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Board Member	Nancy Driver	405-990-2861
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Membership

Annual membership is \$85. Note, this includes membership in Jaguar Clubs of North America.

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