



# *Cat Tracks*

## Central Oklahoma Jaguar Association

June, 2026

Compiled & Edited by Sarah Baxter

### **President's Message**

By Jeff Hand

The unfortunate passing of Harry Frantz, age 77, on May 1, 2026 removed a dedicated member and officer of COJA from our membership. I knew him well as did the Club. He was always ready to participate in COJA events and help the Club when asked. On May 5, 2026 Suzanne Faye Heidrich, a valuable member of COJA and wife of Richard Heidrich, passed away at age 86. I will remember Suzanne as a wonderful and intelligent woman. Their absence will be felt and they will be deeply missed.

I have been asked to serve the remainder of Harry's term as President of COJA. I accepted and now assume his presidential duties.

Our June event will be attending the Hemmings Great Race when it stops at the OKC Stockyards between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

This summer, the June 22, 2026, Monday evening, Hemmings Great Race – a renowned endurance rally for antique, vintage, and collector cars – will stop at the Stockyards OKC as part of a nine-day 2,300 mile classic car rally visiting 17 cities along this year's chosen route. 130 classic cars will roll into Stockyards City, arriving one minute apart and lining Exchange Avenue in a moving display of automotive history. From brass-era machines to mid-century classics, spectators will experience more than a century of motoring heritage up close.

In 2026, the Great Race will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mother Road with a Route 66-themed event, and is officially recognized as a Route 66 Centennial Event in partnership with the US Route 66 Centennial Commission. From neon-lit

main streets to roadside diners, the event will showcase the charm and character that have made Route 66 a symbol of the American spirit for nearly a century.

Because of the size of the event, anticipated attendance of other spectators and parking, Dick Russ, Bruce and Sharon Parker propose this event to be attended on your own or with other COJA members as arrangements are made.

### **BBQ Luncheon at the Russ'**

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

By Dick Russ

Hello, my dear Jaguar friends. I just wanted to let you know that LaNeal and I loved having every one of you join us, and how much we enjoyed having you attend our yearly spring luncheon. For those unable to attend, you were deeply missed.





We didn't have as many attendees this year, but the twenty-five members that were able to attend were appreciated, and we feel they had a great time eating and visiting. The Bar-B-Q Brisket and Pulled Chicken Sliders seemed to be enjoyed by all and were perfect for the occasion, and the additional sides that many brought were truly appreciated and enjoyed by all.



Glenn Short brought his 30's air-cooled Franklin roadster and spent a few moments telling a few of us the history and his restoration. Even though it wasn't a Jaguar, his restoration of the car from boxes of parts to a beautiful driver was enjoyed. I was critical of a couple of cap screws on his engine that were missing safety wire and I couldn't let him drive home with it missing. I headed for the garage to get a roll of safety wire and a pair of safety wire pliers to safety wire the two cap screws together. Glenn was intrigued by my

safety wire pliers. He said he had never seen such a tool. After considerable time (5 seconds), Glenn now has a pair of safety wire pliers to make sure that if he had a couple of cap screws with the heads drilled for safety wire, he now has a tool to install safety wire.

Hopefully, we will be able to continue the luncheon next year and look forward to seeing you then.

## **Thank You to My COJA Friends and Family**

By Susan Frantz

To my dear COJA friends and family,

I want to sincerely thank each of you for your kindness, thoughtfulness, and support during the loss of my husband, Harry. Your cards, messages, prayers, and warm expressions of friendship have meant more to me and my family than words can adequately express during this difficult time.

I am especially grateful for the Club's generous gift made in Harry's memory to one of my favorite charities. Your compassion and generosity are deeply appreciated and serve as a meaningful tribute to Harry's life and the friendships we shared through COJA.

Thank you all for surrounding our family with such care, comfort, and support. It will always be remembered with gratitude.

## **Thank You**

By Richard Heiderich

Jaguar Friends,

Many thanks for the cards, calls, and condolences from everyone. You are all truly more than a car club. For those who may not already know it, Sue passed away peacefully May 5, 2026 from Alzheimer's. We had a great 66 years together and three equally great daughters. I look forward to seeing all of you at another club event. Thanks for caring.

Sincerely,

Dick Heiderich

## **June Event – Great Race OKC Stockyards – June 22<sup>nd</sup>**

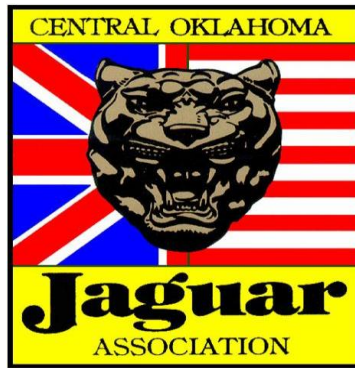
By Dick Russ

We are still making arrangements for the June 22<sup>nd</sup> arrival of the Great Race cars rolling into the OKC Stockyards. I have been working with Houston Gibson. He is the Great Race Events and Experience Manager. I have offered the Club's assistance if they are in need of any help. I am also working with him to see if there is an area we might reserve as a "Welcoming Committee". In any event, we will try and meet as a Club for a late lunch somewhere in the vicinity of the Stockyards. After that, it will be hard to stay together as a group unless we do have an area set up for welcoming the participants as they roll in. We will notify everyone of the final plans as we get closer to the event, but make sure to mark this event on our calendars.

## **Miscellaneous**

By Sarah Baxter

As we have done in the past for a deceased member, a \$100 donation is made to the charity of choice for that member. A donation was made in memory of Harry Frantz to Great Expectations Foundation. A donation was made in memory of Suzanne "Sue" Heiderich to the Oklahoma Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. Both members will be greatly missed.



### Officers

President	Jeff Hand	405-590-4167
Vice President & Editor	Susan Laurence	405-640-0545
Secretary/Treasurer	Sarah Baxter	405-408-8878
Board Member	Nancy Driver	405-990-2861
Board Member	Lynette Hand	405-620-3634
Board Member	Sandy Ratzlaff	405-213-4535
Board Member	Stacey Baxter	405-831-3499

### Membership

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

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**KATIE VAUGHN**





# 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Month	Date	Activity	Coordinator
January	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Breakfast at The OK Diner in Norman	Bruce & Sharon Parker
February	7 <sup>th</sup>	Caldwell Collection (Airplanes) in El Reno	Dean Ritter
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Breakfast at Granny's Kitchen	Sarah Baxter
March	20 <sup>th</sup>	Breakfast at Black Bear Diner in Moore	Sarah Baxter
April	17 <sup>th</sup>	Learning about Square Foot Gardening by Crystal Nieves	Susan Laurence
May	2 <sup>nd</sup>	BBQ Sandwiches/Pot Luck	Dick & LaNeal Russ
June	6 <sup>th</sup>	Route 66 Car Show – 742 W. Britton Road	Rich Wager
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Route 66 Event – Great American Race to stop at OKC Stockyards	Dick Russ/Bruce Parker
July	12 <sup>th</sup>	Oklahoma City Museum of Art	Jenny Somerhalder
August	TBD	Auto Museum	Jeff & Lynette Hand
September	TBD	Tour of Braum's	Ben & Sandy Ratzlaff
October	TBD	Talimena Drive for Foliage Tour	Scott Blaylock
November	TBD	Annual Business Meeting	Jeff Hand
December	5 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Dinner at Legend's Times Two	Susan Frantz, Sandy Ratzlaff, Susan Laurance & Sarah Baxter

# Route 66 Car Show

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DISTRICT

**Saturday 6-6-26**

**742 W. Britton Rd.**

**Okc, OK 73114**

**8-11am**



**Route 66  
Association  
Member**