

Compiled &  
Edited by  
Harry  
Frantz

# *Cat Tracks*

Central Oklahoma Jaguar Association  
September 2025

## **BRUNCH AT HEFNER GRILL**

By Sarah Baxter

We had a small group on Saturday, August 16th, for Brunch at Hefner Grill but enjoyed visiting and catching up with everyone.



Felton Webster and Craig Gibson as well as Harold Eiseman made it to the Brunch.



As you can see, we were in 3 separate booths by the water, but were all together and everyone could get up and visit if they chose to.

The food was very good. Nancy was enjoying her Lobster Benedict, Dick Russ got a Southern Benedict which he said was good but not quite what he had expected. My Quiche was wonderful - best of all, I didn't have to cook it!!! That is always a treat for me!!!

# Upcoming Events

## Outing To Pioneer Woman Museum

By Nancy Driver

On Saturday, September 20, we are planning a drive to Ponca City, where we will have lunch at the “world-renowned” Enrique’s Mexican Restaurant, which “has been family-owned and operated for over 30 years and serves award-winning Mexican, Cuban, and American eats with beautiful airport views” (quoted from the Ponca City Magazine). Enrique’s does not take reservations, but they have assured me that if we arrive when they open at 11:00, they should be able to seat us all with no problem. So that is what we will do.

After lunch we will head over to the Pioneer Woman Museum. This is not Ree Drummond, but rather a tribute to “the enduring spirit of women – past, present, and future – who see no boundaries.” The 17 ft tall statue in front of the museum “commemorates the bravery and grit of women in Oklahoma” (again quoting from the Ponca City magazine). Upon arrival we will receive a brief orientation. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for school-age children, and free for members of the Oklahoma Historical Society and military veterans with ID.

We will meet at **8:45** at the **Oklahoma Visitors’ Information Center**, 12229 N I- 35 Service Rd, Oklahoma City, OK 73131, and depart at **9:00**, with a rest stop at Love’s in Perry. Please let Nancy know if you will be joining us: call or text 405 990-2861, or email [nancydriver1124@gmail.com](mailto:nancydriver1124@gmail.com). We hope to see everyone there!

## September’s Ladies Lunch

By Susan Laurence

Dear COJA Sisters:

The month of September holds the promise of a special function for our bi-monthly luncheons. Dick Heiderich has invited all of us to Touchmark, the Edmond located retirement community in which his wife, Sue, is a resident. As most of us already know, Sue resides in the memory care wing and Dick thought we might find it enjoyable to visit with her and enjoy a delightful culinary experience for lunch. Attached is the menu that Touchmark provides – as you can all see, it’s quite extensive and varied.

It had earlier been reported that we would be having a tour of the Touchmark facilities, but those plans have been altered to only include the previously detailed day which includes the luncheon, our traditional gab fest and getting to spend some time together with Sue. The day will start at 11:30 AM in the Touchmark dining room. Location information follows: please RSVP to one of the two Susans at 405-640-0545 or 405.250.1082.

Friday, September 12 - 11:30AM - Touchmark at Coffee Creek - 2801 Shortgrass Rd., Edmond. Questions? Please contact. Susan Laurence (405.640.0545). Get this date on your calendar right away - it is an event that promises a great opportunity to reach out with love to our dearest COJA sister, Sue Heiderich. For many of us it has been quite a longtime since we’ve had this opportunity. My love to you all, Susan Laurence



## Creskide & Fireside | Lunch & Dinner Menu Week of 8/11/25

### Starters

**Spinach Artichoke Dip \$8**  
Creamy Baked Spinach Artichoke Dip Served with Baked Pita Bread.

**Fried Pickles \$6**  
Deep Fried Pickle Chips Served with Ranch.

**House Salad \$3**  
Iceberg Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Cucumbers and Cheddar Cheese Served with Your Choice of Dressing.

**Pretzel Bites \$6**  
Fluffy Pretzel Bites Served with Warm Cheese Sauce.

**Soup of the Day**  
Included with meal or soup only Cup \$3 | Bowl \$5

### Salads

**Asian Chicken Salad AV GF**  
Small \$5 | Regular \$10  
Chopped Napa Cabbage, Sliced Almonds, Grilled Chicken, Mandarin Oranges, Chow Mein Noodles and Green Onions Served with an Asian Salad Dressing.

**Stone Fruit Salad AV**  
Small \$6 | Regular \$12  
Spring Mix, Peaches, Plums, Nectarines, Feta, Pecans and Diced Red Onions Served with a Honey Vinaigrette.

**Fried Chicken Cobb Salad**  
Small \$7 | Regular \$14  
Iceberg Lettuce, Tomatoes, Avocado, Blue Cheese, Bacon, Boiled Egg and Fried Chicken

Add Grilled Chicken (\$7), Steak (\$9), Salmon (\$7) or Shrimp (\$6) to any salad.

### Sandwiches and Soups

**Turkey Salad Croissant**  
Half \$7 | Whole \$14  
Homemade Turkey Salad on a Croissant served with Potato Chips.

**Touchmark Burger \$16**  
All Beef Patty served with French Fries.  
(Lettuce, Tomato, Onion, Bacon & American Cheese)

**Club Sandwich \$14**  
Turkey, Ham, Lettuce, Tomato, Swiss, American and Bacon on Wheat Served with Chips.

### Entrees

**Chicken Fried Steak**  
Half \$9 | Whole \$17  
Deep Fried Chicken Fried Steak Served with Mashed Potatoes, Gravy and Corn.

**Pork Schnitzel**  
Half \$8 | Whole \$16  
Breaded Pork Cutlet Topped with Mushroom Gravy Served with Mashed Potatoes and Steamed Broccoli.

**Parmesan Crusted Walleye**  
Half \$8 | Whole \$16  
Parmesan Crusted Walleye Served with Jasmine Rice and Steamed Broccoli.

**Monterey Chicken Breast \$16**  
Grilled Chicken Topped with Sautéed Bell Peppers, Onions, Monterey Jack Cheese and Bacon Served with Jasmine Rice and Sautéed Mushrooms.

**Fried Catfish**  
Small \$7 | Regular \$14  
Deep Fried Catfish Served with French Fries and Coleslaw.

### Highlights

**Chicken and Waffles \$16**  
Deep Fried Chicken Over Waffles Topped with O'Brien Potatoes and Fresh Berries.

### Market Specials

Please ask your server!

### Pasta Dishes

**Spaghetti and Meatballs**  
Half \$8 | Whole \$16  
Classic Spaghetti and Meatballs Served with Garlic Bread and Steamed Broccoli.

**Chicken Alfredo AV AGF**  
Half \$8 | Whole \$16  
Fettuccine Tossed in Alfredo Sauce topped with Grilled Chicken, served with Garlic Bread and Steamed Broccoli.

**Shrimp Scampi**  
Half \$8 | Whole \$16  
Grilled Shrimp Over Linguini Tossed in Lemon Butter Sauce Served with Sautéed Spinach

### Sides and Vegetables

Extra Side \$3	Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Potato Chips	Garlic Bread
French Fries	Fresh Fruit \$3
Sautéed Spinach	Whole Fruit \$1
Sweet Potato Fries	Apple Sauce \$2
Baked Potato	Mandarin Oranges \$2
Baked Sweet Potato	Sliced Tomatoes
Steamed Broccoli	
Fresh Green Beans	
Jasmine Rice	

### Desserts

**Desserts \$3**  
Dessert of the day  
Cookies  
Ice Cream

### Beverages

Juice  
Orange, Cranberry, Apple, Lemonade or V8  
Coffee or Hot Tea  
Iced Tea  
Milk  
Fountain Beverages \$2  
Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Dr Pepper, Diet Dr Pepper, Raspberry Tea

Creskide & Fireside Sunday-Saturday  
Lunch 11:30am - 1:30pm  
Dinner 4:30pm - 7:00pm

V Vegetarian AV Available Vegetarian VF Vegan AVF Available Vegan GF Gluten-Free AGF Available Gluten-Free LS Low Sodium SF Sugar-Free  
Please notify your server if you have any food allergies.

## **Fall Fling October 10th**

**By Jill Dunham**

Time to start planning for Fall Fling. We are planning for everyone to come on Friday Oct 10th and we will sponsor dinner that night at our house. This year Mineral Wells is having on Saturday their Crazy Water Festival which we can head over to Saturday morning, it is about 45 miles from Graham. I see about other activity. We can also that day watch the OU/Texas Game. There is another neat car museum in Albany Tx about a hour away. I check on hours they are open,. Remember in TEXAS you are always driving. They also next door have a fanatic kitchen store and great dress shop. I have reserved at Best Western 4 rooms with King and 4 with 2 queen beds. So 8 total if need more then I need to know. The cut off date is 9 11 2025, the number is 940 521 0190. room rate 149.00 . we also have a Holiday day and we see if can get a lower room rate. Please let me know a idea who may be coming,. Jill Dunham 405 201 1238. We are looking forward to seeing everyone and just having a fun weekend.



by Eddie Roach,  
VillagesOKC

## 50 years after jet ejection, veteran marks survival with

Larry Hillman, 79, was a pilot in the U.S. Air Force from 1968 to 1989, retiring with the rank of Major. During his career, he flew C-130 aircraft around the world from Thailand to Turkey in a wide variety of missions.

In Southeast Asia, he flew an Airborne Communications, Command, and Control mission over Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Upon returning stateside, he was an Acceptance Test Pilot for aircraft coming out of depot maintenance.

That's where this story begins. That fateful day when a test flight failed and he was ejected, landing roughly but safely.

Hillman wanted to commemorate his safe landing after being ejected during the test flight 50 years ago. He decided the best way was to jump from an airplane that was not crashing: to do a tandem skydive.

Skydiving was already on his wife's bucket list, so he and wife Nancy headed to Oklahoma Skydiving Center in Cushing to take the plunge. Both members of VillagesOKC, they are very active; this was just one of many adventures they have undertaken.

### Larry's account of the crash:

*It's been 50 years since I was thrown from an EB-57B Canberra over Alabama. I wasn't even supposed to be a regular on that aircraft. My main ride was the C-130, but I'd been assigned as an Acceptance Pilot in Birmingham, and we only had one qualified B-57 pilot, Captain Charlie Wiegrefe. So, I flew in the back seat, the one with no controls, to help with the test flights after heavy maintenance.*

*The jet had a new nickel-cadmium battery. We learned later, much like today's lithium-ion batteries, it had a nasty habit of overheating. Towards the end of what seemed like a successful one-hour test flight, I'd just told the factory we had "a winner" when Charlie yelled that circuit breakers were popping like firecrackers. Before I could offer any help, thick, brown smoke boiled up from behind my seat.*

*In a tandem-seat jet, the rear pilot has to eject first to avoid being incinerated by the front seat's rocket motor. The force of the exit was brutal. The microphone in*

*my mask was driven through my lower lip. The wind tore my arms from the seat, ripping my gloves off and shoving my hands into the rocket motor's flames.*

*The opening shock of the parachute was a sudden, violent stop. My gloves were gone, my hands were burned, and a few parachute lines had snapped. I drifted toward a field, narrowly avoiding a 10,000-volt power line, and landed hard in a pine tree. Fifty years on, the memory is as clear as the Alabama sky was that evening.*

*Looking down, I saw the smoke from the crash site. Then I saw Charlie. His chute was a disaster, a massive hole in the canopy. He was falling like a stone. There was nothing I could do but watch and hope.*

*Fortunately, neither of us were seriously injured and both continued our Air Force careers.*

### The exhilaration of free fall

*Back in '75, the parachute opened automatically the second I was out of the seat; I never experienced freefall. This was my chance.*

*Shuffling to the open door of the turboprop with my tandem instructor, Mac, strapped to my back, was surreal. My feet snagged on the way out, but then we just rolled into the sky. Mac deployed a small drogue chute to keep us stable, and then he tapped my shoulders, the signal to spread my arms.*

*Falling at 120 miles per hour is a wild sensation. The wind noise is immense, and it pushes the skin on your face back, but it was exhilarating. I saw the videographer, Eric, floating nearby, and we gave each other a thumbs-up.*

*The chute opening was firm, but nothing like the violent jolt from 400 knots 50 years ago. Hanging under the canopy was peaceful. I even*

*got a turn at the controls. Unlike my first landing in a pine tree, this one ended on my knees in a grassy field. It was a great experience, a perfect way to reclaim that day.*

### On Nancy's bucket list

*This skydiving adventure was on my bucket list for years, but sharing the experience with Larry on the 50th anniversary of his ejection made it truly unforgettable. I absolutely loved every second!*

*After I watched Larry and his instructor, Mac, tumble out of*





the plane, my tandem master, Andy, told me it was our turn. He had me scoot to the open door, hang my feet out, and then with a simple, "Here we go," we rolled out into the sky.

For a moment, we were completely upside down. It was the most surreal feeling to look "up" and see the ground and look "down" at the endless sky. I instinctively closed my eyes for a second! The freefall was a powerful rush of cold wind on my face. The video later showed me constantly licking my lips, something I have absolutely no memory of doing.

Once Andy pulled the chute, the chaos of the fall turned into a peaceful, warm glide. We made a perfect stand-up landing, and I was immediately ready to go again.

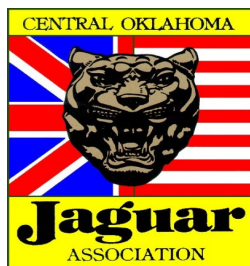
Now that I know what to expect, I'm sure a second jump would be even more amazing. Maybe we'll get to 14,000 feet next time!



# 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Month	Date	Activity	Coordinator
January	17 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies' Luncheon – Charleston's in Bricktown	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
February	1 <sup>st</sup>	Tour of Ted Davis' Car Collection & Lunch	Jeff & Lynette Hand
	15 <sup>th</sup>	Guy's Outing – Tour of Smitty's Classic & Lunch	Dick Russ
March	14 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies' Luncheon @ Susan Laurence's Home	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
	29 <sup>th</sup>	Cookout & Get-together at Russ' House	Dick & LaNeal Russ
April	11 <sup>th</sup>	Tour Heart of Rte. 66 Auto Museum & Lunch & Gasoline Alley Classics	Jeff & Lynette Hand
May	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Coal Creek Winery and Bingo (Tuttle)	Doug & Jenny Somerhalder
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ladies' Luncheon at Jolene Short's Home	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Guy's Outing to Pawnee for Natl. Steam Engine & Steam Tractor Show	Dick Russ
June	6 <sup>th</sup>	Tour of Myriad Gardens & Lunch @ Charleston's Downtown	Harry & Susan Frantz
July	18 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch at Tayta's	Larry Hillman/Nancy Driver
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies' Luncheon @ Susan Laurence's Home (Cancelled)	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
August	16 <sup>th</sup> Cancelled	Brunch – Hefner Grill Guys' Outing	Sarah Baxter Dick Russ
September	12 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies' Luncheon @ Touchmark w/Sue Heiderich	Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Okla. Pioneer Woman – Ponca City	Larry Hillman/Nancy Driver
October	10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> TBD	Fall Fling in Graham/Mineral Wells, TX Guys' Outing	Joe & Jill Dunham Dick Russ
November	TBD TBD	Annual Meeting Ladies' Luncheon	Jeff Hand Susan Laurence/Susan Frantz
December	12/6	Christmas Party @ OKCG&CC	Sarah, Susan F, Susan L., Nancy
	TBD	Guys' Outing	Dick Russ



### Officers

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