

Cat Tracks

Central Oklahoma Jaguar Association

February 2026

Compiled &
Edited by
Harry
Frantz

A Message from The President By Harry Frantz

We have started a new get-together event this year...breakfast. The inaugural event was at the OK Diner in Norman and it was fantastic. Hope to see more members later this month.

Speaking of eating, the Superbowl is just about a week away. Do you have your favorite Superbowl munchies laid in yet? My favorite team didn't make it in this year but I hope yours did.

Have you had enough cold and snow and ice yet? I know I have. We laid in supplies for some of our favorite soups and stews. As always, they were very good and a welcome respite from the cold. Actually, we shouldn't complain too much. All in all the winter hasn't been too bad with temps. in the 50's and 60's much of the time.

I know that it doesn't have anything to do with cars or Jaguars, but it has a lot to do with airplanes and a bunch of members are interested in those. I hope we have a good turnout for the Caldwell Collection in El Reno. I know that I will be going and enjoying the tour of vintage aircraft.

January's Breakfast at The OK Diner By Sharon and Bruce Parker

In spite of freezing temperatures and gusty winds, thirteen of our undaunted Jag Club members braved the elements to meet at The OK Diner in Norman on Friday, January 23, 2026 for an incredible eating adventure!



Jolene, Sharon V., Lynette and Sharon P.

We started out with plates of the most delicious, BIG homemade biscuits smeared with homemade honey butter and hot chocolate, and it just got better from there!. Kent Kistler, the OK Diner owner, had "saved" several tables close together at the far side of the restaurant for us and it worked perfectly! We were able to sit together, converse easily, and have a jolly

good time.



John, Jeff, Glenn and Bruce doing what good friends do...talking.

The food was absolutely delicious - whether you ordered the BIG pancakes, sausage gravy, eggs, bacon cooked to perfection, yogurt with fresh fruit, French toast, more biscuits- all were enjoyed and received rave reviews from the group. And the service was top-notch - the wait staff are very helpful, kind, and pleasant! Kent stopped by to ask if we needed anything, and to thank us for coming out on such a cold day. Several members commented on how much they liked the Diner atmosphere - very comfortable and easy.



Susan F., Susan L., Sarah and Jess doing what good friends do...eat.

And we did see one plane take off from the Max Westheimer Airfield beside the Diner- on a good weather day, you usually see a lot more taking off.

We loved this breakfast adventure and will be going back to The OK Diner many more times in the future, and hope you will too!

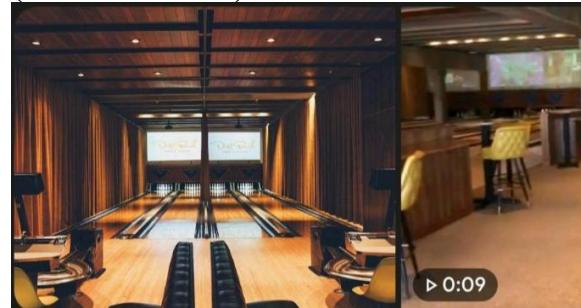
Upcoming Events

SAVE THE DATE

By Sarah Baxter

Jenny Somerhalder has planned an event for March 6th. Who is ready to go back to the 1970's? She has the Club booked for a couple of lanes at the Dust Bowl Lanes & Lounge for 1 to 2 hours of bowling fun (or not if you would just like to sit it out). Dust Bowl Lanes & Lounge OKC is a retro style themed bowling alley, located in Midtown OKC. The address is 421 NW 10th St. They are a family friendly place and she has a couple of lanes reserved for our group.

Time of the event is 4:00 p.m. Put the date on your calendar and be sure to let Jenny know if you are planning to attend (405-760-1511).



The Caldwell Airplane Collection

By Dean Ritter

On February 7, 2026 members of Central Oklahoma Jaguar Assn., and the British Automobile Breakfast Club are invited to tour the Caldwell Collection celebrating the Golden Age of Aviation.

The museum houses a collection of 22 pristine airplanes from the 30s and early 40s in a totally restored WW2 hangar. You will be amazed or your money back. For more information go to www.thecaldwellcollection.org.

The tour will be from 11am to 1pm and then for those who wish may go to Montana Mike's Steak House where we can get further acquainted.

The Caldwell Collection is located at El Reno Municipal Mustang Field.

Address:
6600 South Country Club Road
El Reno, Oklahoma

Directions:

Take I-40 west to the Country Club Rd Exit (west side of town) and turn left (south) for about two miles and the road curves right (west). Continue west for about one and one half miles and the road curves left (south). The airport will be on your right and you will enter at the second entrance. Follow the road to the parking lot at the Caldwell Collection Hangar.

Montana Mike's Steakhouse is on the way back to I-40 and is the last building before the I-40 entrance/exit. The building sits back off the road and has a green front.

Deen just sent this update for those that would rather caravan than get lost. COJA members can meet at McDonalds on Route 66 and Piedmont Road in Yukon at 10:30 am.

BREAKFAST AT GRANNY'S

KITCHEN

By Sarah Baxter

This will be our 2nd monthly breakfast for 2026. This is on a trial basis to see if there is enough participation to continue for the rest of the year.

We will be meeting on **Friday, February 20th, at Granny's Kitchen, located at 2121 W. Memorial Road, OKC.** The restaurant is located near the NW corner of Memorial at Penn. They have a separate room in the back of the restaurant that I have booked at no charge. They suggested arriving before 10:00 as that is when they typically get busier, so we will **meet there at 9:45**.

There is no need to RSVP, but we do hope that you will be able to join us for breakfast.

Jess and I have had breakfast there and their menu covers about anything that you would want and they serve generous portions.

We hope to see you for breakfast on **February 20th at 9:45**.

Miscellany

Editor's note: The following is the last installment from Dick Russ about his long-time love affair with his 1970 Jaguar E-Type drop head coupe.

41 years of Bliss

By: Dick Russ

One of our sponsors for the race was the Jaguar dealership in Tulsa, Oklahoma. We planned to stop on the way to take some pictures. As Mike and I approached the turn off in Tulsa, we had a terrible noise out of the engine, and before we could pull over, the engine threw a rod through the side of the crankcase. We later found out that the oil pump failed, which was the culprit causing the failure.

As you can imagine, we were heartbroken. Now we had a couple of days, and I had a friend, Charlie Blankenship in Oklahoma City, who had a spare E-Type engine. I called him, and he said we were more than welcome to the engine. So, Mike and I rented a trailer in Tulsa and headed back to Oklahoma City with plans to change the engine and be on our way. The next morning, we headed for my friend's shop. He was waiting for us in the doorway with the engine on a pallet beside him. As we approached him from the look on his face, I knew something was wrong. Charlie spoke first. He said the engine had been sitting so long that it would not turn over and should be torn down to see what the problem was. Well, we didn't have that kind of time left, so I called Jeff at the Great Race to let him know what had happened. He said he was so sorry, but he would save a spot for us in the

2016 Great Race if we wanted. I was thrilled and said we certainly wanted it. Before Mike headed back to Houston, we decided to tear down Charlie's engine and see what we had. We had a terrible time removing the head, but when we finally got it off, we saw what the problem was. Apparently, somehow water got into the cylinders, and all we could see was rust. With that, we stopped, and Mike headed for home.

Now (to borrow phrase from a famous commentator), for the rest of the story. I have a very dear friend, Bill Terry of TT Engines in Benton, Illinois, who is famous for building great Jaguar engines. I called Bill and told him of my problem, and he said he was swamped with a backlog of engines that he just had to get out. I asked if he thought he could build me an engine for the Great Race next June. He said he just didn't know and to get back to him after the first of the year. I called Bill in January and he said he would try to help, and go ahead and bring the engine, which I did. Unfortunately, after inspecting my engine, he said he wasn't sure he could save it and just leave it, and he would get back to me. Towards the end of April, Bill called and said he had a great low-mileage E-type engine that he was going to build for me and try to have it for me in time for The Great Race in June.

The last week of May, Bill called and said he had the engine complete and come get it. Now I appreciate that the Great Race is just a couple of weeks away. I had to get the engine, install it, break it in, and then ship the car to California. With the help of my wonderful wife, we got the engine installed, broke it in, and it ran fantastically.

We shipped the car to California, and Mike and I flew out to San Francisco to pick the car up, where it had been dropped off by our carrier “Intercity Lines”. When we spoke with the driver, he said we had a serious problem with the car. When he was unloading it, the car made a terrible banging noise and wouldn’t move. He was able to get it off the truck and left it at the prearranged classic car shop. Mike and I were devastated. We caught a cab and headed for the shop that had the car. The shop said they knew nothing about Jaguars, but I was welcome to any tools they had if needed. Upon jacking up the back of the car, I could see the problem. A rear shock absorber upper link had come unscrewed and was hitting the rear half shaft, thus all the noise. I had never seen a shock absorber come apart like that, but it was relatively easy to fix. As soon as we had the car back on the ground, we were on our way to San Rafael, Ca. our starting point of the Great Race.

The Great Race started on June 18 and ended on June 26 in Moline, Illinois. We didn’t do as well in the race as I had hoped, but everyone said we did great, and to even finish the race is an accomplishment. I will say this. It was one great drive and one of the greatest events of my life.

The E-Type performed flawlessly throughout the entire race and all the way back to Oklahoma City. We drove a total of 3,500 miles and loved every mile. I still show the E-Type from time to time and never get tired of taking it out on a Blissful Drive.

The car now has just over 16,000 miles since being totally remanufactured (to coin a phrase) and still runs perfectly, and

everything works even better than new, providing extreme reliability.

Just for fun, I called Bill recently and said I had a problem. I said the engine doesn’t leak like most Jaguars, and I was concerned. He responded; Dick, my engines don’t leak.

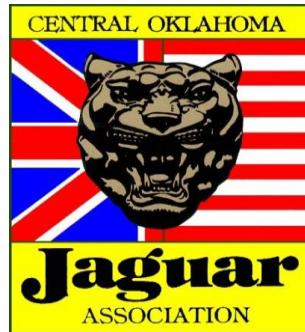




2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Month	Date	Activity	Coordinator
January	23 rd	Breakfast at The OK Diner in Norman	Bruce & Sharon Parker
February	7 th 20 th	Caldwell Collection (Airplanes) in El Reno Breakfast at Granny's Kitchen	Dean Ritter Sarah Baxter
March	TBD TBD	Cold Creek Winery Breakfast	Jenny Somerhalder Need Volunteer
April	TBD TBD	Guthrie Shrimp Grow Breakfast	Susan Laurence Need Volunteer
May	TBD	BBQ Sandwiches/Pot Luck	Dick & LaNeal Russ
June	TBD	Route 66 Event	Parkers or Frantz's
July	TBD	Open	Need Volunteer
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	Harry Frantz
December	12/5	Christmas Dinner at Legend's Times Two	Susan Frantz, Sandy Ratzlaff, Susan Laurence, Sarah Baxter



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Board Member	Nancy Driver	405-990-2861
Board Member	Lynette Hand	405-620-3634
Board Member	Sandy Ratzlaff	405-213-4535

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

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