

The Cat Tale



The Official Publication of the Jaguar Club of Tulsa

Vol. 46 No. 2 Mar/April 2016

1st SATURDAY BREAKFAST March 5th & April 2nd 9:00 am

Hasn't this been a great winter? No ice, no snow, very little rain. Well, we could use a little rain, but I digress.

Since we have had such co-operative weather you can get your Jaguar out from under the winter car cover and show up for **BREAKFAST** on the first Saturday of the month.

One very nice thing is there is plenty of parking around the "First Watch" restaurant at 81st St and Lewis. There is usually a cluster of Jags parked on the west side of the building so you can pull in there and not worry about someone squeezing in beside you to whack you with a door ding!

Remember, we are still on the "Flat Rate Deal" of \$11.00 per person. So far this has been working out pretty well so plan to be there on Saturday morning. Maybe we will have some conversation about where to take a spring time drive to stretch the big Cat's legs a bit.

Lunch and the Elsig Museum Saturday March 26th

We are going to shake up the normal routine a bit by going to lunch first! A great new Mediterranean restaurant called Taziki's has recently opened in Tulsa and it is good! Located on the top of the hill on 71st street at 4929 E. 71st. That is just past the QT on 71st and just before you get to Yale.

This is casual dinning where you order at the counter and then the food is brought to your table. They have all the items you would expect from a Mediterranean restaurant including their homemade lemon chicken soup, hummus, pita bread and more.

We will meet at the restaurant at 12:30 pm and after a delightful lunch we will go to the Elsig Museum. The Elsig Museum is probably one of the best kept secrets in Tulsa and it is housed at Oral Roberts University.

Willard Elsing opened a rock and mineral shop on Route 66 near Joplin in the 1920's and over a lifetime his fascination for mineral and rock art grew into an unprecedented collection. Since 2001, his collection has been on display at the university for all to enjoy. Experience mineral art, precious gems, Oriental and jade sculptures and Native American rarities from around the world. This is a unique museum that is of interest to all ages.

Mark this date on your calendar and arrive hungry at Taziki's and then prepare your self for an interesting tour of this most unique museum.

Drive to Talequah Saturday, April 16th

We appear to be having an early spring this year so with any luck at all the dogwood and redbud should be in bloom along with daffodils, crocus and other flowering shrubs. This is a great time to drive in the hill country to Talequah.

We will meet in the Bass Pro parking lot in Broken Arrow at 9:00 am and from there we will take a leisurely drive down some of the back roads to Talequah where we will first visit the Cherokee Village.

The village has been re-created as it would have been in 1710. There will also be displays of trade goods and guides are there to demonstrate games played by the native Americans and demonstrate early weapons. We will also see Murrel House one of the few original homes still surviving along with the Cherokee complex, home of the largest tribe in the US. We will have lunch at the Cherokee Restaurant.

This will be an interesting trip into the rich art, culture and history of the Cherokee Nation so mark the April 16th date on your calendar now so you won't miss this beautiful drive through Green Country in the springtime.

Special Zoo Visit May 21

We are going to head to Stillwater to visit a very specialized zoo that is like no other you have ever seen. After that we will have a photo op with some MOVIE STARS! Of course for lunch there is the ever famous Eskimo Joe's. This is going to be a fun event and one that you might want to bring the kids or grand kids along on.

SPECIAL NOTICE

That notice that was enclosed with your latest Jaguar Journal about "This is your Last issue" can be IGNORED. The Journals were printed before all the checks to JCNA were reconciled. Your JCNA dues are paid up and you will continue to receive you Jaguar Journal



NEW CLUB OFFICERS

On January 23rd we held our annual Installation Dinner to introduce the Officers and Board of Directors for 2016. We had quite a crowd and filled up the room at the Lone Star Steak House in Broken Arrow.



The service and the food were good and, as usual the conversation plentiful and loud!



Our out going President, **Al Clark**, passed on the gavel (or gavels as it may be) to **Gary Grover**.

Now it may look like Gary had a least 100 pages of an acceptance speech, but he didn't!

He did introduce the other

members of the board who were present, Clark Frayser, Mike Webb, AJ West, Stephan Flach and introduced new board





Stephan is on the left and Richard is on the right.

We had a great turn out and everyone had a good time.



Above are **Diane Salamon**, **Georgia Snoke and Ken Snoke** and at the other end of the table(below) were **AJ West** (standing) **Nicole Timo**, **Sharon and Greg Timo**.



The entire board will be working to make all of our events enjoyable and encourage the membership to let them know what they like and also any suggestions they may have for future events.

Here is the list of our current Board of Directors: and their contact information.

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Smart Key, but Baffled President

By Gary Grover

So I got up and dressed to go out and get the newspaper. In the garage my INFINITI G37X was sitting there with the windows down and the door locks clicking up & down and the parking lights blinking randomly. I don't know if Jags have the diabolical 'smart ass key' but I've grown accustomed to the windows down at random times over 10 years' familiarity!

I brought in the paper and told Maxine that the locks & lights were a new malady. Then my Inspector Cluseau mind kicked in. What if the battery goes down if this has been going on all night. Looked for the key in my pants pocket. Gone.

Quick coffee but no help for mental breakdown. Searched car 5 or 6 times for lost key. NOT there! Tried driving the monster out across the cul-de-sac but it was still clicking etc. Key not in garage on floor. Maxine searches. Then kids show up and they look too. The symptoms stop and we figure that the key's battery has died.

Tests indicate Max's spare key works car like normal and battery isn't down in car. Search bedroom floor and closet where key might have fallen but NO KEY. Logic says key has to be in car in bind with buttons held down. Additional searches still nothing so called dealer to see if they have an electronic key finder ... No but wish they did.

Admit defeat in another hour as exhaustion sets in. Called dealership to find out how long and how much to get new key made. THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS and 1 hour appointment. Set appointment for - Wed. PM 3:00 in hopes of a miracle discovery.

Relate story to neighbor who might have wondered why I had been in the cul-de-sac with my car door open and legs hanging out and cursing, earlier.

Dinner with Maxine was helped by a bottle of wine but very quiet. The next morning was windy and very cold so I went back into the bedroom and put on my slippers to go get the paper and check the car again. Donning my slippers I was immediately pained, excited and embarrassed but gleeful and relieved. My 'smart key' was between my toes and our appointment wasn't until 3:00 so I could call and cancel my appointment ASAP.

It's very ironic that my son ,Cason, is Manager of planning electronic systems for HYUNDAI USA in I AI

Beer, Sausages, Sigi's!

The club made a return visit to one of our favorite eating establishments on February 20th.

In years past we have gone to Sigi's and the weather has been cold and ugly. I recall about 2 years ago when we were being threatened with an ice storm and the walk from the car to the door was treacherous. Not so this year! It was like a balmy spring evening; so much so that **Mike Webb** arrived in his XK8R with the TOP DOWN!

The private room was all set up for us and of course the conversation was plentiful and loud as usual.

The menu at Sigi's is loaded with German delights like the potato salad, the red cabbage, sour kraut, schnitzels, spatzle and much more. My personal favorite is the cucumber and dill side dish. It is crisp and flavorful and just makes you think of summer and I did have some.

Sharon and Greg Timo and Todd and Marybeth Coady were enjoying their German repast.

Carol and Don Wright arrived dressed for the oc-



casion in their authentic German togs. We were glad to see that Don is recuperating well from his recent knee surgery and will be ready to dance at the Octoberfest.

Seigi's never disappoints when you are looking for good German fare and all in attendance had a great time.

An Anniversary of Sorts From the Editor

I have been editor of the Cat Tale since March of 1998 (there was a break of about a year some time ago). That is 18 years, give or take a year. I must say the time has flown by and I can also happily say that a lot of things have changed and the newsletter is a lot easier that it was when I first started.

Back in the early days I typed everything in Word and then cut and pasted, MANUALLY, pictures to go with the stories. It was quite an ordeal and took the better part of a week to get it completed. When complete I drove the finished pages to the printer then came home and waited, frequently til the next day, for a call that the newsletter was printed and I drove back to the printer to get it, add mailing labels and stamps and take it to the post office.

Currently it takes the better part of 2 days to get the pages completed including pictures, because I now have a publisher program that allows me to manipulate the material into its' final form. No more layout and cut and paste! I convert the whole thing to a PDF file and e-mail it to the printer who calls me when it is finished and I go pick it up and complete the mailing.

Yes, it is a lot easier but one thing has not changed and that is how much I appreciate hearing from members who send me interesting items for the newsletter.

Club members read lots of different things and they are always coming across something that is car related. I'd like to see those article, web sites, whatever it is you happen to (cont'd on page 4)

come across and share it with the rest of the membership.

I believe this makes our newsletter more interesting plus I like to hear comments on things that do appear. Suggestions? Complaints? Bring 'em on. This is how I gage what I think the members might enjoy. So, if you have been on a trip, have some great pictures or met an interesting person, or know some antidote that is somehow related to Jaguar or cars in general, send it to me. Don't worry about your writing skills, it is the editor's job to make you look good, and I will.

Russian Car Ads

The Russians have a very different take on automotive advertising than Madison Ave, USA does. Club member **Berneal Flach** sent these interesting facts along with a link to a commercial.

Seems that the Russians make one commercial per year per car make and each is 3 minutes long. Unlike our "Sell it HARD and sell it LOUD! Commercials theirs are quite artistic.

Check this link on You Tube to see the graceful ice dancing cars. http://www.youtube.com/embed/rv7dGhj5UIA After watching this I was pretty amazed at the driving and the skating! Thank you, Berneal for sending this so all our members can see it.

The Spillman Racer

By Linda Young

I was on the Tulsa Library web site hunting for something



when I happened across this photo of what appears to be the frame and partial body of a race car. The photo is in the Beryl Ford collection.

Long time Tulsans know Beryl Ford as a local photographer who spent his life photographing Tulsa. When he died his enormous collec-

tion was passed to the Rotary Club of Tulsa and they now are working with the Tulsa Historical Society to preserve the collection and the photos are being put onto the Library's web site.

The interesting thing is there appears to be only this one photograph of this car. This sent me on a hunt to find out more about the mysterious "Spillman".

It appears the Mr. Spillman is quite a con artist with a taste for high living and fast cars and he got away with it for a long time. This is what appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on May 18th, 2002:San Antonio -- "He liked fast cars and attractive women, and if those passions did not make Mel Spillman unique among men, the cars, at least, seemed beyond the limits of his salary. Yet he would arrive at his \$33,000-a-year job as a court clerk driving a Mercedes-Benz or a Ferrari.

Spillman traveled the country for racing events and even started his own racing team. Around the Bexar County courthouse, where he was known as a wizard at probating wills, he told co-workers that he had inherited money from relatives. What he didn't say was that the relatives weren't his.

"He lived almost two lives," said Cliff Herberg, an assistant district attorney.

Spillman, 55, has pleaded guilty to a stunning and meticulous fraud in which prosecutors say that by forging documents, in some cases falsifying wills, he stole nearly \$5 million over 15

years from the estates of at least 122 people. He lived lavishly, owning five Ferraris.

Spillman, who faces up to 10 years in state prison, is to be sentenced on June 4. His case has astonished the crowd at the courthouse, where he was a popular figure who played softball with judges and was known for his willingness to help lawyers do probate work free of charge. The office of District Attorney Susan D. Reed has seized his \$400,000 home and put the Ferraris up for sale.

"Never in my wildest dreams, knowing Mel, would I think this is something he could be capable of," said Janice Hobbs, a probate administrative assistant who has known Spillman for almost 30 years.

Spillman, who grew up in San Antonio, arrived at the courthouse in the early 1970s and worked in different clerical jobs until his retirement in 1999.

Prosecutors say that he was appointed to work with the medical examiner's office in the 1980s as a probate consultant, to handle funeral arrangements for people without heirs or families and liquidate their estates.

By 1986, Spillman had stopped turning over all the proceeds to the state and instead began keeping most of the money for himself.

He sold off homes and pocketed the money or, prosecutors say, transferred title to himself and brought in renters. Occasionally, it turned out that in fact there were heirs, but, prosecutors say, Spillman either forged documents that gave him power over the estate or otherwise deceived them. His lawyer, Alan Brown, who says Spillman is ashamed, portrays him as a man caught in a trap of his own making. "Once he started it, he felt it got out of control," Brown said. But if Spillman suffered any guilt or anxiety, it apparently did not cramp his lifestyle. His infatuation with Ferraris seemingly bordered on obsession; the floors of his garage, prosecutors say, were checkered in black and white, and the walls were red and yellow, the Ferrari colors. He raced the cars at events around the country and also owned a Formula One-style race car that was carried on an 18-wheel truck. Prosecutors say the truck was equipped with a customized sleeping compartment that had a satellite dish.

Spillman retired in 1999 but told the medical examiner's office that he would continue to handle the estates of the heirless deceased, working as a private consultant. There ensued a series of suspicious occurrences, among them a probate judges' discovery last summer that Spillman's name was listed on papers in a case that could not be tracked throughout the probate system. He was arrested last July in a sting operation as he left a bank after collecting \$900 from an estate. His own meticulous nature as a clerk bolstered the case against him. Investigators say they found a small office in his home with precise records of every estate, including notations about forged wills and other falsified documents.

He also kept a diary that included reminders like "Make new will!" or "Transfer money." On one page of the diary, prosecutors say, he listed two prices for coffins and circled the cheaper of the two.

Investigators found file boxes or suitcases where the deceased had kept personal papers, financial records and even (cont'd on page 5)

legitimate wills that Spillman ignored. They also found pieces of paper on which the same signature was repeated again and again, apparently Spillman's efforts at practicing forgery. Then there were the mementos of forgotten lives: marriage licenses, military discharge records, love letters.

Spillman, who is free on bond until his sentencing, declined an interview request through his lawyer. His sister has also pleaded guilty to charges that she helped him bilk at least one estate, and prosecutors say they are still investigating whether others worked as accomplices.

For Spillman's friends at the courthouse, there is a lingering sense of disbelief.

"He was a happy-go-lucky kind of fellow," said David Brem, an administrative assistant in one probate court. "Nothing ever seemed to bother him." "I guess," Brem added, "he got into a lifestyle that he had to finance in some manner."

As it turns out, Spillman apparently did inherit money from his own father. He and his sister split \$150,000, according to his lawyer. His share would have been enough to buy just about any luxury car, with one notable exception. It wasn't nearly enough for a Ferrari. "

Now here are a few more interesting facts. Spillman was born in 1948 which means he is 68 years old. He was paroled in from a Texas state prison in 2008. I have found no evidence of his death. The guy is still out there.

Was the car in the picture his? Was it being built in Tulsa? Why was is there just one lonely picture of the car in the Beryl Ford collection? Is there anybody around who knows anything about this car or Mel Spillman? Any idea what happened to the car? It would just be interesting to know "the rest of the story".

Marv is Getting Better!

Checked in with club member Marv Gregory to see how he is doing since he was in a motorcycle accident last September.

The good news is Marv is making steady progress and things are looking up. He is currently staying with his daughter and is walking with the aid of a walker. He expects to move back home in 2-3 weeks and be walking with a cane.

Great news! We are looking forward to Marv once again joining us for breakfast.

CAR SHOW TIME AGAIN!

Fliers about upcoming shows are starting to arrive. Of course the JCNA Concours in Oklahoma City will be held on May 13 and 14. It the beautiful Renaissance Waterford Hotel at 63rd and Penn on the north side of OKC. We have covered parking for prepping the cars as well as for the show if we have nasty weather. Those interested can call Sarah Baxter at at 405-794-9279 and she will see to it that you get a show package.

Next up is "The Route 66 Patriotfest" will be held on May 28th, that's Memorial Day weekend, and they have a lot of car related activities planned.

The 2016 Route 66 PatriotFest is slated for Saturday, May 28th in Southwest Tulsa. The festival grounds include a portion of Historic Route 66, The Route 66 Village train and derrick park, and the beautiful campus of Webster High School.

The Car and Motorcycle Cruise will begin at the Route 66 Gateway on Tulsa's east side at East Central High School and

end at the Route 66 Gateway in Historic Red Fork. As the Cruise travels through Tulsa on Old Highway 66, it will pass numerous historic landmarks and businesses that dot our portion of The Mother Road.

The East to West Cruise will pass the Cyrus Avery Route 66 Memorial Bridge and the adjacent Cyrus Avery Centennial Plaza. Most historical authorities see the bridge, known to Tulsans as the "Old 11th Street Bridge" as the center of Route 66 and the place where east meets west in America. More information is available on their web site at: www.route66patriotfest.com.

If you want to plan way far ahead, the Brits in the Ozarks show at Fayetteville, AR is already on the calendar for Sept 10th. This year the guest speaker at the banquet will be Mike Dale, former president of Jaguar Cars.

And one more a bit closer to home, October 15th will be the 5th annual "Grilles and Grills" show in Broken Arrow. Last year there were 300 cars PLUS a KC Barbeque Cook Off all downtown in the Rose District. We will be talking more about this one a little later.

ANOTHER NOTICE!

Your May/June issue of the "Cat Tale" will be a bit late. The Editor is going to be out of town for a couple of weeks in April and May so brace yourself for getting your newsletter around the 15th of May.

Maria De Filippis, 1st woman to race in F1, dies at 89

ROME (AP) — Maria Teresa de Filippis, the first woman to race in Formula One, has died at the age of 89. Formula One made the announcement on its website Saturday without providing a cause of death.

De Filippis made three starts for the Maserati team in 1958, finishing 10th at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium for her best result.

Lella Lombardi, another Italian, is the only other woman to have started an F1 race. Lombardi, who died in 1992, started 12 races from 1974-76.

De Filippis, who was born in Naples, began racing after her brothers bet that she wouldn't be fast enough. She later became the honorary president of F1's retired drivers club.



CLASSIFIED

Classified ads are free to club members. To place an ad, e-mail all pertinent information and picture to Linda Young at mmra@valornet.com or call (918) 258-8320. Ads will also appear on the club website

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- 2015 XF Portfolio, (5737) 3.0L V6 S/C, BRG with Barley Leather, 8,500 miles, \$48,995

New Jaguars (Partial List)

- 2016 XF Premium (6079) (3.0L V6 S/C, White & Jet, \$57,183
- 2016 XF Prestige (6065) (3.0L V6 S/C, Ingot Gold, Expresso Leather, \$65,423
- 2016 XF Prestige (6066) (3.0L V6 S/C, BRG, Expresso Leather, \$64,473
- 2016 XF Prestige (6004) (3.0L V6 S/C, Ebony with Jet Leather, \$58,995
- 2016 XF R-Sport (6077) (3.0L V6 S/C, Ultimate Black & Jet Leather, \$66,623
- 2016 XF R-Sport (6003) (3.0L V6 S/C, Ultimate Black & Jet Leather, \$65,195
- 2016 XF S (6061) (3.0L V6 S/C, White & Jet Leather, \$67,555
- 2014 XJL (5843) V6 S/C AWD Portfolio Ultimate Black, Jet Leather, \$85,833
- 2014 XJ (5905) 3.0L V6 S/C Polaris White and Jet Interior, \$85,333
- 2016 XJL Portfolio (6080) 3.0L V6 S/C Silver and Oyster, \$91,783
- 2016 F-Type (5814) V8 R-Conv, AWD 550hp, Ultimate Black with Jet Interior, \$109,683
- 2016 F-Type (5763) V6 S/C, S-coupe, 340hp, Ammonite Grey, Jet Interior, \$72,863
- 2016 F-Type (5801) V6 S/C, S-coupe, 380hp, Glacier White, Jet Interior, \$93,833
- 2016 F-Type (5858) V6 S/C, S-Convertible, 380hp, Glacier White, Jet Interior, \$99,708
- 2016 F-Type (6027) V8 R-Conv, 550hp, Ultimate Black & Red Interior, \$113,783
- 2016 F-Type (5904) V6 S/C, S-Convertible, 380hp, Ebony, Jet Interior, \$89,258
- 2016 F-Type (5957) V6 S/C, S-coupe, 380hp, Italian Racing Red, Jet Interior, \$90,933

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* Denotes non Board member OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS OF

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1/2 page—\$400.00 per year

1 page —\$750.00 per year

2014 COMING EVENTS CALENDAR** **Official JCTI events are in BOLD

Mar 5th – Breakfast at First Watch, 81st and Lewis, 9:00 am Mar 26th-Lunch at Tazaki's and tour Elsig Museum—details on page one.

April 2nd—Breakfast at First Watch, 81st and Lewis 9:00 am April 16th – Drive to Talequah to Cherokee Village—details on page one.

May 7th—Breakfast at First Watch, 81st and Lewis 9:00 am. May 13 & 14—OKC Concours at Renaissance Waterford Hotel May 21st—Trip to a Stillwater Zoo and visit with some movie stars—Hints on page one.

May 28th—Route 66 Patriotfest car show and cruise. Check web site at www.route66patroitfest.com for details

June 4th—Breakfast at First Watch, 81st and Lewis 9:00 am June 11th—Trivia Rally and Picnic

July 2nd—Breakfast at First Watch, 81st and Lewis 9:00 am
August 6th—Breakfast at First Watch, 81st and Lewis 9:00 am
Sept 10th—Brits in the Ozarks all British show Fayetteville AR.
Oct 15th—Grilles and Grills and KC Barbeque cook off. Broken
Arrow OK.

If Patrick Henry thought that taxation without representation was bad, he should see how bad it is with representation.— Farmer's Almanac

ADDRESS CHANGE?

Have you changed your address? Your name? Is the your e-mail address correct? If there are any changes to be made, e-mail the information to mmra@valornet.com or call the Editor at (918) 258-8320 to make the corrections

REMEMBER!! You can read all these articles and see the pictures in COLOR on the Club web site at:

www.jaguarcluboftulsa.com

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Jaguar Club of Tulsa P.O. Box 471134 Tulsa, OK 74147



Spring has Sprung!

March 26—lunch and Elsig Museum April 16– Drive to Talequah Cherokee Nation

> Jaguar Club of Tulsa, Inc PO Box #471134 Tulsa. OK 74147

The Jaguar Club of Tulsa, Inc. is a non-profit club organized for the purpose of promoting and encouraging the appreciation, enjoyment, good maintenance and preservation of fine automobiles in general and Jaguar brand automobiles in particular; and promoting and encouraging fellowship among people who possess these similar goals.

Membership is open to all individuals regardless of race, creed, color or national origin, who profess an interest in the purpose of the Club. **Membership dues are \$55.00 per year***. Full membership includes: membership in JCNA, a subscription to the *Jaguar Journal*, the national publication and sanctioned event insurance. Checks should be made payable to the Jaguar Club of Tulsa and mailed along with an application for membership to the above address. PayPal is also available through the Club web site at: www.jaguarcluboftulsa.com.

Jaguar Club of Tulsa Inc. Application for Membership

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Jaguar(s)owned (not a requir	ement for membership) Year	Model	
New Renewal_	Year _	Model	
*Associate Membership in the ganization, JCNA and it's bei		er year and does NOT include membership in the Nationa	al or-