

Jaguar Owners Association North Texas

First
Quarter
2020



President's Message

Our club started out 2020 on a very high note. Membership was up to over 90 families, attendance at the monthly dinner meetings were over 50 people, and the new officers and board members were energized. Our first two monthly dinner meeting challenged the capacity of the normal meeting location. Our new sponsor Jaguar Frisco held it's Grand Opening and gave some club members the opportunity to display their vintage Jaguars in one of the show rooms at the event. Plans for the clubs 50th Annual Concours D'Elegance were well under way for April 25.

Then the Corona Virus pandemic arrived. Normal meetings were no longer possible. Even small car events were a challenge. Like all car clubs and most businesses, people stayed home and sheltered in place. The monthly meetings were cancelled with no firm date for them to resume. The concours was postponed to a tentative September 26 date and the Welcome Reception and Awards Banquet would be cancelled since social distancing would not be possible at those events. The concours itself would have some different rules to ensure everyone stays 6 feet apart and wears masks.

You would think this would be death to a car club, but that is not the case for JOANT. We continued communicating with the members through emails. We actually added 5 new members to the club since the virus started. And when things change so that we can have club related activities, the board of directors and officers have plans ready to go.

During the period where most of us had time on our hands, Jags got cleaned, club business got completed by the officers, members continued to post positive information on our Facebook page, and the board had time to work on things to better communicate with the members. This newsletter is one of those communication tools. A rough version of the 2019 Year in Review was sent out to the members first and asked them for feedback and suggested articles / information. Some of that feedback is included in this newsletter. A little more polished version of the 2019 Summary is now on our web page www.joant.club. This JOANT First Quarter 2020 Summary is being emailed to all members and will be added to the web page. Please give any of the board members feedback on what you would like to see included in future newsletter and do not hesitate to send in articles on "Why you own a Jaguar".

Richard Wright—Proud Club President

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JOANT February 4 Monthly Meeting

We had a really large crowd at the meeting and there were several new members that attended. Although the Blue Mesa Grill knew about how many members were coming, the service and food delivery was very slow. Some members never got their food at all. The board apologizes for that and we will be working with this restaurant and others to make sure this is not a normal occurrence.

Despite all of that, it was still a good meeting. The Richard and Ben show was entertaining and they introduced several new members to the group. We were fortunate to have Mike Mykeloff, the General Manager of Jaguar Frisco (our new sponsor) at the meeting and to hear him talk on the new dealership and how we all benefit from our relationship with them.

We talked about the upcoming 50th Anniversary Concour on April 24 -25 and all of the related events. There will be Concours Judging training on February 29th for people interested in being judges or just figuring out what judges look for and a tech session on preparing your car for a concours. The registration information will be sent out to every member by the middle of February and will be available on the www.joant.club website soon.

As usual, there were several lucky members at the meeting. Don and Patti McClane won the bottle of wine and Kent Poynor won the 50/50 pot. There were another six winners that received very nice items donated by Jaguar Frisco.

Clark Kirby gave an update on the upcoming Mardi Gras parade in Oak Cliff February 23 along with an official Second Line Parade (this is the typical New Orleans event where people in costume dance around the room) by some of the members. There is still room for a couple of cars to join Clark and others in the parade. See www.joant.club for details.

The issues we had at this meeting are being addressed by the board members, but there is something that every member can do to make sure the future restaurants do not suffer the same fate. We use the Evite system to determine who will attend and how many people the restaurant needs to be prepared to handle. We all get tons of emails and the temptation is to ignore the ones that do not have any direct impact on us. Please take the time to respond to the Evites you receive with either a **yes** or **no** or **maybe**. If you respond with a maybe, we will assume that you will be coming and ensure the restaurant prepares for the total number of yes's and maybe's. Issues finding restaurants that can handle our dinners is getting harder, but that is part of being an active and growing club.

Thanks to all that attended and sorry that some of you had to stop at McDonalds on the way home.

JOANT Monthly Meeting March 3, 2020

We had another great meeting with over 47 members and guests attending. The staff at Napolis Italian Market did an excellent job of hosting the event, getting all of the orders taken and food delivered quickly. We had the whole room for our meeting which made it easy for everyone to hear the Richard and Ben Show and talk among themselves. We had several first time attendees for this meeting with some being new members and for others this was the first time they could make a meeting. Thanks to each of them and to the other members for welcoming them to the club.

Richard introduced Bryan Sanderford as the new board member and talked about his role to help build on the already good relationships our club has with the other Texas Jag clubs. He has strong ties with key members of some of the other clubs. Billie Bailey is also a member of the Jaguar Club of Austin and she gave a briefing on the upcoming Spring Fling on May 1-2, 2020. This event is intended to build relationships among the various club members when they are not doing battle competing for awards at concourses. Check the webpage www.joant.club for more details.

Ben talked a little about the Mardi Gras Parade and what fun it was. Lots of people got to enjoy seeing some of our members Jagu-ars and even catching some beads.

Don gave an update of the preparation for the 50th Annual Concours D'Elegance and encouraged everyone to consider bringing their Jags even if it is just to display them. He encouraged all members to consider attending the Welcome Reception and the Awards Banquet at the Double Tree. These are both events for the whole club whether they are entering a Jag into the Concours or not.

Dave McDowell briefed the members on major JCNA events coming up. The first is the JCNA Annual General Meeting on March 20 – 21 in Las Vegas. Bryan Sanderford and Terri Clark will be representing our club at that meeting. In the fall the annual International Jaguar Festival will be held in Florida. Our club has volunteered to host this event in 2021 so get ready to hear a lot more about this great event.

It was a good night for Dave since he won the 50/50 money. Jerry Quam also had a good night since he won the bottle of wine.

We want to thank the members for responding to the Evite messages that went out for the meeting. Whether you say YES or NO or Maybe gives us better info to make sure the restaurant is prepared with enough staff and seating area. Please respond again for the next meeting at the 12 Cuts Brazilian Steakhouse. This will be our first meeting there and they are a fairly new restaurant.

Thanks to everyone that attended the meeting and hopefully those that did not attend will consider coming to future meetings.

“GEZRCAT” COMES TO TEXAS

By Mike Kilgore

I purchased a beautiful example of a 2003 (X308) Jaguar XJR in early February and planned to display the car at the Concours scheduled in April. Since that wasn't possible, Don Marpe's call for stories motivated me to put something on paper I hope members will enjoy.

I'm a new member of the Jaguar Owners Association of North Texas. Since I live in Austin, I haven't been able to attend any functions and it appears it may be some time before that will be possible. This is the story of how I became the caretaker of a Jaguar known as “GEZRCAT”.

I grew up in an Air Force family so it was natural for me to have an interest in airplanes.

My dad was not a pilot, but retired as a senior enlisted NCO in 1971. Growing up I loved reading about aviation history and caught the pilot bug early, but I was not able to scratch that itch until 1990 when I earned my Private Pilot License.

I've had the good fortune of being a member of two organizations that promote aviation and allow hands on participation for many years. I've also had the privilege of flying in air shows including early USAF Heritage Flights with the C-17 Globemaster II and C-130J Super Hercules assigned to the Air Mobility Command.

My activities have included, maintaining and restoring several airplanes and writing the history of Dakota Mk IV (C-47B) that served with the Royal Air Force during the World War Two.

Recently, time constraints have prevented me from flying enough to maintain proficiency, so last summer I decided to sell my interest in a 1941 Fairchild PT-19 primary trainer and I'm no longer flying.

What does all this have to do with Jaguar cars? Well, since I'm retired, I needed something to do to avoid living at the fitness club or doing endless projects around the house. Routine yard work loses its appeal after four or five decades.

My primary motivation was to find another hobby that involved historic vehicles with a little less risk than flying.

Jaguar automobiles has a long and distinguished history and has created some of the most graceful machines in the world, so after considerable research, I decided I needed to have one.

One of the lessons I learned in aviation was, if you want to become an owner you need to educate yourself. Airplanes are expensive to own and operate and the FAA has volumes of regulations. The best source of knowledge I found was always the type club.

Type clubs are where you find the enthusiasm for a particular airplane and the knowledge and experience to help you choose wisely. That's the reason I joined the Jaguar Owners Association of North Texas last November.

Within days of submitting my application, Richard Wright contacted me by telephone to discuss my interest in the club and Jaguar automobiles in general. A few days later, Scott LePage also reached out via email with helpful information about the club.



I was very impressed by their efforts to welcome a new member even though I was not yet an owner. I was chuffed!

I spent several weeks surfing the Internet and discussed the pros and cons of buying an older Jaguar such as a MKII with Richard. Although I was leaning towards a vintage Jaguar, I'm at the stage in my life where I want to spend my time driving rather than restoring a project or doing constant maintenance. If you've ever worked on airplanes with radial engines, you'll understand.

Richard helped me narrow my focus to the years and models that offered the safety features and amenities I wanted and that I could drive regularly. And after my frustrating experience inspecting and driving used Jaguars at dealers in the DFW area, he suggested I look for cars offered by a "good owner".

It was while searching the Jaguar Clubs of North America web site in early February that I discovered a fresh listing for a 2003 XJR for sale by an owner in Aiken, South Carolina. There was only one photo in the ad and few details. But the car fit my criteria so I contacted the seller by email.

I've never bought an airplane without inspecting it and I was a little hesitant about making a commitment for a car located 1,100 miles from home. However, the owner's detailed response that night put me more at ease.

It was obvious he was knowledgeable about Jaguar's company history. He displayed humor about the "hot rod" nature of the XJR, and he shared a detailed list of maintenance and improvements he had done during his five years of ownership.

Detailed maintenance records were at the top of my "must have" list and he was already scoring points in that department. When I asked what prompted the sale, he said the purchase of a new Toyota Highlander and the need for more room in his garage was his reason for selling.

The fact he was a member of both the JCNA and Mercedes-Benz Club of America indicated he wasn't a typical owner. He offered to send more photographs and data from his maintenance files in a subsequent email.

The photos arrived within a few days along with more details about the car's maintenance history. He was clearly knowledgeable and personally involved in maintenance. The car looked great in the photos and the setting in front of the owners home showed the car to good advantage. A lot of close up detailed photos helped me make a decision.

I had already obtained a CARFAX report that confirmed everything he told me about the car, so at that point I decided to make a commitment to purchase and made arrangements to fly to Augusta, Georgia located about forty minutes from the owner's home.

I knew there was some risk, but each email exchange had increased my comfort level. I bought a round trip ticket in case the deal fell through.

I landed in Augusta midday on February 8, a Saturday, and the owner picked me up in the Jaguar. My first impression was it looked even better in person and sounded great!

Over the next two days I enjoyed the hospitality of the owner and his wife, toured Aiken and received the benefit his knowledge from five years of operating the car.



The maintenance records he shared started in 2014 with the previous owner and CARFAX maintenance records went back to 2010. My stress level about driving an unknown used car 1,125 miles across the country had mostly disappeared at that point.

We completed the deal on Monday morning and I obtained a temporary South Carolina license plate at the Aiken DMV. The owner said he was sad to see the Jaguar go, but his 40th Anniversary Edition Mercedes-Benz SL500 convertible helped ease the pain.

My trip to Austin went according to plan and was mostly uneventful except for the rain I encountered starting in Houston. I only had one squawk, as we say in aviation. The single windshield wiper didn't perform well in the drizzle, but the owner never drove it in the rain. The roads in Louisiana were dreadful, but that's not the fault of the car.

I will admit to sticker shock the first time I filled her up with premium fuel, but she averaged just under 22 miles per gallon on the trip, so I can't complain.

Since returning to Texas, I have secured a specialty license plate to match the South Carolina plate on the car when I bought it. "GEZRCAT" is left open to the reader's interpretation.

The car was built in Coventry in January 2002 and had just over 106,000 when I bought it.

The exterior color is Quartz, the interior Charcoal and she has 8" X 18" Asteroid wheels standard on the XJR.

The Jaguar now has pride of place in my garage while the two Hondas sit outside.

My wife and I have rescued and lived with numerous cats over the years.

Being stuck at home during this unusual time has allowed her to crochet a few more.

This one somehow gained access to the Jaguar when I wasn't looking.



Why Was Ford Buying Jaguar Important For Don Marpe

Don grew up in a small (350 population) town in Minnesota. His father owned a small (12 car sales a year was a good year) Ford car and farm implement business. Growing up at a Ford garage gave him a strong loyalty for those cars. He owned Fords from a used 1955 Fairlane to almost all the versions of Mustangs up to the 1980s. His first variance from a Ford was a 1988 Merkur XR4Ti which was produced by Mercury. There were a few Ford family cars during those following years. Although he often thought about owning a more exotic car than a Ford, his loyalty and more important his father's loyalty to Ford prevented that. His big break came in 1995 when Ford bought Jaguar. Although he could not afford a new Jaguar at that time, it started to open the possibilities for the future. In 1999, the interest rate on a loan for a used car was acceptable and Don bought a 1997 XK8 with 30,000 miles on it. That became his daily driver and he drove it a lot. Normal trips to work were 70 miles per day, so that meant he spend almost two hours a day enjoying his Jag. That lasted until 2008 and 180,000 miles on the car. A short in the wiring harness that caused the car to go into limp mode, forced Don to sell the car and find a substitute car. He purchased a 2000 Porsche Boxster which was a fun car to drive and provided dependable transportation. It did not compare to the Jaguar, so in 2009 a very clean 2007 XK showed up at Park Place Jaguar. Although he lived in New Orleans, the drive to Dallas for a Jag with only 23,000 miles on it was worth it. When Don moved to Frisco Texas and only had room in the garage for his wife's SUV and one other car, the Porsche found another owner and the Jag stayed with Don. That XK stayed with Don until a really clean 2012 XK with 15,000 miles showed up at Park Place Jaguar. He made the trade to an even better Jaguar. This XK is not just his daily driver, but it also gives Don the opportunity to again challenge his driving abilities on a road course. He did many hot laps at the NOLA Motorsport Racetrack in New Orleans with the Porsche. Now he is taking a shot at Eagles Canyon Racetrack in Denton with the XK. After having the car checked out and needed brakes and tires done at Frisco Jaguar (the club's sponsor), he spent a day on the road course learning that the Jag was much more capable than the driver. So as a beautiful daily driver and exciting car to drive aggressively, this Jag is a keeper and likely the last car Don will buy.

Don first learned about JOANT in 2014 when Alan Barclay (then President of JOANT) came over to New Orleans to display his Jaguar in the British Motoring Club New Orleans Car Show. Alan and Don struck up a friendship that became even closer when he moved to Frisco. Car shows were a passion for Don so he offered to help Alan with the 2017 Concours D'Elegance. Alan passed on the torch of chairman to Don and he has been the chairman ever since. Don also became the club's secretary and continues in that role now.

