



TULSA STAR NEWS
MAY-JUNE 2025



I would like to start this message by giving thanks. Thanks to our members who make up the Mercedes-Benz Club of America Eastern Oklahoma Chapter. Your membership renewal and participation in the Club are vital to our continued success. It is nice to see the ambition of the Club members to help out when they can at drives, gatherings, and other exciting events.

Club sponsorships and in-kind assistance are also much appreciated. Club members attending our monthly restaurant gatherings usually number about 30 in attendance. The restaurant establishments that we frequent are good to our Club! We are happy that they are there and able to accommodate our group size in a private room. The attending Club members know about these restaurants and patronize these places throughout the year independent of our Club gatherings.

Our newsletter advertisers are a nice addition to our Club and our newsletter production and distribution. Many sponsors offer special considerations for our members in the form of specials or discounts for their products or services. Look for them mentioned in each issue of our newsletter. Many thanks to these great organizations. Where would we be without them? Please do not hesitate to frequent these fine places.

My hat is off to our MBCA board members for our Chapter here in Eastern Oklahoma who make decisions, arranges drives and organizes events. Additionally I must include our former President who has been selected to the MBCA National board and still assembles our newsletter and website. Many of them have assisted in more ways to count You will also find them volunteering beyond our Club for other charitable entities. Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee, Coffee Bunker Veteran's group, Braille workers, Toys for Tots, Alzheimer's Association and driving in the annual Tulsa Veteran's Day parade honoring our veterans who have served. These are just a few examples of the caliber of our members. I can tell you that they truly look to help others. A person does not volunteer to feel better about themselves, but after you do it, you will.

Also, many thanks to you the reader and those who have reached out to offer a compliment about my occasional President's message off-the-cuff humor. It is a pleasure to serve as your President and for that, along with the entire MBCA Eastern Oklahoma board of directors, I thank you.

Thank you and drive safely,

Nathan

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Eastern Oklahoma Chapter

Calendar of Events

MAY

Saturday May 3 **meet JCI 8:30AM** **depart** **9:00am**
First American's Museum of Native Culture **Oklahoma City OK**
lunch at Toby Keith's bar & grill Bricktown **12:30pm**

Friday, May 9 **Q2 Board meeting** **10:00am**
Hardesty Library

Thursday, May 15 **May Gathering** **6:00pm**
Villa Ravenna Italian Restaurant
Farm Shopping Center, Tulsa OK

Saturday, May 31 **9:00am**
Cruisin' Angels indoor car show \$15 pre registration fee.
Muskogee OK

JUNE

Friday-Saturday June 6-7 **9:00-5:00**
Mecum Tulsa auction, Sagenet Center Tulsa Expo Square

Saturday, June 7 **9:00am**
Oklahoma Mercedes Benz owner picnic
Hafer Park Edmond, OK meet at JCI and depart together

Thursday, June 19 **June Gathering** **6:00pm**
Charleston's, 71'st & Yale Tulsa OK

Friday, June 20 **11:00am**
Town Village car show with Porsche Club
Town Village, 81'st street & Yale



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A Taste of Italy in Southern Oklahoma

On Saturday March 8, twenty-one members and guests in nine cars drove from Jackie Cooper Mercedes Benz to Krebs OK and the famous Pete's Place Italian Restaurant. One hundred years have passed since Pietro Piegari opened a restaurant in his home.

Pete's is now on its fourth-generation family ownership and continues to serve "family-style" all you can eat Italian spaghetti, meatballs, sausage, salad, and dessert.

The weather may not have been the best with light showers along the drive, but the food more than made up for the less than perfect weather. After lunch, members could take in some local attractions like Lovera's Italian market.



Family Style Spaghetti and Meatballs



Hungry Diners wait for their Taste of Italy



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My Amelia Island experience

John Kushnerick

Day 1

On Friday March 7, I attended the Classic Motorsports Amelia Island Kickoff car show presented by Sunoco in Fernandina Beach Florida. The Mercedes Benz Club of America was the featured club at the show. This event is a few miles away from the Ritz Carlton at Amelia Island where the "big" show was taking place on Saturday and Sunday.

I saw a nice selection of European models such as Morgans, MG's, Mercedes Benz, Rolls Royce, Audi's and BMW's. There were very few American cars which was unusual since in Tulsa that is all we see. The show even had a Concours D'Lemons sponsored by Haggerty for some really odd stuff. I have never been to a Concours D'Lemons, but I've seen it on Chasing Classic Cars at Pebble Beach. The show celebrates the odd, mundane & truly awful of the entire automotive world-think Ford Pinto, rusty VWs, and AMC Pacer's. It is this show, the weirder the better. Judges for the event were such luminaries as Wayne Carini (Chasing Classic Cars), Indy driver and team owner Bobby Rahal, and Tom Cotter (The Barn Find Hunter) and many more. Categories and prizes were quirky and fun and bribing judges with food and drink was totally legal and encouraged.

After the show, I joined 115 other MBCA members from across the country at the Star Social at the Salt Life Food Shack patio which was reserved for MBCA members. It was a breezy and cool evening, but I staked out a position by the fire pit which helped keep me warm. I was able to meet other MBCA members to discuss cars and maybe a little politics.



The Classic Motorsport show featured some nice cars and the not so nice.



Day 2

I got up early to drive to the Amelia Island Concours. There were two car shows going on the grounds of the Ritz Carlton--the Concours and Radwood. Over 300 Classic and rare automobiles were on display at the Concours. It was by far the biggest and best show I have ever seen. The Concours is an invitation only show that brings in the best classic and rare cars in America. In addition, Broad Arrow had a classic car auction inside the Ritz Carlton with more great cars. Radwood is a celebration of the 80's and 90's automotive lifestyle. The car show that blends period correct dress with automotive awesomeness. This event has cars, trucks, and bikes from 1980-1999 that captures the essence of a bodacious era. 250 vehicles participated in that show.



I saw things to dream about. Two class winning Mercedes Benz.



1936 Mercedes Benz 540K



Best of Show: 1938 Alfa Romeo 8c 2900B

Classic Mercedes, Duesenberg's, Stutz, Rolls Royce, Ferrari's, Delage, Aston Martin's, Auburns, Mercer's, Packard's, Porsche, and more.

More beautiful cars than I can display in this newsletter.



Pan Am crew with their Corvette



Wayne Carini



Amelia awards





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Member Profile: Harriet Kushnerick

I was born in Seoul, Korea and lived there until I was almost 7 years old. My father received an invitation by United States which led him to America in 1958. He left his profession as an ear, nose, and throat surgeon for a chance to live in the Land of the Free where freedom was valued. My recollection growing up in Korea was that of no plumbing, no refrigeration and no one I knew had a vehicle. After landing in 1964 at JFK Airport, my schooling was in the Philadelphia parochial and the public school systems. My parents' first car was a powder blue 1965 Plymouth Valiant which did not come standard with power steering. One day mom and I went out for a drive to practice for her driver's test. With no air conditioning, mom was sweating bullets trying to turn that car around in a narrow city street. After mom got her license, we were no longer relegated to walking to the grocery store with our cart and had a choice whether to use public transportation.

I began to play that double reed instrument the oboe in 5th grade and I tinkered on the piano since my mother was a piano teacher. This consumed hours of daily practicing and attending private music lessons in Germantown, PA. Early high school, integration called 'bussing' inner city students was a high stress controversial time as we felt threatened by others whom we viewed as outsiders. Like anything, after some time, we adjusted and we got along. My high school years were filled with sports and organizations. I was not a super athlete like my siblings but this had me try even harder in everything. Being the smallest amongst the three of us, I truly was the runt. Tennis and volleyball is not where my talents laid but I did make it on the cheerleader squad all four years and became captain of the varsity squad as a senior. I served as an officer of both the Girls High School Athletic Association and the National Honor Society. As a Fellowship of Christian Athlete member, it led me to my first retreat away from home deepening my faith and remaining with me the rest of my life. During my high school years I managed to squeeze in all city band, orchestra, and choir along with other activities besides being named "Miss Roxborough". I was surprised when I was the recipient of award at graduation of 1976 for being the most involved female student in the senior class which had a little over 500. Although that was the era of the "streakers" we did not have one make an appearance at graduation like when the Philadelphia Flyers won the Stanley Cup. Being that it was the bicentennial year, we were issued new red, white, and blue uniforms at Gino's where I worked throughout high school. My graduation gift of a red hard shell Samsonite suitcase took me on many trips back and forth to college, business trips, and vacations.

I attended Bloomsburg State College in PA where I graduated with a major in Marketing with a minor in Management. College years were filled with sorority activities and meeting people. During college summers I continued to work at Gino's, the same fast food restaurant I worked throughout high school. Eventually I became a Kelly Girl exposing me to companies in downtown Philly like Sun Oil, University of Pennsylvania, and TRW. After college graduation, I decided it was time to finally get my driver's license to join the work force. My brother Ken took me out in a Toyota Corolla with a stick shift on a pretty harsh incline. Needless to say, I never asked him to take me out again. Eventually, I did learn to drive a stick.

What an exciting time it was relocating to a South Jersey apartment to work for Quaker Oats Company as a district manager in the early 80's. My cat Spot and I moved to Lindenwold, New Jersey and I drove all around in a brand new powder blue, front wheel drive Citation company car. Three years of representing Ken L Ration, Puss n Boots, Aunt Jemima, hot & cold cereals like oats, Cap n Crunch, Life, and granola bars ended when I left to work for a company Lee Iacocca was revitalizing. He was giving new life to Chrysler Motors with a K car the public knew as the Plymouth Reliant and the Dodge Aries. I landed a job as a District Sales Manager to represent all their vehicles. The work was both challenging and rewarding especially since I was the only female manager in the zone and the entire region at that time. While I worked at Chrysler, I was able to order any new vehicle of my choice as often as every three months encouraging us to represent the company and Chrysler handsomely provided in all aspects. During college John and I began dating in 1977 resulting in marriage in 1983. Once John and I started a family, a new minivan category was introduced and I consistently ordered a Plymouth Voyager. Some of my male counterparts were not happy I joined this male dominated industry which motivated me to prove myself to perform better than if I had not had that pressure. One gentleman stopped me in the hallway and told me I should not be in the office working but rather at home with my kids. I heard his message loud and clear so eight years later when I was expecting my third child and I was finally vested with the company, I turned in my resignation.

Becoming a stay at home mom with four children kept me busy being a homeroom mom, driving to dance, gymnastics, soccer, scouts, etc. My new normal became packing endless lunches, snacks, and arranging play dates. As the kids grew so did the vehicles I drove; the GMC Suburban, Ford conversion van, and the Ford Excursion. As we transitioned into empty nesters, now our adult children with families of their own are now driving the larger SUV's and I am driving a smaller one. With three of our four children raising their families in Tulsa with our youngest in Tyler, Texas, we are gifted with the joys of grand parenting. When I'm not babysitting or attending a grandchild's soccer game or dance recitals we enjoy our recently downsized home with our Jack Russell terrier Charlie. With all four of our children having graduated from the University of Oklahoma, we have inherently become Sooner fans rooting on OU football games with friends. Besides the Thunder, we will be loyal Philadelphia Phillies, Eagles, and 76ers fans always.

The last ten years has been exciting for I've had the privilege of meeting and becoming friends with the best people in the world thru the MBCA. Fine folks who gather for the sheer love of cars forging friendships thru car tours to Talimena Drive, on the "pigtail road", Alzheimer's Walk, Christmas party, Benz n Brats, Chili cook-off, Frank Phillips Mansion, Cowboy Hall of Fame, OU meteorology center, Will Rogers Fly-in – just to name a few. If I miss a monthly dinner, it feels like a family homecoming on my next return. I look at Eastern Oklahoma MBCA and how the past leadership got our section started, the present making everything better, and for the future I see only clear roads and sunshine ahead regardless of new national realignments. Our club will keep implementing this formula that works for us.

Currently in this chapter of my life begins what is ultimately the most important in one's life. I'm blessed to be a member of the St Bernard's parish where I can deepen my faith with our Lord, for He has been patiently waiting for me with outstretched arms. I still find my life at full speed but I can finally reward myself by participating in Bible studies, faith groups, retreats and forming new friendships. John and I moved about eight times mostly within Pennsylvania but also lived in Ohio and Oklahoma. Our last relocation here to Tulsa twenty-six years ago was not what we thought we wanted but later realized it was His plans. Five years ago our address changed a mile south down the road from Tulsa to Bixby to downsize and it probably was our final move. My life has not always been easy but overall it has been and continues to be a marvelous one which includes family, hope, faith and love. And best of all, I will finish an Okie. Go Sooners!

Mercedes-Benz Won't Pass Along Costs of Trump Tariffs on 2025 Models to U.S. Buyers

Many of the carmaker's best-selling SUVs like the GLE-Class are made in the United States, lessening the impact of the tariffs.

BY EMMET WHITE PUBLISHED: APR 08, 2025 12:11 PM EDT



PICTURE ALLIANCE // GETTY IMAGES

It's been only five days since President Donald Trump imposed a 25% tariff on all imported vehicles coming into the United States, and automakers are reacting in different ways. While brands like Jaguar Land Rover and Audi have been quick to pause vehicle shipments to the United States, Mercedes-Benz and BMW — are forging a different path for the time being.

That's because Mercedes-Benz is pledging to absorb the 25% tariff on 2025 model year units, according to a statement issued by the automaker to Automotive News on April 7. There will be no increase in sticker price to 2025 model-year vehicles for U.S. customers. BMW is tagging along on this journey to a lesser degree, committing to absorb tariff costs on Mexican-built vehicles such as the 3-Series, 2-Series coupe, and M2 models.

"We continue to monitor the situation closely, are evaluating all options, and will adjust to changing market conditions and the competitive landscape if needed," Mercedes-Benz spokesperson Michael Minielly said.

The move to absorb tariff costs, at least initially, shouldn't be particularly surprising for luxury brands like Mercedes-Benz and BMW. Both German automakers had good years in the U.S. in 2024 and are likely unwilling to crush all that domestic brand equity. In addition, Mercedes manufactures its bread-and-butter GLE-Class and GLS-Class sport-utility vehicles, plus the electric EQE and EQS SUVs, in Alabama, which means a

large share of U.S.-sold Benzes, AMGs and Maybachs were built in the States; the GLE and GLS alone made up more than 96,000 of the brand's 324,528 passenger vehicles sold domestically in 2024. Essentially, the Stuttgart-based manufacturer doesn't rely as much on imported models for its U.S. market share as many other foreign-owned brands, meaning the 25% tariff hit will land on a smaller portion of vehicles.

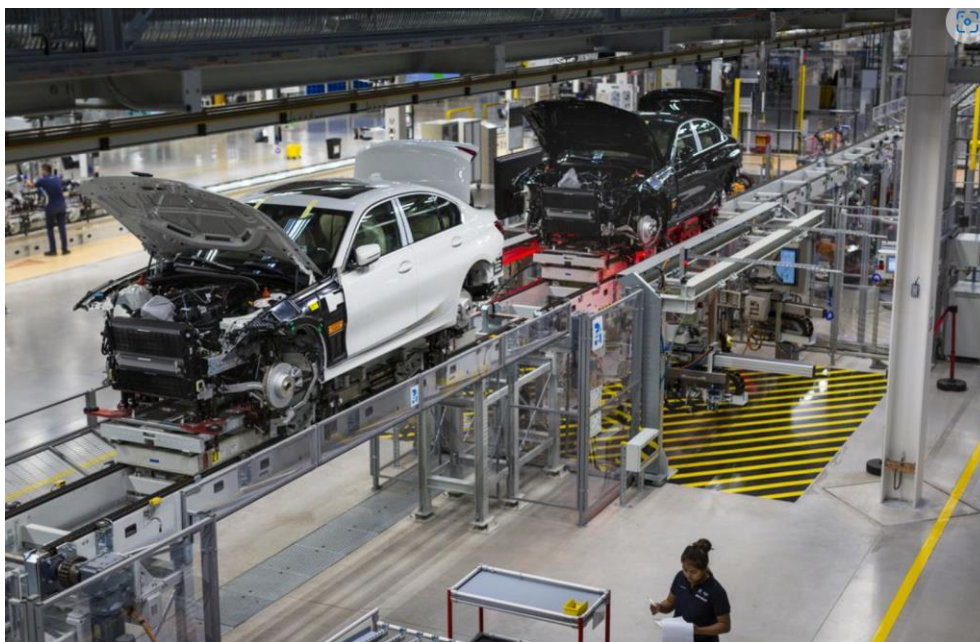
The same is true for BMW, which rides high on X-series SUV sales domestically, and operates a massive facility to build those very vehicles in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Out of a total of 371,346 vehicles sold in the U.S. during 2024, crossovers accounted for 207,594 units. The X3 and X5 were standout sellers within those, representing 68,798 units and 72,348 units, respectively.

Manufacturers without a U.S. manufacturing presence like Audi and JLR are taking a different approach, as both ceased car shipments to the U.S. following President Trump's tariff imposition. JLR was the first to do it, pausing its imports on April 6, with Audi following suit on April 7. Additionally, all new Audis that entered the U.S. after April 2 will not be delivered to dealers.

As it has 37,000 units of inventory already in the U.S., Audi says it can hold off on new vehicle deliveries for two months, according to a report from a German news outlet. Audi's parent company, Volkswagen, is facing similar challenges as the majority of its U.S. stock is imported from Mexico. As a result, the German auto conglomerate is allegedly considering a price increase for U.S.-bound

Asian automakers, so far, are approaching the tariffs from a different angle. Hyundai and Genesis have all agreed to keep prices level for at least two months, while Kia has yet to make an official ruling. Honda, Toyota, Subaru, and Mazda are also laying in wait to see how the situation develops. Nissan is even decreasing prices on some of its models to help current car shoppers find something affordable, a feat made possible by Nissan's Tennessee production facilities.

President Trump's rhetoric around the initial wave of automotive-focused tariffs focused on improving the viability of the American auto industry. However, the tariffs have sent shockwaves through the industry from a consumer and business perspective, leading domestic brands like Ford and Stellantis to extend employee pricing deals on certain eligible models. And ultimately, it remains to be seen just how helpful these tariffs will be for the Big Three, as the practice of importing essential parts from overseas continues to be the standard operating procedure for automakers around the globe, which means even cars made in America often contain sizable percentages of components brought across the border — and now subject to Trump's tariffs.



MBCA member is the Queen Bee in Oklahoma spelling



Member Susan Hoog is the Executive Director of the Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee. On Friday April 25, 2025, over 1200 students participated in the 15'th annual spelling championship at the Muskogee Civic Center.

The purpose of this competition is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vocabularies, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage that will help them all their lives.

The top three spellers receive a check for his or her school as well as themselves to continue their education. All participants and their families are fed a meal from many sponsors who value the goals of the organization.

Questions call chapter President at 918-361-6967 or the National Business office at 1-719-633-6427 M-F 8am – 5pm



Sweating the Details: 10 Car-Cleaning Mistakes to Avoid

Matt Fink

01 April 2023

No fooling around, April means National Car Care Month! Whether you're a seasoned pro, or someone like me who has committed many of the below errors, it's easy to overlook best practices when washing and detailing your car. Now that spring is upon us and great driving weather is ahead, I'll bet you want your car looking and feeling its best. Here are 10 common car cleaning mistakes to avoid as you take your beloved machine out of hibernation.

Don't: Leave wax on for too long (or wipe it off too soon!)

How long you should leave wax on a car before you wipe it off? It's 1-2 minutes... if it's [Ammo Skin Defense](#). If you are using [Griot's Garage Ceramic 3-In-1 Wax](#), you shouldn't let any water touch it or apply a 2nd coat until it cures for 12-24 hours after wiping off. Then there's [Chemical Guys Butter Wet Wax](#), which should be wiped off immediately.

There's no hard and fast rule here. Each wax is different, so the move here is to **follow the instructions** to get optimal results. Some need to dry to a haze. Others will leave streaks if you don't wipe them off immediately. Just keep in mind that with *any* wax, if you leave it on the longer than directed, expect to leave streaks.

Don't: Go overboard with the product

Whether it is wax or interior protectant, less is best!

Especially when it comes to paint protection, using too much wax offers no additional benefit and just makes removing it that much more difficult. That also applies to mixing a concentrate product, so don't go too strong. Using too strong of a [window cleaner](#), for instance, leads to more visible streaks.

Don't: Leave bugs or bird dropping on your paint

Maybe it's revenge, but bugs can damage the paint long after they hit the car. The little splattered insects stuck on your bumper can contain acidic substances. As insect remains decompose, they produce enzymes intended to break down the carcass. These enzymes also break down automotive clear coat and, eventually, paint. It can result in permanent etching. They're also gross.

Bird droppings, too, are both gross and acidic enough to penetrate your clear coat and leaving a lasting stain. The fix here is easy: Grab a spray detailer and wipe off bugs and bird poop when you see it on your car. Don't wait!

Don't: Wash the wheels last

It may seem counterintuitive, but I'm a believer in washing your wheels/tires/wheel wells *first*. Once that's done, start at the top of the car and work your way down.

If you wait to do the wheels as the final step, all the caked-on brake dust and dirt you are spraying away from wheels/tires can get on the nice clean paint that you just finished. Am I the only one who doesn't like to repeat my work?

On that note, it's best to use a separate wash mitt or brush when you do the wheels/tires/wheel wells first. You do not want to soil a mitt or microfiber and then apply it directly to the body. For more on that ...

Don't: Use one towel for all tasks

Today is the day! Get your car cleaning towels organized!

Color coding can help a lot here. Towels used for cleaning windows should be all one color, so they are never mistakenly used for anything else. Interior protectant towels, a different color. Towels, you wipe the paint with? That's right, a third color.

Using a towel that previously had Armor All on it to clean a window will lead to streaks (even if it's been washed). A towel that applied leather protectant one week can't be expected to do perform a clean final wipe down on paint the next week.

Don't: Forget to clean the tires before dressing

Think about it: Before a big night out, most people shower before getting dressed. You need to clean or degrease tires *before* applying tire shine. Otherwise the dressing can't absorb into the tire as well, causing it to fling off the next time you drive—potentially onto your paint.

Don't: Damage your infotainment screen

Is there a new car on the market that *doesn't* come with a big infotainment screen dominating the dash?

These screens can be very vulnerable to damage. They tend to pick up fingerprints, smudges, and germs, and it can be tempting to reach for a Lysol wipe to clean them off. **Don't do it!** Household cleaners like wipes or Windex can damage your infotainment screen; many screens come with an antireflective coating from the factory that will be destroyed by these products.

Scratches are also common, especially if you use a plastic vacuum attachment to run over the screen. (Soft attachments made for dashes and screens, however, do exist.) A clean microfiber cloth is the best when it comes to cleaning your screens, along with a little automotive window cleaner added if needed. If even that seems risky, you can always dilute the cleaner with a bit of water.

Don't: Add fabric softener to your cleaning towels

Pretty self-explanatory here. Any dryer sheets or fabric softener added to the wash with your towels makes them smell like rainbows, but causes them to leave streaks on paint and windows the next time they are used. Now you know.

Don't: Use a Magic Eraser to clean your car

Magic Erasers are great at removing dirt and grime from surfaces. But they should stay **far away** from most parts of your car.

Made from melamine foam, a type of abrasive material, a Magic Eraser removes not only dirt but also some of the protective coatings on your car's surfaces. Vulnerable finishes like wax or even the clear coat on the paint are at risk with a Magic Eraser—even the tint on your windows. There is a drying effect to this product, as well, which can strip away the natural oils from your car's paint, interior plastics, and leather seats, leaving them looking dull.

I'm sure there are some safe areas they can be used, but in general I keep them away from my car.

Don't: Wash your car with dish soap

This is the most common mistake I see people make. Dish soap is engineered specifically to break down and remove grease, so it will strip any wax or paint sealant from surfaces on your car. Although it gets the car "clean", dish soap will cause more harm than good and can even dull paint.

Dedicated car cleaning soap, for example is designed to be effective and safe on automotive finishes. Plus, it's really affordable! Using products that aren't designed for cars can do damage and end up costing you significantly more in time and money.



Jacob Griffel

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The grills and hood ornaments of Amelia Island



Duesenberg



Cadillac



Stutz



Packard

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

When it becomes time to renew your membership, you can do it online at mbca.org, or logging into GlueUp and renewing from your membership profile, or just simply proceed your renewal from the MBCA reminder email. You can also call the MBCA National Business Office at 719.633.6427 to renew over the phone. The MBCA National Business Office has expanded their calling hours, they are now available Monday through Friday 9 am to 5 pm MST. You can also select an Auto-Renewal to ensure your membership stays active.

Mercedes-Benz Club of America membership benefits include:

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Thanks for Renewing



Why not join us on a drive!

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