



Sooner Star News

the official Central Oklahoma Chapter newsletter

2025 Issue One

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Page 1: President's Message
- Page 3: Upcoming Events
Ad Rates
- Page 4: 2024 Christmas Party Recap
- Page 5: McPherson College Car Show Information
- Page 6: January Dinner Meeting Report
- Page 8: Wild & Wacky World of Exotic Cars
MBCA.org Information
Coffee & Cars OKC Specifics
- Page 9: February Mornings with Mercedes Report
MBCA Store & Name Badge Links
- Page 10: March Dinner Meeting Report
- Page 11: Enid Trip Recap
- Page 13: Membership Renewal Instructions
- Page 15: Welcome New Members
Thank You Renewals
- Page 16: Chapter Board Contacts

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

I absolutely love this time of year! There's something special about those rare, perfect 75-degree days with no wind—the kind of weather that practically begs you to drop the top on the convertible and hit the road. I hope you've been able to enjoy a few of those gems before the storms and summer heat settle in.

Looking back, we wrapped up 2024 on a high note with the return of our Christmas party to the elegant Petroleum Club downtown. It was a fantastic evening, and we're excited to return there again this year.

Looking ahead, one of our newer events is gaining momentum—Mornings with Mercedes, a quarterly Saturday morning Mercedes-Benz "Coffee & Cars" style meetup. Our first event at Rudy's "Country Store" and Bar-B-Q on West Memorial Road last August brought in two new members and an enthusiastic crowd! In February, we braved the cold for another successful gathering at Summer Moon Coffee near North May and 50th. These morning get-togethers are quickly becoming a favorite tradition, and we're excited to announce our next one will be on May 10th—stay tuned for the venue announcement coming soon.

We kicked off 2025 in style with our January dinner meeting at

(continued on page 2)



(President's Message continued from page 1)

Grand House Asian Bistro, which also served as our Long-Term Member Recognition Night—always a highlight of the year. Unfortunately, icy roads led to the cancellation of our February dinner meeting at Kamp's 1910 Café, but we're not giving up on that location! We've rescheduled for August, so be sure to mark your calendars—you won't want to miss it.

Another big success was our Annual Enid Trip on March 29, which brought together thirty-three members and guests for a day of fun and camaraderie. It's always one of our most enjoyable outings, and this year certainly didn't disappoint.

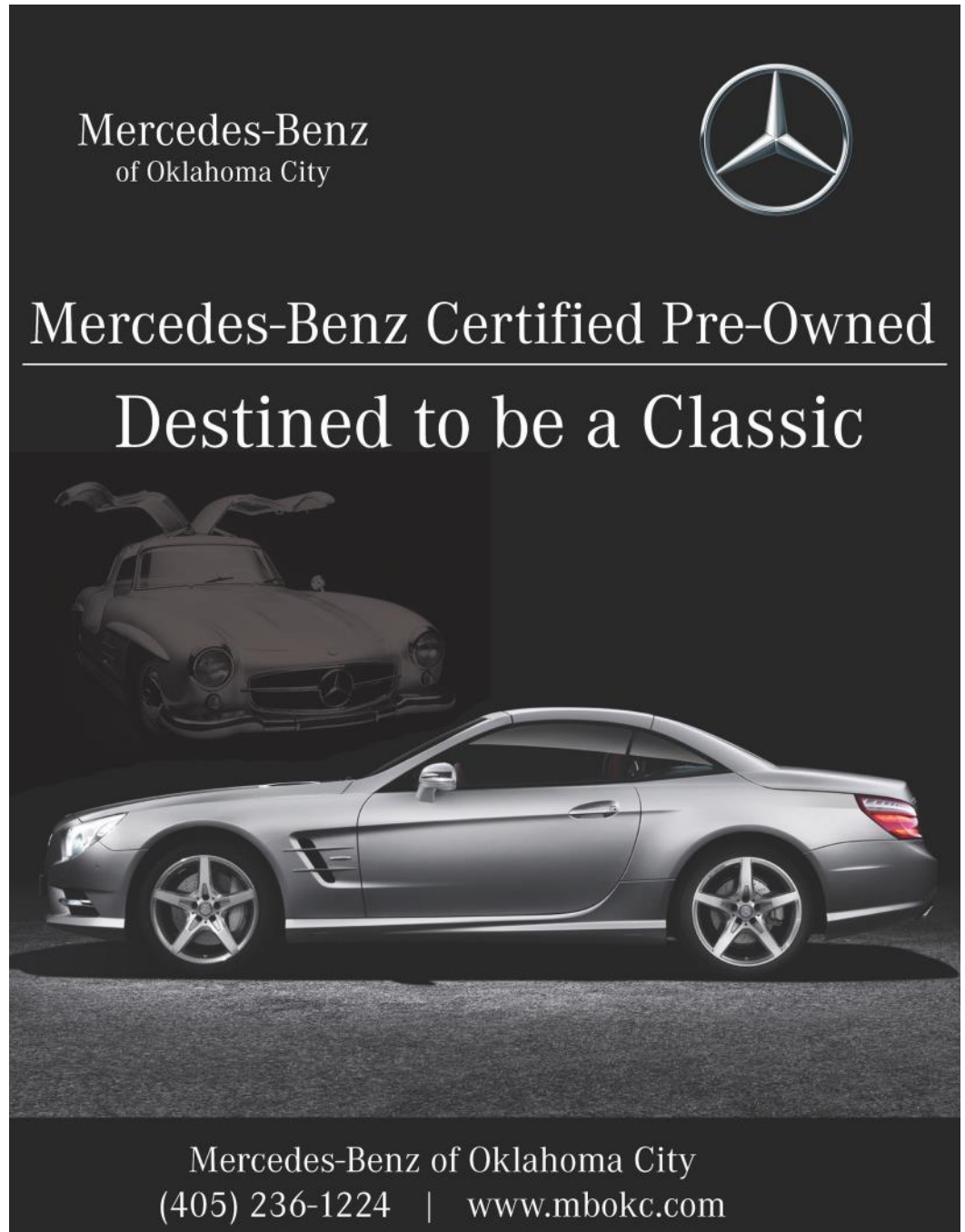
Coming up, I'd like to spotlight a couple of events:

- May 3: The McPherson College Car Show, hosted by the Wichita Chapter. I've attended this one a few times myself—it's a fascinating event, especially being in the industry like I am (see page 5 for more info).
- June 28: We're excited to announce that we're planning to participate in Edmond's LibertyFest Car Show this year. This is a fantastic event that Charles Woods and Dickk Woolbright have been part of in the past, and many of our members have enjoyed attending. If you're interested in helping plan or organize our chapter's involvement, please reach out to me or Charles Woods. Be sure to save the date and keep an eye on your inbox—more details will be coming your way soon.

It's truly been a joy serving as your chapter president. Your support means the world to me, and I want you all to know how much I appreciate this opportunity. You're the heart of this club, and I'm honored to lead such an incredible group.

See you soon,

Jeff Leatherock



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Upcoming Events

- Apr 12 10am Board of Directors Meeting
Mercedes-Benz of OKC
14240 Broadway Ext Hwy, Edmond
- Apr 15 7pm Monthly Dinner Meeting
Johnnie's Kitchen & Bar
421 W I-240 Service Road, OKC
- May 3 C.A.R.S. Club Car & Motorcycle Show (see page 5 for info)
McPherson College
McPherson, Kansas
- May 10 9am Mornings with Mercedes
Venue will be announced soon
- May 20 7pm Monthly Dinner Meeting
Pelican's Restaurant
291 N Air Depot Blvd, MWC
- Jun 7 11am Annual Picnic (details coming soon)
Hafer Park
Edmond
- Jun 28 LibertyFest Car Show & ParkFest (details coming soon)
Hafer Park
Edmond

**Are you interested in sponsoring our club chapter
and advertising in our chapter's newsletter,
Sooner Star News?**

or do you know
anyone who is?

No Mercedes-Benz affiliation required.

Annual ad & sponsorship rates are:

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Rates include a color ad and your website link in every email sent to our mailing list and a color ad in our newsletter digital edition distributed by email. Our chapter mailing list includes over 250 addressees. Also included is a free link to your business website in the sponsor chapter of our website; black & white ad in our newsletter print edition; print edition copies for distribution at your business.

Please contact any Chapter Officer or Director (see page 16)
for more information or to become a chapter sponsor & advertiser.

Event Report

Christmas Party Recap: A Memorable Evening at the Petroleum Club

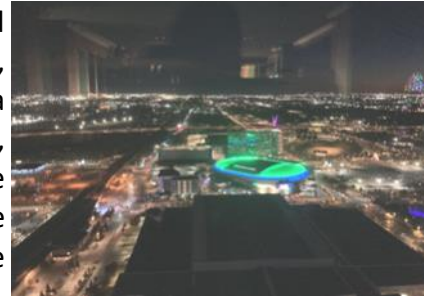
Our 2024 Christmas Party was a night filled with laughter, good company, and breathtaking views, held on Tuesday, December 10th, at the iconic Petroleum Club in Downtown Oklahoma City. We were thrilled to return to this elegant venue, located at the top of the Chase Tower. The private room provided us with panoramic views of the entire city, making it the perfect backdrop for a festive celebration.

Dinner was nothing short of exceptional. Attendees had their choice of three mouthwatering entrées: an 8oz filet, Chicken with artichoke mushroom sauce, or Poached Salmon. Each entrée was paired with a dinner salad, roasted potatoes, asparagus, carrots, dinner rolls, and a yummy dessert to cap off the meal.

The evening was filled with excitement and camaraderie, highlighted by our door prize giveaway. Congratulations to our lucky winners: Lance & Tena Highfill, Ron Sutor & Simin Adlamini, Jeff & Lisa Leatherrock, Charles Woods, and Tom Paul!

The always-popular “Dirty Santa” gift exchange followed, expertly emceed by the ever-entertaining Ken Wells. As always, the laughter and playful competition made it a highlight of the evening.

Thank you to everyone who attended, making this Christmas party an unforgettable celebration. We look forward to more joyous gatherings in the coming year!



Jeff & Lisa Leatherrock



Suzen & Paul Rodesney



Norris & Vickie Nowlin, Tom Whiteley



Tim & Victoria Higgins, Suzen Rodesney
Shalia Billings & Steve Murrell



Kelsey & Roland Walters,
Ron Sutor & Simin Adlamini



John Carson, Jeff Leatherrock,
Tim & Victoria Higgins

Regional Gathering at the McPherson College Car Show hosted by the Wichita Chapter

Event: MBCA Regional Gathering at McPherson College

Where: McPherson College

1600 East Euclid, McPherson KS 67460

When: Saturday, May 3rd, 8am to 2pm

Cost: \$30 per car



The McPherson College Car and Motoring Festival is hosted by the McPherson College C.A.R.S Club every year. It is one of the largest car shows in the Midwest and the variety of cars that show up are really astounding. This show is not just about old cars, either; you will see cars and trucks ranging from the early 1900's all the way up to

today. Additionally there are usually displays of motorcycles and tractors. This year the event venue has a special spot set up just for MBCA members and guests. Participants will park their cars in this area and have an opportunity to check out the Mercedes-Benz automobiles and see the rest of show. The Wichita Chapter will be hosting a BBQ lunch as part of this event.

If you are interested in attending, you can register by sending an email to rkfilbey@gmail.com or mbca.wichita@aol.com. In your email, please include your name, your MBCA Chapter, the number of people in your party, and the year and make of your car. The cost of the event is \$30 per car. Please bring cash to the event. Please **do not** register through the McPherson College car show site, we are handling registration separately for our event.

Entry to the Car Show opens at 8am. Getting to McPherson College is pretty straight forward, the school is off of US 56W in McPherson, Kansas. When entering the school grounds, follow signs to the show participant entry point. At the entry point you will be directed to the MBCA area. During the show you will have an opportunity to wander all over the show grounds. McPherson College is one of the few colleges with a 4-year degreed program in auto restoration. During the day you can take an opportunity to tour the restoration area and classrooms. Throughout the day there will be live music, refreshments, and some special highlighted cars. The show wraps just after 2pm.

Some things to remember....we will try to have enough seats for everyone, but it is highly recommended that you bring an outdoor chair or chairs with you. Don't forget sunscreen and a hat....and a coat because you just never know what the weather will be like.

The Wichita Chapter is very excited to host this event and looks forward to meeting you! If you have any questions at all, please don't hesitate to ask.

Kirk Filbey
President
MBCA Wichita Chapter

Articles, photos, and event reports for
Sooner Star News are welcomed and appreciated
Please submit to leatherockadatt.net

Event Report

January Dinner Meeting Recap: Celebrating Milestones and Fellowship

On the evening of the 21st, our dinner meeting was held at our usual January venue, the spacious and welcoming dining room at Grand House Asian Bistro on North Classen Boulevard. Forty-four members and guests gathered to enjoy a night of good food, great company, and meaningful celebrations. As always, Grand House's food and service were nothing short of spectacular, living up to its reputation.



Keaton Cudd, Brock Bowman, Tom Whiteley



Don & Amy Bruecks



Gwennie, Phoebe, & Chris Henry



Steve Murrell, Juan Franco, Dave Olson



Dorothy & Dickk Woolbright, Greg Morgan,
Charles Woods & Debbie Smoak

As is customary in January, our chapter took the time to honor and acknowledge members who have reached significant milestones in their membership. Specifically, we recognized each member who has reached ten consecutive years of membership, as well as those who hit subsequent five-year milestones. In 2024, we had the privilege of celebrating ten members who reached one of these important milestones. Among them, a special acknowledgment was given to Roland and Kelsey Walters, who are celebrating an impressive 40 years of membership. It's always a pleasure to honor those who have contributed to our club over the years, and we congratulate these members for their dedication and commitment.

The evening kicked off with members and guests mingling and catching up over drinks. After everyone had been seated and their meal orders taken, the meeting officially began. We welcomed all attendees and proceeded with our usual agenda items. Shortly after the delicious entrées were served, our chapter President, Jeff Leatherrock, took the stage to recognize and honor the five milestone members who were in attendance. Each of them received a certificate acknowledging their achievement. For those who couldn't join us that evening, certificates were sent out or delivered by fellow club members.

Another special moment of the night was the presentation of the 2024 Member of the Year award. Congratulations to Dickk Woolbright, who was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the club. A well-deserved plaque was presented to Dickk as a token of our appreciation for all the hard work and dedication he's shown throughout the year. Thank you, Dickk, for everything you do!



Kitty Cruser & Ray Cornelison



Kelsey & Roland Walters



Lance & Tena Highfill



Pete Williams, Bruce Rodesney

(continued on page 7)

As the meeting came to a close, members were treated to the traditional fortune cookies, and the door prize drawing took place. Congratulations to the lucky winners: Charles Woods; Roland and Kelsey Walters;



Ron Sutor & Simin Adlamani



Vickie & Norris Nowlin

2024 Long-Term Members

40 years

Roland & Kelsey Walters, Oklahoma City

30 years

Lawrence & Helen Cammuso, Edmond

25 years

Pete & Mary Williams, Oklahoma City

20 years

Fred Morgan, Edmond

15 years

Scott & Ann Johnson, Edmond

Jeff Sandusky, Edmond

10 years

Ed & Kris Sawyer, Oklahoma City

Clay Collum, Oklahoma City

Walter Kula, Choctaw

Keaton Cudd, Oklahoma City

Congratulations

2024 Member of the Year

Dick Woolbright

Thank You All

for your membership and support!



Roland & Kelsey Walters
40 years



Ann & Scott Johnson
15 years



Keaton Cudd
10 years



Pete Williams
25 years



Ed & Kris Sawyer
10 years



Dick Woolbright
2024 Member of the Year

Ed and Kris Sawyer; Dickk and Dorothy Woolbright; and Kenny Hoffman and Mike Dippel.

A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped make this meeting such an enjoyable and memorable evening. Your presence and participation are what make our gatherings so special. We look forward to more fun and celebrations in the year ahead!



Carolyn Bullard & Ken Wells,
Scott & Ann Johnson



John Carson, Tony Marruchella,
Mike Dippel & Kenny Hoffman



Tom Paul & Debbie Smith,
Paul & Suzen Rodesney

The Wild and Wacky World of Exotic Cars

by Ken Wells and Carolyn Bullard

As the New Year's winter turns into spring, we have another new season of auctions and new car introductions by the various manufacturers. While the stock market is down, and the economy is dealing with inflation worries, never fear as the exotic car market marches on with ever increasing prices. Prices at the large auctions are going up as well.

The Mecum Kissimmee Auction got the year started off with a bang with a number of big money cars and bigger results. Not all sold even with large numbers such as the 1967 Jaguar E-type known as the Shaguar from the Austin Powers movies. It only bid to \$880k, which wasn't enough for Dr. Evil. A 1965 Shelby Cobra 427 bid to \$3.7 million and a no sale. The star of the show was the 1969 Porsche 917K, owned by Jerry Seinfeld, bid to \$25 million with no sale. I suppose that Jerry was just testing the market.

Some cars that did sell were the 1966 Ford GT 40 MK 1 known as the road car because it was built and sold to be driven on public roads. It brought a healthy \$7,040,000. A 1965 Shelby GT 350 went for \$990k and a 1957 Mercedes 300SL Gullwing went for \$1,485,000. You can see all the results for the sale at Mecum.com.

It is interesting to note the transition from collectors to sellers as owners age and start thinking about estate issues. There were no less than 50 different collections selling cars at the auction. The offerings varied from a few cars to larger collections. We are seeing this more and more at the auction venues, so if you are in the market for a car, now is a good time to start looking. Don't expect any cheap deals though.

Moving on to the exotic market, prices are up for all the players! Let's look at the new offerings from Aston Martin and Ferrari. Aston Martin introduced the newest version of the Vantage last year along with the DB12. The Vantage roadster is being introduced as we speak with a base price of over \$200k which jumps quickly to \$250k with options. It is easy to reach higher prices when you charge \$2,600 for carpet and \$2,650 for floor mats. But wait there's more, the Vanquish which is the range topper starts at \$432k base. It is the hotter version of the DB12. For that money you get a twin-turbo V12 making 824hp with a top speed of 214 mph. Some will say the only thing faster than the top speed of 214 mph is the rate of depreciation! Rush to your AM dealer as the order book is now open.

Not to be out done by the British, Ferrari has introduced the new 12 Cilindri which is the newest version of the 812 and 812 GTS. Base price for the coupe is \$470k with a Spyder option easily being \$550k or more. No need to rush to the dealership as they are already sold out. The 812 has been discontinued along with the SF90 and the Roma. Speaking of the SF90, both it and the 296GT/S are hybrids and are suffering from slow sales due to over pricing (in my opinion) when new and lack of interest from the public in EV cars. Ferrari dealers are sitting on a number of these cars at every dealership. While the Ferrari EV cars are very fast, the gasoline powered cars are far more popular. I don't see that changing anytime soon.

Remember to get your cars serviced for spring and summer driving. See you next time.

MBCA website information

Be sure to check out the MBCA website at mbca.org and the My MBCA mobile app (iOS and Android) to view your membership details or edit your profile and join MBCA Communities (Star Interest Groups, Star Marketplace, Star Tech for technical information) and discover local and national upcoming events.

Click [here](#) for login instructions and tips.

Coffee and Cars OKC

first Saturday of each month
from 8am-11am
Remington Park
1 Remington Place
Oklahoma City, OK 73111

For more information
visit coffeeandcarsokc.com

Event Report

Mornings with Mercedes

Our quarterly event, Mornings with Mercedes, took place on the cool second Saturday in February. As a Mercedes-Benz “Coffee & Cars” style event, it was an opportunity for members to gather, enjoy coffee, and chat about all things Mercedes-Benz. For this event, we chose a new venue: Summer Moon Coffee, located on 4711 North May in Oklahoma City. While the weather wasn’t exactly “summer-like,” the warm atmosphere of the venue made up for it, and it was a hit with everyone who attended.



Tony Marruchella, Jeff Leatherock, Norris Nowlin

While some members braved the cool air and socialized in the parking lot from the

comfort of their cars, many others gathered inside the cozy coffee shop, enjoying hot drinks and engaging in lively conversations for a couple of hours. It was the perfect setting to connect, relax, and share stories with fellow Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts.



Bruce Rodesney, John Carson, Dickk Woolbright, Charles Woods



Ken Wells & Carolyn Bullard, Lisa Leatherock

We’re already looking ahead to the next Mornings with Mercedes event, which will take place on the second Saturday of May. Be sure to mark your calendars and invite a friend to join in the fun! We can’t wait to see more faces and more Mercedes-Benz cars at our next gathering.



Tena & Lance Highfill



Roland Walters, John Carson

We’re also on the lookout for new venues for this event, especially in the Edmond area. If you have any suggestions or know of a great spot that would be ideal for a Mornings with Mercedes meet-up, please reach out to one of our chapter's board members. We’ll be happy to check it out!

Stay tuned for more details, and we hope to see you in May!



Suzen & Paul Rodesney

MBCA merchandise can now be purchased at mbca.ourproshop.com and mercedes-benz-club-of-america.square.site/s/order

To purchase **MBCA name badges** visit: engravedcompany.com/products/mercedes-benz-club-of-america-name-badge

Event Report

March Dinner Meeting Recap: 1492 New World Latin Cuisine

Our March Dinner Meeting was held at the always-popular 1492 New World Latin Cuisine, located in Casady Square, on Tuesday the 18th. This venue continues to be a favorite among our members, and once again, it didn't disappoint! The food was absolutely delicious, and the service was as top-notch as always, making for an enjoyable and memorable evening.

A total of thirty-three members and guests attended the meeting, including a few new faces. We were thrilled to welcome a couple of new members who joined us that evening, and we're excited to announce that we also gained another new member during the meeting! It's always great to see our club grow.

As usual, the evening was filled with great conversations, laughter, and a sense of camaraderie that makes these gatherings so special. Of course, we also had our much-anticipated door prize drawing, with the following lucky winners taking home prizes: Scott and Ann Johnson; Greg Morgan; Tom Paul; and our new member, Dale Reid. Congratulations to all the winners! Your participation made this meeting even more enjoyable.

Thank you to everyone who attended, and we look forward to seeing you at future events. Let's continue making our meetings a great place for fellowship, fun, and growth!



Gus Shaar, Tom Whiteley



Tim & Victoria Higgins



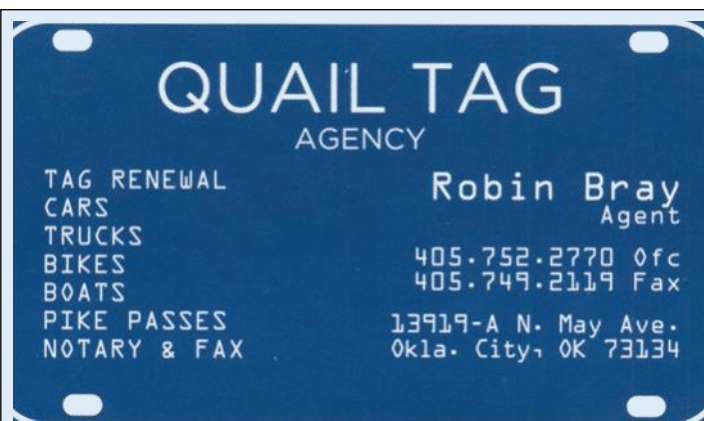
Debbie Smith & Tom Paul



Carol Fisher, Paul & Suzen Rodesney



Carolyn Bullard & Ken Wells



Event Report

Enid Trip Recap: A Day of Cars, Adventure, and Great Company

On Saturday, March 29th, we kicked off the 2025 Enid Trip with a morning meetup at Rudy's "Country Store" & BBQ at 8am for breakfast and camaraderie. Members and guests gathered early to enjoy breakfast and



prep for the drive to Enid. It was a fantastic turnout, with a couple of new faces joining us, including a young Mercedes-Benz enthusiast who discovered the event through our Facebook page.



The journey to Enid this year was full of unexpected yet memorable moments. About halfway there, we encountered a convoy of large haulers transporting what appeared to be the base components for a wind turbine. The procession of three giant haulers, accompanied by about 20 trucks displaying "wide load" signs, caused a brief delay. But, as often happens on road trips, it turned into a great

opportunity for pictures and videos! As if that wasn't enough, shortly after we resumed our drive, we found ourselves halted by a passing train. But despite the



stops, spirits were high, and we were all in good company.



We finally arrived at the Chisholm Trail Expo Center in Enid just before 10am for the Last Frontier Council Scouting America Car Show. The event was a

(continued on page 12)

(Enid Trip continued from page 11)

car lover's paradise, showcasing a variety of stunning vehicles, including some of our very own members'



Charles Woods' 1986 560SL

prized cars. Among the standout entries were Charles Woods' striking red 1986 560SL, Dickk Woolbright's elegant beige 1987 560SL, and Matt Holmes' sharp white 1980 450SL. We spent over an hour exploring the incredible lineup of cars and chatting with fellow enthusiasts before heading out to our next destination.

About 11:30, we made our way to Napoli's Italian Restaurant for a well-



Matt Holmes' 1980 450SL



Dickk Woolbright's 1987 560SL



Gus Shaar, Antti Kiesi



Charles Woods, Paul & Suzen Rodesney



Phoebe, Gwennie, & Chris Henry



deserved lunch. A group of thirty-three members and guests enjoyed a meal of delicious Italian cuisine, filling the restaurant with lively conversation and laughter. The food was top-notch, and it



(continued on page 13)

(Enid Trip continued from page 12)

was the perfect way to recharge after a busy morning.

Following lunch, we visited Messer-Bowers Insurance Agency, where we had the special privilege of checking out John Bowers' impressive Auto and Automobilia Collection. The collection was truly a sight to behold, with a variety of fascinating cars and automotive memorabilia that captivated everyone.

It was a fantastic day filled with great people, beautiful cars, and a few unexpected adventures along the way. We're already looking forward to next year's trip!



Time to RENEW your MBCA Membership?

Renewing is EASY!

Four ways to RENEW:

1. Renew from email reminder received 60 days before expiration date*
2. Renew online from your Membership Profile at mbca.org*
3. Renew by mail
Mail a check to:
Mercedes-Benz Club of America
3472 Research Pkwy Ste 104 PMB 464
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
4. Renew by phone at 719.633.6427 (M-F 9a-5p MT)

Membership dues

\$85 (1) year
\$165 (2) years
\$1500 Lifetime

*require an account at mbca.org, if you haven't already set-up an account with the MBCA website click [here](#) for instructions

a 3.2% credit card processing fee will be added to all credit card transactions



(continued on page 14)



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Membership dues

\$85 (1) year

\$165 (2) years

\$1500 Lifetime

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*a 3.2% credit card processing fee will be added to all credit card transactions

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Welcome New Members!

Jim Jordan, Oklahoma City
Antti & Juha Kiesi, Oklahoma City
Scot Lee, Oklahoma City

Bill Mathis, Oklahoma City
Dale Reid, Oklahoma City
Jim Seeger-Newby, Edmond

Jim & Cindy Shipman, Blanchard
Bill Ware, Oklahoma City
Darian Woolbright, Edmond

Thank you Membership Renewals!

John & Susan Bowers, 2006
Charles & Fran Boyd, 1988
Don & Amy Bruecks, 2023
Lawrence Cammuso, 1994

Keaton Cudd, 2014
Chris Henry, 2023
Tim Higgins, 2018
Trevor Leonard, 2021

Max McTeer, 2019
Tom Whiteley, 2011
Bob Wilson, 2019

new members & renewals December 1, 2024—March 31, 2025

98 chapter members on March 31, 2025

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Mercedes-Benz Club of America

Central Oklahoma Chapter

P. O. Box 21040

Oklahoma City, OK 73156-1040

email: central.ok.mbc@gmail.com

website: mbca.org/section/central-oklahoma

Officers— Central Oklahoma Chapter

President

Jeff Leatherock 405-943-5657

leatherock@aol.com

Vice President

Tom Whiteley 405-979-3313

thmswhiteley@gmail.com

Secretary

Tony Marruchella 405-800-7273

tmarruchella@yahoo.com

Treasurer

Lance Highfill 405-659-0212

lkhighfill@cox.net

Directors— Central Oklahoma Chapter

Greg Morgan 405-615-2501

grmorgan41@gmail.com

Tom Paul 405-818-5266

tompaul.4all@gmail.com

Paul Rodesney 405-620-0124

paul.rodesney@gmail.com

Ken Wells 405-340-1636

ken@kenscougars.com

Charles Woods 405-359-2821

charlesbwoods1@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor—Central Oklahoma Chapter

Lisa Leatherock 405-943-5657

leatherock@att.net

Regional Director—South Central Region

Brett Jurick 214-773-7820

bjurick@tx.rr.com



Central Oklahoma Chapter Facebook Page facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064414372936

Mercedes-Benz Club of America Facebook Page facebook.com/MBCAnational

Mercedes-Benz Club of America Facebook Group facebook.com/groups/mercedesbenzclubofamerica

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Questions/Information call Chapter President at 405-943-5657 or MBCA's National Business Office at 719-633-6427