



The Road Benz

The Newsletter from MBCA | Wichita

May/June 2024

Chartered in 1972

Wichita Chapter

President's Corner

Kirk Filbey, Section President



Wahoo! It was another great car show at McPherson College. We are so fortunate to be just down the road from this event. It was great seeing everyone out there. Looking ahead we have the ever-popular Poker Run

coming up.

In our last newsletter, Jim Doody submitted a story about his car which we included a new newsletter section called Let Me Tell You About My Car. I went ahead and included a story about one of my cars for this edition and I would encourage anyone else who wants to write about their car or cars to send info to me so we can continue to have content for this section of the newsletter.

Speaking of new things, I'm sure you all have noticed some dramatic changes to the club's national website and our section website. Whoops, I mean chapter website! I've sat in on a couple of training sessions to get a better understanding of how to update and improve our website. Admittedly there will be some challenges! If anyone runs into problems with their membership, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I'll be happy to work with you to get things resolved. Thanks for everyone's patience as the club makes big changes.

As always, I would ask that each of you continue to promote the club. Reach out to folks and bring them to club events. Let's get the word out that there's a local Mercedes-Benz club and we go out and do things!

That's all for now...and happy driving!

Kirk

2024 Chapter Event Calendar

May 4th: McPherson Car Show

Jun 8th: Poker Run

Jul: TBD

Aug 24th: Membership Meeting

Sep 28th: ICT All German Car Show

Oct 5th: Sonnenblumen German Car Show

Oct 12th: Alzheimer's Walk

Nov: TBD

Dec: TBD

Upcoming Chapter Events

Poker Run!

When: **Saturday, Jun 8th, 9AM to Early Afternoon**

Where: **Various Locations**

It's time for our annual Poker Run! This is an opportunity to see some interesting sites and possibly win a prize. The day will kick off with a gathering at Il Primo Cafe (6422 Central Ave, Wichita, KS 67206). At that point every car will be handed a route map and then we will head out at 9AM. This is not a race in that we will all travel together. You will get a card after each stop and the car with the best poker hand at the end of the event wins a prize. Our typical routes normally involve visiting two locations, grabbing lunch at another location, and then finishing up at Prost for cold beverages and the revealing of hands. This year's route will be about 90 miles total.



July Event

When: **TBD**

Where: **TBD**

Still working the details on this one...stay tuned!



Chapter Membership Meeting

When: **Saturday, August 24th, 11AM to 2PM**

Where: **Firebirds Grill,**

We will have our bi-annual membership meeting and lunch at Firebirds Grill (10096 E 13th St N, Wichita, KS 67206). This will be an opportunity to talk about club events and outline events for the remaining part of the year.





GERMAN CAR CLUB
DAS SONNENBLUMEN AUTOFEST
KANSAS

17th Annual
Sonnenblumen Autofest
German Vehicle Show

Sat. Oct. 5th • Oakdale Park, Salina
Gates open at 8 am • Awards at 2 pm
Entry Fee- \$10 • Entrant Camping Friday & Saturday
785-577-5033 • germancarclubofkansas@gmail.com



Recent Chapter Events



Great Plains Transportation Museum, Saturday March 9th

The Wichita Chapter visited the Great Plains Transportation Museum right in the heart of downtown Wichita. We had a great turn out, with 15 members and guests in attendance. The museum staff directed us to the upper level parking area and then let us in through the back gate of the outdoor section of the facility. We then got a private tour of the museum by a staff member who fielded questions, led us around the various train engines and cars outside, and guided us through the interior of the museum as well. Following the tour we then popped over to Prost for some excellent German food and beer. Who knew there were so many train enthusiasts in our group!



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter

Enid Car Show, Saturday April 13th

Five Wichita Chapter members and guests gathered on Saturday morning for a windy drive down to Enid, OK. We met up with members of the Central Oklahoma Chapter to attend the Cimarron Council Boy Scouts of America Car Show. It was fun meeting up with other chapter members.



This indoor show was very nice with a wide variety of vehicles, both foreign and domestic. One of the more interesting vehicles was a 1918 Geronimo. Geronimo cars were built in Enid from 1917 to 1920, until the factory burned down. This vehicle is the only known one in existence. Following the show we all headed over to Callahan's Pub and Grill for lunch. This was a fun joint chapter and joint region event! Hope to see folks from Central Oklahoma up at McPherson.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter



McPherson Car Show, Saturday May 4th

It was chilly, windy, and a bit rainy as 4 cars from our section departed for McPherson to take part in the 24th Annual Motoring Festival at McPherson College. Thankfully the weather cleared up when we got to McPherson and the event field was fairly dried out. After meeting up with some other chapter members and a few members from the Kansas City Chapter, we then headed out to check out all of the cars. Along with our cars, there was a nice contingent of Benzes. As usual, there were some extraordinary vehicles on display. Two the show's highlighted cars

included a 1939 Alfa Romeo 6C, which happened to be once owned by Benito Mussolini and was used in a failed escape by the Italian dictator, and a 1912 Simplex. Additionally, there were two Mercedes-Benz 300SL Roadsters on display! And to top it all off, Randy Roths, our chapter membership chair, took 2nd place in the European Car 1970 to 1989 category with his meticulously detailed 1983 380SL. Well done Randy! We are already looking forward to the 2025 show.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter



Let Me Tell You About My Car....

How Otto Got His Name - by Kirk Filbey



I name all my cars. I don't know why, it's just something I do. The name just comes to me after I've had a car for a while. In the spring of 2021, I acquired my 1972 cream colored 280SE after stumbling upon it online. It was an in-line 6-cylinder W108, not one of the more coveted 8-cylinder versions. It was physically in good shape but had some mechanical issues which I've slowly gotten sorted out with the help of Dave and Travis Leivian over at European Car Company.

Whenever I get a previously owned car, I thoroughly enjoy doing research on the model and the specific

vehicle. For older cars I use the Mercedes-Benz classic center to order the build card for the

vehicle and I did so with this vehicle. The information on the card outlined the factory ordered features on this car and I was also able to order a new master key for the vehicle. Incidentally, for cars from the 1970's and back you can often find a copy of the build sheet underneath the driver's seat. I found remnants of the build sheet in this car. This car also came with a small maintenance file kept by previous owners and the original owner's manual. Here's where things got interesting because stamped in the owner's manual was Otto J. Kurtz and an address in Los Angeles.



I assumed this was the dealership, however after I searched online, I realized that the address was a private residence and Mr. Kurtz was probably the first owner. I've done genealogical research previously so after a little bit of searching I narrowed down who this person was and, more importantly, who might be related to him. I sent out a couple of queries and made phone calls to people who I thought might be related to Mr. Kurtz. A few weeks later I received a phone call and ended up speaking with the daughter-in-law and grandson of Mr. Kurtz. They both had fond memories of the car and provided a little bit of background on Mr. Kurtz. It was an extremely interesting conversation, and they were both happy the car was still around and being enjoyed. I knew right away I would name the car Otto.

The first owner of the car was Otto Johannes Kurtz. Otto was born in Stuttgart on October 5, 1901. He came to the US on January 26, 1925, and his occupation was listed as a woodworker or joiner. He made his way to Washington state and then eventually settled in Los Angeles, California around 1930. Otto started working in the film industry as a set designer and stayed in that career for his whole life. He married Louise Rose Pestor in 1933 and they had two children, including a son named Walter Johannes Kurtz.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter

In the summer of 1972, Otto traveled back to Germany to visit family. While there he purchased the 280SE and then brought it back to Los Angeles. Otto died on May 9, 1975. His wife, Loise, kept and used the car until she died on July 5, 1990.

The next owner of the car was Walter Kurtz, the son of Otto and Louise. Walter and his wife kept the car in California and later moved to Tucson, Arizona in the early 1990's. They eventually sold the car around 1996.

It's unclear where the car was from 1996 to 2013 but it looks like the car stayed in Arizona the whole time. Sometime between 2013 and 2015 the car was moved to Gardner, Kansas. The car was purchased and then moved to Wichita in 2015, passing through two owners before I purchased it.

I feel very fortunate to have all this background information on this car; it makes me feel more like a steward than an owner. However, Otto is not a museum piece and I thoroughly enjoy driving him around!



The Benz Bazaar

Do you have a Mercedes-Benz vehicle you'd like to sell or trade? Are you looking for MB parts or perhaps have parts you'd like to sell or pass on? Do you have some Mercedes-Benz memorabilia you'd like to sell? If so, then the Benz Bazaar is an easy way to advertise to all section members and others who see our newsletter. Our section newsletter comes out 6 times a year. If you are interested in posting an item in the Benz Bazaar, please contact the newsletter editor, Kirk Filbey, at rkfilbey@gmail.com.



2024 MBCA Trips to Germany



TRAVEL DATES AND RATES FOR 2024

June 3-9
September 16-22

The rate will again be:
\$3,300 double occupancy
\$3,600 single occupancy

Reserve your trip
today by visiting:
mbca.org/travel



Take MBCA's guided trip through the Stuttgart Region and experience the rich heritage of Mercedes-Benz first-hand. Hundreds of MBCA Members and guests have traveled to Stuttgart and many have joined us multiple times. Enjoy VIP destinations, accommodations, and five-star cuisine. No worries, just "WOW!" on this command-performance excursion for Members, families, and friends.

Enjoy captivating guided tours of the Carl Benz Museum in Ladenburg; the AMG facilities in Affalterbach; the Mercedes-Benz Museum and Brand Center in Unterturkheim; the Technical Museum in Sinsheim; and the Classic Center in Fellbach. We'll also be visiting the Sindelfingen assembly plant that covers more ground than the entire principality of Monaco. And that's just for starters!

See for yourself why this trip is consistently voted Nummer Eins (Number One) by discriminating travelers.





The intelligent 2024 Mercedes-Benz E-Class Sedan leads the way for an immersive digital luxury experience, and it's [available in dealerships](#) now. The more you drive, the more the E-Class adapts and understands you. From aerodynamics to aesthetics, every detail is refined into an elegant shape that's undeniably modern, yet unmistakably E-Class. With breakthroughs in connectivity, intelligence and user-friendly tech, it's an E-Class for your tomorrow.

01 2024 E-CLASS

Pioneering new ideas and redefining standards.

Explore E-Class

View Inventory



As smart as it is spacious.

Save \$3,000¹ on the 2024 GLE450 SUV.

Lease the 2024 GLE450 SUV for \$899 a month for 36 months², plus receive an exclusive incentive of \$3,000¹.

Purchase the 2024 GLE450 SUV and receive a \$3,000 incentive¹ toward your down payment or reduced from the purchase price.



This star shines everywhere you go. Customizable user profiles with adjustable settings for music, temperature and seat position allow the GLE SUV to be tailor-made for you — and everyone in your family.

For additional program details, please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealership.

Savings up to \$11,000¹

MY24 GLA SUV
From \$37,500¹
SAVE \$500¹



MY24 CLA Coupe
From \$39,350¹
SAVE \$500¹



MY24 GLB SUV
From \$39,800¹
SAVE \$500¹



MY24 C-Class Sedan
From \$44,850¹
SAVE \$500¹



MY23 EQB SUV
From \$52,750¹
SAVE \$1,000¹



MY24 GLE SUV
From \$57,700¹
SAVE \$500¹



MY24 EQE Sedan
From \$74,900¹
SAVE \$3,000¹



MY23 EQS SUV
From \$104,400¹
SAVE \$11,000¹




Mercedes-Benz
STAR ACCESSSM



Chapter Membership News

Our section currently has **65 members**.

Please continue to promote our club with other Mercedes owners so we can increase our numbers. If you meet someone who has specific questions about our club, please direct them to contact us at MBCA.Wichita@aol.com. If you have other ideas about how to improve our membership numbers, please don't hesitate to contact Randy Roths (randyandcj@gmail.com) or me (Kirk Filbey) at rkfilbey@gmail.com .

For our current members, please don't forget to renew your membership so you don't miss out on future events. Renewing members are the core part of our section. If you run into any issues with renewing your membership, please let us know.

Thank you all for your sustained membership and support of the club!



Anne and I got married on Apr 24 and Otto got to play a part!

MBCA | Wichita Board

MBCA.Wichita@aol.com

President:

Kirk Filbey
(530) 848-3396

Vice President:

Will Tobin

Secretary:

Deanna Gaffney

Treasurer

Calvin (Vin) Kissick

DIRECTORS:

Josh Dutcher

Lee Elrick Jr

Brett Gaffney

Joseph Kausse

Randy Roths

Jeff Siebels

Kevin White

Newsletter Editor

Kirk Filbey

Membership

Randy Roths

Webmaster

Kevin White

Section Web Pages:

<https://mbcawichita.org>

[Wichita | Mercedes Benz Club of America \(mbca.org\)](http://Wichita | Mercedes Benz Club of America (mbca.org))

* * *

