



Sooner Star News

the official Central Oklahoma section club newsletter

2024 Second Quarter Issue

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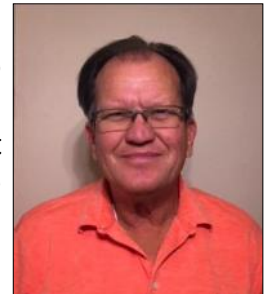
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

First off.....there appears to be some odd emails in my name going around to members that are some type of solicitation of help (and money-go figure). Please rest assured that I will never send you any type of financial assistance solicitation email. And I will never word it in such a way that you think I am a Nigerian Prince!



Jeff Leatherrock, President

Summertime is here, and as I get older, I find that even though I don't love the heat, I am taken by the eternal humidity, breeze and insect/animal life of Oklahoma. Memories. Dad taking my brother and I to shoot off fireworks on the 4th of July way out of town...middle of nowhere, like NW 178th and Portland. The sound of country music radio playing and the wooden screen door shutting at the gas station in Enid. The sound of racing at the State Fair Speedway on Friday night that was loud at my shop three blocks away, yet could still be heard on the patio of buddies houses behind Gandara Buick at 61st and North May.

We have some nice events coming up before Labor Day. First up is the 100th anniversary celebration for the Messer-Bowers Insurance Agency in Enid. Fifth generation operator, John Bowers, is a true and dyed-in-the-wool Mercedes-Benz (and SL) owner and club supporter. He has graciously invited the club to attend, offered us a special parking area, and is hoping we will show out in our Mercedes-Benz (and especially SL models, if

(continued on [page 2](#))

(President's Message continued from [page 1](#))

possible). I recall Mr. Bowers owns one of every SL generation since 1955. And he is allowing us to check out his working, real world collection that includes a 300SL Gullwing, 300SL roadster; 190SL; 230, 250 and 280 SLs "Pagoda"; 450, 380 and 560 SLs 107 chassis; SL500 129 chassis; SL550 230 chassis, plus many more Mercedes-Benz and other cars that we will all enjoy. Details of trip time and logistics are on [page 4](#).

August has us visiting the Ted Davis collection. Mr. Davis has a varied collection of cars from the brass era and onward, and we have been trying for several years to gain access. Section member, Dickk Woolbright, was instrumental in getting us invited. It has a limited time window and NO PHOTOGRAPHS policy. Details on [page 12](#).

At the July 13th Board of Directors Meeting, we will be setting the schedule for the balance of the year. We are always looking for more weekend activities. We should have more information at the Monthly Dinner Meeting at Emma Elle's Italian Kitchen on Tuesday, July 16th. I hope to see you there!

Reminds me, we are having elections for our Section Board of Directors later this year. If you are interested in running (and serving, if elected) please check the details on [page 3](#).

I'm having a great time being section president. Thank you for supporting me, and please know that I think you guys are the greatest. It is still an honor.

Jeff Leatherock

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Upcoming Events

Jul 13	10am	Board of Directors Meeting Mercedes-Benz of OKC
Jul 16	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting Emma Elle's Italian Kitchen 4401 Grant Blvd, Yukon
Jul 20	1pm	Messer-Bowers Insurance, Enid 100th Anniversary Celebration see page 4 for details
Aug 17	1pm	Ted Davis Auto Collection Private Tour see page 12 for details
Aug 20	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting Johnnie's Kitchen & Bar 421 West I-240 Service Rd, OKC
Sep 17	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting venue info coming soon

2024 SECTION BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Nominations due July 25

Our Section is seeking members to serve on the Board of Directors. Becoming a board member is a great opportunity to meet other members and increase involvement in our club section. Members who sit on the board should be willing and able to attend quarterly board meetings; participate in planning events; exchange periodic emails to achieve board and section objectives; and attend section functions throughout the year.

Elected Directors will serve a two-year term beginning November 1. Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) will be elected from the new Board of Directors at the October Board Meeting.

If you are interested in serving on or nominating a member, please send your intention to run or nomination email to central.ok.mbca@gmail.com on or before July 25.

If you don't like what our Section is doing and you want change, then you be the change!

Ballots will be emailed to all active primary members on August 11. The election will close on September 1. We will use the same online voting software we used in 2022, ElectionBuddy. You must be an active member to vote.

Dinner Meeting Photos

August 2023 Dinner Meeting at Johnnie's on Britton Road



Dick Woolbright, Debbie Smoak,
Charles Woods



Jordan & Zeld Humphrey,
Jimmy Tilton



Paul & Suzen Rodesney,
Ken Wells & Carolyn Bullard



Tom Whiteley, Joe McCune, Blake
Keesee, Keven McConnell, Jim Jordan



Kenny Hoffman, Jim Brand &
John Stuemky, Mike Dippel



Phoebe & Chris Henry, John Crain



Kitty Cruser & Ray Cornelison,
Mel Brazell

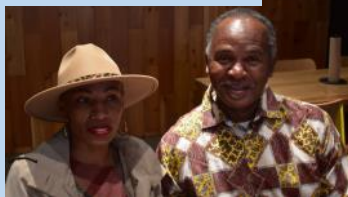


Greg Mattoon, Steve Murrell,
C.D. Schmidt

September 2023 Dinner Meeting at Banded's Barbecue



Jeff Leatherock, Jimmy Tilton



Phyllis Smith & Melvin Latham



Scott & Ann Johnson



Don & Amy Bruecks



Ray Cornelison & Kitty Cruser



Debbie Smoak & Charles Woods



Carolyn Bullard & Ken Wells



Tena & Lance Highfill

ENID TRIP to MESSER-BOWERS INSURANCE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JULY 20, 2024

Our Section Member, John Bowers, has invited club members to the Messer-Bowers Insurance 100th Anniversary Celebration and a tour of his garage on Saturday, July 20, 2024.

For members that wish to caravan as a group to Enid, we will meet around 9:30am at Rudy's Country Store & Bar-B-Q (3437 W memorial Rd, OKC). We will leave Rudy's at 10:00am for our drive to Enid arriving at Messer-Bowers Insurance Office (300 W Cherokee) in Enid about 11:30am to tour John's personal collection.

The party will begin at 1:00pm at the Stride Bank Center (301 S Independence Ave) located two blocks east of the Messer-Bowers office building. Food and beverages will be provided, so pre-registration (for a headcount) is required.

John encourages members to drive their Mercedes-Benz, more specifically SLs (if possible). He has a parking lot on the east side of his office building for parking and/or displaying our vehicles for party attendees to walk around and view.

Please register for this event no later than July 10. The attire is casual summer wear, as this is an outdoor event. Register via email at central.ok.mbc@gmail.com, please include your name and the number of attendees.

Dinner Meeting Photos

October 2023 Dinner Meeting at Interurban in Norman



Woodie & Jane Acord



Roland & Kelsey Walters



Sunshine Higgins, Tena Highfill



Kris & Ed Sawyer

November 2023 Dinner Meeting at Johnnie's, Britton Road



Suzen & Paul Rodesney



Greg Morgan, Tom Whiteley

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THE WILD AND WACKY WORLD OF EXOTIC CARS

by Ken Wells

It's been a while since we gathered here to gaze into the wild world of exotic cars. Well, the mantra of too much is never enough continues. The world of exotics knows no bounds, especially when it comes to prices and horsepower. Let's look at a few.

First up – We have Aston Martin, who introduced the new DB12 last year. Interestingly enough, the 12 in the name is ironic as Aston has dropped its V12 engine for the 4-liter, twin turbo V8 sourced from Mercedes-Benz. That engine is now putting out 671 hp in the DB12 backed by an eight-speed automatic. The car is available as either a coupe or convertible. With a base price of around \$250k for the coupe and \$265k for the convertible. Let me be clear that for these and the next few cars we will discuss there is no such thing as buying one for base price. Even without dealer markups, the options list can easily add 10 to 20% to the base price. For those with fearless bank accounts, you can add quite a bit more. The next new Aston is the Vantage which is new for 2025. It sports the same 4-liter twin turbo as the DB12. Power output here is 656 hp. Both cars are capable of 0-60 times in the 3.5 second range with a top speed over 200 mph. The Vantage is available as a coupe or convertible with base prices slightly less than the DB12. I haven't driven either one yet, but I will let you know when I do.

Not to be outdone by Aston or anyone else for that matter, Ferrari has introduced its latest V-12 cars. Named, appropriately enough, the 12Cilindri is available as a coupe or a spyder. The car is the replacement for the 812 model. In this latest iteration of the V-12, the engine produces 830 hp at 9500 rpm from its 6.5-liter, V-12 without the aid of any turbos or hybrid electrics. Ferrari claims a 0-60 time of less than 3 seconds and a top speed of nearly 215 mph. Base price is irrelevant in the \$500k range because unless you are privileged enough to already have one on order you can't buy one anyway. Delivered prices will probably run in the \$700-\$800k range. On the entry level part of the range, Ferrari still offers the Roma in coupe and spyder form starting at around \$300k. The Roma is a nice diversion for the wife to drive when she is not taking the kids to school in her \$500k Ferrari SUV, the Purosangue.

On a much lower price point but of interest, Porsche has decided to go full EV on the Boxter, Cayman and Macan SUV series of cars. 2024 is the last year you can buy dinosaur versions of these cars. If you want an internal combustion engine version, you need to get to your Porsche dealer now. The Macan comes in two versions, the 4 with 402 hp and the ironically named Turbo which has 630 hp with no turbos. Both cars are full EV. They are not hybrids. Base prices will be in the \$70k range for the 4 and \$90k range for the turbo.

Well, we are out of space for this issue. Just a reminder, Pebble Beach Car Week is next month. Have a great rest of your summer.



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Event Report

Christmas Party

After several years of other party venues due to renovations as well as a pandemic in 2020 (remember that?), we returned to the newly remodeled, Twin Hills Golf & Country Club, for our 2023 Section Christmas Party on December 12.



Patsy & J.R. Homsey



Kris & Ed Sawyer



Jeff & Lisa Leatherock, Tena & Lance Highfill



Suzen & Paul Rodesney



Debbie Smoak, Bruce Rodesney



Kitty Crusler & Ray Cornelison



Carolyn Bullard & Ken Wells



Debbie Smith & Tom Paul



Alex & Ivan Wayne



Mel Brazell



Verdie & Marcia Daniels



Jeff Leatherock, John Carson



Vickie & Norris Nowlin



Ken Wells, Lance Highfill



Debbie Smoak & Charles Woods



Tim & Sunshine Higgins

Our club section purchased several cool door prizes from Griot's Garage and the winners were Tim Higgins (Vevor Rolling Garage Stool), Greg Morgan (Jump Starter), Steve Murrell (Vevor Mechanic Stool), Ed Sawyer (Flexit Headlamp) and John Carson won the MBOKC free oil change.

Keeping up with our annual tradition we finished the party with our "Dirty Santa" gift exchange.



Tim Higgins



Greg Morgan



Steve Murrell



Ed Sawyer

Event Report

January Dinner Meeting—Long-Term Member Recognition Night



Since the weather was cold and the roads were a bit icy, we were a bit worried that no one would show up, but were pleasantly surprised to have 23 members and guests in attendance at our January Dinner Meeting - Annual Long-Term Member Recognition night at Grand House Asian Bistro on North Classen Boulevard in Oklahoma City.

We were grateful that three of our Certificate recipients were present, C.D. Schmidt; Greg Morgan; and John Crain.



Tim Higgins, John Carson



Debbie Smith & Tom Paul

Door prize winners were Mel Brazell, Chris & Phoebe Henry, Steve Murrell, Tom Paul & Tom Whiteley.

2023 Long-Term Members

35 years

Charles & Fran Boyd, Duncan

25 years

L. Christensen, Albuquerque, NM

Peggy Kirk, Oklahoma City

C.D. Schmidt, El Reno

15 years

Timothy Foley, Edmond

Greg Morgan & Andrea Sharpe, Oklahoma City

10 years

William Bates, Edmond

John & Jane Crain, Nichols Hills

Bruce Ewing, Oklahoma City

Gary Johnston, Oklahoma City

David Mannas, Durango

Deborah Orr, Harrah

Joseph & Trina Steil, Edmond

Chris Sturm, Oklahoma City

Thank You All for your membership and support!



C.D. Schmidt with Section President, Jeff Leatherock



Greg Morgan with Section President, Jeff Leatherock



John Crain with Section President, Jeff Leatherock

Are you interested in sponsoring our club section
and advertising in our section's newsletter,
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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 section mailing list includes over 250 addressees. Also included is a free link to your business website in the sponsor section of our website; black & white ad in our newsletter print edition; print edition copies for distribution at your business.

Please contact any Section Officer or Director (see [page 13](#))
for more information or to become a section sponsor & advertiser.

February 2024 Dinner Meeting at Spazio Ristorante



The new MBCA website is here
at mbca.org

Every member should have received an email inviting you to establish your account and password on March 13, 2024. If you are unable to locate the email, simply go to mbca.org, click on **Register** and proceed with your email address. If you get a message that your email address already exists, click on **Login**, then click **Forgot Password** to set your password.

Once logged in:

◆ Click **My Profile** to complete and/or update your profile.

There are a few details ("My Vehicles", any billing information saved for auto-renewal purposes) from profiles on the old website that did not rollover to the new website.

◆ Click **Go to My Glue Home** to view your membership details or edit your profile and discover Communities and Upcoming Events.

◆ Join our **MBCA Communities**:

◇ **Star Interest Groups** (discover groups by automobile models)

◇ **Star Marketplace** (buy & sell autos, parts, & other MB related items)

◇ **Star Tech** (technical support & information)

**My MBCA mobile app
(available for iOS and Android)**

MBCA Membership Card is on the My MBCA mobile app. Login using your mbca.org email and password.

◆ Select the **Mercedes-Benz Club of America** organization

◆ Click **Profile** (your initials in the lower right corner)

◆ Click **Memberships** your membership card will appear with a QR code

Need help logging in?

Contact the MBCA National Business Office

by email info@mbca.org or

by phone 719.633.6427 (Tue-Thu 9a-3p MT)



Jeff Leatherock

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Event Report

Dick Woolbright Collection Tour & Annual Enid Trip

On Saturday, April 13th twenty-six club members and guests travelled to Enid, Oklahoma for our annual trip to the Cimarron Council Boy Scouts of America Car Show at the Garfield County Fairgrounds. We met up at



Rudy's Country Store & Bar-B-Q on Memorial Road, a little after 8am we caravanned over to our Section Member, Dick Woolbright's residence to tour his garage full of automobilia and several classic automobiles. After spending some time at

Woolbright's, we left for our drive to Enid arriving at the Car Show around 11am. This year's Car Show was a few weeks later than the normal date (the last Saturday in March) due to Easter Sunday being on March 31st. We spent about an hour at the Boy Scouts Car Show before leaving for lunch at Callahan's Pub & Grille. Our Section Member, John Bowers, was out of town so we were unable to tour his auto collection, but he's invited us back in July for Messer-Bowers Insurance Agency's 100th Anniversary Celebration (see [page 4](#) for details).

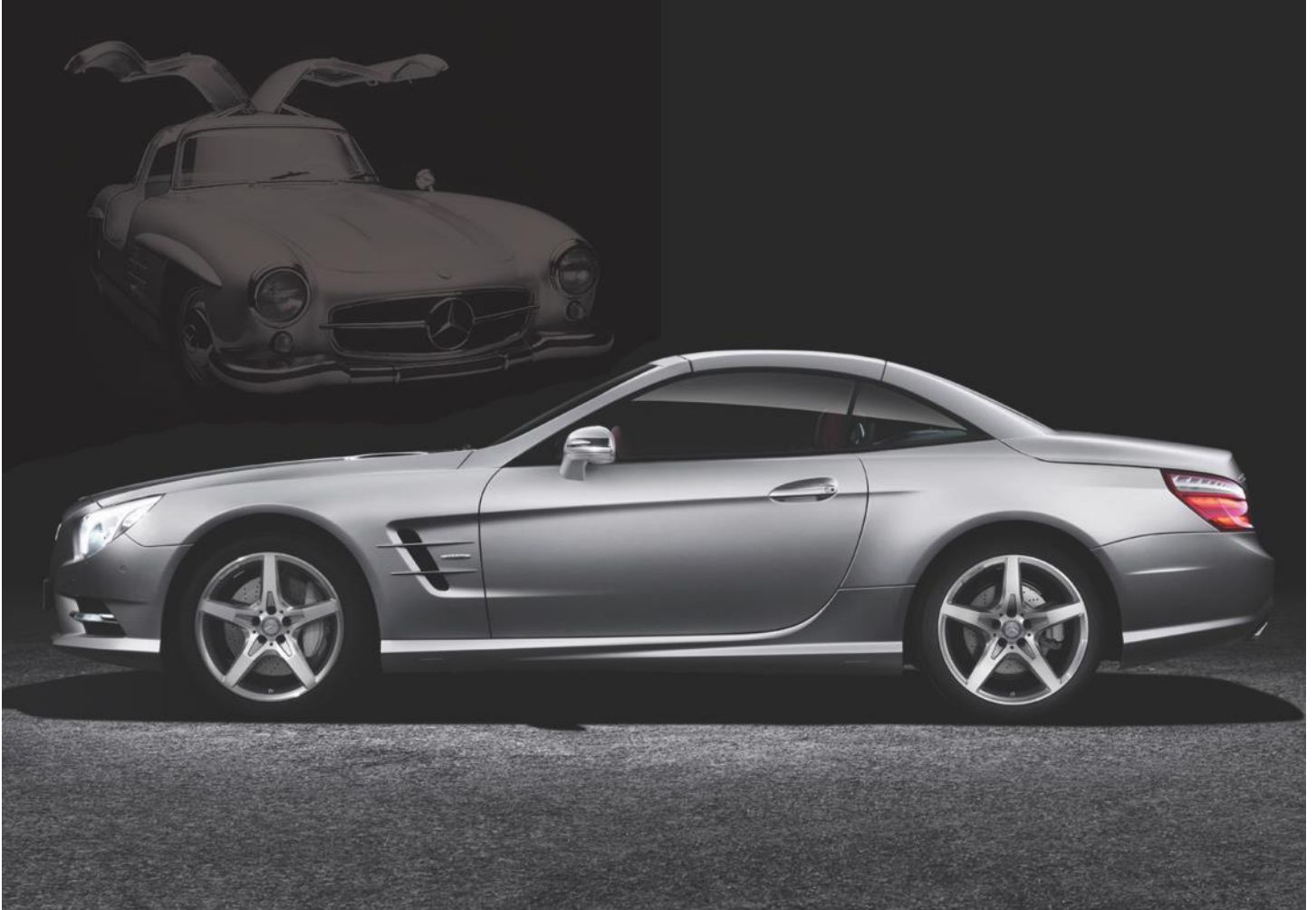


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Welcome New Members!

Michael Baab, Tulsa
Don Bruecks, Yukon
Mike Courtney, Edmond
Jon Georgiadis, Purcell
Bryant Riffe, Goodwell
Christine & Bernie Sheridan, Tulsa
Anthony Warren, Oklahoma City

Thank you Membership Renewals!

Grant Bagwell, 2021
David Barclay, 2008
Greg Bates, 2013
John & Susan Bowers, 2006
Charles & Fran Boyd, 1988
Lawrence & Helen Cammuso, 1994
John Carson, 2020
Keaton Cudd, 2014
John Groendyke, 2023
Ken Hoffman & Mike Dippel, 2010
Arthur Hoge, 2017
Scott & Ann Johnson, 2009
Brad & Claire Katzung, 2007
Peggy Kirk, 1998
Bill Leeper, 2023
David Mannas, 2013
Steve Murrell, 2006
Grant Nichols, 2019
Dave Olson, 2023
Joe Phillips, 2000
C.D. Schmidt, 1998
Gus Shaar, 2014
Joe & Trina Steil, 2013
Stephanee Stewart-Shepherd, 2023
Roland & Kelsey Walters, 1984
Tom Whiteley, 2011
Bob Wilson, 2019

new members & renewals December 1, 2023—June 30, 2024

114 section members on June 30, 2023

Mark your calendar
and
make a plan to join us on
Saturday, August 17, 2024
1-3pm
for a **private tour of the**
Ted Davis Auto Collection

8621 Southwest 119th Street in Oklahoma City
(property sits on 80 acres, west of I-44 between
Council Rd & County Line, north side of SW 119th).

RSVP via email central.ok.mbca@gmail.com

*All guests are requested to honor the
NO PHOTOGRAPHS policy*

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 by from your Membership Profile at mbca.org*
3. Renew by mail
Mail a check to:
Mercedes-Benz Club of America
10 Boulder Crescent Street, Suite 200
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
4. Renew by phone at 719.633.6427 (Tue-Thu 9a-3p 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 new website see page 9 for instructions*

a 3.75% credit card processing fee will be added to all credit card transactions



ATTENTION: AUTO-RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP MEMBERS

*Credit card information used for membership auto renewal did
not rollover to the new website. Please login to your MBCA member
account to enroll in auto renewal on the new website.*

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

Articles, photos, and event reports for *Sooner Star News* are welcomed and appreciated. Please submit to leatherock@att.net.

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