



# The Road Benz

The Newsletter from MBCA | Wichita

Sep/Oct 2024

Chartered in 1972

Wichita Chapter

## President's Corner

Kirk Filbey, Section President



Ahhh....as I write this column I can feel the cooler weather approaching. For me, nothing beats fall for car driving weather. Fall also means lots of great car events, especially the Wichita All German car show at the end of

September! More events will pop up as well and we are still working out details for events later in the year.

This issue of our newsletter was fun to put together because I think it really highlights the variety of events we do together as a club. I also wanted to thank Will Tobin for the article on his trip on Germany as part of the MBCA sponsored tour event. It is always great getting stories from club members. Please feel free to submit stories about cars, trips, or whatever interesting things you might be doing that's Mercedes-Benz related. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I hope we can keep going with the Let Me Tell You About My Car column as well. Send in those car stories!

As always, I would ask that each of you continue to promote the club. I'm trying to find ways to expand our social media presence, but I think in-person interactions work the best. 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

**Sep 28<sup>th</sup>:** ICT All German Car Show

**Oct 5<sup>th</sup>:** Sonnenblumen German Car Show

**Oct 25<sup>th</sup>:** Alzheimer's Walk

**Nov:** TBD

**Dec:** TBD

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025:** Membership Meeting

## Upcoming Chapter Events

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Wichita All German Car Show

When: **Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 11AM to 2PM**

Where: **Wichita State Tech Campus, 4004 N. Webb Rd, Wichita KS 67226**

This local all German car show is always great with lots of cool cars and prizes. The show is jointly hosted by the Mercedes, Porsche, BMW, and Audi clubs. Over 120 cars participated last year, with a very good showing from Mercedes-Benz...but BMW won the award for most participating cars. Come out to this show and let's take that award away from those Beemer folks!

You don't need to stay there the whole time but long enough to get counted! Invite everyone you know who has a Benz! There will be a food truck and raffle prizes as well. Just \$5 to register your car.



**WSU Tech**  
**4004 N. Webb Road**  
**11:00 am – 2:00 pm**

**ICT All German Car Show**  
**3rd Annual**  
**September 28, 2024**

*Sponsored by*

**Walser Auto Campus**

**Douglas Photographic Imaging ~ Gläs Häus Racing ~ Prost ~ Wichita Clear Bra**

*People's Choice in each marque. Raffle. Food Trucks. Club competition for The Walser Cup*

**\$5 entry fee per car at the event – cash please**



## Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Sonnenblumen Autofest

When: **Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 8AM to 2PM**

Where: **Oakdale Park, 730 Oakdale Dr, Salina, KS 67401**

This all German car show is sponsored by the German Car Club of Kansas, so it's always fun to drive up there and make sure the three-pointed star is represented! This is a low key show with peoples' choice awards for each marquee, along with a variety VW sub-variants. There will be food trucks, lots of interesting vehicles, and The Garage Automotive Museum is close by. This will be a fun event and it doesn't matter if you car is old or new...it just needs to be German. Don't forget to bring \$10 for the entry fee.



For those interested in convoying up as a group, we will meet at the parking lot behind the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Park City (996 E 61<sup>st</sup> St N, Wichita KS 67219). We will depart as a group at 8:30 AM and head up to the show. An event RSVP e-mail will be sent out as we get closer to the event date, so mark your calendar now.

**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 • germanclubofkansas@gmail.com**



**Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter****Walk to End Alzheimer's****When: Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 5PM to 7PM****Where: Wichita Boathouse, 515 S Wichita St,  
Wichita KS 67202**

After the 2022 MBCA Medallion Rally, the Wichita Chapter has continued to support the Alzheimer's Association by participating in the annual Walk to End Alzheimer's. Our goal is to raise \$1000 and this can be done by donating to our "team" page for this event. Information regarding how to donate will be sent out soon. You can donate without participating in the actual walk. This year the walk event is on a Friday evening and will take place at the Wichita Boathouse. The venue opens at 5PM with a kickoff ceremony at 6PM. Following the ceremony, participants have an opportunity to take part in the 1 mile walk. Following the walk we plan to head over to Prost for some German food and beer.

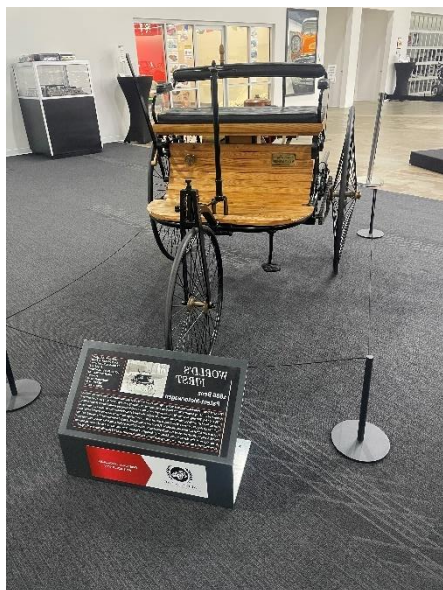


Recent Chapter Events**Visit to Mid-west Dream Car Collection, Saturday July 13th**

The Wichita Chapter joined some members of the Ozark Chapter along with members of the Central Plains Region of the Cadillac and LaSalle Club for a drive through rural Kansas to Manhattan, Kansas to see a stunning car collection, the Midwest Dream Car Collection. One of the most prestigious car collections in the area, the collection features over 60 cars from 1886 to modern day and offers something for everyone! Many of the cars are owned by the collection while some are on loan for other



collections. The oldest car is an 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagen, widely regarded as the world's first gas powered car. The only known original is on display at the Mercedes Benz Museum in Stuttgart. In 2002 Mercedes-Benz commissioned 90 exact replicas, this is number 20. Other cars of interest were a 1957 300SL Gullwing, a 1948 Tucker, number 17 of the 46 known to still exist, a 1930 Cadillac V16, a 1925 Rolls Royce, and a 2014 Lamborghini Aventador once owned by Mario Andretti! The group really enjoyed the collection and was impressed by the quality and variety of the cars.



After the collection tour, the group had lunch at Manhattan's famous Vista Burger restaurant. Some of the group headed back to Wichita via Chapman Kansas for a stop at the

Kansas Auto Racing Museum. This collection highlights the history of motorsports in Kansas with car exhibits, a small theater,



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racing games, and many exhibits of racing articles and stories of the early days of dirt track racing in the Midwest.

Despite the heat, we had a great day and it was fun meeting members from other car groups on this road trip.



**Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter****Chapter Membership Meeting and Lunch,  
Saturday August 24th**

We had a great turnout at our Chapter membership meeting and lunch, with 16 members participating. Firebird's Grill provided an excellent lunch and meeting space for our group. During the meeting we covered upcoming chapter events and kicked around ideas for future events for the remaining part of the year and into the next year. Additionally, Will Tobin showed off the new MBCA Wichita door magnets which can easily be placed on a car to advertise for the club. Several members purchased these at the meeting! More are available from Will. As always everyone enjoyed talking about summer activities and several trips were made out to the venue parking lot to check on/talk about cars.





## Trip Report

### **MBCA National Trip to Germany June 2024 –** by Will Tobin

This summer I had the opportunity to take part in one of MBCA's organized trips over to Germany and then followed up the tour with a few stops of my own. The MBCA part of the trip began on Monday evening, June 3, when the group met in the lobby of Stuttgart's Maritim Hotel, introduced ourselves, and proceeded to the hotel restaurant for our opening supper. Our German guide for the week, Milan Chudoba, met us there. He was a retired, 27-year employee of the Mercedes Benz corporate public relations department and was intimately familiar with all things Stuttgart and Mercedes-Benz.



There were 14 of us in the tour group, all from the US club. Within the tour group, there were two married couples, one father/son team, one brother/sister team, and six men traveling alone, ages 23 to 78. One of the couples was Chuck and Ava Stanford, MBCA trip leaders from Scottsdale AZ. They had been on MBCA Germany trips twice before but not as leaders. Chuck and Ava are also the organizers of the Arizona Concours d'Elegance, and, among their enthusiast cars, they have a 2002 R129 SL600 Silver Arrow edition. People in the group had both brand new and older cars and it was interesting to hear about them. I think the oldest car owned by any of us was a 1960 190 sedan. It didn't sound too exciting until we heard the back story. The owner, who was from Tennessee, had been a lecturer at a university in Beirut until the Lebanese civil war started in the spring of 1975. He drove the car from Lebanon through Syria, Turkey, by ferry to Greece, again by ferry to Italy, and ultimately to the Netherlands from where he had it shipped home. He still has the car.



The next day we hit the ground running. We started out with a bus ride to the AMG engine factory in Affalterbach. We had a private tour guided by an AMG employee. AMG's mantra is "One Man, One Engine". We saw engines being assembled and yes, one person assembles any individual engine. It takes about 3 ½ hours to assemble a V8 engine. If a worker is in the middle of the process on a particular engine and it's quitting time, he covers the engine and picks up on that same engine where he left off the next time he comes to work. Interesting fact: Mercedes has stopped putting 12-cylinder engines in new Mercedes cars, but we saw Mike, a very experienced assembler, still making the 12-cylinder Mercedes-Benz engines that go into Pagani automobiles, all by himself.

In the afternoon we made a short visit to the Gottlieb Daimler Memorial site in Bad Cannstatt.



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On Wednesday morning we headed over to the Mercedes-Benz Museum, Mecca for Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts. The museum is overwhelming, with cars from the beginning of the automobile age, the elegant classics of the 20's and 30's, and the racing cars through all the years up to 1955. Sensory overload! We made a lingering visit to the M-B Flagship store (where I bought the M-B world's coolest umbrella) at the museum before departing. That afternoon we popped over to the MB Classic Center for an afterhours visit. Classic Mercedes cars are restored and serviced here just like the Classic Center in southern California. We saw the 300 SLR #722, on a lift. That's the car Sterling Moss and Dennis Jenkinson drove to victory in the 1955 Mille Miglia race. We were not permitted to get too close to it or take pictures. But there it was, in all its silent glory.



On Thursday we visited Mechatronik in Pleidelsheim. This is a restoration shop/ Classic Mercedes, dare I say it, restomod shop. This company does meticulous restorations of primarily Pagodas and Type W111 coupes and cabriolets, but they modify them to accept modern drive trains and AMG M113 engines. Imagine a 1971 Pagoda with a 450 HP engine, and that drives like a new, modern, high-performance car. For you purists, please know that all modifications can be undone and the cars returned to their original specifications. A 1971 280SE Cabriolet was in the showroom with a price tag of €565,000. They had finished a 1952 220 Cabriolet A, restored but unmodified, and were asking €400,000. Our guide's favorite showroom car was an R129 7.3 AMG, apparently one of very few. There was also a modern Bugatti finished in polished aluminum. It had been sold and was awaiting transportation to its new owner. No pictures of that car were allowed. The sale price was upwards of 3 million Euro.

In the afternoon, we moved on to the Technik Museum Sinsheim. They have many things Mercedes-Benz but also so much more, including a Messerschmitt bf109 and Focke-Wulf fw190 aircraft and a Bugatti Type 41 Royale. They have many Mercedes cars including my favorite, a 540K Special roadster. One could spend days in this place. This visit might have been my highlight of the trip.



From Sinsheim we then moved on to Ladenburg and the Carl Benz Museum. It's a small, private museum housing many very early Benz cars, and other makes too.

Friday morning was spent at Motorworld in Boblingen. This place is a hotel and classic car showroom which is located on the grounds of the original Stuttgart Airport. The old terminal building is still there. On site there is classic car storage for wealthy owners, with each car in

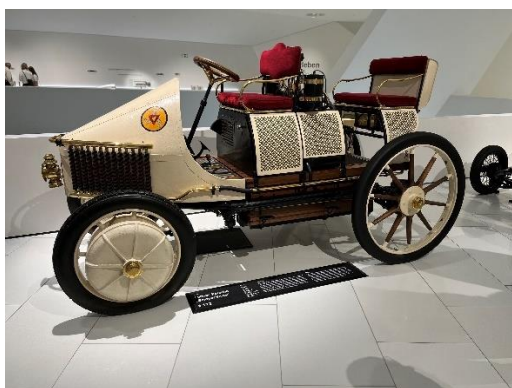
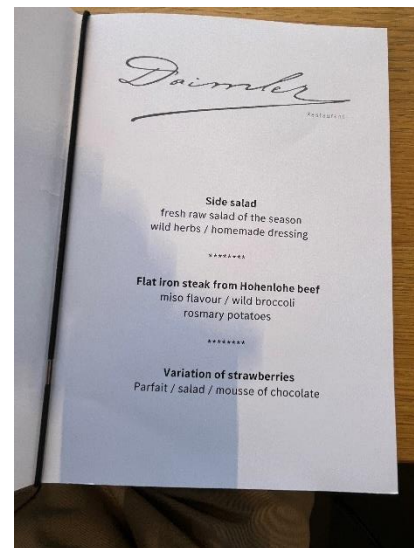


## Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter

its own glass box. Additionally, Bentley of Stuttgart and Lamborghini of Stuttgart are located here.

Friday's gourmet multi course lunch was at the Mercedes Sindelfingen Customer Center where we were guests of Mercedes – Benz. We were greeted by two Mercedes employees whose job duties include liaising with the 60 or 70 Mercedes-Benz clubs worldwide. The restaurant largely serves people who come to the factory to pick up their new cars. We saw lots of smiling people.

We wrapped up Friday with a visit to the Sindelfingen factory where E and S class cars are made. This factory employees 35,000 people but when we entered the factory we didn't see any workers. Much of what we saw was being done by robots. Eventually we did see employees assembling cars. The factory visit ended at the Center for Excellence where customers for the fanciest cars (Maybach) can come and choose their options. They can see possible car exterior colors in various lighting situations, all done by computer. Very high tech.



Saturday was a free day/recuperation day. Six of us went to the Porsche Museum. The most interesting exhibit, to me, was a Hybrid Gas/Electric car, from 1900!!!!

When I signed up for this trip, I thought four days didn't seem like enough and couldn't understand why there were no organized activities on the fifth day. Well, I quickly found out those four days were jam packed. At the end of each day I was happy, tired, and well fed. The food and restaurant experiences were top notch. The MBCA has been organizing these trips for something like 13 years. They have history and

experience and know what they are doing. Because we were with a Mercedes-Benz club, we were afforded special access to places, taken to places an independent tourist would not know to go, and treated as royal guests everywhere we went. I cannot imagine having a better time on a car-oriented trip. The birth of the automobile and the development and growth of Mercedes-Benz all through the years have been beautifully preserved in the Stuttgart region. Being an MBCA member connects you to all this history and makes me proud to be associated with it in some small way. I recommend one of these trips if you are even remotely interested in automobiles. In my opinion Mercedes-Bens buffs should put it on their bucket lists. I'm glad I went and I would go again.



**Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter****The Benz Bazaar**

Are you interested in getting a club magnet for your car? This is a great way to advertise for our chapter at car shows and other events. The magnet can easily be placed and removed from your car without damaging the paint. The magnets are \$25 a piece. If you're interested in getting one, please contact me at [rkfilbey@gmail.com](mailto:rkfilbey@gmail.com).



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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](mailto:rkfilbey@gmail.com).

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## Club Event News

Concours Judging School - September 18



Brush up for experienced judges, qualification for new judges.

Learn the nuances of Concours Judging on Wednesday September 18, 2024 via ZOOM. This session will be facilitated by Peachtree Section Past President and Concours Committee member Gary Edwards. We will review everything you need to know about judging a Mercedes-Benz in a Concours. After the classroom session, all participants will be given an opportunity to become certified by answering a few quiz-style questions. In preparation for the Star Summit Concours on October 5th, we'll also cover the new scoring method using spreadsheets and tablet computers. Previously certified judges are encouraged to participate in addition to first time judge candidates, to brush up on this perishable skill set.

The session will start at 7:00 pm. EDT and will conclude around 10:00 p.m. You must be able to see the presentation and participate in the certification process. Dialing-in by phone to ZOOM will not be sufficient for this class.

There is **NO CHARGE** for this event, but registration is required. Please register by midnight on Tuesday September 17, 2024.

September 18, 7:00 pm EST

[Event Registration](#)



## Chapter Membership News

Our section currently has **56 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](mailto: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](mailto:randyandcj@gmail.com) ) or me (Kirk Filbey) at [rkfilbey@gmail.com](mailto: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!



300SLR Uhlenhaut Coupe –photo by Will Tobin

### **MBCA | Wichita Board**

MBCA.Wichita@aol.com

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