



# Sooner Star News

the official Central Oklahoma section club newsletter

2024 Third Quarter Issue

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Down the stretch they come! We're well into the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024 and building good success. I think we have had a good number of quality events this summer. Two out of town road trips, plus visits to the John Bowers auto collection (with a heavy emphasis on SL), and the Ted Davis collection (outstanding pre-WWII cars). Both are exceptional collections anywhere in the USA. We are very fortunate to have them so close and able to view them. Regular monthly dinner meetings and Mornings with Mercedes help fill out the calendar. We are doing well, IMO.



*Jeff Leatherrock, President*

Our first try at Mornings with Mercedes was small but successful with over a dozen cars. We gained two new members from this event. Credit goes to Charles Woods for pushing to get this done.

Upcoming monthly meetings will be at Pelican's Restaurant this month and for the first time in five years, we're going back to 1492 New World Cuisine in Casady Square in October. This was a very popular place with our membership before the pandemic with a good location in Northwest Oklahoma City, great food, and a private room. We're excited to go back! Also, the OU Homecoming Parade is October 18. We had three cars last year

*(continued on [page 2](#))*

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

and think we can get more this year. If you are interested, please check [page 13](#).

Our annual Christmas Party is December 10 and we're beyond thrilled to go back to the Petroleum Club in downtown OKC this year. We must give the Petroleum Club a headcount as well as pay in full by December 2<sup>nd</sup>, so be sure to register and pay early. Don't miss out! We'll be sure to send several reminder emails as the event gets closer, see [page 5](#) for more information.

What I think is premium content for our section is Ken Wells' article Wild & Wacky World of Exotic Cars (WWWEC). He and Carolyn work very hard researching and writing this article for every issue of our section's newsletter. It is always full of great content that would fit easily into premium publications, such as The Star magazine, but we are lucky enough to get it for our local newsletter. This issue's piece is outstanding, since they recently visited Pebble Beach for Car Week (see [page 10](#)).

As has been mentioned before, the club national business office has been undergoing some serious reorganization challenges. I am happy to report that things are improving. Still not perfect, but definite improvement. Please be patient with Katie, and our slew of volunteer national officers, who are motivated by their love of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, as they continue to work toward a better club for us all.

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

### The new MBCA website is here

Be sure to check out the MBCA website at [mbca.org](http://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.

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# Upcoming Events

Sep 17	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting Pelican's Restaurant 291 N Air Depot Blvd, MWC
Oct 5	10am	Board of Directors Meeting Mercedes-Benz of OKC
Oct 15	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting 1492 New World Latin Cuisine Casady Square, 9213 N Penn Ave, OKC
Oct 18	5:30pm	OU Homecoming Parade, Norman see <a href="#">page 13</a> for details
Nov 19	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting Interurban Restaurant 1150 Ed Noble Parkway, Norman
Dec 10	7pm	Christmas Party Petroleum Club OKC 100 N Broadway Ave #3400, OKC Registration & pre-pay required see <a href="#">page 5</a> for details
Jan 11	10am	Board of Directors Meeting Mercedes-Benz of OKC
Jan 21	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting Long-Term Member Recognition Night Grand House Asian Bistro 2701 N Classen Blvd, OKC



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

or do you know  
anyone who is?

No Mercedes-Benz affiliation required.

### **Annual ad & sponsorship rates are:**

*Full page \$500*

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*Business Card \$100*

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 16](#))  
for more information or to become a section sponsor & advertiser.

# Event Report

## May Dinner Meeting

Our May dinner meeting was on the 21<sup>st</sup> at Interurban Restaurant in Norman. Twenty members and guests attended. Door prize winners were: John Carson; Ken Wells and Carolyn Bullard; and Tom Whiteley.



Tena Highfill, Lisa Leatherock  
Don Bruecks, Roland & Kelsey Walters



Ken Wells, Jeff Leatherock, Lance Highfill



Paul & Suzen Rodesney



Gus & Deborah Shaar



John & Trae Carson

## Coffee and Cars OKC

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*You're invited*  
**MBCA Central Oklahoma Section**  
**2024 Christmas Party**

**December 10**  
**6pm**

**Petroleum Club OKC**  
**100 N Broadway Ave #3400**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73102**

**\$95 per person**  
pre-registration & pre-pay required

**Entrée choices are:**

**Chicken with artichoke mushroom sauce**

**Poached Salmon**

**8oz Filet**

*filet temp options rare, medium, or well*

*all dinners include salad, roasted potatoes, asparagus,  
carrots, dinner rolls, dessert, coffee/tea*

**Register here**

or mail \$95 per person and include entrée selection(s),  
and filet temperature, if applicable, to  
MBCA, Central Oklahoma Section  
P.O. Box 21040  
Oklahoma City, OK 73156-1040  
or Zelle payment to [central.ok.mbca@gmail.com](mailto:central.ok.mbca@gmail.com)

The party will begin at 6pm with cocktails (credit card only bar). At 7pm dinner will be served, followed by our "Dirty Santa" style gift exchange emceed by Ken Wells. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift valued between \$35-\$50.

*registration and payment deadline is Monday, December 2*  
*no refunds*

# Event Report

## Annual Picnic

Our 2024 Picnic was held on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at Hafer Park in Edmond. Thirty-five members and guests attended including five from the Eastern Oklahoma Section. Attendees enjoyed grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and bratwurst prepared onsite by Brent King's Thafoodude Kings Cuisines along with picnic sides of baked beans, potato salad, chips; and cookies and assorted fruit for dessert.

Door prize winners were: Don and Amy Bruecks; Jeff and Lisa Leatherock; Bill and Jamie Leeper; Charles Woods; and Ray Wright.

It was another great picnic for the club!



*Brent King from Thafoodude Kings Cuisines*



*Fran & Charles Boyd, Nathan Armer*



*John Carson*



*Lisa Leatherock, Carolyn Bullard*



*Amy & Don Bruecks*



*Kenny Hoffman, Tony Marruchella*



*Jeff Leatherock, Ray Wright*



*Tena Highfill, Kenny Hoffman & Mike Dippel,  
Tony Marruchella*



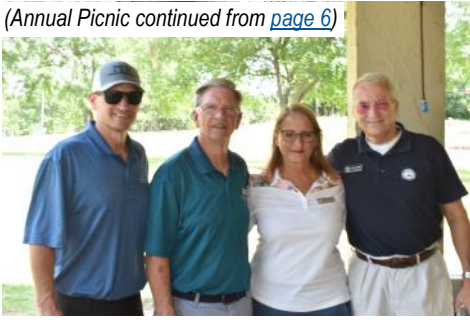
*John Kushnerick, Bill Nash,  
Charles Woods & Debbie Smoak, Dick Woolbright*



*Sloan & Brian Highfill*

*(continued on [page 7](#))*

(Annual Picnic continued from [page 6](#))



Brian, Lance & Tena Highfill, Nathan Armer



Dick Woolbright, Tom Paul



Jamie Leeper, Don & Amy Bruecks, Bill Leeper



Jeff Leatherrock, Ken Wells & Carolyn Bullard



Tim Higgins



Tom Whiteley

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# Event Report

## July Dinner Meeting

Twenty-seven members and guests attended our July dinner meeting on Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup> at Emma Elle's Italian Kitchen located in Yukon. This was a new dinner meeting venue for our section. Although the restaurant doesn't have a private room or area and was quite noisy, the food was delicious and the menu had a variety of choices.

Door prize winners were Kenny Hoffman and Mike Dippel; Tom Whiteley; and Charles Woods.



Lance & Tena Highfill, Charles Woods



Joseph & Trina Steil



Dick Woolbright



Tim Higgins, Steve Murrell, Jeff Leatherrock, Charles Woods



Ken Wells & Carolyn Bullard



Mel Brazell



Jo & Bruce Ewing



Ray & Cathy Wright



Don & Amy Bruecks



Mike Dippel & Kenny Hoffman



Greg Morgan, Tim Higgins



Gus Shaar, Tom Whiteley



Greg Morgan, Jeff Leatherrock, Bruce Rodesney, Charles Woods, Tom Whiteley



Jeff Leatherrock

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Articles, photos, and event reports for *Sooner Star News* are welcomed and appreciated  
Please submit to [leatherock@att.net](mailto:leatherock@att.net)



# Event Report

## Enid Trip for Messer-Bowers Insurance 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> thirty-one club members and guests travelled to Enid, Oklahoma for the Messer-Bowers Insurance 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.



Tom Paul & Debbie Smith,  
Lisa & Jeff Leatherrock, Dick Woolbright

A little over half of our group met at 9:30am at Rudy's Country Store & Bar-B-Q to caravan to Enid together. The day started off unseasonably cool and rainy but cleared up about halfway to Enid.

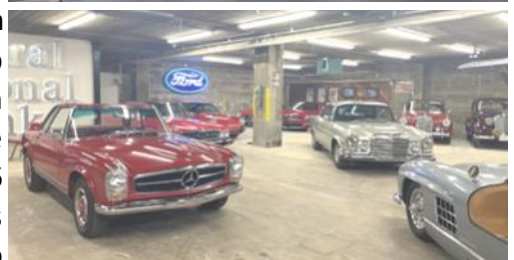
Once we arrived in Enid, we spent an hour or so touring John Bowers' collection. Since the last time the club toured John's basement garage, he's opened up a whole new area with lots of lighting, a seating area with tables, and a television. Along one wall is a display of Jack Douglas Dillon's collection of over 180 (1:16 scale) model cars. Jack was born in Enid in 1925 and died in 2002. His



collection took many years to accumulate and consists of autos from 12 generations (including Cadillac, Studebaker, Porsche, Lamborghini, Ferrari, Mercedes-Benz, Duesenberg, Packard, Bugatti, and many more).



A little before 1pm we went across the street to the Stride Bank Center for the Anniversary Party. The Stride Bank Center is an event area in downtown Enid. Messer-Bowers had the event floor set up like a mini carnival with a couple bounce houses, a golf simulator, a soccer simulator, photo booth, as well as a couple of John's cars on display. Attendees enjoyed sandwiches, hot dogs, chicken fingers, chips, and sodas and



Charles Woods, Dick Woolbright, Jeff Leatherrock,  
Stephane Stewart Shepherd



(continued on [page 15](#))



## **The Wild and Wacky World of Exotic Cars - Pebble Beach Edition**

*by Ken Wells*

As many of you know, we just returned from Car Week at Pebble Beach. If you are a car person, Pebble Beach is the place to be in mid-August each year. Not only do we go for the cars but also the weather is about 40 degrees cooler than it is in Oklahoma. The festivities start on Monday and carry on through the Concours D'Elegance on Sunday. All the events are spread out from Monterey to Pebble Beach to Carmel. There are a multitude of shows and auctions, and you can't possibly attend them all. You must pick and choose the events you want to attend and how much to spend on the tickets! Oh, don't forget the historic races at Laguna Seca as well as the manufacturers ride and drives of the latest new exotics. If you are thinking about attending Car Week, you need to plan ahead for each day and decide which events you want to attend as well as whether or not you can get tickets. If you plan far enough in advance, you can book a flight into Monterey, get a rental car and you are all set. You can't drive up Highway 1 from LA anymore because part of it is in the ocean and flying into San Francisco and driving down is not ideal. You need to book your hotel well in advance with prices starting at \$500 a night and skyrocketing from there.

Here is a timeline of the week's main events, to give you an idea of how to spend each day.

### **MONDAY**

Automobilia Collectors Expo at the Hyatt in Seaside  
Porsche Monterey Classic in Seaside as well

### **TUESDAY**

Classic Motorsports Monterey Kickoff

*(continued on [page 11](#))*

(WWWEC continued from [page 10](#))

**WEDNESDAY**

The Little Car Show, downtown Pacific Grove

Ferrari Owners Club at Pasadera

Motorlux, Monterey Jet Center. This is one of the highlights of the week. With exotic cars, private jets and even World War II war planes. As well as cocktails and local culinary creations. Tickets are \$600 per person.

**THURSDAY**

Ferrari Owners Club Concours Carmel – free to spectators. Downtown Carmel streets filled with Ferrari’s.

Prancing Ponies Women’s Car Show – free to spectators. This is also in Carmel.

Legends of the Autobahn – Pacific Grove – free to spectators. This is an all-German car show for the Mercedes, BMW and Audi marques.

**FRIDAY**

Porsche Werks Reunion Monterey – free to spectators. THE Porsche show.

The Quail – Quail Lodge and Golf Club

Other than the Sunday Concours, this is the hottest ticket in town. Speaking of that, the tickets are only available in lottery fashion. You must send them your information and hope you get lucky. Tickets this year were \$1,250 per person. It’s a celebration of cars, food and drink and overall, the good life. Everyone should attend at least once if possible.

**SATURDAY**

California Concours d’Lemons – Seaside

The antithesis to stuffy concours events is Concours d’Lemons, a celebration of some of the world’s truly awful vehicles – and some that are just hopelessly quirky. Admission is free because no one would pay to see these cars. Highly recommended.

Concorso Italiano – Black Horse Golf Course – tickets start at \$225 per person. Monterey Car Week’s all-Italian show is a celebration of not just cars, but Italian fashion, music, art and cuisine. Lovely show in a lovely location.

Exotics on Broadway – Seaside – free to spectators. If you’re interested in the latest, greatest and most expensive exotics this is the show for you. Focused on exotic super cars and hyper-cars. This is the place to be to see someone rev their Lamborghini engine until it melts!

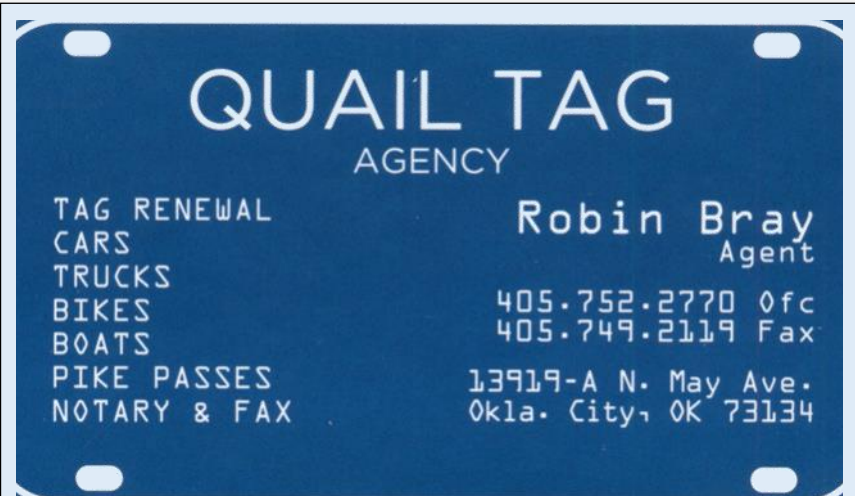
**SUNDAY**

Pebble Beach Concours d’Elegance – the Lodge at Pebble Beach. Tickets start at \$495 per person. But of course, the way to go is the Chairman’s Hospitality Suite at the Lodge for only \$4,500 per person. I keep waiting for someone to offer us tickets but so far, no such luck.

Other Events: Rolex Monterey Motorsports Reunion at Laguna Seca – All Week. If you want to see the historic race cars running this is the place to be. Tickets start at \$50 per day. There are also five major auctions during the week as well as various road rallies and other events.

If you’d like more information about Car Week go to YouTube as there are numerous videos of the various events.

Well, that is about it from Monterey, see you next time in the WWWEC.



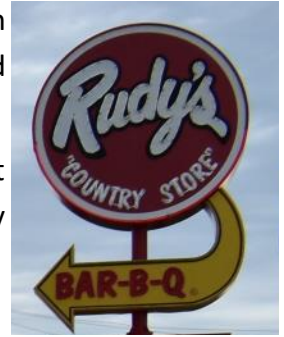
# Event Report

## Mornings with Mercedes

Mornings with Mercedes is a Mercedes-Benz “Coffee & Cars” style event that our Section held on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at Rudy’s Country Store & Bar-B-Q on West Memorial Road in Northwest Oklahoma City. Thirteen Mercedes-Benz vehicles attended.

The event was scheduled for 9am to 11am, but was cut short by pouring rain right at 10am, but for only having one hour this was a successful event, that we will definitely be doing again in the very near future.

Two guests that attended, Brock Bowman and Nick Timme, are now MBCA members!



## 2024 Section Board of Directors Election Update

As we closed nominations, we had nine candidates. We determined since all are good and true members, we could set the Board at nine Directors, as allowed in the Section Bylaws.

**Congratulations to all nine!**

Lance Highfill  
Jeff Leatherock  
Tony Marruchella

Greg Morgan  
Tom Paul  
Paul Rodesney

Ken Wells  
Tom Whiteley  
Charles Woods

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 5 Board Meeting.

# Event Report

## A Visit to the Ted Davis Collection

by Lance Highfill

On Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, forty-four members and guests of the MBCA Central Oklahoma Section had the opportunity to visit Ted Davis' collection of automobiles and automobilia. Ted is a long-time collector and restorer of rare and vintage automobiles. Most of his collection is from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. His collection contains vehicles from a number of manufacturers including Packard, Pierce Arrow, Franklin, Speedwell, Mercer, Hudson along with Ted's very first auto, a 1931 Ford roadster pickup. Ted not only collects cars but he also restores, shows and participates in vintage races.



He just recently completed construction of a new facility to house his vehicles along with all of the awards he has won, including a number from Pebble Beach events. Ted knows the story behind each of his vehicles (all of the owners, where the car spent time before arriving in his collection and any racing or other historically significant events) and he was kind enough to share a number of those stories with us as we toured his facility. Members spent over two hours touring Ted's collection and visiting with Ted, his wife, Carol, and their sweet dog, a Dachshund named Missy. Thanks to our section member, Dick Woolbright, for arranging this event for our club.

## 2024 OU Homecoming Parade

Friday, October 18, 2024

Requested arrival time 5:30pm-6:00pm

OU has invited us again this year to participate in their Homecoming Parade. They are specifically looking for convertibles that will accommodate OU royalty comfortably sitting on the top boot.

Jeff and I participated in this event last year. We were notified last minute, like a couple days before. There were five of us that went in three cars. We had a lot of fun!

With that being said, my advice for anyone that wants to participate is pack your patience. You just have to "go with the flow" on this one. This is run by students. While I cannot speak for organizers this year, last year it wasn't super well organized, and sort of felt like no one was really "in charge". Hopefully, this year will be different since we're getting a head start!

At this time, they do not have a specific location for the driver lineup as the parade route is still being finalized. Once they have the final details, a location and parade map will be forwarded to us.

They are requesting a car count by October 1.

If you are interested in participating in this event, please send an email to [central.ok.mbca@gmail.com](mailto:central.ok.mbca@gmail.com) include attendee name(s) and car model. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to call Jeff Leatherock at 405-943-5657.

Lisa Leatherock

# Event Report

## August Dinner Meeting

We tried a new venue for our August 20<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting, Johnnie's Kitchen & Bar located in South Oklahoma City on the I-240 Service Road. Just like the Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler on Britton Road, this location has a private room and a full-service bar. The menu has all the Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler classic burger selections, as well as a variety of appetizers and salads, and several comfort food platters, like meatloaf, fried chicken, pot roast, fried catfish, etc.

This was a great meeting place! If you missed this meeting, no worries, we'll definitely be booking this venue again in the future.

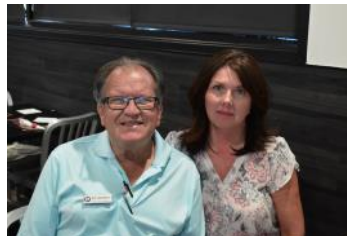
Door prize winners were Chris and Phoebe Henry; Tom Paul; Bruce Rodesney; and Roland Walters.



Carolyn Bullard & Ken Wells



Debbie Smoak & Charles Woods



Jeff & Lisa Leatherock



Chris & Phoebe Henry



Dick Woolbright



Deborah & Gus Shaar



Lance & Tena Highfill, Roland Walters



Paul & Suzen Rodesney



Don Bruecks



Keaton Cudd, Jeff Leatherock



Steve Murrell, Mel Brazell



Greg Morgan, Debbie Smoak

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Debbie Smith & Tom Paul



Suzen Rodesney, Tim Higgins,  
Norris Nowlin, Carolyn Bullard

(Enid Trip continued from [page 9](#))



before leaving took away goodie bags that included a Messer-Bowers Insurance cooler bag, koozies, and a portable battery charger.

Four members drove their 107 SLs: Greg and Sheila Morgan 1987 560SL; Bill and Jamie Leeper 1980 450SL; Tom Paul 1987 560SL; and Charles Woods 1986 560SL.

Check out page 37 of The Star current issue for a photo of John's Gullwing at the 2024 Gullwing Group Convention in Ojai, California.



Dick Woolbright, Charles Woods, Tom Whiteley, Stephanie Stewart-Shepherd, Don & Amy Bruecks, Sheila & Greg Morgan



Charles Woods



Tony Marruchella



Enid Building Paintings

## 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](http://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)

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

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

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



## Welcome New Members!

Brock Bowman, Edmond  
 Mark Davis, Edmond  
 Nicholas Timme, Midwest City

## Thank you Membership Renewals!

Woodrow Acord, 2014  
 Carol Fisher & Mike Pugliese, 2015  
 Lance & Tena Highfill, 2006  
 Walter Kula, 2014  
 Dickk Woolbright, 2017

new members & renewals July 1, 2024—August 31, 2024

**114 section members on August 31, 2024**

# Mercedes-Benz Club of America Central Oklahoma Section

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Oklahoma City, OK 73156-1040  
email: [central.ok.mbc@gmail.com](mailto:central.ok.mbc@gmail.com)  
website: [mbca.org/section/central-oklahoma](http://mbca.org/section/central-oklahoma)

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Central Oklahoma Section Facebook Page [facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064414372936](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064414372936)

Mercedes-Benz Club of America Facebook Page [facebook.com/MBCAnational](https://facebook.com/MBCAnational)

Mercedes-Benz Club of America Facebook Group [facebook.com/groups/mercedesbenzclubofamerica](https://facebook.com/groups/mercedesbenzclubofamerica)

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Contributing Credits for this issue: Lance Highfill, Jeff Leatherock, Lisa Leatherock, Ken Wells

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