



# The Road Benz

The Newsletter from MBCA | Wichita

Apr 2020

Chartered in 1972

Wichita Section

## President's Corner

Lee Elrick Jr., Section President



What a strange time we are all living in right now! Most of us have never experienced this kind of situation before...social distancing, staying at home, people in quarantine, businesses and restaurants

closed or with reduced hours. The Coronavirus is real though, so please abide by our authorities' guidance and be safe and stay healthy. Also check in on your families and love ones.

We will attempt to restart our club activities as soon as it's safe for all. As Queen Elizabeth mentioned in her speech the other week, we will meet again.

Lee

## 2020 Section Event Calendar

18 Apr – Tech Session at Local Garage (**To be rescheduled at a later date**)

2 May – McPherson Car Show (**Postponed until next year**)

30 May – Garage gathering with British Car Club of Wichita

13 Jun – Poker Run

20 Jun – Cars & Coffee

Jul – Dawn Patrol and Breakfast

18 Jul – Cars & Coffee

15 Aug – Cars & Coffee

29 Aug – **Membership meeting and Officer Elections**

19 Sep – Cars & Coffee

26 Sep – German car show in Salina

Oct – Wine tasting

17 Oct – Cars & Coffee

Nov – Tech Session/Car Collection/Museum

Dec – Dealership event

Formula 1 Watch Party or Parties sometime during the year...will have to see what happens to the season.

## Upcoming Events!

### **Garage Gathering with the British Car Club of Wichita**

When: **May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Where: **Carnahan/Elrick Car Barn**

The British Car Club of Wichita will be having a garage crawl on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. We plan to meet up with club members at the Carnahan/Elrick car barn, swap car stories, and check out some interesting vehicles. More details to come as the event date gets closer.



### **Mystery Poker Run**

When: **Jun 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to Afternoon**

Where: **Various local locations**

Planning has started on the next poker run. While the exact route will remain a mystery until the start of the event (don't worry, maps will be provided), plan on meeting for breakfast and then exploring the back roads of Kansas. We will hit a couple of sites and grab lunch during the trip. This is not a race. Everyone gets a card at each site and the car which can put together the best poker hand will win a fabulous prize at the final stop. More details coming soon.





## Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section

### June Cars and Coffee

When: **June 20<sup>th</sup>, 8 AM to 10 AM**

Where: **The Alley Indoor Entertainment Center, 11413 E. 13<sup>th</sup> St N, Wichita KS 67206**

This is an informal gathering of cars that occurs during the third Saturday of every month at The Alley parking lot. This free event kicks off at 8 in the morning and there's complimentary coffee and donuts. Our club has just started attending these.

There's no need to formally RSVP and feel free to pop in and out of the event as your schedule permits.

Hope to see you there!



### Dawn Patrol

When: **Sometime in July**

Where: **In planning**

July in Kansas can get awfully hot which can make road trips unpleasant. The exact details of this event are still being planned but the game plan is to get up early in the morning for a pleasant drive in the cool of the morning and then grab breakfast. After breakfast, everyone heads home before the heat really kicks in. More details to come.



## Recent Events

### Kansas Aviation Museum Tour, Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup>



Fourteen section members gathered for a private tour of the Kansas Aviation Museum. The museum is housed in the old Wichita airport terminal which is one of the last remaining art deco style terminal buildings left in the country. Club members enjoyed checking out the interesting displays and aircraft both inside and outside the terminal. Wichita's ties to aviation both today and in the past are remarkable. The art deco stylings of the building were also very impressive. Finally we were all surprised by the Mercedes-Benz link with the Stearman aircraft company as we checked out Lloyd Stearman's Fintail Benz on display.





**Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section**

**Doc Tour and Lunch, Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>**

There are only 2 flyable B-29's in the world and one of them resides right here in Wichita! 24 members and guests got to visit "Doc" at the Doc B-29 Education Center and Hangar. This is a working hangar as opposed to a museum, so the Wichita section got to see Doc while it was going through maintenance in preparation for the upcoming airshow season. The aircraft is awe inspiring and we thoroughly enjoyed seeing both the inside and outside of the aircraft. Hangar volunteers led tours of the aircraft and then took us all



upstairs to learn more details about the B-29 and the story of how Doc was rescued from a Navy bombing range in California to eventually become a flying aircraft. Doc has an important connection to Wichita because the aircraft was manufactured right here during World War II.

Following the visit to Doc, we continued our aviation themed club event by having lunch at the Hangar One Steakhouse which is full of aircraft memorabilia. What

a great event!



## The Benz Bazaar

Have something to sell? Does your Mercedes need a new home? Extra parts lying around? Looking for a part or a car? Send a message to the editor ([rkfilbey@gmail.com](mailto:rkfilbey@gmail.com)) and we'll get your listing or request in The Benz Bazaar. Our section newsletter comes out about once a quarter.

## Club News

### **MBCA Grill Badges**

Did you know you can order Mercedes-Benz Club grill badges for your car? You won't find them listed in the club store at [mbca.org](http://mbca.org) (not sure why) however if you call the National Business Office at (800) 637-2360 you can order one. The grill badges are \$28 and that includes shipping. Check it out; it's a fun way to decorate your car.



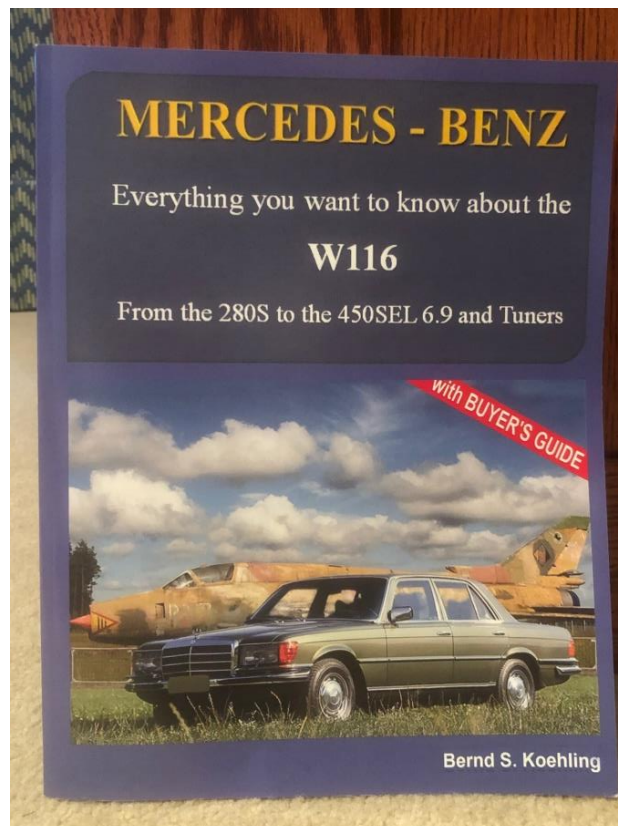


## Book Reviews

Well, with all of us stuck at home and limited car activities, now is an excellent time to catch up on some reading. Here are some previous book reviews plus a new one:

**Mercedes-Benz: Everything you want to know about the W116 (From the 280S to the 450SEL 6.9 and Tuners) By Bernd S. Koehling, ISBN 9781092819220**

Mr. Koehling is a passionate Mercedes-Benz aficionado and has published many books on various Mercedes-Benz models over the years. Since I recently acquired a 450SEL I was very excited to learn that Koehling had just published a book on this model series. This book does not disappoint and I highly recommend it to anyone with a W116 or who is considering purchasing a W116. As would be expected from this book, the author covers the developmental history of the W116 which was the first car to be officially called an “S Class” by MB. The series began production in 1972 and marked the start of more “modern” looking vehicles from MB. Mercedes introduced many safety, quality, and comfort features in this vehicle and those, along with other design features, directly influenced follow-on models. The author carefully covers all the variants of the series, starting with the 280S and finishing up with the superfast 450SEL 6.9 which had a monstrous 6.8 liter engine.



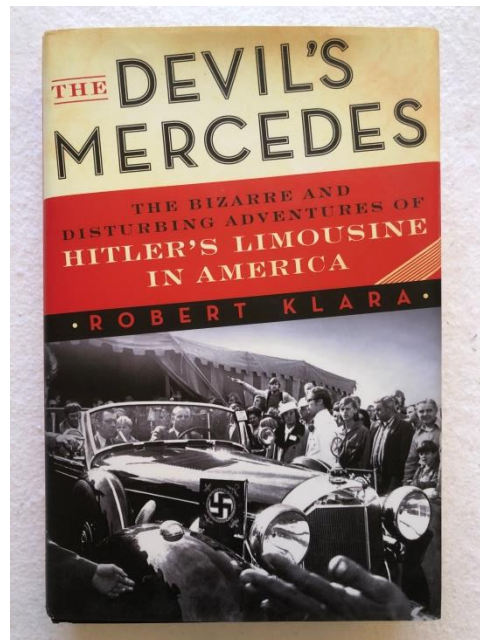
What makes this book different from a standard car book is that Koehling provides extra background information on the W116 design, the marketing campaign for the vehicle, and different aftermarket “tuning” variants of the car. Here’s another tidbit from the book: If you want to see the 6.9 in action, check out this 1976 French short film “[C’etait un rendez-vous](#)” by Claude Lelouch on YouTube. This high speed drive through Paris was shot with a camera mounted on 6.9, taking advantage of the car’s hydro-pneumatic suspension system. Another great part of the book is the author’s detailed explanation of the W116 VIN (vehicle identification number). This information is not only applicable to the W116 but the general VIN and data card information could be used for other older MB’s.

Koehling has written an informative and entertaining book and I’m glad to add it to my shelf next to some of his other books. You can find a full list of Bernd Koehling’s books at [www.benz-books.com](http://www.benz-books.com).

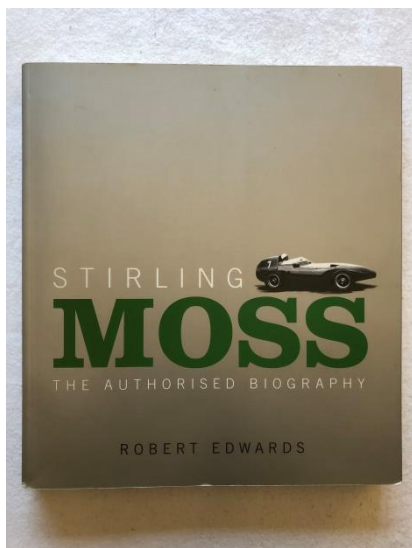


**The Devil's Mercedes - The Bizarre and Disturbing Adventures of Hitler's Limousine in America, By Robert Klara. Published by St. Martin's Press, 342 pages; ISBN 978-1-250-06972-6.**

I just finished this book and found it to be a very interesting read. Robert Klara crafts a gripping story that focuses on two different 1941 Mercedes-Benz 770K's. These gigantic armored cars were 20 feet long, weighed about 5 tons, and had 230 horsepower supercharged engines. They were a strange mix of brute force and ultimate luxury. Most of these cars did not survive World War II, but these two examples made it back to the United States under unusual circumstances. While this book is well researched, it is hardly a dry history book. Mr. Klara uncovers the bizarre stories of these cars, looking at how the public reacted to them and how their various owners were impacted. The book also provides a fascinating glimpse into the start of classic car collecting in the United States including some of the early "wheelers and dealers" and the start of the famous car auctions in Scottsdale, Arizona. Mr. Klara also explores questions about whether you can ever separate an object from its past and how an object, be it a car or some other antique, loses some of its "value" if it suddenly loses its historical context. In any case you'll be hard pressed to put this book down as the true story of each car is finally revealed. Support your local independent bookstore and go order a copy for you or an acquaintance.



**Stirling Moss The Authorized Biography, By Robert Edwards. Published by Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 360 pages; ISBN 978-1-841-88200-0.**



With the death of Stirling Moss on April 12<sup>th</sup>, it seemed timely to provide a quick review of this detailed biography of the legendary driver. The biography covers Sir Stirling's life up to 2002 and provides fascinating details of his early life, the highs and lows of his racing and personal life, and the maturing of Formula 1 racing. While Sir Stirling raced for many teams he is probably most famous for his time spent racing for Mercedes-Benz. In 1955, he and his navigator (Denis Jenkinson), won the grueling 1000 mile Mille Miglia race in a Mercedes 300SLR (the famous 722 car). Moss was the first British driver to win this race. He and Jenkinson finished the race in just over 10 hours with an average speed of just under

100mph, setting a course record which was never broken. Sir Stirling's racing career came to end when he was nearly killed in a horrific racing accident in 1962.

He came back from this injury and became a world renowned ambassador for the sport. This book includes hundreds of photographs, copies of articles and memorabilia from Sir Stirling's racing scrapbooks, and a detailed index of every one of his races. The world has lost a racing legend.



## Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section

### Membership News

Our section currently has 391 members!

Welcome to our new members: **Abdullah Ghaith** and **Randy Roths**. And here's a hearty thanks to all of our renewing members, including **Anthony Fromby, Vin Kissick, Jack Pelton, James Gregory, Joseph Kause, John Carnahan, Richard Samaniego, Mike and Tina Norman, Lawrence Appenfeller, Robert Dwerlkotte, Lee Elrick, Bill Preuit, Daryl Timmerman, and Paul Courtney**. Thank you so much.

As always, 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).

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.

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



**Sir Stirling Moss, 1929 – 2020  
Rest in Peace**

### MBCA | Wichita Board

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