



The Road Benz

The Newsletter from MBCA | Wichita

July 2019

Chartered in 1972

Wichita Section

President's Corner

Lee Elrick Jr., Section President



The Wichita section has had a very active past 6 months and we are putting plans together for the rest of the year. Our section has experienced one of the largest membership increases and renewals in quite some time which is wonderful news. Strong, consistent membership helps our section put together even better events.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Walser Mercedes-Benz dealership for their renewed support of our section. They have been enthusiastic about promoting membership in the club and then hosted a great event in April. You can read all about it in this newsletter.

Upcoming section events will include driving excursions, technical information sessions, sightseeing events, and a wine tasting experience. It's an exciting time for the Wichita section! One event I wanted to highlight is our membership meeting and lunch on August 24th. We will be having it at Firebirds and I want to encourage everyone to bring a friend to this event so other folks can see what our club is all about.

This newsletter is jam packed with information and pictures from recent events and upcoming events so check it out and mark your calendars. Looking forward to seeing you at our next event...happy driving!

Up Coming Events

July 20th: Cars and Coffee meet up

August 24th: Membership Meeting and Lunch at Firebirds

September 28th: Sonnenblumen German Car Show in Salina

October: Wine Tasting, details coming later



Past Event Reports

Dealership Meet and Greet, April 27th

Over 20 club members came out to Walser Mercedes-Benz of Wichita for a meet and greet with the dealership leadership. Campbell Walser, the sales manager and host of the event, spoke at length to our club members, emphasizing the partnership between the club and the dealership. He also introduced us to other members of his staff including Dalton Banward and Cody Hutson. Taylor McKee, the dealership's club liaison officer also introduced himself. After speaking about some of the new models and features on display in the showroom, Campbell took some questions and then we all grabbed lunch. Club members



enjoyed wandering around the dealership, inspecting the new vehicles on the floor, and checking out the amazing gift shop. We even got to listen to the beautiful engine of the new AMG GT 63 4-door coupe. This was a wonderful event and we look forward to future activities with the dealership.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section

20th Annual McPherson College CARS club car show, May 4th



The Wichita Section played host to a Rocky Mountain Regional event at McPherson College's 20th Annual Car and Motorcycle Show. Around 9 cars drove up from Wichita and were joined by cars from the Pikes Peak Section. Additionally, 9 cars from the Kansas City Section and a car from the Central Oklahoma Section participated. Lee Elrick was fortunate to be able to bring up Marilyn DeBoer's yellow 1953 220B cabriolet which was a crowd favorite at the show. In all, there were 23 Mercedes-Benzs at the car show, by the far the most represented foreign brand vehicle there. In all, there were just over 360 vehicles at the show.



The weather started out foggy with a bit of drizzle but became a gorgeous day as the sun rose into a blue sky. As part of the event, the Wichita Section hosted a BBQ lunch for all club members with the delicious meat and sides provided by Woodies Smokehouse BBQ in McPherson. Everyone ate very well! Special thanks go out to Wichita Section members Dave Snodgrass for providing tables and chairs for the event and to Brett Gaffney for arranging the lunch.



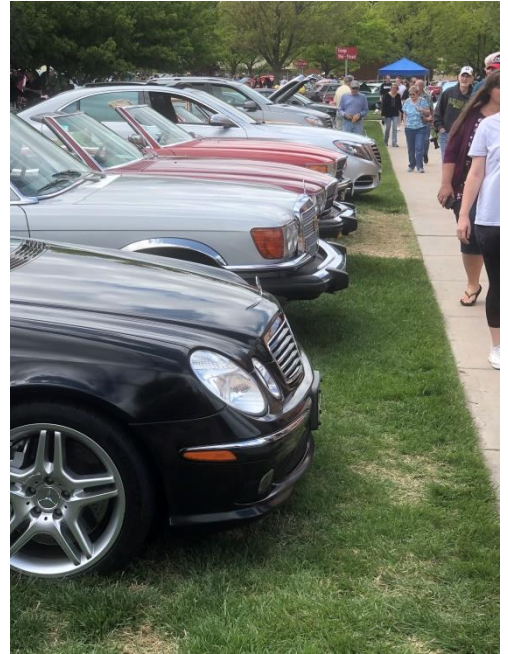
During the show participants got to check out hundreds of cars, take tours of the Auto Restoration program and workshop at McPherson College, and watch a timed Model T assembly contest. The featured cars at the show were a 1914 Peugeot L45

Grand Prix racecar, a 1946 Kurtis Novi Indy racecar, a very rare 1952 Ferrari 212 Vignale, and a 1970 Plymouth Hemi Cuda. The special guest at the show was Donald Osborne, a renowned car appraiser and frequent guest on the show, Jay Leno's Garage.

This was a fun event and we are looking forward to next year's show on May 2nd, 2020!



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section



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Mystery Poker Run, June 8th

The Wichita section had a great time on this poker run, with 11 members and 7 cars taking part! We kicked off the event with a gathering at a wonderful local bookstore, Watermark Books and Cafe. After drawing the first card and getting route directions, the group next drove west to the Kingman County historical museum. The museum is located inside the town's old firehouse and has a great collection of items documenting life in a small Kansas farm town. Clyde Cessna (of Cessna aircraft fame) starting building and flying airplanes in this area. After stretching our legs (and drawing another card) we next drove on to the little town of Zenda and had lunch at the Lumberyard. This local eatery serves tasty food and the service was top notch. We got a lot of looks as our Mercedes convoy cruised through the town! Time for a third card draw! From Zenda, we next turned back east and back towards Wichita. Our next stop was on the Arkansas River and the famous Keeper of the Plains monument. The weather was wonderful, especially by the river, but it was starting to get hot and we were getting thirsty! Fourth card draw...Our final stop was at a local German restaurant, Prost. The co-owner of the restaurant, who is from Germany, was thrilled to see us and ushered us up to a long fest-style table for some very good German beer. We then drew the fifth card and people showed their hands. Deanna Gaffney was our big winner, taking home a very nice framed picture of a 300 SL Gullwing. Kevin White won a signed photography book by a local artist and Lee Elrick picked up a Kansas guide book. Everyone had a great time and we look forward to doing this again.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section

Upcoming Events!

Cars and Coffee

When: **Saturday, July 20th, 8AM to 11AM**

Where: **The Alley Indoor Entertainment, 11413 E. 13th St N, Wichita KS 67206**



This is an informal gathering of cars that occurs during the third Saturday of every month. This free event kicks off at 8 in the morning and there's complimentary coffee and donuts. Our club has never attended this event so let's see if we can get a big contingent there! 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!

Membership Meeting and Lunch

When: **Saturday, August 24th, starting at 11:30**

Where: **Firebirds, 10096 E. 13th St N, Wichita KS 67206**



Time for our biannual membership meeting. We'll be gathering for lunch at Firebirds to knock out some club business, discuss the club events thus far, highlight upcoming club events, and catch up as the summer comes to a close. This is also a great opportunity to promote our club with potential new members. We're encouraging everyone to bring a guest to this event; the more the merrier.

You can RSVP for this event at mbca.wichita@aol.com or by leaving a message at (530) 848-3396. Please do so no later than Thursday, August 22nd so we can get a head count for the restaurant.

Sonnenblumen German Car Show

When: **Saturday, September 28th**

Where: **Salina**

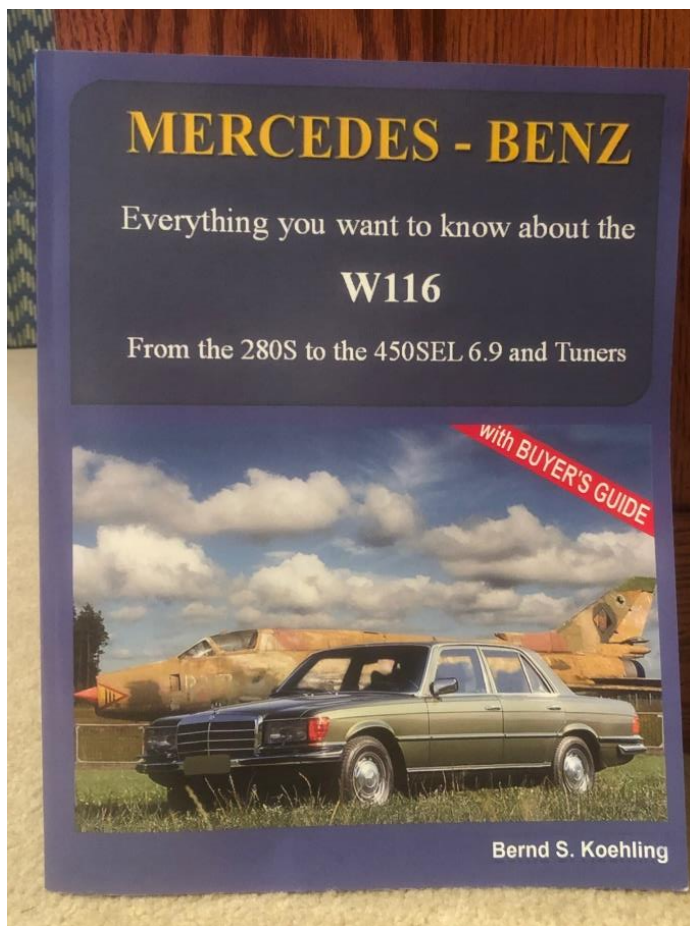
This is always a fun event with all sorts of vehicles showing up, plus you've never seen so many Bugs in one place. More details coming soon!



Book Review

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.



The Benz Bazaar

Free Sun Visors: 2 driver side sun visors for a W126 (I think). They are gray and one has a pillar mounting piece. If interested please contact Kirk at rkfilbey@gmail.com



Wanted: 1970's era Becker car radio, such as the Europa, Europa II, Grand Prix, or Mexico models. If you have one that is in pretty good shape and you are interested in selling it, please contact me. Kirk
rkfilbey@gmail.com .



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section

Membership Report

Our section membership stands at 255 members! We had yet another tremendous increase in new and renewing members over the last two months. Here's a warm welcome to all our new members and a hearty thanks to all of our renewing members. Thank you.

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. Don't forget to invite a prospective club member to our membership meeting and dinner in August.

For our current members, please don't forget to renew your membership so you don't miss out on future events.

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



MBCA | Wichita Board

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