



# SOONER STAR NEWS

Central Oklahoma Section of The Mercedes-Benz Club of America

## President's Message



Season's Greetings to all!

By the time you receive this edition of The Sooner Star News, Thanksgiving will already be behind us, and Christmas less than a month away. So, if it is Christmastime that must mean our annual Christmas party is not far away. Mark your calendars it is Tuesday,

December 16 at the Petroleum Club. If you have not yet signed up, do so quickly as reservations are needed by December 9. Ken Wells has graciously agreed to MC our gift exchange again this year. All will have good fun and good food. Hope to see you there!

Our Section was privileged to host international MBC travelers Elisabeth and Fred Smits recently as they came through OKC on their 5 year, around-the-world travel in their 1957 Mercedes Benz Ponton. The Aloft Hotel OKC hosted their stay (complimentary) while here and KOCO Channel 5 covered their stop. Be sure to read the excellent article in the newsletter about this terrific couple.

While some of you may have heard, most of you may be unaware that our Sooner Star News was recently awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place in best online newsletter by MBCA National Office. This is quite an honor to be selected for this recognition among 32 Section newsletters. Newsletters were judged on layout, design, visual appeal, spelling and use of pictures. Judges also reviewed for local, regional and National content and guidelines outlined in the MBCA 2011 Style Guide. Congratulations to our newsletter editorial team; Masood Khan, Bill Nash and Ed Hoag for job well done.

## In this issue

Page 3: Around The World in Ponton

Page 5: Ponton Restoration part VII  
Mercedes-Benz Re-badging.

Page 6: SSPC Car Profile.

Page 7: Fall Fling.

Page 9: G Turns 35.

Page 13: Calendar of Events.



Sooner Star News is sponsored by Mercedes-Benz of Oklahoma City and G W & Son Auto Body Shop

Questions/information call Section President at 405 324-6145 or National Business Office at 1-800-637-2360



**MBCA- Central Oklahoma Section  
2014 Christmas Party Event**



***Our High Lite Social Gathering of the Year***

**Date:** December 16, 2014

**Time:** Cash Bar at 6:30 – Dinner at 7:30

**Location:** The Petroleum Club

100 N. Broadway (Chase Building), Oklahoma City, OK73102

Recommended Parking: Santa Fe Garage, EK Gaylord Blvd. (East of Chase Building)

**Menu Selection:**

Choice of: 8OZ Steak Fillet, Poached Salmon, Chicken with Artichoke & Mushroom Sauce. All Entrees come with Twice Baked Mashed Potato, Vegetables and Rolls.

Desert: Chocolate Pyramid Cake with Chocolate Sauce & Fresh Berries, Coffee/Tea.

**Fixed Price: \$50.00/person**

Reservations: Please mail your check payable to MBCA, Central Oklahoma Section with your Entrée selection(s) by no later than December 9, 2014 to:

Ed Hoag, Treasurer

MBCA Central Oklahoma Section, P. O. Box 1518, Edmond, OK 73083-1518

Observing the Club tradition, we will be playing a modified "Dirty Santa". Please bring along a wrapped gift (one per couple) valued from \$25 to \$35.



**Don G. Pope & Associates, P.C.**



**Don G. Pope**  
*Attorney at Law*

611 24th Ave. S.W., Suite 102  
Norman, OK 73069  
(405) 360-7555      [www.pope-law.com](http://www.pope-law.com)  
MBCA members-Mention this ad for a discount on  
Complete Estate Planning Package.

[www.popelaw.com](http://www.popelaw.com)



Jeff Leatherock

**HAMMER & DOLLY** COLLISION REPAIR & REFINISH  
FOR FINE AUTOMOBILES

Office: 943-5657  
Fax: 943-3852  
904 N. Miller Oklahoma City, OK 73107  
Se Habla Español

---

## Around the World in 1957 220S Ponton Smits Make a Stop in OKC

Masood Khan & Bill Nash



It was Veteran's Day evening. Charles, Bill, Ed and I were in our monthly Executive Committee meeting when Charles said the folks from New Zealand, who are traveling around the world in their Ponton, might go through Oklahoma if they are following Route 66/I-40. Charles suggested, and we all agreed, it would be a great opportunity for our Section to host the Smits and benefit from their experiences and knowledge. I was assigned the task to contact them (if possible) as not much information was available about their schedule etc.

The next day, armed with Gary Anderson's article in "The Star", and a little hope I started my quest on the Internet to establish contact with the Smits. Finally I was able to find their Facebook page and excited at my discovery I

left a message with our Section's and my introduction, asking if they had any plans to drive through Oklahoma City. It was a pleasant surprise to receive their response the next morning. Elisabeth and Fred informed me that they were planning to be in OKC for three nights and extended an offer to do a power point presentation for our Section.

We realized we had just a week to organize something. Charles contacted the Aloft Hotel to see if they would be willing to provide a three-night complimentary stay for the Smits. Charles' charm worked and I later arranged the details with Blake Walker, the very able Sales Manager at the Aloft Hotel.

Saturday turned out to be a very rainy day, but that did not deter 23 of our Section Members to attend the event at Kamp's 1910. Unfortunately our old projector misbehaved big time and refused to connect with Fred's laptop. However, both Elisabeth and Fred gave an excellent presentation and answered our many questions. In the end it felt like a big family reunion.

On Sunday, Elisabeth and Fred were interviewed by David Valega of KOCO 5 News, and a brief spot was featured on Channel 5 (David is creating a DVD of his interview and he will provide a copy to us). Later that day, the Smits enjoyed visiting the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and the Myriad Gardens. They left Oklahoma City with pleasant memories and this is what they posted on our Facebook page:



### *OKLAHOMA CITY, MANY THANKS*

*This morning, after three great days in Oklahoma City, we will be back on the road to continue our "Great Trek East". We arrived Friday afternoon and were offered a complimentary stay in one of the DeLuxe rooms of the ALOFT Hotel in the beautiful, historic Bricktown, being treated like royalty. Same for Abel (their 1952 Mercedes-Benz Ponton) and Zambezi (their custom built trailer) who enjoyed their weekend in a four-space, cordoned-off parking plot.*

Follow their journey around the world in future issues of the Star and on their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/ClassicStrider](http://www.facebook.com/ClassicStrider)). Also, you can visit their website for details of the planning and preparation for this monumental adventure.

Touchpad technology. Launchpad performance.

# Someday Just Arrived.

The all-new C-Class.



---

THE 2015  
C-CLASS 4MATIC®  
STARTING AT  
**\$40,400\***

---

It is the unexpected fusion of breakthrough intelligence and groundbreaking acceleration. The all-new C-Class features a more powerful, efficient engine backed by an available AIRMATIC® suspension that allows the driver to choose between a Sport or Comfort ride. Inside, every detail has been redesigned to a new level of luxury and craftsmanship. The interior boasts a Head-Up Display, a large multimedia screen and an intuitive touchpad that actually reads your handwriting—controlling navigation, climate, music, social media and more. The 2015 C-Class. Prepare to be amazed by the simple press of a finger and the push of an accelerator.



Mercedes-Benz  
of Oklahoma City

[www.mbokc.com](http://www.mbokc.com)

## Ponton Restoration- Part VII

By Charles Boyd



As I have told before, considerable damage was done to the trunk lid and hood by the inexperienced sand blaster. I also indicated that my body man had said he could modify the replacement hood I bought and repair the trunk lid. It has now become apparent that this can be done in only two months shop time. As of now it is very nearly completed and has played havoc with the budget. Oh well if one can't cope with problems like this, he should find another hobby than messing with fifty five year old cars that were rare when they were built. Now we can get back to the task at hand of finishing the bodywork and

painting. What this amounts to is doing a painting procedure referred to as "jamming", which has nothing to do with dancing and playing musical instruments. Jamming means painting the thresholds, hinge cavities, rubber seal troughs, under hood, trunk lid and other parts that do not form the outer surface of the vehicle. Once this is complete, the doors, fenders, hood and trunk lid will be installed and the entire surface will be painted.

After an extended period of time to allow the paint to cure out, The fresh paint will be wet sanded with 1000 grit, then with 1500 grit and finally with 2000 grit. After sanding and cleaning the surface of all the sanding residue, it will be buffed with a power buffer. However, if after wet sanding, my painter is not satisfied with the appearance of the finish, a second application of three coats of clear coat will be applied, then wet sanded again and finally buffed.

Then will come the assembly of chrome, wood and upholstery. It has been a long time coming but I can see it dimly in the distance. Happy holidays to all my Mercedes friends.

## Rebadging!



First it was the cruise control lever that lost its decades old position now it's the names. There is a lot of buzz going around in the media about re-naming of the Mercedes SUVs. Here is what the Benz world says:

"Mercedes-Benz is set to bring sweeping changes to the names of its SUVs, a move aimed at placing greater emphasis on its C-, E- and S-class models. Among the changes -- Mercedes-Benz officials haven't confirmed them yet -- is renaming the upcoming second-generation GLK. It will wear GLC badges when it's revealed in 2015, according to sources close to the German carmaker.

The new name is meant to align the GLK with the C-class in the same way the smaller GLA ties to the A-class. Mercedes-Benz also plans to abandon the long established M-class name for a new GLE badge when the face lifted version of its strong-selling US-built SUV drops early next year.

As well as appearing on the face lifted M-class, the GLE name is also planned to appear on the production version of the Concept Coupe SUV, introduced in April at the Beijing motor show. It wears the GLE Coupe name into production. Further up the ladder, the GL gets a new GLS name, positioning it as the S-class of Benz's SUV lineup".

## Sympathy & Condolence

Gloria Dee Leatherock, mother of our Board Member and past President, Jeff Leatherock passed away on November 18, 2014. The Leatherock family is in our thoughts and prayers.

## Silver Star Preservation Class Car Profile: 1982 240D Owned by J D Ogle

By J D Ogle & Masood Khan

J D's love for the Diesels started with a 1976 240D (115) that he purchased in 1981 with 27,000 miles and a locked engine, guess owner forgot to change the oil. After replacing the engine he drove it 45,000 miles in next two years before a drunk driver rear-ended the car. J D walked out unharmed but car was not so lucky.



He tried Cadillac and Lincoln but did not like them and went back to Mercedes, and since then no looking back, J D has never owned any other brand since then.

J D bought his beloved 1982 Mercedes 240D in 2012. Car had only 83,000 miles on it. A pilot in Texas originally owned the car, a friend of J D bought it from him and a second friend bought it from her and later sold to J D.

The car is almost original (that is why it got SSPC award), but a previous owner had replaced the original steel wheels with hubcaps, with alloy wheels. Since acquiring J D has replaced/repaired; tires, brakes, belts, mounts, wiper blades, fluids, filters, seals, and gaskets have all been replaced

along with some cooling system parts and the transmission modulator. The drive axle boots recently split and will be replaced next spring if not before then. The door lock vacuum elements leak and will be replaced too.

Because the classic car policy under which the 240D and J D's 380SL is insured restricts the number of miles driven each year, these cars are not used as daily drivers. However if weather is good, they are thoroughly enjoyed.

J D has owned all these fine Mercedes cars; W123 240D's: 1979, 1980, 1983, 1982, and this 1982, 1971 220D with a rebuilt 240D engine, 2 - 1980 300SD W116, 1985 300CD W123, 1987 300D W124, 1987 300SDL W126 and various 300D W123 and 300SD W126. His all-time favorite is a Silver Blue 1981 300SD purchased in 1986; with over 400,000 miles J D still owns and enjoys it. This 300SD has visited 43 states of the USA as well as Canada and Mexico.



Houston Henkes  
Owner



Phyllis Henkes  
Owner

722-1USA

5708 N.W. Expressway - Okla. City, OK 73132

---

## Jaguar/Mercedes-Benz Fall Fling

By Ed & Peggy Hoag



This year's Jaguar/Mercedes-Benz Fall Fling was probably a record breaker for participation. We didn't get a firm count but think we had about 20 cars driving to Kansas City on the 17th of October.

After breakfast at the Cracker Barrel at NE 122<sup>nd</sup> & I-35, we met up with the Jaguar group and received our driving directions. The three Mercedes mostly stayed together and the Jaguars broke up into small "caravanning" groups. On the way, we stopped at the new Kansas City Auto Museum in Olathe. Thanks to Sat/Nav technology, everyone found the 816 Hotel and got checked in without major trauma.

The dinner plan was to eat at nearby McCoy's, but that portion of the trip was less than the best. We had reservations so we were shown into a separate room, with some of the group seated just outside in the main dining area. The problem that soon developed was that the restaurant would not allow guests to split a meal between two people. Peggy and I decided to leave and eat elsewhere. As the food was also overpriced, McCoy's was definitely not a glowing monument of a fine dining experience for the others. Afterwards, the group gathered in the lobby bar area for a few drinks

before bedtime.

Saturday the 18th was "a new day". The hotel provided a nice self-serve breakfast setup and offered a choice of a fresh made to order omelet. For most, the major attraction of the trip was a visit to the Steamship Arabia Museum. The Arabia was a 200 hundred-ton paddle wheel steamboat that worked the Missouri River prior to the Civil War. The Arabia's shallow draft and flat bottom design made it a very good cargo vessel for operating on the river, but it often led to a danger of the constant and ever-changing threat of tree snags that were hidden below the water. In September of 1856 she was carrying a large variety of merchandise for a number of cities up river. Cargo that was badly needed for the growth of America's westward movements, but the Arabia plowed into a tree snag and punctured her hull. Though she sank in a matter of minutes, the passengers were quickly rescued.

One hundred thirty years later, five men and their families undertook the project of finding the boat, excavating it, and cleaning up and displaying the cargo from over a century of being hidden. The cargo was preserved remarkably well and while incredibly dirty, it turned out to be a marvel of insight to life in the 1850's!

Following the Arabia, most of our MB group headed south to the KC Union Station for a short look around and an enjoyable lunch. We capped off the afternoon with visit to the National World War I Museum, located at the city's Liberty Memorial.

Our Saturday evening restaurant was The Majestic in old downtown Kansas City. Our hotel provided a shuttle and we were ushered downstairs to a reserved area. The Majestic was a treat after McCoy's. We enjoyed white tablecloths, Waiters that were attentive and capable, and excellent food. Though conversation was limited by the loud, but good jazz music, it was a great setting for a fun dinner!

Continued on page 8

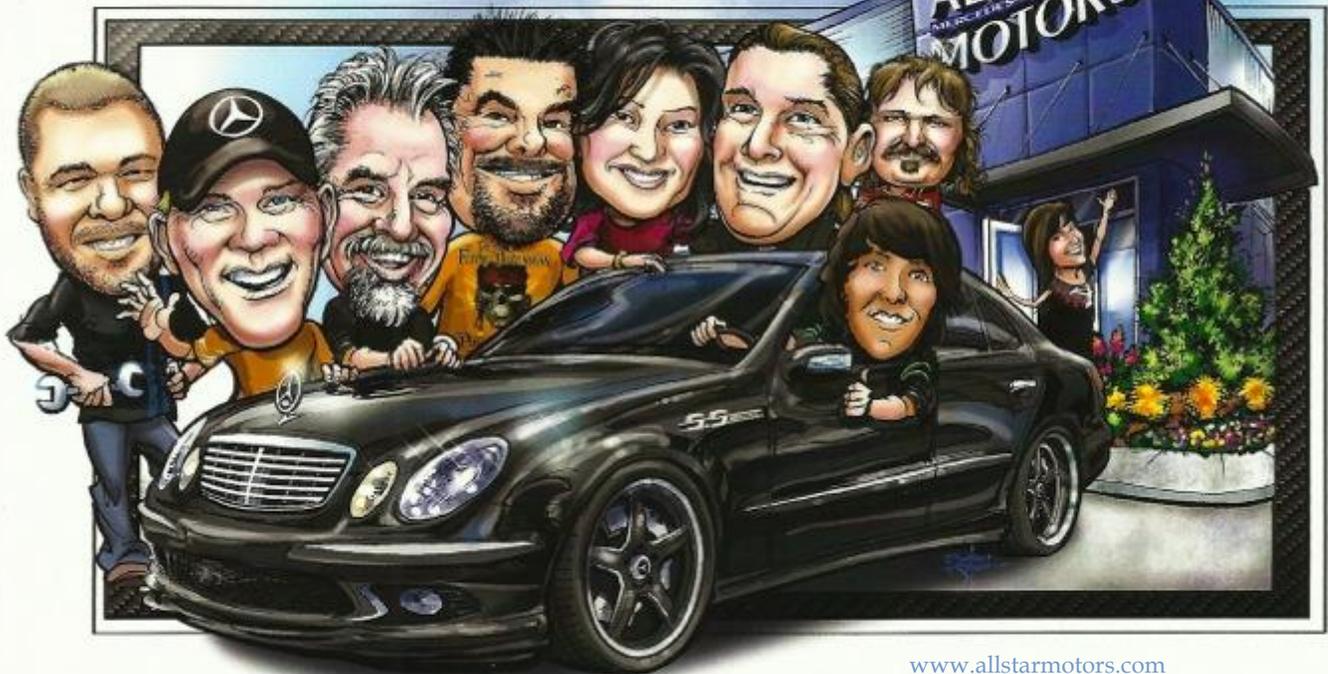
Fall Fling continued...

Sunday morning found most of the Jag folks heading back on their own. A few of them stayed over until Monday and took a tour of Kansas City. On the return trip, my car found its way through Topeka to visit the Combat Air Museum. If you are into military aircraft, this is the place.

We had a great weekend and appreciate the invitation from our Jaguar friends to participate in their well-planned driving event.



# ALLSTAR MERCEDDES-BENZ SERVICE MOTORS



[www.allstarmotors.com](http://www.allstarmotors.com)

2606 South Kelly Avenue

Edmond, Oklahoma

340-4064

## G Turns 35

By Masood Khan



Mercedes-Benz G class is turning 35 this year and to celebrate the milestone Daimler AG is offering a limited number of, "Edition 35" G Wagons.

The Edition 35, will be offered with an appearance package with two exterior color choices; designo mystic white or palladium silver metallic. Both will have obsidian black metallic accents for the wheel arches, roof, bumpers and mirrors. This two-tone appearance

perhaps is to pay homage to the color scheme available on civilian-spec G-wagons of the 1980s. The Edition 35 will be equipped with 18-inch, five-spoke, light-alloy wheels finished in bright black, and a chrome package. (Chrome package will include chrome surrounds on the seat switch panels and speakers as well as chrome rear door-sill and front grille chrome highlights).

The Edition 35 will be available in a diesel and gas version; G350 Bluetec diesel and G500 a 5.5-liter naturally aspirated V8. G500 will come with a sport exhaust system.



## Aloft Oklahoma City Downtown-Bricktown

By Masood Khan



Aloft Hotel OKC, recently hosted MBCA Central Oklahoma Section's guests, Fred & Elisabeth Smits. Thanks to Mr. Blake Walker, Sales Manager Aloft, the Smits enjoyed a complimentary three-night stay during their visit to Oklahoma City. This is what Smits said about their stay at Aloft OKC, "we and our car got a royal treatment".

In case you don't know about Aloft Hotel, Downtown-Bricktown, here is what their sales team says:

*Celebrate your style at Aloft Oklahoma City Downtown – Bricktown, a hip new hotel where you'll be steps away from the area's restaurants, bars, clubs and movie theaters. We offer easy-breezy*

*access to Chesapeake Energy Arena, the University of Oklahoma Medical School and St. Anthony Hospital, and more. Be sure to check out the impressive*

*State Capitol Building, and if you are traveling on business, we are close to the Cox Convention Center, Devon*



*Energy Corporation, Continental Resources and many of the other major offices downtown. Come see what all the buzz is about.*

### SPACES

*This space is flexible. With 134 urban-inspired guestrooms, including 10 suites, and 7 state-of-the-art meeting spaces (10,000 sq. ft.), we are ready to welcome your friends, colleagues and family. Our full service restaurant XYZ provides amazing food and excellent service.*



# GW&SON Selected and Certified by MBUSA In Mercedes new Aircraft Aluminum Repair.

GW&SON IS AMONG 15 MERCEDES REPAIR CENTERS NATIONWIDE WHO HAVE COMPLETED MERCEDES-BENZ \$100,000 FACILITY UPGRADE AND ARE CURRENTLY TRAINED AND EQUIPPED TO REPAIR MERCEDES ADVANCED NEW **ISO AIRCRAFT ALUMINUM** BODIES AND COMPONENTS.



**GW&SON**  
Auto Body, Inc

Exclusive Program limited to 30 USA Repairers

GW&SON AUTO BODY UPGRADES INCLUDE:

**NEW ALUMINUM ROOM**

NEW ISO ALUMINUM AIRCRAFT WELDER

NEW DUST EXTRACTOR / RIVETING TOOL

NEW CELLETTE BENCH REPAIR PLATFORMS  
FOR MERCEDES-BENZ NEW BODY DESIGNS

2 WEEKS TECHNICAL TRAINING IN GERMANY  
IN REPAIRING MERCEDES-BENZ ADVANCED  
ISO AIRCRAFT ALUMINUM COMPONENTS

OKLAHOMA'S **ONLY** REPAIRER CERTIFIED BY JAGUAR, VOLVO, MERCEDES-BENZ, CORVETTE Z06 AND NOW BMW  
13417 N SANTA FE AVENUE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73114 405.751.1337 [gwandson.com](http://gwandson.com)

[www.gwandson.com](http://www.gwandson.com)

301 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Edmond, OK 73013  
405 341-6030  
800 341-6030

[www.silverstarimports.com](http://www.silverstarimports.com)



# SILVER STAR IMPORTS INC.

EXCLUSIVELY MERCEDES BENZ LEXUS TOYOTA REPAIR

OVER 95 YEARS COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE



YOUR CAR DESERVES PROFESSIONAL CARE

## Welcome New Members Darrel Crittenden, Norman, Oklahoma.

### Mercedes-AMG Teases New AMG Sport Versions Of The C-Class And Upcoming GLE Coupe

By Jeff Klepac



We've known for some time that Mercedes-AMG was planning a [new range of performance vehicles](#) to fill the gap between Mercedes-Benz's range-topping variants and its own dedicated high-performance cars. We can now confirm that the new range is to be grouped under the AMG [Sport](#) heading and directly target similar offerings from rival brands such as Audi's S-badged cars and those from the BMW M Performance and Cadillac Vsport ranges.

Mercedes-AMG has revealed that we'll see the first two AMG Sport models at the [2015 Detroit Auto Show](#) in January. They will be based on the C-Class [sedan](#)

[and yet-to-be-revealed GLE-Class Coupe](#) (Mercedes' rival to the BMW X6 previewed by the recent [Concept Coupe SUV](#)).

The AMG Sport models will share engines with the regular Mercedes-Benz vehicles on which they're based, although power will be boosted. Other [performance](#) tweaks should include sport-tuned suspension and steering; uprated wheels, brakes and tires; and improved aero. All-wheel drive will also be a standard feature of AMG Sport models.

An image in the gallery compares the new C-Class AMG Sport, which is expected to be badged a C450 AMG Sport, with its dedicated Mercedes-AMG cousin, [the all-new C63](#).

Mercedes-AMG says its new AMG Sport range will make its performance technology more accessible, which in turn should boost the brand's profile and sales potential worldwide. Mercedes-AMG is aiming to double its [record 32,000 unit sales in 2013](#) within the next three years.

### Editor's Note

**"Once a year, go some place you've never been before." Dalai Lama.**

Our friends from New Zealand; Elisabeth and Fred Smits have taken this quote of Dalai Lama to a whole new level. Some of you enjoyed their presentation and met them on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are like me you will never even imagine doing something like this, our hats off to Smits and we wish them a happy and safe trip around the world.

In less than a year we have taken the Sooner Star News to new heights, and that is third place at the MBCA 2014 National Communications Contest. Thanks to Mr. Ian D. Gleadle, the judges, MBCA, NBO and of course to our Members without whose support and guidance it would

not have happened.

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year, Cheers!

Masood Khan



### 2014/2015 Calendar of Events

Annual Christmas Party; Tuesday, December 16,  
6:30PM  
at Petroleum Club, 100 N. Broadway OKC.  
(405) 232-1184.

Coffee & Cars, Saturday, January 03, North Park Mall.

Board of Director's Meeting, Saturday, January 10.

Member Recognition Night; Tuesday, January 20, at  
The Grand House, 2701 Classen Blvd. OKC. (405) 574-  
7333.

Member's Monthly Dinner Meeting      February 17

Oklahoma City Auto Show                      March 6-8  
First Saturday Event                              March 7  
(Coffee & Cars) - 122<sup>nd</sup> & May

Member's Monthly Dinner Meeting      March 17

Final BCA Car Show                              March 28

### Sooner Star News December 2014/January 2015

Interim Editors: Ed Hoag, Bill Nash, Masood Khan

Contributing Credits for this issue: Charles Boyd, Charles Woods,  
Ed Hoag, Bill Nash, J D Ogle, Jeff Klepac, Benz World, Masood Khan

Photography Credits for this issue: Daimler AG, Farah Masood,  
Masood Khan, Bing.com

Advertising Chair: Bill Nash, [wjnash@cox.net](mailto:wjnash@cox.net)

The Sooner Star News is published bi-monthly by the Central Oklahoma Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, as a benefit of MBCA Membership. Subscriptions for non-members are not available. Rates for advertising are available from the Advertising Chair, whose address and phone number are on the back cover. The Editor reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Permission to reprint any original article is hereby expressly granted to other MBCA Sections. Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of either MBCA or the Central Oklahoma Section. Neither MBCA nor the Central Oklahoma Section endorses products or services, but may, as a part of our informational activities, allow them to be cited in articles and notices.

The trade names and trademarks "Mercedes-Benz," "Mercedes," and the three-pointed star in a circle, are owned by Daimler AG and are authorized for use by its licensees, which include MBCA, exclusively. Contact MBCA's National Business Office for additional information.  
MBCA Central Oklahoma Section  
P. O. Box 1518, Edmond, OK 73083-1518

Mercedes-Benz Club of America  
Central Oklahoma Section  
P. O. Box 1518, Edmond, OK 73083-1518  
[www.centralok.mbca.org/](http://www.centralok.mbca.org/)

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America**

[www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org)

Central Oklahoma Section Officers & Directors

Regional Director South Central Region: Gene Jurick, [gjurick@tx.rr.com](mailto:gjurick@tx.rr.com)

**Directors**

Tom Davis	(405) 340-0993
Bobbye Van Horn	(405) 340-5919
Jeff Leatherock	(405) 943-9795
Greg Morgan	(405) 615-2501
Paul Rodesney	(405) 620-0124
Mary Williams	(405) 525-0633

**Officers Central Oklahoma Section**

President:	Charles Woods	(405) 359-2821
Vice President:	Bill Nash	(405) 478-7677
Secretary:	Masood Khan	(405) 326-2531
Treasurer:	Ed Hoag	(405) 341-3578

