



# SOONER STAR NEWS

## President's Message



We are enjoying the full bloom of springtime fueled by May's record rainfall - that very same record rainfall which brought some nervousness to our Spring Car Show. But show day was a rain-free and enjoyable day at the beautiful Chesapeake Finish Line Tower in the Boathouse District. Over 30 terrific Mercedes-Benz automobiles, highlighted by John

Bowers' silver 1954 300SL Gullwing were proudly displayed on the green. In addition, we were honored with a visit by Terry Kiwala, MBCA's National President, who flew in from Chicago to attend. He was joined by Gene Jurick, MBCA South Central Regional Director who entered his 2012 CLS 63 AMG and provided regional greetings at the evening's banquet. As remembrances of their attendance, Terry and Gene were presented mementos of blown glass ceremonial trophies by Blue Sage and our Section's original art posters created by our own Masood Khan.

The Spring Car Show is our Section's marquee event and our primary fund-raising service activity of the year. This year's supported organization was the Central and Western Oklahoma American Red Cross which provides critical aid to Oklahomans in time of disaster need. With our Members' efforts to secure items for the banquet live and silent auctions, the lively auction bidding by our Members, as well as generous contributions by Todd Bondy and MBOKC and Charles and Cassandra Bowen \$12,200.00 was raised at the event and awarded by our Section and the Central Oklahoma Jaguar Association to the American Red Cross. Sincere thanks to all.

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Questions/information call Section President at 405 359-2821 or National Business Office at 1-800-637-2360

## Q & A With Terry Kiwala, National President The Mercedes-Benz Club of America

By Masood Khan



*On Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, Central Oklahoma Section had the privilege to host Terrance Kiwala, National President of our Club. Terry Kiwala (TK) as we all know him, flew in from Chicago to be at the Spring Car Show. Realizing it to be a unique opportunity, armed with six questions I met him at the Chesapeake Boathouse, here is the outcome.*

*Masood Khan (MK).*

**MK.** *How does it feel to be President of MBCA, a 30,000+ Member strong organization?*

**TK.** I joined MBCA in January 1994 at age 15. I wanted the magazine for information on the legendary 500E. I got the magazine, read everything I could, and then I bought my own car, a 300SDL in the late-90s. I became really active in the club, met a great group of people, attended regional and national events for 15 or so years, and then wanted to help this organization persist for generations to come. I ran for the board, convinced that we could turn the ship around financially. A year and a half into it, we are killing it on both participation and financial fronts, and I cannot be more proud to be serving this club of great people. The added bonus is that I have met the best people ever, in the last year and a half, and they all happen to be MBCA members! What better situation could you ask for?

**MK.** *What are/were the challenges you have faced as President and how you overcame them?*

**TK.** Let's start at the beginning. I joined the board because I have a financial background and saw my beloved organization not on a good financial trajectory. We made some changes, but improved member services and cut unnecessary costs dramatically. I am thrilled with where we stand today. I joined the board when finances would suggest we were headed down a dark road. We have turned the situation around and have assets and a plan to quickly be the best that MBCA has ever been. This financial plan will serve us well into the future, and will last much longer than me. I attribute the implementation of this plan to my fellow board members, and especially Mike Reggintter, our Executive Director, who will lead the club to absolutely great things in the future.

**MK.** *Member retention is a big issue, it is not just a challenge for the Sections as it trickles down to the National level as well, do you have any ideas/incentives to have a better Member retention?*

**TK.** As anyone who knows me will tell you, I am all business -- but I am a people person. And this is a people business. We have phenomenal people in this organization. My MO has been to find, culture, and support the right people who can continue our trend of innovation, engagement and fiscal prudence. I went to Oklahoma City for a weekend -- I met great members, saw great cars, and am enthused by your passion for excellently prepared Mercedes-Benz automobiles. From here, what is my job? My job is to travel to as many new sections every month of every year, to share my passion for great people and great cars. And new leaders need to inspire new members so the cycle repeats.

## Q & A With Terry Kiwala, continued...

**MK.** *We used to have very good loyalty program, now it is down to only \$500.00 and only on new cars. Canada still enjoys \$1,500.00 rebate. What happened?*

**TK.** The rebate from MBUSA stands at \$500. I continue the conversation to enhance benefits to our members, but we are all thankful for the support that MBUSA gives our members.

**MK.** *How was your visit to Oklahoma City?*

**TK.** I cannot thank you enough for such a good weekend. The cars were beautiful, the setting picturesque and perfect for a Concours, and the OKC section a phenomenal and hospitable group of people. I thought the partnership with the Jaguar club was a great move and brought many more people out to celebrate our cars. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the members and their cars were impeccably prepared. I look forward to seeing everyone on December 15 for your holiday party.



### Welcome New Members

**Robert Connolly, Oklahoma City, OK**

**Marcia Fenity, Oklahoma City, OK**

**Carol Fisher, Oklahoma City, OK**

**Brad Gamble, Edmond, OK**

### President's message continued from page 1...

Our spring car show doesn't just happen but rather is the result of planning which began last September. On behalf of our entire Section, thanks to each one of our Members who invested their significant time, talent and energies in planning and executing the show and banquet. Please note the our Members in captioned box in this newsletter who made this car show and banquet possible. A special note of thanks to Paul Rodesney, our car show chairman, who invested many hours to bring this event to a successful conclusion. And when Paul had to be away for extended business travel, his better half, Suzan, stepped right in and kept it all going - thank you both!

Have you logged onto our Facebook page recently, or at all? If not, you're missing a fun opportunity to see some great Mercedes-Benz photography. Each day, an interesting Mercedes-Benz automobile, ranging from the rare to the unusual, is featured on the site. I encourage you to not only go to the site regularly to see these great photos. Be sure to "Like" our page and photos.

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## SPRING CAR SHOW REPORT

By Masood Khan



The spring 2015 car show had a good and early start as the planning started in September 2015. But as we all know when it rains, it pours. First big setback came when the two Clubs lost the use of its venue, Campbell Park across from MBOKC. After running around for a new and suitable venue finally the Clubs settled on the Chesapeake Boathouse in the boathouse district. The use of the Boathouse was not free; it had a price tag of \$750. Thanks to Mr. Tom Davis, the then GM of MBOKC who offered to pay the fee. Our second setback came when Tom Davis stepped down as GM of MBOKC in December 2014. However it made us learn to start surviving on our own.

The next dilemma came for the location of the awards dinner. After some city hotels could not meet our needs, thanks to Suzen Rodesney, we were fortunate to get the awards dinner venue secured at the newly built Embassy Suites at OUHSC Campus.

After endless meetings, sleepless nights and anxiety, finally everything seemed to be going in the right direction. Mr. Todd Bondy, new GM of MBOKC offered our Section to use their customer database to make a call for cars. We coordinated with Ms. Kim Malone and Ms. Una Shade of MBOKC on this project. A joint message from President Charles Woods and MBOKC was sent via email to approximately ten thousand customers. Our Section extends thanks to Mr. Todd Bondy, Ms. Kim Malone and Ms. Una Shade for this help. On top of this Mr. Bob Howard and Mr. Todd Bondy gave a generous gift of \$2,500.00 for the American Red Cross, our beneficiary charity for this year.

When we thought all was good and we were in calm waters, the stormy weather forecast for Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> caused a lot of last minute anxiety. Thanks to Mother Nature, the Friday night boat rides at the Oklahoma River and the Car Show/Concours on Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup> turned into a huge success. For us icing on the cake was the presence of our National President, Mr. Terry Kiwala and South Central Regional Director, Mr. Gene Jurick. Mr. Kiwala flew in from Chicago, Mr. Jurick drove his CLS 63 AMG from Parker Texas and entered the car in the show. The Section is extremely thankful to both Mr. Kiwala and Mr. Jurick for taking time out of their busy schedules to be with us.

The awards dinner on Saturday night was another success. The Embassy Suites Hotel and their facilities are excellent; the banquet hall was impressive, food and service was great. The two Clubs managed to raise approximately \$12,200.00 for the American Red Cross, through silent and live auctions.

A big thank you to all the organizers from both of the Clubs including Ms. Sarah Baxter, Jeff Hand and others from COJA, and Paul & Suzen Rodesney, President Charles Woods, Ed & Peggy Hoag, Ken Hoffman, Mike Diple, Jeff Leatherock, Greg Morgan and multiple MBCA Members for their tireless efforts to make this year's show a success.

# Car Show Pictures



For more pictures visit Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America-Central-Oklahoma-Section/116487505215294](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America-Central-Oklahoma-Section/116487505215294)

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## IT'S TIME FOR A PICNIC!

We're reviving a springtime tradition of a **Saturday Picnic Meeting**, in lieu of the regular Tuesday evening dinner Meeting.

On **June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am**, we'll gather at Edmond's Hafer Park for lunch and a chance to catch up on happenings over the Car Show weekend. We have reserved Pavilion 1, a covered area with many tables and good surrounding parking, the better to show off our cars.

The entrances to Hafer Park are located on Edmond's 9<sup>th</sup> Street, just east of Bryant Avenue. After passing the large parking lot on the left, take the second right into the Park. Our Pavilion is located at end of the cul-de-sac.

Lunch and soft drinks will be catered for a modest charge of \$12 per person. Therefore, we must know if you plan to attend. Please commit now to joining this early summer Club activity and send your check to: Masood Khan, at the Club's P.O. Box 1518, Edmond, OK 73083-1518. OR reserve your spot via email ([masood-k@cox.net](mailto:masood-k@cox.net)) and pay at the event. To enjoy the Picnic lunch, you must let Masood know by no later than June 10th.



Directions: Please turn into Hafer Park from Bryant Ave. at the 9<sup>th</sup> St. intersection. Go straight (East) and make a second right turn (South). Pavilion 1 is at the far end. There is plenty of



## Road Trip to Fort Sill

By Bill Nash



Half a dozen Mercedes making U-turns at the entrance might have been an amusing sight, but once we found the correct Gate we were impressed and glad we took the time to make the 85-mile drive from Oklahoma City. Though the Fort dates to 1869, it is well maintained and attractive, partly because the original commander insisted the buildings be constructed from nearby rock rather than wood frame. In the 1930s the WPA and Army built several new permanent structures to replace the World War I-era tarpaper buildings.

Fourteen of us first toured Artillery Park, a static display of artillery pieces and missiles from throughout the world. Our next stop was the museum on the quadrangle where we watched a video depicting the history of Ft. Sill and a diorama of the Fort along with maps, photos and various artifacts. The old infantry barracks are still there, as are the housing for the laundry women, the commander's home, and Geronimo's prison. This U. S. Army Post in Lawton is "the only active Army installation of all the forts on the Southern Plains built during the Indian Wars." It is designated as a National Historic Landmark. Fort Sill is one of the four locations for Army Basic Combat Training, and it has played a significant role in every major American conflict since 1869. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather, so after the museum we drove (with one additional U-turn) to the Apache Cemetery, on the grounds of Ft. Sill. We walked to the graves of Geronimo and many of his family members, as well as other well-known Apaches and their descendants. Coins and

other bits of memorabilia have been placed on many headstones and graves.

After visiting Ft. Sill, we drove the winding road to nearby Medicine Park. This bustling little cobblestone town is Oklahoma's "first resort" and was "a 'playground' for various outlaws, horse thieves and bootleggers, as well as politicians, businessmen, celebrities and



soldiers." We had reservations for lunch at the Old Plantation Restaurant (built in 1909), known for its wonderful homemade rolls and long history (the second floor was a house of ill repute at one time). After a brief walk along the river and by the waterfall, we returned home with full bellies and a bit more knowledge of Oklahoma history. The highlight of any road trip, of course, is the time spent with (and getting to know better) our fellow Mercedes enthusiasts.



MB lineup at Fort Sill.



Evolution of MB logo

### The Wealthiest Choose the Best (aka Mercedes-Benz)

By Christian Moe. *The Wall Street Journal*.



A Mercedes-Benz is a special kind of vehicle that is created with only the finest materials, the highest levels of refinement and quality, and the greatest engineering. It takes a special sort of individual to truly appreciate what goes into these cars, and it seems that those people are usually wealthy.

The *Wall Street Journal* recently covered a survey done by credit reporting group Experian, which figured out what were the most popular cars in the most luxurious zip codes. They extrapolated people's wealth and purchasing

decisions based on location, and the results show that some of the wealthiest of Americans choose Mercedes-Benz for their various automotive needs.

The most prominent area for the Mercedes family to flourish is the ritzy neighborhood of Beverly Hills. Based on car registrations, the top three cars for the zip code of 90210 are all Mercedes-Benz cars from the E-, S-, and C-Class families. With more than 205 registered at the time of this survey, the E-Class handily trumps the three best-selling cars of any other zip code in the study combined.

**So, rejoice Mercedes owners, for we are more educated, smarter with our money, and we all love to drive the best.**

## Special Sets the Standard

By Masood Khan

Tilda Swinton, S-Class Coupe and fashion designer Haider Ackermann's clothes star in Mercedes-Benz's Spring/Summer 2015 Fashion Campaign, "Special Sets the Standard". Filmed in Scottish Highlands by filmmaker and photographer Roe Ethridge, the film seems to be full of suspense and mystery. Gabriel Tamez sums it nicely, "Only a steely bullet of a car and piercing eyes convey the misty secrets as headlights slice through ancient and unsettling landscapes". To view the short film, follow the link. <https://vimeo.com/97913297>



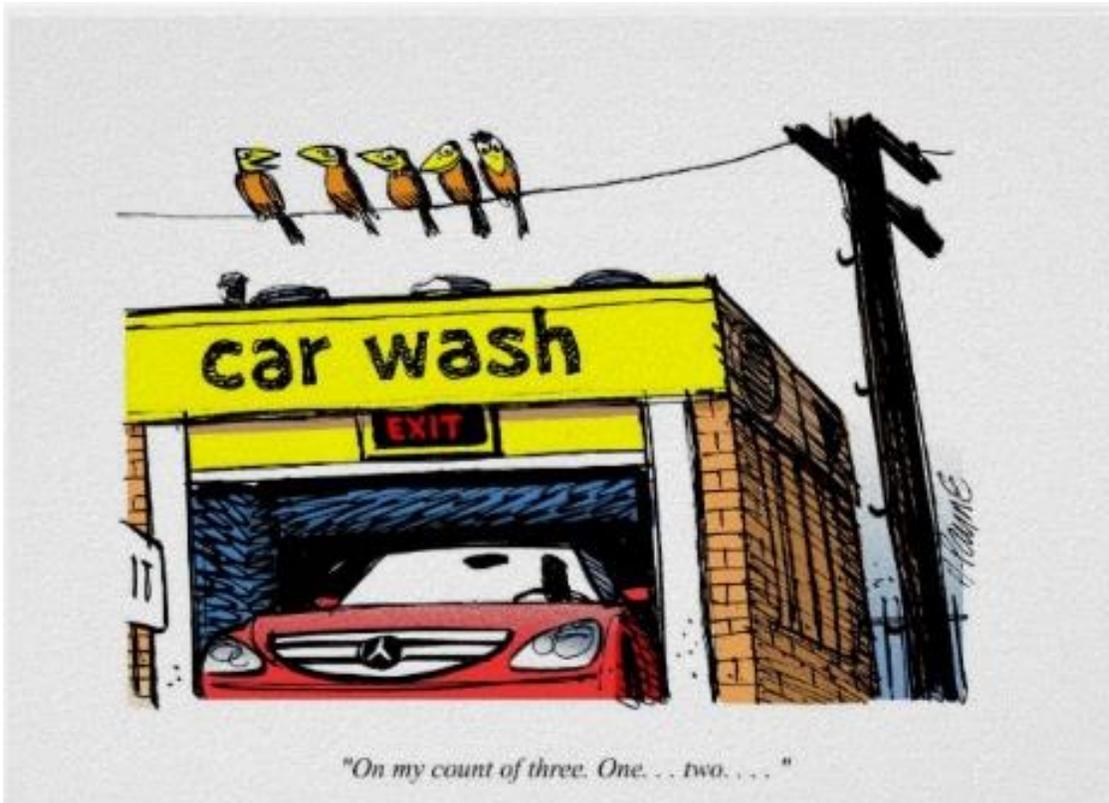
## Sir Stirling Moss' 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mille Miglia Win

In 1955 Mercedes-Benz claimed overall victory in Italy's prestigious Mille Miglia race. The race, which remains a legend to this day, was won by Sir Stirling Moss, now aged 85, who covered the 1,000 miles in just 10:07:48. As a special highlight at Mille Miglia 2015, Sir Stirling Moss and his team colleague of the time, Hans Herrman, will be taking to the wheels of the very 300 SLR cars that they drove to victory - 60 years down the road. Appearances by the two legends are still greeted with wild enthusiasm by the spectators lining the roads today. Juan Manuel Fangio,

who took second place in 1955, was represented at the wheel of the 300 SLR with starting number 658 first by Susie Wolff and then by Ralf Schumacher.



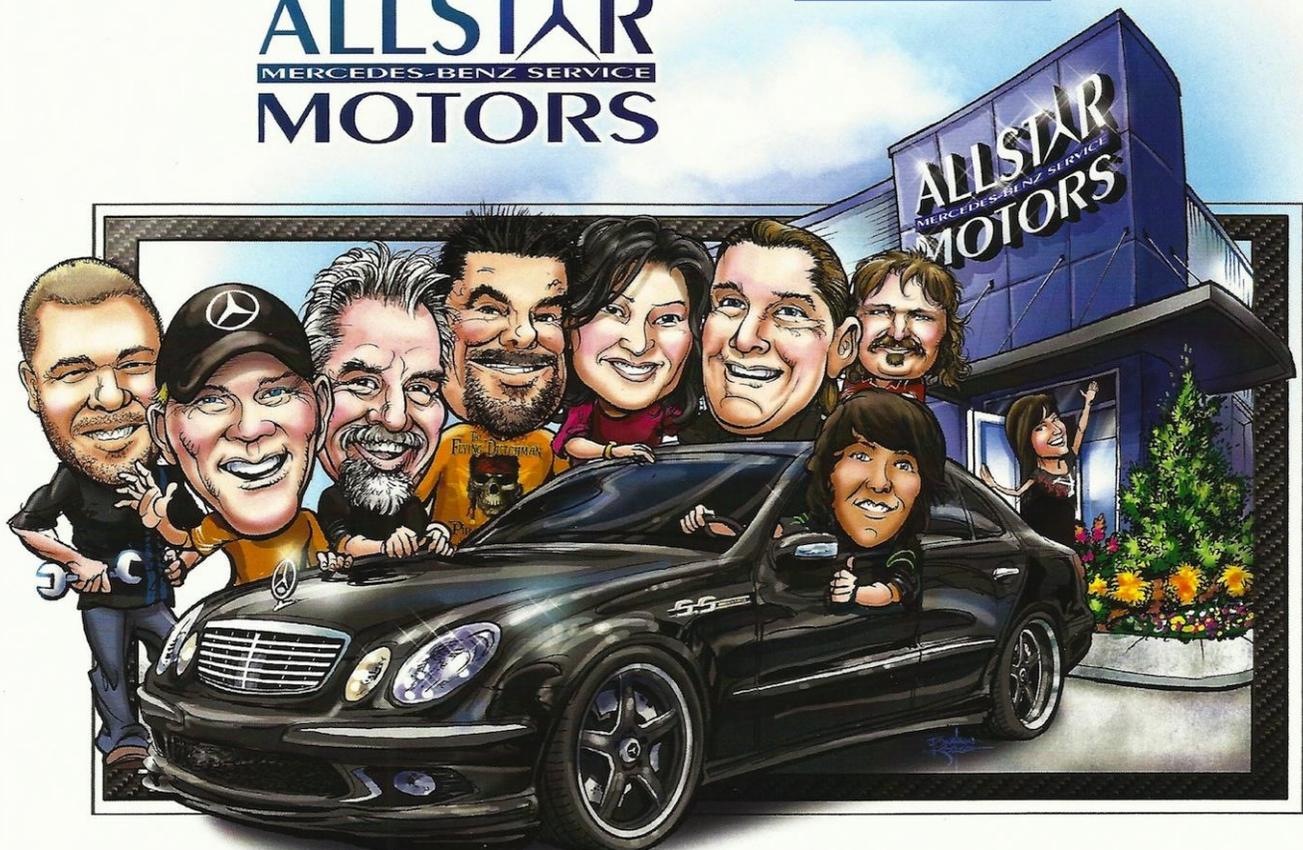
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Humor



"On my count of three. One. . . two. . . ."

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## 220s Ponton Restoration Part IX

By Charles Boyd



Much time has been spent in getting the 220S put together for the final time before painting. Since the last article we have had the hood, doors, fenders and trunk lid off and on and back on four times to get all the seams correct and even. Sounds like a lot of to do with only minor results but the results are what make the difference. After finally getting it ready to paint, my painter and I had a long discussion about painting it in our shop. Considering the fact that the weather was unpredictable and we could not control the temperature, humidity or miscellaneous other parameters, we decided to have GW & Son do the final paint. I assured my painter that I did not have the least doubt that he could do the job but we both agreed that our facilities left something to be desired. We agreed that we had put too much into the preparation to trust to luck to get a perfect paint job.

After some time waiting for a day when there was relative assurance that it was not going to rain or storm, we loaded the 220 onto a trailer and headed to Edmond. Contrary to some of our other luck, all went well and we arrived at GW & Son, met with Gary Jr. and unloaded the vehicle where it is at the present time. When Gary calls and says it is ready, once again we will seek decent weather and go get it. Then begins the job of putting it together, which we have been looking forward to for some time.

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## Calendar of Events 2015

- June 6<sup>th</sup>; Coffee & Cars OKC.
- June 13<sup>th</sup>; Picnic at Hafer Park, Edmond,  
11:00am onwards.
- June 21<sup>st</sup>; The Great Race, Downtown, OKC
- July 11<sup>th</sup>; Board of Directors Meeting @  
MBOKC.
- July 21<sup>st</sup>; Member's monthly dinner meeting  
@ Grand House, 2701 N. Classen  
Blvd. OKC.  
(405) 524-7333.
- August 1<sup>st</sup>; Coffee & Cars OKC.
- August 18<sup>th</sup>; Member's monthly dinner meeting  
@ Mimi's Cafe, 3015 W. Memorial  
Rd. Oklahoma City. (405) 302-3830.

## Sooner Star News June/July 2015

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**Asst. Editors: Bill Nash & Ed Hoag**

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## Editor's Note

*"O me! O life!... of the questions of these recurring; of the endless trains of the faithless... of cities filled with the foolish; what good amid these, O me, O life?" Walt Whitman*

Perhaps every human being with intelligence and conscience asks the above question multiple times in his/her life, including you and I. The reality is that life exists and it keeps moving on and we have to make our contribution without worrying. With all the worries, hype and weather drama, the Car Show did happen and was a great success. The best part of the show was MBCA National President Terry Kiwala's presence and MBCA South Central, Regional Director, Gene Jurick's remarks at the awards dinner. Terry brings hope and progress and Gene conveys confidence and self-assurance. I could have missed it all, in my moments of faithlessness and foolishness; so glad I escaped narrowly, thanks to a dear friend.

Masood Khan.



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## THANK YOU!

Thanks too all, who generously contributed to the American Red Cross fundraising, at the Car Show.

Mr. Bob Howard, Mercedes-Benz of Oklahoma City  
Mr. Todd Bondy, Mercedes-Benz of Oklahoma City  
Carolyn Bullard  
Marcia Daniels  
Marcia Fenity  
Ed & Peggy Hoag  
Masood & Farah Khan  
Steve Murrell  
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