



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA SECTION
OF THE
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

SOONER STAR NEWS
DECEMBER 2011
JANUARY 2012

THE NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY MERCEDES BENZ OF OKLAHOMA CITY AND G W & SON AUTO BODY.

President's Message

Greetings!

When I was a youth the holidays always kinda made me uneasy because my regular TV shows weren't on. Especially after the 10 O' Clock news. Seems like it was all Hymns from choirs. As I got older and moved out on my own it got a little worse. I'd see my parents and spend some time with my buddies families, but I was sort of a loner and didn't wear out my welcome anywhere. There were a lot of lonely days. Evenings. Into the late night. Lonely, but by choice, truth be told.

I'm older now. If I am alone now it is because I worked at it. But, I still get that same old dark feeling during the holidays. Even with the Internet and 300 channels on my cable TV.

I'm not suggesting you invite anyone to your house. Just think of the friend, co-worker or relative who might be alone.

And maybe give them a call. Or an email or text. You might be surprised how glad they are to hear from you and then can't wait to get off the phone!

I think the new year means I've got about a year in as "President" of the chapter. It's the best gig in the world, IMO. Ed Hoag, Jack Finks and the rest of the officers and directors do all the work and I get to walk in on functions, shake hands, smile and wave. Mainly, I talk to smart people about the best cars in the world. Makes me feel sorry for Hugh Hefner. Thank each of you for allowing me to hold this position this year.

Jeff Leatherock

2011/2012 Events Calendar

All Club meetings start at 7:00 P.M.

December 13th, Petroleum Club,
100 North Broadway, OG&E Room,
35th floor OKC

(Reservations Required and send to Bobby by 12/6/11 with your entree on the check.)

Jan 17th The Grand House
524-7333 2701 N. Classen Blvd.

Feb 21st Chelino's Restaurant
286-3112 10904 N. May

Congratulations Masood and thank you!

Masood Khan has agreed to serve out Bob Collier's unexpired term.

We are sorry Bob Collier could not complete his term. You will be missed, Bob.

Jeff Leatherock



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CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Tuesday, December 13, 2011

PETROLEUM CLUB

100 North Broadway, Oklahoma City
ROOM: OG&E, 35TH Floor
COCKTAILS AT 6:30 – Cash Bar
DINNER AT 7:30 – \$50 per Person

MENU FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY:

Southwest Salad with Roasted Poblano Ranch Dressing
Choice of Entree:
8oz Filet
Poached Salmon
Chicken
Twice Baked Mashed Potatoes & Vegetables
Chocolate Pyramid Cake with Chocolate Sauce & Fresh Berries
Coffee, Tea, Rolls & Butter

There will be Seasonal Music

A RSVP TO BOBBYE VAN HORN BY DECEMBER 6TH IS REQUIRED

Mail check for \$50 per person, with Entree selection on your check to Bobbye, 1601 Eagle Drive, Edmond, OK, 73034-6070. Questions? Call her at 405-340-5919.



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Choctaw Oktoberfest, September 2011

Photos by Ed & Peggy Hoag



Jerry and Pat Gross at Oktoberfest.

Peggy Hoag and Fran Boyd enjoying the day at Oktoberfest.



Attendees & (on right) Steve Murrell and Martha Finks relaxing at Oktoberfest.

Houston Henkes
Owner



Phyllis Henkes
Owner

722-1USA
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SOONER STAR NEWS

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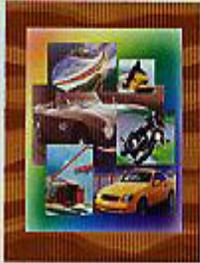
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ASTHENEWSLETTEREDITOR, I WELCOME ANY ARTICLES OR SUGGESTIONS FOR ARTICLES THAT YOU MIGHT HAVE. CLASSIFIED ADS ARE FREE TO MEMBERS, SO TAKE ADVANTAGE! IF YOU HAVE A CONTRIBUTION FOR AN UPCOMING NEWSLETTER, PLEASE SUBMIT TO ME BY THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH.

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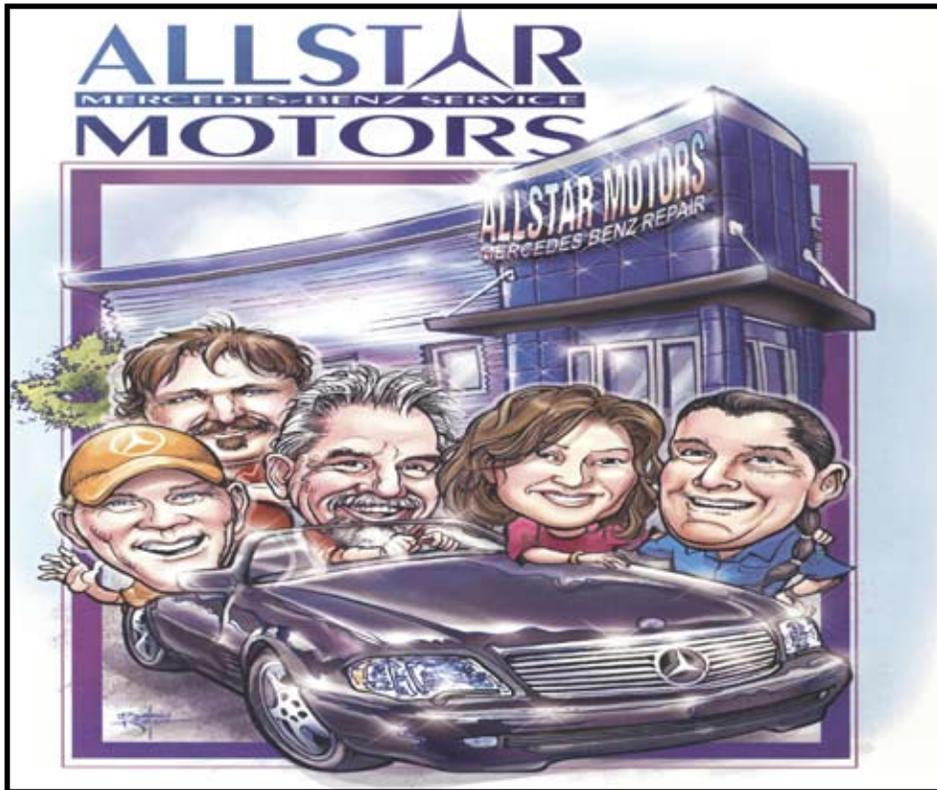


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**From the August 13th Joint Dinner Meeting with the Central Oklahoma Jaguar Club
at George's in El Reno
*Photos by Ed & Peggy Hoag***



Johnny Alston, Marketa Kelly, Pat & Bill Nash



**Richard & Peggy Kirk, Paul & Suzen Rodesney
and Jane & Charles Woods**

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I would like to thank Mercedes Benz of Oklahoma City and GW & Son Auto Body Shop for sponsoring our newsletter. They help offset the cost of publication and mailing of our newsletter. We appreciate all of our advertisers who have supported our Club for many years--our Club would not be a success without ALL of you. — THE EDITOR

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Mercedes Collector has parts available on a variety of MB autos, ie. 300D's 190E's, 240D's, 450, 380SEL etc. Call with your part request at 598-3540 or 274-3580, or e-mail, jesse.mcgaha@tinker.af.mil

NEW-- For Sale: Almost new AMG wheels for S or CL class. Wheels were only on car for four months. Size is 20x8.5 Front, 20x9.5 Rear. E-mail for pictures. Asking \$3,000. William Martin, wamartin1_1@yahoo.com, 735-7750.

CHANGE For Sale--1983 500SEC AMG

Dark blue on dark blue. Beautiful, great body and paint. No rust that I can find. Few upholstery problems. Wood faded some. Engine.....I don't know. Had jumped timing once. Good A/C and climate control. E-mail for more details and pictures. **\$2,000 as is.** The more I fix it, the more it'll cost. Mary Is getting tired of it blocking the drive!

Make a serious and reasonable offer, and it's yours.
Pete Williams, hwilliamsjr2@att.net

**WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS
AT THE NEXT MEETING!**

NEW MEMBERS

DANIEL LUCAS, MIDWEST CITY

LOREN SHIRK, NORMAN

ROBERT BECKER, NORMAN

WELCOME TO

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

SECTION



Please send your email address to mfwilliams3@att.net.
(new email address for the editor.)

Your Email Address Is Needed!

NEW AD--1992 Mercedes-Benz, 500 SEL, 4 Dr Sedan, Burgundy Color, tip-top condition, 230,000 miles. Sun roof, all heated seats, 10 CD player with Bose system (car was \$95,000 brand new), late model wheels, have spent over \$5,700 in 2011 on mechanical repairs alone including transmission and have all records. Asking \$5,495 OBO. Cell 405-202-4339

NEW AD--

Very Nice 1978 450SL. All preventative maintenance complete (including critical timing chains and guides) Great Soft Top & Hard Top, New Weatherstrips/ seals , Cold A/C, Alpine sound system. Ward Brasses, 405-340-3281 home 580-574-9576 work cell

Fancyisms by Bonnie Fancy

Danger Surrounds the Poor Defenseless Car

We all want our cars to be clean and blemish free, but that is unlikely if we drive them every day. Nevertheless, our beloved Mercedes-Benz maniacs have major high-blood pressure attacks at the mere thought of the car on the road. Listening to these guys, it sounds as if the whole world is out to get their cars.

As in most households, it is usually the woman who does the shopping. I've mentioned before the shopping carts that lurk between parked cars waiting to attack an unsuspecting vehicle. Some carts are so brazen, they wait out in the open at the end of a row, anticipating the chance to roll into the side of some poor, defenseless car.

As a reporter for a local paper, I've covered events at schools. Because most parents who attend an event drive mini-vans or SUVs, there is seldom a spot left for my small car, so I have become very creative in finding places to park. Once, I backed into a small space between the building and a dumpster. I just had to hope that none of the trash would jump out of the dumpster and hit my car, or that no suicidal text book would choose that moment to fling itself from a second- or third-story window.

Several times, the only place to park is by a chain link fence separating the playground from a driveway. As long as no one is playing ball, that should be alright. However, a future Red Sox slugger could shag a ball over the fence, imagining the field fence is the big Green Monster at Fenway Park. If the kid really wants to see a monster, he should see my husband's face when a dent the size of a baseball appears on the roof of my car. Or worse, the windshield is cracked. At least we don't live near an outdoor hockey rink. Imagine what a hockey puck could do.

Parking along any highway is fraught with danger – the roads are curved and tree lined. I have to find a place where I can pull well off the road if I want to park or anyone driving around the curve might not see my car in time to stop. Of course, highway-side parking takes me off the pavement and into sand and gravel, which attack the car the minute the wheels hit dust.

Sand is a major issue. It gets thrown up on the car, potentially scratching it. And in the winter,

the sand is mixed with salt which, while hastening an ice melt, eats metal. The slush resulting from the salt and sand combination finds all kinds of cozy places to hide, particularly between the spokes of mag wheels, where it freezes. Because it isn't evenly distributed, that can make a car ride roughly as if the wheels need balancing. In turn, this causes the owner to become unbalanced.

Trees also gang up on cars, dropping leaves and branches on victim vehicles. In the fall, oak and pignut hickory trees form an evil alliance with squirrels. Squirrels hide in those trees, providing them with nuts and acorns to use as bombs. These nasty little rodents bomb the cars passing beneath, missing little dimples into the roofs. I don't speak squirrel squeak, but I swear I hear their battle cry, "Bombs away!" as they propel a nut.

Then there are the kamikaze animals who give up their lives just to hurt a car. Turtles come to mind. Slowly crawling onto the road and low to the ground, drivers can't see them until it's too late and a tire gets punctured as the car runs over the reptile. The turtle likely dies happy, though, knowing his sacrifice took out a Mercedes.

The problem is so pervasive in some places, there are warning signs: Turtle crossing, next seven miles. These are not to be taken lightly.

Deer and moose are also out to get the car. They lurk at the side of the road and when a car approaches, the animals leap out with suicidal zeal. They may die, but they die happy knowing they have taken the car with them.

Even butterflies and moths willingly relinquish their souls as they smash themselves against windshields. Yep. They are all out to get the car – including the weather. Attacks from snow and ice are well documented, but there are other atmospheric phenomena waiting to do damage.

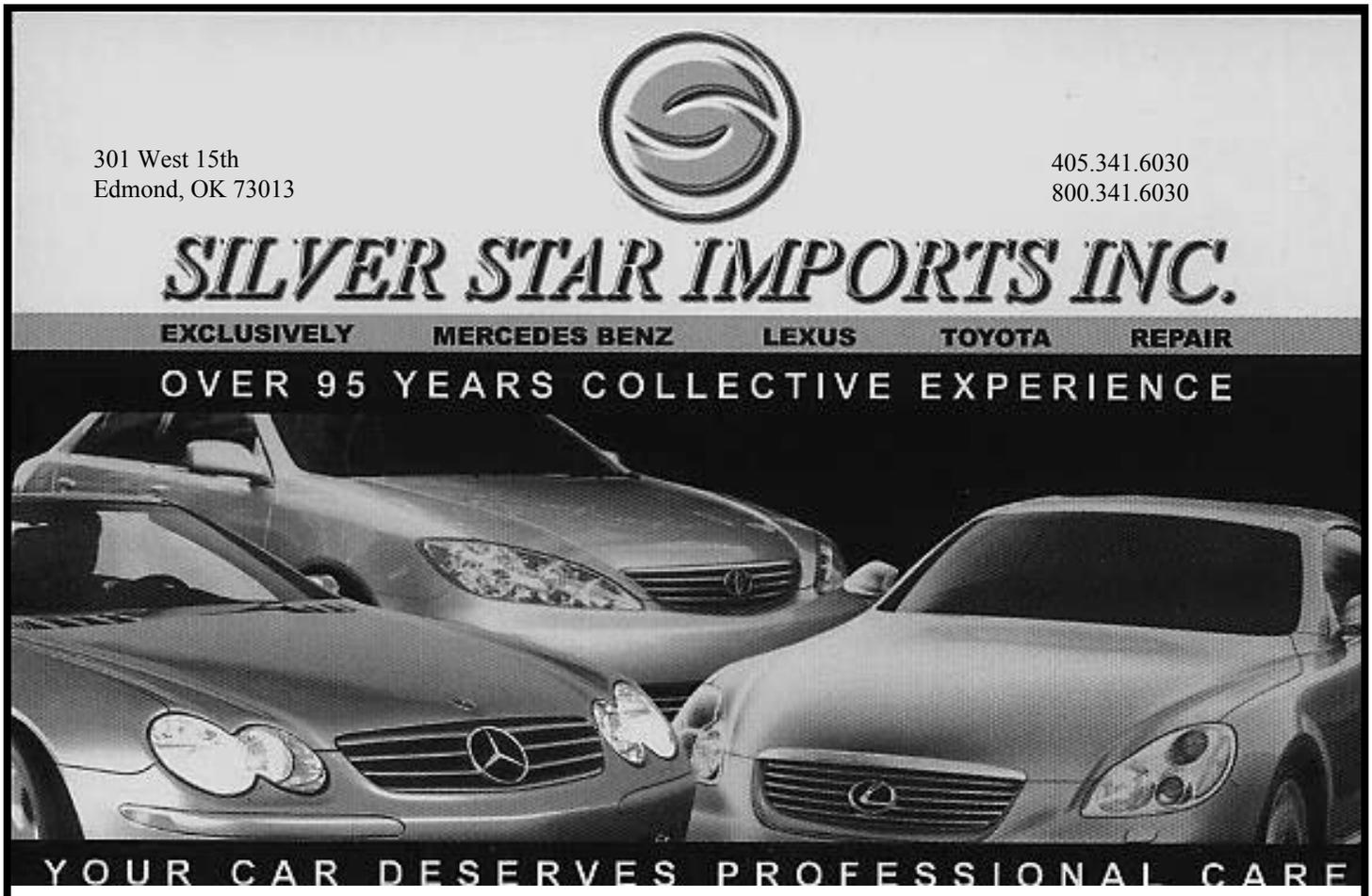
Rain is almost as bad as snow. It seems innocuous as it lies in puddles alongside a road, camouflaging sand and gravel that splash onto a car, leaving a thin, cement-like layer on the car's side, as well as some scratches. Rain especially enjoys this pastime in puddles on unpaved roads. In these climes, we

have a season between winter and spring called mud season. Some dirt roads get so muddy that cars get stuck. Somewhere, the rain and sand are high fiving as a driver calls the auto club for a tow.

Wind dangers, too, are full blown. It's enough to knock the wind out of a car owner's sails. And one of the worst things that can happen to the poor, defenseless car is an encounter with another vehicle. Delivery trucks and school buses make frequent stops that could hurt the brakes of the unwary one following. And, horror of horrors, let's not forget dump trucks, which like to throw dirt, sand and anything else from their back ends. Even other cars can be hazardous, often stopping too quickly and causing our poor car to collide. Or they could move too slow-

ly, drifting port to starboard and back, causing confusion and consternation for our car. Cars traveling in the opposite direction can churn dirt and debris.

Yes, the world is full of danger for an unsuspecting car. Most of us accept this as part and parcel of the driving experience. Not our beloved maniacs, though. They are convinced that the world is out to get their beloved Benzes.



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Mercedes-Benz Club of America 2012 Membership News Bulletin

Effective January 1, 2012 MBCA membership dues will increase as follows:

		U.S. Membership Dues		Canadian & Int'l Membership Dues	
1	Year	Was \$45	Will Be \$49	Was \$55	Will Be \$59
2	Years	Was \$87	Will Be \$95	Was \$107	Will Be \$115
3	Years	Was \$127	Will Be \$139	Was \$157	Will Be \$169

Five Reasons for the 2012 Dues Increase

1. It has been 12 years since MBCA last raised its dues
2. 2012 dues represent an increase of less than 9% over 2011
3. MBCA has been able to avoid a dues increase for more than a decade but increasing operating expenses makes it virtually impossible to avoid a modest increase today
4. The list of MBCA member benefits and discounts has markedly expanded in the last two years. Please see the 2/3 page advertorial in the January/February issue of The Star® magazine for details or visit www.mbca.org/member-benefits for a complete list of benefits
5. We want to ensure that MBCA can continue to meet its promise/value proposition: To be an enduring and sustainable Mercedes-Benz enthusiast organization known for nurturing and inspiring the Mercedes-Benz experience

Special Incentives for MBCA Members, Effective NOW!

Members who RENEW their membership BEFORE 12/31/11 will receive:

- 3 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 3 years PLUS pay the (current) 2011 rate (\$127 U.S. or \$157 Canadian/Int'l)
- 2 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 2 years PLUS pay (current) 2011 rate (\$87 U.S. or \$107 Canadian/Int'l)

Members who RENEW their membership beginning 1/1/12 or AFTER will receive:

- 3 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 3 years (at the 2012 rate)
- 2 additional months of membership FREE when they renew for 2 years (at the 2012 rate)

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Home Phone () _____ Business () _____

Member's Occupation _____

Mercedes Cars Now Owned _____
(list year and model)

Email address _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

_____ Date _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

New Rates

Membership dues are \$49 annually, \$95 for two years, or \$139 for three years.

The dues include six issues of The Star each year, plus your local section's newsletter. Make your check payable to MBCA, and mail it along with the application to
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Current MBCA members:
Feel free to give this application to potential members!