



SOONER STAR NEWS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

March/ April 2018

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our rollercoaster, up and down winter resulted in a rare and last-minute rescheduling of our February meeting due to a surprise ice storm. But, as it always does, spring follows winter. And, spring 2018, 11:16am, March 20 - June 21, 5:08am, to be exact, is now only days away and begins a busy time on your Section's schedule of events, so mark your calendars



Only four days into spring will be our annual March outing to Enid for the Boy Scouts Car Show. This event has become a real favorite and well-attended event. We will have rally point and departure information at our March dinner meeting. If you miss the meeting but still want to make this event, just give me a call for details.

The Mercedes Mixer, sponsored by the Eastern Section will be held on April 21. The Eastern Section is generously underwriting the event cost of the Stokley Event Center so Members' expense is limited to meal cost. You will find details and registration in this newsletter.

The McPherson College C.A.R.S. car show will be held May 5. As many of you know, McPherson College offers the only four-year degree program in automobile restoration. Our Section has participated in this unique car show event for several years. The show is sponsored by the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center. Touring the student restoration workshop/class facility is always a highlight of this event. Information for attending will be available at the March and April dinner meetings.

Continued on next page...

President's message continued...

A new event, replacing our fall car show, will be an MBCA car display for the June grand opening event for the new Mercedes-Benz of Oklahoma City facility in Edmond. More information will be available soon, but please plan to participate along with your Mercedes-Benz. Todd Bondy personally requested our Section to have this display, so I encourage all members to support our dealer and bring your MB for this fun event. This will be a fun event with MBOKC providing all the food and activities. We just need to show up!

Lastly, but certainly not least on our spring calendar is our annual picnic on Saturday, June 16. As in prior years, our picnic will again be at Hafer Park. So, save the date and detail to come.

Spring is a great time for your Section. Please take advantage of as many of our events as possible.



DAIMLER NEWS

By Masood Khan

Mercedes-Benz is dropping out of the 2019 Detroit Auto Show. Though MB has always counted on the Detroit Auto Show to boost North American sales but citing high costs and other reasons has made the decision.

“We have to look at whether a trade show like Detroit fits with the cadence of our launch calendar and whether there’s a more effective format for our needs,” a senior Mercedes executive stated for Autonews. “The G class was the perfect product to debut this year, but the likelihood we will be in Detroit next January is very slim. That doesn’t mean however we are ruling out a return in 2020.”

Mercedes-Benz pulling out of the first car show of the year would be a major setback for the event. Multiple brands such as Mazda, Volvo, Porsche, Jaguar and Land Rover, citing high costs etc. have already left the Detroit Auto Show. All these automakers prefer to direct their budgets into other directions.

Mercedes Petronas partners with Tommy Hilfiger

Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport has announced a multi-year strategic partnership with Tommy Hilfiger, owned by PVH Corp., from the 2018 season onwards. TOMMY HILFIGER will become the Official Apparel Partner of the team. The new partnership will see Tommy Hilfiger providing Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport’s race and travel wear, as well as factory, office and hospitality clothing. The distinctive Tommy Hilfiger logo will debut on the Mercedes-AMG F1 W09 EQ Power+ car as well as featuring on garage and trackside assets.

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Factory 56

By Masood Khan

Construction is in full swing at the “Factory 56”, world’s most modern car factory in Sindelfingen. Mercedes’ new factory is digital, flexible and green. Factory 56 covering approximately 735,000 sq. ft. will start production in 2020 of S Class and EQ vehicles.

State-of-the-art Industry 4.0 technologies will be used across the facility, including driverless transport systems (DTS), Innovative Radio Frequency Identification technologies (RFID), Artificial Intelligence and Predictive Maintenance, however keeping the focus on the human. The employees’ workstations will be ergonomically optimized and supported by digital instruments.

The working space will be integrated in energy efficient and environmentally friendly modular building structures that will use renewable energies and reduced emissions, water consumption and waste. Solar panels on the rooftop will feed green electricity into the production supply.



2018 Mercedes Petronas F1 W09 EQ Car

2019 GLE

W167 the next generation GLE is set to make a debut this year. The new Mercedes GLE is based on the MRA platform of the current E-Class and will be below the two-ton mark, thanks to the extensive use of lightweight materials. In addition to more ground clearance, the new GLE will feature improved axle articulation, a revised air suspension, limited slip differentials and transmissions with optional low gearing. The nine-speed 9G-Tronic gearbox will be standard across the range. The new GLE along with standard models will have the AMG 43, 63 and 63S models as well. A hybrid will also be available.



Hitler's Mercedes-Benz 770K with a high bid of \$7 million @ Scottsdale failed to sell as the company was expecting \$9 million or more.

The 1939 Mercedes-Benz 770K was used by Hitler from 1939 to 1941. Eighty-eight of such 770K were built and the owner's list includes the leaders of the Catholic Church Popes pious XI and XII, Emperor of Japan Hirohito.

The car weighs almost 2.7 tons with a 7.7 liter 8 cylinder supercharged engine that produces 237 horsepower.



Whenever the car sells, ten percent of the proceeds will be donated for research and education on Holocaust.



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The Greenest W123

By Masood Khan



Between 1976 and 1985 Mercedes-Benz built around 2.7 million W123 cars. The diesel W123s have a reputation of being indestructible.

This W123 has proven the reputation. 25 years back the then owner wanted to sell the car but did not like the potential buyers, he parked it instead under a tree in a field that was part of his property. The current owner Siggi Oberschewen spotted the car when he was visiting the son of the previous owner to purchase another classic car. Siggi purchased the car for two cases of beer, installed a new battery and put fresh diesel, the car started.

Siggi has no intention of restoring the car, not only ivy is growing out of the trunk and other areas but a small tree is sprouting in the ventilation grille under the windshield. the car when not driven is parked in a moist environment to let the vegetation stay healthy and the small tree is watered regularly. This sure is the greenest of all W123 in Germany or perhaps on the planet.



Calendar of Events 2018

- March 3rd; Coffee & Cars OKC

- March 9th; OKC Auto Show, Fairgrounds, OKC

- March 22nd; Monthly Dinner Meeting @ Interurban
Classic Grill, Danforth Rd. Edmond

- April 7th; Coffee & Cars OKC

- April 7th; Board Of Directors Meeting

- April 14th; Benz & Breakfast, Nichols Hills

- April 17th; Monthly Dinner Meeting @ Bellini's
Underground, 6305 Waterford, OKC

- May 5th; Coffee & Cars, OKC

- May 15th; Dinner Meeting (TBD)

- June 16th; Annual Picnic @ Hafer Park, Edmond

Sooner Star News March/April 2018

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Mercedes Mixer 2018

The Mercedes-Benz Club Eastern Oklahoma Section is hosting a meet and greet for the South Central Region on April 21, 2018, at the Stokely Event Center, Tulsa. The event will have a non-judged car show, a barbeque luncheon and a side trip to Woody Guthrie Museum or Tulsa Botanical Gardens.

Barbeque Lunch \$20/person

Woody Guthrie Museum \$6/person

Tulsa Botanical Gardens \$8/person

Registration deadline is April 13, for more information and to register please contact **John Kushnerick**,

jkushnerick@zebco.com

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