# Sooner Star News

the official Central Oklahoma section club newsletter

Jan / Feb 2019 Issue


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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

*Jeff Leatherock, President*

I wasn't born into an evangelistic church, rather, I joined one for social convenience as a young adult. I happily attended for 20 years and then moved on. One thing from that period that stayed with me was the non-political message of inclusion; how important it is and how all humans long to feel included.

That belief is what drives my term as chapter president. I think Mercedes-Benz is the most enjoyable car on earth and I want to associate with other people who feel the same. I have used the phrase "share the love" many times and find it easy to say regarding Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

Mercedes-Benz is one of the oldest and largest car builders on earth. Like the New York Yankees, or Oklahoma Sooners, the term "traditional power" would be an accurate description. There is a new or used Mercedes-Benz for every budget, interest and need. This gives me the opportunity to find common ground with everyone. From the rusty, smoky and rattling 240, to the SL, to the Smart, to the S650 Maybach, we are unified by a love for The Star. And that is a love we can share.

I suggest we make an invitation to the fellowship an emphasis for our events. Never hide the annual fee but invite people to visit a couple times and see if the group helps make it attractive enough

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to spend the money. I think our social element is worth the price of membership and *The Star* magazine is just a bonus.

Because I am naturally shy and find attending any social event very difficult, I try to imagine all new attendees are suffering the same anxiety and see if we can help put them at ease. That explains why I am probably trying too hard with visitors.

I am always afraid of being stereotyped as a bunch of old white guys, snobbishly sipping wine and discussing our Bobby Ewing SLs. Probably because I am an old white guy with a Bobby Ewing SL. But I know that our chapter-our Central Oklahoma Chapter-is a welcoming group with good diversity. I am proud to serve as your president.

And remember what the old evangelist said, “There is always room in our heart for one more”.

Good events coming up. A couple to note are the annual trip to the Boy Scout Car Show in Enid. And the Red River Concours in May. That is a big deal for us as a national level event, and Greg Morgan and Paul Rodesney are doing great work putting it together.

# Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jan 5 | 8am | Coffee & Cars, Northpark Mall, OKC |
| Jan 12 | 10am | Board of Directors Meeting, MBOKC |
| Jan 15 | 7pm | Monthly Dinner Meeting, Member Recognition Night<br>Grand House Asian Bistro, 2701 N Classen, OKC |
| Feb 2 | 8am | Coffee & Cars, Northpark Mall, OKC |
| Feb 19 | 7pm | Monthly Dinner Meeting<br>Speaker Trait Thompson, State Capitol Restoration Project Manager<br>Charleston's, Bricktown |
| Feb 28 | 8am | Tour of the National Weather Center and Barry Switzer Center<br>Eastern Oklahoma Section Event, visit mbca.org or contact<br>John Kushnerick for more info jkushnerick@cox.net or (918) 527-8121 |
| Mar 2 | 8am | Coffee & Cars, Northpark Mall, OKC |
| Mar 8-10 | | Oklahoma City Auto Show, OKC Fairgrounds |
| Mar 19 | 7pm | Monthly Dinner Meeting |
| Mar 30 | 10am | Boy Scouts of America Car Show, Garfield County Fairgrounds, Enid |

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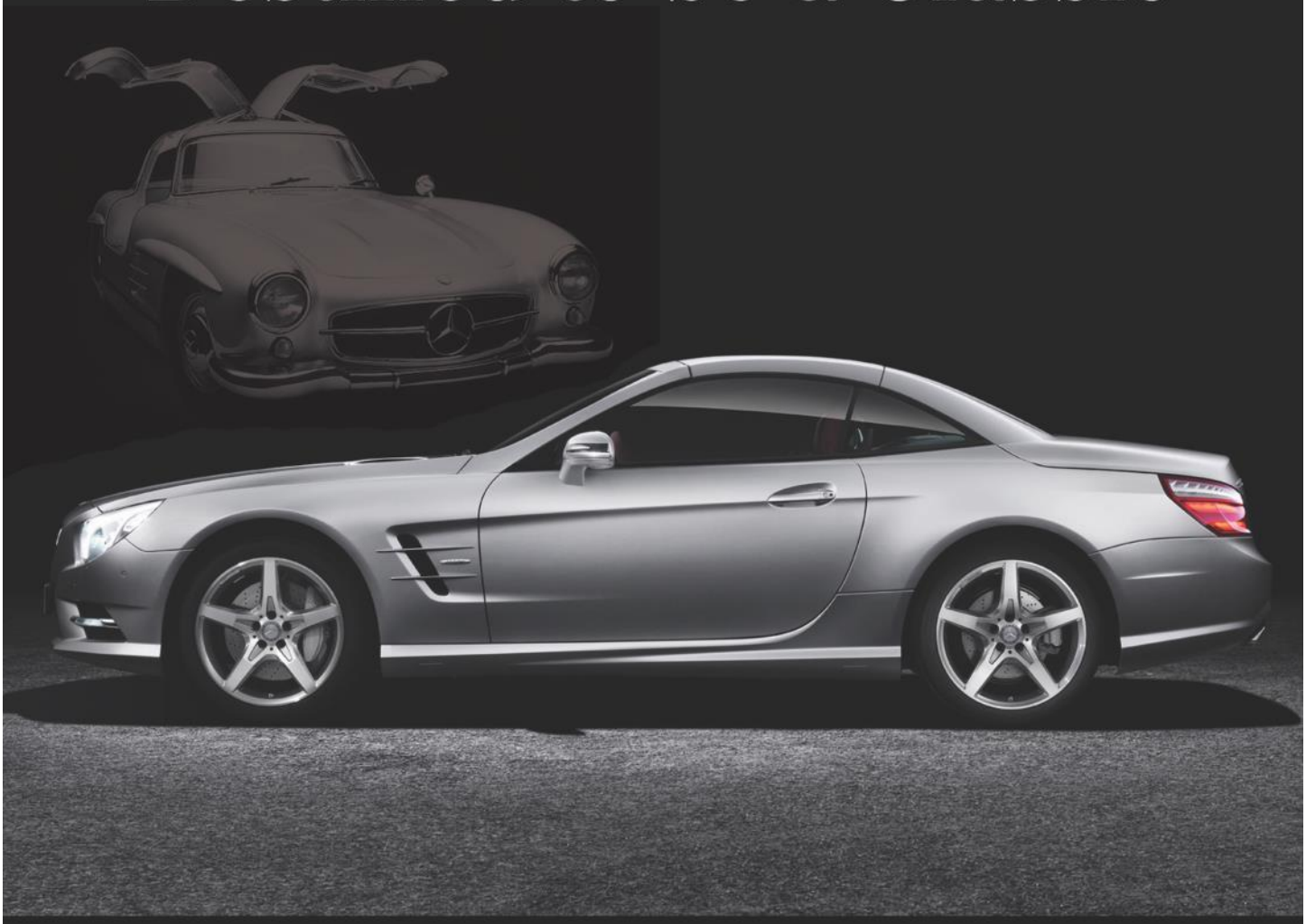

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## Mercedes-Benz Day at Coffee & Cars, Northpark Mall, OKC

*photos by Ken Hoffman and Mike Dippel*

Our club had a good turn out of Mercedes-Benz automobiles and members on November 3, 2018's Mercedes-Benz Day at Coffee & Cars. There were 14 automobiles from 13 members. There was a good mix of classic and late model Mercedes-Benz, including John Crain's G wagon and E63 AMG; Carol Fisher's S550; Paul and Suzen Rodesney's SL550; Kenny Hoffman and Mike Dippel's 300SDL; Greg Morgan's CL500; Dickk Woolbright's 560SL; Charles Woods' 560SL; and the 560SEL owned by Tony Marruchella (pictured below with his Scottish Terrier, Reba).

The biggest takeaway was, as last year (2017), every member there thoroughly enjoyed the morning. Coffee & Cars has evolved such that cars begin arriving as early as 6am and most of our members there by 6:30am – quite a good effort.

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# Christmas Party

*by Lisa Leatherock; photos by Tena Highfill and Suzen Rodesney*

On December 11, 2018, thirty-nine members attended our club's Christmas Party at Twin Hills Golf & Country Club. The venue was just as fun and festive as it has been in prior years. The food was delicious, the staff was courteous, and the company was as captivating as always.

The evening started out with cocktails and mingling as members arrived. The salads were served at 7pm followed shortly thereafter by the entrée (a preselected member's choice) of either a cooked-to-order filet, grilled salmon, or parmesan crusted chicken; all paired with rosemary potatoes, seasoned green beans, dinner rolls, and then finally a dessert choice of either chocolate cake or strawberry cheesecake.

After dinner Masood Khan, National Membership Committee Chair and Director at Large, presented the MBCA 2017 Public Service 1st Place Award. Charles Woods, past section president, and Jeff Leatherock, current section president accepted the award on behalf of our section.

We played our customary "dirty Santa" gift exchange directed by Ken Wells. Throughout the evening door prizes provided by Mercedes-Benz of Oklahoma City and Mr. Todd Bondy, MBOKC's Managing Partner, were awarded to each member in attendance.

Pictures 1. Jeff Leatherock, Masood Khan, Charles Woods; 2. Public Service Award; 3. Greg Morgan, Anna Belle Wiedemann, C D Schmidt, Steve Murrell; 4. Lance Highfill, Tim & Victoria Higgins, Carolyn Bullard, Ken Wells, Jeff Leatherock; 5. Farah Masood, Marcia Daniels, Deborah Moye, Verdie Daniels, Suzen Rodesney, Bill & Pat Nash, Todd Bondy, Masood Khan; 6. Kris & Ed Sawyer, Darlene Wallace, Kathy Storm, Ann Ditto, Jane & John Crain; 7. Melvin Latham, Tom Whiteley's chair, Tammy Whiteley, Tyler Barnhart; 8. Debbie Smoak, Paul Rodesney, Peggy & Ed Hoag

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Pictures 1. Ken Wells; 2. Masood Khan & Farah; 3. Peggy Hoag; 4. Suzen & Paul Rodesney; 5. John Crain aka Captain Morgan; 6. Melvin Latham; 7. Deborah Moye; 8. Lance & Tena Highfill; 9. Charles Woods

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# Thank You
## Mr. Todd Bondy
## Mercedes-Benz of Oklahoma City
for providing the fantastic gifts to our club Christmas Party

Pictures 1. Farah Masood; 2. Ed Hoag, Jimmy Tilton, Tyler Barnhart; 3. Ann Ditton, C D Schmidt; 4. Tim Higgins; 5. Tammy Whiteley, (missing Tom again—where are you Tom?); 6. Darlene Wallace, Kathy Storm; 7. Lisa Leatherock, Anna Belle Wiedemann; 8. Ed Sawyer; 9. Charles Woods, Debbie Smoak

# Welcome
# New Members

Leo Kingston, Oklahoma City

David Hollis, Oklahoma City

Reza Bastani, Mustang

Jimmy Tilton, Oklahoma City

Tim Higgins, Oklahoma City

Bill Mathis, Oklahoma City

John Richels, Nichols Hills


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## Red River Concours d'Elegance

*by Greg Morgan*

Greetings everyone! The Holiday Season has passed and I hope it provided memorable moments for all. As we begin the new year, the time has finally arrived to begin making reservations to attend the all-Mercedes car show scheduled for the weekend of May 17-19, 2019. This special event is being advertised as the *Red River Concours d'Elegance* - sponsored by the South Central Region of the Mercedes Benz Club of America (MBCA). As mentioned in previous club meetings, our show is scheduled to take place at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott Hotel & Golf Club at Champions Circle.

Members from across the South Central Region are invited to enter their cars in a Judged Concours, Silver Star Preservation Class, R107 Sport Leicht Division, and a Special Display Corral for other Mercedes sedans, coupes, wagons, etc. Guests are encouraged to arrive Friday and stay through the weekend to fully enjoy this unique opportunity. Festivities begin early on Saturday, May 18th, and include the car show, a special reception, dinner, and various auctions throughout the day.

Proceeds from fund raising activities are scheduled to be donated to Folds of Honor – a charitable organization whose mission is serving the families of our fallen and disabled service-members.

Hotel arrangements must be arranged individually through Marriott Reservations at the following link: 2019 Red River Concours @ DFW Marriott Hotel & Golf Club. Rooms and dinner reservations are available on a first come basis; therefore, everyone is strongly encouraged to finalize plans as soon as possible.

Our show is attracting attention and special interest from the National Office. If successful, it may serve as a model for similar events across the MBCA community in the coming years. I am looking forward to the weekend in May and please consider joining the team in making this a ground-breaking success!

## Concours Judges Wanted

We are recruiting judges for the Red River Concours d'Elegance. The show will include judging for concours, touring, display and Silver Star Preservation. Pete Lesler, MBCA National Concours Committee Chair, will conduct judging certification training on Friday, May 17, 2019.

For any member interested in acquiring their judging certification, this is an excellent opportunity to become certified to judge at any MBCA event. Training will be approximately 90 minutes in the classroom and 90 minutes in the field.

Please contact Charles Woods at (405) 359-2821 or charlesbwoods1@gmail.com for more information.

# Red River Concours d'Elegance
## Ft. Worth, Texas, May 17-19, 2019

### Event Overview

The Red River Concours d'Elegance is an all-Mercedes car show sponsored by the South Central Region of the Mercedes Benz Club of America (MBCA). The event is scheduled to take place at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott Hotel & Golf Club at Champions Circle May 17-19, 2019. MBCA members of the South Central Region are invited to enter their car(s) in a Judged Concours, Silver Star Preservation Class, and a Special Display Corral for other Mercedes sedans and coupes. Guests are encouraged to arrive Friday and stay through the weekend in order to fully enjoy this unique opportunity. Festivities begin early on Saturday May 18th and will include the car show, an afternoon/pre-dinner reception, auctions*, and a special awards dinner program.

### Registration Requirements

Please enter your car(s) in the show and finalize dinner arrangements by completing the attached registration form. Hotel reservations must be made individually through Marriott reservations staff at the following link: 2019 Red River Concours @ DFW Marriott Hotel & Golf Club. Rooms and dinner reservations are available on a first come basis; therefore, everyone is encouraged to finalize arrangements as soon as possible.

MARRIOTT

*Auction proceeds & donations will be given to Folds of Honor (FOH). This is a nonprofit organization founded by Major Dan Rooney, a PGA Professional & F-16 fighter pilot in the Air Force Reserves. FOH is a four-star rated charity by Charity Navigator and platinum on GuideStar, that provides educational scholarships to the families of military men and women who have fallen or been disabled while on active duty in the United States armed forces. Scholarships support private educational tuition and tutoring for childrenin grades K-12, as well as higher education tuition assistance for spouses and dependents. Since 2007, FOH has carried forth this singular, noble mission - *To provide educational scholarships to spouses and children of America's fallen and disabled service-members.* Their motto says it best: "*Honor Their Sacrifice. Educate Their Legacy.*" (Additional information is available @ https://www.foldsofhonor.org).

FOLDS of HONOR FOUNDATION

**Make plans to join us in Ft. Worth TX May 17-19, 2019, for the Red River Concours d'Elegance! For information concerning car registrations, weekend activities, etc. please contact Greg Morgan, Member, RR Concours Planning Committee at grmorgan41@gmail.com.**

## Mercedes-Benz Club of America - Registration Form

**Registrant's Name:** _____

**Address:** _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

**Phone:** (_____) _____ - _____ **Email:** _____

**Category:** ___Concours ___R107 ___Silver Star Preservation ___Display Corral

| Vehicles: | Year | Model/Description | Color | Fee: $40 1st Car, $25 Additional Cars |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | _____ | _____ | _____ | $ _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ | _____ | $ _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ | $ _____ |

**Total:** $ _____

| Saturday Night Dinner Choices | | # of People | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mesquite Rubbed 12oz Rib-eye | $55.00 | _____ | $_____ |
| Dijon Marinated Salmon | $53.00 | _____ | $_____ |
| Pan Seared Breast of Chicken | $48.00 | _____ | $_____ |

**Grand Total:** $ _____

***All Dinners include three courses, rolls, coffees, and a selection of hot and iced teas.**

****Make checks payable to the MBCA/NTX Section Car Show, P.O. Box #550662, Dallas, TX 75355-0662. Registrations must be received by April 29, 2019**

### Hold Harmless Agreement

Exhibitor agrees that by voluntarily entering the vehicle(s) described above: (1) exhibitor has in force liability insurance for each vehicle. (2) exhibitor will provide proof of such insurance on demand, (3) exhibitor indemnifies and holds harmless Mercedes-Benz Club of America, their officers, agents, employees, volunteer show workers, or assigns for any acts or omissions which may result in injury or damage to exhibitor's property that occurs during or results from exhibitor's participation in this event, and (4) exhibitor, by participating in this event, assumes the risk of any and all such injury or damage.

**Owner's Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

**Insurance Carrier:** _____ **Policy #:** _____

# Event Report

## September 2018 MBCA Germany Trip

*by Carol Fisher; photos by Carol Fisher and Chuck Stanford, Jr.*

The idea of seeing beautiful fast cars in Stuttgart, Germany sounded like fun to me, so in late September 2018, I went on the club Germany Trip with 16 other MBCA members from around the United States. I hope all persons with the car disease get to make this trip.

pigs knuckle

Our excursion began with a get together dinner on the first night which included great company, delicious food and drink. The restaurant staff treated us like old friends. Each evening, past MBCA president, Jim O'Sullivan, would advise us of the next jam-packed day of fun adventures. Our tour guides included Jim O'Sullivan and Daimler AG executives, Wolflram Korner and Ambrose Kluyskens. Lots of German cuisine, new friends and adventures followed.

89 190E cabriolet

We saw more cars than we could possibly imagine from new cars, tomorrows cars, classic cars, concept cars, famous cars, cars, cars, and more cars. The sheer number of cars made our eyes glaze over each and every day. We even saw a car (89 190E cabriolet) that doesn't exist, so we were told.

One rule: if you can imagine it, they can create it. From a new Mercedes-Benz to a Classic (all modifications are made so the car can be returned to original) you just need to have the funds. This was not done at the Mercedes-Benz Sindelfingen Factory or the AMG Factory, but at a separate location associated with Mercedes-Benz.

Ready to enter the Factory

We were lucky to be at the Sindelfingen Factory on the day they were making S-Class cars (regular, long-base and Maybach). Each car being made had been ordered and would receive individual modifications based on its styling. Each job was checked and rechecked by humans and robots, this was technology at its finest. It seemed impossible a car would not be perfect when it came off the line.

*(Continued on page 15)*

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54 300S cabriolet

62 300SL roadster

38 Maybach SW

Mercedes-Benz Museum

Some of the tours on this incredible trip included the home of Gottlieb Daimler, the Dr. Carl Benz Museum, the Mercedes-Benz Museum, the AMG Factory and Mechatronik. The history of the growth of this great company was told in each place visited. The Mercedes-Benz Museum had a display from their beginning to now events from the United States.

Mercedes-Benz Museum

Almost everything in Stuttgart has the Mercedes-Benz emblem. The city is historic, beautiful and booming with construction. The city was easy to navigate if being chauffeured by Mercedes-Benz or walking to Oktoberfest. I hope everyone will have a chance to enjoy this tour.

51 300C

Wolflram Korner, Jim O'Sullivan, Ambrose Kluyskens

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