



Sooner Star News

the official Central Oklahoma section club newsletter

Sep / Oct 2019 Issue

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

I am excited to feel the breeze become a little cooler this week. Fall is just around the corner. Football has begun. New car models start coming out. Sorta. It used to be a bigger deal when I was a kid. I remember the cars would be transported in enclosed trailers, or in a canvas bag on the big trailer. New car showrooms would have paper on the windows or have that pasty soap stuff cover the glass. If



Jeff Leatherock, President

Dad had a connection that year or could convince a salesman he was a "serious buyer", then we could get into the "secret preview" a couple days before the public unveiling. Mom & Dad would brag about that at all the family gatherings for the rest of the year.

One last special event in September is the tour of the Tom Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford (details are on page 4).

October has a couple of special events.

First, Mercedes-Benz is the featured car make at Coffee & Cars, on Saturday, October 5. A large turnout of our cars would help us be noticed. Recent months have had over 1,000 cars in attendance.

Our monthly meeting will be at the Mathis Brothers Design Studio. Mathis Brothers has done a large expansion and remodeling of their showroom and main campus at 3434 West Reno. Although he is a busy man and keeps a low profile, Bill Mathis is a member of our

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section and has driven Mercedes-Benz exclusively for several years. He and his staff feel they have assembled a facility that has food, beverage and meeting space that could properly host a monthly meeting. I think so many of us think of Mathis Brothers as a “furniture store”, and they want to raise awareness of the unique and new features of their expanded facility. Our section is a prime example of who they would like to share the experience with. Mathis Brothers is really “putting on the dog” to host us, IMO. I hope we have a large turnout.

I hope everyone will check out the September/October issue of The Star magazine. Specifically, the write up recapping the Red River Concours starting on page 81. With main text by Greg Morgan, and pictures from Bruce Rodesney, Ron Seifert and DJ de Jesus, it is a good example of the efforts of our South Central Region. I will blame the city of residents’ errors on The Star, Editor-in-Chief, Gary Anderson, who rewrote the story to fit the space allotted.

Regarding our love of the Mercedes-Benz brand and the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Central Oklahoma Section; let me urge everyone to...

Spread the word and share the love

Or

Spread the love and share the word.

It is an honor to serve as section President. Thank you for making it so easy.



June 29, 2019, Red River Concours d'Elegance and Car Show Display Corral

Upcoming Events

- Sep 14 9am Cars & Connections—a Coffee & Cars OKC Event, MBOKC
- Sep 17 7pm Monthly Dinner Meeting, Red Lobster, Quail Springs/Memorial Road, 2625 W Memorial Rd, OKC
Speaker-Auto Detailer, Jason Watkins, Finishline Auto Cosmetics
- Sep 21 8am Weatherford Road Trip to visit the Stafford Air & Space Museum and lunch at Lucille's Roadhouse Diner (see page 4 for more information)
- Oct 5 8am Coffee & Cars, Northpark Mall, OKC
Mercedes-Benz Day!
Please plan to arrive before 7am to secure a prime spot
- Oct 5 11am Board of Director's Meeting, MBOKC
- Oct 12 9am Cars & Connections—a Coffee & Cars OKC Event, MBOKC
- Oct 15 7pm Monthly Dinner Meeting, Mathis Brothers Furniture Design Studio, 3434 West Reno, OKC (full service restaurant & bar—more info to follow via email)
- Nov 2 8am Coffee & Cars, Northpark Mall, OKC
- Nov 9 9am Cars & Connections—a Coffee & Cars OKC Event, MBOKC
- Nov 19 7pm Monthly Dinner Meeting, venue TBD
- Dec 7 8am Coffee & Cars, Northpark Mall, OKC
- Dec 10 7pm Christmas Party, Twin Hills Golf & Country Club, 3401 NE 36, OKC
- Dec 14 9am Cars & Connections—a Coffee & Cars OKC Event, MBOKC

FOR SALE

1983 280SL Euro silver / grey MDTEX approx. 115000 miles, both tops, rare 5 speed standard, air cond, near new Michelins, Euro bumpers, looks and drives well, no body damage or rust. I'll be 86 in December, I haven't driven it much since my wife, Rosie, died in 2013. My SL needs a new home. If you are interested come look at it, drive it and we'll talk. Fun to drive, asking \$17500
James Forsythe 405-341-1221 jr4sythe@gmail.com

Please submit classifieds to leatherrock@att.net. Free to MBCA members.

Upcoming Event

Weatherford Road Trip

Mark your calendar for a morning road trip to Weatherford, Oklahoma on Saturday, September 21, 2019 to visit the Stafford Air & Space Museum and have lunch at the famous Lucille's Roadhouse Diner.

Plan to meet as a group at the Northwest corner of I-40 and MacArthur at 8:00am. We'll leave at 8:30am to caravan together for the 45 minute drive to the Stafford Air & Space Museum, located at 3000 East Logan Road, Weatherford, OK 73096.

We will take a 90 minute guided tour of the Stafford Air & Space Museum.



Stafford Air & Space Museum



Lucille's Famous Route 66 Gas Station

After the museum tour, we will take the quick one mile trip to dine at Lucille's Roadhouse Diner located at 1301 North Airport Road, Weatherford, OK 73096.

Entry fee to the museum is \$5 per person; no charge for veterans.

For those interested, after lunch, we will go see the original Lucille's Route 66 Gas Station that was built in 1927 where Lucille Hamons pumped gas and served sandwiches that she made in the upstairs apartment to the passersby on the very famous Route 66.

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR
WEATHERFORD ROAD TRIP**

For more information, please visit

staffordmuseum.org

lucillesroadhouse.com



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Event Report

July Dinner Meeting

by Lisa Leatherock

On Tuesday, July 16, 2019, our monthly meeting was held at Charleston's Restaurant in Bricktown. Ashley Mason Burns-Meerschaert, M.S. was our speaker. Ashley is the Director of Education for SKELETONS: Museum of Osteology. The museum, located on the southside of Oklahoma City at 10301 South Sunnyslane Road, opened in 2010 by Jay Villemarette owner and founder of Skulls Unlimited International Inc.



Skulls Unlimited International Inc. was started in 1986, by Jay and his wife, Kim. Skulls Unlimited clean and sell bones, skulls, and osteological materials. Their first store was located on South Shields in Oklahoma City. Today, their collection consists of about 8,000 specimens, while only a small portion of them (approximately 800) are in their museums. The skeletons range from tiny mice to a 40-foot humpback whale.



Ashley detailed the cleaning process. There are several factors that influence this process depending on the state of decomposition. Skeletons with no tissue can be cleaned by using a chemical process (no bleach!). Flesh-eating beetles are used on ones still containing tissue, as well as, boiling and maceration or controlled putrefaction. The museum includes a display of flesh-eating, dermestid beetles. There's a member of the museum's staff, that their sole job is to take care of the beetles. Skulls & skeletons are ethically and legally sourced. They are donated by zoological gardens, aquariums, animal sanctuaries, and nature preserves. In May of 2015, Jay and Kim opened a second museum in Orlando, Florida.

Skull cleaning with Jay and Skulls Unlimited was featured on the Discovery Channel show, Dirty Jobs. Mike Rowe, the show's host, said skull cleaning was positively one of THE dirtiest jobs, and possibly THE stinkiest!

It's always nice to hear about fun activities to do around Oklahoma City. Ashley did a wonderful job telling us all about the museum. This was a very interesting and educational presentation. I am definitely intrigued and will be planning an outing to check out the museum very soon.

Thank you to Suzen Rodesney for providing a few photos of the museum from her most recent visit.

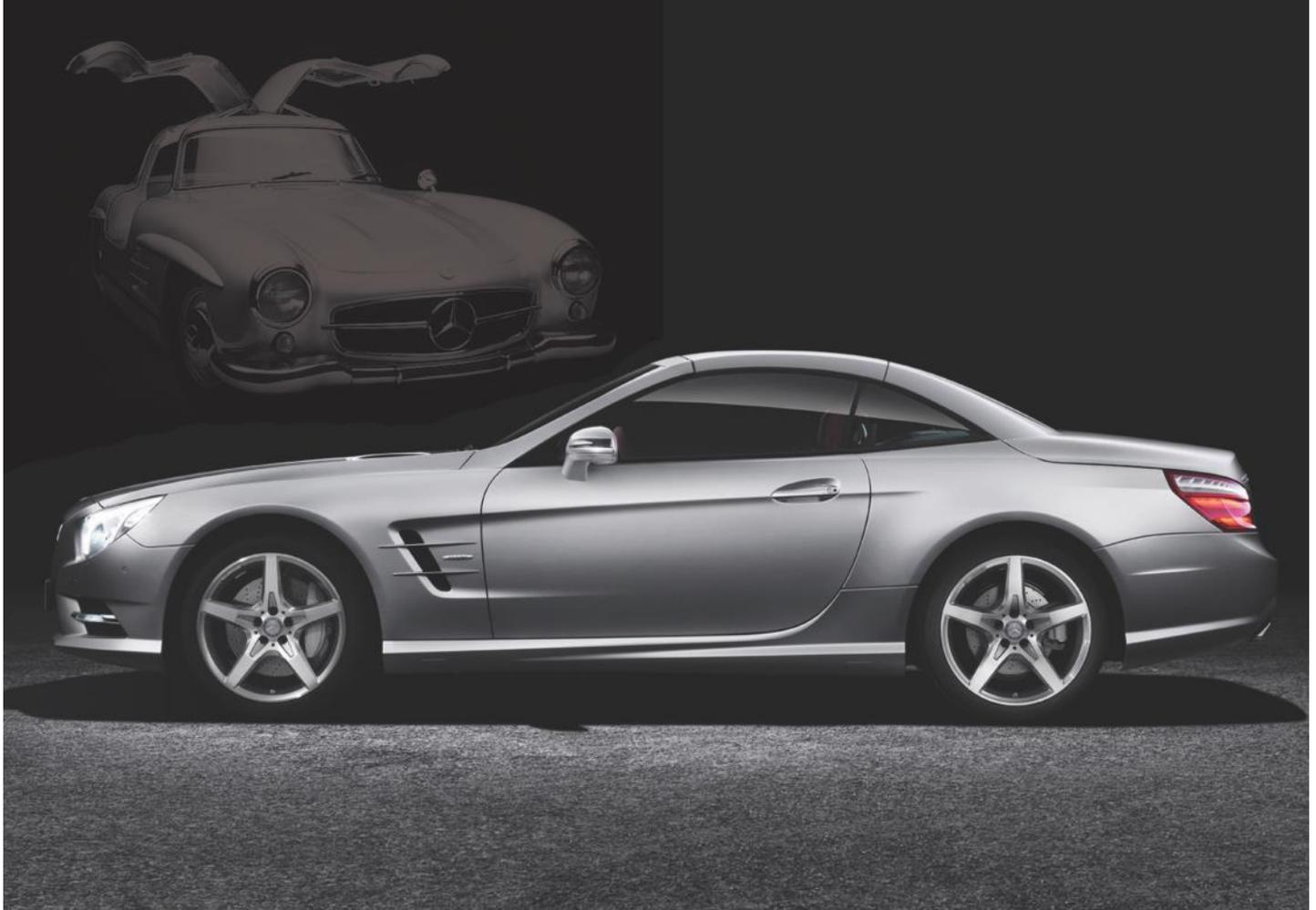
Our meeting concluded with our drawing for door prizes. Congratulations to Carol Fischer, the winner of the oil change certificate provided by MBOCK.



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Event Report

August Dinner Meeting

by Lisa Leatherock

Pete Brzycki, *Oklahoma Gazette* and OKCTalk.com publisher, was our speaker for our August Dinner Meeting that took place on the 20th at El Chico Café in Quail Springs Mall.

Pete, an Oklahoma City native, is the creator, owner, and operator of OKCTalk.com, a community news website and message board. Last year, OKCTalk.com merged with the *Oklahoma Gazette*, an art, entertainment, and news weekly paper.

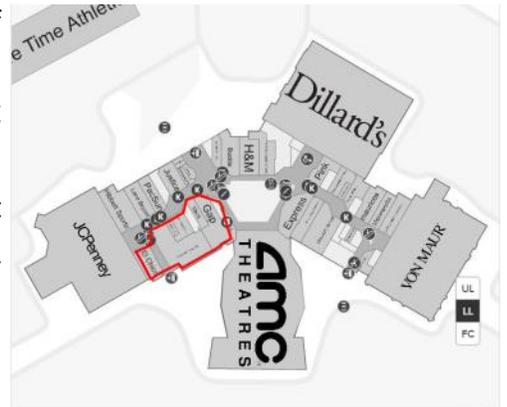


Pete Brzycki



Since our meeting was at Quail Springs Mall, Pete gave us the “scoop” on future developments for the mall. There are plans for a 43,000 square foot entertainment center called Round 1 to go in the lower level of the mall between JCPenney and AMC Theaters. Round 1 is a family entertainment center, similar to Dave &

Buster’s and Main Event, with bowling, arcade games, ping pong, darts, karaoke, billiards, etc. They will also have a restaurant and bar. El Chico Café and Shoe Dept Encore have already made preparations to relocate to other spaces in the mall.



You can pick up a free copy of the *Oklahoma Gazette* at numerous local restaurants, retail shops, and businesses. Be sure to check out OKCTalk.com, where you can keep informed on all that’s happening in Oklahoma City and the metro area. Registration to OKCTalk.com is free!

round1usa.com

OKCTalk.com

OKgazette.com



Tony Marruchella, Carol Fisher, John Stuemky & Jim Brand



Paul Rodesney, Jeff & Lisa Leatherock, Tena Highfill, Suzen Rodesney



Tom Whiteley & Ken Hoffman

Hey Siri-Where's the nearest Mercedes-Benz Dealership?

by Lance Highfill

One of the things Tena and I like to do when we are traveling is to locate the local Mercedes-Benz dealership and try and go by for a visit. Sometimes they have interesting cars and/or unique MB items that we haven't seen before. This past July we were on the island of Maui and asked Siri where the nearest MB dealership was located. Sure enough there is one on the island (unlike Kauai where there isn't a local MB dealer – just FYI there isn't one in Amarillo, TX either, but that's another story). As luck would have it, we weren't very



far from the dealership, so we ran by to take a look. As you can see from the pictures, it was a very nice dealership, built to the current Mercedes-Benz specs. We estimate they had about 40 new cars, which was more than we expected for a relatively small dealership on an island. We met the Parts Manager, Rodney, and he even stayed late to help us make a few purchases from their boutique. In fact, after we arrived home, I decided to purchase some additional items, so we contacted Rodney and he shipped the items to us quickly.

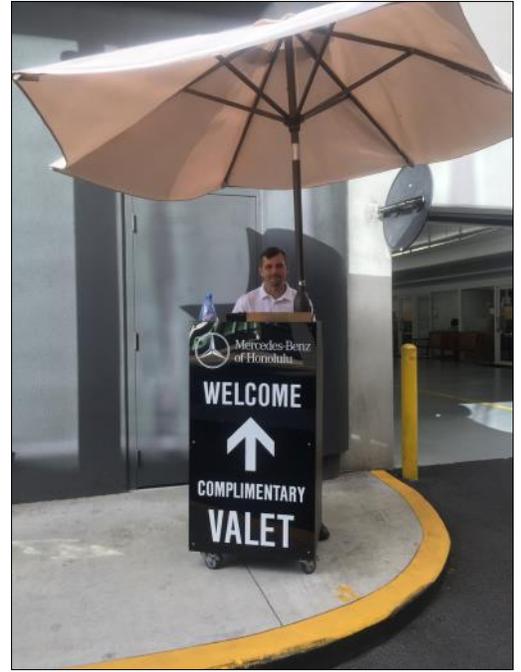
After our week on Maui, we headed to Oahu. As we had visited this island many times before, we knew there was a Mercedes-Benz dealership located in Honolulu. It's in the Waikiki area and is unique as there is no visitor parking at the dealership. As one might expect, land in Waikiki is limited and



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expensive, so the dealership is run out of a three-story building with very little land around the outside. You go down a drive between two buildings and pull into the dealership and they valet your car (see picture of the Valet stand). The new and used cars are kept inside the building, which makes shopping for a car a pleasant experience. Not the same set up we have in OKC, with a dealership of several acres with plenty of available parking. It's always fun to visit the various dealerships. They have always been welcoming and most will let you take advantage of your Mercedes-Benz Club of America discount for items purchased in their boutique. You get a lot of comments when you put a Mercedes-Benz of Honolulu license plate frame on your car in Oklahoma!



2019 National Elections

The five candidates that have filed for the three Director at Large positions that will be filled are:

Joe Grattan, Northern New Jersey

Gene Jurick, North Texas

James Roberts, Alabama

Steve Ross, San Diego

Charles Woods, Central Oklahoma

The ballot will also include a change to the By-Laws regarding the office of National President and Director at Large positions.

Check your email for your ballot arriving around September 3, 2019. Voting cut-off is October 15, 2019, 11:59 pm MT. Those without an email address will receive a paper ballot in the mail. If you do not receive your ballot, please contact the MBCA, National Business Office at (800) 637-2360.

For further information, see the Sep/Oct 2019 issue of *The Star*, page 84 or visit mbca.org.

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Event Report

Club Member Gains New Skill

by Kris Sawyer

The long endless hall was deserted and quiet. My husband, Ed Sawyer, was strolling alone in the Fort Worth Marriott Hotel. Unexpectedly, he was confronted by a gentleman entering the hall from the restaurant.

Realizing that the hall was deserted and that my husband was alone, the man asked, "Where's your wife?"

Without hesitation, Ed replied, "Oh, she's in the conference room discussing the ooo's and ahhh's, and the eek, eek, eek."

The inquisitive man's reply was, "Oh yes, that's the judge's training session!"

Both men were attending the 1st Red River Concours d' Elegance, a Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) South Central Region car show. It was arranged jointly by the Central Oklahoma and North Texas sections. And just how, you may ask, did I become involved in such an event and find myself sitting in a judge's training session?

Last January, I read in the *Sooner Star News* that volunteer judges were needed to help with a new event known as the Red River Concours d' Elegance in Fort Worth, Texas. I'm always eager to increase my knowledge about a car that my husband and I bought 51 years ago. My mind was still absorbing the many things I learned at the technical session conducted by Pierre Hedary last September in Jeff Leatherock's Hammer & Dolly auto body repair shop. The Fort Worth event sounded like a great opportunity to expand my knowledge base about cars very similar to mine! I hurriedly emailed Charles Woods to request an opportunity to be a judge in the Concours.

At first, I was concerned that no other ladies had volunteered to be a judge, but I keep a quote by Edith Head, Hollywood costume designer, on my refrigerator. She said, "You can do anything in life that you want IF you dress for it." As I began investigating rules for other car shows, I started thinking, "What does a lady judge wear?" Fortunately, that concern evaporated when a list was circulated to all judges that dictated clothing requirements for the show.

At the training session, I not only met Pete Lesler, MBCA National Concours Committee Chair; but I also met another lady judge, Pete's wife, Josie. The training session got off to a slow start due to technical/digital problems with the briefing. Pete guided all the judges through various score sheets, and he stressed certain guidelines for awarding extra points.



Kris Sawyer & Josie Lesler

Then, a recess was called due to some judges' participation in driving their personal cars in a special event around the Texas Motor Speedway racetrack. Following the afternoon break, the judge's training session resumed in the evening. All trainees, under Pete's guidance, re-convened outside the Marriott lobby for a real hands-on session looking at real cars!



Pete Lesler

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All too soon, the morning for judging arrived. Pete assigned me to judge car interiors. Teams were created to judge 3 other parts of the car which pertained to exteriors, safety items, and coachwork. Ed Hoag, a former Central Oklahoma section member and current Lone Star section member, was assigned to work as my partner. Because judges are not allowed to touch interior parts, I quickly learned to call the owner out by name, which was shown on the owner's entry sheet displayed on each car's windshield.



Ed Hoag & Kris Sawyer

Many MBCA members sat under nearby shade trees on the grassy knoll trying to stay cool in the hot Texas heat. If a particular car owner was not present, a designated co-owner or friend would step forward. Judges can require assistance to open the glove compartments and trunks. Deduction points are taken for the absence of owner's manuals or tool kits. First aid kits, which were included with the 1970's models must be present also. The spare tire in the tire well must match all other 4 tires on the car. And preferably, they should be one of two highly recognized brands.

Interior judges concentrate of the condition of the dash, steering wheel, upholstery, headliners, sun-visors, and all visible parts of the car, as well as the car's trunk interior. Owners are asked to remove all custom-tailored floor mats so that original carpeting may be judged. The odometer should reflect the proper mileage that the owner claims on the entry sheet. For this show, bonus points were awarded for higher mileage readings.

Despite extra involvement as a judge versus a passer-by casually looking at cars, I really enjoyed my time better being a judge. You might ask, "Would you do it again?" My answer, "Yes!" And I invite other "Ladies of Mercedes" to do the same. I had a fun time attending my first regional MBCA car show, and I did it as a Judge!





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Please contact any Section Officer or Director (see page 16) for more information or to place your ad.

Photos and articles for the *Sooner Star News* are welcome and appreciated. Please submit to leatherock@att.net.
Editor reserves the right to edit, change, or omit articles for content and style.

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Car Shows & Events around Oklahoma

Sep 15

16th Annual South Tulsa Car Show & Food Drive, South Tulsa Baptist Church 10310 S Sheridan Rd, Tulsa
southtulsa.org/car-show

Sep 21

Firelake Casino 15th Annual Car Show, Shawnee
firelakecasino.com

Sep 28

Oklahoma Built and Branded Car Show, Historic Downtown Guthrie (Oklahoma, First and Harrison Street)
oklahomabornandbranded.com

Oct 12

Cool Autumn Nights Car Show, Incredible Pizza, 5833 NW Expressway, Warr Acres
okmustangclub.com/event_calendar/car-show-cool-autumn-nights

Oct 17-19

Chickasha Auto Swap Meet, 712 E Choctaw Ave, Chickasha
chickashaautoswapmeet.com

Welcome New Members!
Thank you Membership Renewals!

New Members

Denise Berry, Oklahoma City

Max McTeer, Oklahoma City

Membership Renewals

L Christensen, 1998

Clayton Collum, 2014

Tom Douglass, 2017

Juan Franco, 2010

Sue Greenfield, 2010

Lance & Tena Highfill, 2006

Deborah Orr, 2013

Ed & Kris Sawyer, 2014

Andrew Scheidemantel, 2018

Bobbye & Brooke Van Horn, 1994

Ed Vineyard, 2018

Ken Wells & Carolyn Bullard, 2005

Anna Belle Wiedemann, 2014

Pete & Mary Williams, 1999

Do you need a MBCA name badge?

Here's the link to order one

www.mbca.org/name-badge

Mercedes-Benz Club of America

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