



SOONER STAR NEWS

President's Message



After a long and cold winter, springtime has finally arrived! And, if it's springtime, that means our Spring Car Show is not far behind. New for this year are, a new venue and a new awards banquet location. Our show will be at the Chesapeake Boathouse in the OKC Boathouse District. What a great location for our car show as the vehicles will be displayed with the Oklahoma River as a beautiful backdrop. If you've not been to this fabulous feature in

our city, this is a great opportunity to see this district's transformation into one of Oklahoma City's jewels.

The awards banquet will be held at the brand new and nearby Embassy Suites Hotel in the OU Medical Center district at 741 N. Phillips. The dinner will be white tablecloth table service. More information about registration is in the newsletter but be sure to register early!

I encourage each Member to take part in this event. We need your car to be a part of the show. We will have judged classes competing for beautiful artwork trophies by Blue Sage Art, display classes for those who wish to display but not be judged and will be inspecting for the Silver Start Preservation Award (for unrestored classics 25 years old and older. Contact me for details). WE NEED YOUR CAR!

This year's supported organization is the Central & Western Oklahoma Region of the American Red Cross. Please join your fellow Members at the banquet to take part in the silent and live auctions to be a part of our effort to raise funds for the important work of the Red Cross. The Red Cross stands ready to help all who may need their help and as the spring storm season approaches, that need could be any of us.

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 (and be sure to "Like" them) and other Section news is posted there too.

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

SPRING CAR SHOW

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Friday, May 15th's Registration Reception will be held at the Embassy Suites Oklahoma City Downtown/Medical Center, 741 North Phillips Avenue, Oklahoma City, 73104.

The May 16th Car Show Registration Fee of **\$30.00** includes entry of ONE Jaguar or entry of ONE Mercedes-Benz vehicle to the show, car show packet, and a souvenir photograph of your registered vehicle. Additional vehicles may be registered in the show for **\$25.00** each. A Registration Form will be emailed to you soon, this must be printed and mailed in to be used for pre-registration and to avoid any late fees.

Saturday Night's Awards Dinner will be held at the Embassy Suites, in Downtown Oklahoma City. Cost for the dinner will be **\$50.00** per person. Dress is casual. Cocktails will be available in the Hotel bar area and in the Banquet room prior to the Awards Dinner at 6:00 p.m. **Dinner will be served shortly after.**

The Show Venue – The Chesapeake Boat House Lawn by the Oklahoma River

'The Boathouse Lawn' is located near Bricktown at 725 South Lincoln Blvd. Like previous years, we will combine the Jaguar and Mercedes-Benz Clubs for the show.

All day Friday and Saturday morning, the Dealership has arranged for a great car wash at its new automated facility just west of the dealer service area. Registration will be at the Embassy Suites on Friday evening and at the "Show Site" on Saturday morning (9:00 to 10:00 a.m.).

Come stay at the Embassy Suites and enjoy easy access to the Historic Bricktown area and a myriad of dining and entertainment venues. While in Bricktown don't miss the opportunity to cruise the canal in Bricktown's very own riverboats, take a Water Taxi cruise, or visit the Bass Pro Shop. While downtown, you might plan to visit the Oklahoma City Museum of Art or the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

DONATIONS OF AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED FOR CAR SHOW CHARITY FUND-RAISER

On Saturday, May 16th, your Club and the Jaguar Club are holding the Annual Concours/Car Show at a new location. This year the Show is moving to the Chesapeake Boathouse area, by the Oklahoma River.

Though it is always a fun opportunity to show off our cars, another purpose of this annual Event is to benefit a Charity. This year the Clubs have selected the Oklahoma City chapter of The American Red Cross.

Now is the time to register by printing out the form on page ____ and mailing it to the address show on the form. There are three great activities to sign up for:

1. A Friday evening Devon Boat Cruise (with eats) on the Oklahoma River.
2. The Saturday Concours/Car Show on the lawn by the Boathouse.
3. The Awards and Auction Banquet at the new Embassy Suites in the nearby Medical Research District.

A block of Rooms at reduced prices have been reserved at the Embassy Suites for those wishing to stay downtown to enjoy all of these activities located nearby.

Quality donations for the "Silent Auction" part of the Banquet are needed. The most popular items are "car oriented" and should be much better than a "garage sale item". If you have something to contribute, please call Ed Hoag (405-341-3578) by no later than May 8th. A pickup can be arranged for your convenience.

Obtaining corporate donations continues to be very difficult, so please give some serious thought to helping out with donating a good quality item for the auction.

Save these two great dates and register now: May 15th for the Boat Ride and May 16th for the Concours/Car Show and the Saturday evening Awards Banquet.

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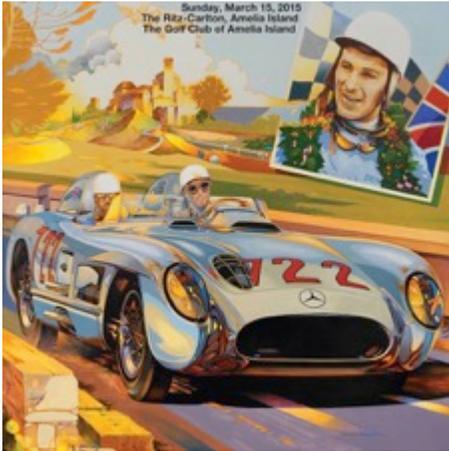
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My Weekend at Amelia Island

By Charles Woods



Each spring, during the second weekend in March, the Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island hosts a celebration of spectacular automobiles at the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. This year's event was the twentieth anniversary, and over 32,000 people attended to admire 315 beautiful automobiles and motorcycles.

Mercedes-Benz, the Concours' founding sponsor, highlighted the event with priceless specimens from their museum collection in Stuttgart, including the legendary 300 SLR that won the Mille Miglia in 1955, setting a record that hasn't been beat since.

In 2013, the Amelia Island Concours Committee initiated a new event, **Cars & Coffee at the Concours sponsored by Heacock Classic Car Insurance**. The Concours Committee invites a select number of clubs, including the MBCA, the Jag Club, the Porsche Club and the Corvette Club to participate with a limited number of entries. For this year's Cars & Coffee, the Committee and MBCA chose an all SL display of 40 SLs from every vintage. Our Section was privileged to have two SLs invited. Over 200 applications were submitted and along with Paul Rodesney's 2007 SL550, my 1986 560SL was invited to be among the 40 SLs selected by the Concours Committee.

Being invited to be among this small, select group of SLs was quite an honor, but my SL is 29 years old and Amelia Island is 1500 miles away. What to do? Naturally, I chose to drive the SL to Amelia. Over the years, I've invested a considerable amount of time and effort maintaining the SL's appearance but she's no garage queen as I've also invested in keeping all the mechanicals current. So I was very confident she would handle the 3000 mile round trip.

The Saturday prior to the event, Masood Khan graciously gave his time as he and I spent the day detailing the SL in preparation for the trip. So, the following Tuesday, along with my best and faithful friend (my bichon, Boomer), we headed east, choosing the I-10 route. We stopped in Denton, TX, to overnight at my daughter's home and connected to I-10 via I-20/I-49 arriving in Jacksonville, Thursday night. Friday was prep day. The pre-trip detailing certainly paid off. Despite two days on the road, after a hand wash, some quick-detailer along with a few other touches, the SL was ready.



My weekend at Amelia-Island continued...

Saturday morning at 7:15, the invited vehicles were led onto the 18th fairway of the Ritz Carlton Golf Club. The drive onto the fairway and being guided into place in front of the Mercedes-Benz VIP tent was quite a moment. The field of SLs included a magnificent 300SL Gullwing just back from a total restoration in Germany (and would take a similar spot the next day at the Concours), a beautiful 190SL a number of 113 Pagodas, including a stunning red 280SL fresh from its rotisserie restoration, five 107s along with 129s, 230s and 231s. This event was open to the public and, not only was it quite well attended; the visitors were very inquisitive, asking numerous questions. Our friends, Fred and Elisabeth Smits, traveling around the world in their 220S were in Daytona and heard there was a Cars & Coffee at Amelia. They drove up thinking it was a typical cars and coffee only to learn it was an invitational only event restricted to SLs. The Concours Committee Chair, Brian Weber, made their 220S an honorary SL for the day and graciously invited them onto the field.



From 9:00 to 1:00, these 40 SLs occupied the green that the big boy high dollar machines would be displayed the following day. It was an exciting time and a unique time for me. The fairway exit was special too as the exit way was lined with spectators waving us off the fairway. My SL will never get that kind of attention again. Pretty sweet!



First Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Sold In America Recognized As U.S. Automotive Heritage



On March 19, 2015 The Historic Vehicle Association announced that the 1954 Mercedes-Benz Type 300 SL (serial number 198 040 4500003) will be recorded under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Heritage Documentation. The documentation will be part of the HVA's National Historic Vehicle Register and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) that is permanently archived in the U.S. Library of

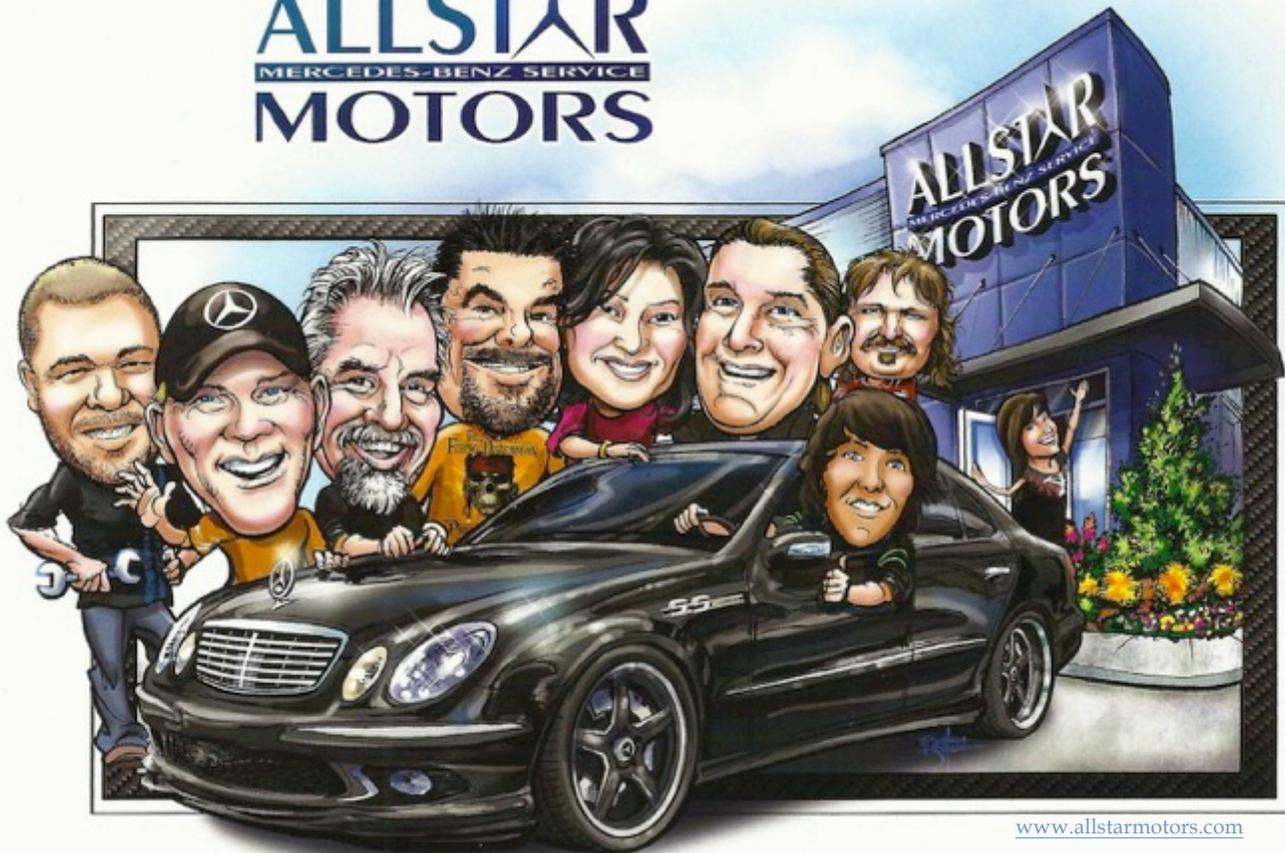
Congress.

As one of the most significant Mercedes-Benz 300 SL models, this vehicle was honored during the annual Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance. According to factory records, 198 040 4500003 was the first 300 SL to be produced and was the first 300 SL sold in the United States. This car was exported to U.S. Mercedes-Benz distributor Max Hoffman and purchased by Briggs Cunningham, an influential American sportsman and businessman who raced automobiles and yachts.

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2015 StarTech 2015 is in Cincinnati Ohio the weekend of June 12-14th 2015!
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cincinnati Airport is the official hotel for event space and lodging, it is located in Northern Kentucky, at the airport. For more information and hotel reservations, please visit the MBCA StarTech webpage. <http://startech2015.mbca.org>



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Calendar of Events 2015

- April 4th; Coffee & Cars
- April 11th; Board of Director's meeting
- April 21st; Member's monthly dinner meeting
@ Hensley's Top Shelf Grill, 1551
Garth Brooks Blvd. Yukon.
(405) 265-4076.
- April 25th; Saturday Drive to Fort Sill, OK
- May 16th; Concours on the River, COJA &
MBCA joint Car Show at Oklahoma
River.
- June 13th; Picnic at Hafer Park, Edmond,
10:00am onwards.
- July 21st; Member's monthly dinner meeting
@ Grand House, 2701 N. Classen
Blvd. OKC.
(405) 524-7333.

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Editor: Masood Khan
Asst. Editors: Bill Nash & Ed Hoag

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Editor's Note

"One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star." Friedrich Nietzsche

Past few weeks have been very chaotic in my life and in our Section's life (if Sections have life). The Spring Car Show this year has caused a lot of stress on the Section leadership as this year's show we are walking in an unknown territory. It is not just the venue that is new, but almost every aspect of the show has a new twist. It is highly encouraged that all of our Members participate in this year's Car Show. If you have a car you want to show, please bring it, if you have a donation item, please pledge it, or come see the show, attend the awards dinner, bid on the charity auction items and make this Car Show a big success.

Masood Khan



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Don G. Pope & Associates, P.C.



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Mercedes-Benz C Class named the 2016 World Car of the year



The **Mercedes-Benz C-Class** was officially named the 2016 World Car of the Year today during the New York Auto Show.

It edged past the Ford Mustang and the Volkswagen Passat to take the award, marking the first time in three years that a product from the Volkswagen Group didn't get the award. The W205 C-Class is considerably larger than the W204 generation and is available with either a turbocharged four-cylinder or six-cylinder engine in the U.S. market. From: AutoGuide.com news.

Mercedes-Benz opens a new R&D Facility in China



Times are changing, it's not USA but China that is the focus of every automaker and Mercedes-Benz is not far behind. Mercedes-Benz recently opened a \$122 million state of the art Research & Development Center in Beijing, China. Part of the R&D Center is a \$14.3 million bespoke Advanced Design Center employing 350 people. Interesting to note the design center in Japan was shut down and most of the staff was moved to Beijing, also head of the California design center Hubert Lee was appointed the head of the new Beijing Design Center. It is said the designers in Beijing Design Center have more liberty in designing/dreaming than their counterparts in California.



Akila Berjaoui's 1969 Mercedes-Benz 250CE



Akila an internationally recognized photographer from Sydney, Australia is in love with classic Mercedes-Benz automobiles. She finds Mercedes-Benz very "sexy" and says, "Who doesn't love them?" Though her favorite cars are the "sleek and chic" vintage SL, she currently drives a 1969 250CE. She particularly loves the crafted interior of her car and the smell of "old school leather".

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Central Oklahoma Section Officers & Directors

Regional Director South Central Region: Gene Jurick, gjurick@tx.rr.com

Directors

Tom Davis	(405) 340-0993
Bobbye Van Horn	(405) 340-5919
Jeff Leatherock	(405) 943-9795
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Paul Rodesney	(405) 620-0124
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Officers Central Oklahoma Section

President:	Charles Woods	(405) 359-2821
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