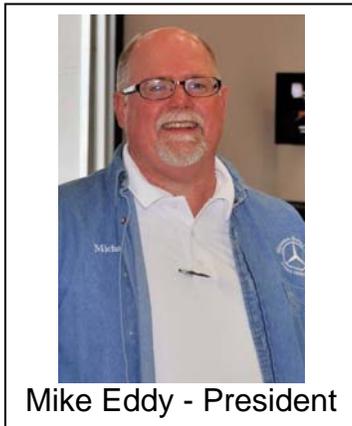




**EASTERN OKLAHOMA SECTION  
OF THE  
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA**

**TULSA STAR NEWS  
August - September 2015**



Mike Eddy - President

Greetings Fellow Motorists.

Welcome to that most wonderful time of year, SUMMER. It's hot and typical Oklahoma weather. At least the wind comes whipping down the plains..... OKKKLaaahoma..... Sorry, can't help but start singing old show tunes. I don't care for hot weather; being an Okie born in July, when it's hot and humid. It is still hard to get used to, and then I go and change my profession to Culinary Arts. If you think it's hot in Oklahoma, try working in a Kitchen.

Ron Hardage informed us that the summer tour has been cancelled. Summer tours are so hard to predict thanks to that hot Oklahoma weather and folks already having vacation or other plans. Thank you Ron and Jean for planning it. We appreciate your efforts for this adventure and we look forward to the next Fall tour.

We had a good turn out at our July meeting at Tres Amigos. The food was great and the fellowship was wonderful as always. Thank you to the Edmond folks and to Walt, our Kansas member, for traveling to spend the evening with us. It was also very nice to have Bruce Smith in attendance.

Ben and Sharon Cunningham were absent from the July meeting because they were out of the country celebrating 50 years of marriage and renewing their vows with their family present. Congratulations Ben and Sharon, and many more years. Thanks for the Cuban cigars.

Some of you may not be at our next meeting because you're on vacation or summer breaks. We wish you safe travels, but you will be missed. Each one of you is an important part of our Club. We may have to set aside some time at a future meeting for you vacationers and travelers to tell us about your trips.

August is a busy time with school starting; August 13th in Owasso. We still have some more hot weather to endure, but hang in there because September isn't far away and should provide some relief.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Mimi's on August 20th. Ben (and Sharon) will not be at our August meeting, so please rsvp for the meeting by emailing Paula at [hopes2reality@yahoo.com](mailto:hopes2reality@yahoo.com) or call her at 918-833-1137.

I hope everyone has a great summer, safe journeys and we see each other real soon. If you have any suggestions or comments, be sure to email Ben or myself. This is our Club. Please volunteer any way you can.

May God bless you and the United States of America....

Michael

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# Eastern Oklahoma MBCA Profiles

by John Kushnerick

This is our fourth edition with Profiles of one long standing member and one recent new member. It is our hope that this encourages everyone to get to know our fellow members. We all need to realize it takes a long time and many experiences to get to know someone. These articles and all of the club activities are intended as opportunities to make long term friends.

## John Mueller, Tulsa OK



John was born in Buffalo, New York and spent his youth in Philadelphia suburbs and Princeton NJ, then off to college in Denver. The first car John purchased was a 1971 Volkswagen Karmann Ghia right off the showroom floor in Englewood, Colorado for \$3000. The little buggy was easy to drive and easy to repair. John learned to fix and service everything from oil changes and belt replacements to some major fixes, even rebuilding the motor, in the 17 years he owned the car. It was this experience with German engineering and his mechanical ability that led him to the purchase of his first Mercedes-Benz.

### My first Mercedes

In March of 2005, John was looking for something more economical than his Toyota Tundra pickup. One thought was a Toyota Corolla. John tells me that he saw a white '93 190E 2.3 for sale. "It took me a bit to get over the initial intimidation factor of the hood ornament." He knew the car was well built, had a good reputation, great to look at, and if he could use his mechanical skills to service it, he would be sold. The car was being offered by a young man who told him it was his "grandmother's car". John offered him \$5000 and the car was his.

After his purchase, he took the car to Sid Overturf at Benzin Motors for service. Sid gave John a membership brochure for the MBCA. "My first meeting was at the home of Bruce Smith, and Hans Schmidt gave a fascinating biography of his experiences with Mercedes Benz in Germany and the USA." John felt he could learn from the members of the club on how to service and repair his vehicle. The technical knowledge of the members was what attracted him to MBCA.

John has used Benzin Motors and considers Denny Holdin a friend and technical advisor. He would need this guidance for his next project. Three years ago John purchased a 1999 C230 Kompressor from a neighbor down the street. It had been sitting a driveway for a couple years and had been "rode hard and put away wet." The car needed several major fixes

including seats, headliner, windshield, wiper motor mechanism; door panels....you name it. With his willingness to work,

mechanical mind, frugal wallet, and a wrecked car found at LKQ salvage, John has been able to transform the C230 to a respectable clean daily driver. Like a shopper who goes to a garage sale and finds treasure, John has gone to LKQ and found treasure in used parts that have no value to the average Mercedes driver but to John are gems. Imagine finding and buying a pair of front leather seats, fully electric, for \$50?



### Interesting facts

John was a world traveler in his early twenty's. He once traveled to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Tonga over a span of 13 months before returning to Golden, Colorado where he later graduated from the Colorado School of Mines. It was in Denver soon after that he met Sally. They'll celebrate their 28<sup>th</sup> anniversary this September.

John helped pay for his college as caretaker for Bill Coors of the Coors beer family, at the family's mountain home west of Golden. Not a bad gig for a young college student.

Before finishing his degree, John worked in the open pit Climax Mine near Leadville, Colorado, and drove a UNIT RIG off-road mining truck that could haul 120 tons. The cab was 15 foot off the ground, had tires 8 foot tall, and weighted about 70 tons unloaded. UNIT RIG, later bought by TEREX, used to build these massive vehicles here in Tulsa. Interestingly, the Arkansas River starts as a creek high up on the same mountain range and less than a mile from that open pit mine. If there is a message John has to others for club membership is "Join the fun". John and Sally love the club members and the monthly dinners. They can't always get to the meetings but expect that with both their children off to college this August, they hope to free up some time from their schedules. John would love to have more time to participate in the drives organized by Ron and Jean Hardage.

Dream Car?

## Dr. Darwin Childs DO

Tulsa OK



Darwin Childs was born and raised in Tulsa. He tells me "I am white trash from Berryhill, I grew up on the west side of Tulsa". This young man may have been from the west side but went on to gain a Doctorate at Oklahoma State Medical Center, Interned in Chicago, spent three years as a resident in Iowa, and completed his fellowship in Cardiology at Tulane University in New Orleans. Today he is a Board Certified Cardiologist with Warren Clinic Tulsa specializing in Interventional Cardiology and Internal Medicine.

### My first Mercedes

"In 2002 I was driving my mother's Chevrolet Caprice...a boat of a car." One day he saw a used 1999 Mercedes Benz E430 at a dealership in Tulsa. "The dealership let me take a test drive without the salesman. I loved the way the car drove and felt." The car was Dessert Silver. Darwin drove the car from 25,000 miles all the way to 160,000 miles when he sold it this past January...about 13 years.



In January he purchased a 2012 Slate Blue Mercedes Benz CLS550. The car was built in the summer of 2012 and has

every available option. "Recently I drove the car on a long trip to Nashville and just loved the drive and comfort of the car." "I wanted my new car to have more power than the E Class and the CLS delivers."

### Interesting facts

Darwin is a very big OU football fan. How big you ask? Well He and his wife Dee have been to the Sugar, Rose, Cotton, Fiesta, and Orange Bowls. They have been to the Oregon game, Tallahassee, Notre Dame (twice), and been to every OU/Texas game in Dallas since 1996. He plans on traveling to Knoxville next month to see his Sooners take on the University of Tennessee Volunteers.

His dream car is his current CLS550. Darwin hopes to meet others in the club. He shares a desire to learn more about the history of the Mercedes Benz brand, go on some road trips, and to potentially test drive other club members Mercedes to get a feel for other models.

Doctor Childs welcome to the Eastern Oklahoma section of MBCA.

We will introduce two more members in the next newsletter.

### Miscellaneous Pictures



Ben and his Family in Puna Cana, Dominican Republic



July Meeting at Tres Amigos

## Our Facebook Page



Mike Eddy does a great job posting to our Face Book Page as well as the Jackie Cooper Page  
**We continue to see increased activity on our Facebook Page and encourage everyone to like our page as an easy way to keep updated on the club activities.**

**Please encourage your friends to like us on Facebook**

## Meeting Schedule

Thursday, August 20 2015

7:00 PM

**Mimi's Restaurant**

**8215 East 71st**

**Tulsa, Okla**

**918-254-6333**

Thursday Sept. 17, 2015

7:00 PM

**Spaghetti Warehouse**

**221 East Brady St**

**Tulsa, Okla**

**918-584-7363**



Jessica Root  
Assistant Administrator

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**Look for opportunities to Volunteer to help with the Eastern Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America**

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## Membership Information

### New Members

June

Robert Lorton  
Robert Thomas

July

Robert Poe  
Lynnette Scott

### Expired Membership

July

James Bender  
Michael Cowan

### Renewed Members

June

Rex Alexander  
Derek Bennett  
David Box  
Laurence Gaither  
Jeffery Goodloe  
Ronald Hardage  
Ronald Hersberger  
John Kushnerick  
Randall Lopez  
Mark Rosellini  
Peter Voth

July

Harold Chapman  
Linda Ferris  
Liliane Houten  
Fritz Winkler

The National office of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America has helped us set up a WEB site for our club. Below is a screen shot of the WEB Site.

We need someone to volunteer to be the WEB Master to work with the national office to get it populated with our activities and any other information that can be posted there.

The link is <http://easternok.mbc.org/>. Currently it is populated with generic information. Mike and I have attempted to find time to do this, but both of us have increased responsibilities lately and would appreciate some assistance. Contact Ben or Mike if you would like to help.

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America**  
Eastern Oklahoma Section

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The MBCA | International Stars Section Board Meeting is the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30 P.M. at the Crash Landing Restaurant. This is also a General Meeting where everyone (including non members) is welcome to attend.

The business meeting generally starts after we order dinner and concludes after the meal. You may order off the menu or enjoy the meeting without a meal. The food is great and the prices are very reasonable. Each person is responsible for the cost of their own food.

**Join the Club!**  
Dozens of reasons to join.  
About 20,000 reasons to stay.

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Event:  
Dual Section Tech Session  
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**918-369-2513**

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Newsletter Editor	
Marv Gregory	918-346-9653
William Hill	918-367-6283
Linda Hill	918-367-6283
Jim Sehl	918-254-7345

**Mercedes-Benz Club of America Membership Application**  
**Call National Office at 800-637-2360 to Join by Phone**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. National Business Office 1907 Lelaray Street Colorado Springs, CO 80909**

**Current MBCA members:  
Feel free to give this application to potential members!**