



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

**TULSA STAR NEWS
June - July 2017**



**John Kushnerick
President**

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We are more than a car club.

I know it sounds like a cliché, 'but it's true. After being a member for the past 3+ years, I've come to realize that the reason people come to our meetings, attend our events, or offer suggestions is because they care about doing things together with each other. The cars are important, but the friendship of the members is what keeps people coming back. We had 31 members attend the April meeting where Don East celebrated 40 years as a member of MBCA; that's over 40% of our membership. We had 19 people take the Route 66 tour, and 21 take the Taste of Italy drive to Krebs. I was excited to see the Sherrod's and the Vanderkooi's attend their first meeting on a Thursday and jump right on a tour two days later. They were welcomed and experienced the great people of the Eastern Oklahoma section.

Going forward we have a few events that can help you get more from you membership experience.

- June 8-11 we have the Tulsa Leake Auction. If you ever wanted to drive nostalgic automobiles, muscle cars, exotics, or custom pick-ups, then sign up as a driver for this event. The great benefit is that you get paid (or actually we get paid) to have fun. The section receives the hourly amount you work to go into our treasury to help support monthly door prizes, social events, and our Christmas party.
- The Oklahoma Mercedes Benz owner picnic is Saturday June 17 at Hafer Park in Edmond OK. The Central Oklahoma section hosts this annual event and it is a great opportunity to see all Mercedes models and meet owners from across the state.
- We are planning a western Barbeque for July with details to follow. The beat the heat "ice cream social" will be held in August at the home of Fritz and Anna Winkler.
- Ron and Jean Hardage have planned a September overnight tour to David Garber's Marlesgate Plantation and the Murray's Dinner Playhouse in Little Rock Arkansas.
- Member Ben Kehe is setting up a "behind the scene" tour of the Warren Theater with dinner at Oscars.
- Don't forget the Sunbeam Mercedes and Porsche car show in September. This is the only judging event for members seeking MBCA Preservation Class certification.

Thank you for letting me preside over this great section. I get energized when I see more people joining, participating and spreading the word. Feel free to contact me with suggestions and ideas

Share your passion.
Best Wishes

Eastern Oklahoma MBCA Profiles by John Kushnerick

Ken Parker
Tulsa OK

Ken was born in Warren Ohio. He met Susan in high school in Berea Ohio. They knew each other but never dated. Ken graduated in 1969 and Susan in 1970. A year or so later, Ken owned a small service station/ auto repair facility and Susan brought her car in for service. "She had her muffler tied up underneath the car with a pair of nylon pantyhose. The rest was history as the couple went on to be married two years later in 1973.

Ken and Susan were living and working in Michigan until 1991 when they were relocated to the Tulsa Oklahoma area by Allied Signal. After two years working at the Port of Catoosa, Ken decided to go to work for himself and started a technical services business that primarily did test programs and commuted back and forth to California. During this time he bought a small manufacturing business and continued to consult. "In 2014, I ended the consulting and a year later sold the manufacturing business ...and slipped quietly into the veils of retirement."



My first Mercedes Benz

Ken tells me his first Mercedes was a bright yellow 1973 Mercedes Benz 450sl with a black interior and top. "It was a very nice car...very comfortable, pretty good performance, pretty to look at and a nice driver." Ken found it when one of his customers was interested in one of his cars. "We horse traded my car and I got some cash to boot" Ken is a "car guy" and has owned over 100 cars in the past 50 years. He can only recall purchasing four cars brand new..."All of them because my wife wanted them." Ken says he has always had a love affair with sports cars. He has owned a bunch of them. "My first car was a black MGA. "I owned a bunch of MG's" Ken has also owned five Austin Healey's, a Rover 2000 GT, 1965 GTO, a number of big block Chevys, and a couple of nice hot rods. "Because I was in the repair business, I ran into a lot of nice cars. "I was single then and always buying and selling. Then with the test business, I was buying and selling test cars." Ken currently owns a Mercedes Benz S430 that he purchased in Palm Springs. "It was a one owner car with about 52,000 miles. "I needed it for a California test program and it had to have at least 50,000 miles on it". "It is probably the most comfortable car I have ever driven."

Ken's dream car is his current 2014 Porsche 911 4s Cabriolet that shares his 3 car garage. Ken joined the club after Susan hosted a Christmas party for her book club. "I met John Kushnerick that night and we got talking about the Porsche and he noticed the S class sitting in the garage. He sent me an application and I joined in late December."

Ken has been retired the past two years and is "living the dream". Having lived in a number of cities within the United States and being well traveled internationally, "I believe Tulsa Oklahoma to be one of the best-kept secrets in the USA".

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Our Face Book Page – Web Site <http://easternok.mbca.org>



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

Past Events

19 members, 9 cars, 3 states, 1 dog, and 56 years of happiness

On Saturday April 22, nineteen members got their “kicks on Route 66”. 2017 marks the 90th anniversary of the historic highway and Oklahoma offers the nation’s longest drivable stretch making its way past charming towns, roadside diners, and quirky attractions.

Our first stop on the historic Mother Road was the famous Blue Whale in Catoosa OK. This is one of the most recognizable roadside icons on Route 66. Built in 1972 by Hugh S Davis as an anniversary gift to his wife Zelta, the Blue Whale quickly evolved into a local summer hot spot and family travel destination.



Next up was Ed Galloway’s Totem pole park near Chelsea OK. The world’s largest totem pole is certainly impressive. The park was developed as a monument to the Native American. The centerpiece of the nine-acre park, the Totem Pole, rises from the back of an enormous turtle. The park also includes Galloway’s eleven-sided Fiddle House that houses his hand-carved Fiddle collection. The wood carved Fiddles are made from a vast array of different woods. The centerpiece is an inlaid wood Masterpiece of a castle made from 1933 individual wood pieces crafted in 1955.



We followed that up with a drive across the Prior Creek Bridge. This iconic single lane metal truss bridge is symbolic of the road that crossed much of the middle United States.



Off to Clanton's for lunch. Since 1927, Clanton's Café has been serving hungry travelers. The current café was opened in this Vinita location in 1947. Clanton's Café is synonymous with Route 66 and a necessary part of the Route 66 experience. Chicken fried steak and "calf fries" are their specialties. Quite a few members tried the specialty appetizer also known as "lamb fries", and "Rocky mountain oysters."



We started our afternoon session by driving through Afton Oklahoma. There we cruised past the "Afton Station" Packard garage and DX service station.

We drove through the Miami, Oklahoma Route 66 gateway and home to the historic Coleman theater. The Coleman theater opened on April 18, 1929 in Miami, Oklahoma. The Coleman is a beautiful beacon for tourists from around the world because of its historic Spanish Colonial Mission-style exterior, Louis XV interior, and its "Mighty Wurlitzer" pipe organ. We passed Waylan's Hamburgers, home to the famous "Ku-Ku burger".



On to our second state...Kansas. We drove through Galena, Kansas. There we encountered a restored Route 66 filling station. Our next stop was the historic rainbow bridge where we lined up the cars for shot with the bridge. In the historic mining town of Baxter Springs, we saw a couple of old trucks from the Disney movie "Cars".



Finally, we were off to "The Big R" BBQ restaurant in Joplin MO. This is where club members indulged on a variety of homemade pies.

As we were finishing up the pies, I remarked to my table that "this day marks the 39'th anniversary of my first date with my wife." Anna Winkler just smiled and said this was "Fritz and my 56'th wedding anniversary". We cheered and wished them many more.

Thank you Ron and Jean for organizing a great day.

Don East celebrates 40 years of MBCA membership

Thirty-one members and guests celebrated Don East's 40 years as a member of MBCA at the April 20, 2017 section meeting. Along with members, Gene Jurick, southeast Regional Director was attendance and shared his memories of membership with Don in the Orange County Ca section.

Ben Cunningham shared a PowerPoint presentation of the many cars seen my club members who attended a jam packed Classic Mercedes Day with visits to the BSA car show, the John Bowers Collection, the John Groendyke collection and the Frank Crump restoration garage.

We also welcomed new members Stephen and Kim Sherrod and Tim and Kitzie Vanderkooi.



Don and Barbara



Gene Jurick



Stephen and Kim Sherrod



Tim and Kitzie Vanderpool

A Taste of Italy, Saturday, May 20, 2017

On May 20th, A Taste of Italy drive to Krebs, OK through the local roads of Routes 64 and 69 featured a stop at Loveras, an authentic Italian Market followed by dining at Pete's Italian restaurant. We departed from Jackie Cooper at 2:00. Many purchased items such as sausages, meats or cheese at Loveras. We did not tour the Choc Beer factory but it is available for purchase at the Pete's restaurant.



Group at Pete's Place in Krebs, Okla



Loveras Market



Dinner at Pete's Place

Upcoming Events

Leake Car Auction

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday June 8, 9, 10, and 11



We have 7 members that have volunteered to work a total of 88 hours to raise funds for the club. **If anyone would like to help please call Ben Cunningham at 918-728-0139.**

I worked last year and got to drive 20 different automobiles. It was a lot of fun and interesting.

Saturday June 17, 2015



Eastern Oklahoma Section

OKLAHOMA MERCEDES BENZ OWNER PICNIC



Join us as we drive to Edmond OK on Saturday June 17, 2017 to attend a joint picnic with the Central Oklahoma section.

We will depart Jackie Cooper Mercedes Benz at 8:30pm and drive to Hafer Park in Edmond.

The event will be set up at 10:00am and lunch will be served at 11:30am. The caterer will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, chips, potato salad, and a dessert.

The cost is \$15 per person. Checks can be mailed to

MBCA Central Oklahoma Section, PO BOX 1518, Edmond, OK 73083-1518

You can bring a check but you must commit by the June 15, 2017 membership meeting so the caterer has a good count.

Hot as it was last year, this is a nice opportunity to meet with other Mercedes owners and who share your passion.

Tour Date September 23rd and 24th



MBCA Tulsa Section Potential Tour

As I mentioned in the March general meeting, we are working on setting up a two day tour to Little Rock, Arkansas. It will require a minimum of 16 participants to do this tour. The following is what we are planning, if there is enough interest in the tour.

Tour date: September 23rd and 24th.

- * Starting point will be Jackie Cooper's, on Sept 23rd, time to be determined.
- * Have lunch on the way to Little Rock, location to be determined.
- * Saturday evening, September 23rd, attend Murry's Dinner Playhouse for dinner and play, "The Sunshine Boys".
- * Sunday, September 24th, after breakfast, travel to Scott, Arkansas and the Marlesgate Plantation for tour of the mansion and lunch.
- * Hotel in Little Rock and cost yet to be determined, possibly Hampton Inn and Suites.

The costs for Murry's Dinner Playhouse and Marlesgate, tour and lunch, will be \$80 per person, hotel unknown but should be in the range of \$100 to \$125 plus taxes. Lunch on the 23rd will be order on your own from regular menu. All details will be provided at the June general meeting along with a sign up sheet.

Plan to join us on this tour. We'll have a great drive, see a good play, and tour a wonderful old plantation house. **Come along for good food and good fun!**

Meeting Schedule

Thursday June 15, 2017
6:30 PM Note Early Time

Tres Amigo's
8144 South Lewis
Tulsa, Okla

Saturday July 15, 2017
6:30 PM

Western Bar-B-Q
William and Linda Hill's Home
Bristow, Okla

Membership Information

New Members

April
Stephen Sherrod
Tim Vanderkooi

May
Dr Insung Kim

Expired Membership

May
Charlotte Luerssen
David McElvania
Joseph Miller
Steven Wood

Renewed Members

April
Bruce Bartovick

May
Jeffery Fischer
David Hinnant
Allen Horn
Paula Snider

Thanks for Renewing

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