



EASTERN OKLAHOMA SECTION
OF THE
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

TULSA STAR NEWS
Mar - Apr 2022



Brian Johnson
President

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Wow, what a great first few months I have had serving as Section President. Despite the challenges our Club has faced we have managed to plan a great 2022 of new activities and events. I look forward to what is in store for the Eastern Oklahoma Section in the coming months.

As I sit here writing this, I cannot help but think of our members and the future of our club. In missing our January meeting and now looking forward to our meeting at Teds this upcoming Thursday makes me appreciate our time together. On March 8 we have our Tech Session at Jackie Cooper Mercedes where we hope all our members will gather to listen to Brandon Bebout and explore the new Mercedes Benz all electric EQS sedan.

As we come into Spring, I see many events for the club that we have planned for our membership. I encourage you all to talk about our club if you see someone with a Mercedes Benz. That first conversation could very well lead to them joining our club. With that I would like to welcome our new members. Our first new member is Morgan Staffer. Morgan is a local Realtor, and he drives a 2005 E55 AMG that he takes immense pride in. Welcome Morgan. Morgan has also become a sponsor in our newsletter. (Side Note: He was my families Realtor). I would also like to welcome Glenna Pearce. Glenna joins us from Ada, and we are happy to welcome her to the club. Let us all make our new members feel welcome and continue to grow our club and our community. The club is operating without a membership chairperson. If you might have interest, please speak to any one of the officers listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Please stay tuned for more events as we are planning activities that we are sure our membership will appreciate.

Your Section President
Brian Johnson

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| March 8 | 6:00pm | Jackie Cooper Mercedes Benz Tech session |
| March 17 | 6:00pm | Monthly Gathering Waterfront Grill, Jenks |
| March 19 | 9:00am | Caffeine & Gasoline, 108'th & Memorial |
| April 9 | TBD | Casino Poker run with Ozark section |
| April 8-10 | 8 am - 9 pm | Tulsa Auto Show, Expo Square |
| April 21 | 6:00pm | Monthly Gathering, Siegi's Sausage factory |
| May 19 | 6:00pm | Monthly Gathering, Waterfront Grill, Jenks |
| June 4 | 11:00am | Oklahoma Mercedes Benz picnic, Edmond |
| June 7-8 | | Mecum Auction, drivers needed for Preshow staging, Tulsa Expo Square |
| June 25 | | Route 66 Roadfest Tulsa fairgrounds |

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Member (Ken Parker) finds car of his dreams



In a 2020 edition of the Flying Lady, the magazine of the Rolls-Royce Club of America, historian John Robison wrote . . .

There is a story behind every old car. You never know what you will discover, particularly when you chase down an old Rolls Royce. LSCX401 is a 1963 Silver Cloud saloon, built to US specification. and finished in Midnight Blue with Playne's Grey cloth upholstery. Some people refer to that as "West of England" cloth; whatever the name it was a rare departure from traditional leather.

The man who placed the order of this unique vehicle is James G. Carr. A lifelong resident of Wilmington, Delaware. In the summer of 1962 Carr turned 70. That was when he decided to do something special. By that time Carr had spent most of his adult life around American-made cars, and he wanted a change. Cadillac and Lincoln still set the standard for luxury in America, but Rolls-Royce of England stood on a pinnacle above. He decided to order a Silver Cloud. There were closer dealers, but he placed his order through Schaler and Waters of Indianapolis. John Schaler was a flamboyant guy, a larger-than-life personality recalled fifty years later by Greg Albers, from the present-day Indianapolis Bentley dealership.

(c) John Robison/RROC used with permission

Ken is the fourth owner since James Carr's original purchase. The car was shipped from Massachusetts to Tulsa via covered trailer in mid-February.

WHY A ROLLS ROYCE?

I really never knew much about Rolls Royce until I first saw the car on a 1963 TV show starring Gene Barry called Burke's Law. In that show, Barry starred as a very successful LA attorney, lived in a big, stone mansion and drove a silver Series III Rolls Royce. Because of all of those attributes, I immediately came to identify that automobile with the pinnacle of success and personal accomplishment.

Ever since first seeing that car, I looked for a Rolls - in the classified ads, car magazines and in Hemmings. I routinely communicated with Vantage Motors in Florida about the cars that they restored and sold, as well as shops in St. Louis, Missouri and Los Angeles, California, always trying to find a great RR at a reasonable price... something I never was able to do.

HOW MANY CARS HAVE YOU OWNED IN YOUR LIFE?

I THINK YOU TOLD ME ABOUT 70. Probably more than 100 ... but I also had an automotive testing business for twenty years.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS WITH THE CAR?

Having just received the car yesterday, I really haven't formulated a plan. Given its' history and the people who have owned the car for periods in their life since it was new, like no other car I have ever owned, this car's legacy seems to demand that any owner make a sacred pledge to maintain the car and its' history until transferring that responsibility to the next owner.

Since the car was purchased new, it seems to have been regarded by each owner as a self-given gift serving to celebrate each owner's life accomplishments. While I don't feel nearly as accomplished as its' previous owners, the car does serve to represent my last and greatest automobile built in a time when workmanship & crafted detail were much more highly valued than in today's world.



BENZIN MOTOR WORKS

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MY BENZ...



MY BIO...

I come from a Family full of Real Estate Professionals. This journey started for me only a few years ago when I decided to join the "Family Business" in real estate for myself.

I originally started a career in the service side of the Oil and Gas industry and was there for over 16 years. In that time, I have provided detail care and guidance to many customers and have worked hand in hand with the engineering team to provide excellent customer service for those who put their trust in me.

I have transitioned those skills into a successful career in Real Estate. My goal is to help each client that I work with by identifying their individual needs through the process of selling, buying, or investing in a home. By doing so I am able to make this intricate process stress free.

My goal is for each client experience to be a ten! With the support of my team and the value of the company I choose to work with, that goal is achieved in each family or business I help.

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Membership Information

New Members

- Glenna Pearce
- Morgan Swaffar

Expired Members

- Richard Toler
- Susan Marple
- Curtis Farrar

Renewed Members

- Garrett Russell
- Nathan Armer
- Joseph Connors

Thanks for Renewing



5 steps to bring your car out of storage for spring driving season

Kyle Smith

02 April 2021



No amount of lamp light will cure the car lover's seasonal affective disorder, suffered when the weather is too cold or the roads too salty for driving a classic. Luckily, spring is upon us, which means many of us are champing at the bit to get our cars out of storage and onto our favorite roads. If you haven't already, you're likely planning to go out to the garage soon in order to peel the car cover off and greet an old friend for a fresh season of cruising. Tempting as it might be to just turn the key and go, it's often wise to make sure everything is in order, so as to avoid any mechanical diversions from the next blissful day of weekend sunshine. These five steps should do the trick:

Clean and inspect

Even if your beloved ride has been living under a cover for the last few months, it could use a good cleaning before hitting the town. The best part about a good deep clean-up is that it gets you up close and in personal with your car. A basic walk-around tends to overlook a handful of areas, but going over the whole body with a microfiber or a clay bar will get you noticing a lot more than a passing glance would turn up. Keep a pad of paper handy while you do this and document your observations while you go over the car front to back, or snap some photos on your phone. This written status report or photo documentation can be a useful reference in future to better understand how components are wearing or aging.

If you have the ability, put the car up on a lift or jack stands and roll underneath for a quick peek at the undercarriage. Follow the brake lines from end to end, visually inspect the suspension, and look on the floor for evidence of leaks that might have popped up or gotten worse. Again, document what is happening and make note of elements that might need more careful monitoring as the driving season goes on. Any big changes you don't recognize should be addressed before leaving the garage.

While you're at it, take the time now to undo any traps or rodent deterrents you placed in the fall.

Gas, tires, oil

Start at the top or the bottom, but attend to these three things before the keys get near the ignition. Tire pressures likely changed over the storage season, so top up and inspect for dry rotting and general condition because tires are often “set it and forget” items for many owners despite being items that age and wear out. The four-number code on the side of tires [is easy to decipher](#) and can help keep you and your passengers safe while cruising. Blowouts are not fun.

You used [stabilizer](#) in the gas tank when you put the car into storage right?

Check the oil level and general condition. I typically recommend putting cars into storage with fresh oil, which makes bringing them out easy because it is a simple level check, top off any that’s missing, and good to go. If you want to go over the top and have decent DIY skills you can prime the oil system before first start. This is a fairly easy task on most engines but does require pulling the distributor along with a tool to spin the oil pump driveshaft.

Brakes

I’ve personally heard at least a few instances of someone firing up their pride and joy, dropping it into reverse and only realizing once rolling that their brakes were not ready for driving. It typically doesn’t end well. To prevent this, my favorite easy method (in addition to the visual inspection noted above) is the “hard/harder test.” Before starting the car, sit in the drivers seat and press on the brake pedal firmly—think of the pressure that is normal medium speed stop—and then release. Now press on the brake pedal harder—akin to the force of a panic stop—and hold it for 5-6 seconds. The pedal should remain rock solid. If there is any give or slow release of pressure there is a problem that needs addressing in your brake system. This test is designed to suss out problems that might not be visually apparent without disassembly: leaky wheel cylinders or soft brake lines, for example.

Take it slow ... by not moving at all

Finally, start the engine. Even if you ran it a few times through the winter, take this opportunity to do it with a careful eye. Let it idle up to running temp. This will give you time to oversee the engine as it warms up. Inspect for leaks, smoke, or any unusual noises. Address as needed.

Drive!

Get out of the garage and head out for a short drive, start with a lap or two around the neighborhood at low speed to just get a feel for the car again. Remember, old cars have old brakes and it might require a bit of mental readjustment after a winter behind the wheel of your modern daily driver. If anything feels out of the ordinary be sure to take a mental note (or a physical one—you still have that pad of paper handy right?) and either look into it at a stop or upon returning home, depending on the severity.

Happy driving season.



MECUM AUCTIONS IS COMING TO EXPO SQUARE AND THE CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP

We need volunteers to function as placement drivers for the set up and staging of the auction on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday June 7,8,and 9. Volunteers will shuttle the cars to either get photographed or straight to their assigned parking slot. You will be paid for the hours worked. In the past, drivers have donated the money back to our section treasury to help support our club activities. Shifts are from 8:00am-6:00pm.

If you ever wanted to drive a wide assortment of vintage, exotic, or classic muscle cars than this is your chance. Contact John Kushnerick via email at jkushnerick@cox.net or call 918 527-8121. We are limited to 5-6 drivers per day. Let me know ASAP so I can turn in schedule.



An F1 champion's beloved daily driver could bring \$3M+

Antony Ingram

If you've ever wondered what Fangio, one of the greatest-ever Formula 1 champions, drove on a daily basis, then the answer is this—a Mercedes 300 SL Roadster, and it is going under the hammer at the end of February.

The car in question is a Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Roadster, presented to Juan Manuel Fangio in 1958 as a retirement gift from Mercedes-Benz in celebration of his spectacular career.

While many such gifts might rattle around in a driver's personal collection for a while before being moved on, Fangio was apparently very fond of this 300 SL. He covered more than 70,000 km (43,000 miles) in it on tours of Europe and South America, both for personal use and in his role as an ambassador for the Mercedes brand.



RM Sotheby's/Tim Scott

Fangio campaigned numerous cars over the course of his career, but his association with Mercedes-Benz actually began before his successful 1954 Grand Prix season, when he became the official dealer for the brand in Buenos Aires.

Fangio took Formula 1 driver's championship titles in 1954 and 1955 with the spectacular supercharged Mercedes W196, also competing for Mercedes in the Mille Miglia, before moving to Ferrari in 1956 and back to Maserati in 1957. After his racing career ended in 1958, Fangio went back to selling cars—specifically Mercedes—and in 1974 was made president of Mercedes-Benz Argentina.

While it's a shame the car is now leaving the museum's care, the next owner will hopefully do it justice. The 300 SL Roadster is currently located in Switzerland and will be sold by RM Sotheby's between February 28 and March 4.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America Membership Application

Please call the National Office at 800-637-2360 to join by phone or go to www.mbca.org/ to join online.

Full Name: _____

Associate Member's Name (no extra charge): _____

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I hereby apply for membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

Date _____

(Signature) _____

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