



The Road Benz

The Newsletter from MBCA | Wichita

August 2023

Chartered in 1972

Wichita Section

President's Corner

Lee Elrick Jr., Section President



Happy Summer everyone! Did you know that McPherson College offers auto restoration courses over the summer? I, along with three other section members, attended a course as part of the

McPherson Summer Institute last month. It was a great course and I was impressed that there were participants from all over the US attending as well. McPherson College is really putting itself on the map. During the course I had the privilege to see the finishing touches on the 1953 Mercedes cabriolet which is headed to the 2023 Pebble Beach Concours. Some of you might have recently seen this car at the McPherson Car Show in May. I'm excited to see how the car is judged at Pebble Beach

Looking ahead we have some great events coming up for our section. I want to highlight our membership meeting and officer elections on August 12th. All officer positions are open so please consider running and taking on a leadership position in the club. If you have any questions at all about the officer positions, please don't hesitate to ask!

Lee

2023 Section Event Calendar

Aug 12th: Membership meeting & officer elections

Aug 19th: Wichita Cars and Coffee

Sep 16th: Wichita German Car Show

Sep 30th: The Garage Automotive Museum in Salina

Oct 14th: Oktoberfest Celebration at Prost

Oct 21st: Wichita Cars and Coffee

Nov 11th: TBD

Dec 9th: TBD

Jan 2024: Membership Meeting

Upcoming Section Events

Membership Meeting and Officer Elections

When: **Saturday, Aug 12th, 11:30AM to 2:30PM**

Where: **Firebirds Grill, 10096 E 13th St N, Wichita KS 67206**

It's time for our semi-annual membership meeting! Additionally, all the section officer positions are up for election. Come to this event and make your voice heard regarding our section's activities...and enjoy a nice lunch. Whether in a leadership role or an event support role, volunteers are the ones who keep this club going. Please consider running for an officer position

and make it a point to come to the membership meeting in August to participate in discussions about club activities. If you have any questions about running for an officer position or how you can help with the section, please send a message to mbca.wichita@aol.com and the current officers will be happy to contact you and answer your questions. Please RSVP for this event by sending a message to mbca.wichita@aol.com by Thursday, August 10th so we can get a head count for the restaurant.



Wichita Cars and Coffee

When: **Saturday, Aug 19th, 8AM to 11AM**

Where: **Braeburn Square, Wichita State University, 4521 E. 21st St N, Wichita KS 67208**

This monthly local car event location has changed, it will now take place at Braeburn Square on the WSU campus. We plan on meeting up there at 8AM so that we can all park close to each other. If there's enough interest, we can meet up for lunch afterwards.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section**2nd Annual Wichita Area German Car Show****When: Saturday, Sep 16th, 11AM to 2PM****Where: Wichita State Tech Campus, 4004 N. Webb Rd, Wichita KS 67226**

Last year our section participated in the first annual Wichita area all German car show and it was an excellent event with a wide variety of vehicles and outstanding weather. The show is jointly hosted by the Mercedes, Porsche, BMW, and Audi clubs. Over 200 cars participated last year, with a very good showing from Mercedes-Benz...but BMW won the award for most participating cars. Come out to this show and let's take that award away from those Beemer folks!



Recent Section Events**Poker Run, Saturday June 10th**

The Wichita section held its annual poker run on Saturday and had a great turn out with 8 cars and 14 club members and guests participating. The day started out very cloudy with threats of rain but cleared up as the day went by.

We met up at Il Primo coffee in the morning and after examining the route map and drawing a card, the group set out. Our first stop was a tank museum just north of Wichita. This was a complete surprise for all participants in that no one had heard of or been to this place. We got to see a very impressive international collection of armored vehicles from WW1, WW2, and the Cold War.



Following the tank visit we drew a second card and then headed north to Valley Center to grab lunch at a local burger joint, Big Larry's Burgers. The food was good and the service was excellent! Following lunch, we grabbed a third card and then took back roads up north to Newton to visit the Blue Sky Sculpture. We couldn't have asked for better weather to truly appreciate this large outdoor sculpture.

After picking a fourth card, we then headed back to Wichita for a final stop at our favorite German restaurant, Prost. With the fifth card in hand and frosty beverages on the table, everyone showed their cards! The top two hands won some prizes.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section**Cars and Coffee, Saturday Jun 17th**

The day started out very stormy and rainy and so there was a pretty low turnout from our section at Wichita's monthly Cars and Coffee event. Still, three members did come out and there were some other MB's out there as well. Afterwards, club members met up at Bricktown Brewery for lunch.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Section

Visit to Shift Auto Society, Saturday July 15th

The Wichita section gathered in downtown Wichita for a private tour of Shift Auto Society. Founder Rodney Horton showed everyone around this private auto club which offers vehicle storage, as well as a meeting and social space for members. Shift occupies an old car dealership building which creates a unique car storage space in the heart of the downtown area. There are two levels of car storage space and members also have access to lifts and a wash rack. It was a very impressive set up and Rodney enjoyed fielding multiple questions from section members. Here's [a link](#) if you're interested in finding out more about Shift.



Trip Report

The Great Race, Joplin, Missouri by Bob Poulseen



The Lowinger's and Poulseen's traveled to Joplin, MO on June 28 to watch the 2023 Great Race participants arrive. Joplin was the end of a day that began in Russellville, AR. With Joplin being an overnight stop, several blocks in the downtown area were designated "The Pits" where the racers were parked and everyone had an opportunity to look at the cars while they cooled down. This was an opportunity to talk to the driver/navigator teams as they were planning for any maintenance or repair items that needed to be performed. 1974 cars are the newest that can be entered and there is a sliding scale of points for the time and

distance competition, the older cars earning more "extra credit" based on their age.

Bob and Teresa Poulseen were able to meet with and introduce the Lowingers to a friend from Maine, Philip Reinhardt, who was the navigator of a 1931 REO "ELCO Royale". The REO is an open Indianapolis 500-style racer. When asked at the end of the day what the drive had been like, Philip described it as brutal. Philip is a graduate of the Automobile Restoration program at McPherson College, owns a business called Mechanical Arts in Tenants Harbor, Maine, and the REO is one of his customer's cars.



There are several classes for the competitors based on experience and success in the race plus a special X-Class for high school and college students. There were three competitors in the Motorcycle class. Racers come from all over the world to participate. Competitors from Finland racing an American LaFrance car had a large support/pit crew all wearing matching uniforms, styling themselves as the Wondering Troubadours of Finland (The true meaning of WTF!).

By the time the racers arrived in Joplin, they had experienced some challenging roads, heavy rain, and the heat of summer. And mechanical

breakdowns! 120+ had started in Florida and most were still running. One team had purchased a



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car on the road when their original car failed to proceed. They could say they finished the race in spite of the obstacles they faced.

For the complete story of the 2023 Great Race go to greatrace.com to read the blog detailing each day's drive with lots of images of the competitors.



National Club News

MERCEDES GRANDE

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA



Mercedes Grande
Save the Date!

September 7-10
Indianapolis, IN

<https://www.mercedesgrande.org>

in association with Artomobilia

The 2023 MERCEDES GRANDE in Indianapolis, Indiana is a celebration of all things Mercedes-Benz. Four days of Mercedes-Benz Culture, Causes, People, Lifestyle, Technology, and Cars Presented by the Mercedes Benz Club of America. Plan now to be a part of this exciting and extraordinary affair!



Section Membership News

Our section currently has **68 members**.

Here's a heartfelt thanks to all our renewing members since our last newsletter: **John Carnahan, Jeffrey Dale, Juvenal Jabel, Ronnie Stopfer, Charles Welsh, and Kevin White**. Thank you so much for your sustained membership.

Please continue to promote our club with other Mercedes owners so we can increase our numbers. If you meet someone who has specific questions about our club, please direct them to contact us at MBCA.Wichita@aol.com. If you have other ideas about how to improve our membership numbers, please don't hesitate to contact me (Kirk Filbey) at rkfilbey@gmail.com.

For our current members, please don't forget to renew your membership so you don't miss out on future events. Renewing members are the core part of our section.

Thank you all for your sustained membership and support of the club!



Happy Birthday to Veronica, she turned 50 on June 27th!

MBCA | Wichita Board

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