



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

**TULSA STAR NEWS
Mar - Apr 2024**

MBCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH/APRIL 2024



**Nathan Armer
President**

Thank you for your support of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America - Eastern Oklahoma Section. It is always a fun time to be around enthusiastic friends in our club. This common Mercedes-Benz interest is just part of our unity. We have fun, enjoyable experiences that we can share together. Good times make good memories. Let your friends know about our *groovy* club.

Lights! Camera! Action! The month of January found us with favorable weather and saw 20 of our members driving to one of our local television stations for a tour. KTUL Channel 8 is our local ABC affiliate. We have gotten to know several of the KTUL personnel through our past relationship supporting the Alzheimer's Association annual ALZ Walk to End Alzheimer's disease. KTUL is a supporter of the Alzheimer's Association effort to end this terrible disease. Luanne Stuart, KTUL Creative Services Director was our studio tour host. We were able to talk with Meteorologist Joie Bettenhausen and reporters CJ Macklin and Lauren Henry. We even observed part of the midday live television broadcast. It was an interesting and informative tour and drive to Lookout Mountain and the KTUL studio. Afterwards, the group drove to Arnold's Old-Fashioned Hamburgers in West Tulsa for lunch.

Thank you to John and Harriet Kushnerick for hosting our Chili Cook Off last month at their residence. It was a great event. This has begun to be an annual event for our club. Even if chili is not your "cup of tea" there are some delicious desserts, and the Mercedes-Benz enthusiast friends from our club make good company.

I invite you to look at the upcoming events calendar. We have some exciting drives planned along with some new restaurants to visit in the future. In addition, I urge you to support our proud sponsors listed in our newsletter and utilize their products and services.

Spring has arrived and we want everyone in our club to participate in our drives and gatherings. We want you to cherish these memories, but do not wait for them to happen. Now is the time. It is a wonderful time to drive. We continue to have great opportunities ahead for our club experiences that no Mercedes-Benz enthusiast should be without. Together, I am glad that we can be a part of those experiences.

Tell others about our club and invite them to join us! Thank you for your continued support and safe driving.

Sincerely,
Nathan

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Eastern Oklahoma Section Calander of Events

MARCH

Saturday, March 9	Meet & Great with Jaguar Club of Tulsa	9:00-1:00
	Meet at Jackie Cooper Mercedes Benz and drive to museum	9:15
	Lunch at Senor Pablo Mexican Restaurant, Sapulpa OK	noon
Thursday, March 21	March Member Gathering	6:00pm
	Charleston's Restaurant, Yale Ave Tulsa OK	

APRIL

Friday April 12-Sunday April 14	Tulsa Auto Show, SageNet Event center	
Saturday, April 13	Caffeine & Gasoline, Tulsa Auto show parking lot	9:00am
Thursday, April 18	April Gathering Uncle Julios Mexican 10333 East 71'st Street, Tulsa OK	6:00pm
Saturday, April 27	Drive to OSU Garden Center, Stillwater OK	TBD

MAY

Friday, May 3	Eastern Oklahoma Section Board meeting Jackie Cooper Infiniti training room	10:00am
Saturday May 11	Joint Poker Run with Ozark section Lunch at Yoders Amish farm, Choteau OK	TBD
Thursday May 16	May Gathering Waterfront Grill Jenks OK	6:00pm

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Our gift to you...Mercedes-Benz
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*This offer is for Mercedes-Benz vehicles of current MBCA Eastern Oklahoma Section members only. Must show MBCA Eastern Oklahoma Section membership card to receive 15% off parts and service at Jackie Cooper Imports. Offer is valid 3/1/2024 - 4/30/2024 only. No cash value. Excludes tires, alignment, and detail services. MBCA club discount returns to 10% off parts/service 5/1/2024.

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Behind the scenes visit to KTUL Channel 8

Twenty members enjoyed a drive to west Tulsa atop lookout mountain for a behind the scenes tour of ABC affiliate KTUL TV studios. Luanne Stuart , Promotions and Media Support Specialist served as our host. Our group chose a weekday tour date to view the production of the noon news broadcast. Members also were able to discuss the local weather with broadcast meteorologist Joie Bettenhausen and met reporters CJ Macklin and Lauren Henry.

It was amazing to see the control room, weather green screen, studio for the Good Morning Oklahoma broadcast, and all of the digital production cameras and equipment necessary to put on a local news broadcast. After the tour, members received a goody bag of KTUL Channel 8 promotional items.

For lunch, our group took the drive back down the mountain to Route 66 favorite “Arnold’s Old Fashioned Hamburger’s” where they dined on their famous cheeseburgers, onion rings, and milk shakes.





Member Profile

Tom Trotter



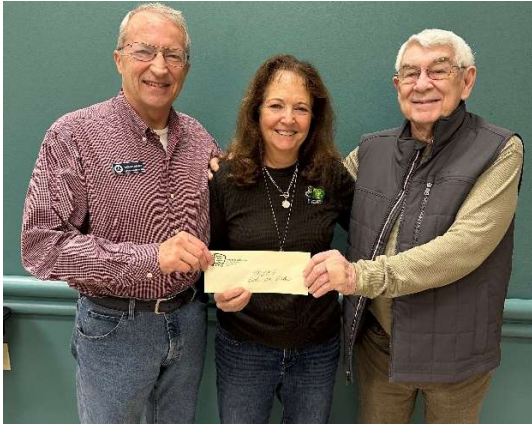
I was born in Washinton D.C. in 1948 and lived in and around the Washington D.C. area until 1976. I have attended Cornell University, University of Maryland and Pepperdine University and have a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and an MBA in Finance. I Spent 38 years in the Medical Device Business and was President and CEO of several companies including 2 venture backed start-ups and a small cap public company as well as President of a major division of a Fortune 500 company. I Retired as CEO in 2014 following the successful sale of AngioScore, a company selling a unique Angioplasty Catheter.

My wife Deborah and I were married in St. Louis, MO in 1995. We have lived in St. Louis, Scottsdale, Pleasanton, and Fresno CA before moving to Tulsa in 2015. We have a daughter Erica. She and her husband Sean live here in Tulsa and have two children, Garrett who is 8 and Brooklyn who is 10. Deborah works part-time as an Interior Designer for Amber Marie & Co here in town.

I bought my first Mercedes in 1977- a 240D. Several Mercedes followed over the years: 1998 S 500, 2000 320SL, 2010 CLS 550, 2016 S550 and my current 2020 450SL.

We joined the Mercedes Club in August 2022 and have really enjoyed getting to know so many fine folks. Looking forward to lots of great times in 2024!

Section President Nathan Armer and Treasurer Jerry Herron receive a \$200 check from Susan Hoog, Director of the Eastern Oklahoma State Spelling Bee 501c3 non-profit. The Board of the Spelling Bee approved the donation to the Eastern Oklahoma Mercedes Benz Club for their support of youth activities.



December 9, 2023

Dear MBCA Eastern Section Members,

Thank you so much for your donation to the Bixby Outreach Center. Your donations help make sure no one in our community goes hungry! We could not do this work without the wonderful support of our community members. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Missy Brumley
Executive Director

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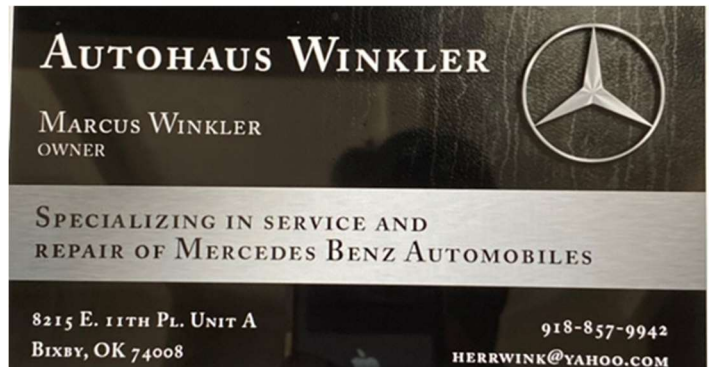
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Gateway Classic Cars features Mercedes Benz Club of Eastern Oklahoma

Twenty-Three members showcased 19 Mercedes Benz automobiles as the featured car club at the Gateway Classic Cars Caffeine & Chrome event Saturday February 24, 2024. Members met at the classic car showroom parking lot at 8:45 and departed at 11:30. Each car received a bag with a t shirt, koozie, stickers, and other assorted goodies as well as helped themselves to a morning shot of coffee and donuts. The section received a \$200 check for our treasury and a group photo. Jackie Cooper Mercedes Benz brought a new all-electric EQE sedan and EQS SUV for display and test drives.

Special thanks to David Krueger, Mercedes Benz Sales Specialist and David Young, Mercedes Benz delivery specialist for their demonstrations of the new electric vehicles during the show. After the event, members headed to Seigi's Sausage Factory for lunch.





Tire Tread: It's All in the Details



Fast facts: Different types of tire treads

- Symmetrical tire tread patterns deliver smooth driving, high directional stability, and low rolling resistance.
- Directional tire tread patterns provide high protection against aquaplaning, excellent handling on snow and mud, and very good stability on the road at high speeds.
- Asymmetric tire tread patterns offer excellent handling, high curve stability, and good grip in wet conditions.

The tread is the part of the tire that makes contact with the surface of the road. And if you take a look at different tires on the market, you'll notice a great deal of variety in their tread patterns.

Why are they so different? Because a tread pattern is a unique design that enhances a vehicle with grip and handling for specific driving conditions.

Most tire tread has four parts:

- **Ribs:** the raised section of the tread pattern, made up of tread blocks
- **Grooves:** deep channels which run circumferentially and laterally around the tire
- **Tread blocks:** are the raised rubber segments that make contact with the road surface
- **Sipes:** small, thin slots molded into the tread blocks

Together, all four parts can be arranged in a unique pattern to fine-tune the tire's performance in critical areas like noise, handling, traction, and wear.

And that in turn provides tire manufacturers with the ability to develop tread patterns to address specific driving needs such as wet braking, dry handling, aquaplaning (hydroplaning) resistance, and traction on ice and snow.

How many tire tread patterns are there? Quite a few. But broadly speaking, tire treads can be divided into three categories.

Types of Tread Patterns

Symmetrical: The most common type of tread pattern is symmetrical. Tires with this design have continuous ribs or independent tread blocks across the entire face of the tread, and both halves of the tire feature the same pattern.

Key features:

- Smooth driving
- High directional stability
- Low rolling resistance

Tires with symmetrical patterns provide the owner of the vehicle with the most flexibility for tire rotation without affecting day-to-day performance. They're quiet, long-lasting, and fuel efficient, but not as adaptable to changing conditions on the road. So even though symmetrical patterns deliver steady grip on a dry road, they won't be as effective in wet conditions as other tires will be.

Directional: A tire with a directional tread pattern is designed to roll forward in only one direction. It has lateral grooves that meet in the middle of the tire tread, resembling the shape of an arrowhead. The V-shaped grooves allow for resistance to aquaplaning (hydroplaning) at high speeds by displacing water more efficiently.

Key features:

- High protection against aquaplaning
- Excellent handling on snow and mud
- Very good road stability at high speed

One important note is that directional tires can only be rotated vertically – for example, from the front of the car to the back – otherwise, the pattern will be oriented in the wrong direction when fitted to a wheel on the other side of the vehicle.

You can keep track of the correct orientation using the arrow indicator printed on the sidewall of the tire. It's in the same direction as the pattern, pointing in the required direction of travel.

Asymmetric: A tire with an asymmetric pattern features two separate tread designs, one on the inner half and another on the outer half of the tire. It may look unusual, but both halves serve a distinct purpose.

The inner tire tread is responsible for water displacement and protection against aquaplaning (hydroplaning). The outer tire tread has rigid tread blocks for higher lateral stiffness, which provides high grip when cornering and driving on dry surfaces, and quieter interior noise. This combination of features makes asymmetrical tires especially popular for use on ultra-high performance cars.

Key features:

- Excellent handling
- High curve stability
- Good grip in wet conditions

However, just like a directional tire pattern, care must be taken with tire rotation. Vertical rotation between front and back are the options here. Indicators on the sidewall will guide correct fitting.





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MBCA Membership Road Map of Benefits

As a MBCA member you will enjoy these benefits plus many more.

The Star Magazine

Club membership includes a subscription to our award winning bi-monthly Star® magazine which features classified advertising.

Local, Regional & National and selected International Events

Club members are invited to attend and participate in exclusive Mercedes-Benz activities including driving events.

Section Newsletters

Local Club Sections produce and send Club members a fun and informative newsletter which features classified advertising.

Discounts on Parts, Service & Accessories at Participating Mercedes-Benz Dealers

As a Mercedes-Benz Club of America member you may be entitled to 5%, 10% or (up to) 20% off parts, service and accessories from U.S. and Canadian Mercedes-Benz dealers. **Check with your dealer first.**

Germany Trips

Several times a year, MBCA invites its members to go on an exclusive trip to Germany which features guided tours of Mercedes-Benz factories, its headquarters and museum! Club members are treated like Mercedes-Benz royalty.

15% Discount on Parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center

Being a Mercedes-Benz Club of America member may entitle you to 15% off hard-to-find parts from the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, California.

Membership Rebate

Save as much as \$3,000 on the purchase or lease of a new Mercedes-Benz.

Club Raffle

Win a new Mercedes! Up to twice a year, the Mercedes-Benz Club of America conducts a raffle for its Members.

Mercedes-Benz Club of America
More Than a Car Club. We're a Community.™

Annual Chili Cookoff

Twenty-two members and guests enjoyed the annual Chili Cookoff at the home of John and Harriet Kushnerick on Thursday, February 15, 2024. This year seven chilies were entered in the competition to see who makes the best chili in Eastern Oklahoma. The winner was host John Kushnerick who googled “best chili recipe” and found one that all the reviewers said allowed them to win chili competitions. The “secret” as it turns out was bacon. The winning recipe renders bacon and you cook your onions, peppers, and garlic in the bacon fat. The bacon pieces are returned to the chili later to add some texture and additional flavor to the chili.

Members also enjoyed many desserts and side dishes along with beer, wine, and other assorted beverages. Jackie Cooper Mercedes Benz also offered some great door prizes for the attendees.

Kristen Bebout informed members of the Jackie Cooper Mercedes Benz service special for the months of March and April of 15% off parts and service.

It was great to see members Dallas and Paula Shell from Claremore and recent new member Brent Estes from Bixby.





Gullwing Turns 70: Iconic 300SL “Is Mercedes-Benz”

Jeff Peek

06 February 2024



Presentation of the Mercedes-Benz 300 SL “Gullwing” at the International Motor Sports Show in New York, February 1954. Mercedes-Benz AG

The Mercedes-Benz 300SL coupe is never out of the spotlight for long. And for good reason—it remains one of the most acclaimed automobiles ever built. Today, though, marks a special moment for the model—on this day (February 7, 1954) 70 years ago, the 300SL debuted at the New York International Automobile Show.

Now a centerpiece of any car collection fortunate enough to have one, the 300SL was a sports car ahead of its time. Known for its hallmark gullwing doors, extraordinary power, and technological advancement, it remains among the most acclaimed automobiles ever built. And, as is often the case when it comes to European cars of the 1950s, we have [Max Hoffman](#) to thank for its existence in the U.S.

The 300SL was a direct descendant of the Mercedes-Benz W194 race car that won the Carrera Panamericana and 24 hours of Le Mans in 1952. Hoffman, an influential U.S.

importer who was responsible for popularizing European cars in America, convinced the Stuttgart automaker that the German sports car would be met by an eager American market. He was right—so right, in fact, that seven decades later a 1954–57 300SL coupe has an [average value](#) of seven figures, even in #4 (Fair) condition. When new, the car sold for \$6820 (equal to about \$77,252 today).

When unveiled at the 1954 International Motor Sports Show in New York, the Mercedes-Benz 300SL (W198) was applauded for its elegance and innovation. Powered by a water-cooled 3.0-liter overhead cam straight-six engine, it was the world's first four-stroke production passenger car to be equipped with output- and efficiency-enhancing direct fuel injection. With 215 horsepower, the 300SL had a top speed of 155 mph, making it the fastest production car of its day. The 300SL's unforgettable styling was dictated by its engineering: the lightweight coupe's rigid 110-pound space frame supported the engine, transmission, and axles, but left no room for conventional doors. That resulted in the 300SL's most distinctive feature—upswinging doors that hinged at the top and, when open, gave the look of a bird extending its wings. The car almost immediately gained the nickname “Gullwing” throughout the media and with the public, although Mercedes-Benz never calls it that. In fact, the original hand-typed manual referred to the doors as “trap doors.”

While the gullwing doors look impressive when open, getting into the 300SL is a little more difficult than a car with standard doors. The driver and passenger have to sit on the sill and swing their legs inside before sliding onto the seat. Regardless, buyers seemed to consider it a minor inconvenience.

To gain publicity for the new 300SL, Hoffman turned to one of his regular customers, racing driver Briggs Cunningham, to purchase the first one (serial number 198 040 4500003) from his showroom.

The car has changed hands three times since Cunningham bought it, the last time in 2013 when it was purchased by Dennis Nicotra.

“It's the greatest car, and I love it, and most people that have them love them,” Nicotra says in the above Hagerty video featuring the car. “But it's about as impractical as you'd ever want it to be. When you see what it takes to get in and out of this car, it's quite a chore... but driving it, it feels great, it looks great, it performs exceptionally well. They're just a joy.”

They also draw plenty of attention.

“This is such a great car to own,” Nicotra says. “No matter where I go, people stop and ask about it.”

The market for the 300SL coupes, of which approximately 1400 were built, generally remains strong, although it does fluctuate. Last month, Barrett-Jackson's annual Scottsdale auction yielded the dramatic sale of a [1956 Mercedes-Benz 300SL for \\$3.41 million](#), the highest amount ever paid for a 300SL steel-bodied coupe. That sale

may have been an outlier though, according to John Wiley, Hagerty manager of valuation analytics.

“Generally, the 300SL market is becoming more sophisticated, as values for cars with great provenance are pulling ahead of those without,” Wiley says. “Oftentimes, that means unrestored and only one or two owners from new. The 300SL Gullwing auctioned by Barrett-Jackson was restored by a model expert, but it only has a partial ownership history. Yes, the 300SL market is improving, but we’ve often seen how Barrett-Jackson’s prime-time audience produces unrepeatably high prices, and this concours restoration 300SL is one of the latest examples.”

Though that record sale might not be indicative of the 300SL market as a whole, it’s a shining reminder of how the car always finds its way back into the spotlight.

“The 300SL played an important role in the United States ... [and] really showed the best of what Mercedes-Benz could offer,” says Michael F. Kunz, manager of Mercedes-Benz Classic Center USA. “... It is Mercedes-Benz.”





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