



The Road Benz

The Newsletter from MBCA | Wichita

Jan/Feb 2024

Chartered in 1972

Wichita Section

President's Corner

Kirk Filbey, Section President



Happy New Year everyone and welcome to 2024! I hope you all had a safe and relaxing holiday season.

Our section board had a planning meeting in the early part of December to start looking at 2024 events. We kicked around several ideas and look forward to talking more about them at our membership lunch in January.

In other news, board member Randy Roths has volunteered to be our section membership chair. I look forward to working with him to find ways to increase section membership and to make sure we continue to provide a good experience for our current members.

You may have seen news about changes at the national club level. I'm excited to see the club planning to improve its web presence and formalize its partnership with Mercedes-Benz and the dealers. I'm hoping this will help steer more new MB owners to the club and our section. In conjunction with this effort, I will be working with our board to improve our web presence and make other improvements to help get the word out about our section.

That's all for now...and happy driving!

Kirk

2024 Section Event Calendar

Jan 27th: Membership Meeting

Feb 10th: Wichita Art Museum

Mar 9th: Great Plains Transportation Museum

May 4th: McPherson Car Show

Jun 8th: Poker Run

Aug 24th: Membership Meeting

Sep 21st: ICT All German Car Show

Sep 28th: Sonnenblumen German Car Show

Oct: Alzheimer's Walk

Upcoming Section Events

Membership Meeting

When: **Saturday, Jan 27th, 11:30AM to 1:30PM**
Where: **Firebirds Grill, 10096 E 13th St N, Wichita KS 67206**

Mark your calendar as the club kicks off 2024. During this meeting the board will present some event ideas along with a draft schedule of events for the year. This will be a great opportunity to provide some input on club events and meet up with club members. Plus the club will be paying for lunch! See you there.



Visit to Wichita Art Museum

When: **Saturday, Feb 10th, 10:30AM to 2PM**
Where: **Wichita Art Museum, 1400 West Museum Blvd, Wichita KS 67203**



With February weather being unpredictable, having an indoor event seems like a good idea. The section will be meeting up at the Wichita Art Museum to check out both the permanent collection and special exhibits. [Here's a link to the museum website](#). While there we can also check out the new museum café, 1400 By Elderslie. If the weather cooperates, we can also get some great outdoor shots of our cars in front of the museum.



Recent Section Events

College Hill Lights Tour, Thursday December 14th

Eleven club members and guests along with 7 cars participated in a holiday light cruise through the historic College Hill neighborhood. Mike Coup's beautiful red Pagoda looked particularly festive! After meeting up, club members cruised through the neighborhood taking in all the great light displays. We even managed to stay together and not get lost! At the end of drive, we met up at Kirk Filbey's house for desserts and post event drinks. It was a nice way to wrap up the year.



Trip Report

Trieste, Italy - by Kirk Filbey

Anne and I traveled to northern Italy in early November. We flew into Milan and then took a train to Trieste which is right on the Adriatic. While there we made day trips to Venice and Ljubljana in Slovenia. Trieste is known as the coffee capital of Italy, so we were able to enjoy some wonderful dinks in many historic cafes. Trieste is a beautiful small city and kind of off the beaten path, so it really was fun to see. It was also nice being able to take trains and buses to get to where we needed to go. Our trip had no planned automotive sites or visits, but as many of you know I'm always on the look out for interesting vehicles. This trip did not disappoint:



Mercedes B Class



Mercedes A Class



Mercedes W-201



Classic Fiat

Book Review

The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel: Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I,
By Doulgas Brunt, Atria Books; 384 pages; \$29

While this book is not directly car related, it is all about Rudolf Diesel, the inventor of the Diesel engine. On September 29th, 1913, Mr. Diesel boarded a steamer in Antwerp, Belgium bound for England. After having dinner with friends on board, he retired to his cabin and was never seen again. About 10 days later a heavily decomposed body was found in the North Sea by a fishing boat. The crew removed items from the body but did not recover the body. The items were later identified by Diesel's son as belonging to his father. To this day no one is completely sure what happened to Mr. Diesel.

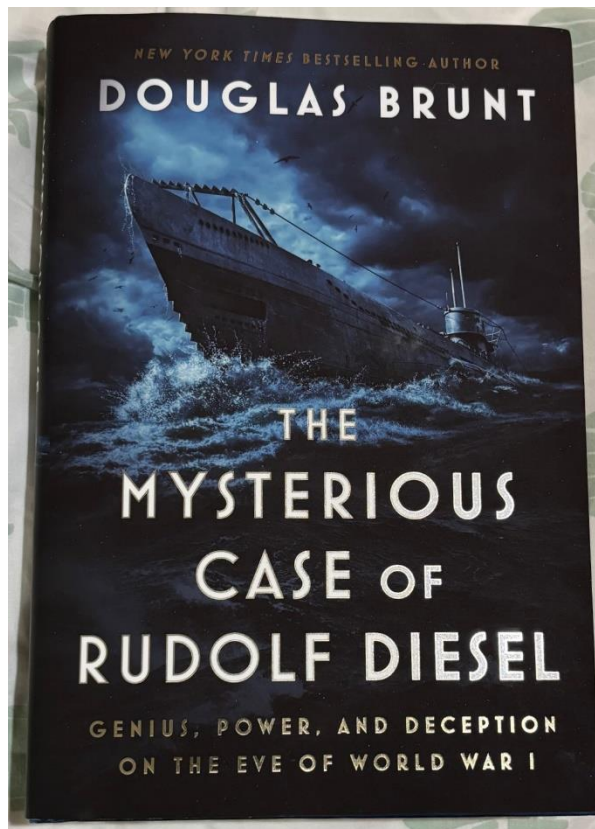
This book covers Diesel's life growing up in both France and Germany and how his early experiences dramatically influenced his view of the world. Diesel was against militant nationalism which was becoming prevalent in Europe towards the end of the 19th century and eventually lead to World War I. Diesel was also interested in the working conditions in factories as the industrial revolution continued to modernize. His hope was Diesel engines would improve conditions across many industries. However, as many inventors soon discover, their inventions often have many unintended or unforeseen consequences.

Additionally, this book does a great job explaining the concept of the Diesel engine and why it was (and still is) so revolutionary. The Diesel engine was more efficient than steam engines and gasoline powered internal combustion engines. The engine could run on different types of fuels and diesel fuel was far safer to store than gasoline because it had a much higher flash point making it less susceptible to explosions. The incredible advantages of the Diesel engine were soon noticed by both the military and various industries and as Mr. Diesel lost control of his invention he began clashing with these industrial and national interests.

The author finishes up the book with a very thorough analysis of Mr. Diesel's final days. Based on this careful investigation, along with other bits of evidence, he then presents his case for what really happened to Mr. Diesel in September 1913.

This was a very entertaining and interesting book and well worth adding to your library.

- Kirk Filbey



The Benz Bazaar

Do you have a Mercedes-Benz vehicle you'd like to sell or trade? Are you looking for MB parts or perhaps have parts you'd like to sell or pass on? Do you have some Mercedes-Benz memorabilia you'd like to sell? If so, then the Benz Bazaar is an easy way to advertise to all section members and others who see our newsletter. Our section newsletter comes out 6 times a year. If you are interested in posting an item in the Benz Bazaar, please contact the newsletter editor, Kirk Filbey, at rkfilbey@gmail.com.



2024 MBCA Trips to Germany



TRAVEL DATES AND RATES FOR 2024

June 3-9
September 16-22

The rate will again be:
\$3,300 double occupancy
\$3,600 single occupancy

Reserve your trip
today by visiting:
mbca.org/travel



Take MBCA's guided trip through the Stuttgart Region and experience the rich heritage of Mercedes-Benz first-hand. Hundreds of MBCA Members and guests have traveled to Stuttgart and many have joined us multiple times. Enjoy VIP destinations, accommodations, and five-star cuisine. No worries, just "WOW!" on this command-performance excursion for Members, families, and friends.

Enjoy captivating guided tours of the Carl Benz Museum in Ladenburg; the AMG facilities in Affalterbach; the Mercedes-Benz Museum and Brand Center in Unterturkheim; the Technical Museum in Sinsheim; and the Classic Center in Fellbach. We'll also be visiting the Sindelfingen assembly plant that covers more ground than the entire principality of Monaco. And that's just for starters!

See for yourself why this trip is consistently voted Nummer Eins (Number One) by discriminating travelers.



Section Membership News

Our section currently has **60 members**.

Here's a heartfelt thanks to all our renewing members since our last newsletter: **Dave Busenitz, Brian Boisvert, Michael Coup, The Gaffneys, Joseph Kausse, Martin Perline, Randy Roths, and Will Tobin**. 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 Randy Roths (randyandcj@gmail.com) or 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. If you run into any issues with renewing your membership, please let us know.

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



MBCA | Wichita Board

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Section Web Pages:

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