



The Road Benz

The Newsletter from MBCA | Wichita

Nov/Dec 2024

Chartered in 1972

Wichita Chapter

President's Corner

Kirk Filbey, Section President



The leaves are changing and there's a chill in the air...yes, we are quickly approaching the end of 2024. Luckily there are still many weeks of excellent driving weather before it gets really cold.

As I write this column, we didn't have anything formally planned for November, however we do have a holiday gathering in December.

During a recent regional meeting, our chapter was asked to host a MBCA BBQ and club gathering as part of the McPherson Car show in May. We jumped on this and I look forward to highlighting our chapter and this great car show next year.

The board will be meeting soon to kick around other event ideas for 2025 and I look forward to talking about them during our membership meeting in January.

As always, I would ask that each of you continue to promote the club. I'm trying to find ways to expand our social media presence, but I think in-person interactions work the best. Reach out to folks and bring them to club events. Let's get the word out that there's a local Mercedes-Benz club and we go out and do things!

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

Kirk

2024/2025 Chapter Event Calendar

Dec 14th: Holiday party

Jan 25th: Membership Meeting at Prost

May 3rd: MBCA Regional BBQ & McPherson Car Show

Upcoming Chapter Events

Holiday Party

When: **Saturday, December 14th**, starting at **6:30PM**

Where: **6141 Fairfield Rd, Wichita KS 67204**

Mike Coup and Morgan Henris are hosting a holiday party at their house and have invited chapter members to attend. There will be festive food, drinks, and good conversation. Plus classic holiday tunes being played on a Wurlitzer organ! Please make sure to RSVP to morganhenris@gmail.com so they can get a headcount.



Membership Meeting

When: **Saturday, January 25th**, 11:30AM to 2PM

Where: **Prost, 2721 E Central Ave, Wichita KS 67214**

Mark your calendar as the club kicks off 2025. 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. More details will be sent out at the start of the year.



Recent Chapter Events**3rd Annual Wichita All German Car Show, Saturday September 28th**

The Wichita Section turned out for the third annual ICT All German car show. Wichita members were joined by members from Tulsa and some other prospective members! Lee Elrick won the best Mercedes award with his 71 280SE cabriolet. We had a great selection of MB's there including a custom 300 SEL, two 300 SD Diesels, a 300 TD wagon and SL's from Pagoda's to R107's. It was a larger turnout than last year and only looks to get better! The Walser Cup (for most registered cars in attendance) was one by the BMW club. Thanks

to everyone who made it out and hopefully we will have even more cars next time.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter**17th Annual Sonnenblumen Autofest,
Saturday October 5th**

A few chapter members convoyed up to Salina to attend the Sonnenblumen Autofest. We were joined by others after arriving at the event. The weather was absolutely perfect for this show. As expected there were some beautiful examples of all sorts of the German vehicles at this low key show hosted by the German Car Club of Kansas. Chapter member Kirk Filbey took home the Mercedes-Benz 3rd place trophy for his 1972 280SE. Big shout out to the Kissick's W126 and Will Tobin's beautiful R129!



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter



**WALK™
TO END
ALZHEIMER'S**
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

JOIN US!

Walk to End Alzheimer's, Friday October 25th

For the past three years our section has participated along with the National MBCA in supporting the Alzheimer's Association in their major fundraiser, the Walk to End Alzheimer's. This year's walk was a change from last year with the event moving from a Saturday morning to a Friday evening walk. The venue also changed from Naftzger Park to the Wichita Boathouse. The weather this year was much more pleasant, although cool it was not cold and windy like last year. The walk started after the opening ceremony at the Boathouse and continued across Maple/Lewis past the Hyatt and along the river and then returning to the Boathouse. Our team raised \$1200 this year, which exceeded our goal of \$1000. The change in dates did prevent some team members from attending but

we were well represented by Brett and Deanna Gaffney and Joseph Kause. Thanks to all who donated to the team cause and let's look forward to next year and a great turnout!



The Benz Bazaar

Are you interested in getting a club magnet for your car? This is a great way to advertise for our chapter at car shows and other events. The magnet can easily be placed and removed from your car without damaging the paint. The magnets are \$25 a piece. If you're interested in getting one, please contact Will Tobin at wtobin@cox.net.



Cars for Sale!

Club member Larry Fear has two cars for sale.

Car #1: Red BMW 2002 with black interior. The interior is in remarkable condition for its age. The driver's seat needs a minor repair. Paint is good and the air conditioner is available for installation.

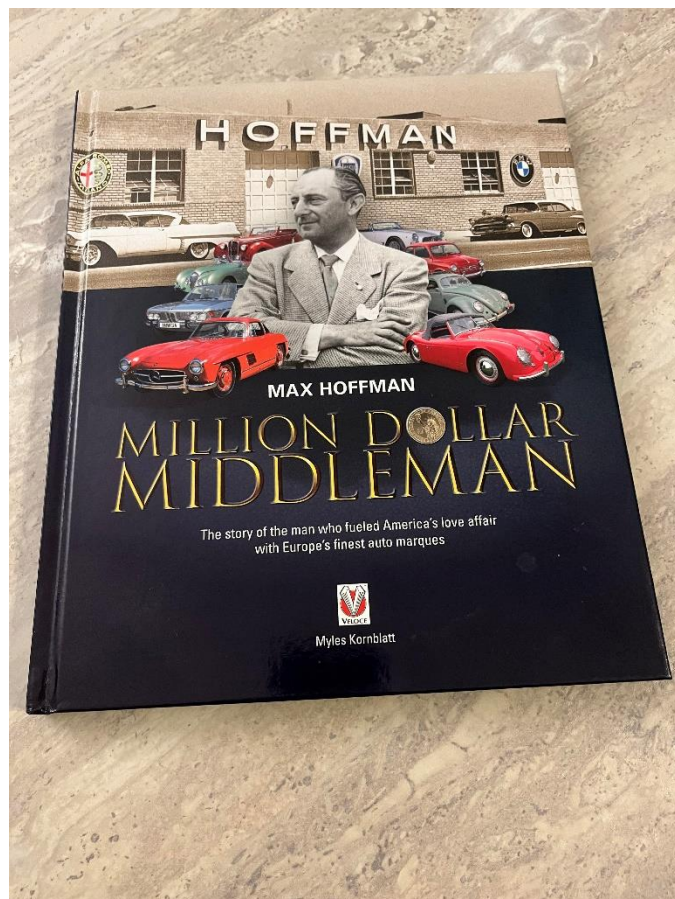
Car #2: Mercedes Benz 280 SL is a European spec car with 5 speed manual transmission. It is in very good condition, silver blue with dark blue leather interior. The hard top is included.

Both cars have been stored for approximately 20 years. Receipts of repairs are on file. For more information, please contact Larry or John Fear at larryfear@icloud.com or 316-264-5833.

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.



Book Review – by Joseph Kausse



Max Hoffman: Million Dollar Middleman, By Myles Kornblatt, Published by Veloce Publishing Ltd, 160 pages; ISBN 978-1787115033.

Million Dollar Middleman tells the story of Max Hoffman, an Austian immigrant who had some success in auto racing and selling cars in Europe but with WWII starting made his way to America where he began importing and distributing cars from England, France, Italy, and Germany. Many of the brands we know today got their start in the U.S. because of Hoffman, including Jaguar, Volkswagen, Porsche, Alfa Romero, BMW and of course Mercedes Benz. The stories of how these brands got established in the US are all included in the book along with what happened afterwards.

The book's chapters are mostly by brand or countries and tell the story of each one's journey, plus other stories related to Hoffman and his automotive enterprises. If you enjoy automotive and business history this is a great book! I learned a lot about different brands and how Hoffman's influence helped many great cars,

including the 300SL Gullwing, come to be. At about 160 pages it's a short read but there's enough interesting stories, pictures, and history to make it a nice reference!



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter

Chapter Membership News

Our section currently has **54 members**.

Welcome to our newest member: Chris Webb!

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!



Mercedes-Maybach SL 680

MBCA | Wichita Board

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