



The Road Benz

The Newsletter from MBCA | Wichita

Jan/Feb 2025

Chartered in 1972

Wichita Chapter

President's Corner

Kirk Filbey, Section President



Yikes it got cold! Luckily our Benzes can deal with the cold and snow. For those of us with older Benzes...well this is a great time to knock out some maintenance chores 😊

We just had a board meeting and started kicking around ideas for 2025. I'm pretty excited about these planned events. I'm sure there will be a few changes and/or additions but 2025 looks to be another fun year for our chapter

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 at this opportunity, and I look forward to highlighting our chapter and this great car show this year!

That's all for now and apologies for the slightly late newsletter. Hope to see many of you at our membership meeting and lunch at Prost

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

Kirk

2024/2025 Chapter Event Calendar

Jan 25th: Membership Meeting and Lunch at Prost

Feb/Mar: Visit to Auto Tech Program and Race Session at Glas Haus

Mar 29th: Enid Car show

Apr: Winfield Car Collections

May 3rd: MBCA Regional Event and McPherson Car Show

May 31st: Poker Run

Jun: Salina Car Collection and visit The Garage

Aug 23rd: Membership meeting and lunch

Sep: Wichita Area All German Car Show

Oct: Salina German Car Show

Oct 11th: Chapter Oktoberfest Cookout

Dec 9th: College Hill Christmas Light Drive

Upcoming Chapter Events



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. Best of all, lunch is on the club! Please RSVP to mbca.wichita@aol.com by Thursday, January 23rd, so we can provide a good headcount to the restaurant

Automotive Tech Program at Wichita Tech and Racing Session at Glas Haus Racing

When: **February or March**

Where: **TBD**

We are working on hammering out the exact dates for these two events but plan to have one event in February and one in March. Both should be very interesting.



Wichita Tech has expanded their Automotive Technology program, and we will have an opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes look at this program and all it has to offer. We are in the process of getting a specific date scheduled.



Have you ever wanted to experience driving a high-performance vehicle around a Formula 1 course? Well you are in for a treat because that's exactly what you can do at Glas Haus Racing without even having to leave Wichita. Glas Haus has state-of-the-art racing simulators that allow you to truly experience the track. We are in the process of working out the details and date, this will more than likely take place on a weekday evening.



Recent Chapter Events

Chapter Holiday Gathering, Saturday December 14th

Mike Coup and Morgan Henris very kindly opened their home to our chapter as part of their festive holiday gathering. We had a great time exploring their house with its amazing assortment of art and collectibles. Besides the great food and drinks, we were also treated to a variety of holiday songs being played on a Wurlitzer organ! It's not every day you go into a house with a built-in pipe organ!!

Thanks again for a wonderful party and what a memorable way to close out the year.



Mercedes in Miniature – by Joseph Kausse

If you're receiving this newsletter, you either own or have an interest in Mercedes Benzes. Many fans of the full size and drivable MB's are also fans and collectors of miniature Mercedes, be they 1:18, 1:24, 1:43 or 1:63 scale. They may be plastic, diecast or styrene examples and for some of us the size of the collection (or horde, as my wife calls it) can exceed the numbers of actual cars we own. This is my case!

Last year, our club toured the Midwest Dreaan Car Collection in Manhattan and one of the awesome and surprising exhibits was their 1957 300SL Gullwing. This iconic Mercedes model was encouraged and partially brought to fruition by Mercedes's American distributor Max Hoffman. It's so famous that anyone who knows cars knows this one! The Gullwing is often replicated in a large variety of scales and media, almost every miniature or toy manufacturer has duplicated it. We feature the Gullwing in this installment of Mercedes in Miniature with several examples, but by no means all of them



First are some fairly common and easy to acquire 1:64 scale Hot Wheels examples in various racing livery. Above the cars is a set with another racing Gullwing and its transport truck, the 1955 Mercedes Blaues Wunder. Hot Wheels has been making diecast cars since 1968, when Mattel wanted to compete with Matchbox cars and came up with the idea of using piano wire type axles, which made the cars faster.

Next up are the 1:64 cars from Burago, an Italian maker that is now Chinese owned, and Dinky, a well-known toy car maker since the early 30's, now also owned by Mattel.



Mercedes-Benz Club of America – Wichita Chapter

One of my favorite diecast makers is The Franklin Mint, which made 1:43 and 1:24 scale models from 1983 to 2001, starting with a 1935 Mercedes 500K Roadster, more on that in a future article! They offered several Mercedes's, including 3 versions of the Gullwing, the most common in silver, a red version, and a black version which is rare.



Last but not least are the examples from plastic model companies; above is AMT's version. This model was cast and recast in several different versions, some with display bases and all offering opening doors and hoods. This version is shown in black but most of the box kit art was shown in, of course, silver!

There are many more versions of the Gullwing in miniature and it's fun to search for examples I don't have, I just need to make more room!



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 wtobin45@icloud.com ,



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.

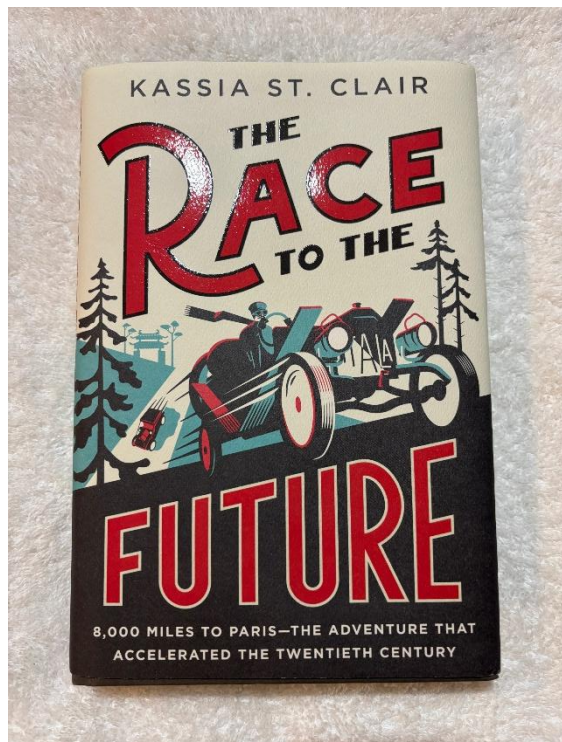
Car #2: Mercedes Benz 280 SL is a European spec car with 5 speed manual transmission. It is in very good condition, silver blue with dark blue leather interior. The hard top is included.

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 Kirk Filbey



The Race to the Future, By Kassia St. Clair, Published by Liveright Publishing Corporation, 359 pages; ISBN 978-1-324-09491-3.

It's hard to believe the very first Peking to Paris car race was held in 1907! At the start of the 20th century, car races were becoming more popular, but the car was still looked at as an impractical toy. Kassia St Clair covers in great detail this 8000-mile race, providing highlights on the race participants, the cars, and the route. This book is about more than just the race, however. St. Clair also interweaves stories about the impacts of the technologies tested during this race and the larger impact of the automobile on a rapidly changing society. It's interesting to note the stiff competition between steam, electric, diesel, and gas as the primary power source for vehicles in the early 1900's. The race event also highlights the coming changes to society, with hints of the collapsing Chinese and Russian empires along with the rise of nationalism among the European nations. In seven years, World War I will start.

The race itself was absolutely grueling for the participants. Five cars started in Peking, China and then traveled east across vast deserts and forests along mostly unpaved paths. Racers often slept outside and fuel and supplies were always a challenge. The most powerful vehicle was only 40HP! The participants were an eclectic group of men, including royalty, athletes, drivers, mechanics, and at least one conman. No one expected any of the cars to finish and this race really became an endurance event at the end. During the race there was a bit of cheating, interesting deals with race sponsors, and just plain craziness. Roughly 2 months later, however, several cars finished the event in Paris and the world was astounded.

If found this book to be extremely interesting. You get a real feel for the race and the sidebars on the societal impacts of cars is also impressive. My only gripe with the book is that I wish there were more pictures, and it would have been nice to have detailed drawings of the different cars competing in the race. This is a fun book to add to your automotive library.



Chapter Membership News

Our section currently has **52 members**.

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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