MBCA Ozark Section Newsletter

Local Events **Articles of Interest**
Regional Events

July/August 2009

The Star of the Ozarks

JULY EVENT

Event: Tri-Section Picnic
Date: July 18, **Time:** Noon
Location:
Bruce Smith residence in Tulsa, OK.
10137 S. Marion Ave. If you need further directions, call Bruce at 918-296-3732.
Brats, burgers, pop and beer will be served.
Members are encouraged to bring a side dish – non-dairy salad, chips, salsa or desserts. Please bring lawn chairs for seating.
This has previously been a delightful event with members from Ozark, Central Oklahoma and Eastern Oklahoma Sections.

We will meet in the "OOPS" parking lot in Tontitown on Hwy 412 at 10:00 am to caravan to Tulsa.

Contact: Robin & Kathy Retzlaff at rkretzlaff@cox.net or 479-248-1442.

SPECIAL EVENT – GARAGE SALE
Date: August 29.
Joel and Kathy Menold will host a garage sale at their residence. This sale is to bolster the club treasury with a percentage of the sale going to a yet to be determined local charity. Read more inside…..

AUGUST EVENT

Event: Road trip to "Lost in the Fifties" car museum and sales in Neosho with lunch at the "Undercliff Restaurant" near Neosho, MO. We have invited the "Rollin Relics" car club to join us so be sure to shine up your Mercedes and show it off to the hot rod club. By the way, you will see some stunning hot rods and they will also be ready to show off their cars too!

Date: August 8th

Location: Meet in Bella Vista behind the Sonic Drive In at 9:00 am to caravan to Neosho. Lost in the Fifties museum is located off highway 71 at the Racine/Neosho exit.

Contact: Robin & Kathy Retzlaff at 479-248-1442 or rkretzlaff@cox.net

SEPTEMBER EVENT

Get ready for our annual event at the Wiederkehr Winery in Altus, AR. This will happen on September 26. The Winefest is always a fun time to participate in the festival events and get together to talk cars. We will have special parking at the winery grounds so all of our cars will be parked together. Lunch at the out-door restaurant is one of the best in the country.

Who's Who??

Ozark Section MBCA, Inc.
P.O. Box 3537
Bella Vista, AR 72715

Officers

President	Robin Retzlaff	479.248.1442 rkretzlaff@cox.net
Vice-President	Tamanda Khanga	479.290.6033 Tamanda.Khanga@tyson.com
Secretary	David Jones	479.756.6943 joneshafer@sbcglobal.net
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Director	Don Baker	479-203-0900
Hospitality Chair	Monika McCurdy	479.925.2170

MBCA Ozark Section Newsletter *– published every two months, is the official newsletter of the Ozark Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club or America.*

Opinions *– Opinions expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of either MBCA or the Ozark Section. Neither MBCA nor the Ozark Section endorses products or services but may, as part of our informational activities, allow them to be cited in articles and notices.*

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Advertising *– We welcome advertisers whose subject matter is relevant to MBCA or of interest to members of the Ozark Section. Advertising runs for one year (six issues) starting with the March /April issue. MBCA members may place a classified ad for free providing that that ad is Mercedes specific. No inference should be made that products or services advertised herein have the approval of the editors of MBCA/Ozark Section*

Articles and Submissions *– Copy should be typed and emailed to the editor by the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. Example, submissions for the July/August issue should arrive to the editor by June 10th. The editor reserves the right to edit any material; submissions of any materials constitutes permission to edit and publish that material. No authentication is implied by the editor of MBCA..*

Welcome New Members

Dr. Ken Brown
John & Lorraine Lee
Marc & Kathie Weinberg

New members and prospective members are always welcome at our events. Members – Bring a guest.

For Sale

1991 Mercedes 560SEL

Immaculate Black/Black with custom $8k Alpine Entertainment System: DVD/5.1 Surround Sound/Sirius/Navigation/7"in-dash screen/hands-free phone. New Michelins, chrome wheels, rear air shocks replaced, clean Carfax; everything works; needs nothing; 189k; $10,900; Don Baker (479) 640-4592.

The Ozark Section has a Hospitality Host. She is Monika McCurdy. Please send her your birthdays and anniversaries so we can acknowledge them. Anyone becoming aware of a member in need, has sickness or is hospitalized should call Monika at 479-925-2170.

2009 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Ozark Section MBCA

Date	Event	Location	Contact	Phone
Sat. July 18	Tri-section Picnic	Tulsa, OK	Bruce Smith	918-296-3732
Sat. August 8	Drive to "Lost in the 50's" exhibit	Neosho, MO	Rob & Kathy Retzlaff	479-248-1442
Sat. September 26	Wienfest	Altus, AR	Joel Menold	479-756-6798
October 10	Section Annual Meeting	Pea Ridge, AR	Dave Jones	479.756.6943

Regional (South Central)

July 18	Tri-Section Picnic	Tulsa, OK	Bruce Smith	918-296-3732

National

Date: TBA	International Rally	Hamilton, New Zealand	National Business Office	800-637-2360

Clip this page and put it on your refrigerator.

OZARK SECTION BOARD of DIRECTORS

Your board of directors is working on several items that will affect the way our Section operates. The directors are meeting every 3 months to plan activities and make operational rules. The last meeting was June 10. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, September 9 at 6:30 pm.,** location: TBA. All members are welcome at the board meetings. Call the President, Robin Retzlaff for directions to the place of the meeting. Future 2009 Ozark Section Board of Director's Meetings: September 9 and December 9.

Fletcher Imports "Ozark Section Specials"!!!!!

Josh Walker, the Mercedes Service Manager has asked me to post some "Special Deals" for our section.

For Ozark Section members Fletcher Imports is offering:

15% off of any parts or accessories

Or

15% off of any service which includes a free 27 point inspection for your Summer driving safety!

Ask Josh about details on this special offer. He will take care of you!!!!

Patronize Shuler Autohaus. They support the Ozark Section!!

Roger Shuler is the Ozark Section Technical Director. He is glad to answer any questions you may have about your car.

IT IS TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CUPBOARDS, CLOSETS, ATTIC, GARAGE, ETC. The Board has planned a first annual Garage Sale for the club to raise funds on August 29, 2009 at the home of Kathy and Joel Menold. This garage sale will be advertised as a multi-family garage sale. The Menolds live at 4026 Jessica Ln, Springdale off of 71B and Black Oak with ample outdoor space and street parking. The Board has requested that all of us that can become involved in helping with the project by not only donating but helping in the set-up and sales. The guidelines are as follows:

** Please bring only items that you think we can sell. Examples: furniture, lamps, linens, glassware, dishes, cooking ware, small appliances, electronics, tools, garden items, plants, baby items, toys, pet products, etc. Clothes, shoes, purses sell well, but need to be in good condition.
You will need to contact Kathy and Joel to drop off your items at least a week prior to the sale. If you are unable to deliver items, we will make pick up arrangements if you live within the area.

** We will need your help to price, set-up and work the sale. We hope that we have a good showing of members since this will be a lot of work. Please contact Kathy or Joel at menold1@cox.net or 479-756-6798.

** We will need clothes racks!! We will have enough tables.

THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO REALLY SPEND TOGETHER AS MEMBERS EVEN THOUGH IT IS A LOT OF WORK, AND HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY AND OUR CLUB!!

Road Trip to Carthage via Joplin

May 9th found the Ozark Section heading north on Hwy 71 from Bella Vista with the first stop on our trip at Fletcher Imports in Joplin, MO. We were greeted with a warm welcome from the General Manager, Jim Adams, the Sales Manager, Mike McDaniel and all his staff. We were handed special made pottery cups with the Silver Star logo embossed on the bottom, along with toy models of our favorite Mercedes, Mercedes tee shirts and various other gifts. As some of the 16 Ozark members checked out the new inventory inside, others were outside getting the "feel" of the new 2009 C Class and the new 2010 GLK 350 by taking them for test drives. We all agreed that they were very awesome vehicles and although we all wanted to take one home with us, we felt that we had better finish the trip in the Mercedes that we arrived in. As the clock neared lunch time, Porfirio Gutierrez didn't need to persuade us that it was time to eat! Our next stop was Arde's Main Street Bistro in downtown Joplin. We had a delightful Greek lunch with excellent service. We were also treated with a tour of the building, viewing some of the original chandeliers and artwork in their banquet halls and private dining rooms. Well, we had a few miles to cover yet, so we left for Carthage, MO for a car show on the Town Square. As the residents of Carthage admired our Mercedes, we kept busy hunting for that all elusive, just perfect antique in all the antique shops on the Square. We weren't done yet as our next stop was the Sandstone Gardens, a unique store full of home accents for both inside and out. We arrived about closing time so it is on our agenda for our next trip. We just happened to be across the interstate from the Downstream Casino. So we stopped in, made a donation and had lunch before calling it one fun event! Thank you, Porfirio and Tanny! You did a great job of putting this together for us!

The Hallett Motor Racing Circuit Experience

Since the Hallett track is located about 150 miles west of Springdale, AR, the day begins early if you are going to be at the track before 8 am. For Roger and Cindy Shuler, the day began around 4 am as they had to load their 190 2.3-16 valve Mercedes on their car trailer and prepare for a three hour drive with breakfast . June 20th was the date for our event at the track and we invited the Eastern OK Section and the Central OK Section to join us in some educational fun! We had a total of six awesome Mercedes on the track. There were two SL500's, a 190 2.3-16 valve, a 560 SL, a CLS 55 AMG and an E55 AMG. My wife, Kathy, and I and two of our grandkids, Jordan and Marshall Altringer decided to spend the night close to the track so we could get a little more sleep in the morning. We were told that we should be at the track before 8 am to register, get our cars inspected and be ready for our driver's track education class. I will be the first to admit that I was very concerned about losing some paint, at the very least, on our car. I was told by the owner of the track, Connie Stephens, that in 10 years, they had never had a car to car accident. Cars have spun out or had single car mishaps due to driver error but never a two car wreck on the track. After getting familiar with the rules of the track, I was much more comfortable with the idea. Hallett focuses on safety with designated passing zones and flag men at each corner to watch and help, driver's track education and skilled instructors to ride with you or drive with you to show you how to drive to be safe on the track. We were fortunate to be able to rent a car port to use as a base for our drivers and member spectators. The shade was a welcome relief! There were no less than six different classes of cars using the track. I was very humbled when a Formula Mazda Miata passed me by! These cars are set up to move!! This event was a first for the Ozark Section. We had three of the Mercedes on the track and the Eastern OK Section had the other three. I hope we can get more members involved next year to share in the fun!!

A California Experience

The writer has spent three months in California so far this year – not all consecutively. This story relates some of the driving experience of a mid-westerner thrown into the hectic Southern California environment.

Most of the freeways – and I say "free" reluctantly – have car-pool lanes. This is a left lane of a multi-lane highway designated for vehicles with two or more people aboard. The speed limit on most California highways is 65 mph. The car-pool lane usually runs at 75 mph or more. Several times I encountered either a bus or a small truck in the car-pool lane traveling at 65 mph and very quickly building up a line of anxious cars behind them. Cars would duck out of the car-pool lane where permitted, pass the slower vehicle, and return to the car-pool lane. Apparently motorcycles are allowed to us the car-pool lane. They also dangerously use the double yellow line that divides the lanes as their lane of travel. That is scary when you are traveling 75 mph and the motorcycle rides between your car and another in the next lane at over 80 mph.

Freeways are supposed to be "Free" of congestion. Take note of the early morning TV shows and radio broadcasts. Every 10 minutes there is a traffic report. Some stations have helicopters cruising above the highways. There are ALWAYS reports of accidents and tie-ups. For someone unfamiliar with the highways it is difficult to plan an alternate route. Rush-hour is all day long. Don't people have to go to an office and work? Forget your cruise control. Seldom is there any length of road that where it is practical to use the cruise-control.

Did I mention Mercedes-Benz automobiles? In my judgment there is a much larger percentage of M-B's in California than in the mid-west. You will find all models in California. There are many 80's and 90's models. There are many C-class and I expect that the gas cost has driven many to go for the smaller models. There are also many of the latest models. One category that is almost non-existent is the diesel. California has such restrictions on diesel emissions that there is no market for them since about 1985.

The first international SLK meet is coming up fast!

September 25-27 in Las Vegas!

It will be 3 days of SLK fun with others from across the nation with the same SLK passion! Book your room now while the special SLKWorld rate is still in effect!

Details: Poker Run, Ladies events, SLK tech session, Social Events/Shows, Fabulous Prizes/Giveaways SLK drive with SLKs, SLK Caravans from various parts of the nation! We've secured an outstanding SLKWorld rate at the Venetian, one of the best hotels on the strip! Usual September rates are $279, our SLKWorld rate is $159/night for the Palazzo Luxury Suite!

Upgrade to the Bella Suite <http://www.palazzolasvegas.com/pal_bella_suite.aspx> is available at $189.

The Palazzo <http://www.palazzolasvegas.com/pal_luxury_suite.aspx> Luxury Suite room

You can cancel 7 days prior if you find you can't make it. Call 888-283-6423 and provide Group Code: RSLKW or do it online here

<https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=1439276>

Once you've made your reservation let us know.

Register with SLKWorld <http://www.slkworld.com/slk-world-annual-retreat/10605-slkworld-retreat-9-25-9-27-list-reservations-made.html> here OR email vegasretreat@slkworld.com to put yourself on the attendee list.

You'll receive a confirmation mail and be included on all event updates including SLK caravans leaving from your part of the country. This event is sponsored by SLKWorld Forum.

Ozark Section MBCA, Inc.
P.O. Box 3537
Bella Vista, AR 72715-3537

Change of Address?
Contact:
Mercedes-Benz Club of America
800.637.2360

MBCA Membership Application

Name

Associate Member (spouse or dependent)

Address

City State Zip

Home Phone Business Phone

E-mail address -

Mercedes-Benz vehicle(s) now owned (model and year)

1)
2)
3)

Interests

☐ Driving Events ☐ Car Shows ☐ Social Events
☐ Car Care ☐ Technical ☐ The Star

Please enroll me as a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America for the following term:

U.S. and possessions

☐ One year - $45 ☐ Two years - $87 ☐ Three years $127

Make check payable to MBCA; U.S. funds only please.

☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

Account Number Exp. date

Signature Date

Active member's signature & member number if sponsored

Membership dues include six issues of The Star magazine yearly. Send application to address below.

Or use our toll-free number to enroll by phone: 1.800.637.2360

For office use only: Date Processed

MPD

MBCA, 1907 Lelaray St, Colorado Springs, CO 80909
719.633.6427, 8AM to 5 PM (Mountain Time)