



MBCA Ozark Section Newsletter

Local Events
Regional Events

Articles of Interest

November/December 2007

The Star of the Ozarks

NOVEMBER EVENT

Date: November 17

Time: 6:30 pm

The November event will be held at Rogers Little Theater in Historic Downtown Rogers on Saturday, November 17th. The comedy is "Moon Over Buffalo". The actors are all local NWA talent. The cost per person is \$42.00 for dinner and the play. The dinner is catered by Belle Arti, an upscale restaurant in Rogers. The theater has tables that seat four. Alcohol and soda drinks are available with coffee and tea served with dinner. If you do not care for dinner, you may attend the play for \$17.00 per person and be seated in the balcony. Although we have not been to a play there, all the seats look like good seats. The dinner begins at 7:00 pm and the play begins at 8:00 pm. The theater opens at 6:30 pm. There will be an intermission. Please contact Robin & Kathy Retzlaff at: rkretzlaff@cox.net or 479-248-1442 by November 10th so we can reserve your spot. This will be some great entertainment along with an excellent meal!

2007 Election Update

Three positions are up for election this year. One is for a three-year Board-of-Director's position. Vern Sutter's term will expire. The second position is for the Membership Chairman due to a resignation. The third position is for a two-year position due to a resignation.

DECEMBER EVENT

Christmas Dinner

Date: December 8, 2007

Time: 5 PM

Location: 4026 Jessica Lane, Springdale, AR

This year's Christmas dinner will be a pot-luck at Joel and Kathy Menold's. There will be fun and plenty to eat.

There will be further directions as the date nears. Information will be by email or by phone if call Kathy at 479-756-6897 or email. Reservations must be made by December 5.

Special Note:

Your next newsletter may come as an email in a PDF format. Notify the newsletter editor if you would be unable to receive it by email or in that format or prefer not to. We MUST HAVE a current email address so that the newsletter can be communicated.

It is expected that this format will begin with the January/February newsletter.

Those who opt out will still receive the newsletter via USPS mail.

Notify Vern Sutter at benzz99@earthlink.net or call 479-855-6854.

A Special visit.

Your editor had the opportunity on Friday, October 26, to visit the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center in Irvine, California. This is THE place where you can get parts for your older M-B as well as get a complete restoration of your classic M-B.

The facility is open from 8 am to 5 pm weekdays for visitors. The show room is open and filled with classic cars that have been restored and some are for sale. Displayed are also a few cars shipped in from Fellbach, Germany from the M-B museum and workshop there.

The Star of the Ozarks

Who's Who

Ozark Section MBCA, Inc.
P.O. Box 5732
Bella Vista, AR 72714

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Events Chair	Monika McCurdy	479.925.2170
Newsletter Editor	Vern Sutter	479.855.6854 benzz99@earthlink.com
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Director	Kathy Retzlaff	479.248.1442
Director	Joel Menold	
Director	Vern Sutter	479.855.6854

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

Jan Russell, Eufaula, OK
 Jon Zimmer, Fayetteville, AR
 Greg Harnden, Searcy, AR
 Tamanda Khanga, Springdale, AR

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

Special Note:

The color pages inserted in the newsletter are courtesy of Robin Retzlaff. *Ed.*

For Sale Ads

Members of the Ozark Section may advertise Mercedes-specific items free of charge in this newsletter. Ads will run one time unless the advertiser specifically requests continuation. Please submit your ads by the 15th of an even numbered month. Pictures will be published in black & white.

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Printer's Ad Here

The Star of the Ozarks

2007 & 2008 Calendar of Events

Ozark Section MBCA

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone</u>
November	Dinner Theater	Rogers, AR	Robin Retzlaff	479-248-1442
December	Christmas Dinner	Springdale, AR	Joel Menold	479-756-6897
January 2008				
February 2008				

Regional (South Central)

June 6, 7 & 8, 2008	Regional Event	Grove, OK	Bruce or Terry	918-296-3732
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National

November, 2007	National Board Meeting	Denver, CO	David Cummings	800-637-2360
Sep. 26-Oct. 1, 2008	StarFest 2008	San Francisco, CA	Laura Simonds	650-592-7613

REGIONAL EVENT, South Central Region

A regional event is being planned for next summer. The Ozark Section and the Eastern Oklahoma Section are to be co-hosts with the EOK Section as the leader. As further details are presented on page 1 of this newsletter.

Send your M-B stories to the Editor.

Stories describing your favorite drive, your M-B technical experience or other interesting adventures in M-B-land are welcomed and encouraged. E-mail to benzz99@earthlink.com. Stories will be published on a space-available basis.

Ozark Section Board Meeting

An Ozark Section Board of Directors meeting was held on September 12, 2007. Some of the subjects discussed were:

Events for the coming months.

Board of Directors resignations.

Ideas to attract new members.

A contest to develop a Section logo.

The next Board of Director's meeting will be in December.

Mulberry Mountain Craft Fair



A gorgeous day brought out the serious craft fair goers and the Ozark Section was no exception! Vern Sutter gathered us all at the Red Dragon in Springdale where we departed on one of the prettiest drives in Arkansas, Highway 23, more fondly known as the “Pig Trail”. We drove through the Ozark National Forest partaking of

breathless scenery as the leaves are beginning to turn to their autumn colors. It was about a 50 mile drive and I was wishing it would have been farther as I was enjoying it so. As we got closer to Mulberry Mountain the traffic became heavier and there were patrol cars at the entrance ensuring safe arrival and departures as the entrance is on a rather secluded curve in the highway. When we pulled off the “Pig Trail”, we could see the tents and the huge stage for live music performances during the day. We arrived a little before noon and it was time to eat! Choices ranged from Chinese to Mexican and everything in between! The live Bluegrass music kept



everyone in good spirits while they checked out all the vendor’s wares. After all the shopping, some of the men needed a little “R&R” before



heading for home! A big “Ozark Section thank you” goes out to Vern Sutter for organizing a fun event and for ordering some beautiful weather!

The Wiederkehr Winery—What a Great Event!

We had 34 members and guests in Altus, AR to show off their cars and to talk about our club and all the fun things we do. The day was perfect and



there was a large crowd in attendance for the Wiederkehr Weinfest Days. This was our 9th annual event held at the winery and it just gets larger each year. We had 16 beautiful Mercedes cars on display and one of the main attractions of the day, an RV mounted on a Mercedes chassis! Dick and Pat Johnson of Bud Brown's RV in Rogers brought down a beautiful 2007 Roadtrek SS Agile. This

RV gets 26 mpg with a 2.7 litre Mercedes diesel. The Weinkeller Restaurant was busy all day serving up delicious entrees like the Bratwurst/Knackwurst Combo, the Swissburger and Pork Loin Cotelletes and for dessert, Grandma Wiederkehr's Strawberry Shortcake or Swiss Apple Strudel! There were no



hungry guests! We had the public choose their favorite cars and first place went to Porfirio & Tanny Gutierrez, Bella Vista, with their pristine 1985, 380 SL. Second place went to Marv and Dianne Vaughter, Hot Springs, with a 2004 CLK 500. The Vaughter's also got the honors for driving the longest distance,

225 miles! Third place went to Dane and Diane Paulson from Holiday Island, with their very nice 1967 250 SL. The Ozark Section congratulates these members for bringing their fine automobiles.



The club also thanks Joel and Kathy Menold for putting this event together. I think that they set some sort of attendance record for the Ozark Section. Way to go Joel and Kathy!!



The Star of the Ozarks

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San Jose Mercury News (CA)

**DIESEL AUTO ARRIVES FROM MERCEDES
 LEASE CAR FIRST OF ITS TYPE ALLOWED BY
 STATE IN NEARLY A DECADE**

Mercedes-Benz started leasing diesel-powered sedans in California Monday, the first new diesel passenger cars available in the state in nearly a decade.

The 2008 Mercedes-Benz E320 Bluetec sedan will be offered in limited numbers in two-year/24,000-mile leases, the German automaker said. The program uses a short timetable so that these cars will be coming off lease as the next-generation of Mercedes diesels that meet federal regulations as well as those of every state arrive.

The automaker didn't say how much the lease would cost, but said it would be comparable to the rates for its E350 gasoline-powered sedan, which usually are \$650 to \$700 per month.

Mercedes "has developed a diesel emission control system that results in a car as clean as comparable gasoline vehicles being sold here," Tom Cackette, head of the state's Air Resources

Board, said in a statement.

The company said the car gets 20 to 40 percent better fuel efficiency than a comparable car with a gasoline engine and has a 700-mile range. According to the federal government, the '08 E320 Bluetec gets 23 mpg in city driving and 32 mpg on the highway. The gasoline-powered E350 gets 17 mpg city and 24 mpg highway.

Currently, no new diesel-powered cars are sold in California because they don't meet the state's stringent emission standards. But researcher J.D. Power and Associates forecasts sales of the vehicles will triple nationwide by 2015.

Interesting, the MBUSA site was checked and this is what it said:

"In California, a limited number of Model Year 2007 E320 BLUETEC vehicles are available for a limited duration and mileage lease only. No purchase option available. Available only to qualified customers through Mercedes-Benz Financial at participating dealers. Not everyone will qualify. Subject to credit approval and inventory availability. See your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for complete details on this offer.

The Star of the Ozarks

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GL-Class	2 in Stock	S-Class	7 in Stock

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'99 E300 VACATION TRIP

In September we started a trip to Des Moines, IA and to Harrisburg, PA. The trip was to be three weeks long with numerous stops. We decided we did not want to travel Interstate Routes unless necessary to make up time. Our goal was to travel, as much as possible on the Eastern direction of the trip, on old U. S. Route 30 (The Lincoln Highway). The return in the westerly direction would include some Interstate Routes but emphasis on the more rural roads.

We traveled through most of Illinois on Route 30. This took us through Dixon, IL with a visit to the Ronald Reagan home and the nearby place where John Deere built his first plow. We also traveled some original Route 30 that were gravel roads yet and between some of the finest corn fields this year. The eastern end of Route 30 in Illinois is

through Joliet. This was challenging because of heavy traffic and many stop lights. The '99 E300 performed flawlessly in these conditions as I elected to not use overdrive.

We took a detour to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum and on eastward to the Air Force Museum in Dayton, OH. Again we traveled the older highways and not the Intersates. The next stop was in Pittsburgh, PA where we were treated to the wonderful view of downtown Pittsburgh from Mt. Washington. What a view both before and after sunset.

From Pittsburgh to Harrisburg we traveled old Route U. S. 30. This was a wonderful way to see the Pennsylvania countryside.

The return westward took us down the Skyline Parkway in Virginia to Monticello (Thomas Jefferson's home) and then down the Blue Ridge Parkway. We needed to make up some time so we traveled Interstate 40 to Nashville where we attended a performance at the Grand Ole Opry.

The slower travel on Route 30 and 500 miles of Parkway travel at 35 to 50 MPH helped us to record a nice 33.25 MPG. The '99 E300 was a pleasure to drive and not a bit tiring on the 3600 miles of travel. The only incident was a stop light out due to a faulty light connection.

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Ozark Section MBCA, Inc.
P. O. Box 5732
Bella Vista, AR 72714

Membership:

Use our toll-free number to join.

Call 1-800-637-2360

Office hours are 8 am to 5 pm (Mountain Time)

Dues:

One year - \$45

Two years - \$87

Three years - \$127

Membership dues include six issues of The Star magazine yearly and access to the Mercedes-Benz Technical Forum