



# Sooner Star News

the official Central Oklahoma section club newsletter

May / Jun 2023 Issue

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

Springtime, summertime, May and June. The time where we are excited for the weather to warm up and fearful of the destructive power of Mother Nature.

The past couple of months have brought our club great success! Our March Dinner Meeting at Johnnie's on Britton Road brought in thirty-two attendees. On our annual trip to Enid we had thirty-six members and guests join in for all the festivities there. Beginning with the Boy Scout Car Show and then John Groendyke was so kind to furnish us with a personal tour of his private collection of cars, memorabilia, trophies, etc. After the Groendyke tour we went to our usual lunch venue, Callahan's, and then ended the fun day with a trip to our fellow club member, John Bowers' garage to check out all of his automobiles and such. (see [page 8](#) for a recap of the event including pics).

We're getting ready for our annual picnic in June. We've located a caterer, Thafoodude Kings Cuisines, that will cook burgers, hot dogs, and brats onsite like we used to do before the pandemic. The charge per attendee is \$25 (see [page 4](#) for all the details). As



*Jeff Leatherrock, President*

*(continued on page 2)*

Membership dues are increasing see [page 15](#) for details on how to take advantage of a savings promo expiring June 30th

*(President's Message continued from page 1)*

most of you know, COVID took a financial toll on our club. MBUSA suspended their financial support for all clubs worldwide. This resulted in the elimination of the stipend they normally provided to the MBCA. As a result, the MBCA discontinued rebates to all club sections. This has made it difficult for the club to subsidize events.

Since we have our picnic in June, we won't have a monthly dinner meeting. Our regular July meeting will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> at Spazio Ristorante (see [page 3](#) for all the details and more upcoming events).

Our Weatherford Trip that we originally planned for May has been postponed until summer. Seems the original date of Saturday May 6 (which we chose with Careful Consideration and Surgical Precision) was also the date of school graduation ceremonies at SWOSU and Weatherford schools. It is the busiest hospitality day of the year in the Weatherford area, and would have made an after-tour group lunch impossible. We're currently looking at dates in late July. We'll inform the membership once plans are secured.

One small member benefit we overlook is free buy-sell listings in our monthly newsletter and section site. If you have Mercedes-Benz cars or related items, please contact me for details.

Be sure to renew your membership before the end of June to take advantage of the bonus the club is offering of free months, as well as the savings. July 1st dues are increasing from \$55 per year to \$65.

I'm having a great time being section president. Thank you for supporting me, and please know that I think you guys are the greatest. It is still an honor.

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# Upcoming Events

May 16	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting Bandeé's Barbecue in Chisholm Creek 13230 Pawnee Dr, OKC
Jun 10	11am	Annual Picnic (see <a href="#">page 4</a> for details) Hafer Park 1034 S Bryant Ave, Edmond
Jul 8	10am	Board of Directors Meeting Mercedes-Benz of OKC 14240 Broadway Extension, Edmond
Jul 18	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting Spazio Ristorante in Chatenay Square 10600 S Penn Ave #10, OKC
Aug 15	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler 2652 W Britton Rd, OKC
Sep 19	7pm	Monthly Dinner Meeting Interurban Restaurant 1150 Ed Noble Pkwy, Norman

for Coffee & Cars events & locations, see [page 15](#)



## SAVE THE DATE

2023 Section Christmas Party  
December 12th

Twin Hills Golf & Country Club  
3401 NE 36th Street  
Oklahoma City



*make plans to join us for our*

# Oklahoma MBCA ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, June 10, 2023

11am—2pm

Hafer Park

Pavilion 1

1034 South Bryant Ave

Edmond, OK

grilled Angus burgers, hot dogs, & bratwurst  
prepared onsite by *Thafoodude Kings Cuisines*  
along with picnic sides of baked beans, potato salad,  
chips; cookies and assorted fruit for dessert;  
beverages of lemonade and iced tea

\$25 per person

[click here to register](#)

If you prefer to register by email or phone,  
you can do so by emailing [central.ok.mbca@gmail.com](mailto:central.ok.mbca@gmail.com)  
please include the names and contact information for all attendees or  
call Jeff Leatherock at (405) 943-5657 please leave a message

Register by June 4, 2023

send payment of \$25 per attendee to:

MBCA, Central Oklahoma Section, P.O. Box 21040, Oklahoma City, OK 73156-1040  
or Zelle payment to [central.ok.mbca@gmail.com](mailto:central.ok.mbca@gmail.com)

# Event Report

## March Dinner Meeting

Our March Meeting was held at Johnnie's Charcoal Broiler located at 2652 West Britton Road on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup>. There were thirty-two members and guests in attendance.



*Jeff Sandusky & Julie Winger*

Our meeting speaker was fellow club member, Jeff Sandusky. Jeff is a Regional Director at Cirrus Aircraft. Jeff grew up in the auto industry in Kingfisher. His family owned and operated Sandusky Chevrolet-Oldsmobile. Several of our club members know Jeff from Mercedes-Benz of Oklahoma City, where he was a Sales Manager for many years. In 2003, Jeff started his career with Cirrus Aircraft.



*Debbie Smoak & Charles Woods*

At our dinner meeting Jeff shared the story of the beginning of Cirrus Aircraft. It all started in the mid-1980s when the Klapmeiers, a wealthy



*Tony Marruchella; Chris Henry*



*Debbie Smith & Tom Paul*



*Mel Brazell; Carol Fisher*



*Kris Sawyer; Suzen Rodesney*




*Scott & Denell Thomas*



*Paul Rodesney; Ed Sawyer*

*(continued on page 6)*



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(March Dinner Meeting continued from page 5)

Wisconsin farming family, gave their three sons, Alan, Dale, and Ernie, their inheritance while they were still living, as to not miss out on what their offspring would do with the money.

Alan and Dale, who were already eaten up by the aviation bug, started Cirrus Design with the VK-30 home-built kit airplane that they originally built in the family barn in Wisconsin. Fast forward years later and miles away to Minnesota, Cirrus Design, became Cirrus Aircraft and their parachute (CAPS) airplane, what most of us think of when we hear Cirrus, was created. Jeff ended his program with a quick Q&A session for our members who are curious about aircraft.

Klapmeier's son, Ernie, is a re-enactor and museum educator of military history in Illinois.

Door prize drawing winners were Sharon Haldane, Lisa Leatherock, Steve Murrell, and Charles Woods.



Tena & Lance Highfill



John Carson



Smiley Botchway



Tim Higgins



Sharon Haldane

  
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## THE WILD AND WACKY WORLD OF EXOTIC CARS

by Ken Wells

Welcome to this month's edition of the WWWEC.

Speaking of exotics, we just returned from the exotic car show hosted by Boardwalk Ferrari in Dallas. There were 10s of millions of dollars' worth of exotics on display with everything there from Ferrari, Lamborghini, Pagani, Porsche, McLaren, Bentley, Aston Martin and other marques. There were even some run-of-the-mill Corvettes and Ford GTs. It was the best of Pebble Beach and Amelia Island for one afternoon. The only problem was the blaring music so loud that you couldn't hear yourself think. Why is it they play music that no one wants to hear at ridiculously loud volumes at car shows? We're here for the cars, not ear damage! Anyway, it was a great show except for the noise.

The F1 season is well underway with the most recent race in Miami. F1 put on a great show with Verstappen winning again, Perez second and Alonso third. The race would be a great event to attend but this is why you don't go. We were offered three-day passes to one of the suites for only \$9000 per person excluding parking. As for food and drink, the suite menu had the F1 appetizer platter for \$500. The chicken nachos were expensive at \$275 but they fed four! If you're sorry you missed the Miami race you still can catch the race in Las Vegas or Austin. Just make sure to get the limit on your credit card raised first!

With summer here, it's car show season as well. The main event as usual is Pebble Beach car week in August. If you want to attend any of the events now is the time to book your hotel and event tickets. However, inflation has hit Pebble Beach as well as everything else in the economy. As an example, one of the hotels we booked before for around \$500 a night is now \$1,600 a night. If you would like to attend without booking everything yourself there are also all-inclusive packages with hotel and event tickets available in the \$20,000 range per couple. The packages do not include airfare.

Things are a little quiet in the exotic car world concerning announcements of new vehicles except for Aston Martin. The 2024 cars will have a refresh of the interiors and exteriors. The preview of the new cars drops this week. If you missed out buying one of the \$3 million Aston Valkyries, the Valhalla will start production in 2024. The car will be bargain priced compared to the Valkyrie at only \$800k. It will have a 4-liter twin-turbo V8, sourced from Mercedes, and two electric motors producing 937 hp and 738 lb. ft of torque. Interestingly, if you need to sneak into or out of the house in the middle of the night, it has an electric only range of about 10 miles.

On the auction front, the big winner at Amelia Island was a 1962 Ferrari Cal Spider selling for \$18 million. A 1974 Ferrari Dino 246 sold for \$967,500. I remember looking at one new for \$16,000. A 2015 McLaren P1 \$2,425,000. A 1991 560 SEC AMG 6.0 widebody coupe sold for \$885,000. A 2010 Pagani Zonda R sold for \$5,340,000. A 2022 Bugatti Chiron sold at the Paris auction for \$10,667,000.

Online auction prices have softened some and prices are soft on cars such as the new 2023 Aston Martin V12 Vantage Coupe which are not bringing sticker for the customers trying to flip them for a profit.

Prices at the Mecum Indianapolis auction were soft on numerous muscle cars which will be interesting as we go into the summer.

See you next issue!



# Event Report

## Annual Enid Trip

On Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 34 club members and guests travelled to Enid, Oklahoma in perfect weather for our annual trip to the Cimarron Council Boy Scouts of America Car Show at the Garfield County Fairgrounds. We met up at Rudy's Country Store & Bar-B-Q on Memorial Road around 8am and caravanned as a group to Enid arriving at the Car Show around 10am.



Members and guests at Rudy's Country Store & Bar-B-Q



Members caravan to Enid

We took about an hour to enjoy viewing all the classic cars at the show including fellow club members' 560SLs, Charles Woods' red 1986; Dickk Woolbright's beige 1987 and Greg Morgan's black 1987.

(continued on page 9)

*Did you know you can add an associate member to your MBCA membership at no charge? Adding an associate member gives them the opportunity to vote, as well as, run for a Board Director and/or Section Officer. To add your associate, please contact the National Business Office at 800-637-2360*



(Enid Trip continued from page 8)



Arrived at Garfield County Fairgrounds in Enid



**Are you interested in advertising in our section's newsletter, *Sooner Star News*?**

or do you know anyone who is?  
Anyone can advertise in our newsletter.  
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*Full page \$500*

*Half page \$350*

*1/4 page \$200*

*Business Card \$100*



Advertising rates include a color ad in our digital edition distributed by email to over 250 addressees; free link to your business website in our digital edition posted in the newsletter section of our club website and in the advertising section of our club website; black and white ad in our print edition; print edition copies for distribution at your business.

Please contact any Section Officer or Director (see [page 16](#)) for more information or to place your ad.



(continued on page 10)

(Enid Trip continued from page 9)



Greg Morgan's 1987 560SL



Dick Woolbright's 1987 560SL



Charles Woods' 1986 560SL



Charles & Christopher Woods



Tom Paul Debbie Smith

(continued on page 11)

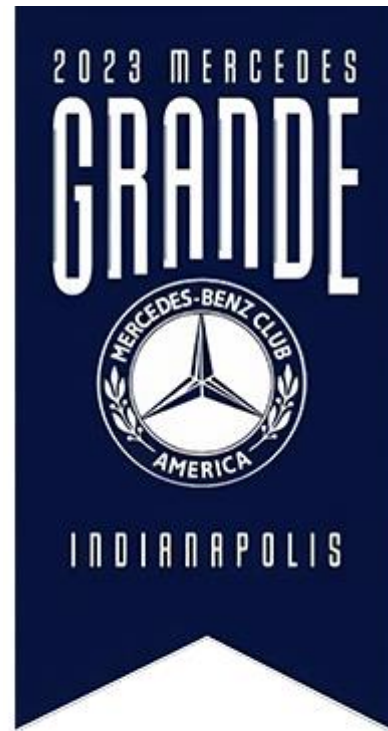


## Welcome New Members!

John Groendyke, Enid  
Bill Leeper, Oklahoma City  
Stephane Stewart, Woodward

## Thank you Membership Renewals!

Grant Bagwell, 2021  
Clayton Collum, 2014  
Kenny Hoffman & Mike Dippel, 2010  
Arthur Hoge, 2017  
Matt Holmes, 2022  
Jordan Humphrey, 2022  
Joe McCune & Blake Keese, 2022  
Max McTeer, 2019  
Fred Morgan, 2004  
John Norman, 2007  
Jimmy Tilton, 2018  
Charles Woods, 2010



*September 7th – September 10th*

The **2023 MERCEDES GRANDE** in Indianapolis, Indiana is a celebration of all things Mercedes-Benz. Four days of Mercedes-Benz Culture, Causes, People, Lifestyle, Technology, and Cars Presented by the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. Plan now to be a part of this exciting and extraordinary affair!

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for details

(Enid Trip continued from page 10)



Shortly after 11am, our group gathered to make the short trip to John Groendyke’s collection of classic cars and memorabilia. Mr. Groendyke was there to give us a guided tour of his private collection (no photos were allowed) and our section presented Mr. Groendyke with a one-year MBCA membership in appreciation for allowing us to tour his compilation.

A little after noon we finished up the Groendyke visit and drove to Callahan’s Pub & Grille on Independence in downtown Enid for lunch.



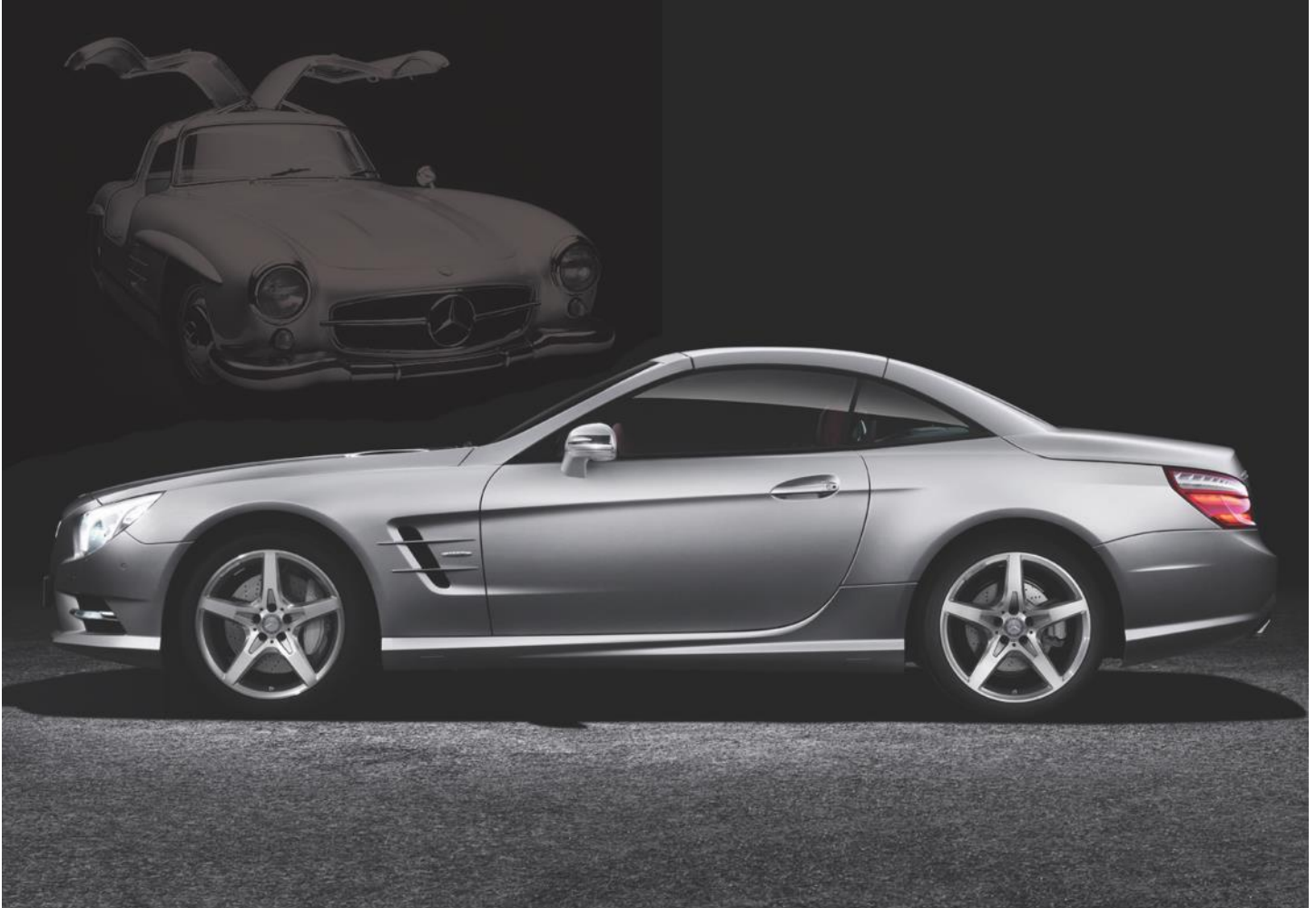
Keeping up with tradition, after lunch we made the quick trip to fellow MBCA member John Bowers’ Garage to check out all of his amazing rides! This was a great day!



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# Event Report

## April Dinner Meeting

On the evening of April 18 our monthly dinner was held at Pelican's Restaurant in Midwest City. We always enjoy this venue for a monthly meeting or two per year. Their large private room is a great comfortable space, in addition to their expansive menu of delicious seafood, steak, pasta, and legendary salad bar.



*Blake Wade*

Our meeting speaker was Blake Wade from the First Americans Museum. Blake Wade, a Lawton native, graduated from OU and served 20 years in the military during the Vietnam War. When he retired from the military he returned to Oklahoma and began community work including his involvement, along with other state leaders, in bringing the Debartolo Family (San Francisco 49ers owners) to Oklahoma City to build



*Dickk & Dorothy Woolbright*



*Carolyn Bullard; Suzen Rodesney*



*Jeff Leatherock; Lance Highfill*



*Debbie Smith & Tom Paul*



*Mike Dippel & Kenny Hoffman*



*Norris Nowlin*



*(continued on page 14)*

(April Dinner Meeting continued from page 13)

Remington Park; serving as Deputy Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society; and most recently his assistance in getting the First Americans Museum (FAM) opened.

Mr. Wade was a vital part of getting FAM up and running, including his work with the Smithsonian to get artifacts released to our state and the tribes for display at FAM. Mr. Wade has a long history of completing difficult projects for our state.

The meeting ended with door prize drawings. Winners: Carolyn Bullard; Lance & Tena Highfill; Paul & Suzen Rodesney; and Tony Marruchella.



Suzen Rodesney



Greg Morgan; Paul Rodesney; Charles Woods



John Carson; Tony Marruchella

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Articles, photos, and event reports for *Sooner Star News* are welcomed and appreciated  
Please submit to [leatherock@att.net](mailto:leatherock@att.net)

At the National Annual Meeting in November, the Board of Directors approved a \$10 dues increase that will begin July 1, 2023.

To incentivize members to renew before the increase, MBCA is offering one additional month of membership with a two-year membership; and two additional months with a three-year membership, at the current rates.

To take advantage of the immediate savings, login to your MBCA profile at [mbca.org](http://mbca.org), call the office at 800-637-2360, or click [here](#) to fill out the Promo Renewal Form and return it by mail, fax or email.

## FOR SALE



### 2009 SL550

2 owner; black; Designo interior (porcelain & black w/ wood & leather wheel); Pano roof; Premium 1 package; Parktronic; AMG wheel package w/ new tires; 42,500 miles; clean & well maintained. \$27,500 obo

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## Coffee and Cars

### Oklahoma City

first Saturday of each month  
from 8am-11am  
Chisholm Creek  
13230 Pawnee Drive  
Oklahoma City, OK 73114  
(near Western and Memorial)

### Norman

second Saturday of each month  
from 8am-10:30am  
Crest Foods  
1421 24th Avenue NW  
Norman, OK 73069

### Yukon

(aka Yukon Nights Cruise In)  
third Saturday of each month  
from 6pm-9pm  
Plaza at Stone Mill  
2121 South Yukon Parkway  
Yukon, OK 73099

For more information  
visit [coffeeandcars.com](http://coffeeandcars.com)



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# Mercedes-Benz Club of America Central Oklahoma Section

P. O. Box 21040  
Oklahoma City, OK 73156-1040  
email: [central.ok.mbc@gmail.com](mailto:central.ok.mbc@gmail.com)  
website: <https://centralok.mbc.org>

## Officers— Central Oklahoma Section

### President

Jeff Leatherock 405-943-5657  
[leatherock@aol.com](mailto:leatherock@aol.com)

### Vice President

Tom Whiteley 580-512-6317  
[thmswhiteley@gmail.com](mailto:thmswhiteley@gmail.com)

### Secretary

Tony Marruchella 843-513-6612  
[tmarruchella@yahoo.com](mailto:tmarruchella@yahoo.com)

### Treasurer

Lance Highfill 405-659-0212  
[lhighfill@cox.net](mailto:lhighfill@cox.net)

## Directors— Central Oklahoma Section

Mario Hernandez 405-822-3919  
[adobe15@aol.com](mailto:adobe15@aol.com)

Paul Rodesney 405-620-0124  
[paul.rodesney@gmail.com](mailto:paul.rodesney@gmail.com)

Ken Wells 405-340-1636  
[ken@kenscougars.com](mailto:ken@kenscougars.com)

## Newsletter Editor—Central Oklahoma Section

Lisa Leatherock 405-943-5657  
[leatherock@att.net](mailto:leatherock@att.net)

## Past President—Central Oklahoma Section

Charles Woods 405-359-2821  
[charleswoods1@gmail.com](mailto:charleswoods1@gmail.com)

## Regional Director—South Central Region

Brett Jurick 214-773-7820  
[bjurick@tx.rr.com](mailto:bjurick@tx.rr.com)



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