

June/July
2015

The Texas Star

Mercedes-Benz Club of America — North Texas Section



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Brett Jurick, President
 Open, Vice President
 Gayle Brewer, Secretary
 Craig Halverson, Treasurer
 Thomas Lovell, Membership
 Brett Jurick, Newsletter, Webmaster
 Ken Muller, Technical Chairman
 Ron Seifert, Events Chairman
 Thomas Charles Mako, Ex-Officio
 Maurice Nahas, Board Member
 Gene Jurick, Regional Director
 Ramzi Baransi, Park Place Motorcars Liaison
 Larry Reeg, Mercedes Benz of Plano Liaison

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Enjoy Club Benefits for Years to Come!

I wanted to take a moment to remind you of the many privileges that MBCA members get for being a part of this club. Beyond gathering with fellow club members at section events, your \$49 per year membership (dues will rise to \$55 as of July 1) you get a lot more than just membership in a car club.

Six issues of the Award winning Star Magazine, published for Mercedes-Benz Club of America members. Discounts at various Mercedes-Benz dealers and club sponsors. Always show your current membership card when requesting a discount (Discounts vary between dealers).

Locally, most dealers will extend a generous parts discount. Some will apply that to service done as well. Ask at the parts counter or your service advisor.

Independents too, extend a new member discount to all new members who bring their car in for their first

service after joining.

The MBCA Members Only Raffle. Twice a year, MBCA raffles off a new Mercedes-Benz. This year it is the new AMG GT. Only MBCA members can purchase tickets, and for \$50, you get the chance to win a \$130K car and a few bucks for taxes.

Save money at Brooks Brothers, Sears, Art XP, MedJet and others by logging in and letting them know you are an MBCA member.

An additional \$500 off your best deal on a new Mercedes-Benz vehicle purchase, and \$500 off a new Airstream Interstate or Autobahn. You have to have one full year of membership completed before these take effect.

The number one benefit is our local section, getting to meet others locally. The Star Magazine, which consistently wins awards is recognized as a major club benefit. And there is so much more. Did you know if you refer a new member you will get one additional month of membership free? All this and more can be found on www.mbca.org.

Renew now before the increase on July 1. You can lock in the current rate for up to 3 years as well as get 3 months free with that renewal.



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President's Message



It looks like the monumental rains may be over. We desperately needed the water and now all of our lakes are way beyond full. I am thankful for the sunny days to come and that we are done with May 2015, the wettest month in the history of record keeping in Texas. Now we can get our beautiful Mercedes-Benz vehicles shined up and show off all over North Texas. We have a great summer of events lined up for our members.

Three Membership Meetings, a great drive to Edom, TX, a Day at the Ballpark with the Frisco Roughriders, our rescheduled Membership

Appreciation Picnic and much more. There really is something great for everyone.

Please join our now 975+ North Texas members at an upcoming event to take advantage of the great local benefits of your membership.

REMINDER, if we do not have your email address, you are missing out on the majority of the communications from the Club. Please go to www.mbca.org, log in and update your info to stay in contact with all we have going on.

Brett Jurick

President, North Texas Section

Welcome!

The North Texas Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA) is dedicated to enhancing the ownership experience of the finest automobiles in the world. We engage in a variety of activities throughout the year that hopefully appeal to a broad section of our membership.

Currently our membership totals over 970 members who are committed to furthering their experience and enjoyment of their cars. Whether you're a gear head, performance driver, rally enthusiast,

cultural maven or social mingler, the MBCA North Texas Section had an upcoming event for you. Check out the Events section to see what's coming up during the year, and for details on events that are just over the horizon.



Check out where the competition is and where we are! Mercedes-Benz is taking the luxury car market by storm!

Wonder How We Are Doing?

US LUXURY BRAND SALES	
Brand	January-May
Mercedes-Benz	148,018
BMW	136,447
Lexus	132,727
Audi	75,253
Cadillac	67,384
Lincoln	38,786

Upcoming Events —Here's what's happening!

Eureka Springs Fall Leaf Trip



Do you know that just 130 miles from Dallas is a beautiful mountain drive that runs along the Oklahoma/Arkansas border? The scenic overlook along the Talimena Parkway are wonderful photo opportunities. We have planned a great three or four

day trip to take advantage of the wonderful mountain drives thru twisting and turning roads, some with a tunnel of trees along Highway 23 that really lets us drive our German engineered cars the way they were meant to be driven. A contest for those who want to be a part of a planned rally with questions about landmarks along the way will qualify for prizes at our dinner on Saturday night. We are even going to have a picnic lunch at the beginning of the Talimena Parkway. The leaves along the way at this time of year should be at peak. Our destination of Eureka Springs is a great place to see the past reborn. Lots of restaurants, shops and historic sites dating back to the days of the curative springs in the area. We will have a wonderful day of driving on Friday and on Saturday a great morning at Crystal bridges the beautiful Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. You will see paintings from pre-revolutionary times to the 20th century. You will see originals from some of the great artists in American history. The architecture of the museum with its grounds of walking trails and flowers is some of the best in the world. After the tour and lunch in the museum restaurant, we will return to Eureka Springs. For those folks who will stay for another great day in the Ozarks, we will go to the new Top of the Rock Museum of Natural History that is a part of the Big Cedar Resort. The drive will be through beautiful back roads to the new

museum and its beautiful grounds and a building that surrounds a state of the art golf facility that was the site of the Seniors Legends of Golf on April 24 and 26. You will not believe this building. After lunch in Arnie's Barn, we will tour Big Cedar Lodge on the way to Dogwood Canyon. Dogwood Canyon has wonderful bridges, waterfalls and ponds that are full of trout for fly fishing classes. Your cameras will be busy here. You can hike, rent bicycles or take tram tours of this beautiful 20,000 acre nature park. The tram tours take you through an area with exotic livestock and there are many fun guides. After a great day at Top of the Rock, Big Cedar Resort and Dogwood Canyon, we will be heading to Eureka Springs for an evening on your own to share time with friends, visit downtown Eureka Springs, have a great dinner at one of the many restaurants in the area, or just rest up for the drive home. You will receive goody bags at check-in that will have a lot of information on activities in Eureka Springs.

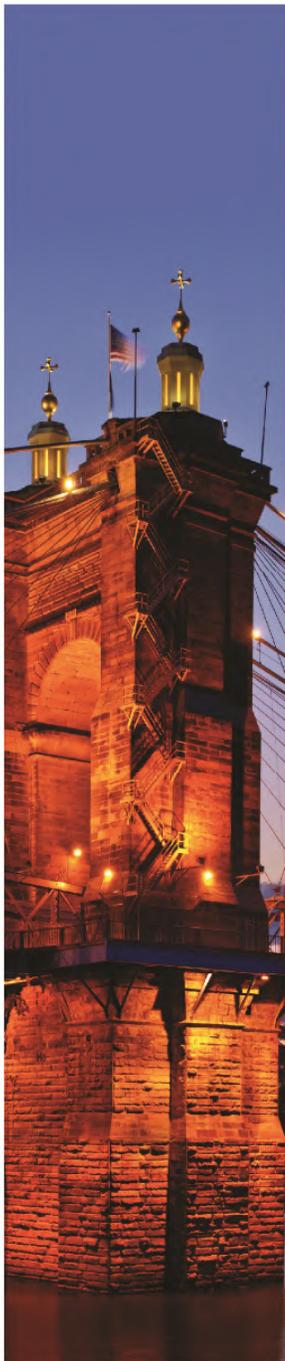


We have rally questions that are optional and they will be given to you at registration. Awards for the rally questions will be given out at our Saturday night dinner to the winners.

Monday morning will be the return home to Dallas. You can return on your own or drive together through the countryside on the return trip. It will be a great weekend of fun, making new friends and seeing some beautiful scenery. I hope you will be a part of all of the fun. The drive is great, but taking the time to know your club friends is the real reward.

The cost of the event will be \$20 per person. You can pay at the time of check-in or use PayPal.

Call or email Ron and Carolee Seifert (hosts) at 972-5 9-1280, or rseifert@grandecom.net.



MBCA's Premier 2015 Event

June 12-14, 2015

This year's speaker line-up is excellent!
Get updates and register today at <http://startech2015.mbca.org>

Immerse yourself in the latest technical information, insights and advice delivered by leading Mercedes-Benz experts.

Share your passion and connect with other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts from around the world.

See more than 200 spectacular vehicles **and experience the heritage of Mercedes-Benz**, this year's featured marque, at the Ault Park Concours d'Elegance.

Explore and experience Cincinnati's rich German history, including German-style breweries, architecture and the world-famous Over-the-Rhine neighborhood.



This year's host hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Cincinnati Airport. For more information, including event registration, hotel reservations and a link to join the online StarTech Facebook community, visit the website: <http://startech2015.mbca.org>

To request StarTech registration information via postal mail, please call David Hagood at 513-404-8183.



Mercedes-Benz



More Than a Car Club. We're a Community.™

Membership Picnic-Flagpole Hill - NEW DATE

Hello MBCA North Texas Section.

It's time again for our annual membership appreciation picnic. This is YOUR picnic! The section board members and many volunteers will make it an enjoyable and pleasant get together.

This year, MBCA National President, Terry Kiwala and the MBCA Southern Region Director Gene Jurick will attend.

Come see, marvel and experience the Mercedes Benz Airstream Custom coach. We will have one on display at the picnic. We are also having a Clean Car Show with prizes and new this year, member's choice! Everyone gets a vote and may the best car win. This picnic would not

be complete without our Dessert Competition. Assemble your best creations and qualify to win one of two prizes awarded this year. In addition, we will have a Raffle for door prizes and a 50-50 Cash Raffle (50% of the proceeds will go to a local charity). We will also be having a Italian Bocce tournament open to both genders.

Live music will be provided by the Matthew Bell Band.

The food, ahhh...this year we will have smoked pork ribs, they will be smoked on the picnic grounds courtesy of Chef Curtis McDonald. Also starring in the main event, alongside the ribs will be smoked brisket. Of course, we will have all the fixings, sides, cold sodas and water.

Date: September 12, 2015

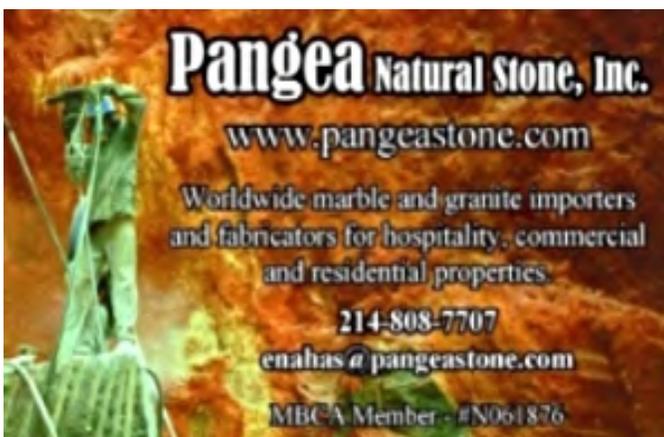
Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Where: Flag Pole Hill, White Rock Lake, Dallas, Texas

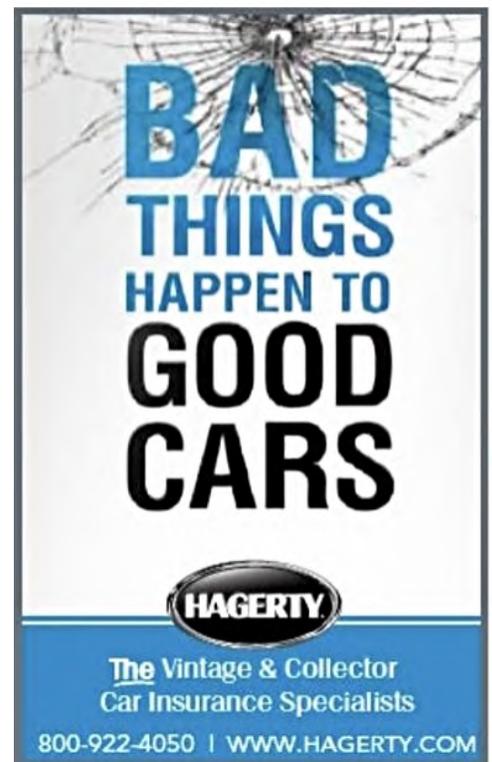
RSVP A MUST-Deadline to RSVP, Tuesday September 8 at 6:00pm. This

picnic is absolutely **FREE!** You must RSVP at maurice@mnaahas.com. I will confirm every RSVP I receive within 24 hours. We need the RSVPs to budget the lunch. If the registration table does not have your name when you arrive at the picnic you will not be able to have lunch. This picnic is open for all MCBA members with current membership status (or you could renew your membership at the park) and their immediate family. Please no friends or relatives.

All you need to do is attend this FREE event. We are looking forward to seeing you at the picnic.



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Book Reviews



Car Safety Wars: One Hundred Years of Technology, Politics, and Death

Michael R. Lemov

Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2015

Hardcover, 255 pages

Grayscale photos

ISBN: 161147745X

\$85.00

Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Car-Safety-Wars-Technology-Politics/dp/161147745X/>

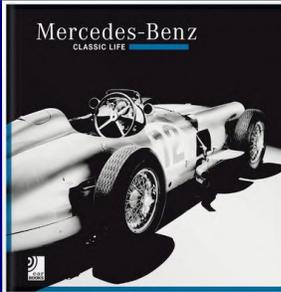
Car Safety Wars is an up to date book that discusses the recent GM ignition switch debacle and mentions the Takata Airbag issue, even though the extent of these problems is still unfolding.

I'm sure many MBCA members (OK, only a few of you go back that far) recall the cars of the 1967 model year when a plethora of new safety features made their appearances after being mandated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Features such as extensive interior padding, a collapsible steering wheel, and the lap belt were newly required for cars sold in the U.S. Of course, many of these items were already standard on Mercedes-Benz models.

Did these features work? Even before the age of the air bag and the widespread use of the shoulder harness (Mercedes-Benz and Volvo already had this item), Lemov reports that a 1976 General Accounting Office study found that when compared with pre-1966 cars, fewer deaths and serious injuries occurred in 1966-70 model year cars (p. 122). Considering that many people did not use lap belts, even though they were installed in their cars, the safety improvements were even more remarkable.

Also covered are the Ford Pinto fuel tank fires, Chrysler Jeep fires, Toyota's unintended acceleration issue, among many others.

Car Safety Wars is highly recommended for any MBCA member with an interest in car safety. Even though the Chevrolet Corvair is long gone, Lemov's book is an effective update of Ralph Nader's *Unsafe at Any Speed* (at the risk of dating myself, I read Nader's book when it was published in 1965).



Mercedes-Benz: A Classic Life

E.A.R. Books, 2014

Hardcover and vinyl LP, 216 pages

Mercedes-Benz: A Classic Life includes both German and English text and a vinyl LP containing eight tracks that I was not able to listen to, since I've been phonographically-challenged and haven't owned one for

many years now (and the only cassette players I still have are in my S500 and 1989 Town Car).

Divided into several sections, the S-Class section features an interview with Hans Dieter Futschik (Director of Exterior Design for Passenger Cars at Mercedes-Benz) who was responsible for the current W222's design. Another interesting article is the history of the 600 in "50 Years of the Mercedes-Benz 600." The Pagoda is well-documented in another section. Racing stories and legends are told in still another section of the book.

Well-illustrated, written, and produced, Mercedes-Benz: A Classic Life is highly recommended for MBCA members, especially those who still own phonographs.

Mercedes-Benz Nabs the Top Spot from BMW in the Luxury Race

With a strong April, Mercedes-Benz took over the top spot from BMW through four months in the tight luxury sales race.

Mercedes cols 29,188 vehicles in April, excluding Sprinter, while BMW division sold 26,952 and Lexus 25,876.

In the first quarter, BMW was No. 1, followed by Mercedes and Lexus.

Through four months, Mercedes sold 107,344 vehicles, followed by BMW at 105,444 and Lexus at 103,056.

Audi kept the No. 4 spot with sales of 56,925 through four months.

Acura was fifth with sales of 54,518, followed by Cadillac with 52,976.

The biggest percentage gainer among luxury brands though four months vs. the same period of 2014 was Land Rover, whose sales increased 27 percent to 22,257 vehicles.

Next was Porsche, up 17 percent to 16,647.

Sales of two luxury brands fell through four months: Jaguar, down 5.8 percent to 5,415, and Cadillac, down 1 percent to 52,976.

-Story Courtesy of Automotive News staff

Welcome New Members!

Daniel Adams	Laura Cutia	Richard Kull	Rebecca Rorapaugh
Mary Jane Advincula	Bart Davenport	Raj Lokaiah	Matthew Russell
Asaad Alsouqi	Robert Demmel	Fitim Lokaj	Mark Ryan
Kathryn Anderson	Ross Duggal	Roger Mathis	Felice Sanders-Johnson
Ernest Asibey	Jaime Galvan	Richard McDonald	Steve Spandau
Brady Baxter	Carlos Garcia	Michael McFarland	Phillip Thacker
Suda Bhagwat	Juan Garza	Heidy McWhorter	Theophilos Theophilou
Arthur Bollon	Avinash Gounden	Paul Merrell	Chris Thomason
David Bowhall	Autumn Green	Joseph Merrick	Eldrickdine Thompson
Rg Capron	Gerald Grimes	James Miller	Mike Tichenor
Christopher Carlton	Carolyn Haynes	Charles Miller	Abdul Tijani
Sandy Cervantes	Brad Hescok	Rakesh Mukundan	Austin Tse
William Chapman	Jochen Hotz	Louise Oeri	Karen Williams
Nannie Chhor	Taylor Jandegian	Theresa Pastorelle	Debbie Wilson
Steve Cowan	Nooreen Jinnah	Donald Paull	Christopher Wong
Scottie Craver	Peter John	John Poakeart	John Zouzelka
Cheryl Crawley	Paul Kechejian	L Pruitt	
Roderick Cruz	Huo-Teh Kiang	Swati Ray	
John Cullen	Peter Krause	Carrie Reiser	

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Many Thanks to Our Renewing Members!

Akinyemi Richard Adeg-bayi	Michael Hagle	Tim Lyons	Norma Song
David Adeyemo	Andrew Hall	Thomas Charles Mako	Bernardino Sosa-Roldan
Sagiraju Bhimaraju	Brad Hallett	Gary Mangold	Robert Steele
Camilo Bolanos	Christopher Hand	Fernando Martinez	Joseph Steinbauer
Gary Braswell	James Harrison	Vic Mauk	Karsten Streufert
Steven Brown	Kirk Hawrysis	Tony Mazraani	Kristy Talley
James Cassidy	Allan Hill	Peter McParlin	Henry Thomas
Rosemary Cooper	Jon Howells	Peter Medwid	Bernard Thomas
Stephen Copeland	Fred Hudspeth	Nancy Meinershagen	Gary Thompson
Homer Corn	Lori Hunt	Chris Merlo	Victoria Thompson
Kyle Crews	Cynthia Jorgensen	Ziad Mustafa	George Trapp
Hans Deitrich	William Kantor	Joshua Ng	Fred Turner
Mark Dickman	Sam Katbeh	Sheba Onyango	Elizabeth Valdez
Kevin Duke	Ellen Kay	Norvin Parr	Gayle Voth
Akhtar Elahi	Chuck Kleuser	Paul Pechersky	Yolanda Wilson
Richard Fijolek	Carl Knight	Javier Quintana	John Wiorkowski
Ron Gevandov	Alvin La Grenade	Matt Rasul	Doug Wofford
Phillip Gregory	Donald Barbara Linn	Letta Sanders	Janice Wright
Huiwei Gu	Waymond Lister	Wil Saqueton	Kr Wright
	John Luttrell	Stanley Scofield	Edward Zotz

Gemütlichkeit 2015 - August 19-22, 2015, Pittsburgh, PA

Gemütlichkeit is the longest running MBCA national event, last held in 2011. It is your opportunity to make and renew friendships with other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts from across the country.

If you love your Mercedes-Benz and love meeting other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts, this is the event for you. There will be 3 days full of defensive driving, autocross, a driving experience on Pittsburgh International Raceway, Concours d' Elegance, rally, banquets and tours of the Pittsburgh area. Mark your calendar for Aug. 20-22, 2015.

This year's Gemütlichkeit will feature:

Social events, including an opening reception and closing awards banquet

- A defensive driving class
- An autocross
- Track driving experience
- A Concours d'Elegance
- Tours and activities in and around Pittsburgh

For more information, including registration package information, contact Sue and John Morrison at:

330-673-7885, gobenzing@aol.com

Mercedes-Benz Club of America Membership Application

Please call the National Office at 800-637-2360 to join by phone or go to www.mbca.org/ to join online.

Full Name _____

Associate Member's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Business () _____

Email address _____

Member's Occupation _____

Mercedes Cars Now Owned _____

(list year(s) and model(s))

I hereby apply for membership in the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

_____ Date _____!

(Signature)

Join or renew before July 1 to lock in these low rates!

\$49.00 for one year

\$95.00 for two years

\$139.00 for three years

New Canada & Int'l Rates

\$59.00 for one year

\$116.00 for two years

\$169.00 for three years

Annual dues include six issues of "The Star" each year, plus your local section's newsletter.

Make your check payable to MBCA, and mail it along with the application to:

Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc.

National Business Office

1907 Lelaray Street

Colorado Springs, CO 80909

Help!

Calling All Members...

We're looking for a Car and Driving events coordinator to organize Car and Driving events for the North Texas Section. If you are interested please contact Brett Jurick at bjurick@tx.rr.com.

New Ideas Wanted

We're always looking for new ideas for events, get-togethers, drives, overnight tours, etc. If there's a particular type of event you would like us to host, let us know. Contact Ron Seifert at rseifert@grandecom.net.

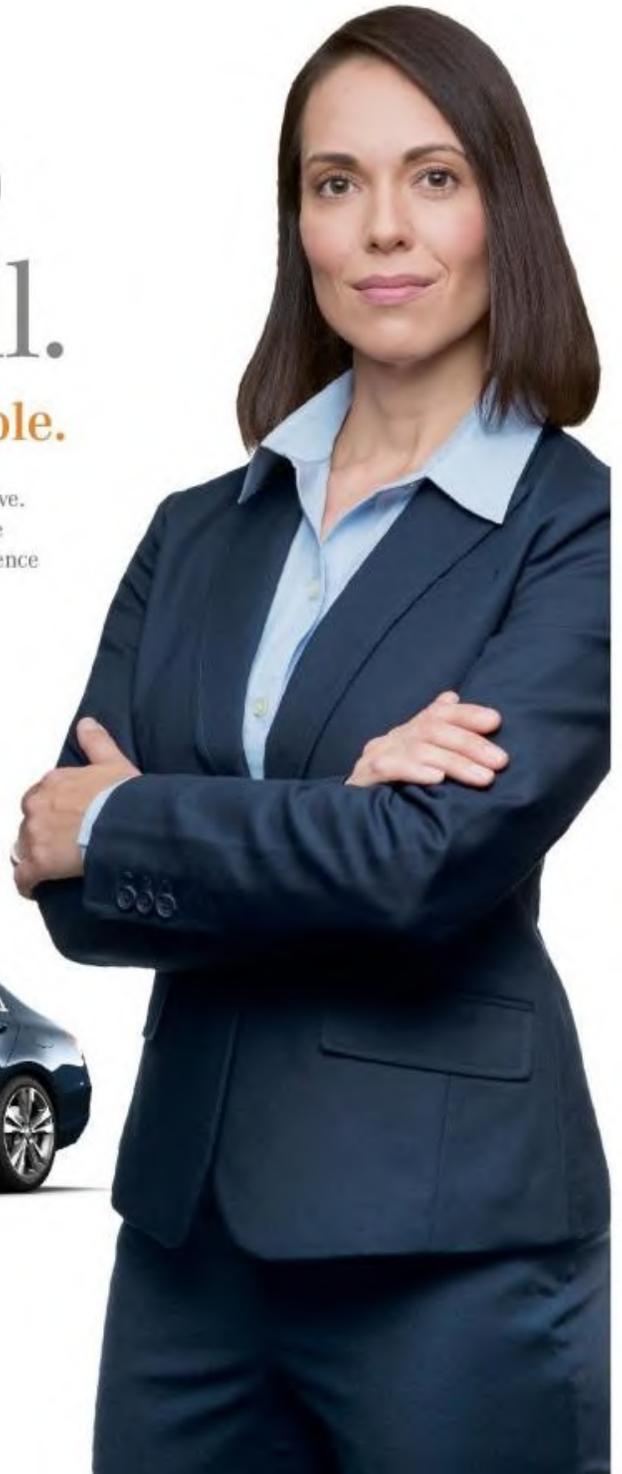


Mercedes-Benz
of Plano

Attentive to Every Detail.

Our Vehicles and Our People.

Outstanding performance shouldn't be limited to your test drive. That's why at Mercedes-Benz of Plano, our sales staff and service team are always ready to go the extra mile to make your experience exceptional. You take the wheel. We'll take the rest.



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Have you visited our new
website?

www.ntx.mbca.org/



www.facebook.com/mbcantx

Date	Event
June 13, 2015	Day Trip to Edom, TX
July 11, 2015	Monthly Membership Meeting
July 18, 2015	Day at the Ballpark - Frisco Rough Riders
August 1, 2015	Monthly Membership Meeting
August 8, 2015	Witherspoon Distillery, Lewisville, TX
September 5, 2015	Monthly Membership Meeting
September 12, 2015	NEW DATE – Membership Picnic, Flagpole Hill, Dallas TX
September 19, 2015	Drive to and tour of Billings Robotics, Allen, TX
October 8, 2015	MBCA Oktoberfest, Bavarian Grill
October 23-26, 2015	Eureka Springs / Crystal Bridges

Event dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please check out our website at <http://ntx.mbca.org> for the most updated information.