

ST. LOUIS GATEVAY
SECTION NEVA
Established in 1972

MAR/APR 2023 Volume 51 Issue 2

> MBCA Mission Statement: To Elevate The Mercedes-Benz Experience Through Knowledge, Comraderie, and Exceptional Events

MEMBER APPRECIATION RECEPTION Saturday, March 11th Mercedes-Benz of Chesterfield

ALL members are encouraged to join us for our upcoming Member Appreciation Reception at Mercedes-Benz of Chesterfield, 951 Technology Dr, O'Fallon, MO. The date is Saturday, March 11th, beginning at 5:30 pm. Daniel Branca, General Manager of both Mercedes-Benz of Chesterfield and Plaza Mercedes-Benz, has graciously offered to host this always popular Event for our club. Members who have joined our Section over the past year will be recognized and all members will have the opportunity to purchase official MBCA name-badges for only \$7!

During our visit, Dan & General Sales Manager, James Winston, will be providing us with an update on where things are at with the dealership and Mercedes-Benz in general. A product specialist will be doing a walkaround on the new EQS model, after which a facility tour of the dealership will be offered.

The dealership will be providing us with finger foods and snacks, along with soda & water. The Club will have wine to share with members.

So that we can finalize our plans, PLEASE RSVP by March 6th to Rick at rick.siefert@att.net, providing him with you and your associate's name.

We look forward to seeing you at what will assuredly be a fun and informative event!

CHARLES E. KING MID-CENTURY MODERN ARCHITECTURE MUSEUM

Saturday, April 22nd Belleville, Illinois

Please join us for a tour featuring a home designed by renowned Belleville architect, Charles E. King. In November 2015, the Belleville Historical Society purchased this Terry and Thelma Blazier House at **6 Oak Knoll Place**, **Belleville**, **Illinois 62223** to serve as a Mid-Century Modern Architecture Museum. Mr. King designed the home for the Blaziers in 1952.

Our tour will start at 11:00 am with a talk about Charles King and his contributions to the mid-century movement. In addition, our host, Jay Schuessler, will add some antidotal stories of he "weaved" through Mr. King's life, citing both the architectural connection as well as the automotive influences. We will then have lunch at the house, followed by time to roam the house and grounds.

The cost for museum entry and lunch is \$20 per person. Please RSVP by April 14th to Jay at <u>ischuessler105@gmail.com</u> or 314-277-2436. Send your check, made out to "MBCA, St. Louis Gateway Section", to Jay Schuessler at 5 Powder Creek Dr, Belleville, IL 62223.

For additional information on Charles King, see this PBS documentary at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLSGKHw-Yr4

DIAMOND MINERAL SPRINGS RESTAURANT Highland (Grantfork), Illinois Sunday, May 21st

Our May event will be hosted by Craig and Cindy Masterson on Sunday, May 21st. Please join us at 11:00 am for a family-style lunch at the Diamond Mineral Springs Restaurant (DMSR) https://www.diamondmineralsprings.com. DMSR is located at 1 W Pocahontas Rd, Highland (Grantfork), IL. By the most direct route, the restaurant is an easy 35-mile drive from downtown St. Louis.

The restaurant specializes in family-style meals. Meals are served with bowls of cole-slaw, beets, mashed potatoes & milk gravy, homestyle green beans, and buttermilk biscuits & apple butter. The entrée specialty is fried chicken, but other entrees available are baked or BBQ chicken, chicken & dumplings, livers & gizzards, country ham steak, boneless ribeye pork chops, roast pork & dressing, homemade pork sausage (with a German sweet & sour red cabbage), fried walleye, beer-battered cod, fried or coconut shrimp, country fried steak and surf & turf. Those who "need" dessert can choose from a selection of their famous "Foot-Hi" pies!

After lunch, those interested, and weather permitting, we will proceed to the Copper Dock Winery, a short 8-mile drive, due east, located at 498 700 N, Pocahontas, Illinois. The winery has outdoor patios and decks overlooking a scenic lake. Live music is provided on the weekends. https://copperdockwinery.com/

Please RSVP to Craig (bigv8@swbell.net) by May 14th to let him know of your attendance.

2023 MBCA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION Officers and Board Members

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rick.siefert@att.net 314.435.1903

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Jan Lupardus jlupardus@charter.net, 619.851.3422

Bob Frank (Newsletter Editor) rsfrank1@aol.com, 636.273.9820

Kay Frank (Newsletter Editor) kay.frank7@gmail.com, 636.273.9820

Jonathan Leggs (Webmaster and Membership Chair)

jleggs@gmail.com, 314.809.3763 http://stlgateway.mbca.org (SLGS website)

Alicia Monfrinotti monfriusa@charter.net, 314.369.8474

Ken Koehler (*Central Region Director*) skkoehler@att.net, 317.919.4601

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HELLO ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION MEMBERS!

Wow! St. Louis Gateway Section members gathered together to enjoy two fantastic events in January and February! Our New Year's Brunch in January was over-the-the-top, as Addie's in Chesterfield closed their restaurant for our club and provided us with a fantastic array of both traditional and Thai selections. And in February, club members, Jim and Stacey Weddle, graciously welcomed us to a viewing of their fantastic collection of fine automobiles!

And the fun continues as Mercedes-Benz of Chesterfield General Manager, Daniel Branca and his staff are hosting this year's **Member Appreciation Reception on Saturday, March 11**th. If you haven't already RSVP'd for this one, I would suggest that you do so NOW.

Of course you'll want to join us for the **Mid-Century Modern Museum Tour on Saturday, April 22**nd that Jay Schuessler has put together for us. This will be another not-to-be-missed event for everyone. Details are noted on the cover page of this newsletter.

As we now have a Regional Event planned for June, the MBUSI Factory Tour that we were hoping to have in August, will be postponed until probably next year. Please let us know if are willing to host a gathering during the month of August.

And, please consider joining us for this year's **National MBCA Event, Mercedes Grande**, in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 7th-September 10th. This will definitely be a celebration of all things Mercedes-Benz! Further details are noted on page 12 of this newsletter and the website, https://www.mercedesgrande.org/.

I want to shout out a personal THANK YOU to our many newsletter advertisers. It is these companies/individuals that financially support our Section. **PLEASE consider using one of the many businesses that advertise in our newsletter.** They all receive my personal sign-of-approval.

Gute Fahrt Liebe Freunde (Have a Good Trip Dear Friends!)



Rick Siefert President St Louis Gateway Section



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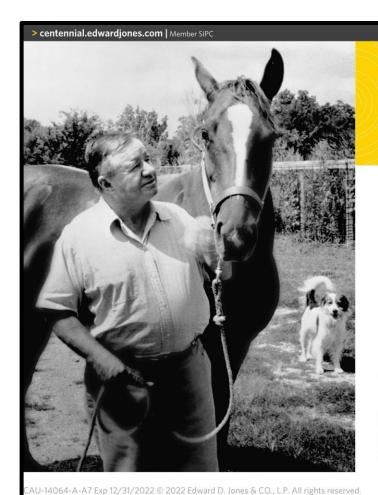


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NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH, ADDIE'S THAI HOUSE, CHESTERFIELD – SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2023

Club members were treated to a fabulous New Year's Brunch on Sunday, January 15th, where we all gathered at Addie's Thai House in Chesterfield. Addie's owner, Louis Brinckwirth, opened up his restaurant for only our club members this particular morning and put together a fantastic menu of both traditional American and Thai foods! Compliments abounded by ALL attendees!

As an added "bonus" to our already wonderful gathering, Central Regional Director, Ken Koehler and his wife, Sara, joined us for a brunch that we look forward to doing again in the future. (photo left)



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JIM WEDDLE'SCAR WAREHOUSE COLLECTION – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2023

Club members Jim and Stacey Weddle graciously hosted us on February 4th, once again, to a visit of their incredible collection of amazing cars! And to top off our visit, the Weddles provided us with boxes of delicious donuts and coffee!

President Rick noted the fact that four of the five St. Louis European Auto Show board members (Jim Weddle, Rodger VanNess, Carl Fitzwater, and Rick) who were instrumental in revitalizing the show over 20 years ago, attended the visit (Steve Jacquemin was still vacationing in Florida). The show continues to be very successful with all proceeds directed to charitable entities throughout the St. Louis area. This year's show is scheduled for Sunday, June 11th.

New member, and General Manager of both Plaza MB and MB of Chesterfield, joined us and invited us all to the Member Appreciation Reception at Mercedes-Benz of Chesterfield, which they are hosting, on Saturday, March 11th. The dealership will be providing snacks and your club will be supplying the wine.











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WELCOME TO MERCEDES GRANDE

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!

Main events will include:

- -- Rally Drives and Tours, Presented by the Mercedes-Benz Club of America and Artomobilia.
- -- Ladies With Mercedes Luncheon and Fashion Show.
- -- Tech Talks and Guest Speakers.

- -- Mercedes-Benz New Car Extravaganza and Lifestyle Exhibition.
- -- Presidents Club Luncheon, Benefitting the Alzheimers Association.
- -- Hullabaloo Street Festival Drive-In Car Show and Concert.
- -- Mercedes Monumental Classic Car Show at "Artomobilia, The Art Of The Automobile".
- -- Kids Zone Exhibit Play Station and Driving Experience.
- -- Museum Tour Package
- -- The War Memorial Tour

Much more information on each of these events, as well as registration information can be found at:

https://www.mercedesgrande.org/



June 15-18, 2023

MBCA Central Region Event

"Daimlers in the Music City"

MBCA Mission Statement:

"To elevate the Mercedes-Benz experience through knowledge, camaraderie, and exceptional events."

Holiday Inn Express, Brentwood South/Cool Springs 8097 Moores Lane Brentwood, TN 37027

Be sure to "save the date" for this one!

Plan to meet with both old friends and new while we see and enjoy so much of what Nashville has to offer.

Special room rates are \$139 (+added tax & fees) per night.

HOTEL RESERVATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 20, 2023.

The Registration Fee is \$110 per person & due by 6/1/23,

RSVP/TO: Ken Koehler@skkoehler@dv.nel.

A prore detailed announcement & invitation will be sent in the next few weeks.

We hope to see you all there.

JIM WEDDLE'S CAR WAREHOUSE COLLECTION – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2023



MY GATEWAY TO THE MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

Jonathan Leggs, SLGS Webmaster & Membership Chair

I didn't set out to own a Mercedes-Benz. I came to own my 2005 SLK55 AMG through a crooked road, figuratively speaking. This was not my first brush with the margue. In 2001 I picked up an emerald green 1982 380SEC with an AMG package. It had an AMG body kit, wheels, and suspension, but the engine was stock. I had no idea what Mercedes ownership was about so needless to say, I was ill-prepared for the task. Being a child of the 80's, I was familiar with AMG through me being glued to the TV every Friday evening watching Miami Vice with my older brother. The SEC had spent a fair portion of its life in an indoor showroom and the visible condition of the car was excellent. What I couldn't see was what was beneath the surface. There was zero rust on the car, but because it had basically been stored for quite a while, the appropriate maintenance had not been taken care of over the latter years of its life. The more I drove it, the more that things went wrong. After a year and a half, I ended up selling the car for next to nothing.



For ten years prior to picking up my SLK, my wife, daughters, and I had been avid motorcycle riders and we were in the market for a "fun car" to be a replacement for the bike. The car that started me down the path of bike replacement was not a roadster. It was a sedan of a completely different

marque. The car that I had set my sights on wasn't meant to be, as the seller and I could not get our numbers to align, so I decided to embark on another search.

I started looking at Miatas and the thought of a V8 swap in one had crossed my mind. It was during this time that I saw a video by popular automotive YouTuber, Doug Demuro. The video was called, "The Mercedes-Benz SLK55 Is an Underrated V8 Luxury Miata". He absolutely had my attention. I had no idea that this car existed! From here I went on an internet frenzy to find out as much about the car as I possibly could. Without ever having seen one in person, I had become quite smitten.

After a couple months of searching, the SLK I now own was listed on Craigslist in Springfield, Missouri. After working with

the owner a few days, my daughter and I drove down to take a look at the car. When I first saw it, I was blown away at just how beautiful it was, as it was very reminiscent of a tiny exotic car. I was sold on it before the previous owner handed me the key for a test drive. Despite its small size, it is not wispy or lightweight. Best word to describe it is "solid".



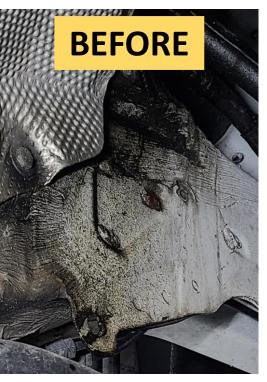
With the transaction complete, we drove the three hours back to St. Louis with no problems, which was kind of a risk as I didn't have much knowledge of the car's overall mechanical Needless condition. to say, on the drive home, I felt like a kid Christmas on ln the morning. following months. there were a couple of minor maintenance

issues that were taken care of handily by Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis. With the deferred maintenance items now behind me, I am happy to report that the SLK has been very dependable. Except for a few snowy and rainy days, I've driven this car almost every day over the past year. What was supposed to be the weekend-only fun car has become my daily driver to the tune of almost 10,000 miles in the past year. This SLK has been a wonderful welcome back to Mercedes, and a great "Gateway" to the Mercedes-Benz Club of America and our fantastic local chapter, the St. Louis Gateway Section!



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CARS AND PARTS FOR SALE

Audrey Biby has 3 SL's FOR SALE – a 2003 SL500 (\$19,900, 31K miles), a 1996 SL500 (\$7900, 110K miles), & a 1982 380SL (\$3900, 106K miles). *Rick Siefert (rick.siefert@att.net) for further information and pics*.

300D, **1981**. Astral Silver (Paint Code 735) exterior with Blue MB Tex (Interior Code 132). 101K miles. Same stewardship for past 18.5 years. MBCA Preservation Certification. Overall, a very high-quality driver that presents extremely well. Maintained with an open check book by a very meticulous MBCA owner. All major systems function as intended including, but not limited to, A/C (holds a charge for approx. 3 years) central locking and cruise control. Serviced annually by private 3rd generation MB mechanic who trained at an MB distributer in Germany. Extensive documentation. Selling to make room recently acquired W116. \$17,500. **Andy Gusman, agusman@dja.com, 516.974.3625**.

540K 1938 Cabriolet A. Claret over tan leather, ex Sir Peter Ustinov, ex John Bond, shown at Pebble Beach, beautiful older restoration. \$1,490,000. **Shawn Dougan (Hyman LTD) at shawn@hymanltd.com**.

280SE Cabriolet, 1969, Sand Beige over dark brown leather with dark brown Haartz cloth top, bare metal rotisserie restoration. \$164,500. **Shawn Dougan (Hyman LTD)** at **shawn@hymanltd.com**.

SLS AMG GT, 2013, Alubeam Silver over Classic Red, B&O sound system, one owner with just 6220 miles. \$275,000. **Shawn Dougan (Hyman LTD)** at shawn@hymanltd.com.

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS TO

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION MEMBERS

If you would like to place an advertisement, please mail or e-mail it by the 15th of the month to:

Rick Siefert - rick.siefert@att.net 846 Nardin Drive Chesterfield, Missouri 63017

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PAST SCHOOLHOUSES TAKE IT SLOW – LET THE LITTLE SHAVERS GROW!

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION 2023 Remaining Events

March 11th
Member Appreciation Reception
Mercedes-Benz of Chesterfield

April 22nd
Mid-Century Modern
Architecture Museum
Belleville, IL

May 21st
Diamond Mineral Sprint Restaurant
& Copper Dock Winery
Highland, IL

June 11th
St. Louis European Auto Show
MINI of St. Louis

June 15-18th
MBCA Central Region Event
"Daimlers in the Music City"
Brentwood, TN

July 9th
Boat Tour & Fast Eddie's
Alton, IL

August TBD

September
Fort De Chartres – Fall Drive
Prairie Du Rocher, IL

September 17-10th
Mercedes Grande
Indianapolis, IN

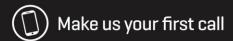
October Fall Annual Picnic

November Annual Planning Meeting

December 3rd
Holiday Party
Greenbriar Hills Country Club

Results

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PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Since the last publication of the Gateway News, we are proud to announce and WELCOME the following new members:

William White Daniel Branca

Welcome to the St. Louis Gateway Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We have over 200 memberships within a 200-mile radius of St. Louis.

The success of our Club depends on the participation of the members to our scheduled activities. Thank you for joining. We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

LOYAL RENEWING MEMBERS

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Thank you for your continued support of our club!

Don't see your "significant other" listed? Then you may not have entered them as associate members with MBCA when you joined. It costs nothing to make them associate members. Simply log on to your MBCA account, scroll down to "Associate Member".

click on "Edit", and enter the name. That's it.

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