



MBCA Memphis Section Newsletter - Jan./Feb. 2023

# River City Star



## President's Message:

Greetings to each of you and Happy New Year! Welcome to the January-February issue of the **River City Star**. I hope you had a great Christmas and got through the cold spell without any damage. We're looking forward to 2023 being a better year for all of us.

Our next event is our quarterly dinner. This time it will be at the Red Pier Cajun Seafood and Bar on Poplar. Please try and join us for some great food, door prizes, the announcement of the section **Member of the Year**, and an early start on the Mardi Gras festivities.

We've included a copy of the 2023 Calendar of Events later in the issue, so you can look at what we have planned for the new year. I'll send out an Evite (email invitation) with specifics on events as we get closer to them. Other events may be added as we learn about them.

At our second quarterly dinner, in April, we will hold our annual election of officers. If you would like to get more involved in club activities and put your special brand on some of our events, give me a call and I'll tell you more.

Drive safe and happy motoring.

**Bill Sudekum**

**President, Memphis Section**

## The 2023 MBCA-Memphis Calendar of Events

Our events include delicious dinners, fun drives and demonstrations on how to fix your car. Regardless of your interests and preferences, you will have many different events to choose from.

All members are invited to suggest additions to our calendar, whether it is regarding a dinner location, a day drive or special event. Just let any of our board members know; their contact information is listed below.

As always, go to [memphis.mbc.org](http://memphis.mbc.org) for the latest updates on our events.

Date	Event	Location
Jan. 14	Quarterly Dinner	Red Pier Cajun Restaurant, 5901 Poplar Ave.
Feb. 4	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Mar. 1	Cars & Carvs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Mar. 18	Tech Session	TBD
'April 1	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
April 15	Quarterly Dinner & Officer Elections	TBD
May 6	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
May 20	Drive-In Movie	TBD
June 3	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
June 17	Short Day Trip and Lunch	Hollywood Cafe, Robinsonville MS
July 1	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
July 15	Quarterly Dinner	TBD
Aug. 5	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Aug. 12	Day Trip, Full Throttle Distillery	Trimble TN

Date	Event	Location
Sept. 23 or 30	Memphis EUROFEST Car Show	Location TBD
Oct. 7	Cars and Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Oct. 14	Quarterly Dinner	TBD
Nov. 4	Cars and Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Dec. 2	Cars and Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Dec. 9	Germantown Holiday Parade	Panera Bread, Germantown
Dec. 16	Christmas Party	(dinner, location TBD)

## Talking Cars and Fellowship

### Cars & Carbs

On the first Saturday of every month, a group of members get together to swap stories about their cars, car trips and just about every subject that comes to mind. The number of participants varies each month, but one constant remains: **all members are welcomed to participate!**

So join us this upcoming February 4th! Panera Bread has great coffee and the conversation at the table is even better.



### MBCA Memphis Officers:

Section President	Bill Sudekum <a href="mailto:sudekumwa@msn.com">sudekumwa@msn.com</a> 901-299-0653
Section Secretary:	Lynn Jones <a href="mailto:JL.Jones11@outlook.com">JL.Jones11@outlook.com</a> 901-853-0846
Section Treasurer:	Lynn Jones <a href="mailto:JL.Jones11@outlook.com">JL.Jones11@outlook.com</a> 901-853-0846
Section VP/Membership	Michael McHann <a href="mailto:Mike.mchann@eccotek.com">Mike.mchann@eccotek.com</a> 901-299-6341
Section Newsletter	Suzanne Cunningham <a href="mailto:suzflay@aol.com">suzflay@aol.com</a> 901-828-5182

## Memphis Membership Matters

Mike McHann (Membership Chairman)

I'm sorry to report that December brought us no new members. This year we had a net loss of 16 members, leaving us with 80 members at the end of 2022. Our loss in membership can be partially attributed to the reduced inventory of new models at the dealers due to a microchip shortage at the manufacturer; however, this seems to be changing and dealer inventories are rising.

We need referrals from current members so you can remind your Mercedes friends that local membership benefits include:

- 1 A 15% discount on parts & labor at Mercedes Memphis & Collierville
- 2 Membership in the national club
- 3 A Bi-Monthly magazine
- 4 Local club dinners, parades, car shows, etc.

5 The local newsletter

6 Technical help for your Mercedes from local club members.

Just remember, if you refer someone, ask them to include your name on the application and receive a 1 month extension on your own membership.

Also, we need your old copies of the Star for our Dealer Displays; to donate let me know and I'll come by and pick them up.

Let's keep up the good efforts and encourage our fellow Mercedes owners to join. We have a colorful application so let me know if I can send you copies.

Join now! <https://memphis.mbca.org/join/national>

**Mike McHann**  
901-299-6341

# Members and Their Cars

by Mike McHann

**Brad Hesco** joined the MBCA recently and, although new to the club, Brad comes to the MBCA with much European car experience and a stable of cars: 2005 CLK500 Cab, 2016 GLC300 4Matic, 2019 E450 4Matic, and a 1972 Mercedes 250C. This is the story of his most recent purchase, the 1972 Mercedes 250C.

“Hi Mike. I picked up a new toy yesterday. Once I get it home (it’s tucked in my barn in NC at the moment), I’ll bring it out and show her off. It’s a 1972 250C, 114 chassis. 2.8L carbureted SOHC straight six/auto. I bought it from a 41 year MB master tech who is the shop foreman at the MB

dealer in Kingsport, TN. This was his personal car for the last 8-10 years. Originally owned in CA, then spent a short amount of time in NJ, then E TN for the last several years. It’s mechanically 100% and drives beautifully. I’m not sure what I’m going to do with it yet. It will live in my barn at my NC house until I have storage in Memphis figured out, already have way more cars than garage space, as my dear wife has pointed out. It was simply too nice of a car to pass up. Here are a few more glamour shots for you.

Thanks for sharing it with the group! Brad Hesco”



## Memphis Section Makes A Showing at 2022 Germantown Holiday Parade

This year’s Germantown Holiday Parade was held on its rain-date, Sunday, December 11 and while the one-day delay took its toll on our turnout as well as other Parade participants, there was still a warm welcome by the typically big crowds that attend this annual event.

Our participants included Bill Sudekum, Mike McHann, and Lynn Jones. Getting MBCA–Memphis Section’s name in front of such a large number of friendly faces has always made for good PR and may be a factor in our Section’s ability to generally hold onto our membership numbers over the past several COVID years. Of course, Mike McHann’s diligent efforts at courting the customers who come by the two area dealerships has been the big driver, but we hope some of those potential members saw our name at the annual Germantown Holiday Parade. We are game for another round next December 9, 2023, so plan on

coming out and supporting our Section and our community. Holiday spirit abounds, friends are smiling, and of course, we all talk Mercedes-Benz!







# Technical Tips and Tricks (TTT)

by Mike McHann

## Buying an Older Low Mileage Mercedes

Something a little different this month... The Memphis MBCA Board Members were contacted by Dylan Essner a Member from the San Francisco Bay Area Section. Dylan was looking to buy a 1986 560SL listed by Smith Imports on **Bring a Trailer**. Selling and servicing Mercedes for 35 years, Smith Imports is respected and a supporter of our Local MBCA Section and we gave Smith Imports a glowing recommendation. Following is my email to Dylan.

"Hi Dylan, Smith Imports supports our MBCA Section, participating with the club in local events, and we can recommend them as a local dealer of Mercedes with an outstanding work shop. I restore older Mercedes and have done ground-up restorations on many. I'm also Certified with Mercedes as a Show Judge, have been a member of MBCA for 30+ years, and I'm VP of our local section. From the videos and photos, the car appears to be well kept in a condition consistent with the low mileage (51K mi). However, due to age and low mileage, it hasn't been driven as much as it's been stored. Here's some things you will want to do after receiving the car:

1. Empty the fuel tank to half full, add a fuel injector cleaner and drive for about 100 miles, then drain all fuel from the tank.
2. Replace fuel filter.
3. Drain and replace engine oil, transmission fluid and filters.
4. Drain coolant and replace thermostat. (caution, check the radiator for leaks)

5. Drain and replace hydraulic fluid for convertible top. (caution with low miles seals may be dry and leak)
6. Replace oil in the rear trans-axle.
7. Check vacuum hoses for leaks.
8. Replace radio with the original for that year. Visit <https://www.beckerautosound.com>, They can also add Bluetooth without visual alterations. (eBay is a good source for radios)
9. Use original Mercedes Parts, avoiding aftermarket except where you can obtain the OEM parts.
10. If the paint needs touchup and detailing, consider Black on Black, it's a great show color.
11. Take the VIN number to a local Mercedes Dealer to obtain a service history on the car. It will cover the national database and a little more info you may want to see. Mike"

This interaction is just one example of the Technical Assistance that often happens between MBCA club members....Just one more incentive to join the club!



**The Star**  
Mercedes-Benz Club of America

*The Star* magazine.

Along with a range of special offers and events, your MBCA membership entitles you to receive six copies of *The Star* magazine per year. Nowhere is the heritage and modern era of this timeless tradition more fully expressed than in MBCA's award-winning flagship publication. Along with its rich content and stunning photography, each issue features the latest news and in-depth information from Mercedes-Benz USA, as well as club events, restoration articles, and new-car road tests—plus a robust classified section and so much more.

Vision Mercedes Maybach 6



## 2023 Greetings From Your Regional Director

### **Mercedes-Benz Club of America Mission Statement:**

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

The past year has gone by quickly for me as a first-year Regional Director. Sara and I have spent time in November and December visiting some nearby sections for their end-of-year parties and award ceremonies. We really enjoyed all the events we could attend. Unfortunately, illness forced us to miss the St Louis Gateway Section's Christmas Party and I was not able to personally present Rick Siefert, President of the Gateway Section, the Central Region's Officer of the Year Award. Rick has been a great help to me this past year and led his section through -- we hope -- the end of Covid and the untimely loss of two very important members of his section. Congratulations to Rick.

Sara and I were able to visit all eight of the Central Region's sections this year and enjoyed meeting so many members from all over the region. Several of the sections are still adjusting to the end of section rebates and having to find other sources for club revenues. I will continue working with them. One of the most important reasons rebates ended was the termination of MBUSA's \$100K+ rebate to MBCA. So, the 84 sections of MBCA are not the only ones dealing with the end of rebates.

There has been a change of leadership at the top of MBCA. Doug Geganto has taken over as the National President, as Julie Bruggener has finished her two terms as president. Thank you, Julie. We also have a new National Director. Katie Carruth will be taking over the leadership role from Mike Regennitter in December and the official announcement will be coming soon.

Looking ahead to 2023, Doug has some ambitious plans to help the club grow and be more vibrant as a unit of 84 sections working together

towards our common goals instead of 84 independent clubs doing their own thing. Doug has already implemented a philanthropic director position to help bring recognition to the sections that work to do service for their community and to encourage other sections to initiate these type of programs. He is also looking to establish a membership advisory board to keep him informed of how the members feel about the direction of the club and any suggestions they might have. Add to that national's efforts establishing marketing and social media offices to help spread the word to Mercedes owners about the benefits of joining MBCA.

As a result, a great deal of effort is being put forth to increase membership and benefits across the whole country within the Mercedes Benz Club of America. The Medallion Rally, in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association, will become a yearly event to raise awareness of MBCA and at the same time help fight the terrible disease of Alzheimer's. The national event will be moving back to the Midwest and will be held in Indianapolis in October. All of us in the Central Region will be able to help prepare for it and enjoy the many events being planned. I am encouraged by the direction in which we are headed and hope everyone will join me in working together to make 2023 a growing year filled with many fun times and great memories.

Ken Koehler  
6168 Ruthven Dr.  
Noblesville, IN 46062  
Mercedes-Benz Club of America  
Central Regional Director  
317-669-2072