



MBCA Memphis Section Newsletter - Mar./April 2023

River City Star



President's Message:

Welcome to the March-April issue of the River City Star newsletter. Even though Winter is still around, there are still a few sunny days between the seemingly unending rain showers to enjoy our favorite cars.

Our next event is the April 1st Cars & Carbs. The good news here is that our attendance is slowly growing. For the last couple of these events we've had 8-12 members attend.

Following this is our quarterly dinner and annual election of officers on April 15th. Ballots will be handed out at the dinner and there will be a place to add names if you would like to run. So far, the slate is the same as it is currently. Lynn Jones is (and has been) holding down two positions, treasurer and secretary, so we could really use some help there (for the secretary position).

Of special interest is a Regional Event that has been added for the month of June in Nashville. An email was sent out earlier with details. These are a lot of fun to attend, and of course everyone there is a Mercedes enthusiast, so you will get filled with as much information as you can hold. If you are interested in going, I'd suggest that you make reservations early.

Lastly, check the Calendar of Events for changes and I'll see you at an upcoming event.
Drive Safe,

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.mbca.org for the latest updates on our events.

Date	Event	Location
April 1	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
April 15	Quarterly Dinner & Officer Elections	Commissary, Collierville, 6 p.m.
May 6	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
May 20	Drive-In Movie	TBD
June 3	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
July 1	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
July 15 - 18	Regional Event	Nashville, TN
July 29	Day Trip, Full Throttle Distillery Lunch. Local BBQ restaurant	Trimble TN
Aug. 5	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Sept. 2	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown

Date	Event	Location
Sept. 23	Memphis EUROFEST Car Show	Youth Villages, Bartlett, TN
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	Germantown, TN
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 April 1! (No April Fools Jokes, please.) Panera Bread has great coffee and the conversation at the table is even better.



MBCA Memphis Officers:

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

Memphis Membership Matters

Mike McHann (Membership Chairman)

Join me in welcoming new members Kia Lasley, Paul Brown, Les Bates, and Donald Strahl. Membership remains constant at 80 members; every month we add new members and lose a few through attrition. We need referrals from current members so you can remind your Mercedes friends that local membership benefits include:

- 1 10 - 15% discount on parts & labor at Mercedes of Memphis, Mercedes of Collierville and Smith Imports
- 2 Membership in the national club
- 3 Bi-Monthly magazine
- 4 Local club dinners, parades, car shows
- 5 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://www.mbc.org/join/national>

Mike McHann
901-299-6341



Members and Their Cars

by Mike McHann

This article features me and my own cars. I was always drawn to European cars and in my early years owned an MG, a Lotus, a Porsche Carrera, 2 Alfa Romeos and 4 SAAB's. Then in the early nineties I bought my first Mercedes and became a member of the MBCA. I've owned ten Mercedes: 4 W124's, a W121, 2 R129's, 1 W211, 1 W212 and a R172. Once you own a Mercedes it's hard to own any other car.

Pictured here is my '93 300CE Cabriolet that I purchased in 2017 from a lady in St Louis. Manufactured (hand made) in Germany, this is one of the rarest models produced by Mercedes (excluding the AMG's) and only 6,000 were made from 1993-95. I've completed a ground-up

restoration on this car and it's won 3 "Best of Class" trophies in car shows. It's a very comfortable car and with a sports suspension it is very agile in the corners. I have my cars appraised every two years and this 300CE Cab has appreciated 300% since purchase.



Food, Fun, Fellowship and Club Elections

On January 14th, 18 members of the Mercedes Club of Memphis enjoyed fellowship and good food at the Red Pier Cajun Seafood Restaurant and Bar. During the festivities, the Member of the Year was announced. Suzanne Cunningham, a member since 2019 and the editor of the Mercedes Club of Memphis newsletter, was the surprise winner. In addition, President Bill Sudekum drew winners for the door prizes.

Our next dinner will include the election of officers and will be held, April 15th, at the Commissary in Collierville. The buffet style dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will cost \$26.95 per person. As the Commissary requires only one bill for food for a group seating, please bring cash or a check for the appropriate amount made out to Suzanne Cunningham who will cover the cost of the event. Drink orders will be charged on separate checks.

We hope to have a good number of members attend! Please make your reservations to Bill Sudekum (901) 299-0653, by April 10th. See you there!!!!



DRIVING TRIP AND FULL TROTTLER DISTILLERY TOUR SET FOR JULY 29

The Memphis Section MBCA will be able to enjoy a driving tour to the Dyersburg, Tennessee area with a distillery tour and a Bar-B-Que lunch at the end of the road. Saturday, July 29th is the date of our trip to the Full Throttle Distillery in Trimble, Tennessee, that will include a guided tour by Full Throttle's Master Distiller Dr. Paul Higgs and a stop at their Moonshine Tasting Room. Lunch is planned at a local Dyersburg BBQ restaurant. We will leave early enough from the Memphis-Shelby County Visitors Center off I-40 in Arlington, TN and

make the 90-mile drive to Full Throttle Distillery in time for a tour before we head for lunch. Details on times and addresses will be included in the next edition of our Newsletter.

For more information, contact Lynn Jones

JL.Jones11@outlook.com

Cell: 901-378-1119



Technical Tips and Tricks (TTT)

by Mike McHann

Automating Top Removal for Early Mercedes SL's

I'm restoring a '90 300 SL-24 and beginning work on the interior and convertible top. As with many pre-2000 SL's, this car comes with a removable hardtop. The hardtop weighs about 95 pounds, requiring two people to safely remove it without damaging the top or the car. I need to move the top off and on multiple times and I don't have a second person on hand, so I installed an electric hoist with a padded sling from the ceiling of my garage. Now I can raise and lower my hardtop with the push of a button in about 20 minutes.



Formula One Racing

As I write this, we have two races for the 2023 Formula One season completed (Bahrain and Saudi Arabia). The next two races are scheduled to take place in Australia on April 2nd and China on April 16th. Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and George Russell both struggled with underpowered cars and other issues during the first two races. The engineers experimented with some major chassis modifications for 2023 that so far haven't worked. Lewis managed a fifth-place finish (P5) and George a seventh (P7) in Bahrain.

In Saudi Arabia, George managed a fourth-place

finish (P4), just outside the podium (1st through 3rd place) and Lewis crossed the finish line in fifth (P5). This was a small improvement from Bahrain, but still a minor embarrassment as a Mercedes powered Aston Martin driven by Fernando Alonso finished between the Mercedes cars in the first race and ahead of them in the second.

Mercedes is making steady progress, but it remains to be seen if they can all pull together, and eclipse Michael Schumacher's standing record and give Lewis his record eighth world championship.

Bill Sudekum

