



MBCA Memphis Section Newsletter - May/June 2023

River City Star



President's Message:

Welcome to the May-June 2023 issue of the River City Star. First, I want to thank those of you who attended our last gathering for dinner and our annual election of officers. We were honored to have our regional director, Ken Koehler and his wife Sara, join us for the evening. We especially want to welcome our new section secretary, Brad Hescocock, to his new position. He joins me, Mike McHann (VP), and Lynn Jones (Treasurer) and Suzanne Cunningham (Newsletter Editor) as your leadership team for the next year.

I hope you all are enjoying the 80-degree temperatures. If you store your Mercedes during the winter months, it's time to take off the cover and get it ready for some warm weather activities. And as it happens, we have just the thing for you. On Saturday May 20, from 9-11, Mercedes of Memphis will host our section as we show off our best. Come join us for coffee, doughnuts and a chance to see what your fellow club members are driving.

Be sure to check the Calendar of Events for the latest in events and times as sometimes things change.

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 for the latest updates on our events.

Date	Event	Location
May 20	Car Show, 9 a.m.- 11 a.m..	Mercedes-Benz of Memphis
June 3	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
June 24	Drive and lunch	Hollywood Cafe, Robinsonville, MS
July 1	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
July 15	Quarterly Dinner	Ciao Bella Restaurant
July 15 - 18	Regional Event	Nashville, TN
July 29	Day Trip, Full Throttle Distillery Lunch, Niel's BBQ and Grill	Trimble TN Dyersburg, TN
Aug. 5	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Sept. 2	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Sept. 7 - 10	Mercedes Grande (National Event)	Indianapolis, IN

Date	Event	Location
Sept. 23	Memphis EUROFEST Car Show	Youth Villages, Bartlett, TN
Oct. 7	Cars and Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Oct. 13 - 14	Renaissance Euro Fest	Ridgeland, MS
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)

It's a Car Show!

MBCA Memphis Section Spring Car Show

Time: 9 - 11 a.m. Date: 5/20/2023

Location: Mercedes of Memphis, Upper Parking Lot

To celebrate the spring weather and before it becomes too hot to stand in the sun for hours, MBCA Memphis Section and Mercedes of Memphis are hosting a car show at the upper parking area. Bring your car and compete for the following classes:

- 1st Place Open Classic
- 1st Place Closed Classic
- 1st Place Post 98 Open
- 1st Place Post 98 Closed
- Honorable Mention



Refreshments coffee and donuts will be provided. Contact Mike Mchann, 901-299-6341 or by email at mike@eccotek.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - JULY 29

DRIVING TRIP TO FULL THROTTLE DISTILLERY

The last Saturday in July is set as the date for a Section road trip up-country to the Full Throttle Distillery in Trimble, Tennessee near Dyersburg. While we are there, we will be



given a tour by Full Throttle's Master Distiller, Dr. Paul Higgs. His chemistry background fits right in with the artisanal world of craft whisky and distilled spirits. Lunch is planned at Niel's BBQ & Grill in Dyersburg after the tour. 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 July - August edition of our Newsletter.

Oh yes, Full Throttle does have a moonshine tasting room and does sell samples of their wares!

For more information, contact Lynn Jones, JL.Jones11@outlook.com or 901-3781119

Food, Fun, Fellowship and Club Elections

A group of MBCA Memphis members met at the Commissary in Collierville for dinner on Friday, April 15th for the installation of the newly elected officers. Participants were delighted that Regional Director Ken Koehler and his wife, Sara, made the trip to Memphis to attend.

The Board is also pleased to welcome Brad Hescok, the new MBCA Memphis Memphis Section Secretary.

As always during the Memphis Section dinners, door prizes were awarded. All MBCA members are welcome and encouraged to join in the quarterly dinner festivities! We look forward to seeing you at our next scheduled dinner on July 15th at Ciao Bella Italian Grill located at 565 Erin Drive, Memphis.



(left) Regional Director Ken Koehler addresses the attending members at the quarterly dinner. (right picture) Newly elected officers, left to right, Section VP Membership Mike McHann; Section Treasurer Lynn Jones; Section President, Bill Sudekum and Section Secretary Brad Hescok.

Memphis Membership Matters

Mike McHann (Membership Chairman)



Join me in welcoming our newest member Sarah White. Membership remains constant at 78 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, etc.
- 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://memphis.mbca.org/join/national>

Mike McHann
901-299-6341



Technical Tips and Tricks (TTT)

by Mike McHann(Membership Chairman)

Rebuilding the Front Suspension On My 08 E350 4Matic

Lately I've had some challenging problems with my 08 E350 4Matic. Thanks to the City of Memphis Department of Engineering Roadway and Drainage Design, my E 350 experienced major damage to the front suspension from several bad

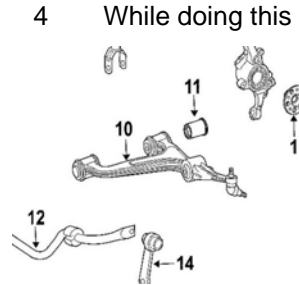


pothole encounters. It was necessary to replace the front sub-frame and motor mounts, as well as right and left lower suspension struts. This is an excellent car and

I'm not ready to give it up. It seemed like an easy project... replace the parts and get back on the road. Well it wasn't so easy.

- 1 The new parts were very pricey, so I decided to purchase used parts from eBay. I found a used front sub-frame in New Jersey that looked like new, at 1/3 the cost. The mounting hardware and bushings came from my Mercedes Dealer.
- 2 The front lower suspension struts were no longer available (also known as back-ordered), but I was able to obtain replacement bushings and mounting hardware from Mercedes.
- 3 Mercedes doesn't support using used parts, so I had Carson Frame and Alignment do the work. Carson

replaced the sub-frame and motor mounts and rebuilt the front struts. While doing this extensive amount of work, I decided to replace the four worn flex-joint boots on the front wheel drive shafts. Because of the relatively low miles, I wanted to keep the drive shafts and just replace the boots. Not an



easy task, but we were able to get it done. In total it was a cost of \$3000 and 40 man-hours of work. It's interesting how, over time,



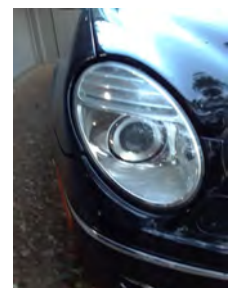
we get used to changes in the deterioration of a car and driving characteristics. Following completion of the work, the improvement in handling and drivability was remarkable. I know what you're thinking... why not just sell the car and get a new one. I become attached to my cars and this one is the favorite of all my 12 Mercedes I've owned. I love the design of the engine and suspension and it's just a joy to drive. Sure, the new cars have lots of great features, but repairing and maintaining my favorite car is much less expensive and gives me many more years of driving enjoyment.

Removing UV Damage from Headlights

After many years of trying, I finally found a quick and easy solution to repair deterioration of the headlight clear coat. My 08 E350 was showing a slight hazing in the right headlight and I wanted to fix it.

- 1 Use PlasticX and a soft pad to remove the existing clear coat, After applying the PlasticX, you'll get a dull finish. Don't worry about this, it will disappear once the clear coat is applied.
- 2 Masking off the bodywork around the headlight to protect from over spray, apply 2 coats of Meguiar's Headlight Coating. The first coat is a light tack coat. After 5 minutes, apply a second heavier coat.
- 3 Remove the masking and allow 24 hours to fully cure. If you do get over-spray on the paint work, it is easily removed with rubbing alcohol.

It took 1/2 hour to complete the job from start to finish. I've only used this on light headlight hazing; I've not tried this technique on headlights with severe damage, but it may still work.





Mercedes Grande

September 7 – 10

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!

Tickets are available a-la-carte and in package deals

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

<https://www.mercedesgrande.org>

in association with Artomobilia

<https://www.artomobilia.org>

MBCA Memphis Officers:

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