



MBCA Memphis Section Newsletter - Sept./Oct. 2023

River City Star



President's Message:

Welcome to the September-October 2023 issue of the River City Star. It is with great sadness that I must report that another one of our long-time members has died. Rolf Pludra, a club member since 1985 and several times past section president, died in early August at the age of 77. Rolf was an avid Mercedes admirer and collector (eleven, I think, at last count). Rolf and his parents fled East Germany when he was only 10 and lived in Cologne. Rolf got his license as a Master Barber and Cosmetologist and was recruited to come to the United States at age 19, working in Houston, Dallas, Atlanta and ultimately Memphis, where he met Linda. They were happily married for nearly 56 years. He joined his father when he opened the Germantown Barber Shop in 1972 and worked there for over 50 years.

We will miss Rolf, his stories, his laughs, and his friendship. Please remember his wife Linda and the rest of his family in your prayers.

There are a number of events scheduled for the next few months including car shows, coffees, a dinner, the Germantown Holiday Parade and the section's annual Christmas party. Check the Calendar of Events for dates and times.

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

Date	Event	Location
Sep. 23	Memphis Euro-Fest	Youth Villages, Bartlett, TN.
Oct. 7	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Oct. 13-14	Renaissance Euro Fest	Ridgeland MS.
Oct. 14	Quarterly Dinner	Olive Garden, 5679 Poplar
Nov. 4	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Dec. 2	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Dec. 9	Germantown Holiday Parade	Germantown, TN.
Dec. 16	Section Christmas Party	Home of Andy & Suzanne Cunningham, 8255 Blair Lane Germantown



Memphis Membership Matters

Mike McHann (Membership Chairman)

Please join me in welcoming our newest member Harvey Moss. Membership currently stands at 73; every month we add new members and lose a few through attrition. Referrals from current members are needed so be sure to remind your Mercedes friends of the benefits of local membership:

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 be sure your referral names you on the application to receive a 1 month extension on your own membership. We have a colorful application so let me know if I can send you copies.

Also, we need your old copies of the Star for our Dealer Displays; to donate let me know and I'll make arrangements to take them from you..

We need board members. We've lost several board members over the last few years and could use a couple of replacements. No work is necessary, we just need your input to help improve the Club and help it grow. If you would like to join us, contact me and I'll explain how to get involved.



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

Mike McHann

Technical Tips and Tricks (TTT)

by Mike McHann (Membership Chairman)

Paint-less Dent Removal

With the Memphis Euro-fest fast approaching, I need to get my 93 300CE Cabriolet in good shape to show. I had 2 slight

dents, something that only I would find, but they needed to go. I'm not sure how these dents happened, but I suspect I'm the one at fault. Nevertheless, it was time for Paint-less dent removal.

made an appointment with Dent Doctor and was out in about half an hour, dents gone.



you use. Dent Doctor originated in Little Rock, AR in 1990 and opened a shop in Memphis in 1993 and I've used them ever since. Dent Doctor is located at 3751 New Getwell Rd, Memphis, TN. Work is done by appointment, usually running about a week out and, depending on the severity, most work is completed in

about an hour.

<http://dentdoctor.com/index.html>

Mike McHann
901-299-6341



Dent removal requires special tools and a highly-developed set of skills. If done wrong it can become more expensive to correct, so be careful who

A Grande Four-Day Affair

The 2023 Mercedes Grande, held September 7th through the 10th in Indianapolis, was a car fest



A few of the Mercedes lined up on the Circle in Downtown Indy

extraordinaire! Not only were attendees treated to a wide selection of Mercedes, new and vintage, but their cars participated in and were judged at the annual Artomobilia

in Carmel, a suburban city adjacent to Indianapolis. The city, with a population of 100,000, is lovely and the event, in the Arts and Design center in the downtown draws more than 25,000 people each year and features entries from the exotic to the bizarre, classic as well as contemporary, Lamborghinis to Dodge Chargers. Mercedes made a good showing, winning several awards.

There was plenty of car talk during the Grande as well as car viewing. One of the six tech talks was led by Al Unser Jr., an Indy 500 Champion and the only driver to actually to drive and win the 500 in a car powered by a Mercedes



engine. Other tech topics included Elements of Concours Judging, Seat Kinetics in Mercedes-Benz, and Mercedes Airstream Touring Coaches. Grande participants also got an opportunity to tour the Airstream.

But the four-day Mercedes Grande wasn't all cars and tech talk. There was a luncheon and fashion show; a Medallion Rally for the Alzheimer Association, held in the Indiana State Museum, where \$10,000 was raised for the charity; a Hullabaloo with attendees dressing in 60's and 70's garb and dancing to music by Big Roscoe, a well-known and loved local Indy band, and much more.



On the last day of the four-day event, the Silo Auto Club in Downtown Indianapolis allowed Grande participants to challenge their driving skills with a racing simulator. The final event was a tour of the world-famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum.

If you had an opportunity to attend the Mercedes Grande and didn't, you missed a wonderful time. According to the organizers of this year's event, next year will be even Grander.



Memphis Euro-Fest Car Show

The annual car show of the British Sports Car Club of Memphis! This year's Featured Marque is MG, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of that marque. As in previous years, proceeds from the event will benefit [Youth Villages](#). Registration begins at 8:00 AM at the show site - the Youth Villages Bartlett Campus at [7410 Memphis Arlington Road](#). \$35 for your first car, \$20 for each additional car.



Save the Date! Section Christmas Party

The holiday season is almost upon us.

This year's Christmas Party will be held at the home of Andy and Suzanne Cunningham, 8255 Blair Lane, Germantown, on Saturday, December 16th beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Please let us know if you are coming! Bring your favorite holiday appetizer and libation although a variety of beverages will be provided.

More information will be in the next newsletter. To make your reservation, contact Suzanne Cunningham at suzflay@aol.com or phone at 901-828-5182.

MBCA Memphis Officers:

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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