

GATEWAY NEWS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

"Serving the Greater St. Louis Area since 1972!"

Gateway News - JUL AUG 2013

Volume 41 Issue 4

The Alton River Road Ramble Alton, IL Saturday, July 20th

(Note the change from "Fast Eddie's) Meet at 1pm, Alton City Hall, 101 East Third Street. Picture this, history buffs... There you are standing right next to Honest Abe at the site of his debate with Stephen A. Douglas. Then again, perhaps you like the notion that your significant other should be your slave and you're standing there with your arm around Senator Douglas. Or, being the centrist that you are, you're between them gesturing for some decorum. Whatever the case, it's recorded in that spiffy digital camera you got for your birthday. Coming back to reality, you fire up your Benz and join the parade as we drive along beautiful tree lined streets filled with historic Victorian residences. Holy cow! Look at the size of that quy! Yep, it's a life size statue of Robert Wadlow, the world's tallest man. Bob reached 8'11" and weighed 490 pounds when he passed on at the age of 22. Get out that camera again and be creative. Next we pass by the monument to freedom, Champion Elijah Lovejoy. A honk of the horn in acknowledgement of his contributions would be a respectful gesture. The open road beckons. We'll cruise along the Mighty Mississippi to Grafton and The Loading Dock on the riverfront. There we'll enjoy casual fare, adult beverages and the camaraderie of club members whose motto is "vou can't beat fun for havin' a good time." Questions? Call David or Ceci Bartels, 314.961.1670 - Please RSVP so we can get a count.

Roadtrip To Historic Hannibal And Stonecroft Manor August 10th and 11th, 2013

Please join us on **August 10**th for what will assuredly be a fabulous overnight trip to Hannibal, Missouri! St. Louis Gateway Section members, **Harry & Jaunita Hosmer** have once again graciously invited us to visit their gorgeous, now fully-restored and decorated, **Stonecroft Manor**. Many of us had the pleasure of viewing this home several years ago, before the Hosmers lovingly restored it. Stonecroft was built in 1872 by J.B. Brown and was used as his summer home. Mr. Brown, who was a boyhood friend and schoolmate of Samuel Clemens, built the manor from stone guarried on the property.

Stonecroft Manor was placed on the National Historical Register in 1968.

We will have lunch at Stonecroft where we can enjoy the property's beautiful setting and grounds. At 2:30 p.m. we will head into town and tour *Rockcliffe Mansion*, a home that was built at the turn of the century in the Georgian Revival Style. It is a massive Gilded-Age grand residence, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is perched on a limestone bluff, overlooking the Mississippi River and the town of Hannibal below. Its views are spectacular and unmatched. We can then meander the streets of *Historic Downtown Hannibal* and meet up again at *Lula Belles* for dinner at 7 p.m. This restaurant was an old brothel in its heyday! Food is very good and portions generous. After dinner there will be a fun Mark Twain, Tom Sawyer, Hannibal guiz with prizes!

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express for \$96.75, plus tax. A hot breakfast in the morning is included. Please contact Rick & Patti Siefert (314.825.1903 or 314.378.0432) NOW for further details and to reserve your room! This will be an activity not to be missed and will assuredly book up quickly!

Chaumette Vineyards & Winery Ste. Genevieve, MO Saturday, September 21st

Please make plans to caravan to the beautiful Chaumette Winery where the view is outstanding and the buildings are warm and inviting. Several buildings have been added since the St. Louis Gateway Section visited the winery several years ago. We will meet at the parking lot on the west side of the Holiday Inn at Lindbergh and Watson Road (10709 Watson Rd, St. Louis, Missouri 63127) at 9:15 AM. From the parking lot we will travel south on I-270 to I-55 toward Ste. Genevieve. Then take exit 150 for MO-32 toward state Hwy A&B. For your GPS/MapQuest the address is 24345 State Route WW, Ste. Genevieve, MO 63670

At the winery we will be served a family style lunch including salad, meat, homemade potato chips, and desert at a cost of \$39 per person. Wine by the bottle or glass may be purchased separately. Please RSVP by sending your check in the amount of \$39 per person, payable to Gateway MNBCA, to Alan Barker, 215 Kerruish Pl., Webster Groves, MO 63119. We look forward to seeing you at the fun event.

2013 MBCA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For those of you who don't subscribe to Road & Track magazine, what follows may seem like a paid advertisement, but it isn't.

I've been reading this magazine for some 50-odd years, and find it to be one of many authoritative sources of information on automobiles, from the enthusiast's point of view. This month's issue has a special section on driver training("Overwhelmed and Undertrained") that you shouldn't miss. If you don't subscribe and have either teenaged children or grandchildren, the issue is worth buying just for this article (in my humble opinion).

There are amazing statistics, sad stories, technical explanations, and recommendations that are worth the price of the magazine. Long story short, driver education in our country and state is dismal in its content and effectiveness, and we need to do better.

Your section is working to reschedule the Mercedes-Benz National Club's driving session which was rained out earlier this year, and we should all (after reading the R&T article) sign up for ourselves, spouses, and, if room is available, our kids and grandkids, as soon as a new date is announced.

Also coming up is the July event, a driving trip to The Loading Dock in Grafton, Illinois, at 400 Front Street, on July 20th. Our hosts, David and Ceci Bartels, originally planned the event for Fast Eddie's in Alton, but moved us to the Loading Dock. Please let them know that you are coming by e-mailing them at ceci@nbranding.com . Sounds like a great time on what promises to be a hot day.

To keep everyone up to date, arrangements have been finalized for this year's Holiday Party at the Frontenac Hilton on December 7th, so be sure to save the date, and shine up your dancing shoes. We'll have the same DJ as last year, and are planning on a fine evening. Please give some thought to a charity that you want to suggest we adopt for the evening, and shoot me an e-mail with the name and contact information. We'll ask the Board to decide which suggestion is the worthiest, and work a way to support that organization.

Everyone stay cool, and keep motoring.

John Prater



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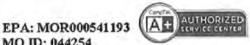
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SLGS Member's Cars



2009 SL550 Silver Arrow Owners: Ed & Mimi Barutio

The Silver Arrow- Since the 1950's I had dreamed of owning a Mercedes SL. In 2005 I sold my 1998 Jaguar XK8, realized my dream, and bought a 2003 Mercedes SL500. It was a great car but I later found a 2009 SL550 Silver Arrow in Willoughby Ohio, at Leikin Motor Companies. A Silver Arrow has special trim and they only made 550 in that model year.

This SL had been purchased in June of 2008, traded back to the dealer in December of 2008, with 1,163 miles on the clock. Michael Leikin, sent me numerous pictures of the car on the showroom floor. I traded in my 2003 SL and sold my 2005 Corvette. Before driving to Ohio I wanted someone else to check the car to be sure it was pristine.

I joined the St. Louis Gateway Section so I called Rick Siefert to seek his advice. He told me to call Frank Cozza, Regional Director of the Great Lakes Region in Ohio. Frank said he would find someone to look at the car. The next day Frank called and HE was standing in front of the car and said it was beautiful. He drove over 100 miles to check the SL for me. Unbelievable. We did a walk around over his cell phone. The next day in my email, were pictures of the two or three slight imperfections. Now I had to get to Ohio to pick up the car.

Again, I called Rick and he volunteered to go with me. We checked out the dealership, saw the car inside, went to our motel, then to diner as it was about 9:30. Leaving the restaurant we were greeted with a sleet/snow storm. I did not have an ice scraper in the car, (poor planning), so we scraped off the windows with credit cards.

The next day we got a crash course on the operating systems of the SL, and headed for home. The car was awesome but the help I received from club members was beyond belief. A special kind of person loves and drives a Mercedes.



2010 E350 4Matic Owner: Brent Saba

I purchased my 2010 E350 4Matic (W212 Chassis) on July 2nd, 2011 as a Certified Pre-Owned. My Mercedes-Benz sales woman, Denise Ligon at Tri-Star Imports knew exactly what I had been looking for. She called me that morning and asked me "do you feel like buying a car today?" She explained what they had. So with that information, I was on my way to Ellisville, Missouri to check it out! However, trading in my old 2007 C280 4Matic (my first ever Mercedes, and my first import) was bittersweet as I really loved that car. I had never had a car that was so trouble-free.

I became somewhat teary-eyed as I transferred my personal items from the C to my new E350. It was like I was saying goodbye to a trusted companion. My only hope was that the E would be as reliable and trouble free as the C was. I only traded because I wanted a larger car and fell in love with the look of the new W212 Chassis. The only problems I have had with my E thus far were a transmission leak and transfer case leak, both of which were promptly repaired by Tri-Star. My E350 has since become my new baby and trusted companion that I plan to keep for a long time. I baby this car about as much, if not more than I did my old C280. I've driven it on a few extended road trips, namely to my home state of Minnesota, and to Chicago. This car definitely makes those longer road trips much more enjoyable. But then again, even a short trip to the store is enjoyable!

Elections for Mercedes-Benz Club of America Directors at Large and Regional Directors will take place this fall. Election material and a ballot will be mailed to all Active MBCA members on or about September 2, 2013. Your participation in our election process is important. Completed ballots must be received by Tuesday, October 15, 2013 to be counted. Members of our section will be candidates so please check the election information on each candidate.



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LOVE THOSE GERMAN CARS!

By St. Louis Gateway Section Member, Rick Siefert

Patti and I recently visited Austria and Germany, beginning our trip in Vienna and then essentially "driving" the Danube River to Passau, Germany. From Passau we traveled southwest, ending our journey in Munich, which is one of our favorite cities in Europe! Of course it would be impossible for me to spend nearly two weeks in the Mecca of the finest automobiles in the world without paying a visit to a couple of Mercedes-Benz dealerships. Two very cool cars that have not made it to the U.S. yet are the CLA and the CLS Shooting Brake.

The overall size of the CLA, both inside and out, will likely meet the needs of a large and varied segment of those interested in purchasing a new automobile. The specs indicate that the size of the CLA is a bit smaller than a C-Class, but the interior roominess, trunk space, etc. "feels" very similar.

The CLA is front-wheel drive, which isn't new ground for Mercedes-Benz in Europe, where the front-drive A-Class has been on sale since 1997, but the CLA is the first Mercedes sold here to be so equipped.



Catch a glimpse of one gliding by, and you might mistake it for a CLS, the \$72,000 four-door "coupe" spun from the Mercedes' E-Class sedan. The cost of a U.S. version CLA is supposed to be just \$30,825, making it over \$5000 less than the most modest C-Class, the cheapest Benz currently sold here. Interestingly though, the CLA in the photo above, which was a non-AMG version, listed for just a tad under \$50K Euros!

The sole engine in the U.S. version of the CLA is a 2.0-liter turbo four, developing 208 hp and 258 lb-ft of torque. It is mated to a mandatory seven-speed dual clutch gearbox, with zero to 62 mph in 6.7 seconds. We are told that the CLA45 AMG, due out in November for around \$50K, sticks with a 4 -banger! The CLA is to arrive in U.S. showrooms in the Fall of this year.

As one who has owned a couple of E Class Wagons and was thoroughly enamored with both of them, it was literally love at first sight when the new CLS Shooting Brake was first spotted. Apparently the Germans also love the uniqueness and beauty of the "Brake", as it is outselling the CLS Sedan by a huge margin. After swooning over the exterior, the passenger compartment is certainly viewed as posh and classy. The cargo area sports a carpeted floor flanked by leather side panels and optional aluminum tie-down rails fitted beautifully for a dash of glitz and practicality. If one has the need to get really shmancy, a fully wood-lined floor is available with a cherry-wood base into which Benz's craftspeople inlay bits of smoked oak, before streaking the whole shebang with aluminum strips that have rubber inserts to help keep the cargo in place.



In Europe, the CLS Shooting Brake is available with two diesels and two gas engines. Sadly, Mercedes-Benz has no plans to send this beauty to U.S. shores, but at nearly \$100K Euros (\$130K in American dollars) for the modestly equipped CLS 350 CDI, it would likely be a tough sale in a country that has not fully embraced the beauty and practicality of the wagon.



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Fort Leonard Wood Car Show July 4th, 2013

The Fort Leonard Wood Missouri office of Morale, Welfare & Recreation (MWR) is hosting a car show on July 4th at Fort Leonard Wood.

What better way to show your support to our Military on Independence Day than by showcasing your ride for all to enjoy at the Family & MWR July 4th Car Show! Categories: cars, trucks & motorcycle. Top vehicles in each category will be chosen by our Service men & women and the FLW community.

Car show is on Thursday July 4 from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm at Gammon Field on Iowa Avenue, Fort Leonard Wood as part of our Independence Day Celebration. Registration is FREE and open to the public. Register below at the link shown below. For questions, call the MWR Auto Craft Shop at 573-596-0243.

http://www.fortleonardwoodmwr.com/form3.php



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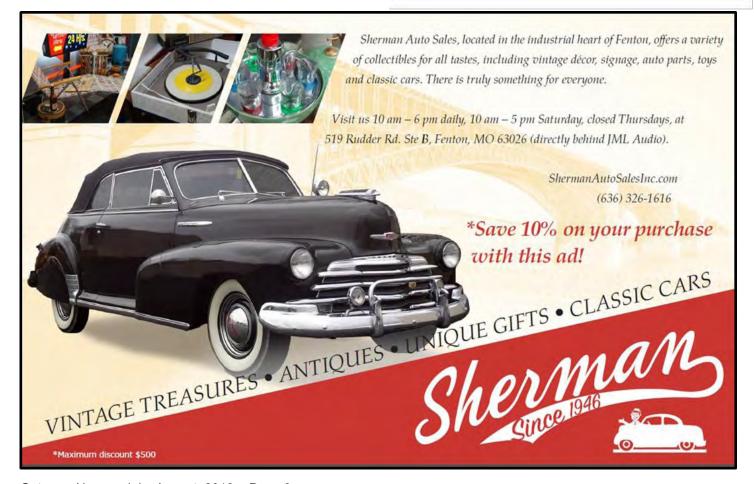
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Lighted Three-Pointed Star Grille Emblem

From www.MBWorld.org



Mercedes-Benz just revealed this new illuminated Three-Pointed Star grille emblem, available as a dealer-installed option on the 2014 E-Class, 2013+ GL-Class, 2012+ M-Class and 2006+ CLS-Class. Benz promises the back-lit star will be available on other cars too, but no word on whether they'll be installing future examples at the factory. The "night-light" Three-Pointed Star uses LED and light tube technology to look all fancy n'stuff and illuminates when the key fob is used to unlock your car.

A not so favorable comment on the site: Whatever happened to understated elegance? The MB tristar is one of the planet's most immediately recognizable commercial symbols. Just my opinion: putting it in lights on the front of a Mercedes is tacky. It's something I'd expect from Donald Trump... not from Mercedes Benz.



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Kacey Cowdery, Guest, & Janet Wade

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ST LOUIS EUROPEAN AUTO SHOW - PLAZA FRONTENAC

June 2, 2013





David Wade and Ross Flower

Elmer Sterthman, Mike Fults, John Prater, Jim Gruss, Bob Frank, Patti and Rick Siefert, Mimi and Ed Barutio





Tony and Laurie Bauer



John Prater and Ron Faerber



Art Bothe Bob Frank

June 2, 2013

Rick Siefert won Best-of-Class with his 1957 190SL













Brent Saba

Bob Frank, Rick Siefert and John Prater putting up the Banner

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA
ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

Sunday - January 6th
New Year Brunch
Charlie Gitto's Restaurant

Wednesday - February 20th

Member Appreciation Reception

Tri-Star Mercedes-Benz

Saturday - March 9th **Bowling**

Tropicana Lanes in Richmond Heights

Saturday - April 27st **Defensive Driving Program**Harvest Bible Church - Chesterfield

Saturday - May 18th
City Museum & Dinner

Sunday - June 2nd

St. Louis European Auto Show

Participate in this wonderful charitable event for the St. Louis Shriners Children's Hospital
Plaza Frontenac

Saturday - July 20th

The Alton River Road Ramble

Alton, IL

.....

Saturday & Sunday - August 10th & 11th

Stonecroft Manor Tour & Picnic

Hannibal, MO

.....

Saturday - September 21st

Chaumette Winery Tour

Sainte Genevieve, MO

Sunday - October 6th

Autos on Valhalla Car Show

St. Louis Gateway Section Picnic

Valhalla Cemetery

Sunday - November 3rd

Columbia Star Dinner Train Excursion

Columbia MO

Saturday – December 7th **Holiday Party**, Frontenac Hilton

Sunday January 5th, 2014

New Year Brunch

City Museum & Baileys' Range May 18th, 2013

Old and young alike enjoyed the trip to the St. Louis City Museum and food at Baileys' Range. We had a good turn out on a fine day. SLGS members were able to turn into kids again on the many and varied venues at the museum. The good news is we have no injuries to report! Then it was off to Baileys' Range for their world famous burgers using only 100% grain fed Missouri beef and their homemade ice cream.

This fun event was a great outing for the club and everyone who attended had a great time enjoying the surroundings and getting together with the club members.

(Photos on Page 14)

European Auto Show June 2nd, 2013

On Sunday, June 2nd, the St. Louis Gateway Section participated in the 26th annual St. Louis European Auto Show. This event raises money to benefit the St. Louis Shriners Hospital for Children. As in the past the Mercedes-Benz marque was well represented with 21 entries spanning from 1957 (Rick Siefert's 190SL) to 2013 (Tony Bauer's 2013 SL63 AMG

The weather for this event has varied widely over the years and this year we had fairly nice overcast but cool weather with no rain. Most participants (and spectators) seemed to prefer the overcast to the 95 degree temperature of some of the past shows.

All of the renowned automakers of Europe were represented, including Rolls Royce, Bentley, Jaguar, Ferrari, Porsche, Audi, BMW, several DeLoreans (manufactured in Ireland), and of course our very favorite, Mercedes-Benz.

The St. Louis Gateway Section had our Mercedes-Benz tent staffed by members of the club who passed out literature and talked to potential new members.

At the end of the show, trophies were awarded to the most popular car in each class, as determined by a vote of the show entrants. As established last year, trophies were particularly unique and consisted of a wooden race car, hand-painted by children from the Shriners Hospital, mounted on a base. Congratulations are extended to our own Rick Siefert, who received Best-in-Class honors of the Mercedes-Benz marque, with his 1957 190SL.

It seems as if this auto show gets better each year and the number of cars participating increases. We wish to thank all who assisted with our display and provided food and drinks for club members and visitors. We sincerely appreciate your efforts. A special thanks goes to Rick Siefert who coordinated our display, brought all the section's tent and banners, and in general made sure we presented a good impression.

(Photos on Pages 15&16)

CARS AND PARTS FOR SALE

450SL, **1976**, Astral Silver w/ red interior. 72,500 miles. Hardtop with rolling stand, original soft top in A-1 condition. This gem is original and has been properly maintained by Legend and Machens Mercedes-Benz in Columbia, MO. It is ready to drive anywhere/any place at your leisure. Yours for \$15,500. *Michael Koch at cedarcrestvineyards@gmail.com or 573.230.6497*.

Bosch right side European model headlight assembly (including turn signal housing) for W126 models (from a 1985 280SE) 0302 050 007/8 \$100. Also, Bosch left side European model headlight assembly (including turn signal housing) for W123 models (from a 1984 300D). 0302 653 002 (123-820-93-61) \$90. Bob Nauss, robert_nauss@umsl.edu or 314.954.2879.

S500 Sedan, 2001, Black with black interior, Excellent Condition! Well-maintained, 100% serviced at Plaza Motors - \$15,990 OBO, *Darryl Ross, daross44@yahoo.com,* 314.477.7678 or 314.727.6149.

Mercedes Winter Wheel Snow Tire package for SLK (R172, **Model year 2012+)**, set of 4, like new condition with only 5343 miles of wear; Titanium Silver Finish, 10 Spoke, Wheel size 18" 7.5ET42, Michelin Primacy Alpin 225/45R17; http://www.mbwheelandtire.com/wheel-and-tire/all-vehicles; asking \$1000. Joe Pierro. 314.258.0985 jopiuk@sbcglobal.net.

SL550 (R230) Car Cover and Storage Bag, new in box, never opened, Part number: B Q 6 60 0068; asking \$150. *Joe Pierro, 314.258.0985 or jopiuk@sbcglobal.net.*

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

> Rick Siefert siefertrf@bv.com 367 West Manor Drive Chesterfield, Missouri 63017

- HOW IT ALL BEGAN -

By Edwin Johnson (St. Louis Gateway & Nashville Section Member)



My love for Mercedes-Benz began in 1971 when my father told me about a project car he had discovered, a 1962 220Sb with a cracked block. Included in the "deal" was a 1961 220S that could be utilized for parts. On Thanksgiving Day 1971 the tow truck deposited both in our backyard. My mother was not happy with this arrangement, but we assured her we would have the two cars put together by Monday! On Monday we were halfway done, and on Christmas Eve we were ready to roll. This was my first Mercedes-Benz!

I drove this car for 8 years, from 1971 until 1979. By then the mileage was "officially" well over 200,000, but we guessed it really was much more. The local dealer was not too helpful back in those days so we decided to round up some fellow owners and start a car club, and the Mercedes-Benz Club of Nashville was begun. I ran some paid ads for new members, and Don Wald in Colorado Springs called to say there was already a Mercedes-Benz Club (news to us!). We began the paperwork for a Nashville Section and received our charter from Tom Sheppard, Regional Vice President, Greater Washington Section, on October 15, 1978. We were the first Section in Tennessee, and we will be celebrating 35 years in 2013!

The Club has been a part of my life since 1978. The friendships, the knowledge, and the fellowship have been well worth the few dollars it costs each year. In the time I have been a member; I have served in every office in the Nashville Section and served two terms as Central Regional Director. If you have a question about why you should join or remain a member of the club, please give me a call. I will try to be brief, but it will be difficult!

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please help our membership grow. Member referrals are the best way to recruit new members. And, for each referral, you, as an existing MBCA member, will receive a FREE month of club membership, simply added on to your current membership period.

To the many of you who referred your family, friends, neighbors, and business associates to become a part of our Club, thank you so much for contributing to the success of the St. Louis Gateway Section.

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

Jay (Rusty) and Karen Phillips
Ross Flowers
Scott True
Perry Favazza
Matt and Erin Lieberman
June Michael

Welcome to the St. Louis Gateway Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We have nearly 250 members within a 200-mile radius of St. Louis & invite you to join us at our Events.

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.

The St. Louis Gateway Section Officers & Board Members

Mercedes - QR Codes To Help Accident Victims

From: www.autoblog.com

Mercedes-Benz is working on a system that may help emergency workers quickly and safely rescue trapped occupants in wrecked vehicles. The system pairs rescue sheets that show firefighters,



police and paramedics information on exactly how and where to use rescue sheers to extract trapped passengers, the location of major hydraulic lines, air bags and electrical cables as well as other important vehicle

Web:

www.mbca.org

data with QR codes. Using two stickers with the codes prominently displayed, rescue workers can scan the code and instantly pull up the necessary information quickly with an internet connection. The plan could reduce rescue times and help save lives. Mercedes-Benz places one on the fuel tank flap and the other on the B-pillar on the opposite vehicle side.

Currently, rescue workers have to rely on hard copy rescue sheets or must look up the information online, assuming the sheets are available at all. Mercedes-Benz has waived the right to patent the system in the hope that other automakers will take advantage of the technology.

MBCA Membership Form

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Associate membe	r (spouse or depen	dent)
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St. Louis Gatew Applicants Section		Sponsor's Member #
		issues of The Star.
Phone: 800/637-	2360 8 AM to 5 PM	1 M-F (Mountain)
Mail: MBCA, 1	•	Colorado Springs,

The Alton River Road Ramble
Alton, IL
Saturday, July 20th

Stonecroft Manor Tour & Picnic Hannibal, MO Saturday & Sunday - August 10th & 11th

Chaumette Vineyards & Winery Ste. Genevieve, MO Saturday, September 21st

Gateway Section



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Webster Groves, MO 63119





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