



GATEWAY NEWS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

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

Gateway News – July August 2014

Volume 42 Issue 4

Defensive Driving & Autocross Harvest Bible Chapel Saturday, August 23rd

This event will take place at the Harvest Bible Chapel parking lot at 17795 Wild Horse Creek Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63005.

Defensive driving is low speed, simulations of a variety of highway driving situations. It gives the participant the opportunity to add other alternative maneuvers to their driving knowledge when an emergency situation occurs. It is knowing what your car can do and knowing what you can do with your car. Accidents happen in a split second. Defensive driving may help the driver gain an additional second in reaction time in that emergency situation and that second may just save their life. In an emergency, every second counts. **Plan to bring the car you drive every day.**

The event will start at 9:00 a.m. In the morning, participants will take defensive driving from in-car instructors. The class begins with a 45 minute classroom instruction, where participants will learn proper seat and mirror adjustment, steering techniques, braking, foot position, tire patch theory and car dynamics. Then participants will drive through the various stations we have set up in a parking lot, with an instructor at their side at all times. We will have them practice avoiding an obstacle in the road, proper hard braking technique and steering through slalom to feel the cars dynamics. They will also experience the feel and sounds of their ABS brakes. This is a low speed maneuver. This is not a class for us to criticize the participant's driving; it is to help them stay alive by learning how to drive more defensively.

In the afternoon we will set up an autocross course and time folks through the course. **The cost of this event is \$30 per participant and includes a light lunch and drinks.** We will need several volunteers to help run this event so please let me know if you are willing to help. We will have room for a maximum of 35 participants.

We will hold the event even in light rain. If the weather is too bad to hold the event we will send out an e-mail notification as well as post the cancellation on the club's web page <http://stlgateway.mbca.org/>. Contact **Bob Frank at rsfrank1@aol.com or 636-273-9820** and to **reserve a spot** send a check made out to **MBCA Gateway Section to Bob Frank, 17500 Garden Ridge Cir., Wildwood, MO 63038.**

Fourth Annual Autos on Valhalla Valhalla Cemetery Sunday, September 28th

Valhalla Cemetery is located at 7600 St. Charles Rock Road – 63133 with Registration & Parking from 9:30 – 10:30 The Show Starts at 11:00 and Awards are at 2:00. The show is unique – not truly a concours, probably more of a show and shine, with an opportunity to mingle and visit with other car people in a lovely atmosphere. Cars are displayed on grass on rolling hills surrounding a beautiful lake. – The show is not marque specific, but we always have an excellent turnout of exotics along with some American Classics as well.

Other features of the Autos on Valhalla Show are: 1) You're supporting a great charity, Ride on St. Louis, which will be presenting a therapeutic horsemanship demonstration during the show. 2) A chance to win one of the unique "tombstone style" trophies in categories such as "Car You'd Like to Inherit"!

And, even if you don't want to enter your car, plan to come out to see the interesting & varied display of autos, and visit with other car aficionados in a truly welcoming atmosphere.

Put this date on your calendar, or if you want to check this off your "thing's to do list" just return the enclosed **registration form (found on page 17)** now along with your tax deductible check for **\$25 (payable to Friends of Valhalla)** to **Dodie Frank, 17 Devon Road, 63122 Questions? Dodiefrank2000@yahoo.com.**

The Valhalla Auto Show has always had a great turn out of Gateway Section members. Let's continue this tradition by again having more Mercedes entered than any other marque. See you on September 28.

2014 MBCA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm just sayin' -

With apologies to Jeremy Clarkson of Top Gear, after reading his recent column in the Sunday London Times, I'm thinking about the Google automated car, and just wanted to vent a bit. We're all accustomed to air travel on planes with autopilot handling most of the mind-numbing hours between Chicago and Lisbon, and many trains being handled by cyber-engineers, but I'm just not ready for the autonomous car.

The idea of a computer-guided personal ride to work (or WalMart, or Hermann, MO) just gives me the classic heeby-jeebies. We're dealing every day on the road with drivers who are applying make-up, reading newspapers, texting, talking on the phone, eating, etc., etc., and things are not going that well. Moving to a non-distracted silicon chip-directed auto may seem preferable to the present situation, but I keep being reminded by my electronic devices that glitches, meltdowns, CPU deaths, and hacker invasions do occur, and the results aren't pretty.

Here's a thought- Let's take some of the money that's going into research and development for autonomous autos, and put it into Driver Education. Yes, that old skill many of us learned in junior high school, just before we rushed out to the DMV to become licensed drive-in movie goers. We could teach kids, adults, and even experienced drivers how to actually concentrate on the task at hand and drive- maintaining lane discipline, signaling intended changes in direction, checking our vehicle condition (even cursorily) before setting out, and generally treating driving like the difficult, mind-occupying, life-and-death activity that it is. Call me crazy, but....

Included in this newsletter edition is a ballot for election of the St. Louis Gateway Section officers. Please make certain to fill out and return your ballot. An orderly transition to new officers is the hallmark of a great Section, so don't forget.

John Prater

Annual St. Louis Gateway Section Picnic Faust Park, Chesterfield Sunday, October 5th (Please Note Change in Date)

This year's picnic will take place at Faust Park, 15185 Olive Boulevard in Chesterfield.

We have reserved the park's beautiful brand new pavilion with picnic tables and hope to secure an area for our Show 'n Shine Car Show. There are playgrounds and a carousel for the young, and the young at heart.

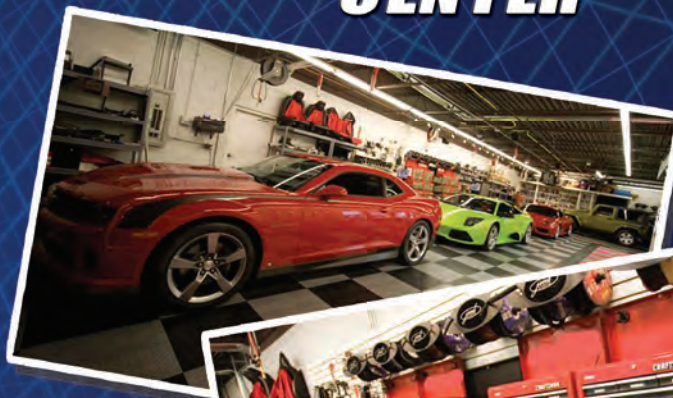
The Butterfly House and the Historic Village, which has a variety of structures dating back to the 1840's, are close by. We are still in the planning stages, but the details will be included in the next newsletter - so **SAVE THE DATE !**



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St. Louis Gateway Section Member's Cars



2013 C300

Owners: Jennie and Aaron Hible

Last year Aaron and I made the decision to start shopping for our first new car. We were able to narrow our final choices down to three – Audi, BMW and Mercedes. One of our friends had just ordered a new Audi and although it is an amazing car, we weren't completely sold on it. My dad has a 1975 300D Mercedes (which he swears has 800K miles on it) and is always reliable. We researched, talked to others and spent a lot of time going back and forth on what we really wanted. We finally decided to take a look at a local dealership where we unfortunately had a less than stellar experience. Refusing to give up we kept searching and found our 2013 C300 at Tri-Star. Luckily, our experience there (with Denise) was completely different and we couldn't be happier with the car. Honestly, who can say no to a car that has AMG styling and red seatbelts?

This car is a daily driver for us. We try to alternate who drives it for the day, but sometimes it is all a matter of who gets out the door first or who won a bet from the night before. The car is unbelievably comfortable and the audio and navigation system are also great. I admit we weren't car people so when we made the purchase we were basically shopping for something that looked sporty and eye-catching.

We joined the club a few months after purchasing the car and attended Autos on Valhalla as our first event. Having never been members of a car club in the past, we weren't sure what to expect. What we found were kind and genuine people who made two newbie members feel very comfortable and welcome. I can honestly say that we have enjoyed every event so far and consider ourselves lucky to be part of such an awesome group.



2004 SLK 320

Owner: Mary Margret Hirsch

I have always been a car person and all of my cars have been personal. I have had Fiats (before they were cool!), Acuras (the Integra was the best), BMWs, Volvos.... the list goes on..., but I have always wanted a Mercedes hard top sports car. I just could not justify it as a work/family car UNTIL I retired. That was all I wanted for my retirement. Sounds odd, but the first SLK 320 I saw was my dream car. It was love at first sight. The champagne color with the black interior and the V6 in that little car felt like a rocket. It was a 2004 with one previous owner.

The only drawback was that it fit me perfectly, but not my 6 foot 5 husband! Well, it was my car so I did not worry about it too much. Shortly after buying the SLK, I began having problems getting in and out of it. It got worse and two years and two hip replacements later, my poor husband was left to drive my Mercedes for the first year while I had to drive his car. He looked like an accordion folding himself in and out of the car. People used to stop and stare at him doing so. After the first year he decided enough was enough and he bought himself a truck. We housed my beloved little car.

This spring I finally recovered and have gotten to have the joy of driving it again. Now I know why I bought it in the first place. This definitely has proven to be such a fun little car. My husband calls it my roller skate. I was thinking of selling it and getting a bigger Mercedes. Well... we did get a bigger Mercedes (an ML, thanks Rick), but when it came time to sell my little roller skate, I just couldn't part with it because I am having too much fun making up for lost time. I think this is what retirement should have been about in the first place. I am so thankful that I have this second chance to enjoy it!



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DETAILING/AUTOMOTIVE CLINIC & ST. LOUIS GATEWAY LADIES DAY OUT

Saturday, May 10th

Over sixty members and professionals joined together on Saturday, May 10th, for a very interesting and educational **Detailing and Automotive Clinic**, hosted by Jay Schuessler and **Plaza Mercedes-Benz**. The dealership graciously cleared out a large area of their showroom for our event, which provided the perfect setting for such a technical club activity. Professionals sharing their expertise included the following: Roland Nalagan of **Auto Perfection Services**, **Clear Auto Bra**, **JML Audio**, **American Dent Removal**, and **Alloy Wheel Repair Specialists**. Plaza graciously provided us with tasty sandwiches and drinks.

St. Louis Gateway Section members truly discovered what is necessary to not only simply maintain their automobiles, but to also transform a "nice car" into a true concours winner !

While many of our male members attended the detailing clinic, the Gateway Mercedes Ladies gathered for a luncheon at French restaurant and Bakery, La Bonne Bouchée. It is always fun for our female members to get together without a "car" related agenda. We have started having similar gatherings a couple of times a year and we all very much enjoy this time together ! (See photos on page 16)

ST. LOUIS EUROPEAN AUTO SHOW

Sunday, June 1st

On Sunday, June 1st, the St. Louis Gateway Section participated in the 27th annual St. Louis European Auto Show. This event raises money to benefit the St. Louis Shriners Hospital for Children, which has now totaled nearly a quarter of a million dollars !. As typical, the Mercedes-Benz marque was well represented with over 25 entries.

The weather varied throughout the day with cloud build up, but a nice breeze. Although there were a very few rain drops later in the afternoon, we had no thunderstorms and our club tent stayed firmly planted.

The St. Louis Gateway Section had our club tent staffed by members who distributed literature and spoke with several potential new members. St. Louis Gateway Section member, Rodger VanNess, received the Mercedes-Benz Best of Marque Award with his 1966 280SE Cabriolet.

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. Special thanks goes to Rick Siefert who coordinated our display, brought the Section's tent and banners, and in general made sure we presented a great impression to prospective members. (See photos on pages 14 & 15)

Member Profile

Jennie Hible

In 2012, I decided that I needed to find a hobby to relieve stress from the job that I was working at the time. I like to consider myself a somewhat creative person, but didn't want the typical painting or pottery class. I finally decided to take a one day glass blowing beginner course. It was fun, but I felt completely overwhelmed. I needed something that was going to relieve stress, not cause more. After searching around, I stumbled upon glass fusing which is basically cutting glass and firing it in a kiln. Later that year, Black Dog Brown Dog Art was born.



I began making bowls, platters, etc using art glass which is glass that is designed specifically for fusing and use in the kiln. I began thinking about other types of glass that could be used to make items. I took a class that focused on using recycled glass which really inspired me. Now the majority of my work is focused on using glass that is destined for the landfill. I recycle shower doors, patio doors, windows, and mason jars, turning them into usable items. A few months ago, a school was replacing all the glass out of a trophy case, so I was able to save those pieces from being brought to a landfill.



I recently received an invitation to be part of the "Best of Missouri" show at the Missouri Botanical Gardens this Fall. I'm very lucky to have a hobby that brings me joy and pays for itself. I give a portion of every sale I make to local animal rescue organizations. Aaron and I are involved in the rescue community and are lucky enough to have two adopted dogs at home. Below you will find my website. I am still in the process of building it, so please don't mind the mess.

www.blackdogbrowndogart.com

www.facebook.com/blackdogbrowndogart

Day Lily Garden Tour - Saturday June 21, 2014

On Saturday, June 21, club members headed to Glen Carbon, IL and the home of Dan and JoAnn White to see their fantastic day lily garden. The weather was warm and sunny and we had a great time wandering through this really amazing display of flowers. With over 20,000 varieties of day lilies, the Whites are kept very busy and were great hosts. The gardens are arranged over several acres which includes a small lake and wooded area. After a wonderful time browsing the gardens, we then headed to lunch at Villa Marie Winery located in Maryville, IL for a fine lunch, wine, and conversation. This was a really great way spend a Saturday and everyone had a wonderful time. Our thanks to the Whites, and to Frank and Luella Perry for hosting this fun event. See the pictures below.



Luella Perry, JoAnn & Dan White, Frank Perry



A great turnout for this event!



Ron Faerber, Ed Barutio and Ken Faerber relaxing



Alan Barker, Jim Eaton & Marion and Jan Sims



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Day Lily Garden Tour – Saturday June 21st, 2014



Patti and Rick Siefert with their new treasures



Judy and Alan Barker enjoying the surroundings



Lunch at Villa Marie Winery



Tony Bauer & Michelle Valle



Aleene and Bob Young

27th Annual St Louis European Auto Show – Jun 1st, 2014



Cliff Reyle with new members, Matt and Kathy Walsh



Mimi and Ed Barutio

27th Annual St Louis European Auto Show – June 1st, 2014



Dodie Frank; Dan Valle; Rick Siefert; Aaron&Jennie Hible



Welcome to Linda and Cliff Reyle(Central Region Director)



Rodger VanNess, received the Best of Marque Award in the Mercedes-Benz Class with his 1966 280SE Cabriolet



Welcome New Member Mike Perry



Elmer (Sonny) and Carol Sterthman



Steve and Marti Jacquemin and new members Don and Karen Barker

Detailing Clinic Extravaganza and Ladies Luncheon – May 10, 2014



Jerroly Frank with Robin Retzlaff from the Ozark Section



Ed Bank and Bob Pomeroy



Sandy and Hank Meyer



Gary Wilson



Ladies Luncheon at La Bonne Bouchee



When: Sunday Sept. 28, 2014
(Rain or Shine)
Arrival for Registration & Parking 9:30-10:30 am
Show Starts 11 am - Awards 2 pm

Where: Valhalla Cemetery
7600 St. Charles Rock Rd
St. Louis MO 63133

Bring the family and join area car buffs for a fun gathering of classic and contemporary automobiles at a beautiful venue. This event will be held rain or shine in the beautiful surroundings at Valhalla Cemetery. Like the country's most prestigious car shows, Pebble Beach and Amelia Island, the cars will be displayed on grass - the only show in the St. Louis area to do so - arrayed on rolling hills surrounding a beautiful lake. Our judges will present Unique Awards for categories unlike those of any other auto show you have attended. Food, drinks, music and the company of your fellow automobile enthusiast's will round out the day's activities. Autos on Valhalla is open to classic and contemporary American, Asian and European Autos.
Cars accepted at the discretion of the show committee. (Please no Street Rods or Tuners)

Equine Assisted Therapy demonstrations will be provided by Ride On St. Louis staff.

Registration Donation:
\$25 before September 15th or \$35 day of show
All donations are welcome and tax deductible
Make checks payable to: *Friends of Valhalla*

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Address: _____
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Phone: _____
email: _____

Year: _____
Make: _____
Model: _____



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Please read and sign. Upon submitting a signed entry form, all participants hereby waive all rights against the Valhalla Cemetery, Autos on Valhalla, its Organizers, Officials, Sponsors and Participating Organizations for any loss, damage and injury. Valhalla Cemetery, Autos on Valhalla, its Organizers, Officials, Sponsors and Participating Organizations shall not be liable or responsible for any loss, damage or injury in part or whole to any participant or to any participant's display and/or vehicles or property.

Signature: _____
Date: _____

Mail Check & Entry Form to:
Autos on Valhalla c/o Dodie Frank
17 Devon Drive
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CARS AND PARTS FOR SALE

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 17" 7.5ET42, Michelin Primacy Alpin 225/45R17; <http://www.mbwheelandtire.com/wheel-and-tire/all-vehicles>; asking \$600. Please check with your MB service advisor (or tirerack.com) as to these wheels (lug pattern, size, offset, etc) seem to be able to fit other MB models. **Joe Pierro, 314.258.0985 or jopiuk@sbcglobal.net.**

Bosch right side European model headlight assembly (including turn signal housing) for W126 models (from a 1985 280SE) 0302 050 007/8 \$65. 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) \$60. **Bob Nauss, robert_nauss@umsl.edu or 314.954.2879.**

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.**

560SL, 1987, Midnight Blue with gray interior. Engine excellent, paint good, new top, hardtop, and good tires. Asking \$9,900 OBO. **Paul Temme, ptemme@att.net or 314.616.1616.**

420SEL, 1988, Black, no rust, runs great; everything has been replaced, including motor. Interior good, and original, no rips in leather. Air will drive you out of car. Gets 21 mpg on highway. \$5,500 OBO. **Gary Wilson, 314.662.6333.**

300SE, 1989, Teal Blue Metallic (#877) w/ Parchment interior (#265), 116K miles. Wonderful condition, one of the finest Everyday Drivers that you will find ! New Climate Control System, Like-new Engine Compartment, leather & wood trim in Great Condition. OEM wheels recently refinished. New Pioneer Radio with CD and Remote. Updated with Bluetooth for Hands-Free Phone, with iPad/iPhone connection. Have spent over \$14K on car and parts. Service in last 4 months was over \$7,400. Per Hagerty Insurance, the W126 cars are increasing in value. VIN#WDBCA24D4KA486777. Seeing and driving this one is believing ! Located in West County. \$8,900. **Randy Hawkins, 314.941.8007 or randyhawkins@netcad.net.**

E320 Wagon, 1995, Black w/ gray interior, Sunroof, 100K miles, \$4000. **Han Helbling at 314.803.6325.**

300D, 1985, Light Ivory (623) w/ Palomino MB Tex interior. 11K original miles ! Electric Sliding Roof. Inherited by father, who was original owner. Never rained on and still smells new on inside. Original window sticker and service records. Recently replaced diesel injector and injector hose, fuel hoses, fuel tank screen, oil, filter, lubrication, and battery. Asking \$17,500. **Judy at jdavis42845@gmail.com or 618.447.5839.**

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2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA
ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

Saturday - June 21st
Day Lily Garden Tour - Glen Carbon, IL
Followed by winery picnic

Saturday - August 23rd
Defensive Driving Program
Harvest Bible Chapel - Chesterfield

Sunday - September 28th
Autos on Valhalla Car Show

Sunday, October 5th
Annual Fall Color Picnic -
Faust Park - Chesterfield

Sunday - October 26th
Driving tour - Churchill Museum
Westminster College - Fulton, MO

Saturday, December TBD
Holiday Party

January 2015 TBD
New Year Brunch

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:

Tom Westrich
James Sullivan
Stephen McCaskie
Scott Timinski
Mikel Perry
Harry Bushman

Also, please note a correction from last month as we incorrectly listed Rudy Beck and Sandy Polly as "Rudy and Polley Beck". We apologize.

Welcome to the St. Louis Gateway Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We have nearly 270 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 -

St. Louis Gateway Section on facebook



Mercedes Benz Club St. Louis Gateway Section

We want to make sure that all Section members know that your section has a facebook page!! Log on and Like Us.

MBCA Membership Form

Please print clearly

Full name _____

Associate member (spouse or dependent) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(____) _____ (____) _____
Home Phone Business Phone

Occupation _____ E-mail address _____

Mercedes-Benz cars now owned (Model/Year) _____

☐ New Member ☐ Renewing Member (check one)

If renewing, Member Number _____

Interests: ☐ Driving Events ☐ Car Shows ☐ The Star
☐ Social Events ☐ Car Care ☐ Technical

Please enroll me as a MBCA Member for:

☐ 1 Year (\$49) ☐ 2 Years (\$95) ☐ 3 Years (\$139)

Make check payable to MBCA; Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express also accepted. If using a credit card, please complete the following:

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
☐ Discover ☐ American Express _____

Expiration Date: _____

Account Number _____

Applicant's Signature _____

St. Louis Gateway Section

Applicants Section Preference _____ Sponsor's Member # _____

Annual membership dues include six issues of The Star.

Phone: 800/637-2360 8 AM to 5 PM M-F (Mountain)

Mail: MBCA, 1907 Lelaray St., Colorado Springs,
CO. 80909

Web: www.mbca.org

St. Louis Gateway Section
17500 Garden Ridge Circle
Wildwood, MO 63038

Defensive Driving & Autocross

Harvest Bible Chapel

Saturday, August 23rd

Fourth Annual Autos on Valhalla

Valhalla Cemetery

Sunday, September 28th

Annual Fall Color Club Picnic

Faust Park – Chesterfield

Sunday, October 5th



3220 South Brentwood Blvd.
Webster Groves, MO 63119

314 518.6111

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