



GATEWAY NEWS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

"MBCA SECTION OF THE YEAR"

Gateway News – March April 2015

Volume 43 Issue 2

MEMBER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Wednesday, March 4th, 2015

Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis

Although, as noted below, the RSVP date for this event is February 25th, we are including the event in this edition of the newsletter. However, only those members who receive the newsletter electronically will view it before the sign-up deadline. All members are encouraged to attend our annual **Member Appreciation Reception on Wednesday, March 4th, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m.** Come join your fellow members as we enjoy adult beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and great conversation ! This is a great opportunity to become familiar with the new M-B models, learn about the European Delivery Program, and welcome our newest members. Our host this year is Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis. If you haven't seen this fabulous dealership yet, you are in for a treat ! This beautiful facility will be featured in The Star magazine's upcoming issue. **Please RSVP now, but no later than February 25th, to Dan Valle at dvalle1@earthlink.net, or call 314.495.7276.** Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis is located at 1048 Hampton Avenue, near the intersection of I-64 (Highway 40) and Hampton Avenue. **This event is the club's gift to you. Don't miss it !**

WARM SPRINGS RANCH TOUR

Saturday, April 18th, 2015

Boonville, Missouri

On Saturday, April 18th, join us as we head to Warm Springs Ranch, home of the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales, located in Boonville, Missouri. This will be a great event to bring the children and grandchildren. Space for our guided tour is limited, so be sure to get your **RSVP to Dana Faerber**, as soon as possible by emailing her at ronfaerber@sbcglobal.net. **Please mail your check to Dana for \$10, payable to "MBCA, St. Louis Gateway Section", at 13231 Greenbough, St. Louis, MO 63146. Children under two are free.** Also, please let Dana know if you will be joining the group for lunch in Columbia and how many. We will **meet at the commuter parking lot at the southeast corner of I 64 (Highway 40 for us natives) and Highway 94.** Be there in time to **depart at 9 a.m.** for a leisurely drive to Columbia for lunch at **44 Stone Public House**, 3910 Peachtree Dr., Columbia, MO 65203. Maps

and driving directions will be provided, since it's usually difficult to keep a large group together, especially on I70. If you use a GPS, just follow its lead. We should arrive there around 11 a.m. and we have reserved a private room, where tables for the group will be ready and we can order off the menu and pay by separate check. It is an eclectic menu, which also includes items for kids. A wide selection of beers and other adult beverages are available. From there we will drive to Warm Springs Ranch, which is about 20-30 minutes further, arriving there about 1:45. We will line up at the gate and wait for our host to direct us in.

If you have not already done so, you might want to peruse their website and various links therein for further information about the facility, at www.warmspringsranch.com. **For those who do not want to do the lunch stop, please leave home at your leisure and plan on being at the ranch at 11:45.**

DANIEL BOONE TOUR/CHANDLER HILL WINERY

Saturday, May 9th, 2015

Defiance, Missouri

MAY DRIVING TOUR, PLUS HISTORY AND DINNER !

Plan to meet us in front of Lowe's in Chesterfield Valley, for a prompt departure at 11 a.m. Spring is the perfect time of year to enjoy a country drive in your Mercedes. In addition, you will relive a bit of history and enjoy some fine wine and delicious food to please the palate.

We plan on driving in a convoy to the **Daniel Boone home** in Defiance, MO. Tours of the house and village will definitely take us back in time. Activities of Daniel's time are a bonus, especially for our St. Louis Gateway Section. **Chandler Hill Winery**, also in Defiance, is our next stop. Wine tasting, lunch, and just enjoying the company of fellow club members, will round out the day. This winery has been featured in SAUCE, the Ladue News and the St. Louis Magazine, and has some of the finest wines in the region.

Please plan on joining us for a delightful May afternoon with a bit of history, fine wine, food, and the good fellowship of fellow club members. **Make your reservation no later than Monday, May 4th** if you plan to attend, so we can plan on tours, food, etc. **Contact Kacey Cowdery – 314.968. 5041 for the tour and Ed Barutio 636.273.9046 for the winery visit.**

**2015 MBCA
SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I continue to be impressed with our ever-increasing attendance at recent club events. For those of you that made it to The Barrel Bar for our wine, beer, and cocktail pairing session, you know what I mean. We actually had to stop accepting reservations ! Come to think of it, we've been reaching capacity at all of our events, going back to the club picnic at Faust Park. The word must be getting out that the real pleasure of belonging to a car club, is getting to know, appreciate, and spend time with other like-minded individuals.

You may have noticed that I send you an email from time to time, reminding you to RSVP for upcoming events. I try not to send more than one or two emails each month, for fear that you'll stop reading them if sent too often. I simply want to make sure that you don't miss out on any of these events. Sometimes, we have to limit space because of venue constraints. For instance, we only have room for sixty at Warm Springs Ranch in April. Besides space constraints, it makes it difficult for those who volunteered to host an event to plan, without knowing how many will attend.

I have one more favor to ask of you. If you currently receive a hard copy of the newsletter, please consider receiving the newsletter via email. The club spends approximately \$2.00 per copy. I would prefer to allocate the savings towards enhancing some of our monthly events. In addition, the electronic version contains more color and is sent out to members approximately six days before the printed copy arrives at your home. If you're interested in making the switch to an emailed newsletter, please send Bob Frank an email at rsfrank1@aol.com.

Speaking of upcoming events, I hope to see you at our Member Appreciation Reception at Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis on Wednesday, March 4. Kate Hennekes has planned a wonderful evening for us. Don't miss it !

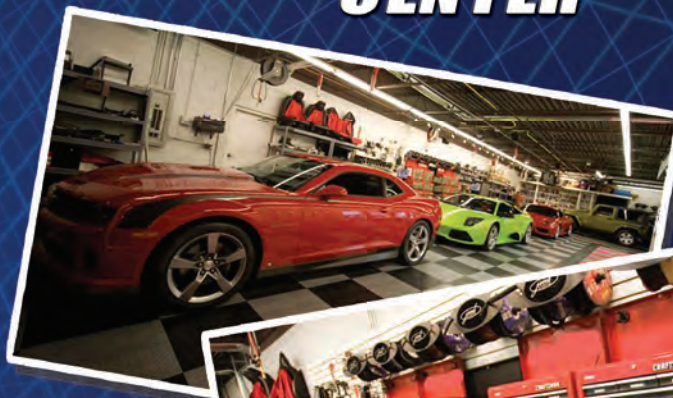
Dan



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St. Louis Gateway Section VALENTINE PARTY
February 8th, 2015
THE BARREL BAR
St Charles County, Dardene Prairie

What wonderful weather for a day in February and what a great time the St. Louis Gateway Section had at The Barrel Bar in St. Charles. About 60 members attended a wine, beer, and cocktail tasting event.

Owner, Sherri Beeman, organized four outstanding wines, three unique beers, and four great cocktails for our drinking pleasure. With each of these drinks, Jasper Noto and his daughter, Kendele, selected various treats, such as dark chocolates, chocolate covered bacon (it was really good !) and other distinctive items.

All of the unique sweets were handmade at J. Noto Italian Bakery and Confections in downtown St. Charles. Most of us were surprised how the various treats really did bring out the best of each of the drinks. After the tasting event was over, many of us enjoyed lunch in the wonderful weather on the outside terrace at The Barrel Bar. Our thanks to Gail and Gary Griffin for organizing this truly fine event and ensuring we had such great weather.
(See photos on Pages 16-18)

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New Year's Brunch at Ya Ya's in Chesterfield - January 18

The St. Louis Gateway Section was once again rewarded by great weather for our annual New Year's Brunch. We gathered at YaYa's in Chesterfield with over 65 members filling our reserved area. After some fine conversation including a description of all those New Year resolutions, we sat down for the brunch. This consisted of an outstanding buffet with an amazing array of food from traditional eggs and bacon or pizza to special order French toast with caramelized walnuts (so much for those weight loss resolutions). It was a great way to start the New Year and get rid of the post-holiday blues. As we talked and ate, our President, Dan Valle, went to each table and discussed the upcoming Section events for the New Year. After we ate, several folks remained to continue conversations. Our thanks are extended to Dan and Michelle Valle for hosting this great New Year's brunch. (See photos on Pages 6 & 7)



Dan and Michelle Valle – Event Hosts



Maribell Knickerbocker, Aleene and Bob Young



Ron and Dana Faerber



Judy Dorsey and guest Donna



Marion and Jan Sims



Judy and Alan Barker



Carol and Elmer Sterthman,
and Maribell Knickerbocker

New Year's Brunch at Ya Ya's in Chesterfield – January 18th



Audrey and Alan Biby



Cindy and John Manceri



Dan and Mary Margret Hirsch



Norma Nowotny and Jeanine Riddle



Rick and Patti Siefert



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Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis

ARTICLE | RICK SIEFERT
IMAGES | M-B of ST. LOUIS & KAY FRANK

Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis and the St. Louis Gateway Section have been partners in serving Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts in the greater St. Louis area for many years.

The dealership's history began before World War II when John Ellis IV began selling and repairing motor vehicles in Mexico, Missouri. His business grew and eventually included multiple dealerships co-owned with two of his children, Cathy and John Ellis V. Tom Hennekes, who had joined the Ellis family as an accountant in 1979, partnered with Ellis to form Alton European Imports in 1985 in Alton, Illinois. With Cathy Ellis taking over her father's side of the business, Alton European became Tri-Star Imports Inc. in downtown St. Louis in 1995, which then moved to Ellisville, Missouri, in 1997.

In July 2014, Hennekes and Ellis opened their current facility, now known officially as Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis, overlooking nationally acclaimed Forest Park. The central location near the intersection of Hampton Avenue and Interstate 64/Highway 40 is easily accessed from anywhere in the greater St. Louis Area.



The Star® MARCH-APRIL 2015



The new facility encompasses 3.5 acres, including the new three-level, 54,000-square-foot building. The showroom with its 25-foot-high street-facing windows, and a technology workshop, two customer lounges, a customer café, parts boutique, and meeting rooms with full kitchen are on the main level next to display parking for new and pre-owned vehicles. The state-of-the-art 24-bay service department, along with the parking garage and detailing bays, are on the underground level, with the accounting department on the mezzanine level overlooking the park. The building includes an employee workout area next to the locker rooms.

Ellis and Hennekes are as proud of their staff of 69 employees – who represent more than 419 years of combined experience – as they are of their new facility. And the building's well-equipped training facilities are in constant use to keep everyone updated on the latest Mercedes-Benz models, service practices and policies. A fleet of 40 loaner vehicles as well as shuttle services are maintained to ensure customers are never inconvenienced while their cars are in for service.



Recognizing the importance of corporate citizenship, the partners and their employees actively support the Salvation Army, Junior Achievement, the Life and Hope Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Adoption Exchange, Backstoppers, Friends of Kids with Cancer, Urbanaire, and many local schools.

St. Louis Gateway Section members are as excited about the new facilities as dealership staff because the Section holds a variety of events at the facility. Accommodating more than 100 people, the meeting room at the disposal of club members is a perfect location for the Section's annual planning meeting, member appreciation reception and board meetings. With the dealership's terrific location on the central St. Louis corridor and convenient highway access, it is also an excellent site for the Section to gather prior to its various driving events and road trips during the year.

Moreover, Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis hosts a variety of dealer events to which the Section is invited. Of course, members were part of the grand-opening celebrations and look forward to new-car introductions and



other activities at the dealership. Within the comfortable lounges, the Section also maintains a display that includes membership applications, newsletters, and current copies of The Star magazine.

Overall, the relationship between Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis and the St. Louis Gateway Section has been mutually rewarding through the years, and with the brand-new Autohaus-style dealership, both groups look forward to a great future together.

Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis
1048 Hampton Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63139
314.647.2400
www.mbstl.com

TOP: The beautiful Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis dealership, opened in July 2014, boasts 54,000 square feet on three floors. BELOW FROM LEFT: The spotless 24-bay service department is underground. Members of the St. Louis Gateway Section gather in the light-filled showroom for refreshments before adjourning to one of the dealership's spacious meeting rooms for the Section's annual planning meeting. Entrance to the indoor 4-lane Service drive is on the ground level.



The Star® MARCH-APRIL 2015



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This year's host hotel is the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Cincinnati Airport. For more information, including event registration, hotel reservations and a link to join the online StarTech Facebook community, visit the website: <http://startech2015.mbca.org>

To request StarTech registration information via postal mail, please call David Hagood at 513-404-8183.



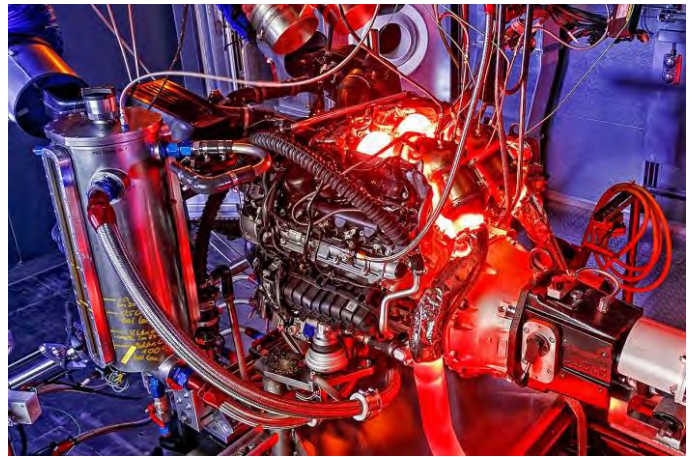
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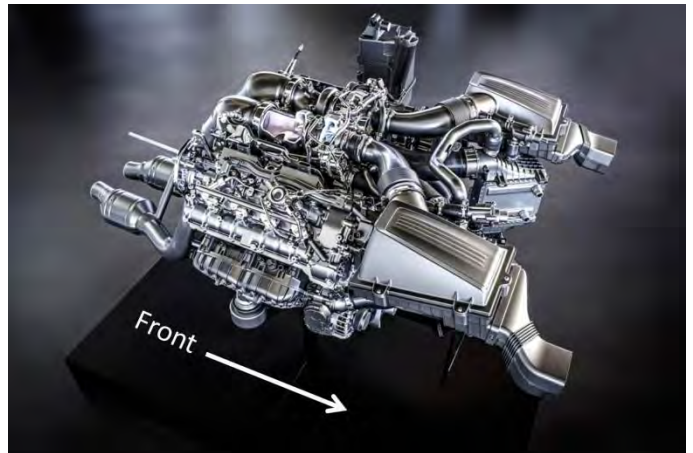
MERCEDES – AMG GT S New Twin-Turbo V-8 M178 Engine

The new AMG GT S, due on sale in April of this year, has a new twin turbocharged V8 engine; the M178. Displacing just 4.0 liters, the M178 engine manages a specific output of just over 126 horsepower per liter, rating 503 HP total with 479 pound-feet of torque over a wide rpm range.



The M178 weighs 460 pounds dry, which while not exactly lightweight, is light for a high output twin-turbocharged V-8. A unique feature of this engine is the placement of the twin turbos inside the valley of the V-8's layout, termed "hot inside V" by Mercedes. In order to accomplish this, Mercedes engineers essentially swapped the placement of the exhaust and intake manifolds. The turbochargers are mounted directly to the exhaust ports of the heads, while the intake runners are mounted to the outside of the heads.

To help cool the under-hood temperatures, the GT S has an air intake just above the radiator, which directs air just above the engine and exits just before the windshield.



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Valentine Celebration, The Barrel Bar, Dardene Prairie – February 8th



Jasper Noto & Kendele Noto (J. Noto Italian Bakery), and Sherri Beeman (owner of The Barrel Bar) with Gary and Gail Griffin (event hosts)



Tony Bauer, Dan Valle, Rick Siefert, Michelle Valle, Laurie Bauer and Patti Siefert



Kathy & Mark Langenfeld with Cathie & Jerry Willie



Mary Margret and Dan Hirsch with Reid and Liz Vann and Diane Raab (Classique Wines)



Valentine Celebration, The Barrel Bar, Dardene Prairie – February 8th



New Members Kathy and Karl Kuehn



New Members Lou and Larry Jones



Luella Perry, Dana and Ron Faerber and Patti Siefert



Sharon Keller, Don Nordenholt & Jennie and Aaron Hible



Judy and Greg Mueller



Liz and Reid Vann

Valentine Celebration, The Barrel Bar, Dardene Prairie – February 8th



Dodie Frank and Mimi Barutio



Audrey and Mark Sherman of Sherman Auto Sales



Kathy Atwood and Don Falk



Laurie & Tony Bauer, Gary & Gail Griffin, Michelle & Dan Valle



A wonderful turnout for this event - a big thank you to the hosts Gary and Gail Griffin for organizing this.

CARS AND PARTS FOR SALE

220S ("Ponton"), 1957, Black w/ beige interior. 84,xxx original miles w/ complete record of service history for past 40 years. 4-speed manual, newer Weber carbs, new fuel lines & relined fuel tank, rebuilt master brake cylinder & new brake lines, most components in good to very good condition. Car previously owned by a member of the DuPont family. Additional parts & accessories may also be available for sale at time of purchase. \$16,900 OBO. For further details and photos, contact **Chris Pagel** at chris_pagel@sbcglobal.net or 314.800.8055.

500SE Sedan (WDB126 chassis), 1980, Silver w/ gray velour. 114,730 miles. Imported from Germany in 1985. Professionally stored in St. Louis since 1993. Second owner. AMG spoiler, custom alloy wheels, sheepskin covers on front seats, Desert Package, which includes larger radiator, & more powerful A/C. \$2,500 OBO. For further details and photos, contact **Elwood Vogt** at elwoodvogt@onetel.com or +44 (0)7766 663066.

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.

Complete set of Mercedes-Benz **All-Weather Floormats** (black rubber) front and rear for 2003 to 2007 C280, will probably fit other models, excellent condition. Make offer. **Brent** at 651-307-0378 or brent.m.saba@gmail.com.

W107 Chrome wheels 16x7. Believe to be Centra Type. Came off of a 1988 560SL. Chrome in good shape, not perfect; center stars re-chromed. \$125 for the set. Also have Centra Chrome Wheels 16x7 from a 1989 420SEL. Very good condition; some light pitting that's not broken through the chrome; look great for the price; center stars re-chromed. \$125 for the set. Located in the Westport area. Call me for photos. **Randy Hawkins** at 314.941.8007 or randyhawkins@netscad.net.

Four 14"x6" Bundt alloy wheels, nearly new with center medallions, \$25 each, two half-shafts for rear suspension R107, W115, W123 & others, used, \$100 each, and other miscellaneous parts for W115 and W113. **Larry Gettleman** for further details at 502.634.1461 or gettleman@louisville.edu.

Parts for 2000 S500 - Four wheels, 8x16 in, with tires; \$125 each, Four door pull closer handles, \$50 each, Grille, \$225, W220 Tail lamp assembly, \$125, Cup holder, center armrest (leather), \$150, Four-piece air vent for dash; \$225. **Nat Williams** at 270.352.5410 or natw4889@msn.com.

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SPECIAL NOTE TO MEMBERS OF THE ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

As members of the St. Louis Gateway Section, we would like to introduce club members to our son, Jay Wille, who has recently joined Laura McCarthy Real Estate. With a background in residential development, investment properties, and historic homes, Jay brings a unique set of skills to the residential real estate world. As a lifelong St. Louis resident, he grew up in Ladue Schools and currently resides, with his wife Carrie and son Hugo, in Town and Country. His love for real estate stems from enjoying the "hunt for the perfect place".

"Every client has their own unique needs and wants. I enjoy helping people find their dream home, or their dream buyer." says Jay.

Together, with the marketing expertise and superb reputation of Laura McCarthy Real Estate, Jay looks forward to creating many new relationships. Please find his ad in this publication and give him a call or send him an email to discuss the recent Economic Forecast Breakfast for REALTORS®. He is happy to communicate with anyone, from the casual real estate observer, to someone ready to buy or sell right now.

Warm Wishes,

Jerry and Cathie Wille

MERCEDES-BENZ MOVING U.S. HEADQUARTERS TO ATLANTA

From: The Wall Street Journal

By Jeff Bennett, Laura Kusisto and Cameron McWhirter

Daimler AG is moving down south, uprooting Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) headquarters from its longtime perch in New Jersey with plans to relocate it to an Atlanta suburb. Daimler's U.S. luxury car offices have been based in New Jersey since 1972. Wooed by lower costs, proximity to a Mercedes-Benz factory, and government incentives, the German luxury carmaker in July will begin moving about 1,000 U.S. personnel to a temporary facility and later move to Sandy Springs, Georgia.

The operation, which includes staff working on the Sprinter van business and the Smart mini car lineup, will permanently move into a new building erected on a 10-acre site in the same city.

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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:

Diane Compton
Craig Smith
Mark and Audrey Sherman
Charlene Johnson
Robin Chambers
Karl Kuehn
Joe Wingbermuehle

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 -

To Join the St. Louis Gateway Section

Sign on to the MBCA Web Site at
<http://www.mbca.org/membership>

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.

NEWS & COMMENTS FROM YOUR CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR

As **Reigning Section-of-the-Year**, the St. Louis Gateway Section continues to be a Star amongst the nearly 90 MBCA Sections, now under the very capable leadership of President Dan Valle. It is so easy to take for granted just how fortunate we all are to be part of such a wonderful group of individuals. Of course the leadership and Board of Directors of our Section have a huge part in how we are perceived. The past couple of months allowed me to communicate with leaders and members of the other Sections within the Central Region. In an effort to Pay-It-Forward, Jim Gruss, Bob Frank, Dana Faerber, and other SLGS Board Members have already provided some fabulous guidance and direction relative to Section websites, newsletters, financial reports, and membership retention.

Please note the **StarDealer** article in this issue of the Gateway News. The article and photos will also be included in the March/April Star magazine. This is quite an honor for **Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis**. They will receive a special presentation at the Member Appreciation Reception on March 4th.

It's almost five months away, but we would love for you to join us for **StarTech 2015** (<http://startech2015.mbcca.org>) in **Cincinnati, Ohio, June 12th-14th**. Cincinnati is one of the Sections within our Central Region and we are hopeful of having a respectable contingency of St. Louis Gateway Section members attend. As noted in the enclosed flyer, this is not only a weekend of the latest technical information, but there are also many other planned activities, allowing you to share your passion and connect with other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts from around the world. And, topping off the festivities on Sunday, one can see more than 200 spectacular vehicles and experience the heritage of Mercedes-Benz, which is the featured marque, at the **38th Annual Ault Park Concours d'Elegance**.

Lastly, I wanted to announce the fact that there will soon be an increase in membership dues. The MBCA has been working hard to enhance the membership experience and are committed to making your membership a valuable and memorable experience. To properly serve our members, the National Board of Directors has approved a \$6 increase in annual membership dues, effective July 1, 2015.

The MBCA continues to sponsor National and Regional events, is a content leader in the Mercedes-Benz brand, and provides numerous savings opportunities for its members. We value your membership and are constantly striving to enhance your MBCA experience. We are also committed to providing unprecedented value and look forward to serving you for many years to come.

If you have any questions specific to the membership dues increase, please contact me at any time.

Rick Siefert, Central Regional Director

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

Member Appreciation Reception

Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis

Wednesday, March 4th

Warm Springs Ranch Tour

Boonville, MO

Saturday, April 18th

Daniel Boone Tour / Chandler Hill Winery

Defiance, MO

Saturday, May 9th



SAY NO TO CHIPPED PAINT

sedan/coupe



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