

## **GATEWAY NEWS**

# MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

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Gateway News - NOV DEC 2013

Volume 41 Issue 6

### Columbia Star Dinner Train Columbia, MO Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

So far, 37 people have signed up. The dining car holds 56 people so we still have plenty of room. They will take reservations until November 1st. The number to call for reservations is 573-474-2223. We will meet at the Quality Inn, located off of I-70, at Exit 203 in Foristell, MO at 9:15 AM. From there, we will caravan 80 miles to the Columbia Star Dinner Train, located at 6501 N Brown Station Rd Columbia, MO 65202. We need to arrive at the train by 11:00 AM. We look forward to seeing you! http://dinnertrain.com/

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# 2014 Events Planning Meeting Tri-Star Imports Monday, November 11th

As last year, Tri-Star has offered to host our meeting in their upstairs training room from 5:00 to 7:30 PM, and Monday, November 11th is the date. We'll provide pizza and soft drinks to keep the ideas flowing, and look forward to a big turnout of members with creative event ideas. Tri-Star Imports is located at 16360 Truman Road, Ellisville, MO 63011. Contact John Prater at oliverjeanne2012@hotmail.com and let him know your will be attending.

### Holiday Party Frontenac Hilton Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Can you believe it? It is only six weeks until our Holiday Party on Saturday, December 7th!!!! This year's party is hosted by Kay Frank, Joan Gruss, Luella Perry, and Paula Prater. Due to the success of last year's party it will again be held at the beautiful and convenient Frontenac Hilton at Hwy. 40 and Lindbergh. Great news! We were able to book the same fun disc jockey and the club will be picking up the cost of the DJ this year so the tickets for dinner will be even more reasonable. Our tickets this year will be \$57.00 per person, including tax and gratuity.

The choice of entrees will be a Fillet of Beef with Port Wine Sauce, Stuffed Chicken Breast with Marsala Demi-Glace, Grilled Atlantic Salmon with Lemon Caper Reduction, and, for you vegetarians, Vegetable Wellington with Saffron Rice and vegetable, and all will be accompanied by salad, hot rolls, a

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Grilled Vegetables. Meat entrees will come with potato and yummy dessert, coffee and tea. There will be a cash bar and the hotel has graciously agreed to provide us, again, with complimentary assorted cheeses and fruit for our cocktail reception. Cocktail reception will begin at 6:00 and dinner will be served at 7:15 PM. A short program will follow at 8:15 PM and then fun and dancing until 11:30 PM.

Rooms will again be available at a discounted rate of \$99.00 per night plus tax for those wishing to stay. Those rooms may be booked by calling Ms. Bobbie Schlemer at 314/824-6028. You may want to join the overnighters for breakfast in the coffee shop the next morning. Covered parking is available and close to rooms.

We are still looking for a charity to support this year so send Paula the name of your favorite charity. The club made a lot of Crisis Nursery families happy last year with donations of clothes, diapers, bicycles and toys. Because the holidays are mostly for kids, we ask that your choice be one where we can again make the holidays easier for families in need. After the board selects a charity, a "wish list" will be provided to help you with your shopping.

Our banquet room only holds 80 so sign up early!! This will be a great chance to relax and get to know your fellow members and will be a fun party that you will not want to miss!! **Checks and choice of entrée should be sent to Paula Prater, P.O. Box 114, St. Louis, MO, 63006**. If you have any questions feel free to contact Paula at oliverjeanne2012@hotmail.com or 636/778-1172.

### New Year's Brunch Charlie Gitto's Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>

The January 5th New Year's brunch at Charlie Gitto's, 15525 Olive Blvd. at 11:30 AM. People will be able to order off the brunch menu. The approximate cost of the entree with gratuity will be \$14, excluding drink or dessert. This is a sit down brunch, as there will be 10 different items to choose from. Most important is contacting Gary & Traude Wilson for your reservations, (314) 662-6333. The room only holds 40 people. Last year people had to be left out as the brunch was sold out, so make your call as soon as you know if you wish to join a jolly group of friends.

## 2013 MBCA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

St. Louis Gateway Section Members- We are coming up on the Fall/Winter Holiday season, and look forward to, the Columbia Dinner Train event (November 3rd), another great Planning Meeting (November 11th at Tri-Star Imports), the gala Holiday Party (December 7th at the Frontenac Hilton), and the New Year's Brunch (January 5th at Charlie Gitto's on Olive). Lots of great events to attend and mingle with our Mercedes friends, so be sure to sign up when the invitations reach you.

Our Section has had a recent influx of new members, as former members of the Kemp Museum Section rejoined us, swelling our membership rolls to over 260. St. Louis now has one Mercedes-Benz Club Section, which is solvent, growing, and unified in its desire to enjoy our automobiles, fellow owners, and the fellowship that goes with both.

Please make plans to join us at the annual Planning Meeting, where we will lay out events for us all to enjoy next year. Bring your good ideas, and feel free to think outside the box. Think about driving events, visits to unusual or different locations, and activities that we haven't thought of yet. Our events are only as good as the thought we put into them, and the enthusiasm the hosts (co-hosts) bring to the party. We'll be meeting at Tri-Star Imports, on Manchester west of Clarkson, on November 11th, at 5:30 PM, and there'll be pizza and soft drinks to help stimulate the creative process.

Let's make 2014 another banner year for the St. Louis Gateway Section!

### John Prater

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A reminder for members: you can elect to have your copy of the section's newsletter via e-mail. This saves the club postage and printing costs. In addition, because of printing costs the electronic version contains more color pages. If you would like an electronic version please send an e-mail to **Bob Frank at rsfrank1@aol.com**.



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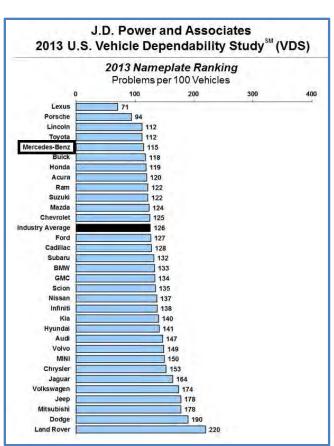




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### St. Louis Gateway Section Member's Cars



Members: Dan & Michelle Valle

This 2010 E350 is my fourth Mercedes. My first was a 1983 300D. I really loved that car and wish I had it today. There is something really magical about the older cars. We've also had an R320 CDI, and a 2002 E320. Although this 2010 is unbelievably refined, I have always preferred Mercedes of the late 1980s and early 1990s. I believe those cars were engineered to a standard that was untouchable by any other manufacturer.

If it were up to me, I'd be driving a twenty year-old Mercedes. My wife feels differently, however. We have two small children and I'll concede that it's nice having the LATCH system and anchor tethers for the car seats, which will occupy our backseats for many years to come. And I'm ashamed to admit it, but I cannot imagine driving a car without Bluetooth connectivity.

The 2010 E350 really is a great daily driver. I drive approximately 100 miles each day, and I have to say that the car is incredibly comfortable throughout the day. The navigation system and voice recognition have come a long way since our 2008 R320 CDI. It is now incredibly user-friendly.

I purchased this car as a Certified Pre-Owned with 45,000 miles on it, and also purchased the two-year CPO extension that will cover the car until 135,000 miles. I love the peace of mind that the CPO provides.



Members: Mark & Brenda Saunders

Forty years ago, as a 19 year old apprentice making surgical instruments, my German boss told me "We will stand straight and we will file straight and drive Mercedes Benz". From my first 1971 -280SL and other sedans, coupes, and roadsters, I have had over the years, that was the best advice that I have taken. Our 280C allowed our daughter to walk away from a driver's door hit by a large truck that spun the car around 3 times and even did engine damage.

Our ML 320 has been a real workhorse, loaded with auction and yard sale treasures. The upholstery is tough and cleans easily. It handles like a sports car and when I brought home a top of the line Chrysler Town and Country sport for Brenda to try out she said "it's not the ML". Our 1998 SL500 is a replacement for our 1994 SL500 which we lost to a fire. It's great to have our car back again! We tried a really nice Corvette in the meantime but after driving a Mercedes there was no comparison.

We like to go for drives in the evening. Sometimes we take our 1950 MGTD when we want bugs in our teeth but I really believe the SL is one of the most fantastic autos ever built. I remember the first time I drove a Mercedes roadster and when I head up the driveway it's still the same feeling. WOW!

Brenda and I have really enjoyed meeting the great folks in the club. It's not so much the cars that bind but an association with people that appreciate quality, value, and the "good things in life."



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### Chaumette Vineyards & Winery September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013 Ste. Genevieve, MO

On Saturday, September 21st, over 26 members of the St. Louis Gateway Section gathered on Watson Road just off Hwy 270 for a convoy to Chaumette Winery near Ste. Genevieve. Our host Alan Barker led the way and no one got lost. The weather was outstanding and the scenery surrounding Chaumette was worthy of a post card (for those who remember what those are). Upon arriving we were invited by the winery team to a wine tasting, featuring several of the Chaumette's signature wines. Many of our members purchased bottles of wine to take home and enjoy.

After our wine tasting experience we gathered at our large reserved table overlooking the surrounding vineyards for lunch. The food was very good and everyone was pleased with the food and service. With lots of fine conversation, lunch was extended and we all enjoyed the good company and great weather. After dinner we each headed off for home with some of us taking an extended drive along the country roads. Thanks to our hosts, Alan and Judy Barker, for coordinating this event and for providing a truly enjoyable day.

(See event pictures on pages 14 and 15)

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### St. Louis Gateway Section Annual Picnic Autos on Valhalla Car Show Sunday, October 6, 2013 Valhalla Cemetery, St. Louis, MO

Sunday, October 6th, started cool and cloudy but that didn't dissuade members of the St. Louis Gateway Section from attending our annual club picnic and the car show, "Autos of Valhalla". By the time we arrived, the club gathering area was already set up under the club tent/awning.

The cars attending the show were parked in the beautiful surroundings at the waters of Valhalla Cemetery. The show is open to classic and contemporary American, Asian, and European Autos. As in past years the show attracted cars ranging from the latest Mercedes and Porches to Fords and Chevys from the 1930s. Folks walked among the beautiful cars assembled taking pictures and asking owners questions about their cars.



Entry donations to the auto show support the "Ride On St. Louis" (ROLS) organization. ROLS is an Equine-Assisted Activities and Therapies (EAAT) center serving disabled children, adults and the at-risk youth of the greater St. Louis metropolitan area. ROSL uses the unique movement of the horse and emotional bond created between horse and rider to gain physical, mental, emotional and spiritual improvements in the lives of those they serve. During this event ROLS put on a demonstration with two beautiful horses to show how this process works.

John Prater, our club president, thanked members for attending and discussed the up-coming club events. John's wife, Paula, was presented with a bouquet of flowers for the extensive work she did in arranging this event. We then gathered for the awarding of the "unique" awards unlike those of any other auto show you have attended. One of our members, Jerroy Frank, received the "Car You'd Like to Take to Your Grave" award. These awards are in the form of a tombstone and are made of solid granite which weighs about 30 lbs! This event takes a lot of preparation form the set up and registration to delivering the food and drinks. We are grateful to Dodie and Jerroy Frank, Rick and Patti Siefert, and John and Paula Prater for all their work to make this another successful and fun club outing.

(See event pictures on page 16)

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### World-first plastic engine support for new Mercedes GL



From the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) The application of automotive engineering plastics continues to expand, with Mercedes-Benz using what is described as the world's first plastic engine support for its new GL Class. The highly reinforced specialty polyamide replaces an aluminum component used for the previous GL and delivers required improvements in weight reduction, thermal insulation, and, notably, acoustics.

Supporting the engine together with the engine mounts, the structure uses BASF's Ultramid A3WG10CR that has been optimized for high mechanical loads. Joma-Polytec designed the injection mold and produces the support. Stefan Milimonka, a Key Account Manager with BASF Engineering Plastics Europe, said the material had to meet demanding safety and mechanical

requirements, including low tendency to creep when subjected to continuous loads in the confined area of the engine compartment: "And depending on the conditions in the engine compartment, the plastic engine support must also withstand high bending moments." Engine supports are subject to the continuous load of the engine's weight as well as having to absorb the engine's torque.

Milimonka underlined the significance of plastic's contribution to reducing noise and to creating a more acceptable in-cabin sound: "The good acoustic characteristics are the primary benefit of the Ultramid support. Thanks to the damping behavior specific to plastic, the new engine support contributes to a more balanced sound. An additional benefit is that the heat conduction of the plastic is considerably less than that of aluminum."

As a result, the new support provides better protection from the engine's heat for the natural rubber engine mounts which provides lengthened service life. Weight saving for the use of plastic instead of aluminum is put at 30% by BASF.

A design and development challenge for the use of plastic was to meet the combination of very serious head-on offset crash safety criteria as well as "repair crash" events, the latter specifying that the support has to remain undamaged. But for the energy-absorbing offset crash, it has to fail quickly and in a specific manner to obviate the risk of the engine being forced into the passenger cabin.

### Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) Corrosion Issues

http://www.bimmerfest.com/forums/showthread.php?t=420856

If your car has a TPMS, and they all do since 2005, don't put aftermarket metal valve caps on the stems!

The stems require plastic caps, or nickel plated metal caps. If you use chrome plated caps, or metal caps made the old way then you may be in for a big surprise. I had to tow in a car today which the customer put metal replacement caps on two years ago. When he tried to remove the metal cap the valve stem snapped off, the core popped out and the tire deflated before his shocked eyes.

We tried every trick we know to get the other three caps off. We couldn't, they had become one with the valve stem. All four TPM sensors had to be replaced.

What is happening is that road salt is getting between the components and causing corrosion to accelerate. Eventually corrosion eats right thru the stem greatly weakening it.

Although I've read about this problem for a while in the trade mags, this is the first time I have personally encountered it.

So, a special advisory to you snow belt 'Festers; don't use those fancy looking aftermarket metal caps. You could get a rude shock one day when you go to add air to a low tire.



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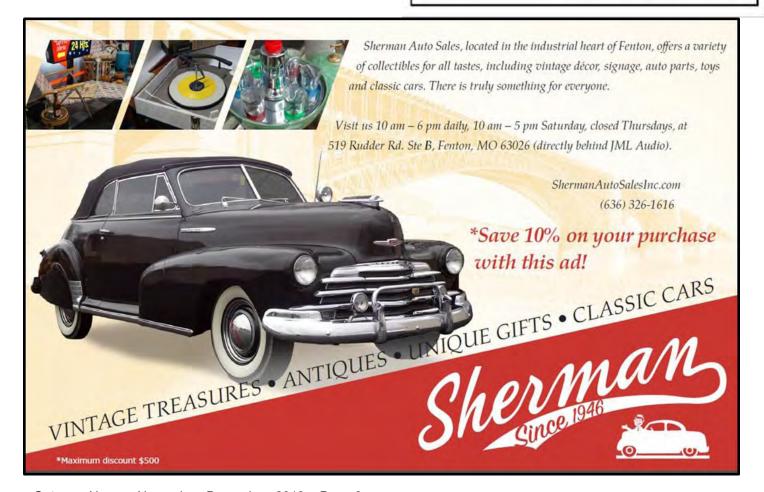
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### Mercedes Using QR Codes To Help Accident Victims



http://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 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.

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.



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**Members arriving at Chaumette Vineyards and Winery** 



First Order of Business "Wine tasting"



Jerry and Cathy Wille



Dan and Michelle Valle & Dan and Mary Margaret Hirsch



**Laurie and Tony Bauer** 



Mark and Kit Whittington and their daughter



After wine tasting we sat down for a delicious lunch



**Judy Dorsey and Donna Anderson** 



Sally Edmiston with son, Rob Edmiston



Shiryl Brock with guests and Dan & Mary Margaret Hirsch



Our hosts for this event; Alan and Judy Barker

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Registration: Dodie Frank, Patti Sierfert & Gail Warren



Jaunita Hosmer and Judy Barker, braving the cold!



A big welcome to new members: Jennie and Aaron Hible



**Mark and Brenda Saunders** 



**Gateway Autos of Valhalla Car Show and Annual Picnic** 



Jerroy and Dodie Frank win an award for the "Car you'd like to take to your grave".

#### 2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA
ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

Sunday - January 6<sup>th</sup> **New Year Brunch**Charlie Gitto's Restaurant

Wednesday - February 20<sup>th</sup>

Member Appreciation Reception

Tri-Star Mercedes-Benz

Saturday - March 9<sup>th</sup> **Bowling** 

Tropicana Lanes in Richmond Heights

Saturday - April 27<sup>st</sup> **Defensive Driving Program**Harvest Bible Church - Chesterfield

Saturday - May 18<sup>th</sup>
City Museum & Dinner

Sunday - June 2<sup>nd</sup>

St. Louis European Auto Show

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

Saturday - July 20<sup>th</sup>
The Alton River Road Ramble
Alton, IL

Saturday & Sunday - August 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

Stonecroft Manor Tour & Picnic

Hannibal, MO

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Saturday - September 21st

Chaumette Winery Tour

Sainte Genevieve, MO

Sunday - October 6<sup>th</sup>

Autos on Valhalla Car Show

St. Louis Gateway Section Picnic

Valhalla Cemetery

Sunday - November 3<sup>rd</sup>
Columbia Star Dinner Train Excursion
Columbia, MO

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Saturday – December 7<sup>th</sup> **Holiday Party**, Frontenac Hilton

Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

New Year Brunch

### **Start/Stop Saving Fuel**

http://media.daimler.com/

Several of Mercedes' latest models use a start/stop function. Start/stop systems automatically shuts down and restarts the engine to reduce the amount of time the engine spends idling, thereby reducing fuel consumption and emissions.

The engine goes off when the vehicle is stationary and back on again when the brake is released – in practice the ECO start/stop system operates virtually unnoticed by the driver. This is all thanks to complex control functions which run in the background to ensure efficiency, comfort and safety.

How the ECO start/stop system works in detail: as a general principle, the engine is switched off every time the vehicle comes to a standstill (auto-stop function. Restarting the engine (auto-starting function) takes place almost imperceptibly; and moving off without any noticeable time lag compared to a stationary vehicle with its engine running. This rapid action is attributable to two special features: a crankshaft Hall sensor which is able to identify the rotational direction of the crankshaft enables the engine control unit to identify the cylinder in which the piston is ideally positioned for starting. The fuel is injected into this cylinder first, thereby speeding up the starting process.

An additional electric transmission oil pump supplies the clutches of the automatic transmission with oil pressure prior to starting, so as to enable a swift resumption of the journey after direct starting of the combustion engine via the ECO start/stop function. The starter motor (starter) has also undergone thorough modification: it is now designed to cope with eight times as many starting procedures, ensuring that it will last a car's lifetime in continuous urban driving involving frequent auto-starting. In addition, the on-board electrical system is supported by a second battery.

The engine control unit starts the engine automatically, without any intervention on the part of the driver, when one of the following conditions is met:

- A vehicle-related precondition for the auto-stop function, such as the conditions pertaining to air conditioning, the on-board electrical system, the brake system, the chassis and other vehicle-related influences, is no longer met.
- The driver releases his seat belt or opens the driver's door. Automatic starting takes place in order to prompt the driver to actively switch off the engine by turning the ignition key to position 0, prior to leaving the vehicle. This ensures that the ECO start/stop system is safely deactivated when the vehicle is parked.

#### CARS AND PARTS FOR SALE

Bosch right side European model headlight assembly (including turn signal housing) for W126 models (from a 1985 280SE) 0302 050 007/8 \$90. 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) \$80. 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.* 

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SL550 (R230) Car Cover and Storage Bag, new in box, never opened, Part number: B Q 6 60 0068; asking \$100. Joe Pierro, 314.258.0985 or jopiuk@sbcglobal.net.

Set of four Elbrus Wheel (Tire Rack) and Bridgestone (225/40/18) Blizzak winter tires from 2009 C63. Like new condition, 5.5K miles on tires, \$400 for set of four, 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

HARDTOPS FOR SALE! Tri-Star Mercedes has a collection of SL hardtops for sale in a variety of colors and chassis numbers. Along with the following, others may be available, per request: 1995 SL500 (red), 1992 500SL (white), 1991 500SL (Smoke Silver), 1983 380SL (ivory), 1983 380SL (green), 1973 450SL (blue), and 1975 500SL (red). Each hardtop is being sold for \$750 and includes both the cover and a rolling storage rack along with the actual hardtop! The storage rack collapses down to provide for easy storage when not in use during the summertime. The whole set is available for local pick up and Tri-Star will install the hardtop on the car, free of charge! Shipping or packaging is not included in the cost. For further inquiries, please contact Kate Hennekes at Mercedes. kate@tristarmercedes.com Tri-Star 636.458.5222.

## Mercedes' September Sales Best In Company's 87-Year History

(MB Press Release)

Even though new-car sales continue to rebound, that pace seemed to slow a bit in the US for September. But, Mercedes-Benz had plenty to brag about last month, as the automaker sold 142,994 vehicles around the world, marking the best sales month ever in its 87-year history. This was thanks in large part to the redesigned E-Class lineup and new compacts, like the A-Class and CLA-Class.

Europe remains the largest market for Mercedes, accounting for half (71,085) of its global sales last month. But, sales in Asia, not surprisingly, are coming on strong. In the whole of that region, Mercedes sold 39,013 units, with China being the top market sales in the region with 20,375 units (up 21.2 percent). Interestingly, Japan is the fastest-growing Mercedes market, up 31.4 percent in September and 28.8 percent year-to-date. In the US, Mercedes moved 24,697 units last month, an increase of almost 7 percent over 2012.

"Never before has Mercedes-Benz sold more vehicles in a single month than this September. The new S-Class is already the distinct market leader in Germany and Europe. Their compacts and the new E-Class are also proving hugely popular with customers," said Dr Joachim Schmidt, Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing Mercedes-Benz Cars. "Looking at the previous nine months, we can safely say that Mercedes-Benz will post another sales record for 2013."

The new compacts by Mercedes-Benz have been a sales revelation over the past nine months: Worldwide, 267,467 customers purchased an A-Class, B-Class or CLA-Class model (+68.3%). The design of the CLA is proving particularly popular. Only this September, Mercedes-Benz' compact coupe was named best new compact in the 2013 'Autonis' design awards, voted by readers of the magazine 'Auto, Motor und Sport'. Also in September, Mercedes-Benz presented its fourth compact car model, the GLA, which is set to conquer the key segment of compact SUVs and win new customers for the brand, when it launches in spring, 2014.

### 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:

#### Michael Liu Gray Kerrick Alex Shlafshteyn James Eaton

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

### 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 depen	dent)	
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