



GATEWAY NEWS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

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Gateway News – JAN FEB 2014

Volume 42 Issue 1

New Year's Brunch Charlie Gitto's Sunday, January 5th

"This event is now sold out"

The January 5th New Year's brunch is at Charlie Gitto's, 15525 Olive Blvd. at 11:30 AM. **There have been some changes for this event since the last newsletter.** The approximate cost will be \$25 per person plus tax and 20% service charge. We have three courses with a choice of six entrées for the second course. For those who have already signed up for the event please **contact Gary or Traude Wilson for your entrée selection at (314) 662-6333.**

Member Appreciation Reception Tri-Star Imports Wednesday, February 26th

Details are being finalized for this event but we can once again expect to be well-treated by the Tri-Star staff. Last year our Section certainly enjoyed the drinks, tasty snacks, and great conversation. The Tri-Star Team welcomed everyone and discussed the new dealership location, which will be at the southeast corner of Hampton and Highway 40, across from the St. Louis Zoo. They also detailed the new technologies which Mercedes will be unveiling in the next few years.

All members are encouraged to once again attend this wonderful event, where we will assuredly receive further interesting information on Mercedes-Benz vehicles, while having the pleasure of socializing with other club members.

So that we might finalize our plans, please **RSVP NOW, but no later than February 15th**, to **Rick Siefert at 314-435-1903 or siefertf@bv.com**, providing him with your name and how many will be attending. Rick will also be happy to answer

any questions that you may have about the event. We look forward to seeing you and sincerely hope that you will join us for this fun and informative event.

Visit Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company St. Louis Saturday, March 8th

On Saturday, March 8, 2014 we will meet at the Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Warehouse Facility at 5025 Pattison Ave for a tour and tasting. Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company has a 30-year tradition of creating the finest handmade chocolates and candy. They pride themselves on doing things the old-fashioned way with great attention to detail and uncompromising taste.

After years of studying the art of handcrafting small batches of premium chocolates, founder Dan Abel came back to his hometown of St. Louis, Missouri to open his own candy company. His creations were the result of years of apprenticing with master candy makers across the country. In February of 1981, the young candy maker opened his first Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate Company store. The candy kitchen was visible through the windows of the retail store – allowing customers to see chocolates created before their very eyes. Manufacturing fresh chocolates at the retail store was a new concept, breaking the mold of mass production.

The tour lasts about 30 Minutes and we would like everyone there **at 10:00 sharp as we have a 12:00 lunch reservation** at Zia's on the Hill, located at 5256 Wilson Ave. Please **RSVP** to Steve or Marti Jacquemin at **marttjacquemin@gmail.com or 314-822-2903 by March 5th.**

2013 MBCA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

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Vice-President frankperry401@msn.com 314.839.4862	Frank Perry
Secretary dodiejerroy@yahoo.com 314.961.8881	Dodie Frank
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BOARD MEMBERS

Alan Barker
alan-barker@att.net
314.962.6857

Ed Barutio
edbarutio2@att.net
636.273.9046

Mimi Barutio
mimibarutio@att.net
636.273.9046

Sally Edmiston
rfedmiston@sbcglobal.net
636.536.1033

Bob Frank (**Newsletter Editor**)
rsfrank1@aol.com
636.273.9820

Kay Frank (**Newsletter Editor**)
kay.frank7@gmail.com
636.273.9820

Mike Fults
mndfults@yahoo.com
636.575.2161

Jim Gruss (**Membership - Webmaster**)
314.452.3974
webmaster@gatewaymercedesclub.com
<http://stlgateway.mbca.org> (SLGS website)

Russell Hughes
300sl@sbcglobal.net
636.587.2999

Patti Siefert
patti.siefert@att.net
314.378.0432

Cliff Reyle (**Central Regional Director**)
Cliff.reyle@youthvillages.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a last gasp for 2013, I'm reminded that everything old is new again, in so many ways- Our Section prospered and grew in membership, Section events for 2013 ended with a great Holiday Party at the Frontenac Hilton, with everyone being well-behaved and seeming to have a super time, and here we go into 2014, with the New Year's Brunch at Charlie Gitto's on Olive, with all seats sold out, just like last year.

And the point of this? Just a gentle reminder to all St. Louis Gateway Section members, new, old, and in-between, to try and join us at the various events scheduled for 2014, and listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Being a member is one thing, and we appreciate your belonging to this great club and Section, but taking part in our planned events, supporting our Section's advertisers, and, in general, staying fully-fledged as a member, makes excellent sense, financially and socially. There are lots of fine people at the events, and hopefully, the events themselves are structured to be FUN! Take part, and get the most out of your membership.

Another set of old/new occurrences struck me at the end of this year, with our marque bringing out the CLA, a new model, embracing an old idea, the combination of performance with economy. Wow! Good looks, great fuel mileage, and all with a smaller package and engine. Sound familiar?

I also read, with great interest, the initial success of Polaris Industries' resurrection of the classic Indian Motorcycle brand and models, aimed at providing some competition for The Motor Company, Harley-Davidson, for the American motorcycle dollar. At the same time, another firm, CubCrafters, Inc., has released brand-new versions of the classic Piper Cub airplane, in which many pilots (and probably some of our members) earned their wings.

Since many of our members combine an interest in fine motorcars with a crazed interest in flying and/or motorcycling, these developments seemed interesting to me.

Well, enough disjointed rambling- Let's have a great set of holidays, and a great New Year, (like the year just closing).
Regards from your humble servant,

John Prater

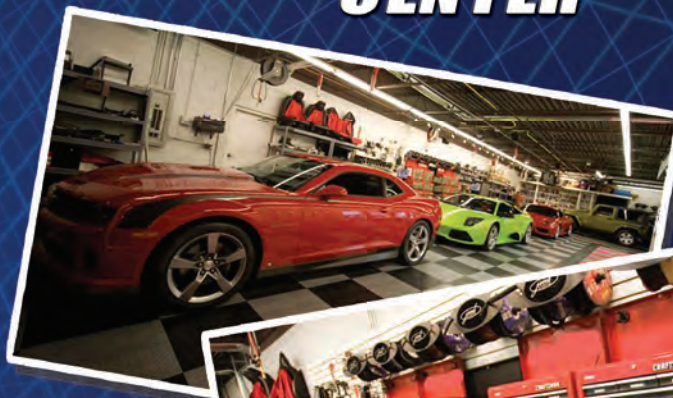
A reminder for members: you can elect to have your copy of the section's **newsletter via e-mail only**. This saves the club postage and printing costs. In addition, because of printing costs the **electronic version contains more color pages**. If you would like just an electronic version please send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



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Women Inventors for Automobiles

Prior to the manufacture of Henry Ford's Model A, Mary Anderson was granted her first patent for a window cleaning device in November of 1903. Her invention could clean snow, rain, or sleet from a windshield by using a handle inside the car. Her goal was to improve driver vision during stormy weather - Mary Anderson invented the windshield wiper.

During a trip to New York City, Mary Anderson noticed that streetcar drivers had to open the windows of their cars when it rained in order to see, as a solution she invented a swinging arm device with a rubber blade that was operated by the driver from within the vehicle via a lever. The windshield wipers became standard equipment on all American cars by 1916.

The automobile gave women ample opportunity for invention. In 1923, of the 345 inventions listed under "Transportation" in the Women's Bureau Bulletin No.28, about half were related to automobiles and another 25 concerned traffic signals and turn indicators. Among these inventions -- a carburetor, a clutch mechanism, an electric engine starter, and a starting mechanism.

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Columbia Star Dinner Train

**Sunday, November 3rd, 2013
Columbia, MO**

Members of the St. Louis Gateway Section caravanned to Columbia, Missouri on Sunday morning, November 3rd, to take a ride and have brunch on the "Columbia Star" train. We were met at the train station in Columbia by some of our members who live in the western part of Missouri.

The Columbia Star train was featured on the PBS show "Great Scenic Railway Journeys". The train is comprised of two locomotives and three cars. A locomotive is located on each end of the train so that the train may operate in either direction. The F-7 locomotives were built by the Electro-Motive Division (EMD) of General Motors in 1948 and 1953. These locomotives were originally built for the Great Northern Railroad. The dining cars were built by the Pullman Car Company in 1938 for the Southern Pacific Railroad as coach cars. Later, they were converted to dining cars for dinner train service. Originally these cars served on the famous Southern Pacific train named the "Daylight", running between Los Angeles and San Francisco. These cars are unique in that they are articulated, meaning that they share a set of trucks (wheels) between the two car bodies. The kitchen car is a former Chicago Burlington and Quincy (CB&Q) baggage car. This car has been converted to a full kitchen and all meals are prepared onboard the train. The kitchen car is in the middle of the train so meals are served out of both ends of the car to the adjoining dining cars.

We boarded the train and were directed to one of the dining cars reserved for our club members only. After we were all seated the train departed. Traveling at 10-25 mph, the train headed north towards Centralia, MO. As we were served a delicious four course meal, the Missouri countryside passed by in beautiful sunshine. About an hour out of the station the train stopped and began heading back towards our starting point in Columbia. We continued our conversations over coffee and desert, and enjoyed the peaceful train ride. The time passed quickly and before we knew it we were back at the station. After saying our farewells to the train staff and to our friends we headed back to our respective homes having enjoyed a truly enjoyable Sunday afternoon. Our thanks to our host, Dan and Michelle Valle, for arranging this great event!

(See event pictures on pages 7 and 14)

To see more and higher resolution pictures for this and other club events, visit the club website at:
<http://stlgateway.mbca.org/>

Holiday Party

**Saturday, December 7th, 2013
Frontenac Hilton**

Well the weather outside may have been frightful but the party was so delightful as members of the St. Louis Gateway section gathered for our annual holiday party at the Frontenac Hilton. Although the hotel had moved our party room location twice, we did end up with a very nice setting. In addition to the traditional tree we also had a table filled with gifts for children of the Crisis Nursery. The Saint Louis Crisis Nursery is committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect and provides emergency intervention, respite care and support to families in crisis. It provides short-term care for young children in a safe and nurturing environment, helping families resolve crisis, offering resources for empowerment, ongoing support and parent education, and advocacy for children and families.

After some friendly conversation during the cocktail hour, we enjoyed an excellent meal. With the meal completed, our club President, John Prater, thanked everyone for attending and for the gifts we provided to the Crisis Nursery charity. He then presented the St. Louis Gateway Section's 2013 Member of the Year award to Kay and Bob Frank for their ongoing dedicated and steadfast work in putting together our newsletter and website event write-ups and photos. John then introduced Cliff Reyle, the Central Regional Director, who along with his wife Linda, drove up from Memphis in some nasty weather to attend our party. Cliff presented Rick Siefert, our Section's President Emeritus, with the Central Region's 2013 Officer of the Year award. This award is "In recognition of outstanding achievement in furthering the clubs' goals and aims and contribution to the general well-being of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America".

With the awards presented, our DJ for the evening then started the festivities with a game. Through some strange quirk of fate, both Cliff Reyle and John Prater were selected to become "Christmas tree" stand-ins while other members were selected for a contest. The contest consisted of "decorating" the "Christmas trees" with the winner judged by audience applause. Please see the pictures of this contest as words will never be able to adequately describe the outcome. For the rest of the evening we danced to music from various genres. Some folks didn't even need any drinks to look good on the dance floor.

Many couples gathered the next morning at the hotel for a fine breakfast. Once again, our club put together a great event which was enjoyed by all who attended. Our thanks to Paula Prater and Kay Frank, for co-hosting this event and prevailing in the face of the many changes.

(See event pictures on pages 15 and 16))



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MEMBERS MEET AT THE QUALITY INN TO CARAVAN TO THE COLUMBIA STAR DINNER TRAIN



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BARRY AND NICOLETTE SEELIG



ED HOAG AND GUEST



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If you drop \$100,000 on a luxury sedan, it seems only reasonable to receive some preferential treatment at the dealership you purchased from. After all, that price isn't just for the car – you're paying for the brand and all the cachet that entails. For Mercedes-Benz, those benefits have apparently been lacking relative to the German brand's luxury competitors.

That's set to change, though, as Automotive News reports that the German brand is placing a much greater emphasis on keeping its customers happy and loyal with its MB Select program. Starting with the new S-Class and spreading to the

CLA-Class (and eventually beyond), dealers are being given money - up to \$2,500 in the case of the flagship sedan - just to improve the customer experience.

We agree, improving the "customer experience" is quite a vague term, so it's nice that Mercedes USA's CEO, Steve Cannon, offered up some examples to Automotive News at the LA Auto Show. For example, a customer couldn't fit his sunglasses into the overhead compartment. "So we bought him a pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses that fit because of their shape," Cannon said.

Another buyer had an issue with a fussy check engine light, which required a quick software reflash. "The problem was fixed immediately, but we said that does not happen with the S-Class, the best car in the world. Dinner is on us. That customer was so thrilled he came in the next day and bought an SL off the showroom floor," Cannon told Automotive News.

Dealers seem to be onboard with the new program, as well. Automotive News spoke to Joseph Agresta, the chairman of the Mercedes Dealer Board. "This was Mercedes-Benz putting their money where their mouth is about customer service and empowering people at the front of the line both at their organization and the dealer network to make quick decisions and to try to help customers out in difficult situations with a new car."

Crystal Ball: 2016 Mercedes-Benz GLK-Class

From: mbworld.org

Mercedes-Benz has been caught testing camouflaged prototypes of its second-generation 2016 GLK-Class. The next GLK will be based on the all-new C-Class for 2015, which will share more components with the E-Class platform, meaning more engine variety under the bonnet. Here's a specific benefit of this cross-platform sharing: Car and Driver says Mercedes is mulling a GLK AMG. Efficiency fans: never fret – Car and Driver is also reporting the GLK250 BlueTEC with its 2.1L biturbo diesel will likely live on. A hybrid version could also debut in the GLK's next life cycle.



Rendering of how the next GLK is likely to appear.

Expect Mercedes to unveil the new GLK by spring 2015 — sales should begin later in the same year.



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St. Louis Motor Company

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis_Motor_Company

St. Louis Motor Carriage Company was a manufacturer of automobiles at 1211-13 North Vandeventer Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri founded by George Preston Dorris (later credited with developing and patenting the float-carburetor) and John French in 1898, with French taking charge of marketing and Dorris heading engineering and production. St. Louis Motor Carriage was the first of many St. Louis automakers and produced automobiles from 1899 to 1907.

In 1900, John French drove to St. Louis on the first automobile trip between St. Louis and Chicago. In 1901 he was one of only three drivers to finish in a New York-to-Buffalo race.

The St. Louis Motor Carriage Company moved to Peoria, Illinois in 1905, and Dorris started his own car company, the Dorris Motor Car Co., in the former St Louis Motor Carriage plant in 1906 that would stay in business until 1926.

The 1904 St. Louis line included runabout and touring car models. Both could be equipped with a tonneau, with seating for up to five passengers. The runabout sold for \$1200 and used a 9 hp (6.7 kW) engine. The touring car was priced at \$1500. It used a flat-mounted, water-cooled, single-cylinder engine, situated amidships of the car, producing 10 hp (7.5 kW). A two-speed transmission was fitted, and the angle iron-framed car weighed 1650 lb (748 kg).



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**2ND ANNUAL MCC LADIES BREAKFAST AT MIMI'S CAFÉ
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2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

Sunday, January 5th

New Year Brunch

Charlie Gittos - Chesterfield

.....

Wednesday, February 26th

Member Appreciation Reception

Tri-Star Imports

.....

Saturday - March 8th

Tour of Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate

Followed by lunch at Zia's On the Hill

.....

Saturday - April 12th

Tour of Central Library - Followed by lunch

Downtown St. Louis

.....

Saturday - May 10th

Detailing Clinic & Ladies Day Out

.....

Sunday - June 1st

St. Louis European Auto Show

Plaza Frontenac

.....

Saturday - June 28th

Day Lily Garden Tour - Glen Carbon, IL

Followed by winery picnic

.....

August - late in month - TBD

Defensive Driving Program

.....

Sunday, September 14th

Annual Picnic - Faust Park

.....

Sunday - September 28th

Autos on Valhalla Car Show

.....

Sunday - October 26th

Driving tour - Churchill Museum

Westminster College - Fulton, MO

.....

Saturday, December TBD

Holiday Party

.....

January 2015 TBD

New Year Brunch

New Mercedes C-Class (2014) officially revealed

<http://www.autoexpress.co.uk>

Codenamed W205, the latest C-Class sits on the new modular rear-drive chassis architecture (MRA) that will underpin every large Mercedes for the next five years. This has the capacity for hybrid and electric power, four-wheel drive and a wide range of different vehicle shapes and sizes all built into its structural DNA.

The brand has taken its opportunity to introduce the kind of state-of-the-art technology and luxurious finish that established the S-Class as such a dominant class leader.

The crystal-clear digital TFT screens (one between the dials and a tablet-style display on the center console) features pin-sharp color graphics, and the clickable touchpad control is the kind of new technology that'll soon be the industry standard.

The key to the new chassis is its light weight, and this theme continues throughout the car – 50 per cent of the body is now made from aluminum, so even though the new C-Class is 95mm longer and 40mm wider than before, it's up to 100kg lighter.

The new C220 BlueTEC diesel has a drag coefficient of 0.24Cd – better than most coupés – and when combined with the lighter body, Mercedes claims to have cut fuel consumption by 20 per cent. This means the 168 bhp saloon, which can cover 0-62mph in 8.1 seconds, also emits 103g/km of CO₂ – easily beating BMW's most frugal 320d EfficientDynamics (which emits 109g/km).

Joining the C220 at launch will be C180 and C200 petrol models. The C180 uses a 154bhp 1.6-litre engine that emits just 116g/km of CO₂, while the C200 features a 184bhp 2.0-litre, does 0-62mph in 7.5 seconds but still emits less CO₂ than a VW Golf 1.4 TSI.

Soon after the new C-Class hits showrooms in March, Mercedes will introduce a much wider selection of engines, with an even cleaner 1.6-litre diesel sourced from Renault used to bring headline CO₂ figures well below the 100g/km barrier.

Also following will be a 330 bhp petrol V6, and by the end of 2014 the full-blooded V8 AMG version will have joined the range. Plus, the C-Class will take its lead from the S-Class by offering a choice of petrol and diesel hybrids. The C300 BlueTEC HYBRID uses the same technology as the E-Class, but promises 72.4mpg.

In another first for Mercedes, the new C-Class will be available with 4MATIC all-wheel drive.

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.**

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 \$750. **Joe Pierro, 314.258.0985 or jopiuk@sbcglobal.net.**

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.**

FOR SALE ! Outstanding Opportunity – Debt Free Company. LUXURY CAR SERVICE CENTER, 8865 Hazelwood Tech Court, Hazelwood, MO 63042. **Certified – Factory Trained Mercedes-Benz Repair Facility.** The owners are relocating and would like to pass this great opportunity along to the right person. Established business, Great reputation, Strong branding, Unlimited potential, Strong vendor relationships, Diverse Expansive Clientele of over 500, Central location to major highways. Sale includes Mercedes-Benz Test Equipment, New Rotary Lifts, **Expandable Turn-Key Mercedes Facility,** and so much more..... **For more information, please e-mail or call: info@luxurycsc.com or 314.522.9200.**

380SL, 1983, Light blue metallic w/dark blue interior and soft top. ONLY 5,xxx documented miles ! Includes hardtop. Original family owned - runs and looks beautiful ! For photos and further details contact **Mark Sherman at 314.920.2804.**

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS TO

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION MEMBERS

**ADS WILL RUN FOR (2) CONSECUTIVE NEWSLETTERS.
TO RE-RUN, ADS MUST BE RESUBMITTED.**

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

**Rick Siefert
siefert@bv.com
367 West Manor Drive
Chesterfield, Missouri 63017**

Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance

The Ritz-Carlton, Amelia Island, FL

March 6th-9th, 2014

Great News ! We will finally have an MBCA presence at Amelia Island, which we have so wanted to do for years.

I know members from your regions attend the event, so I wanted to get from you member names and the cars they might have to nominate for this opportunity.

Not all members who attend will be available to display their cars. This is not a drive-up and display kind of show. Amelia Island would like a pre-selected group of cars. I have put together a team of MBCA members to select the cars for this event.

We want to find cars that best represent our club. They do not have to be Concours-ready examples, but rather cars that our members love, drive, and will give an overall view of the marque and its history. I would like to find five cars from the 60's and before, 5 cars from the 70's and 80's, 5 cars from the 90's & 2000's, 5 modified cars, 5 AMG cars and 5 interesting examples that people identify with the marque, such as the Gullwing, W113, 190SL, and 600 limo.

So please spread the word to your Sections that we are looking for nominations. As we need to have the cars nominated and submitted to the Amelia Island committee by the end of January, this is something that we are going to be working on quickly during the next month. Please have the nominees contact me to submit their car to the committee.

For additional information on the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance see this web site:

<https://www.ameliaconcours.org/>

William West Hopper

**Eastern Regional Director
Chairman, MBCA STAR & Technology Committee
Mercedes-Benz Club of America
5455 Broad Branch Rd NW | Washington, DC
20015-1753 | 202.365.0672 | <http://www.mbc.org>**

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:

**Rudy & Polley Beck
Monica Hart
Austin Parrish
Harold Meyer
Marc Satterfield
Matthew Walsh
Scott Wolpert
David Zinselmeier**

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
☐ Social Events ☐ Car Care
☐ Technical ☐ The Star

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 GatewaySection

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, MISSOURI 63038

New Year's Brunch

Charlie Gittos

Sunday, January 5th

Member Appreciation Reception

Tri-Star Imports

Wednesday, February 26th

Tour of Chocolate Chocolate Chocolate

St. Louis

Saturday, March 8th



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