



MBCA Memphis Section Newsletter - July/August 2020

River City Star



President's Message:

To All Members, Associates and Friends:

Welcome to our Memphis Section July-August newsletter. Hope you all are staying safe wherever you are, and able to carry on with your daily activities.

At the beginning of the year, the club officers and committee heads had great expectations for a banner year of trips, dinners, and activities to put smiles on all our faces. I

don't think any of us could have imagined the world as it is now. As we continue to monitor the local situation, we think it prudent to cancel all our scheduled events for the months of July and August. This includes:

July 18 – Show & Shine

August 1 – Cars & Carbs

August 22 – FedEx Tour

I wish I could see into the future and tell you when life will get back to normal, but I can't, and I'm not sure what any future "normal" will even be like. Until that happens, all I can say is to be smart, and use your head if you have to be out and about.

I will continue to publish a short news flyer for the near future. And the vice president and I will work together to send this out between our bi-monthly newsletters.

Since we are unable to show you any photos and stories of any recent activities, we'll relive some of our more memorable past trips and events, beginning with this issue. If any of you have stories and photos of club activities that could be published, contact our editor, or any board member, and we'll all enjoy the memories. Hope to see you all soon, stay safe,

Bill Sudekum

President, Memphis Section

Memphis Membership Matters

By Mike McHann (Membership Chairman)



Please welcome our new members David Pickler and John Clayton. Ordinarily, I'd encourage you to join us at our upcoming events, but in our current situation we'll make do with remote means to keep in touch for the foreseeable future.

For the calendar year 2020, we've gained 10 new members and lost seven, netting 81 members.

We seem to be maintaining our current membership and hope for more new members in the summer from new car sales and dealership referrals. As a reminder you'll receive a one-month extension on your membership for every new member you recruit, so be sure you're listed as the referring member on their membership form.

Let's keep up the good efforts again this year and encourage our fellow Mercedes owners to join. We have a colorful new application. Let me know if I can send you copies.

A Journey to the Past

by
Bill Sudekum

Since we are unable to share any current activities of the club, I want to share some good memories from not so long ago. These photos were taken at an exhibit called "Sensuous Steel: Art Deco Automobiles" which ran from June 14 – September 15, 2013, at the Frist Center for the Visual Arts, in Nashville. The center itself was originally the main branch of Nashville's Post Office. The main lobby is amazingly beautiful after having been refurbished in its original art deco style. It was a fitting beginning to the magnificent automobiles that were just a few steps away.



1930 Jordan Model Z Speedway Ace cost \$5,500 in Depression era dollars, with Woodlite headlamps and thermostatically controlled radiator louvers.



1937 Delahaye 135MS, shown at the 1937 Paris Auto Salon with crank down disappearing windshield and convertible top, and flush door handles.



1938 Hispano-Suiza H6B "Xenia" with a curved glass windshield, plexiglass side windows and gullwing doors. It had airline style gauges and a 6.5 liter inline six.



1939 Bugatti Type 57C, originally given to the prince of Persia, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, on the occasion of his first marriage in 1939, by the French government.



There were 18 automobiles and two motorcycles in the exhibit. These were just my pick of four of the most beautiful. Three years later, in 2016, the Frist Center again hosted a similar event, this time displaying the finest from the "Italian Automotive Renaissance".

Classic Cars

by Lynn Jones

Fresh out of graduate school in 1974 I took a faculty position at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. Soon after arrival I bought a 1960 Mercedes 190b that had just been imported from Switzerland intended for the taxi market. We did a lot of tripping until the Lebanese civil war forced us to leave. The car came home with us and is still in use 60 years after exiting the Sindelfingen factory. This is the second in an occasional series about our life with our W121 190b Ponton in Lebanon.

By early September 1975 the building tensions in Lebanon were making life more difficult each week and, with University classes set to open soon, we, as well as many of the other ex-pat faculty, had decided a little R&R outside of Lebanon was in order. We opted to head for a Mocamp, one of several operated by BP, the oil company, up on the Mediterranean coast not far into Turkey. BP's campgrounds each had unique features, with everything from tent spots to small cabins, and good restaurants. Our goal was the Mocamp at Kizkalesi on the Mediterranean coast just west of Mersin.

We left Beirut early in the morning and drove north along the seaside through the ancient town of Byblos and then Tripoli, the largest northern city in Lebanon, across the Syrian border and up to Latakia, Syria. The road changed character at Latakia, from fairly good to winding, narrow and mountainous all the way to Antakya (the biblical town of Antioch), Turkey. It is interesting to recall that the Syrian and Turkish border crossings barely get a mention in our log of the time, but these and several other places mentioned in this recollection were or are hot spots of war, conflict, bloodshed, waves of refugees and international tensions in the last two decades.



We stopped along the coastal road south of Iskenderun, Turkey, to admire the scenery.

We had hoped to get “around the corner” to Adana by the first night where the Mediterranean coast runs east-west, but opted to stay in Iskenderun, still on the north-south coast of Turkey. Hot, noisy, and close to the harbor, we stayed at the Güney Palas Hotel, but were glad for the included bath with shower in our room. The next day brought much better roads as we made our way to Adana and started heading west along the coast.

At one point, with the road clear and all but traffic-free, I was going along at 90 -100 km/h (about 60 mph) when I saw blue lights flashing behind me. We were stopped by two local uniformed policemen in a marked car. They spoke no English and I spoke no Turkish but understood they wanted my passport. They had me get out and away from the car while one talked to me and the other to my wife – all in Turkish. I soon gathered he wanted 60 Turkish lira (about four bucks at the time) and we were still at a polite impasse, all the while I was more irritated and nervous about the officer questioning my wife. Pretty soon along came that universal facilitator of all life in the Middle East, a young boy. This chap knew some English! He said matter-of-factly “They think you were speeding. They have radar.” Either a speeding ticket or baksheesh, I had been in region long enough to know that was just the starting price. We argued for ten minutes, neither of us understanding a word the other said, but fully comprehending what was going on. In the end he gave me back my passport and let us be on our way. I chocked that up as a win for “talking” my way out of a speeding ticket! (Indeed, they did have a radar unit down the road for cars coming the other way.)

Upon reaching our destination at the BP Mocamp in Kizkalesi south of Mersin we were pleased enough to spend an extra day beyond the two we’d planned. The Sea was clear and just right for snorkeling, the food was wonderful, the night sky was ablaze with stars, and there was a castle built in the eleventh century just a kilometer off shore. The “Maiden’s Castle” at Kizkalesi had been in the hands of half a dozen different empires over the centuries. The international clientele was also fascinating and some of their trips made our jaunt through just three countries seem insignificant. A lady from London and her 13-year-old son who we met had two years earlier, had driven her big Land Rover through Europe,

A Vacation in Turkey, Continued:

Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, India, Nepal and up to the border of a closed China and then home again. Surely a different time from today, but also hard to believe it was less than half a century ago.



"Maiden's Castle" just offshore from the Mocamp in Kizkalesi, Turkey. Begun in the 11th Century, it has been held by several empires.

After four delightful days we headed back to Beirut via a route that took us away from the coast and into Syria through the area that, in the last decade, has seen some of the worst ISIS and Syrian government conflict and destruction of the Syrian civil war. Peaceful and picturesque in 1975, the border crossing was easy as we made our way to the Hotel Baron in Aleppo. Always the perfect setting for any novel needing a bit of international intrigue, the Baron, even then, fit the definition of "shabby chic". Agatha Christie reportedly wrote Murder on the Orient Express at the Baron and the list of 20th Century notable guests is long. My wife's comment, made after a subsequent stay, was that it was the only hotel she'd ever stayed in where she was pretty sure the sheets hadn't been changed. However, if you had any imagination at all, you couldn't beat it for a place to have a drink at the bar.

The next morning before leaving, we took a stroll through the souk, one of the best bazaars in the Middle East, now pounded into rubble by government forces. We continued south through Hama with a stop to see the famous water wheels that provided irrigation water for centuries, and in Hama for lunch. At this point we turned west to enter Lebanon via the coastal road.

The hostilities in Lebanon that eventually grew to all-out civil war, and eventually forced us to leave,

were an on-and-off thing for many months. Apparently, they were on again while we had enjoyed our vacation. We made it through Tripoli and proceeded down the coastal road toward Beirut with the traffic being very light in an ominous kind of way. Several miles on, along a desolate stretch of road, we came to a two-man roadblock. Actually, a one-man and a nine-year-old boy roadblock. Taking the law into your own hands was common in these times so this wasn't too surprising. What was surprising was that the boy had a rather large shotgun – that he immediately brought up and rested on the open window of the car. That got my attention as I looked down the other end to see the kid sighting along the length of the long, old gun! Fortunately, his father was close behind him and gingerly moved the barrel of the shotgun away from my face. After a short discussion, again, each in our own language and my showing some American University of Beirut identification, they let us pass. The rest of the trip into Beirut was uneventful. Quite a relief!



The Citadel in Aleppo, Syria, as it was in 1975. Defences on this site date back to the middle of the third millennium BCE.

Being mobile is part of the American mindset and having a car in a new part of the world can open lots of possibilities, but sometimes these urges rub up against ancient realities. I recall this long road trip with fondness and then think of the long list of service work that would soon have to be done on what would turn out to be our valued old friend, like old water pumps, tired tires, worn out batteries, and was glad Mercedes OEM equipment lasted as long as it did and carried us

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Visit our new website: www.memphis.mbca.org

Technical Tips and Tricks (TTT)

by Mike McHann

Touch-up Paint, Road Rash and Rock Chips

I bought my 1990 300SL-24 in February from Automobile Classics in Philadelphia, PA. I had it shipped in an enclosed trailer to me in Memphis, TN. The attributes were model, low mileage, and good history. It was owned by a lady in Maryland with a winter home in Palm Springs, FL. The car saw frequent highway driving, which was good for wear and tear, but the front of the car looked like it was hit with buckshot. I spent 4 days doing touchup. There were 100+ rock chips from micron-size to 0.125 inch. Using touch-up from Dr ColorChip most chips were done with one application. The larger ones took 2 or 3 applications. The key is patience. Just keep at it until it's right. You'd be hard-pressed to find them now. My favorite tool is the

rubber squeegee. I find it great at filling-in and smoothing the chips and scratches.

I've been using Dr ColorChip for about 20 years with great results and always have some on hand. The following are my before and after photos. The touch-up color is "Cabernet Red Metallic" and the product was a good color match.

For more information on Dr ColorChip and their products visit: <https://www.drcolorchip.com> .

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You can see the chips in the paint most clearly just above and below the Mercedes logo. There were lots of nicks too small to appear in the photo.

With a little elbow-grease and patience, the nicks and chips all but disappear!



The 2020 MBCA-Memphis Calendar of Events

Our events include delicious dinners, fun drives and how to fix your car. Regardless of your interests and preferences, you have many different events to choose from. The Memphis Section Board will re-evaluate in 30 days to make a determination on future events. We will notify you of any changes.

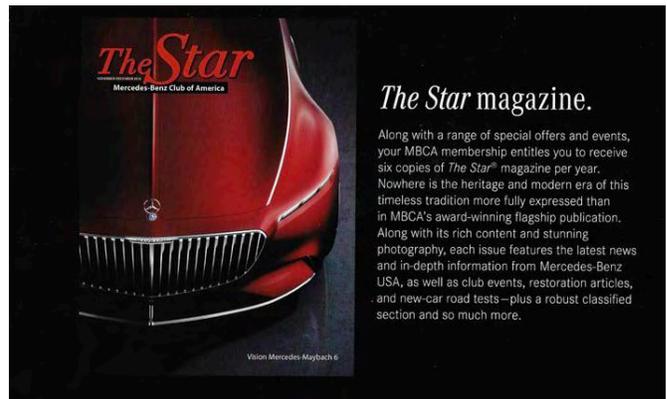
We hope you are safe and well as we all shelter from COVID-19.

As always, go to memphis.mbca.org for the latest updates on our events.

Date	Event	Location
September 5	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
September 12	Dinner at Salsa	Salsa Restaurant, Memphis
September 26*	Memphis Euro-Fest	TBD
October 3	Cars & Carbs	Bluff City, Memphis
October 10-11*	Renaissance Euro-Fest	Ridgeland
October 17	Shiloh National Park	Shiloh
November 7	Cars & Carbs	La Baguette, Memphis
November 7-8	Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance	Hilton Head
November 14	Dinner at Marlow's	Marlows, Memphis
December 5	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread
December 12*	Germantown Holiday Parade	Germantown
December 12*	MBCA-Memphis Holiday Dinner	TBD

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Membership in the MBCA offers many benefits including discounts on new cars, parts and service, a 15% discount at Brooks Brothers and much more!