



MBCA Memphis Section Newsletter - March/April 2021

River City Star



President's Message:

To All Members, Associates and Friends:

Welcome again to our bimonthly section newsletter. And again many, if not most, of our section members are still under some form of gathering restrictions. Let's hope that those who may be much smarter than I, are correct that there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. I, and I hope you, miss our gatherings, whether it be locally or in a caravan to an event in another city.

We do continue to do one small event each month and that is what we call our "Cars & Carbs". It's usually held the first Saturday of each month, and we have coffee and maybe a pastry while talking about whatever happens to be on our minds, Mercedes related or not. As more of us get vaccinations against the virus, we should begin to feel safer about meeting again. Currently our groups have been about 6-8, but we can sit at separate tables to comply with any restrictions in effect at the time. Our next Cars & Carbs is Saturday, April 3rd, 9:00-11:00, at Panera Bread in Germantown. If you feel comfortable, you are most welcome, so please join us.

Historically the section has held its annual election of officers at a dinner in April. As we are under gathering restrictions, this year we will do it by an email ballot. These will be emailed to you, at the email address we have on file, in early April. If you would like to run for an office, email me with some of your thoughts on what you would like to do, at sudekumwa@msn.com. I'll see that you are included on the ballot.

With the exception of our secretary (who is moving), the current board has agreed to run in their current positions. If you would like to shadow a current board member to see what is involved, let me know that too.

The Natchez Euro Fest is still on. This is a three-day weekend of major fun in beautiful Natchez, Mississippi, hosted by our sister section in Jackson, MS., and this year is April 9-11. In past years sections from Memphis, Jackson, New Orleans, Birmingham, and others have had large numbers of participants. Its open to all European makes of automobiles and motorcycles, with special corral parking for Mercedes that are not competing in events. You can find more information on their website, <http://euro-fest.net/natchez/index.php>.

The next major event, the national Mercedes Freude, is scheduled November 2-7 this year in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. The Freude starts off this wonderous week, followed by Legends of the Autobahn, and ending with the Hilton Head Concours d 'Elegance. Start your planning now as room reservations will be limited. More info can be found at <https://mercedes-freude.mbca.org/>.

Bill Sudekum

President, Memphis Section

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



The 2021 MBCA-Memphis Calendar of Events

Our events include delicious dinners, fun drives and demonstrations on how to fix your car. Regardless of your interests and preferences, you will have many different events to choose from. We at MBCA Memphis value the safety of our members. As COVID-19 continues to be spreading rapidly, we will limit our activities to Cars and Carbs. As always, go to memphis.mbca.org for the latest updates on our events.

Date	Event	Location
Apr. 3	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Apr. 9-12	Natchez Eurofest	Natchez, Mississippi
May 1	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
May 8	Dinner	TBD
Jun. 5	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Jun. 19	Winery	
July 3	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
July 17	Show & Shine	
Aug. 7	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Aug. 21	Dinner	TBD
Sept. 4	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Sept. 25	Memphis Eurofest	
Oct. 2	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Oct. 9	Renaissance Eurofest	Richland
Oct. 23	Shiloh Visit	
Nov. 2 - 7	Mercedes Freude	Hilton Head, SC
Nov. 6	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Nov. 20	Dinner	TBD
Dec. 4	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Dec. 11	Germantown Parade & Christmas Dinner	

Memphis Membership Matters

By Mike McHann (Membership Chairman)



Please welcome our newest members James Lee, Keith Thornton, and Benjamin Mrva. We're excited to have you and hoping to meet you at upcoming events later this year as the Covid restrictions are relaxed.

For the calendar year 2021 we've maintained our membership of 84 members. We're hopeful for a better year in 2021 and look forward to growing our membership. Our recent program of providing our dealerships with copies of the Star Magazine to pass out to their customers and potential members is showing positive results. This display has been a success with Mercedes of Memphis and I'm hoping to expand the program to other dealers in the coming months. Recently, I visited with Wes Dalrymple at Smith Imports and setup our Star Magazine display there. Wes runs a clean shop servicing many Mercedes clientele, and it's my hope the new display at Smith's will promote our membership. Soon I'll try to meet with the service manager at Mercedes of Collierville to setup a display over there.

We need your old copies of the Star Magazine for our displays! If you have a stack lying around, contact me and I'll come pick them up mike.mchann@eccotek.com.

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

Join now! <https://memphis.mbca.org/join/national>



Technical Tips and Tricks (TTT)

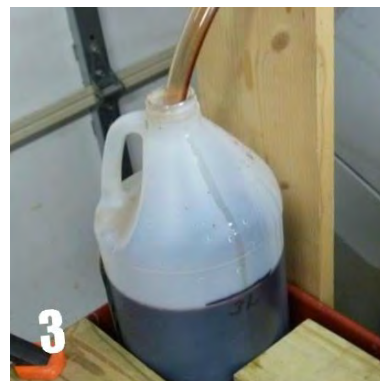
by Mike McHann

How to Flush your Transmission

As you may remember from the Nov/Dec newsletter, my burgundy 90 300SL suffered from transmission fluid contamination requiring a new main valve replacement. For such a low mileage car this was a rare and unexpected problem that worried me, so I decided to do a thorough flush of the transmission fluid. No task to be done by [the faint of heart](#).

- To begin, I purchased 4 gallons (15 liters) of Valvoline Full Synthetic Transmission Fluid (photo 1).
- I disconnected the transmission outlet behind the car's radiator.
- I connected the outlet line from the transmission to a clear plastic tube (photo 2) which I ran to a 3 liter empty container.
- I started the engine and watched the fluid filling up the container (photo 3).
- I then shut off the engine and topped up the transmission with 3 liters of new transmission fluid.
- I repeated this process 4 more times while running the fluid through all the gears, essentially purging the system of old fluid and replacing the system with new fluid.

We're now fully cleaned and running like new.



More TTT

Saving Charlie, Part 2, Seats

by Erik Nowacki

The next step in getting our salvaged 2003 Mercedes CL500 up to par was to deal with the cracked and ripped leather seats. The car came from Fresno, California, so the seats have been baked in the hot and dry California sun and looked like it.

After reviewing a few YouTube videos on this topic, it appeared that with the CL500, the solution is to replace the entire cushion, not just re-cover the existing cushions with new leather. I did replace the leather upholstery on the seats of our old 1994 SL500, but this was a different process.

I needed to replace both seat cushions and the driver's seatback. It took a few weeks of scouring ebay to find all three cushions in the matching color (black). Then it's only a matter of pulling each seat out and starting to work. Unbolting the seats is a simple process, with only 4 bolts holding them in place. There are two



Saving Charlie, cont.

electric connections and a vacuum connection in the front of the seat. One of the most difficult parts of the process is to remove the seats from the car. They weigh a ton(!) and are very bulky.

Once the seat is on the workbench, there are two different ways to replace the seat cushion, with or without the frame. On one seat, I received the cushion mounted on its frame. This was very easy to replace as



it only required removing the four screws holding the frame to the power seat adjuster, sliding the old cushion out, sliding the new cushion in and re-attaching the four screws. There are a couple of electric connectors to simply unplug before removing the cushion.

The other seat cushion came without the frame, so I had to remove the cushion from the frame. Same process as the first seat, but the cushion is held in place with a tab folded into a groove on the frame. This takes a little longer, but it is not very difficult.

Replacing the seatback is a bigger project. Before you remove the seat from the car, run the headrest all the way up. Then you remove the seatback cover (facing the backseat) by removing two screws from the bottom of the panel and it slides out.

Next, you have to remove the headrest by pushing it up and out of the clip holding it to the adjuster. Finally, the seatbelt and seat release lever has to be unbolted. The cushion slides up over the seatback frame. The new cushion slides back into place with a little wiggling and a lot of patience.

Overall, it was a 3 hour project to fix both seats and well worth the time. Each cushion set me back a little over \$100, so the total cost was about \$340.

So far, Charlie has provided 5,000 miles and we still enjoy the powerful engine and almost magic handling of the ABC hydraulic suspension. Stay tuned for future updates on this project.



Make Your Reservations Now!

MERCEDES FREUDE
"The Joy of Everything Mercedes"
MBCA's newest & greatest National Event EVER!

Combining the best and most-popular activities of both **StarTech** & **StarFest** into one fabulous Gathering!

Location:
Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort,
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Dates:
Mercedes-Freude - Tuesday, November 2nd - Friday, November 5th, 2021
Legends of the Autobahn East - Saturday, November 6th (Port Royal Golf Course)
Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance - Sunday, November 7th (Port Royal Golf Course)

Along with our MBCA Event, we will be able to experience the kickoff of Legends of the Autobahn-East, as well as the renowned HHI Concours d'Elegance.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: Welcome Reception, Historic Rally, Driving Events, Tech Sessions, MBCA Concours/Cars & Cocktails, MBCA Banquet, Golf, and a Special Limited Visit to the Robert Jepson Collection Tour.

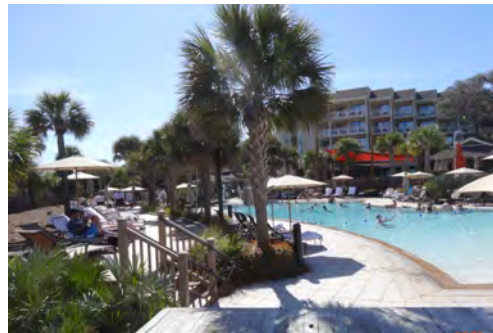
The hotel reservation link is open and available to book hotel rooms:
<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/hilton-head/meetings/mercedes-benz-club-of-america-10302021>
OR reservations can be made by calling Omni Central reservation at 1-800-343-6664.
Ask for the group code: 11021MERCEDES. Cost per night, for a Resort View Studio Suite, is \$169, plus taxes and daily discounted resort fee.

Further details coming your way in the near future!

Rick Siefert
National Events Chair
rck.siefert@abh.net



Unauthenticated Photo credit:
Hilton Head Island Water & Convention Center
Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort
HHI Concours d'Elegance



Beautiful Hilton Head and all the Mercedes activities as well!

Another Visit to the Art Deco World

By

Bill Sudekum

Back in our July-August 2021 newsletter, I presented some photographs of four extraordinary vehicles from an exhibit entitled “Sensuous Steel: Art Deco Automobiles”. Automobiles produced during the 1920s and ‘30s, they showcased the epitome of engineering, style and coachbuilding of the time. In this issue, I want to present a few more of these magnificent works, that have survived to delight our senses today.



The 1934 Voisin Type C27 Aerosport is a two seater coupe and one of only two built. It includes such refinements as an aluminum body, three liter six cylinder sleeve-valve engine, no metal framework above the windshield, and a vacuum motor to operate the sliding roof.



With its sleek aerodynamic styling, the 1936 Delahaye 135M was intended for rally competition. Built on one of 50 short chassis, the body is aluminum, it has a four liter engine, a four speed transmission, and the dash includes a state-of-the-art Jaeger rally clock. The windshield swings out at the bottom for ventilation and the top has a sliding sun roof.



The 1938 Talbot Largo T-150C-SS Teardrop by Figoni & Falaschi. One could spend all day thinking up words to describe it: sensuous, curvacious, streamlined, sleek, alluring, captivating. This is the first of 12 that were built in this style and the one used to patent the “teardrop” style. It has an alloy body, six cylinder, four liter, hemi engine, and a finger tip actuated transmission so your hands never left the steering wheel. A competition prepared one came in third in the 1938, 24 Hours of Le Mans.



The 1939 Delage D8-120S cabriolet with body by Saoutchik, was Delage’s ultimate luxury car prior to WWII. The engine is a 4.75 liter straight 8 of 120 bhp. This one is one of the last of 56 built, and was hidden away just prior to Germany invading France. Visually beautiful with its sweeping curves and portholes for the exhaust, it also has Saoutchik’s newly patented sliding parallel doors that opened outward and slid back along the side of the car for easy entrance and exit.

I hope you have enjoyed our trip back to the Art Deco era when style, craftsmanship, and mechanical innovation were paramount among leading automobile manufacturers and coachbuilders. Although much of the era occurred during the Great Depression, It was a time when innovation flourished.

MBCA Memphis Officers:

Section President	Bill Sudekum sudekumwa@msn.com 901-299-0653	Section Webmaster	Erik Nowacki enowcki@yahoo.com
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Section VP/Membership	Michael McHann Mike.mchann@eccotek.com 901-299-6341	Central Regional Director	Rick Siefert rick.siefert@att.net 314-435-1903

Mercedes Marketplace



Summer Fun!

Celebrate a top-down Spring and Summer in this 1998 SLK 230 for a small price! Mechanically and cosmetically in good condition with 158,000 miles, this car has enjoyed excellent care with only one owner.

Asking \$4,000. Contact Richard Rankin for more information at (901) 497-4300.



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Enjoy the camaraderie of being together with old and new friends alike!
Mark your calendars NOW for a NOT-TO-BE-MISSED event!

Further details coming your way in the near future!
Rick Siefert - National Events Chair - ricksiefert@att.net



Advertisement Photo credits:
Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort & Convention Center
Omni Hilton Head Ocean Resort
HHI Concours d'Elegance

For more information on Mercedes Freude, contact: <https://mercedes-freude.mbca.org/>



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