



MBCA Memphis Section Newsletter - Sept./Oct. 2021

River City Star



President's Message:

Welcome to the September-October edition of the Memphis Section Newsletter. Even though Covid and its variants may still be with us, and causing havoc with our calendar, our membership is still slowly climbing, now up to 92. Please continue to hang in there with us as we motor on and look forward to better times.

The next event on our calendar is the **Renaissance Euro-fest** in Ridgeland MS. sponsored by the Jackson, MS. section. It is now October 1-2 and is open for registrations. For information, check <https://euro-fest.net/ridgeland> for details.

Locally, our next small activity is the October Cars & Carbs coffee on October 2nd. The next big event is a scheduled caravan to **Shiloh National Military Park**, on October 23rd. The Park is currently open, but masks are required in all buildings and any crowded outside areas. We'll plan on eating lunch upon arrival to the area (not at the park) and do self-guided tours of the park after. More info will follow.

You should have received the September-October edition of **The Star** by now. In addition to many other articles, you'll find two that are Memphis specific. The first is a photo and short summary of the section's trip to Pickwick; the other is a fantastic story about Gunter Stephan, owner of Mercedes of Memphis. Enjoy your reading.

Bill Sudekum

President, Memphis Section

Lifelong Dedication

As I referenced in my opening remarks, there is an amazing story of Gunter Stephan, and his rise from unpaid auto mechanic apprentice in 1954, to his association with the W196 and the racing department. From there it was off to Montreal, Canada and somewhat later, Atlanta, Birmingham, Miami, and ultimately (and luckily for us) Memphis. There was much traveling and many advancements with new opportunities. His story begins on page 68 in **The Star**, so please take a few minutes and marvel at his achievements.

Bill Sudekum

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, we will slowly add events and dates to the calendar to stay in compliance with local directives. As always, go to memphis.mbc.org for the latest updates on our events.

Date	Event	Location
Oct. 2	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Oct. 9	Renaissance Eurofest	Richland
Oct. 23	Caravan & Lunch	Shiloh National Military Park
Nov. 2-7	Mercedes Freude	Hilton Head, South Carolina
Nov. 6	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Dec. 4	Cars & Carbs	Panera Bread, Germantown
Dec. 11 (or TBD)	Germantown Christmas Parade & Dinner	Germantown, TN

Memphis Membership Matters

By Mike McHann (Membership Chairman)



Please welcome our new members James Baker, Charles Doyle and Monetta Hampton. For the calendar year 2021, our membership has increased to 94, a net gain of 9 members. I'd like to encourage our newest members to join us at our upcoming Cars & Carbs meeting Saturday, Oct 2nd (first Saturday every month) from 9-11 at Panera Bread in Germantown. It's held outdoors and we encourage all to attend or just drop by and visit, we would love to see you.

I believe our positive membership numbers can be partially attributed to the Membership Displays we placed at Mercedes of Memphis, Mercedes of Collierville and Smith

Imports. The Displays contain copies of **The Star** Magazine with membership applications and have resulted in many new members the past few months. A big Thank You to Cliff Reyle and Lynn Jones for donating their old copies of **The Star** Magazines and to MBCA for sending another couple dozen copies directly from the publisher. So I think we're good through a few months, but if you have old copies of the **The Star** to donate let me know and I'll come by and pick them up.

Let's keep up the good efforts and encourage our fellow Mercedes owners to join. We have a colorful application so let me know if I can send you copies. As a reminder, you'll receive a 1 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>



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Memphis Section Show & Shine - Summer Version

On a sunny Saturday in July the Memphis Section—MBCA held a Show & Shine session at Mercedes-Benz of Memphis. Seven members showed off their rides, both new and old. Appropriately for a bright summer day, SL's predominated, from Rich Rankin's 1967 model to Bobby Gammill's brand new 2020 model. Judging duties were relegated to the MB of Memphis sales staff and they chose Rich's lovely two-seater as the winner. The next two places also went to SL's. Mercedes-Benz of Memphis owner, Gunter Stephan, joined the group for a while, admiring the span of years represented and talking about the new car business in these different times. Be sure to see the article and interview with Gunter by our Memphis Section's Linda Reyle in the September-October 2021 issue of the STAR. Thanks go to Mr. Stephan and Mercedes-Benz of Memphis for hosting this July 24 event.



Technical Tips and Tricks (TTT)

by Mike McHann

Well summer's coming to an end, it's time to put the convertible away and that requires consideration of how to clean and protect the convertible top so that it will last a long time. An unprotected convertible top will deteriorate quickly. Moisture will soak into the fibers, combine with dirt and generate mold that will ruin the top. It's recommended this cleaning be done every six months, but if the convertible is always garaged, you can prep the top every couple of years.

I'm recommending 2 products: 303 Tonneau & Convertible Top Cleaner and 303 Fabric Guard.

- 1 Apply the cleaner to the fabric top and hose off, then blot dry with a micro-fabric drying towel and allow to finish drying in the sun.
- 2 When dry, spray with the Fabric Guard in a cross direction for an even and full coverage, using a Horse Hair Brush (\$5 at Home Depot) for even distribution and to prevent damage the fibers of the top. (Note: Don't use 3M Scotch Guard as it's not effective for this purpose).
- 3 Let dry for 24 hours.
- 4 When dry, spray the top with a water hose and notice the water running off as if off a well waxed paint finish

In the spring, it will time to bring that fun convertible back out again!



The Typical Life Cycle of Car Collecting

by Mike McHann

The MBCA Westchester/ Connecticut Section is sponsoring an auction to sell their older members' cherished automobiles. What struck me is the "typical life cycle of car collecting" that many of us can identify with.

- * In our teens and twenties, we find the freedom that cars give us intoxicating and we admire those cars that have the qualities we desire.
- * By the time we're in our thirties, we are considering attaining a worthy example of a car we admire.
- * When we reach our forties, we have our first or second collectible car.
- * In our fifties, we're considering larger storage solutions as our collections grow.
- * In our sixties and seventies, we're busy showing our cars, prepping our cars for winter, looking forward to spring shows and summer meets.
- * When we reach our eighties, we're considering the next generation of owners for our cars.

Cycle of Car Collection, Cont.

The MBCA Westchester / Connecticut Section will provide the owners a platform on our web site November to Remember where they can post pictures/info their cars. Hagerty Insurance is a sponsor of the event and will assist with their Premier Classic Car Valuation tool.

For many of us Mercedes is more than a daily driver and is an obsession with the grand marquee that we find difficult to part with.



MERCEDES FRUEDE IN NOVEMBER NEW LOOK FOR TRADITIONAL EVENTS



Mercedes Fruede is a new and improved single national event that incorporates the most popular activities of the traditional StarFest® and StarTech events. The dates of November 2 through the 7th cover the main Mercedes Fruede event Tuesday through Friday, the Legends of the Autobahn East on Saturday, and the Hilton Head Island Concours d'Elegance on Sunday.

Our own Central Region Director, Rick Siefert is also the MBCA's National Events Chair and Rick is looking for a good turnout from our Region. So far, several MBCA-Memphis Section members have made reservations.

Consider making the trip to coastal South Carolina for all or part of Mercedes Fruede and enjoy the hospitality of the Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront Resort at some great off-season rates.

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 Star
Mercedes-Benz Club of America

The Star magazine.

Along with a range of special offers and events, your MBCA membership entitles you to receive six copies of *The Star*® magazine per year. Nowhere is the heritage and modern era of this timeless tradition more fully expressed than in MBCA's award-winning flagship publication. Along with its rich content and stunning photography, each issue features the latest news and in-depth information from Mercedes-Benz USA, as well as club events, restoration articles, and new-car road tests – plus a robust classified section and so much more.

Vision Mercedes-Maybach 6

Classified Ads

For Sale Mercedes

Year: 2014

Model: SLK55 AMG

Exterior Color: #590 Fire Opal Red -
Unilac

Interior Color: Napa/ Semi-Aniline -
Black/ Anthracite

Mileage: 15,900 mi

Perfect, always garaged, no dents, no scratches,
records. Ceramic coated paint, Designor interior,
active steering, Xenon-active headlights, glass
Vario sunroof, plus more. All updates. Only 400
units made 2014 & 2015, \$50,000.00.

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