

River City Star



MBCA Memphis Section Newsletter -- March 2018

Next Event!

By Erik Nowacki

Drive & Dine and Elections at Akita Sushi and Hibachi Steakhouse

Our next Drive & Dine is Saturday, March 17, for a sumptuous dinner at Akita Hibachi, Sushi & Bar in Southaven (35 Goodman, Suite C, inside South Lake Shopping Center). Akita offers delicious and old-fashioned Japanese Teppanyaki steaks or grilled fish/chicken, cooked right in front of you. If you don't like grilled or Teppanyaki/hibachi-style cooking, you can always try their fresh sushis. There are many choices to choose from on their tasty yet reasonably priced menus. **We will meet at 5:30 for dinner before elections.**

Teppanyaki is a style of Japanese cuisine that uses an iron griddle to cook food. The word teppanyaki is derived from teppan, which means iron plate and yaki which means grilled, broiled or pan-fried. This is probably more than you want to know, but trust me that the food is great. It is also an experience, by itself. DIY chefs, please do not try this at home as it could pose potential dangers to yourself and your guests (you will know what I mean once you get seated). It's a dinner and a show with Akita chefs who are very experienced in making dinner a real treat.



Please RSVP to Lordita Nowacki at Lordita88@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Event

Bi-Annual Planning Meeting

All those fun events that you've been attending haven't just happened — they've been planned by people who propose the events and then handle the details. A great section has events that appeal to a broad range of people...events like tech sessions, meals at restaurants/beweries/wineries, tours of personal garages or car/boat/plane restoration shops, museum visits, driving events, cookouts and parties. The possibilities are endless!

We plan events biannually, and **our next planning meeting is Saturday, March 31, 11:30 a.m.** at Whole Foods in Germantown (7825 U.S. Highway 72). We encourage all members to attend because good ideas come from everywhere and **we want your input**. You can get lunch from the huge lunch bar (I hear the ramen bar is really good) and we'll set up by the sunny windows and plan the next 6-9 months.

Please RSVP by March 28 to Linda Reyle at LREY@novonordisk.com. See you there!!

President's Message

By Bill Sudekum

Greetings Memphis Section:

As I sit here putting together my thoughts to you all prior to the upcoming election, I wonder where the time has gone. For the past four years, I have been extremely proud and honored to have served as the President of the Memphis Section, and know whoever next gets to sit in the driver's seat next will accomplish even more. We have enjoyed new friendships, excellent dinners, fun travels, exciting parades and beautiful displays, shows and events.

The Memphis Section has done things on it own and has also joined together with other Mercedes sections as well as chapters of other European marques for larger events. I personally hope this trend continues, and hope that you all get the opportunity to attend one of the combined activities.

With activities in mind, we have several things coming up this spring that should grab your attention. The first item is the upcoming section elections that will occur on March 17th, shortly after this newsletter hits the streets. Ballots will be handed out at the dinner/meeting/election that night. As indicated in the last newsletter, I will step down and let someone new add their ideas for the future.

On Friday, April 6th, we will once again join other European marques and caravan down to Natchez, MS for a fun-filled weekend at the 2018 Natchez Euro Fest. This year's event will officially honor Porsche, but all older European marques will have their own categories. A corral will be set up especially for those of us in newer Mercedes, with awards to be given. The actual show is Saturday the 7th, at the Rosalie Mansion, followed by an evening reception. Sunday is the return day, and the itinerary is still being worked. The return drive is at your leisure. More information can be found at www.euro-fest.net.

The biggest event of all comes in May, which is StarFest 2018, hosted by the Birmingham Section. There is too much happening at StarFest to go into my note here, so please see the article elsewhere in the newsletter and for details, check starfest2018.mbca.org.

Happy motoring!

Your Section Board

President	Bill Sudekum	sudekumwa@msn.com	(901)299-0653
Vice President	Rich Rankin	laserboy1@aol.com	(901)751-7228
Treasurer	Lynn Jones	JL.Jones11@outlook.com	(901)853-0846
Secretary/Membership	Linda Reyle	lrey@novonordisk.com	(901)754-8574
Communications	Pamela Zelman	templehill1840@gmail.com	(513)382-6195
Central Region Director	Rick Siefert	Rick.Siefert@att.net	(314)435-1903

Disclaimer

© 2018. The River City Star is published bi-monthly by the Memphis Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America, Inc. Editor: Pamela Zelman - 180 E. Park, Holly Springs, MS 38635. This newsletter is provided to all section members and associates. The articles in The River City Star are the views of their authors and not necessarily those of MBCA or its members.

Upcoming Event

Natchez Euro Fest 2018

Imagine a green field full of lovely European cars, overlooking the Mighty Mississippi. There is an antebellum house behind you with a welcoming porch. Sound appealing? We thought so. **Join us the weekend of April 6-9** for the Euro Fest Classic European Auto and Motorcycle Show in Natchez, MS. The event will be held on the lawn of Rosalie Mansion, one of the great antebellum homes of the South. The show is judged so you have the option of entering your car in the show or just bringing it and stashing it in the Mercedes Corral (on the show field but behind the judged cars) for the day. There is a dinner after the show ends on Saturday.

Euro Fest is family friendly and there is much to do besides looking at fabulous cars...like shopping, eating, house-gazing. It's a great opportunity to hang out with friends and make new ones from all over the region.

We'll meet on the morning of Friday, April 6th, at the McDonald's at I-55 and Church Rd. in Southaven, and caravan down I-55. We'll make a gas stop, then later a lunch stop in Canton MS., then leave the interstate at Exit 105A (Natchez Trace Parkway). It's a short drive to the Clinton Visitors Center where we'll meet up with the other clubs, then it's on to Natchez and a reception in our honor. Host hotel is the Magnolia Bluffs Casino Hotel, and the Vue Hotel is also offering discounted rates. Rooms fill up fast, so make reservations now!

Please go to www.euro-fest.net for event and hotel information, updates, etc. And **let Bill Sudekum know if you're going** (sudekumwa@msn.com, (901)299-0653) and whether you'll be traveling with us, so he can coordinate with the organizers of the event. See the pictures from last year for a little inspiration.



Upcoming Event

Bi-Annual Planning Meeting

All those fun events that you've been attending haven't just happened — they've been planned by people who propose the events and then handle the details. A great section has events that appeal to a broad range of people...events like tech sessions, meals at restaurants/beweries/wineries, tours of personal garages or car/boat/plane restoration shops, museum visits, driving events, cookouts and parties. The possibilities are endless!

We plan events biannually, and **our next planning meeting is Saturday, March 31, 11:30 a.m.** at Whole Foods in Germantown (7825 U.S. Highway 72). We encourage all members to attend because good ideas come from everywhere and **we want your input**. You can get lunch from the huge lunch bar (I hear the ramen bar is really good) and we'll set up by the sunny windows and plan the next 6-9 months.

Please RSVP by March 28 to Linda Reyle at LREY@novonordisk.com. See you there!!

Upcoming Event

Holly Springs, MS Tour of Historic Homes

Every spring, many towns in Mississippi opens their doors to folks who love history and old houses. Holly Springs will celebrate its history with the 80th Annual Tour of Historic Homes, April 20-22. Sponsored by the Holly Springs Garden Club, the tour includes five antebellum homes, three historic churches and three museums. The tour is an opportunity to enjoy a spring day in small-town Mississippi, step back in time a little and see how the houses and buildings have been restored and maintained by folks who love them. You might learn a little history, too.

On **Saturday, April 21, we will meet at the home of Pam & Dave Zelman** (180 E. Park, Holly Springs) at **10:00 a.m.** for coffee & pastries before we start the tour. Tour tickets are \$25 each (\$22 each if 12 or more people participate). Lunch will be off the menu at a local restaurant. **RSVP to Pam Zelman** (mbcamemphis@gmail.com or 513.382.6195) **by April 13** so advance tickets and lunch reservations can be made.

National Event!!

StarFest 2018 — May 14-21, 2018

StarFest® is the flagship national event for the Mercedes-Benz Club of America and will be hosted by the MBCA Alabama Section in 2018. Various track events and the StarFest®2018 Concours will be held in the heart of Alabama's racing heritage in the beautiful Alabama countryside. Included are the 17-turn Barber road course, Barber Proving Ground, Barber off-road, and Talladega Superspeedway. Every participant will be able to enjoy an enhanced tour of the Mercedes-Benz US International factory for C-class production.

Since 1998, StarFest® has had a rich history of bringing members together to appreciate the Club's heritage and Mercedes-Benz classic and modern cars. There are casual and competitive events; special access to internationally-recognized track venues, automotive museums, and behind-the-scenes production of Mercedes-Benz vehicles; technical sessions; safe-driving courses; and much more.

New this year are off-road and forest road driving. Also new are the "autobahn" driving on the 33-degree banking of Talladega Superspeedway, and the Performance Driving Experience on the magnificent Barber Motorsports Park's Formula One certified road course, neither of these require special preparation or equipment.

(Note: The factory tours begin on Monday, May 14th and are offered each day through Friday. The "main" events occur Thursday, May 17 through Monday, May, 21.)

StarFest®2018 has events for everyone:

Safe Drivers - Safe Families	Autocross (Acceleration Runs)
High-speed track driving experience	Off-road track driving experience
Concours	Road Rallyes
Off-road Rallyes	MBUSI plant tours
Reception and dinner at the famous Barber Museum	Acceleration Runs
Talladega Superspeedway / Autobahn Experience	

Visit starfest2018.mbca.org to learn more. Hotels will fill up fast, so register early!



Mark Your Calendar for local events!

Details for some events, especially those farther out, will be firmed up in future newsletters and via email.

MARCH

- 17 Dinner and Elections at Akita Hibachi Sushi & Bar, 35 Goodman, Southaven, 5:30 p.m.; Erik Nowacki, host
31 Semi-annual Planning Meeting at Whole Foods, 7825 U.S. Highway 72, Germantown. 11:30 a.m.; Linda Reyle, host

APRIL

- 6-8 Natchez Eurofest, Natchez, MS; Bill Sudekum, local host
7 Cars and Carbs, 9:00-11:00 — La Baguette, 3088 Poplar Ave.
21 Holly Springs Tour of Historic Homes, followed by lunch. Meet at Pam & Dave Zelman's home, 180 E. Park Ave. in Holly Springs, 10:00 a.m.; Pam Zelman, host

MAY

- 5 Cars and Carbs, 9:00-11:00am — Jody's Donuts, 1996 S. Houston Levee Rd.
14-21 **STARFEST 2018**, hosted by the Alabama Section; Pam Zelman, local host

JUNE

- TBD Tech Session at M-B of Memphis, 5389 Poplar Ave., 9:00 a.m.; Cliff Reyle, host

Pack your bags for these regional events

Remember to check out the Facebook pages and websites of each section, or contact the section President (their names are in The Star), for more details of these events.

Mississippi Section -- March 24: Delta Blues Tour. April 6-8: Natchez Euro Fest. Details at [Facebook.com/Mercedes Benz Club of America: Mississippi Section](https://www.facebook.com/Mercedes-Benz-Club-of-America:Mississippi-Section).

Nashville Section -- April 8: Keg Springs Winery. April 15: Kars4Kids Car Show. Details at www.mbcnashville.org.

Cincinnati Section -- April 13-15: Kentucky Horse Farm Adventure - a whole weekend of racing, dining and race horses. Details at www.mbcacincinnati.org/events.



Check us out on Facebook! Mercedes-Benz Club of America - Memphis Section, or @MBCAMemphis. [Click the logo!](#)

Editor's Notes

With elections this Saturday, I'd like to take a minute and thank the current board. I pretty much came out of nowhere and announced that I wanted to tackle the newsletter and social media. The board both embraces and tolerates my headstrong nature, and I am grateful for their support. A cohesive board of directors, regardless of the organization, can accomplish great things. This section is well on its way to making its mark on the Club and I hope to continue being a part of that. As I said in the last newsletter, participating in the leadership of a section is fun and rewarding. YOU should give it a try!

As we move to an increasingly electronic format, it is very important that you keep your email address up to date with the National Business Office. You can go online to www.mbca.org and log into your account, or you can speak to a friendly human at 800.637.2360. You are always free to contact me at mbcamemphis@gmail.com with suggestions or questions.

Review: Tour of Sun Studios

Ten Section members braved the rain on Feb 17, 2018 for the visit to Sun Studio with lunch at Pearl's Oyster House in Memphis. Sun Studios is so pivotal to the Memphis Sound as we know it, and the tour was really informative. Our picture was taken in front of the microphone that Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis and so many others used, in the very recording studio they used! Lunch at Pearl's was a great way to end the tour, if a little soggy getting there.



From Rick Siefert, Central Region Director

HAPPY NEW YEAR, Central Region Section Members !!

It has been enjoyable visiting with many of you this past Fall and into the Holiday Season. Two of my favorite aspects of being your Regional Director is having the opportunity of attending your Section holiday parties and being there for the many awards that you have received, both individual and National Section honors!

In October, I had dinner with the Indianapolis 500 Section board and had the privilege of presenting Section President, Ken Koshier, with the 2017 Member-of-the-Year award. During this same weekend, I joined the Cincinnati Section for a super fun karting event and luncheon in celebration of their being the recipients of the 2016 Section-of-the-Year award!



National Board members gathered together in Kalamazoo, Michigan, for the MBCA National Board meetings in November. What an honor it was to present David & Kimberly Hagood with the Cincinnati Section's well-deserved 2016 Section-of-the-Year award. And, the "icing on the cake," for the Central Region, was when our Memphis Section received the 2017 National Communication's award.



The first weekend in December, Patti and I enjoyed holiday parties with the Porsche Club on Saturday, where many of our St. Louis Gateway Section members also participated. And on Sunday, the SLGS had a large turnout of members at their holiday dinner. Jennie & Aaron Hible received the 2017 Members-of-the-Year award.



Mike and Anne Marsh graciously hosted the Mississippi Section board at their home for a wonderful dinner during the second weekend in December. The entire Section gathered together for a holiday luncheon at the Jackson Yacht Club. It was here where I was honored to participate in the presentation and award of the Central Region's Officer-of-the-Year, Scott Boone, and Mississippi Section, 2017 Member-of-the-Year, Daniel Hughes.



At the end of December, Patti and I traveled to Knoxville, Tennessee where we joined the Smoky Mountain Section for their holiday party. I also had the opportunity to visit with Karen Cooper, Service Manager for Mercedes-Benz of Knoxville and dealer liaison for the Smoky Mountain Section.

During the second weekend in January, Patti and I visited with the Nashville Section, having dinner with Randy & Brenda Bibb and Ed & Karen Johnson on Friday evening. On Saturday we had a wonderful lunch with the Section, where Naomi Wheatley was presented with the 2017 Member-of-the-Year award.



Randy announced to members that with 2018 being the 40th anniversary of the Nashville Section, their board has agreed to host the 2018 National MBCA Board meetings in November. This will be a GREAT opportunity for members throughout the Central Region to visit the wonderful city of Nashville, Tennessee, while enjoying the camaraderie of our National Board members!