

River City Star



MBCA Memphis Section Newsletter — June 2019

2019 Section Events on the Calendar

- **June 21 (Friday)** - The first day of Summer is a great time for a driving event. Join your MB Club friends at Delta Blues Winery in Lakeland, Tennessee, at 6:30 pm. So come on out and join the fun! The Evite will have all of the details. Section Contact: Rich Rankin. See details on page 5.
- **August 3** - Please plan to join your Section Board for a planning event on August 3 at 10:30 am at Mercedes-Benz of Collierville. We strive to create a calendar of events that includes driving, social, showing, and technical events. We welcome your inputs into making the best-ever events calendar for 2020.
- **August 17** - A social event featuring dinner at Marciano Restaurant in East Memphis at 6:00 pm. The group will order from a special menu. Details to follow in the Evite. Section Contact: Bill Sudekum. See details on page 5.
- **September 27-28** - Memphis Eurofest 2019 will be held on the campus of Youth Villages in Memphis. This exhibit event is sponsored by the British Sports Car Club of Memphis. More details will be made available in the Evite for this event. Section Contact: Rich Rankin.
- **October 19** - Poker Run followed by barbecue dinner at the Reyle's. Lots of fun, food, fellowship, and door prizes. All the details will be in the Evite. Section Contact: Pam Zelman.
- **November (TBD)** - Show and Shine at Mercedes-Benz of Collierville. See the Evite for the details. Section Contact: Pam Zelman.
- **December 14** - Germantown Holiday Parade. This annual event gives us a great opportunity to show off our Mercedes-Benz marque. The Evite will have all of the details. Section Contact: Lynn Jones.
- **December 14** - Memphis Section Holiday Dinner. Another great event not to be missed. Be sure to come to the dinner to share holiday greetings with your fellow MBers. Evites will be sent with the details. Section Contact: Bill Sudekum.

Editor's Note: I am using a new technique to publish the Newsletter in .pdf format that should preserve the text for copying and pasting and should properly activate the hyperlinks so you can link to locations on the Internet. I apologize for any inconvenience in past issues.



Check us out on Facebook and now Instagram!

@MBCAMemphis



President's Message

By Linda Reyle

MBCA Memphis Members,

Welcome to our June Mercedes-Benz Club of America-Memphis Section newsletter!

Joining MBCA Memphis Section is a way grow in your appreciation of the Mercedes-Benz legacy. Participating in MBCA Memphis Section events leads to great adventure while you build new relationships and discover new places in our own backyard. The Gammill Farms driving event and the Samuel T. Bryant Distillery tour got rave reviews from all who attended.

In this newsletter, you will find details about our upcoming summer events to the Delta Blues Winery (Lakeland, Tennessee), an elegant dinner at the renowned Marciano Restaurant, and the Memphis EuroFest 2019 held on the campus of Youth Villages in Memphis.

Our 2019 MBCA Board of Directors for the Memphis section were elected at our April event:

President: Linda Reyle

Vice-President: Mike McHann

Secretary: Bill Sudekum

Treasurer: Lynn Jones

Pam Zelman (Social Media/Webmaster), Dale Duckworth (Newsletter Editor), Erik & Lordita Nowacki (Events Coordinators) and Mike McHann (Membership Chairperson in addition to VP role) accepted their appointments to the board as well. I personally want thank each of you for your willingness to volunteer, serve, and deliver on your responsibilities which makes the MBCA Memphis Section such a fun place to engage.

To solicit more inputs into our 2020 event planning, I invite you to join our planning event on August 3 at 10:30 am at Mercedes-Benz of Collierville. As a Board, we strive to create a calendar of events that will woo you to join the fun, including driving events, socializing events, and fixing (cars) events. We welcome your inputs into making the best-ever events calendar for 2020.

Happy driving, all!

Warm regards,

Linda

**Your
Memphis
Section
Board**

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Secretary	Bill Sudekum	sudekumwa@msn.com	(901) 299-0653
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Central Region Director	Rick Siefert	Rick.Siefert@att.net	(314) 435-1903

From the Editor

By Dale Duckworth

We are still a couple of weeks away from the official start of summer on June 21, but summer-like weather has already started, at least in West Tennessee.

During the week of May 20 I was in Colorado Springs to attend some events at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Imagine my surprise to arrive in a late spring snowstorm that deposited about six inches of heavy, wet, beautiful snow in the area. Getting to the hotel was an interesting exercise given the “perfect storm” of circumstances: It was dark, the rental car was unfamiliar, the route was provided by Google Maps on my smartphone, and the visibility was poor. In any case, I made it in one piece. So what does this have to do with Mercedes-Benz?

In my trip plans I had built in a day to do a couple of things in the local area. One was to drive to the top of Pikes Peak but, unfortunately, the snowfall limited the drive to about the 15-mile point of the 19-mile total drive. But the elevation I drove to was above 12,000 feet and the views were spectacular. It was slow-going up and down the mountain but well worth it. Oh, and next I drove into the city and to 1907 Lelaray Street, the home of the MBCA National Business Office (NBO). I introduced myself, got a tour of the facility, and met the staff that was in the office that day. If you are ever in Colorado Springs I recommend dropping by the NBO to see where the nationwide support of MBCA originates. Nice folks!



**Pikes Peak Mile Marker 13 - Elevation
11,440 feet.**



**MBCA National Business Office, Colorado
Springs**

Below are links to a couple Mercedes-Benz articles I found of interest:

- It looks like MB is planning to reduce its offerings in the U.S. Between the badges, engines and trim levels, Mercedes-Benz offers a tremendous level of model variety in the US. Now, the automaker might have realized that it may be time to rein in the variety. See *Mercedes-Benz tells dealers it will reduce ever-growing lineup in the US, report says* at <https://www.cnet.com/roadshow/news/mercedes-benz-model-option-reduction-us-report/>
- Mercedes-Benz now offers insane levels of technology and luxury from the baby A-Class to the exclusive S-Class. For this 2019 C300, the result is simple. It's more luxurious and smarter than anything else in the class. See *Review: The Mercedes C300 is smarter, safer and more luxurious than anything in its price class* at <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/05/31/review-the-mercedes-c300-is-smarter-and-more-luxurious-than-anything-in-its-price-class.html>

Monthly Cars & Carbs Events

What: Fellowship and conversation along with coffee and baked goods

When: The first Saturday of each month from 9 - 11 am

Where:

July 6 - La Baguette, 3088 Poplar Ave, Memphis

August 3 - Square Beans, 101 N. Center Street, Collierville (on the Square)

September 7 - Bluff City Coffee, 505 S Main St, Memphis

October 5 - La Baguette, 3088 Poplar Ave, Memphis

November 2 - Square Beans, 101 N. Center Street, Collierville (on the Square)

December 7 - Bluff City Coffee, 505 S Main St, Memphis



Add these fun events to your calendar, too!

These events aren't planned by our Section but sure sound like a good time.

Every Saturday - Cars & Coffee in various locations (see our Website for details)

2nd Saturday of Each Month - "Cars and Coffee on The Edge" on the second Saturday of each month 8 am to noon at 595 Monroe, just west of Sun Studios. FREE coffee and donuts. There are usually 25-50 cars.

4th Saturday of Each Month - "Cars and Coffee" on the 4th Saturday of each month at the Germantown Performing Arts Center (GPAC), 1801 Exeter Rd in Germantown. FREE coffee and donuts 8 to 10 am if it is not raining and projected temperature is to be at least 40 degrees at 8 am.

2019 Upcoming Events

June 21 (Friday) - "Cars and Chardonnay" -or- "Mercedes and Muscadine." The first day of summer is a great time for a social event. Join us for an event that's a little bit Classy and a little bit Redneck! On Friday evening, June 21st, join your MB Club friends at Delta Blues Winery in Lakeland, Tennessee, at 6:30 pm. The gates open at 5pm, and there will be live music from 7 to 10 pm. The band will be Terry Wall and The Wallbangers, classic rock and blues. They will be playing in the outside bandstand so bring blankets or folding chairs to sit on. If the weather proves to be too "sultry," or rainy, the party will move into the air-conditioned clubhouse. There will be wine tastings all evening, so you can find a bottle you like and then gently sip to the music. (No outside alcohol allowed)

If you didn't get your dinner earlier, you can pack a picnic hamper full of epicurean delights to enjoy during the wine and music. Or if you prefer, there will be a food truck on site and you can sample some of their delights too!

So come on out and join the fun! The Evite will have all of the details. Section Contact: Rich Rankin.

Historical Note: Did you know that the first automobile road trip was through German wine country? Bertha Benz was a German automotive pioneer. She was the business partner and wife of automobile inventor Karl Benz. On August 5, 1888, she was the first person to drive an automobile over a long distance. The total trip was approximately 121 miles (194 kilometers) and the routes she took to and from her hometown went through the beautiful German wine region of Baden, which is still a wine-producing region. Motorists with an interest in automotive history and scenic views can take the Bertha Benz Memorial Route around southwest Germany to this day.



- **August 17** - A social event featuring dinner at Marciano Restaurant at 780 E Brookhaven Circle in East Memphis at 6:00 pm. With over 20 years of experience as a chef, Morteza Gerani has mastered the art of creating delicious meals with the freshest and healthiest ingredients. Their traditional Mediterranean - Italian recipes are served in an elegant relaxed atmosphere. Our group will order from a special menu. Details to follow in the Evite. Section Contact: Bill Sudekum.



Memphis Membership Matters

By Mike McHann (Membership Chairman)

A great big "Welcome" to our member Arthur Schmidt, Jr. We hope to see you at our upcoming social gatherings where we provide technical info about vehicle maintenance, share our "car stories," and, in general, have a good time! I'd like to recommend the Cars & Carbs the first Saturday of every month; it's short, casual and lots of fun, and we talk about everything, but usually cars and what's going on with the club.

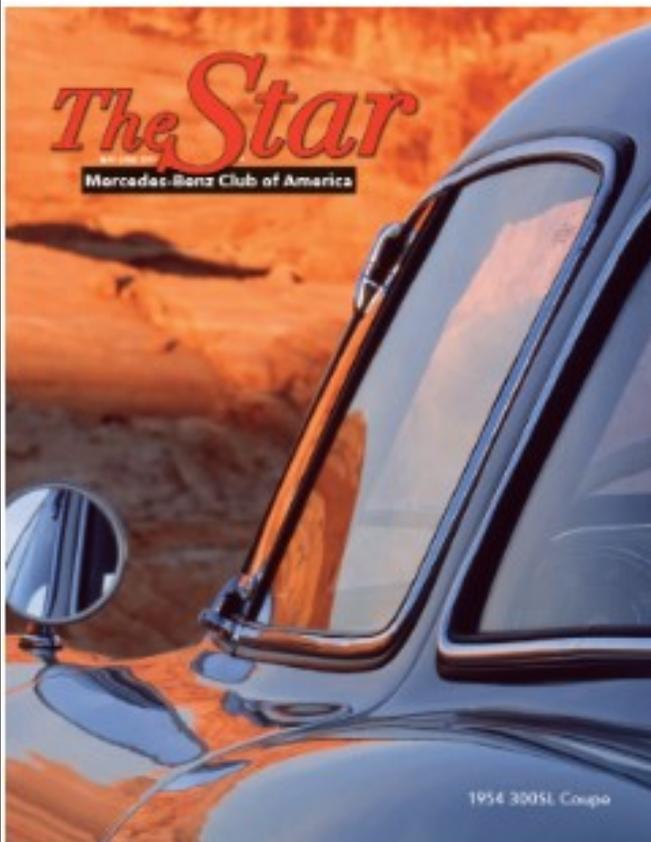
You'll remember that MBCA hopes to double the Memphis membership this year and has challenged us each to find and recruit one person who would benefit from MBCA membership. So let me know if you need business cards or membership applications. By the way, a new membership benefit just announced is a 15% discount on parts and service at Smith's Imports!

As always, we welcome the continued attendance, suggestions, and contributions of all Memphis Section members.

Join the Mercedes-Benz Club of America

If you received this Newsletter and are not yet a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America (MBCA), the largest Mercedes-Benz Club in the world, please consider joining our ranks. MBCA brings together drivers and friends for casual and competitive driving events and offers special access to technical experts for questions about both vintage and new Mercedes-Benz models. Also, MBCA offers a unique, member-only online community with access to information, events announcements, resources, and an award-winning print publication, *The Star*, that will enrich your Mercedes-Benz ownership experience.

We invite you to join MBCA to explore your passion for all things Mercedes-Benz. Whether you want to drive, learn more about your car, or simply enjoy the camaraderie of other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts, Mercedes-Benz Club of America is your place.



In an Op-Ed on page 12, Memphis Section member Lordita Norwacki explains how she went from being *The Reluctant Member* to a great advocate for membership in the Club. Don't miss her article!

Not a Member?

Go to www.mbca.org to

Join Today!

Review: Gammill Farms Tour

By Linda Reyle

What is the geological history of the Arkansas Mississippi Delta land that creates a topsoil depth of 50-60 feet? Where is the nest of the American Bald Eagles that frequently fish in the Gammill's lake? How small do you feel standing next to a 12-foot tall Claas 760 combine? How can a team of only 10 employees operate (plant, cultivate, harvest) a 10,000 acre farm operation?

Bobby and Joan Gammill hosted the Mercedes-Benz Club Memphis Section on a fascinating, jaw-dropping tour of their Gammill Farms operation outside of Tyrnza, Arkansas. Following a welcome in their home with snacks, Bobby and Joan led us to their Gammill Farms operations office. Together and separately, Bobby and Joan explained how the multi-generational farm



grew to 10,000 acres, how the crop decisions are made, and the integral role of technology in operating such a vast agricultural venture. The rich, deep topsoil is the result of many years of the Mississippi River flooding and creating new channels through which it flows. Rice, corn, and soybeans are their main crops which are placed and rotated with scientific precision.



The American Bald Eagles' nest sits high atop a tree just a mile from the Gammill's house. The nesting pair of eagles lives year-round in the area (although they may take a brief vacation mid-summer) likely because the fishing in the Gammill's lake is so good! Joan regularly sees one or both of the eagles perched in a cypress tree at the edge of the lake where they are planning the next trajectory to snatch more fish.

Review: Gammill Farms (cont'd)

Just imagine how small you would feel (very small) standing next to a 12-foot tall Claas combine. But equally imagine how awe-inspiring it would feel (it's VERY cool) to sit in the cab of the Claas combine 12-feet above the ground and surrounded by technology. Because so much of the farming activity is integrated with satellite GPS and advanced moisture/insect detection systems, 10 employees plus Bobby, his sons, and his grandsons keep the operation healthy and productive.



We even got to see how a grain elevator works including where the grain trucks arrive and weigh in, how the grain is unloaded, and the process by which the grain is dried to specific humidity levels to minimize damage or loss.

We wrapped up the adventure at Wilson Arkansas' Wilson Café with the 2019 Memphis Section election and delicious food. We all looked at and appreciated our food more because Bobby and Joan had reminded us that without farms there is no food. Some ate light because right outside the café was the 2019 Wilson 5th Annual Crawfish Festival and



Hampson Museum where the entire community had poured into the town square to celebrate the joy of living in the Arkansas Delta region.

Thank you Bobby and Joan for a wonderful adventure into the world of agriculture.

Review: Mercedes and Moonshine - A Drive and Dine Adventure to Jackson, Tennessee

By Erik Nowacki

On May 25, 2019 the MBCA Memphis Section joined with the local Porsche Club and caravanned to the Blacksmith Restaurant in Jackson, Tennessee. Great discussion followed at lunch and we were all surprised to find that the Porsche club members are good people, although somewhat misguided (even though both of our great marques are headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany). Great sales pitches were made to cross over from one camp to the other. Since few people were willing to trade their Mercedes-Benz for a Porsche and vice versa, we decided to continue the discussion at the local Samuel T. Bryant distillery.

At the distillery, we were given a very informative tour of the facilities. Our guide, Sam Bryant himself, went into great detail about the locally sourced materials, the fermentation process, and finally the distillation process. After our tour, we conducted a very thorough tasting of the various products produced at the distillery. The discussion quickly shifted from the virtues of Mercedes-Benz vs. Porsche to whether the Tennquila was better than the cinnamon flavored moonshine.

In the end, our designated drivers were placed into service and we retreated back to Memphis. Since the debate of Mercedes-Benz vs. Porsche was not concluded, we will have to organize another event with the Porsche Club to continue discussions.



There's no appropriate caption for this photo except "WOW!"



Is it ready, Bill?



Learning about the fine art of distilling.

From Our Regional Director



Rick Siefert
Central Regional Director
Mercedes-Benz Club of America
367 West Manor Drive | Chesterfield, MO 63017 314.435.1903

MBCA Central Region will have these great Regional events in 2019.

French Lick, Indiana, Drive & Dine Event

October 11 - 13, 2019 (Friday through Sunday)

Please join your fellow Central Region club members as we enjoy an extended weekend together in and around the French Lick, Indiana, area.

French Lick Springs is a classic American hotel, established in 1845, with the current spa wing built in 1901. It seamlessly blends its fascinating history with modern amenities and services. Family-friendly activities and facilities make this an ideal destination for celebrations or relaxing getaways. French Lick has something everyone can enjoy; whether it's golf, spa, hiking, biking, swimming, or shopping.

We are planning some very enjoyable activities, including a driving tour of the area, breakfast and tour at the West Baden Hotel, and dinner together on Saturday evening.

Lodging at the historic French Lick Resort is regularly \$304/night + tax, but our rate for the two days/nights is \$129 + tax! We have a 40-room block, of which at least 30 of the rooms have already been booked at this fantastic rate!

Please contact Rick Siefert (rick.siefert@att.net or 314-435-1903) for further information or for the reservation phone number and booking code.

Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

November 1 - 3, 2019 (Friday through Sunday) at the Port Royal Golf Club.

This event is considered third in the country after Pebble Beach and Amelia Island.

This will be a Mercedes-Benz weekend event. We'll have a club driving activity on Friday for those who do not participate in the Hilton Head Concours sponsored drive. On Friday night we are planning a club dinner at a local Hilton Head eatery for those who choose not to go to the Concours Gala at the airport. Events include:

- Friday: Mercedes-Benz Rally; Club dinner to socialize and meet members from other areas.
- Saturday: Car Club Showcase at Port Royal Golf Course; Mercedes-Benz-only Car Show; Silver Star Preservation; MBCA Tent; dinner at a local eatery to discuss the day's events and prepare for the spectacular Concours.
- Sunday: the Hilton Head Concours d'Elegance.

Lodging: We have a 40-room block at the Hampton Inn, our host hotel and headquarters, at \$149.00 per night. The hotel is nearby Port Royal and only a few rooms are left in the block! Call 843-681-7900 to reserve rooms and mention that you are with the Mercedes-Benz Club. Rooms will be added if enough early reservations are made. The hotel has free parking, breakfast, and plenty of parking space for those who are trailering their cars.

Technical Tips and Tricks (TTT)

By Mike McHann

Replacing Motor Mounts on my 1993 300CE Cabriolet . The engine mounts on a car actually hold the engine to the chassis. Almost all engine mounts have a rubber portion that allows a small amount of flex to reduce vibrations. If the engine was directly bolted to the chassis, you would feel every vibration from the engine. This rubber portion of the engine mount is particularly susceptible to failure; heat and oil can take its toll on the mount, causing the rubber portion to crack and separate. When this happens, the mount collapses and no longer supports the engine correctly.

Recently, I replaced the motor mounts on my 1993 300CE Cabriolet. At 25 years of age and 80K miles, the motor mounts had deteriorated, evidenced by pronounced vibration in the steering wheel during idle. The following photo demonstrates the difference between the new and old mounts; the deterioration is obvious with the loss in height of the rubber portion of the older mount. Replacement of the motor mounts was easy and only took a few hours. Once the work was complete, the idling vibration completely disappeared.



New (left) and old (right) motor mounts compared. Ensuring your mounts are in good shape will make for a smoother operation.



Mike's beautiful 1993 300CE Cab with new motor mounts.

Op-Ed: The Reluctant Member

By Lordita Nowacki

"I don't want to go!" was my first answer to Erik, my husband, when he asked if I wanted to go to an MBCA-Memphis dinner at The Schweinhaus Restaurant about three years ago. He eventually talked me into going. At the dinner, I remember Linda Reyle (the current president of the club, but not at that time) welcoming me to Memphis. I remember meeting the Jones, the Adams, the Duckworths, and sitting across from Mike McHann (I bet you Mike does not remember that evening). At the end of the dinner, Lynn Jones held a raffle (although I did not win) with Mercedes-Benz related items. At the time, I didn't realize that the raffle is regular (and much anticipated) thing at the MBCA Memphis dinner.

I didn't realize that evening was the beginning of becoming a part of this very friendly group of Mercedes-Benz car aficionados.

I was hesitant to join the dinner because I thought I would be completely lost since I was not particularly into cars, nor Mercedes-Benz as a brand. I guess I expected to be a wallflower at the club dinner with a bunch of car nerds discussing the finer points of fuel injection over carburetors. A car is just a car is what I used to say, but after I joined the club, a wayward Mercedes-Benz SL 500 crossed my path by complete chance (car-ma?). Normally, I would have ignored it as old and sad, but this time I decided to give it a chance. Now that I'm driving my own Mercedes-Benz; a car is only a car unless it's a Mercedes-Benz! I love my old SL 500. It's the perfect fit for me, and the 325 horsepower is just right for me when I have to merge onto the freeways here in Memphis. I get to have fun with the cleaning and detailing, and occasionally supervising my husband fixing something that broke (which happens with 25-year-old cars) or something that needs to be improved.

I also drive my husband's AMG wagon once in a while, but I find it too long and difficult to parallel park. It has a lot of oomph, but it's not same oomph as my SL. Do we have a family Mercedes-Benz rivalry?

Going back to MBCA-Memphis: as it turned out, MBCA is one of the best clubs I've joined. The members all come from different walks of life, and it really doesn't matter what you do, your age, or what kind of Mercedes-Benz you have. It's all the same. Most of the conversations wander all over the place, and we find common interests and denominators to discuss, just like the speed of the car...limitless. I love the dinners, conversations, driving events, and, most importantly, friendships that I have built around these fine folks, just like I'm bonding with my Mercedes-Benz. I would like to think that my MBCA friendships will last way longer than any car (even if it is a Mercedes-Benz).

As a side effect of the MBCA club (if I may say so), I suddenly developed a love for Autotrader.com. I find myself shopping for my next car late at night, and it's definitely going to be a Mercedes-Benz SL, maybe a little newer.

If you are a new member (or a long-term member who has not yet participated), try attending at least one or two events before ruling out your future participation. You will never know what you are missing until you try.

Op-Ed: The Reluctant Member (cont'd)

If you are worried about your Mercedes-Benz being too old, too new, not old enough, too rough, too common, etc. etc., stop worrying! The MBCA-Memphis members will welcome you and give you invaluable information, parts sources, and help out in many ways. But you have to join us first, so come check us out! The only downside is that you may develop an addiction for Autotrader or eBay.

MBCA-Memphis membership is not just doing scenic drives, learning how to fix your cars, keeping your car pretty, and dining at wonderful new restaurants. It also provides you a discount on parts and service at the local dealers, subscription to the exclusive *The Star* magazine, \$500 off on your next new purchase of Mercedes-Benz (after 1 year of membership), and much more.

Come on over and check us out!



Lordita: "I love my old SL 500."

Op-Ed: E15 ethanol is coming, like it or not. Here's what you need to know.

By Dale Duckworth

Based on an article by Jim Koscs, hagerty.com, March 20, 2019

Owners of collector cars, or any vehicle built before 2001, beware: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a rule approving the sale of E15 gasoline year-round, so use extra care when gassing up this summer.

In the United States, ninety-eight percent of gasoline sold already contains some amount of ethanol. Cars produced in the past two decades or so generally have no problem burning the common E10 blend, which contains 10 percent ethanol. Some stations have offered E15, which bumps the amount of ethanol to 15 percent, since 2005, but the EPA had previously banned its sale during the summer amid concerns that it contributed to the creation of smog. The EPA has rescinded the ban and made E15 available throughout the year.

The change won't happen overnight, and you'll still be able to get E10. Still, motorists will want to be mindful when filling up. Not all cars can handle the higher concentration of ethanol, which can gum up fuel systems and cause corrosion in cars that haven't been designed to burn it.

Source: Gabe Augustine

The good news for new-car buyers is that the number of cars approved for E15 has increased for 2019, according to the Renewable Fuels Association, which represents ethanol producers. Among the holdouts are BMW, Lamborghini, **Mercedes-Benz**, Mitsubishi, Mazda and Volvo. Oddly, the BMW-made Mini is approved for 2019. **A few Mercedes-Benz models are available as FlexFuel models, which can use up to E85.**

When in doubt about a new or late-model car, call the brand's customer assistance center, if one is provided. The holdouts will inevitably need to approve E15.

What's ethanol?

Source: Sabrina Hyde

Ethanol is a simple alcohol that, when added to gasoline, acts as an oxygenate. Federal regulations have mandated ethanol-blended gasoline to reduce carbon monoxide, hydrocarbon, and particulate emissions while increasing the use of renewable fuels. It's a topic that can spark heated debate, so we're not delving into the economic, environmental, and political machinations.

Yet, even if the ethanol had not been mandated, fuel producers would still use it because it is a cheap, and safe, octane booster. Pure ethanol has an octane rating of 130.

The EPA has approved E15 for use in cars built since 2001, but automakers do not necessarily agree that the older cars should use it. Owners of collector cars, though, should avoid using E15 in any vehicle that hasn't been modified to handle it.

Don't panic

Source: Gabe Augustine

There's no need to panic, but you'll want to be vigilant. If you own a car built since 2012, check the owner's manual to see if you can use E15. If the manual doesn't specifically say it's OK, avoid using it.

E15 ethanol is coming, like it or not. Here's what you need to know. (cont'd)

Any gas pumps dispensing ethanol should have a sticker affixed that explicitly identifies the ethanol content of the gasoline. If you don't see it, ask a gas station employee.

Collector cars and alcohol: A bad mix

Source: Tim Mossholder

Using gasoline with a higher concentration of ethanol than the automaker recommends could damage metal and plastic parts. This is especially true in older cars, which can experience other problems associated with burning alcohol. Ethanol absorbs moisture more easily than gasoline, which can cause corrosion problems in fuel tanks and gum up filters and carburetors. It also can dissolve rust in the fuel tank, which could then find its way into the fuel system.

Owners can avoid problems by installing ethanol-compatible fuel lines, fittings, filters, and other parts. For winter storage, use only ethanol-compatible gas-storage additives.

If you want to avoid ethanol altogether, look for small vendors that sell pure gasoline. You can usually find them at or near marinas, drag strips, and small airports. Check pure-gas.org for user-updated lists of such places in the U.S. and Canada. That said, these smaller vendors are getting harder to find (and tend to charge much more), so call ahead before driving to one.



Remember to always follow Mercedes-Benz guidance for fueling your MB.

Op-Ed: It's Sad to See an Old Friend Leave the Scene

By Lynn Jones

The Tupelo Automobile Museum Has Been a Popular Destination For the MBCA-Memphis Section Over the Years

On April 27 it was all over for “one of the largest automobile collections in North America” as the Tupelo Automobile Museum liked to bill itself. Bonhams auctioneers have brought down the gavel on every one of the 174 vehicles and all of the memorabilia in this unique collection. The Museum, started by Frank Spain and run recently by his wife, has been an attraction for car lovers for almost 20 years.

The Memphis Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America made the Museum a destination every few years for good reasons. It made a nice day trip, being about 100 miles away, Mercedes-Benz was well represented in the eclectic collection, and we always found a good restaurant in Tupelo. In recent years we made the trip in 2011, 2017, and for the last time just recently in 2019.

In October of 2011 we met on a Saturday morning on the square in historic Collierville for a drive down to Tupelo for a tour and lunch. There was general agreement that the Tupelo Automobile Museum was a great local treasure that should be on any car lover's to-do list.

In August of 2017 we teamed up with the Mississippi Section plus some folks from Alabama for a tour of the Museum that was spiced up with several current MB models brought down to Tupelo from Mercedes-Benz of Collierville just for our tour. Mississippi Section President, Mike Marsh, organized lunch at Harvey's Restaurant that was big enough to accommodate everybody prior to the Museum tour. Ms. Jane Spain who has been curating the collection since the passing of her late husband, spoke to the group about the back story on some of the collection. A great writeup of the event and pictures can be found on the Mississippi Section's website at <https://spark.adobe.com/page/1zJ0BfMoflY7O/>

Our most recent trip was in mid-January of this year that was added to our schedule of section events as soon as we learned the collections was to be dispersed. Again this time, as in 2017, we were allowed into the back storeroom where vehicles not ready for display are held. The half dozen Mercedes-Benzes back in this area received a lot of attention even though they all needed some TLC. Its sad to see a great collection like this broken up, but the financial realities of maintaining a car collection are stark. The Memphis Section also enjoyed a 2012 trip to Chesterfield, Missouri, to see the Kemp Auto Museum collection of primarily Mercedes-Benz cars before it too was broken up in 2015.

So long old friend.

Here's a link to the final price tag for every car sold in the Tupelo Automobile Museum auction:

https://www.djournal.com/news/here-s-the-final-price-tag-for-every-car-sold/article_537abb28-b722-530b-88a0-b3a88e691640.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=user-share&fbclid=IwAR0wZSwgPKObG-dDJBQ3jILSeX2VQNOxNVaRWngnA-gLap6iKv6HYL63ado

Classified Ads

For Sale

1999 Mercedes-Benz E300 turbo diesel. It is in very good condition with about 101,500 miles on the odometer. It is a Southern car and has been garaged all it's life until recently. I recently replaced the glow plugs and the relay. It has a recent oil change and the battery is only 6 months old. It drives good and everything works except the heater/air conditioner blower motor does not work. It probably froze up from lack of use as the car was purchased from an elderly couple who drove very little due to health reasons. Mercedes-Benz owners who have seen it say it is in excellent condition except for the blower motor. Contact Jim Buford by voice or text at 731-613-3022 or jimbuford1@gmail.com.



For Sale

1993 Mercedes-Benz 300CE Coupe, Midnight Blue with beige interior. Pristine condition! 180K miles. Complete service records, "250K Service Excellence Award", new brakes, discs, flex hoses, AC, tires, battery, motor mounts, sway bar, transmission. The car has always been kept in a heated garage. Restoration log/service log upon request.

Video: <https://youtu.be/njCKo4eOBjc>

More photos: <https://memphis.craigslist.org/cto/6866045743.html>

\$9,500.00 (appraised \$11,800)

Contact Mike McHann, 901-299-6341 or mike.mchann@eccotek.com





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