Nov/Dec 2020
Volume 48 Issue 6

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION NEWS

HOLIDAY PARTY
Thursday, December 10th
YaYa's, Chesterfield

Please join us for our annual Section Holiday Party. On December 10th we will be dining at **YaYa's, located at 5601 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017**. **We will gather at 6:00 pm** and will be seated in our own area at the back of the restaurant. Tables will be separated for social distancing and will seat two or three couples per table. We will choose our food and drinks off the menu and individual checks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you at this annual event. There will be a couple of special awards presented and….we will be honored with having our good Friend and past National President, Terry Kiwala, join in our festivities !

Please bring a face mask to enter the restaurant.

To reserve your attendance, please contact Luella Perry at brsholan@yahoo.com by December 7th, as participation will be limited. The number of attendees will be limited.

NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH
Sunday, January 10th, 2021
YaYa's, Chesterfield

Our annual New Year's Brunch will be on **January 10th at YaYa's, located at 5601 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017**. **Please be ready to be seated at 10:30 am**. We will be seated in our own area at the back of the restaurant. Tables will be separated for social distancing and will seat two or three couples per table. We will choose off the menu for food and drinks and individual checks will be provided. Of course YaYa's will have a fantastic brunch available !

Please bring a face mask to enter the restaurant.

To reserve your attendance, please contact Luella Perry at brsholan@yahoo.com by Jan. 7th, as participation will be limited.

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION
2021 Events

January 10th
New Year's Brunch
YaYa's - Chesterfield, MO

February
Member Appreciation Reception
ProTech Collision Center

March
"Herman the German" Tech Session
Ladies Day Out

April
Drive & Lunch, Herman, MO

April 10th
EURO FEST
Natchez, Mississippi

May
Tulip Festival in Pella, Iowa

June
St. Louis European Auto Show

July
St. Louis Aquarium & Lunch

August
Boeing Prologue Room & Lunch

September
Annual Picnic and Show & Shine

October
Illinois Autumn Drive

November
Annual Planning Meeting

December
Holiday Party

2020 MBCA
SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION
Officers and Board Members

SECTION OFFICERS

President Frank Perry
frankperry401@msn.com
314.839.4862

Vice President Luella Perry
brsholan@yahoo.com
314.839.4862

Secretary Patti Siefert
Patti.siefert@att.net
314.378.0432

Treasurer Dana Faerber
ronfaerber@sbcglobal.net
314.434.4269

BOARD MEMBERS

Steve Jacquemin - President Emeritus
sjacquemin@ccim.net, 314.406.6981

Ed Barutio
edbarutio2@att.net, 636.273.9046

Mimi Barutio
mimibarutio@att.net, 636.273.9046

Bob Frank ***(Newsletter Editor)***
rsfrank1@aol.com, 636.273.9820

Kay Frank ***(Newsletter Editor)***
kay.frank7@gmail.com, 636.273.9820

Alan Biby *(**Webmaster& Membership**)*
abiby@nwcable.net, 618.525.8090
http://stlgateway.mbca.org (SLGS website)

Marti Jacquemin
martijacquemin@gmail.com, 314.406.6981

Alicia Monfrinotti
monfriusa@charter.net, 314.369.8474

Rick Siefert (***Central Regional Director***)
rick.siefert@att.net, 314.435.1903

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer has moved way too fast and I'm hoping that many opportunities to drive your passion have occurred this year.

We've had six well-attended events over the past year, with our most recent event being our Annual Planning Meeting held on October 4th. This meeting was held outdoors and was in lieu of our Annual Picnic. Our membership presented many ideas and events that have been implemented into our 2021 schedule. I want to thank each member who attended and contributed to a full 2021 schedule.

2020 started out with our Annual New Year's Brunch on January 12th, held at YaYa's Euro Bistro.

Our second event was a Member Appreciation Reception on February 18th, held at Mercedes-Benz of Chesterfield. Our third and fourth events were held on July 18th, which included a Detailing Clinic held at It's Alive Automotive and a Lady's Day Luncheon, held at the Hearth Room Café.

Our fifth event was held August 22nd, which included a very nice drive and lunch at Cedar Lake Cellars Winery. The weather and drive were beautiful, and our members shared a delightful day.

Alan Biby, our Membership Chairman and Webmaster, is focused on increasing our membership numbers and retaining our existing members. Alan works very hard to keep our membership connected and growing.

Our St. Louis Gateway Section is about, dependent upon, and intended to benefit you – the members. Our goal is to enhance our events and add key activities as suggested by members who consistently step up to the plate to assist and bring new ideas of interest.

Frank Perry
President
St Louis Gateway Section

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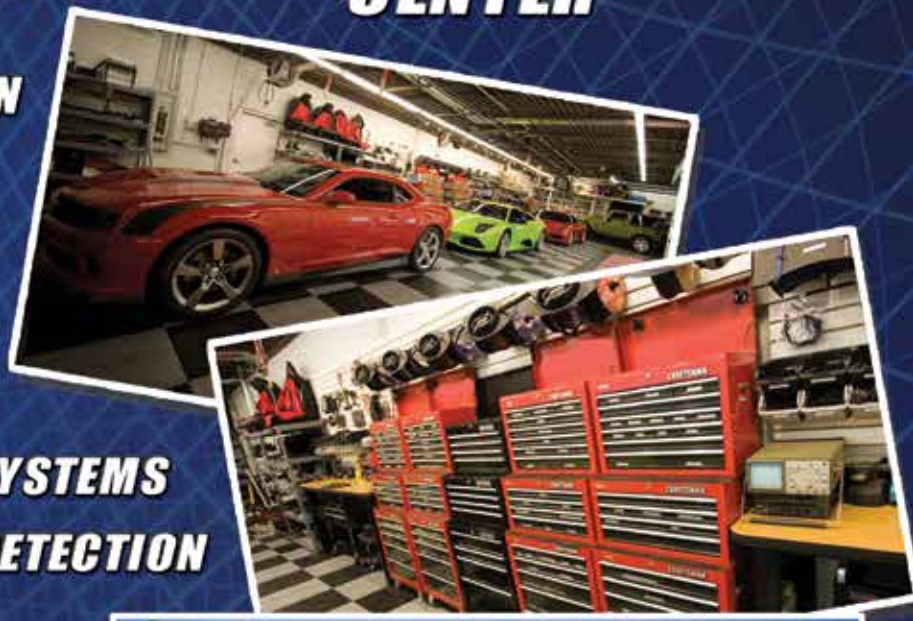

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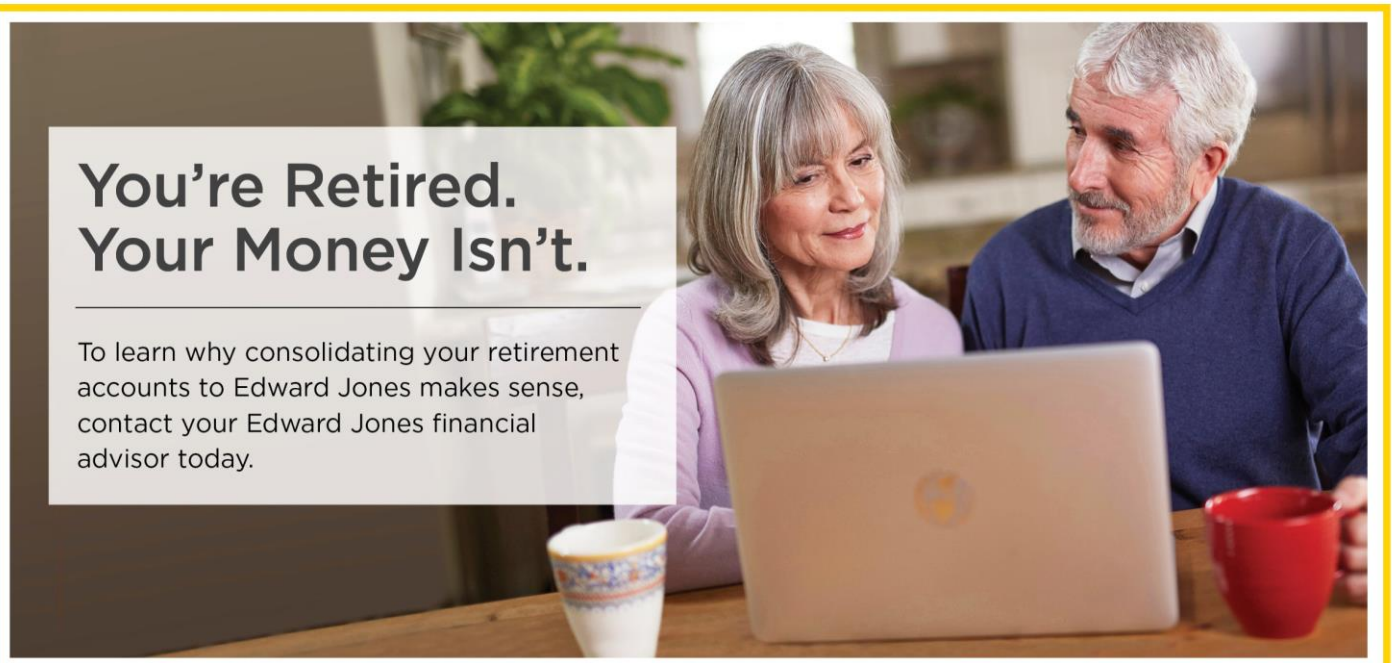

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October 4, 2020 **ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING**

The Annual Planning Meeting, for 2021 events and activities, was held on Sunday, October 4th, 2020 at Central Park Pavilion in Chesterfield. A nice contingency of club members attended with all volunteering to host or co-host! Despite a breeze in the air, the sun was shining, but it was definitely a day for a nice warm jacket.

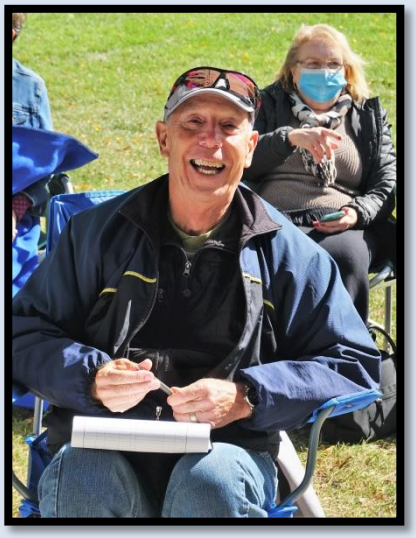
Attendees were provided with box lunches and drinks. Thank you to Frank and Luella Perry for coordinating the Planning Meeting and organizing the lunches and drinks from a local restaurant. Members were asked to bring their masks, folding chairs and great ideas for 2021.

The planning meeting was in lieu of our Annual Picnic, which had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Current details of next year's planned events and activities, as discussed at the Planning Meeting, are shown on page 1 of this Newsletter.

WHICH WICH® CATERS!

Mercedes-Benz Classic Center

HERMANN - JAN/KENNY
PICNIC -
Member Appreciation - Feb
Holiday Party - Dec
EURO AUTO SHOW - JUNE
New Year's Brunch
IL AUTUMN DRIVE - Oct



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560SL, 1986, Aubergine w/ camel interior, black convertible top, 64K miles, hardtop & carrier included, service records, no body repairs, less than 2K miles on Michelin tires, MBCA Silver Star certified, $21,900. ***Melissa Seymour at coyote1530@charter.net or 618-791-1530.***

S500 Coupe (rare), 1995 W140, Black w/gray interior. 88K miles. Very well-sorted at GLB Motorworks. Very fast – even compared to today's cars. Sold new over $100K ! $10,500. ***Randy Hawkins at 314-941-8007 or randy@hawkins-st.com.***

W107/R107 DK Brown Tonneau Cover, came with my '88 560SL when I bought it. In great condition. $30 or make offer. ***Randy Hawkins at 314-941-8007 or randy@hawkins-st.com.***

280SL Roadster, 1970, white w/black interior. 33K miles, never driven on a wet road. VIN 11304412016150. $89,900. For further details, please call ***Katie at 618-973-0019.***

SL500 Sport, 1998, Arctic White w/ oyster leather interior, 49K miles, AMG wheels w/ Michelin Sports VR tires, soft top in perfect condition, as well as hard top, new headliner, built-in phone, factory CD changer, factory first-aid kit and tools never used, all fluids current, as serviced by dealer, pristine condition! $12,500. ***Max Schnorf at m.schnorf41@att.net or 217-546-8096.***

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<u>FREE</u> CLASSIFIED ADS TO
ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION MEMBERS

If you would like to place an advertisement, please mail or e-mail it by the 15th of the month to:

Rick Siefert - rick.siefert@att.net
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MERCEDES WILL PULL BACK FROM SMALL CARS

www.roadandtrack.com

By Mack Hogan Oct 7, 2020

After a push into the entry-level luxury market with the A-Class, B-Class, GLA, and GLB, Mercedes has decided chasing sales at the low end of the market isn't worth it. Despite volumes being high—the company's eight compact models account for 25 percent of its sales, according to Automotive News—the profit margins are low. And at such low prices, it's hard to deliver the space, quality, and technology people expect in a Mercedes.

While Mercedes won't cancel any of those low-end models, the brand's new strategy is to focus on the higher-optioned, higher-priced versions of those cars. "Maybe we went at a bit too far to cover each and every space into each and every segment. Compact particularly comes to mind," board chairman Ola Kallenius told analysts, per Automotive News. "This is not where the main thrust should go, we should not become a competitor of the volume makers."

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PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Since the last publication of the Gateway News, we are proud to announce and WELCOME the following new members:

Richard Eckstrand
Jeffrey Severin
Mike Vincent
Kimberly Williams

Welcome to the St. Louis Gateway Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We have over 200 memberships within a 200-mile radius of St. Louis.

The success of our Club depends on the participation of the members to our scheduled activities. Thank you for joining. We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

The St. Louis Gateway Section Officers & Board Members

LOYAL RENEWING MEMBERS

Stephen & Kimmy Brauer
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Matthew Willmus
Robert Crancer
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Lisette Ehrat
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Hans Helbling
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Thank you for your continued support of our club !

MBCA Membership Application

Please print clearly

Full name

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E-Mail address

Occupation

Mercedes-Benz cars now owned (model/year, list additional cars elsewhere)

☐ New Member or ☐ Renewing Member (check one)

If renewing, member number: _____

Interests: please check

☐ driving events ☐ car shows ☐ social events
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WILL THE S-CLASS BE THE LAST MERCEDES SEDAN STANDING?

By Cameron Aubernon - September 30, 2020 mbworld.org/articles

Though SUVs are no match for the flagship S-Class, smaller sedans are feeling the heat on the sales floor, even from within the family.

"We've had unbelievable success with SUVs," Mercedes boss Ola Källenius told Autocar, "but the upper-luxury limousine segment is very robust. We believe that with the new life cycle, we can grow volume again, despite the SUVs. The segment seems to be particularly resilient for us."

Thus, the S-Class is on solid ground. However, the other sedan Classes may be looking over their shoulder. Reuters reported Daimler AG would cease production of sedans in the United States and Mexico following their Q2 2020 losses. This includes the C-Class, assembled in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and the A-Class, built in Aguascalientes City, Mexico. Both plants will continue to manufacture SUVs, including the GLE, GLS, and GLB.

According to CarBuzz, the GLC is Stuttgart's biggest hit in the U.S. Not just the best-selling SUV in America, but the best-selling Benz in America. Around 74,000 were sold Stateside in 2019, each starting at $42,500. That's compared to just over 12,500 copies of the outgoing S-Class, each going for $95,000 at minimum.

Yet, the S-Class is the standard all others, including the G-Class, follow. Its hegemony remains unchallenged to this day, its future brighter than ever. It may wind up the last sedan left standing in the years to come.