GATEWAY NEWS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA
SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION

"2013 MBCA SECTION OF THE YEAR"

Gateway News – March April 2017 **Volume 45 Issue 2**

DETAILING CLINIC EXTRAVAGANZA !
ST. LOUIS GATEWAY LADIES DAY OUT !
Plaza Mercedes-Benz
Saturday, April 22nd, 2017

Make your reservations **NOW** for an Automotive Detailing Clinic not to be missed ! The date of this activity is scheduled for **Saturday, April 22nd, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Plaza Mercedes-Benz General Manager, Keith McLain**, long-time St. Louis Gateway Section member and **Plaza Sales Representative, Jay Schuessler**, along with Rick Siefert, will host this event at the Plaza Mercedes-Benz Dealership.

St. Louis Gateway Section members will discover what is necessary to transform a "nice car" into a true concours winner. And what perfect timing, as the ***St. Louis European Auto Show*** will be taking place just over a months later. Several well-known detailing professionals will also be included in the day's activities.

Plaza will be graciously providing us with food and drink for lunch. All will certainly enjoy seeing the dealership's new remodel, which is scheduled for completion, prior to our Clinic. **PLEASE contact Rick Siefert** (314.435.1903 or rick.siefert@att.net) to RSVP for what will assuredly be a fun and educational event.

CALLING ALL ST. LOUIS GATEWAY LADIES ! !

Please join us on **Saturday, April 22nd** for a **Ladies Day Out.** This activity will include lunch with good friends and "non-car-related" conversation at **Josephine's**, in Godfrey, IL. **Joe Underriner, Plaza Brand Manager**, is very kindly providing Patti with the use of a 14-passenger M-B Sprinter van that she will be using to shuttle the first 14 Lucky Ladies to Godfrey ! Of course car-pooling will be arranged for the rest of the group. If you would like to be a part of this fun outing, **PLEASE contact Patti Siefert** at 314.378.0432.

AMTRAK TRIP TO KANSAS CITY
Saturday-Sunday April 29th-30th

Boarding at the Amtrak station in Kirkwood, Missouri - 9:44 a.m. on Saturday – arriving in KC at 2:55 p.m. – Return trip boards at 4:29 p.m. Sunday, arriving home at 9:40 p.m. There is parking immediately across Kirkwood Road from the station so you can leave your car there overnight, safely and inexpensively. We will all be seated in the same Amtrak car giving us a great opportunity for mingling and visiting. There is a club car, which will have donuts and some pre-packaged sandwiches. **To confirm your reservation, please send a check ($51/person, payable to 'Gateway MBCA') c/o Dana Faerber, 13231 Greenbough, St. Louis, MO 63146. Amtrak requires knowing the exact names of each person as they appear on your official ID, so please indicate those when you send in your check.**

Union Station in KC is connected by a covered and mostly enclosed Skywalk to the nearby Westin Hotel, where a block of **20 rooms has been reserved for us at a group rate of $169 + tax. Make reservations online using the link below: https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/MercedesBenzClubStLouisRoomBlockApril. Or call the reservations line at 888.627.8538 and mention you are part of the Mercedes-Benz Club St. Louis Room Block**. We suggest doing this soon.

There are no planned activities. Since we will be in KC for less than 24 hours, we felt that you should be free to make your own choices. The Westin is in Crown Center, which has many activities immediately adjacent. To get a feel for some of those attractions, visit **crowncenter.com**. You'll see you can be as busy as you want to be, or you can just enjoy relaxing and walking around to check out some of the Center's interesting shops. For dinner, you can choose from the hotel's excellent dining room, **or…contact Marti Jacquemin (314.822.2903)** who will make reservations for us at Lidia's (**Lidia's-kc.com**). Lidia Bastianich is a well-known TV Chef, specializing in Italian dishes, so it's probably well worth checking out her restaurant. The hotel has a shuttle service to deliver us there. Questions? Or just to say you can't wait; **Contact Dodie Frank at dodiejerroy@yahoo.com.**

BOTANICAL GARDENS TOUR/LUNCH
St. Louis, MO
Saturday, May 20th

SLGS members will **meet at the Missouri Botanical Garden on May 20th at 10:45 a.m., in the Sassafras Café for brunch/lunch.** The cafe is in the main building upstairs on the left, adjacent to the garden entrance. Their menu consists of soups, salads and sandwiches. The Craig Mitchell Smith art display will be in the Climatron, which includes thirty fused-glass works of art. **There is no Garden entrance fee for Garden Members or St. Louis City/County residents, if they arrive before noon. Otherwise, there will be a $12 entrance fee.**

There is an additional charge of $5 for members and $8 for nonmembers to see the Craig Mitchell Smith display in the Climatron. Tickets are on sale now for Garden Members and will be open to the public for purchase on March 1st. Further details will be provided soon and **anyone interested in this event are encouraged to RSVP to Judy Mueller NOW at Judy_Mueller@sbcglobal.net so that enough tables can be reserved together for lunch.**

2016 MBCA
SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION
Officers and Board Members

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can't believe it's February and it's breaking all records as one of the warmest months. We welcomed the New Year in with Brunch at Yia Yia's, and had a great turnout at our Member Appreciation Reception and Cars & Coffee on February 18th with over 75 People in attendance ! Special Thanks to Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis and Rick & Patti Siefert for hosting such a nice event. We had some spectacular cars as well. Looking forward to our April Events - April 22nd, which is the Detailing Clinic at Plaza M-B in Creve Coeur & the Ladies Day Out at Josephine's. Special Thanks to Dodie Frank for planning our April 29th Amtrak Train Trip to Kansas City for the weekend. Please try to RSVP for that event ASAP.

Also, pleases note that the Holiday Party date has changed from December 9th to December 2nd.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in the Spring !

Steve

Member Appreciation Reception
Cars & Coffee
Saturday, February 18th, 2017
Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis

Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis continues the tradition of its awesome support of the St. Louis Gateway Section !

General Manager, Kate Hennekes, along with new SLGS member, and New Car Sales Manager, Tom Schellhase, once again provided St. Louis Gateway Section members a fun and educational, Member Appreciation Reception, along with a wonderful Cars & Coffee event !

For two weeks prior to this activity, weather predictions were incredible, especially for the middle of February in St. Louis, but on the morning of our gathering, the streets were wet and the sky very cloudy. Nothing will "kill" a car show more than rain/wet streets. But, things started drying up and the members (over 75 of them !) gathered together, along with a truly amazing array of beautiful Mercedes-Benz automobiles, both new and old.

All were greeted upon check-in with an offer to purchase "official" MBCA name badges for the once a year Section offer of only $5 each, which included shipping. Each attendee was also provided a raffle ticket and offered a mimosa (champagne & orange juice).

We all gathered in the dealer's spacious meeting room, where coffee, juice, and a wide-array of donuts, bagels, and fruit were available. President Steve Jacquemin welcomed club members and provided all with a rundown of the upcoming club events. This was followed by an abundance of Mercedes and MBCA attendance prizes that were raffled off, along with some great automotive detailing products.

(Continued on Page 14)

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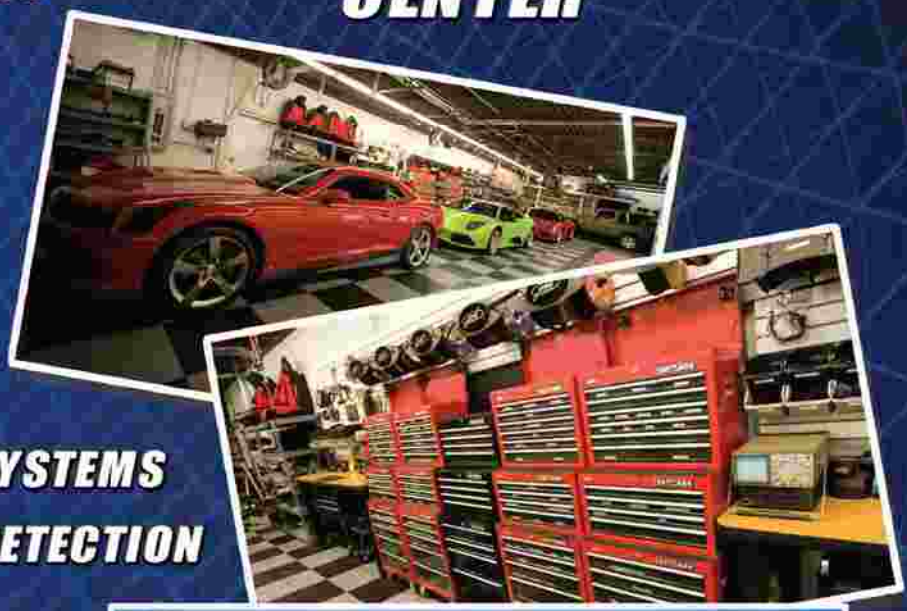

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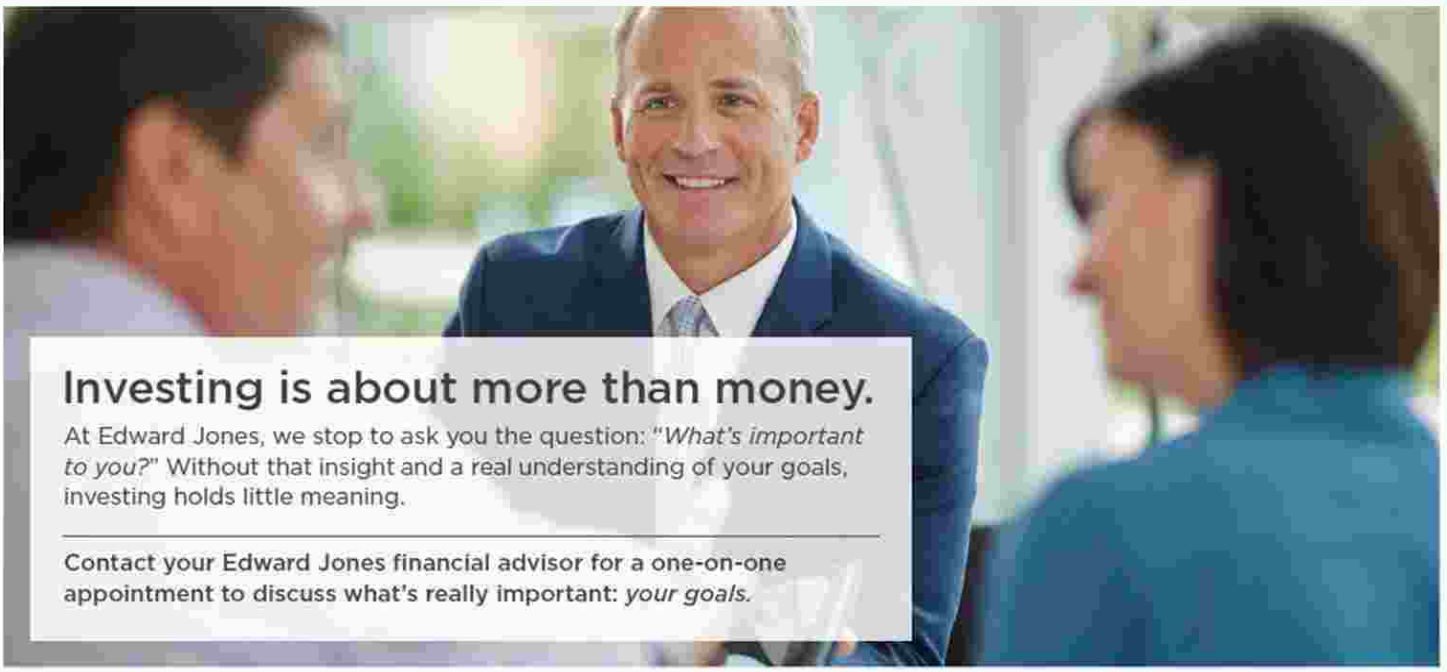

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New Year's Brunch at YaYas in Chesterfield – Sunday January 8th, 2017

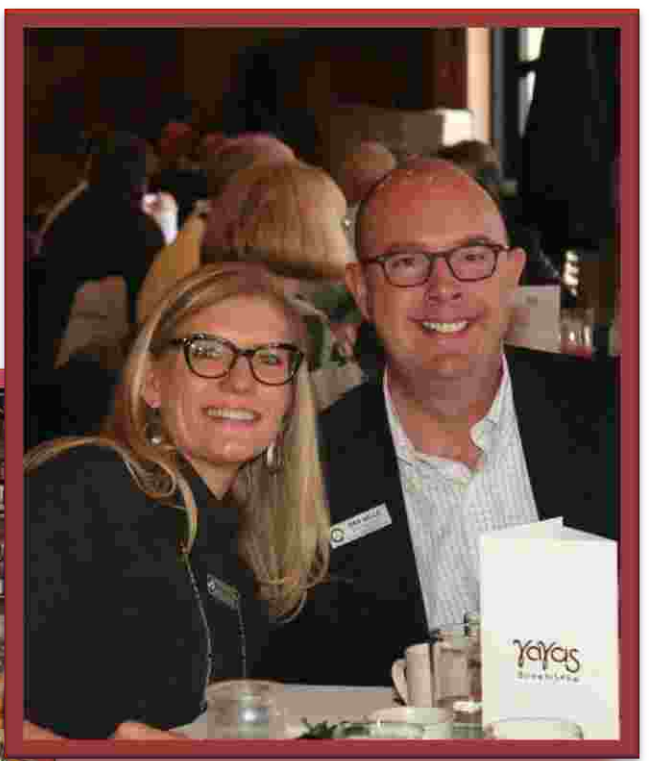
What a great turnover for our annual St Louis Gateway Section New Year's Brunch at YaYas in Chesterfield, with almost 70 members in attendance. We also welcomed new club members Joe and Joan Walsh and Bill and Patty Scherzinger.

We enjoyed a wonderful buffet-style Sunday Brunch with a wonderful array of delicious foods and beverages, including house-cured smoked Scottish Salmon, peel and eat shrimp, Prince Edward Island Mussels, made-to-order omelets, a grass-fed beef carving station, farm fresh Eggs Benedict, pancakes, French Toast, award-winning cheeses, and much more.

The weather outside was cold and gloomy but inside YaYas' restaurant the atmosphere was warm and inviting.

We were also delighted to have several guests from Mercedes Benz Plaza West Dealership in attendance. Matt McGoogan (Sales Manager) and his wife Mary, Tim Lewis (General Manager), and Tom Burtelow (Sales Representative) and his wife Jennifer.

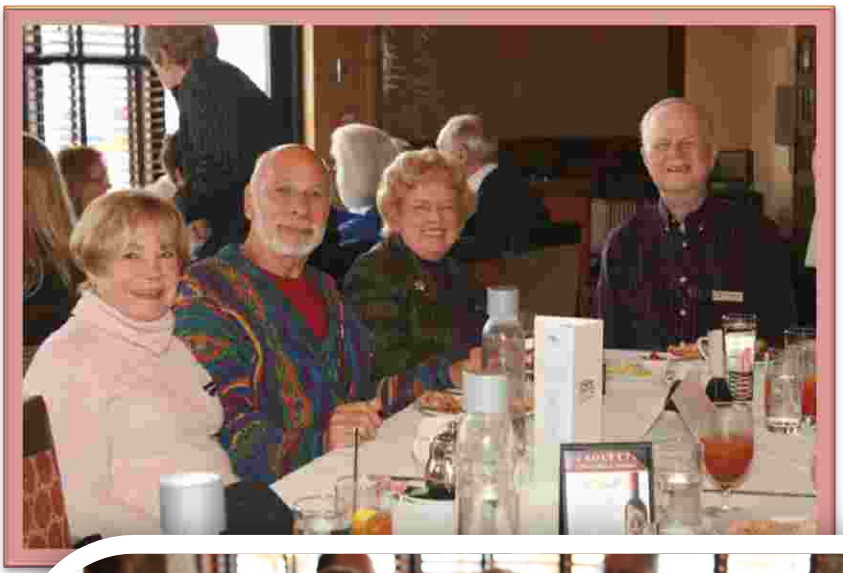
Our thanks to Dan and Michelle Valle for hosting this fabulous event.

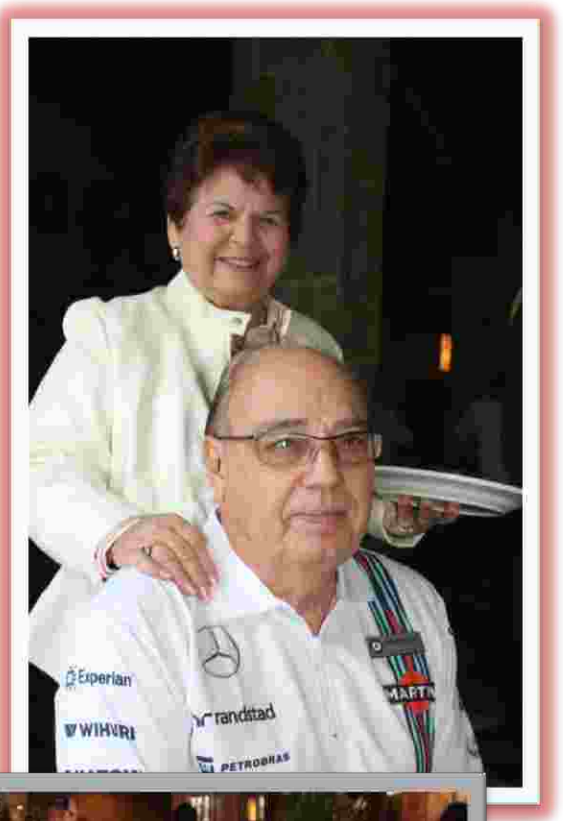


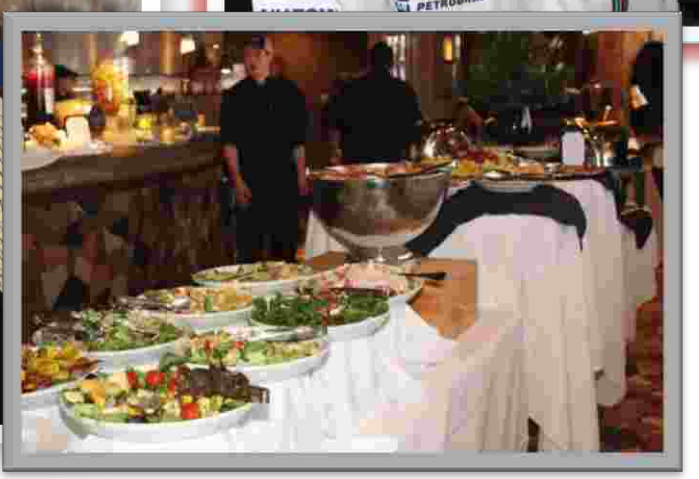
New Year's Brunch at YaYas in Chesterfield – Sunday January 8th, 2017

An amazing array of wonderful foods !

New Year's Brunch at YaYas in Chesterfield – Sunday January 8th, 2017







A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR

St. Louis Gateway Section: Mike & LIsa Regennitter, Luella & Frank Perry, Marti & Steve Jacquemin, Patti & Rick

Hello again to ALL Central Region Section members ! Patti and I have continued to travel extensively throughout our Region, enjoying the opportunity of being with you at your Holiday and New Year parties ! It is always a pleasure visiting with each and every one of you. All of these wonderful club activities prove to us once again what a unique and fun-loving group of members we are privileged to have in the Central Region. We encourage members who do not regularly attend your Section events to come out and experience the warmth and camaraderie that is offered within your group.

The St. Louis Gateway Section was honored to have the MBCA's Executive Director, Mike Regennitter, along with his lovely wife, Lisa, join us for our 2016 Holiday Party. 60 club members welcomed Mike and Lisa, while enjoying a wonderful dinner together, awards & games, along with much merriment and dancing !

Memphis Section: Cliff & Linda Reyle, Bill & Jo Anne Sudekum, Rich & Barbara Rankin, Janet & Lynn Jones, Rick & Patti

Also in December, Patti and I visited with the Memphis Section where we participated with members in the annual Germantown Christmas Parade and then a fabulous Section Holiday Party at Cliff and Linda Reyle's beautiful home !

Smoky Mountain Section: Rick, Jeff Abbott, & Bill Lenihan

To top it off, Cliff & Linda graciously invited Patti and I to spend the night in one of their "suites" ! An amazing time was had by a very respectable contingency of members, topped off by an obviously surprised Section President, Bill Sudekum, who received the well-deserved Member-of-the-Year award !

Nashville Section: Tom Diehl, Ed Johnson, Randy Bibb, Rick, Joel Morris, & Bill Rucinski

On the eve of New Year's Eve, I flew to Knoxville where I had the pleasure of joining the Smoky Mountain Section for their holiday party. It's always enjoyable spending some time with our award-winning MBCA Technical Advisor, George Murphy. Section President, Bill Lenihan and his wife, Marla, graciously welcomed me to join the Section for a delicious seafood dinner ! The evening was topped off with a surprise presentation to Jeff Abbott as the Section's Member-of-the-Year.

In January, Patti and I spent an always-enjoyable weekend with the Nashville Section. President, Randy Bibb, and his team continue to manage one of the most respected MBCA Sections. Every President, since the Section's inception in 1978, was in attendance at their Member Appreciation Luncheon at the beautiful Westhaven Golf Club in Franklin, Tennessee.

Indianapolis Section: VP Kevin Williams, Ken Salter, Rick, Diane Kafka, Secretary Sara and President Ken Koehler

It was then on to Indianapolis in February, where I had an opportunity to meet with the folks at World Wide Motors, the M-B dealership, and join the Indy 500 Section for their Valentine's Day lunch. Long-time member and most recent Section President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster, Ken Salter, was presented with a well-deserved award of appreciation.

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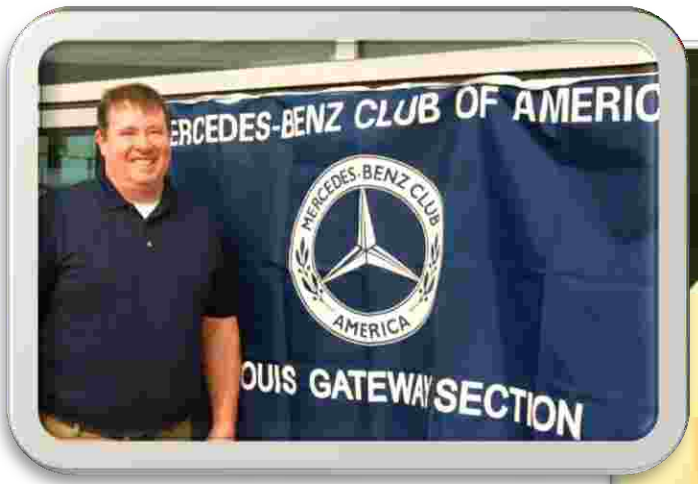
(Continued from Page 2)

Tom Schellhase also welcomed everyone, indicating that both he and his wife were excited about their new SLGS membership. He then introduced long-time club member and award-winning Sales Associate, Chris Strom, to the group. Chris gave us a very interesting and fun story about Karl Benz' enthusiastic wife, Bertha.

This wonderful club activity proved to us once again what a unique and fun-loving group of members we are privileged to have in the St. Louis Gateway Section. We encourage members, who do not regularly attend our events, to come out and experience the warmth and camaraderie that is offered within our group.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Mercedes-Benz of St. Louis for sponsoring this Special Event.



CARS AND PARTS FOR SALE

SL550 Silver Arrow Edition, 2009, Special silver paint and beautiful red premium leather. 11K miles. This perfectly maintained and immaculate automobile was dealer purchased in March, 2009 with 2K miles on the odometer. Options include Panorama roof, AMG body-styling, voice command, navigation, Keyless-Go, center console plaque stating, "1 of 550", new batteries and rear tires at 9K miles, hard-wired for trickle charger, illuminated door sills, winner of numerous awards, original sticker price of $112,450 ! At $38,990, this fantastic SL will undoubtedly sell VERY quickly ! ***Ed Barutio at 636.273.9046 or edbarutio2@att.net.***

560SL 1989, Blau/Schwartz (Blueish/Graphite Metallic) /Palomino leather. 77K miles. Fully documented services by GLB in Richmond Heights, MO since purchase. Motor mounts, shocks, steering gear box, fuel injection system; all renewed. Tires excellent, paint still lustrous, body straight, interior very good, wheels refinished. Drives excellent and everything works. Asking $22,500 or will consider offer. ***Ed Trujillo at etrujillo11@att.net or 314.775.7178.***

E320 Cabriolet, 1994, Arctic White w/ Palomino interior. 129K miles. Well-maintained vintage, future classic, in excellent condition. Original chrome wheels w/ blue MB center caps. Detailed extensive maintenance records available upon request. $15,500. ***Russ Sternberg at 314.435.9147 or rpscms@sbcglobal.net.***

280S Sedan, 1971, Dark Green w/Cognac interior. 105K miles. Weber carbs, electronic ignition, 4-speed manual transmission, 2.75 rear axle, cold AC, recent rebuild of AC system, including new compressor, dryer, large hose, & expansion valve, recent replacement of rear axle wheel bearings & seals, all records since new. $13,990. ***Alan Barker at 314.962.6857 or alan-barker@att.net.***

450SL, 1976, Astral Silver w/ red interior. 72,500 miles. Hardtop with rolling stand, original soft top in A-1 condition. This gem is original and has been properly maintained by Legend and Machens Mercedes-Benz in Columbia, MO. This M-B is ready to drive anywhere/any place. A Dream Car for just $11,900 OBO. ***Michael Koch at cedarcrestvineyards@gmail.com or 573.230.6497.***

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Rick Siefert
rick.siefert@att.net
367 West Manor Drive
Chesterfield, Missouri 63017

St. Louis Gateway Section 2017 Events

January 8th
New Year's Brunch
YaYa's

February 18th
Member Appreciation
Mercedes Benz of St. Louis

April 22nd
Detailing Clinic/Ladies Day
Plaza Motors / Josephine's

April 29-30th
Amtrak Trip
Kansas City, MO

May 20th
Tour & Lunch
Botanical Gardens

June 4th
European Auto Show
Taubman Outlet Mall

July 15th
Road Trip – Winery
Cedar Lake Winery

August
Tour & Lunch
Magic Chef Mansion, St. Louis

September 17th
Club Picnic – Show 'n Shine

October
Lincoln Museum
Springfield, IL

November 6th
Annual Planning Meeting
Mercedes Benz of St. Louis

December 2nd
Holiday Party
Magiannos

January 2017
New Year's Brunch
Bravo Cucina Italiana - Des Peres, MO

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Kit & Mark Whittington

Mark and I sure love our 2011 Mercedes Benz GLK, “Salt and Pepper twins.” They are the same year and model. Mark has the black GLK with AMG trim and I have my lovely white ride; I call “My Girl.” She is dependable, trustworthy and a perfect background for my company logo – **Seniors Home Care**.

We drive Mark’s car comfortably back and forth to Florida at least six times a year. The ride is smooth and the gas mileage is easy on the pocketbook.

Our history with a Benz began in 1997, when I bought my first – a Black Beauty! She was a 1985 300TD (Turbodiesel) wagon. I loved the long lean look, and the back was a perfect fit for a dog crate, which carried my black standard poodle – Mimi. That car took me lots of fun places. I do have to thank Judy and Alan Barker though, because my beauty spent a fair amount of time in Alan’s “fix ‘er up” bay in their garage.

A few years later I was drawn to another beautiful, fast car. She was my E55 AMG. What a ride! I really had a good time with that car, which was used every day. It was interesting how often people would approach me and offer to buy the car. Eventually, I asked Mark if he would give up his Cadillac and drive the E55 because it had more power than I needed – and I had my eye on another!

Now we’ve come full circle to my white GLK. So, for a couple of years I drove my GLK and Mark drove the E55. As we started road traveling more, we realized that we wanted another GLK and, with luck, Mark found my car’s “pepper twin.”

We have recently discussed, “what’s next?” We are not sure, but it is loads of fun to dream about!

Happy travels,

Kit & Mark.

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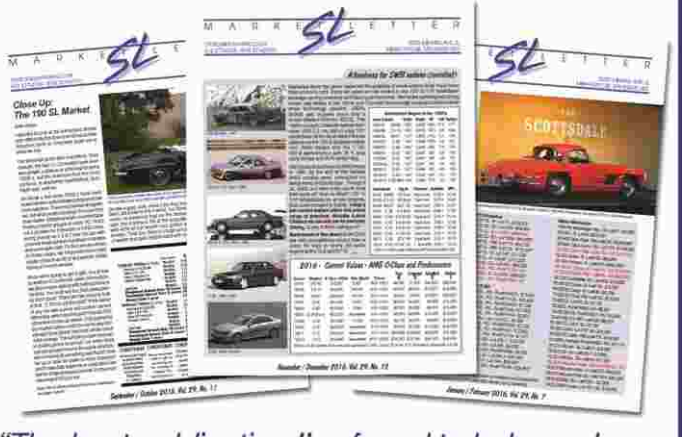

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PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Please help our membership grow. Member referrals are the best way to recruit new members. And, for each referral, you, as an existing MBCA member, will receive a **FREE** month of club membership, simply added on to your current membership period.

To the many of you who referred your family, friends, neighbors, and business associates to become a part of our Club, thank you so much for contributing to the success of the St. Louis Gateway Section.

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

Ricky & Karen Burnett
Douglas Rediger
Tom & Kathryn Schellhase
Randy Stahl
Chris Strom
Christopher Swingle
J. Weilmuenster

Welcome to the St. Louis Gateway Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America. We have over 250 memberships within a 200-mile radius of St. Louis & invite you to join us at our Events.

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 –

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION
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☐ Check/Money Order (U.S. Funds) ☐ Credit Card

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE

CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT THAN MAILING ADDRESS)

You can also join online at **www.mbca.org**
or telephone us at **(800) 637-2360** 8-5 PM (Mountain Time)

MBCA, 1907 Lelaray St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909
(719) 633-6427, (719) 633-9265 (fax)

To contribute to the MBCA Educational Foundation, please send separate check made payable to MBCAEF, 1907 Lelaray St., Colorado Springs, CO 80909.

MBCAEF, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, will furnish you with a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.

St. Louis Gateway Section
17500 Garden Ridge Circle
Wildwood, MO 63038

Detailing Clinic/Ladies Day
Plaza / Josephine
Sat, April 2nd

Amtrak Trip
Kansas City, MO
Sat-Sun, April 29th-30th

Botanical Gardens Tour/Lunch
St. Louis, MO
Sat, May 20th