



# The Prairie Star

**Fall 2014**

## MBCA - Central Illinois Section

Thank You,  
Loyal Members

For a list of our loyal members who have recently renewed their membership, see Page 2.

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About the Section!  
Who We Are & What We Do:

The Central Illinois Section has mainly been a social group enjoying technical sessions, driving events, theater and dinner events. New leadership brings new interests - and the current Leadership Team, made up of a dedicated group of Section Officers and Board Members are introducing the Section to local car shows as well as Regional and National MBCA events.

The Mercedes Benz brand is well represented in our Section, from vintage through current year models. And since this is a "car club" the lineup of events planned for this year has a heavy emphasis on events centered on the Mercedes automobile.

Most of our events are at locations in close proximity to membership concentration. And all offer a great opportunity to meet other Section members. A great group of people! Log onto <http://www.mbca.org/> for updates on upcoming and past Section events.



## **From the Desk of the CIS President:**

The weather has turned cold and the days shorter. There have been mornings that frost has covered the rooftops of the houses in my neighborhood. Traditional outdoor automotive “enthusists” activities have concluded for 2014. That means some of us have put our Mercedes Benz away for the winter and started planning activities and events for next year.

When I look back at what the Central Illinois Section initially planned for the 2014 season and what we actually executed, I am very pleased! I would like to think that we offered a variety of automotive related events for you to choose from. There were some first time events that will be added to our “preferred events” portfolio for next year as well as some repeat events. But 2015 will have even more to choose from.

Speaking of which, there is an up coming preferred event for next year; StarTech 2015 hosted by the MBCA - Cincinnati Section in June. Watch the upcoming events tab on our MBCA – Central Illinois Section website for details on our Section plans to attend this event as a group.

As part of our planning for 2015 the Board of Directors has put together a Calendar of Events for 2015 – watch for postings to the Central Illinois Section website and the Section Newsletter. As well as a set of goals that we would like to work towards achieving that includes renewed focus on increasing Section membership, a strategy to increase event participation and to do a better job promoting our Section to our members and beyond. The Board plans to use the downtime in the cold winter months to implement strategies to accomplish these goals.

I look forward to meeting each of you in the coming year and if any of you would like to host an event we are always looking for volunteers. Contact me. As always you can check out the MBCA website and watch our new Central Illinois Section website for the most current Section event information.

John Lewellen – President Central Illinois Section

### **Willkommen New Members**

Edward Cha from Dunlap, Illinois

# Fall Events Report

## Mother Road Route 66 Car Show

For this event the Central Illinois Section teamed with the Illini Chapter of the BMW Club of America for a first time event in Springfield at the Isringhausen BMW/Mercedes Benz dealership. Isringhausen treated us to a light breakfast as well as allowing us to wander around their extensive facilities and then use it as a base of operations for visiting the Route 66 Mother Road Car show that just so happened to be going on just a block away. Many city blocks of downtown Springfield were blocked off to make room for the display of hundreds of cars. Predominantly American Hot Rods there were a few European cars there. There was only one Mercedes that I saw. (Maybe we can add to the numbers next year).



# Baby You Can Drive My Car

## And Still Save \$500

Mercedes-Benz USA and authorized U.S. Mercedes-Benz Dealerships continue to offer MBCA Members \$500 off the purchase or lease price of a NEW 2014 or 2015 Mercedes-Benz.

### Questions?

Go to [www.mbca.org](http://www.mbca.org) and click "Membership." Look for complete details under the "All Benefits" tab or Call the National Business Office of MBCA at **800.637.2360** Mon-Thurs 8am-4:30pm & Fri 8am-4pm Mtn Time



More Than a Car Club. We're a Community.™

Learn more at [mbca.org](http://mbca.org)

# Fall Events Report - cont.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Classic European Car Show

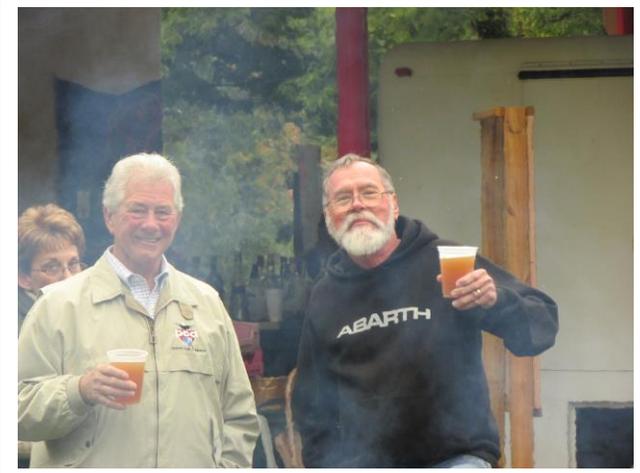
The 2nd Annual All European Car Show sponsored by Sam Lehman BMW of Bloomington was the last Car Show of the season. At least 30 cars came out to celebrate the fine craftsmanship of some of the longest running/oldest car companies around: BMW, Mercedes Benz, Porsche, MG, VW, Audi, Fiat, Jaguar, Alfa Romeo, Mini, Saab... just to name a few. Weather was cloudy and cold with sporadic rain showers throughout the day. But this couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of the event participants. Many of the classic European brands were represented. Lehman's served refreshments and presented awards for People's Choice, the oldest car and best exterior finish.



# Fall Events Report – cont.

## German/American Club Schlachtfest

We again participated with the Peoria German-American Central Society and their annual Schlachtfest celebration of German music, food, drink, entertainment, and of course, automobiles. There was no shortage of German music, excellent German food and beer, as well as an area to display German automobiles. We had wonderful weather and probably the best turnout of German automobiles for this event in years. We almost filled the display field with a strong showing from the Central Illinois Section. There was no judging or awards. But there was a lot of lively automotive discussion and arm waving.



## **MBCA Members Receive \$500 Off the Purchase of a New Airstream!**

All current MBCA Members are eligible to receive a \$500 discount on the price of a new Airstream Interstate® or Airstream Autobahn® luxury touring van. These state-of-the-art vehicles are both built on the award-winning Mercedes-Benz Sprinter chassis. These vehicles offer exquisite exterior styling, all the amenities and comforts of home and are guaranteed to turn heads while you travel in style.

More information about the Airstream discount is available on the Member Benefits page of the MBCA website. More information about the Airstream Interstate® and Autobahn® is available on the Airstream website.



# StarTech 2015

## June 12-14, 2015

### Cincinnati, Ohio



StarTech 2015 is coming to Cincinnati, Ohio – mark your calendars for June 12-14, 2015!

Welcome to Zinzinnati, as the Germans would call it! Cincinnati is rich with German heritage, including: the world's second largest Oktoberfest, plenty of German-style breweries, and the architecture of our world-famous **Over the Rhine** neighborhood.

Our roster of national and local speakers will cover topics about Mercedes old and new, in-depth questions and glossy overviews. There will be a great Welcome Party at the **American Sign Museum**, a Saturday Evening Soiree and, of course, our partnership with the regional **Ault Park Concours d'Elegance**, where Mercedes-Benz will be the Featured Marque. If you have a classic, Concours-level Mercedes and are coming to StarTech, please let us know and we will connect you with the car selection committee for the Concours.

We are thrilled that our host hotel this year is the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Cincinnati Airport. They have great spaces for our events, good food and comfortable rooms. You can learn more about the hotel and book your reservation now by clicking this [link](#).

More StarTech information and updates can be found on our [Facebook page](#) or at [startech2015.mbca.org](http://startech2015.mbca.org).

Questions or more information? Please contact Pamela Zelman at [templehill1840@gmail.com](mailto:templehill1840@gmail.com).

**Cars and Coffee at the Concours**  
**Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance**  
**March 14, 2015**  
**Amelia Island, FL**

Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance has invited MBCA members who own SL vehicles to submit for participation in the **Cars and Coffee at the Concours** display event.

Only 40 Mercedes-Benz SL vehicles will be selected for this informal display.

This is a **by invitation only** event.

The MBCA Amelia Island committee and the Amelia Island Concours committee will review submissions. The Amelia Island Concours committee will select the finalists and issue official invitations and event instructions in early March 2015.

**Vehicle submissions are due January 5, 2015.**

MBCA members who want to submit their SL for display consideration should include:

- At least one, but no more than three photos of your SL vehicle.
- The year and model of your SL and the state where your SL is licensed.
- One or two paragraphs explaining why your SL is important to you and any memorable stories that are associated with your vehicle.
- Your MBCA section of record, your MBCA member number, and your contact information (including your cell phone number).

There is no submission or participation fee for this event. The event is **only open to current MBCA members**.

Please contact William West Hopper by phone or email with questions and/or to submit your SL for consideration.

**Phone: 202.364.2852**

**Email: [wwhrestoration@att.net](mailto:wwhrestoration@att.net)**

## SURROUNDING MBCA SECTION EVENTS

MBCA Section Events from the surrounding Central Illinois area

**June 12-14, 2015 - StarTech 2015** hosted by MBCA - Cincinnati Section  
(see letter from Cincinnati Section President in this newsletter)

## Buy A Gift Membership

Mercedes-Benz Ownership Isn't Complete Without a Membership to the Club. Surprise a Friend or Family Member ...

from \$49 a Year

Go to: <http://www.mbca.org>

## CONTACTS

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What activities would you like to do with your Benz friends in 2014?

Contact a Board Member and let them know.

## CENTRAL ILLINOIS COMING EVENTS

### January

Jan 10<sup>th</sup> - Benz & Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, Morton, 9:30 am  
Jan 24<sup>th</sup> - Drive & Dine - Chanute Air Museum, 9:30am

### February

Feb 7<sup>th</sup> - Benz & Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, Morton, 9:30 am  
Feb 21<sup>st</sup> - Chicago Auto Show, McCormick Place, TBD

### March

Mar 14<sup>th</sup> - Benz & Breakfast, Cracker Barrel, Morton, 9:30 am  
Mar 29<sup>th</sup> - Drive & Dine - Route 66 Museum, Pontiac, TBD

Watch our website <http://centralillinois.mbca.org/> for the latest Section news and updates for these and many more events.

