



# The Prairie Star

Spring 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/> and have a look at our Calendar of Events.



# MBCA Fast Facts

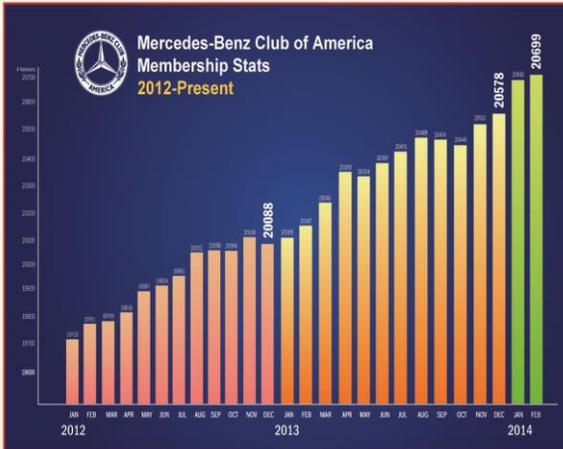
By Lisa A. Juhl, Director of Marketing



## MBCA Membership Continues to Grow

Between January 31, 2012 and February 28, 2014, MBCA membership increased **22 out of 26 months**. Thanks to referrals from Mercedes-Benz Dealerships and members like YOU, MBCA continues to enjoy slow but steady growth.

Remember, for every new member you successfully recruit, one FREE month of membership is automatically added to your membership term.



## We've Come a Long Way, Baby

The last time MBCA eclipsed 20,000 Primary members was in 2007 when membership was 20,700. At the end of February 2014 (last available tally before press time), we were **one member shy** of matching our 2007 record; as shown below:



## From the Desk of the CIS President:

Well I think the brutal winter has finally broken – there are hints of sunshine, blue skies and warmer temperatures. And I am looking forward to a great 2014 season of Central Illinois Section events.

My name is John Lewellen and I will be serving as your Section President for 2014. For those who did not know, there have been some changes in Leadership of the MBCA – Central Illinois Section. Mike Buoscio, our recently elected President has stepped down due to personal and professional commitments. He will remain as a member of the Board of Directors. I was elected at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to serve out Mike's term. I will do my best.

We have a great Leadership Team that have worked hard to put together a Calendar of Events that offers something for everyone to participate in this year. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or ideas for future events. You can find names and phone numbers on page 10 of this newsletter. Also, don't forget to check out the MBCA website for the most current Section event information. Watch for our new Central Illinois Section website – currently under construction and coming soon.

I included the Membership data to the left to show that overall MBCA membership is growing. One of our top goals for 2014 is to increase our Section membership and participation. So if you know Mercedes Benz drivers out there who are not members get them signed up.

I look forward to meeting each of you this year. If any of you would like to host an event we are always looking for volunteers. Contact me.

John Lewellen – President Central Illinois Section



## Willkommen New Members

I checked and double checked the roster; since Jan 2014 we have had no new members join.

# Start Your Summer in a New SL!

*Last Chance  
To Buy Tickets!*



Enter to Win a 2014 Mercedes-Benz SL550  
Valued at \$106,700 Plus \$26,000 Cash!  
In the Mercedes-Benz Club of America Member-Only Raffle

## *Details*

- One Grand Prize – A 2014 Mercedes-Benz SL550 plus \$26,000 cash
- Open to MBCA Members ONLY; 18 years of age and older
- Cost per Raffle ticket is \$50 US. No limit to number of tickets you can purchase
- A minimum of 4,550 tickets MUST BE SOLD to award the Grand Prize. Prize of \$106,700 US will be awarded in the form of a check to an authorized Mercedes-Benz Dealership of winner's choice (where winner will shop for his/her vehicle). An additional check, in the amount of \$26,000, will be awarded as partial Federal withholding.
- If fewer than 4,550 tickets are sold, the Grand Prize will be one-half (50%) of the gross Raffle ticket sales – less Federal withholding of 25%, or at least \$25,000 (less withholding) – whichever is greater.

## *Deadline*

Last day to purchase tickets is June 3, 2014. Grand Prize ticket will be randomly selected on June 17, 2014. Winner will be announced on [mbca.org](http://mbca.org) and in The STAR®

Vehicle featured in this ad is representative ONLY. Odds of winning dependent on total number of tickets sold. Ticket buyers and Grand Prize winner MUST be a current Member of MBCA at time of purchase and day of prize drawing. Members may attend live drawing (not required to enter or win). 100% of net Raffle proceeds shall be devoted exclusively to the lawful purposes of MBCA International Stars Section.

## *Tickets On Sale Now*

**Click:** [www.mbca.org/raffle](http://www.mbca.org/raffle) for complete rules and credit/debit card purchase instructions

**Mail:** Check your mailbox for an official mail-in order form

**Call:** 800.637.2360 weekdays, 8am-4:30pm Mon-Thurs and 8am-4pm Fri Mtn Time



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

# AMELIA ISLAND: CARS, COFFEE AND CARINI

By Larry Philyaw

For several years now I have wanted to attend the Amelia Island Concours d'Elegance, held every year in March at the beautiful Ritz Carlton and the Golf Club of Amelia Island. Second only to Pebble Beach; in terms of attracting the best in historical, rare, and extraordinary vehicles, the Concours show is on Sunday. But this year they had an invitation-only event called Cars & Coffee, where the public could get close-up looks at a wide variety of cars parked on the golf course on Saturday. Admission for this event was free, and although no official judging took place as with the Concours, there were still some very rare and gorgeous cars in attendance.

The event committee wanted to have a special display featuring a broad collection of Mercedes Benz cars, from classics to later model special interest cars. MBCA sent out a request for members interested in displaying a car, and then sent a recommended list to the Amelia organizers. My 2005 SL65 AMG was selected by MBCA and the Amelia committee, so what could I do except pop it in the car hauler and head for Florida. It was just the excuse I needed for getting to see the Concours, as well as attending the two premier collector car auctions held just before the Concours. Gooding and Company held their auction at a nearby resort on Friday, March 7th, and they auctioned about 90 gorgeous cars to the tune of around 30 million dollars. On Saturday, RM Auctions at the Ritz Carlton sold about the same number, with a 1937 Delahaye Model 135 bringing \$6.6 million. Several Mercedes did well also, with a 1957 300SL Roadster going for \$1.8 million. And a 1963 300SL Roadster for over \$2 million at the Gooding sale!

Wayne Carini (star of Chasing Classic Cars TV show) was at both auctions, and sold a 911 Porsche Lightweight for \$1.4 million at the Gooding sale. He seemed quite happy with the results, and told me the episode would be on TV in the fall. I had the opportunity to meet Wayne at the 2012 Starfest in Phoenix, where he was the honorary Concours judge. He also won awards for a car and very old motorcycle in the Concours.

If you like looking up close at some unbelievably exquisite automobiles, I highly recommend this event. It is growing in popularity every year, so make plans to go early.

## **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)



**Larry's SL65 AMG in front of MB tent at Coffee and Cars**



**Loaded up, ready to haul**



**1937 Model 135 Delahaye,  
sold for \$6.6 million at RM  
Auction**



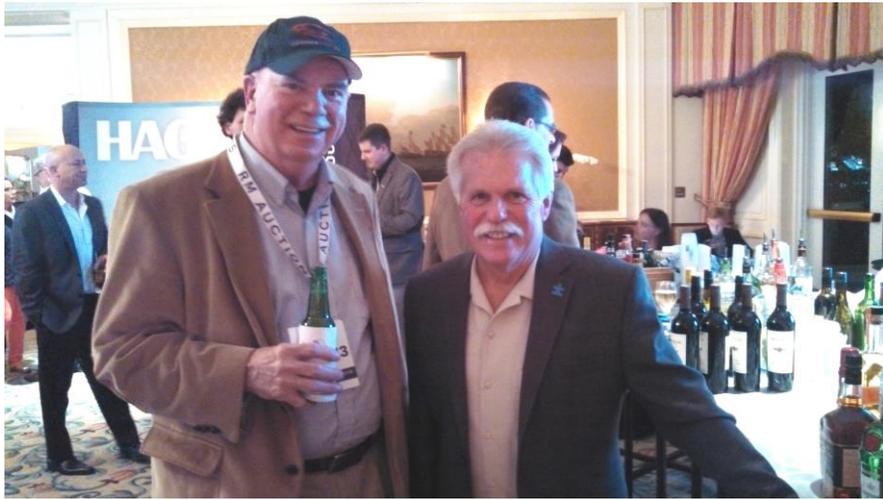
**Mercedes 300SL Gullwing  
receiving award at the reviewing  
stand**



**Gooding Auction, 1968 Porsche  
907 selling for \$3.6 million**



**Black Swan Racing's SLS in the  
Mercedes USA tent. Maggie -  
trying to get them to let her  
autocross it.**



**Larry & Wayne Carini at RM Auction hospitality preview**



**Mercedes 300SL Roadster sold at Gooding Auction for \$2M**



**Cars & Coffee Display - Larry's SL65 AMG next to gorgeous 300 Cabriolet. Mercedes USA and MBCA tent in background.**

Deposit date extended to August 1 – limited reservations left!

*Not Just a Road Trip But An Adventure!*

# CHICAGO TO KEY WEST 2015

*The Chicagoland Section Invites  
You on a Road Trip Adventure!*

- Trip includes hotel accommodations for 10 days
- Private museum tours & entertainment packages
- Guided trolley tours
- Catamaran sailing at sunset in Key West
- Unique dinner parties every evening
- Plus fun, sun & sightseeing along the way!

*All taxes, gratuities & service charges included*

Space is LIMITED to first 50 Vehicles/100 Guests  
– Don't Miss the Deposit Deadline!

\$3,975/couple; \$2,927/single

**\$400/pp deposit MUST be received by August 1, 2014**

Make checks payable to: **MBCA Chicagoland Section**  
Mail to: **Renee Welsch, 927 Shoreline Road**  
**Barrington, IL 60010**

Or pay your deposit securely online at [www.mbclub.com/2015trip](http://www.mbclub.com/2015trip)

*Questions?*

Contact Renee Welsch at  
[rrwelsch@yahoo.com](mailto:rrwelsch@yahoo.com)  
or (847) 344-1153

**August 16-26,  
2015**

MBCA Chicagoland Section

Chicago

Auburn Duesenberg  
Museum  
Auburn, IN\*

Churchill Downs  
Kentucky Derby Museum  
Louisville, KY\*

Chattanooga Choo Choo  
Historic Hotel  
Chattanooga, TN\*

City By The Sea  
Savannah, GA\*

'Oldest City' in the USA  
St. Augustine, FL\*

Dezer Collection Auto Museum  
North Miami, FL\*

Three wild and fun days in  
'Party City' Key West, FL\*

\*Overnight Stop

## A Message from the President of the Cincinnati Section;

As President of the Cincinnati Section, I would like to personally invite you to join us for **StarTech 2015** on **June 12-14, 2015!**

We are an easy drive for many of you, but if you prefer to fly, our hotel (DoubleTree Cincinnati Airport) is so close that you don't even need to rent a car. We're planning a fun **Welcome Party** on Friday evening, a day of fully interactive and live-streamed **seminars**, a **Saturday Night Soiree** and an **Ask the Experts** panel discussion on Sunday morning.

We will have plenty of ancillary events for spouses and kids. Most fun of all -- we're partnering with the regional **Arthritis Foundation Concours d'Elegance** at Ault Park, which will have Mercedes-Benz as their featured marque for 2015. Our members will have the opportunity to apply to enter their cars in the Concours, or simply park in our expanded corral and enjoy attending the show.

Cincinnati has a long and illustrious **German heritage**, and we look forward to sharing it with everyone. It would be my great joy to welcome each of you, and I hope that you'll share my invitation with your members. The official StarTech 2015 website [www.StarTech.MBCA.org](http://www.StarTech.MBCA.org) (*is not live yet* but will be soon look for a separate announcement). Keep this link for your reference and for sharing with your members. You can follow us on **now** on Facebook @ [facebook.com/MBCA|StarTech 2015](https://www.facebook.com/MBCA|StarTech2015).

We look forward to welcoming you to StarTech 2015!

Pamela Zelman, President  
MBCA Cincinnati Section

# Celebrate 120 Years of German Motorsport

5th Annual

# LEGENDS OF THE AUTOBAHN<sup>®</sup> 2014



*“Legends of the Autobahn has arrived! –  
Now a Monterey ‘must visit!’”*

MercedesHeritage.com 10.23.13

## Concours d’Elegance

MBCA’s “Competition of Elegance” is open to all Mercedes-Benz classes; 1994 model year and older. Vehicles are judged on a 100-point scoring system. Previous award winners range from a 1967 250SL to a 1988 560SEC.



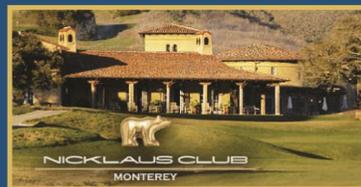
## Corral

Don’t want your vehicle judged? Enter the MBCA corral where vehicles of ANY age are displayed for spectator viewing only.

Register for Concours or Corral at [www.motorsportreg.com](http://www.motorsportreg.com). Scroll to “August 15” then to “MBCA – Legends of the Autobahn”

**LEGENDS IS MOVING TO A  
BIGGER, BETTER VENUE!**

Music | Food & Beverage Tents  
Local Media | All-Day Fun!



Date: Friday, August 15, 2014

Time: 9am-3pm

**NEW Venue:**

Nicklaus Club-Monterey  
formerly Pasadera Country Club



1966 250SE Coupe | Bob Gunthorp, Owner & MBCA Member since 1974

For more information, go to [www.legendsoftheautobahn.org](http://www.legendsoftheautobahn.org) and click on the MBCA logo or “Mercedes-Benz” or contact Laura Simonds at 650.592.7613 or [simonds@pacbell.net](mailto:simonds@pacbell.net)

## SURROUNDING MBCA SECTION EVENTS

MBCA Section Events from the surrounding Central Illinois area

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**      **St. Louis European Auto Show** MBCA - St Louis Gateway Section, Plaza Frontenac

**August 23-24, 2014**   **Milwaukee Masterpiece** MBCA – Wisconsin Section, at Veteran’s Park on Milwaukee’s lakefront

**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

### President:

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Alan Moore – 309 657-7440  
Mike Buoscio – 309 453-5561  
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### Membership:

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[Rickmccarty70@yahoo.com](mailto:Rickmccarty70@yahoo.com)



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

### April

April 5<sup>th</sup> – Cars and Coffee, Autohaus of Peoria

April 27<sup>th</sup> - Early Spring Cruise, Departs Autohaus of Peoria

### May

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - European Car Show, Café Italia, Bloomington

May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Cars and Coffee, Autohaus of Peoria

May 25<sup>th</sup> – Late Spring Cruise, Departs Autohaus of Peoria

### June

June 7<sup>th</sup> - Cars and Coffee, Autohaus of Peoria

June 14<sup>th</sup> - German Car Cruis'n, Departs Autohaus of Peoria

June 29<sup>th</sup> - Road Rally, Departs Grossinger Motors, Normal

### July

July 5<sup>th</sup> - Cars and Coffee, Autohaus of Peoria

July 27<sup>th</sup> - Summer Cruise, Departs Autohaus of Peoria

