



# The Prairie Star

Summer 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.

### Inside This Issue

1. About the Section! Who We Are & What We Do:
2. From the desk of the President  
New and Renewing Section members
3. Summer Event Reports
4. Summer Event Reports – cont.
5. Summer Event Reports – cont.
6. Summer Event Reports – cont.
7. Summer Event Reports – cont.
8. Chicago to Key West  
A Message from the President of the Cincinnati Section
9. CIS Coming Events  
CIS Exec Leadership  
Other Club Events



### 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.



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

What great weather we have had this summer! Very conducive to some great car shows and automotive activities. We had some interesting events planned for this quarter – and with the good weather, I am going to proclaim most were a success.

Through my travels to other car events I have made contact with some of the MBCA Section officers from our surrounding area and hope to be able to plan some joint events with these other Sections in the near future. I also have established relationships with officers from the BMW and Porsche Clubs. (Evident by the invites to attend 3 upcoming BMW Illini Chapter sponsored events in September).

As we move into the next quarter the year is half over and things will begin to wind down. I am open to your suggestions for events over the winter months. Meeting events, or social get togethers that might be of interest to the Section. Contact me or any of the Section Officers listed on our website.

I know our Section covers a large geographical area and for some traveling long distances is just out of the question. I would suggest if you can only make one event this year try to make the European Car Show in October sponsored by Sam Lehmen BMW of Bloomington. Watch for an info email to come out soon.

Still 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. 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**

Stanley Arnold, Coal Valley, IL

Rudolph Svadbik, Princeton, IL

Philena Tracey, Bloomington, IL

# Summer Events Report

## Cars and Coffee

The first Saturday of the month always means Cars and Coffee at Autohaus of Peoria from 9:30 until whenever. Sometimes we have 8-10 people sometime we have 1.

## Route 66 Car Show

This was a Car Show put on by the Bloomington Downtown Business Association that coincided with our Cars and Coffee Saturday. There was a small group that attend Cars and Coffee in the morning who then caravanned to Normal, IL where we stopped at Grossinger Motors, (formally Suds) for a meet and greet. Grossinger's new management staff provided light refreshments and a tour of the facility. Then the group continued on to the Route 66 event in downtown Bloomington where it absolutely poured with rain as soon as we were parked, which dampened spirits and shortened the day. It also means I didn't get any pictures.

## Early Spring Cruise

The Central Illinois Section's first cruise event of the year was a success with 10 people participating in a wonderful lunch and wine tasting at the Kickapoo Creek Winery in Edwards, Illinois. The forecasted nasty weather held off until later in the afternoon affording the group the opportunity to move from the restaurant out onto the terrace for conversation and to enjoy the pleasant weather.



## 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

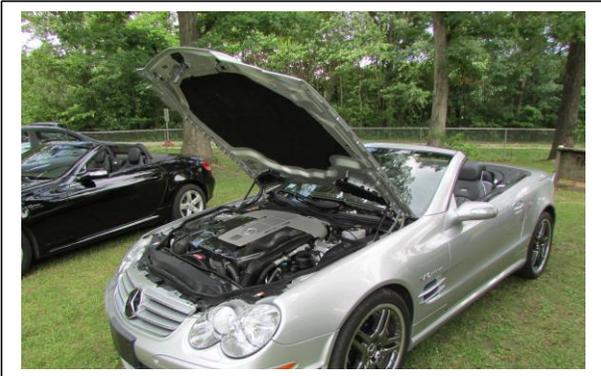


More Than a Car Club. We're a Community.™

# Summer Events Report – cont.

## German/American Sommerfest

We visited the Peoria German-American Central Society's annual Sommerfest where we were treated to live German music, real German food, drink, (including beer) entertainment and of course German automobiles. If you displayed a German automobile, entrant fee to the event was waived. There was no judging or awards, just a lot of great camaraderie with fellow German automobile enthusiasts. This event will be on the calendar for next year.



# Summer Events Report – cont.

## Mackinaw Valley Winery Arts and Wine Festival

We had gorgeous weather for the Mackinaw Valley Winery Arts and Wine Festival this year. Blue skies and not unbearably hot with a nice cool breeze. There were over 50 cars on the lawn, with 4 from the Mercedes Benz Club of America Central Illinois Section, 30 off which caravanned together to the event from Bloomington. The Pavilion featured a variety of local artists showcasing their talents and selling their art. And of course there as wine tasting and Craft beer sampling throughout the day. It was a good day sampling good wine and beer and meeting new automobile enthusiasts. This event will be on the calendar for next year.



# Summer Events Report - cont.

## European Car Show

This is an annual show sponsored by Café Italia, Bloomington, and a group of loyal customers. Over the course of the day there were in excess of 15 cars displayed, including an American Hot Rod and Japanese Rotary Mazda. (Ok, not European; but cool cars none the less). The oldest European car was a late 50's all original Alfa Romeo and the newest a beautiful red Ferrari. The English were well represented with a couple of Triumph TR-6's and an E-type Jaguar. There was a strong contingent of Porches and a lone Mercedes-Benz. The weather was good – although a little windy. This will be on the calendar for next year.



# Summer Events Report – cont.

## German/American Club Bratfest

We again participated with the Peoria German-American Central Society and their annual Bratfest. One of their bigger events we had a good turnout of Section Members. There was plenty of authentic German bratwurst and beer, live music and dancers that provided entertainment, and of course, German automobiles. We did a short cruise from Autohaus of Peoria to Hickory Grove Park, site of the festival, just north of Peoria. This event will be on the calendar for next year.



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

## SURROUNDING MBCA SECTION EVENTS

MBCA Section Events from the surrounding Central Illinois area

**Oct 11-12, 2014 Michigan/Indiana Wine Tour** – Tour hosted by the Chicagoland Section

**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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### Membership:

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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

### September

September 6<sup>th</sup> – Cars and Coffee, Autohaus of Peoria  
September 20<sup>th</sup> - Train Days and Monticellobration  
September 27<sup>th</sup> - Cruise to Isringhausen and Route 66 Celebration

### October

October 4<sup>th</sup> - Cars and Coffee, Autohaus of Peoria  
October 5<sup>th</sup> - Schlackt Fest, Hickory Grove  
October 18<sup>th</sup> - European Car Show, Sam Lehman BMW, Bloomington

### November

November 1<sup>st</sup> - Cars and Coffee, Autohaus of Peoria

