



# The Prairie Star

Summer 2015

## MBCA - Central Illinois Section

Thank You,  
Loyal Members

For a list of our loyal members who have recently renewed their membership, see Page 3.

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

The Central Illinois Section is a social group with a Mercedes Benz connection that hosts technical sessions, driving events, theater and dinner events. The section Leadership Team, made up of a dedicated group of Section Officers and Board Members meet annually to set the course for Section events.

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!

For updates on upcoming and past Section events log onto <http://www.mbca.org/>. And be sure to check out the Central Illinois Section website <http://centralillinois.mbca.org/>



## From the Desk of the CIS President:

I would like to open this Newsletter by welcoming two new members to the Central Illinois Section.

- Jon Cecil, from Peoria, Illinois
- Maung Tin, from Forsyth, Illinois

Welcome to you both!

Reminder to everyone else to log onto the MBCA website and check your profile. Make sure current email address and phone number(s) are listed. Since email is the primary method that we use to communicate with you it is important that you keep your email and phone information up-to-date so you do not miss any Club and Section happenings.

After starting the new Benz & Breakfast event – a monthly Benz & Breakfast; the 1st Saturday of the month, we hadn't had more than 1 event at our new location; ***The Savory House*** in Morton, when it suddenly closed. At this point a new location has not been determined. Contact [SLDriver@outlook.com](mailto:SLDriver@outlook.com) if you would like to suggest a new breakfast location.

The new Drive & Dine event added for 2015, the goal of which is to encourage members to get together informally to share camaraderie and Mercedes Benz fellowship, has not gotten off the ground yet and is still looking for someone to showcase a favorite, (sometimes little known), eatery. If you would like to volunteer to be a host/hostess for a "Drive & Dine" event contact [SLDriver@outlook.com](mailto:SLDriver@outlook.com) with your suggested location and date to volunteer for a very easy hosting opportunity.

As I mention in every newsletter; I look forward to meeting more members 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 <http://www.mbca.org/> and watch our new Central Illinois Section website <http://centralillinois.mbca.org/> for the most current Section event information.

John Lewellen – President Central Illinois Section

# Summer Events 2015

## Conklin Dinner Theater Outing

On Sunday, June 7th, Seven Central Illinois Section members, associate members and friends attended a dinner theater musical/comedy production at the Barn II near Goodfield, Illinois. John Haverhals, Section Treasurer, reports the production of **Smoke on the Mountain**, a 1990 off-Broadway play with 475 performances, has become one of the most produced shows ever. It is based on the Sauders family musical group's visit to the Baptist Church in Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina. It's songs are mostly old gospel hymns.

Pat Kellogg reported that "members enjoyed delicious food and light-hearted entertainment". "It was the last performance and the cast and crew saved the best for last. They enjoyed performing as much as the audience enjoyed watching".

All agreed that this was a good Mercedes Benz Club tradition to keep going. As the participants made their way home a heavy wind and rain struck, the second of three rain storms that day. But that couldn't dampen an enjoyable afternoon for all. Special thanks to Bernice and John Haverhals for coordinating the event.

## Mackinaw Art and Wine Festival and Cruisin'

Mackinaw, Illinois - Sunday 7/26

Four Central Illinois Section members attended this annual event. The winery is a great venue in a lovely setting. Combined with Craft Beer and wine sampling, Artisan vendors selling crafts, this makes a great event for the wives. The weather started out iffy, with rain storms predicted. But it turned out to be a really lovely day. No rain, not too overly hot and with a steady cool breeze.



## Community Car Corral 2015

This is a list of notable Community Car Shows and events from around the area that are not on the Central Illinois Section Calendar of Events, but might be fun to do. These run the gambit from Car Shows just for European cars to Car Show fundraisers. If you are interested in attending any of these contact me at [SLDriver@outlook.com](mailto:SLDriver@outlook.com) or just show up.

## August

### **British Car Show**

LeClaire, Iowa - Saturday 8/1 All Day  
Show grounds are just 2 blocks from the home of American Pickers TV Show.



### **Bratfest and German Car Show**

Dunlap, Illinois - Sunday 8/2 Noon to 5pm  
German bratwurst and beer. Car Show is open to Hot Rods, Muscle Cars, Sports cars and Convertibles of any make.



## Tractor Pull

McLean County Fairgrounds, Bloomington, Illinois  
Wednesday 8/5 5pm and Thursday 8/6 5pm  
If you have never been, this is definitely a ground pounding event!

## Dooley Park Car Show

Downs, Illinois – Saturday 8/8 4:30pm-8:30pm  
24<sup>th</sup> Annual Event: Live music, Food concession provided by the Boy Scouts. Coordinated by the Bloomington Community Car Club in conjunction with the Downs Events Committee.

## Italianfest and Cruisin'

Dunlap, Illinois; Sunday 8/9 Noon to 6pm  
Italian Festival featuring classic cars and fine Italian Cuisine. Come and go as you please. Cars are limited to Italian made only.



## Pontiac Cruise Night

Pontiac, Illinois - Saturday 8/15 5pm – 9pm  
Now in its 8th year this community event brings everyone downtown to see and watch the cars of yesteryear. Click for [here](#) for website.



## Bloomington Community Car Club Dinner Cruise

Bloomington, Illinois 8/21 6pm  
Organized cruise from Bloomington to Chenoa, Illinois for dinner and impromptu car show at the Chenoa Family restaurant.

## Geneva Concours d'Elegance

Geneva, Illinois; Sunday 8/23 All Day  
Enthusiasts will gather in Geneva to view beautiful collection of automobiles. Open to the public no cost. There is a display area reserved for car clubs and their members' collector cars. This reserved display area is located behind the Old Kane County Court House on Third Street and is adjacent to the official Concours site. Registration required. Click [here](#) for registration form.

## September

### Crusin' the Mansion Cruisin'

Davis Mansion, Bloomington, Illinois  
Saturday 9/12 11am to 4pm  
Annual mansion fundraiser coordinated by the Bloomington Community Car Club.

### Twin Cities Monthly Cruise-In

Bloomington, Illinois; Saturday 7/11 5pm  
Informal Cruisin' located at Towanda Plaza Shopping Center, 1210 Towanda Avenue. Click for [here](#) for website.

### The British Union Car Show

Harper Community College, Illinois –  
Sunday 9/13 All Day

Largest British Car Show in Illinois.  
Click [here](#) for website.



## **October**

### **Railroad Days**

Monticello, Illinois; Saturday 9/19 9am – 5pm  
Come ride vintage passenger and freight trains on the former Illinois Central and Illinois Terminal main lines. Click [here](#) for website.



### **Euro Car Show**

Village of Long Grove, Illinois 9/19 8am – 4pm  
European Autoschau is a concourse event for everyone. European automobiles of any make & model to enjoy the laid-back atmosphere with an Oktoberfest flavor. Click [here](#) for website.

### **Westminster Nursing Home Car Show**

Bloomington, Illinois; Saturday 9/26 1pm – 3pm  
The Westminster residents get such joy admiring the cars, trucks, and tractors each year at this annual show. Their stories are told on the day and for weeks following; as a result of interacting with the cars.



### **Schlachtfest and German Car Show**

Dunlap, Illinois; Sunday 10/4 noon – 8:30pm  
German Cars and Motorcycles. Cruis'n runs from 11:30 am to 5 pm - Fest to 8pm  
Events include Arts and Craft Village. Entertainment, German food, German Beer, and Great Family Fun!



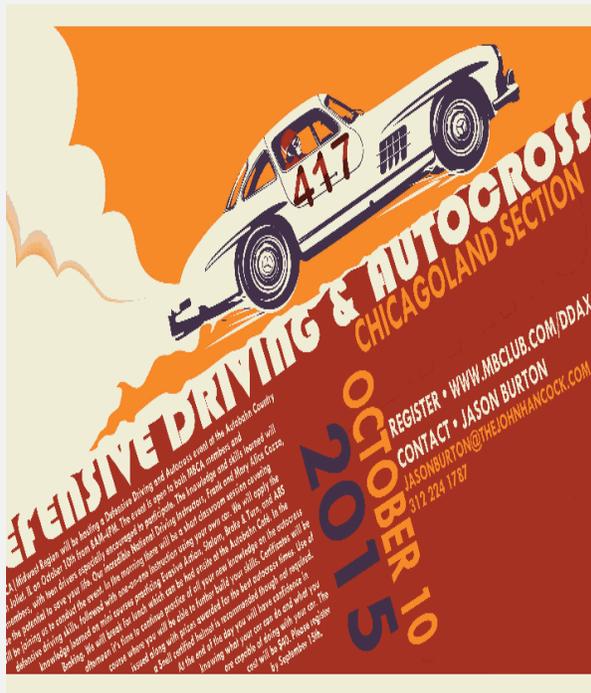
### **European Classic Car Show**

Sam Lehman BMW, Bloomington, Illinois  
Saturday 10/TBD 9am – 3pm

Last enthusiast car show for the season. Usually cold and damp. But always a large turnout of outstanding cars and enthusiasts from many of the local area car clubs.



If you have any questions or need additional information on any of these events email [SLDriver@outlook.com](mailto:SLDriver@outlook.com)



Jason Burton from the Chicagoland Section reports that the MBCA|Midwest Region will be hosting a Defensive Driving and Autocross event at the Autobahn Country Club in Joliet, IL on October 10th from 8AM-4PM.

The event is open to both MBCA members and non-members, with teen drivers especially encouraged to participate. The knowledge and skills learned will have the potential to save your life. National Driving Instructors, Frank and Mary Alice Cozza, will be conducting the event. In the morning there will be a short classroom session covering defensive driving skills, followed with one-on-one instruction using your own car. Then an opportunity to apply the knowledge learned on mini courses practicing Evasive Action, Slalom, Brake & Turn, and ABS Braking.

We will break for lunch which can be had onsite at the Autobahn Café. In the afternoon it's time to continue practice of all your new knowledge on the autocross course where you will be able to further build your skills.

Certificates will be issued along with prizes awarded for the best autocross times. Use of a Snell certified helmet is recommended though not required. The cost will be \$40. Please register by September 15th.

Questions? Contact Jason Burton [jasonburton@thejohnhancock.com](mailto:jasonburton@thejohnhancock.com) or 312-224-1787

## Iowa Hawkeye Section Clean Car Show

Norm Dean, President of the Iowa Hawkeye Section has invited members and friends of the Central Illinois Section to attend their Clean Car Show August 15<sup>th</sup> in Bettendorf, Iowa. A delicious meal will be served at noon, and liquid refreshments will be available. If you are interested in attending please email Norm Dean at [iowalion@msn.com](mailto:iowalion@msn.com) or phone him on 563-650-8362. Registration due By August 7.

For those traveling from out of town a block of 10 rooms has been reserved for Friday night, August 14 at the Hampton Inn – Davenport. This is a fine facility, with large rooms and very close to the restaurant where we will meet for dinner Friday night. Reservations must be received by August 1. Phone 563-441-0001 using group code IHS/Reunion. Check-in time is at 10am. This will give you time for some last minute clean up and polishing of your car. There will be time for socializing and checking out your competition.

For those that live in the area and those that are coming the night before, arrangements have been made for dinner off the menu on Friday night at Biaggi's Italian Restaurant located at 5195 Utica Ridge Road, just across the street from the Hampton Inn. Social time will start at 6pm followed by dinner at 6:30pm.

A new feature this year at the Clean Car Show is an opportunity to have your car judged for the MBCA Silver Star Preservation Award. This class is for driver quality cars that are largely original and unrestored since new. Briefly to qualify, the following are required: The car must be 25 years old; must be driven to this MBCA event; have all safety items operating. If you are interested in entering your car please let Norm Dean know at [iowalion@msn.com](mailto:iowalion@msn.com). If you have any questions, please call Norm at 563-650-8362.

The Clean Car Show will be held in beautiful Lagoon Park in Bettendorf. An excellent setting for a Car Show, with lots of shade, picnic shelter with restrooms surrounding a small lake.

Directions to Lagoon Park, Bettendorf

Via I 80 & I 74 from Motel go back to I 74 and go south on I 74 to exit 3, Middle Road and turn left.

Via I 80 & I 74 Exit 3 from I 74 and go east on Middle Road until you come to 18th Street and stoplight.

Turn right and go about .5 miles until you come to a bridge that crosses Duck Creek. Turn left on Parkway Drive before crossing the bridge. There should be a sign there with MBCA and an arrow pointing to the left. Follow road until you come to Lagoon Park.

## **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.



## SURROUNDING MBCA SECTION EVENTS

**Aug 9, 2015 – Show N Shine** – Carmel, Indiana hosted by 500 Section

**Aug 15, 2015 - Clean Car Show** – Bettendorf, Iowa hosted by MBCA Iowa Section

**Aug 22, 2015 - Milwaukee Club Day Car Show**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, hosted by MBCA Wisconsin Section

**Aug 23, 2015 - Milwaukee Concourse** – Milwaukee, Wisconsin, hosted by MBCA Wisconsin Section

**Oct 10, 2015 - Fall Colors Drive** – Bettendorf, Iowa – hosted by MBCA Iowa Section

**Oct 10, 2015 – Defensive Driving and Autocross** – Joliet, Illinois – hosted by the Chicagoland Section

## 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 would you like to do with your "Benz" friends in 2015?

Contact a Board Member and let them

## CENTRAL ILLINOIS COMING EVENTS

### August

August 2nd- Bratfest and Car Show, Dunlap, Illinois, Noon

### September

September 12<sup>th</sup> – Cruisin' at the Mansion, Bloomington, Illinois, 11am – 4pm

### October

October 4<sup>th</sup> – Schlachtfest, Dunlap, Illinois, Noon – 8pm

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

