

ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION NEWSLETTER



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**MBCA Mission Statement:
To Elevate The Mercedes-Benz
Experience Through
Knowledge, Camaraderie,
and Exceptional Events.**

UPCOMING EVENTS PG. 3

APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Plaza Mercedes-Benz | Sat., March 23rd

NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH

Chesterfield, Mo | Sun., Jan. 14th

ST. LOUIS ART MUSEUM VISIT AND LUNCH Saturday, February 10th

Our February Event promises to be very special and is limited to just thirty lucky members. We will convene on Saturday, February 10th at 10:30 am at the **Panorama restaurant in the St. Louis Art Museum (SLAM)** for a unique presentation. This presentation will explain “behind the curtain” insights into the preparation of major international art shows at SLAM, from beginning to conclusion, followed by a lunch at the museum’s wonderful Panorama restaurant.

We are extremely fortunate to have as our guest speaker the St. Louis Art Museum’s Senior Curator, Judith Walker Mann, PhD. She has staged international award-winning exhibitions for SLAM, is very entertaining, and will share her unique insights.

Have you ever wondered how major art exhibitions are created? Once the germ of an idea for the show is formed, how does a curator narrow down works that best represent the theme? What about funding to stage it? How much space can be reserved at the originating museum and how much can be had at subsequent venues? Logistically, how does one get approval to borrow major works of art from around the world? What goes into transporting, insuring, and displaying them? And once those challenges are met, how about writing, editing, and publishing a coffee table book to accompany the exhibition?

Mrs. Mann’s presentation, with ample time for Q&A, will be followed by a luncheon at SLAM’s Panorama restaurant., which has breathtaking views of Forest Park and an excellent menu. Our host, Lee Naas, will happily forward to you the three-course fixed price offering. This will also be included in an upcoming e-mail blast.

After lunch, take some time to roam through the galleries.

RSVP NOW, as we only have the ability to accommodate 30 lucky members, by contacting Lee Naas at lee63141@aol.com or 314-952-6227. Reservations will be confirmed upon receipt of your \$35 per person check, which should be made payable to “MBCA, St. Louis Gateway Section” and mailed to Lee Naas, 13515 Ladue Farm Road, St. Louis, MO 63141.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HELLO ST. LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION MEMBERS!



HAPPY NEW YEAR, FRIENDS!

St. Louis Gateway Section members once again gathered to enjoy three great and diverse events ! Our Fall Picnic and Show and Shine Car Show was excellent on a beautiful day! Attendees at our Planning Meeting certainly came to the table with some great ideas for our 2024 Events and Activities! Thanks to those who have agreed to host or co-host these events. And.....Joan Walsh put her organizing talents to the test by providing attendees of the Holiday Party an over-the-top evening and dinner to not be forgotten!

attendees of the Holiday Party an over-the-top evening and dinner to not be forgotten!

You'll want to plan to join us for a repeat "performance" of last year's super popular New Year's Brunch, which will be held this year on Sunday, January 14th at Addie's Restaurant in Chesterfield!

On Saturday, February 10th, 30 club members will have a unique opportunity, as we visit the wonderful St. Louis Art Museum and have lunch together in the museum's Panorama Restaurant, overlooking Forest Park.

GM, Daniel Branca, has offered to hold this year's Member Appreciation Reception at Plaza on Saturday, March 23rd.



Long-time member, friend to many – who is she? First person to correctly identify this Lady will receive one free pass to our February visit and lunch at the St. Louis Art Museum.

Steve Sullivan, our good friend, SLGS member, and newly elected President of the St. Louis Region of the Porsche Club of America.



Wishing you ALL a Happy, Healthful, & Prosperous New Year!!

Rick Siefert
President
St Louis Gateway Section



2023 MBCA SAINT LOUIS GATEWAY SECTION Officers & Board Members

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S BRUNCH

Addie's Restaurant, Chesterfield | Sunday, January 14th, 2024

Our **2024 New Year's Brunch** is literally right around the corner! **RSVP** and mail your check **NOW!** The date is **Sunday, January 14th**, beginning at 10:30 am and the location will once again be at last year's extremely popular, **Addie's Restaurant**, 14156 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield.

Addie's restaurant owner, Louis Brinckwirth will again put together a fantastic selection of traditional American and Thai foods for us. Coffee, tea, and juice will be included, but one can also purchase delicious Bloody Marys, Mimosas, Bellinis, etc.

Cost for this wonderful gathering is just \$35/person, including tax and tip. Please RSVP to Rick, along with mailing him your check made payable to: 'MBCA, St. Louis Gateway Section', to Rick Siefert, 846 Nardin Drive, Chesterfield, MO 63017.

MEMBER APPRECIATION RECEPTION

Plaza Mercedes-Benz | Saturday, March 23rd

ALL members are encouraged to join us for our Member Appreciation Reception at Plaza Mercedes-Benz on **Saturday, March 23rd, beginning at 5:30 pm. Daniel Branca, General Manager of Plaza Mercedes-Benz**, has graciously offered to host this always popular Event for our club. Members who have joined our Section over the past year will be recognized and all members will have the opportunity to purchase official MBCA name-badges for only \$12!

The dealership will be providing us with finger foods and snacks, along with soda & water and Gail & Gary Griffin will graciously be providing wine to share with members.

So that we can finalize our plans, **PLEASE RSVP by March 16th to Rick at rick.siefert@att.net**, providing him with you and your associate's name.



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ANNUAL FALL PICNIC

Addie's Restaurant, Chesterfield | Sunday, October 8th

Wow, after having to postpone the date of our original planned Annual Fall Picnic, the new location, just two weeks later, could not have worked out better!

Addie's Restaurant owner, Louis Brinkwirth and his staff totally stepped up to the plate and hosted a picnic for us that we will always remember! The food prepared by Addie's was fantastic, complimented by the beer and wine provided by our Section.

Many door prizes were given to members and our Show & Shine Car Show winners were: **3rd Place:** Tripp & Shanon Manheimer with their 1978 450SL, **2nd Place:** Lee & Dale Naas with their 2018 AMG GTS, and **1st Place:** Joe & Joan Walsh with their 1969 280SL.



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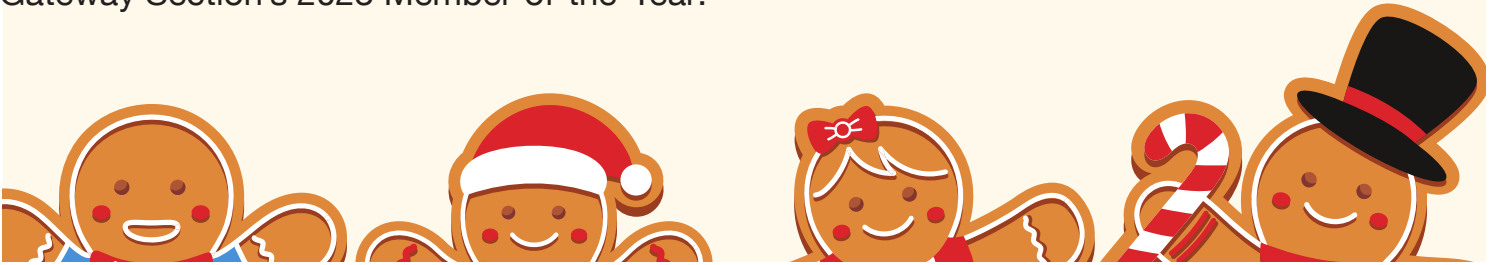


WONDERFUL SLGS HOLIDAY PARTY! Greenbriar Hills Country Club | Sunday, December 3rd

As expected, Joan Walsh pulled off a fantastic Holiday Party for us at Greenbriar Hills Country Club on December 3rd!! The table settings, the food and drink, the fun of playing the Rob Your Neighbor game, and as always, the comradery that always exists among our members, made this a wonderful party for all who attended.

Rick welcomed Regional Director, Ken Koehler and his wife Sara, who drove in from Indianapolis to join us. We also welcomed new members, Jeff Ehimuh, Becky and Patrick Lynn, and Jason Miltenberger his daughter, Paige, and girlfriend, Liz. And, it was also great having Pat White and Roy Evers with us, who we hadn't seen for several years.

Rick noted that in 2023, several of our members had gone above and beyond in their volunteer efforts, serving as board members, hosting, or co-hosting events, etc. But, we had one individual who was a tremendous standout, while barely being in our club two years! This individual performs his various duties expertly, with minimal direction. For his continued exceptional efforts as both our Membership Chair and Webmaster, Jonathan Leggs was selected as the St. Louis Gateway Section's 2023 Member-of-the-Year!



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2023 WRAP-UP

Central Regional Director, Ken Koehler

The second year of my first term as Central Region Director went by very quickly for me, highlighted by my first Regional event in June and then the first Mercedes Grande event in September. So, here I am recalling all the highlights of the Central Region in 2023 that Sara and I took part in.

With the invaluable help of my committee for my first Regional Event, Anne Gilliland, Ann Mudge and Mike Gillespie, we were able to put together a fun weekend in Nashville. The festivities were capped off by an incredible send off party hosted by Rick and Patti Siefert. The whole weekend was great but I think all who were there will admit that the “party” was incredible! What a fun time for all those who participated in the Nashville event.

Following in July was the always enjoyable Keeneland Concours, sponsored by the Bluegrass Stars Section. On a rainy Saturday in Lexington, KY, many MBCA members and hundreds of others visited and looked at an incredible collection of beautiful cars. The Bluegrass Stars Section and I really want to thank the local Mercedes dealership in Lexington for their continued support of this event and providing several of the new Mercedes vehicles to look at and admire. I want to give a special call-out to Anne Gilliland, president of the Bluegrass Stars and all the members who have been working for years to make Mercedes Benz the featured brand of this event a reality. Next year, Mercedes will be featured at the Keeneland Concours. It would be fantastic if members from all over the Central Region could participate and display their vehicles at the show! Watch your emails for more details of this event in 2024.

Another first for the Region in 2023 was the national Mercedes Grande Event, hosted by the IN Crossroads Section in Indianapolis. A long weekend in Indy was the brainstorm of Crossroads’ president Roger Brummett. Members from all around the country supported and attended Grande. For those that missed it, you missed an incredible event. It began with a talk by Al Unser, Jr., the only driver to win the Indy 500 in a Mercedes powered vehicle and ended with our own race car drivers competing for a trophy in a Formula One race (all simulation, of course).

The last Regional event Sara and I were able to attend was the Renaissance Euro-Fest hosted by Mike Marsh and the Mississippi Section in Ridgeland, MS. All I can say is the weather and cars were gorgeous and Mike had a great weekend of events laid out for those who attended. I highly recommend you consider attending this event next October in Mississippi.

At the recent National board meeting, Drew Webb was elected as our new National president. Your help within your Section is sorely needed and appreciated to volunteer and help find new members. Talk to your friends who may have let their memberships lapse and ask them to come back. We can all help the MBCA financially by attending local and national events and working at the local level to recruit new members.

I have enjoyed my first two years as RD and visited all Central Region Sections this year and several more than once. Sara and I have enjoyed travelling and meeting as many of you as we could. Thank you for welcoming us and if we can all work together, we can make MBCA and our Sections stronger and better than ever before!

HOW TO READ A TIRE SIDEWALL

They all come in the same color, but that doesn't make shopping for the right tires to match your needs or specific vehicle any easier. There's a lot of information to consider, but thankfully, most of the details are listed right on the sidewall.

How to Find Tire Size

The best place to start is with the large numbers stamped onto the sidewall. These numbers explain fundamental tire dimensions. In this example, 235/55R19, the 235 indicates the width of the tire at its widest point, measured in millimeters. Directly after the slash is the tire's profile or sidewall height, indicated as a percentage of its width (in this case, 55 percent). The "R" that follows denotes typical radial construction. Again, in this example, the denotation ends with the number "19" as this tire fits a 19-inch wheel.

How Much Speed Tires Can Safely Handle

The speed rating is important because although your vehicle's speedometer might max out at 170 mph, it's ultimately up to the rating of the tire that will determine what the vehicle can actually handle.

Here's a list of the most common speed ratings:

L: 75 mph, M: 81 mph, N: 87 mph, P: 93 mph, Q: 99 mph, R: 106 mph, S: 112 mph, T: 118 mph, U: 124 mph, H: 130 mph, V: 149 mph, W: 168 mph, Y: 186 mph, Z: more than 149 mph.

How To Read Tire Age

Like a birth certificate, your tires have documentation of where they were made and when. To find this, look for the giant "DOT" (Department of Transportation). The sequence of letters that follows is a code that represents its manufacturing plant, which is then followed by the manufacturing date. The first two digits indicate the week it was built followed by the production year.

According to the experts at Tire Rack, tires five years or older should be inspected periodically for signs of degradation. Tires more than six years old, even if they haven't been mounted to a wheel and properly stored, should not be used. However, any tire, even a spare, manufactured more than 10 years ago is simply too old to be trusted. Keep in mind, that a vehicle's model year or production date doesn't directly correlate to the tire's production date.

How to Know if Tires Are Good for the Winter

Without getting too deep in the weeds on the difference between all-season, all-weather, summer, winter, all-terrain, and mud-terrain tires, know that there are specific seals of approval on whether a tire, no matter its category, can handle severe weather conditions.

How to Read Directional Tires

Directional tires have a specific tread pattern where the tread blocks, grooves, and sipes are designed to roll in one direction. Sometimes designated with stamping that show "Inside" and "Outside," most directional tires show an arrow of rotation. For the sake of avoiding any confusion, understand that while a vehicle is moving forward, the wheels on the driver's side of the car are spinning counterclockwise while the wheels on the passenger side spin clockwise.

What's the Maximum Pressure for My Tires

Tires also have a recommended maximum air pressure (in psi) that—while somewhat useful—is only a small piece of information when it comes to knowing what pressure setting to use for your tires. Never use the max pressure rating on the sidewall to determine how much air to put into your tires. Instead, use the manufacturer's recommended information provided on the placard that's often found in the driver's door jamb of your car. Depending on the vehicle, this could mean the front or rear tires have different recommendations.

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CERAMIC COATING BENEFITS

**By Jim Winkelmann (Jim@FrontenacDetailing.com)
Owner, Operator, & Certified Detailer of Frontenac Detailing**

Ceramic coatings have emerged as a revolutionary solution in various industries, offering a multitude of benefits that extend far beyond their aesthetic appeal. Whether applied to automotive surfaces, industrial equipment, or household items, ceramic coatings have proven to be a game-changer.

One of the primary advantages of ceramic coatings is their exceptional durability. Unlike traditional coatings, ceramics form a strong, protective layer that is resistant to scratches, chips, and harsh weather conditions. This durability ensures a longer lifespan for coated surfaces, reducing the need for frequent maintenance and replacements. In the automotive realm, ceramic coatings provide an added layer of defense against road debris, bird droppings, and UV rays, preserving the vehicle's finish and enhancing its resale value.

Furthermore, ceramic coatings exhibit remarkable hydrophobic properties. The hydrophobic nature of these coatings means that water and other liquids are repelled from the surface, preventing water spots, stains, and corrosion. This characteristic is particularly valuable in industrial settings where equipment is exposed to harsh chemicals and environmental elements. By maintaining a clean and corrosion-free surface, ceramic coatings contribute to the longevity and efficiency of machinery and infrastructure.

Another noteworthy benefit is the ease of cleaning facilitated by ceramic coatings. The smooth, non-porous surface created by these coatings makes it difficult for contaminants to adhere, simplifying the cleaning process. Whether it's dirt on a car or residue on industrial machinery, the application of a ceramic coating streamlines maintenance efforts and reduces the time and resources required for cleaning.

In conclusion, ceramic coatings offer a range of benefits, from enhancing the aesthetic appeal of surfaces to providing durable protection against the elements. Whether in automotive or industrial contexts, the application of ceramic coatings represents a wise investment, offering long-term protection, ease of maintenance, and energy efficiency. As technology continues to advance, the potential applications and benefits of ceramic coatings are likely to expand, further solidifying their role as a valuable innovation in surface protection. You can expect to pay \$1,600 - \$2,500 for a professionally applied ceramic coating on your automobile or truck.

2024 SLGS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 14TH
New Year's Brunch

FEBRUARY 10TH
STL Art Museum & Lunch

MARCH 23RD
Member Appreciation Reception

APRIL 28TH
Drive and Lunch

MAY 19TH
The Knoll Farm

JUNE 9TH
St. Louis European Auto Show

JULY
Hunter Engineering Museum Tour

AUGUST
Jazz ST. Louis

**SEE PG. 18 FOR MORE
EVENTS & INFORMATION!**

CARS AND PARTS FOR SALE

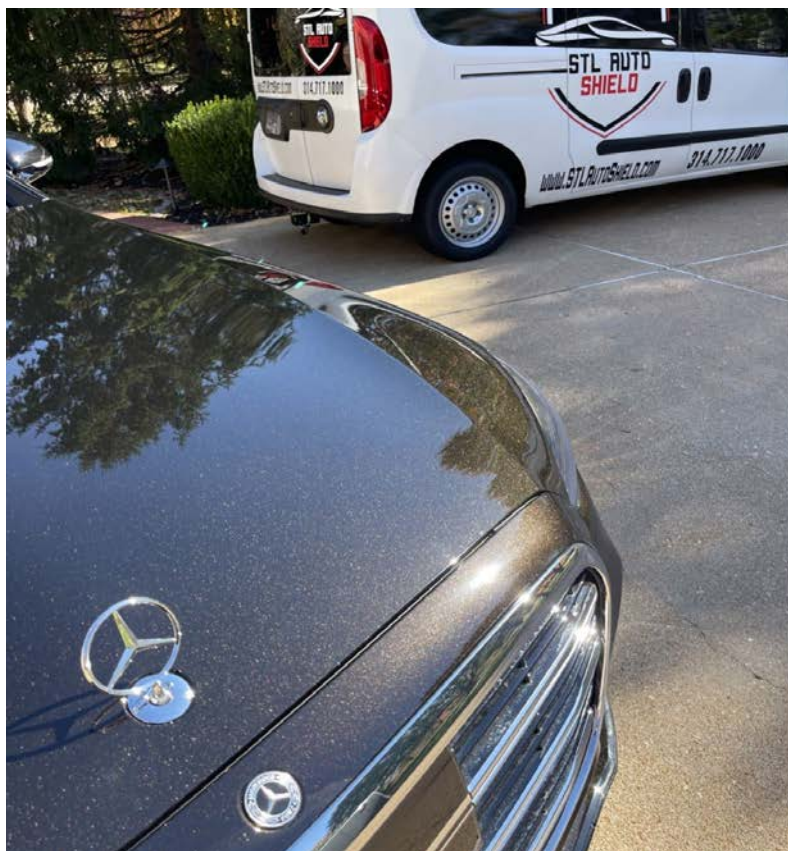
450 SL, 1980. Silver w/ gray interior. Only 74,xxx miles. Very nice condition and well-maintained. Includes hard top, cover, and rolling cart. **Donna Hasty at dmhasty212@gmail.com or 314-435-4223.** You can also contact Rick, who has viewed the car and has photos that can be forwarded.

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ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING FOR 2024 EVENTS

Plaza Mercedes-Benz, Creve Coeur | Saturday, November 18th

We had a successful Annual Planning at Plaza MB, with almost 40 club members defining our 2024 events and activities, while enjoying donuts, bagels, coffee, orange juice, etc.

General Manager, Daniel Branca, Used Car Manager, Tom Schellhase, and Product Specialist, Preston Bluett provided attendees with updates on the dealership and new product launches.

A list of planned SLGS events for 2024, along with the host or co-host, is noted below:

2024 SLGS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 14th (Sunday) New Year's Brunch, Addies Restaurant, Chesterfield (Rick S.)

FEBRUARY 10th (Saturday) STL Art Museum with lunch (Lee Naas)

MARCH 23rd (Saturday) Member Appreciation Reception, Plaza (Rick S.)

APRIL 28th (Sunday) Wittmond's Restaurant, Brussels, IL, drive and lunch (Marti Jacquemin & Jan Lupardus)

MAY 19th (Sunday) The Knoll Farm, Lunch, Caboose, Helicopter, etc. (Ed & Tina Knoll)

JUNE 9th (Sunday) St. Louis European Auto Show (Steve Scissors & Rick S.)

JULY 13th or 20th (Saturday) Hunter Engineering Museum Tour (Steve Brauer, John Donovan, Rick S.)

AUGUST Jazz St. Louis (Joe Walsh)

SEPTEMBER 7th & 8th (Saturday & Sunday) Echo Bluff State Park, overnight (Jean Oranski)

OCTOBER 20th (Sunday) Fall Picnic (Marti Jacquemin, John & Brenda Donovan, Jan Lupardus)

NOVEMBER 2025 Planning Meeting (Rick S.)

DECEMBER 8th (Sunday) Holiday Party, Greenbriar Hills Country Club (Joan Walsh, Luella Perry)

JANUARY New Year's Brunch, Sunday (Alicia Monfrinotti & Jan Lupardus)



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PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

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

**Bruce Perschbacher
Thomas Brown**

**Bill Taylor
John Doll**

Welcome to the St. Louis Gateway Section of the Mercedes-Benz Club of America.

We have over 220 memberships within a 200-mile radius of St. Louis.

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.

LOYAL RENEWING MEMBERS

**James Hartig
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Stephen Lubin
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Stephen & Kimmy Brauer**

**Brian & LaDonne Greenwalt
Kyle Kennett
John & Lynne Slayton
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Dave Cordes**

**Steve & Marti Jacquemin
Jim & Kay Carter
Bill & Patty Scherzinger
Matthew Willis**

Thank you for your continued support of our club!

Don't see your "significant other" listed? Then you may not have entered them as associate members with MBCA when you joined. It costs nothing to make them associate members. Simply log on to your MBCA account, scroll down to "Associate Member", click on "Edit", and enter the name. That's it.

MBCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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Applicant's signature: _____

Date: _____

Applicant's section preference (see list in magazine): _____

Sponsor's signature and member number (optional): _____

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